

## **Carron Valley Partnership Agreement**

The following agreement is between  
**Forestry Commission Scotland** (the 'Commission')  
**Scottish Water**  
*The site owners*

and

**North Lanarkshire Council,**  
**Stirling Council**  
the **Carron Valley Development Group** (*the CVDG*)  
the **Clanranald Trust for Scotland** (*the CTS*)  
**Central Scotland Forest Trust** (*the CFST*)  
**Community representative**  
**A N other (Walking interests)**  
**A N other (Fishing interests)**  
**A N other (Other local authorities interests)**  
**A N other (Horse riding interests)**

(**the Partners**)

**Collectively 'the Carron Valley Partnership' ('the Partnership)**

## CARRON VALLEY FOREST PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT and Development plan V1

### Purpose of the agreement

1. The purpose of this agreement is to establish the operating principles and working relationship between the **Commission, Scottish Water** and the **Partners**. The **partners** have an interest in how the **Commission** and **Scottish Water** manage the public assets in the Carron Valley for access and recreation.

### Scope of the partnership

2. The **partners** will through the **partnership** decide on the access and recreation developments at Carron Valley, within the boundary detailed on map 1 in annex 2. Decision making on the access and recreation development will be made by the partnership in the ways and within the limits defined in this agreement and the development plan. The **Commission and Scottish Water** retain a final veto of any proposal only where this conflicts with their business or corporate needs or is outside of this agreement. This agreement does not invite or extend to the other duties the **Commission** and **Scottish Water** discharge as part of their business. The partnership can extend to a total of 14 partners, and must include the Commission and Scottish Water.

### The Partnership Agreement

3. Is between the **Commission, Scottish Water** and the **Partners** forming the **Carron Valley Partnership**. The partnership relies on the **owners** and **Partners** working together with a common purpose and set of **values**. The **Carron Valley Partnership** will be concerned primarily with delivering the **Development Plan**.

### Duration and Review

4. This Agreement will subsist for a period of five years from the date of signing by all the partners engaged at that point. It will be reviewed annually with a full review and revision prior to the fifth anniversary with the option to continue or end the agreement at the fifth anniversary.
5. The agreement can be terminated by the withdrawal of the Commission or Scottish Water, subject to one months written notice. Any of the partners can withdraw from the project subject to 1 months written notice or additional partners added with the approval of the partnership up to the maximum of 14 partners. In the event that a Partner other than the Commission withdraws, the remaining Partners may agree to sustain the remaining Partnership.
6. The agreement may be extended or replaced by the Commission and Scottish Water with one or more Partners after its termination or natural expiry. The Partners may also, by majority agreement, extend the Partnership to additional organisations sharing the general objectives of the Partnership.
7. For the avoidance of doubt this Agreement confers no legal rights on the Partners and is not intended to form any part of a contract. The Commission reserves the right to withdraw immediately from this Agreement in the event of changes in Scottish Executive policies on the management of the National Forest Estate by giving as much written notice as is practicable.

### Limitations

**Comment [J2]:** These 'values' and the 'common purpose' need to be clearly stated. Are they the 'Vision' and 'objectives' or something else?

**Comment [J3]:** Again presumably any such action would require to be fully justified to the other partners?

**Comment [J4]:** Do we need a formal process for new applications to join, e.g. approval as Management Group meeting?

**Comment [J5]:** Should this also refer to Scottish Water?

**Comment [J6]:** What would happen if there were lease agreements in place for use of the CV land and FCS decided to withdraw from the Partnership. Would these be void?

**Comment [J7]:** Should this be the majority of Partners?

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8. This Agreement and the development plan shall not prevent the Commission or Scottish Water from closing off public access to parts of their ownership where it is desirable in the interests of public safety in the connection with their operations. Except in the case of emergency, the Commission and Scottish Water undertakes to consult with Partners in advance of such closures.

### The Development Plan

9. This agreement is predicated on the delivery of the Development Plan in annex 1. The ~~De~~velopment ~~P~~lan has text and maps (annex 2) highlighting the extent of the access and recreation development proposed agreed by the Partners, Commission and Scottish Water. Delivery of the Development Plan will be concurrent with the duration of this ~~P~~artnership ~~A~~greement. The ~~De~~velopment ~~P~~lan will be made up of a series of proposed projects and ongoing activities. Specific/Individual Project Plans shall be prepared documents detailing the aims of individual projects and other relevant information including: information identifying and designating the lead Partner and responsible person, specifications, location, costs, sources of funding, timescale, resulting obligations and arrangements for maintenance over defined periods. Project ~~P~~lans associated with the Development Plan will be developed once the ~~P~~artners have signed up to this Agreement and the Development Plan.

### The Vision

10. That Carron Valley Forest is known as a 'big country wilderness experience' in the heart of Scotland and offers a range of high quality access and recreation experiences to an inclusive range of visitors.

### Objectives

11. To develop a wide range of visitor experiences and an inclusive range of access, and recreation, and business opportunities  
12. To promote Carron Valley through appropriate media to encourage people to visit and enjoy their experience once there their and to return to the Carron Valley on a regular basis to utilise the facilities on offer.

### Organisation of the Carron Valley Forest Partnership

13. The Carron Valley Partnership shall form a Management ~~Group~~ comprising the Commission Scottish Water and a nominated person to represent each Partner at an Annual Review Meeting, and such other meetings as they may convene, for the management and implementation of the Development Plan. Any partner can chair a meeting and a summary minute with action points will be produced from each meeting. In the absence of an available partner the Commission shall chair meetings and provide a summary minute.
14. The Management Group can agree to ~~can~~ establish working groups to implement specific projects. Such Groups would have clear terms of reference, be timebound, and be expected to report back to the Management Group/Partnership on a regular basis
15. The Annual Review Meeting, or such subsequent meetings as may be convened by the Partners, will review progress of the ~~De~~velopment ~~P~~lan.

**Comment [J8]:** Is it the Carron Valley Partnership, CVP or CVFP?

**Comment [J9]:** What will be the difference between the CVP and the Management Group? Is it that the CVP could have more than one rep from each Partner organisation and the Management Group only one?

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16. Approval of any matter connected with this agreement, the Development Plan or a project plan shall as a principle be on the consensus of all the partners at a meeting. Decision-making will otherwise be made by following the direction of the majority of the partners, with one vote per Commission, Scottish Water and partner. The minimum or quorum for decisions will be the Commission, Scottish Water and representatives of two other partners. No matter will be decided by the Partnership when it is unconnected with the Agreement, Development Plan or Vision for the Carron Valley, or where there is a conflict with the corporate responsibility and business processes of the Commission and Scottish Water. In these instances the Commission and Scottish Water retain the final decision-making.

**Comment [J10]:** Should this be 50% of Partnership membership? i.e. currently 6 member organisations therefore 3 needed for Quorum, but if number increases to 14 should it not be 7 partners?

**Comment [J11]:** How do we define 'conflict'? Again would need to be fully justified

17. The Commission, Scottish Water and each Partner, individually and severally, will liaise as necessary on an *ad hoc* basis through their nominated representative.

18. The Commission shall provide Partners responsible for implementing agreed Project Plans with suitable official authorisation such as Permission or Licence to enable them legally to carry out the works in accordance with the Commissions statutory obligations. In general Project Plans will be appended to such authorisation.

**Comment [J12]:** Linked to - does this mean that each project needs Board approval, or is the FDM agreement sufficient?

### Operating Principles

19. The Commission, Scottish Water and the partners will abide by the following operating principles

20. To work with the principle of making decisions by consensus arrived at by compromise

21. To respect the working principles and values of each of the partners, with the Commission acting on behalf of the owners: the Scottish Ministers, the elected representatives of the Scottish People.

22. To support the principles of the access legislation and multi-user access (taking account of Partners' reasonable commercial requirements)

23. To ensure that any activities undertaken by them conform to Scottish Government Executive policies stated or implicit in the Scottish Forestry Strategy and/or any other appropriate legislation or strategy.

24. To encourage an inclusive recreation experience.

25. To abide by the terms and spirit of this agreement and aim to resolve issues amongst the partnership.

26. To work through the partnership in delivering the access and recreation activities while minimising the potential impact on the other's interests.

27. To be open with the exchange of relevant and timely information as allowed for under any relevant legislation in respect to commercial or private or business sensitive issues.

28. Promote community participation and explore opportunities for joint action, publicity and communications.

**Comment [J13]:** Does this need a little more explanation on what is trying to be achieved? Is it general community, i.e. residents, or Community Organisations?

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29. Liaise over opportunities for events, public participation and relevant commercial use of the Forest
30. To support and involve communities, adapting plans and incorporating their requests where possible.

### Promoting the use and enjoyment of Carron Valley

31. The Partnership shall facilitate and support programmes and activities organised and agreed by them, which promote access and recreational use, understanding and enjoyment of Carron Valley and its facilities.
32. The Partnership agree to ensure that any publicity material provided in respect of Carron Valley reflects & acknowledges the CV Partnership, is accurate, appeals to the Partnership's target audience, and promotes the use of Carron Valley.
33. The Partnership agree to encourage the use of the Forest by the general public with a range of recreational interests
34. The Partnership agrees that their actions and activities in respect to this Agreement and delivery of the Development Plan will not compromise the Commission or Scottish Water in delivery of their or other third parties business rights and interests, and the or negatively impacts on all users of the Forest.
35. The Partnership agree to ensure that all publicity, public relations or similar events with which they may be involved in respect of the Forest will be consistent with the aims of the Carron Valley Partnership.
36. The Partnership shall develop, agree and implement an events programme (where possible well in advance) to allow adequate planning and where required a FCS/SW permission to be issued. These can be staged individually or jointly and should aim to promote Carron Valley. Permission for events will be sought ~~set~~ from and not unreasonably withheld by the Commission or Scottish Water.

**Comment [J14]:** Should all PR be communicated to Partnership prior to issue to ensure this happens?

### Managing and resourcing the Development Plan

37. The Commission agrees to work with the Partners in the production and delivery of the ~~a~~ Development Plan in annex 1 and 2.
38. The Commission, ~~and~~ Scottish Water, and other Partners will have the right to limit their resource commitments to the Development Plan in each of the five years of it running. FCS commitments will ~~Focusing~~ on maintaining the existing infrastructure. The Development Plan will indicate which developments the Commission and/or Scottish Water are content for the burden of maintenance to rest with them.
39. For the existing infrastructure highlighted on map 1 and 3 and new facilities in the development plan where the Commission has indicated it supports the development it will limit Commission resources on an annual basis, with no assumption on carrying resources between financial years running 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March. Unless otherwise agreed ~~t~~his will be the total resource for all activities related to the access and recreation maintenance on site and contribution to the Partnership and Development plan. This assumes and includes a limit on staff time.

**Comment [J15]:** Presumably FCS may decide to allocate additional resources for specific projects or activities that it considers appropriate?

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40. The cash contribution each year will be on a net cash cost basis to allow for any access or recreation developments that attract income for the Commission, to be used in the on-going revenue funding on the **site**.

**Comment [J16]:** Needs to be clarified? Does this infer that any income generated, e.g. from rental of the catering unit will be used to offset the FCS allocation. I was under the impression that income as a result of business activity would be additional.

41. The annual Commission contribution will **be**:

- FDM and District Forester time sufficient to attend meetings and oversee the development process. This assumes that the total time will not be greater than for comparable management input to other forest blocks. Estimated at 1 day per month each.
- Forester and other supervision 2-3 days per month total.
- One day of ranger time per week.
- A net cash contribution for all activities of £10, 000.

**Comment [J17]:** Given the FCS involvement in proposed Business Plan activities – will this be sufficient?

42. The commission may contribute one off sums by agreement to clearly defined and identified project plans that come from the Development plan for capital **improvements**.

**Comment [J18]:** See 39 & 41 above. May be confusing?

43. The Commission may also contribute reasonable support costs for the managers from specialists and administration staff from other parts of the business.

44. Partners **may** contribute such cash, staff or volunteer time they chose and agree towards the Partnership and Development plan. Their contributions may be limited as follows:

45. Scottish Water

46. Stirling Council

47. North Lanarkshire Council

We would need to agree the Business Plan and identify projects to enable an allocation to be provided. However, staff time/resource may be easier. I'll speak to other departments and advise.

48. CVDG

49. Central Scotland Development Trust

50. AN OTHER contributions

51. To enable further development beyond these commitments any member of the **P**partnership can apply for external funding. Before exploring this potential any **P**partner, ~~the Commission or Scottish Water~~ must have the agreement of the **majority P**partnership at a Management Group meeting. The final version of the bid documentation will be submitted to all ~~of the P~~partnership to review and agree as per the approval process above before being sent to the funding **body**.

**Comment [J19]:** Should this also be circulated at draft stages? Do we need a facility for taking forward such applications should there ever be disagreement?

**Comment [J20]:** Do we need to clarify exactly what is meant by commercial opportunities? Is this 'for profit' business proposals or does it include external funding

52. The Commission agrees to open up **commercial** opportunities in the Forest by way of leases, contracts, permissions, licences or other agreements, as appropriate, which will be made available under standard operating terms and **conditions**. This will include

**Comment [J21]:** Do we need a further annex that explains what these are? Or alternatively a statement that they will be considered in a positive way?

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private business or partners. This will allow for other developments where The Commission will not support the capital or maintenance costs.

53. ~~The Commission It~~ may also require a provision in agreements, leases, licences or permissions for the removal of any legacy and/or maintenance commitment items where the Commission cannot ~~not allow the public purse commit~~ to maintain facilities through its revenue funding.

**Comment [J22]:** Should this be clarified? Perhaps in plain English. It would infer that no public funding could be used for maintenance?

54. It is understood that these opportunities will be subject to the Commission's public accountability obligations, including its commitment to the Scottish Forestry Strategy, and consistent with its statutory powers, policies and mission statements in force from time to time. Account will also be taken of any ministerial directions or government policies at the time.

55. The Commission, Scottish Water and the Partners agree at all times to ensure that all necessary legal and statutory obligations, consents and suitable indemnity are in place and are complied with, including as appropriate risk assessments and public liability insurance.

**Comment [J23]:** Is there PLI at present for this and other FCS/SW sites?

56. The Partners agree to co-operate with the Commission in respect of health and safety and to report all known accidents in the Forest promptly to the Commission.

57. The Commission and the Partners agree to promote close co-operation and collaboration in the planning and execution of all agreed projects in accordance with Development Plan. This will be done within the agreed reasonable time scales required by the Commissions, Scottish Water or the Partners operating procedures.

58. The Partners agree, through the Management Group, to participate in the development and execution of the Development Plan, and thereafter to ensure that their programmes and activities related to the Carron Valley are consistent with it. All management and planning processes to be overseen by the Management Group, who will be provided with progress reports on specific projects and appropriate finances as appropriate from the Partnerships members.

### The Partners agree:

59. To ensure that no action arising from this agreement will override the statutory duties and responsibilities of other organisations or the rights of any third parties including the requirement that the advance agreement of the Commission and/or SW shall be required for any work taking place on its land.

60. To provide contact details and keep each other informed of persons responsible for activities and approvals.

61. To communicate this agreement widely throughout their organisations and to other interested parties.

62. To encourage the pooling of resources to further shared objectives and agreed projects.

63. To nominate one person to act as their representative on the Management Group accepting that a Quorum shall be calculated on the basis of one representative per Partner.

**Comment [J24]:** See para 16 above

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64. That programmes or projects to be implemented in the Forest by the ~~P~~partners under this Agreement shall be the subject of agreed Project Plans.

65. To hold an Annual Review Meeting and any necessary subsequent meetings to review the progress of the partnership and the Development Plan.

### Definitions

**Forestry Commission Scotland** (the 'Commission') is the forestry department of the Scottish Government, advising on and implementing forestry policies.

**Scottish Water** is a publicly owned business formed in 2002, answerable to the Scottish Parliament, that provides water and waste-water services domestic and business customers.

**North Lanarkshire Council** is the local authority and planning authority responsible for *inter alia*, the promotion of sustainable land use practices, land use planning ~~&and~~ control and economic development and regeneration within the boundary of North Lanarkshire.

**Stirling Council** is the local authority responsible for *inter alia*, the promotion of sustainable land use practices, land use planning and control within the boundary of Stirling, outside the Cowal and Trossachs National Park.

**Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT)** is the lead partner of the Central Scotland Forest, an initiative whose vision is to make the Forest a place that enhances the lives of those living, working and playing there. CSFT will be concerned with the progression of the Forest Strategy in and around the Carron Valley. CSFT is limited by guarantee and has charitable status (SCO93544).

**Carron Valley Development Group (CVDG)** was constituted on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2003 and has no share capital. The CVDG is recognised by HM Revenue and Customs as a Scottish Charity No: SCO36047. The CVDG aim is to promote sustainable development for recreation in Carron Valley Forest.

**Clanranald Trust for Scotland (CTS)** was incorporated in April 1996 and not having share capital, with charitable status, to provide Scottish history services to schools and others, and to promote awareness of Scottish history and culture at home and abroad.

**Carron Valley**, comprising Carron Valley Forest, Carron Valley Reservoir and immediately surrounding areas detailed on map X annexed hereto.

**Carron Valley Forest** ('the Forest'), extending to 3,135 hectares as outlined in red on the plan annexed as Annex 1 hereto, is in the ownership of the Scottish Ministers who acquired the right to the interest of the Secretary of State for Scotland in this land by (One) The Scotland Act 1998 and (Two) Article 4 of the Transfer of Property Etc (Scottish Ministers) Order 1999 ("The Scottish Minister") who has placed it at the disposal of the Forestry Commission pursuant to section 39 of the Forestry Act 1967.

**Carron Valley Reservoir**, extending to 394 hectares or thereby as outlined in green on map X annexed hereto, in the ownership of Scottish Water.



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**Access and Recreation** in this agreement are the activities encompassed by the Access Legislation. They are the none-motorised recreation pursuits typically exercised in the Scottish Countryside. This agreement will also include motorised or other permissible access or recreation activities and events the partners with the agreement of Scottish Water or the Commission wish to include in furthering their objectives.

The **Development Plan** is the approved five-year plan of text and maps that detail the activities, actions and works agreed by the partners Scottish Water and the Commission in fulfilling the vision and objectives of the partnership. It is an integral part of the Agreement and the basins of the partnership working.

**Project Plans** will be developed as the partners and Commission or Scottish Water require to set out the basic details of the project, its objective, lead partner and involvement and funding by other partners.

**Signatories**

Concluded by:

Signed: ....., Date: .....  
on behalf of the Forestry Commission Scotland

Name and Designation: B Meakin, Forest District Manager

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Signed: ....., Date: .....  
on behalf of North Lanarkshire Council

Name and Designation: .....

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Signed: ....., Date: .....  
on behalf of Stirling Council

Name and Designation: .....

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Signed: ....., Date: .....  
on behalf of Scottish Water

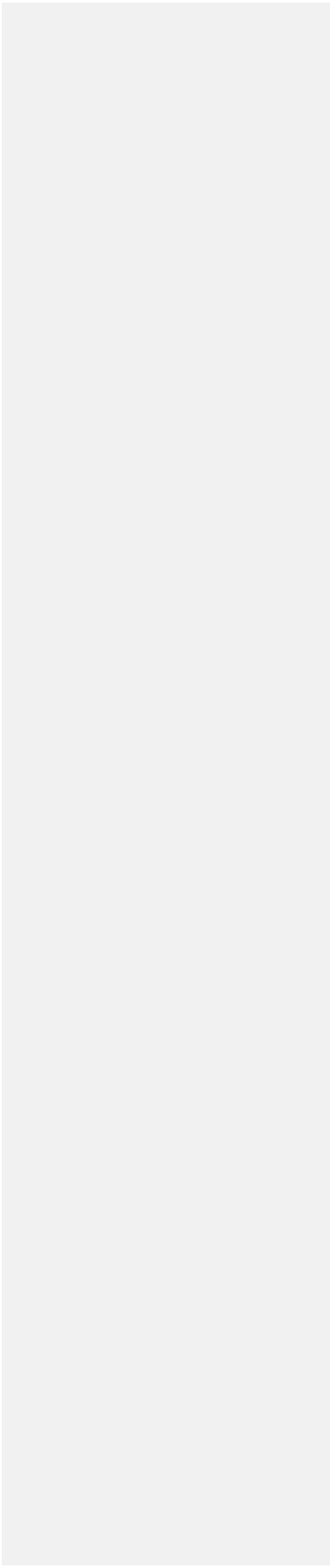
Name and Designation: .....

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Signed: ....., Date: .....  
on behalf of the CSFT

Name and Designation: .....

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Signed: ....., Date: .....  
on behalf of the CVDG

Name and Designation: .....

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Signed: ....., Date: .....  
on behalf of the Clanranald

Name and Designation: .....

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Signed: ....., Date: .....  
on behalf of AN OTHER

Name and Designation: .....

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Signed: ....., Date: .....  
on behalf of the AN OTHER

Name and Designation: .....

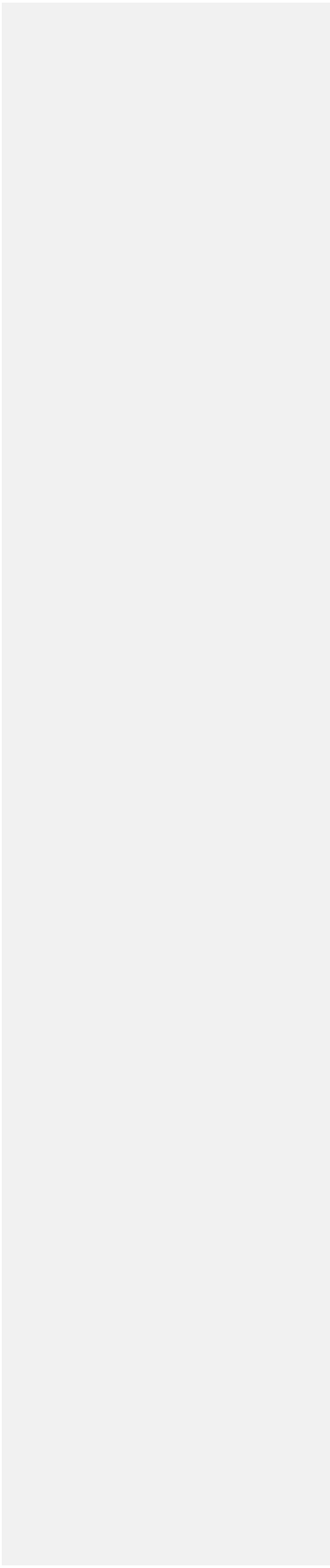
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Signed: ....., Date: .....  
on behalf of the AN OTHER

Name and Designation: .....

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Agreement Ends



## CARRON VALLEY FOREST PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT and Development plan V1

### ANNEX 1 THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

#### **1. Purpose of the Development Plan**

This plan describes the aspirational recreation development the Carron Valley Partnership has an interest in progressing in the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) Managed forests and Scottish Water managed reservoir of Carron Valley. It does not confer any burden or assumptions on any of the Partners that any particular project will take place or that they will require to be involved in it.

#### **2. Scope, duration and review**

The Development Plan is dependent on the partnership Agreement in defining how the partnership will operate and does not stand alone from that agreement. The Development plan highlights the current and potential access, leisure and recreation developments at Carron Valley, within the boundary detailed on map 1 in annex 2. This Development Plan does indicate the intentions of the Partners to become involved in projects. All development will be subject to the terms in the Agreement and dependant on available resources. The Development Plan will have the same duration and period of review as the Agreement.

#### **3. The Vision**

That Carron Valley Forest is known as a 'big country wilderness experience' in the heart of Scotland and offers a range of high quality access and recreation experiences to an inclusive range of visitors.

#### **4. Carron Valley Partnership Objectives**

To develop a wide range of visitor experiences and an inclusive range of access and recreation opportunities.

To promote Carron Valley through appropriate media to encourage people to visit and enjoy their experience once their.

#### **5. The Context for Development**

Next to the Kilsyth Hills and Campsie Fells Map 2 shows Carron Valley Forest and reservoir in context within the Carron Valley, a location that evokes the atmosphere of a Highland glen. It has a small community of local residents in the valley and along the minor roads leading to the forest. Four Local Authorities have boundaries within, or adjacent to, Carron Valley forest. North Lanarkshire and Stirling Councils have already contributed to access improvements within the forest, and Falkirk Council has funded a crossing of the ford on the Tak Ma Doon road, and West Dumbarton is the fourth authority. It is important that any developments and infrastructure are in keeping with the current sense of place and the vision. There is the opportunity for landscape improvements both through the continued work on the forest design plan and smaller scale next to trails and the car parks. There is potential for increased better promotion of the site as a recreational destination, in line with other visitor provision in the area, and through the development and marketing of events.

Access is primarily by car, with Lennoxtown, Fintry, Kilsyth, Denny, and Stirling approximately twenty minutes away along rural county roads. The roads while adding to the country appeal are currently not ideally suited to substantial increases in traffic volumes, and the development needs to be mindful of this. There are currently no public transport links to the area. However, increased usage may result in the potential for improvements to the transport infrastructure. Much of the population of the central belt are

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within one hours drive and the development aims to appeal to a more diverse visitor profile, with toilet provision, better promotion, way marked routes and interpretation.

For many years vandalism, joyriding and dumping of cars was an issue in the Carron Valley forest. FCS now has a Ranger living in a house in the valley and this coupled with tighter management of access points, plus increased public use has stopped this problem. The increase of bona fide users as the development takes effect will also continue to discourage potential abuse. The current facilities attract at least 20000 visitors and map 1 shows the current recreation provision. Other than the recognised mountain bike routes, ~~There~~ are no way marked trails and little that caters for less able visitors. and ~~The~~ development plan aims to address this.

The partners have developed a brand for the site and it will be important to ensure the visitor also receives co-ordinated message from the different partners, and the plan aims to do more promotion and interpretation. Clanranald Trust for Scotland, as a business venture, is keen to maintain its identity in signage and literature, and as they develop their site this will also add to the visitor appeal and business development potential. The quality of experience at the site is important and the standards that recreation facilities are expected to meet continue to rise. Facilities have and will continue to be regularly inspected and maintained, and the site has and will benefit from on going improvements, highlighted on the maps. On FCS and Scottish Water managed land there are both industry and internal best practice requirements for design, construction, and materials. There is an assumption is that all timber is FSC certified and that any new trails are built to best practice guidelines.

There are currently no visitor service buildings on site and the development plan does not currently propose any. There are also limits to the partners desire to be involved in different aspects of the development opportunities. This is being addressed by exploring the potential for business opportunities for some services such as a mobile catering outlet or through providing on site services such as servicing the toilets. There is also the considerable potential for volunteering activity on site and the opportunity to become involved in Government skills and training schemes that help people back in to the work place.

**Comment [J25]:** What defines a visitor service building? The toilet? What about Clanranald plans for visitor information/reception for their attraction?

### 6. Why are the partners involved?

Each of the Ppartners brings a particular set of skills to the Ppartnership. The Ppartners have different ambitions for the site meaning that they may or may not be directly involved in the different aspects of the future development. Everything we propose to develop has a resource requirement to build, maintain and improve it. The following highlights the drivers for each of the partners:

#### 6.1 Forestry Commission Scotland

FCS has 14 districts in Scotland managing the national forest estate. Carron valley is in Scottish Lowlands Forest District (SLFD). The district manages over 60 woodlands in central Scotland with 19 local authorities and over 60% of the Scottish people in its area. The district has a focus on the benefits of woodlands for people particularly the Woods in and Around Towns program. This seeks to have accessible, well-managed woodlands close to people's homes typically within a kilometre or fifteen minutes walk. Our recreation facilities are usually low key and not way marked, welcoming access to the general population. There is a particular focus on those living in deprived areas. Where SLFD delivers other recreation such as at Carron Valley the facilities should be multi-use trails, with least restrictive access principles that attracts a diverse visitor profile. Tourism is not

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a driver at Carron Valley. There are also opportunities for private business within the forest based on the revenue potential from day visitors.

**Comment [J26]:** This is an extremely concerning statement and I think needs to be qualified either by explaining your interpretation of tourism; specifically highlighting that it is solely an FCS view; and/or by stating that the view is not shared by other Partners. The term 'tourism' equally applies to day visitors, short break markets and longer stay visitors.

- FCS has the responsibilities as manager of the forest and open areas on map 1. We need to ensure the development plan meets our business, corporate, health and safety and other industry standards. We aim to maintain the current facilities alongside our forest operations.
- We want to work with the community living next to the forest to make sure the facility meets their needs, our aim is to speak with them and try to accommodate improvements they would like.
- We want to provide recreation facilities that are inclusive. Our main aim is to attract more families and those less likely to utilise be seen at our forest recreation sites by providing quality facilities, promoted through leaflets, school visits, events, and other promotions. We also aim to make improvements to the toilets to make the site more attractive.
- The paths we will support will aim to be multi-use, to apply least restrictive access principles, and be in keeping with the setting, the aim would be to have more all ability paths and facilities at the main car park.
- We want to enable access rights to be exercised, support core paths and rights of way and for the more adventurous visitors help them to get a wilderness experience, we aim to contribute to some informal path networks that connect existing natural features using the forest road network. We aim to contribute to the circular loch side trail.
- We want to improve the landscape of the forest, our aim is to deliver the current forest design plan and to make continuous improvements to the internal landscape next to recreation facilities, and to protect and enhance habitats and species.
- We want to create new business opportunities, our aim would be to work with others to develop business potential where this exists.
- The forest is a resource for developing new skills and we aim to facilitate others to use this for volunteering, back to work schemes and acquiring new skills

**Comment [J27]:** What form will this support take – additional funding, in kind support, (materials), etc? Are all of the bullet points here additional activities over and above the existing maintenance commitments?these

**Comment [J28]:** How will this be done, when, who'll pay, etc?

**Comment [J29]:** This and the other activities/projects needs to be somehow listed as part of the Development Plan, e.g. as an annex, that shows all proposed projects, potential costs, timescales, potential funding sources, priorities, etc.

### 6.2 Scottish Water

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### 6.3 North Lanarkshire Council

Will work this part up in consultation with other NLC departments

However it will include Social and economic regeneration activities; tourism development; Planning; Community regeneration;

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### 6.4 Stirling Council

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### 6.5 CVDG

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### 6.6 Clanranald Trust for Scotland

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### 6.7 Central Scotland Forest Trust

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### 6.8 Others

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## 7. Funding

The partners will make different levels of contribution decided on a project by project basis. The Commission's and other Partners contributions annually are defined in the Agreement. These funds are to ensure the on going maintenance of the existing facilities. There is also a need to source capital expenditure from external funds, as well as the potential for partners making contributions to develop and maintain new facilities.

**Comment [J30]:** If FCS have agreed to undertake maintenance of existing facilities what will the other Partners contributions be used for?

## 8. Development Activities

The following section highlights the development activities based on the following text and a series of maps in annex 2. Any new development will should be taken forward as individual a projects covered by a project plan, agreed by the partners. Project management will be led by one partner, this could be the Commission or Scottish Water but should include them when the project is on ground they manage. In each section entitled Proposed Activities lists the proposed developments. After each is the initial of the partners who are or wish to be involved in that development.

**Comment [J31]:** Presumably other Partners would be able to lead on projects if resources are available? I agree FCS/SW should be involved/aware, but to have FCS/SW lead/manage ALL projects (because all will be on your land) would increase demands on FCS/SW resources and could justifiably mean projects could be delayed?

## 9. Map 1

### 9.1 Current Facilities

This shows the boundary of the Carron Valley Partnership area. It shows the basic detail of the forest area, the forest roads, open hills and rides, the reservoir and associated structures and labels of the natural features. It also highlights current recreation features. People enjoy being in a place where there is wildlife even if they never see them the knowledge that they share the forest with animals and birds adds value to the visitor experience. Carron Valley Forest is home to many species and habitats more commonly associated with the Highlands. The site already hosts school visits and volunteering and has the potential for more. There is scope for more on and off site promotion and potential for interpretation projects. The site is important to the local community and the proposed projects should improve dialogue with them and seek to include their aspirations and concerns in the ongoing development of the area. The reservoir has fishing permits and there is local bike hire. The Clanranald Trust has been developing a fort visitor facility on site and this will continue. There are counters in the car park and on the trails and monitoring visitor numbers and opinions is essentialimportant.

Recreation features on site currently:

- Toilet block that has male female and disabled facilities.
- Bike wash facilities
- A main carpark, and the overflow adjacent carpark at the east and a smaller car park at the west of the forest.

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- Over 10km of purpose-built red grade mountain bike trails, built in a series of interconnecting loops. These are a popular draw for a wide range of users, attracting not only individual recreational cyclists, but also Outdoor Education Departments of several Local Authorities, where and instructors bring the young people and their bikes by minibus during term time; voluntary & community groups, social services, and others. These visitors/users include ethnic minority and/or single sex groups, disadvantaged youngsters, and those with challenging behaviour.
- The route of a low level multi use trail along the shores of the reservoir is currently under construction to appeal to the family and older markets.
- Scottish Water support responsible access under the Access legislation, and have a local fishing business.
- There are a network of paths and trails regularly used but with out way marking or interpretation.

### 9.2 Proposed Activities

- Promotion of the site – Make use of joint leaflets to highlight the activities present on site. [FCS, , ]
- Maintain the existing infrastructure in a safe condition with regular inspections and maintenance. Enhancing the mechanisms to encourage volunteer involvement in maintenance activities [FCS, , ]
- On site interpretation boards and site related leaflets – Develop projects that help visitors engage with the existing wildlife, heritage and natural features. Seek to develop materials that help visitors engage with the site. [FCS, , ]
- Off site interpretation – seek to make use of web and other media. [FCS, , ]
- Seek to work with and include a wider user group in the development of Carron valley. [FCS, , ]
- Work with the local residents to seek their views and aim to help them deliver any specific projects and improvements they might suggest. [FCS, , ]
- Seek to develop volunteering activities related to the site and the activities in the Development plan. [FCS, , ]
- Seek funding for further trail development. [FCS, , ]
- Make use of the site to host events. [FCS, , ]
- Complete the current multi use loch side trail already under way. [FCS, , ]
- Ongoing monitoring of visitor numbers and perceptions surveys of customers will be essential to measure the impact of our activities. important. [FCS, , ]

Comment [J32]: Does this imply that FCS will lead on all projects?

## 10. Map 2

### 10.1 Context

This highlights where Carron Valley sits north of the Campsie Fells. It shows the proximity of local towns and the network of 'A' & 'B' roads around the site. It highlights the other FCS owned woodlands adjacent to Carron Valley and next to communities that also offer visitor potential. It highlights some of the other locations sites people visit near by.

### 10.2 Proposed Activities

- Promotion of the site – Make use of joint leaflets and promotions that set Carron valley in context with the wider opportunities in the area. For example the potential to develop a new 'Campsie Trail' leaflet [LAS, , ]
- Develop a wider partnership that includes adjacent local authorities and keep other interested bodies involved. [FCS, , ]

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### 11 Map 3

#### 11.1 Development potential at main car park

This map shows a more detailed view of the main car park as it exists and some of the proposed developments. There are local landscape improvements to be made including dealing with a dynamic forest with wind blown trees and new clear felling sites. There is a need for more accessible trails to be developed to encourage visits by families, older people and those with disabilities. The island development would help to develop the potential for picnics and a family day out. There potential for on site catering will be let as a business opportunity through a lease with FCS.

#### 11.2 Proposed Activities

- Continue to maintain and make improvements to the access roads, car parks and general landscaping – Develop a plan of improvements, and seek funding to implement. [FCS, , ,]
- Continue to maintain and make improvements to the toilet facilities. [FCS, , ,]
- Seek to develop an all ability trail from the main car park. [FCS, , ,]
- Seek to replace the existing bridge and develop the island as a 'picnic' and recreation area. [FCS, , ,]
- Seek to install interpretation and other visitor information that will enhance the visitor experience. [FCS, , ,]

### 12 Map 4

#### 12.1 New recreation and access opportunities

Carron Valley forest has an existing network of forest roads that will expand with the development design plan and the need to access harvesting coupes. There is the potential for an improved circuit of the reservoir. This route will appeal to family cyclists, walkers, runners, keep fit and sports training. This can be low input due to use of existing roads infrastructure but also leads its self for the development of new multi-user route reducing the road length where appropriate. There is an on going need for improvements to internal landscaping and the installation of new signage. There is the potential for leaflets, on and off site interpretation, education materials and events that will encourage people to visit.

#### 12.2 Proposed Activities

- Develop a plan to carrying out minor path improvements to Meikle Bin and return via the south shore of the reservoir. Consider the benefits and if suitable install way marking of the route. [FCS, , ,]
- Continue to develop the current forest road with landscaping and add way marking to develop a multi-user route around the reservoir. [FCS, , ,]
- Seek to develop new sections of multi-user trail along this reservoir route that take people off the forest road. [FCS, , ,]
- Explore the potential for highlighting and working on longer routes suited to horse riding, and installing feature that encourage horses to be boxed in. [FCS, , ,]
- Aim to develop the mountain bike trails red routes on the map that to link the existing forest road network to provide more opportunities for multi-user access under the access legislation. [FCS, , ,]
- Enhance forest thresholds by landscaping works and installing new signage. [FCS, , ,]
- Develop an events schedule for each year. [ , ,]



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- Explore the potential for leaflets and interpretation of new access and recreation opportunities that make the most of the nature features and biodiversity. [ , , ]
- Develop and implement an access project to make the existing heritage and natural features more accessible. [FCS, , , ]

### 13 Map 5

#### 13.1 Water related development

The reservoir is currently used as a public water supply so this limits development opportunities. There is an existing business on the reservoir managing fishing permits. There is potential to develop the business further through the use of the water for non-motorised recreation.

#### 13.2 Proposed Activities

- Commission a plan that highlights the potential and ways in which more water related access and recreation activity can be developed. [ , , , ]
- Maximise opportunities for publicity from the forthcoming World Fly Fishing Championships

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### 14 Map 6a and 6b

#### 14.1 Forest design plan felling and restocking

The approved Forest Design Plan (FDP) develops this Highland atmosphere as part of the overall future management of the forest. The FDP is already being actioned, and clear felling and replanting will continue. Although the FDP envisions the forest felling and replanting over many years, it is reviewed every five years to incorporate developing best practice and new information. Smaller scale improvements, such as clearing viewpoints, and trailside management are also needed. Opportunities will be taken to action small scale work as part of any larger operation nearby.

#### 14.2 Proposed Activities

- Continue to restructure the forest – continue to work the design plan felling and restocking proposals with associated forest operations. [FCS, , , ]
- Small scale landscape – Develop a program of internal landscaping along the recreation routes, view points and features of interest. [FCS, , , ]
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### 15 Map 7

#### 15.1 New mountain bike opportunities

With an existing network of trails, mountain bikers already visit Carron Valley and are ~~would~~ currently ~~be~~ the largest visitor segment. The existing routes are graded red shown on map 7. There are opportunities for developing both entry level routes and more routes suitable for the better riders. FCS and volunteer activity from CVDG maintain current trails. Forestry Commission Scotland does not intend to put capital revenue funding, or staff time in to any additional mountain bike trails in Carron Valley ~~so - f~~ Further development would therefore need to be ~~led~~ by other partners or others as a business opportunity under a lease. This might also include the existing trail infrastructure. The area highlighted in yellow on the map 7 shows the area where development activity would be ~~focused~~. Such an arrangement would need to resolve the legal, health and safety, and liability ~~issues~~ as a first step before being offered as a lease. It would require a suitable source of revenue funding and a business ~~case~~.

**Comment [J33]:** How does this sit with the existing proposals for a number of trails across the whole area? MTB trails should not be confined to a specific area if they are to link with the forest road network, be designed to meet user demand, and be all inclusive?

**Comment [J34]:** The exact implications of each of these needs to be clarified?

**Comment [J35]:** This is the first time leasing has really been mentioned. It is essential that the conditions attached to leases are not prohibitive. The position should be clarified in relation to how it will work, potential costs, etc. As already mentioned I am unsure of the implication for 'commercial/business opportunities'? Does this mean any proposals need to be truly commercial in nature?

**Comment [J36]:** Define 'business case'?

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### 15.2 Proposed Activities

- Develop the potential for a suitable business/lease arrangement for the development of new mountain bike trails. [FCS, , ,]
- Develop a wider range and additional length of mountain bike routes of routes. [ , , ,]
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Comment [J37]: Clarify

Development plan text ends