Forestry and Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

West Region

Ormaig and Salachry

Land Management Plan

Plan Reference No:

Plan Approval Date:

Plan Expiry Date:

We manage Scotland's National Forest Estate to the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard – the standard endorsed in the UK by the international Forest Stewardship Council® and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. We are independently audited.

Our land management plans bring together key information, enable us to evaluate options and plan responsibly for the future. We welcome comments on these plans at any time.

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FORESTRY AND LAND SCOTLAND
Application for Land Management Plan Approvals in Scotland

Forestry and Land Scotland - Property

Region:	West
Woodland or property name:	Ormaig & Salachry
Nearest town, village or locality:	Kilmartin, Lochgilphead
OS Grid reference:	NM 818 012 & NM 850 046 (centre of both forest blocks)
Local Authority district/unitary Authority:	Argyll & Bute

Areas for Approval	*Conifer Ha*	*Broadleaf*	*Open Space*	*Other Land*	*Peatland Restoration*
Clear felling	*16.75*				
Restocking (including legacy RS)	*7.71*	*7.6*			
Selective Fell (CCF)					
Natural Regeneration		*1.3*			
Thinning		*20.14*			

Note: restock includes areas felled under previous Plan

1. I apply for **Land Management Plan** approval for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Plan.
2. * I apply for an opinion under the terms of the **"The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017" for road building /quarries /afforestation /deforestation** as detailed in my application.
3. I confirm that the initial scoping of the plan was carried out with FLS and SF staff on 22-04-2024.
4. I confirm that the proposals contained in this plan comply with the UK Forestry Standard.
5. I confirm that the scoping, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders which the SF agreed must be included.
6. I confirm that agreement has been reached with all of the stakeholders over the content of the forest plan and that there are no outstanding issues to be addressed. Copies of consultee endorsements of the plan are attached.
7. I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed …… Regional Manager

Signed …… Conservator

Region: West

Conservancy:

Date :

Date of Approval: ……

Date approval ends: ……

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ORMAIG AND SALACHRY 1
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PLAN APPROVAL DATE: 1
PLAN EXPIRY DATE: 1
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1 Regulatory Requirements

1.1 Summary of Proposals

The Ormaig and Salachry Land Management Plan (LMP) covers a total of 944Ha, incorporating two forest blocks;

- Ormaig ~ 737Ha
- Salachry ~ 207Ha

Map 1 (Map 1- Ormaig & Salachry Location and Viewpoints) shows the location of Ormaig and Salachry Land Management Plan area with the two forest blocks. The viewpoint locations are the positions of the viewpoints used to show visualisations as to how the forest will change over the LMP.

The plan area is located on the west coast of Mid Argyll in Argyll & Bute local authority, neighbouring the village of Kilmartin. The Oban to Lochgilphead A816 road runs through the LMP area, splitting the Salachry forest block. The forests lie within a prominent area of landscape, Knapdale/Melfort, designated by the local authority as a Local Landscape Area. Loch Craignish is situated to the west of Ormaig forest block, thus being very visible in the landscape from the water and the peninsula of Craignish and Ardfern village to the west. The adjoining land is that of open hill and farmland, as well as new woodland creation and a quarry. Both forest blocks lie on the periphery of Kilmartin Glen, an area rich in archaeology, with Ormaig in particular holding a large number of archaeological sites. The two forest blocks are associated not only by their geographic proximity to each other but also by their similar attributes, such as their climate, topography, soils, age, infrastructure and community connection.

The forest blocks contain a mixture of productive conifers and mixed broadleaf woodland. The area is rich in flora and fauna, including priority species and habitats. Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS) are present along the shore edge in Ormaig Forest, with the area forming part of the Craignish Peninsula Atlantic Rainforest.

Ormaig Forest block is popular with local communities as well as visiting tourists, due to the heritage features, forest road network, old drove roads and proximity to Kilmartin Village and other local visitor sites.

Objectives

- Maintain sustainable quality timber production.
- Plan and construct cost effective access to inaccessible crops and for establishment success.
- Develop a programme to remove most larch in phase 1 or phase 2 if phase 1 not feasible.
- Protect, connect and enhance the Ancient Woodland Site (AWS).
- Protect and enhance the Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and heritage features.
- Restore and maintain areas of bog/wetland habitat, and other priority/protected species & habitats.
- Provide scope and opportunity for potential increased recreational use by local communities and tourists, as well as enable/compliment the community action plans.
- Provide opportunity for appropriate and well managed and integration with neighbouring land owners.
- Ensure that coupes are well scaled and shaped and roads sited to relate to landscape character and scenic quality. Scale, shape and plan coupes to maximise cost efficiencies for felling and access provision and re-establishment effectiveness.
- Protect current and new infrastructure in plan area- access rights for third parties, A816, WLATHR, forest roads, tracks, core paths etc.

Summaries of Management Proposals

The felling proposals in the first twenty years of the plan are summarised below:

Felling	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Area in ha	16.3	13.51	83.5	74.2
% of area (not including other land)	1.7	1.4	8.8	7.9
Volume (m3)	1376	2914		

The species composition over the first twenty years is as follows:

Species Group	Current – 2025		Year 10 – 2035		Year 20 – 2045	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
Sitka Spruce	445.9	55.66	410.5	51.24	374.1	46.68
Norway Spruce	24.1	3.01	23.8	2.97	32.6	4.07
Larches	17.8	2.22	13.9	1.73	6.9	0.86
Native Scots pine	2.8	0.35	2.8	0.35	8.9	1.11
Other Pines	3.2	0.40	3.2	0.40	3.2	0.40
Other Conifers	19.4	2.42	20.9	2.61	46.7	5.83
Native Broadleaves	113.3	14.14	129.2	16.13	139.5	17.41
Internal Open Space*	174.58	21.79	196.88	24.57	189.5	23.65
Forested Area Total**	**801.08**	**100.00**	**801.18**	**100.00**	**801.4**	**100.00**
Open Hill	122.9	13.02	129.5	13.72	129.5	13.72
Agriculture	6.7	0.71	0	0.00	0	0.00
Restored Peatlands	7.72	0.82	7.72	0.82	7.72	0.82
Open water	5.6	0.59	5.6	0.97	5.6	0.59
Open Habitat Total	142.92	15.14	142.82	15.51	142.82	15.13
LMP area Total	**944**		**944**		**944**	

* Included unplanted land & streamsides, archaeology, deer glades, linear features, recreational areas & quarries
** % is of Forested area, not Total area

The age class composition over the first twenty years is as follows:

Age Class	Current – 2025		Year 10 – 2035		Year 20 – 2045	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
0 – 10 yrs	128.5	13.61	31.2	3.31	129.6	13.73
11 – 20yrs	298.2	31.59	125.1	13.25	29.2	3.09

Age Class	Current – 2025		Year 10 – 2035		Year 20 – 2045	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
21 – 40 yrs	133.3	14.12	388.7	41.18	375	39.72
40 – 60yrs	8.7	0.92	0.1	0.01	27.9	2.96
60+ yrs	57.7	6.11	59.1	6.26	50	5.30
Total	**626.4**	**66**	**604.2**	**64**	**611.7**	**65**

Productive Forest Area Statement

PHASE 1

FELLING AREA	*ha*	*ESTABLISHMENT AREA*	*ha*
Conifer	7.35	Conifer	2.89
Open Space	7.5	Open Space (including Peatland)	8.48
Broadleaves	1.4	Broadleaves – NR	0.54
		Broadleaves – native planting	4.34
		Broadleaves – non-native planting	0
TOTAL	**16.25**	**TOTAL**	**16.25**

PHASE 2

FELLING AREA	*ha*	*ESTABLISHMENT AREA*	*ha*
Conifer	9.4	Conifer	4.82
Open Space	3.2	Open Space	5.01
Broadleaves	0.9	Broadleaves – NR	0.51
		Broadleaves – native planting	3.17
		Broadleaves – non-native planting	0
TOTAL	**13.5**	**TOTAL**	**13.5**

UKWAS Summary for year 50

Description	% of LMP Area[1]
Total current woodland area	83.3
Natural Reserves – Plantation	0
Natural Reserves – Semi Natural	32.2
Long Term Retention, LISS, Minimum Intervention	15.1
Area of Conservation value: designations, AW	20.1
Planned Open/Other	18.6

Notes

1. The % will total more than 100% as the species and management categories overlap.

Planned Roading Operations

Planned operations 10 year plan period
Road Construction Phase 1- None Road Construction Phase 2- None

There are no planned new roads in the LMP period.

Any forwarder/ATV tracks to be constructed will also require local authority Prior Notification (PN) approval and will be submitted to the local authority.

Any unexpired PN's and EIAs are listed in Appendix VIII.

1.2 Activity Summary

1.	2.	3.	1.1 Table of Clearfelling (Phase 1 and 2)									
Coupe No.	**Total Area (Ha)**	**Volume (m3)**	**Spp by Ha (SS)**	**Spp by Ha (SP)**	**Spp by Ha (LP)**	**Spp by Ha (NS)**	**Spp by Ha (Larch)**	**Spp by Ha (MC)**	**Spp by Ha (BL)**	**Open Land by Ha**	**Restock Year**	**Monitoring Comments**
08126	12.7	1099	1.9				3.4	1	1.4	5	2027	* NBL won't be felled unless for resilience
08146	1.15	0	0.15							1	2027	* NBL won't be felled unless for resilience
08001	2.4	277					0.9			1.5	2027	* NBL won't be felled unless for resilience
Totals	**16.25**	**1376**	**2.05**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4.3**	**1**	**1.4**	**7.5**		

1.3 Table of CCF Felling (Phase 1)											
Coupe No.	**Total Area (Ha)**	**Volume (M3)**	**Spp by Ha (SS)**	**Spp by HA (SP)**	**Spp by Ha (LP)**	**Spp by Ha (NS)**	**Spp by Ha (MC)**	**SPP by HA (MBL)**	**Open Land by HA**	**Silv. Method**	**Monitoring Comments**

1.5 Table of Thinning (Phase 1 & 2)							
Coupe No.		**Species**	**Thin-able Area (Ha)**	**Prescription for Thinning**		**Final Vol/Ha Removed**	**Monitoring Comments**

1.5 Table of Thinning (Phase 1 & 2)							
	Total Area (Ha)				**Final Thinned Area (Ha)**		
08042	20.14	1.2Ha SS 0.3Ha SP 1.2HA MC 10Ha MB					

1.6 Table of Total Felling for Approved Plan Period											
Method	**Total Area (Ha)**	**Total Volume (M^3)**	**Spp by Ha (SS)**	**Spp by Ha (SP)**	**Spp by Ha (LP)**	**Spp by Ha (NS)**	**Spp by Ha (Larch)**	**Spp by Ha (MC)**	**Spp by Ha (MBL)**	**Open Land by Ha**	**Comments**
Clearfell	**29.76**	**4290**	**11.05**				**4.7**	**1**	**2.3**	**10.7**	*** NBL won't be felled unless for resilience**
Thinning	**20.14**		**1.2**					**1.2**	**10**	**7.4**	*** NBL won't be felled unless for resilience**
CCF											
				Grand total of Felled Timber Proposed for Plan Period							

1.7 Table of Restocking – including incomplete RS from previous plan												
Coupe No.	**Total Area (Ha)**	**SS (Ha)**	**LP (Ha)**	**SP (Ha)**	**NS (Ha)**	**Other Con. (Ha)**	**Native Mixed B/Leaf**	**Other B/Leaf**	**Open (Ha)**	**Year**	**Restock Method & Density (Restock/Nat Regen/Alt Area/Coppice/Open)**	**Monitoring Comments (Including any reason not to restock)**
Phase 1												
08126	12.7					2.89	4.34		5.47	2027	planted	
08146	1.15						0.2		0.95	2027	planted	
08001	2.4						0.34		2.06	2027	BL nat regen	
Totals	**16.25**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2.89**	**4.88**	**0**	**8.48**			
Phase 2												
08929	5.42						3.17		2.25	2030	planted	
07008	8.09					4.82	0.51		2.76	2030	planted	
Totals	**13.51**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4.82**	**3.68**	**0**	**5.01**			
From previous LMP												
08101	32.5			5.26	12.55		8.45		6.24	2025	planted. BL nat regen	
08119	36.19			4.12			16.07		16	2025	planted. BL nat regen	
07013	11.27	9							2.25	2025	planted	
Total	**79.96**	**9**	**0**	**9.38**	**12.55**	**0**	**24.52**	**0**	**24.49**			

1.7 Table of Restocking – including incomplete RS from previous plan												
Nat regen from previous LMP												
08103	25.4						16		9.4		BL nat regen	Saplings present. Need for enrichment planting with protection, poss fencing.
08130	9.87					2.3	5.86		1.71		BL nat regen	
Total	**35.27**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2.3**	**21.86**	**0**	**11.11**			

1.8 Table of New Planting												
Coupe No.	**Total Area (Ha)**	**SS (Ha)**	**LP (Ha)**	**SP (Ha)**	**NS (Ha)**	**Other Con. (Ha)**	**Native Mixed B/Leaf**	**Other MBL**	**Open (Ha)**	**Year**	**Planting Method & Density (Planting/Nat Regen)**	**Monitoring Comments**

1.9 Table of Civil Engineering				
Proposed Activity (Road/Quarry)	**OS Grid Reference**	**Forest/Coupe**	**Description (Length/Area/Construction)**	**Monitoring Comments**

1.10 Table of Other Projects				
Proposed Activity	**OS Grid Reference**	**Forest/Coupe**	**Description**	**Monitoring Comments**

1.10 Table of Other Projects				
			(Length/Area/Construction)	
ATV Tracks	Operational coupes as required			
Environment works	Scheduled Monuments (SMs)		Clearance works of regen.	
Environment works		08042	Removal of non-native conifer	

1.3 EIA Screening Determination

None in LMP period.

1.4 Other Regulations

Standards and guidance

This land management plan has been produced in accordance with a range of government and industry standards and guidance as well as recent research outputs including those below:

“Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032” (Scottish Government)

“Protecting private water supplies during forestry activities” (Confor); this includes observing the UKFS 50m buffer around abstraction points.

“River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021 – 2027” (SEPA)

“Deadwood Management Guidance” (FLS) - supplement to Scottish Forestry Practice Guide: ”Managing deadwood in forest and woodlands”.

“Managing forest operations to protect the water environment” (Forest Research Practice Guide)

“Building wildfire resilience into forest management planning” (FC Practice Guide).

“Strategic guide for the conservation management of open habitats on Scotland’s national forest estate.” (FLS)

“The state of Scotland’s rainforest – research report 2019.”

“Deciding Future Management Options for Afforested Deep Peatland” (FCS Practice Guide 2015)

“Planting and restocking on peat soils” (Standard Operating Procedure, FLS 2021)

“PAWS Guidance” (FLS)

“An approach to prioritising control of rhododendron” (FLS)

“Managing and controlling invasive rhododendron” (FC Practice Guide 017)

“Managing invasive and non-native forestry species” (FCS)

"Priorities for rhododendron control" (FLS)

"Deadwood Guidance" (FLS)

"Forest operations and wildlife in Scottish Forests" (FCS Guidance Notes 31)

"Forest operations and birds in Scottish Forests" (FCS Guidance Notes 32)

"Forest operations and European protected species in Scottish Forests" (FCS Guidance Note34)

"Forest operations and bats in Scotland" (FCS Guidance Notes 35a)

"Forest operations and otters in Scotland" (FCS Guidance Notes 35c)

"Managing forests for white-tailed eagles" (FCS Practice Notes 101)

"Forest operations and badger setts" (FCS Practice Guide 9)

UK Forestry Standard: including Section 6.7 – Forests and Water Guidelines and section: 6.2 – Forests and Climate Change (mitigation and adaptation to improve forest resilience, including risks from wildfire.)

A full list of these standards and guidance can be found here:
https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning

Other Tree Felling in Exceptional Circumstances

FLS will normally seek to map and identify all planned tree felling in advance through the LMP process. However, there are some circumstances requiring small scale tree felling where this may not be possible and where it may be impractical to apply for a separate felling permission due to the risks or impacts in delaying the felling.

Felling permission is therefore sought for the LMP approval period to cover the following circumstances.

Individual trees, rows of trees or small groups of trees that are impacting on important infrastructure (as defined below*), either because they are now encroaching on or have been destabilised or made unsafe by wind, physical damage or impeded drainage.

* Infrastructure includes forest roads, footpaths, access (Vehicle, cycle, horse walking) routes, buildings, utilities, services and drains.

The maximum volume of felling in exceptional circumstances covered by this approval is 75 cubic metres per Land Management Plan per calendar year. A record of the volume felled in this way is detailed below and will be considered during the five year Land Management Plan review.

Table of Other Felling				
Date	**Coupe/Area**	**OS NGR**	**Volume**	**Comments**

1.5 Tolerance Table

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of restocking	Changes to species	Changes to road lines	Designed Open Ground	Wind blow clearance
Scottish Forestry Approval not normally required (record and notify SF)	10% of coupe size	Up to 5 planting seasons after felling (allowing for fallow periods for Hylobius)	Change within species group e.g. Native broadleaves Non-native conifers e.g Sitka spruce to Douglas fir Non-native to native species (allowing for changes to facilitate Ancient Woodland policy) For Caledonian pine woodland – SP to native BL to allow for disease issues	Departures of up to 60m from the centre of the roadline	Increase by up to 5% of coupe area	
Approval by exchange of emails and maps	10-15% of coupe size	5 years +	Change of coupe objective likely to be consistent with current policy e.g. from productive to open, open to native species	Departures of greater than 60m from the centre of the roadline	Increase between 5-10% coupe area. Any reduction in open ground within coupe area	Up to 5 ha
Approval by formal plan amendment may be required	> 15% of coupe size		Major change of objective likely to be contrary to policy e.g. native to non-native species, open to non-native	As above, depending on sensitivity	Increase >10% of coupe area	More than 5 ha

2 LMP ANALYSIS

2.1 Introduction

The Ormaig and Salachry Land Management Plan (LMP) covers a total of 944Ha, incorporating two forest blocks;

- Ormaig ~ 737Ha
- Salachry ~ 207Ha

The LMP area is located on the west coast of Mid Argyll, in Argyll & Bute local authority. The Oban to Lochgilphead A816 road runs through the LMP area, running parallel to Ormaig Forest and splitting the Salachry block. The forests lie within a prominent area of landscape, with Loch Craignish situated to the west of Ormaig forest block and the village of Kilmartin to the east. Ormaig is therefore very visible in the landscape from the water and the peninsula of Craignish and Ardfern village to the west, and from Kilmartin village to the east. The adjoining land is that of open hill and farmland, as well as new woodland creation and a quarry. Both forest blocks lie on the periphery of Kilmartin Glen, with Ormaig very rich in archaeology and history.

The western slopes of Ormaig are Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS) and fall within the Atlantic Rainforest area of Craignish. There are very productive areas for conifer within the forest blocks, but these are mixed with flat plateaus of potential peatland habitats, riparian areas along watercourses, heritage (including Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and slopes with rocky outcrops.

See Appendix III for further background information on Ormaig and Salachry.

Landscape

The forest blocks of Ormaig and Salachry sit within Argyll & Bute Councils local landscape are of Knapdale/Melfort. It is a very visual prominent landscape. They are within “Upland Parallel Ridges” of the Landscape Character Assessment classifications.

See Map 2 (Map 2- Ormaig and Salachry Landscape Character Assessment) and appendix XI for further information on the landscape.

The adjoining land to the south of Ormaig is open hill habitats on the upper slopes with establishing broadleaves on the slope facing Kilmartin. To access Ormaig you pass Kilmartin Quarry and then

farmland. There is open hill/farmland to the north east of Ormaig, with the open hill/steep slopes of Creag nam Fitheach to the northern boundary.

There are private forests to the north-west of Salachry Forest and the south-west, with private farmland adjoining to the north-east and south-east. To the east of Salachry Forest lies Torran, an FLS acquisition with proposals submitted to Scottish Forestry (SF) for native woodland creation, mixed with open hilltops, and priority habitats. The A816 splits Salachry Forest block in two, with the West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route (WLATHR) running through the eastern section of Salachry.

2.2 Plan Objectives

- Maintain sustainable quality timber production.
- Develop a programme to remove mature larch in phase 1 or phase 2 if phase 1 not feasible.
- Protect, connect and enhance the Ancient Woodland Site (AWS) and Atlantic Rainforest.
- Protect and enhance the Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and heritage features.
- Provide scope and opportunity for potential increased recreational use by local communities and tourists, as well as enable/compliment the community action plans.
- Provide opportunity for appropriate and well managed and integration with neighbouring land owners.
- Protect current and new infrastructure in plan area- access rights for third parties, A816, WLATHR, forest roads, tracks, core paths etc.

Key challenges

- Larch access on steep slopes and designated features.
- Resilience in the face of Climate Change
- Establishment of broadleaves and soft conifer species due to herbivore impact.

2.3 Analysis and concept

Map 3 (Map 3- Ormaig and Salachry Issues and Constraints) shows the main factors for the plan area which have influenced the development of design and long term vision and proposals for the LMP area.

Map 4 (Map 4- Ormaig and Salachry Issues and Opportunities) identifies the key areas to be focused on in this LMP period.

The table below highlights some key landscape scale/block scale objectives with their opportunities and constraints, and how the concept was developed.

Objective	Opportunity	Constraint	Concept
Maintain a sustainable quality timber production.	Sitka spruce is well suited to large areas of both forest blocks, and capable of producing a commercial crop on a short rotation. A wider range of species choice is available for lower & sheltered slopes which have better soils and less exposure. Climate change may expand the range of some species and enhance site conditions. This could facilitate a wider range of potential species with higher growth rates. Carbon sequestration and the creation of wood products contribute to climate change mitigation.	Increased risk of climatic and disease impacts (Larch) which may affect trees in the ground and restocking species choices. ESC modelling indicates declining range of suitable species for the site under present climate models using generic soil data. Storm events of increasing intensity would limit the rotation length. Range of fast growing species is limited.	Utilise species best suited to the site while increasing species diversity on the better lower/sheltered slopes. Areas of poor growth have been identified on the upper slopes and have been selected as areas where deep peat restoration is feasible. Build on the age class diversity already achieved as this is a key element in building a resilient forest where species choice is limited. Follow latest research guidance in relation to species choice and best practice. In Ormaig aim for productive use of most of the middle forest area, with

Objective	Opportunity	Constraint	Concept
			species diversity around the edge/less exposed areas, and select species with high growth rates. Broadleaves will be used on Loch Craignish slope edge, riparian zones and to provide a buffer around heritage features. In Salachry aim for productive forestry with BLs along the A816 and riparian zones.
Develop a programme to remove most of the larch in phase 1 or 2.	Grading of larch by ease of access and method of removal is being considered. There is opportunity to remove mature larch with current access. There are opportunities to thin out younger larch.	It is almost certain to spread across the forest blocks. Large areas of young inaccessible larch. Areas of larch on sloped ground.	Prioritise mature larch removal in phase 1. Create a plan for the inaccessible mature larch on the face of coupe 08149. Create a plan for the younger larch, including access. Replant larch areas with broadleaves (BLs) for seasonal colour if appropriate.
Protect, connect and enhance Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS).	Map areas of AWS for prioritisation. Establish native BL species.	Regeneration of non-natives species will be difficult to control. Establishment of BL due to herbivore impact.	Prioritise AWS areas, ensuring resources to remove conifers and future regeneration. Decide between planting broadleaves or natural regeneration if sufficient seed source.

Objective	Opportunity	Constraint	Concept
			Plant softer conifers adjacent to AWS to limit Sitka spruce regeneration. Deer Management Plan (DMP) written to include protection of AWS areas.
Protect and enhance the Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and heritage features.	Ensure management plans for all SMs. Protect heritage features in the blocks. Identify and map any new heritage features found during forestry operations.	Safety of forestry operations can be a risk with some SMs and heritage features.	All SMs to have feasible management plans. Any SM work to be programmed. Planting and restock proposals to ensure appropriate buffers around SMs and heritage features.
Ensure that coupes are well scaled and shaped and roads sited to relate to landscape character and scenic quality. Scale, shape and plan coupes to maximise cost efficiencies for felling and access provision and re-	Forest views of Ormaig Forest block from Craignish peninsula, A816 at Kintraw and village of Kilmartin to provide landscape scale opportunities.	Over-riding practical reasons have sometimes required coupes to be felled that are less related to landform, or large amounts of felling in a short timescale such as along the railway line. Some boundary edges are not in keeping with the landscape. It may be difficult to establish BL's due to deer populations.	Design management coupes to fit the landscape and views. Ensure restocking helps mitigate the speed of felling, hot planting if necessary. Develop a long term plan for the re-design of outer margins of the forest to reflect landform. Mitigate the amount of felling by using broadleaf screening if available and layering coupes. Package smaller coupes together to make them commercially viable.

Objective	Opportunity	Constraint	Concept
establishment effectiveness.			
Protect current and new infrastructure in plan area- access rights, A816, WLATHR, forest roads, core paths, Private Water Supplies (PWS).	Identify all infrastructure in plan area. Confirm PWS with catchments in plan area. Provide opportunities for resilience for infrastructure.	Large number of infrastructure with associated cost of maintaining buffers.	Map all infrastructure and provide buffers for approved management. Include buffers in any new planting proposals. Ground-truth PWS and update GIS system to create catchments. Include mature timber along A816/WLATHR to be felled in phase 1 or phase 2.
Identify thinning where appropriate.	There is an opportunity to increase thinning in some areas, which could provide income and enhance the forest stand.	Limited areas for optimum achievable thinning due to slope, terrain and access. Limited availability of purpose built machinery.	Create a programmable thinning map following the guidelines of; high forest, 18- 25yrs old in next 10 yrs, yield class (YC) greater or equal to 12 in next 10 yrs, DAMS less or equal to 17, less than 200m from road, less than 33% slope.

3 LMP Proposals

3.1 Management

Map 5 (Map 5- Ormaig and Salachry management coupes) shows the management proposals for Ormaig and Salachry.

Clear Felling

Map 6 highlights the operational felling coupes for phase 1 and phase 2 in the LMP.
Clearfelling will be the dominant silvicultural system for felling the productive conifer in the two blocks. Coupe design will seek to work with the landform and scale. Building on the current age class diversity will be an objective, as well as to remove conifers from AWS, riparian corridors and around private water supplies (PWS).
The presumption is that no felling will take place until the neighbouring established restock area has reached 2m. Some areas may exist were adjacency is an issue and another rotation may be required to resolve this. Clearfelling is also used as a management approach to remove Larch species where there is Phytophthora ramorum infection.
The felling programme for the first twenty years of the plan are summarised in the tables on pages 3 and 4 and activity tables in section 1.2.

Thinning

There are thinning areas for Ormaig and Salachry include Silvicultural Thinning areas and Amenity Thinning. (See Map 7- Ormaig and Salachry Thinning).

Silvicultural areas are those of suitable crop age, yield class (YC), wind hazard class (WHC) and slope to remove volume to enhance the remaining stand. They also include areas of ancient woodland to enable tree removal to protect the remnants of ancient woodland and native trees.

Amenity thinning areas are those areas of important infrastructure. They include forest road for management coupe access, fencing, car park and trails. Visitor Zones have been identified in areas where Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) encourage and manage access, or where the woodland managed by FLS interacts with popular visitor sites or access routes. In these areas, single trees or small groups of trees will be removed when necessary to protect facilities, infrastructure and trails, or to enhance the setting of features, or to maintain existing views. Woodland in these zones will also be thinned, or trees re-spaced, for safety reasons (including to increase visibility to ensure that sites are welcoming and feel safe) and where it is necessary to enhance the

experience of the forest setting, through the development of large trees, or preferential removal of trees to favour a particular species.

Thinning will normally be carried out at, or below, the level of marginal thinning intensity (i.e. removing no more than 70% of the maximum MAI, or YC, per year). Higher intensities (no more than 140 % of maximum MAI, or YC, per year) may be applied where thinning has been delayed, larger tree sizes are being sought or as part of a low impact silvicultural system (LISS) prescription.

In all cases work plans will define the detailed thinning prescription before work is carried out and operations will be monitored by checking pre and post thinning basal areas for the key crop components.

Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)

LISS offers a range of ecological, diversity, amenity & landscape benefits. Sites suitable for LISS need to be sheltered with reasonable soils, well roaded and with generally gentle slopes. There is considerable variation within LISS approaches and systems often need to adapt to circumstances and crucially how regeneration is progressing. These areas are visible on the management coupe map, map 5.
LISS systems will be established in the AWS area along the loch front in Ormaig, as well as the steep slopes, riparian corridors and the eastern slopes of Ormaig facing Kilmartin.
There are 12 proposed LISS coupes in the LMP proposals to establish continuous forestry cover in areas of Ormaig and Salachry.

Natural Reserves (NR)

There is one area designated as a natural reserve (NR), coupe ref 08133. The area is 16.6Ha and located along the shore/lower slopes in north-west Ormaig. It has natives broadleaves and

Long Term Retentions (LTR)

There are LTR in the plan area. They are areas where the site conditions enable the tree to remain standing to provide diversity, both age and structure.

Resilience

RESTRUCTURING:

The main purpose of restructuring is to create truly multi-purpose sustainable forests meeting a wide range of objectives including enhancing landscape, biodiversity, productivity,

community/recreational opportunities whilst protecting and improving the setting of heritage features and restoring priority habitats. Increased species and age class diversity also increases the resilience of the forest.

Clearly each forest has a different set of objectives but the guidance provided in the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) offers a clear guide to multi-purpose forestry that can be applied to any forest. Restructuring the forest can also create a more diverse structure in terms of both species and age classes will lead to an increase in bird and mammal habitats and niches; thus leading to an increase in both biodiversity and overall number.

In summary restructuring offers the opportunity to:

- Enhance landscape
- Enhance biodiversity
- Increase productivity
- Protect and improve the setting of heritage features
- Protect and restore priority habitats
- Increase species and age class diversity to increase resilience
- Enhance the recreational value of the forest and fine tune woodland layout and structure to address community needs

CLIMATE CHANGE:

Climate change models suggest that the general trend will be towards a significantly warmer climate with higher winter rainfall and lower rainfall in the summer leading to a partial soil moisture deficit during the summer months.

In terms of the next rotation these figures have limited impact on species choice according to Forest Research Ecological Site Classification(ESC) models and the short rotation of Sitka spruce across much of the site further reduces the risk of climatic impacts. However this level of climatic change is likely to interact in the longer term with soil characteristics and this may have a positive impact on soil structure and widen the range of species potentially suitable for the site. There are also threats to the suitability of SS as a timber species if significant summer droughts become normal.

TREE DISEASES AND PESTS

There is an increase in the type and scale of tree diseases and pests is increasingly impacting on species choice and forest management.

The most serious disease currently in the region is Phytophthora ramorum (P.ram) in Larch species and the main one subject to Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHN). Larch is no longer a viable tree

species for forestry on the west coast. An accelerated programme to remove the existing stands of larch is
underway and it is no longer being planted. (see section below on larch).

Dothistroma needle blight (DNB) affects pine species. Pine stands are being monitored and the worse affected brought forward for harvesting. Only the Alaskan lodgepole pine has resistance and Scots pine can only be planted away from the Caledonian pinewood inventory sites.

Ash Dieback is working its way through the Region with the expectation that at least 90% of the ash will be lost. Pre-emptive felling of ash is not being undertaken where there are no health and safety issues in the hope of being able to identify some resistant trees

Larch

Phytophthora ramorum (Pr) and Phytophthora pluvialis (Pp) are two types of plant pathogens which are killing larch trees, with Western hemlock and Douglas fir affected by Pp. The Phytophthora ramorum disease is now widespread in Scotland and is working its way up the West Region. Scottish Forestry published an action plan (See appendix VIII) outlining strategic objectives and key priorities in dealing with Phytophthora ramorum. Scotland has been divided into different zones for managing and controlling the spread of the disease. Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) produced a larch strategy in 2022 in response to the action plan outlining the approach to managing larch on the national estate (See appendix IX).

Ormaig and Salachry LMP is within the risk reduction zone (RRZ). Larch accounts for 3.6% of the forested area in Ormaig and Salachry. Larch was planted to add diversity to the landscape, hence its prominent positions next to major roads/key views. FLS wish to fell as much of the mature larch as possible during the plan period. As a result of the larch strategy, the phase 1 felling coupes include mature larch, predominantly next to forest roads key visual viewpoints. Removing the larch will hope to help with the spread of the disease.

FIRE RESILIENCE

Due to climate change there is an increasing risk of fires across the National Forest Estate (NFE). The proposals within this plan aim to limit the risk through species diversity and age diversity, as well as having open rides. The road network will also provide a barrier for fires and enable access to areas if a fire would occur.

FLOOD RISK

Ormaig and Salachry forest blocks area not a Potential Vulnerable Area (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, SEPA) and as a result no Natural Flood Management (NFM) actions are Required, with the coastal area of Ormaig Forest has a "high" risk of flooding. The SEPA webpages were used to identify any potential risks.

To help limit flood risk felling coupes have been designed to not have large areas with no cover, thus helping with run off and water uptake.

Operational Access

Timber Haulage within the forest area is set out in the following protocols: The-design-and-use-of-the-structural-pavement-of-unsealed-roads-Revised-2020.pdf (timbertransportforum.org.uk)

The primary route for timber from Ormaig is along the A816 Lochgilphead-Oban public road, an agreed timber haulage route. The West Loch Awe Timber Haulage Route (WLATHR) begins off the A816 at Salachry Forest block, providing a route for timber haulage north off the public road.

The forest blocks currently have suitable access for forestry operations and as such no new roads are planned in this plan period. If any new roads were required appropriate approvals would be sought. The design of any road will conform to both the Timber Transport Forum document "The design and use of the structural pavement of unsealed roads 2014" The design and use of the structural pavement of unsealed roads and SNH's "Constructed tracks in the Scottish uplands – revised Sept 2015" Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands.

If forwarder tracks were required to access harvesting coupes appropriate approvals would be sought, including Prior Notification (PN) from Argyll & Bute Council.

3.2 Establishment

The future habitats and species in Ormaig and Salachry can be seen on map 8 (Map 8 -Ormaig and Salachry Future species and habitats.

Restocking

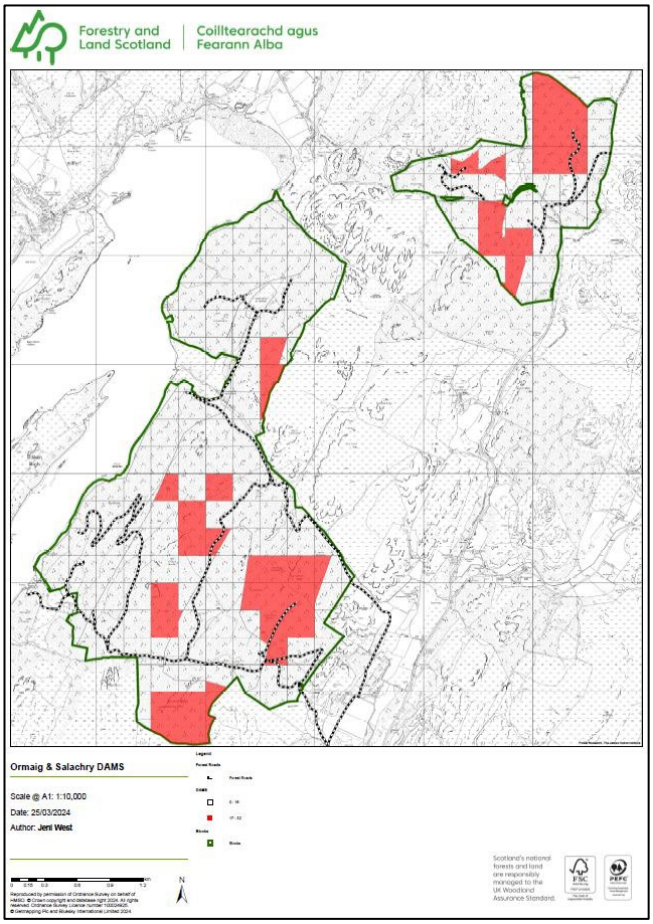
The restocking in the plan period, phase 1 and phase 2 can be seen on map 9 (Map 9- Ormaig and Salachry Approved future species and habitats.

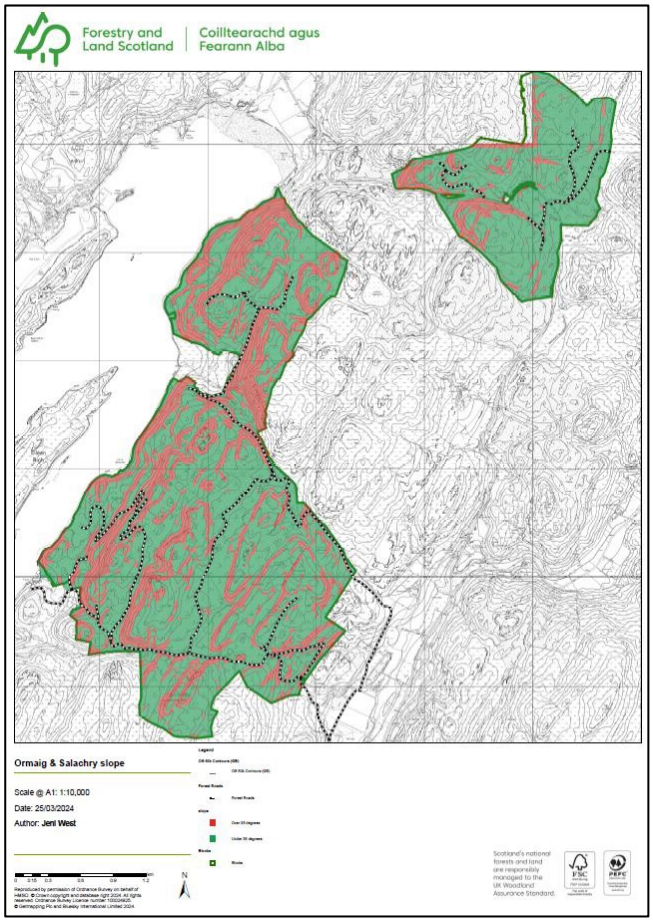
In the better soils the nutrient and moisture regimes become more favourable for a wider range of alternative conifer species which could include: Western Hemlock (WH), Norway Spruce (NS), Grand Fir (GF), Douglas Fir (DF), Noble Fir (NF), Scots Pine (SP), European Silver Fir (ESF) and a range of other minor conifers: (Western Red Cedar (WRC) Serbian Spruce (OMS) Japanese Cedar (JCR)) as small elements. Some of these species are already present on the site although the softer, diverse conifers are vulnerable to deer damage

Exposure, poor nutrient status and impeded drainage are factors limiting the choice of productive species at higher elevations, with Sitka Spruce (SS) being the only commercially viable species (See DAMS map below). On more challenging sites SS & Lodgepole Pine (Alaskan) mixtures can facilitate the establishment and growth of a productive SS crop. The slope map below shows the areas of steep slope where species choice needs to take into account any subsequent forestry operations in terms of access, establishment and slope stability/protection.

Map- Ormaig and Salachry DAMS

Map- Ormaig and Salachry slope





Conifers will be restocked to achieve a minimum density of 2,500/ha net plantable area at year five (or when considered to be established); Scots pine stands will be planted to achieve 1,600 stems / ha at establishment. Broadleaves established through natural regeneration will be expected to achieve a minimum stocking density of 1,600/ha over a 5 to 10 year period, supplemented by planting if necessary to achieve the required stocking density. Broadleaves will be planted to achieve 1,600/ha at five years on most sites, reduced to 1,100 stems / ha in native woodland areas. Pure broadleaved planting identified for timber production will achieve a minimum stocking density of 3,100 stems / ha (1.8 m spacing) at year five.

Most coupes will be restocked within 2 years unless specified (e.g. for pest control). Restocked compartments will be monitored and maintained throughout the establishment phase, with losses replaced to maintain stocking density. Surveys of natural regeneration areas in this plan will be made at year 5 to assess progress and again 10 years after felling. Full establishment will be achieved by year 10, planting when necessary to supplement natural regeneration.

The impact of tree diseases increasingly guides species choice. Phytophthora ramorum in larch, Dothistroma needle blight (DNB) in pines and Ash Dieback have all had an impact on species choice

and crop management across the UK and were taken into consideration when selecting restock species for Ormaig and Salachry.

Cultivation methods in future rotations will be selected to aid the establishment of the trees which seek to balance minimising the amount of the soil disturbance and the need for herbicide treatment.

Woodland Creation

There are no current proposals for woodland creation in the plan area.

Natural Regeneration

Permanent native woodland habitats have been identified for expansion and/or establishment following felling operations, see map xxx. Typically these areas will include open space as well as native broadleaved woodland. An assessment will be made post felling to confirm the viability of regeneration, but areas that tend to be within 75m of a viable seed source (usually of at least two different species) may been identified as suitable for Natural Regeneration. This is dependent on browsing pressure being reduced to ensure the successful regeneration of trees which is addressed in the Deer Management Plan.

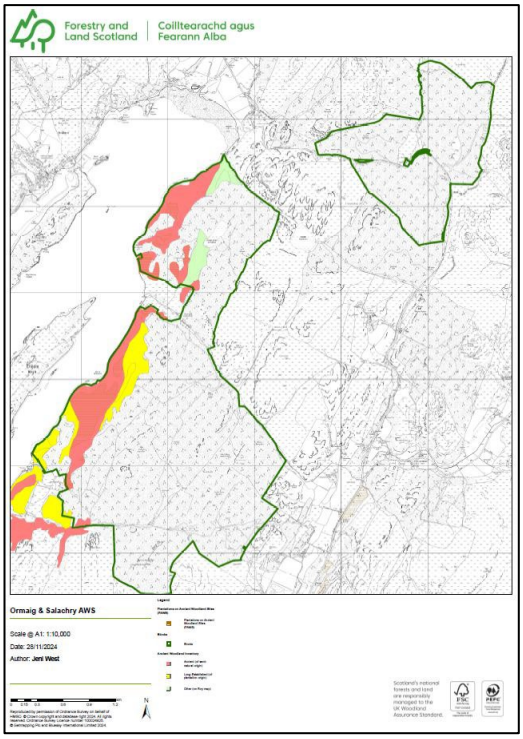
Natural Regeneration is a priority theme promoted in the Scottish Forestry Strategy and where feasible is seen as preferable to planting for several reasons: it offers greater biological and genetic diversity to planting; landscape scale natural regeneration provide less segregated landscapes; less GHG emissions without the requirement for ground preparation; and there is no plastic pollution compared to the use of tree guards with planting.

Monitoring of Natural Regeneration – a monitoring programme will survey regenerating areas to gain evidence of their success usually by means of a Herbivore Impact Assessment. This will be undertaken at year 5. If Natural regeneration is not going to succeed it will go into the planting programme. If it is felt it can succeed it will be reassessed at Year 7 to decide whether to plant or whether full stocking is anticipated by natural regeneration at year 10.

PAWS restoration

Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS) are present in the east of Ormaig Forest block. The map below highlights the location where broadleaves will be established to create a native continuous broadleaf forest.

Map- Ormaig and Salachry Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS)



Riparian Management/Water catchments

There are many watercourses & streams in the LMP area, including private water supplies (PWS) and. Proposals aim to remove conifer from buffer areas and replace with open/broadleaves.

Natural regeneration of native woodland along the riparian corridors will help to alleviate flood risk by reducing the speed of run-off. There is the potential for natural regeneration of conifer species within the riparian corridor. Ideally this would all be removed but practically up to 15% conifer regeneration will be accepted in the corridor before intervention to remove it.

All felling and restocking will adhere to UKFS as well as “Managing forest operations to protect the water environment” practice guide. Operations will comply with Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) 2021 General Binding Rules with respect to appropriate buffer strips between any planting and the watercourses and water bodies. Sie assessment prior to operations will identify any recommended actions to meet these requirements.

Deadwood

The ecological potential for deadwood is generally found within the LMP forested area. A proportion of woodland will be managed to provide deadwood habitat where it provides the greatest environmental benefit. The highest ecological potential for deadwood is found in the established woodland within PAWS and riparian areas and also within Long Term Retentions and minimum intervention areas. Areas of lower potential for deadwood will be found in the higher, more exposed areas of conifer crop.

3.3 Open Land

Open ground forms an important part of the forest plan with hill tops, open water, priority open habitats and a matrix of open ground delivering biodiversity and landscape benefits. These areas will be expanded and provide additional linkage with the lower slopes and riparian corridors.

The main open hill areas are:

- Creag Madaidh Mor
- Creag a'Chromain (south)
- Creag Mhor (west)

There are the following opportunities for the open ground areas:

- Open hill tops- protect bird species and bog habitat restoration.
- Open grassland- protect and enhance priority habitats and birds species.
- Open corridors between lochs and around lochs and water courses- improve riparian habitats and create corridors for dragonfly and butterfly species.
- Open rides and deer glades- deer management.
- Open areas around historical features- protect and enhance heritage features.
- Open edges along infrastructure- improve resilience.

Peatland restoration
If any areas of priority habitat for peatland restoration are identified during the plan period the relevant will need an EIA screening for deforestation and a justification for the removal of trees and the potential for restoration.

3.4 Deer Management

The deer management team have produced a Deer Management Plan (DMP) following the national policy and government policy on the management of deer. It identifies issues and proposals within Ormaig and Salachry. (see Appendix V- Ormaig and Salachry Deer Management Plan).

The following will apply in relation to deer management:

- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) 'Code of Practice on Deer Management'; Code of deer management - Scottish Natural Heritage
- Deer fencing will comply with the Joint Agency Fencing guidance; Deer fencing guidance - Scottish Natural Heritage.

3.5 Visitor Zones and Public Access

The Ormaig forest block is of high visitor value due to its proximity and access from Kilmartin. It has core paths and old drove roads providing opportunities for public use. Due to its location/connection within the local area for heritage value and Scheduled Monuments, local visitors as well as visiting tourists use the forest.

The forest road network provides cyclists and walkers with opportunities to enjoy and explore the wider area offering spectacular views as you climb the hillside. This informal access is managed under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC).

A number of viewpoints were chosen demonstrating a view of the forest from major publicly accessed routes; predominantly public roads but also from popular or well known vantage points. Visualisations were then created for these views comparing a current photograph to a 3D version of the forest in 10 and then 20 years time, both as felling coupes and as the proposed restocking (see visualisations).

Woodland Management in Visitor Zones

Visitor Zones have been identified in areas where FLS encourage and manage access or where the woodland managed by FLS interacts with popular visitor sites or access routes. There are no specific "Visitor Zones" in the LMP area, however, core paths, forest roads and heritage features provide opportunities for visitor access.

In these areas, single trees or small groups of trees will be removed when necessary to protect facilities, infrastructure and trails, or to enhance the setting of features, or to maintain existing views.

Woodland in these zones will also be thinned, or trees re-spaced, for safety reasons (including to increase visibility to ensure that sites are welcoming and feel safe) and where it is necessary to enhance the experience of the forest setting, through the development of large trees, or preferential removal of trees to favour a particular species. See thinning map, map 7.

3.6 Heritage Features

There are five Monuments listed under the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS);

- Craig Madaidh Mor, mine
- Dun Mac Samhainn, dun
- Dun Mac Samhainn, cairn
- Ormaig rock art
- Glenmoine, cup-and-ring marked rock

There are also several undesignated features across the plan area which are recorded in the heritage layer, such as heritage features, lochs, quarries, agricultural features, old drove roads, Ladys Seat, Kilmartin Eye; all of either local, regional and national significance.

These sites will be managed in accordance with the Forests & the historic environment Guidelines and will be protected during operations in line with the UKFS. If new sites are found these will be mapped and recorded and protected from operations. Detailed operational workplans will be drafted nearer the period of felling and will include a full range of mitigation measures to safeguard archaeological features. Additionally the restocking proposals (open space) are sympathetic to both the features and its immediate environs. Further advice will obtained from the FLS Archaeologist if required.

West Region's Regional Historical Asset Management Plan (see appendix x) works to ensure the historic assets' stable condition or to slow their gradual decay and details the following:

"All scrub vegetation and regenerating trees within the relevant area will be cut off at ground level using appropriate hand or power tools and removed. Bracken encroachment shall be controlled within appropriate areas as necessary through strimming, bashing and / or chemical spraying, as appropriate. Any tree felling, harvesting or thinning work within the relevant area (and including a buffer zone of 20m around it) will be planned and organised to avoid any damage to the historic asset in the course of felling and timber extraction. Scheduled Monument Clearance will be necessary in advance of any forestry works, conservation management, consolidation or repair and development

that may cause damage or disturbance within the scheduled area. No replanting will take place within the scheduled area (nor usually within a buffer zone of 20m around it).”

3.7 Habitats & Species

The forest blocks have both priority habitats and priority species. There are areas of the forest that are known habitat for bats, otters and raptors which are covered by the European Protected Species regulations. Prior to any harvesting operations, FLS will undertake a pre commencement survey in the coupe to check for the presence of any protected species. The relevant FCS guidance notes: Wildlife and Forest. Operations 31- 35d will be adhered to if protected species are found to be present.

3.8 Invasive Species

There are invasive non-natives species (INNS) within the forest blocks. An environment programme of removal works will be produced and areas prioritized.

Any INNS will be mapped and FLS records updated to enable removal works to be programmed and monitoring.

3.9 Water Supplies

Public Water Supplies

The Kilmartin village public water catchment incorporates a very small section of Ormaig Forest block (the southern most tip). There are no planned forestry operations in this LMP period.

Private Water Supplies

Private water supplies can be abstracted from a stream, spring, well or borehole, and usually consist of a series of pipes and tanks feeding one or more properties. All known supplies within FLS land are groundtruthed and mapped, and this information is fed into all worksite planning well in advance of any operations to ensure there is no detrimental impact on the water supply. In addition to the individual supplies, the water catchments feeding into these abstraction points have been identified and mapped for use at an operational level where best practice Forestry and Water Guidance will be rigorously followed. Any changes to these supplies are discussed with the relevant properties and a

plan drawn up to carefully manage the site. This may end up in operational delays but allows a full understanding especially of complex supplies such as those surface fed from a diffuse source.

FLS continually endeavor to identify all supplies and any further points found will be added in to the database to give a comprehensive coverage.

3.10 Critical Success Factors

- Timber production of 29.76Ha, including 4.7Ha larch.
- 7.71Ha conifer and 7.6Ha broadleaf restocking.
- 1.3Ha natural regeneration.
- Enhance riparian corridor, AWS and linkages.
- Increase levels of deer control. Current survey data suggests approx.6 deer per Ha, need to reduce this to between 1 to 5 deer per Ha.
- Diversify the current species structure, both age and species type, where site conditions allow to improve future forest resilience in relation to climate change, pests and diseases.
- Control invasive species and monitor plan area for other invasives.
- Highlight any deep peat areas during operations to establish if habitat restoration appropriate.