

Agricultural land offers diversity and open space around residential fringes. Alternatively, it could provide land for housing or native woodland expansion. Sewerage capacity currently limits further housing development.

The design of edges around the MFST project area was not considered in detail at the time. The planned felling was not fully completed. Further landscape integration is desirable.

Opportunities for hydro projects in this area.

Further natural regeneration of native woodland envisaged in MFST project will strengthen native woodland habitat networks. However, some local people are concerned about the loss of open space and woodland harbouring deer which damage private gardens.

The condition of the SSS/SAC can be improved by completing the removal of rhododendron. However, seed sources still exist in adjoining properties. Access and deer control are more challenging.

Views from Cowal and ferry routes to consider.

Poorer areas of pure Sitka spruce need to be reassessed, changing either future species to more productive mixes with Lodgepole pine or restored to priority open habitats, such as Blanket bog by implementing the FCS Deep Peat Policy.

Ancient Woodland sites can be restored over time, although this will be at the expense of commercial conifers. The area involved is relatively small and restoration will enhance native woodland habitat networks.

Areas of open hilltop are fragmented by narrow bands of poorly growing conifers. Consolidation of open space will enhance open habitat corridors, benefitting Black grouse.

Significant stretches of the Kintyre Way run along timber haul routes, which is not ideal. Other stretches run through monoculture coniferous forest with limited views. Opportunities to reroute are being explored with the management company.

There are currently no adjacency issues anticipated with neighbouring plantations. External stock fences bordering open land are in poor condition, but stock pressure is low.

Plant health concerns require replacement of larch in the plan with other species, avoidance of ash and some pines. Increasing species diversity will help build resilience against the impacts of climate change and add amenity value to recreation routes and prominent areas in the landscape.

Several significant areas of windblow require felling, with new road access needed. Work started in 2015. Windblow has extended beyond the bounds approved for felling under the previous plan. There is scope for redesigning coupe size and shape to fit the landform and restructuring large coupes resulting from windblow



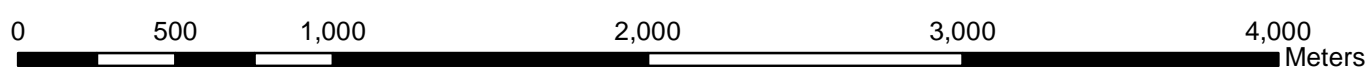
West Argyll Forest District

Corranbuie & Skipness Land Management Plan

Map 4.2 Opportunities & Constraints Map

Scale: 1:24,000

Date: July 2016



Legend

- Forest roads
- proposed roads
- Plan boundary



Scotland's National Forest Estate is responsibly managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.



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