



# Appendix: Land Management Plan Brief

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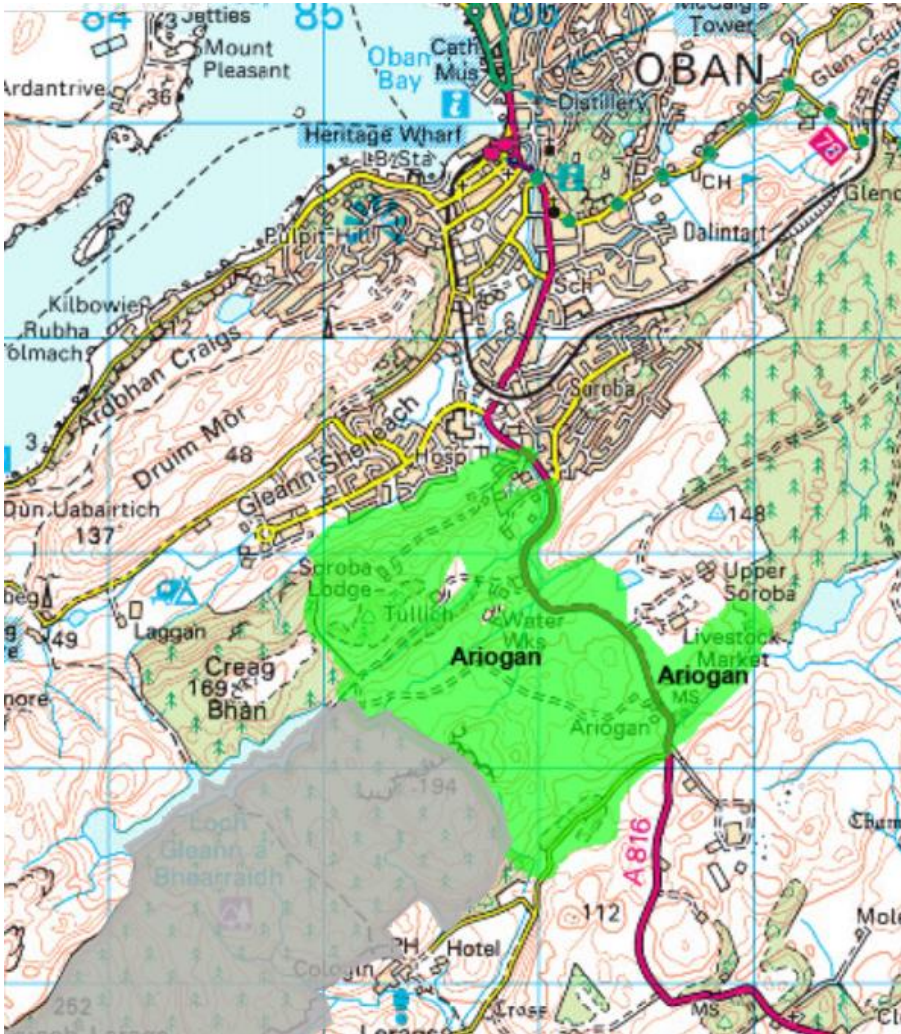
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# 1. Key background information

## Introduction

Ariogan comprises 177ha of land just outside the town of Oban

This is a new acquisition and therefore there is not a previous land management plan. The land abounds Coligin forest to the west which is an established FLS forest of 276ha.



## Silvicultural Potential

Elevation ranges from around 20m above sea level in the north on the boundary of the town, rising to 170m to the south. The site sits within a landscape based on basalt “Traps” and has generally;

- Flat topped knolls giving mostly shallow peats ironpans or Intergrade brown earths with small patches of unflushed Calluna deep peat.

- Steep edges with frequently shallow and stony (basic) brown earths and occasional bare rock where the basalt traps break the surface
- Flat narrow gullies with frequent flushed deep peats and peaty ironpans.

The prevailing cool & moist/wet climate is conducive to good conifer tree growth although the thin soils and exposed topography limits the choice of tree species suitable for any productive conifer crops. Climate change predictions suggest that the climate will become generally warmer, with drier summers and wetter winters.

## Existing land use

As this a new acquisition of predominantly open land there is no previous crop; although some discrete areas of native woodland exist in patches across the area.

## Operational Access

There is currently no forest road network within Ariogan. However, plans are being progressed to construct a forest road through Ariogan to reach the forest at adjacent Cologin allowing the extraction of diseased larch subject to Statutory Plant Health Notices.

## Natural Environment

Species present include: Pine marten, Badger, Common Lizard, Frog. Habitats include bog, Swamp, Ponds. There are areas of Upland Oak in the north and Upland Mixed Ashwood in the south. Anecdotally pine marten are prevalent but less signs of red squirrels.

There are no landscape Designations or Natural designations such as SSSI/SAC/SPA, although the North West Argyll Landscape area sits to the west of the site. The Landscape designation is given as 'Craggy Upland – Argyll'

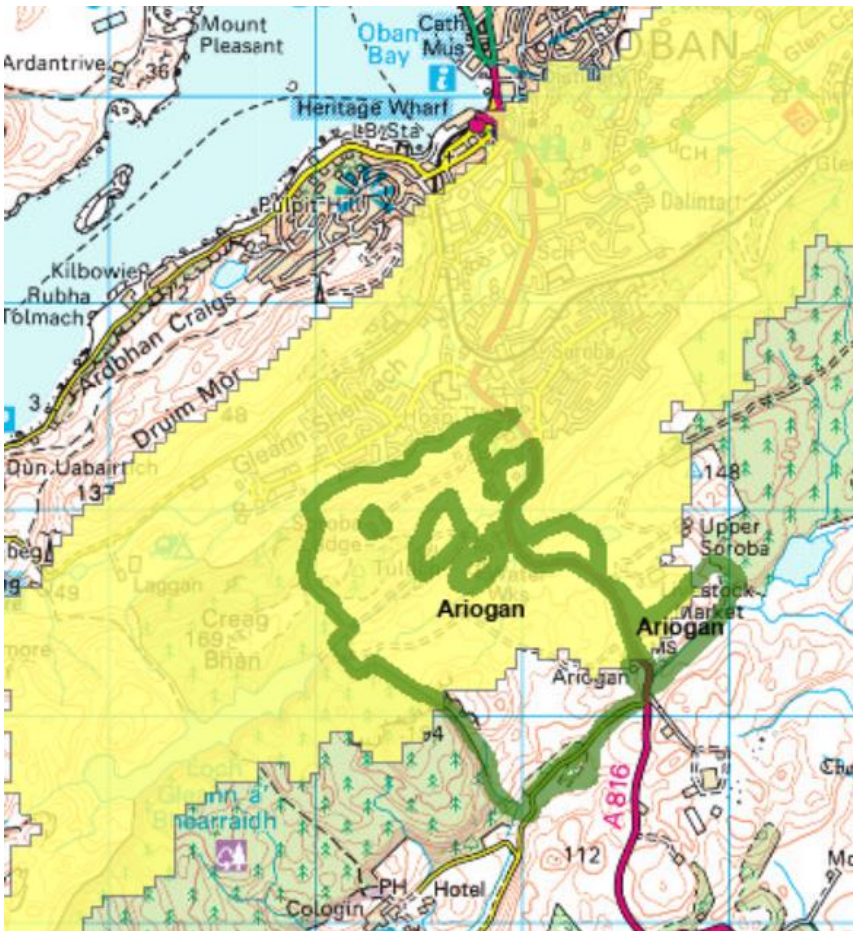
There are approximately 12ha of Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin; this is primarily the Scots Pine towards the north of Ariogan and which are a visually prominent feature from many viewpoints within Oban.

There are no known sightings of invasive species recorded as yet.

Some areas of deep peat soils exist across the site which will be appraised to see if they are requiring restoration or will be left to sequester carbon.

Most of the northerly part of Ariogan sits within the Black Lynn Burn SEPA Waterbody Catchment and two of the larger tributaries feeding into the town's watercourse flow through the land.

The land itself is not within any flood risk although downstream in the town of Oban several areas have been identified as being at risk from flooding.



## Cultural Environment

There are two scheduled monuments within the plan area – two cairns – and there are various undesignated features across the site are recorded in the heritage layer such shielings, farmsteads and further cairns.

## Community Use

There are no core paths but one Right of Way starts in the north of the plan area. However, there are considerable informal routes used across Ariogan.

Argyll and Bute Council Local Development Plan 2 which is being adopted March 2024 identifies the majority of the area as countryside.

## Neighbouring reservoirs/fisheries

Scottish Water have their main town water supply infrastructure within the site and the reservoir that feeds into the towns water main is on the boundary of Ariogan to the north-west. Identifying any water supplies, both public and smaller private ones, will be a top priority across the site.

An overhead powerlines run across the site from its southern boundary to the Scottish Water land from whence it feeds underground into the town.

## Wildlife

Previously these lands were grazed by sheep but there have been no sheep present for several years and the vegetation has increased significantly. The primary herbivore species present are Roe deer; these and other damaging herbivore numbers are monitored and controlled by FLS Wildlife Ranger Staff.

## 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 FLS Corporate Plan 2019-2022. These, alongside key issues and site specific challenges, have informed our draft land management objectives, as illustrated in Table 12 below.

### 3. Draft land management plan objectives

- Woodland creation: establishing woodland and shrubby edge/open space habitats, encouraging silvicultural diversity to store carbon and water and improve biodiversity. Ensure sustainable herbivore population management to promote and support species diversity and ground vegetation as well as encouraging natural regeneration.
- Support and enable partnership access and opportunities for communities
- Biodiversity and habitat protection: protect and enhance riparian habitats in line with UKFS; consider potential to improve habitat for pollinators and insects in proximity to urban areas
- Explore opportunities to reduce impacts of climate change incorporating water run-off and providing shade, cooling and shelter; contribute to partnership Flood Mitigation strategies
- Remain sympathetic to the landscape setting of the land.

### 4. Stakeholders

- Scottish Forestry
- NatureScot
- Argyll & Bute Council
- Argyll Fisheries Trust
- Argyll Timber Transport Group (ATTG)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS)
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Rural Payments and Inspection Division (SGRPID)
- Scottish Water (SW)
- Deer Management Group
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Visit Scotland
- Oban and Kilmore Community Councils
- Scottish Southern Energy
- Neighbours
- NHS
- Community Groups

**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><b>Outcome 1: Supporting a Sustainable Rural Economy</b></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"> <li>● 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</li> <li>● 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</li> <li>● Supporting Scottish tourism and the visitor economy through the provision of visitor attractions</li> <li>● Support the venison processing sector through our deer management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maintain Small Round Wood, pallet log and biomass production (maintained timber income, clearfell/restock)</li> <li>● Plan roads to access less accessible crops.</li> </ul>

Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Draft LMP Objectives
<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> 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"> <li>● Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity</li> <li>● Maintaining and enhancing our work on peatland restoration</li> <li>● Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape-scale approaches to habitat management and restoration</li> <li>● Continuing to implement the Larch Strategy in order to reduce the rate of expansion of Phytophthora ramorum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue to restore and maintain areas of bog habitat (reduce carbon release, diversify habitat)</li> <li>● Protect historical features</li> <li>● Mitigate against excessive water runoff in catchments.</li> <li>● Pre-emptively remove larch</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> 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"> <li>● Maintaining walking and biking trails to promote fun in the outdoors, focussing on improving entry level experiences for everyone to enjoy and gain health benefits</li> <li>● 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</li> <li>● Enabling outdoor learning and encouraging schools and community groups to make use of the national forests and land</li> <li>● Continuing to engage communities in decisions relating to the management of the national forests and land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide for potential increased use by local community (proposed settlement expansion, fire risk)</li> </ul>



Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Draft LMP Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing to support community empowerment by enabling communities to make use of the national forests and land to benefit their communities</li> </ul>	