



EASTER INCH MOSS AND SEAFIELD LAW LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Woodland Condition Survey

FINAL

Ironside Farrar Ltd
52 Grovewood Business Centre
Strathclyde Business Park
Bellshill
ML4 3NQ

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DRAWING:

4467/101 Site Plan

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Appendix 1: Woodland Condition Survey, Drawings Nos. 4467/601 and 4467/602

Appendix 2: Landowners Consultations and Drawing No. 4467/102

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Ironside Farrar Ltd was appointed by Central Scotland Forest Trust to undertake a Woodland Condition Survey as part of our overall commission to develop a revised Management Plan for Easter Inch Moss and Seafield Law Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The extent of the Nature Reserve is shown in Drawing No. 4467/101.

The purpose of the survey was to establish the current condition of the Woodland and provide recommendations for management for 5 Year Management Plan for April 2011 to March 2016.

The survey will also help to identify opportunities for new tree planting and areas where natural regeneration can be encouraged. Selected areas beyond the LNR boundary were also assessed for potential new tree planting. These areas are shown on Drawing No. 4467/101.

These areas are not within West Lothian Council ownership, therefore, identification of current landowners and consultation was required as part of the survey.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Woodland Condition Survey

The survey followed The Forestry Commission for Scotland Guidance Note 'Urban and Peri Urban Woodland Surveying and Management Planning' Appendix 2, Survey Recording Template for Woodlands in and around Towns.

This survey method recognises that woodland may be fragmented and allows for a detailed description for each compartment including altitude, topography, existing management plans and ground conditions.

The scope of the survey also extends to comment on recreation and access, community involvement and environmental issues.

Completed survey results and accompanying plans are enclosed in Appendix 1.

2.2 Landowners Consultations

Ironside Farrar identified the majority of the landowners selected as potential recipients for new tree planting and an initial consultation in person was undertaken.

Results and accompanying drawing 4467/102 are shown in Appendix 2.

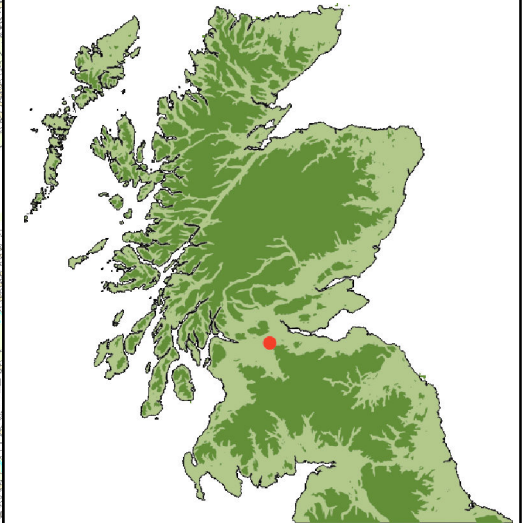
3.0 LIMITATIONS

3.1 Timing

The survey was undertaken over two days, 03 and 08 February 2011. Many flowering annual plants and grasses are either not present or visible at this time of year meaning open ground analysis may be somewhat incomplete.



Limitations associated with timing may also reflect in recreation and amenity records. The two day survey is restricted to providing a 'snapshot' of recreational activities and, therefore, may not provide an accurate representation of visitor numbers or site usage.

**Easter Inch Moss
& Seafeld Law
Local Nature Reserve**



National Context

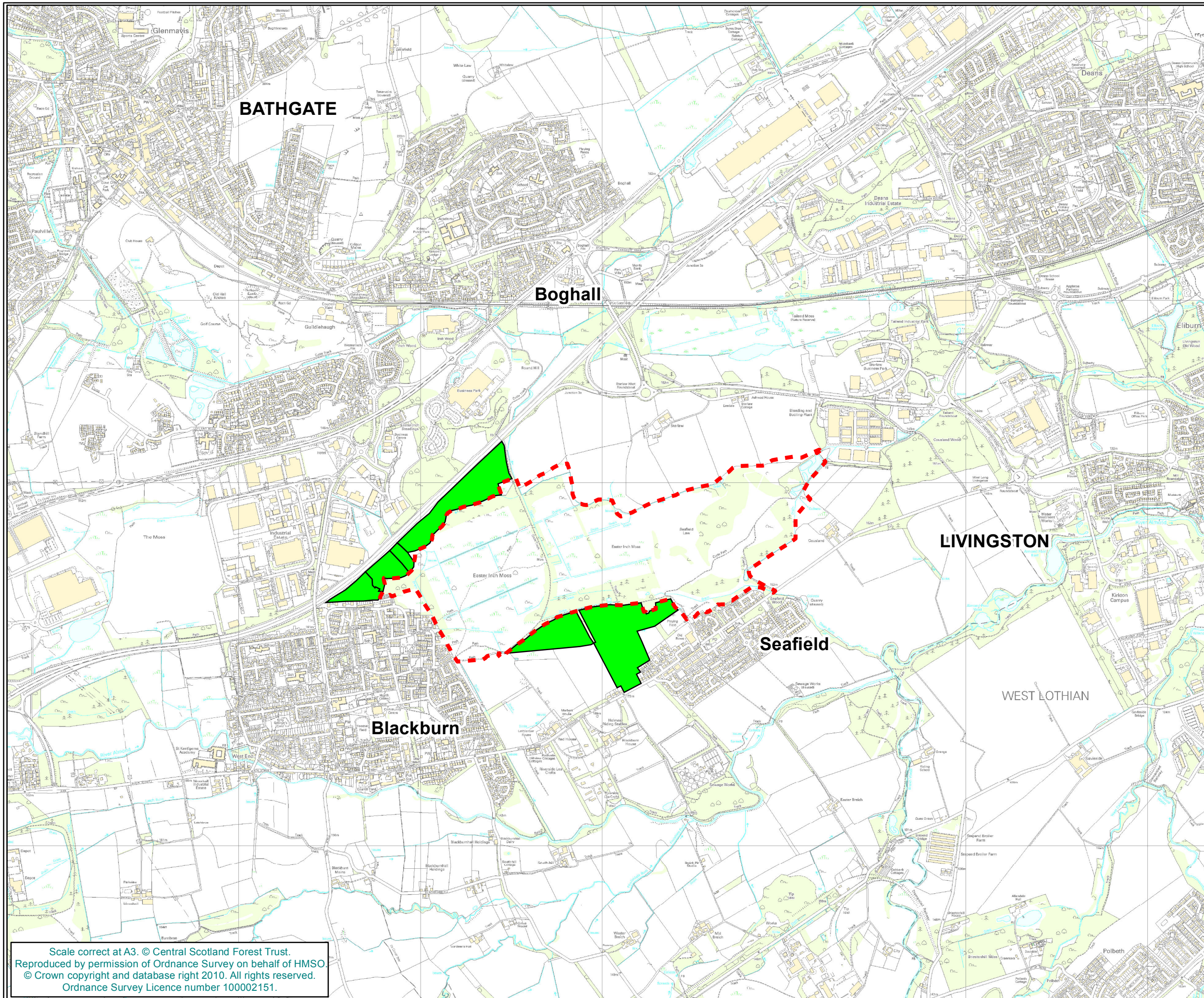
Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  Potential Tree Planting Opportunities

Dwg No 4467_101



Site Plan



Scale correct at A3. © Central Scotland Forest Trust.
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Also some landowners were identified at a late stage in the commission and, therefore, consultation has not been possible at this stage.

4.0 COMMENTARY ON PLANTING OPPORTUNITIES OUTWITH THE SITE

As part of the Woodland Condition Survey Ironside Farrar Ltd identified and consulted with landowners beyond the LNR boundary for the purposes of considering new tree planting opportunities.

The majority of the landowners were identified and consulted with during the survey date, 03 and 08 February 2011.

As part of the consultation landowners were asked to identify on a drawing the packages of land that lay within their ownership. Verifications of land tenure through a property search were not undertaken at this point in the commission, however, this course of action could be undertaken in the future if required.

The consultation procedure also involved asking landowners if they would be interested in having trees planted on their land and if they would be willing to allow a site survey and soil sampling to establish if the ground conditions would support new tree planting.

Initial consultations found that none of the identified landowners were directly opposed to the idea of having trees planted on their land. However, all landowners wished to receive more information about the proposed tree planting before they would agree to a site survey or soil sampling.

Whilst intrusive site survey and investigation was not undertaken at this point site knowledge and landowner comments can offer the following observations:

- The land to the north of the LNR boundary is relatively dry and capable of supporting trees as demonstrated by areas of incumbent woodland and tree planting along the M8 corridor.
- Land south of the LNR boundary is generally poorly drained and would require installation of drainage to relieve waterlogging or employment of raised (mound) planting to lift tree roots above the water logged zone. Careful consideration would also need to be given to tree species selecting only those capable of tolerating wet ground conditions. However, the existing wet conditions of this site could present opportunities for wetland habitat creation building on and increasing the ecological value of the LNR. Future development of this site could also allow for wetland habitat creation as part of hydrological remediation.

Results of these initial consultations were presented at the progress meeting on 28 February 2011.

Following this meeting two additional landowner groups were identified, however, specific contact details are required for each before Ironside Farrar Ltd can undertake the initial consultation.