



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Social Responsibility & Sustainability

Rullion Green Wood Annual Community Meeting

Thursday 12 Feb 2026

David Bruce – Forest and Peatland Programme Manager
Julie Wilson – Community Ranger



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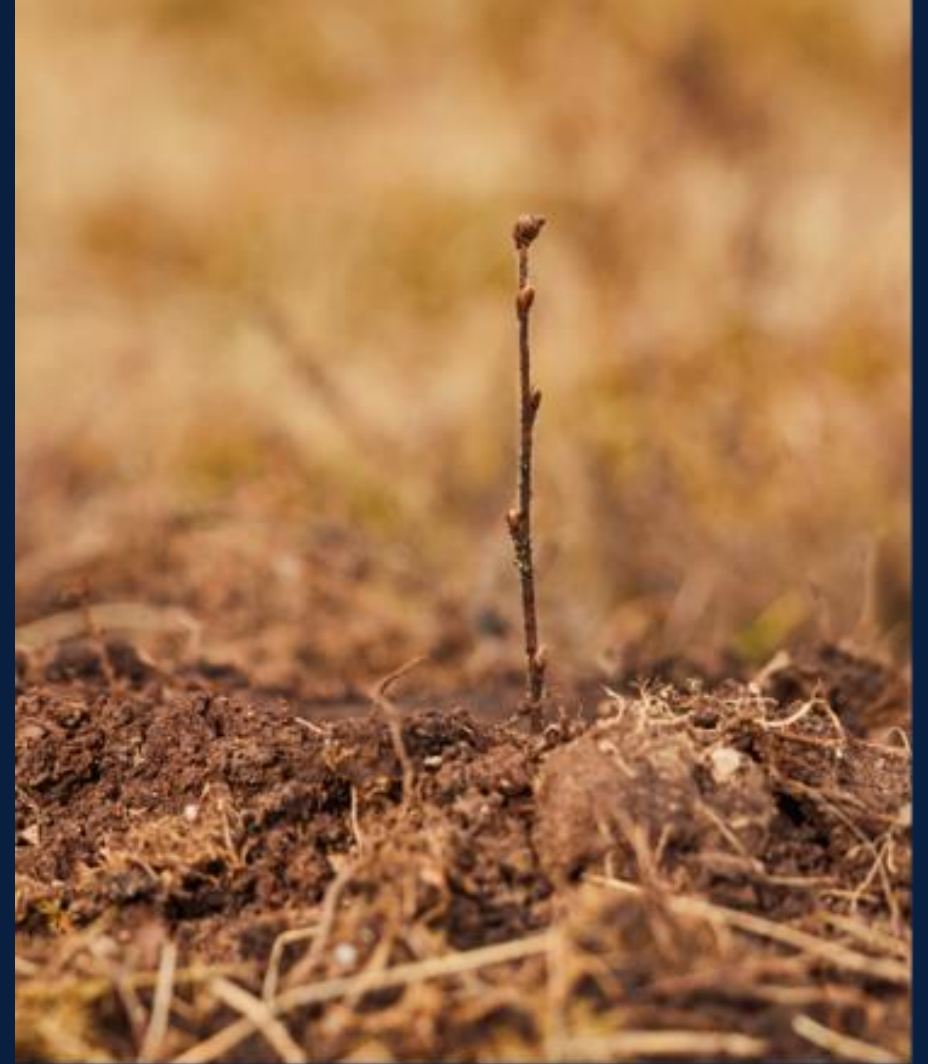
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Overview

- Overview of the Forest and Peatland Programme
- Progress at Rullion Green and next steps
- Volunteering and outdoor learning
- Community activity area
- Learning, teaching and research
- Q&A



Why the University needs the Forest & Peatland Programme



Travel is essential for teaching & research

Sequestering over 1 million tonnes of CO₂



Only offsetting unavoidable aviation emissions

Student assurance - your travel emissions are mitigated



Actions we're taking now: leveraging Scotland's natural Capital



Forest and Peatland Programme

Three project strands:



Land acquisition of 891ha

Woodland creation at three sites



Woodland creation partnerships

Native or mixed, 50-year partnerships



Peatland restoration partnerships

50-year partnerships



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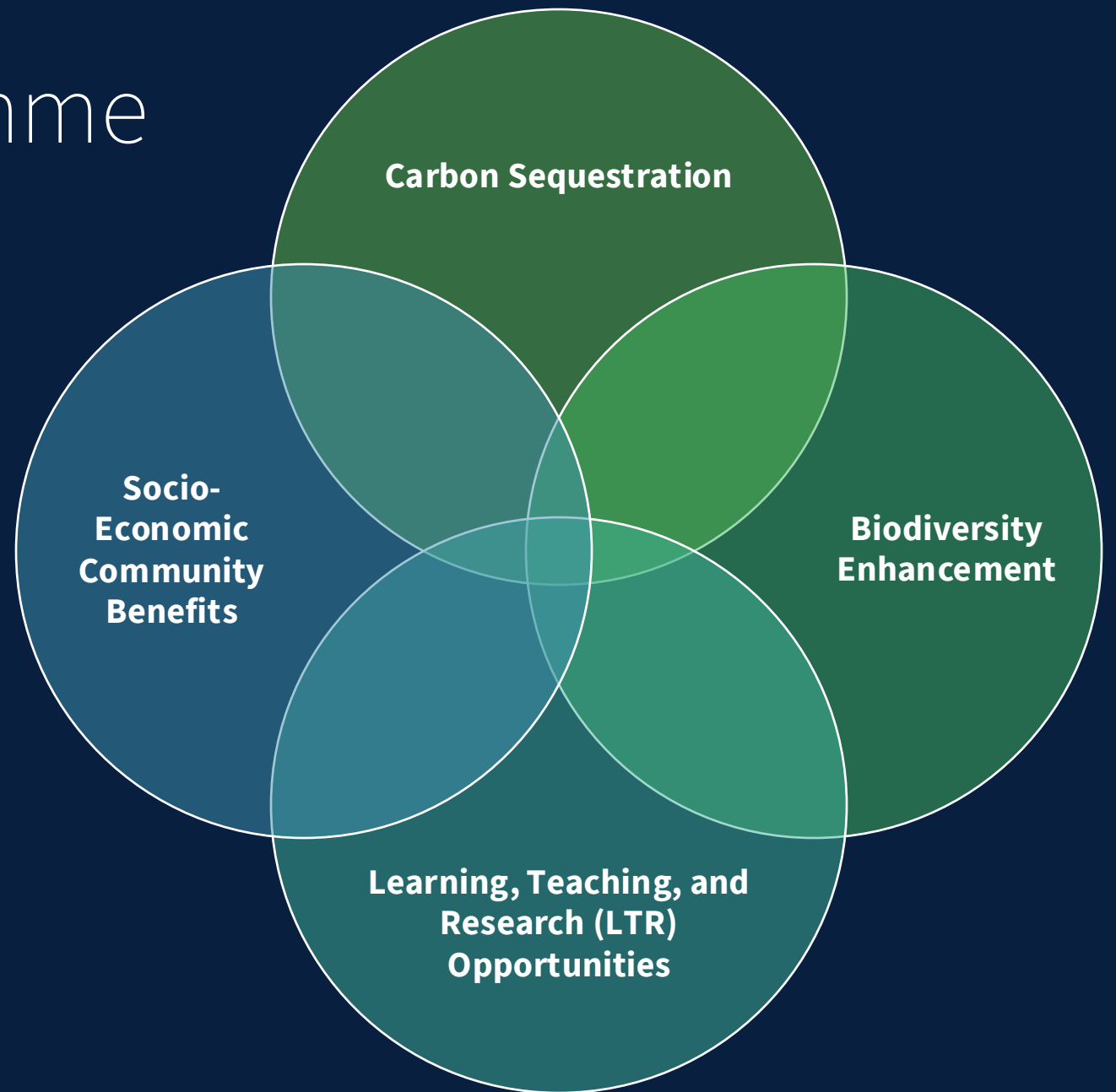


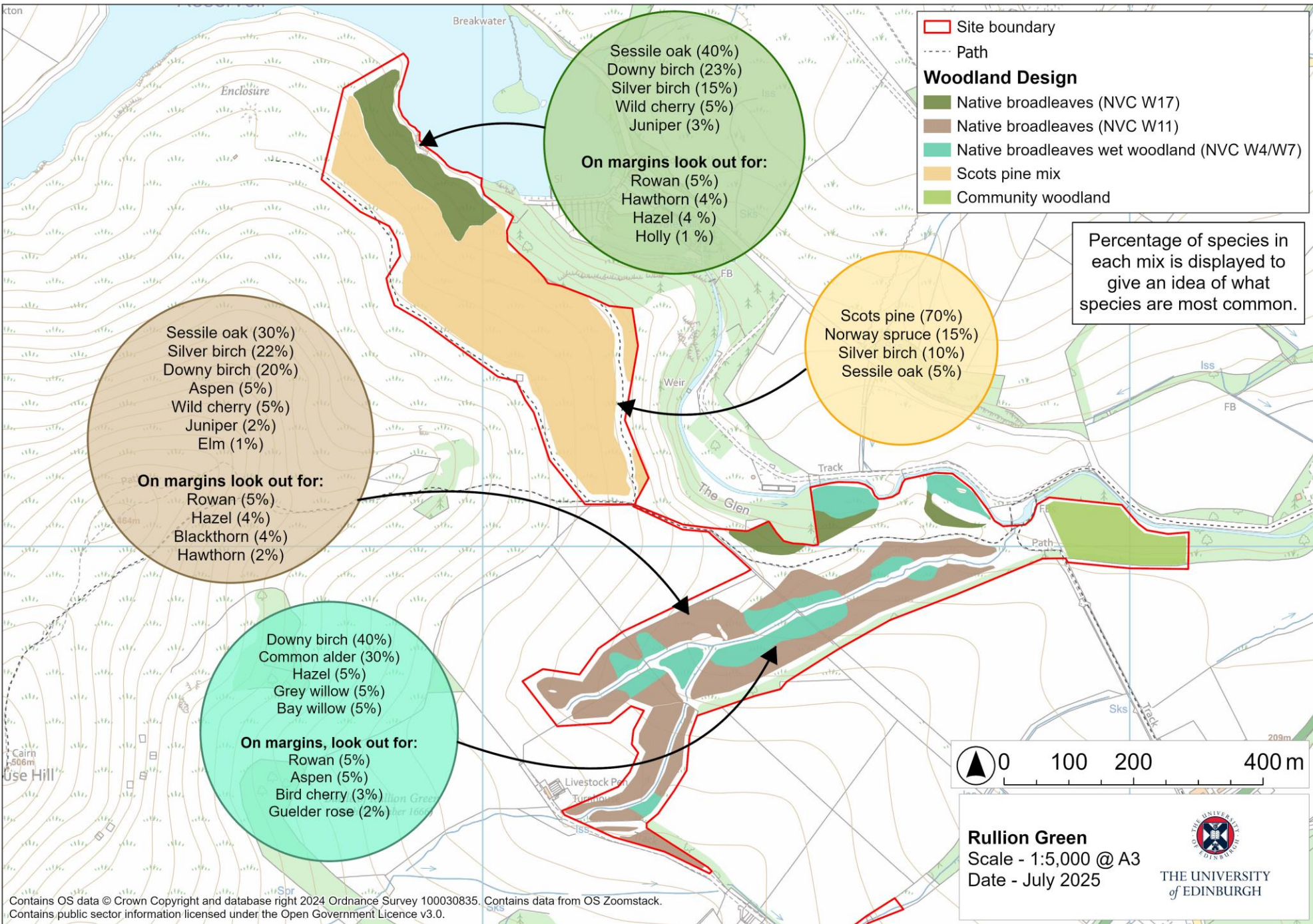
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Multi-benefit programme





Site operations so far

- Deer fencing completed and self-closing gates installed
- Ground preparation completed
- Over 37,000 trees planted
- Signage at gates installed
- Follow up survey to look at the success rate of trees
- Vegetation control to protect trees from competing plants



Existing mature beech trees

- Damage due to high winds.
- Multiple trees have fallen.
- Trees surveyed in Dec 2025 to assess their condition.
- Some trees are dead or in poor health: crown die back, decay in stem, fungus.
- Bat survey undertaken in Feb 2026 to inform decision making. Awaiting report.





Next steps

- Finish replanting trees that died, approx 6,250 trees.
- Continued monitoring of deer population
- Bracken & vegetation management
- Monitoring of mature beech trees and associated works.



Volunteering at Rullion Green

Volunteers have helped:

- plant trees
- install fence markers
- install an information panel

Volunteers included local residents, university staff and students, and Friends of the Pentlands. ing from my flow volunteers.



Want to get involved?

- Visit our website for all volunteering opportunities. **edin.ac/fpp-volunteer**
- Sign up to our mailing list to be notified of upcoming events and activities via email.
- Tasks could include tree maintenance, meadow creation, and planting trees.
- Next event Sat 25 April, 10.15am-1.15pm.



Information panel on Turnhouse Hill path



Community Activity Area at Daisy Dell



Outdoor Learning



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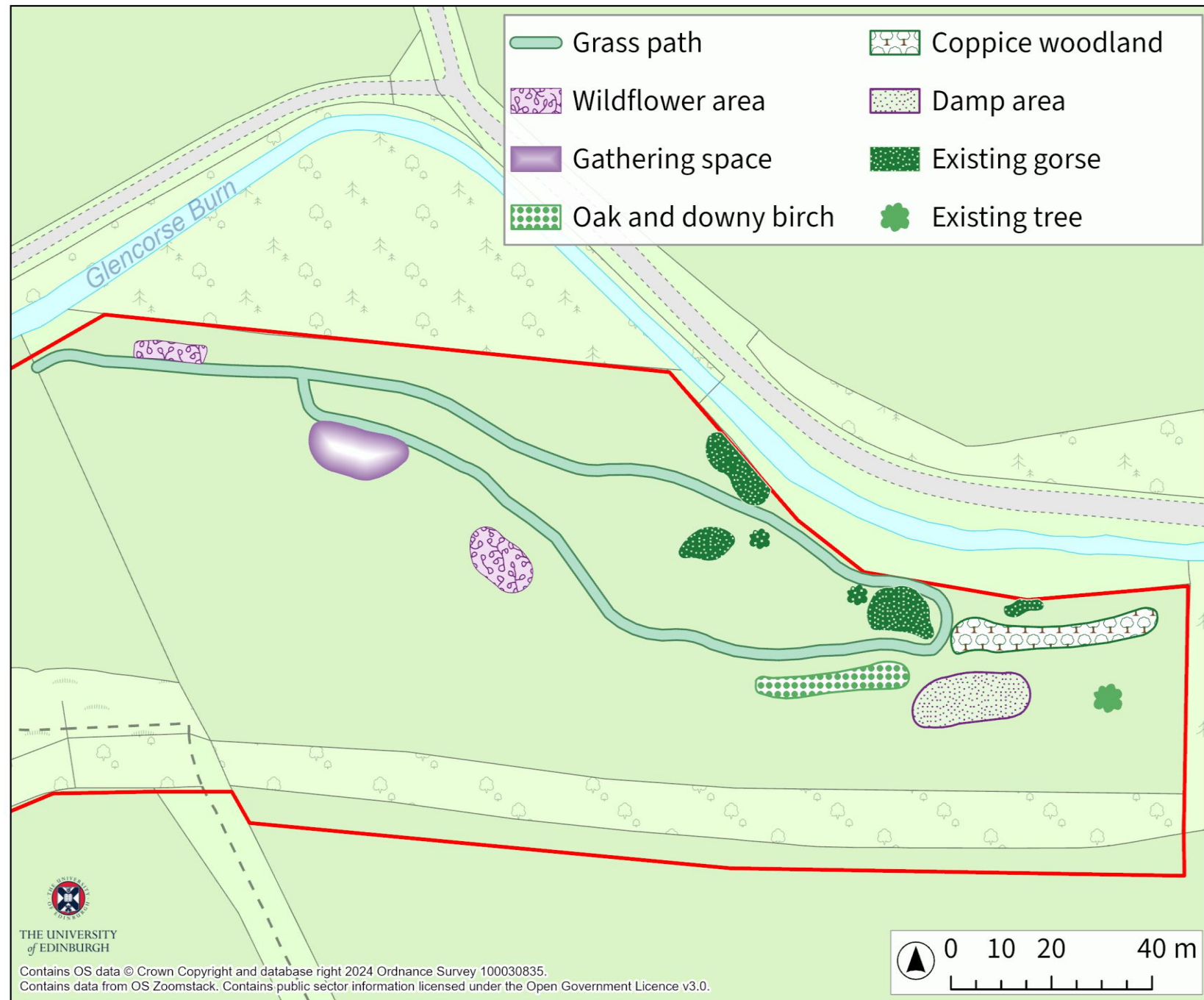
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First steps

- Informal grass path
- Wildflower areas
- Additional tree and shrub planting



Story Map - Rullion Green




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Collection

Rullion Green


Get started




1 Introduction




2 Nature




3 History and Archaeology



4 Woodland creation



5 Visiting Rullion Green



6 Volunteering



Learning & Teaching

- Field trips for staff and students
- Dissertation projects for MSc and Undergraduate students
- 3 PhD students looking at carbon, biodiversity and community benefits

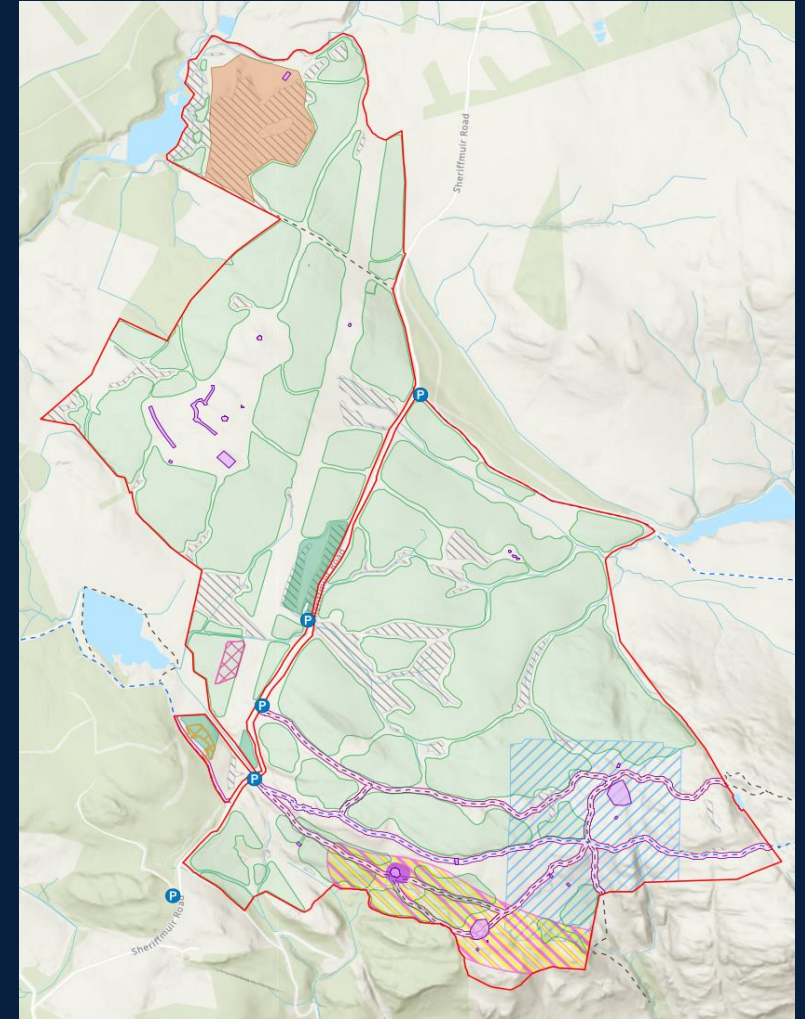
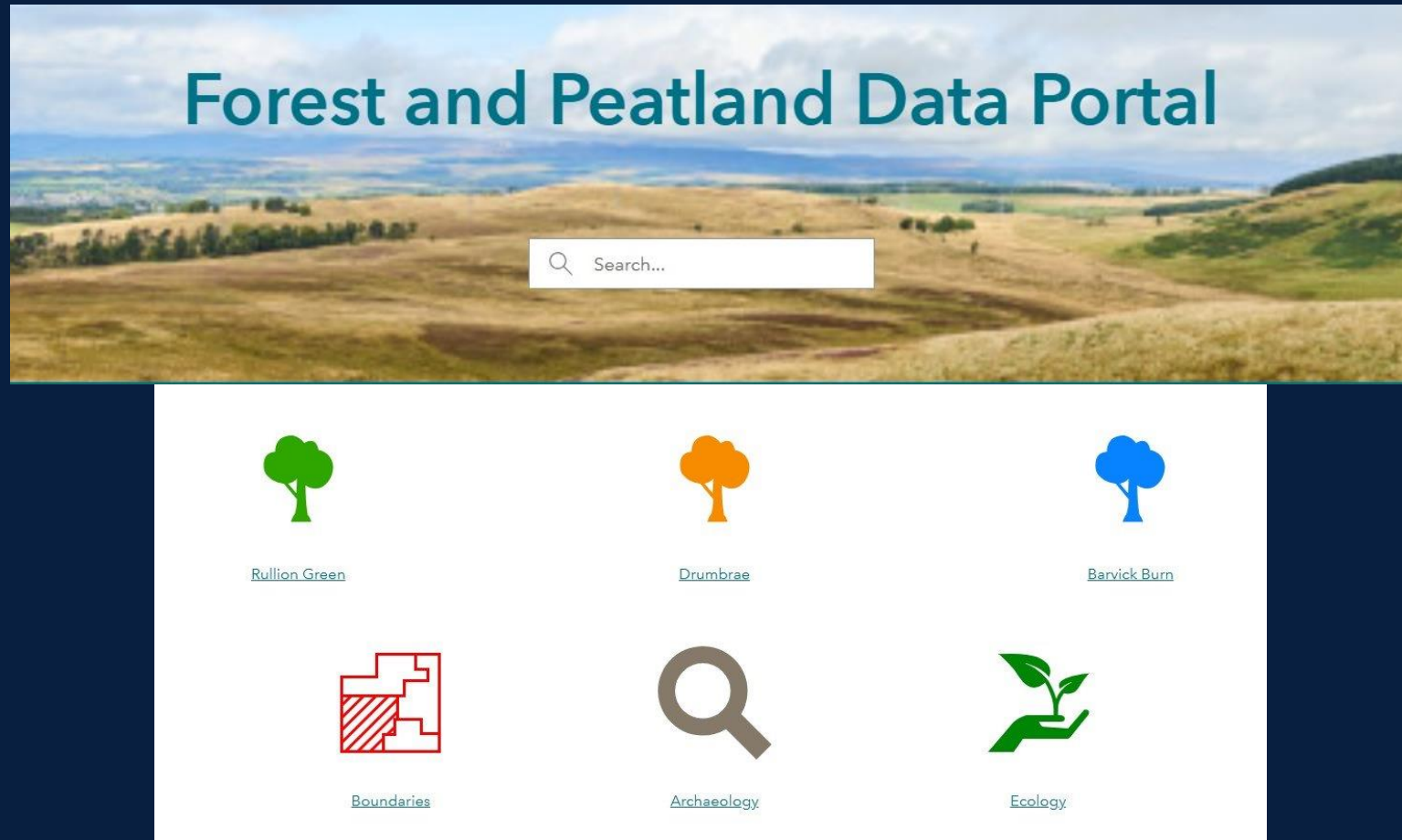


Site Monitoring and Research

- Using our baseline data for monitoring, including remote sensing using drones.
- Bio acoustic monitors identify bird and bat species on site – awaiting results.
- Citizen science. General public and university staff and students helping to record species found in the area.
- Fixed point photography.



Forest and Peatland Programme resources: Data and Research from our sites



- Aiming to make research data openly available with as few restrictions as possible in a timely and responsible manner.



FEEDBACK



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Questions?

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