

# CPH APPENDIX 16

## FOREST WAYLEAVE DESIGN PLANS

### LIST OF PLANS

- Plan 1: Sheriff Muir
- Plan 2: Yellowcraig Wood



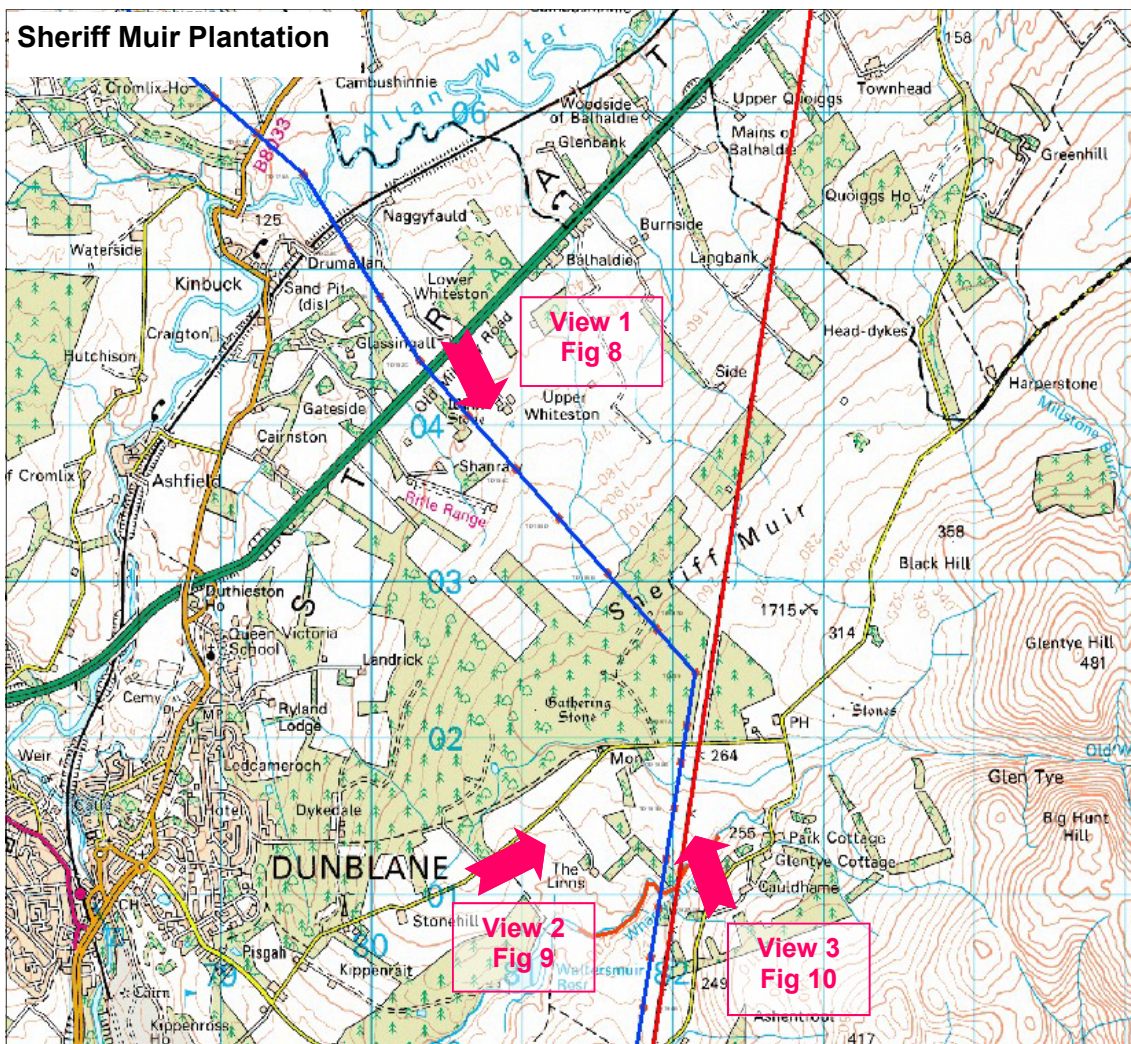
# SHETL Beauldy-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan Sheriff Muir, Dunblane

## Introduction

The Beauldy-Denny transmission line passes through a variety of different landscape character areas and diverse forest and woodland types. The Forest Wayleave Design Plan, as presented in the following pages, provides a design for the wayleave in each specific forest or woodland affected by the route of the transmission line and takes account of the sensitivity of each site both in terms of visual impact and other site sensitivities (recreation, archaeology, wildlife conservation and local dwellings).

The Forest Wayleave Design Plan does not set out to re-design the route of the proposed line, nor does it aim to redesign the forest or woodland in the wider landscape. The Forest Wayleave Design Plan does take account of principles of long term forest plans and accepts that the forest landscape is dynamic and will change over time and be influenced by events that cannot necessarily be predicted.

Context information is provided for landscape and visual analysis, the appraisal identifies design factors that influence the shape of the wayleave and the proposals show in plan and perspective the proposed wayleave design.



**Fig 1 Location Map**

- Proposed 400kV overhead transmission line
- 132kV line to be decommissioned
- ➔ Viewpoints used in illustrations

## Location

Sheriff Muir plantation is located on a prominent rounded hill, immediately north east of Dunblane. The A9 trunk road passes within a mile of the woodland, to the north west. The proposed transmission line crosses the A9 and passes through Sheriff Muir to the north of the hill top and into the valley of the Wharry Burn. The plantation is believed to be on the site of the battle of Sheriff Muir in 1715.

## Landscape Character and Visibility

The landscape surrounding Sheriff Muir is diverse in character. To the west and north is productive mixed farmland and woodland along the Allan Valley. To the east lies more open hilly ground, supporting hill livestock, with small woodlands. The town of Dunblane lies to the south west, with local access routes through adjoining woodland.

Properties are concentrated mainly on lower slopes, but both the A9 and local minor roads will provide views to the transmission line and wayleave. The area is well used locally by walkers and by visitors to Dunblane.

**Fig 2 View of landscape setting of Sheriff Muir plantation from A9 to west**



**Fig 3 View of landscape setting from minor public road to east**

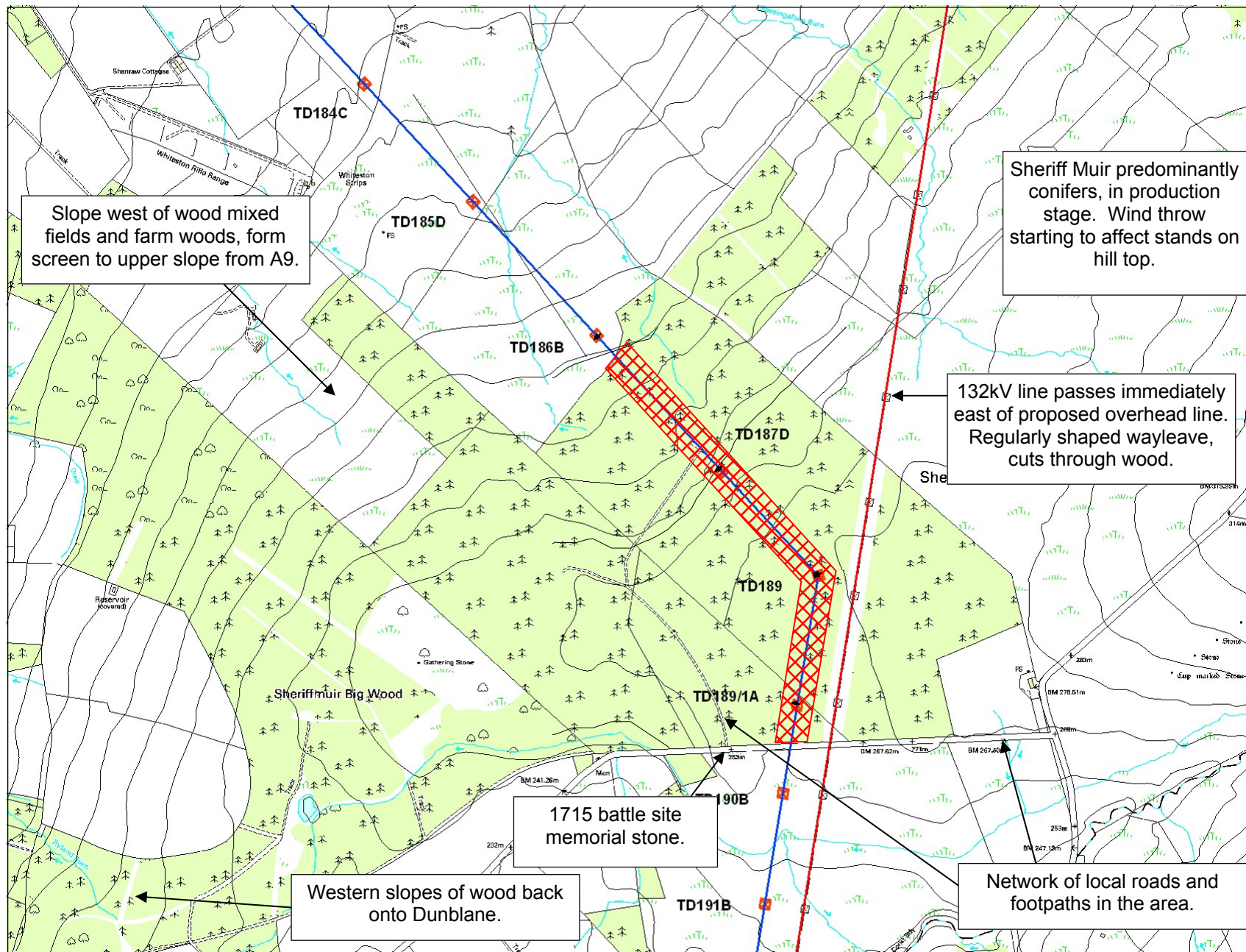


*The view points used to illustrate the visual effects of the wayleave have been chosen to represent typical views towards the overhead line from the wider landscape, usually from the road network. These view points are not exhaustive. Where the visual effects are not prominent, computer generated elevated views have been used to demonstrate the structure of the wayleave through each woodland area.*



# SHETL Beauldy-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan Sheriff Muir, Dunblane

**Fig 4 Landscape Context**



Map key:

- 80m wayleave with tower positions
- 132kV line to be decommissioned

## Landscape Context

Although Sheriff Muir is located in a populated area, in close proximity to Dunblane, the plantation is located on a local ridge and is not highly visible from the surrounding landscape.

Woodlands on slopes to the east and west of Sheriff Muir provide screening to the plantation and the proposed wayleave.

An 80m wide corridor is not only unnatural in appearance, it is not practically achievable because of the age of stands within the plantation and the unstable nature of older stands, which are affected by wind throw.

Local access routes and minor roads near Sheriff Muir will provide close up views of the wayleave and overhead transmission line. The wayleave should therefore be designed so that it integrates into the wider woodland landscape.

## Other Environmental Issues

### Sensitivities Checklist

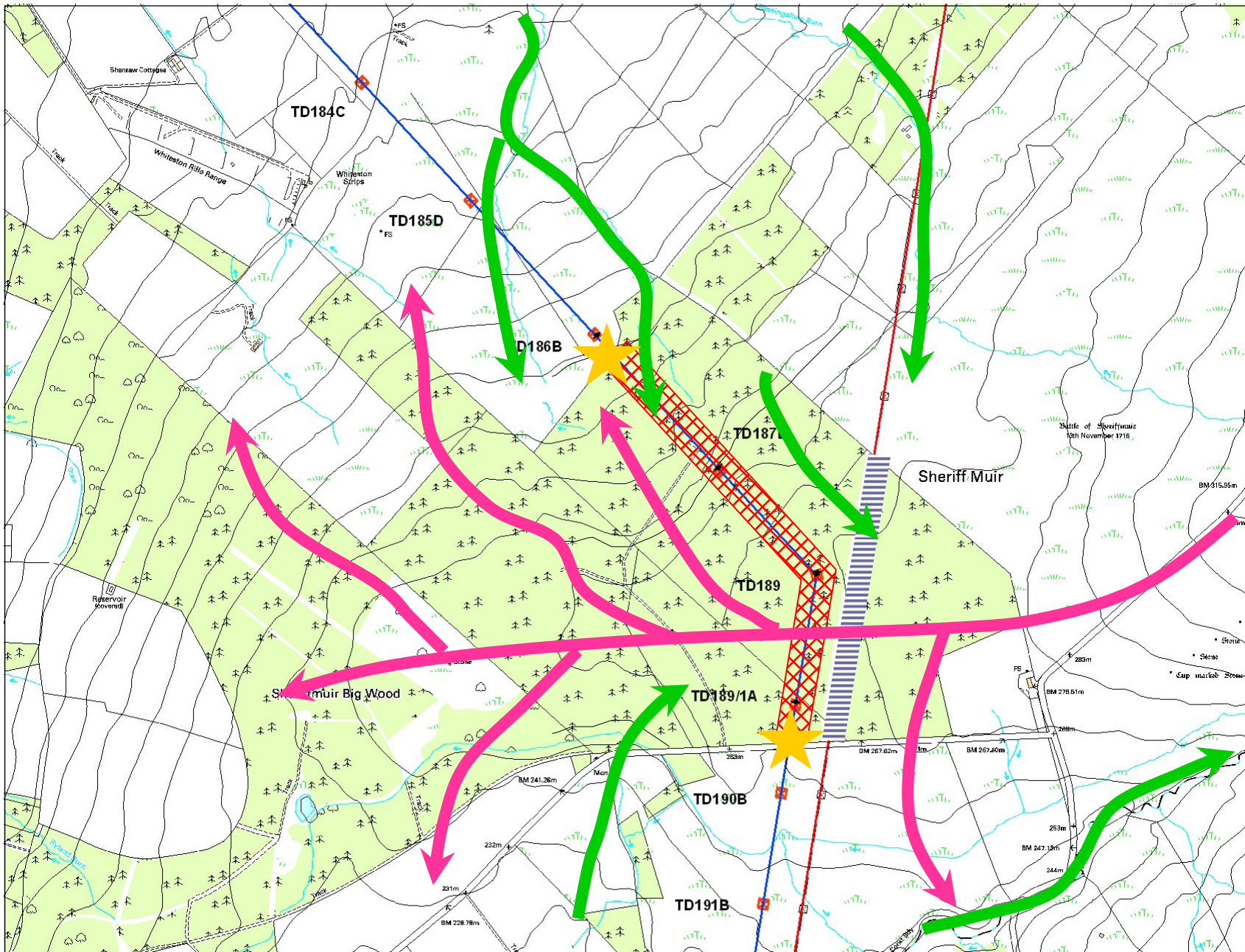
Site No	Name	Location	Tower Numbers
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Sensitivities	Description	Action	FWDP
Archaeology & Cultural Heritage (GUARD)			
Agriculture & Sporting Interests (SAC)			
Hydrology (WSP)			
Ecology & Nature Conservation (HEL)			
Landscape & Visual (WA)			
Tourism & Recreation (RTP)			



# SHETL Beauly-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan Sheriff Muir, Dunblane

**Fig 5 Landscape Appraisal**





## Landscape Appraisal

The location of the proposed wayleave on a ridge, combined with the irregular nature of the plantation, offers opportunities to create a less rigid wayleave design, which will blend into the forest landscape and improve the visual qualities of the wayleave as well as potentially enhancing habitats for wildlife.



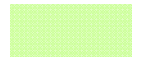
The shape and scale of the wayleave should reflect the underlying landform, with large simple shapes on the ridge, grading into narrower less regular shapes on adjacent slopes and on the plantation margins. When viewed from the surroundings, this woodland has a regular appearance, typical of mature conifer plantation. Internally the woodland is more varied, with patches of open ground and areas of windthrow. The wayleave design should aim to enhance this diversity to create a more unified landscape. The historic importance of Sheriff Muir could also be enhanced, by improving the character of the woodland near the 1715 battle site, with its associated memorial stone.

Landform is the main design influence in this ridge top plantation, but the land uses surrounding the wayleave should also be taken into account.

### Landform appraisal

-  Main ridges and spurs
-  Main hollows and gullies

### Other landscape issues affecting shaping of wayleave

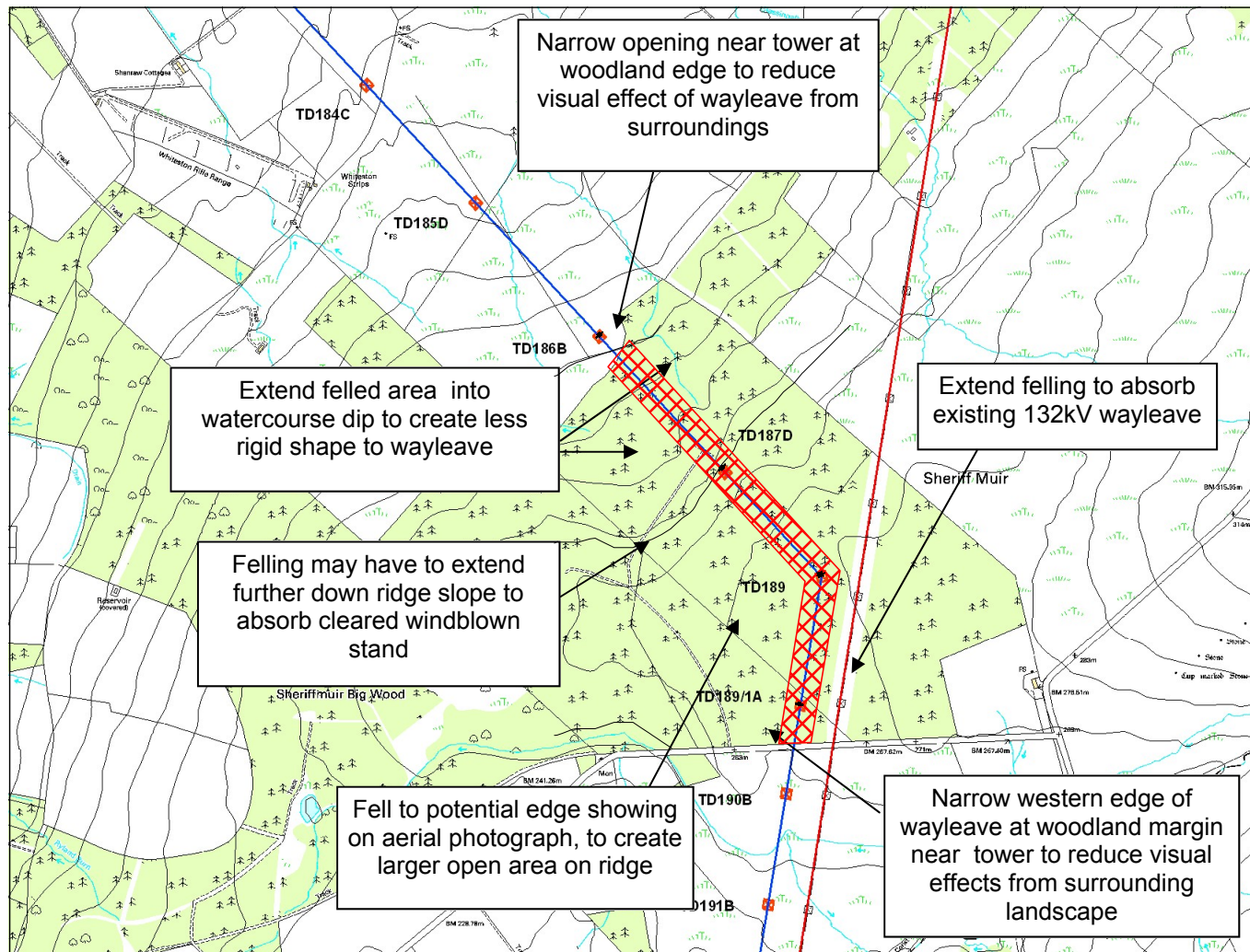
-  Regular shape of existing 132kV line wayleave
-  Both exit points on relatively prominent slopes, visible from immediate surroundings
-  Mixed age predominantly conifer plantation with areas of wind throw

The proposed wayleave crosses over a local ridge to the east of the hill top. The wayleave is angled through the wood which offers opportunities to amend the shape.

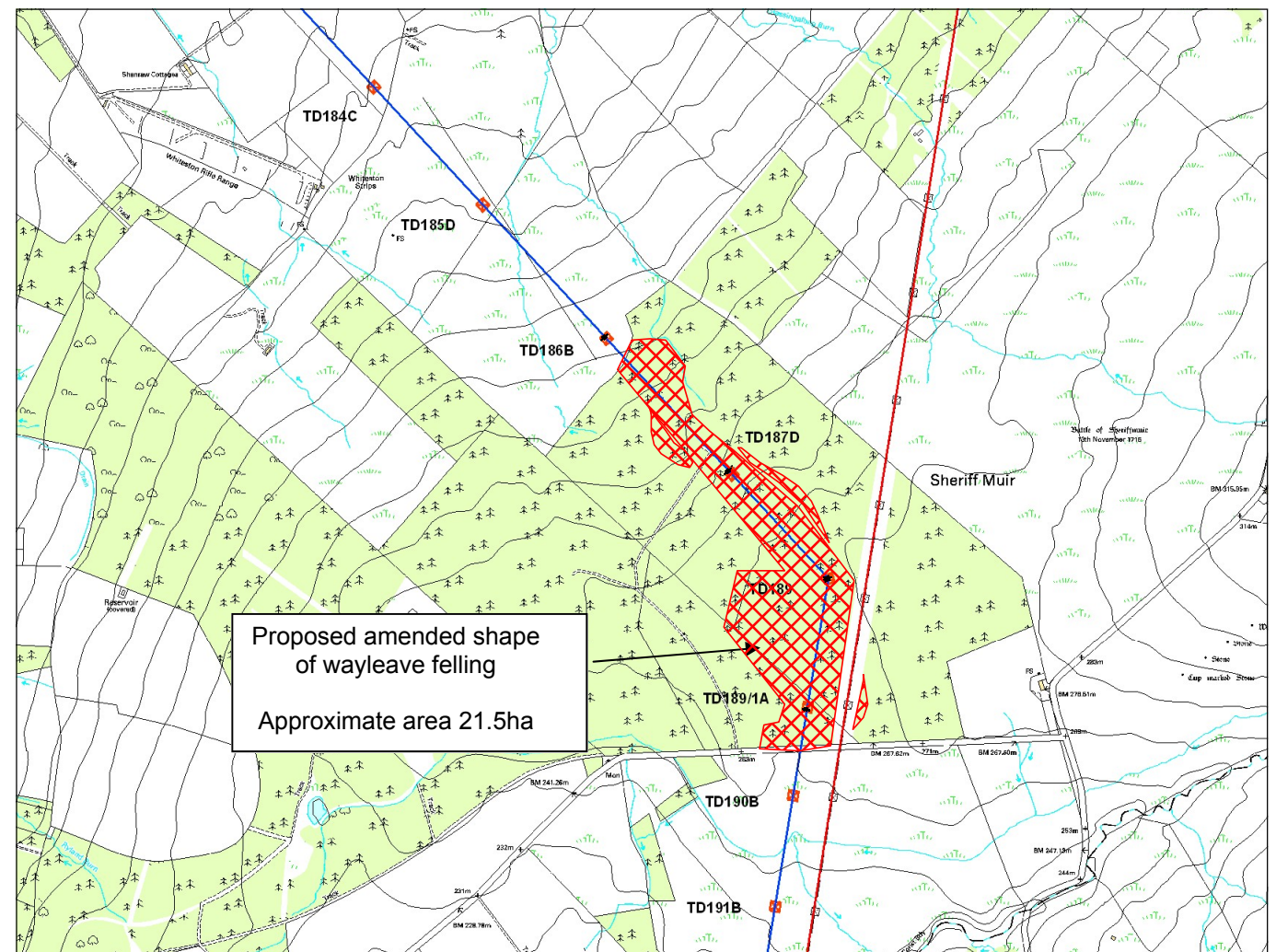


**SHETL Beauly-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan  
Sheriff Muir, Dunblane**

**Fig 6 Design Strategy**



**Fig 7 Concept Design**



Proposed reshaping of wayleave corridor to create less formal shape which will integrate better into the forest landscape.

In reality a larger area may have to be felled because of the unstable nature of woodland. Areas of windblow have already been cleared and further breaks in canopy will increase risk of additional trees blowing over.



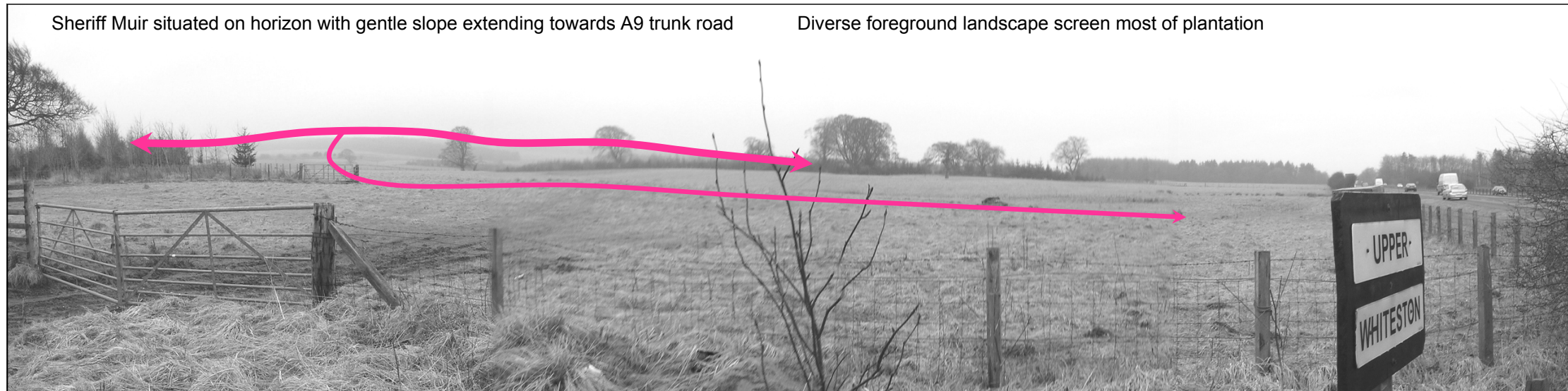
**SHETL Beauly-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan  
Sheriff Muir, Dunblane**

**Illustrations** The following illustrations consist of panoramic photographs taken in February 2008, an analysis of the landscape and computer generated images of the wayleave. All woodland in these illustrations shown at 15m high.

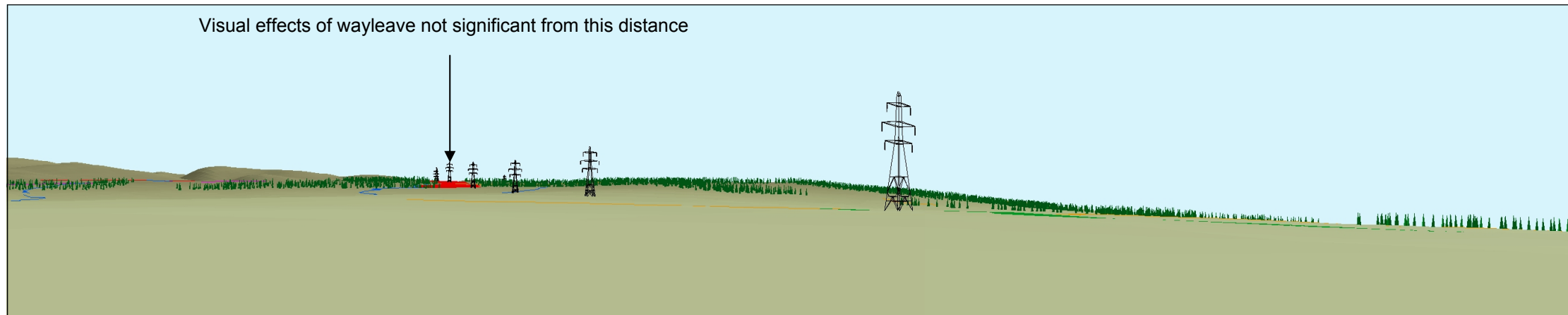
**Fig 8a View 1 Sheriff Muir plantation from Upper Whiteston road end on A9**







**Fig 8b Visual appraisal**



**Fig 8c Computer generated image showing visual effects of wayleave**



Key to illustrations

-  Main ridges and spurs
-  Main hollows and gullies
-  Route of 132kV line to be decommissioned
-  Location of wayleave

**Tower numbers TD 186B to 190B**



SHETL Beauly-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan  
Sheriff Muir, Dunblane

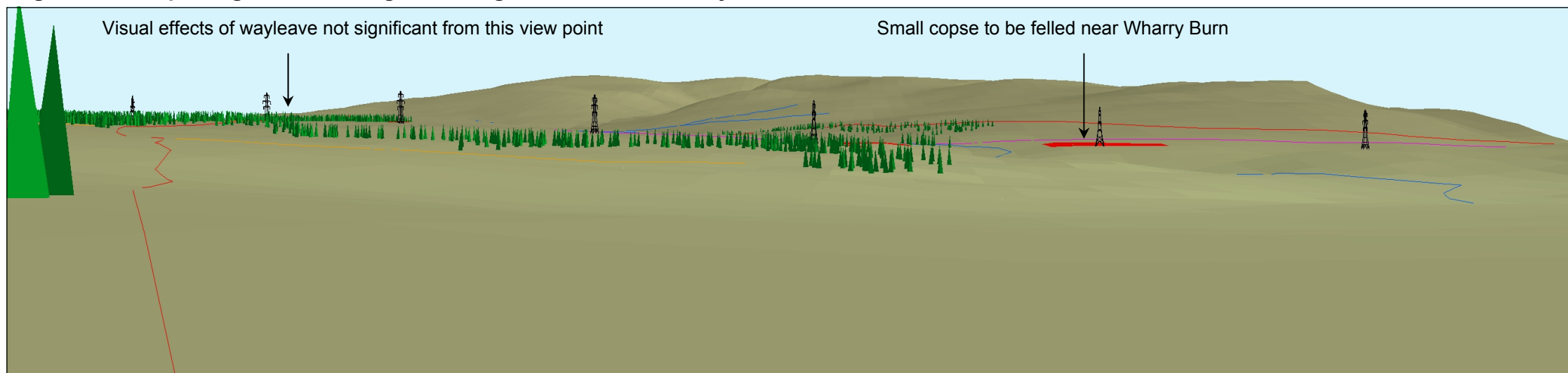
Fig 9a View 2 From minor public road, east of Stonehill and south of Sheriff Muir plantation



Fig 9b Visual appraisal



Fig 9c Computer generated image showing visual effects of wayleave



Tower numbers TD 186B to 190B



SHETL Beauly-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan  
Sheriff Muir, Dunblane

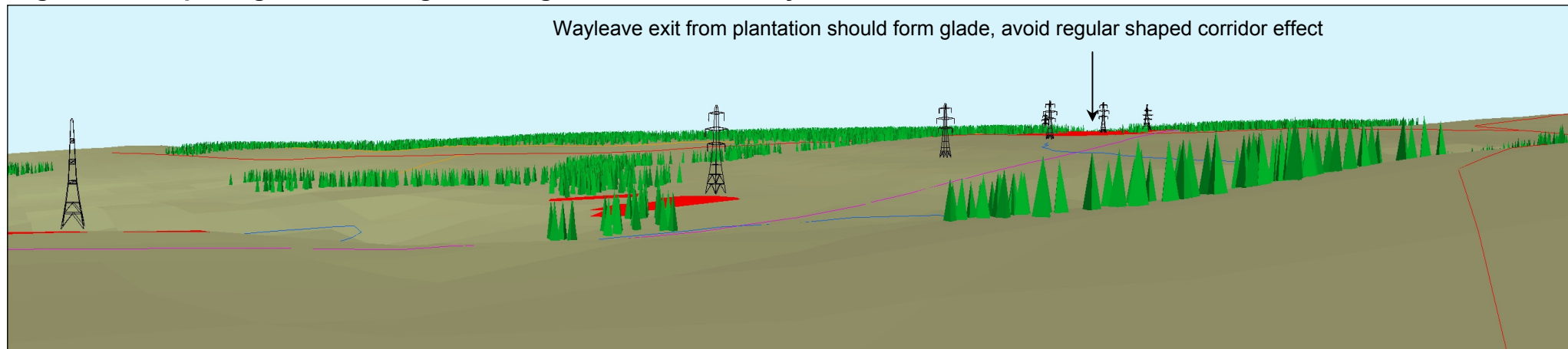
Fig 10a View 3 From minor public road near Cauldhame, east of Waltersmuir Reservoir



Fig 10b Visual appraisal



Fig 10c Computer generated image showing visual effects of wayleave

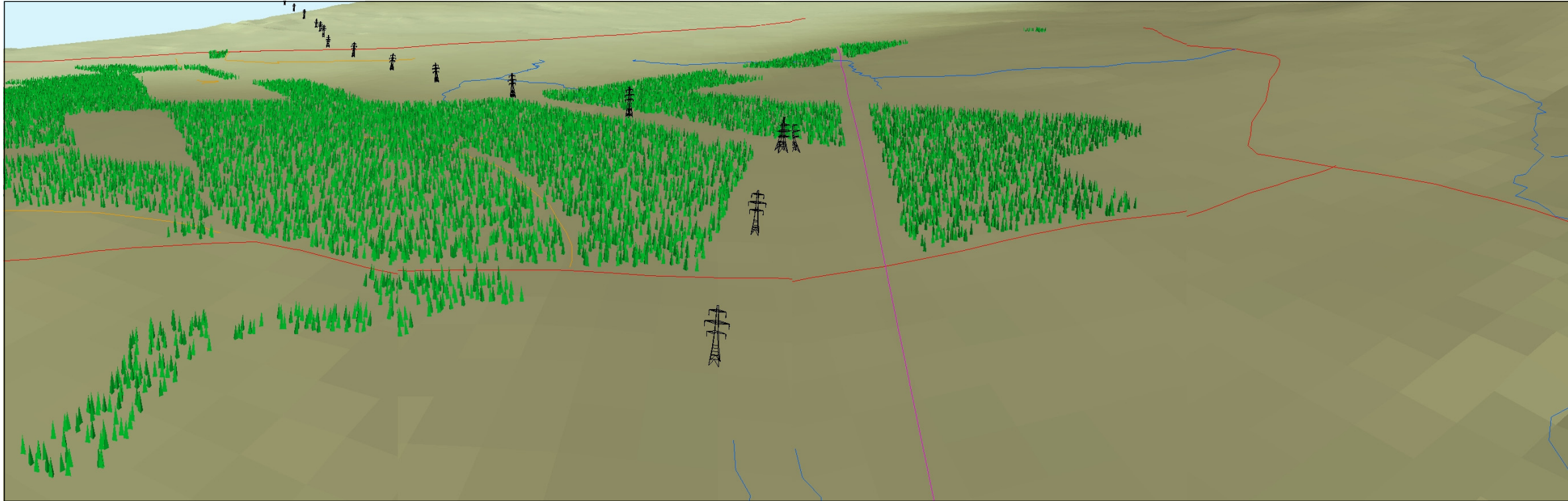


Tower numbers TD 186B to 190B



SHETL Beauly-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan  
Sheriff Muir, Dunblane

Fig 11a Computer generated bird's eye view of 80m wide wayleave, to show effect on forest structure



Regular parallel sided wayleave cuts through woodland, shape and scale unconnected to landform, no links to surrounding forest landscape

Fig 11b Computer generated bird's eye view of designed wayleave, to show effect on forest structure



Proposed amended wayleave shaped to reflect landform shape and scale, with larger opening at top of ridge. Existing 132kV wayleave integrated into pattern. Wayleave designed to resemble a permanent felling area, with potential links into future felling proposals in the plantation. Wayleave exit points designed as irregular, narrower shapes, to control local views up the overhead transmission line.







# SHETL Beaulay-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan Yellowcraig Wood

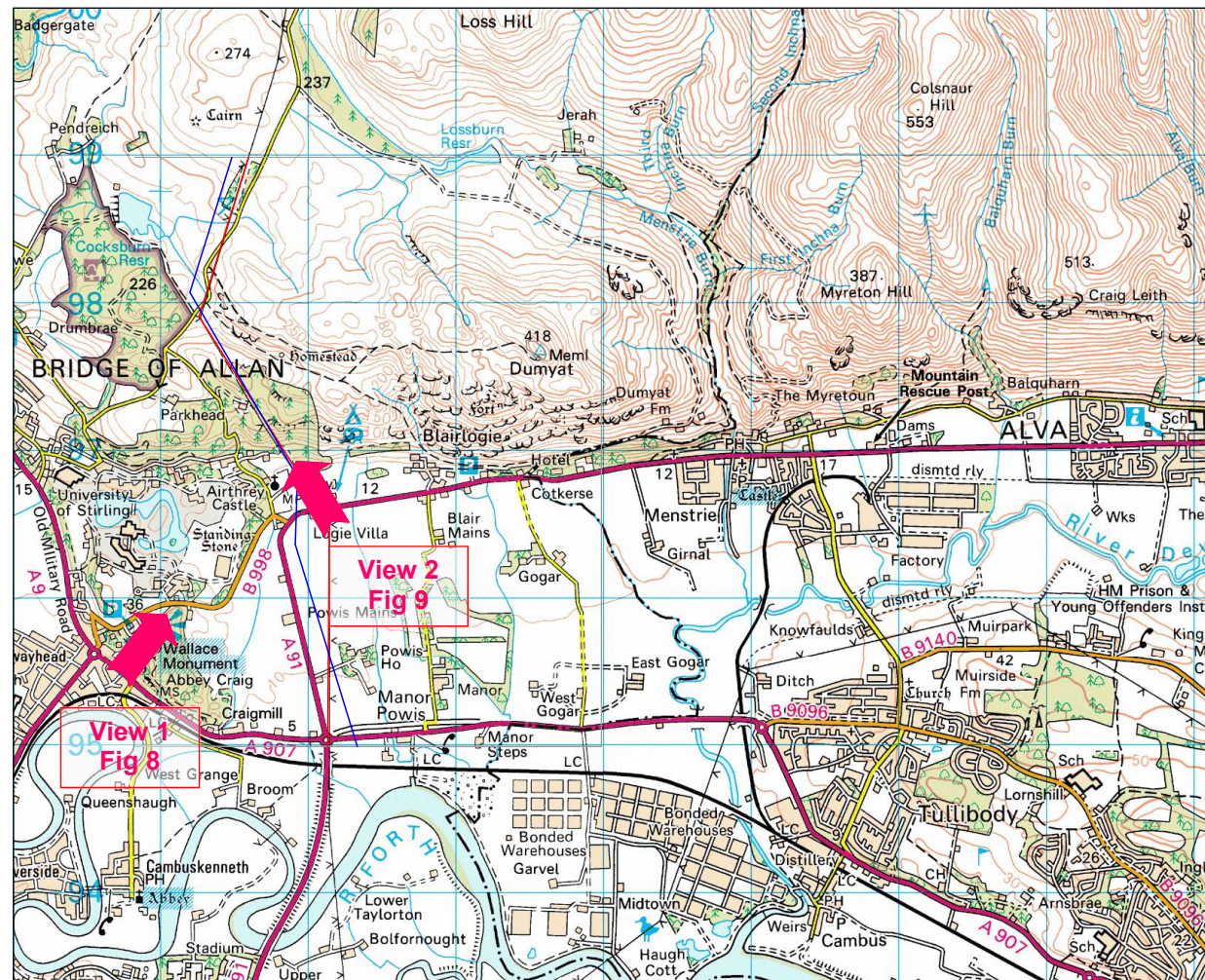
## Introduction

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Context information is provided for landscape and visual analysis, the appraisal identifies design factors that influence the shape of the wayleave and the proposals show in plan and perspective the proposed wayleave design.

**Fig 1 Location Map - Yellowcraig Wood**



- Proposed 400kV overhead transmission line
- 132kV line to be decommissioned
- ➔ Viewpoints used in illustrations

## Location

Yellowcraig Wood is situated to the north east of Bridge of Allan, on a prominent slope overlooking Stirling University Campus.

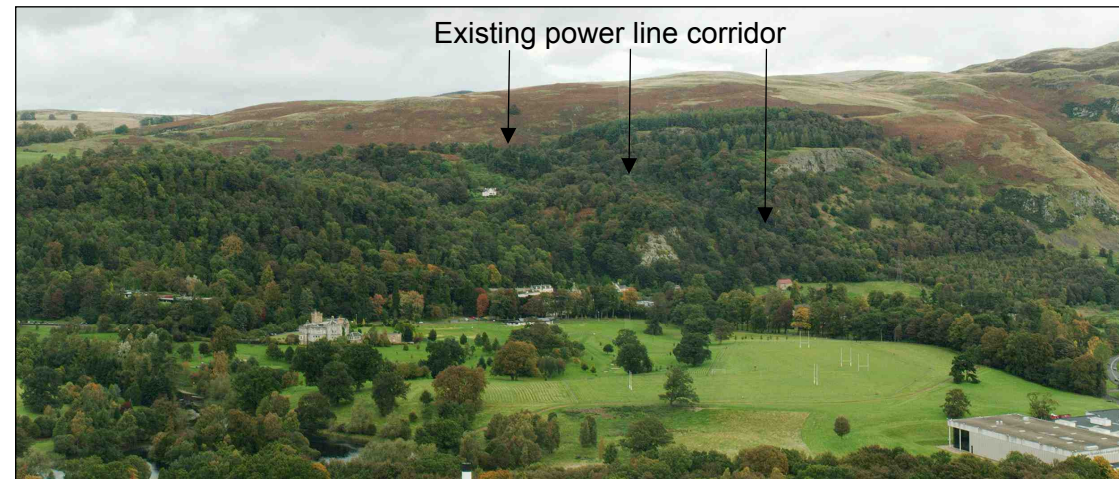
## Landscape Character and Visibility

Yellowcraig Wood is situated in a diverse landscape. The Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland covers the steep slope between open rugged moorland on Ben Dumyat and fields and University Campus at the bottom of the slope. The woods are diverse in character, relatively open in structure and made up a mixture of broadleaves and conifers. Rhododendron is a feature of the understory of the wood, which also supports numerous open glades.

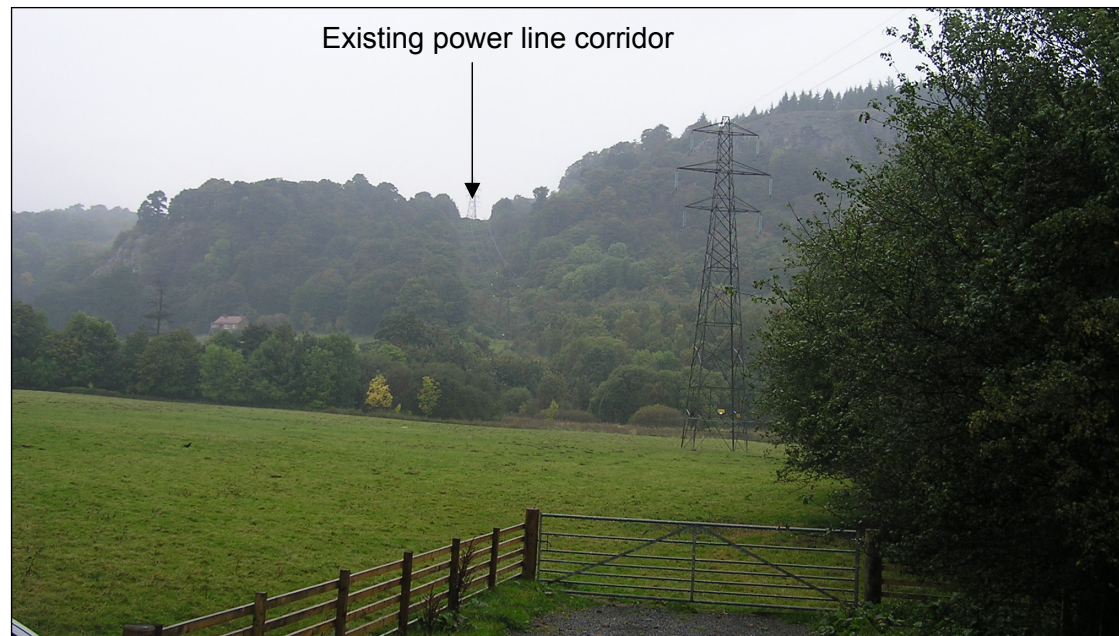
Yellowcraig Wood is prominent locally, being visible from the local road network and rural dwellings as well from the surrounding landscape.

There is already a 132kV overhead transmission line through the wood (which will be decommissioned).

**Fig 2 View from Wallace Monument across University Campus**



**Fig 3 View from south at base of slope near Cemetery**



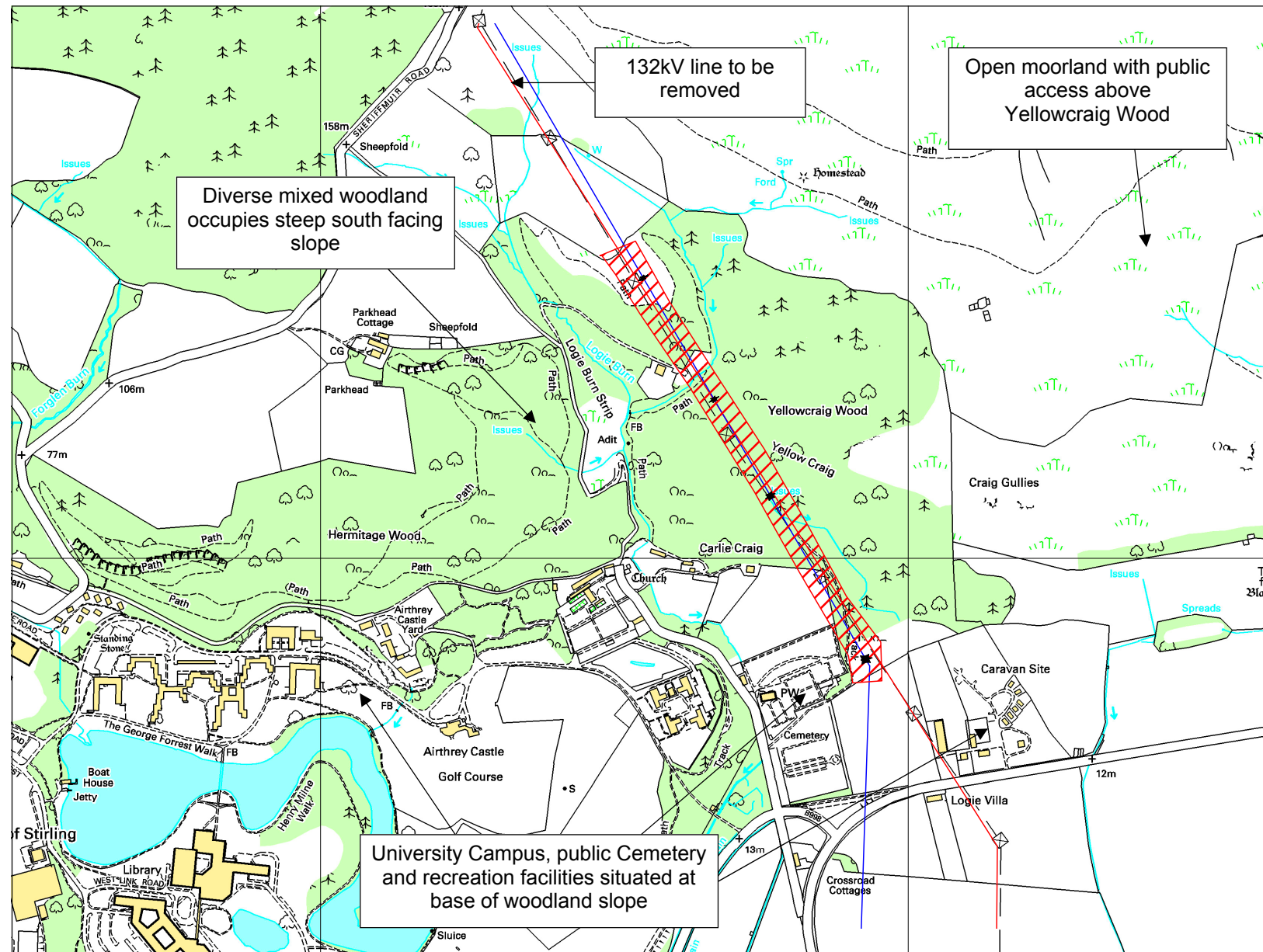
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# SHETL Beauldy-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan Yellowcraig Wood

**Fig 4 Landscape Context**



## Landscape Context

Yellowcraig Wood is situated in a visually prominent location on the craggy slopes between Ben Dumyat and the Forth valley. Mixed predominantly broadleaved woodland, which also includes Hermitage Wood, covers the slope between Bridge of Allan and Blairlogie, where it forms the backdrop to the University of Stirling. The wooded slope is highly visible from the Forth valley and prominent view points to the south, such as the Wallace Memorial.

The 400kV line follows the route of the 132 line, which is to be decommissioned. This route follows a dip in the topography between the crags and the Logie Burn, which offers a degree of screening.

## Other Environmental Issues

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

## Sensitivities Checklist

Site No	Name	Location	Tower Numbers
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### Map key:

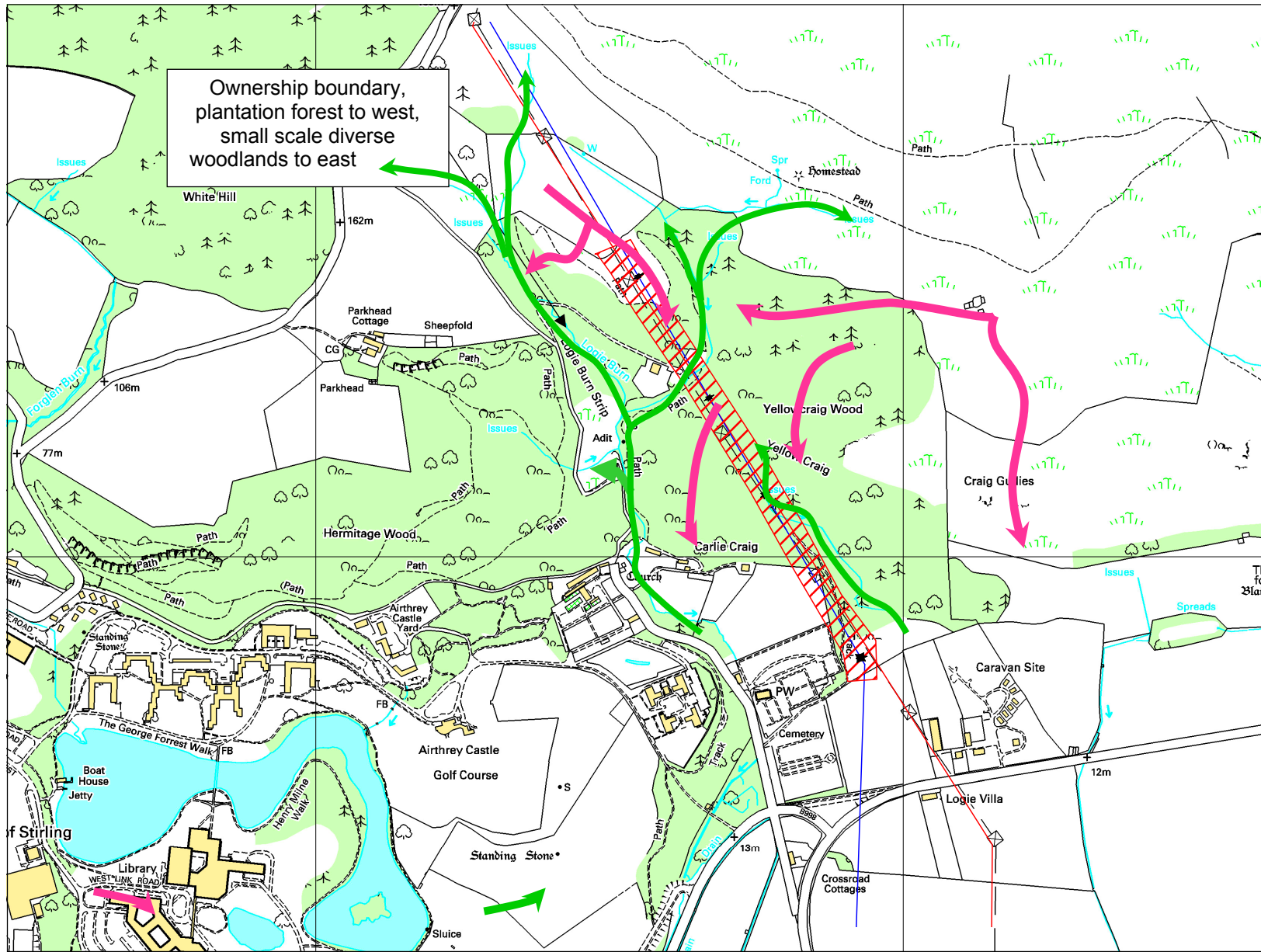
- 80m wide wayleave with tower positions
- Proposed 400kV O/H line
- 132kV O/H line to be decommissioned

Sensitivities	Description	Action	FWDP
Archaeology & Cultural Heritage (GUARD)			
Agriculture & Sporting Interests (SAC)			
Hydrology (WSP)			
Ecology & Nature Conservation (HEL)			
Landscape & Visual (WA)			
Tourism & Recreation (RTP)			



**SHETL Beauldy-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan  
Yellowcraig Wood**

**Fig 5 Landscape Appraisal**



**Landscape Appraisal**

Yellowcraig Wood is situated on a long craggy slope and forms part of a larger Ancient Semi-Natural woodland. The woodlands are diverse in character, consisting of mature and semi-mature broadleaves, with a few stands of conifers. The woods are open in character with open glades throughout. The crags on either side of the existing 132kV line are visible in the wider landscape. The introduction of a second wayleave, following the route of the existing wayleave will control the visual impact of the new wayleave through the woodland.

The 400kV wayleave will be most prominent from the base of the slope, where views look straight up the corridor. In more oblique views, the wayleave will be less prominent, partly due to the diverse character of the woodland and surrounding landscape.

The retention and enhancement of the woodland shrub understory will help to reduce the contrast between ground vegetation and the tree layer, as well as contributing to continuing habitat diversity within the wood.

**Main landform features**

- Main ridges and spurs
- Main hollows and gullies

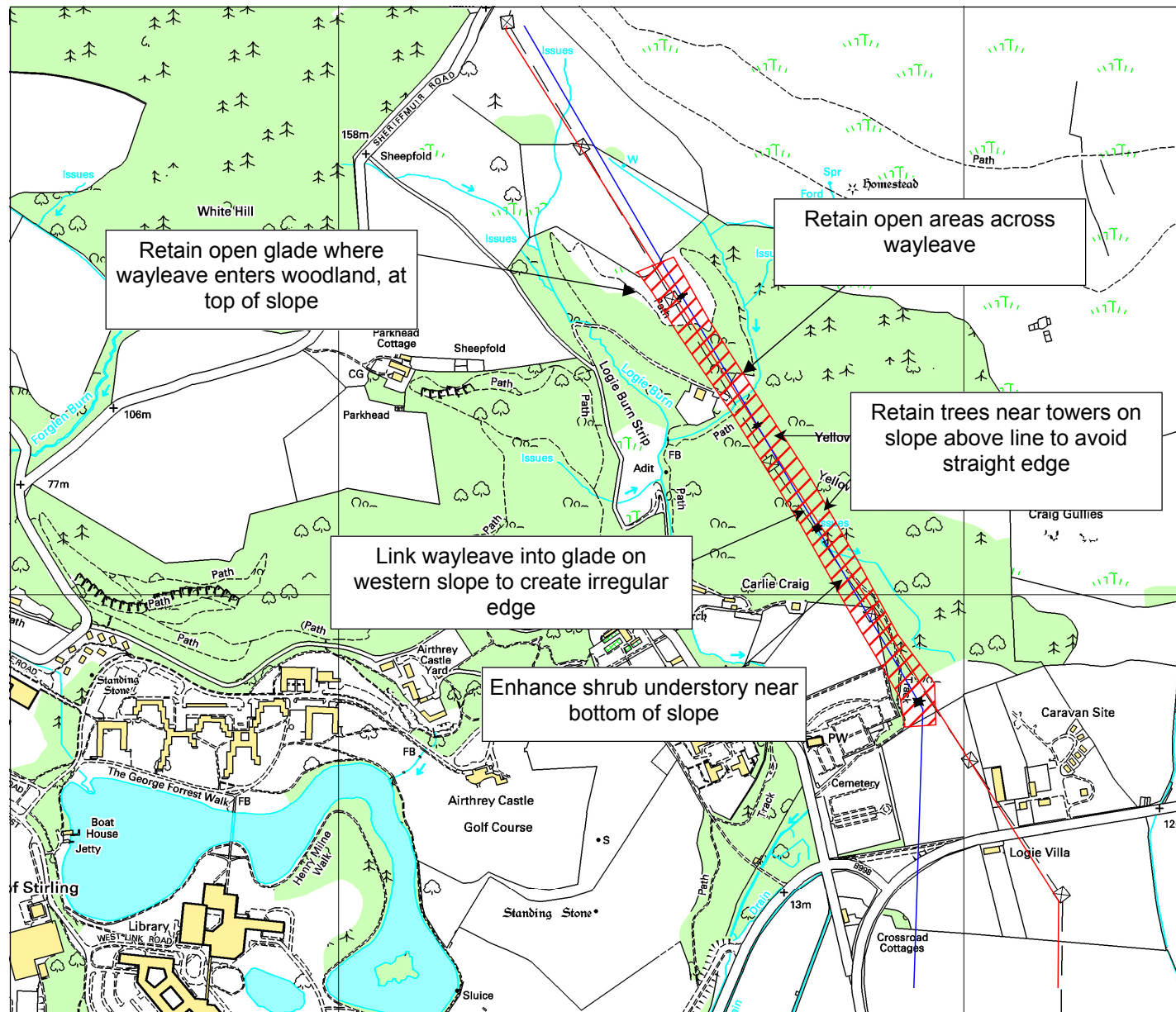
**Landscape issues affecting shaping of wayleave**

- Existing 132kV line wayleave
- Presence of shrub understory

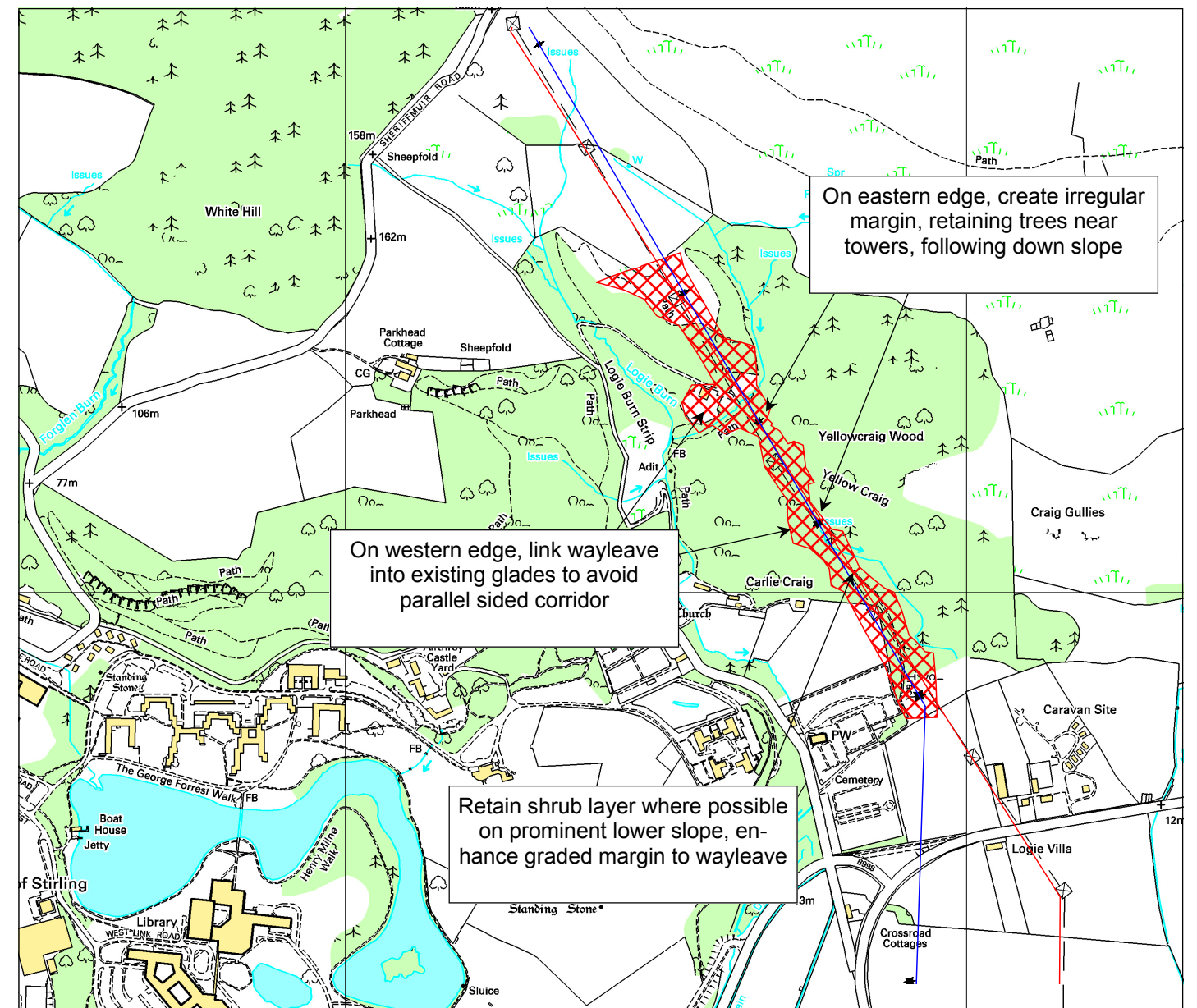


**SHETL Beauly-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan  
Yellowcraig Wood**

**Fig 6 Design Strategy**



**Fig 7 Concept Design**



**Key**



80m wide wayleave with additional felling



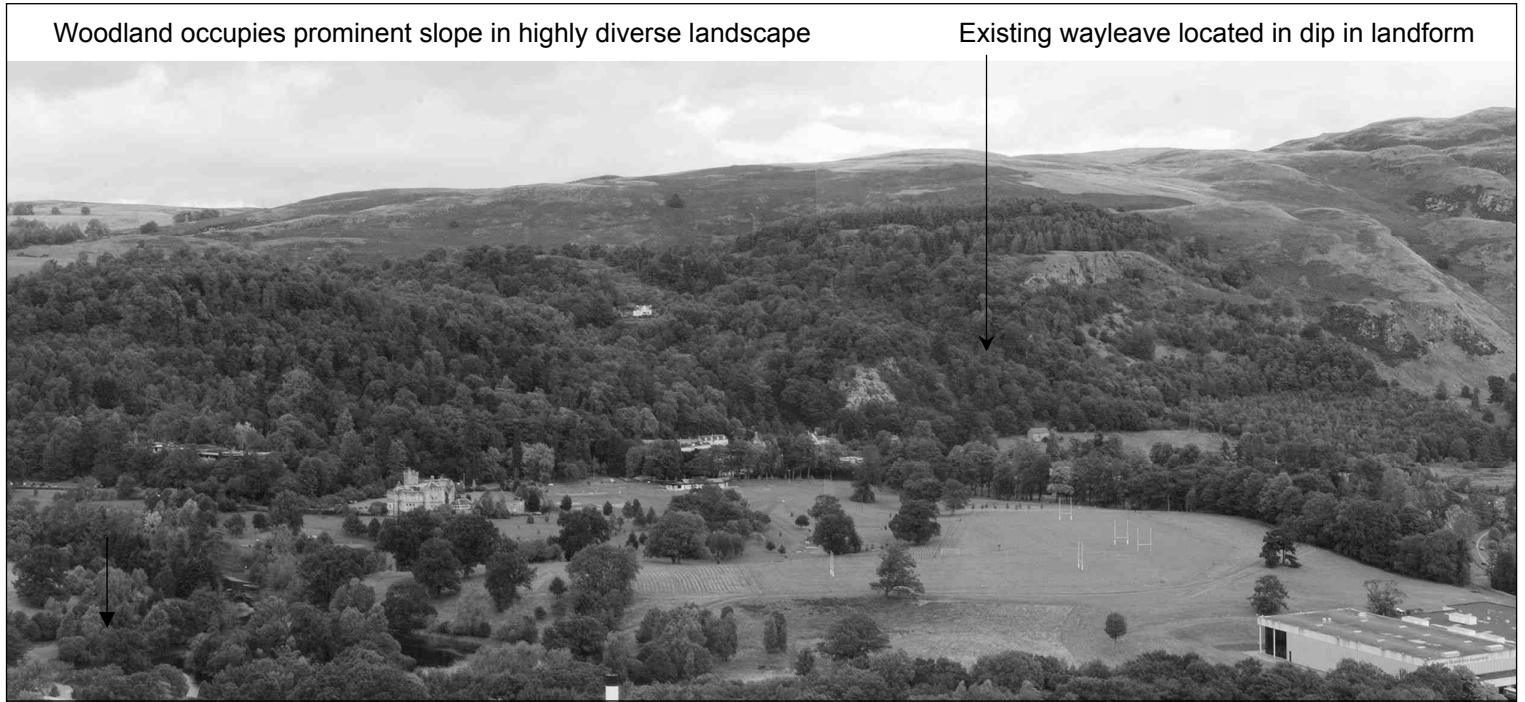
**SHETL Beaully-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan  
Yellowcraig Wood**

**Illustrations** The following illustrations consist of panoramic photographs taken in summer 2008, an analysis of the landscape and computer generated images of the wayleave. Mature woodland in these illustrations shown at 15m high.

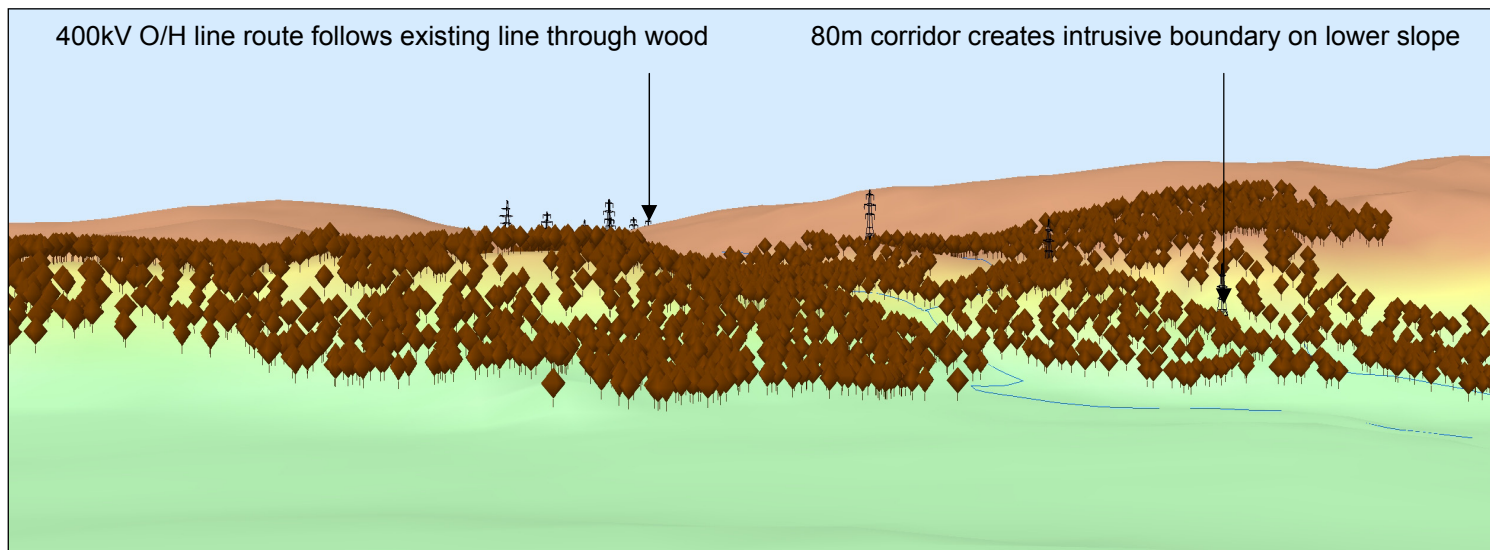
**Fig 8 View of Yellowcraig and Hermitage Woods from Wallace Monument**



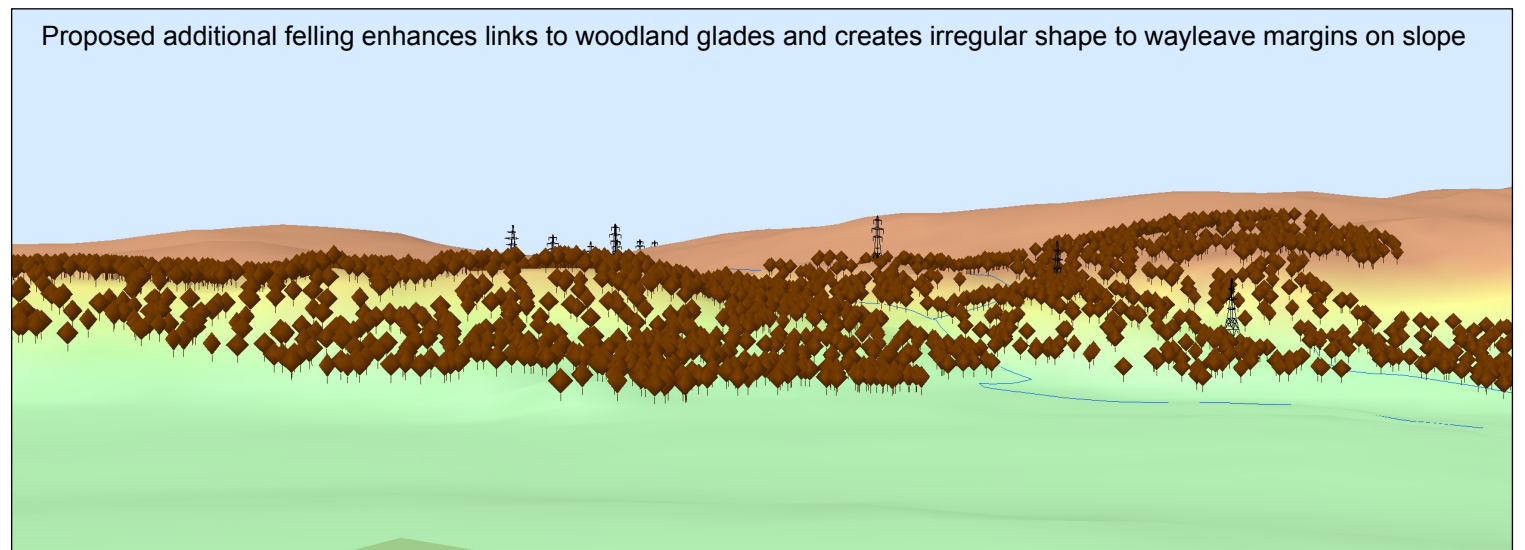
**Fig 8a Visual appraisal**



**Fig 8b Computer generated image showing visual effects of 80m wayleave**



**Fig 8c Computer generated image showing visual effects of felling extended wayleave**



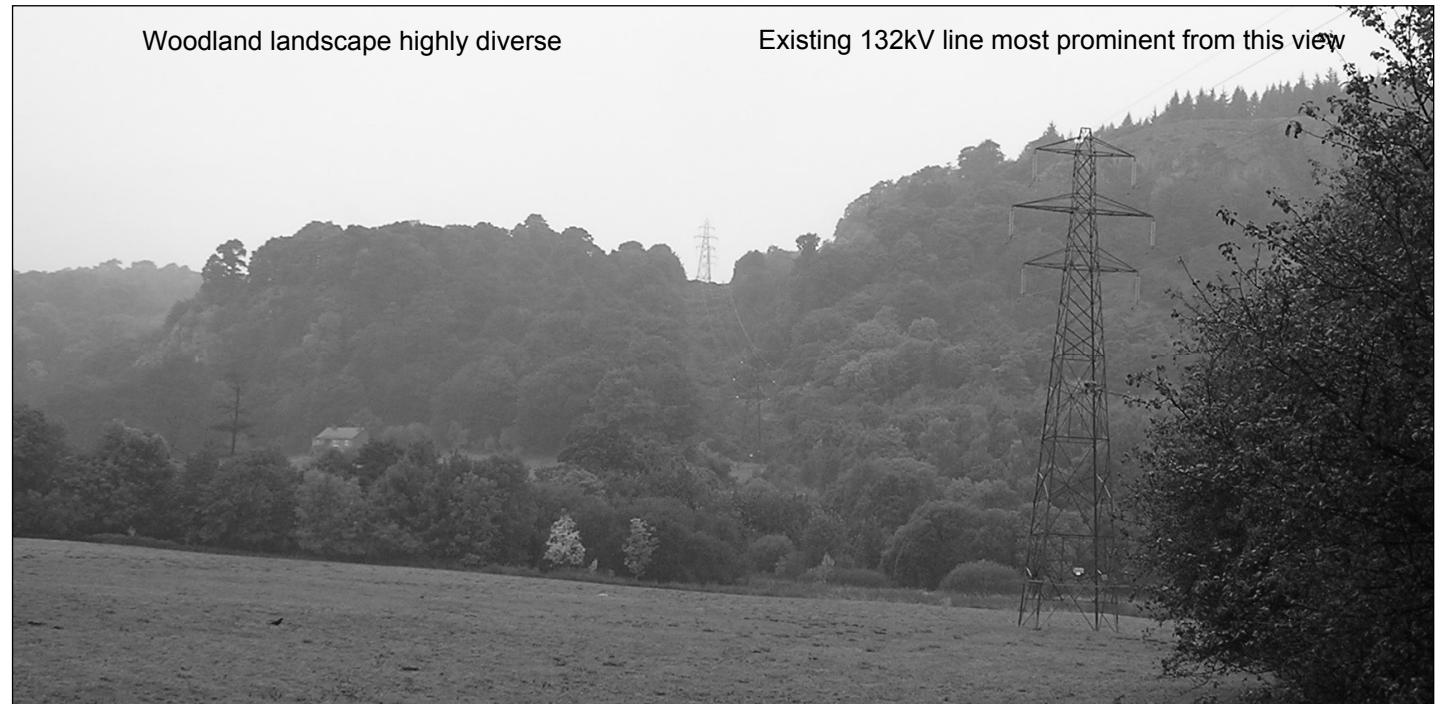


**SHETL Beauly-Denny Overhead Transmission Line, Forest Wayleave Design Plan  
Yellowcraig Wood**

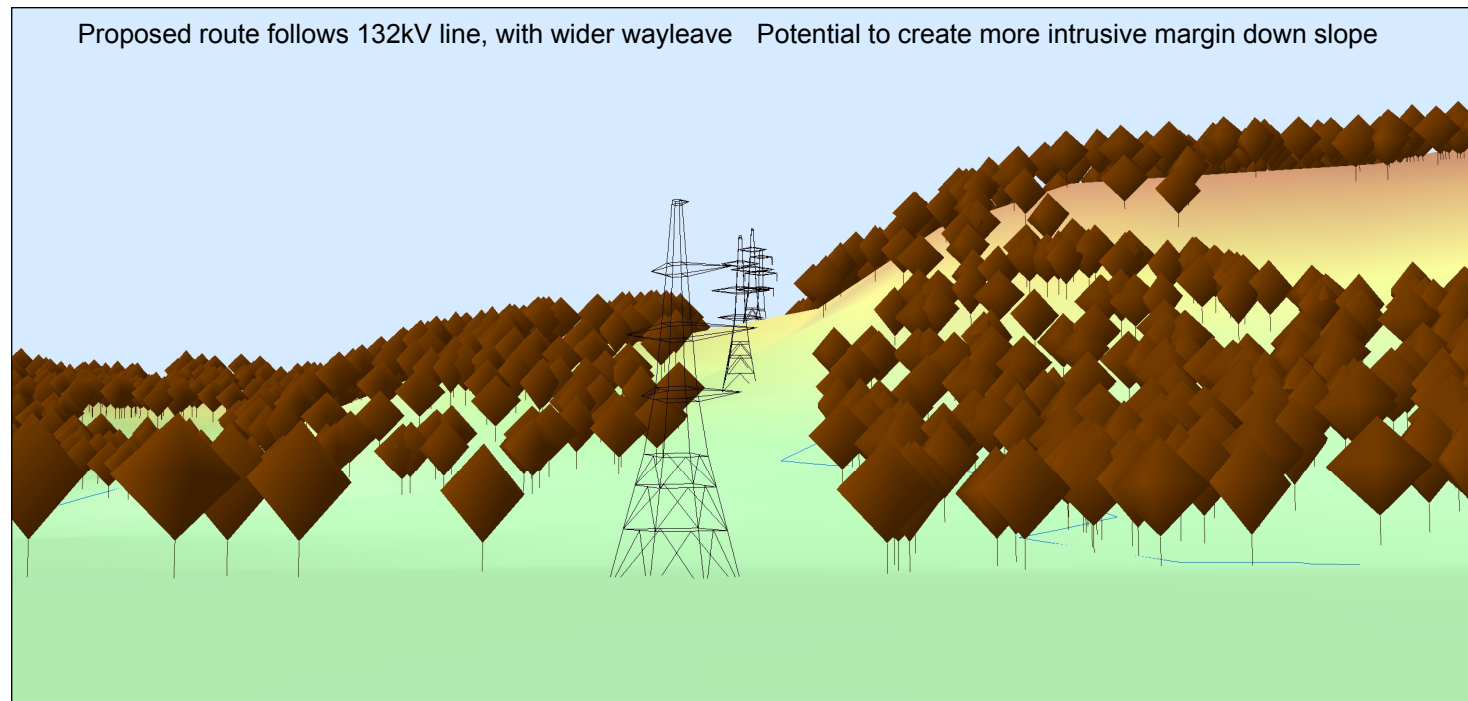
**Fig 9 View of Yellowcraig Wood from near Cemetery**



**Fig 9a Visual appraisal**



**Fig 9b Computer generated image showing visual effects of 80m wayleave**



**Fig 9c Computer generated image showing visual effects of felling extended wayleave**

