

LECKUARY FOREST LONG TERM FOREST PLAN 2026 – 2045



*SUBMITTED BY
TILHILL FORESTRY LTD
ON BEHALF OF*



FGS Case No: 24FGS79740

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A. Description of Woodlands

A.1 Property Details

Property Name:	Leckuary Forest		
Business Reference Number:	██████	Main Location Code:	██████
Grid Reference (centre of forest)	NR 893 972	Nearest town or locality:	Lochgilphead, Argyll
Local Authority:	Argyll & Bute Council		
LTFP Plan area (hectares):	209.6 Hectares		
Owner's Details			
Title:	██████	Forename:	██████████
Surname:	██████		
Organisation:	N/A	Position:	██████
Primary Contact Number:	██████████	Alternative Contact Number:	██████████
Email:	██████@uk.bnpparibas.com		
Address:	████████████████████		
Postcode:	██████	Country:	██████
Agent's Details			
Title:	██	Forename:	██████
Surname:	██████		
Organisation:	██████████	Position:	████████████████ ██████████
Primary Contact Number:	██████████	Alternative Contact Number:	██████████
Email:	██████@tilhill.com		
Address:	████████████████████ ████████████████		
Postcode:	██████	Country:	██████

Declaration

I hereby apply for a permission to fell the trees described in this application and I certify that:

- I am the landowner or an occupier of the land with written permission of the landowner;
- Where the landowner is a business, I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business;
- If I am acting on behalf of the landowner or occupier, I have been mandated to do so;
- Any necessary consents from any other person(s) if required, have been obtained;
- I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas;
- I have notified all stakeholders that may be affected by the felling in this application and sought their views prior to submitting this application;
- I hereby acknowledge that Scottish Ministers may process any of my personal data contained in or relating to this application in accordance with the terms of Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice, a copy of which is available at www.forestry.gov.scot;
- Where applicable and appropriate I have submitted an EIA screening opinion form for operations contained within this application under the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017;
- I have read and understand this application fully and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in this application is complete, true, and accurate;
- I accept that any false or misleading information provided in this application constitutes an offence and may result in any felling permission based on this application being revoked at any time, and
- I have read and understand Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice, a copy of which is available at <https://forestry.gov.scot/privacy-complaints-freedom-of-information-and-requests-for-information>.

Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your land?

Yes

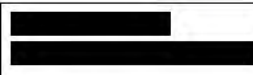
You are not obliged to give us consent to enter your land, however if we are denied access to your land, and cannot carry out an assessment because of this, we may reject your application.

This consent is for access to assess this application as well as monitor compliance with any subsequent approval, where applicable

Signed:



Print:



Date:

08.04.2025

A.2 Location and Background

Leckuary Forest is situated in mid-Argyll, at the top end of Kilmichael Glen, approximately 5 miles North of Lochgilphead.

Access into the property comes from the C38 Public Road, turning East onto a private shared access track which runs for approx. 1 mile to reach our client's forest boundary. The first section of track is suitable for light vehicular use, the remainder by foot or ATV access only. There is a padlocked gate at the forest entrance.

The C38 public road entrance is located at OS Grid Ref: NR 876 968,
<https://what3words.com/deposits.stocky.pianists>.

The forest entrance gate is located at OS Grid Ref: NR 888 971,
<https://what3words.com/shaped.clicker.hedge>.

Leckuary Forest borders mostly onto public sector land ownership. To the North, East and South lies the Kilmichael Forest, extending to some 8,790 Ha, managed by Forest & Land Scotland under a Land Management Plan, approved in March 2021.

To the West lies Leckuary plantation, planted in 1999, owned by the [REDACTED] family and managed by a different land agent.

The surrounding land use is primarily large-scale commercial conifer plantations with relatively smaller areas of mature broadleaved woodland, and open hill land (mostly unstocked). Heading back towards Kilmichael Glassary and Bridgend, the fields surrounding the villages are improved pasture grazed by sheep.

The property has been owned by the [REDACTED] family since the bare land was purchased from [REDACTED] in two stages, in 1982 and 1984, and then planted by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The property has since been transferred down 2 generations to the current landowners, [REDACTED] who have owned the property since March 2020. The Title is registered with the Land Registry, reference number: ARG29508.

Tilhill have been involved in the management of the property since the original planting in the mid-1980's. The crop is all first rotation and contains mostly conifer species, specifically Sitka spruce, with some crops now ready for harvest.

This document is the first Long Term Forest Plan to be written for the Forest, and it will outline the future roading, felling and replanting proposals for the next 20 years to meet the landowner's objectives, and to comply with both the UKFS guidance and the UKWAS certification standard.

A.3 Existing Schemes & Permissions

The table below provides details on any existing forestry permissions, grants, EIA approvals, SPHN's, previous plans, or cases in progress.

Type (e.g. Felling Permission)	Ref. No.	Details
LTFP	24FGS79740	FGS Long Term Forest Plan

A.4 Stakeholder Engagement

Consultation was carried out in August 2024. A list of stakeholders was compiled by Tilhill, with additional input from Scottish Forestry.

A concept map and letter were prepared and sent to each stakeholder either by e-mail or post. Further correspondence and face-to-face meetings were held with some residents to help clarify or provide further information on specific works, including verification of details relating to their Private Water Supply.

The full list of stakeholders engaged, and a summary of their responses can be found in the scoping report in Appendix 1.

Key comments raised are also summarised into the table below. The Management Plan proposals have sought to include and action these points, where appropriate to do so.

Scoping – Main Points	LTFP Reference (section/page):
Timber Haulage: The C38 Kilmichael Glen Road is designated as a Severely Restricted Route. All lorry traffic must head South along the C38 route to meet the A816 Agreed Route at Bridgend. To preserve the C38 road from excessive damage, use will be subject to the agreed TTMP. LTFP to include an estimate of Tonnage and Years for each felling phase.	Section A.6.7 – pages 17 to 18 Appendix 4: TTMP C38 Kilmichael Glen Road
Road Upgrades/New: Planning consents and an EIA Screening Opinion Request will be required prior to undertaking road construction works.	Section C.2.1 – page 33 Appendix 7: EIA SOR Form
Archaeology: There are no Scheduled Monuments within the property boundary. There is 1 Unscheduled feature in the NE corner of the property, at Caisteal Duin. LTFP to include details of this, and the restocking design will maintain the existing open space around it. There is potential for finding previously unrecorded features during future operational works.	Section A.6.9 – page 19 Map M2: Archaeological features are recorded and labelled
Designations: There are no SSSI, SPA, or SAC designations within or close to the property. The Moine Mhor SAC and SSSI is located approx. 5km to the West of the property. NatureScot anticipate no significant effect from our proposals. LTFP to include a brief description and mitigation.	Section C.3.1 – page 34 Section A.6.4 – page 13

Ancient Woodland Inventory (ASNO1860): An area of ASNW exists along the Southern boundary. LTFP to include details of the current condition and species. LTFP restocking design to include a minimum 100m buffer of NBL around the ASNW area. Veteran broadleaf trees to be retained and protected from damage during future works.	Section C.3.1 – pages 34 to 38 Map M6: Restock Design
Protected Species – Raptors: There are no current records of raptors nesting within the forest or within disturbance distance of future works. There is 1 historic record of a peregrine falcon nesting in the forest, but this was last recorded as active in 2006, likely due to the conifer plantation closing canopy. LTFP to include the requirement for pre-operational walkover surveys and further consultation with ARSG, to check for Schedule 1 Protected species to prevent disturbance.	Section C.3.2 – pages 38 to 40
Protected Species – Black Grouse: There are several leks in the residual open ground adjacent to the LTFP, although none have been recorded within the property boundary. LTFP to include mitigation on timing and proximity of future works to avoid disturbance whilst lekking. LTFP restock design to improve the future habitat, by introducing a mixture of low-density broadleaf trees and shrubs along the NE and NW upper woodland edges adjacent to the open hill. Conifer Long Term Retentions along the NE edge of the forest are to be retained in-situ to provide transitional habitat and shelter.	Section C.3.1 – pages 39 to 40 Map M6: Restock Design
European Protected Species: LTFP to include the requirement for pre-operational walkover surveys to check for EPS, to prevent disturbance. LTFP restock design to improve future habitat for Red squirrel and Otters.	Section C.3.1 – page 40 Map M6: Restock Design
Deer Management: LTFP to include a comprehensive DMP, to enable planning of appropriate deer control and carcass extraction routes prior to restocking.	Section C.4 – page 41
Invasive Species: LTFP to include plans to control INNS, focussing initially on the ASNW area.	Section C.4.6 – page 42 Section C.3.1 – pages 34 to 38

Species Diversity: The restructuring of the woodland should increase the age class and tree species diversity, in line with the UKFS v5 guidance. Replanting with Broadleaves should be with native species only, particularly adjacent to the ASNW. LTFP felling design should avoid any potential adjacency issues with the F&LS Kilmichael LMP.	Table 2 - page 22 Map M6: Restock Design Section C.1.6 – page 31 Section C.1.1 – page 28
Watercourses/Diffuse Pollution: Watercourses should be protected from sedimentation and pollution during forest operations. LTFP restock design to include a minimum 20m buffer of NBL or NBL LD planting along the main riparian corridors.	Section A.6.4 – pages 13 to 14 Map M2: Watercourse features are recorded Map M6: Restock Design
Public Drinking Water Supply: There are no Scottish Water drinking water catchments, abstraction sources, or assets. There are 3 water in-take points, including a Dam along the Eastern property boundary. From the Dam, water pipes down through neighbouring land to Loch Glashan, and then into the small-scale hydro-electric power station at Loch Gair.	Section A.6.5 – pages 15 to 16 Appendix 3 Map M2: PWS features are recorded
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Tree Protection: Deer fencing should be avoided, but if it is to be used, grouse markers need to be added due to the close vicinity of black grouse leks. If tree shelters or vole guards are to be used, consider sourcing biodegradable materials, as opposed to plastic. LTFP to include a plan for removing any redundant plastic tree guards and other plastic materials at the end of their lifespan or once trees become established.	Section C.4.4 – page 41 Section C.5.2 – page 42

A.5 Long Term Vision, Management Objectives and Monitoring

A.5.1 Vision

The primary vision is to manage the forest in a commercial and sustainable manner. This will include starting the restructuring programme, improving the age class distribution, and diversifying tree species composition to comply with UKFS v5.

The landowner aspires to enhance the biodiversity and amenity value in parts of the property. This will be done primarily by protecting and enhancing the existing ASNW area, and by developing new habitat to support Protected Species and other local wildlife.

A.5.2 Management Objectives

The landowner's management objectives can be summarised below:

1. To develop suitable access infrastructure into the forest to allow for timber harvesting and restructuring works to commence.
2. To enhance the long term productivity of the forest by replanting primarily with productive conifer crops on the most fertile soils, and to improve yields in future conifer rotations.
3. To develop areas of mixed density native broadleaf woodland along riparian zones and the upper woodland edges to protect and enhance habitats for existing and potential species of wildlife and flora.
4. To safeguard the quality of water flowing in natural watercourses within the forest during operations.
5. To create local employment within the forest through the hiring of local forest managers and local contractors to undertake operational works.

A.6 General Site Description

A.6.1 Topography

The landform varies across the site, quickly changing from gentle slopes, to hill and valley sides with strong to very steep slopes on rocky crags, as illustrated in the picture below:



It is expected that most of the site can be accessed and safely worked using track-based machinery. There are occasional very steep banks and rocky outcrops where benchwork may be required, or trees may need to be chainsaw felled down to the harvester for processing. No cable winch work is anticipated.

A.6.2 Geology and Soils

Geology

The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 maps indicate the property is mostly underlain by Quartzite of the Crinan Grit Formation. This metamorphic rock has a high compressive strength and resistance to abrasion, so should provide a strong durable foundation and sub-base for any new or upgraded roads.

Within the property the map also shows occasional seams of Metagabbro, Metamicrogabbro, and Basalt igneous bedrock. These areas will be explored further, and the rock crushed down to a finer grade for use as the running surface layer for any new roads, upgrades or maintenance. This should negate the need to import stone for road works.

Soils

The 1:250k Hutton Institute Soil Map separates the property into two generalised soil types.

The Northern part of the forest contains mostly peaty gleys with blanket peat on the flatter areas, moving into skeletal soils on the steeper slopes and rocky crags.

The Southern and South-Eastern part of the forest contain the most fertile soils, mostly Brown earths, humus-iron podzols, or humic gleys. The soil in these areas is generally well suited to producing high yielding commercial conifer species, but in places could also support a more diverse range of broadleaf species, of differing NVC types. The opportunity to diversify with alternative conifer species is limited by soil type and proximity to the ASNW, so the main focus will be to increase native broadleaf cover.

For the selection of alternative conifer and native broadleaf species, ESCv4 and the Climatic Site Suitability Maps in Appendix 2 have been used to shape the replanting design to ensure future species are suitable.

National Soil Map of Scotland: Generalised Soil Type

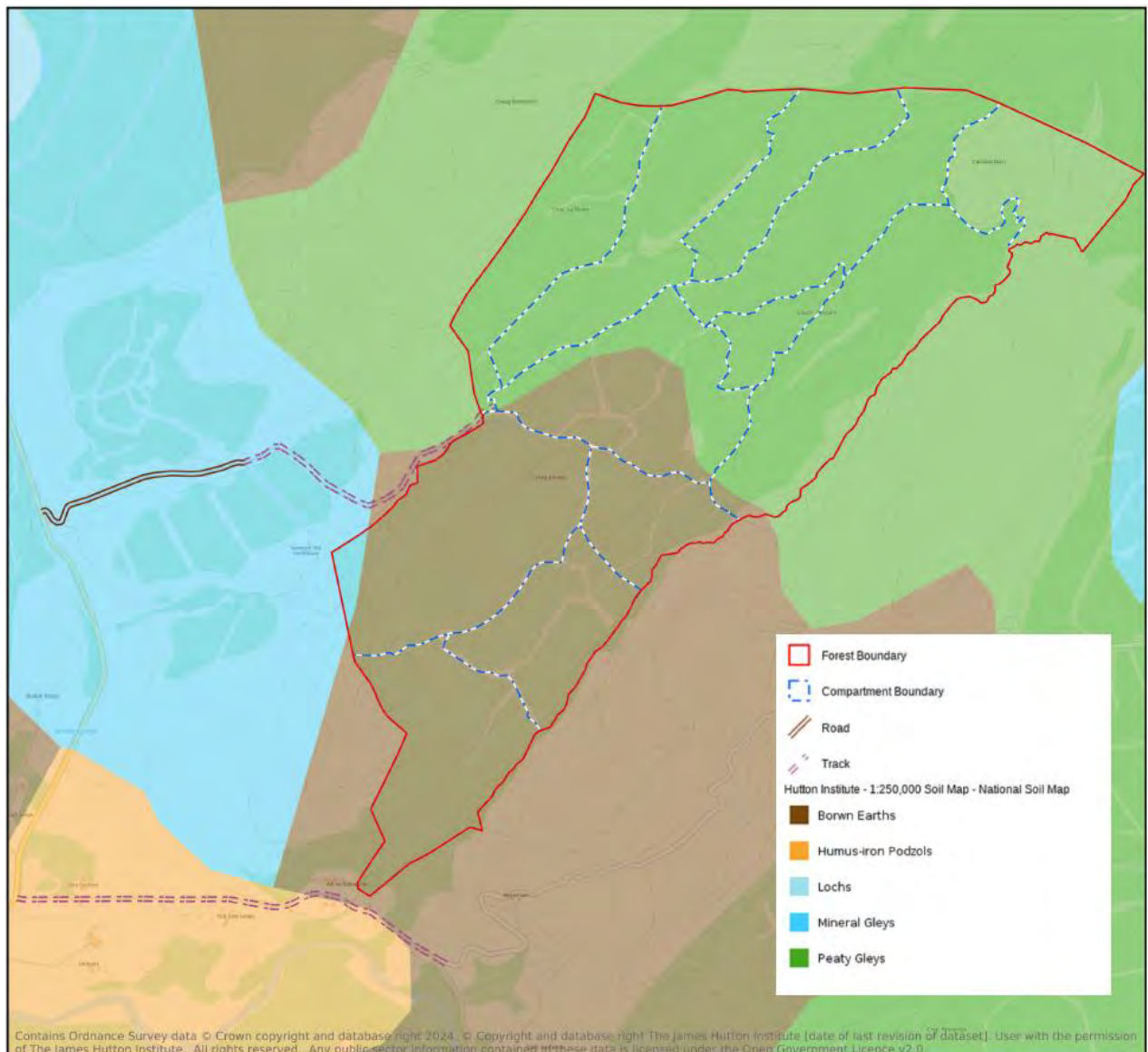


Image Source: https://map.environment.gov.scot/Soil_maps/?layer=10

Carbon and Peatland Distribution Map

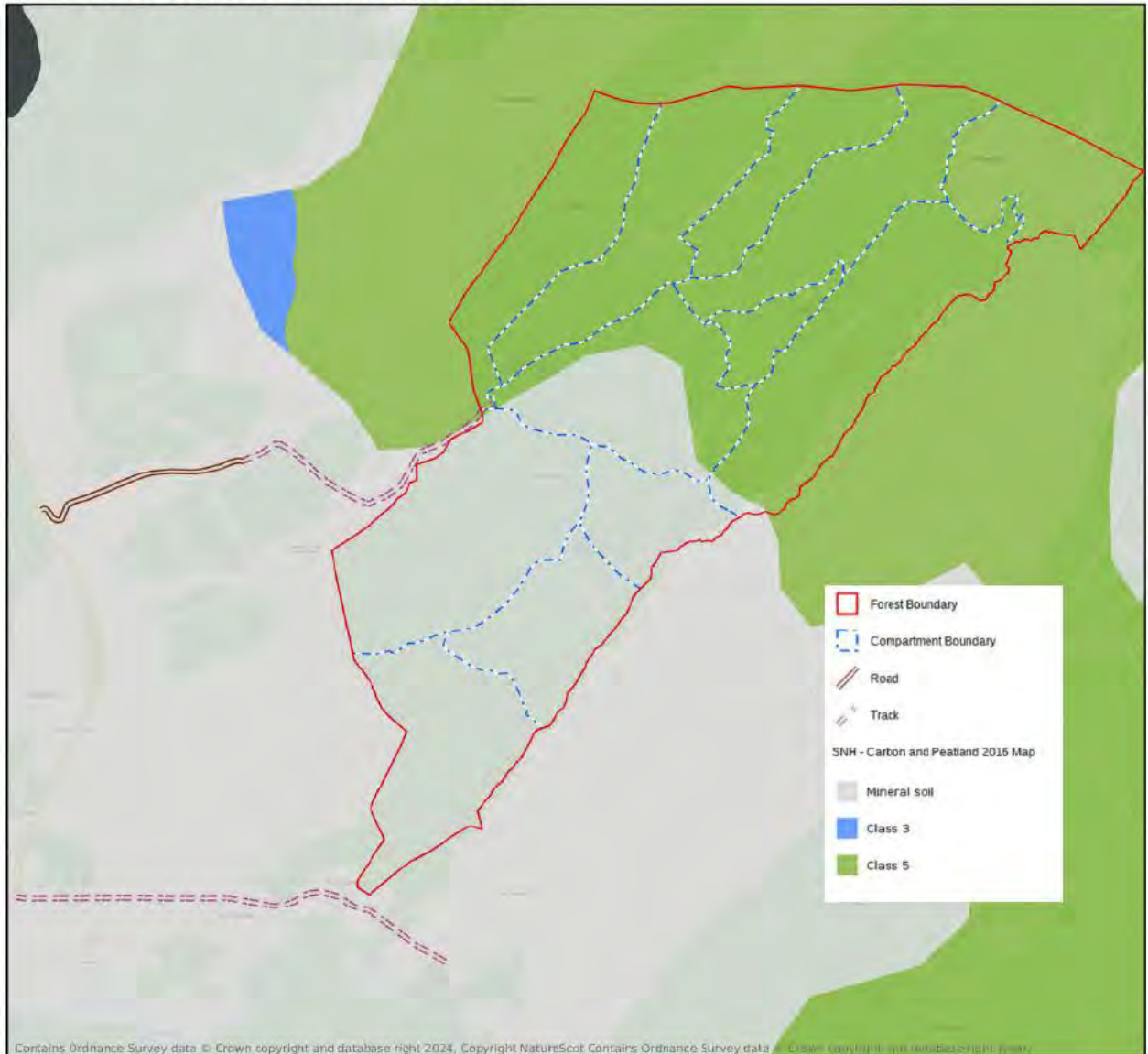


Image Source: https://map.environment.gov.scot/Soil_maps/?layer=10

A.6.3 Climate

The elevation varies considerably across the property, ranging from 50m above sea level at the Southern boundary, rising to 330m above sea level at the summit of Caisteal Duin.

The site typically has a warm and wet climate, with milder winters. The upper parts of the site are classed as being highly exposed to wind. The lower elevations are deemed to be moderately exposed to wind, with some areas of localised shelter.

Average annual rainfall around the Lochgilphead area is high compared to the rest of Scotland, totalling around 1,700mm per annum in a typical year. The wettest months tend to be between October to January. In recent years, Argyll has suffered from exceptional intense spells of rainfall in short timeframes. e.g. 6th to 7th October 2023: 100mm rainfall in 48 hours caused widespread flooding, landslips and road/culvert washouts. Leckuary Forest was unaffected by this or similar events in recent years.

Source: <https://www.scottish-places.info/towns/townclimate556.html>

A.6.4 Hydrology

There are 2 major watercourses extending down through the property, that show up on a 1:50,000 OS map. These extend down through the North-Western part of the forest, and along the Eastern boundary. Multiple minor watercourses also exist elsewhere in the forest.

All these tributaries travel further downstream where they connect into the River Add, located approx. 160m South of the property, as shown on the Map below. The condition of the River Add is classed as "Moderate" by SEPA.

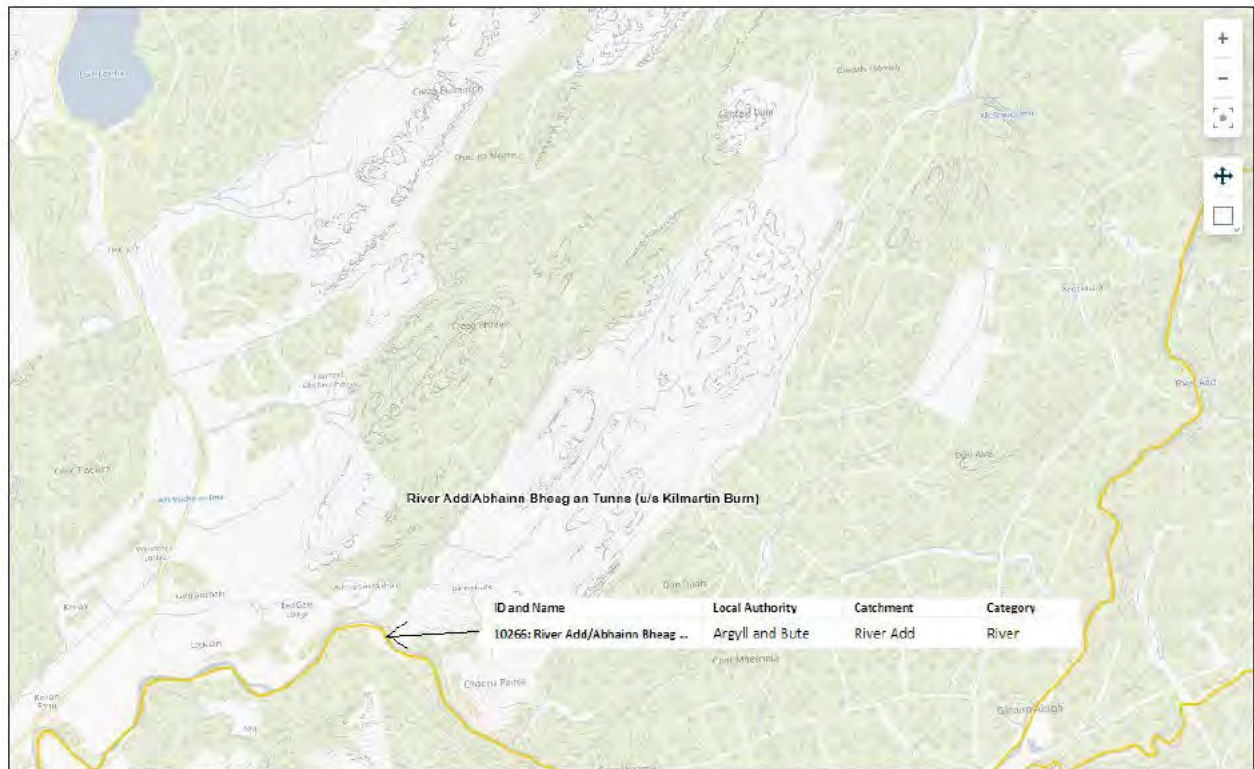


Image Source: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/>

Moine Mhor Description

The River Add flows into the Moine Mhor, designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This is protected for its raised bog, salt meadow, intertidal mudflats and sandflats, marsh fritillary, otter and western acidic oak woodland features. The Moine Mhor is located approx. 5km West of the property.

NatureScot consider it unlikely that future forestry operations from this property will have a significant effect on any qualifying interests either directly or indirectly. This is due to the long distance from the SAC, buffering of watercourses, and the existing natural reserve stands located in the South of the LTFFP area.

General Mitigation

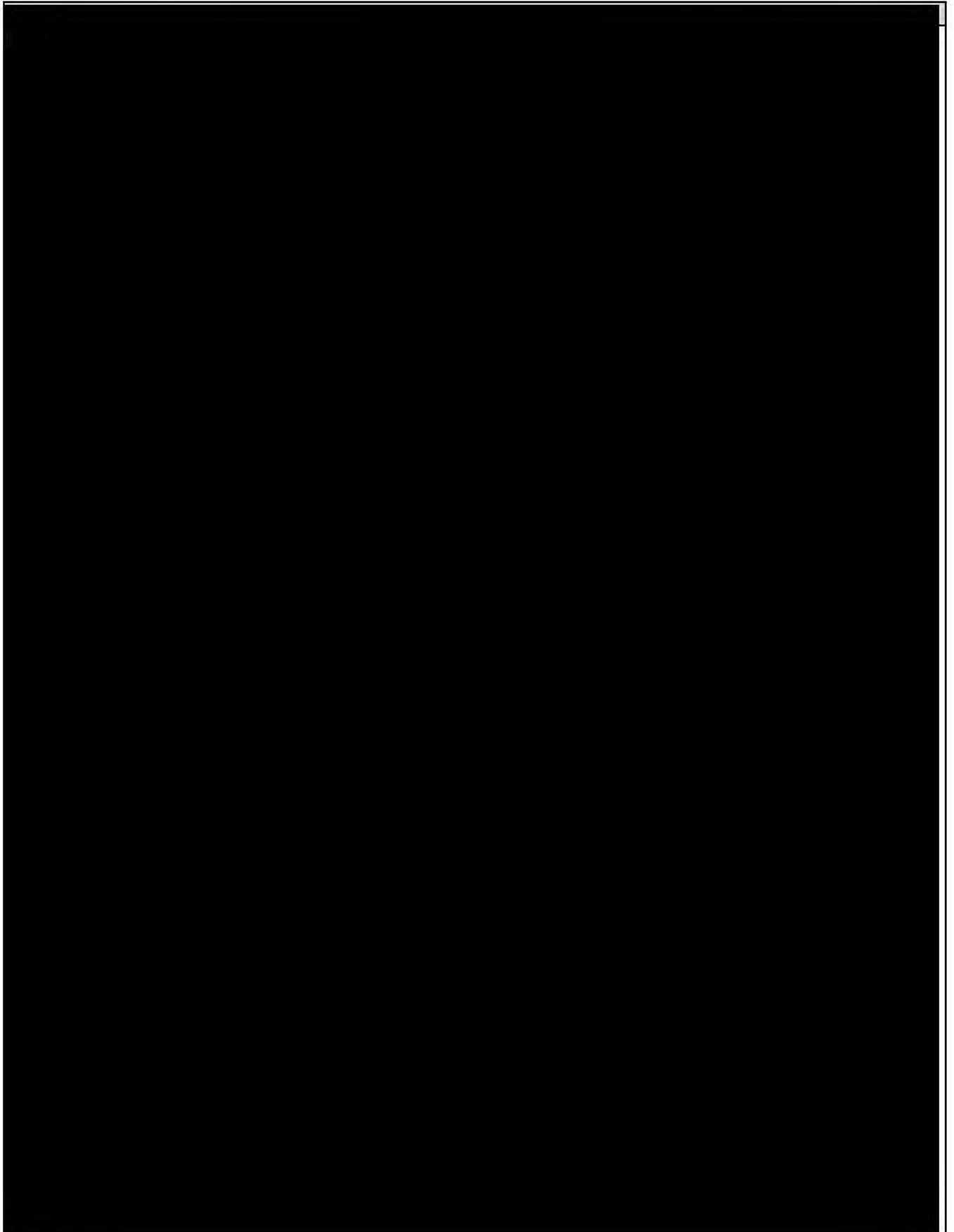
The risk of Diffuse Pollution occurring within the forest during operations is considered Medium to High. Advance site planning is therefore required to identify and implement good forestry practice measures required to minimise the risk of environmental pollution.

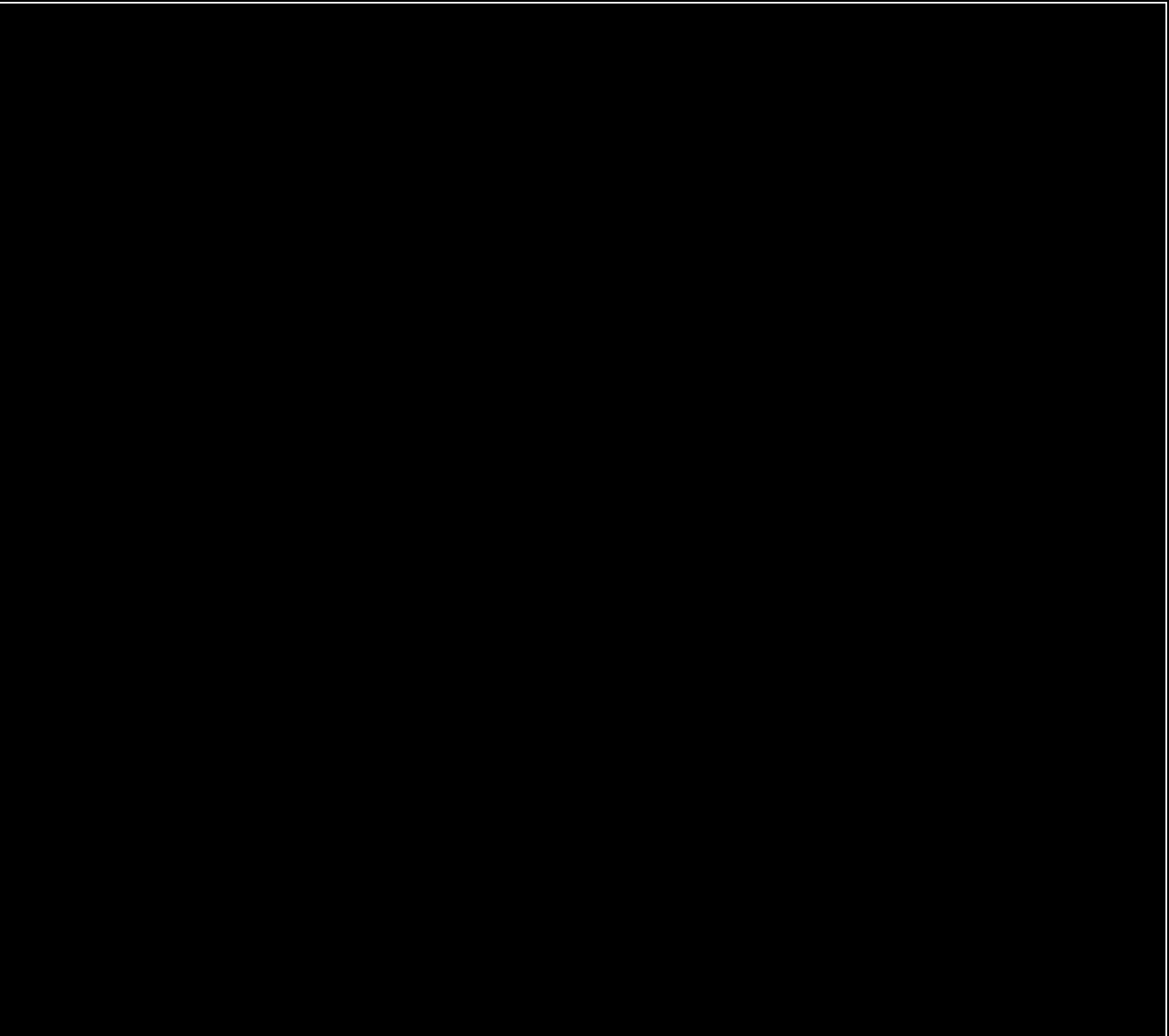
All operations will adhere to the UKFS Requirements for Forests & Water, and UKFS Guidelines on Forests & Soil, with particular reference to prevention of contamination, disturbance and erosion of soils.

Prior to operational works starting, a hazards map will be provided and a Diffuse Pollution Plan will need to be produced identifying all site sensitive features, waterbodies and high-risk areas on site. This Plan, along with the latest SEPA Know The Rules booklet, will be communicated at pre-commencement meetings to all parties working on site and agreed in advance with the landowner.

Vehicles and equipment working on site should have pollution control kits. Felling near watercourses should be carefully managed and planned for drier weather conditions where possible. The use of brush mats and sediment traps to reduce siltation of watercourses will be considered where appropriate.

Once the mature conifers around the riparian zones have been felled, the replanting design includes a 20m buffer of native broadleaf planting at either standard or low density around all major watercourses and minor tributaries, as recommended by NatureScot. This should help to preserve water quality during future forest operations, avoiding dense shading, loss of ground flora and bank erosion. It should also support suitable humid habitats of benefit to rainforest diversity i.e. bryophytes and lichens, as well as developing the habitat for wetland mammals such as Otter.





General Mitigation for Private Water Supplies

The forestry sector is required to comply with the UK Forestry Standard 5th Edition Guidelines on Forests and Water, to protect the water environment, including any private and public water supplies. The landowner, site managers and contractors are required to implement good site planning and good forestry practice measures to minimise the risk of environmental pollution.

The guidance recommends that PWS catchment areas must be afforded maximum protection from machinery damage, compaction and pollution from all forestry activities, including future operations. The guidance recommends a minimum 50m buffer (25m either side of a watercourse or tributary) is adopted during forestry works, whereby this buffer area is classed as "high risk".

[REDACTED]

Prior to operational works starting, a Diffuse Pollution Plan will need to be produced identifying all site sensitive features, waterbodies and high-risk areas on site, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This Plan will be communicated at pre-commencement meetings to all parties working on site and agreed in advance with the landowner. In addition, neighbouring residents will be notified with details of the work and approximate timings.

A.6.6 Windthrow

The Ecological Site Classification (ESCv4) indicates a DAMS exposure index ranging between 14 to 18 across the site. The lower part of the property is therefore categorised as being moderately exposed, the upper parts are considered highly exposed.

The mature timber crops are now considered to be at moderate to high risk of windthrow, particularly those at higher elevations. There is some historic windthrow within the crop, but thus far windthrow damage is limited to small pockets. It is expected that clearance of the mature conifers over the next 15-year plan period will be necessary to limit the risk of future catastrophic windthrow occurring.

A.6.7 Access, including Timber Haulage Routes

Leckuary Forest is accessed from the C38 Kilmichael Glen Road @ OS Grid Ref: NR 876 968. From the public road entrance, the landowner has a legal right of access to travel over neighbouring land for all purposes including for timber extraction. Rights extend to upgrade and construction of a new haulage road leading up the forest boundary, and the right to dig and use stone on the neighbour's land, for use on the neighbour's land only. Once fully constructed, maintenance of the road is to be shared on a per user basis.

The intention is to remove timber from the forest on wagon and drag lorries, exiting over the shared access track, and then heading South along the C38 Kilmichael Glen Road back to the A816 junction at Bridgend.

The A816 road itself is an Agreed Route for Timber Haulage, meaning there are no restrictions for timber traffic.

However, the C38 section of road is designated as a Severely Restricted Route, so to preserve this road from excessive damage, all future haulage will need to adhere to the agreed TTMP conditions. Full details of the current TTMP can be found in Appendix 4, the key conditions are as summarised below:

- 1st May to 30th September use only, avoiding use during continuous heavy rain, winter weather, frost/thaw.
- CTI equipped 3 axle wagon and drag. No super single tyre units.
- Max. 8 lorries per day, with 1 hour interval between loads. Quota to be shared between other road users.
- Max. speed 20 mph until reaching A816, reduced to 10mph near Kilmichael Glassary school.
- Vehicle movements should be restricted to periods when pedestrians are least likely to be using the road. e.g. avoid school opening/ closing/lunch times.

It is possible that other parties may be extracting over the same road at the same time, and so advance notification to Argyll & Bute Council and Argyll Timber Transport Group will be required well in advance of activities, at least 1 month in advance of haulage commencing.

Over the course of the forest plan, the intention would be to harvest the first rotation crops in 3 stages, over a 15-year period. This would bring an estimated 47,500 tonnes of timber onto the public road, split as follows:

- Phase 1: 2026 to 2030 estimated 20,500 Tonnes
- Phase 2: 2031 to 2035 estimated 15,500 Tonnes
- Phase 3: 2036 to 2040 estimated 11,500 Tonnes

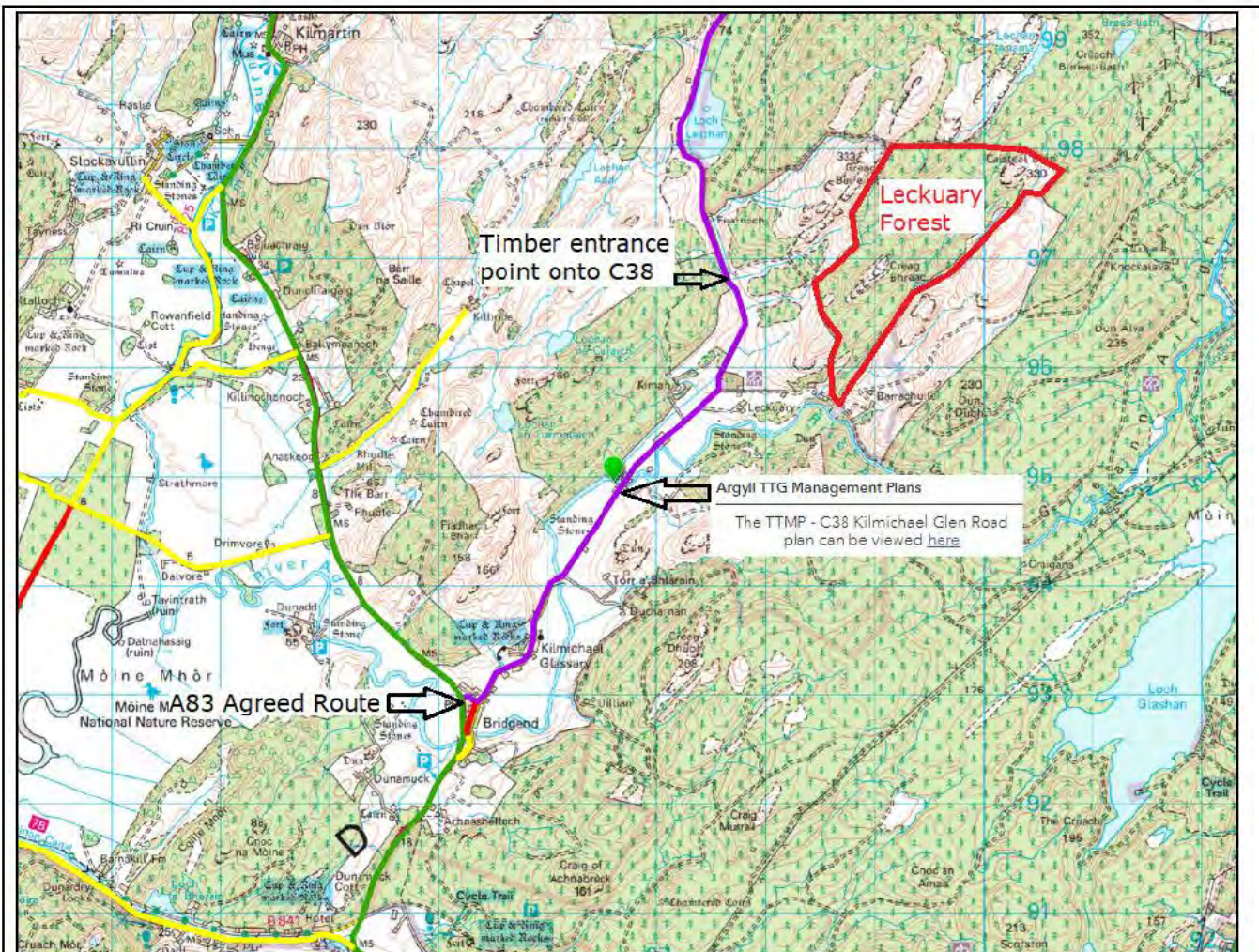


Image Source:

<https://timbertransportforum.org.uk/agreed-routes-map/introduction-to-agreed-routes-map/>

A.6.8 Public Access

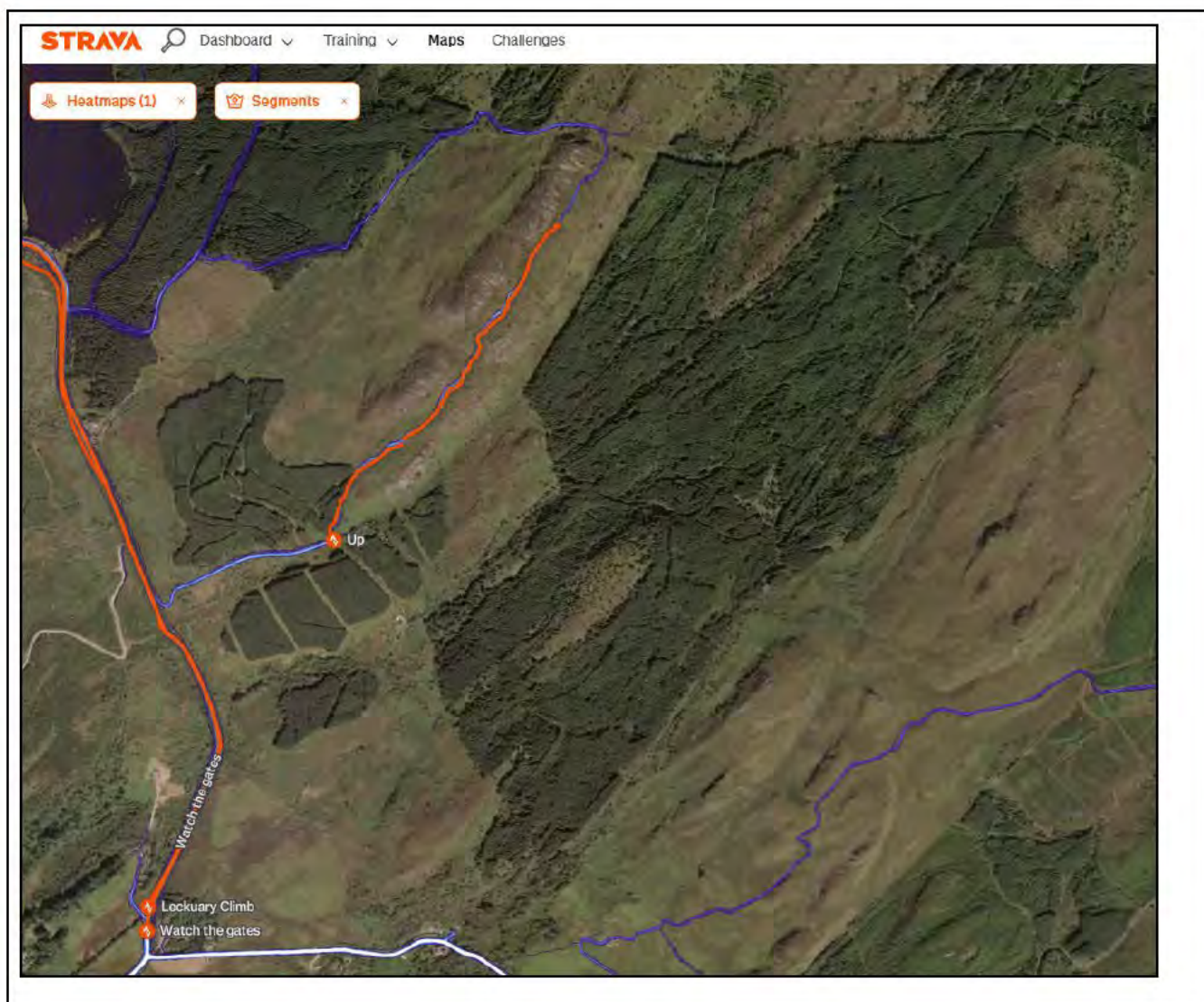
The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 establishes a statutory framework of public access rights to most land and inland water. These rights are based on the principle of responsible access, with obligations both on the access users and on the managers of the land. Guidance on these responsibilities is set out further in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Other than the above, there are no existing Public Rights of Way, Proposed Core Paths or Long-Distance Footpaths which directly affect Leckuary Forest.

The Strava Heatmap on the following page indicates a very low level of public access within the forest. This may increase slightly over time, as infrastructure and restructuring develops.

Strava does indicate an infrequently used looped route along the first section of the neighbour's track and then along an old hill path to the crags and open hill outwith the property.

Haulage along the C38 road also passes the Kilmichael Glassary School. Hauliers and contractors will be advised of this prior to starting works.



A.6.9 Historic Environment / Archaeology

Scheduled Monuments

Historic Environment Scotland have confirmed that there are no Scheduled Monuments, Category A-Listed Buildings, Inventory Gardens or Designed Landscapes located within the property boundary.

Unscheduled Monuments

WoSAS have confirmed only 1 Unscheduled feature record exists, located in an area of unplanted open ground in the NE corner of the property, as marked on Map M2.

(WoSAS PIN: 14316; <http://canmore.org.uk/site/82560>)

Caistel Duin is well distanced from any future forestry operations, and as a result, it is unlikely to be affected by any works. The open ground around it will be maintained.

WoSAS advised that the property has never been subject to a systematic programme of archaeological survey, either pre- or post-planting, so there is potential to encounter unrecorded features during future works, especially given the high number of records elsewhere in the Glen. Contractors will be advised to look for any signs of unrecorded features during their works, and to stop work immediately and contact the FWM if anything suspicious is uncovered.

A.6.10 Landscape

Landscape Description

The property sits entirely within the NatureScot Landscape Character Type 40: "Craggy Upland - Argyll", which is typically characterised by:

- Rounded knolls, rock outcrops and numerous lochs in low-lying hollows and glens
- Irregular landform, but no prominent summits
- Upland moor and heather, typically above 300m elevation
- Very large-scale mosaic of open moorland and extensive conifer plantations
- Oak-birch woodland on lower slopes
- Isolated farmsteads and small villages in sheltered sites within glens
- Stone walls enclose an irregular patchwork of pastures within glens
- Numerous archaeological remains, mostly ancient Iron Age forts or duns, often concentrated on rounded knolls on lower slopes.
- The landscape has, in the main, a wild, natural character.

Landscape Analysis

The property encompasses many of the above LCT40 characteristics and sits on the outskirts of the large-scale mosaic of upland moor and commercial conifer plantation.

There are no prominent viewpoints overlooking the forest from nearby public roads or local villages, and views into the forest edge are distant and limited. Landscape impact was not raised as an issue at any stage during consultation, and it has therefore been assessed as being Low.

The replanting design will seek to improve the Southern and Western woodland edges adjacent to the isolated dwellings, with native broadleaves. Expansion of the existing Oak/ASNW area in the lower slopes will also retain key features of the landscape character. The rocky knolls and crags will be retained, and in places replanting pulled back slightly to better expose this landform.

A.7 Woodland Description

The LTFP area comprises mostly of first rotation Sitka spruce crop, planted between 1983 to 1985. Small pockets of Lodgepole pine and Larch also exist, scattered across the property. The Larch crops remain free from *Phytophthora ramorum*, despite the disease being widespread throughout Argyll. Native broadleaf ASNW is present in Cpts 10 and 11, confined to the Southern boundary. No harvesting of the first rotation crops has been done to date.

The restructuring will start to improve the age class for the next rotation, by spreading the felling pattern over a 15-year period. The replanting design will provide more natural breaks in the future conifer planting, thus giving more scope to reduce future coupe size and increase age class in future rotations.

Table 1 – Area by Age

Map M3 shows the current Planting Years.

The Table below shows the woodland area broken down by current and future age class at Year 20.

Age class (years)	Current	Year 20
	Area (ha)	Area (ha)
0-10		34.8
11-20		98.6
21-30		
31-40	52.3	6.2
41-50	104.8	16.0
51-60		
61-70		
71-80		
81-90		
91-100		
100+		
Open ground	52.5	54.0
Total	209.6	209.6

Table 2 on the following page shows the breakdown of the current species found within the forest. Map M4 provides the location of each species.

The existing forest structure does not currently comply with the minimum % requirements set out under UKFS v5. The forest structure contains too much Sitka spruce, and it lacks in species diversity, particularly in native broadleaf woodland cover.

As the plan progresses, these items will be addressed, and by Year 10 the forest structure will be fully compliant with UKFS v5, as shown in the table at the bottom of the following page.

Table 2 - Area by species

This table shows the current and future species composition within the entire Long Term Forest Plan area.

Total Property Area: 209.6 ha
Total Ineligible Area (OG exceeding 20%): 15.5 ha
Total FMU Area considered for UKFS calculations: 194.1 ha

Species	Species Map Code	Current		Year 10		Year 20	
		Area	UKFS %	Area	UKFS %	Area	UKFS %
Sitka spruce	SS	129.7	66.8%	109.0	56.2%	100.6	51.8%
Sitka spruce/Lodgepole pine (70:30)	SS/LP	11.0	5.7%	3.2	1.7%	1.5	0.8%
Sitka spruce/Open ground (50:50)	SS/OG	7.6	3.9%	7.6	3.9%	7.6	3.9%
Sitka Spruce Total:		148.3	76.4%	119.8	61.8%	109.7	56.5%
Lodgepole pine	LP	1.6	0.8%	1.6	0.8%	1.6	0.8%
Hybrid larch	HL	1.1	0.6%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Diverse conifer (Norway spruce)	DC	0.0	0.0%	1.3	0.7%	1.3	0.7%
Other Conifers Total:		2.7	1.4%	2.9	1.5%	2.9	1.5%
Native BL Standard (1,600/Ha)	NBL	6.1	3.1%	24.9	12.8%	28.2	14.5%
Native BL Low-Density (500/Ha)	NBL LD	0.0	0.0%	8.0	4.1%	14.8	7.6%
Native Broadleaves Total:		6.1	3.1%	32.9	16.9%	43.0	22.1%
Open Ground <i>*capped at 20% of FMU</i>	OG	37.0	19.1%	38.5	19.8%	38.5	19.9%
Open Ground Total:		37.0	19.1%	38.5	19.8%	38.5	19.9%
	Totals	194.1	100.0%	194.1	100.0%	194.1	100.0%

UKFS v5 Guidelines	Meets UKFS v5 requirements	Below UKFS v5 requirements		
		Current	Year 10	Year 20
Maximum 65% Single species (SS, SS/LP, SS/OG)		76.4%	61.8%	56.5%
Minimum 10% Integrated open ground (OG)		19.1%	19.8%	19.9%
Minimum 10% Other tree species (Other Conifers, NBL & NBL LD)		4.5%	18.4%	23.7%
Minimum 5% Native broadleaved trees or shrubs (NBL & NBL LD)		3.1%	16.9%	22.1%

B. Analysis of Information

B.1 Constraints and Opportunities

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Site Factors		
Soils	Tree species selection can be limited by poor soil type, high rainfall, and exposure. Growing species that are not suited to site may increase the risk of tree stress and disease. Harvesting operations and recovery of product may be constrained in some areas by the poor soil bearing capacity. On softer ground there is a higher risk of watercourse contamination and soil compaction. Using appropriate machinery and opting for seasonal working should be considered.	Ground preparation, increased drainage and the selection of improved seed genetics should allow for an increase in yield class and timber quality in the next crop rotation. Use of Native broadleaf and secondary conifer species in the replanting design must be ecologically suited to soil type. ESCv4 and the Climatic Site Suitability Maps can be used to support this decision making.
Windthrow	High rainfall, coastal wind exposure and elevation will negatively impact long-term tree stability, particularly once timber crops reach maturity.	Felling plan can be designed to harvest trees in advance of them suffering from significant windthrow. Felling boundaries to establish green wind-firm edges. Improved ground preparation and drainage techniques should enhance the stability of future timber crops.
Age Structure	The first rotation conifer crops were all planted at the same time, between 1983 and 1985. Most of these crops are now reaching maturity at the same time, and wind exposure limits the ability to retain areas much beyond their terminal felling heights.	Restructuring with balanced felling phases over a 15-year period will create 3 clear future age classes in the next rotation. The F&LS plan timings for the neighbouring Kilmichael Forest complement our own proposals and will support age class diversity at a wider scale.
Watercourses	Conifer planting close to watercourses can cause shading and acidification, leading to poorer water quality. Potential for forest operations to cause silt movement and	Replanting design to develop the riparian corridors by introducing 20m wide buffers of NBL or NBL LD planting. Drainage systems to be improved at replanting.

	damage to the water environment.	Silt traps and settlement zones to be installed at drain ends and in sensitive areas to control water flow and potential sediment movement. All operations to adhere to SEPA guidance and Forest and the Water Guidelines 5 th Edition.
Private Water Supplies	Potential for forest operations to cause silt movement and pollute the PWS source, header tanks, and pipework.	Advance consultation with neighbours helps to identify the full extent and nature of the PWS and allows time to plan forestry operations with suitable mitigation.
Archaeology and Cultural Features		
Scheduled Monuments	No SMs are recorded within the property.	
Unscheduled Monuments	1 recorded feature is located in the NE corner of the property, at Caisteal Duin. Potential for future forestry operations to damage unrecorded sites.	Feature sits on open hill above the conifer plantation. At pre-start meetings, operatives to be made aware of the feature including the potential for discovering new findings during works.
Visual Impacts		
Extent and timing of felling coupes	Coupe sizes are formed by the presence or lack of windfirm rides/edges.	Felling pattern to be spread over multiple phases. Allowing adjacent replanted crops to reach 2m in height before felling the next phase will help to reduce landscape impacts often associated with large-scale clear-felling.
Boundaries	Some compartment boundaries have linear conifer edges.	Replanting will follow the existing natural boundaries. Where linear edges exist on visible boundaries, use of NBL or secondary conifers will 'soften' the landscape impact.
Landscape	The forest sits in an area of low landscape sensitivity, surrounded by other larger scale commercial conifer plantations. The forest is not easily visible from the C38 public road.	The forest can be managed in accordance with the existing landscape character. Restructuring the forest edges adjacent to residential dwellings will improve visual impact, even if views are only distant.

Ecology		
European Protected Species (EPS)	EPS may be present within the forest, so there is potential for unintentional disturbance during operational works.	Surveys for EPS to be done prior to timber harvesting or roading operations, per Best Practice Guidance Notes. The existing woodland can be developed to further improve habitat to support EPS.
Black Grouse	There are several leks in the residual adjacent open ground, although none have been recorded within the property boundary. There is potential for future works to cause disturbance whilst lekking. The existing Sitka spruce plantation forms a solid boundary to the moorland edge.	There are opportunities to improve the upper NW and NE woodland edge habitat to better transition from the open moorland above to the conifer forest below. This can be done by planting low density broadleaves, by increasing age class diversity, and by retaining unproductive sparsely spaced conifers.
Raptors	Local records suggest there are no recent nest sites within or close to the forest, but there remains the potential for them to be present and potentially be disturbed by operational works.	Advance consultation with the Argyll Raptor Study Group will help to determine any new nest sites and provide an opportunity to agree mitigation measures to prevent any disturbance. Pre-surveys checks to be done prior to timber harvesting or roading operations, per Best Practice Guidance Notes. Varying the age class structure can better support species such as hen harrier, who typically fly and predate over clear-fell and juvenile restock sites until thicket stage.
Invasive non-native species (INNS)	Monitoring and control on large-scale can be expensive and difficult to achieve without collaboration from neighbours.	Removing isolated colonising Rhododendron ponticum at an early stage should restrict wider spread and colonisation. NBL restocking adjacent to the ASNW will help to protect it from future conifer seed spread.
Pests & Diseases	There currently are no known Pests or Diseases within the forest.	Regular monitoring of the forest to check for pest and diseases should take place.

		Good machine cleanliness to stop the transfer of diseases into the forest. There is opportunity to restock with a greater species diversity to further promote forest resilience.
Grazing / Browsing		
Livestock	No livestock present adjacent to the property. Surrounding land use is either commercial forestry or open moorland.	No requirement for boundary fence maintenance.
Deer	Property is relatively small in scale compared to the wider peninsula, so this can limit effective control of the local deer population. Positive collaboration from neighbours would be beneficial. Browsing of restock crops by deer is likely to occur without effective control.	Construction of ATV tracks at restocking will help with deer control. Possibility to deploy more high seats. Monitoring condition of restocks and levels of browsing will help to inform the deer management strategy and to set cull targets for the deer controllers. Deer Management Plan to be produced and appended.
Rabbits/hares/voles	Tree protection measures may involve the use of plastics and can be expensive. Longer fallow periods before replanting may encourage vole populations to develop, due to an increase in vegetation cover.	Good site preparation and weed control can reduce browsing impacts. Retention of standing deadwood creates perches and good vantage points for raptors to predate on voles/other small mammals.
Social and Community		
Timber traffic	Timber traffic on internal and public roads has the potential to cause disruption to other road users.	All timber haulage will comply with 'The Code of Practice for the Haulage of Round-wood Timber'. Timber traffic along the C38 public road to comply with the agreed TTMP. EIA Determination, Prior Notification and SEPA CAR licences are required in advance of significant road construction works. This process helps to reduce the risk of adverse impacts.

Public access	Potential disruption to public access and neighbouring residents during forest operations.	Risk assessment to include erection and maintenance of appropriate warning signage during works. Installation of new roads and ATV tracks may enhance public access within the forest. Neighbouring residents to be engaged with positively and notified before operations begin.
Employment	Potential for future skills shortage in contractor labour and forest manager resource.	Employment created from increased work programmes e.g. roading, felling, restocking and maintenance. Landowner is keen to use local forest managers and local contractors.

C. Management Proposals

C.1 Felling and Restocking Prescriptions

C.1.1 Felling

Prior to each harvesting operation, site-specific risk assessments will be prepared and communicated to all personnel working on the site, to ensure environmental and cultural features are protected, and that all hazards and sensitivities are accounted for. These assessments will be conducted in line with current UKFS guidelines.

It is expected that most of the site can be accessed and safely worked using track-based machinery. There are occasional very steep banks and rocky outcrops where benchwork may be required, or trees may need to be chainsaw felled down to the harvester for processing. No cable winch work is anticipated.

Table 3 – Felling

The table below provides a breakdown of the felling phases in the context of the whole Forest Plan:

Felling Phases	Area (Ha)	% of LTFP Area
Phase 1: 2026 – 2030	55.9	26.7%
Phase 2: 2031 – 2035	44.1	21.0%
Phase 3: 2036 – 2040	35.0	16.7%
Natural Reserves	6.1	2.9%
Conifer Long-Term Retentions	16.0	7.6%
Open Ground	52.5	25.0%
Total LTFP Area	209.6	100.0%

The felling phase plan is shown on Map M5. The crops have been divided into three distinct 5-year phases. Justification for the felling design is described below.

Landscape

There are no prominent viewpoints overlooking the forest from nearby public roads or local villages, and views into the forest edge are distant. Landscape impact was not raised as an issue during consultation, and it has therefore been assessed as being Low, allowing more scope for larger felling coupes to be designed.

Neighbour Adjacency

Leckuary forest is a relatively small conifer plantation, that fits on the North-Western edge of the much larger F&LS Kilmichael Forest. The F&LS property extends to 8,790 Ha and is managed under an existing LMP approved in March 2021.

The felling and restocking designs have been shared by F&LS staff and have been useful in planning our own designs, to achieve wider landscape scale benefits and to avoid wider adjacency issues. The F&LS coupes to the North of Leckuary are not scheduled for felling until 2045 or 2050, at the earliest. These directly adjoin our planned Phase 2 coupe, due between 2031 to 2035, so there is a good age gap there.

Internal Adjacency

The UKFS guidance requires replanted crops to be 2-metres tall (typically a 5-year old crop) before the adjacent coupe can be felled.

The intention would be to harvest the Phase 1 crops early in the phase, either in 2026 or 2027, and to replant these promptly. The Phase 2 crops would then need to wait until mid-later in that Phase, to help diversify the age class.

Economic Factors

The Phase 1 coupe size is slightly larger than the other 2 phases, to generate cashflow funds to pay for the initial road infrastructure works and the first phase of replanting.

From a silvicultural perspective, the Southern end has the better soils, lower elevation and thus faster growing crops, so it naturally focuses the Phase 1 felling in this area.

C.1.2 Thinning

Due to the high DAMS score and wind exposure found across much of the forest, thinning operations are not recommended or planned.

C.1.3 LISS

A continuous cover low impact silvicultural system within conifer crops is not considered to be an appropriate management prescription in this location, largely due to its coastal exposure.

C.1.4 Long Term Retentions / Natural Reserves

6.1 Ha (2.9%) of the forest area is designated as Natural Reserve habitat. This is exclusively the area of ASNW located along the Southern edges of Cpts 10 and 11. More detail on this can be found in Section C.3.1.

The longer-term objective is to replant with native broadleaf woodland, expanding around the existing ASNW area and along riparian corridors, and to develop these areas into future Natural Reserve habitat.

16.0 Ha (7.6%) of the forest area is designated as Conifer Long Term Retention (LTR). These areas have been selected in the upper parts of the forest in Cpts 2, 3, 4 and 6 on skeletal soils which have led to the conifer crops being unproductive and sparsely stocked. The picture below is an example of LTR in Cpt 6, with the open hill to the East.



The LTR areas should benefit Protected Species such as black grouse and red squirrel by providing transitional habitat and shelter.

C.1.5 Deadwood

As restructuring of the forest takes place, deadwood habitats will become more established across the site. These will naturally form in crops that have self-thinned, also in pockets of older windblow.

Standing deadwood will be left during harvesting operations to create raptor perches to encourage them to hunt for small mammals over restock sites.

Fallen deadwood including brash residue from harvested sites will create a habitat suitable for a wide range of insects and small invertebrates. By leaving some brash material on-site, it will help to supplement the deadwood habitat.

C.1.6 Restocking Proposals / Natural Regeneration

The restock design plan is shown on Map M6. The main objective is to create a more diverse forest structure, whilst retaining the most productive, fertile parts of the site as conifer timber crops. The design considers the ecological needs of species and matches these to suitable locations depending on soil type, topography, hydrology, and climate.

The restock design includes more natural rides and breaks, particularly along riparian corridors, to allow for the future restructuring of the 2nd rotation crops to be split over smaller felling phases.

All ground preparation and drainage works will be carried out in accordance with the 'The Forests and Water Guidelines' 5th edition, by ensuring appropriate buffer areas are maintained between commercial conifer and watercourses. Trench mounding will be the preferred method of ground preparation.

Post replanting, the restock sites will be monitored for nutrient deficiency, mammal damage and general tree health. Beating up will be carried out to ensure that stocking densities across the site are achieved and maintained over the contract period.

Sitka spruce

The main species used to restock the clear-felled areas will be Sitka Spruce, a species that is highly suited to the West Coast Argyll climate and is the preferred timber producing species for the UK forest industry. The replanting design proposed will help to meet one of the client's key objectives to maximise the commercial planted area of the timber within the forest.

The Climatic Site Suitability Maps in Appendix 2 indicate the Southern half of the property to be "Very Suitable", and the Northern half of the property to be "Suitable".

Diverse conifer

The opportunity to diversify with alternative conifer species is very limited, either by poor soil type in the North and Central parts of the forest, or by proximity to the ASNW in the Southern end of the forest. The main priority for diversifying tree species in the next rotation will therefore come in the form of native woodland replanting.

Scots pine and Douglas fir are both "Unsuitable". Norway spruce is only "Suitable" in the Southern part of the property, elsewhere it is "Marginal" or "Unsuitable".

In Cpt 8, as you enter the forest gate, we have identified a South-facing free draining slope, whereby a small area of Norway spruce replanting would be appropriate. This will have positive visual impact, as well as being close to the proposed new road allowing for more effective deer control to be carried out.

The minimum stocking density for both the Sitka spruce and the Diverse conifer areas will be 2,500/Ha at Year 5.

Native broadleaves

The establishment of native broadleaf species will significantly increase over the plan period, to bring the forest in line with UKFS v5 guidance. This will be achieved through a mixture of both standard spacing and low density spacing, as described below.

The replanting with native broadleaf species will take place throughout the woodland, but mainly focussed around four key areas:

1. Along riparian corridors to maintain or improve water quality, support the development of bryophytes and lichens, and to protect the feed to the neighbouring properties Private Water Supplies.
2. Adjacent to the existing ASNW in Cpts 10 and 11, to expand this Priority Habitat and limit risk of future conifer seed dispersal into the ASNW area.
3. Along the Southern edge adjacent to residential dwellings, to provide positive visual impact, breaking up linear conifer edges.
4. Along the upper woodland edges, at lower density spacing, to provide a more robust permanent habitat of food and shelter for the local black grouse population.

Native broadleaves @ Standard spacing

Species choice will be supported by the Climatic Site Suitability Maps in Appendix 2, and ESCv4. The selection of Oak, Silver Birch and other drier ground Native Broadleaf types will be limited to the lower elevations along the Western and Southern edges only. Elsewhere on the property, these species are expected to be "Marginal" to "Unsuitable", and so will not be planted.

Native Upland Birch W4 species are showing as "Very Suitable" across most of the property, dropping down to "Suitable" in very Northern corner. The intention would be to replant with a mixture of suitable native wet woodland species such as: Hawthorn, Rowan, Common alder, Goat willow and Downy birch.

The minimum stocking density will be 1,600/Ha at Year 5.

Native broadleaves @ Low-density spacing

Feedback received from RSPB and NatureScot encouraged the creation of feathered upper woodland edges to help develop transitional habitat of low-density tree and shrub cover. This type of woodland will be established along the Eastern and North-Western upper margins and adjacent to rocky knolls.

The intention is to establish a mixture of native species that produce buds, catkins or fruits, such as Hawthorn, Rowan, Common alder, Goat willow, Downy birch and Juniper. Suitable mixtures will be based on soil types and guidance from ESCv4.

The minimum stocking density will be 500/Ha at Year 5.

Seed Provenance

It is expected the veteran trees within the ASNW in Cpts 10 and 11 will provide an excellent seed source for future natural regeneration, so this method will be adopted for the native replanting areas along the Southern boundary of Cpts 10 and 11.

Elsewhere across the site, there is a lack of suitable seed source, so these areas will be replanted, using planting stock sourced from a suitable local provenance. In Argyll, this is seed zone 106. If this seed zone is unavailable due to nursery supply shortages, a suitable alternative seed source will be selected, and Scottish Forestry will be notified in advance.

Open ground

All existing areas of open ground and rocky crags will be retained. In places, open ground will be increased to further expose rock features.

Table 4 – Restocking

This table provides information on the restocking proposals for the first 10 years of the Forest Plan.

Cpt No	Map Identifier(s)	Species	Area (ha) to be replanted
7,8,9,10,11	Map M5: Red areas	Sitka spruce	35.4
7,9,10,11	Map M5: Red areas	Native Broadleaf Standard Density	12.9
7,10,11	Map M5: Red areas	Native Broadleaf Low Density	6.7
9	Map M5: Red areas	Open ground	0.9
Total Restocking (Phase 1 area)			55.9
1,2,3,4,8	Map M5: Orange areas	Sitka spruce	35.0
8	Map M5: Orange areas	Diverse conifer: Norway spruce	1.3
1,2,3,8	Map M5: Orange areas	Native Broadleaf Standard Density	5.9
4	Map M5: Orange areas	Native Broadleaf Low Density	1.3
1,4,8	Map M5: Orange areas	Open ground	0.6
Total Restocking (Phase 2 area)			44.1

C.2 Environmental Impact Assessment and Permitted Development

C.2.1 Roading: New and Upgrades

Road infrastructure works will be required before harvesting and extraction of timber from the property can take place. These works are shown indicatively on Map M5 and will be subject to separate consents being granted in advance of works taking place.

Environmental Impact Assessment

An EIA Screening Opinion Request Form and Map showing the proposed road works has been prepared and can be found in Appendix 7. The form sets out a description of the works, sensitive areas, likely significant effects from the works, and any suitable mitigation measures to reduce the impact. The details provided within this should allow Scottish Forestry to reach a determination.

Planning Consent

In addition to the above, the latest guidance on planning consent for forest roads and tracks will also need to be applied.

Currently, this includes submitting a Prior Notification to Argyll & Bute Council covering the upgrade of the existing formation track up to the forest boundary, and the new proposed road line inside the forest.

A separate Planning Application will also need to be submitted to Argyll & Bute Council for a new bell-mouth entrance onto the C38 public road, covering all works within 25 metres of the public highway.

Planning consents will be applied for in due course.

SEPA CAR Licence

Where major water crossings need to be bridged or new culverts installed, a Controlled Activities Regulation (CAR) licence will be applied for from SEPA. Major watercourses are defined as those showing on a 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey map.

All other minor watercourses will have new culverts installed but there is no requirement to apply for a licence for these.

C.3 Biodiversity

C.3.1 Designations or Special Features

Both the Land Information Search Scotland and NatureScot SiteLink Map Viewer have been checked to confirm there are no SSSI, SPA or SAC designations present within or close to Leckuary Forest.

The Moine Mhor SAC and SSSI is located approx. 5km West of the forest, however NatureScot have confirmed our proposed works will have no significant effect on this designation and so an appropriate assessment is not required.

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)

Data from the Scottish Forestry Map Viewer indicates there to be existing Native Woodland cover at the Southern end of the property, in Cpts 10 and 11, as shown on the map below.

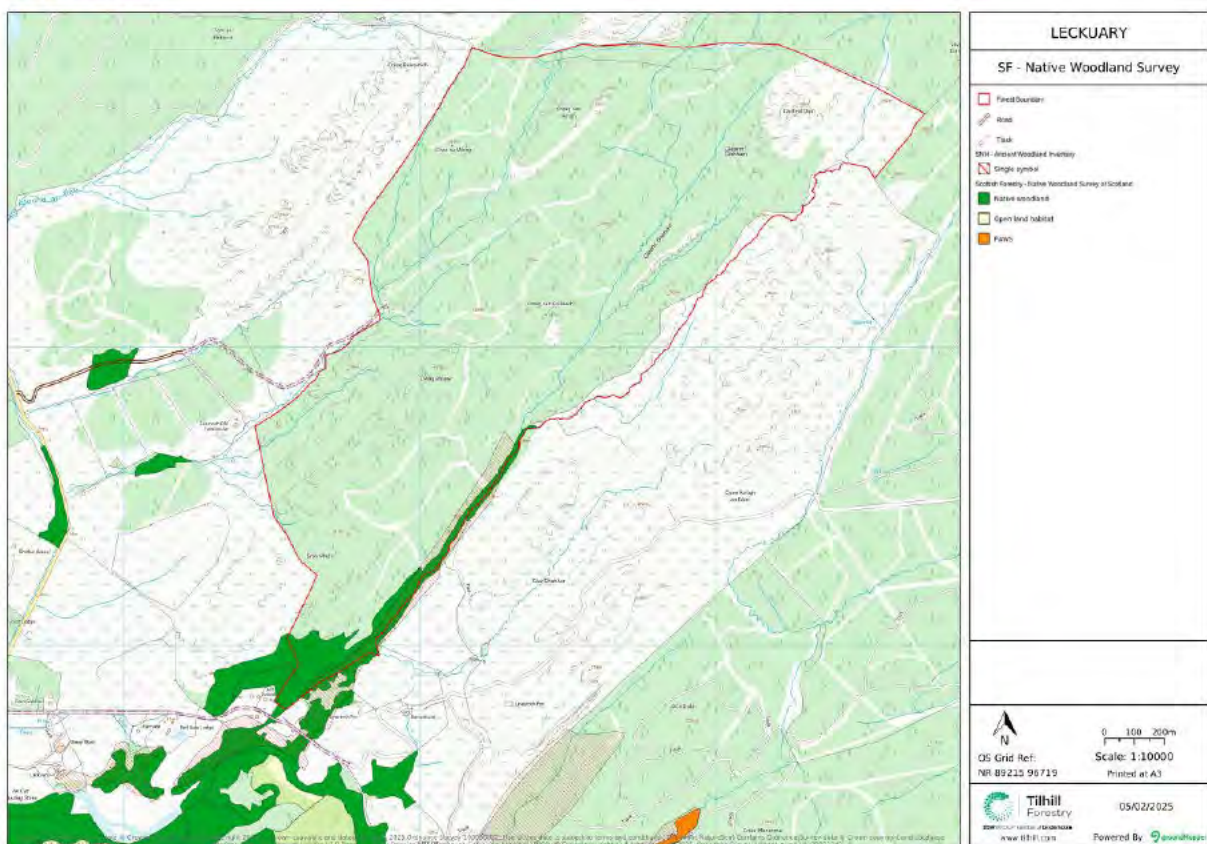


Image Source: Scottish Forestry Map Viewer

Within this area, a smaller strip of ASNO1860 exists, extending along the steep banks of the fast-flowing Gleann Gobhain Burn.

The ASNW area was last inspected in September 2024, to identify it's tree species composition and to make a general assessment of it's condition. Pictures appear on the following pages.

Species Composition

The woods contain a mixture of tree species at different ages. Primarily Oak, Rowan and Downy birch. Other minor species include Goat willow, Hazel and Holly.





Assessment of Condition

Mature veteran trees exist throughout the ASNW, these looked healthy and host a plentiful source of Lichen and Bryophyte cover. A wide variety of Ground Flora was also present.

Pockets of bracken exist on the rockier ground where the tree canopy opens up.

There was no sign of *Rhododendron ponticum*, but occasional evidence of Sitka spruce regeneration, as pictured below:



There were lots of signs of natural regeneration coming through under the canopy, mostly Oaks and Rowan. Very little sign of browsing from livestock or deer.



Suggested Action to Preserve ASNW

- A minimum 100m buffer has been established in the restock design, whereby the felled conifers within this buffer will be replaced with native broadleaves. Natural regeneration will initially be encouraged adjacent to the ASNW, supplemented by direct planting if necessary.
- Continue deer control to allow natural regen seedlings to establish.
- Within the ASNW, cut larger Sitka spruce trees and hand-pull smaller conifer seedlings. Monitor for other INNS.
- Protect Veteran broadleaves from damage during adjacent operational works.

Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)

Whilst not mapped as such on the Scottish Forestry Map Viewer, it was noted by NatureScot that the NE section of the mapped ASNW shapefile layer (marked as a line of trees on 1st edition OS maps) is afforested with non-native conifers up to the LTFP boundary and marked for phase 1 felling.

The LTFP acknowledges this to be a PAWS area, and the restock design will restore this to native woodland. A minimum 100m buffer of native woodland also extends out from the PAWS restoration area.

C.3.2 Protected Species

Consultation has taken place with Nature Scot, RSPB and the Argyll Raptor Study Group, to help identify Protected Species within or close to the forest boundary. Some species may require further mitigation to prevent disturbance during operational works, whilst others may benefit from future habitat improvements. Key species are listed below:

- **Raptors**
- **Black grouse**
- **Red throated and Black throated diver**
- **Red squirrel**
- **Otter**

Raptors Legal Protection

All wild birds, their nests, eggs and young are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

In addition, Golden eagle and White-tailed eagle are afforded the highest degree of legal protection as Schedule 1 species. An offence will be committed if any person intentionally or recklessly:

- Disturbs any Schedule 1 bird while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young;
- Disturbs dependent young of such a bird.

Golden eagle, White-tailed eagle and their nest sites are also protected year-round as a species listed on Schedule A1 and 1A. An offence will be committed if any person intentionally or recklessly:

- Takes, damages, destroys or otherwise interferes with any nest habitually used by any wild bird included in Schedule A1 at any time of year; or
- Harasses any wild bird included in Schedule 1A.

In general terms, the most sensitive period for breeding/nesting birds is between February to August, although it's acknowledged there are also some birds that fall outside of this window.

Raptors – Current Records

NatureScot advised that the LTFP area sits partly within a golden eagle territory G/LAE3 at its NE extent and within 1.7km of territory G/NK4 to the West. The Argyll Raptor Study Group have provided Tilhill with a confidential data search report, dated September 2024, confirming there are currently no known golden eagle nest sites within 1.5km buffer of the LTFP area.

The report from ARSG also identifies a Peregrine falcon nest site within the forest boundary, although last used in 2006. The risk of re-occupation is Low.

Other than the above-mentioned species, there are currently no records of breeding osprey, honey buzzard, goshawk, marsh harrier, hen harrier, red kite, white-tailed eagle, sparrowhawk, merlin, hobby, or owls within disturbance distance of the LTFP works.

Raptors – Mitigation

The measures below will be required to ensure there is no negative impact on bird species during future operational works.

- Pre-start ecological walkover surveys are needed in advance of machine-based operations.
- Renewed consultation with the Argyll Raptor Study Group is recommended before machine-based operations commence, to check for any new raptor nest sites either in the forest area or closeby.
- If raptors are found to be nesting within disturbance distance of future works, further advice will be sought from a qualified ecologist to agree suitable working zones and timings.

Raptors – Habitat Improvements

The existing forest structure at Leckuary is unlikely to provide a suitable rich prey resource, due to it's closed mature conifer canopy.

The following prescriptions will be undertaken to better support raptors:

- Retain raptor poles or small retentions during harvesting operations.
- Develop species diversity along the upper forest edges to enrich the habitat for potential prey species.
- Increase the age class structure of the forests in this location, including collaboration with neighbouring properties, to maintain hunting corridors over clear-fell and juvenile restock sites. This would particularly favour and benefit species such as Barn owl, Hen harrier and Peregrine falcon.

Black Grouse – Current Records

Black grouse are a red-listed UKBAP species and remain a species of high conservation concern in Argyll. Consultation with NatureScot and RSPB has confirmed that there are several records of black grouse leks in the residual open ground adjacent to the property, although none have been recorded inside the property boundary.

Black Grouse – Mitigation

To prevent disturbance to this species during future operational works, the following mitigation will be applied:

- If works are required between late March to late May, a lek survey should be undertaken by a suitably qualified ornithologist.
- If leks are identified in adjacent hill ground, no works are permitted within 750m of the lek location until two hours after dawn.
- Avoid erecting new deer fences near to lek sites. If required, fences to be marked to reduce black grouse collisions, which can be a significant cause of mortality.

- Avoid restocking within 200m of known lek sites to maintain good all-round visibility.

Black Grouse – Habitat Improvements

The following prescriptions will be undertaken to further support black grouse:

- Restock design includes areas of low-density broadleaf and fruit-bearing shrub species, located along the NE and NW upper forest margins and knolls, adjacent to open hill land, to provide transitional habitat, food source and shelter.
- Encourage the growth of heather and bilberry on the open hill to provide food and nesting opportunities.
- Maintain open ground around potentially lekking knolls.
- Creating a varied age-class structure within the conifer elements of the forest.

Red throated divers & Black throated divers – Current Records

NatureScot advised that Red throated and black throated divers have previously been recorded approx. 750m to the north of the LTFP boundary at Lochan Anama.

These species can be highly sensitive to disturbance.

Red throated divers & Black throated divers – Mitigation

Ecologist advice is the 750m buffer from the edge of Lochan Anama to the Northern LTFP boundary will be sufficient to prevent disturbance. The existing tree cover and rocky landform will provide an effective screen from any works taking place in the Northern area of the LTFP. No further mitigation is proposed.

European Protected Species – Current Records

NatureScot advised that other protected species such as Red squirrel and Otter may also be present in or close to the woodland. No positive sightings have been made during previous forest manager inspections.

European Protected Species – Mitigation

All operational works will be carried out in accordance with FCS Guidance Note 33 (Red squirrel) and 35c (Otters).

Before machine-based works commence in the property, pre-start walkover checks will be done. Contractors will also be briefed to look out for signs of dreys, and de-seeded cones on the ground, supported by Tilhill's Toolbox Talk Guide.

European Protected Species – Habitat Improvements

Mature broadleaves and conifer retentions will benefit the local Red Squirrel population by providing both shelter and a food source.

To create a successful core habitat for red squirrel, there must be a range of tree species and a diverse age structure to provide a dependable seasonal and year-to-year supply. The main diet is tree seeds, but they will also eat buds, shoots, tree flowers and fungi. The table below shows the varying seed availability across the season:

Tree species	Age to first good crop (years)	Average interval between good seed crops (years)	Seed available to squirrels*
Scots pine	20-25	2-5	June – late spring (Two-year seed maturation cycle)
Lodgepole pine	20-25	2-3	July – late spring (Two-year seed maturation cycle)
Sitka spruce	30-35	3-5	August to January
Norway spruce	30-35	3-11	August to late spring; in years of mast crops seed available for > 12 months
Larch	20-25	3-5	July – following spring (Important food plant in years of low pine and spruce seed crops)
Douglas Fir	30-35	4-7	September onwards

*Approximate estimates, precise period will vary with overall seed crop size and weather.

C.4 Deer Management Plan

Please refer to the Deer Management Plan in Appendix 8.

C.4.3 Fence Maintenance

There is no livestock grazing on fields adjoining the property. The adjacent properties are either commercial forestry plantations or open ungrazed moorland. Thus, there is no requirement to maintain the old stock fences.

C.4.4 Tree Protection

The more vulnerable diverse conifer and native broadleaf species will be protected primarily through targeted deer control.

The use of Trico deer protection spray has been successful on other sites locally and may be used to protect soft conifer species, where deemed appropriate. For broadleaf protection, the use of tree shelters is likely to be more effective.

Physical barriers such as deer fencing is not deemed necessary due to the irregular shapes included in the restocking design.

If new deer fences need to be erected, the perimeters will be marked with wooden batons or bamboo canes in line with Best Practice guidance to minimise the risk of bird strike, given the presence of black grouse leks in the wider vicinity.

If tree shelters and stakes are used on the native broadleaf replanting, the use of recyclable or reusable materials will be considered.

C.4.5 Tree Health

Over the past decade there has been an increased spread of the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum* across the UK, and particularly in wetter western regions such as Argyll. Under current guidance, Leckuary Forest falls within the Risk Reduction Zone for this species. To date, no SPHN's have been issued on the property.

Other pests and diseases that can harm tree species present include *Ips typographus* and *Ips cembrae*, the latter being found more recently in Cork, Ireland. This has led to Argyll losing its Pest Free Area trading status, so log exports to Ireland have ceased.

[Conifer timber exports to Ireland from parts of Scotland halted | Forestry Journal](#)

In a wider UK context, plant health issues are becoming increasingly common and have the potential to affect a range of softer conifers/shrub species.

A list of current threats can be found on the following link:

<https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/tree-health/tree-pests-and-diseases>

Forest managers will remain vigilant and check for the presence and symptoms of disease and pests during forest visits. Any findings will be reported to the Scottish Forestry Tree Health team.

C.4.6 Invasive non-native species

Currently there is little sign of *Rhododendron ponticum* within the forest.

As detailed in Section C.3.1, there are some signs of Sitka spruce regeneration starting to establish within the ASNW area, and this will need to be targeted with cutting and manual removal works in the coming years, followed by regular monitoring.

Options for control will be reviewed with the landowner, with remedial costs presented in annual budgets for agreement.

It is also noted that conifer regeneration exists sporadically within the mapped areas of open ground. Whilst this provides useful habitat for black grouse, it is important to retain the integrity of the open ground and prevent it exceeding the 20% canopy cover and becoming woodland.

To ensure this happens, a programme of monitoring will be required. This will be assessed at 5 Year intervals, and if necessary, excess regen will be removed by chainsaw, hand pulling or chemical spraying. The objective being to maintain the status quo, rather than full eradication of the conifer regeneration, as we still wish to retain key habitat benefits for black grouse and other raptor species.

C.5 Assurance Management

C.5.1 Waste Management

Waste materials accumulated on site will be removed by a nominated person holding a waste carrier's licence and disposed of in the correct and safe manner. A Waste Transfer Note will be kept on file as proof of responsible disposal.

This will keep the forest clear and tidy of unwanted waste and protect the natural environment.

C.5.2 Redundant Materials

Materials that become redundant include plastic tree shelters or temporary deer fencing placed around vulnerable tree species to protect them from deer browsing damage. These will typically need to be removed approx. 15 years after planting, or once the trees become fully established.

There are currently no redundant materials found on the property.
The table below will be updated as materials are used.

Description	Location	Quantity (approx.)	Estimated Year Redundant/Replace

C.6 Tolerance Table

	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* ***
FC 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 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

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 Scottish Forestry, where the location is defined as 'sensitive' within the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

*** Tolerance subject to an overriding maximum of 20% designed open ground.

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

D. Appendices

Item number	Title
Appendix	
A1	Scoping Report
A2	Climatic Site Suitability Maps: SS, NS, DF, NBL W4, NBL W11-W17
A3a, A3b	Gleann Gobhain Burn PWS & Loch Glashan Hydro Pipe In-takes: Survey Notes & Map
A4	Timber Traffic Management Plan (TTMP): C38 Kilmichael Glen Road
A5	NatureScot LCT040 - Craggy Upland - Argyll
A6	Production Forecast – Phase 1 & 2
A7	EIA Screening Opinion Request Form: Road Works
A8	Deer Management Plan
Maps	
M1	Location Plan
M2	Hazards & Constraints
M3	Planting Years
M4	Current Species (2026)
M5	Felling Phases (20 Years)
M6	Restock Species Design (20 Years)