

BARACHUILE FOREST LTFP



Tilhill
Forestry

BSWGROUP member of **binderholz**■

30.06.2025

Barachuile Forest – Long Term Forest Plan 10 Year Renewal

Long Term Forest (UKFS) and UKWAS Management Plan – 10 Year Renewal

2025 - 2034

submitted by

Tilhill Forestry

to

Scottish Forestry

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Acronyms and Terms

ASNW – Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands

ESC – Ecological Site Classifications

INNS – Invasive Non Native Species

IPMS – Integrated Pest Management Strategy

LTFP – Long Term Forest Plan

LTR – Long Term Retention

NR – Nature Reserve

PWS – Private Water Supply

PAWS – Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites

UKFS – UK Forestry Standard

UKWAS – UK Woodland Assurance Standard

Beat Up – additional top ups of tree seedlings following restock to maintain required stocking densities as per felling permissions.

SECTION A – DESCRIPTION OF WOODLANDS

A.1 Property details UKWAS 1.1.3

Barachuile Forest is owned by Timberland LP and Tilhill Forestry are the appointed Forest Managers, working under direct instruction from the owners. The named manager and key contact is Sam Bristow, based in Tilhill’s Area Office in Oban.

Owners Name and Contact:

Timberland LP
Gresham House Asset Management
1 Des Roches Sq
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 4BE

Agents Name and Contact:
Tilhill Forestry
Malin House
European Marine Science Park
Dunstaffnage
PA37 1SZ
Contact name: Sam Bristow
Tel: 01631 562906
E-mail: sam.bristow@tilhill.com

A.2 location and background UKWAS 1.1.3

A map detailing the location can be found in Appendix 2 / Map 1

The property is located adjacent to the A816, approximately 23 km, south of Oban, with the smaller settlement of Kilninver to the north (9km), Melfort to the west (2km) & Kilmelford to the south (2km). The forest is surrounded by agricultural open hill ground to the east, agricultural park to the south with commercial conifer blocks neighbouring to the north and west, additionally a native restoration project has been completed to the west of Barachuile at Kilchoan & Melfort Trust.

Species	Area (ha)	Area (%)
Hybrid Larch	4.05	1.29%
Lodgepole Pine	14.51	4.62%
Mixed Broadleaves	7.69	2.45%
Native Mixed Bleaf	4.29	1.36%
Norway Spruce	2.17	0.69%
Scots Pine	2.86	0.91%
Sitka Spruce	181.7	57.80%
Open Ground	93.99	29.90%
Water	3.08	0.98%
Grand Total	314.34	100.00%

Table 1 - Current Species

The following Ordnance Survey Maps cover the area:

1: 50,000 OS Landranger Map sheet 55 – Lochgilphead & Loch Awe

Centre of Forest Grid ref:	NM 852 152
Gate Grid ref:	NM 845 153 & NM 848 134
Post Code:	PA34 4XD

Table 1: Property location details

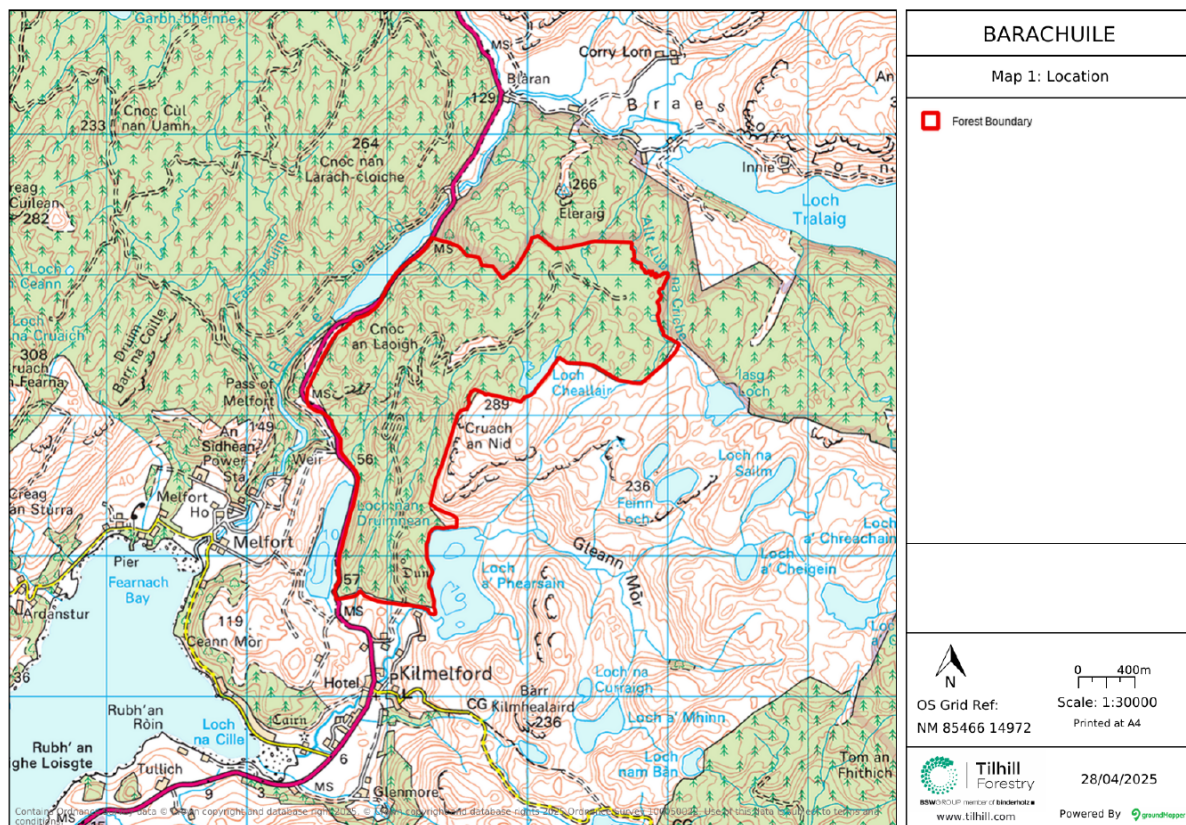
Barachuile Forest is a commercial forest initially planted over a 9 year period from 1975 to early 1984, located near the village of Kilmelford in Argyll. The property covers 314.34 hectares in total, with 217.27 ha under woodland, of which 94.48% is conifer. The conifer areas planted in the mid 1970's and 80's are now in the process of being felled and restocked with approximately 40% of the forested area now felled and restocked with the remaining to be felled in the coming phases.

The broadleaf woodland contains 11.98 ha of mixed broadleaved and native broadleaved woodlands, which are managed for biodiversity and amenity. Of this approximately 2.87ha is classed as ASNW with the remaining broadleaf woodland established after the planting of the forest through regeneration or planting of stock.

Diversification through restructuring and the improvement in the biodiversity of planted woodlands continue to be priorities in the Scottish Forestry Strategy.

This Plan identifies the opportunities and constraints that are relevant to the management of Barachuile Forest, over the 20-year period between 2025 and 2044. In particular, opportunities to increase their contribution to the diversity and character of the landscape, through planned restructuring of the conifer woodland blocks and the identification and protection of a range of woodland types in preferred areas. These objectives are promoted in the Argyll and Bute Woodlands and Forestry Strategy. In particular, the Plan will:

- Record the current characteristics of Barachuile Forest and changes over the last 10 years of the current plan.
- Set out proposals to restructure the conifer area and progress made to date, as well as amendments to conform to the upcoming UKWAS 5th edition.
- Summarise the current status of the woodland and identify the important opportunities and constraints that affect it.
- Identify the long-term policy for the woodland, set and prioritise objectives and provide a rationale for the stated management prescriptions.
- Include felling, thinning and restocking proposals, an indication of proposed roading developments and an overall management strategy covering a 20-year period up to 2044.
- Set out specific measures to maintain or enhance those areas identified as of high environmental value.
- Review and evaluate on-going monitoring criteria and evaluate the 5 yearly Plan Review process.
- Comply with The UK Forestry Standard and The UK Woodland Assurance Scheme requirements.



Map 1 - Large scale location map

The forest has direct access to the A816 allowing forest management and harvesting operations to be carried out without impact on the fragile rural roads network.

A.3 Existing Schemes & Permissions UKWAS 3.1.2

Barachuile has no currently grant schemes outwith the outstanding application for the LTFP grant for this forest plan.

Permissions required for the ongoing management of the woodlands will be:

- Felling – through approval of this plan.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) determination for the road upgrades and extension.
- SEPA consents for any new/altered applicable water crossings.
- Prior notification for any significant changes to the forest roads or accesses.

A.4 Stakeholder Engagement UKWAS 2.3 & 2.3.1

Consultation for the plan review proposals was undertaken in late 2024. Stakeholders were informed that the plan was being written in accordance with the UKFS and that it was to be the basis for recertification under UKWAS. The full scoping report can be seen in Appendix 3, though the main findings from this exercise are summarised below:

Individual / Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Scottish Forestry	panda.cons@forestry.gov.scot	14/02/2025	No Response	
SEPA	adminsupportwest@sepa.org.uk	14/02/2025	14/02/2025	Standard Response
Nature Scot	argyll_outerhebrides@nature.scot	14/02/2025	25/02/2025	Scoping not required
Argyll & Bute Council	centralvalidationteam@argyll-bute.gov.uk	14/02/2025	No Response	
Argyll & Bute Planning	planning.olandi@argyll-bute.gov.uk	14/02/2025	25/02/2025	No Objection
Argyll & Bute Roads	James.Jackson@argyll-bute.gov.uk	14/02/2025	No Response	
A&B Council private water supply	pws@argyll-bute.gov.uk	14/02/2025	No Response	
Scottish Water	protectdwsources@scottishwater.co.uk	14/02/2025	On site meeting, response below	Restocking to be changed to remove conifers from part of catchment
West of Scotland Archaeological Services	equiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk	14/02/2025	No Response	
RSPB	Stephanie.Cope@rspb.org.uk	14/02/2025	No Response	
Argyll RSG	dikanderson@googlemail.com	14/02/2025	No Response	
Scottish & Southern Renewables	jim.harvey@sse.com	14/02/2025	No Response	
Argyll TTG	s.stuart@outlook.com	14/02/2025	No Response	
Kilninver School	enquiries-kilninver@argyll-bute.gov.uk	14/02/2025	No Response	
Kilmelford and Kilninver Community Council	info@kilmelford.com	14/02/2025	No Response	
Seil & Easdale Community Council	secretary@seilandeasdalecc.co.uk	14/02/2025	No Response	
Forestry & Land Scotland		14/02/2025	No Response	
Glenbeg Farm		14/02/2025	No Response	
Rashie Park		14/02/2025	No Response	
Kilchoan Melfort Trust		14/02/2025	No Response	

Table 2 - Scoping and consultation summary

A.5 10 Year Review

This plan constitutes the 10-year review of the original 20 year plan submitted by Tilhill Forestry on behalf of the clients in 2014.

A.5.1 Review of Operations in the past 10 years

Over the last 10 years, the following operations have occurred:

- **Phase 1 and 2 Felling** – Felling of approximately 98ha of mature conifers, since the original plan in 2014 a range of coupes have been realigned due to windthrow & SPHN, the felling will be delayed into P1 & 2 of the new forest plan.
- **Restock** – Restocking of 91.57ha during felling from previous period
- **Roading** – Maintenance of existing forest roads during the period
- **Crop maintenance** – Tube removal from 2017 & 2019 planting, weeding of restock crops along with beating up and other establishment works.
- **Wildlife / Stalking** – Since the previous plan Barachuile has removed 233 deer from the property, this has been a mixture of recreational stalking & more recently a professional deer controller.

A.6 Long Term Vision and Management Objectives UKWAS 2.1.1 a & 2.1.1 g

Following a review of the last 10 years of performance, the planted conifer woodland will continue to be managed to create a financially sustainable woodland in perpetuity by adopting suitable silviculture and management techniques to produce quality timber. This will continue to be achieved by maximising the amount of suitable ground restocked with productive conifer within UKFS species proportions. Appropriate species choice and the use of improved planting stock, matched to suitable soil types, will maximise yields and growth rates across the forest. This has already been achieved in the felling and restocking of Phase 1 and 2.

- The management objectives of the owners will remain as follows:
- To obtain the maximum possible financial return from the timber crop using sustainable silviculture.
- To maintain and, where possible, enhance the landscape contribution, amenity and conservation value of the forest and to protect ancient monuments.
- To develop and maintain the biodiversity of the forest with the objective of creating a sustainable, balanced and dynamic forest ecosystem capable of supporting sustained timber yields.
- To safeguard the quality of surface waters flowing from and within the woodland.

The following sections will set out the operations in accordance with UK Forestry Standard, which are required to harvest the older commercial crop while restructuring the relatively even-aged composition. The restructuring process is an opportunity to enhance the ecological, habitat, landscape and amenity potential of the forest.

A review of the forest plan will be carried out at the 5-year period of the plan following the completion of Phase 1 felling, this will identify any additional constraints and opportunities discovered during the first phase of the plan and update the felling phases/restock accordingly.

A.7 General Site Description

A.7.1 Landscape & Topography

Barachuile forest is within the Local Landscape Area for Melfort/Knapdale. This designation outlines the following:

- Help to protect a landscape from inappropriate development
- May encourage positive landscape management
- Play an important role in developing an awareness of the landscape qualities that make particular areas distinctive
- Promote a community's sense of pride in its surroundings

The Western edge of the woodland is visible from the A816 with Barachuile leading up from Oude Reservoir, Melfort Pass & Loch nan Druimnean, The design of the restocking has been completed to provide where most viable a permanent crop consistent of broadleaves or Scots pine, these areas are to be left in perpetuity unless for health and safety reasons.

The remainders of Barachuile sits on a slope leading up from Kilmelford to a flat plateau where it joins onto farmland to the east and forestry plantation to the north. The forest is visible in the landscape from the A816 in Kilmelford but is within a wider environment of commercial forestry.



Photo 1 - Photo 1a (top) & b (bottom): Views taken from the A816 circa. grid reference NM 85289 16211 (top) and 2024 (bottom).

Pictures 1a and 1b show the woodland view, looking roughly south on the A816 over Loch Oude to Barachuile Forest. Forest operations have had a reduced impact on landscape views from the road due to use of natural regeneration of broadleaves and Scots pine below the powerline breaking up the conifers on site.



Photo 2 - Photo 2a (top) & b (bottom): Views taken from grid reference NM 8464 1260 in 2014 (top) and 2024 (bottom)

The above picture shows the south view of Barachuile from the A816 looking north. The portion of the forest visible but due to the diverse nature of this portion of the forest and surrounding commercial forest it is blended into the landscape.

Barachuile forest is within the Local Landscape Area for Melfort/Knapdale.

NatureScot's Landscape Character Assessment has categorised the area as 'Type 40: Craggy Upland - Argyll'.

The Key Characteristics of Craggy Upland – Argyll are:

- *Upland moor with irregular, rather amorphous landform.*
- *Rounded knolls, rock outcrops and numerous lochs in low-lying hollows and glens.*
- *Open moorland predominates, but extensive conifer plantations camouflage the landscape pattern in some areas.*
- *Oak-birch woodland on lower slopes.*
- *Stone walls enclose an irregular patchwork of pastures within glens on margins of moorland.*
- *Isolated farmsteads and small villages in sheltered sites within glens.*
- *Numerous archaeological remains, often concentrated on rounded knolls on lower slopes.*
- *Historic intricate, irregular landscape pattern in glens.*

The underlying Dalradian rocks of the Craggy Upland – Argyll Landscape Character Type are metamorphic schists, mostly of a type known as the Argyll Group. The landform is craggy, with numerous rocky outcrops which stand out as rounded knolls on the lower slopes. The uplands are dissected by steep glens to form broad ridges with an irregular, jumbled silhouette. Where the Craggy Upland - Argyll meets the south-east coast of Mull it forms sheer cliff faces.

Lochs are characteristic of the remote upland areas, caught in the rounded hollows in the landform. There are no prominent summits. The average elevation of the upland moor is approximately 300 metres, considerably lower than the mountains to the north and east. The uplands become higher and broader in scale towards the north. Burns flow in narrow gullies leading from the moorland, but in broader glens on the lower slopes. The rounded knolls remain as distinctive, prominent landscape features within the valleys. A series of small scale glens, some containing narrow lochs, occurs east and south of Oban.

The upland areas are a very large-scale mosaic of unenclosed open moorland and extensive conifer forests. The forests are concentrated on the uplands between Inveraray and The Atlantic but are a common landscape element on the upland plateau. The patchy mosaic of rock outcrops, heather and moorland grass gives the uplands a characteristic mottled appearance. Overall this is a relatively simple vegetation pattern.

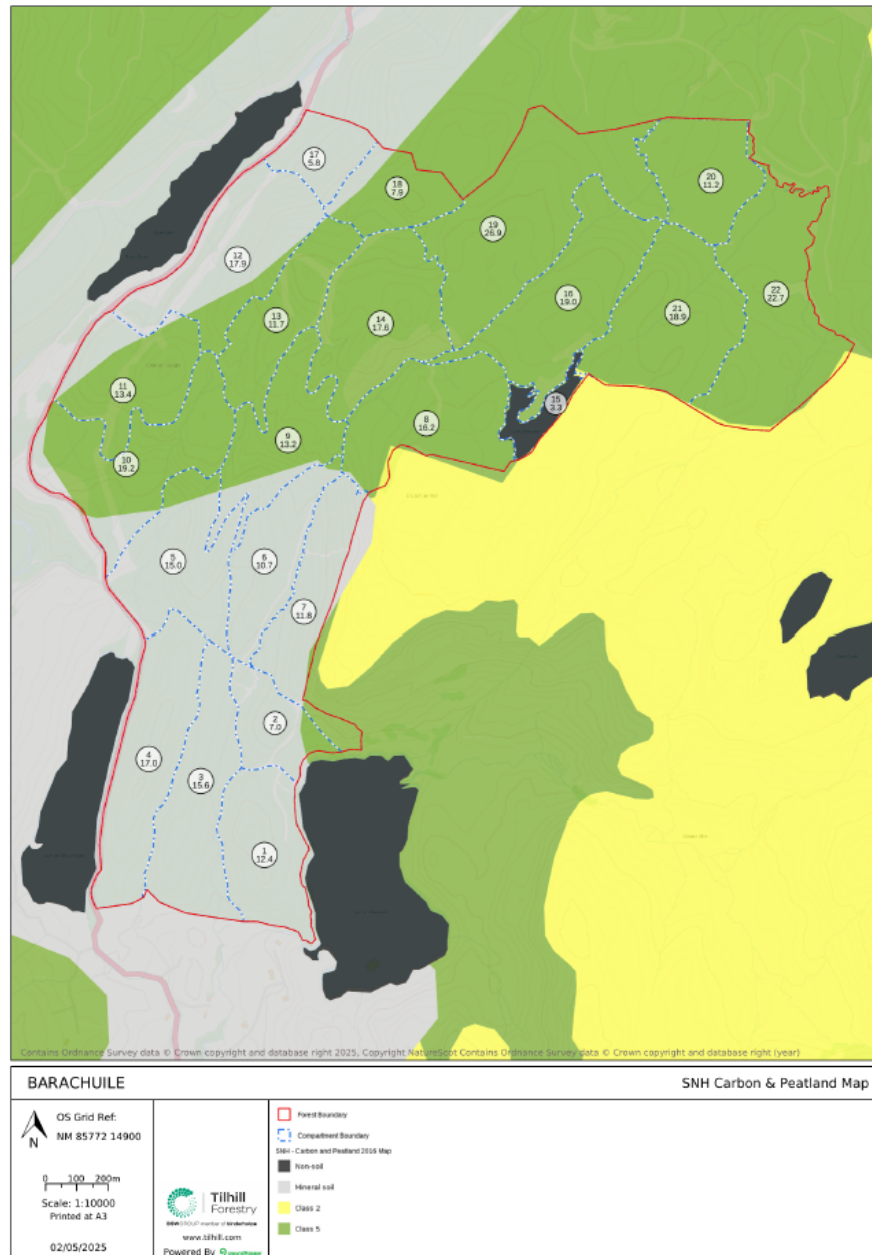
The heart of the Craggy Upland - Argyll is very sparsely settled with roads aligned in glens and views restricted by the extensive conifer forest and loch-side woodland. Immediate skylines formed by hills on the edges of the area, which are visible from more settled surrounding loch shores and glens.

Barachuile Forest fits within the above character assessment description.

A.7.2 Geology and Soils UKWAS 2.4.1

The parent material for the soils are old red sandstones and intermediate lavas. This is then overlain with peaty gleys and peaty podzols with small stretches of forest brown earths on the lower peripheral edges of the forest.

A search using the 2016 Nature Scot Carbon and Peatland Map¹, identified the majority of Barachuile being classified as Class 5 or Mineral soils with small areas of Class 2 peatlands on its northern and Southern periphery. Class 5 and Mineral Soils are not classes associated with priority peatland habitats, although areas within Class 2 should be treated as such in any future operations.



Map 2 - Barachuile Carbon and Peatlands Map, Class 1 and 2 are priority peatland habitats.

¹ [Carbon and Peatland 2016 map | NatureScot](#)

A.7.3 Climate

The climate is typical Scottish west coast, generally mild and temperate and heavily influenced by the Atlantic Ocean. Average annual rainfall is high, averaging 1759mm in a typical year².

From the SEPA Flood Map records³ there is a very low overall risk of river flooding in Barachuile but a higher instance of surface water flooding, this is supported within historic records of the forest with localised surface water flooding in areas of flat land or existing wetland areas. These areas will be considered during the forest plan if suitable for restocking based on an assessment at the time of planting.

The average high temperature for Barachuile ranges from a low of 2.67° in January to 11.39° in August. The average low temperature ranges from 7.54° in January to 18.20° in July.⁴

² The Gazetteer for Scotland - [Kilninv: Climate information for Kilninv \(scottish-places.info\)](http://scottish-places.info/kilninv.html)

³ SEPA Flood Map - [SEPA Flood Maps](#)

⁴ Met Office - [Dunstaffnage Location-specific long-term averages](#)

A.7.4 Hydrology UKWAS 2.4.1

There are a large number of individually identifiable waterways that emerge from Barachuile and flow out into the surrounding landscape, with too many to make a detailed description of each one viable for this LTFP. Instead, this section will discuss the various key receptors that exist within and on the periphery of the forest.

The three major influences forest operations are likely to have on the water catchment are:

- Acidification (e.g. through conifer needle deposits),
- Siltation (e.g through heavy machinery movements),
- Increased waterflow following the removal of trees. Mitigation measures will be outlined in Section E.9 Diffuse Pollution.

Barachuile contains 1 named waterbodies within the property along with 4 more directly fed from the forest, these are as follows:

- Loch Cheallair
- Loch Tralaig
- Oude Reservoir
- Loch a' Phearsain
- Loch nan Druimnean

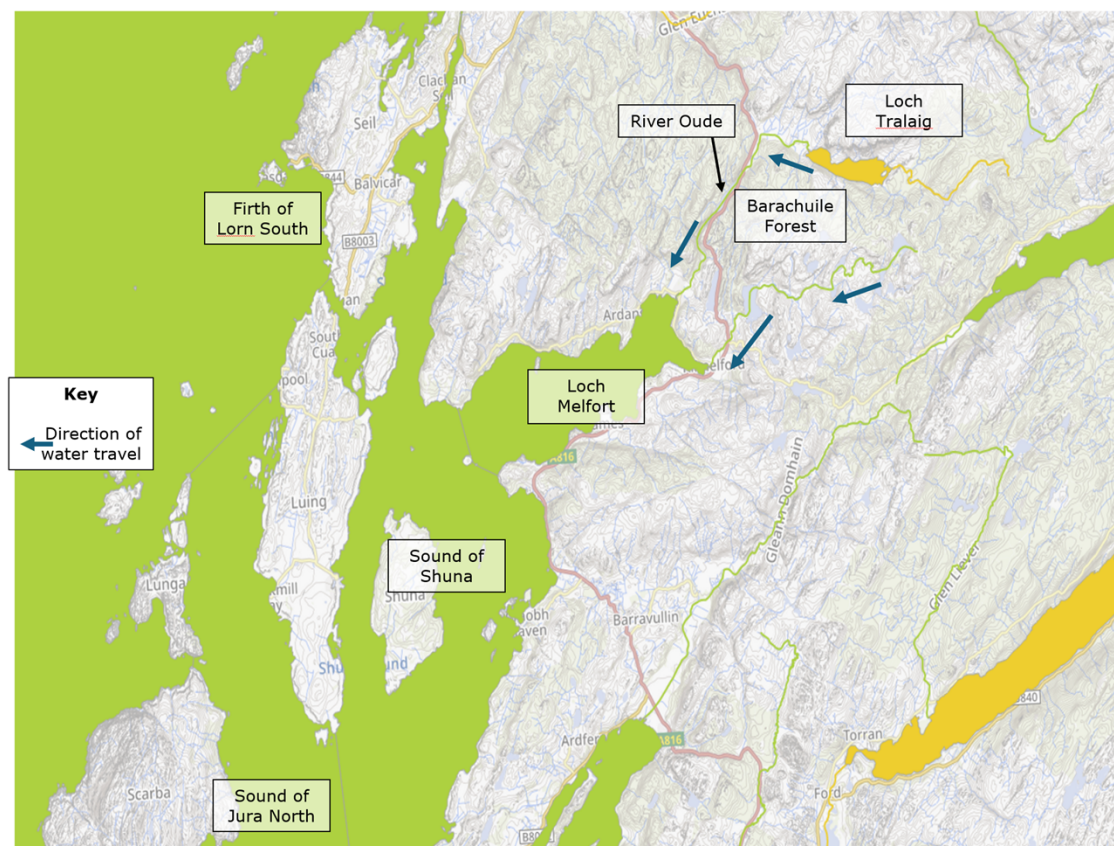
There is additionally wetlands/peatlands within the property, these typically are areas of marsh which are during periods of heavy rain flood to form temporary waterbodies.

The River Oude (d/s Loch Tralaig) & Abhainn na Cille are both SEPA Waterbody Catchments.

There are 6 key receptors detailed on the SEPA Water Classification Hub⁵, these are:

1. **Abhainn na Cille** (ID: 10293), – Moderate condition
In the Knapdale Coastal catchment of the Scotland river basin district. The main stem is approximately 8.1 kilometres in length.
2. **River Oude (d/s Loch Tralaig)** (ID:10294), – Good condition
In the Knapdale Coastal catchment of the Scotland river basin district. The main stem is approximately 6.0 kilometres in length. The water body has been designated as a heavily modified water body on account of physical alterations that cannot be addressed without a significant impact on water storage for hydroelectricity generation.
3. **Firth of Lorn South** (ID:200346), - Good Condition
Firth of Lorn South is a coastal water body (ID: 200346), in the Scotland river basin district. It is 304.1 square kilometres in area.
4. **Sound of Jura North** (ID: 200318), - Good Condition
Is a coastal water body (ID: 200318), in the Scotland river basin district. It is 300.8 square kilometres in area.
5. **Sound of Shuna** (ID:200058), – Good condition
Sound of Shuna is a coastal water body (ID: 200058), in the Scotland river basin district. It is 42.6 square kilometres in area.
6. **Loch Melfort** (ID:200056), – Good condition
Loch Melfort is a coastal water body (ID: 200056), in the Scotland river basin district. It is 10.0 square kilometres in area.

⁵ SEPA Water Classification Hub - [Water Classification Hub \(sepa.org.uk\)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/water-classification-hub)



Map 3 - Annotated capture of SEPA Water Classification Hub

With the majority of the identified receptors being of good condition, and the scale of Barachuile Forest, poor water management practice has the potential to have a significant and visible impact. Tilhill will apply Forestry and Water: Know the Rules (2nd Edition)⁶ as the baseline for best practice and detailed, site specific risk assessments will be completed prior to any operations commencing on site.

Below is listed the water infrastructure with sources within the forest boundary (see constraints and opportunities Map 7):

- **Kilmelford Loch A Phearsain** - This public water supply catchment is partly located from within the forest, operations taking place within the catchment will be consulted with Scottish Water (and Scottish Water invited for pre operation meeting), operational works to be implemented as per advice from Scottish Water.
- **Corry Lorn Lodges** – Private water supply sourced from the watercourse Allt Lúb na Críche, operations post harvesting to install greater buffers during operations.
- **Kilmelford Power Station Water Abstraction** – From the Hydro Infrastructure for the Oude Reservoir & Eas Tarsuinn intake, SSER abstract water from the hydroelectric station for the purpose of **None Drinking Water** at the Kilmelford Power Station.
- **Oude Dam** – Constructed in 1956 provides 2.5kW of generation
- **Loch Cheallair** – Impounding dam diverting water from Loch Cheallair to the Oude Reservoir
- **Loch Tralaig** – Providing water storage and flow regulation for Kilmelford Power Station

See section C.2.15 Private Water Supplies for mitigation while working within water supply catchments.

⁶ [know-the-rules-booklet-2nd-edition-jan-2023.pdf \(confor.org.uk\)](https://confor.org.uk/know-the-rules-booklet-2nd-edition-jan-2023.pdf)

The following types of operations pose the most significant risk to the water environment:

1. **Harvesting** – the removal of trees and disturbance of the ground through timber extraction can cause significant risk factors to the water environment. Operations will be appropriately risk assessed and best practice followed with regard to “hagging up” and planning of minimal water crossings for extraction routes. Operations will be managed based on the environmental and operational factors on site, and changes to methodologies changed according to the situation on site.
2. **Ground preparation** – the disturbance of the soil and tracking of machinery on site can create a risk factor. This can be in part mitigated by the presence of an excavator on site that can quickly respond to any developing risks on site, but all operations will be appropriately risk assessed and appropriate methodologies deployed to work to the site conditions.
3. **Road construction / maintenance** – Road building and road maintenance can pose a risk when conducted near or on a water crossing, or where runoff may access watercourses through connected drains, etc. All roading works will be appropriately assessed and any works pertaining to water crossings licensed with SEPA.
4. **Chemical spraying** – Chemical spraying is managed under Tilhill’s Integrated Pest Management Strategy. The application of pesticides, etc. will only be utilised when no other viable option is available and industry best practice will be applied. Chemical spraying should pose a minimal risk if correct mixing, filling, and application methodologies are followed.

For all the above, appropriate spill kits for fuel oils, lubricants, and chemicals will be available on site.

A.7.5 Windthrow UKWAS 2.5.3

Windthrow Hazard Classification is a measurement of windthrow risk and is an important factor in estimating when the most appropriate time to harvest the trees is before wind damage is likely to have an economic impact on the return from felling the crop.

Wind Hazard Class scale runs from 1 (low risk) to 6 (high risk).

The WHC for the Barachuile ranges from WHC 3 to WHC 5 with intimate variation across the forest. The WHC of the forest is quantified below:

WHC	1	2	3	4	5	6	BARE	GRAND TOTAL
HA	0	0	23.22	169.17	24.88	0	97.07	314.34
%	0.00%	0.00%	7.39%	53.82%	7.91%	0.00%	30.88%	100%

Table 3 - Wind Hazard Class Classification

A.7.6 Adjacent Land Use

Adjacent land uses consist of forestry, farming, and limited residential. Melfort Holiday Village and Melfort Pier holiday lets are located near the western boundary at Loch Melfort. There is also hydroelectric generation in the Oude Reservoir, and watercourses from the forest flow into the sea where there are fish farming and recreational interests.

A.7.7 Designations

Designations UKWAS 4.1

NatureScot's Sitelink⁷, Canmore⁸, and Tilhill's inhouse mapping software were utilised to identify the designations and features present within the forest. There are no SSSI's, SACs, or SPAs present within the boundaries of the forest.

Barachuile has a Scheduled monument located in the south east portion of the forest, Loch a'Phearsain, dun is situated on the highest point of a rocky ridge which borders the west side of Loch a Phearsain. Almost circular on plan, it measures 16.2 metres in diameter within a wall which has a maximum thickness of only 1.8 metres. Designed to incorporate patches of outcrop rock, it has been severely robbed and all that now remains are a number of inner and outer facing stones of the lowest course together with a light spread of core material. The entrance faces east and probably measured about 0.9 metres in width originally. Subsequently, however, the gap has been enlarged by the destruction of the north side of the passage.

Barachuile is part of the Local Landscape Designation area, Knapdale & Melfort

ASNW & PAWS UKWAS 4.2/3

There is a small area of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland identified on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) (Appendix 2 / Map 12) along the western boundary adjacent to the A816. A desk based survey in January 2023, suggests some areas identified with the ASNW are PAWS. During the next rotation the intention is to restore all areas of PAWS within the forest. Prior to harvesting an assessment of the PAWS condition will be carried out.

Other than the ASNW on the periphery there are no other formally designated conservation areas within Barachuile forest. There is potential for the woodland to be ideal habitat for many red book protected species and as such, efforts will be made to maintain and, if possible, improve these habitats during the plan period.

An ASNW & PAWS assessment will be created in summer 2024 indicating species present on site and the current status of the priority habitats. Recommendations from this report will be included in the forest plan.

Drinking Water Protected Areas

Barachuile is covered by the DWPA catchment for Abhainn na Cille, this is believed to cover the abstraction point from Loch a'Phearsain which only covers the Eastern portion of the forest ~ 11.62ha. This catchment area serves the village of Kilmelford as a Scottish Water Supply. This portion of the forest is covered by a mixture of 2nd rotation Sitka spruce, 1st rotation Larch & spruce along with small areas of broadleaves.

For the operational impact of these supplies see section C2.16

⁷ [SiteLink - Map Search \(nature.scot\)](#)

⁸ [Map | Canmore](#)

A.7.8 Access UKWAS 5.1.1

See Map 4: Access for access points and routes in the forest

External

The A816 provides access to the woodland at 2 separate entrance points. The main forest entrance is at grid ref NM 84504 15327 and is suitable for HGV access. A second entrance is located at Rashie park (1km north of Kimelford) NM 84853 13465, this access is suitable for HGV access, Barachuile has a legal right to access through these fields along with the maintenance of the road as required.

Internal

Barachuile contains 6.8km of forest roads. The two accesses are independent of each other for the purpose of timber extraction due to a short section of steep road which is not suitable for large vehicles. The northern portion of the forest is currently inaccessible to timber traffic however a new Timber Haul Route (THR) is due to be established in 2025/26 (see below). The existing forest roads network consists of 3.2km of Category 1A forest road and 3.6km of forest track currently suitable for 4x4 vehicles only.

Public access is generally quite low for the forest, with occasional access onto the forest road network for recreation. Public access will continue to be monitored throughout the plan, to record if access increases as the roads are improved and the views are opened. The rights of access granted by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 will be safeguarded, ensuring access is always afforded for non-motorised recreational purposes.

During operations within site the individual operations will be accessed for their impact on the public, with all sites having appropriate threshold signs installed at the boundary of the work site, further mitigation options will be considered and for example during higher risk operations i.e. roadside felling, the road will be closed for duration of the increased risk.

A core path runs to the south of the forest, this route is out with the forest boundary but could have walkers depart to travel into Barachuile, where the route is within proximity of the forest additional signage will be used during operations.

All works will be carried out inline with FISA guidance & Tilhill Forestry AMS procedure.

An Creachan THR

The An Creachan THR is a project established to connect a new access route running Barachuile leading to FLS Loch Avich & Lagalochan, this route is being funded by STTS.

This project is being completed to improve access within the Loch Avich area providing an alternative route and new access route for all timber traffic from Loch Avich. This route will reduce the total amount of in forest travel reducing carbon emissions and associated costs with in forest use.

As part of this project Barachuile will have constructed 920m of new THR & upgrade 3100m including the upgrade of the existing access point onto Melfort Hill improving resilience the forest road network.

This new road will be constructed inline with Timber Transport guidance and FLS specification.

The planned THR has a current EIA screening completed in 2023 for no EIA required. Along with approved prior notification (23/01933/PNWAY) (Appendix 6). SEPA licenses and full planning (for Melfort Access) will be applied for shortly.

A.7.9 Historic Environment UKWAS 4.8.1

Historic Scotland and West of Scotland Archaeology Services (WoSAS) & the Canmore database have been consulted to identify any areas of Archaeology (Appendix 2 / Map 7) that may be affected by the plan. There are 1 scheduled ancient monument and 2 recorded monuments within the property shown in Table 4

#	Feature	Location	Notes
1	SRON NA FEINNE	NM 85208 14914	Enclosure
2	LOCH CHEALLAIR, GENERAL	NM 86012 15216	Dam
3	LOCH A'PHEARSAIN	NM 85115 13954	Dun (Later Prehistoric)

Table 4 - Archaeological features identified in the first 10 years of operations.

An appropriate buffer will be formed around any new features, for existing features a buffer of at least 5m has been given from the feature.

Prior to felling operations sites will be surveyed to check for any features present within the work area, these will then be assessed and buffered as appropriate with the forest database/hazard map updated to identify the features and where appropriate the local historic environment team notified.

For any works being carried out within the vicinity of the scheduled monument, HES will be consulted and best working practice carried out.

See map 7 for archaeological sites.

A.7.10 Biodiversity UKWAS 2.11.2

Along with the items detailed in A7.7 Designations, there is also the need to protect and enhance Biodiversity within Barachuile. These semi natural woodlands, as well as the conifer woodlands, provide a habitat for a range of key species including Bats, Otter, Red Squirrel, Pine Marten, Fungi and Lichens which are likely to utilise this habitat provided by the woodlands at Barachuile. NatureScot's Species Action Framework⁹ should be referred to with regards to species, habitat, and biodiversity conservation in Scotland.

For protection for species please see section C2.11

Whilst further survey may identify other key species that utilise the habitats provided by the woodlands in Barachuile the following are known to be present and operational planning will identify any controls necessary to avoid or minimise impacts on them that may result from the management of the woodland:

Bats

To date, there have been no reports of operations impacting on Bats or their habitats within or adjacent to the forest boundary.

Lichen

These occur primarily in the areas of ASNW, with the primary risks to lichens from forest operations include the loss of appropriate habitat. This may be through poorly managed forestry operations, or more likely through habitat disturbance by over browsing or invasive species such as *R. ponticum*. Over the last 10 years, areas of ASNW have been monitored and the forest restructured towards greater habitat diversity in line with UKFS restocking requirements.

Otter

To date, there have been no reports of operations impacting on Otters or their habitats within or adjacent to the forest boundary.

Red Squirrel

To date, there have been no reports of operations impacting on Red Squirrels or their habitats within or adjacent to the forest boundary.

Pine Marten

To date, there have been no reports of operations impacting on Pine Martens or their habitats within or adjacent to the forest boundary.

White Tailed Eagle

During the course of operations, White Tailed Eagle have been observed within the forest boundaries but no nesting activity has been reported. To date, there have been no reports of operations impacting on White Tailed Eagles or their habitats within or adjacent to the forest boundary.

Black Grouse

If Black grouse are observed any future fencing specification will be suitably amended. To date, there have been no reports or sightings of Black Grouse within or adjacent to the forest boundary and so we will continue to monitor without any changes to the management plan.

⁹ [The Species Action Framework Handbook | NatureScot](#)

Badgers

There is no known Badger setts present in the forest currently however if a set is identified it will be marked on hazard maps for future operations and will be briefed with site contractors during pre-commencement meetings through the use of Tilhill Toolbox Talks materials.

Protected Species

To date, there have been no issues with other protected species within Barachuile being impacted by forest management activities.

Planted Coniferous Forest

The Habitat Action Plan (HAP) for this habitat cited threats as:

- Wind-throw and fire – no fire damage to date and manageable areas of windblow.
- Uniform age and species composition of forests – age class restructure ongoing through clear fell program.
- Damage by pests and disease – there have been 3 Statutory Plant Health Notifications issued in 2017, 2019 & 2021 for the control of *P. ramorum* infected Larch.
- Potential for shorter rotations due to improvements made in species/timber research – there has been no significant change.

Long Term Retention – UKWAS 4.6.2

There are areas of Long-Term Retention throughout the forest, following the last 2 phases of harvesting operations. This currently consists of 2.43 Ha (0.7% of total forest area) designated as LTR at the time of writing, there have been additional areas identified for retention during future harvesting.

Natural Reserves – UKWAS 4.6.1

There is 2 distinct areas of Natural Reserves identified in the plan, 40% of these areas are covered by an area of ANSW in the West of the property, there is an additional area of conifer NR which was retained during Phase 2 harvesting. There is currently 4.86 Ha (1.5% of total forest area) designated as NR at the time of writing.

Open Ground

Permanent open ground within a forest is recognised as being of environmental value and areas of Open Ground have been left and extended through post harvest restock. The majority of open ground is currently used to break up restocked stands and around features of interest (i.e. archaeology) and extends to 93.99 ha (30% of the total forest area) of area designated purely as open ground, there are also small areas of open ground which is incorporated into crop area which is limited to less than 1 hectare.

Deadwood

It is recognised that deadwood provides an important habitat and that its provision is important for maintaining biodiversity within the forest. This is provided predominantly from post harvest activities and the retention of deadwood in areas of Natural Reserve and Long Term Retention.

A.7.11 Summary table of biodiversity features – UKWAS 2.11.1

Feature	Area of Forest 2024(ha)	% of forest 2024	Area of forest 2044 (ha)	% of forest 2044	UKWAS Minimum (%)
LTR	2.43	0.77%	7.58	2.40%	1% of total area
Natural Reserve	4.86	1.55%	6.42	2.04%	5% of SNW area
PAWS	0.07	0.02%	0.07	0.02%	
Restored PAWS	7.48	2.38%	7.48	2.37%	
ASNW	2.29	0.73%	2.29	0.73%	
Mixed Broadleaf	11.98	3.81%	16.45	5.22%	
Managed OG	37.90	12.06%	37.90	12.02%	10% of total area
Total	67.01	21%	78.19	25%	15% of plan area

Table 5 - Biodiversity features proportions

A.7.12 Invasive Species UKWAS 2.9.1

There is a small amount of individual rhododendron bushes noted in the property, these are isolated individual bushes and will be managed when available and monitored for reemergence.

A.8 Woodland Description UKWAS 2.8.1

Barachuile is currently 43% through its first rotation felling with the 84ha of the woodland area felled and restocked. Felling commenced in 2016 with 5 felling years since. The felling coupes have been balanced across the forest with areas, it is expected that normalisation of the forest age will be achieved at the start of rotation 2.

A proportion of the felling area have been adjacent to the existing ancient woodland within the forest, there has been an emphasis in these areas to allow the existing SNW to regenerate and where required additional stock planted to diversify the species mix in these areas. It is expected that the current broadleaf woodland will continue to regenerate into open spaces where a seed source is present into P1 & P2 of the plan, there is also intended a small area of planted broadleaves for the plan period.

Barachuile has a significant proportion of Sitka spruce due to the site conditions and preference during initial establishment to Sika spruce, during the remainder of the next rotation a significant area of diverse conifer will be planted to increase the diversity of the forest to bring the structure in line with UKFS. It is expected that Sitka spruce will continue to be the main crop component of the forest due to the poor soils and exposure on site with the less exposed ground being the focus of diversity.

Planting Year by Area

Area (ha)	Planting Period							
Species	Pre 1950	1970-1979	1980-1989	2010-2019	2020-2029	Other	%	Grand Total
Hybrid Larch		3.73	0.32				1%	4.05
Lodgepole Pine		3.45	10.71	0.35			5%	14.51
Mixed Broadleaves	2.33	0.79		1.62	2.95		2%	7.69
Native Mixed Bleaf			0.65	0.8	2.84		1%	4.29
Norway Spruce					2.17		1%	2.17
Scots Pine					2.86		1%	2.86
Sitka Spruce		18.63	85.09	27.3	50.68		58%	181.7
Open Ground						92.9	30%	92.9
Unplantable						1.06	0%	1.06
Monument						0.05	0%	0.05
Water						3.06	1%	3.06
%	1%	8%	31%	10%	20%	31%	0%	100%
Grand Total	2.33	26.6	96.77	30.07	61.5	97.07	100%	314.34

Table 6 - Barachuile by planting period by area

Species Area by Yield Class

Area (ha)	Yield Class											
Species	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	0	%	Grand Total
Hybrid Larch					4.05						1%	4.05
Lodgepole Pine				1.5	13.01						5%	14.51
Mixed Broadleaves	7.42		0.09		0.18						2%	7.69
Native Mixed Bleaf	4.29										1%	4.29
Norway Spruce						2.17					1%	2.17
Scots Pine			2.86								1%	2.86
Sitka Spruce		6.82	13.49	4.7	6.4	34.34	61.88	40.76	13.31		58%	181.7
Open Ground										92.9	30%	92.9
Monument										0.05	0%	0.05
Unplantable										1.06	0%	1.06
Water										3.06	1%	3.06
%	4%	2%	5%	2%	8%	12%	20%	13%	4%	31%		
Grand Total	11.71	6.82	16.44	6.2	23.64	36.51	61.88	40.76	13.31	97.07	1	314.34

Table 7 - Barachuile species by yield class and area

Species proportions

Species by Area as at 2014

Species 2014	Area (ha)	% of Area
Sitka spruce	180.16	54.00%
Hybrid larch	16.64	5.00%
Lodgepole Pine	17.31	5.20%
Scots pine	0.03	0.00%
Grand fir	2.58	0.80%
Mixed conifer	11.63	3.50%
Mixed broadleaf	5.88	1.80%
Open ground	96.42	28.90%
Water	3.08	0.90%
Grand Total	333.73	100.00%

Table 8 - Barachuile species by area at 2014

Species by Area as at 2024

Species Code	Area (Ha)	% Area
Sitka Spruce	181.7	57.80%
Lodgepole Pine	14.51	4.62%
Scots Pine	2.86	0.91%
Mixed Broadleaf	11.98	3.81%
Hybrid Larch	4.05	1.29%
Norway Spruce	2.17	0.69%
Open Ground	69.78	22.19%
Other Land	24.18	7.69%
Water	3.06	0.97%
Grand Total	314.34	100.00%

Table 9 - Barachuile species by area at 2024

Species by Area as at 2034

Species Code	Area (Ha)	% Area
Sitka Spruce	169.82	54.04%
Lodgepole Pine	0.35	0.11%
Scots Pine	1.43	0.46%
Hybrid Larch	0	0.00%
Norway Spruce	2.17	0.69%
Mixed Conifer	34.13	10.86%
Mixed Broadleaf	16.45	5.23%
Open Ground	62.67	19.94%
Other Land	24.18	7.69%
Water	3.06	0.97%
Grand Total	314.26	100.00%

Table 10 - Barachuile species by area at 2034

Species by Area as at 2044

Species Code	Area (Ha)	% Area
Sitka Spruce	169.82	54.04%
Lodgepole Pine	0.35	0.11%
Scots Pine	1.43	0.46%
Hybrid Larch	0	0.00%
Norway Spruce	2.17	0.69%
Mixed Conifer	34.13	10.86%
Mixed Broadleaf	16.45	5.23%
Open Ground	62.67	19.94%
Other Land	24.18	7.69%
Water	3.06	0.97%
Grand Total	314.26	100.00%

Table 11 - Barachuile species by area at 2044

Note:

- Mixed conifer restock areas will **not** include Sitka spruce as part of their mix.
- Mixed conifer restock will comprise of Norway spruce, Douglas fir. The specific ratio of species will be subject to site conditions.
- Mixed broadleaves will be primarily established through Natural Regeneration, outwith this specific target species maybe planted, these will use local seed source or nearest neighbor where available

A.9 Plant Health UKWAS 2.5.3

There are currently no significant plant health and biosecurity issues within the forest.

P. ramorum continues to pose a significant threat through Scotland and so, while none has been identified in the forest, Larch has not been restocked.

Barachuile has been served the following notices

- 2016 - STH16_0632 Cruach an Nid
 - Site felled off stump
- 2019 - STH19_0320-0321 Allt Iub na Criche
 - Site felled off stump
- 2020 - STH20_0306-0309 Barachuile
 - Site felled by mechanical & hand and partly recovered from site.

During the plan period it is planned all remaining Larch will be felled and cleared with the sites being restocked with a mixture of Diverse conifers (XC) & Mixed Native Broadleaves.

D. septosporum is present in the local area but has not been identified in the forest and so pine species has continued to be restocked.

SECTION B – ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION

B.1 Constraints and opportunities Analysis UKWAS 2.5.1a

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Access	The existing forest roads network consists of 3.2km of Category 1A forest road and 3.6km of forest track currently suitable for 4x4 vehicles only.	The construction of a new THR connection Barachuile to FLS Loch Avich, this will open up access for the coupes in the northern section of the forest opening up the access for harvesting.
Biodiversity	Barachuile has a presence of important biodiversity species and areas (WTSE, Otters, Red squirrel, ASNW & PAWS)	Surveys prior to felling to be carried out, where significant disturbance is to occur during normal forest operations a ecological survey is to be carried out ahead of the works. ASNW/PAWS monitoring is to be carried out where required or at timed intervals.
Crop Protection	With the increasing areas of diverse conifer deer control will be a concern. Near by land use (new woodland plantation) has caused an increase of transiting deer into the forest through the erecting of deer fences.	Option to install a new enclosure around a reserve of XC trees located in the west of the forest, this will be subject to deer pressure noted after harvesting. A deer controller is currently employed to shoot ~40-50 animals per year with a cull target set annually.
Crop Stability	Barachuile has a moderate to high wind hazard classification, with some pre-existing windblow. The felling which has occurred historically has caused some level of wind damage with seasonal storms.	Restructuring of the forest will continue the opening up of the forest as initiated in Phases 1 and 2, with more open ground and the creation of more gaps and wind firm edges to enable the ongoing diversification of age class distribution in the forest in future rotations.
Historic Environment	The presence of 1 scheduled monument and 2 historic sites.	On going monitoring of the historic sites within Barachuile, if required mitigation in line best practice from HES where required.
Hydroelectric Infrastructure	SSER have a hydroelectric scheme infrastructure located within forest with water feeding into their infrastructure along with access to their infrastructure.	Monitoring of water entering the SSER reservoir to ensure limiting of debris which could damage infrastructure.
Landscape	Barachuile is prominent in the landscape due its position, however it is a small portion of the conifers in the area.	With the view from the A816 broadleaves and diverse conifer are being used along the forest boundary to create softer edges to the property.
Private Water Supply (PWS)	The existence of a PWS poses a constraint on the techniques and approaches used within the forest in order to safeguard the PWS intake.	On going protection of PWS during plan period.
Public Water Supply	Barachuile partly falls into the public water supply catchment for Kilmelford.	Active work with Scottish Water with the design of the felling/restocking mitigating any impact on the

		supply along with further operational controls to prevent future impact.
Overhead Powerlines	Existing overhead powerlines are present through the property.	Awareness of Powerlines during works adjacent
Underground Powerline	Underground powerlines providing power to mast site	Route to be identified through hazard maps and during works working within vicinity of line route to be specifically identified
Timber Traffic	With the development of the new THR forest road use will increase and expected volumes to be ~20-30-40kT per annum.	Improvements to the access onto Melfort hill with the opening up of sight lines and improvement of timber traffic onto the public road. Internal forest roads are routinely maintained to ensure that timber traffic can continue along with traffic measures in line with best practice.
Water	Clear felling activities can increase short term surface run off increasing the potential risk posed by diffuse pollution.	Clearing back commercial stock from watercourses provides an opportunity to restock with broadleaves, creating permanent tree cover and reducing this issue in future rotations and helping to improve overall watercourse quality. Ground preparation methodologies will also create micro-drainage, increasing the transmission time from slope to watercourse, resulting in less damaging and less peaky water levels.
Watercourses	Number of watercourses in the forest and the steepness of the slope present a heightened risk of landslips and floods and associated diffuse pollution risk.	Opportunity to use riparian zones as an anchor for forest design and to use program of clearfell and restructure to mitigate risks through appropriate ground preparation and restocking.
Waterbodies	There are 1 named waterbodies within Barachuile along with 3 neighbouring water bodies. These areas support specific flora and fauna and provide habitat diversity to Barachuile.	Opportunity to increase buffers around the waterbodies and where appropriate link habitats through open ground corridors or broadleaf woodland.

Table 12 - Constrains and opportunities analysis

In the past 10 years of operation, no further constraints have been identified and these will be amended as and when additional constraints are identified through the execution of this plan.

SECTION C – MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

C.1 Silvicultural Practice UKWAS 2.10 & 2.10.2

All forest operations will comply with current Forest and Water Guidelines, The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations (as amended)¹⁰ General Binding Rules for appropriate buffer strips between planting and water bodies and GBR11 & GBR21 in respect of surface water drainage.

The wind hazard classification analysis [Section A.7.5], scale of operations, and the owner objectives severely limit potential for areas being managed under a low impact forestry regime. As such it is proposed that Barachuile will continue to be predominantly restructured using a clear-fell regime. In areas of Natural Regeneration and Long Term Retention, a minimal intervention approach will be adopted.

In accordance with the stated management objectives (see section A.6) harvesting at the optimum felling year is to be realised to maximise crop value. This approach is supported in the remaining crop by the largely monoculture and even aged structure of the remaining crop. Once felled the ongoing restructuring will continue to diversify the age groups within the forest as well as maximising profit from the woodland for the owner.

It is anticipated that harvesting and extraction to roadside will be carried out using a short wood system. In this system harvesting coupes will be designed in a way that allows for the extraction of timber which has reached favourable felling age, while looking to secure a wind firm boundary, and that are of a size and shape that are sympathetic with the visual impact of the forest in the local landscape while remaining commercially viable.

Harvesting and extraction will be mechanised wherever possible and undertaken as part of a continued phased felling programme that continues to consider the prevailing constraints and opportunities in the forest while delivering the sustained yield required. The need for selective harvesting in the remaining forest areas should be minimal, but will be considered on a case by case basis (i.e. to remove small numbers of non-native or invasive species, or to work around particularly sensitive areas).

Timber will mostly be managed through mechanised harvesting and extraction and stacked along the forest road and proposed forest road extensions to then be transported by lorry along the A816 which is an agreed route within the Argyll & Bute TTG.

Brash will be retained within the felling coupe to build the extraction routes to limit ground damage, manage overland water runoff, and aid in the future fertility of the site by retaining organic material within the coupe.

The restocking proposal is designed to meet the management objectives of the owner. Commercial softwood timber production remains an important objective whilst managing biodiversity, landscape, amenity value of the forest. The restocking plan has been targeted to match species to micro-site variability and to enhance historic landscape features such as continuing the management of the restoration of PAWs to native broadleaves (see section C2.5).

The remaining conifer crop in Barachuile, although variable in tree size and form, is largely even aged, of or beyond typical felling age and mostly marketable, and the felling operation in this plan period will include the remaining marketable trees left in the wood. Any remaining conifer crop will be of lower YC, poorer form and inaccessible.

To aid in species diversity, landscape impact, and the protection of key features, a range of diverse species have been and will continue to be planted to meet the owners objectives and UKFS requirements. This will continue to be based on knowledge of the site soils and proposed management regimes combined with Ecological Site Classification (ESC) analysis.

¹⁰ https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/34761/car_a_practical_guide.pdf

The threat posed by *P. ramorum* still continues [See A.9 Plant Health] and so no Larch will be planted in restock and suitable alternative diverse conifers to meet UKFS requirements will be selected using knowledge of the site soils and Ecological Site Classification (ESC) analysis. Additionally, a significant proportion of Native broadleaves will be designated for natural regeneration to meet UKFS requirements and to improve the forest landscape.

C.2 Prescriptions

C.2.1 Felling UKWAS 2.7.1

The felling programme will continue to restructure the forest through a clear-fell and restock planting silvicultural regime.

Areas of checked or slower growing crop will be retained to provide visual diversity and a conservation resource. Whilst it is hoped that a significant proportion of the retained crop will stand, it is expected that some wind damage will occur, however this is likely to add to the conservation value of the forest through additional deadwood provision. These will be minimal intervention areas, with any intervention only likely to occur on health and safety, or biosecurity grounds.

The planned felling program [Appendix 5 Map 8 & 9 – Felling Phase & 10 Year Felling Plan] is a continuation of the initial harvesting plan and continues to balance felling the crop as close to their optimum felling age as possible with the residual windthrow risk. In addition, the access constraints have been a major consideration in determining felling proposals, with the need for an northern extension of the forest road network to facilitate the harvesting of the remaining crop on the upper slopes.

With the number of watercourses present within Barachuile, the nature of the ground (being both wet and steep) diffuse pollution during harvesting operations is of medium/high risk. As such, diffuse pollution planning, mitigation and pro-active management will be key to a successful restructuring [Section E.9 Diffuse Pollution].

Total Forest Area					314.34 Ha									
Felling	P1	%	P2	%	P3	%	P4	%	LTR	%	NBL	%	Outwith Plan	%
Area (Ha)	77.45	25%	33.72	11%	0	0	0	0%	7.58	2%	6.42	2%	83.68	34%

Table 13 - Harvesting phases for 2025-2044

With the critical age of Barachuile already passed (excluding small areas of checked crop) there is very limited room to extend the felling periods of the forest beyond Phase 2 (2034), this is due to the significant risk of catastrophic windthrow in the coupes across the site. If Barachuile was to plan for felling of rotation 1 crops beyond phase 2 there risk would become exponential and not compatible with the objectives of this plan.

All timber harvesting operations will be carried out in accordance with current Industry Best Practice on water, conservation and landscape impacts and in accordance with Tilhill's Quality Assurance Mechanism.

C.2.2 Thinning UKWAS 2.7.1

A small area of the property was thinned in the late 80's however due to the nature of the remainder of the forest thinning is unlikely to be utilised in the remainder of the rotation 1 crops. Thinning may form part of the silvicultural management system of the forest through the second rotation where the ground conditions are suitable and the market conditions are suitable.

C.2.3 LISS UKWAS 4.6.2

The topography, exposure, and ground conditions prevalent in the woodland do not lend themselves to alternative-to-clearfell (ATC) management regimes. With the nature of the crop age, size and diversity of the coupe it is not possible to form either small group felling or to implement continuous cover. Area of long term retention will continue to be managed on a continuous cover basis, maintaining mature woodland structure but also allowing the trees to naturally regenerate.

C.2.4 Long Term Retentions, Natural Reserves, and Semi Natural Woodland UKWAS 2.10.2, 2.11.2, 4.6.1 & 4.6.2

LTRs are generally trees retained beyond their economic rotation age or size. They provide structural and age diversity following a clearfell and add habitat and conservation value to a site. The focus of the Natural Reserves (NR) on site has been the expansion and maintenance of the broadleaf areas through the forest, these areas are expected to expand with natural regeneration through the open ground with disturbance associated with forest activities. The LTR in the forest has been generally areas of poor quality growth or inaccessible areas for harvesting, these have been left and developed into reserves of low intervention. It is expected that more areas of LTR will be generated throughout the Phase 1 & 2 of the forest plan.

These areas are providing habitat benefits by their creation and, given the clear-fell operations already completed and still to be conducted, will help to provide immediate diversification for both age and height class. In the long term, some natural regeneration of the conifers in these areas can be expected. These areas will initially be managed as non-intervention, so any wind-thrown or damaged trees will not be cleared unless they pose a threat to the general public or the A816.

Areas of NR are mostly designated round the areas of existing broadleaves within the areas of ASNW and PAWs identified on Scotland's Environment Link portal¹¹, from which the natural regeneration will anchor itself. The LTR is mostly comprised of non-native stands of existing broadleaves and mixed conifers.

Currently there is a proportion of Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) within Barachuile, with 1.97ha designated ASNW [See Appendix 5 Map 12: Biodiversity and Conservation]. Management of this element will consist of removing, where possible, non-native conifer species that naturally regenerate and causing a negative impact on the native species. This area has also been bolstered with species through planting of native broadleaves in and around the ASNW area, it is also expected that a proportion of natural regeneration will occur in this area.

There are no known veteran trees within the property.

¹¹ Scotland's environment mapping portal - <https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap/>

C.2.5 Restocking Proposals / Natural Regeneration UKWAS 2.7.1 & 2.8.1

The woodland will continue to be restructured through the continuation of a phased felling and restocking programme. Factors used in the decision process include variable growth rates within the forest, coupe size bearing on landscape and landform impacts, areas susceptible to wind throw, and the need for continued and even return of income to the owner [See Appendix 5 Map 10: Restock]. Timber harvesting operations have provided the opportunity to begin restructuring the forest and improve the current age and species structure, which will continue through harvesting phases 1 & 2.

Compartments will typically be restocked within 3 years of clearfell. This may cause issues with large pine weevil which will be controlled through the application of weevil spraying (if applicable under UKWAS and UK legislation and licensed pesticides are available), and / or utilise an annual beat up to retain appropriate stocking densities. Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) will be the predominant (up to 65% of total species as per UKFS guidance) commercial conifer. The remaining area will be stocked with other conifers such as Norway spruce and Douglas fir, subject to site assessments. Productive conifers will continue to be planted to achieve an established stocking density of 2,500/ha.

Where restocking of non-native conifers is adjacent to native woodland at least 5m buffer will be observed from the existing native woodland. Restocking adjacent to watercourse will follow best practice guidelines and observe buffers outlined in the 'Know the Rules' guidance from Forestry & Water Scotland.

The majority of the diverse conifer will be focused on the western part of the forest above the A816 on Melfort Hill, this has been chosen due to the increase visibility of this portion of the forest with the use of MC restock crops creating a more varied landscape character, additionally with the high risk of damage to palatable conifers from deer populations there is an increase opportunity to focus deer control in this portion of the forest increasing the success of establishment and reducing the risk of damage to the timber crop. The northern portion of the forest has had an increased portion of the Sitka spruce due to the reduced landscape impact along with the poorer soils and drainage which is present in this part of Barachuile.

With the scale of Barachuile the forest has a range of age classes with a part move to normalisation of the crops within the first rotation of the forest, this will be further diversified over the course of the next rotation. Additionally adjacency will be observed through the phases of the plan, unless overarching requirements are presented 2m height separation will be achieved between the phases of the plan, if coupes are needing to be adjacent Scottish Forestry will be consulted prior to this.

Ground preparation will be carried out where required using machine mounding to create suitable planting positions. All ground preparation will follow current industry best practice on water, conservation and landscaping. Restock compartments will be monitored and maintained throughout the establishment phase, with losses being replaced to maintain the stocking density.

Restocking plans will continue to diversify the forest edge and create a matrix of open ground within the forest with due regard to natural features and landform. Detailed restocking prescriptions will be developed for each coupe within a 5-year felling programme.

Seed zone 106 will be used for all native stock. Should this seed zone be unavailable an adjacent seed zone will be used and the Scottish Forestry guidance note followed. Planting for the purposes of PAWS restoration, if natural regeneration fails to take, or general broadleaf enrichment throughout the forest resource, species choice will reflect the broad characteristic woodland type (e.g. Oak and Birch for NVC W11/W17) as well as species-specific operational outcomes.

For non-native conifers, such as the Sitka Spruce, genetically improved stock will be utilised. In the past a mix of vegetatively propagated and seed orchard material has been used based on the specific site conditions with both showing good responses. The application of fertiliser will be used to help establishment and for trees to grow out of the vulnerable size class where large pine weevil poses a threat, and the application of chemical control assessed should appropriate chemicals be licensed for forestry use [See Section E.8.4 for Tilhill Chemical and Pesticide use].

Barachuile Forest LTFP

Natural regeneration within Barachuile has been used effectively in previous plan phases however there is generally a 10-year period between felling and successful establishment of native regeneration. Where regeneration fails within 10 years the site will be assessed for the planting of stock sourced from local seed zone seed and planted either with a fence or where possible without plastic tubes. Where regeneration is not presenting target species (Oak, Hazel or Holly) which are desirable species enrichment planting will be considered, this will most likely utilise tubes but an assessment will be carried out prior to the works taking place.

During the previous plan period broadleaf planting was carried out using tubes, these have subsequently been removed from site and the broadleaves allowed to continue growing, this however sometimes gives a poor strength and may need additional management of pests to allow to stabilise and grow.



Photo 3 - Natural regeneration & planted broadleaves within Cpt 5 – New broadleaf woodland.

Areas being restocked through Natural Regeneration and restocking will continue to be monitored and maintained and it is proposed an additional 10 years.

Some area of Natural Regeneration are outwith the 50m seed zone of existing broadleaves, this is limited across the majority of the natural regeneration zones, however there is 2 areas with limited broadleaves within 150m, with the historic record in Barachuile of regeneration at 150m these areas are to be allowed to regenerate naturally and reviewed at year 10 for the levels of regeneration and if required planting will be carried out using locally sourced stock.

For remaining areas of clearfell and conventional restock, minimum stocking densities will be 1,100 per ha for Broadleaves and 2,500/Ha for conifers. Should these densities not be met by year 10 (following clearfell), an assessment of the area will be made with consultation with Scottish Forestry.

Phase	Coupe	Felling Year	Species	Area (ha)
1	1,2,8,10	2025	MB	0.52
1	1,2,8,10	2025	SS	15.73
1	1,2,8,10	2025	XC	20.26
1	11, 13	2027	XC	13.87
1	19	2029	SS	31.38
1	9	2018	MB	2.59
2	20,22	2031	SS	18.7
2	Cpt 21	2034	SS	15.31
				118.36

Table 14 - Phase 1 & 2 Restocking

C.2.6 Protection UKWAS 2.3.2b & 2.12.1

The biggest threat to crops of trees in this area is the high population of Red deer. With the size and scale of the forest it is expected the refencing of the entire property boundary to protect against deer is not possible. Deer will be controlled within the forest primarily through the culling of deer with a preference for a local contractor along with specific areas if required being enclosed with deer fences to protect specific features or areas of planting which maybe more sensitive.

Please reference to the DMP Appendix 6 for further information.

The other significant threat to the successful establishment of second rotation crops comes from Large pine weevil (*Hylobius abietis*) and this threat will be particularly prevalent in the latter part of phase 1 with populations likely having established on the cut stumps of the initial coupe. As such conifer restock trees will be pre-treated to help inhibit weevil attack over much of the initial growing season. Beyond this the crop will be monitored in the Spring and late Summer/Autumn, the periods when weevil populations tend to spike, for weevil activity and a decision will be taken on whether a top spray will be required, and if so, whether a targeted application on a smaller area would be more appropriate. The proposed use of fertiliser will help with rapid root establishment and early height gains and this should help the crop become hardy enough to withstand weevil attack earlier than it would have un-fertiliser, contributing further to chemical reduction.

C.2.7 Fence Erection / Removal UKWAS 3.5.1

Monitoring of the existing stock fences will be monitored where required and if a risk of stock incursion is present the fences be maintained.

Barachuile currently has no areas of deer fencing, if Barachuile forms new deer fences these will be removed where redundant and no longer required for their protection. Deer fences are expected to be maintained throughout the usable life of the net for the fence and when redundant replaced or removed.

C.2.8 Road Operations UKWAS 3.3.1 & 3.3.2

Barachuile contains 6.8km of forest roads. The road consists of 2 sections, the northern access from Melfort Hill and the southern section accessing from Rashie Park.

The two accesses are independent of each other for the purpose of timber extraction due to a short section of steep road which is not suitable for large vehicles. The northern portion of the forest is currently inaccessible to timber traffic however a new Timber Haul Route (THR) is due to be established in 2025/26 running from the northern access through Barachuile leading to FLS Loch Avich & Lagalochan, this route is being funded by STTS. The existing forest roads network consists of 3.2km of Category 1A forest road and 3.6km of forest track currently suitable for 4x4 vehicles only. Within the forest borrow pits will be exploited to generate material for use on the forest road network, these will be a mixture of temporary borrow pits which will be reinstated after use and permanent locations for the winning of stone, where a borrow pit is to be retained after use an assessment of the site will be made an appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that it is safe, this will be in line with guidance from the Health and Safety Executive.

A program of ongoing maintenance occurs during the harvesting period for the forest, this will include the ad hoc maintenance of the forest road as required to support the road use.

It is currently planned for further upgrade/construction of the road network to facilitate the ongoing timber harvesting plans, this is listed in the work program below – (Appendix 2: Work Plans (20-year outline, 5 year detail)).

The planned THR has a current EIA screening completed in 2023 for no EIA required. Along with approved prior notification (23/01933/PNWAY)

For additional information please see A.7.8 Access

C.2.9 Public Access UKWAS 5.1.1

There are no existing Public Rights of Way or Proposed Core Paths¹² which come within the boundary of Barachuile.

The forest is occasionally used by locals for dog walking or cycling. The woods will be managed in a way to adhere to the Outdoor Access Code and maintain non-motorised for the general public.

See section A7.8 for further details.

C.2.10 Historic Environment UKWAS 4.8.1

There are 1 scheduled ancient monuments within Barachuile.

See section - A.7.9 Historic Environment.

¹² <https://www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/routes-explore/local-path-networks>

C.2.11 Biodiversity UKWAS 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1 & 4.4.2

Along with the designations detailed in A7.7 Designations, there is also the need to protect and enhance Biodiversity within Barachuile. Known priority species and habitats are outlined below:

EPS Protected Species

Planning and implementation of all work must take account of other potential protected species. This includes, for example, breeding birds, badgers and species classified as European Protected Species (EPS). EPS includes golden eagles, bats, dormice, great crested newt, smooth snake, sand lizard and otter.

A whole team approach will be required to assess and remain vigilant for protected species including potential impacts of operations. We may have to modify our operations to avoid disturbing EPS, their breeding sites or resting places or apply for a licence if we are likely to commit an offence.

To date, there have been no issues with protected species within Barachuile.

Planted Coniferous Forest

The objectives stated to maintain and improve this habitat are:

- Ensure that at least 1% of existing conifer woodland is set aside as long-term retention to improve diversity.
- Monitor progress with re-structuring conifer forests.

Long Term Retention

Non-natives that are present may be selectively felled from the designated LTR if deemed to be having a detrimental effect on native species.

In these cases, suitable open ground will continue to be left after harvesting in order to safeguard these woodland features.

Natural Reserves

These will be managed on a minimal intervention, continuous cover basis.

Open Ground

The process of felling and restocking will continue to provide the opportunity to rationalise the existing areas of open ground and in general to build on the existing open ground matrix to create linked open space with multiple benefits. Physical features such as the watercourses and rocky knolls, and the forest road system will be linked, as part of the framework in which the conifer and broadleaf retentions and the semi natural woodland will develop.

Some open ground will continue to be managed to enable deer control and wildlife conservation opportunities, preserve specific desirable features, protect archaeological sites and to maintain access. Other areas will continue to be allowed to develop naturally with native broadleaved regeneration being allowed to develop if it occurs, although the proportions of open ground and broadleaved regeneration will be monitored to ensure the minimum areas required by the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) & UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) are met. Open ground will therefore form part of each new compartment created at time of restocking following felling.

Deadwood

Specifically, deadwood will continue to be retained within the areas designated for non-intervention management, away from the main public access routes, and in the areas of semi natural woodland. Deadwood will be retained on harvesting sites as both standing and fallen wood. Harvesting contracts will include a requirement to create standing deadwood across the site where safe and practicable, to include a proportion of stems over 20cm dbh.

Pre-Operation Surveys

Prior to operations on site an environmental survey will be carried out, this will typically involve the survey of the coupe to identify any specific features/habitats of note within the work site. During this survey open rides, areas of windblow and other open areas will be the focus of the survey, this is to identify potential nesting sites, areas of special interest i.e. ground flora or natural other features. If there is specific concerns identified during this process a Tilhill Ecologist will be consulted regarding the feature and if require further monitoring will be carried out prior to works commencing.

C.2.12 Tree Health UKWAS 2.5.3

The main threats of *P. ramorum* will continue to be managed by the ongoing removal of the larch within the forest, the majority of the existing Larch (4.05ha) within Barachuile will be felled within phase 1 of the forest plan with all Larch removed after the 20-year plan period, Larch will be monitored during the plan period and where evidence of *P. ramorum* is seen the Plant Health team of Scottish Forestry will be notified.

Broader tree health will be monitored on an ad-hoc basis when visiting the property and any signs of ill-health (chlorosis, dieback, lesions etc) will be recorded and subsequently investigated by the Forest Manager. If the cause of ill-health is unable to be identified, samples will be taken and sent to Forest Research for testing and any results will be incorporated into the management plan.

Dothistroma septosporum is also a risk with the presence of Lodgepole pine and where restocking with Scots pine. There are no known cases of *D. septosporum* in the forest this will continue to be monitored. Spruce aphid (*E. abietinum*) has been identified on site in a neighbouring forest but not at a level where it was causing significant damage to the crop. This will continue to be monitored.

Large Pine Weevil endemic across the forest with all historic restock sites impacted by the presence of Weevil, the management of this pest will continue to pose a challenge for future conifer restock. Appropriate measures to manage the pine weevil threat to restock will be used including the use of fertiliser to boost tree establishment, potential delays to restock, and where a appropriate decision record and assessment is made the use of approved pesticides will be used, with where possible pre-treatment in the nursery or over spraying in the forest. Tilhill's IPMS (Integrated Pest Management Strategy) will be used to steer pesticides decisions in the forest.

The property will continue to be monitored by the Forest Manager for plant health issues and biosecurity will continue to be managed by procuring planting stock from trusted sources and partnered with appropriate plant passports.

C.2.13 Invasive Species UKWAS 2.9.1

Invasive Plant Species

There is a small areas of Rhododendron noted within the property, this will be initially cut and the stumps treated using an approved pesticide to prevent regrowth and monitored.

There is no other known IPS's in Barachuile.

C.2.14 New Planting UKWAS 2.6.1

An opportunity for new planting within Barachuile is planned where open hill ground has been not planted as part of the original forest but upon resurvey of the legal title identified as within the ownership. The location is: NM 85418 14261

The open land expands to ~ 1.4ha with an potential planting area of ~1ha with areas of new broadleaves. The increase in the forest area has little impact on the landscape assessment of the forest due to it mostly being obscured from public view points. The sites will be established as part of the adjacent restocking program for these portions of the forest. All planting will be carried out in line with best practice and no planting will take place on peat over 50cm in depth.

Where small areas of existing open ground are within coupe boundaries and are not subject to other constrains, additional planting will be considered at the time of the restocking to offset the increased areas of open ground through the protection of watercourse etc.

C.2.15 Private Water Supplies

There is a water supply catchment in the northern side of the forest with the abstraction outwith the forest boundary. It is 88.16 ha in size and forms the water catchment that flows into the neighbours Private Water Supply (PWS). This area is mostly made up of rotation 1 crops. The sites will be accessed prior to felling and where required additional mitigation put into place to mitigate the impact on the supply.

If any further supplies are identified during this plan period the Tilhill's mapping system will be updated to reflect the catchment area and abstraction point and relevant information shared with the appropriate individuals.

Industry best practice (Forestry and Water: Know the Rules (2nd Edition), as well as SEPA guidance will be followed and diffuse pollution plans drawn up when working within the risk zones of the private water supply intake or the catchment of any potential feeder burns.

Management and mitigation will include the timing of operations in sensitive areas to low risk seasons, having additional materials and machinery on site based on the prevailing conditions on site, and ensuring that the site is managed well during harvesting and timber extraction with well formed and brashed up extraction routes (See Section E.14).

Increased buffers will be put into place for all watercourses during restocking activities and all other water pathways i.e. drains will be managed into these areas.

Map 5 shows the extent of the private water supply catchment in the north of the forest.

C.2.16 Public Water Supply

A public water supply catchment is partly located within Barachuile, with Loch a' Phearsain the primary reservoir for the water supply catchment. ~11.62ha of the supply catchment is located within Barachuile. With the catchment ~3.1ha of mature conifers due for felling in P1 of the plan, all remaining conifers are due for felling outwith this plan period.

Under discussion with Scottish Water the following actions have been agreed:

- Restocking operations an increased buffer from the waterbody
- Water pathways to have greater buffer included will be agreed on site
- Increase of broadleaf area within the catchment.
- Welfare to be stored outwith the catchment.
- Fuel storage to be outwith the catchment.
- Animal carcasses removed from the catchment including the gralloch.
- Scottish Water SHOUT process will be followed by all workers on site and all workers on site will carry one of these in cab of vehicle.
- Scottish Water toolbox talks to be discussed with all works who are working within the catchment
- Excess grease is to be wiped from machines outwith the catchment and monitored during routine checks
- Specific diffuse pollution plan generated for works within catchment highlighting risk
- Use of pesticides to be consulted with Scottish Water prior to application

Additional controls to be carried out within the catchment such as limited ground disturbance during ground prep and fuel management.

Prior to all harvesting operations Scottish Water are to be consulted and if required a site meeting to take place.

Map 5 shows the extent of the public water catchment at Loch a' Phearsain

C.3 Environmental Impact Assessments and Permitted Development Notifications UKWAS 2.5.2

The following notifications will be made and/or permissions sought where applicable to the following:

Argyll & Bute Council Planning: Prior Notification applications will be submitted for the internal road upgrades/extensions.

SEPA: An engineering authorisation will be sought where any new culverts/water crossings are required, and engineering registration on any replacement culverts are required, on any watercourse shown on the OS 1:50,000 Scale map.

General Public: Warning signs will be used to notify the public of the operational dangers during forest operations and of any diversions or alternative routes if required.

EIA: An EIA has been sought for the development of the new THR, see appendix 6 for Consent Not Required letter. If any further works is carried out requiring EIA determination this will be sought at the time.

C.4 Tolerance Table¹³

	Map Required (Y/N)	Adjustment to felling period*	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries**	Timing of Restocking	Changes to Restocking species	Changes to road lines	Designed open ground ***	Windblow Clearance****
SF Approval normally not required	N	Fell date can be moved within 5 year period where separation or other constraints are met	Up to 10% of coupe area	Up to 2 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers or broadleaves		Increase by up to 5% of coupe area	
Approval by exchange of email and map	Y		Up to 15% of coupe area	Between 2 and 5 planting seasons after felling subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised		Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan Departures of more than 60m in either direction from centre line of road	Increase by up to 10% Any reduction in open ground within coupe area	Up to 5 ha
Approval by formal plan amendment may be required	Y	Felling delayed into second or later 5 year period Advance felling into current or 2 nd 5 year period	More than 15% of coupe area	More than 5 planting seasons after felling subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised	Change from specified native species Change between species group	As above, depending on sensitivity	More than 10% of coupe area Colonisation of open areas agreed as critical	More than 5 ha

Table 15 - Tolerance Table

Note:

*Felling sequence must not compromise UKFS in particular felling coupe adjacency. Felling progress and impact will be reviewed against UKFS at 5 year review.

** No more than 1 ha, without consultation with FCS (SF), where the location is defined as 'sensitive' within the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) 1999 Regulations (EIA).*** Tolerance subject to an overriding maximum of 20% designed open ground.

****Where windblow occurs, FCS must be informed of extent prior to clearance and consulted on clearance of any standing trees.

¹³ [lftp-applicants-guidance \(1\).pdf](#)

SECTION D – PRODUCTION FORECAST

See appendix

SECTION E – UK WOODLAND ASSURANCE SCHEME (UKWAS)

E.1 Declaration of Commitment UKWAS 1.1.5

All woodland management and associated activities will comply with the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS).

A Declaration of Commitment, signed by the owner, will be submitted to the Tilhill Assurance Manager prior to applying for membership of the Tilhill Resource Manager Group Certification Scheme.

E.2 Anti-corruption UKWAS 1.1.6

All activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Tilhill Code of Conduct.

E.3 Communication of Policy & Objectives UKWAS 2.1.1b

The communication of the relevant elements of policy and objectives of certification will be through the work instruction with re-iteration at pre-commencement meetings for contractors and through tender documents with re-iteration at pre-commencement meetings for harvesting contractors. Applicable tool-box talks will also be given and issued.

- For contractors applying pesticides the statement “this forest is managed in accordance with UKFS & UKWAS with an objective to ensure that the use of pesticides is kept to a minimum” will be issued as part of the work instruction.
- For harvesting/ground preparation contractors the statement “this forest is managed in accordance with UKFS & UKWAS with an objective to prevent damage to soils and water” will be issued as part of the work instruction or tender documents.

E.4 Review UKWAS 2.2.3

Works will be reviewed annually as part of the client reporting and budgeting procedure at the end of each client year. Additionally, an annual review will be undertaken in line with UKWAS requirements, giving more detail on aspects such as timber yields, chemical use, etc.

As per Scottish Forestry guidance on LTFP’s, the plan will be reviewed and updated at 5 yearly intervals and renewed at 10 yearly intervals. The 5-year review and update will be used for recertification under UKWAS and the 10-year renewal will also satisfy UKWAS requirements.

E.5 Fire Plan UKWAS 2.12.2

Every Tilhill West Highland property has an emergency response card, which details the first steps to be undertaken in the event of a fire (listed below) and specific property details including entry points and contact details. The emergency response card for Barachuile will be issued to all contractors undertaking work on the property and is available to all forest managers in the Tilhill Oban office.

FIRE:

1. THINK SAFETY:

Evacuate all people to a safe upwind position.

2. RAISE ALARM:

Call 112 on a mobile phone or 999 using the nearest telephone. Ask for the FIRE BRIGADE. Give them the Grid Reference for the forest gate on the back of this card and as much information as possible.

3. ONLY FIGHT THE FIRE IF THERE IS NO RISK TO YOURSELF.

PUT PEOPLE 1st and PROPERTY 2nd

4. INFORM:

Contact the local Tilhill Office or your supervisor.

Emergency contact numbers are on the back of this card.

Once Tilhill are notified the manager in charge or on-call will follow the Tilhill Fire Procedure as outlined in the handbook GN/51 – Forest Fires.

E.6 Conversion UKWAS 2.13

There are no plans for any land use changes within Barachuile.

E.6.1 Christmas trees UKWAS 2.13.3

There are no plans for Christmas tree production within Barachuile.

E.7 Monitoring (Updated March 2024) UKWAS 2.15.1

Management Objective	Monitoring Type	Monitoring Objective	Method	Frequency	Results Held	Review Period
Timber Production	Production Records	Record Timber Production	Compare with forecast.	5 Years	Contract Files	5 Years
General Infrastructure	Site Checks	Monitor condition of Roads	Site visits at times of risk	As required	Managers Notes	5 Years after Felling
Minimum Chemical Use	Application Records	Ensure Minimum Usage	Regular Site Checks at times of risk	As required	Managers Notes	On-going
Control Grazing Impacts	Including Fencing	Assess levels of Damage	Site Visits at times of risk	As required	Managers Notes	On-going
Tree Health	Visual Site Checks	Assess levels of Damage	Site Visits and Contractor Instruction	At least Annually	Managers Notes	Annually
Change Forest Structure	Cpt. Records	Assess Changes in Structure	Review of Age Class Distribution	At Least Annually	Cpt. Records	5 Years
Illegal / Antisocial Activities	Visual Checks	Protect Forests from Damage	Record Instances in Notes or as NCR's	Annually	Managers Notes	5 Years
Biodiversity	Visual Checks	To assess Habitat Diversification	Record development in Forester's Notebook	5 Years	Forest Record file	5 Years

Table 16 - UKWAS Monitoring Table

E.7.1 Summary of Monitoring UKWAS 2.15.2

To be completed at 5-year Recertification.

See attached appendix

E.8 Woodland Operations

E.8.1 Emergency Response UKWAS 3.1.3

Tilhill as forest managers will act as the initial contacts for any emergency (fire, injury, pollution) that occurs on the property. Relevant safety information will be held within Tilhill's Geographic Information System (GIS) and Assurance Management System (AMS) including the access, hazard and constraints information for the property and the Emergency Response Card, containing relevant contact numbers. Tilhill will also act as first point of contact for the emergency services, utility companies and other users of the property.

All work carried out on the property will be suitably planned and risk assessed in accordance with Tilhill's AMS procedures which set out the relevant safety precautions, environmental protection plans and emergency procedures.

E.8.2 Whole tree and biomass harvesting UKWAS 3.2.3

Whole tree harvesting will not be undertaken on site as the brash is required for soil protection during harvesting and ground preparation. Additionally, the soils are such that the nutrient recycling provided by brash, stumps and lop & top will be beneficial for the restock crop.

E.8.3 Burning up UKWAS 3.2.4

No burning will be undertaken on site.

E.8.4 Pesticides UKWAS 3.4

The aim is to minimise the use of pesticides, fertilisers and biological control agents by implementing an integrated pest management strategy. The strategy seeks to adopt and develop techniques, which will minimise or eliminate situations, which require the use of pesticides, fertilisers and biological control agents. The use of pesticides is mostly restricted to restocking and early establishment (the first 3-5 years after planting) and the techniques to be employed at Lagalochan include the following:

1. Ground preparation by excavator mounding will speed up establishment and achieve early weed suppression. Improved establishment will minimise the period during which trees are small enough to be severely damaged by weevils or weed growth.
2. The use of a deer fence, which will severely limit browsing damage, will contribute to reducing the period when trees are small enough to be at risk from weeds or weevils.
3. Restocking will be carried out as soon as practicable after the completion of harvesting. While there is a possibility that a fallow period might reduce weevil numbers, the potential benefits are outweighed by known effects such as increased weeding requirement and a higher risk of ground damage resulting from the absence of good brash mats.
4. Where available, trees will be treated with pesticide at the nursery in preference to applying pesticide after planting. Nursery applications can be carried out in a more controlled environment and reduce pesticide use.
5. Where available, robust planting stock will be used. Stronger trees are better able to resist weevil attack and competition from weeds (particularly smothering at the end of the growing season).
6. Weeding will be selective and will generally be carried out later, when areas most in need can be easily identified, ensuring any chemical use is both targeted and minimised.
7. Hand or mechanical techniques will be favoured over pesticide use for control of unwanted plant species wherever possible to achieve early establishment.

All pesticide operations will be carried out in accordance with industry Best Operational Practice and in accordance with Tilhill's Environmental Management System. The use of herbicides and pesticides on the property will be minimised wherever any suitably effective and economic alternative exists. Prior to use Pesticide Decision Record Forms and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessments will be carried out. A Pesticide Application Record for each

operative involved in any operation in which pesticides are used will also be completed. Only chemicals that are both approved for use in Scotland and for use on FSC certified properties.

The main chemical use is likely to relate to Large Pine Weevil (*Hylobius abietis*) control, using a pesticide that is appropriate and approved for forestry use at the time of restocking. If available restock trees pre-treated with an approved insecticide prior to planting will be considered.

Some herbicide weed control on the forest roadsides may be necessary to prevent gorse, broom, willow, birch and spruce regeneration restricting access and damaging the road structure, however this will only be undertaken if mechanical mulching or swiping is not possible for H&S reasons. Chemicals will be used for weeding in minimal quantities and application will conform to Tilhill's Resource Manager Scheme chemical reduction strategy.

All pesticide operations will be carried out in accordance with industry best operational practice and in accordance with Tilhill's Environmental Management System using only chemicals that are both approved for use in Scotland and for use on FSC certified properties. This will include the completion of a Pesticide Application Record for each operative involved in any operation in which pesticides are used.

E.8.5 Biological controls UKWAS 3.4.1

It is not currently anticipated that biological control will be used in Barachuile. This policy will be reviewed on a 5-yearly basis against the latest research and recommendations.

E.8.6 Fertilisers UKWAS 3.4.5

Much of the site is planted on peaty gleys and peaty podzols with small stretches of forest brown earths on the lower peripheral edges of the forest, this means in many parts of the forest the ground is wet and nutrient poor, resulting in checked and variable crop. This is reinforced with ESC which has few species listed as suitable, with the majority limiting factor being the Soil Nutrient Regime.

While the need for fertiliser should be mitigated in part by selecting appropriate species and suitable planting stock. With the findings from ESC¹⁴ and our past restocking experience it is proposed that we continue to use a slow-release fertiliser at planting, which is placed directly in the planting notch. This targeted application, along with the prolonged and steady release of the nutrients, will ensure that any leaching or run-off into the water environment is fully mitigated and that it only benefits the tree, rather than surrounding weeds, ensuring that further chemical input will not be required as a direct result of fertilisation. This should also help to establish the crop before the heather re-colonises enough to negatively impact on tree growth.

The rapid root establishment and early height gains expected from the use of fertiliser will help to reduce chemical input as the trees will be vulnerable to weed competition and weevil attack for a shorter period. It is hoped that an initial fertiliser input is all that will be required before canopy closure when the natural process of nutrient cycling should be sufficient to maintain the crop until the end of the rotation. It is not proposed to use fertiliser beyond the initial establishment phase as the number of watercourses acting as receptors to the wider water environment are too numerous for aerial application.

The risk posed by fertiliser application is potential competition from other vegetation, but this will be controlled in the first instance through manual or motor manual weed control.

E.8.7 Bio solids UKWAS 3.4.5 d

There are no plans to use bio-solids in Barachuile.

E.8.8 Waste UKWAS 3.6.1

¹⁴ Forest Research Forest Decision Support System - <http://www.forestdss.org.uk/geoforestdss/>

All waste arising on site and from operations will be collected to an agreed location by the contractor at the end of each operation. Tilhill, or a contractor with a waste transfer licence, will then uplift waste and recycle, dispose of or sign back into stock in line with the Tilhill Waste Procedure AR/21 – Arrangements for Waste (producing, storing, transporting, disposal).

E.8.9 Redundant Materials UKWAS 3.6.2

The existing infrastructure is still within its lifetime, with the deer fences being recently installed and the planting tubes still within the establishment period of the broadleaf areas. The deer fence will be monitored and repaired when appropriate and fencing contractors will be asked to price the removal of redundant materials to an agreed location, to be disposed of or recycled per procedure above (E.8.8 Waste).

The removal of the planting tubes will be assessed on the basis of broadleaf establishment. Once the trees have been assessed as to have established and are less vulnerable to browsing and competition from surrounding vegetation, the tubes will be removed, bundled and disposed of or recycled per procedure above (E.8.8 Waste).

Description	Location	Quantity (approx.)	Estimated Year Redundant/replace
Tree Tubes	Cpt 5	250	To be removed in 2025/26
Stock fence	Whole Forest	22,500m	Maintain as required
Culverts	Forest Tracks	All	2025 Replacement during road upgrade
Culvert	5	5	Lengths to be stored on site for following restock
Waste Plant Bags	All Restock	Unknown	Dispose at end of planting season

Table 17 - Redundant Materials

E.9 Diffuse pollution UKWAS 3.7.1

Barachuile is potentially vulnerable to problems with diffuse pollution. This is predominantly due to the wet soils and steep terrain, with numerous watercourses (receptors and pathways), and its location in an area of high rainfall. This means water has the potential to travel quickly and any disturbance to soils can potentially move downhill and into the water environment in periods of sustained rainfall or heavy snow melt.

Protection during operations will be maximised through careful planning, employment of skilled and certificated contractors, good management on site and risk-adjusted levels of supervision.

Where there is any concern about diffuse pollution on any forestry or harvesting site, a specific risk assessment using the Tilhill form: Diffuse pollution risk assessment (RA/86) will be completed. The completion of the risk assessment will be recorded within the work instruction and reviewed at pre-commencement meetings with contractors.

For harvesting operations there will be a requirement for any timber purchaser to submit a robust diffuse pollution mitigation plan for approval prior to commencement on site. Examples of the controls expected in any such plan are outlined below:

Controls – General

It is important that the risks identified link into appropriate and site-specific control procedures:

- Contingencies for severe weather. i.e. identify areas machines can move to that can be safely worked in inclement weather
- Timing and scale of operations.
- Matching machinery to site conditions.
- Use of protective measures – silt fencing/diverting water flow.
- Reporting of pollution events to SEPA.

On medium/high risk sites control measures, shown below, must be planned, briefed and understood by all operatives **before** operations begin in order to minimise the risk of diffuse pollution.

Controls – Medium Risk

- Control water movement over the site. Keep clean water clean – divert clean water from the work site using cut-off drains.
- Ensure machine movements are minimised close to watercourses and drains.
- Risk-adjust monitoring of the site through checks and inspections to target medium risk sites.
- Avoid stacking timber over roadside drains to maintain scope for creating sediment traps.

Controls – High Risk

- Have a digger available at short notice.
- Geotextiles must be available on site – to be used to prevent sediment release to water courses and NOT in the water course itself. Ensure contractors know how to use and correctly install these materials.
- Notify SEPA of proposed works in high risk sites.
- Risk-adjust monitoring of the site through checks and inspections to target high risk sites.
- Where possible use the best/most experienced contractors.

All contractors and timber purchasers will be reminded of the requirement for strict adherence to Forest and Water Guidelines.

Proposed operations in Barachuile over the next 10-year period are outlined below:

Operation	Year	Location	Diffuse Pollution Potential Risk	Main Issue(s) Relating to Risk
<i>Group Preparation (trench mounding)</i>	<i>All Years</i>	<i>All Restock</i>	<i>MEDIUM</i>	<i>Watercourses, steep ground, peat soils</i>
<i>Clearfell</i>	<i>All Years</i>	<i>All Felling</i>	<i>HIGH</i>	<i>Steep site, working all year</i>
<i>Road maintenance & Borrow Pit</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>Spine Road, Oude</i>	<i>MEDIUM</i>	<i>Watercourse culvert replacement & resurfacing</i>
<i>Road Upgrade/Construction</i>	<i>2025/26</i>	<i>An Creachan THR</i>	<i>HIGH</i>	<i>Relaying of stone, culvert replacement & new road within water catchment.</i>
<i>Roads Maintenance</i>	<i>On Going</i>	<i>Whole Forest</i>	<i>MEDIUM</i>	<i>Resurfacing works and ditch maintenance</i>

Table 18 - Proposed operations and General Diffuse Pollution Risk Assessment

Whilst harvesting operations above have been given a MEDIUM these will become HIGH in periods of sustained rainfall or if site planning identifies the need for a long main forwarder track crossing various watercourses.

E.10 Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control UKWAS 4.5.1

No areas critical to watershed management or erosion control were identified by Statutory stakeholders during the consultation phase.

E.11 Veteran Trees UKWAS 4.6.3

There currently is limited habitat for veteran trees within Barachuile, as the area of native mixed broadleaf increases we anticipate that veteran trees in these areas.

E.12 Deadwood UKWAS 4.6.4

It is recognised that deadwood provides an important habitat, and that provision of deadwood is important for maintaining biodiversity within the forest. Management will allow for the retention of deadwood where it does not pose a significant safety risk.

Specifically, deadwood will be retained within the areas of LTR/NR where minimal intervention management is proposed. Wind throw in these areas will not be cleared up and will be allowed to develop as deadwood habitat unless they pose a risk to health and safety. This may be a possibility with areas of LTR and Nature Reserve bordering on the A816 and the access to the forest.

Deadwood will also be retained on harvesting sites where appropriate and where opportunities to develop valuable habitat arise, this will usually be as single standing trees, which are also of value as perch sites, particularly for raptors.

As the forest is restructured and beyond when broadleaved areas establish, and more valuable habitats develop, deadwood will begin to accumulate at higher levels than is currently possible further improving its contribution to biodiversity within the forest.

E.13 Game & fisheries management UKWAS 4.9.1

Game management on the property consists of the stalking of deer, with Red & Roe present in the woods (Occasional Sika deer have been shot in the property). These are managed through stalking rights, and a contracted stalker who is used to complete a cull as required.

With the increase amount of open ground in Barachuile it is expected that the population and recruitment rate will increase in Barachuile until the forest reduces the holding capacity with the reduction in feeding material.

The cull in Barachuile will reflect the potential head of deer which are held in the property and increased as required.

E.14 Water supplies UKWAS 5.1.1

There is a water supply catchment in the east side of the forest bordering the forest boundary and the A816. It is 6.33 Ha in size and forms the water catchment that flows into the neighbours Private Water Supply (PWS). This is primarily in areas of mixed broadleaves and open ground, but also in areas of commercial Sitka Spruce crop. The crop is second rotation and will not be harvested until after the renewal of this plan.

E.15 Tree surveys & Timber traffic UKWAS 5.2.1

The limited amount of mature broadleaved trees in Barachuile mean that tree surveys are currently able to be undertaken by the Forest Manager. As more broadleaves establish and mature this policy will be risk assessed and reviewed, with consideration given to professional tree surveys.

Barachuile is sited next to the A816 which is an agreed timber route, and so the movement of timber from the forest does not normally require consultation as per the Timber Transport Forum (Agreed Route - Used for timber haulage without restriction as regulated by the Road Traffic Act 1988. A-roads are classified as Agreed Routes by default unless covered by one of the other TTG classifications¹⁵).

E.16 Training and competency UKWAS 5.5.1

All contractors employed by the Forest Manager will be selected from the Tilhill Approved Contractor List. This list will be referenced prior to works commencing to ensure that appropriate certification is held by all operatives.

Where operations are third-party e.g. Harvesting, the timber purchaser will be required to provide the relevant certification for their operatives prior to work commencing.

E.17 Insurance UKWAS 5.7.1

The Barachuile are insured privately by the landowner.

All contractors undertaking work on the property will be selected from the Tilhill Approved Contractor List. A condition of being a Tilhill approved contractor is having PLI, and where applicable, Employers liability Insurance (ELI).

¹⁵ [Agreed Route Map for Timber Transport Forum \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.arcgis.com)

SECTION F - APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Compartment Schedule

Appendix 2: Work Plans (20-year outline, 5 year detail)

5 Year Work Programme

Short-term work programme (2024 to 2029)

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Roading	4079m				
Harvesting (CF)	35.54ha		18.26ha	23.65ha	
Ground Preparation		36.51ha		13.87ha	31.38ha
Restock Planting		36.51ha		13.87ha	31.38ha
Conifer Beatup	12.88ha		36.51ha	36.51ha	50.38ha
Broadleaf Beatup					
Weevil Spray Q2	12.88ha		36.51ha	36.51ha	13.87ha
Weevil Spray Q3		36.51ha	36.51ha	13.87ha	45.25ha
Fence Maintenance	*Continued Maintenance				
Roads Maintenance	*Continued Maintenance				

Table 19 - 5 year work programme

20 Year Work Programme

Outline long-term work programme (2029 to 2034)

Coupe	Activity	Area /Length	Year		
			2030-2034	2035-2039	2040-2044
20,22	Felling	19.16	X		
20,22	Restock & Establishment	18.7	X		
21	Felling	14.56	X		
21	Restock & Establishment	15.31	X		

Table 20 - 20 year work programme

Appendix 3: Scoping Report including responses

Appendix 4: UKWAS Declaration of Commitment

See [*Resource Manager Declaration of Commitment*](#).

Appendix 5: Maps

Map 1: Location

1:200,000, OS showing property outlined.

Map 2: Current Species

1:22,500, showing current species.

Map 3: Planting Year Map

1:22,500, showing the current planting period.

Map 4: Access Map

1:22,500, showing the forest road network and proposed changes.

Map 5: Hazard Map

1:22,500, showing the hazards and constraints of Barachuile

Map 6: Yield Class Map

1:22,500, showing yield classes of Barachuile.

Map 7: Constraints & Opportunities

1:25,000, showing designations, LTRs, NRs, measurable open ground, diverse crops and felling phases.

Map 8: Felling Phase Plan (20 Years)

1:22,500, showing the felling plan over 20 years.

Map 9: Felling Year Plan (10 Years)

1:22,500, showing the proposed felling plan by year between 2025-2034

Map 10: Restock Plan

1:22,500, showing the planned restocking after clearfelling

Map 11: Species 2044

1:22,500, showing Barachuile in 2044

Map 12: Biodiversity Map

1:22,500, showing the biodiversity features of Barachuile

Appendix 6: An Creachan Timber Haul Route Consent Not Required letter

Appendix 7: Prior Notification Approval