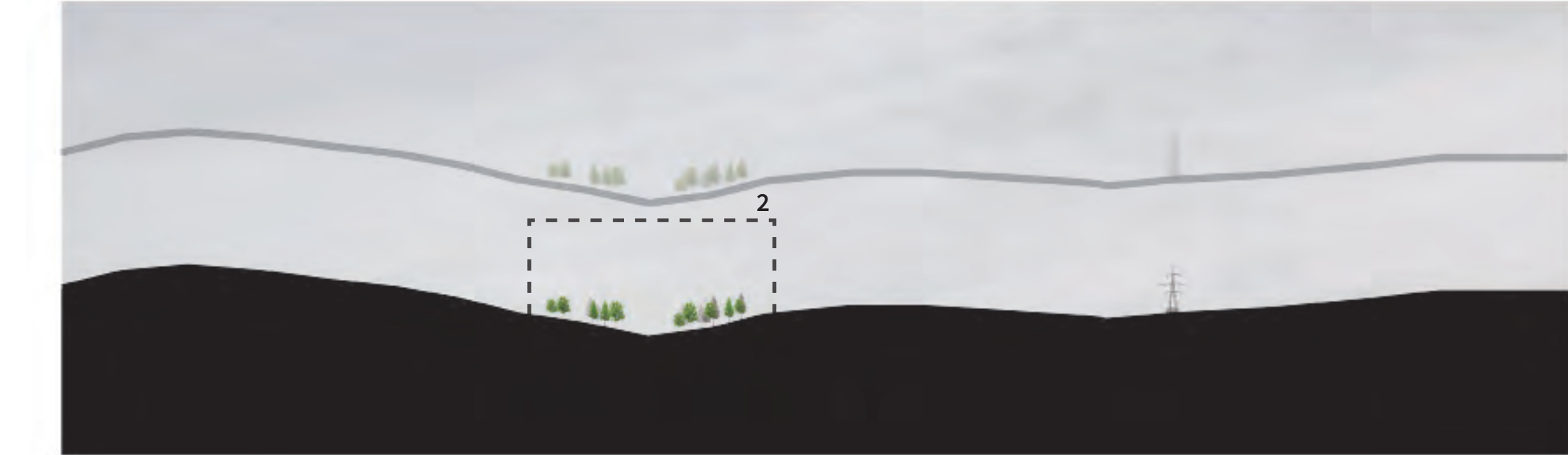
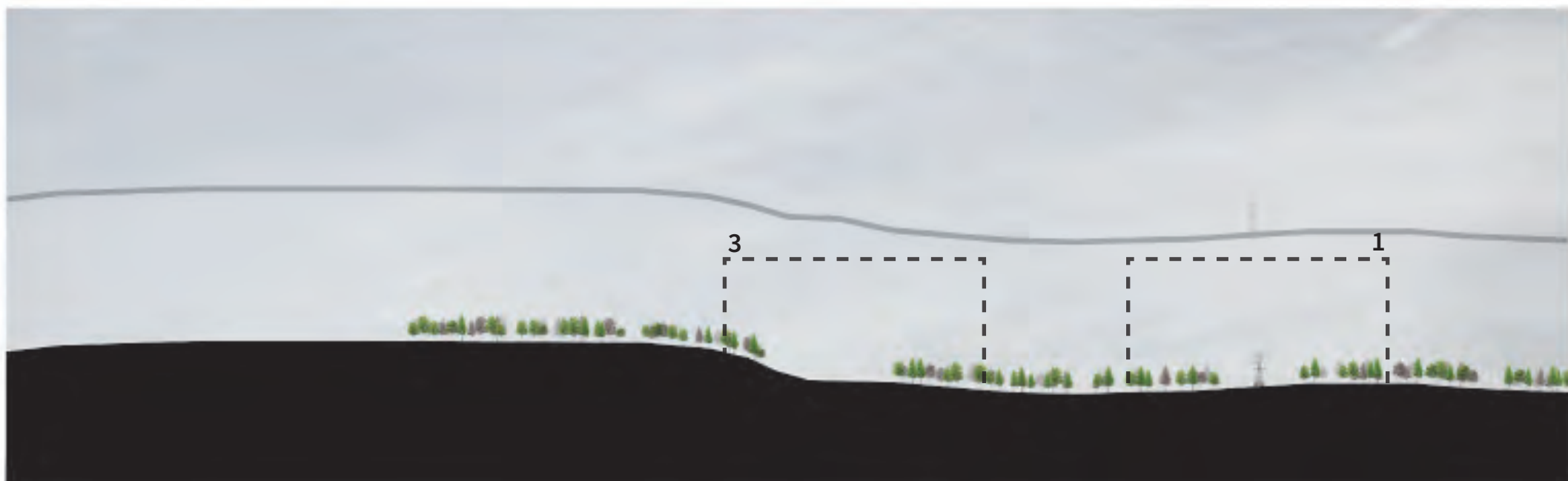


Indicative Cross Section A



Indicative Cross Section B



**Outline Proposals**

The proposals have been developed taking into consideration landscape and visual factors, whilst building upon the fundamental elements, guiding principles and concept proposals to fulfil the key objective of reducing the existing visual impact of the transmission line on receptors using the routes of the Rob Roy Way, West Highland Way and NCR7 in the East Drymen area.

The proposals focus on distinct sections of these promoted tourist/recreational routes, and seek to improve the user experience from these routes, with a primary focus on reducing the perceptibility and visibility of the transmission line from key sections.

The southern extent of the proposals focuses on the route of the West Highland Way and offers an alternative route for receptors following the route of the Altequhar Burn valley south of the A811, passing through existing native woodland along the corridor of the burn. The alternative route provides an improved experience for receptors, with reduced visibility of the transmission line. To further assist in diverting attention from the transmission line the proposal also develops upon the concept of providing associated viewpoint/ interventions, presented during the optioneering stage set out in the accompanying workbook.

The introduction of native mixed woodland and the enhancement of the existing woodland structure north and south of the A811 along the route of the West Highland Way will further reduce visibility of the transmission line either side of this busy A-road.

The northern extent of the proposals focuses on the route of the Rob Roy Way and National Cycle Route 7 (NCR7), to the north-east of the existing Garadhbhan Forest. The route of these popular recreational routes follows the former military road across the open moorland of Muir Park through an area of recently felled forestry. The introduction of extensive mixed native woodland will seek to screen and filter views of the transmission line from the minor road, whilst a minor alternative footpath route west of Muir Park reservoir will offer an improved experience for receptors. A potential viewpoint/ intervention to the east of the transmission line on the route of the Rob Roy Way will focus receptors towards long distance views north, north-eastwards across the Trossachs.

The outline proposals includes the following mitigation measures for reducing the existing visual impact of the transmission line on users of the West Highland Way, Rob Roy Way and NCR7:

- Provision of an alternative route for users of the West Highland Way along the Altequhar Burn valley to take receptors/ people away from the transmission line and along wooded valley of the burn;
- Localised native woodland planting and enhancement of existing woodland along the valley floor to improve the experience and setting of the route, create native woodland habitat and supplement the riparian habitat along the burn, and provide enhanced screening transmission line;
- Localised native woodland planting to the West Highland Way to tie into the Garadhbhan Forest and screening views over open sections of the route; and
- Wide scale native woodland planting to the open section of the Rob Roy Way and NCR7 where they cross Muir Park, sensitively designed to respond to existing topography and landscape pattern, and tie into existing woodland and forestry within the area, creating further woodland habitat and affording screening and filtering of the transmission line, and
- Creation of visually diverting focal points in the form of viewpoints/ interventions along the West Highland Way, Rob Roy Way and NCR7 to divert receptors/ people's attention away from the transmission line.

**Key Benefits**

- Enhanced screening of transmission line afforded from the West Highland Way, Rob Roy Way and NCR7;
- Introduction of visually diverting viewpoint/ interventions to focus views away from the transmission line;
- Improved user experience along the existing and alternative routes of the West Highland Way and Rob Roy Way, including diversion of section of the West Highland Way route which runs alongside the busy A811;
- Improved experiential connection with Altequhar Burn for users of the West Highland Way south of the A811; and
- Creation and enhancement of native woodland and riparian woodland, and associated habitats.

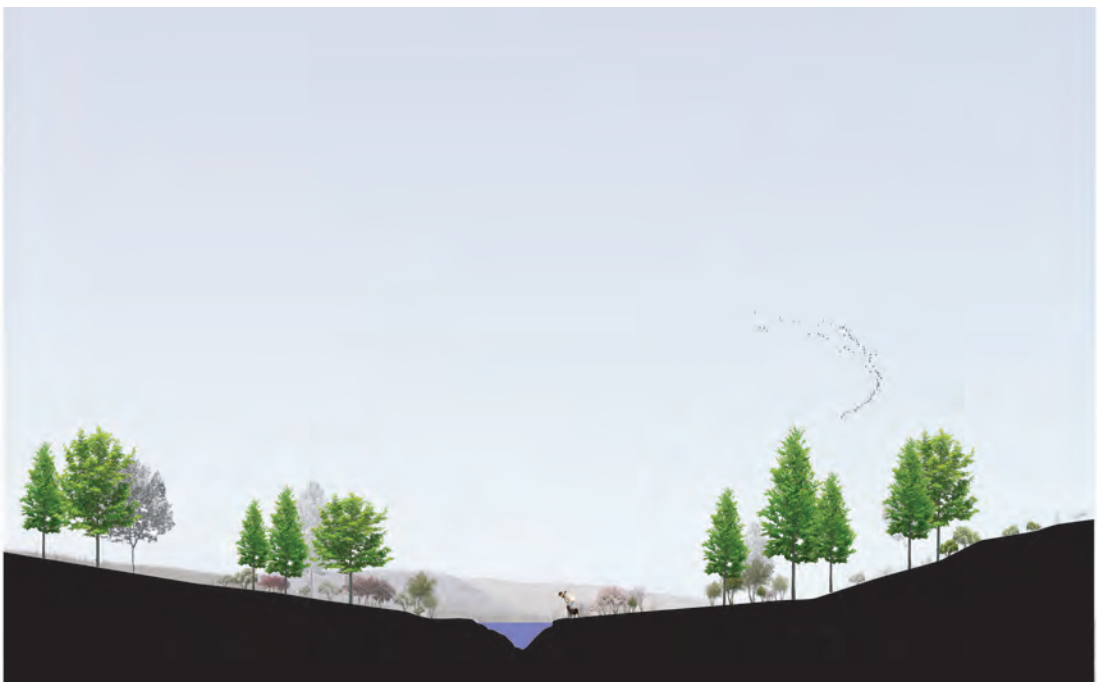
**Key Challenges**

- Construction of new route required with associated costs;
- Land take required to facilitate new path and woodland planting;
- Consideration of flood risk and access requirements along the Altequhar Burn valley;
- Limited opportunity to screen views of transmission lines in longer distance views from West Highland Way with lines still clearly visible.

Indicative Sections



Section 1  
Illustrating the treatment proposed to the wayleave corridor alongside the line as it emerges from the Loch Ard Forest and crosses Muir Park. The section shows the proposed fence line in relation to the edge of the proposed planting. It is proposed to leave a swathe of land, of varying width and design, between the woodland edge and the fence line to encourage natural regeneration within this area and a feathering out of the woodland edge to create a more natural 'edge zone' with increased biodiversity value. The woodland edge will vary in design along the wayleave in accordance with the principles outlined below.

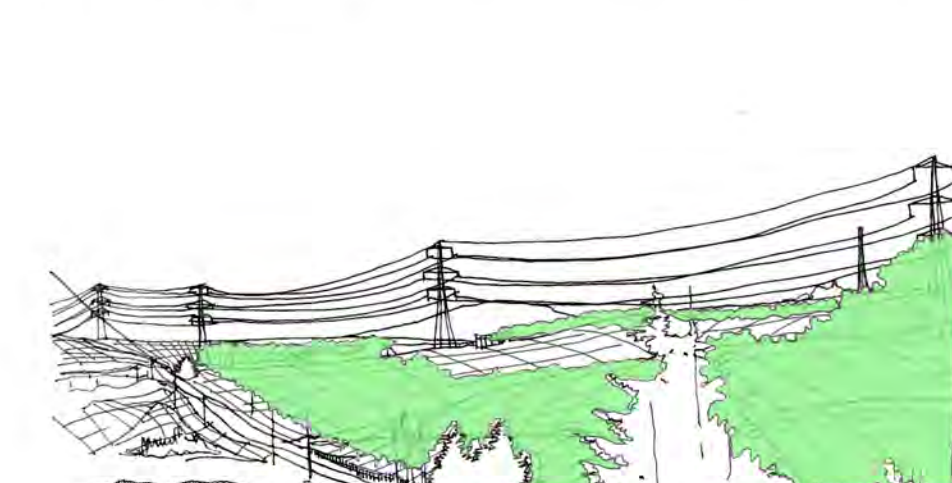
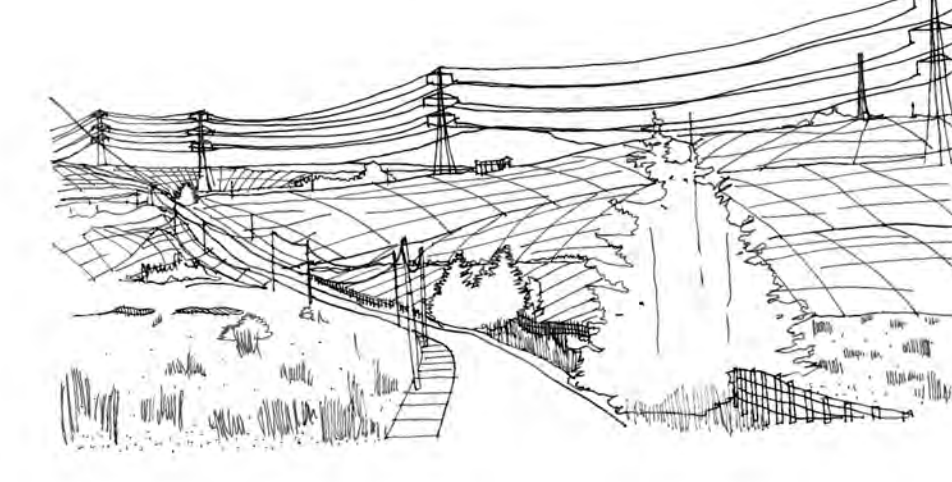


Section 2  
Illustrating the proposed new path/alternative route of the West Highland Way along Altequhar Burn, with associated new native and riparian woodland planting. Native woodland planting is proposed to strengthen the scrubby riparian woodland found along the river corridor, to screen and filter longer distance views of the line from users of the proposed alternative route for this popular recreational/tourist footpath.

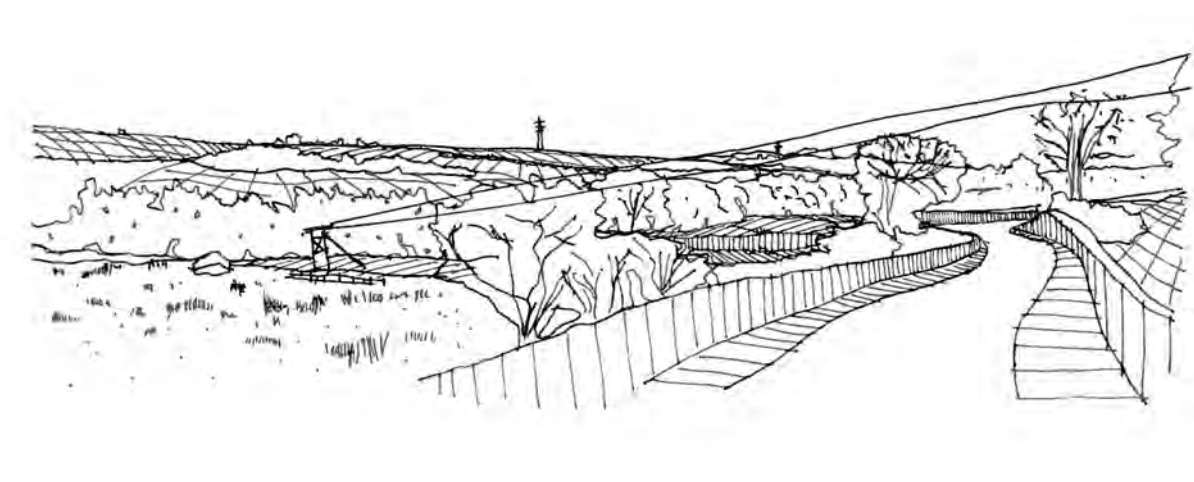


Section 3  
Illustrating the extent of proposed native woodland planting to the east of the Rob Roy Way and National Cycle Route 7 as they pass east of Muir Park Reservoir screening and filtering views eastwards towards the transmission line, whilst improving the user experience along this route and promoting views west across the reservoir and the moorland beyond.

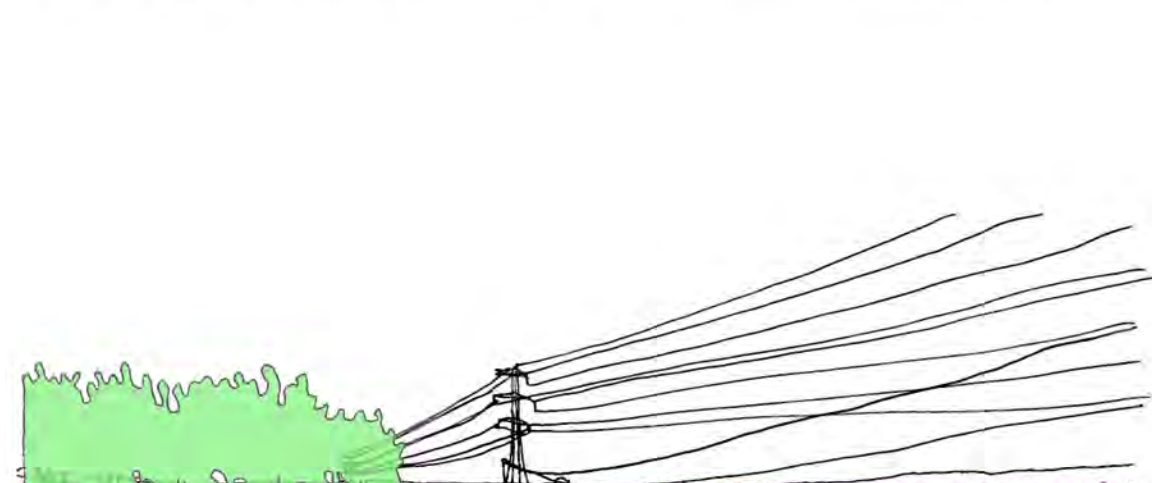
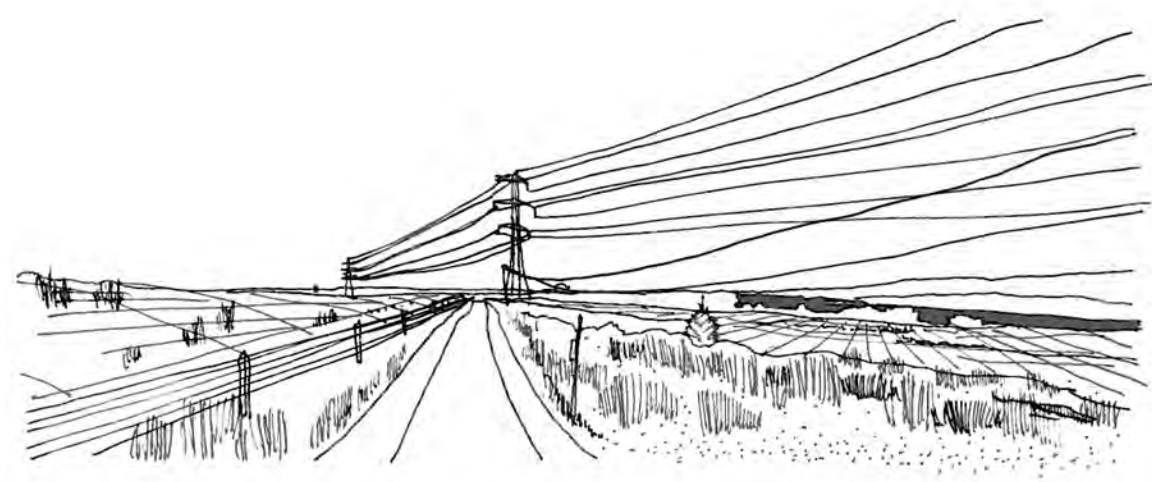
Indicative Sketches



Sketch 1  
Sketch illustrating the extents of native woodland planting to the eastern side of the Rob Roy Way and National Cycle Route 7 along the Old Military Road between Drymen and Aberfoyle. Screening of the lines will be partial and intermittent but the change in character across Muir Park will offer an improved user experience along this exposed section of the route.



Sketch 2  
Illustrating indicative longer distance views of the transmission line from the route of the West Highland Way south of Drymen, where the introduction and enhancement of native woodland planting will assist in screening visibility of skylined towers to the east of the route.



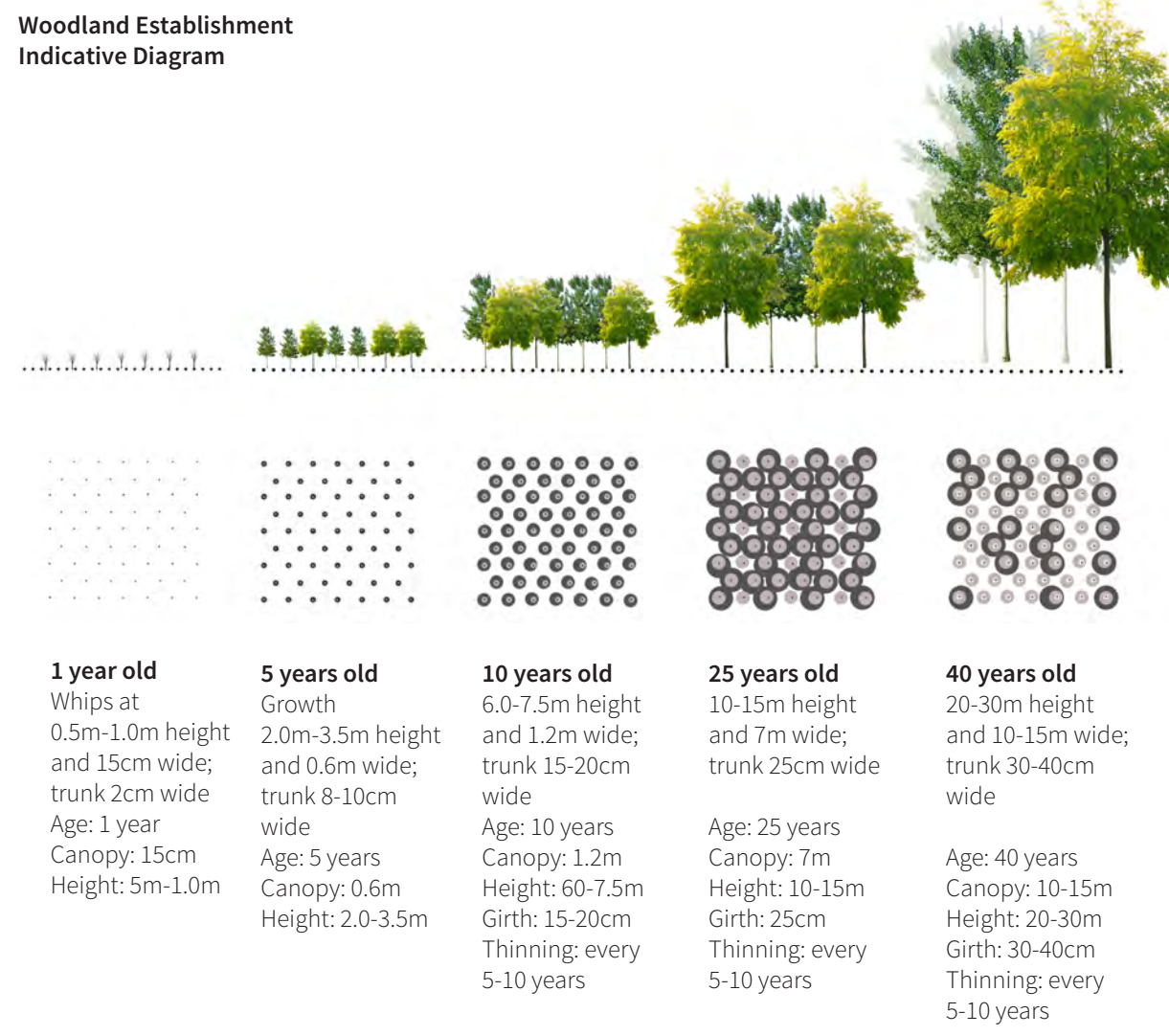
Sketch 3  
trating the extents of native woodland planting to the east and west of the Rob Roy Way and National Cycle Route 7 as they pass Muir Park Reservoir and areas of recently felled coniferous woodland.

Native Woodland Principles

The introduction of extensive native woodland will be implemented in line the **Biodiversity Action Plan for the National Park (Wild Park 2020)** which notes that expanding and restoring native woodland is one of the major goals for Forestry Commission land in the National Park. Appropriate woodland mixes of native species of trees and lower growing vegetation will be developed sympathetically, with reference to the geographical location, elevation, topography, soil type, hydrology and biodiversity of the specific area. Within East Drymen the following woodland mixes are proposed, subject to more detailed survey and understanding of the areas to be planted.

Woodland mixes shown are for guidance purposes only with species and percentage mix of each woodland type indicative. Woodland mixes will be subject to further development during the detailed design stage.

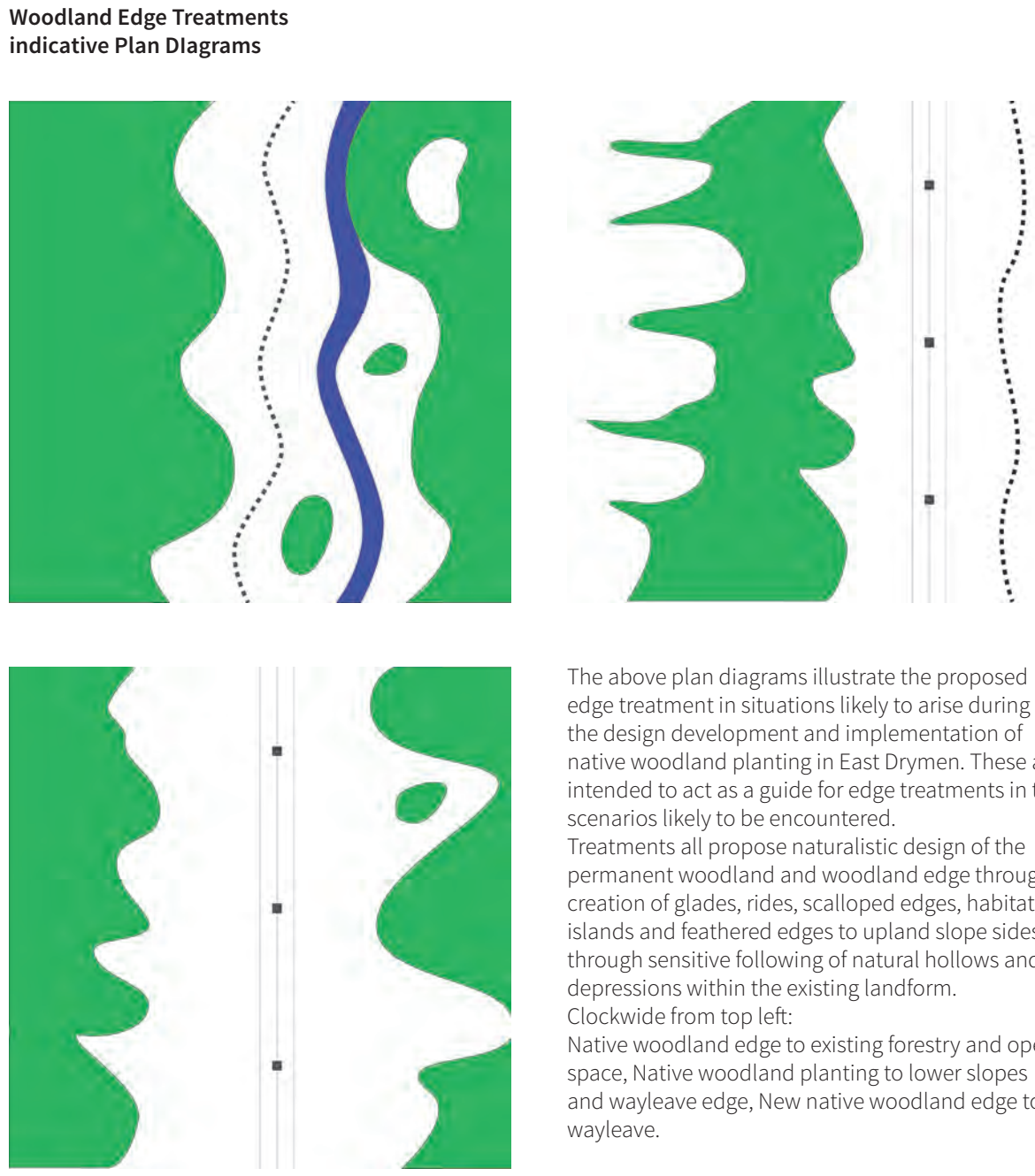
<b>A. Native pine woodland</b> Altitudinal range from sea level to over 600m on steeply sloping ground with dry to damp acidic soils. Occurs with upland oakwood, upland birchwood and wet woodland habitats and also in patches within non-native conifer plantations.	<b>B. Upland birchwoods</b> Moderate/ steep slopes generally below 400m, with well drained soils, but can extend well above this, can also occur in mosaics with Upland oakwoods, upland mixed ashwoods and wet woodland habitats.	<b>C. Upland mixed ashwoods</b> Moderate/ steep slopes with moist soils below 300m, in association with upland oakwood, upland birchwood and wet woodland habitats. is also found in scattered patches on steep crags up to about 500m.	<b>E. Wet woodland</b> Flushed slopes, wet hollows, valley floors and edges of wetlands, rivers streams and lochs in upland and lowland situations.
<b>Woodland Layer (Primary) 85%</b> Pinus sylvestris (Scots pine) <b>Woodland Layer (Secondary) 15%</b> Betula pendula (Silver birch) Betula pubescens (Downy birch) Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan) Alnus glutinosa (Alder) Salix cinerea (Grey willow) Ilex aquifolium (Holly) Cornus avellana (Hazel) <b>Shrub/ Understorey Layer</b> Salix aurita (Eared willow) Juniperus communis (Juniper)	<b>Woodland Layer Primary 85%</b> Betula pendula/ pubescens (Birch spp.) <b>Woodland Layer (Secondary) 15%</b> Pinus sylvestris (Scots pine) Juniper (Juniperus communis) Eared willow (Salix aurita) Aspen (Populus tremula) Grey willow (Salix cinerea)	<b>Woodland Layer (Primary) 85%</b> Fraxinus excelsior (Common ash) Ulmus glabra (Wych elm) <b>Woodland Layer (Secondary) 15%</b> Grey willow (Salix cinerea) Hazel (Corylus avellana) Downy birch (Betula pubescens) Elder (Sambucus nigra) Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan) <b>Shrub/ Understorey Layer</b> Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa) Dog rose (Rosa canina) Eared willow (Salix aurita) Gorse (Ulex europaeus)	<b>Woodland Layer (Primary) 100%</b> Grey willow (Salix cinerea) Goat willow (Salix caprea) Downy Birch (Betula pubescens) Alder (Alnus glutinosa) <b>Shrub/ Understorey Layer</b> Eared willow (Salix aurita) Osier (Salix viminalis) Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)



Indicative Visual



Visual 1  
Illustrating screening afforded from route of Rob Roy Way and National Cycle Route 7 along the Old Military Road between Drymen and Aberfoyle. The introduction of extensive native woodland planting across areas of Muir Park will screen and filter views of the transmission line from this popular recreational routes.



The above plan diagrams illustrate the proposed edge treatment in situations likely to arise during the design development and implementation of native woodland planting in East Drymen. These are intended to act as a guide for edge treatments in the scenarios likely to be encountered. Treatments all propose naturalistic design of the permanent woodland and woodland edge through creation of glades, rides, scalloped edges, habitat islands and feathered edges to upland slope sides through sensitive following of natural hollows and depressions within the existing landform. Clockwise from top left: Native woodland edge to existing forestry and open space, Native woodland planting to lower slopes and wayleave edge, New native woodland edge to wayleave.