



Utilities

Overhead powerlines in the south of the forest, and crossing the access road in the north. Relevant legislation, guidance and best practice will be adhered during forest operations. No impacts are foreseen as a result of planned operations.

Productive species

The current productive species composition consists of approx 57% Sitka spruce, with a further 10% other conifer species. There is opportunity through the planned restructuring to integrate a wider choice of species, such as Scots pine and Norway spruce which will build resilience to emerging pests and diseases and enhance the local landscape.

Herbivores

Sheep and cattle grazing on adjacent agricultural land. Fence repairs and regular inspection is important to maintain stock exclusion. Resident and transient red and roe deer population presents challenges for restocking and natural regeneration. Opportunity to further develop an effective deer management strategy, with an emphasis on limiting damage to restock areas, taking a collaborative approach with neighbours and government agencies. Consider deer fencing most vulnerable species, such as Scots pine and broadleaves.

Atlantic oakwood zone

There is an opportunity to extend the extent of ASNW through the period of this plan, through phased felling and restocking with native species in some areas.

Wind Hazard

The forest is very exposed, and species choice and rotation lengths are influenced by the impact of wind. Soils are predominantly peaty or mineral gleys. Some areas along the eastern boundary, previously managed as Long term retention have been severely damaged, to the extent that they require felling. This area is within the ASNW zone, which presents an opportunity to expand the extent of native woodland.

Historic Environment

There are no scheduled features, however there are a number of unscheduled features within the forest. Where these are not already appropriately buffered opportunity to enhance the setting of these features will be taken during the phased restructuring.

Public Access

Forest road network shared with the public. On active operational sites all relevant legislation, guidance and best practice will be adhered, and alternative routes provided wherever possible. The Cowal Way passes through the northern end of the forest, no impacts to the path are foreseen as a result of planned operations.

Pests and Disease

Phytophthora ramorum is present in the area, and several stands of larch in the forest have been infected. An area of larch in the south east of the forest is due to be felled under an SPHN. Access to this area is difficult, but there is an opportunity to restock with native species which will further extend the ASNW zone. There is also opportunity to diversify the species composition which will help in making the forest more resilient to future pests and diseases.

Timber Transport

Access to the forest is confined to the northern access only which on leaving the forest joins the B8000 which is a consultation route. Access along the eastern and western approaches is severely restricted. A forest road extension may be needed to access crops to the south. All timber extraction will follow the Round Timber Haulage Code of Practice with consultation with the relevant authority during operational site planning.

Water Environment

Several watercourses which feature on the OS 1:50,000 map are located within the forest. Watercourses to the east drain in to the Kyle of Bute; those in west drain in to the Loch Fyne Coastal Catchment, which is recorded as having a moderate status. There is opportunity to enhance these features during restructuring, both through operational compliance with UKFS Forest and Water guidelines, but also through the inclusion of open ground and native species along riparian areas. A Private water supply is located in the south of the forest serving Glenahuil Farm. This is presently buffered in line with UKFS requirements with a minimum of 160m native broadleaf and open ground.

Wildlife - Protected Species

There is potential for protected species to be present in the forest, including red squirrel, otters, badgers and raptors. An area previously occupied by a Schedule 1 bird species has blown down, but similar areas of long term retention may provide opportunity should the birds return. Pre-operational wildlife surveys will be implemented and appropriate licences sought as required.

Age class and coupe design

Much of the afforested area comprises young productive crops less than 25 years old. Remaining older crops, typically >45 years are at an increasing risk of wind damage, and are of an economic age to be felled. Felling these coupes will provide opportunity to reconfigure these areas through the integration of a wider range of species, open ground and, where appropriate, expansion of native woodland.



Ardlamont Woodlands Partnership

Map 7 Constraints and Opportunities
BRN: 167465
MLC: 68/142/0030

Legend

- Estate Boundary
- Access point
- Forest road
- Core path
- Overhead powerline
- NatureScot - ASNW extent
- Protected Animals
- Protected Birds
- Unscheduled heritage
- Private water supply
- Unscheduled heritage
- Phase 1 [2026-2030]
- Phase 2 [2031-2035]
- Phase 3 [2036-2040]
- Proposed road extension



1:20,000

Scale correct at A3
Centre Point: 197047, 668942

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