



## Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy

### APPENDIX D: Recreational Woodland

## Recreational Woodland

D1. In Section 8 - Community we discuss recreational woodland as defined by the Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard. This Appendix provides further details on what information was used to map recreational woodland in East Lothian and how we have used this information.

D2. The woodlands we consider 'recreational' are woodlands on the 2019 National Forest Inventory which include those:

- owned or managed for public access by the Council
- owned or managed by third parties but which encourage public access (including the Woodland Trust, the Scottish Wildlife Trust, community groups and others)
- which have a Right of Way or Core Path route through them; and/or
- have public car parking

D3. To determine if these 'recreational' woodlands meet the Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard we needed to identify their proximity to people's homes. We have used the 'addressable properties' GIS layer to identify people's homes. Not all of these properties are homes, but this is the closest GIS layer the Council currently has to capture residences, and most, especially in the rural area, will be homes.

D4. We have mapped properties within 500m of a recreational woodland of over 2 hectares, and within 4km of a recreational woodland over 20 hectares, as well as those which do not meet this standard.

D5. The mapping is likely to over-estimate how many properties have access to woods as it only considers distance. It doesn't take into account physical barriers, such as the A1, which limit or prevent access. The mapping will also *under*-estimate access. Access rights under the land reform act give the public the right of responsible access to much of our woodland. It is likely that there are some woodlands which do not fall into the categories mapped but which are used for recreation. The mapping is therefore intended as a first sweep of where to focus attention.

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