



Carradale Land Management Plan 2020

M11: Analysis

Legend

- Carradale Land Management Plan Area Boundary
- Current Landuse**
- Agricultural
- Open Ground
- Felled
- High Forest
- Windblown Forest
- Proposed New Roads
- Existing Forest Roads & Tracks
- Proposed Roads for Clachaig Glen Wind Farm
- Forest Walk

Landscape impacts are significant for views from Arran and along the B842. The interlock of forestry and farmland is important along the Carradale Water.

1,000 Meters
Scale: 1:45,000 @ A3



Many areas of the forest support protected and iconic species of conservation significance. Restructuring under the forest plan will further enhance the habitat for many of these species. Operational plans, protected species surveys pre harvesting and following best practice will offer a further level of site specific protection. On specific sensitive sites detailed proposals have been drawn up in conjunction with expert input to seek to minimise the impacts of felling and roading operations.

Water quality and hydrology are important considerations. Private and public water supplies require protection both in terms of forest design and management of operations on the ground. Catchment areas have been identified and felling proposals will follow best practice in relation to the proportion of flood sensitive catchments that will be felled in ten year phases.

The proposed windfarm development in Clachaig Glen takes place in a small catchment with no restructuring having taken place within the FLS holding. Areas of Muasdale have been identified as being vulnerable to flood risk. These factors limit the felling area to below 20% of the catchment area, and this may constrain peat restoration and habitat management proposals associated with the windfarm.

There are areas of older windblow in the forest where past access issues, H&S considerations and low historical timber prices delayed harvesting. Many of these areas are now regenerating into established mixed crops with future timber potential.

The woodlands close to Carradale have a high recreational value and Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) is appropriate here. Western Hemlock is widespread both as mature stands and abundant regeneration. Western Hemlock is an integral part of the Spirit of Place for this area, and removal would be impractical. Western Hemlock is ideally suited to CCF and can suppress and buffer areas of rhododendron. There are no PAWS areas in the proximity of the proposed Continuous Cover stands. Active management of the Western Hemlock under an irregular shelterwood CCF system offers the most effective management option in this area where the objective is to retain the recreational and aesthetic value of the woodland.

Note: the plan boundary lines have been simplified for display purposes and do not reflect legal title.

New road extensions are proposed in order to access first rotation timber crops. The proposed road link across the Auchenfraoch downfall will enable timber in Glen Rhonadale to move directly to the STTS Haul Route that connects with the A83. This reduces pressure on the B842.

Rhododendron colonisation of the open ground on Deer Hill has numerous adverse impacts and is very difficult to address due to financial constraints. In general hot planting and the rapid establishment of commercial timber post felling offers the most cost effective way of limiting the spread of Rhododendron and compartmentalising it.

The removal of Larch and diversifying the forest structure in terms of age class and species are important objectives for the plan going forward. This builds on work previously undertaken across the forest.

