



Appendix: Land Management Plan Brief

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1. Key background information

Introduction

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

- Ormaig ~ 737Ha
- Salachry ~ 207Ha

It 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, designated by the local authority as an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). 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.

This management plan will replace and renew the previous Ormaig and Salachry Land Management Plan (Scottish Forestry (SF) File Ref LMP-WAFD-11-2016). This new plan will identify issues raised within the plan area and provide a management approval for the two forest blocks for the next ten years. They 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.

Silvicultural Potential

Elevation ranges from sea level in the west of Ormaig to 220m at the top of Creag Mhor (north east of Ormaig) and 230m Creag Madaidh Beag (south west Ormaig). In Salachry forest block the elevations range from 90m above sea level to 220m.

The geography is sloped hills and flat plateaus. The underlying geology is a complex of quartzite and hornblende schists, phyllites and epidiorite, with bands of limestone, basalt and graphitic schists. The geology is banded along a north-east south-west axis in Ormaig, typical of Knapdale.

Continentality is in the range 22.5-25, which is slightly higher than for much of Scotland, suggesting lower than average rainfall for Argyll. The climate data for the forest blocks indicate the upper parts are highly exposed, and mostly warm and wet. The western shoreside section of Ormaig is more sheltered and drier. These relative exposure levels are also reflected in the

DAMS data, with almost it being a 50% split between scores of 11-16 in the lower sheltered areas and 17 – 21 in the upper sloped areas, there are none in the lowest category (0 – 11). Climate change predictions suggest that the climate will become generally warmer and wetter, with more extreme rainfall events and storms.

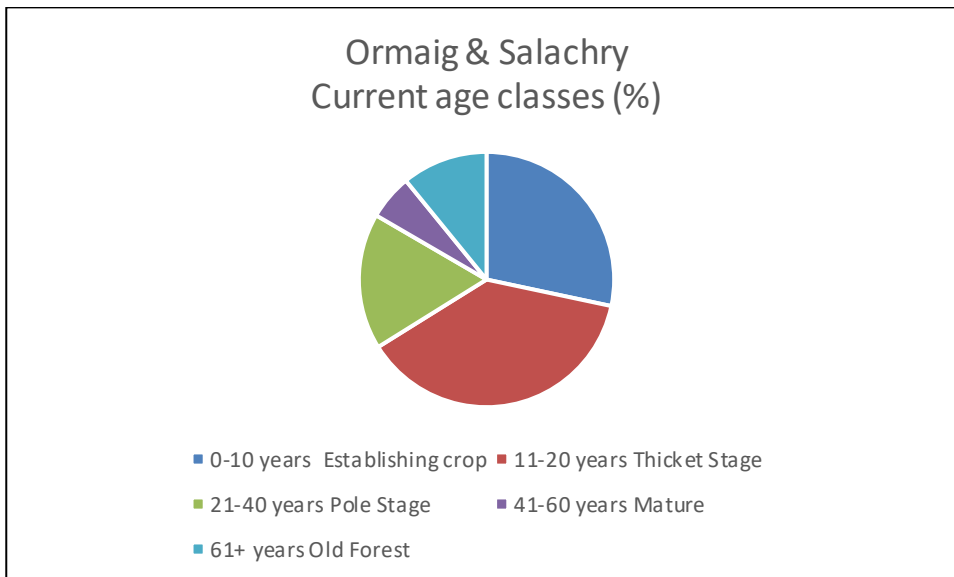
Steep ground within the forest (over 35%), is quite common along the sides of the knaps and shore-facing slopes in Ormaig. These slopes are often rough and rocky. However, there are no areas of slope instability associated within either of the blocks. A few areas of boggy ground are located within the forest, some like Lochan Druim Bhuidhe, would have held standing water. This particular site has been affected by forest drainage and ploughing when the forest was first established. There are multiple watercourses, many now opened up as riparian corridors and some feeding private water supplies. Scottish Water has a public catchment at the southern tip of Ormaig for the village of Kilmartin, and the south-east section of Ormaig and eastern half of Salachry provide as a catchment for the River Add downstream, flowing into the Moine Mhor NNR to the south. Kilmartin Burn, running to the east of Ormaig block is classified as “Good” quality (SEPA), thus any watercourses feeding into the river could affect this. Fish farms are located on Loch Craignish. One fish farm accesses a jetty at Port na Moine, Old Poltalloch, through the forest. There are also utility lines splitting both forest blocks in half.

Existing crop

Approximately 70% of the site is under woodland cover, with Sitka spruce accounting for 74 % of the planted species and broadleaves covering 16% of the forested area.

The current split in terms of age classes structure is approximately:

Age	Area (Ha)	Area (%)
0-10 years Establishing crop	185.9	28
11-20 years Thicket Stage	248	38
21-40 years Pole Stage	113.2	17
41-60 years Mature crop	37.6	6
61+ years Old Forest	71.4	11



Pie chart showing age of trees by area, as a percentage

There has been a lot of restructuring in the forest blocks, adding to age diversification, visualized in the chart above.

There is a reasonably element of larch within the LMP area, 3% of the forested area. Due to the risk of *Phytophthora ramorum* pre-emptive felling of the larch might be required.

Operational Access

The forests have a current road network totaling approx. 22.35km, allowing economic operational access . However, only 16km of that roading is classified as “A” or “B”, thus 6km is only really a track. There are access rights over a number of the roads for properties, the fish farm and neighbouring land management.

The West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route (WLATHR) starts in the south via Salachry forest, thus providing a major key access route up West Loch Awe.

Natural Environment

Important species present include Golden eagles, White-tailed eagles, Hen harriers, Osprey, red squirrels, otters, badgers, Black grouse, barn owls and butterfly species. Habitats include bogs, upland heathland, fen, marsh & swamp, acid grassland, upland calcareous grassland, purple moor-grass & rush, shrub, upland birchwood and open water. There are no formal designations in the blocks, however, there are areas of Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS) in the western section of Ormaig block.

The blocks lie in Knapdale/Melfort Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). The Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) has the blocks situated in the “Upper Parallel Ridges- Argyll”.

The islands to the west in Loch Craignish are classified as Environmentally Sensitive Areas by the Scottish Government.

FLS have identified 16.7Ha of Natural Reserve (NR) in the north-west of Ormaig forest.

Areas of deep peat have been identified in the plan area which will undergo further assessment to identify suitability for habitat restoration, Peatland Edge Woodland, or productive conifer restock, as well as soil surveys undertaken.

INNS??

Cultural Environment

There are three Scheduled Monuments (SM) within the plan area;

- Craig Madaidh Mor, mine
- Dun Mac Samhainn, dun
- Dun Mac Samhainn, cairn

In the northern section of Ormaig block there are historic cup and ring marks, and the Kilmartin Ladys Seat in the south-west of the block.

There are 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 etc.

Community Use

There are no formal Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) trails in either forest blocks. However, there are a number of Core Paths running in Ormaig forest block, leading to key locations such as the Ladys Seat and the cup & ring marks.

Due to the location Ormaig next to Kilmartin Village, many local visitors and tourists to Kilmartin Glen access the forest for recreation. The forest road into Salachry forest is the start of the WLATHR, thus providing an access into the forested areas of West Loch Awe.

Neighbouring reservoirs/fisheries

There are fish farms in Loch Craignish to the west of Ormaig forest, with access and infrastructure via Ormaig.

Wildlife

Red and Roe, and small numbers of Sika deer are the primary herbivores species present, these and other damaging herbivore numbers are monitored and controlled by FLS wildlife management teams. External deer fencing exists along the southern side of Ormaig, with stock fencing around the other neighbouring edges. A stock fence also exists around Salachry forest block. These fences reduce the free flow of deer and sheep/cattle movement from neighbouring land. Deer numbers are approx. 36.9 deer/km².

To establish native woodland and species diversity, deer control will be a key management option.

2. Strategic drivers

To realise the vision as set out in the Scottish Forestry Strategy 2019-2029, six priorities for action have been identified for implementation:

- Ensuring forests and woodlands are sustainably managed
- Expanding the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives
- Improving efficiency and productivity, and developing markets
- Increasing the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands
- Enhancing the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands
- Engaging more people, communities and businesses in the creation, management and use of forests and woodlands

To demonstrate how we will have regard to the Forestry Strategy in our work, we have identified the relevant Forestry Strategy 'Priorities for Action' in our Corporate Outcomes section of the second FLS Corporate Plan 2022-2025. These, alongside key issues and site specific challenges, have informed our draft land management objectives, as illustrated in Table 12 below.

3. Land management plan 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.

Table 12 – Relationship between relevant corporate outcomes and the site specific draft LMP objectives

Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Draft LMP Objectives
<p>Outcome 1: Supporting a Sustainable Economy</p> <p>FLS supports a sustainable rural economy by managing the national forests and land in a way that encourages sustainable business growth, development opportunities, jobs and investments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Managing the national forests and land in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) to ensure that timber and other products produced by FLS are guaranteed to be from a sustainably managed resource. ● Developing our forest planning processes to ensure long-term sustainable productivity of the national forests and land. Providing a sustainable supply of timber to Scotland’s timber processing sector. Implementing the Restocking Strategy for the national forests and land and develop a new plant and seed supply strategy. ● Supporting Scottish tourism and the visitor economy through the core path provision. ● Support the venison processing sector through our deer management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain sustainable timber production (maintained timber income, clearfell/restock). ● Plan roads/tracks to give access to less accessible crops. ● Plant the right trees on the right site, taking into account future climate changes and risks and pests & diseases.

Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Draft LMP Objectives
<p>Outcome 2: Looking after Scotland’s national forests and land</p> <p>Scotland’s national forests and land are looked after; biodiversity is protected and enhanced; and more environmental services are provided to people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. ● Maintaining and enhancing our work on peatland restoration. ● Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape-scale approaches to habitat management and restoration. ● Continuing to implement the Larch Strategy in order to reduce the rate of expansion of Phytophthora ramorum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to restore and maintain areas of bog habitat (reduce carbon release, diversify habitat) ● Protect, expand and enhance the Ancient Woodland Sites. ● Protect and enhance protected/priority species & habitats. ● Develop a programme for pre-emptively removing larch.
<p>Outcome 3: Scotlands national forests and land for visitors and communities</p> <p>Everyone can visit and enjoy Scotland’s national forests and land to connect with nature, have fun, benefit their health and wellbeing and have the opportunity to engage in our community decision making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintaining access for core paths to promote fun in the outdoors, focussing on improving entry level experiences for everyone to enjoy and gain health benefits. ● Continuing to remove barriers to ensure that people from all backgrounds can and do access the full range of benefits of the national forests and land. ● Continuing to engage communities in decisions relating to the management of the national forests and land. ● Continuing to support community empowerment by enabling communities to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide scope and opportunity for potential increased recreational use by local community and tourists.

Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Draft LMP Objectives
	make use of the national forests and land to benefit their communities.	

4. Stakeholders

Argyll & Bute Council- Planning/Access/Roads

Nature Scot (NS)

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Dunadd Community Council (DCC)

Argyll Fisheries Trust

Historic Environment Scotland (HES)

Royal Society of Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Argyll Timber Transport Group (ATTG)

Confederation of forest industries (Confor)

Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID)

West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS)

Scottish Wildlife Trust

British Dragonfly Society

Neighbouring land owners/Internal properties

Scottish Forestry (SF)

Fish Farm