



Have your say

Welcome to our drop-in event on Arran

Aims

The purpose of this event is to provide an update on Forestry and Land Scotland’s (FLS) current and planned activities on Arran. We will be focusing on increasing timber production, associated timber haulage and export operations. This is an opportunity for you to share thoughts and feedback on options to manage timber haulage and export on the island. In addition, we’ll be sharing updates from our Visitor Services team and discussing a proposed new woodland creation project.

Format

There are 5 sections in the drop-in event:

- 1) Arran overview and challenges
- 2) Timber transport on Arran
- 3) Accommodation at Whitefield Farm
- 4) Woodland creation and grazing project
- 5) Visitor Services on Arran

The drop-in event is staffed by FLS staff who can answer your questions and listen to and take comments. There will also be opportunities to give and leave written feedback.

Thank you for attending.



Section 1:

Arran overview and challenges

- 25% of Arran is owned and managed by FLS
- 10,754ha of land
- 1 office in Brodick, plus storage shed at Dyemill
- 1 farm and house – Whitefield Farm, Kingscross
- 1 slipway, Market Road, Brodick
- 1 barge point, North Sannox
- 1 short section of shoreline at Machrie (west coast)
- Leased site for Arran Energy – wood fuel producer
- 12 Land Management Plan units
- Arran is a red squirrel strong hold
- A third of FLS land (3500 ha) is open ground – most of which is designated as a Special Protection Area* for breeding hen harrier
- Arran sits within the Atlantic Rainforest zone. Native woodlands here are globally significant for biodiversity. FLS is a member of the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest, helping to safeguard and improve these sites**
- FLS is custodian to a range of Neolithic and Bronze Age historic assets on Arran. Many are of high cultural significance such as the Giant's Graves chambered tombs and the Aucheleffan four poster stone circle



- FLS has six forests on Arran with formal recreation facilities – mainly focusing on walking and cycling
- Successful Community Asset Transfer Scheme (CATS) – Dyemill Bike Park

* FLS undertakes monitoring and habitat management (with guidance from NatureScot) to ensure these areas maintain their favourable status.

** FLS key action includes the restoration of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and the removal of invasive non-native species (INNS) such as rhododendron.



Section 1: Arran overview and challenges (continued)



Challenges on Arran for FLS

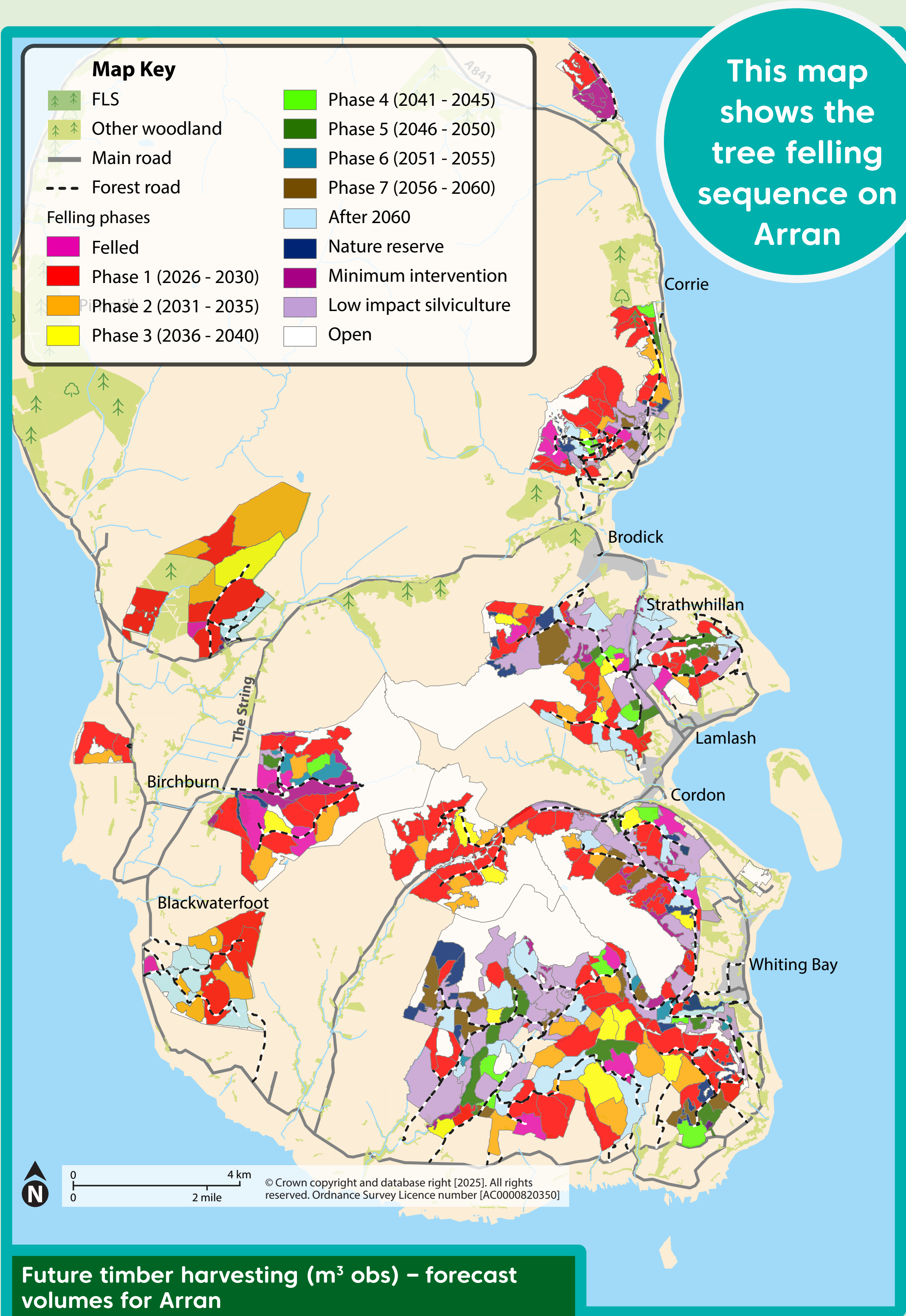
1. The export of timber from Arran to the mainland for processing
 - An increase to 85k tonnes per year for the next ten years
 - Historically limited capacity via one main export site in Brodick
 - Limited potential secondary timber export sites for additional capacity and contingency
2. Accommodation
 - Ageing FLS office and storage buildings and infrastructure in Brodick and Dyemill
 - Current residential accommodation options for FLS staff a potential barrier to staff recruitment
3. Limited contractor resource
 - Transportation and logistics challenges on an island
 - Limited pool of contractors
4. FLS visitor and recreation offer
 - Maintaining an economically sustainable offer
 - Supporting public access and economic growth



Section 2:

Timber transport on Arran

Timber production forecast



We are entering a period of increased timber harvesting on Arran as many of the forests reach maturity at the same time. This is due to much of the forestry on Arran being established over the same relatively short period during the mid to late twentieth century.

FLS use Geographic Information System (GIS) modelling to regularly forecast future timber harvesting by forest block. The forecast volumes for all FLS blocks on Arran are presented in the table below.

FLS reduces peaks in timber production by smoothing the harvesting volume over a longer period to give an even annual production. This helps with securing appropriate contractor resources and the practicalities of delivering the associated harvesting and restocking operations and work.

Arran timber production ‘smoothed’ is an average of approximately 85k tonnes, or 3,400 lorry trips, per year for 10 years.

The forecast volume then drops away significantly post 2036.

Future timber harvesting (m³ obs) – forecast volumes for Arran			
Period	Arran volume per year	Tonnage per year (k)	Lorry trips per year
23 to 26	150,655	121	4,850
27 to 31	70,463	57	2,280
32 to 36	94,157	76	3,040
37 to 41	36,748	30	1,200
42 to 46	11,680	9.5	380
47 to 51	10,521	8.5	340



Section 2: Timber transport on Arran (continued)

Timber export challenges on Arran



Historic export challenges due to:

1. Limitations on export capacity - via one single site (pre-2023)
2. Monopoly of export infrastructure - FLS now owns the slipway at Market Road, Brodick

For over a decade, FLS has been exploring options to develop alternative timber export points beyond Brodick, to increase capacity and provide contingency.

These have included:

- Sannox North
- Machrie
- Whitefield Farm

FLS made significant investment in purchasing the Market Road slip-way and upgrading the site and weighbridge.

It is important to note, FLS will continue to use and invest in Market Road, Brodick as the main and primary timber export point from Arran.



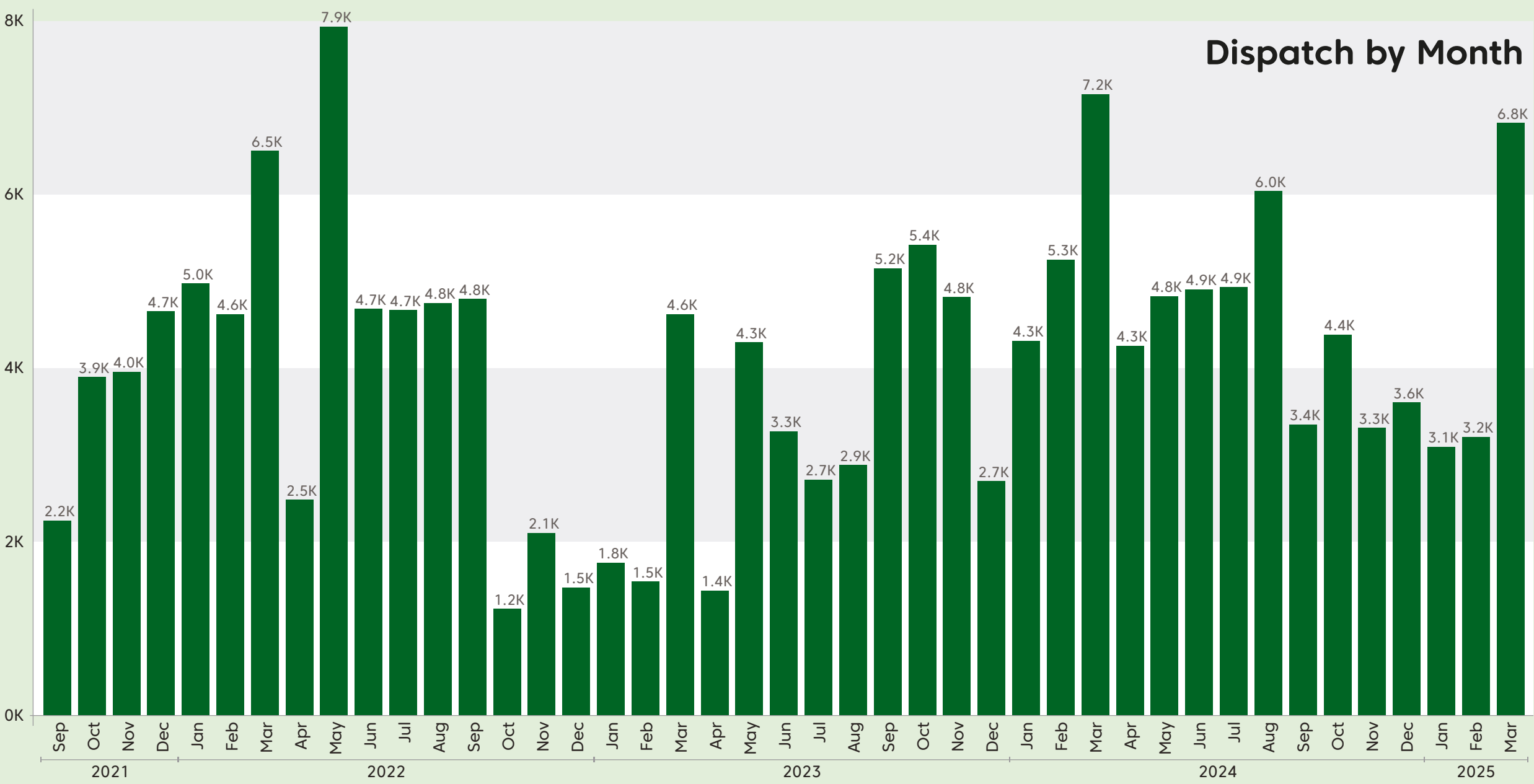
Section 2: Timber transport on Arran (continued)

New Arran timber sale contract 2025



- The contract went to market for tender in July 2025 (to be awarded in September/October)
- Approximately 85,000 tonnes of timber per year
- The expectation is that Market Road, Brodick will be the export point
- 5+5+5 year contract offers a significant period for investment in people, equipment and shipping options by the successful customer
- From year 6, forest road construction could be included
- Bidding will be on price:
 - Timber price index linked (details TBC)
 - Will also use an open book methodology on operational elements to maintain a link to the original bid price
- The timber sale contract will include the lease of the Market Road site (weighbridge, all shipping costs)
- The outcome of the new timber contract is a key factor in helping FLS make any decisions on a secondary export from Whitefield Farm

Arran recent timber dispatches													
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Year 1						2,243	3,897	3,960	4,654	4,978	4,622	6,507	30,859
Year 2	2,481	7,942	4,684	4,669	4,750	4,800	1,223	2,098	1,470	1,757	1,538	4,622	42,034
Year 3	1,435	4,298	3,274	2,716	2,883	5,152	5,424	4,819	2,697	4,315	5,254	7,162	49,429
Year 4	4,258	4,831	4,908	4,935	6,041	3,352	4,388	3,312	3,604	3,094	3,206	6,828	52,758
Year 1-4	8,174	17,071	12,865	12,321	13,675	15,546	14,932	14,188	12,425	14,144	14,619	25,119	175,079





Section 2: Timber transport on Arran (continued)

Market Road, Brodick slipway – main timber export location for Arran

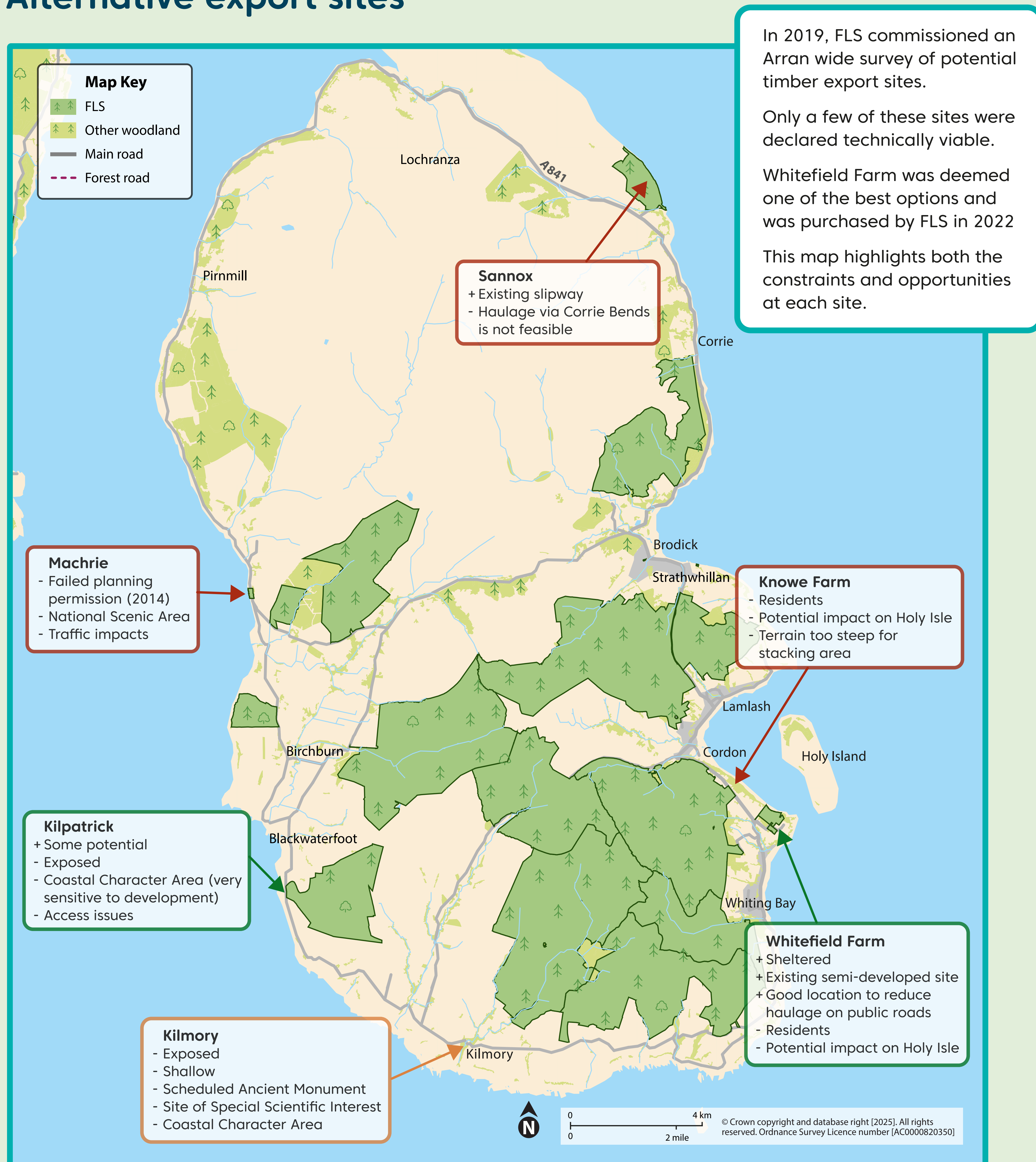


The Red Princess - A shore loading vessel accessing FLS Market Road site, Brodick



Section 2: Timber transport on Arran (continued)

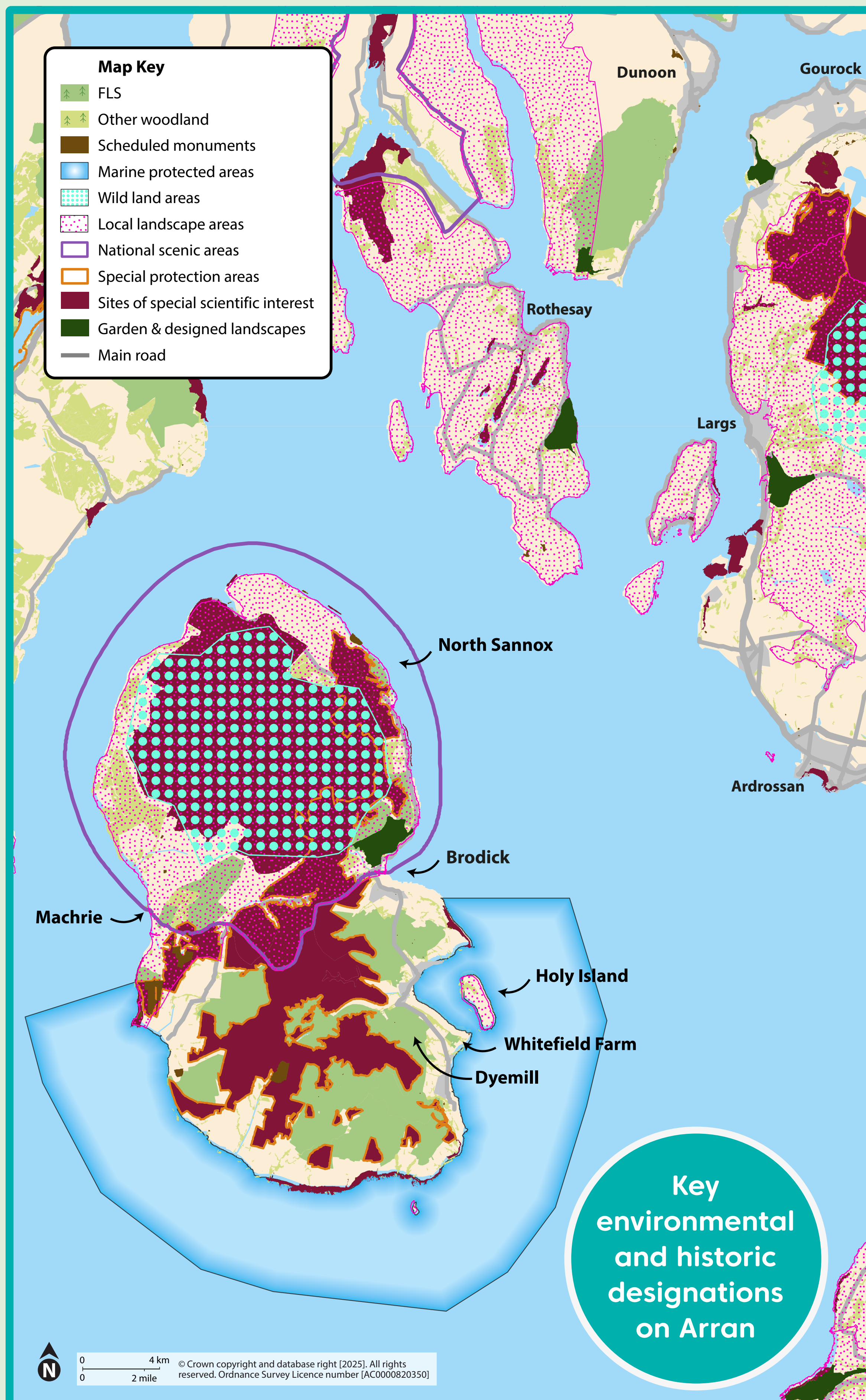
Alternative export sites





Section 2: Timber transport on Arran (continued)

Whitefield Farm timber export feasibility



An 'Issues Log' approach was used to identify any issues and site sensitivities that would need to be considered in assessing timber export feasibility.

The issues have included:

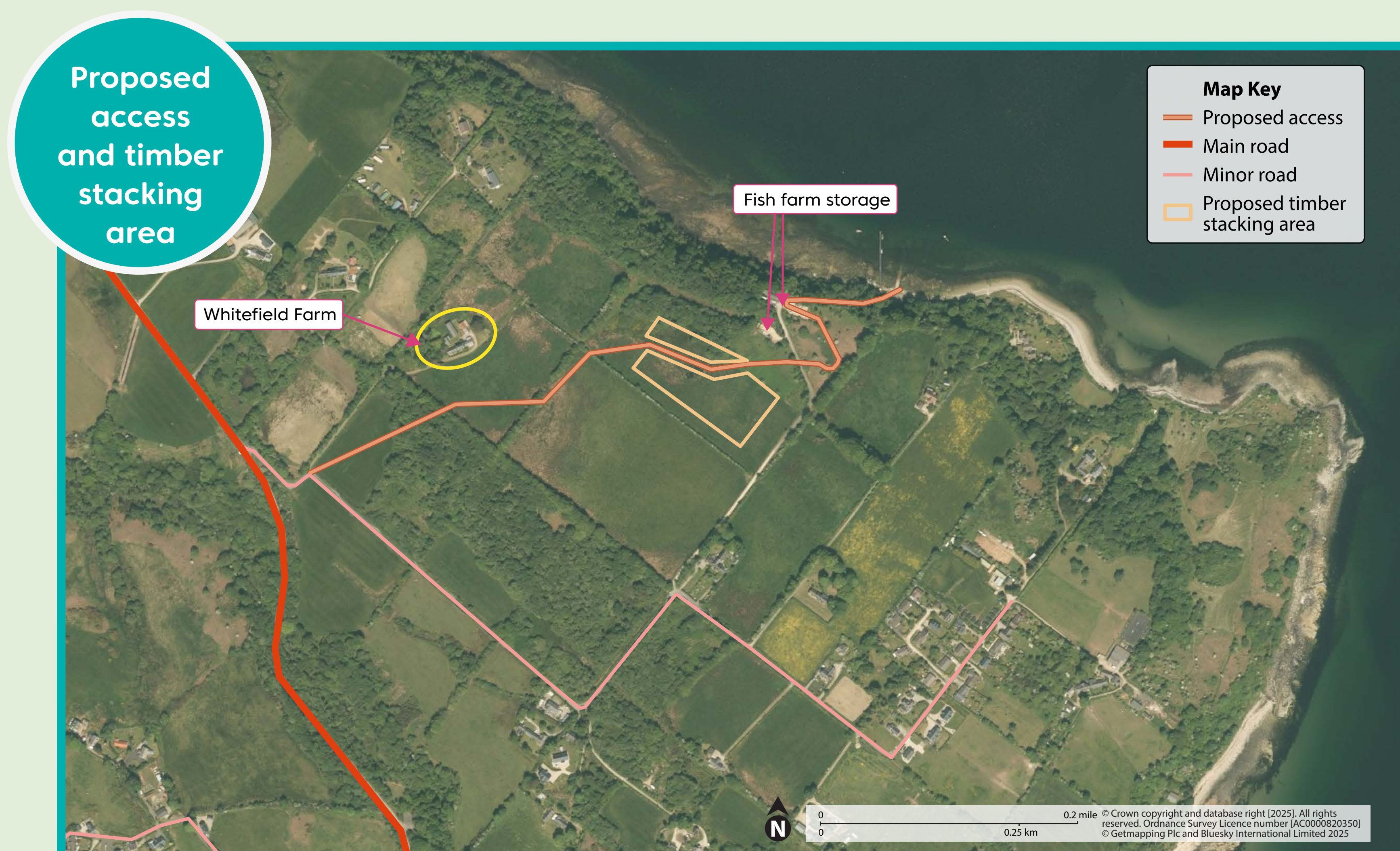
- Landscape sensitivity
- Noise
- Road safety
- Public Access
- Proximity to Holy Isle
- Environment/Marine Protection
- Carbon impacts
- The continued operation of the existing fish farm

If FLS is to proceed with a planning application for an export point at Whitefield Farm, these sensitivities would need to be carefully considered and addressed via the relevant planning and environmental legislation.



Section 2: Timber transport on Arran (continued)

Whitefield Farm timber export feasibility





Section 3:

Accommodation at Whitefield Farm

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Whitefield Farm, Kingscross



Outline:

- Farmhouse and outbuildings
- ~30ha of grazing
- Foreshore with slipway and fish farm tenant

Since 2022 scoping:

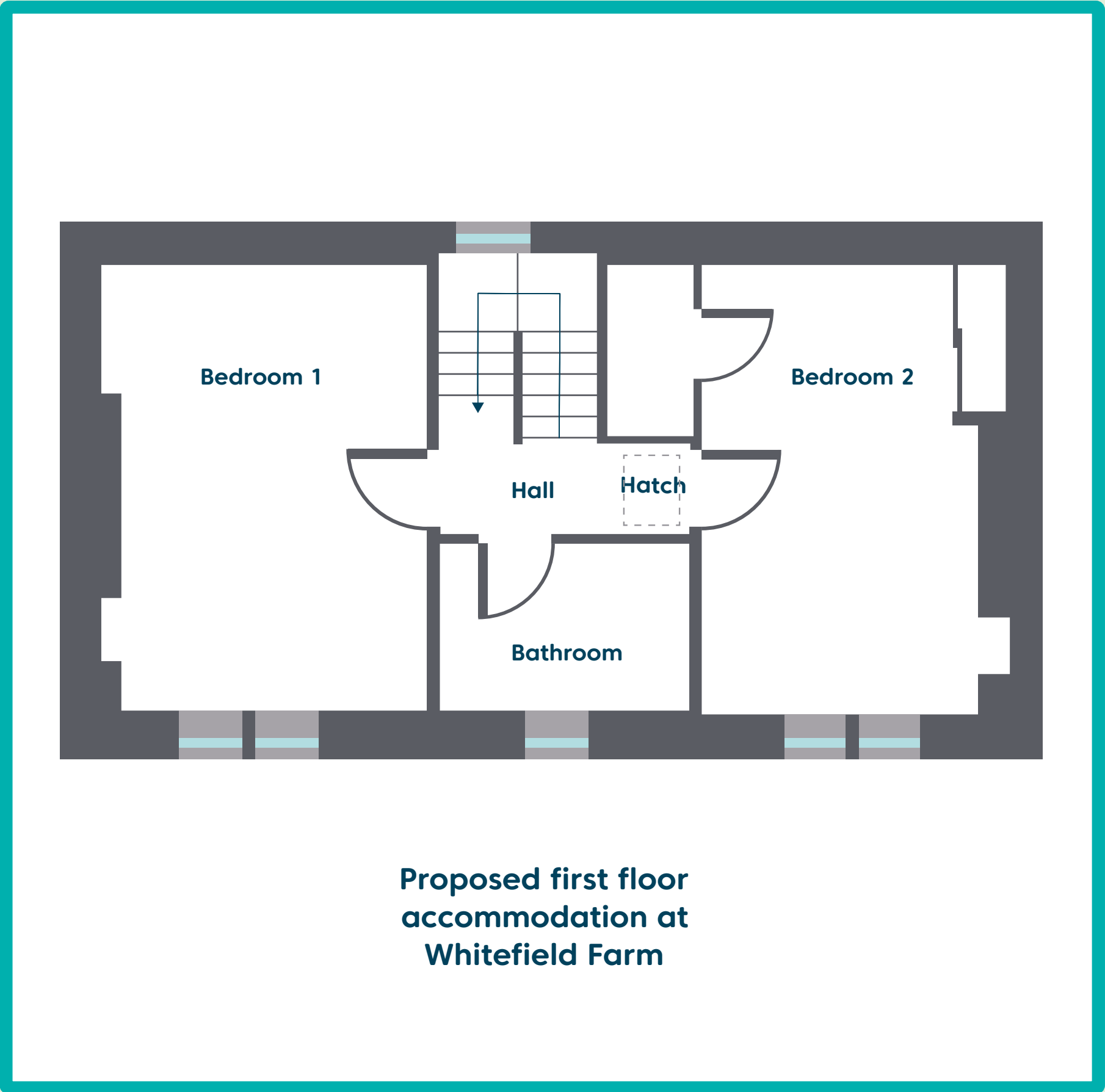
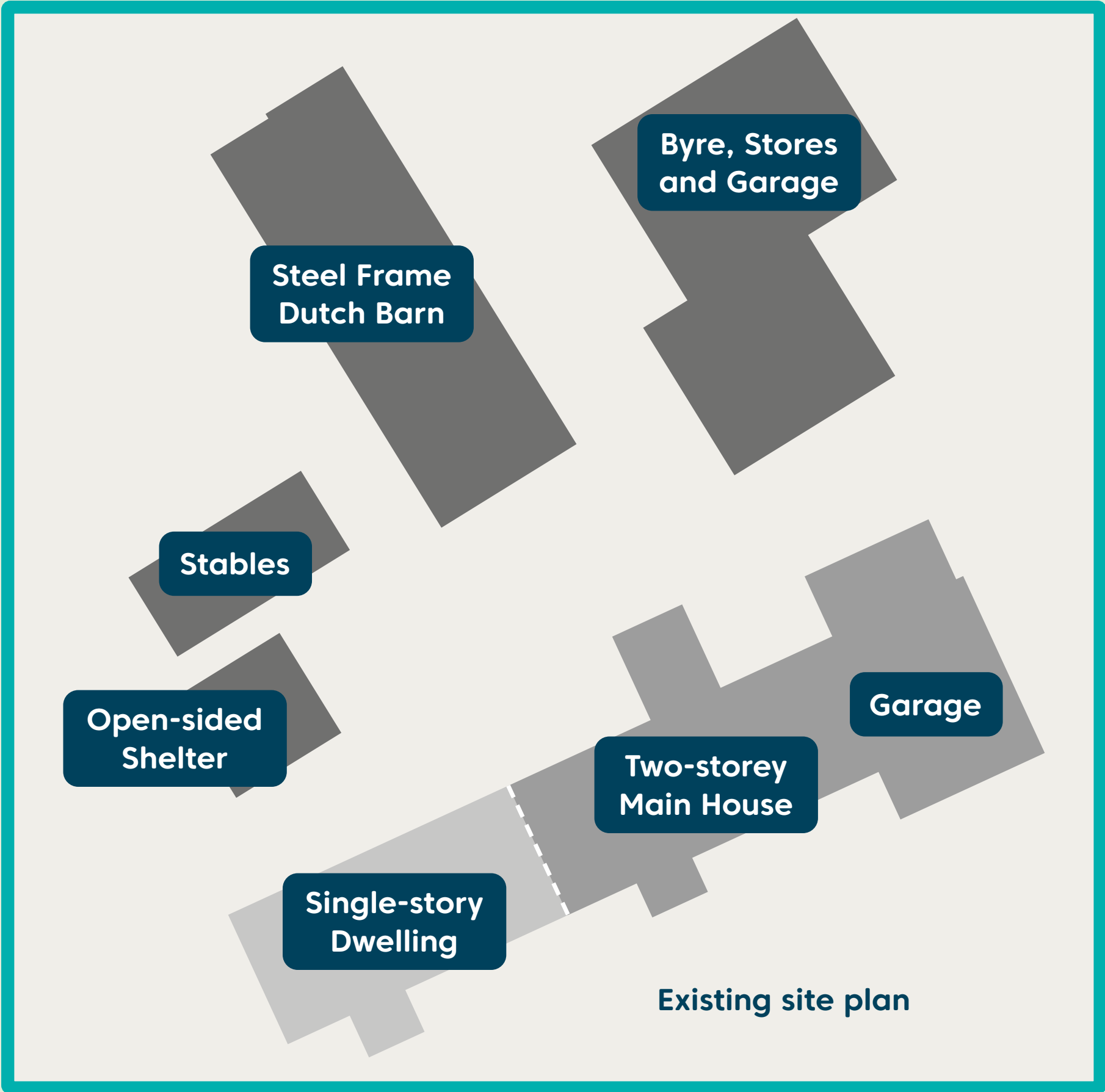
1. New office accommodation
2. Staff residential accommodation
3. New native woodland
4. Assess potential timber export facility





Section 3: Accommodation at Whitefield Farm (continued)

Whitefield Farm house and out buildings





Section 3: Accommodation at Whitefield Farm (continued)

Storage and welfare model



These images depict the FLS hub shed in Dumfriesshire (Ae Forest), which is being used as a reference model for the storage and welfare setup at the Whitefield Farm yard.



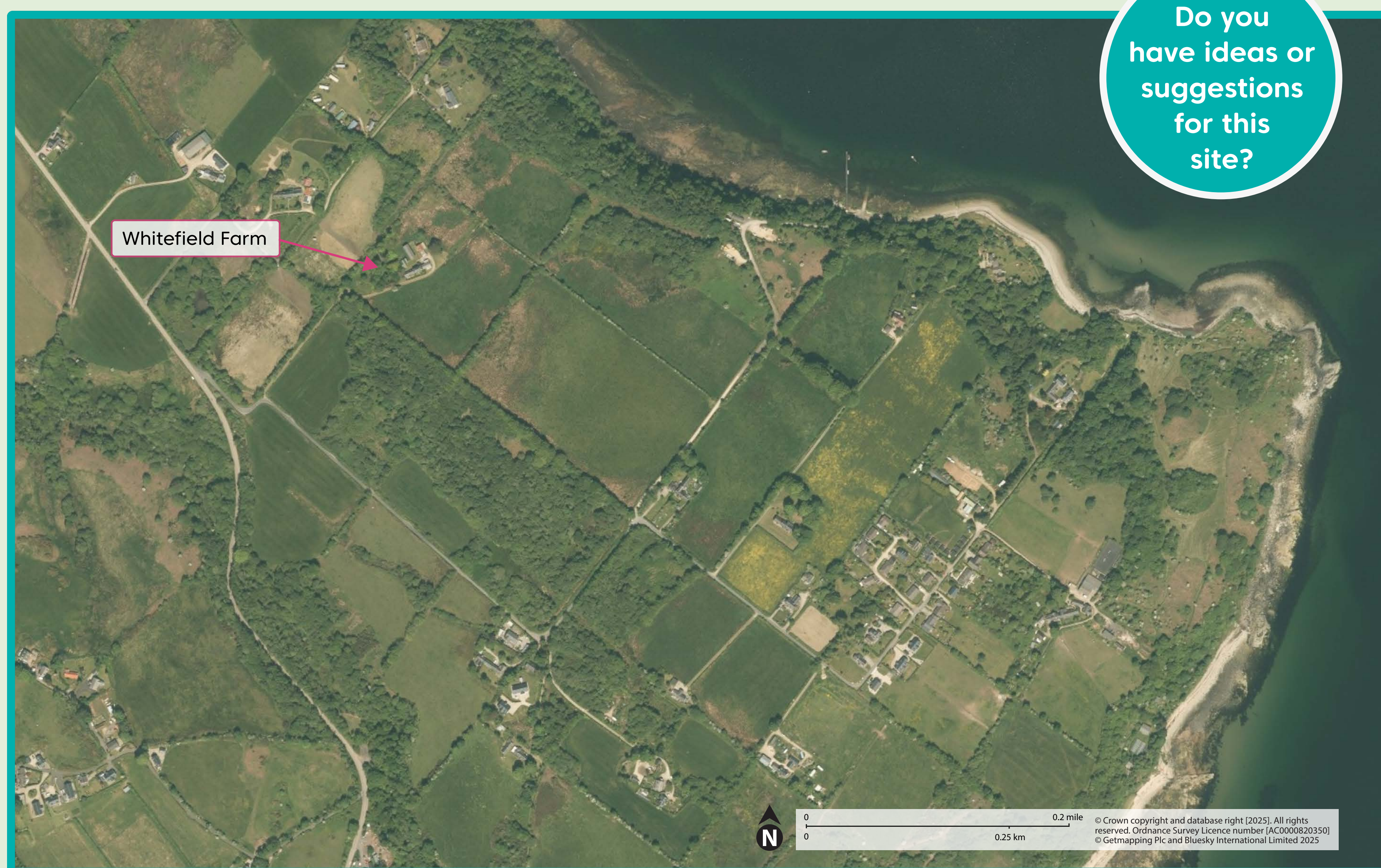


Section 4:

Woodland creation and grazing project

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Integrated land-use



Potential primary objectives:

- Biodiversity
 - Create new native woodland priority habitats
 - Links to existing woodland and priority habitats
- Landscape
 - Complement and enhance existing features
 - Screening of any future development if progressed
- Agriculture
 - Maintain some agricultural use

Potential secondary objectives:

- Public access/recreation
- Carbon sequestration
- Continued areas of grazing or meadow

Woodland Creation potential objectives:

- Do you agree with these?
- Should we be considering other options?



Section 5:

Visitor Services on Arran



1 North Sannox
Fallen Rocks Coastal Trail
Moderate
2 ¾ miles / 4.4 km
Allow 1 ½ hours

2 Glenrickard
Clauchland Hills Trail
Strenuous
3 ½ miles / 5.6 km
Allow 2 ½ hours

3 King's Cave
King's Cave Trail
Strenuous
3 miles / 4.7 km
Allow 2 hours

4 Dyemill
Lagaville Trail
Moderate
1 ½ miles / 2.3 km
Allow 1 hour

Urie Loch Trail (closed)
Strenuous
3 ¼ miles / 5.4 km
Allow 2 ½ hours

Dyemill to Kilmory Cycle Route
9 ¼ miles / 15.0 km
Allow 2 hours

5 Glenashdale
Glenashdale Falls Trail (diverted)
Moderate
2 ¾ miles / 4.6 km
Allow 1 ½ hours

Giants' Graves Trail
Strenuous
3 miles / 5.0 km
Allow 2 hours

Loch Garbad Trail
Strenuous
3 miles / 5.0 km
Allow 2 hours

Dyemill to Kilmory Cycle Route
9 ¼ miles / 15.0 km
Allow 2 hours