



Scottish  
Forestry  
Coilltearachd  
na h-Alba

Arran High School Mountain Bike Club  
Woodland Management Plan  
2022 to 2032

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

S e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd

Please refer to the Management Plan Guidance note for advice on how to complete your management plan. This template includes a section for thinning permission.

You must have an approved Management Plan before you can apply for Forestry Grant Scheme funding.

## 1. Details

### Management Plan Details

Management Plan Name:	AHSMBC Woodland Management Plan		
Business Reference Number:	N/A	Main Location Code:	N/A
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NS 012 296	Nearest town or locality:	Lamlash, Isle of Arran
Local Authority:	North Ayrshire		
Management Plan area (hectares):	5.71		

### Owner's Details

If owned by a business, the details must be for that business. Please note: We do not accept applications 'care of'.

Title:	Mr	Forename:	Robert	
Surname:	McNeice			
Organisation:	Arran High School Mountain Bike Club	Position:	Chair	
Primary Contact Number:	07990 732 080	Alternative Contact Number:	01770 600 341	
Email:	robertmcneice@outlook.com			
Address:	Arran High School, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire			
Postcode:	KA27 8NG	Country:	Scotland	

### Agent's Details

You must submit a mandate with the application if it includes thinning. A template can be found on our website

Title:	N/A	Forename:	N/A	
Surname:	N/A			
Organisation:	N/A	Position:	N/A	
Primary Contact Number:	N/A	Alternative Contact Number:	N/A	
Email:	N/A			

Address:	N/A		
N/A			
Postcode:	N/A	Country:	N/A

### Access Consent – Complete if applying for thinning

**You are not obliged to give us consent to enter your land, however if we are denied access to your land, and cannot carry out an assessment because of this, we may reject your application. This consent is for access to assess this application as well as monitor compliance with any subsequent approval, where applicable.**

Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
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### Town and Country Planning – Complete if applying for thinning

Are any of the trees to be felled subject to a Tree Preservation Order?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
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If YES please provide details:

Are any of the trees to be felled within a Conservation Area?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
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If YES please provide details:

## Declarations – Complete if applying for thinning

### I hereby apply for a permission to fell the trees described in this application and I certify that:

- I am the landowner or an occupier of the land with written permission of the landowner;
- Where the landowner is a business, I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business;
- If I am acting on behalf of the landowner or occupier, I have been mandated to do so;
- Any necessary consents from any other person(s) if required, have been obtained;
- I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas;
- I have notified all stakeholders that may be affected by the felling in this application and sought their views prior to submitting this application;
- I hereby acknowledge that Scottish Ministers may process any of my personal data contained in or relating to this application in accordance with the terms of [Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice](#);
- I have read and understand this application fully and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in this application is complete, true, and accurate;
- I accept that any false or misleading information provided in this application constitutes an offence and may result in any felling permission based on this application being revoked at any time.

[This application may only be signed by the owner of the land or the occupier of that land where they have written permission to do so. For land owned by a business it must be signed by someone with the authority to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business. If you are an agent signing this on behalf of the aforementioned you must append a copy of your mandate.]

Signed: R McNeice	Print: ROBERT MCNEICE	Date: 28 Nov 2021
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## Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:

Management Plan Reference Number:			
Plan Period: (ten years) (day/month/year)	From:	To:	
Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	

## 2. Woodland Description

Give information about the following:

- past management of the woodland
- current species and ages
- statutory and non-statutory constraints (e.g. designations, archaeological interests)
- existing or potential public access
- woodland protection

Use the Land Information Search to help you complete this section. For more detailed information on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland use the Scottish Forestry Map Viewer found on our website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

### 2.1 Maps required

Provide maps to support your plan, as outlined in the guidance note. Please list all of the maps that you are including with your management plan.

List of maps:
Location (page 16)
Boundary (page 17)
Facility (page 18)
Thinning (page 19)

### 2.2 History of management

The woodland is owned and managed by Forestry & Land Scotland. Current management is based on commercial forestry, with mature timber last harvested from the site around 2010. Largely natural regrowth with some specific replanting.

### 2.3 Species and age

The mixed deciduous woodland consists of young pioneer trees such as Birch, Alder, Willow and Rowan with large amounts of brambles in the undergrowth. At the highest point, to the South, there are a few mature Sycamore trees of no great size. This area is less well established with pioneer trees. In the lower section there is a small area of immature Fir/Spruce trees amongst the pioneer trees. There are a small amount of self-seeded Spruce, Fir and Pine trees with occasional Larch saplings. Some oak saplings have been planted along with juniper.

## 2.4 Constraints and designations

The site is within 330m and 700m of the Arran Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI] and Special Protection area [SPA] but given the separation distance between these protected areas and our proposal, the features for which these sites are designated for will not be adversely affected. This is because the nearest historical hen harrier nest sites are out with the acknowledged disturbances distances and are screened by existing woodland. No negative impacts on either the North Arran Scenic Area or North Arran Wildland Area is expected.

SNH Sitelink: No designations.

NWSS: Non native (other woodland)

AWI: Non ancient woodland

## 2.5 Public access

Unrestricted open access to public. A locked forestry gate will restrict vehicular access.

## 2.6 Woodland Protection

### Plant Health (including tree health and invasive or noxious plants)

Plant health is good. Ash Dieback has not been recorded on site but has been recorded on Arran. No invasive species have been detected on site.

### Deer, Livestock and other mammals

Pipistrelle bats and dormouse have been surveyed on site. There is no visible presence of Otters or Badgers on site. Grass snake, adder and common lizards presence is likely due to suitable habitat. Pool frog and common toad presence is likely due to suitable habitat. Deer activity within the woodland is currently medium to high with visible signs of browsing and grazing damage. The site has the typical range of breeding birds associated with mixed woodland and currently no evidence of protected species has been found.

### Grey Squirrels

No grey squirrels have ever been recorded on Arran. Red squirrels are abundant but no evidence of them has been found on site.

### Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution etc.)

Soil erosion, surface water management, pollution protection plans to be submitted as part of Construction Environment Management Plan prior to trail building commencing. All contractors on site will follow UKFS soils and water guidelines. Machinery operatives issued with spill kits and emergency response plan in advance.

#### Environment (flooding, wind damage, fire, invasive species etc.)

Minimal tree removal is required, not likely to include a wind-firm edge; thus not likely to increase wind throw of the forest. Following accurately scoped tree removal of approximately 100 individual trees to facilitate construction, the site shall be monitored for tree instability and measures taken to remove any subsequent unstable trees, or those considered likely to be prone to wind damage. The completed project will undertake an annual inspection of trees adjacent to trails, to monitor for on-going maintenance of the retained tree stock. Hill and moorland fires are not uncommon on Arran but fire risk to woodland areas is low. The accessibility by fire pump and adequate water source reduces the potential impact of any fire. Lamash retained fire station is 2 minutes drive away.

#### Climate Change Resilience (provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)

There are opportunities for habitat enhancement through the creation of deadwood habitat piles and reptile basking areas, installing nest boxes for birds and bats and by planting with native trees and shrubs. The Club will have the opportunity to thin out some parts of the woodland in order to re-plant with trees that are beneficial to local wildlife, such as Hazel, Oak and Scots Pine, which are not represented on site to any great amount. The Club is also keen to promote the planting of Aspen Poplar and the Arran Service Tree (*Sorbus Arrensis*) both of which are indigenous to the island but are now fairly rare here. In order to do so we will work alongside a local expert in growing these trees and will plant one or two small sections of the project, which will require the erection of a deer fence. All newly planted trees and shrubs should be protected from deer by individual tree guards or fencing. Naturally regenerated native trees and shrubs where found may also benefit from protection. The current uniform structure is only because majority of trees are young. As they mature we will begin regular cutting to encourage genetic 'churn' of natural regeneration, supplemented by planting.

## 3. Vision and Objectives

Tell us how you intend to manage the woodland in the long term and your goals for its development.

## 3.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

In addition to managing the site as a mountain biking facility with complementary outdoor learning opportunities we intend to improve the woodlands biodiversity and protect native endangered species.

## 3.2 Management objectives

Give your objectives of management and also how you will manage the woodland sustainably. Your objectives should be specific and you should also be able to measure their outcomes.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	<p><b>Landscape</b> Create a recreational resource whilst retaining woodland as the dominant landscape feature and promoting a diverse and uneven aged structure through planting and establishment of native species trees and shrubs.</p> <p><b>Measurable outcomes</b> Woodland is retained as the dominant landscape feature. Increased woodland species diversity. Successful planting establishment and future natural regeneration of native trees and shrub layer.</p>
2	<p><b>Community</b> Create an accessible outdoor recreational area on Arran to inspire people to use the woodland, ride their bikes and enjoy the outdoors whilst spending time with family and friends.</p> <p><b>Measurable outcomes</b> Increased use of bikes locally. Children and young people obtain an area for cycle coaching and skills development. Increased health and wellbeing of users. Less unauthorised trail building locally. Increased economic activity of associated businesses.</p>
3	<p><b>Biodiversity</b> Maintain 80% woodland cover and connectivity to wider woodland habitats. Increase tree species diversity by restructuring the woodland. Improve species and habitat biodiversity within the woodlands</p> <p><b>Measurable outcomes</b> 80% woodland cover is maintained. Desirable woodland species (native)</p>



No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
	increase. Number of roosting and nesting opportunities increase. Increase in deadwood habitats (standing, fallen and buried). Increase in bird and mammal diversity.
4	<p><b>Endangered species</b> Arran is home to what is arguably the worlds rarest tree (Sorbus Arrensis. This indigenous tree will be replanted in order to save it.</p> <p><b>Measurable outcomes</b> We will plant Aspen Poplar and the Arran Service Tree (Sorbus Arrensis) both of which are indigenous to the island but are now fairly rare here. In order to do so we will work alongside a local expert in growing these trees and will plant one or two small sections of the project, which will require the erection of a deer fence.</p>
5	<p><b>Access</b> The main site entrance is from the existing Dyemill Forest car park. Access for woodland users to be unrestricted. Maintain necessary access for FC forest vehicles and the emergency services.</p> <p><b>Measurable outcomes</b> All access points clearly identified on site maps and supporting material. Paths and site entrance kept clear of vegetation and in good condition. Users of the woodland satisfied with the improvements and newly created trails through the site. Improved authorised vehicle access. Increase in woodland use.</p>
6	<p><b>Recreation</b> To develop and improve the recreational and educational potential of the woodlands and in particular but not limited to mountain biking</p> <p><b>Measurable outcomes</b> An increase in outdoor recreational facilities for Arran usable by a diverse demographic. Visitor usage may be measured through survey/counting/digital apps/observation.</p>

## 4. Stakeholder Engagement

Please provide details on the stakeholder engagement you have undertaken, this must include contact with adjacent properties and potentially affected neighbours depending on the work you intend on carrying out in the woodland (e.g. thinning) and the constraints or designations that have been identified.

Individual/ Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback	Response	Action
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		received		
NatureScot	Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Supportive of project aims and identified no constraints	Continue to consult.
forestry.gov.scot woodland officer	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

## 5. Analysis and Management Strategy

Analyse the information from the previous sections and identify how to make best use of your woodland and its resources to achieve your objectives.

### 5.1 Constraints and Opportunities

Using the table below analyse any issues raised or relevant features within your woodland and record the constraints and opportunities.

Feature/issue	Constraint	Opportunity
Maintaining 80% woodland cover with 20% open space	Removal of a corridor of trees measuring up to 8 meters in width will be required to create the beginners, improvers and red grade trail in addition to an area for the asphalt pump track.	The majority of the site is young, pre thicket, trees without established canopy cover. This creates an opportunity to design a mosaic of open space complementing the open space created by the installation of new trails. This should be contained within the 20% allowed for open space.
Young mixed broadleaved woodland	Removal of a corridor of trees measuring up to 8 meters in width will be required to create the beginners, improvers and red grade trail.	Felled material will be retained to increase fallen deadwood habitat and provide resource for saproxylic organisms. Regeneration adjacent to the trail will be encouraged and if necessary protected by the addition of tree guards. Allowing the woodland to regenerate its own site-native stock will not be enough. We will re-plant with trees that are beneficial to

		local wildlife, such as Hazel, Oak and Scots Pine, which are not represented on site to any great amount. Careful consideration will be given to maintaining 80% woodland cover.
Non-indigenous conifers	There are a small amount of self-seeded Spruce, Fir and Pine trees	The club will eventually remove all non-indigenous conifers from the site and will endeavor to plant Scots Pine and Larch if possible, taking into consideration that Phytophthora Ramorum is badly affecting Arrans' forests at present.
Red squirrels present	Red squirrels are abundant on Arran however this site does not currently offer them any food or shelter.	Increased food resource over a greater breadth of seasonality by promoting a more diverse woodland species structure. The Club is considering the possibility of erecting hides for viewing of red squirrels in some of these locations.
Additional detail:		

## 5.2 Management Strategy

Following your analysis, provide a broad statement describing your management strategy. Consider all aspects (economics, access, biodiversity, landscape) and pay particular attention to your silvicultural strategy for meeting your management objectives.

The plan for the woodland is to create a recreational area for the community within the site boundary whilst preserving the woodland and creating a native species biodiversity.

By closely following the recommendations of our ecological survey and the Ayrshire and Arran Forest Woodland Strategy 2014, we will nurture the woodland encouraging native wildlife, shrubs and trees to develop. The proposed work performed sympathetically to create the bike trails presents little risk to the biodiversity of the woodland and will create an opportunity for habitat enhancement, which the group wants to embrace.

There is opportunity for biodiversity enhancement of the area. On removal of trees to create the trails, which equates to fewer than 100 trees, the woodland will be left to regenerate naturally in addition to replanting 100 trees that benefit local wildlife and increase biodiversity. Our aim is to retain 80% tree cover, without encroaching on the trails, as they provide shelter from the elements especially during windy periods. Trees also add to the appeal of biking whilst at a constructed trail facility as this is the essence of what mountain biking is about. We want the site to look beautiful as well as ride well.

We will enlist the help of local experts that are eager to support the project. This will include the project lead on the replanting of the critically endangered Arran Service Tree (*Sorbus Arrenis*)

## 6. Management Proposals

Tell us the management operations you intend to carry out over the next 10 years to help meet your management objectives for the woodland. The submission of this plan will be considered as an application for permission to thin the woodland over the 10 year plan period, subject to the completion of Table 1 and the submission of appropriate maps. If you intend to carry out other types of felling (e.g. clear-felling) you must apply for that permission separately.

### **Initially**

Build mountain bike trails with associated infrastructure while increasing biodiversity while planting native and endangered species trees and shrubs maintaining 80% woodland cover.

### **Bike Trails Maintenance and Inspection**

The bike trails will be formally inspected on a bi-monthly basis by a qualified trail inspector. Inspection of the trails will be documented along with the necessary work performed. Risk assessments for specified tasks will be completed when required in addition to the general risk assessment covering the bike trails and site. Users of the trails will be encouraged to report any issues found on the trails or site to AHSMBC as soon as possible. This will be channelled through our social media pages, website or email. If work is required on the trails and site that cannot be completed manually with hand tools, a suitably qualified contractor will be appointed to perform the work. Under the supervision of a qualified trail maintenance volunteer coordinator we will take every opportunity for our young club members to be involved in inspection and maintenance. We will also organise regular trail maintenance sessions open to volunteers from the wider community. We will regularly develop our trail maintenance activities with guidance from the Association of Trail Builders (ATB) and our young people will learn and develop their maintenance skills at this facility and wider Dyemill area with landowner permission. In addition to our club developing its own trail maintenance training with certificates of competence we intend on annually investing in 8 young people taking part in ATB Trail Maintenance Basics training.

We will also invest in adult ATB Trail Maintenance Volunteer Coordinator group training as and when demand requires.

## **Implement Regular Inspections and Maintenance Programme**

Implement inspection process and create and maintain records of inspection and maintenance. Organise volunteering opportunities and 'dig days' in collaboration with Arran Access Trust and Arran Bike Club. Our recent survey evidences 259 local people would like to volunteer for regular organised trail maintenance sessions.

## **Maintenance Inspection**

Using a maintenance checklist it is expected that the following tasks will also be undertaken;

- Inspect trail for safety and quality, to verify grade and to ensure sustainability
- Inspect signs for presence and condition
- Inspect constructed features (e.g. Culverts) for structural integrity
- Inspect trail corridor including extended forest.

AHSMBC have developed a 1,5 and 10-year facility management plan to ensure the long-term future of the facility. The plan considers group governance, fundraising, trail maintenance and forestry management.

## **Year 1 and annually thereafter**

- Annual trail survey.
- Assessment of completion of construction including: tread, corridor, and drainages.
- Assessment of naturalisation - is the landscape returning following construction.
- Tread, and 'line' maintaining original integrity.
- Structures including shelter assessed for degradation and transition with natural tread surface.
- Assessment of environmental impact and site utilisation.
- Establish group-training programme so we have sufficient trained personnel with trail maintenance and woodland management capabilities.
- Review forestry plan for completeness as well as whether any emergency woodland intervention is required as identified in annual woodland survey.
- Annual woodland survey.
- Trail closure to allow emergency removal of unsafe trees.
- Assessment and review of projects desired outputs measurements.

## **5 year**

- Potential temporary site closure to allow part removal of mature or unsafe trees, which will be replaced either through planting or through natural regeneration of young trees, to ensure 80% woodland cover is retained. Subject to woodland survey this may be extended to 10 year window.
- Incorporate any trail redesign features to be built during the closure period.
- Annual activities as well as:
  - Assessment of completion of naturalisation.
  - Assessments of condition of tread degradation.

- Structures assessed for degradation of material.

## 10 year

- Plan for temporary site closure to allow removal of mature or unsafe trees which will be replaced either through planting or through natural regeneration of young trees, to ensure the forest cover is retained.
- Incorporate any trail redesign features to be built during closed period.
- Annual activities.

## Signage

Signage will be erected at the necessary points in and around the access to the site. Signs and markers will identify the grades of the trails, direction of travel, type of features, along with sites maps and the required safety information and emergency contact details.

## Site Damage

In the event of any damage to the site through high winds or flooding, the trails will be closed to the public by way of signage and alerts through the group's social media page and website in addition to physically on site. We will utilise a qualified contractor to remedy the impairment and make any necessary changes prior to inspection and reinstating use of the site and trails.

### 6.1 Silvicultural Practice

Outline silvicultural practice and management prescriptions. Include any past management practice that is relevant and the strategies to address the issues identified in section 5.

The project will involve an initial removal of up to 100 individual trees and an 8m wide area of woodland in order to facilitate development of the trail facility. Deadwood will be retained for habitat enhancement. Tree planting and encouraging establishment of naturally regenerating trees will feature as a silvicultural practice.

### 6.1 Thinning Prescription

If you are applying for thinning, you must provide a map as per Appendix 2 of the Forest Plan Applicant's Guidance. The map must show all areas proposed for thinning. Provide any further details required here in reference to your map(s).

Extensive thinning of the woodland is not expected during the first 10 years with the exception of removing trees to install trails and other facility features. Trees will be removed only on a selective basis. Currently the pond is overgrown, with too much shade all round and going forward it would be beneficial to remove some shaded areas to increase diversity of pond life. We will seek guidance in this from local experts. The proposed trails will not affect the existing mature Sycamore trees to any great extent although we will consider thinning them in the future to prevent them shading Oak saplings that are growing amongst them.

**Table 1 – Thinning**

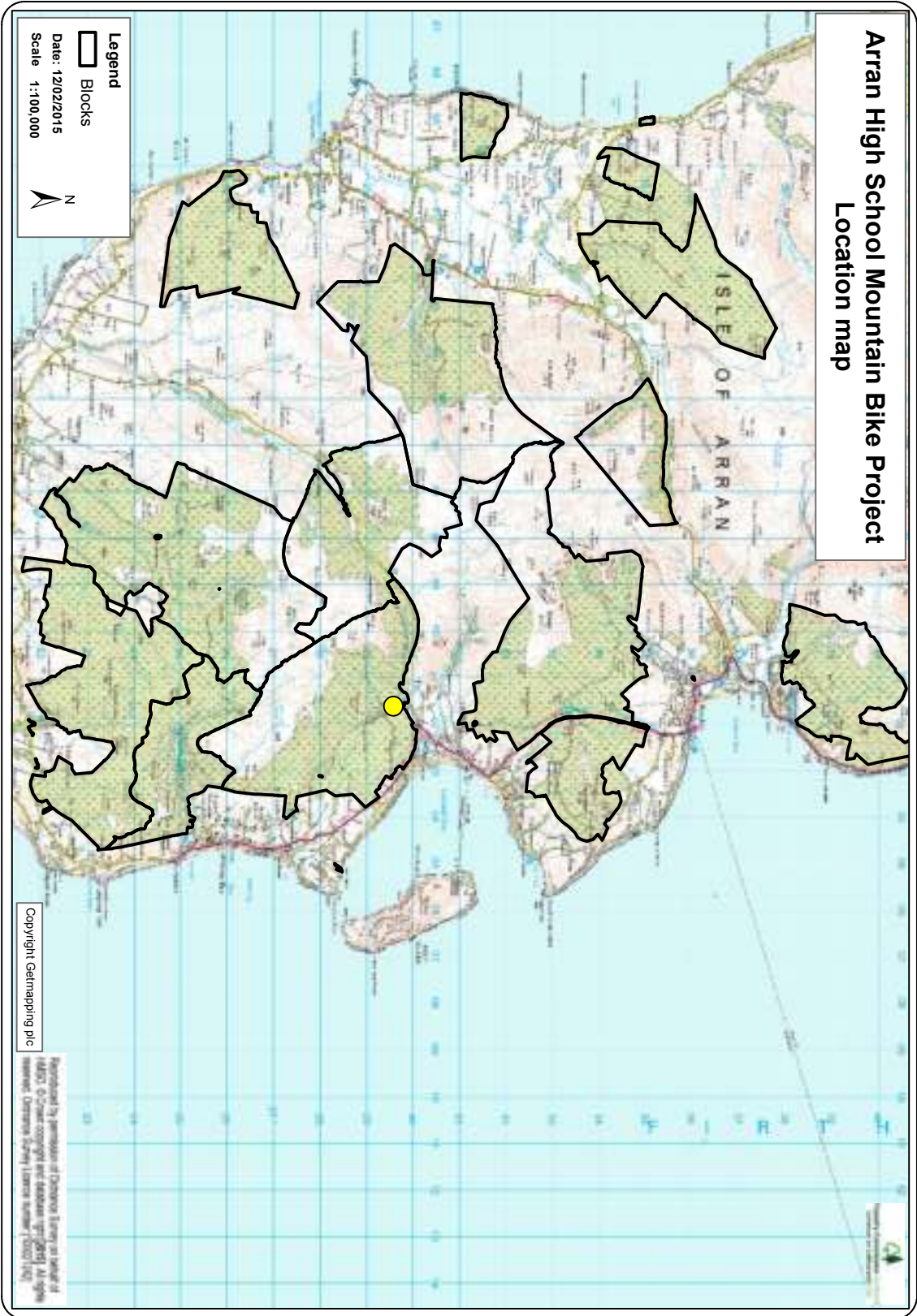
This table shows the total management plan area as well as the thinning compartments proposed for management. The felling site/compartment in this table must be shown as the same on the thinning map(s). Please select method of displaying thinning regime:

Pre/Post stocking density

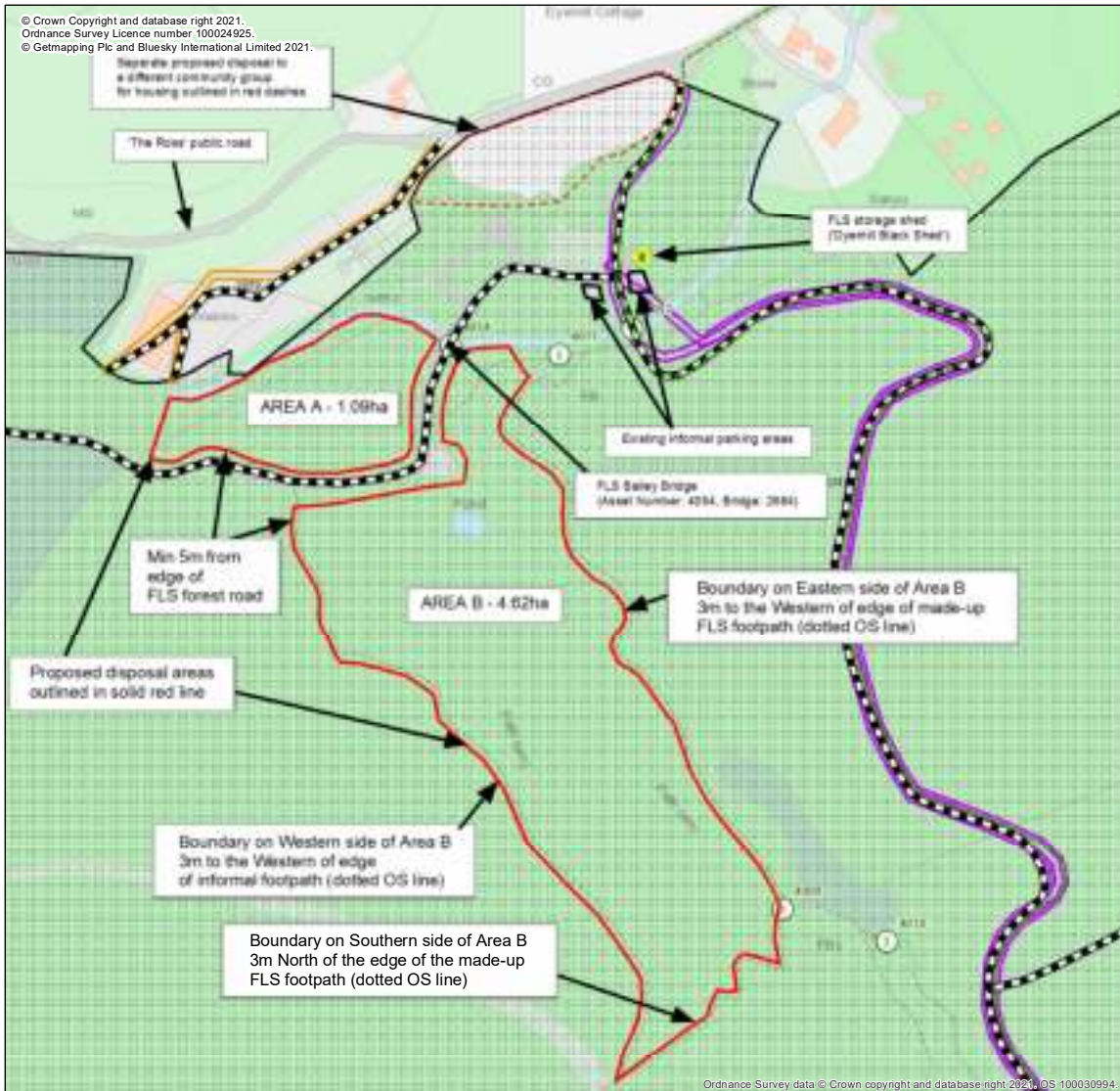
Pre/Post basal area

Volume to be removed

Total Plan Area:		5.71	hectares							
Thinning Compartment	Area (ha)	%	Species to be felled (one per row)	Age (Years)	Marking of Trees	No of Trees	Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	Thinning Density (per ha)		
								Pre	Post	Total
Pump track Shelter and bike storage	0.4	7	mixed	10	N/A	40	3.6	0.4	0	0.4
Trails including trials area	0.6	10.5	mixed	10	N/A	53	4	0.6	0	0.6
Path to nature pond and surrounding area	0.09	1.58	mixed	10	N/A	7	0.5	0.09	0	0.09
<b>Total Area</b>	1.09	19.08					<b>Total Volume m<sup>3</sup></b>	8.1	<b>Total to be removed:</b>	1.09







Legend		Disposed Rights	
Core Paths	Bridges	Other FC Building	Disposed Rights
Forest Roads	FLS Buildings	Acquired Rights	Disposed Rights
Forest Roads	National Office	Acquired Rights	
	District Office	FC Legal Boundary	

### Proposed disposal via CATS

Author: Mike Wood

Scale @ A3:1:2,500

Date: 02/11/2021

