

Teviot Wind Farm

Landscape, Access and Ecological Enhancement Vision Statement

As part of this project, we will seek to improve the site’s ecology and biodiversity and leave the natural environment in a measurably better condition than it was before the development.

To this effect, a Vision Statement will be submitted as part of the application. Current proposals being explored as part of the Vision Statement include:

Peatland Restoration

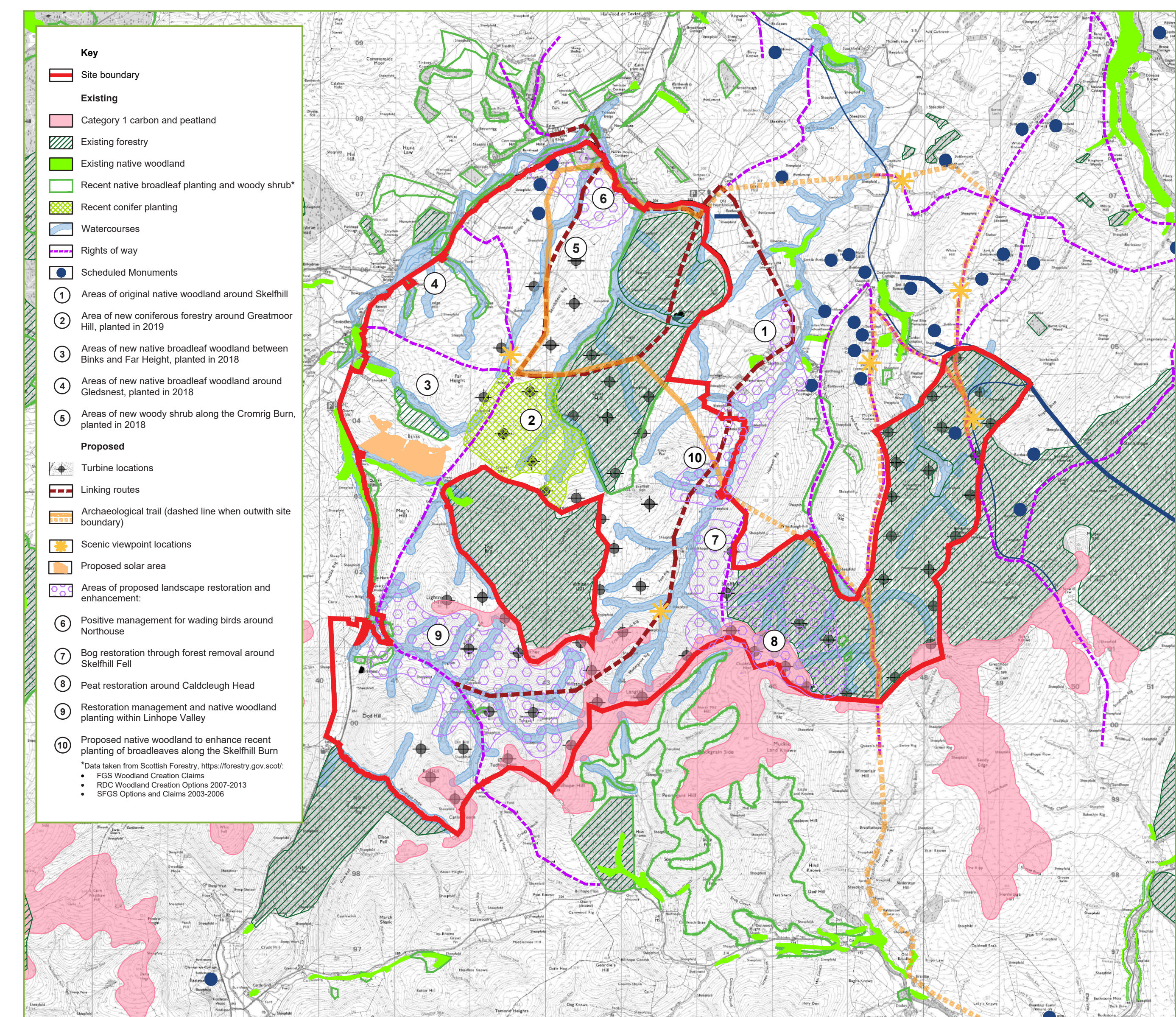
As a key part of the Scottish Government’s goal of achieving a net-zero Scotland by 2045 opportunities for peatland restoration and expansion will be sought within the site. This would potentially include ‘hag reprofiling’ at Cauldcleugh Head and ‘forest to bog’ restoration along the fringes of the existing areas of blanket bog at Skelfhill Fell (subject to topography). Peatland restoration within the proposed wind farm would provide new habitat for species such as golden plover. The restored peatlands would also increase carbon storage, defence against wildfires and improved water storage providing defence against flooding downstream along the Teviot Valley.

Native Woodland Planting

The provision of native broadleaf woodland in riparian (near burns and streams) areas within and adjacent to the site, for example along the Linhope and Skelfhill valleys would complement recent native woodland planting along the Skelfhill Burn. Suitable species for the site include Birch, Scots Pine, Oak, Rowan and Alder, which are appropriate to the local context. New native planting would create enhanced green infrastructure, flood defence improvements, habitat restoration and provision for black grouse.



Figure 7: Vision Statement Proposals



Management of Farmland

The introduction of small areas of unharvested arable land on less productive upper valley slopes would require changes to farming systems to a more mixed form of agriculture. Over time, low input arable cropping would create a resilient population of wildflowers, and would benefit pollinators and bird populations, some of which are in steep decline.

Enhanced Access Provision

Wind farms offer the potential for improved public access to previously hard to reach areas of the countryside through the creation of new paths and tracks that could be connected to the existing Public Right of Ways which cross the site. There is an opportunity to expand this network by creating linking routes which connect existing paths with features of interest within and beyond the site. These routes will be accessible to all including walkers, wheelchair users, cyclists and horse riders.

