

STIDRIGGS WOODLAND CREATION PROPOSALS

Annandale and Lochwood Estates, assisted by Scottish Woodlands Ltd., have produced draft proposals for a woodland creation scheme at Stidriggs Farm, by Beattock.

The views of the local community and other stakeholders are being sought to contribute to the development of the project.

Context

The **Scottish Government** supports woodland creation as part of future land use in Scotland. This will contribute to:

- Fulfilling targets on **Climate Change** (carbon sequestration – 18,000 ha of new woodland per annum)
- Fulfilling targets on **Biodiversity**
- Helping underpin a **Sustainable Supply of Wood Products** to the Scottish forestry industry

The 'Dumfries and Galloway Forestry and Woodland Strategy' indicates that Stidriggs is mainly in a '**potential area**' for softwood woodland expansion, and in a '**preferred area**' for native woodland expansion .

The site lies next to the Forest of Ae, and has a direct link onto the Annandale Timber Transport Link.

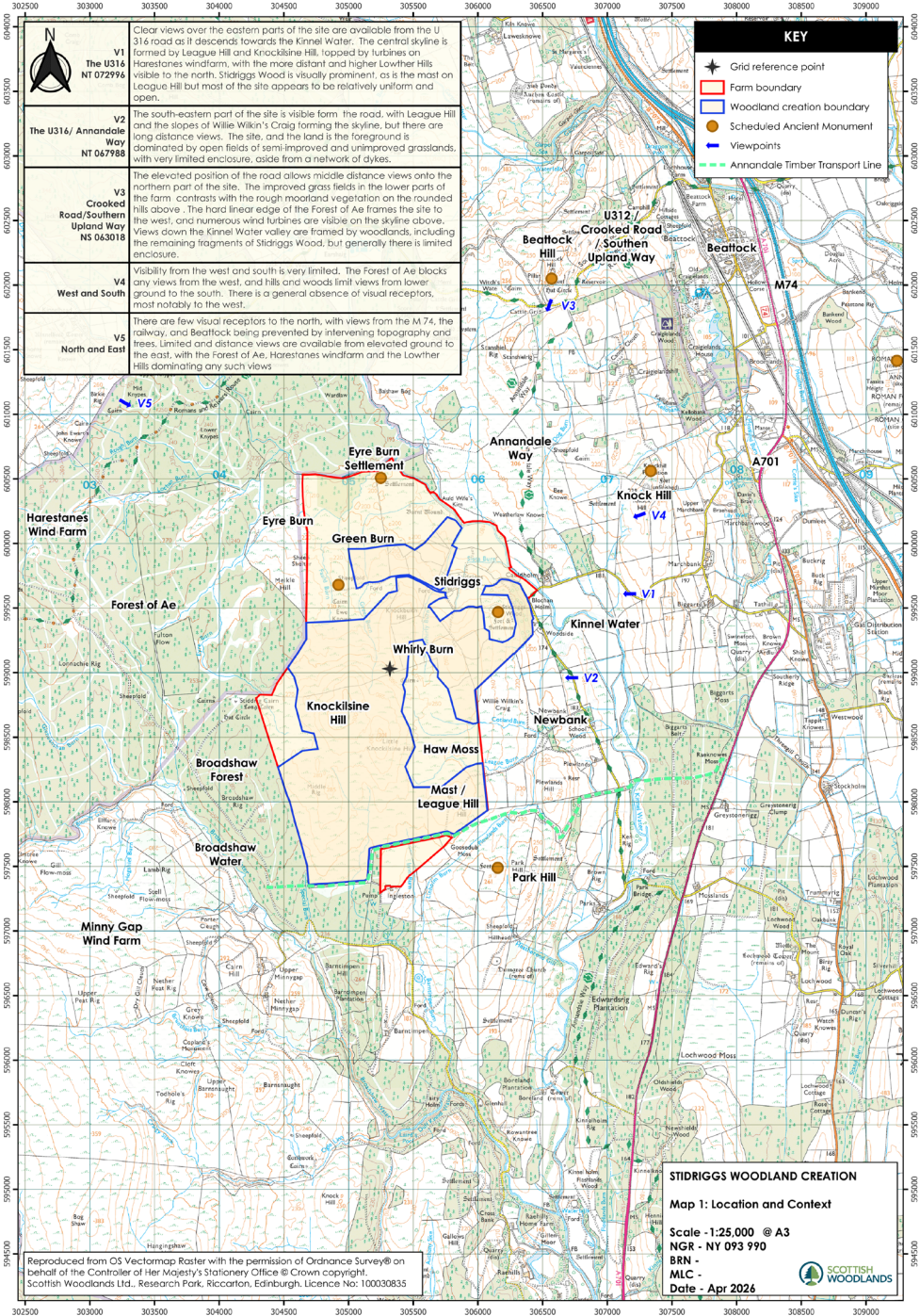
Objectives

The primary objective is:

- to produce timber in the medium and long term through the establishment of productive coniferous woodlands.

Secondary objectives are:

- to enhance the landscape through the establishment of a well-designed and diverse woodland
- to provide low-key recreational provision
- to protect and enhance biodiversity values through the safeguarding of existing interest and the establishment and management of native woodland
- to combat climate change through carbon sequestration on a medium scale
- to protect features of cultural heritage interest.



- V1
The U316
NT 072996
- V2
The U316/ Annandale
Way
NT 047988
- V3
Crooked
Road/Southern
Upland Way
NS 043018
- V4
West and South
- V5
North and East

Clear views over the eastern parts of the site are available from the U 316 road as it descends towards the Kinnel Water. The central skyline is formed by League Hill and Knocklissine Hill, topped by turbines on Harestones windfarm, with the more distant and higher Lowther Hills visible to the north. Stidriggs Wood is visually prominent, as is the most on League Hill but most of the site appears to be relatively uniform and open.

The south-eastern part of the site is visible from the road, with League Hill and the slopes of Willie Wilkin's Craig forming the skyline, but there are long distance views. The site, and the land in the foreground is dominated by open fields of semi-improved and unimproved grasslands, with very limited enclosure, aside from a network of ditches.

The elevated position of the road allows middle distance views onto the northern part of the site. The improved grass fields in the lower parts of the farm contrasts with the rough moorland vegetation on the rounded hills above. The hard linear edge of the Forest of Ae frames the site to the west, and numerous wind turbines are visible on the skyline above. Views down the Kinnel Water valley are framed by woodlands, including the remaining fragments of Stidriggs Wood, but generally there is limited enclosure.

Visibility from the west and south is very limited. The Forest of Ae blocks any views from the west, and hills and woods limit views from lower ground to the south. There is a general absence of visual receptors, most notably to the west.

There are few visual receptors to the north, with views from the M 74, the railway, and Beattock being prevented by intervening topography and trees. Limited and distance views are available from elevated ground to the east, with the Forest of Ae, Harestones windfarm and the Lowther Hills dominating any such views

KEY

- ★ Grid reference point
- ▭ Farm boundary
- ▭ Woodland creation boundary
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- ➔ Viewpoints
- Annandale Timber Transport Line

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STIDRIGGS WOODLAND CREATION
Map 1: Location and Context
 Scale - 1:25,000 @ A3
 NGR - NY 093 990
 BRN -
 MLC -
 Date - Apr 2026

Design & Application Process

The design process has included specialist survey and assessment of:

- **Soils and Peat**

- Numerous pockets of deep peat were found; these will be excluded from the application area, or retained as open ground
- Some soils are fertile, and capable of supporting a wide range of species
- No ploughing is proposed in order to protect the soil resource.

- **Habitats, Birds and Animals**

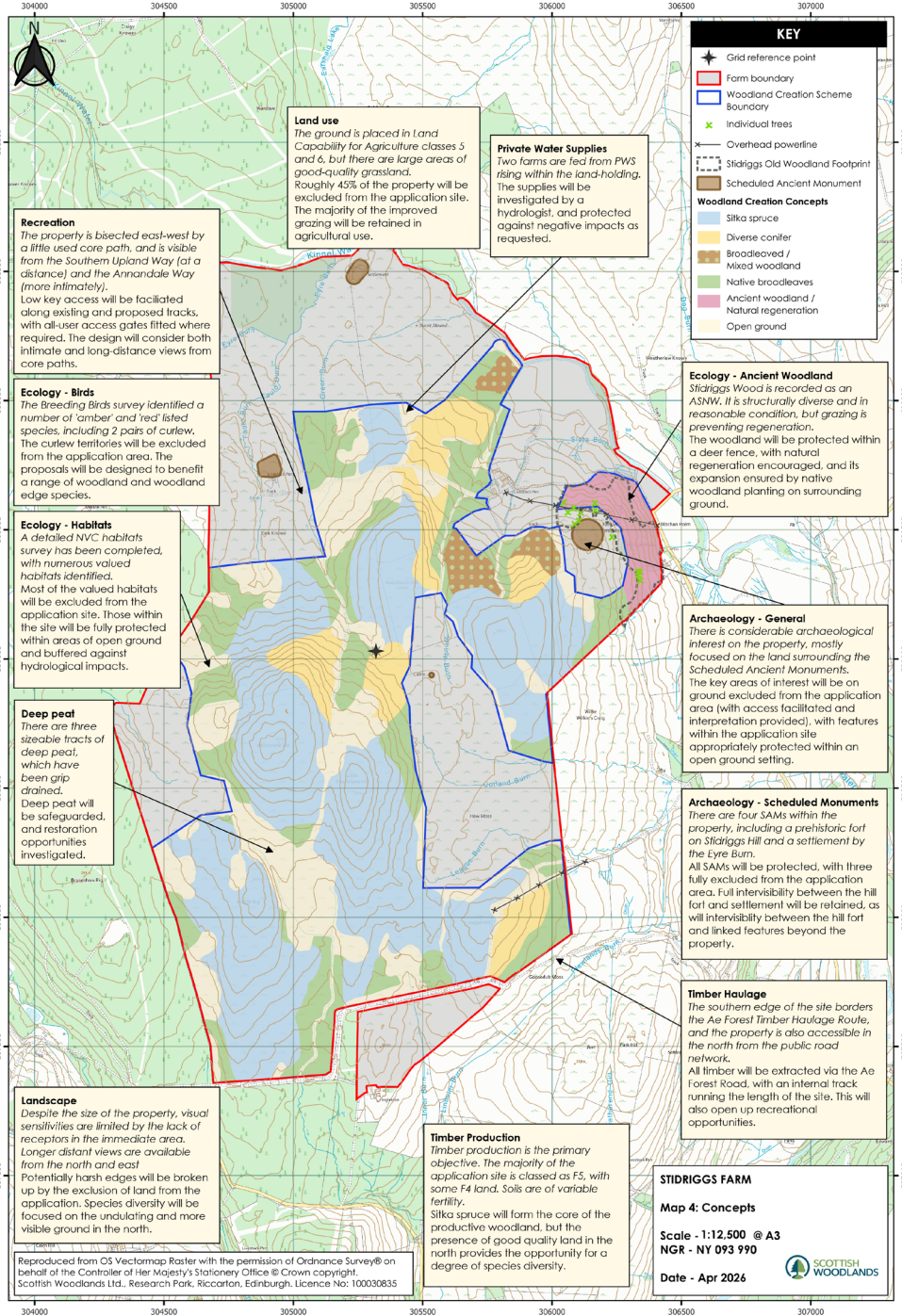
- Independent specialist Habitats, Birds and Protected Species surveys have been completed
- Any habitats of identified regional and local interest will be protected and retained in open ground or excluded from the application area
- New habitats will be created, notably through establishment of new native woodlands, covering 25% of the proposed woodland
- Opportunities for peatland restoration outwith the application area are being investigated
- Stidriggs Wood, an 'Ancient, Semi-Natural Woodland', will be brought into positive management.

Design & Application Process

The design process has included specialist survey and assessment of:

- **Cultural Heritage**
 - All Scheduled Ancient Monuments have been excluded from the application area, with their setting and key views being protected
 - Liaison has been carried out with the Council's Archaeologist and staff from Historic Environment Scotland
- **Landscape**
 - The woodland has been designed to fit with the local topography and to include a range of woodland types and open ground
 - Ten different species mixes are proposed, with diversity concentrated in the more visible locations
 - Visual perspectives have been generated to show the impact of the proposals on the future landscape

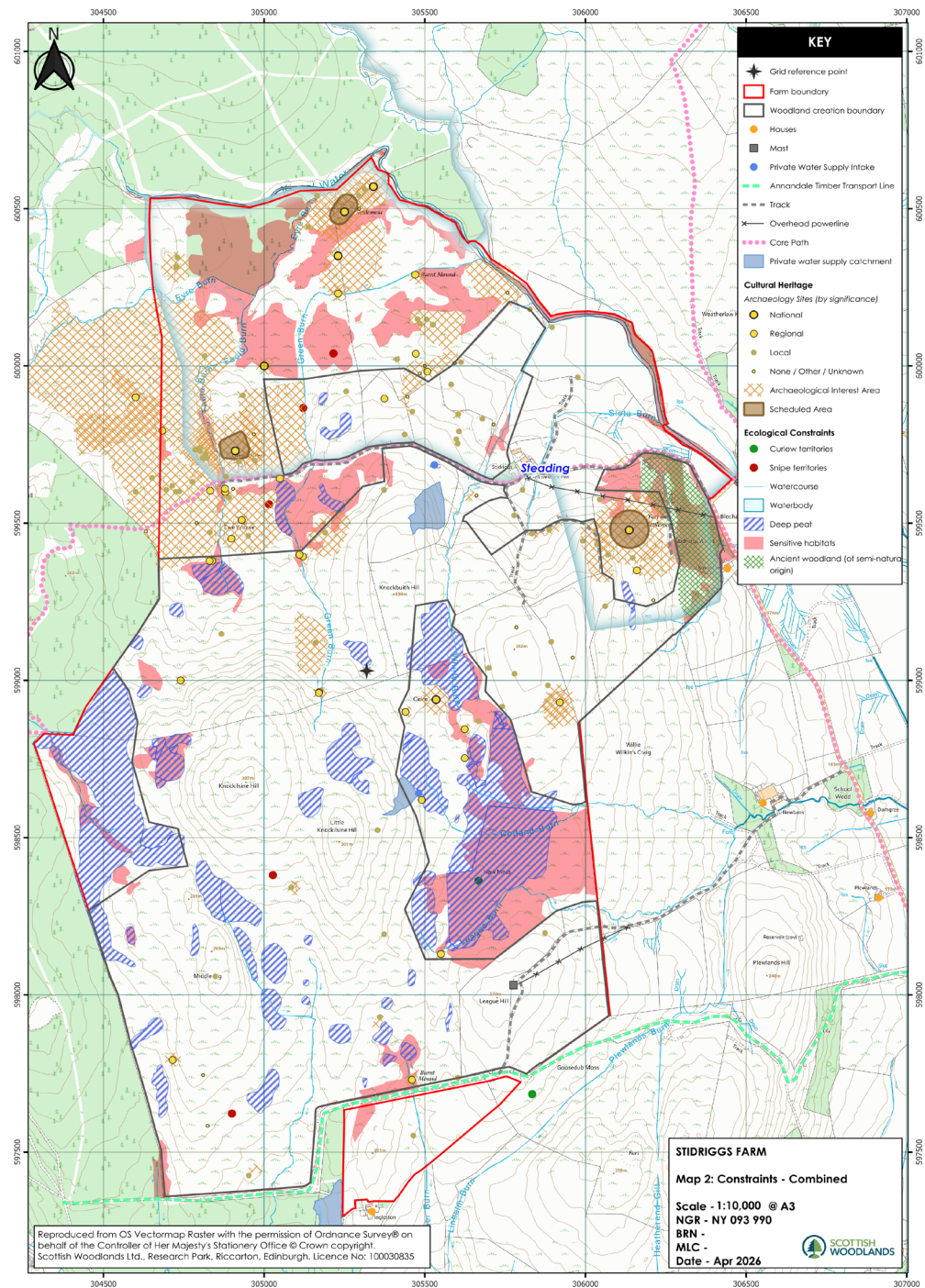
Copies of these specialist surveys are available to view on line and at this consultation event.



Concepts

A Concept map was produced at an early stage of the project, with identified issues being listed alongside the proposed approaches.

This map was used for an initial scoping and consultation exercise.

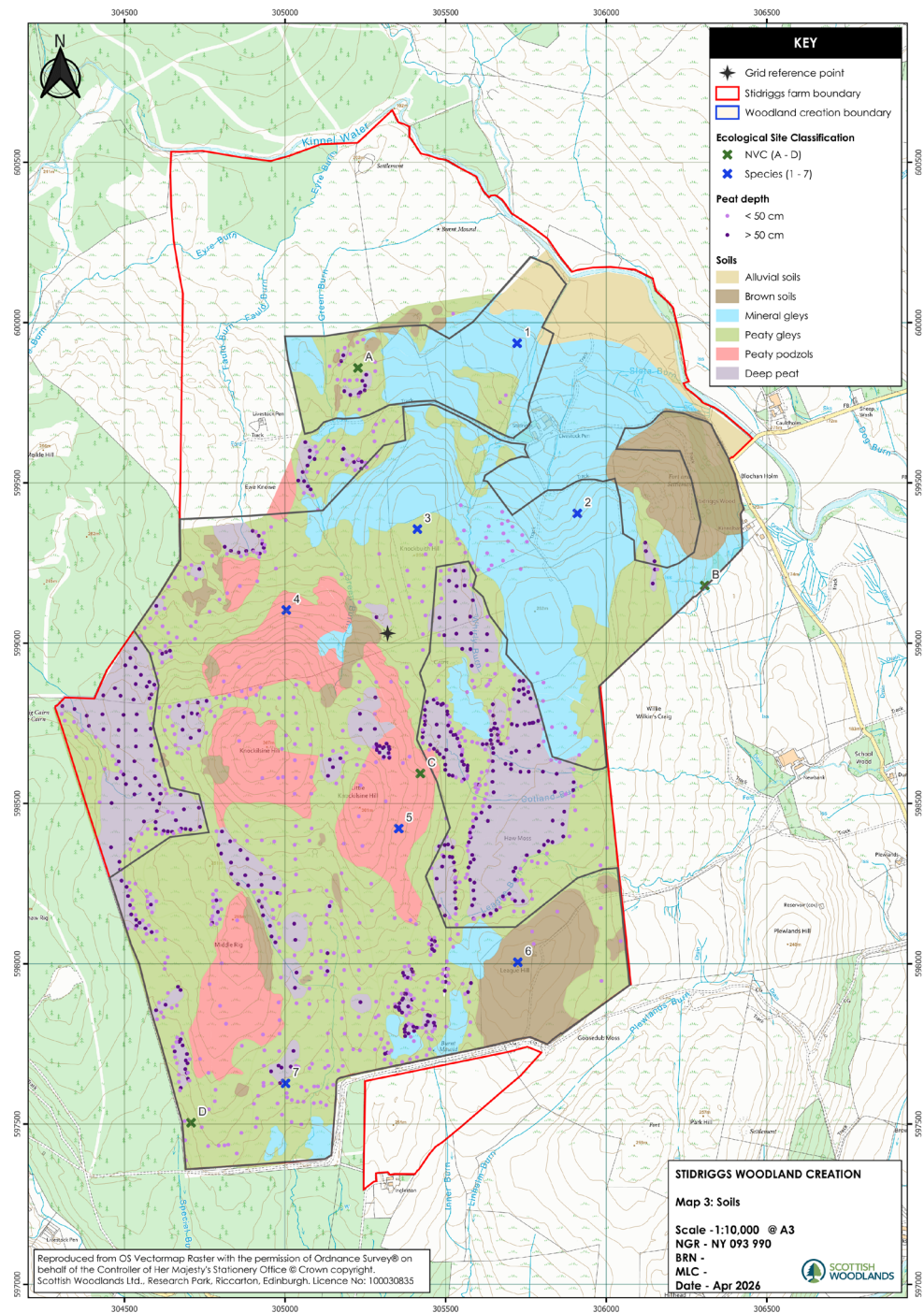


KEY	
	Grid reference point
	Farm boundary
	Woodland creation boundary
	Houses
	Mast
	Private Water Supply Intake
	Annandale Timber Transport Line
	Track
	Overhead powerline
	Core Path
	Private water supply catchment
Cultural Heritage	
Archaeology Sites (by significance)	
	National
	Regional
	Local
	None / Other / Unknown
	Archaeological Interest Area
	Scheduled Area
Ecological Constraints	
	Curlew territories
	Snipe territories
	Watercourse
	Waterbody
	Deep peat
	Sensitive habitats
	Ancient woodland (of semi-natural origin)

STIDRIGGS FARM
Map 2: Constraints - Combined
 Scale - 1:10,000 @ A3
 NGR - NY 093 990
 BRN -
 MLC -
 Date - Apr 2026

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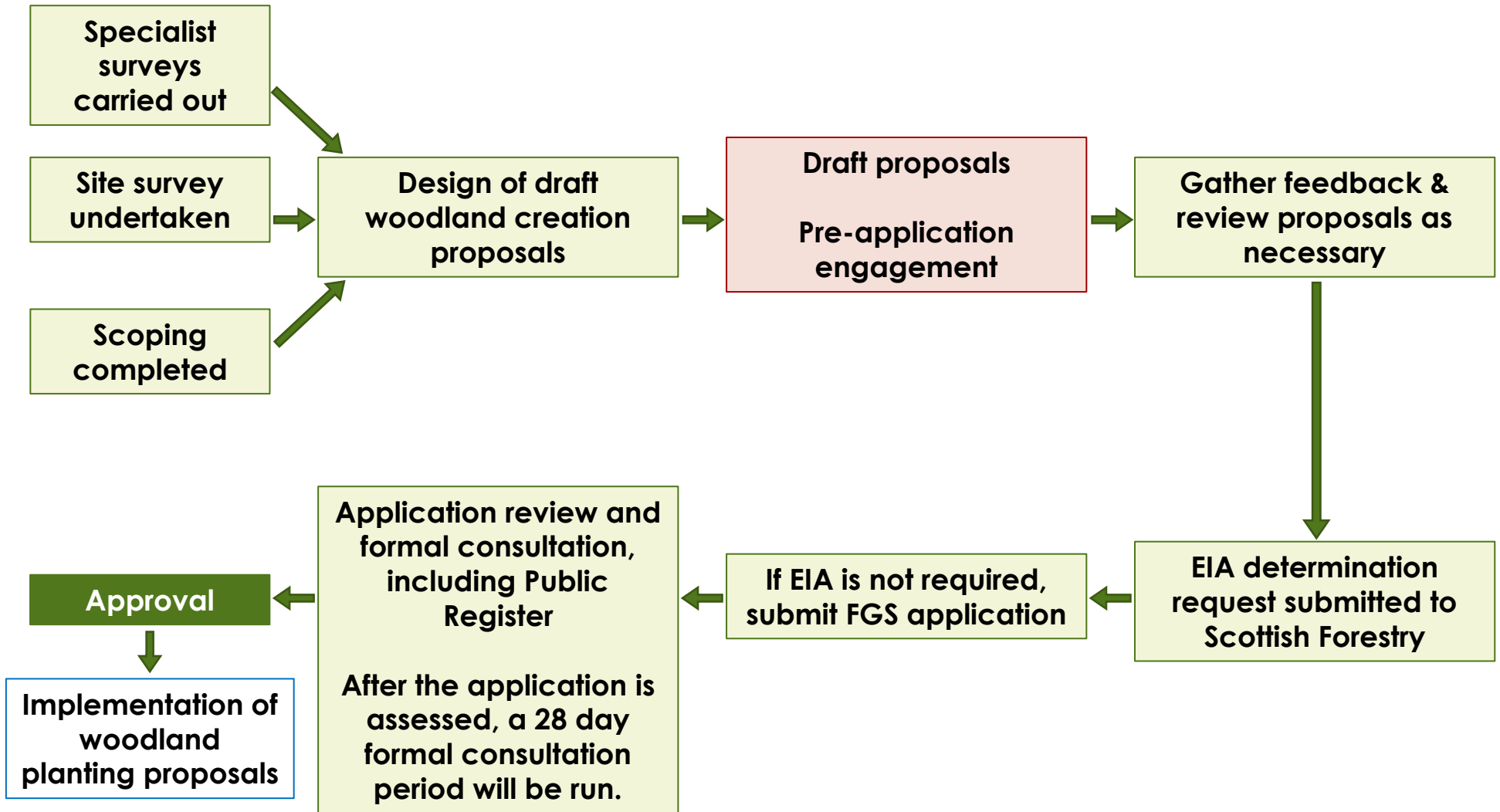


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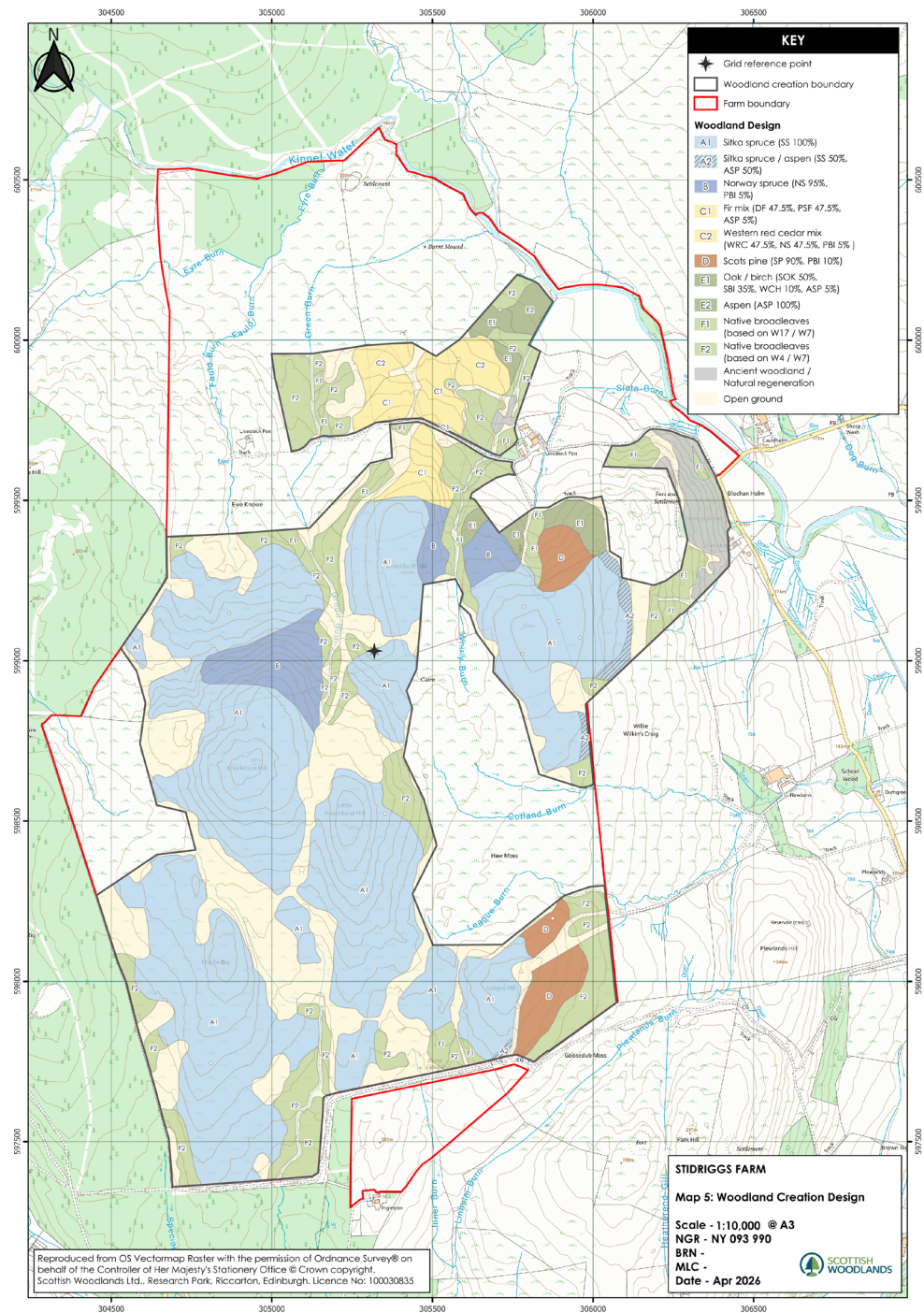
STIDRIGGS WOODLAND CREATION
Map 3: Soils
 Scale - 1:10,000 @ A3
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Design & Application Process



EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment
FGS: Forestry Grant Scheme



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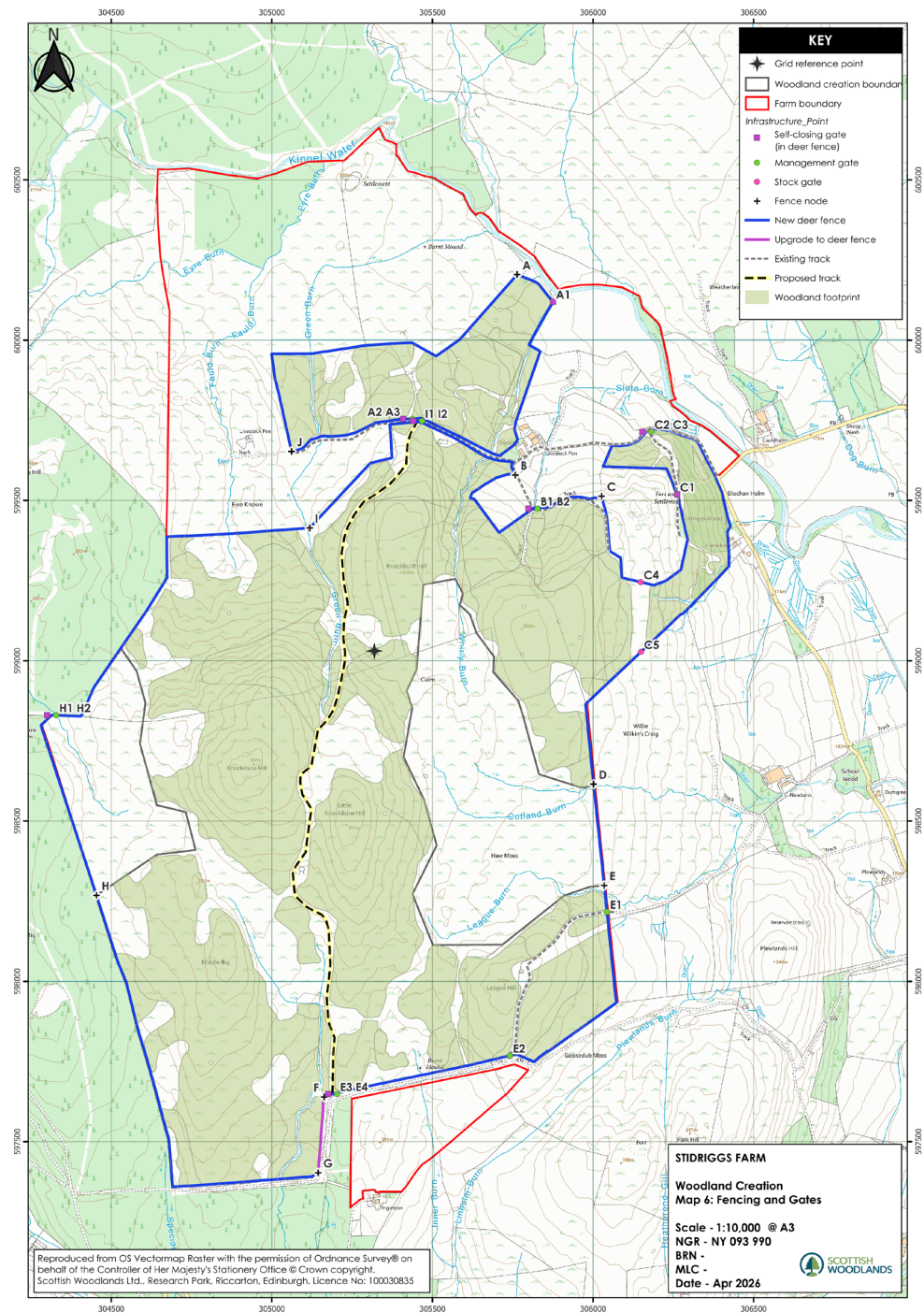
Proposal Summary

Total Stidriggs Farm Area	461 ha	% Farm	Notes
Retained in Agriculture	47 ha	13%	includes house, steading and majority of improved grass
Potential Peat Restoration	145 ha	31%	most available for grazing if peat restoration is not feasible
Woodland Application Area	269 ha	58%	
within application area		% app. area	
Planting	203 ha	75%	see breakdown on following sheet
Existing Woodland	5 ha	2%	Stidriggs Wood
Open Ground	61ha	23%	includes deep peat , sensitive habitats etc

Proposal Summary

Planting Mixes	Mix area (ha)	% of Mix in Planting	Conifer % in mix	Conifer area (ha)	Broadleaf % in mix	Broadleaf area (ha)
Sitka spruce	126	62%	99%	125	1%	1
Diverse Conifer	22	11%	95%	21	5%	1
Scots pine	8	4%	90%	7	10%	1
Productive broadleaves	6	3%	0%	0	100%	6
Native broadleaves (W11)	9	4%	0%	0	100%	9
Native broadleaves (W4)	32	16%	0%	0	100%	32
Total	203			153		50

Conifer total	75%	B'leaf total	25%
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KEY	
★	Grid reference point
□	Woodland creation boundary
▭	Farm boundary
●	Infrastructure Point
■	Self-closing gate (in deer fence)
●	Management gate
●	Stock gate
+	Fence node
—	New deer fence
—	Upgrade to deer fence
---	Existing track
---	Proposed track
■	Woodland footprint

STIDRIGGS FARM
Woodland Creation
Map 6: Fencing and Gates
 Scale - 1:10,000 @ A3
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Other Information

Timing

- If approval is granted by Scottish Forestry, woodland establishment works would be likely to be undertaken in winter 2027/28

Employment

- An Agricultural Impact and Land Use Assessment has been drafted
- It is anticipated that the loss of agricultural employment will be balanced by an increase in forestry employment.

Timber Transport

- A direct link to the Annandale Timber Transport Link will be created, and all timber haulage will use this route, avoiding local minor public roads

Recreation

- The core path route to the Forest of Ae will remain unobstructed, access to historic features will be enabled, and the creation of the forest road will allow for circular walks through Stidriggs.

How to Comment

Your questions, comments and feedback on the proposals are welcome.

A feedback form has been made available should you wish to use it. Please leave the completed form in the box provided, or post it to Scottish Woodlands Ltd. (address below)

Should you wish further information please contact:-

Charlotte Cavey-Wilcox

Scottish Woodlands Ltd.

Priorwood

Melrose

TD6 9EG

Email: charlotte.cavey-wilcox@scottishwoodlands.co.uk

A note of all comments received will be passed on to Scottish Forestry, along with details of any design amendments proposed.

If you wish to copy Scottish Forestry into your correspondence, their contact details are:

Scottish Forestry, South Scotland Conservancy, 55/57 Moffat Road, Dumfries DG1 1NP

(southscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot)