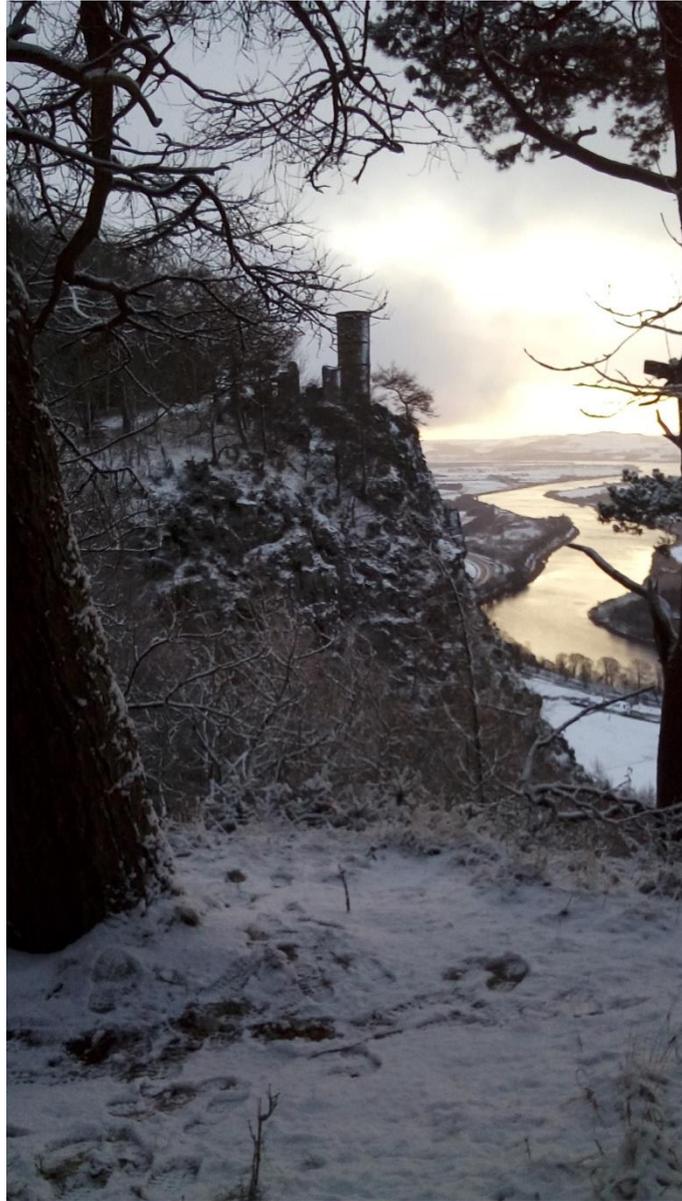


**Kinnoull Hill**  
**MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**2019- 2024**



**Draft**  
**(June 2019)**



# **CONTENTS**

## **1.0 Introduction**

- Site Description
- Landownership and Interested Parties
- Designations
- Archaeology
- Ecology

## **2.0 Use and User Groups**

## **3.0 Key Issues and Improvements**

- Travelling to Kinnoull Hill
- Park Entrances and Car Parks
- Internal Path and Accessibility
- Orientation and Interpretation
- Viewpoints
- The Tower
- Suicide Prevention
- Site Furniture
- Memorials and Memorial Benches
- Sculptures
- Existing Maintenance
- Forest Management Plan

## **4.0 Funding**

## **5.0 Action Plan**

## **6.0 Timescale**

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A Kinnoull Hill Forest Plan**

**Appendix B Table showing Condition of Existing site Furniture**

**Appendix C Figures showing Existing Signage and Furniture**

**Appendix D Brief for the Access Report**

**Appendix E Access Report**

**Appendix F Proposals taken forward from the Access Report**

**Appendix G Minutes from Kinnoull Hill Site Visit 02.05.18 (Suicide Prevention)**

### **LIST OF FIGURES**

- Figure 1: Site Context and Land Ownership
- Figure 2: Designations
- Figure 3: Historic Names
- Figure 4: Existing Signage to/from Kinnoull Hill from Perth City Centre (Appendix C)
- Figure 5: Existing Paths, Entrances and Viewpoints (Appendix C)
- Figure 6: Existing Signage and Furniture (Appendix C)
- Figure 7: Sculptures (Appendix C)
- Figure 8: Proposed Signposted Routes between Kinnoull Hill and Perth City Centre
- Figure 9: Masterplan
- Figure 10: Sketch Proposals for Corsie Hill Car Parks: Laybys
- Figure 11: Sketch Proposals for Corsie Hill Car Parks: Quarry and Western Entrance
- Figure 12: Sketch Proposals for Corsie Hill Car Parks: Eastern Entrance
- Figure 13: Path Condition and Improvements
- Figure 14: Proposed Furniture
- Figure 15: Sketch Proposals for Table and Tower
- Appendix A: Woodland Management Plan

## **1.0 Introduction**

The Kinnoull Hill Management Plan (KHMP) is aimed for use by PKC, stakeholders, volunteers and members of the public alike. KHMP covers the land owned and managed by Perth and Kinross Council (PKC). This encompasses the land gifted to the citizens of Perth by Lord Dewar on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1924 which includes three hills - Corsie Hill, Kinnoull Hill and Barnhill (as shown by the coloured background on the plans throughout the document).

Kinnoull Hill forms part of the wider Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park and therefore the KHMP fully acknowledges the adjoining land managed by Forestry & Land Scotland (FLS); formally Forest Commission Scotland. Coordination between the two agencies is important in presenting the woodland park as a single entity to the site users. The Plan covers landscape character and site condition, visitors and use, conservation and ecology, and archaeology.

The KHMP is based on data which was gathered 2017 and is to be regarded as a working document. It is aimed to review and update the KHMP every 5 years with issues and actions updated accordingly.

The Management Plan is intended to be a concise user friendly document and should be read with reference to the appendices for more detail as the reader requires.

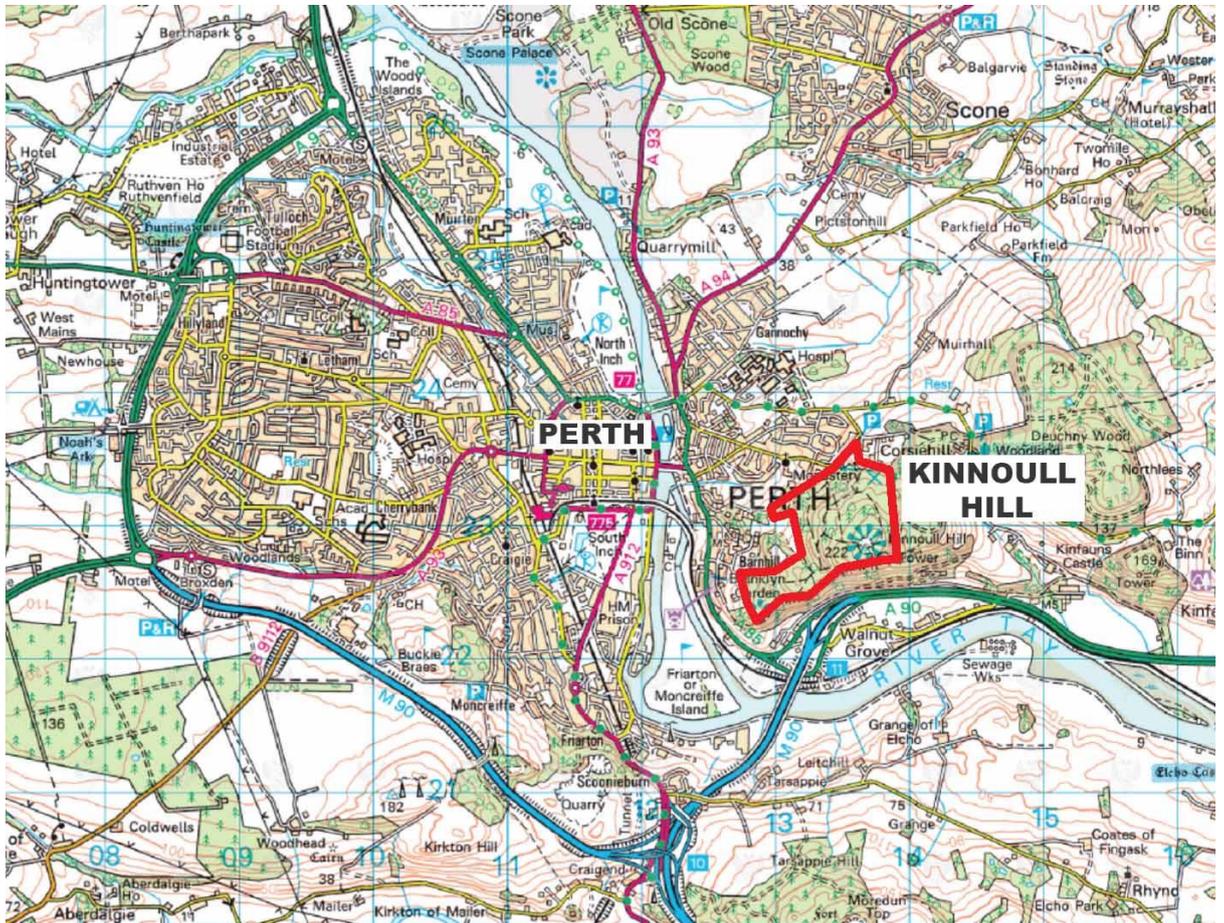
Proposals which are identified in Section 4 and are shown on Figures 8-15.

The Kinnoull Hill Forest Plan in Appendix A contains information about existing tree cover and woodland management proposals.

For information on existing site infrastructure and its condition (eg; footpaths, furniture and signage) please refer to Figures 4 - 7 (appendix C) and 13.

## Site Description

Kinnoull Hill is a well-known and iconic feature in Perth located on the east side of the River Tay and reaching a height of 222m. The Hill is of major recreational and cultural importance both locally and regionally and is within easy walking distance (0.5km) from Perth City Centre.



Location Plan

The Hill is famed for its superb and dramatic views stretching as far as the foothills of the Highlands, Strathearn and the Tay Valley. The rugged and precipitous southern face of the hill and tower built by the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kinnoull (in imitation to the castles on the banks of the Rhine) adds drama and further public interest.

The majority of the site is cloaked in mature mixed woodland with pockets of meadow grassland on Barnhill.

Kinnoull Hill is a very popular destination for a wide range of visitors for walking, dog walking, mountain biking and orienteering.

## Landownership and Interested Parties

- The two landowners, PKC and FLS, work closely together to manage Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park. As a result, the land ownership boundary (Fig I) between PKC and FLS is not apparent to the visitor and the whole hill is freely accessible to all.

- PKC owns and manages 76.2ha over Kinnoull Hill, Corsie Hill and Barnhill and the FLS 229.2ha on the eastern side of the hill and the area below the Craggs along the southern boundary.
- Other major adjoining landowners who are not part of the Woodland Park include ST Mary's Monastery; located in the vicinity of Corsie Hill/Bellwood; and the Gannochy Trust; located to the north of Deuchney Wood.

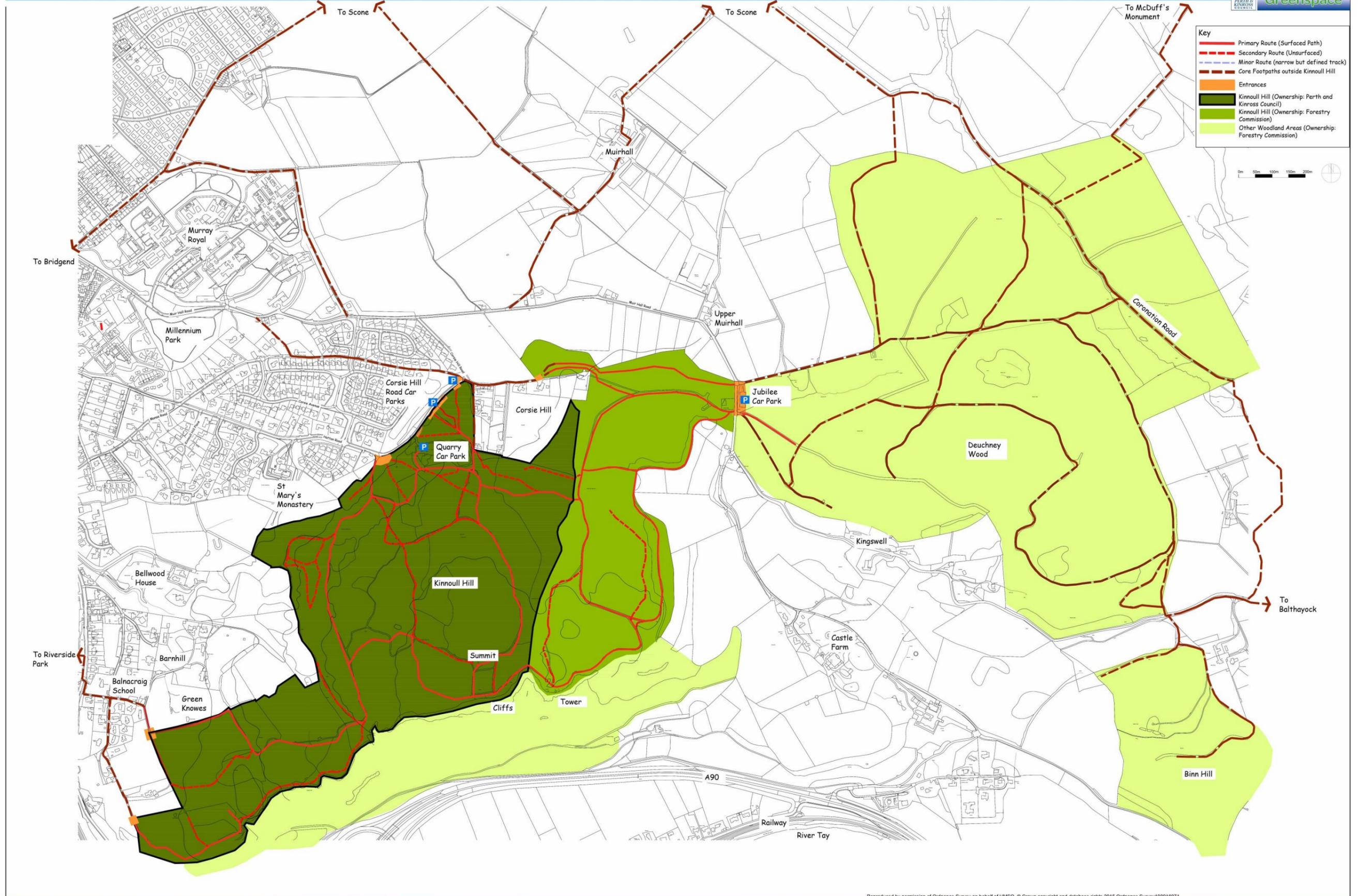
As well as PKC and FLS there are a number of other parties interested in management of the Hill including:

- Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust (PKCT) - Kinnoull Hill is part of the Big Tree Country
- The Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park Users Group (KHWPUG) - established in 2001 to represent the interests of the wide range of recreational users of the park, including walkers, cyclists, horse riders and orienteers.
- PKHT PKC: Tower lighting project
- Tayside Orienteers
- Mountain bike group – are they an entity?
- Police Scotland – safety and security
- Samaritans – suicide prevention at cliff location

All of the parties have been involved in the development of the KHMP

# Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park: Site Context and Land Ownership

Figure 1



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100016971.

# Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park: Designations

Figure 2



## Planning Designations

Kinnoull Hill is a highly valued landscape and this is demonstrated by its designations as shown on Figure 2 and listed below:

- The entire woodland area appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and is classified as Long Established of Plantation Origin. Kinnoull Hill is cited as the best example of a lowland birch woodland in east Perthshire.
- The whole woodland park is listed on the Semi-Natural Woodland Inventory
- The Kinnoull Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) extends to 72.8ha; 68.3ha (94%) is on land owned by PKC with the remaining 4.5ha in FLS ownership. The SSSI was notified for its botanical and geological interest with the following key features for geology (quarry car park), Lowland dry heath and spectacular inland andesite cliffs which have an exceptionally varied flora.
- Kinnoull Hill forms a part of the Sidlaws Local Landscape Area (former AGLV)
- Kinnoull Tower is a Category B listed structure.

## Archaeology and History

The area owned and managed by PKC was gifted to the people of Perth in 1924.

Two listed archaeological structures are located on Kinnoull Hill:

- Kinnoull Tower was built on steep ground overlooking the River Tay in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to emulate the castles on the River Rhine. The Tower is owned by PKC although it is enclosed by land owned by FLS.
- A stone table was built near to the cliff edge on Kinnoull Hill in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Kinnoull Tower



Stone Table

Other historical; but lesser known; features are listed below and shown on Figure 3.

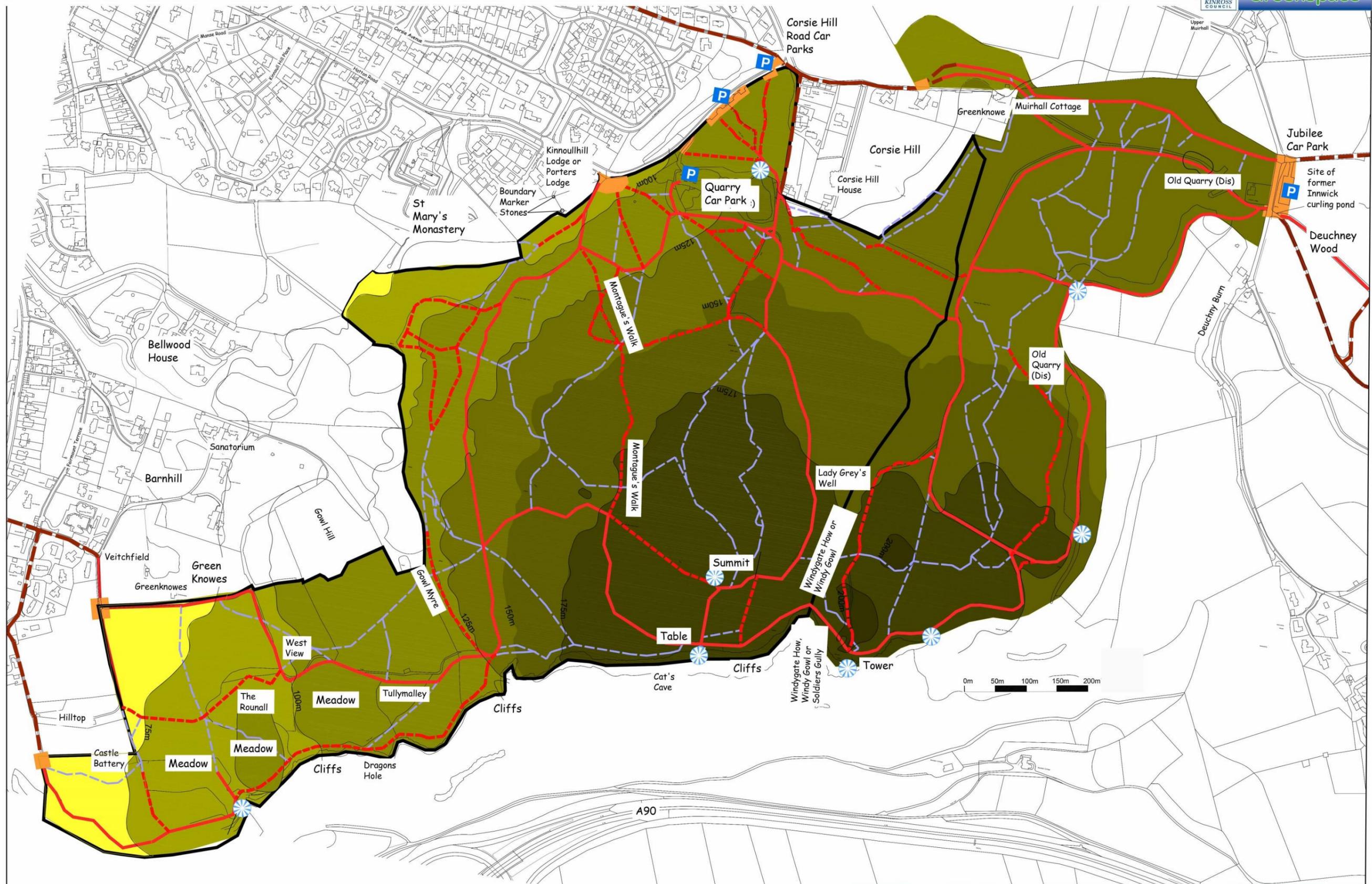
- Montagues Walk – a former coach route used by previous land owners; leading from Corsie Hill to the Summit/Table
- Castle Battery on the west facing slope of Barnhill
- croft ruins at West View and Tulyalley on the western slopes of Barnhill
- Lady Grey's Well in Windy Gowl (within the 'valley' between Kinnoull Hill and the Tower)
- The Hill contains a number of disused quarries including those at Corsie Hill and two on the east side of the Hill (within FC land)
- Site of former Inwick Curling Pond is now the Jubilee car park.

Few landform or geological features on Kinnoull Hill have well known names. The few that do include Dragons Hole, Cat's Cave, Gowl Myre and Windy Gowl referring to local caves and valleys along the cliffs on the south side of the hill.

An important individual with local connections to Perth and Kinnoull Hill was Patrick Geddes (1854 – 1932). Born in Ballater, he moved to Perth at the age of three and lived on the east side of Kinnoull Hill. As an adult, his achievements were numerous: scientist, ecologist, educator and cultural champion; he is also recognised as one of the founding fathers of town planning. It is reputed that the phrase 'Think global, act local' was coined by Geddes and is believed to relate to his experience of seeing the wider landscape from Kinnoull Hill.

# Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park: Historic Names

## Figure 3



## Ecology

The oak and birch woodland and the open heathland ecosystems are some of the few remaining good examples in lowland Perthshire. The upland oak woodland, diverse flora on within the rocky slope habitat on the south cliffs and the Carboniferous-Permian igneous rock found at the quarry car park are all notified natural features in Kinnoull Hill's designation as a SSSI.

### Flora

The mixed woodland consists mainly of oak, birch, scots pine and beech. The majority of oaks are mature trees, with only limited areas of semi-mature regeneration. The most prolific regeneration comes from beech and, in some areas, sycamore, followed by birch regeneration. Scots Pine dominates some areas, in particular parts of the north and eastern areas of the hill, where previous planting and natural regeneration maintain a pine understory. Other species present in the understory include ash, hawthorn, hazel and holly.

Close to the summit there are remnant patches of open heathland with heather *Calluna vulgaris*, bell heather *Erica cinerea* and blaeberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*. Rapid succession by broom, gorse, hawthorn and rose, as well as encroachment by trees, threatens the heathland area. The flora on the south cliffs is comprised of a mix of species including some atypical to this part of the country and others near the northern limits of their distribution in Britain. This diverse flora has emerged largely due to high calcium content of the andesite rocks.

Kinnoull is relatively free of problematic invasive non-native plant species. However, there is a small presence of Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, to the rear of the houses at Corsiehill and on either side of the small burn just east of this area.

### Fauna

The mixed woodland and associated undergrowth provides valuable nesting and feeding habitats for a rich diversity of birdlife including many passerine, raptor and corvid species. Both peregrine falcons and ravens are known to regularly nest on the cliffs. In addition to birds, the trees provide roosting spots for several bat species.

A large population of roe deer is present in the park, restricting the regeneration ability of most tree species from overgrazing. Deer numbers are controlled to protect natural regeneration and reduce the number of road traffic collisions.

Red squirrels have a steady population, particularly within the areas containing Scots pine and other conifers; however, there is some encroachment of the non-native grey squirrels. Trapping of grey squirrels is done on properties bordering Kinnoull but currently there is no trapping within the park itself. Pine marten appear to be making a recovery on the hill, with occasional sightings in recent years, and may help to suppress grey squirrel numbers. Other mammals present include rabbits, hares, rodents, foxes and badgers.

There are certainly more flora and fauna species present on Kinnoull Hill, such as adders, amphibians and many invertebrate species, but at present there are limited ecological survey data available.

## 2.0 Use and Users Groups

The Park is a very popular outdoor visitor attraction attracting in the region of 80,000 visits a year (2010 figures). The majority of these visits are made by local residents of Perth. This is reflected by the wide range of uses below:

- Visitors from both near and far: Local residents and visitors from across Scotland, the UK and abroad. The number of visitors from further afield is increased by the proximity of Kinnoull Hill to Perth City Centre.
- Walkers and runners: all ages and abilities from 'well seasoned' walkers to casual/'Sunday'/family walkers and those new to the outdoors; and they are equipped with a wide variety of footwear and clothing. There are also a high number of dog walkers.
- Orienteering: The woodlands are used frequently for orienteering events and an orienteering map has been produced. At present there is no formal orienteering course within the woodlands.
- Many Organised Groups: walking and orienteering including Tayside Orienteers
- Mountain bikers: Bikers tend to choose to go to Kinnoull Hill to use the woodland formal and informal paths and establish new routes.
- Horse riders: mixed ability and experienced.
- Events such as Perth Enduro every September and the Spartan Race (September 2018)
- The rock faces with in the Quarry car park are popular resource for local rock climbers.
- Schools and other educational groups make frequent use of the woodland park and many are led by staff from PKC's Countryside Ranger Service. The potential for increasing the educational use of the park is great.

The wide range and number of user groups and abilities creates a high demand within a limited area can result in some conflict in use and heavy wear on paths. For example:

- Dog walking issues: dog fouling and plastic bags of dog waste and occasionally poorly controlled dogs
- Cyclists tend to use both informal and surfaced paths and travel at faster speed than walkers often without warning – risk of collision. Informal paths are widened, eroded and rutted creating confusion/reduced legibility of the existing path network.
- Conflict between road users, car parking and residents on Fairmount Terrace. Private road signs are installed along the approach to the lower park entrance at Barnhill – these are discouraging to walkers/visitors to Kinnoull Hill.
- Horse riding issues – damage to informal path surfaces.

The increasing range and number of visitors to the Hill was one of the catalysts for the formation of the Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park Users Group which has proved an effective forum for defusing some tensions between different park users.

### 3.0 Key Issues and Improvements

The aim of this section is to identify key issues and proposals/actions that would enhance Kinnoull Hill, provide a welcoming and attractive countryside site for the maximum range of visitors to use and enjoy.

Kinnoull Hill is a superb natural asset with extensive and dramatic views out across the surrounding landscape, however through analysis for this management plan it was found:

- Access to/from Kinnoull Hill to/from the city centre is challenging and potentially deters visitors.
- The entrances are not welcoming nor provide a focal point
- Many of the paths are in relatively good condition and are well used
- The dense network of paths is confusing and requires a signage strategy
- Views over the wider landscape are important and should be maintained
- Suicide prevention is a critical consideration when carrying out improvement works on Kinnoull Hill
- Much of the site infrastructure is over 20 years old, with a piecemeal mix of styles
- The sculptures are an important feature and have a strong association with Kinnoull Hill
- Any future improvements need to consider limited maintenance resources
- Woodlands to be managed as per the PKC Forest Plan. The FLS forest plan is to be taken in consideration to ensure that there is unity along the PKC/FLS ownership boundary
- Public Transport to Kinnoull Hill (Corsie Hill) is limited

These Issues are described in more detail below.

#### **Access to/from Kinnoull Hill:**

At an early stage PKC and FLS recognised that the existing site orientation and accessibility on Kinnoull Hill were found to be challenging for visitors. In order to fully understand the scope of this issue an Access Consultant was appointed to review the existing situation and provide recommendations. The following sections incorporate the consultants comments and the full Access Report can be found in Appendix E.

Perth City Centre is only a mile from the edge of the woodland park and two miles from the summit of Kinnoull Hill. At the public drop-in Autumn 2017 it was identified that was important for visitors to the area to know 1) existence of Kinnoull Hill as a place to visit and 2) how to get there.

#### *Main Issues*

- The number and location of Pedestrian way markers linking the city centre with Kinnoull Hill are limited and often poorly placed shown on Figure 4 in Appendix C.
- The existing leaflet shows pedestrian routes to Kinnoull Hill but they are often difficult to follow on the ground.
- Brown traffic signs for Kinnoull Hill are more abundant and better placed. However there are no Brown signs for Kinnoull Hill west of the River Tay.



# KINNOULL HILL WOODLAND PARK CONSULTATION

## Map 7: Link Routes from Perth City Centre

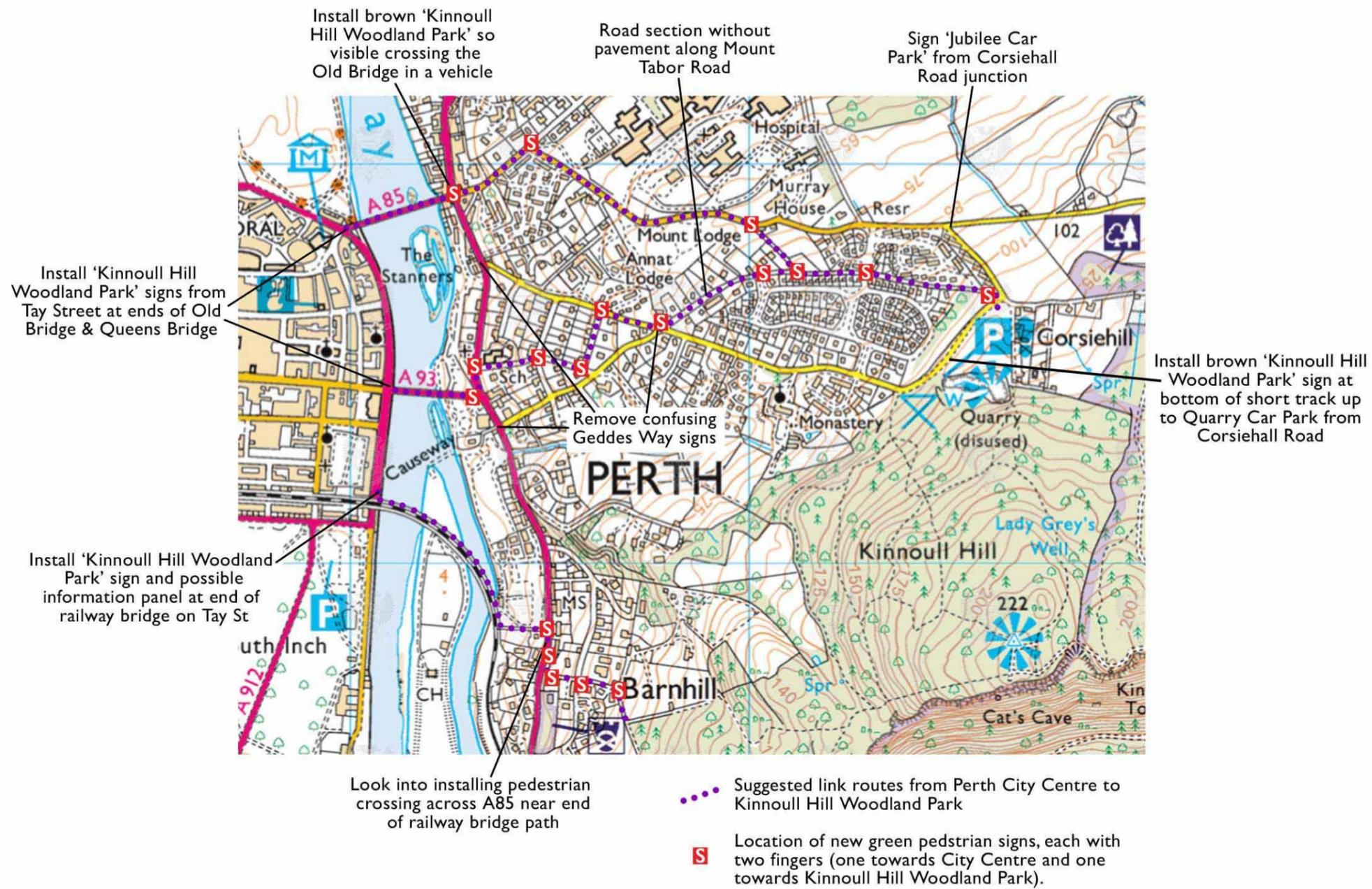
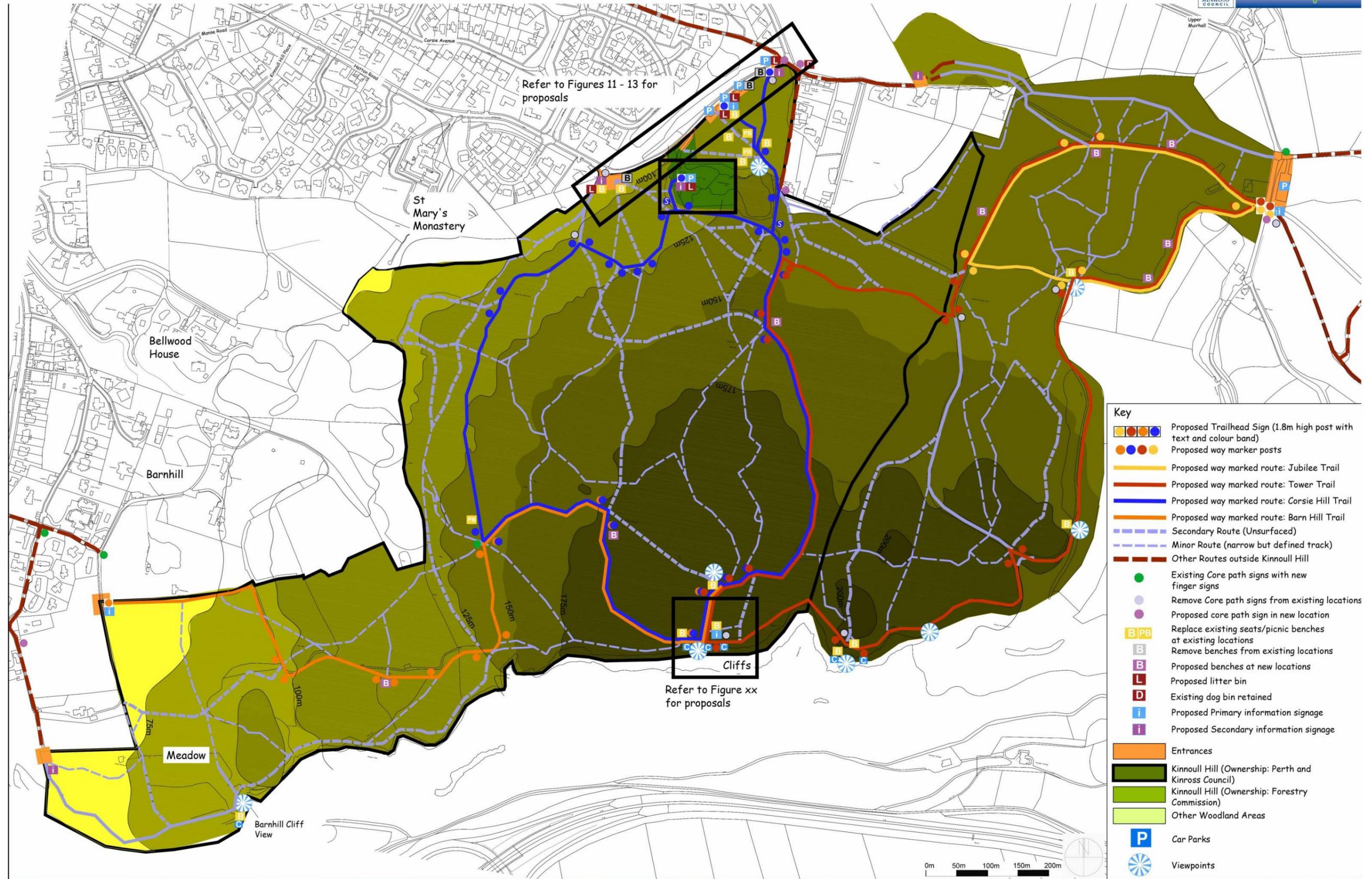


Figure 8: Proposed routes between Kinnoull Hill and Perth City Centre

# Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park: Proposed Masterplan

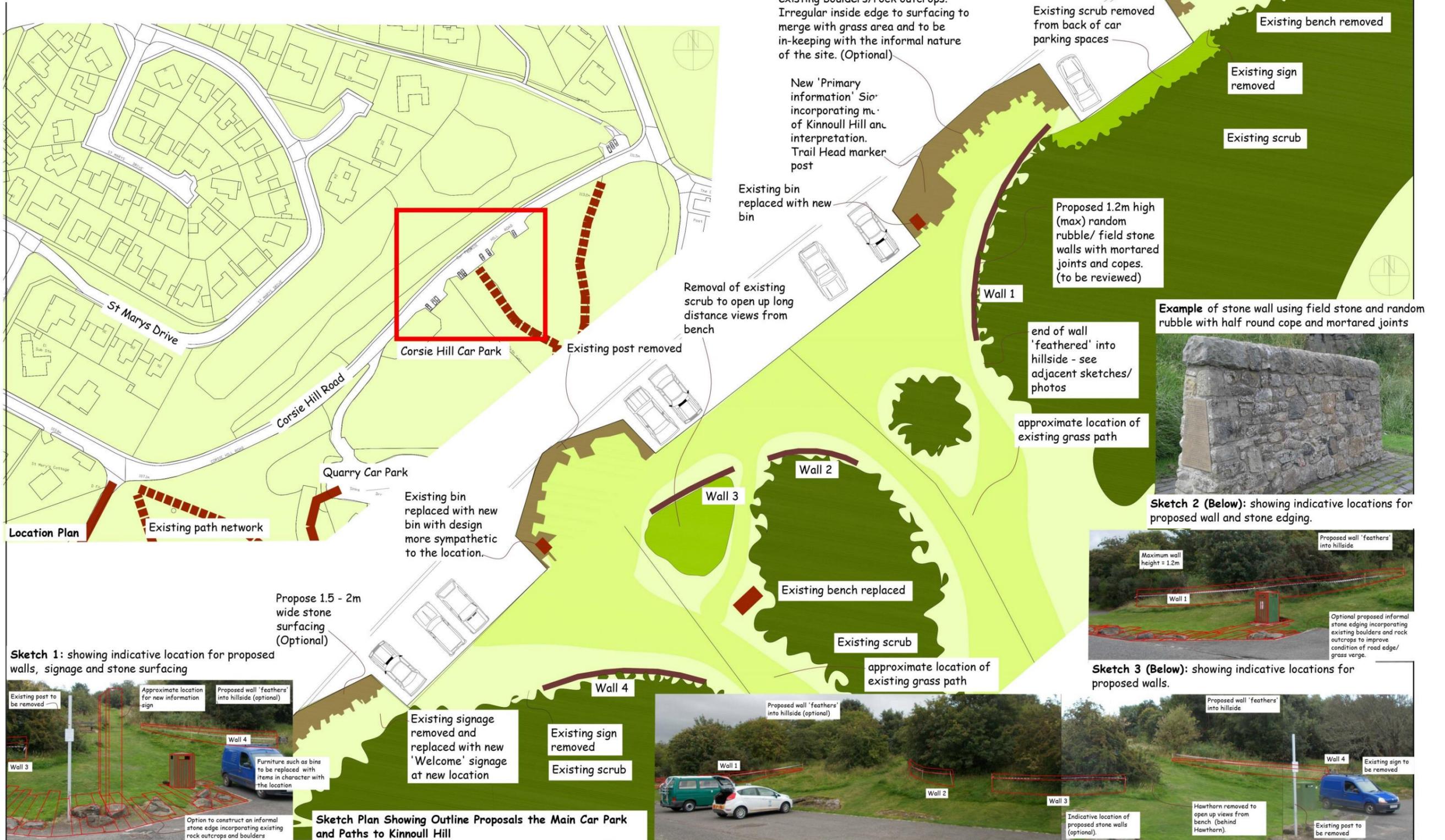
Figure 9



# Kinnoull Hill: Sketch Proposal for Corsie Hill Car Park Lay Bys.

Figure 10

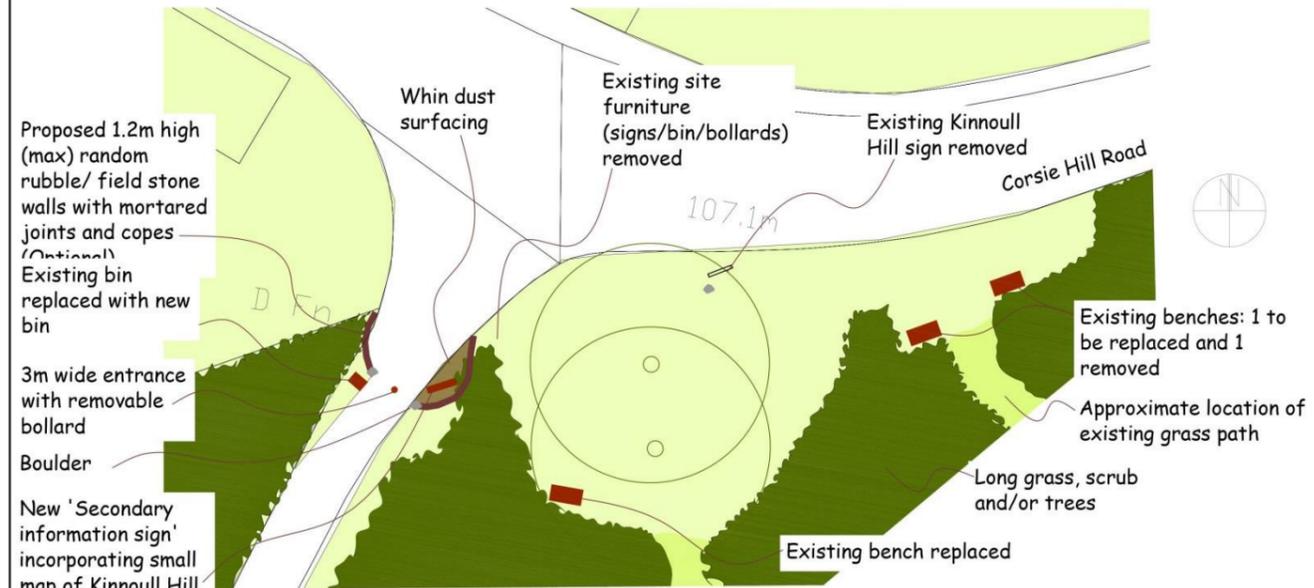
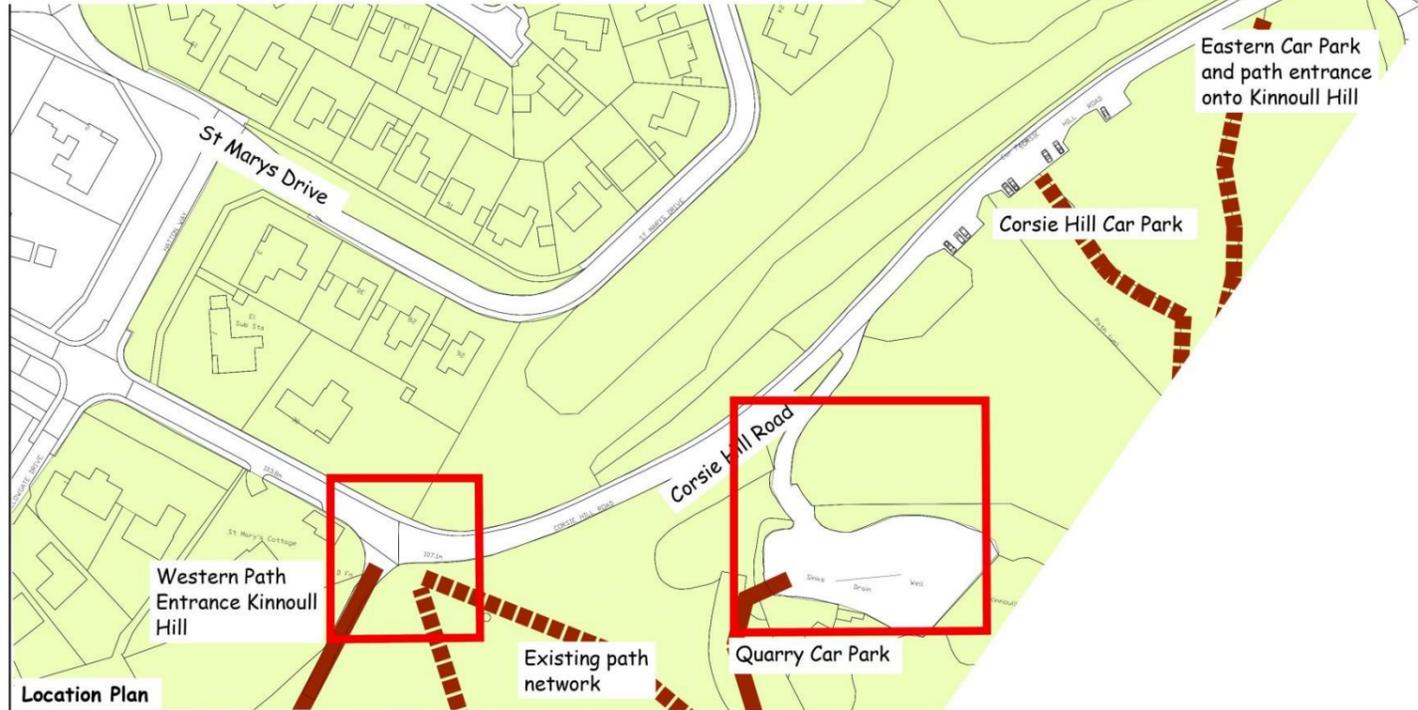
The intention of these proposals is to upgrade the existing car parks to a quality and character fitting to such an important countryside park, and create a sense of 'arrival' and welcome for the visitor and aid orientation. It is proposed that this would be achieved by framing the informal pathways by attractive sweeps of stone wall to create gateway features and improve the edge of the car park with an informal stone paved edge.



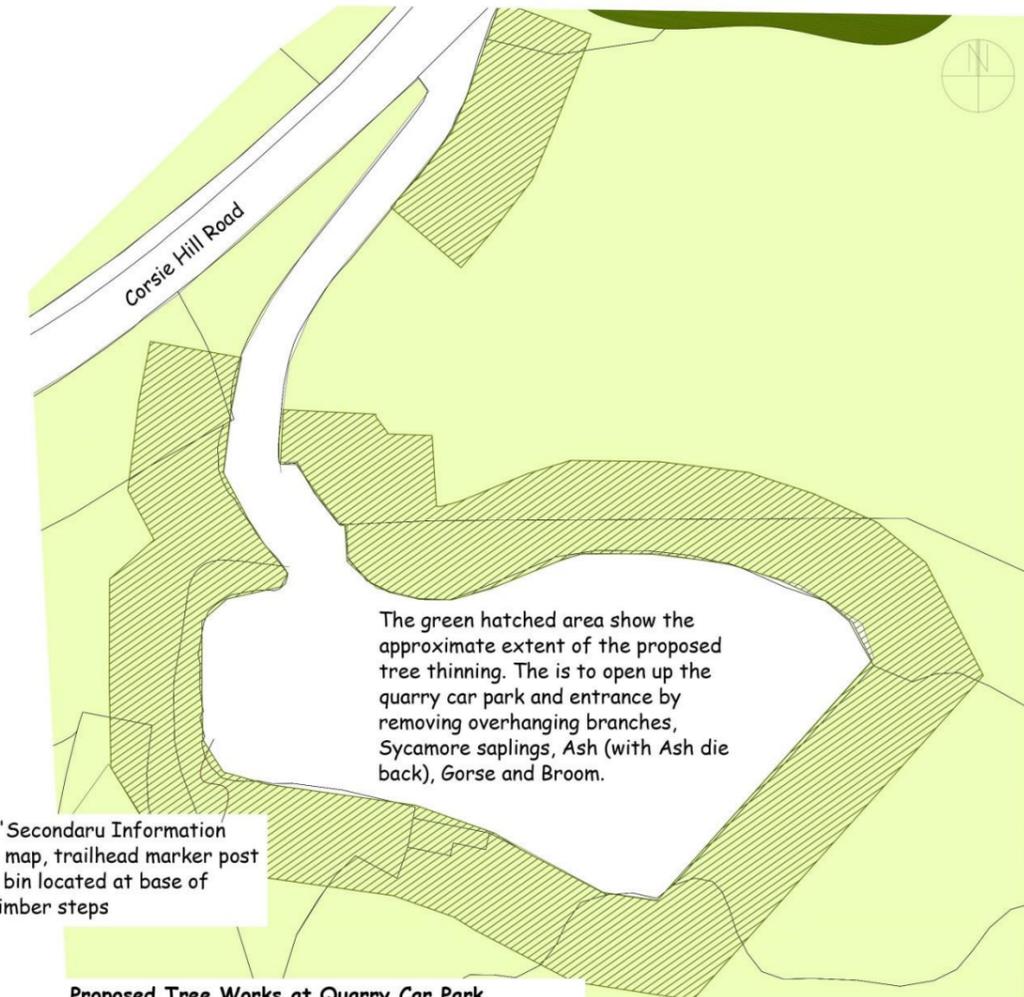
# Kinnoull Hill: Sketch Proposal for Corsie Hill Western Entrance and Quarry Car Park. Figure 11

The intention of these proposals is to upgrade the existing car parks to a quality and character fitting to such an important countryside park, and create a sense of 'arrival' and welcome for the visitor and aid orientation. It is proposed that this would be achieved by framing the informal pathways by attractive sweeps of stone wall to create gateway features and improve the edge of the car park with an informal stone paved edge.

At Quarry car park it is proposed to thin the tree cover with the view to open up the quarry car park and entrance with the removal of Sycamore saplings, crown lifting of larger trees and removal of gorse/broom and ash with ash die back within 10 - 15m of the quarry walls.



Sketch Plan Showing Outline Proposals at the Western Path Entrance to Kinnoull Hill

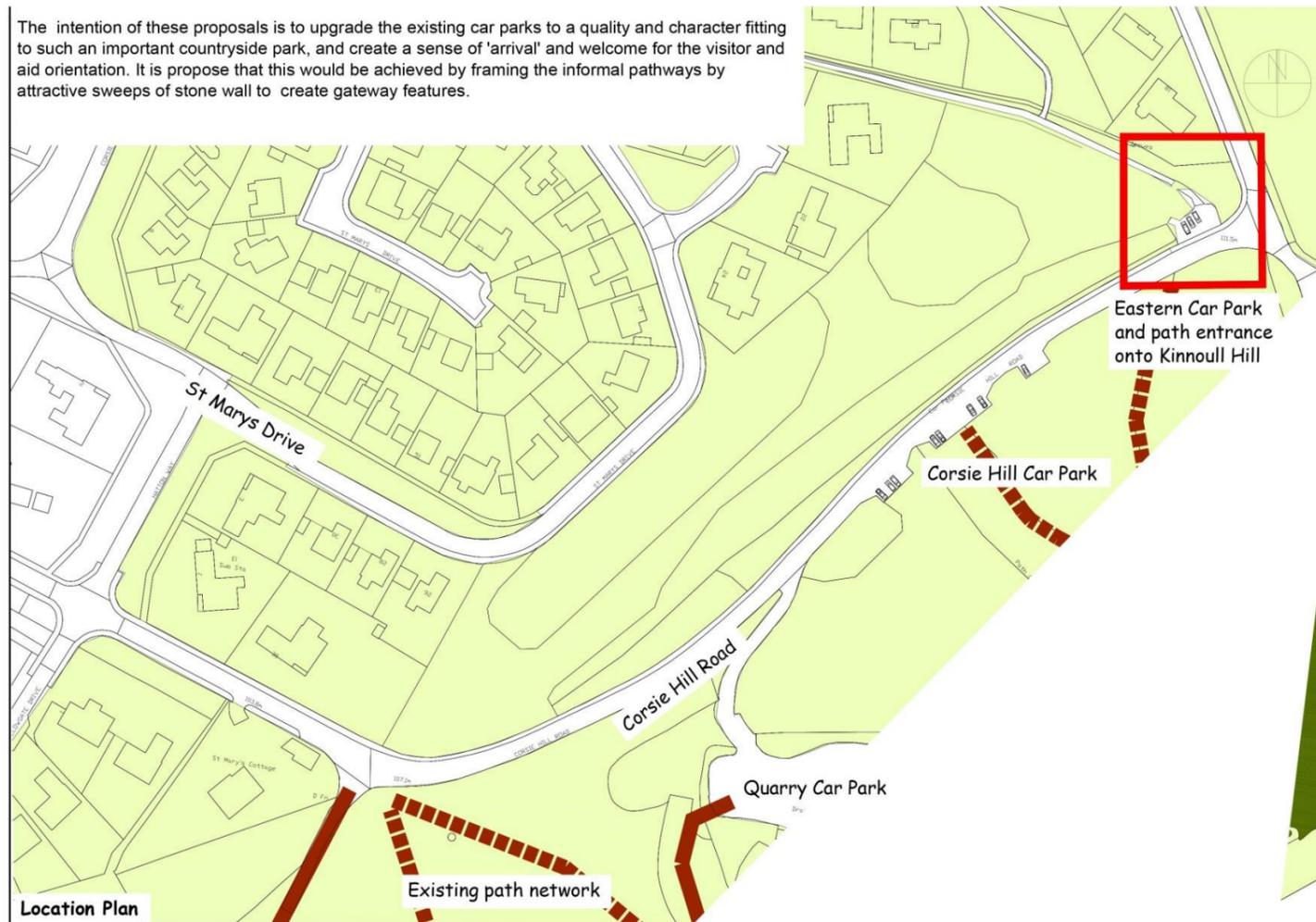


Proposed Tree Works at Quarry Car Park

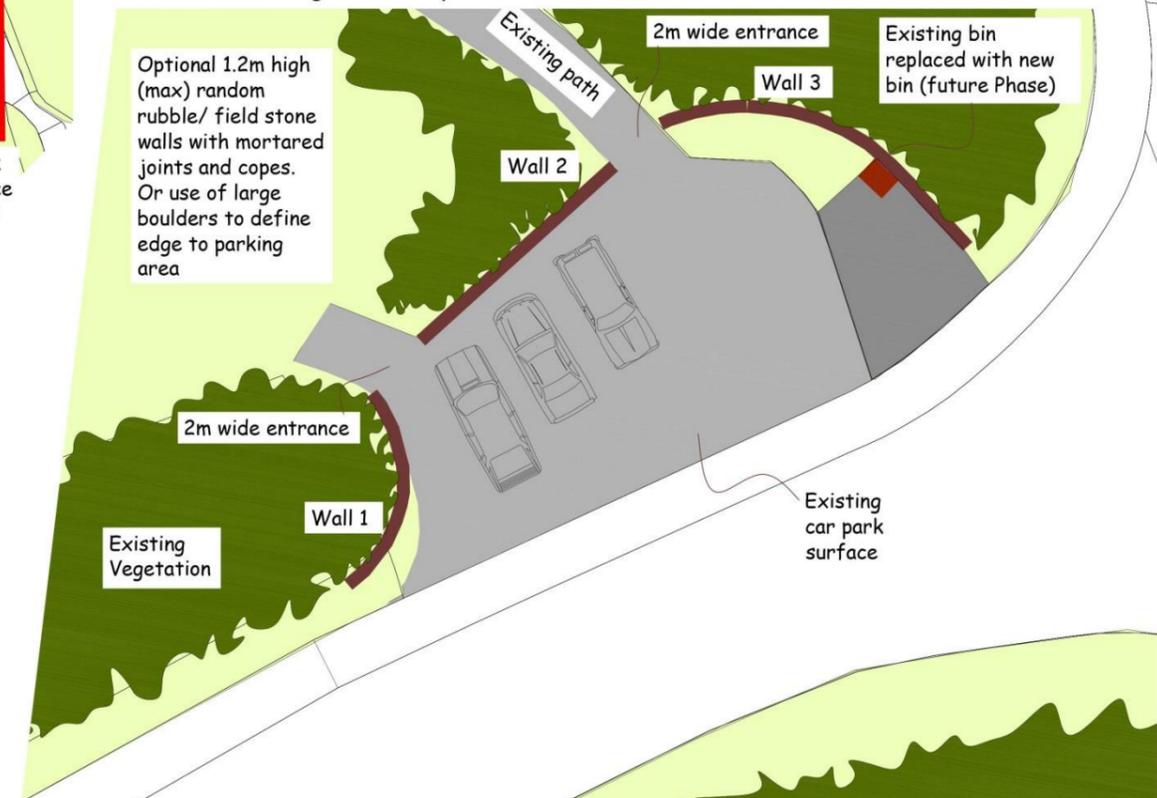
# Kinnoull Hill: Sketch Proposal for Corsie Hill Eastern Entrance and Car Park.

Figure 12

The intention of these proposals is to upgrade the existing car parks to a quality and character fitting to such an important countryside park, and create a sense of 'arrival' and welcome for the visitor and aid orientation. It is proposed that this would be achieved by framing the informal pathways by attractive sweeps of stone wall to create gateway features.



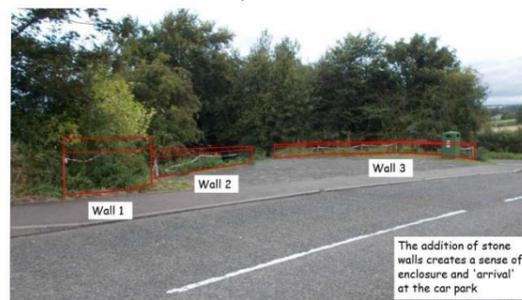
Sketch Plan Showing Outline Proposals at Eastern Car Park and Path to Kinnoull Hill



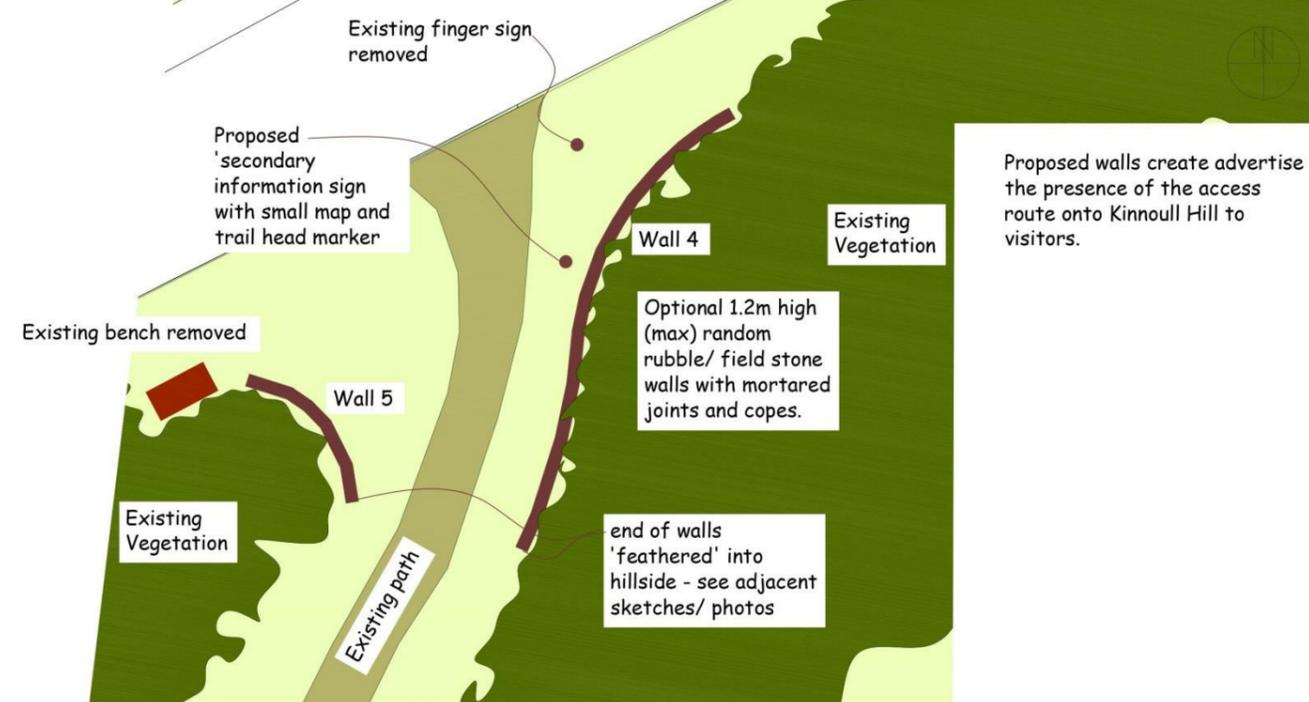
Sketch 1: showing indicative location for walls at path entrance to Kinnoull Hill



Sketch 2: showing indicative location for walls around the eastern car park

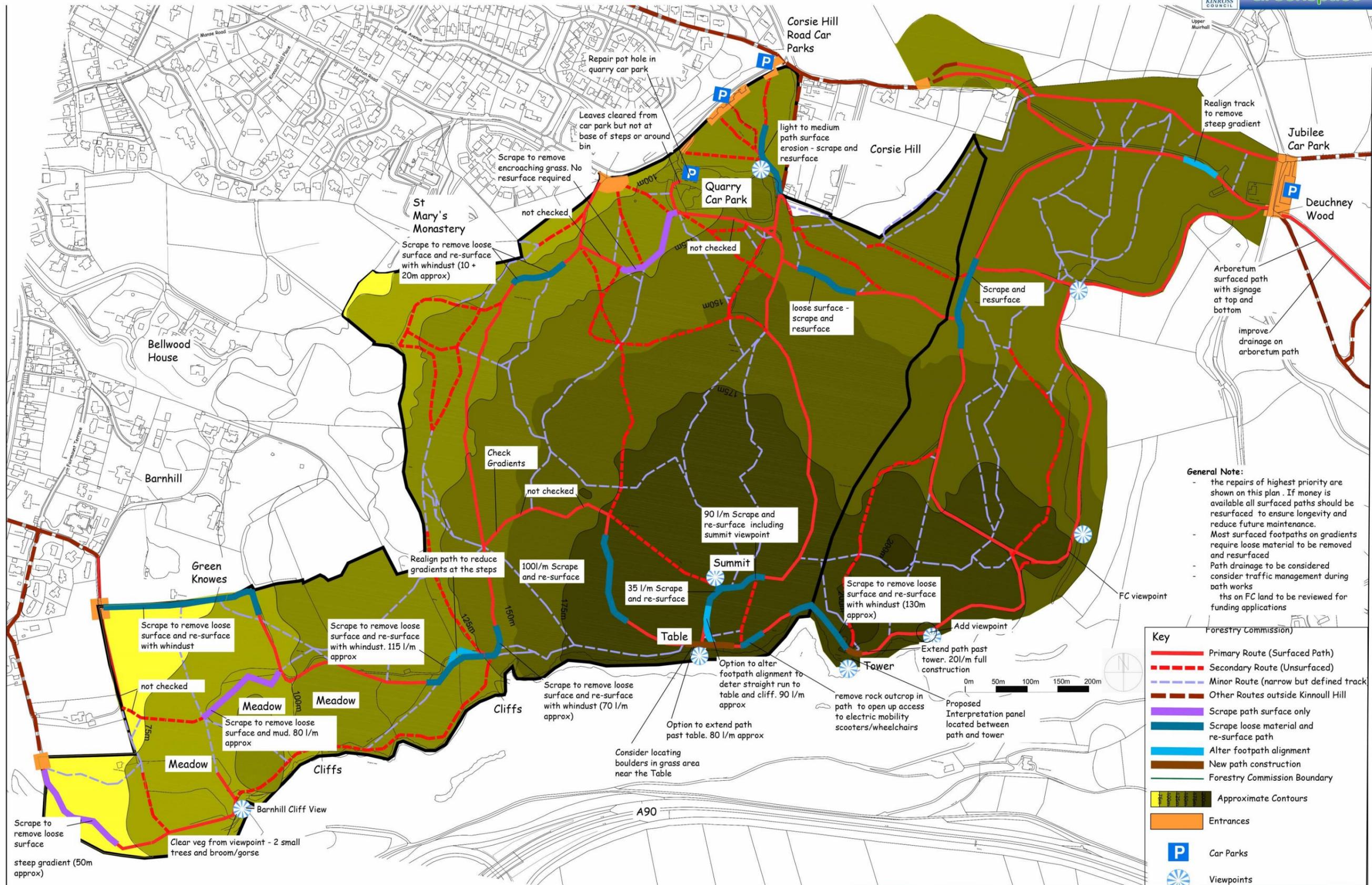


Sketch 3: showing indicative location of potential walls and link between eastern car park and adjacent path entrance to Kinnoull Hill



# Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park: Path Condition and Improvement Proposals

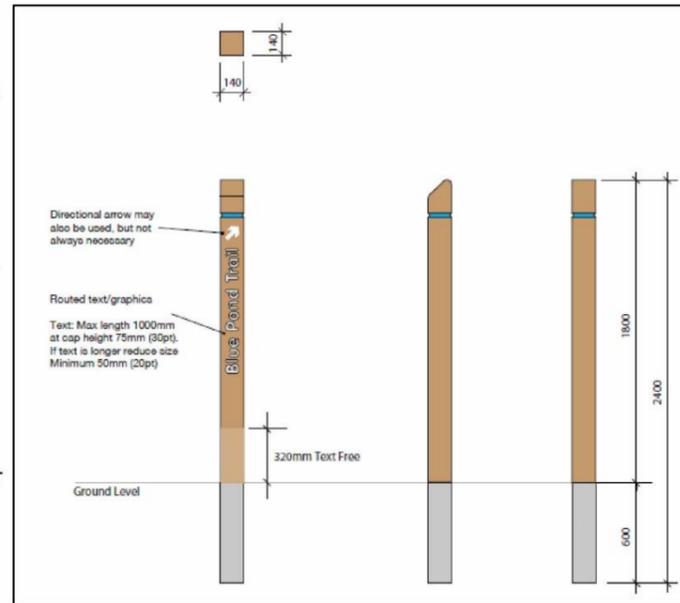
## Figure 13





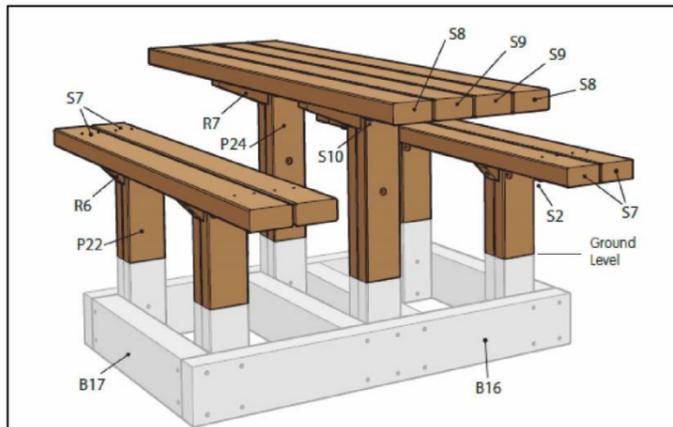
Left: J and J Learmouth Glen Almond timber bench. PKC could build similar benches in house. Option to fit metal feet increase longevity and for fixing to rock in areas of shallow soil. Bench could be set in an area of hard standing such as paving slabs or whindust to reduce wear at the base of the bench

Right: Trail Head marker post - located at car park or start of way marked route. Based on Forestry Commission design - could be amended with metal foot



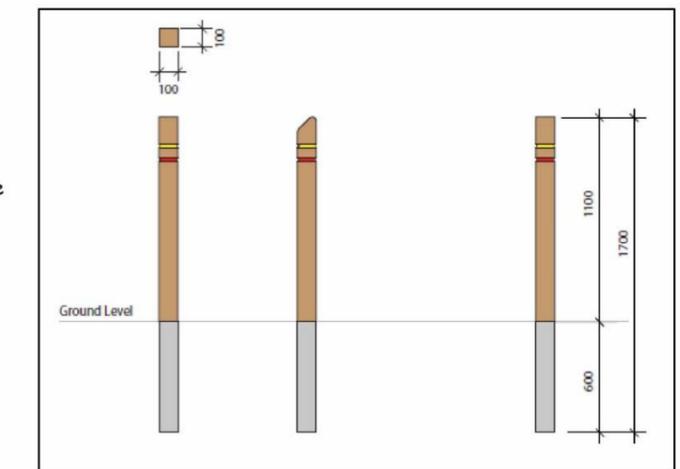
It proposed to use a simple suite of standard timber furniture and signs for PKC Countryside Sites. The images shown on this sheet are for illustrative purposes and demonstrate the range of basic furniture required for most sites.

There are significant benefits for the furniture to be made in-house using the PKC Community Greenspace squad. These benefits include value for money, good quality control for materials and workmanship, local knowledge of site conditions, easy to repair/replace, uniformity of construction method and materials across the site.

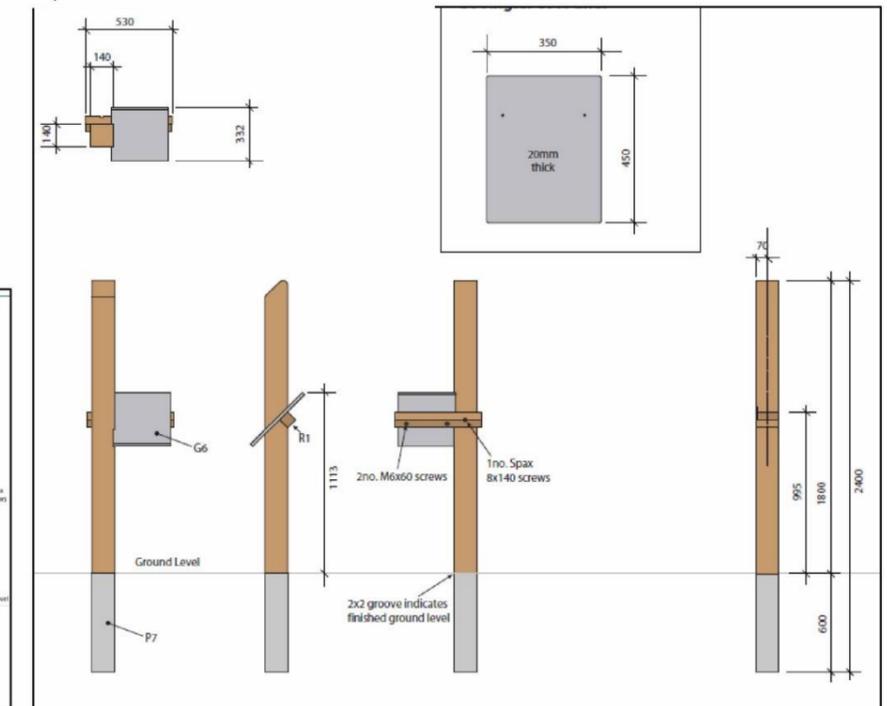


Left: Timber picnic bench based on Forestry Commission style. Propose to amend the detail to suit PKC sites and fit metal feet to base of posts. Fix onto area of hard standing such as paving slabs.

Right: Timber way markers based on Forestry Commission design could be made in house. the design could be amended to include metal footing to reduce rotting at base of post and allow a metal plate to be fitted for fixing to rock in areas with shallow soils.

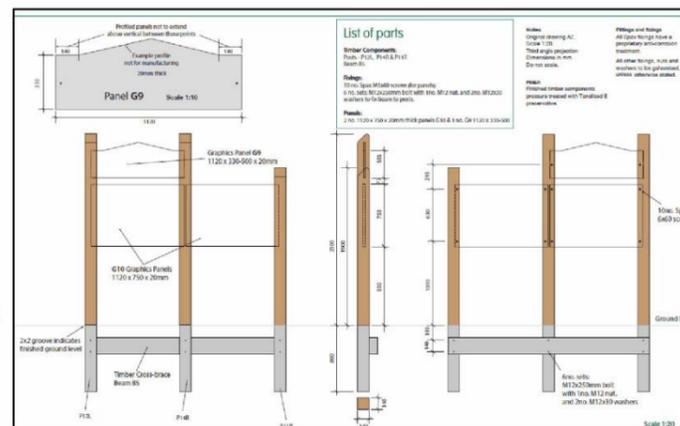


Below: Post with small map panel for Secondary Trail Heads or other lesser access points. Based on Forestry Commission design - design could be adapted to make more robust/simplify and metal foot could be added to improve longevity of the timber and for easy replacement



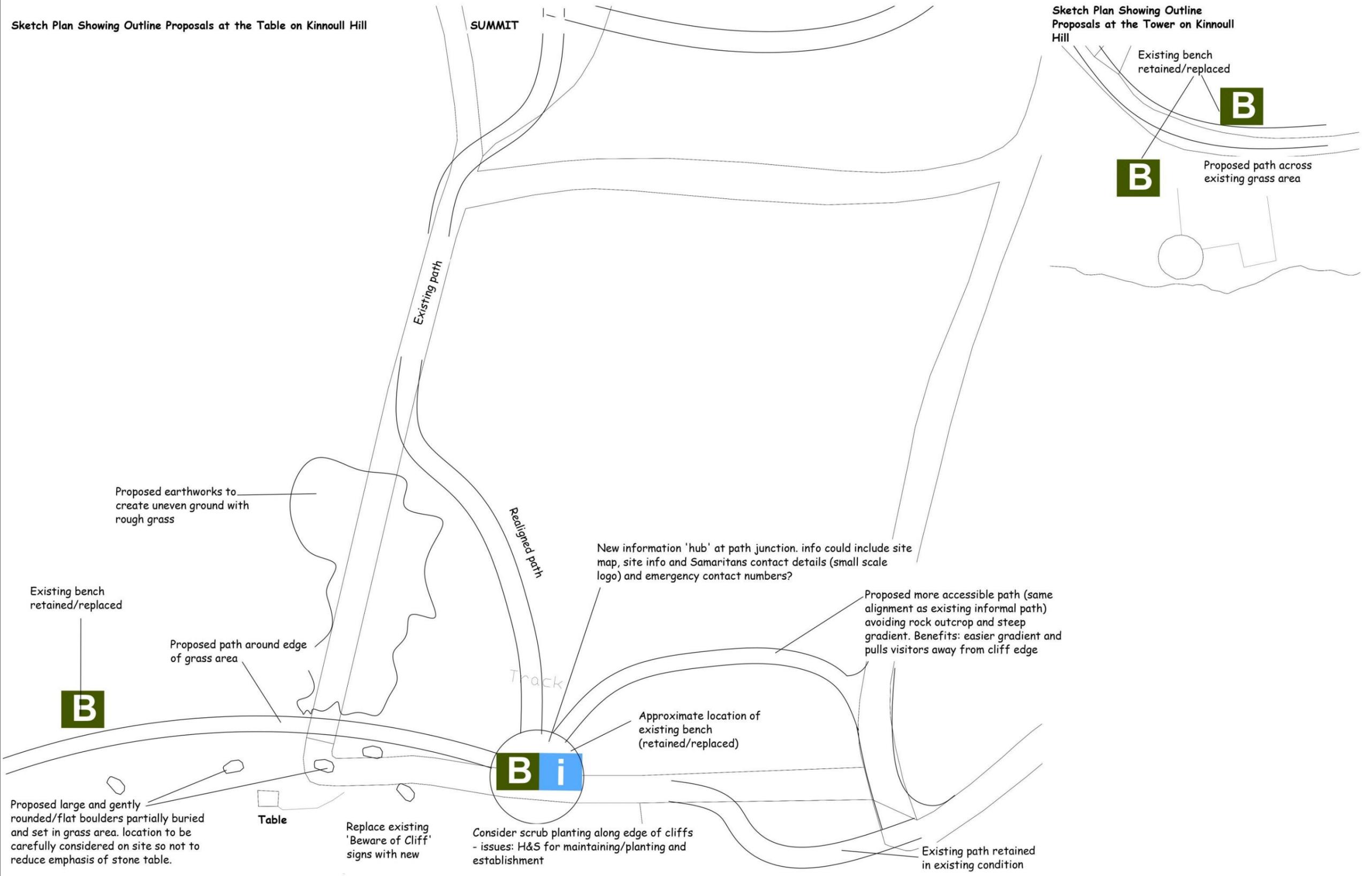
Left: Illustration of proposed litter bin for sites which are not accessible by bin lorries. reference: Glasdon Enviropol® 100 Litter Bin with brown slats. For sites accessible to Bin lorries wheelie bins with covers will be installed

Right: Example of Forestry Commission style map/information signage. Could be adapted for joint PKC/FC use. The number of panels could vary depending on location. Metal feet bolted to concrete foundation or rock (if close to surface).



# Kinnoull Hill: Sketch Proposals for the Table and Tower

Figure 15



## Proposals

It was identified by the Access report (Appendix E) that all existing pedestrian signage should be removed and new signage installed to promote three potential routes from the town centre as shown on Figure 8 and listed below:

- Route from South Inch car park to Barnhill via the railway bridge and Branklyn Gardens. It should be noted that since the Access report was written a pedestrian crossing has been installed on the Dundee Road.
- Route to Kinnoull Hill via Queen Elizabeth Bridge and School Brae
- Route to Kinnoull Hill via Smeatons Bridge and Muirhall Road.
- Opportunity to improve the bus service to Kinnoull Hill (Corsiehill) may be limited and will be discussed with PKC Public Transport.

## Main Park Entrances and Car Parks

There are 3 commonly used access points into the PKC section of the woodland park as shown on Figures 5 (Appendix C) and 9. Key entrances are:

- Corsie Hill car Parks
- Quarry Car Park
- Barnhill

It should be recognised that outside PKC land, Jubilee car park is popular entrance into the woodland park with visitors. This car park and entrance is owned and managed by FLS and is not included in this document.

### The Corsiehill Car Parks (also known as Corsiehill Laybys)-

A series of 5 small parking areas along the Corsiehill Road and the most popular access point within the PKC area.

### *Main Issues*

The visitor is confronted with a confusing and sporadic array of signs, furniture and both formal and informal paths. There is no distinct 'start point' and the visitor has to use their own initiative to decide which route to take. Gorse is overgrowing areas and some of the signs are negative.





### *Proposals*

In order to promote this location as a Primary access point the following is proposed to improve the legibility of the entrance onto Kinnoull Hill and make the parking area more welcoming and attractive for visitors. This is described in Figures 9 – 12 and below:

- Remove all existing furniture and signage
- Install new interpretation and route map at 3 access points (1 x Primary and 2 x Secondary Interpretation).
- Install 3 x trailhead markers
- Install new benches and bins and review their location and numbers
- Incorporate hard standing areas along kerbline and around interpretation signage. Design to be in-keeping with the location.
- Localised vegetation removal/trimming to open up views
- The construction of low walls in the vicinity of the central layby would further emphasise the entranceway onto the hill and could be constructed at a later date.

### *Example of the use of walls:*

Although not owned by PKC, the inclusion of stone walls at Jubilee car park (below) gives it a strong sense of place.



### Quarry Car Park:

This car park was recently surfaced in tarmac and is in good condition. However, it is not used to its full potential.

### *Main Issues*

Has a poor perception of security owing to strong sense of enclosure, poor sight lines and over hanging trees. The car park is poorly signed from Corsiehill Road.



Entrance into Quarry Car Park showing the sense of enclosure and poor sight lines



Showing the newly surfaced car park, quarry walls and overhanging trees. The walls are popular with rock climbers/bouldering

#### *Proposals*

It is proposed that Quarry Car Park (Figure 11) would provide overflow parking facilities at Corsiehill and as such would be a secondary access point onto Kinnoull Hill. It is proposed:

- To remove all existing furniture, signage and log edging.
- Install new route map (Secondary interpretation), trail head signage and 'overflow car park' signage
- Open up the quarry as much as possible with the selective removal of self seeded trees and cutting back of overhanging vegetation in the vicinity of the quarry walls
- Repair potholes
- Consider height restriction barrier at car park entrance

#### Barnhill Entrance:

Two entrances located on the eastern edge of Perth. Although they are the closest entrances to the City Centre they are significantly low key compared to those at Corsiehill.

#### *Main Issues*

- The entrances are poorly defined
- Orientation and signage is adhoc and confusing.



Existing signage and furniture at Barnhill

#### *Proposals*

- New trailhead, information and map (Primary Interpretation) provided on PKC land at the entrance to Upper Barnhill.
- Existing signage at Fairmount Terrace: 'Big Country' information sign and existing core footpath signs to be removed, all other signage at existing location to be tidied. New three pointer core path signage installed (pointing to Kinnoull Hill, Barnhill View and Town Centre).

### **Internal Paths and Accessibility**

Within the PKC boundary there is an extensive network of formal and informal paths across the hill which interlink with the wider path network and core path routes.

#### *Main Issues*

- The complexity of the path the path network is confusing for visitors
- Most entrances into the park are either steeply graded, narrow and/or have grass surfacing.
- Route information such as steep gradients, path width and steps is mostly non-existent.
- On the whole the path network is in good condition with occasional sections affected by erosion, poor drainage and/or encroaching vegetation (Refer to Figure 13 for locations)

#### *Proposals*

The main works required to improve the network are listed below and shown on Figure 13:

- Scraping the surface of existing paths to remove vegetation cover and loose material
- Scraping the surface of an existing path and replacing the surface material.
- Short sections of realigned paths e.g to replace short sections of steep graded paths or to change the route alignment of an existing route (e.g. at the Table) to replace short stretches of existing paths with steep gradients
- Short sections of new path over existing grass areas e.g. at Tower and Table

### **Orientation and Interpretation**

Orientation is poor across the whole site. Existing signage (refer to Figure 6 Appendix C) has been added piecemeal by different organisations in response to need over a long period of time

### *Main Issues*

- There has never been a joint approach or overarching signage strategy (See photos below).
- Insufficient route information is provided at the entrances
- Existing way marker posts are often poorly sited and add to the orientation confusion.
- Core Paths are marked by green finger posts. The signs are prone to vandalism and their siting conflict with the waymarked routes.
- Other signs in varying styles are found within the Park include signs for PKC countryside, Samaritan. Yellow hazard signage and danger cliffs signs add to the confusion and sense of clutter.

Examples of existing signage across Kinnoull Hill:



Big Tree Country interpretation panel



Summit interpretation panels on stone plinths



Existing way marker post



Existing core path finger post sign



Existing Samaritan and hazard signs



Existing PKC countryside site sign

### *Proposals*

It is proposed that a signage strategy shall be developed and implemented across the site including interpretation panel and waymarked trail routes. These are described below and shown on Figure 14 (images shown are indicative and proposed signage will be designed to be robust and maintainable:

#### Signage at site entrances:

The existing signage at park entrances shall be removed and rationalised signage shall be included on the proposed interpretation panels. Two types of interpretation panel are proposed – Primary and Secondary located at the main entrances (including Jubilee car park) and near the Table at the summit. Each sign would include trail routes and grading information, key destinations and viewpoints, car park locations, links to the path network, Access Code info (including mountain bike guide) and Samaritans information. Proposed maps shall be oriented to suit the site location.

#### Waymarked trails:

In order to provide meaningful orientation across the woodland park, PKC/FLS agree that all existing way markers and core footpath signs should be removed from the site. New trails and associated way markers and infrastructure should be installed in line with the proposed 6 waymarked trails as shown on Maps 1 and 2 of the Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park Access Consultation in principal. The following 3 are located fully or partially on PKC land and are shown on the Path Master Plan (Figure 9):

#### **Barnhill Trail (Orange):**

- Linear route from Upper Barnhill entrance to the trig point on Kinnoull Hill via the surfaced path
- Route marking would consist of timber upright posts with orange band/symbol
- Grading: Strenuous
- Entrance defined with trailhead marker and primary interpretation with map
- Promote direct access to Barnhill from the town centre via the railway bridge
- Removal of timber steps and regrading of path near Growl Myre
- Replacement of core footpath sign at the junction for Orange and Blue routes (near picnic bench). Removal of all other green core path signs.

#### **Corsiehill Trail (Blue):**

- Circular route around the western side of Kinnoull Hill via the Table and Trig Point utilising existing surfaced path
- Route marking would consist of timber upright posts with blue band/symbol
- Grading: Strenuous
- Requires multiple trail heads to promote the Corsiehill layby as a primary Trailhead with the Quarry Car Park and eastern (Geddes Way) entrances as secondary Trailheads. Furniture and signage at the three proposed trailheads (refer to Figures 10 – 12) would be simplified to make the entrances legible to visitors. There is opportunity to add stone walling to make the entrances more prominent especially at the Corsiehill laybys where it is proposed to retain the existing grass path linking the laybys with the circular trail.
- The western entrance (near to the Monastery and shown on Figure 11) would not be promoted as a trailhead but a sign with map would be provided. The bollards and signage would be simplified to make it more legible to visitors and residents.
- Signs directing visitors to the three Blue trailheads would be required at three locations along the trail: a) junction with quarry car park path, b) junction with Corsiehill layby path and c) junction with eastern entrance path. These signs would be simple and robust comprising of a single upright post with coloured text and arrow carved into the timber. The signs could double up as marker posts.

- All existing core footpath signs would be removed along the blue route and adjoining paths within Kinnoull Hill woodland Park

#### Tower Trail (Red):

- A circular route from Jubilee car park leading to the tower and trig point and back to Jubilee car park
- Route marking would consist of timber upright posts with red band/symbol
- Grading: moderate
- It is proposed to realign a short section of path linking the table to the trig point. The purpose of this is to a) remove a steep grassy step from the path linking the table with the tower, b) create a new path junction with map, seating and way marker c) the new path junction would be off set from the Table so not to distract from the views
- It is proposed to construct 2 short sections of path at the Tower and the Table to improve access and trail legibility for visitors.

### **Viewpoints**

One of the key attractions of Kinnoull Hill to visitors are the long range views across the wider landscape; comprising of undulating low lying farmland of the Tay Valley and Strath Earn, settlements including the City of Perth and extending to the distant Ochil Hills and Highland Boundary Fault. There are a number of different types of viewpoints on Kinnoull Hill (Refer to Figure 5 (Appendix C) for Viewpoint Locations) ranging from formal viewpoints with interpretation and seating to the incidental break in the trees allowing the visitor to experience a glimpse of the wider landscape beyond. The terrain adds a dynamic aspect for visitors where they can experience extensive wide ranging views from the summit, to dramatic and exposed views from the cliff edges at the Table and framed views from the cliff edge path.

#### *Main Issues*

In most locations the views are largely unobstructed. However, at seating locations in the vicinity of the Corsiehill car parks and on the cliff edge route on Barn Hill vegetation encroachment has partially restricted views to the wider landscape.

#### *Proposals*

Improve viewpoint and facilities by opening up viewpoints by cutting back vegetation, review formal/informal seating and possibly add interpretation.

### **Tower**

The Tower is a listed structure and an important landmark and is prominent in views on the approach to the City of Perth from the wider area.

The Tower and its footprint is under PKC ownership and PKC Property are responsible for its maintenance. Currently the tower is inspected once every 2 years with the aid of a drone.

In 2019, the inspection report identified the need to carry out pointing with lime mortar, de-vegetating, weather proofing the copes and painting of metalwork. It is proposed that this work will be carried out in July 2019 and there would be a 6 week contract period. Given the Towers location specialist steeplejack contractors will carry out the work using rope access.

## **Suicide Prevention**

The cliff edge at Kinnoull Hill is regrettably a location of concern for suicides. This has been taken into account in developing the KHMP

### *Main Issues*

Members from the PKC Suicide Prevention Steering Group including PKCs Suicide Prevention Co-Ordinator visited Kinnoull Hill on 2 May 2018 and the Minutes can be found in Appendix G. The main observations are listed below:

- Bright yellow Samaritan and 'Please take care' signage at Corsie Hill entrances emphasise Kinnoull Hill as a suicide spot
- The existing straight path leading to the Table from the summit emphasises the unobstructed 'straight run' to the cliff edge.
- At present the Table and cliff edge is the main focal point

Although the cliff edge at the Tower is also of concern it is understood that the main proposals should be centred on the grass plateau at the Table.

### *Proposals*

It's recognised that it is not possible to prevent suicide completely; however the measures shown on Figure 15 and described below should be taken into consideration. These proposals were reviewed and agreed on site with the Suicide Prevention Steering Group and Police Scotland:

- To incorporate Samaritan signage into the proposed site entrance signage and proposed information signage near to the Table. However, the text/signage is to be low key .
- The cliffs should not be advertised from the entrances, but it is accepted that 'danger cliffs' sign are required nearer to the cliffs to warn visitors of the danger.
- Subtle changes to the path alignment on the approach to the Table and Tower could help and reduce the emphasis on the 'long run up' the cliffs next to the table. The redundant existing section of path could be planted and slightly mounded to deter desire lines.
- The addition of boulders in the vicinity of the table and scrub planting at the edge could also obstruct the run up to the edge of the cliffs. Boulders would be bedded into the ground to prevent them being moved.
- Potential to incorporate suicide prevention information into a site map/info sign near to the Table.
- The construction of a new path linking the existing paths across the grass plateau (north of the Table) could provide a subconscious line/boundary and re-orientate the access/focus within the area.

## **Furniture**

In total there are over 90 items of furniture across the site and they are shown on Figure 6 (Appendix C). They are mainly found in three locations:

- Corsie Hill car parks: consisting of timber benches, litter bins, picnic benches, viewpoint and signage.
- The Table and summit: timber benches, summit viewpoint and signage
- The Tower: benches and signage

Other locations across the site include timber steps near Tullymalley, timber bridge to the south of Corsie Hill, picnic bench at Gowel Myre, timber bespoke bench at Barnhill View and signage across the site.

#### *Main Issues*

- Many pieces of furniture are at the end of their useful life and require replacement. Furniture condition is described in Appendix B.
- Site furniture has been added in a piecemeal approach over a number of years resulting in conflicting choice of location and varying styles across the site.

#### *Proposals*

General principles:

- Furniture and infrastructure should be of a character and quality fitting to the area.
- Existing site furniture to be reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose and in the right location.
- Quantities and types of furniture to be rationalised
- Future furniture to be constructed of timber, of the same design range, to be robust, sustainable, simple to maintain and supply. Recycled plastic furniture and introduction of hard surfacing under benches to be considered during detail design.
- Furniture on both FLS and PKC land should be of the same design to provide consistency across the woodland park (refer to Figure 14)

### **Memorials and memorial benches**

Kinnoull Hill is much loved by many people from across the area and understandably is a popular location for memorials.

#### *Main Issues*

- Many existing timber memorial benches require replacement.
- What happens to memorial plaques from decommissioned memorial benches?
- The number of memorial benches available across the site cannot be increased to accommodate increased numbers of requests for memorial benches.
- Variety of bench styles are present across the site
- Temporary and unauthorised memorials (e.g. flowers, ornaments etc.)

#### *Proposals*

- Replace memorial benches with new benches (see below for
- Removal of existing plaques from decommissioned benches: attempt to contact the 'owner' of the plaque and identify whether they would like to purchase a new bench in the first instance. If the 'owner' cannot be traced or they do not want to purchase a new bench then the plaque can either be given to the 'owner' or is stored by PKC. Refer to the Policy for Provision of Memorial Benches in Public Open Spaces (Appendix H)
- The number of benches available for memorial plaques will remain at 14.
- Replacement benches will be in the new countryside site style to promote unity across the site. Refer to Figure 14
- Temporary memorials, would be removed in a sensitive manner and after a suitable length of time. Biodegradable Memorials such as flowers (without plastic wrapping), may be left to naturally decompose on site at the discretion of PKC.

### **Sculptures**

The sculptures on Kinnoull hill are a positive asset and are much loved by the public and they're locations are shown on Figure 7 (Appendix C).

### *Main Issues*

The existing sculptures are carved from either tree stumps or from sections of timber brought onto site and fixed into position. At present the general condition of the Sculptures is good and maintenance to date has been largely carried out by KHWPUG. However, no formal maintenance or replacement plan is in place.

### *Proposals*

As with any timber item in an outdoor environment the sculptures will degrade over time, therefore a replacement programme should be developed to protect/enhance this much loved asset.

- Review future maintenance of sculptures
- Develop a replacement strategy
- Update sculpture leaflet with map and GPS locations of sculptures once replacement strategy has been carried out
- Potential to develop a recognised sculpture/art trail e.g increasing the numbers of sculptures, the materials used and temporary/permanent displays (e.g. themed exhibitions)

### **Maintenance**

At present the car parks at Corsie Hill and the approach to the Barnhill entrances are maintained on a regular basis by PKC. This includes bin emptying, litter picking, spraying herbicide, hedge cutting, cutting of grass verges and maintenance of furniture.

Litter picks, spraying of herbicides over the surfaced paths and limited grass cutting occur across the site at key locations such as the Tower, Table and Summit.

### *Main Issues*

The existing maintenance resources are fully committed and cannot accommodate any additional work on site.

### *Proposals*

- Maintenance procedures to be reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose
- Rationalising site furniture whilst not increasing the amount of site furniture is essential to minimise any additional burden
- Replacement of existing and out dated furniture should reduce maintenance in the short term
- Site entrance improvements should aid site maintenance e.g. placing furniture in surfaced areas rather than in grass.
- Review the potential for KHWPUG to carry out maintenance tasks such as litter picking on a regular basis.

### **Forest Management**

PKC is currently working to the Kinnoull Hill Forest Plan which was adopted in 2015. The vision is for native woodland managed under a continuous cover regime that enhances the experience of users of the park by creating a 'managed wilderness'.

The aims and objectives of the PKC Forest Plan for Kinnoull Hill are shown below (refer to Appendix A for the full document).

### Management Objectives

- 1) Manage the wood as continuous cover woodland.
- 2) Protect the natural regeneration of oak and birch by controlling deer numbers.

- 3) Remove natural regeneration of non-native tree species, especially sycamore and beech.
- 4) Maintain the meadow areas and remove any seedlings.
- 5) Ensure Scots pine numbers are maintained to support the red squirrel populations.
- 6) Work towards heath land restoration in the heath land areas by removing regeneration and shrubs such as broom and gorse.
- 7) Remove trees that obstruct the view for key viewpoints.
- 8) Retain as much deadwood as possible.
- 9) Manage the key features for which the SSSI is notified, particularly the oak and birch woodland.
- 10) Undertake tree safety surveys along paths.

#### **4.0 Funding**

The following are potential funding options available for Kinnoul Hill Woodland Park (TBC):

- PKC Capital
- WIAT funding application for footpath, drainage and furniture improvements could provide funding for a large part of the cost. Although WIAT funds 100%, it is understood that the rates provided will not cover the full actual cost of furniture and improvements.
- Possibly Up to 15k from suicide prevention for boulders, path construction/realignment at Tabletop/summit and Samaritan signage. All details to be agreed.
- Gannochy Trust for walls and interpretation
- David Aikin fund – works relating to Arboretum including interpretation?
- Tesco – general works
- PKC squad – for supply of site furniture (pending resources)
- FLS – may have funds for site furniture including design for site map/sign (TBC).
- PKCT – may have potential to aid fund raising (TBC)
- Other – KHWPU should be able to apply for funding for sculptures and other funds not available to PKC.
- CIPK – access audit and provide advice on potential funds related to access improvements.

## 5.0 Action Plan

The following Action Plan outlines the existing condition of the Kinnoull Hill and identifies a) how the site can be improved and become more welcoming to and usable by visitors; b) address the fitness for purpose and condition of furniture and c) reduce maintenance. The recommendations are prioritised into High, Medium, Medium/ Low and Low. The proposals listed in the Action Plan should be read in conjunction with the Masterplan (figure 9) and proposals outlined in section 4 and Figures 8 – 15.

Item No.	Location	Existing Condition	Priority	Outline Proposal	Key Actions/ Next steps	Who could do the work	Approximate cost
<b>Access and Orientation: Travel To/From Kinnoull Hill</b>							
1	Brown road and Green pedestrian signs	Disjointed with no signs from town centre directing visitors to Kinnoull Hill. Confusion with addition of 'Geddes Way'	High	Review and implement proposals outlined in Access Report	Install brown signage from main roadways. Install/update green core footpath signage.	PKC design. Partnership working with PKC/FC/PKCT and KHUG. Use of contractor	Cost: £4,400
<b>Car Park and Entrances</b>							
2	Corsie Hill Car Parks	Has partially screened long distance views over Perth and towards the Highland Boundary Fault. PKC's main car park and access onto Kinnoull Hill. However this popular but basic car park is let down by adhoc, confusing and out dated signage of varying quality and condition displaying negative information. Site furniture in poor condition and out of date. No clear single footpath or orientation point. No sense of arrival.	High	Create a welcoming entranceway onto Kinnoull Hill (Figures 9 - 12)	Make the car park welcoming. Consolidate signage with interpretation, viewpoint, car park tidy up, clear footpath access and location plan etc. Suitable site furniture/interpretation and positioning. Create sense of place. Add disable parking space.	PKC design. Partnership working with PKC/FC/PKCT and KHUG. Use of contractor	Signage, furniture and footpath improvements Cost: £81,600  Eligible WIAT funding: £TBC approx (note excludes walls – if drystone then some funding available)
3	Barnhill	This entrance onto Kinnoull Hill/Barnhill has limited parking owing to its urban edge location. However, there is scope to improve signage and make the	High	Welcoming entrance ways	Rationalise signage and provide clear route direction to the woodland park.	PKC design. Partnership working with PKC/FC/PKCT and KHUG. Use of contractor	Signage and furniture and improvements Cost: £6,400  Eligible WIAT

Item No.	Location	Existing Condition	Priority	Outline Proposal	Key Actions/ Next steps	Who could do the work	Approximate cost
		entrances more welcoming to the public.					funding: £TBC approx
<b>Path and Accessibility</b>							
4	Path resurfacing	At present the 'surfaced' path network in relatively good condition however resurfacing is required across the whole network. If money is not available then resurfacing should be focused on several key locations – mainly where the path is on a gradient.	High	Scrape existing surface and resurface with whin dust. Refer to Figure 13.	Funding/ tender package	Contractor to carry out work	Path resurfacing Cost: £40,000  Eligible WIAT funding: £TBC approx.
5	Path realignment	Realignment of the path at 2 key locations to reduce path gradients	High	Improve accessibility. Refer to Figure 13.	Funding /Tender package	Contractor to carry out work	Path resurfacing Cost: £3,000  Eligible WIAT funding: £TBC approx.
6	Full path construction	Full path construction at table and Tower to fill in missing links and prevent erosion	High	Improve path legibility. Refer to Figure 13.	Funding /Tender package	Contractor to carry out work	Path construction Cost: £4,300  Eligible WIAT funding: £TBC approx.
7	Removal of rock outcrop	Remove rock out crop on footpath between Table and Tower to improve accessibility	Medium	Improve accessibility		Contractor to carry out work	included in path re-alignment
8	Informal routes (grey lines)	Mixture of narrow unsurfaced routes. Refer to Figures x and x	No Priority	Do nothing	Do nothing	N/A	N/A
9	<b>Tree and scrub clearance at main entrances on Corsiehill Road</b>	Open up quarry car park and remove gorse/scrub from main entrances	High	Tree and scrub removal (see figs 10 – 12)	Funding/ tender package	Contractor	Cost: £20,000 Eligible WIAT funding: £TBC
<b>Orientation and Interpretation</b>							
10	General	Poor condition, out of date	High	Remove all existing	Design new signage	PKC design.	Signage

Item No.	Location	Existing Condition	Priority	Outline Proposal	Key Actions/ Next steps	Who could do the work	Approximate cost
		and often gives a negative message.		signage. Review signage requirements and design and install new signage at key locations	and agree requirements within CG	Partnership working with PKC/FC/PKCT and KHUG. Use of contractor	improvements Cost: £3,250  Eligible WIAT funding: £TBC approx.
11	Path routes/Orientation	At present the path the path network is confusing and poorly signed with no obvious strategy or clearly defined routes.	High	Develop several colour coded routes. Refer to Access report and Figure 9.	Install coloured way markers and site maps at key locations	Squad/Contractors	Way markers: £12,000  Eligible WIAT funding: £TBC approx.
<b>Suicide Prevention</b>							
12	Path alignment	Straight path between summit and Table emphasises run up to cliff edge	High	Realign path between Summit and Table. Refer to Figure 15.	Design realignment	Contractors	Full path makeup and reinstatement work: £4,000 Eligible funding from Suicide prevention steering group: £TBC
13	Suicide prevention signage	Yellow Samaritan Signage	High	Remove existing signage and install new and more subtle signage and awareness information at key locations	Draft up proposals and consult with suicide prevention group	Contractors	Signs: £700 Eligible funding from Suicide prevention steering group: £TBC
14	Obstacles to discourage run up to cliff	Open grass area leading to cliff at the Table		Introduction of boulders and possibly scrub planting. Refer to Figure 15.	Agree location on site with suicide prevention group	Contractors	Obstacles: £3,500 Eligible funding from Suicide prevention steering group: £TBC
<b>Viewpoints</b>							
15	General	Mostly unrestricted with some starting to become overgrown or at risk of vegetation encroachment	Medium	Cut back existing vegetation at Corsiehill carparks and at Barnhill	Identify main areas for vegetation clearance/cut back	Contractor	Vegetation clearance: £5,000  Eligible WIAT funding: £tbc

Item No.	Location	Existing Condition	Priority	Outline Proposal	Key Actions/ Next steps	Who could do the work	Approximate cost
<b>Furniture</b>							
16	General	Most furniture outside the main entrance areas has reached the end of its useful life and requires replacement	High	Replace furniture with new in house designed furniture. Refer to Figure 14.	Design timber furniture with GC/FLS teams. Manufacture and Install new furniture	Contractor/PKC	Furniture: £2,750 (Excluding items 2 and 3) Eligible WIAT funding: £TBC approx.
17	Quantity and Locations	The quantity and location of the furniture is mainly concentrated at Corsiehill summit and Table	High	Rationalise and check location relevance – e.g. at viewpoints and entrances. Refer to Figure 9.	Mark on map proposed location and agree with Infrastructure team	PKC design	Included in the design fees
<b>Sculptures</b>							
17	Across the site	Generally good condition	Medium	Develop long term strategy for Sculptures on Kinnoull Hill	Agree vision/ strategy with PKC/FLS and user groups	TBC	TBC
<b>Maintenance</b>							
18	Across whole site	Review current maintenance practices by both PKC and volunteers	High	Review current practices – are operations necessary, are they delivery what we need, could they be done differently? Is voluntary work effective, does it need additional resources to achieve tasks?	Review current practices	PKC operations and voluntary groups	PKC Revenue
19	Volunteers	Limited equipment and resources. No formal agreements.	Medium	Review equipment requirements and agree sustainable tasks. Review option for existing new groups to carry out specific tasks such as path works etc	Review tasks	Voluntary groups	Cost: £1,000

Item No.	Location	Existing Condition	Priority	Outline Proposal	Key Actions/ Next steps	Who could do the work	Approximate cost

## 7.0 Timescales

The timescale for the works is dependent on the availability of resources such as; PKC budget, External funding, PKC staff and Contractors. Refer to Section 4.0 for potential external funding.

External funding is a valuable source of funding for Kinnoull Hill, however it can often be variable and unpredictable. This requires a higher degree of management as there is no guarantee on the amount of funding available and timescales may not match other funding bodies etc. With this in mind the timescale is flexible and will evolve as the funding strategy is developed.

It is proposed that the majority of the main proposals could be carried out during the 2020/21 and financial year pending available budgets. Within this timeframe the design, external funding applications would be carried out and the works could be carried out in a favourable time of year/season for construction. The following timescale shows tendering and construction split between walls, paths, furniture and signage – this allows flexibility to be built into the project as the timescale for each element may be variable due to weather, agreements (e.g. signage wording), funding and supply.

Indicative Timescale :

- Public Consultation via website/social media: 2019
- Finalise outline proposals/ Management Plan: 2019
- Design work: winter 2019/2020
- Design of signage and liaison with PKC Squad and FLS: winter/spring 2020
- Design of furniture and liaison with PKC Squad and FLS: winter/spring 2020
- Funding applications: e.g. WIAT, EBS: 2019
- Funding applications with community involvement (others): winter 2019/20
- Review available funding Spring 2020
- Tender for scrub clearance and minor tree felling (see Quarry car park and Corsie Hill proposals): autumn 2020 (outside bird breeding season)
- Scrub clearance and minor tree felling works: Autumn 2020 (after bird nesting season)
- Tender for stone walls: spring 2020
- Tender for path works: spring 2020
- Tender for Signage supply/installation: spring 2020 (pending completion of signage design work)
- Tender for furniture supply/installation: spring 2020
- Stone Wall works: summer 2020
- Path works: summer 2020
- Signage supply/installation: summer/autumn 2020 (pending final signage design)
- Furniture supply/installation: summer 2020