Forestry and Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

Ormaig and Salachry Land Management Plan Summary

West Loch Awe (WLA) LMP was approved on 23 February 2026 and runs for 10 years.

Vision

Ormaig and Salachry Land Management Plan (LMP) area comprises a landscape scale unit of 944Ha (See Map 1). The plan area comprises of two forest blocks, Ormaig and Salachry, and is located in mid-argyll near the village of Kilmartin in Argyll & Bute Councils local landscape area of Knapdale/Melfort. Due to the location it is a popular area for locals and tourists to visit, and the West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route (WLATHR) begins in Salachry forest block.

The LMP area is composed of approximately 70% woodland cover and 30% open. Nearly 70% of the forested area is aged under 20 years, highlighting the forest blocks are being restructured in terms of age diversity. Sitka spruce currently accounts to 60% of the planted species and broadleaves 16%. Species diversity is a priority as is improving the linkage and connectivity between riparian corridors and open ground across the forest where it contributes to bio-diversity and landscape. The LMP area also contributes to meeting the District's timber production targets.

The western area of Ormaig Forest block stretches down to Loch Craignish, an Environmentally Sensitive Area (Scottish Government), with Ancient Woodland Areas (AWS) along the west. The area is rich in heritage and includes five Scheduled Monuments (SMs) in the LMP area. There are residential properties within Ormaig Forest and a fish farm, as well as neighbouring property adjacent to Salachry Forest, all taking private water supplies (PWS) from watercourses. The West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route (WLATHR), a 35km timber haul route, runs through the plan area, accessing the A816 in Salachry Forest, facilitating environmentally sustainable and economic extraction of timber.

The LMP area is predominantly surrounded by agriculture and open hill. Agricultural enterprises are mainly sheep farming. This offers some limited interaction between forestry and agriculture. Stock fencing and sheep trespass will remain important factors within the LMP area in relation to the success of restock establishment.

Ormaig and Salachry provide opportunities for sustainable timber production as well as mixed conifer plantations and native broadleaves, adding habitats and diversity to a species and archeological rich area.

The primary objectives for the plan area are:

- sustainable productive forestry
- diverse species range, taking into account resilience from threats of future climate change and disease
- 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 Sites (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 community action plans
- provide opportunity for appropriate and well managed /integration with neighbouring land owners
- ensure that coupes are well scaled and shaped
- protect current and new infrastructure in the plan area- access rights for third parties, A816, WLATHR, forest roads, tracks, core paths etc.

Total Plan Area	944 hectares (ha)

Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

Species Group	Current - 2025		Year 10 - 2034	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
Sitka Spruce	445.9	56	410.5	51
Diverse conifer	67.3	8	65	8
Mixed Broadleaves	113	14	129	16
Open	143	15	142	15

Planned Operations	**2025– 2034 plan period**
Felling Thinning Restocking (from previous plan)	29.76ha 20.14ha 29.76ha (79.96ha)
Significant Environment / Conservation Features	
Designated sites (See Map 3) Natural Reserve (NR) (See Map 5) Priority habitats/species	5 Scheduled Monuments (SM) and Numerous Unscheduled Monuments (USM) 1 designated NR area Priority habitats & priority species

Critical Success Factors:

- timber production of 29.76ha / 4,290m3
- 109.729ha restocking
- 37.67ha natural regeneration
- increase deer control, especially in areas of broadleaf establishment, to reduce to between 1-5 deer per Ha.
- diversify the current species structure 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 invasive species
- restore approved deep peat areas, highlighting other areas identified during operations
- seek to improve the water quality status of water bodies by ensuring full compliance with UKFS Forest & Water Guidelines 5th Edition, and best industry practice
- restore priority PAWS through clearfell, removal of conifers off Low Impact Silvicultural System (LISS) areas and protecting remnants

Consultation and Further Information:

Council area: Argyll & Bute Council
Community council: Dunadd Community Council
Craignish Community Council
Consultation: Public consultation September 2024

For further information on the Plan, please contact:

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Location Map

