



Knapdale Land Management Plan Summary

Knapdale LMP was approved on 26th July 2021 and runs for 10 years.

What's important in Knapdale?

- Important historic woodland within the unique landscape of Knapdale
- Extensive high quality native woodland and associated species, including more recently, beavers
- Rich archaeological heritage including 15 Scheduled Monuments and many unscheduled features
- Productive forestry across a wide area growing good quality timber

Vision

Knapdale Land Management Plan (LMP) area comprises Knapdale and Inverneill forestry blocks, covering an area of 6723 ha.

Knapdale lies within a varied landscape to the west of Lochgilphead and is bounded by water on several sides, from the Crinan Canal in the north to the Sound of Jura (west) and Loch Sween in the south. In addition, the unusual landscape of alternating knaps and freshwater lochans has led to its designation as a National Scenic Area. Within this landscape lies a mixture of native woodland and productive non-native conifers, with the latter more predominant in the higher eastern and southern lands. A rich network of priority habitats, both woodland and open, stretch across the plan area and are host to rich and diverse wildlife and flora, including a number of priority species (a large number of Ancient Woodland Sites exist across Knapdale LMP, which are under restoration, as well as two extensive SSSIs). When combined with neighbouring areas of native woodland (from Crinan to Taynish), an impressive habitat network is recreated. It has been said by NatureScot that Knapdale has *“the potential to continue the current trajectory of the restoration of temperate rainforests well into the future. Little rainforest restoration has occurred on this scale in Scotland, so this is an important site.”* The plan area has been divided into five zones each with varying objectives; differing soil conditions and topography also play a part in the assignment of these zones. Several of the open hill top areas to the east are put forward here for peat restoration after their identification as deep peat areas.

Knapdale's proximity to the archaeologically rich Kilmartin area is demonstrated by its own impressive array of heritage sites, of which 16 are scheduled monuments – from several Iron Age forts and duns to chambered cairns and significant deserted townships.

Knapdale is a very popular recreation area for both locals and visitors. Visitor counters have recorded high visitor numbers. Several villages surround Knapdale and one previous forestry village, Achnamara, lies at its heart. Community interest has been expressed in this area for a possible CATS scheme and a successful Land Management Plan public consultation was held in the village hall.



There are wide variety of private and public water supplies fed from the forest land within Knapdale, and in addition the water for the Crinan Canal comes from a network of lochans in the forest. Flooding has been raised as a potential issue in the eastern section within the Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA) for Lochgilphead, and felling proposals have carefully considered any potential impact here.

The forest areas are for the most part well roaded although many of the smaller roads are no longer suitable for timber transport. The younger eastern section of the forest has not yet reached economic maturity, so there is not a large programme of new road building envisaged within this plan period.

Knapdale is a key area for Forestry and Land Scotland's (FLS) West Region both in terms of native woodland restoration and associated habitat management, and also for continued timber production and the restoration of peat in identified open habitats.

The primary objectives for the plan area are:

- Continue to develop a sustainable forest with a diverse range of species; balancing productivity with the area's natural heritage whilst taking into account resilience to future threats of climate change and disease.
- Maintain and enhance the existing recreational facilities accessed within the plan area.
- Improve public road resilience along the B841, Crinan Road.
- Work with partner agencies, including Scottish Canals, and consider any necessary mitigation in the Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA) for flooding around Lochgilphead.
- Aim to restore ancient woodland sites with priority being given to the large areas of Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the plan; also to restore areas of peatlands and maintain the designated Special Protected Area (SPA). Also protect and enhance habitats for key wildlife species including black-throated divers, European beavers, red squirrels, osprey, marsh orchids and marsh fritillary butterflies.
- Protect and build on previous successful works around the enormous variety of heritage sites, including 15 Scheduled Monuments.
- Adopt low impact silvicultural systems (LISS) practices where practical.
- Continue to protect both the tree crop and native woodlands from herbivore damage allowing progression of plan objectives; with focus on deer management.
- Restoration of temperate rainforest into the future on a large scale
- Landscape: important consideration given unique topography of the area, also in relation to power lines and amount of larch planted within the plan area.
- Continued Larch removal as the plan progresses, minimising impact of *P. ramorum*.

Total Plan Area 6723 hectares (ha)



Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

| Species Breakdown | current | end of plan |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Sitka spruce | 56 % | 41 % |
| Birch & other broadleaves | 22 % | 28 % |
| Scots pine | 0.5 % | 0.5 % |
| Lodgepole pine | 1 % | 1 % |
| Larch and other conifers | 6.5 % | 11 % |
| Designed open space | 14 % | 18.5 % |

| Planned Operations | 2021– 2031 plan period |
|----------------------|---|
| Felling | 1124 ha |
| Thinning | 40 ha |
| Restocking | 1041 ha |
| New planting | Nil |
| Road construction | 3390 m |
| Road upgrades | 3980 m |
| | Significant Environment / Conservation Features |
| Designated sites | Knapdale Woods SSSI Inverneill SSSI National Scenic Area |
| Minimum Intervention | 864 ha |
| Natural Reserve | Nil |
| Caledonian Pine Wood | Nil |
| Priority Species 1 | Gavia arctica (Black-throated diver) |
| Priority Species 2 | Castor fiber (European Beaver) |
| Priority Species 3 | Hypocreopsis rhododendri (Hazel Glove fungus & associated hazel woods) |
| Priority Species 4 | Lower Plants (eg Gymnostomum calcareum, Scapania aequiloba, Tritomaria exsecta, Arthothelium macounii, Opegrapha brevis, Pseudocyphellaria norvegica) |



Critical Success Factors:

- Timber production over 2393 ha / 980,000 m³ of timber produced
- 666 ha restocking
- 375 ha natural regeneration
- Construction of 2.38 km of new road
- Ensure construction of four timber handling facilities through plan period
- Continue current levels of deer control. Build new ATV tracks to aid deer extraction in Inverneill (alongside SSSI) and Carsaig area of Knapdale.
- Thinning of hardwood areas (34 ha) through duration of plan period.
- Continue to protect heritage sites throughout plan and record any newly identified features.
- Maintain and where possible identify and undertake improvements to recreational facilities, specifically at Dunardry, Barnluasgan, Arichonan and Castle Dounie.
- Work with communities, including the Achnamara CATS scheme and recreational areas.
- Continue to fulfil Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Area plans to protect and enhance these sites.
- Diversify the current species structure where site conditions allow to improve future forest resilience in relation to climate change, pests and diseases; species choice for Mixed Conifer areas to take into consideration as well as soil types and landform.
- Deliver landscape improvements from key viewpoints by ensuring coupes are felled as per the management plan to give landscape enhancements.
- Control invasive species as per annual Environmental plan and continue to monitor plan area for other invasive species.
- Restore 194 ha of deep peat areas identified as habitat restoration areas; identify any further areas during operations.
- Seek to maintain the water quality status of water bodies and water supplies by ensuring full compliance with UKFS Forest & Water Guidelines and best industry practice.
- Restore priority PAWS areas through clearfelling operations, with subsequent monitoring of sites under restoration and removal of non-native species including conifers and beech.

Consultation and Further Information:

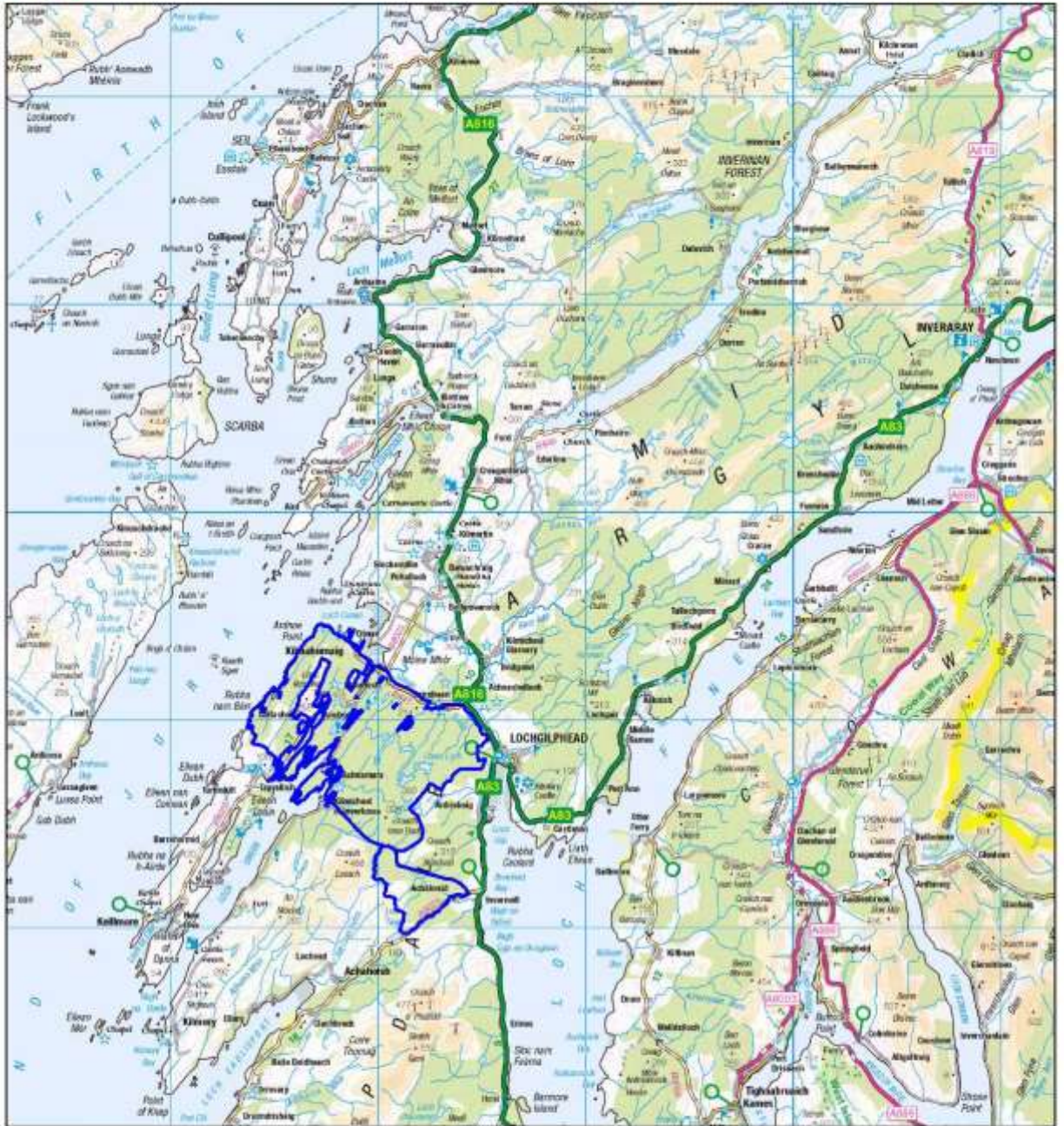
Argyll & Bute Council area

Community Councils: North Knapdale Community Council
Ardrishaig Community Council
Lochgilphead Community Council

Consultation: Public Consultation, Achnamara Village Hall 21/06/19

For further information on the Plan, please contact:

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Knapdale location

Legend

 Blocks

Scale @A4 : 1:250,000

Date: 08/09/2020

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Scotland's national forests and land are responsibly managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard

