



Forestry and
Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

Tweed Valley Recreation Zones

August 2020



Introduction

As part of our Land Management Planning process, we held a series of consultation events in the Tweed Valley to hear the views of those who enjoy using the Tweed Valley Forest Park. Many including mountain bikers, horse-riders and walkers all came along to these events and had their opportunity to comment on our land management plans and share their concerns and desires for the Forest Park. From these responses it was clear that recreation was a key subject and one that generated a lot of conversation and opinion amongst consultees and communities. Whilst many commented on the fantastic resource available to them for their preferred activity concerns were raised. The most significant concerns raised were around the need for forest settings which allow quiet and slow recreation and to introduce a new approach to ensure all forest users have a safe and enjoyable experience.

In addition, the recent Tweed Valley Forest Park Visitor Experience Strategy identified a variety of visitors to the Tweed Valley Forests. Some of these visitor groups actively seek quieter enjoyment and would look to visit the areas identified and zoned for quiet enjoyment.

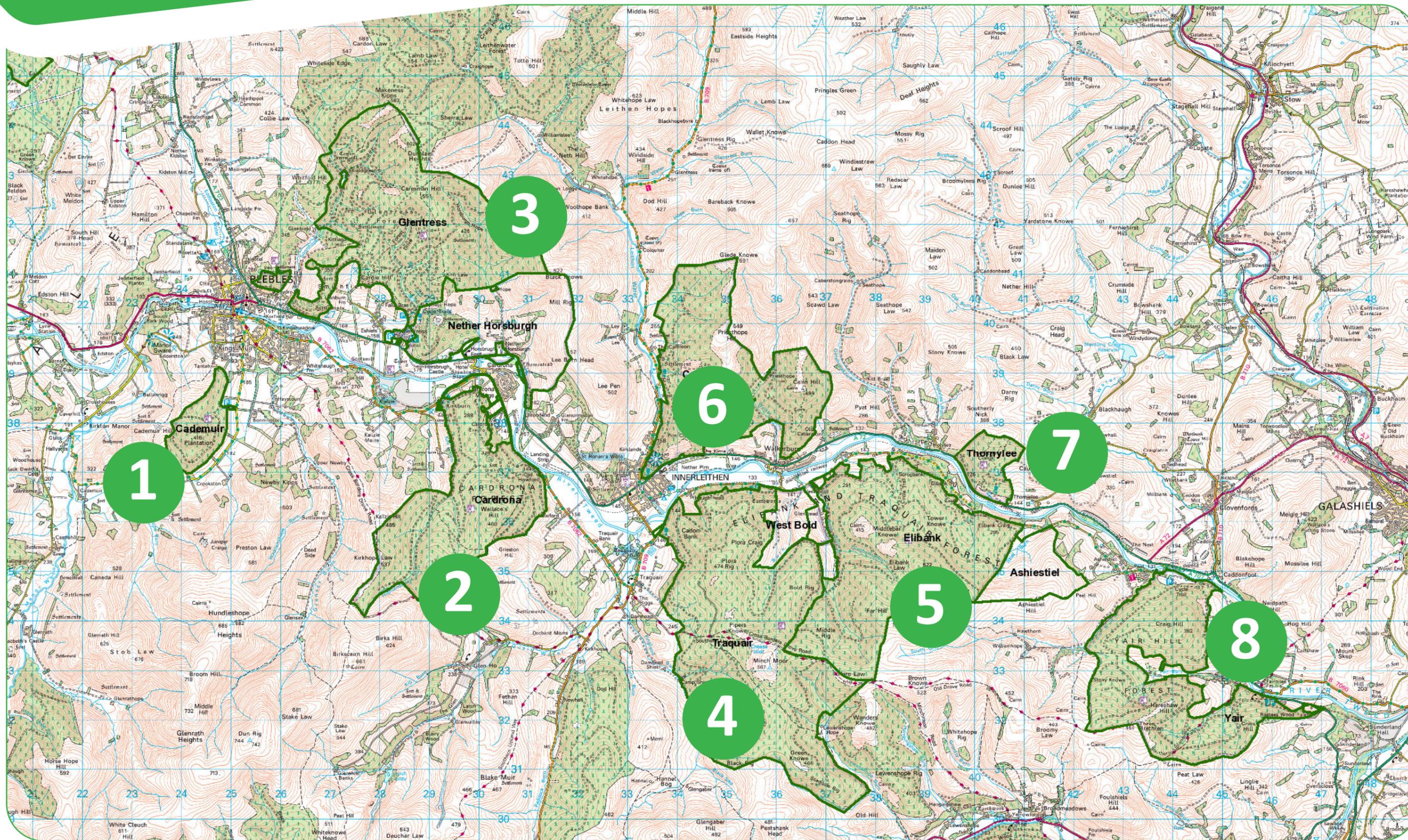
Taking the information gathered from these events FLS has considered the feedback and how it can influence preferred recreational use for each of the Tweed Valley Forests. There has been a delay in producing outcomes to the consultation due to a period of organisational change and our move to Scottish Government, which took place shortly after the consultation events.

As a first step we have considered location and current uses of existing forests and indicated “preferred use” on the attached maps as a way of influencing how recreational use of the forests will be managed. This will help FLS work towards meeting the needs and safety of all forest users. For example those seeking quiet forest settings, the wide range of users including mountain bikers of all abilities which use FLS formal facilities such as Glentress, and to help work towards a wider sustainable mountain-bike trail network in the Tweed Valley. Within this document it is also recognised that there will be no unauthorised motor vehicle access including motorbikes and quad bikes to any of the Tweed Valley Forests.

In setting these preferred use areas we remain committed to the rights and responsibilities set out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, in managing the wider trail network while following our own guidance on trail management and that developed by the National Access Forum.

The following pages outline the preferred use area for each of the Tweed Valley forests and how recreation within these forests will be managed by FLS. In line with our timescales for reviewing our Land Management Plans, FLS will formally review the effectiveness of the recreational zones on a regular basis and we will seek views from our stakeholders and visitors during these reviews.

We also welcome opportunity to work with volunteers to enable them to enjoy the Tweed Valley Forest Park. We are grateful to groups we already work with e.g. Trailfairies and TVTA that enable more visitors and locals alike to enjoy our fabulous forests.





1. Cademuir

A forest for walking, horse riding, mountain biking and events. Two areas will be created in Cademuir Forest, as shown in separate map below. Within the southern area unauthorised mountain-bike trails will be managed using FLS and NAF guidance. The area to the north will be a quiet area with formal walking trails. Unauthorised mountain-bike trails in the north will be closed and removed. Mountain bike events will be welcomed using trails in the South.

2. Cardrona

Cardrona is a quiet forest for walking, horse riding and additionally mountain biking limited to existing tracks and trails. Horse riding and mountain biking is encouraged on old trails but not on current waymarked trails. Unauthorised trails found will be closed and removed. Smaller gravel bike events using forest roads as part of a longer Tweed Valley Route would be considered on a case by case basis.

3. Glentress

A forest for mountain biking, walking, horse riding and mountain bike events. The mountain bike trail offer will be developed by FLS or by FLS in collaboration with volunteers, event organisers and the mountain bike community. Unauthorised trails will be managed using FLS and NAF guidance. Existing unauthorised trails will remain, however any recent unauthorised trails will be closed and removed.

4. Traquair (Innerleithen)

Mountain biking, walking, horse riding and mountain bike events are welcomed and unauthorised trails will be managed using FLS and NAF guidance.

5. Elibank (Innerleithen)

A quiet forest for walking, horse riding and mountain biking limited to existing tracks and trails. Long distance marathon events will be accessed on an event by event basis.

6. Caberston

Mountain biking, walking, horse riding and mountain bike events are welcomed to Caberston. Unauthorised trails will be managed using FLS and NAF guidance. FLS are working in collaboration with Tweed Valley Trail Association who have adopted some of the trails. Over time FLS will work in collaboration with the TVTA in several Tweed Valley forests to enable safer enjoyment of our forests.

7. Thornielee

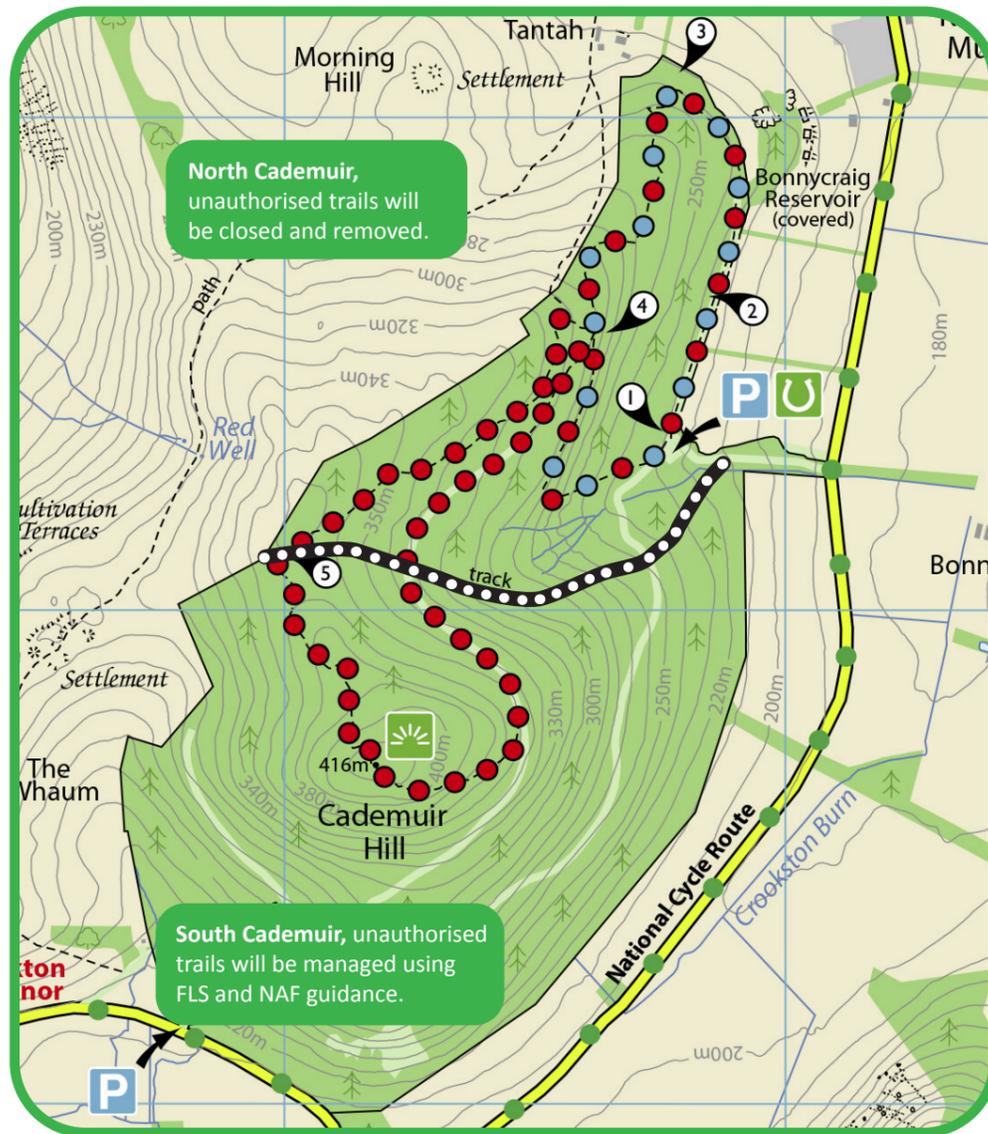
Two areas will be created in Thornielee Forest, as shown in separate map below. To the west unauthorised trails will be managed using FLS and NAF guidance and to the east a quiet area for formal walking trails will be established. Currently mountain bikers use the walking trail to climb to the top of the hill to access the unauthorised trails, which is acceptable. Any unauthorised trails to the east for Thornielee will be closed and removed. Mountain bike events in the forest will be assessed on an event by event basis.

8. The Yair

Mountain biking, walking, horse riding and events will be welcomed to the Yair. Our Land Management Plan feedback indicated all users are enjoying the forest without conflict, although mountain bike management in the forest would ensure no impact on the Glenkinnon car park and trail. Unauthorised trails will be managed using FLS and NAF guidance.



Cademuir Recreation Zones



Thornielee Recreation Zones

