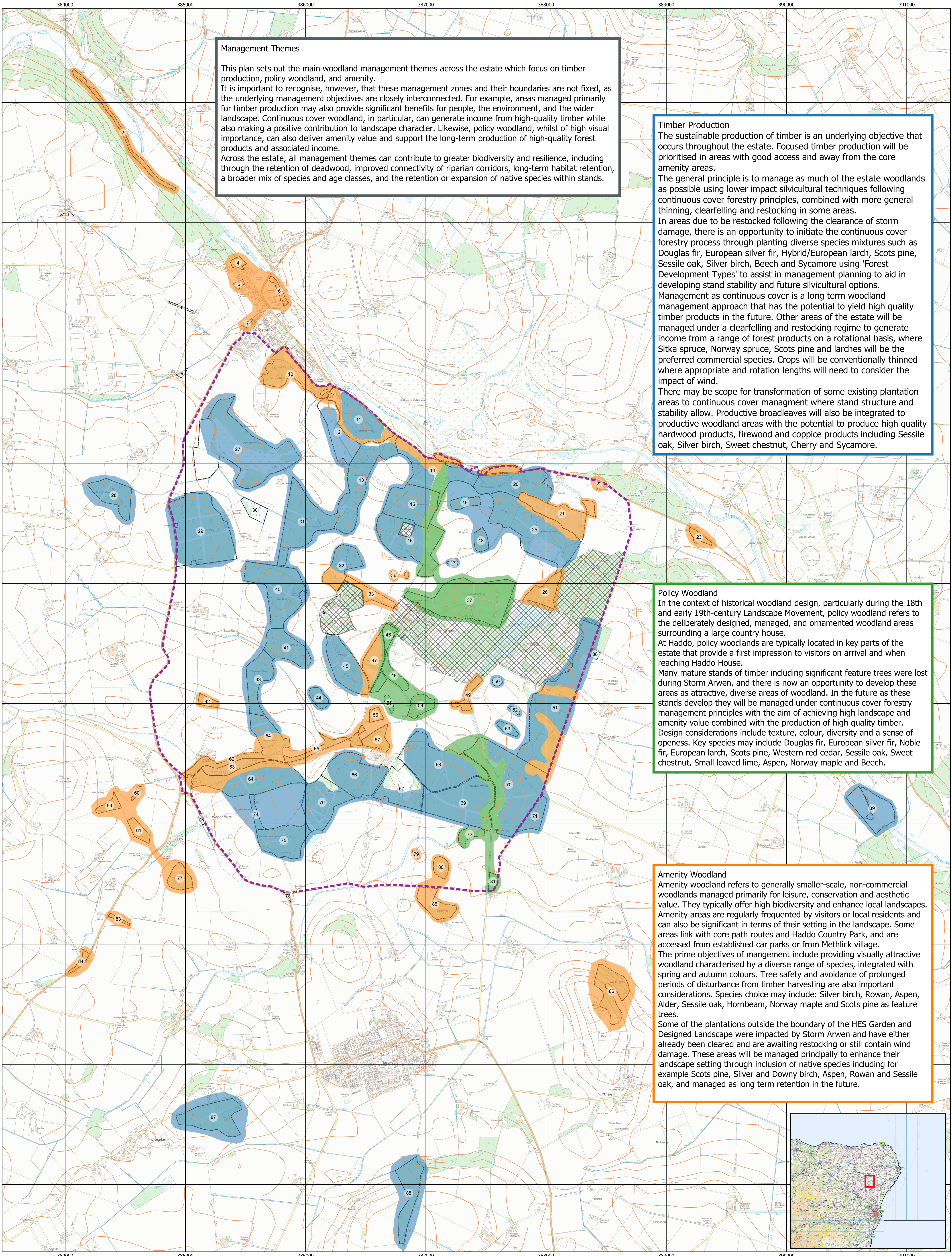




Management Themes

This plan sets out the main woodland management themes across the estate which focus on timber production, policy woodland, and amenity. It is important to recognise, however, that these management zones and their boundaries are not fixed, as the underlying management objectives are closely interconnected. For example, areas managed primarily for timber production may also provide significant benefits for people, the environment, and the wider landscape. Continuous cover woodland, in particular, can generate income from high-quality timber while also making a positive contribution to landscape character. Likewise, policy woodland, whilst of high visual importance, can also deliver amenity value and support the long-term production of high-quality forest products and associated income. Across the estate, all management themes can contribute to greater biodiversity and resilience, including through the retention of deadwood, improved connectivity of riparian corridors, long-term habitat retention, a broader mix of species and age classes, and the retention or expansion of native species within stands.

Timber Production

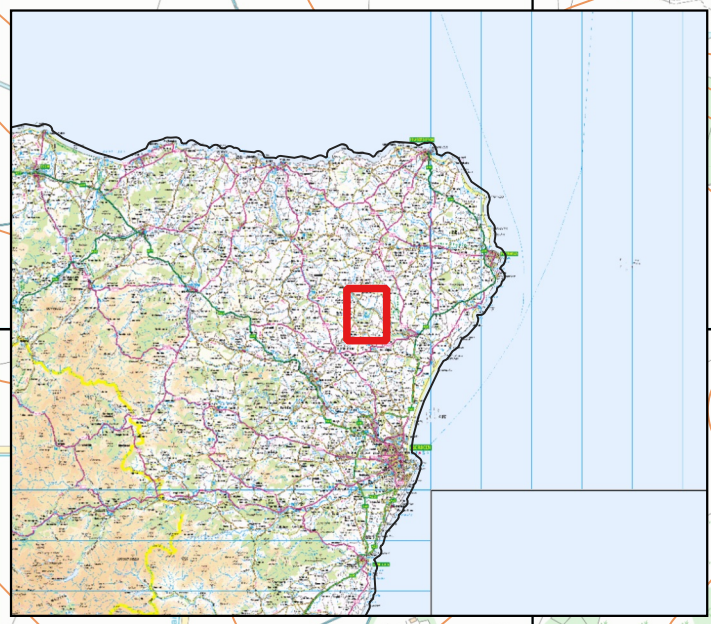
The sustainable production of timber is an underlying objective that occurs throughout the estate. Focused timber production will be prioritised in areas with good access and away from the core amenity areas. The general principle is to manage as much of the estate woodlands as possible using lower impact silvicultural techniques following continuous cover forestry principles, combined with more general thinning, clearfelling and restocking in some areas. In areas due to be restocked following the clearance of storm damage, there is an opportunity to initiate the continuous cover forestry process through planting diverse species mixtures such as Douglas fir, European silver fir, Hybrid/European larch, Scots pine, Sessile oak, Silver birch, Beech and Sycamore using 'Forest Development Types' to assist in management planning to aid in developing stand stability and future silvicultural options. Management as continuous cover is a long term woodland management approach that has the potential to yield high quality timber products in the future. Other areas of the estate will be managed under a clearfelling and restocking regime to generate income from a range of forest products on a rotational basis, where Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Scots pine and larches will be the preferred commercial species. Crops will be conventionally thinned where appropriate and rotation lengths will need to consider the impact of wind. There may be scope for transformation of some existing plantation areas to continuous cover management where stand structure and stability allow. Productive broadleaves will also be integrated to productive woodland areas with the potential to produce high quality hardwood products, firewood and coppice products including Sessile oak, Silver birch, Sweet chestnut, Cherry and Sycamore.

Policy Woodland

In the context of historical woodland design, particularly during the 18th and early 19th-century Landscape Movement, policy woodland refers to the deliberately designed, managed, and ornamented woodland areas surrounding a large country house. At Haddo, policy woodlands are typically located in key parts of the estate that provide a first impression to visitors on arrival and when reaching Haddo House. Many mature stands of timber including significant feature trees were lost during Storm Arwen, and there is now an opportunity to develop these areas as attractive, diverse areas of woodland. In the future as these stands develop they will be managed under continuous cover forestry management principles with the aim of achieving high landscape and amenity value combined with the production of high quality timber. Design considerations include texture, colour, diversity and a sense of openness. Key species may include Douglas fir, European silver fir, Noble fir, European larch, Scots pine, Western red cedar, Sessile oak, Sweet chestnut, Small leaved lime, Aspen, Norway maple and Beech.

Amenity Woodland

Amenity woodland refers to generally smaller-scale, non-commercial woodlands managed primarily for leisure, conservation and aesthetic value. They typically offer high biodiversity and enhance local landscapes. Amenity areas are regularly frequented by visitors or local residents and can also be significant in terms of their setting in the landscape. Some areas link with core path routes and Haddo Country Park, and are accessed from established car parks or from Methlick village. The prime objectives of management include providing visually attractive woodland characterised by a diverse range of species, integrated with spring and autumn colours. Tree safety and avoidance of prolonged periods of disturbance from timber harvesting are also important considerations. Species choice may include: Silver birch, Rowan, Aspen, Alder, Sessile oak, Hornbeam, Norway maple and Scots pine as feature trees. Some of the plantations outside the boundary of the HES Garden and Designed Landscape were impacted by Storm Arwen and have either already been cleared and are awaiting restocking or still contain wind damage. These areas will be managed principally to enhance their landscape setting through inclusion of native species including for example Scots pine, Silver and Downy birch, Aspen, Rowan and Sessile oak, and managed as long term retention in the future.





SCOTTISH WOODLANDS

Haddo Estate

Management Themes

1:14,000

Scale correct at A1

Centre Point: 387419, 834612

GR: NJ 8741 3461

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Ordnance Survey AIC000088122



Legend

Management Theme

- Timber production
- Policy woodland
- Amenity

Garden and Designed Landscape Boundary

Compartment Boundary

Areas not included in plan

Protected Landscape and Historic Environment

The Designated Garden and Designed Landscape (Ref: GDL00206) includes the Haddo Estate, Haddo House and Haddo Country Park. Haddo House is owned and managed by the National Trust for Scotland, and Haddo Country Park is owned and managed by Aberdeenshire Council. There are no known Scheduled Monuments within any of the estate woodlands or owned ground, but some are present in adjacent areas, and enhancing their setting is an important design consideration. Numerous other heritage features are present and these will be appropriately considered and protected through forest design and operational planning.

Herbivores

Boundary fences will be maintained to ensure that livestock do not enter the forest. The resident roe deer population has the potential to cause browsing damage to newly planted and naturally regenerating trees. An annual management cull is undertaken by the estate and this will be adapted in response to levels of damage. Some areas may need to be deer fenced, particularly where more palatable species are being planted. The siting of fences will take into consideration impacts to public access and other interests across the estate.

Pests, Disease and Invasive Species

Woodland containing diverse species and age classes will be better able to cope with the impacts from present and emerging pests and disease. Current threats include Phytophthora ramorum (Sudden Oak death) which impacts oak and other species including larch, and Dothistroma needle blight, a fungal disease primarily affecting pine trees. Sudden oak death is also linked to Rhododendron ponticum, and this will be controlled across the estate. Where Rhododendron has significant cultural and landscape value, for example in the environs of Haddo House, management will aim to preserve these with work to replace the ponticum species over time.

Water Environment

The Burn of Keithfield/Raxton Burn flows north-eastwards through the estate to join the River Ythan. Further downstream from Methlick the Ythan is an SPA, Ramsar site and SSSI. There is opportunity to enhance these features during woodland restructuring, both through operational compliance with UKFS Forest and Water Guidelines, but also through the inclusion of open ground and native species along riparian areas. Where private water supplies are present these will be assessed to inform the planning of phased felling and the restructured design in line with UKFS requirements.

Public access is encouraged and many of the estate roads are shared with the public. There are also multiple core paths and informal routes through the woodlands which will be managed in accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the associated Scottish Outdoor Access Code. On active timber harvesting sites relevant legislation, guidance and best practice will be adhered to, and alternative routes provided wherever possible.

Wildlife and Biodiversity

The woodlands provide habitat for a variety of species such as red squirrels, badgers, and raptors, as well as other flora and fauna. Pre-operational wildlife surveys will be undertaken prior to forest operations and licences sought from NatureScot as required.