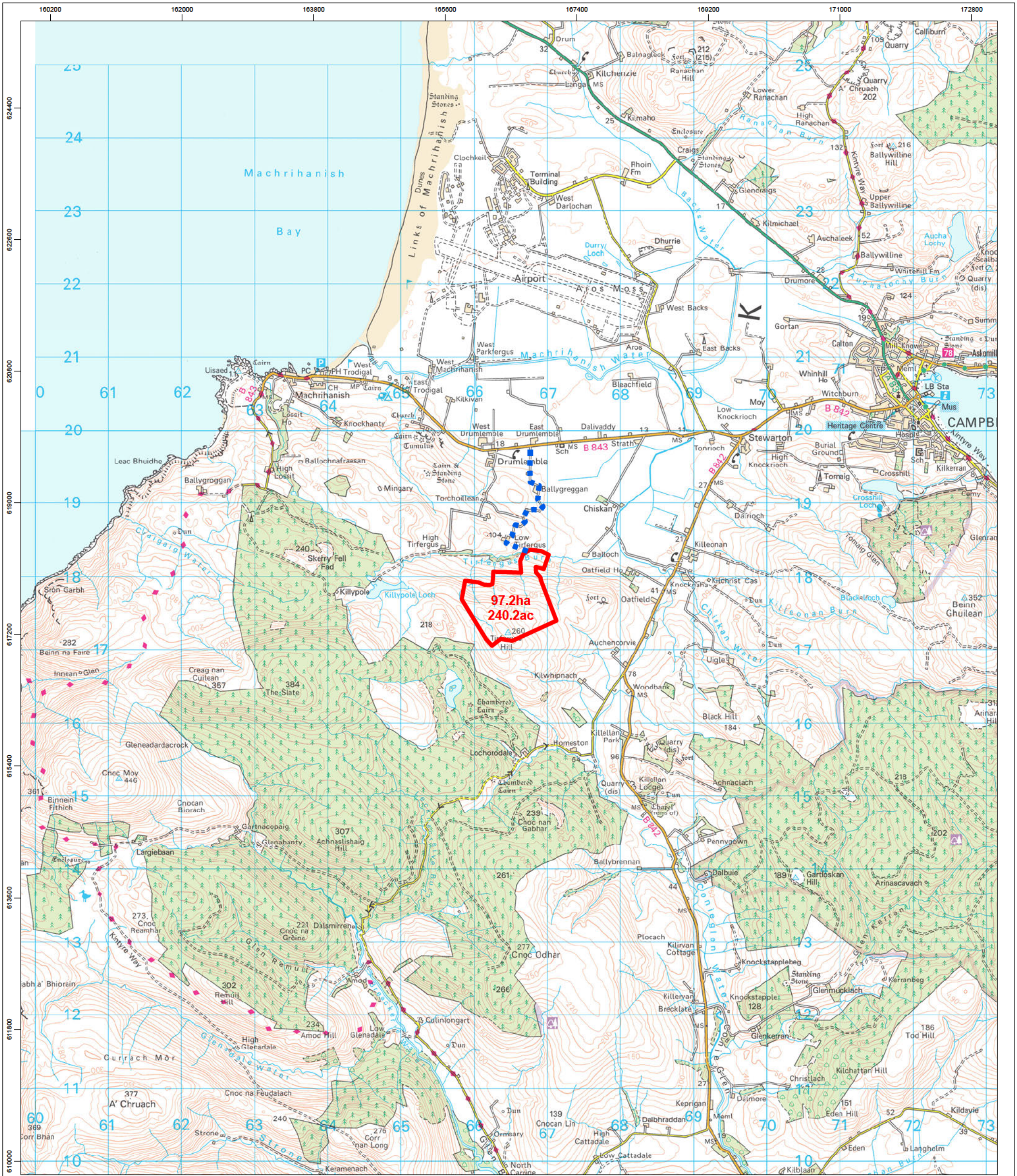


# **Tangy IV Wind Farm Section 36C Variation**

## **Technical Appendix 3.7d: Tangy IV Compensatory Planting**





Legend

■ ■ ■ ■ Access Road

□

Boundary

SF Approved Case: WCP-388

20 June 2023

0 0.75 1.5 3 km

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Project Name

TANGY

Drawing Title

LAND AT BLEACHFIELD KINTYRE

| Rev | Date       | Remarks     | Drwn | Chkd |
|-----|------------|-------------|------|------|
| R0  | 13/12/2018 | First issue | TD   | LM   |
|     |            |             |      |      |
|     |            |             |      |      |

Drawing Number

LN000082-TGY4-LGL-SK-0001-02

Scale

1:50,000

Plot Size

A3

Datum

OSGB36

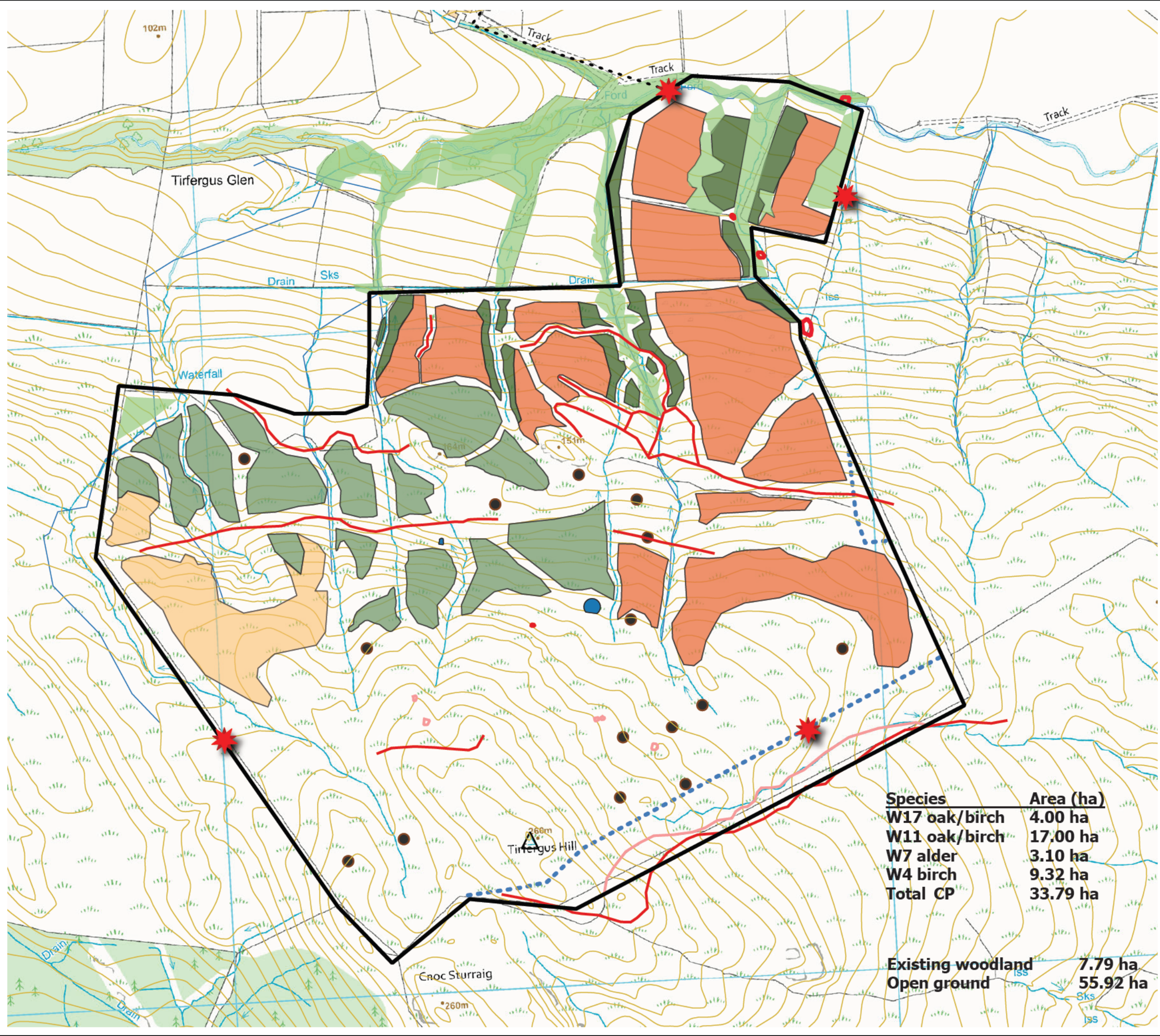
Projection

BNG

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File ref: E:\PORTFOLIO\01\_Onshore\_Wind\01\_Development\Tangy\_IV\Drawings\03\_Legal\Sketches\0002\_BleachfieldLocPlan\LN000082-TGY4-LGL-SK-0001-02-BleachfieldLocPlan-R00.mxd





Tangy IV

Compensatory Planting

Bleachfield

Planting Plan

McKayforestry

Bleachfield boundary

Pedestrian and/ or sheep gate

Access

New fenceline

Peat depth greater than 50cms

GWDTE

Archeaeology banks

Archaeological structures

Possible achaeological features

Existing W7 (alder woodland)

W11 Upland oak-birch

W17 Upland oak-birch

W4 Birch woodland

Trig point

Scottish Forestry

Approved Case: WCP-388

20 June 2023

0100200 m

Drawn by: NM

Scale:1:10,000 @ A3

Date: 04/05/2023

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## Project Proposal

|                            |                               |              |         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| Business Reference Number: | Not applicable                | Case Number: | WCP-388 |
| Application name:          | Bleachfield Woodland Creation |              |         |

## General Assessment

The information in your Operational Plan should be based on a thorough assessment of the site. Please complete the following:

Describe the management objectives for the site.

The primary objectives are:

- To establish a native woodland meeting the compensatory planting requirements

Secondary objectives are:

- To combat climate change through carbon sequestration on a medium scale
- To enhance the landscape through the establishment of a well-designed woodland
- To protect and enhance biodiversity values through the establishment of native woodland

Provide a description of the planting site.

### Context

The woodland creation project is being taken forward as compensatory planting for woodland removal proposed Tangy IV wind farm.

As such no grant aid is being sought, but information on the scheme, its specifications, and an assessment of its impact, is set out below, following a similar format to a Forestry Grant Scheme application.

### Location

The proposed site is some 10 km due south of the wind farm. (Location plan attached) Land at Bleachfield, Drumlemble, Near Campbeltown. Grid Reference: NR664174

### Extent

The required planted area is 31.73 ha out of the available 97.2 ha at Bleachfield. (planting area plan attached)

### Land Use



Historically, has been used to provide rough grazing for sheep and cattle.

The land was purchased by SSE Renewables for the purpose of compensatory planting,

There are no houses in the immediate vicinity of the site although access is via High Tirfergus farm (the current tenant)

### **Topography**

The lowest elevation is 40 to 50 m above sea level to a high point Tirfergus Hill at 260 m. Grid Ref: NR 6646 1722.

The ground is sloping with a northerly aspect.

There is evidence that the northernmost section was improved grassland having been reseeded with applications of lime in the past while the balance is moorland.

The land is currently used for sheep grazing on an annual basis by the neighbour.

According to Argyll and Bute Woodlands and Forestry Strategy geographic data the proposed site is classed as “sensitive” for the lower section whereas the body of the site is “potential” and the upper areas are “preferred”.

### **Soils**

Hutton soils web maps show the lower parts of the site containing noncalcareous gleys, some peaty gleys and humic gleys. The central section of the proposed planting area is described as noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys, some brown forest soils and peaty gleys.

The upper section of the ownership, of which a small proportion will form part of the proposed planting area consist of peaty gleys and some peat.

It is not intended to plant within areas of deep peat.

A peat depth survey was undertaken by E.S. Lawrence PhD CEnv CIEEM.  
(The full report, plans and shapefiles available).

### **Drainage**

Several small tributaries flow into the Tirfergus burn which is also fed by Killypole Loch to the west.

The small burns contain existing riparian woodland within the gulleys.

Native woodland establishment will benefit from cultivation in the form of mounds with the design including buffer zones from water courses as set out in UKFS Forestry and Water Guidelines.

Ploughing and draining shall be excluded from the cultivation options.

### **Cultural Heritage**

Past map shows nothing on site.

Bealloch fort (SM3639) is some 650 m outside the ownership boundary to the east.



Clare Ellis and Hilary McLauchlan of Argyll Archaeology undertook an archaeological walkover. (Full report, plans and shapefiles available).

## **Ecological Interest**

### Designations and Context

There are no known statutory designated sites of conservation interest within the site.

### Habitats

Ecological survey was undertaken by E.S. Lawrence PhD CEnv CIEEM.  
(The full report, plans and shapefiles available).

Woodlands - One of the key habitat features is the scattered, remnant alder and birch along the riparian zones. There are a few mature sycamores, white willow and chestnut distributed along the burn sides, scrub and the understory is relatively poorly represented with few if any tree seedlings present. One of the primary biodiversity aims of the proposal should be the restoration of the native woodland and scrub and its expansion over the richer quality, Sandstone derived soils.

Grassland - Overall the whole of Tirfergus Hill is classified as upland grassland or moorland habitats dominated by gamminoids. The two inbye fields are classed as either improved or semi-improved grassland and have lower botanical conservation value.

The artificial and natural drainage gullies are dominated by the above rushes and are predicted to be partially ground water dependent and overall are placed in the low category. The exceptions are one or two slightly base-rich springs and flushes dominated by sedges (*Carex* species) which are fully ground water dependent.

### Birds

There was a small flock of c. 25 golden plover in flight south around the summit in February 2022 and one perched near the trig point. It is likely that the gently sloping blanket mire habitats at Tirfergus are used by migrant/overwintering golden plover as roosts (pers. obs. at multiple upland sites in Kintyre). In January 2022 the owner recorded a blackcock in the recovering dwarf-shrub heath southwest of the upper march fence and historically there was a lek around Loch Orodale

### Other Interests

There were signs that otter use the Tirfergus Burn and the occupant has noted sightings in the past, but no obvious couches or holts were located during the present surveys. The majority of the habitat outside of the main riparian zone at Bleachfield represents marginal habitat for otters (without even small amphibian pools).

## **Landscape Interest**



The Landscape Character type (LCTs) SNH 2019 is noted as 39 - Plateau Moor and Forest – Argyll. The site rises from the broad lowland plain between Campbeltown and Machrihanish Bay. Tirfergus hill is visible from Campbeltown 6 km distant and Machrihanish some 4 km. The planting design will largely be dictated by the burns flowing south to north into Tirfergus burn. The upper and eastern margins do not have any sympathetic landform to follow and will require detail, possibly in the form of reducing stocking numbers. NB it is not intended to plant much beyond the 200 m contour.

#### Opportunities and Constraints

*The area is devoid of sizable native woodlands and this scheme delivers a significant area of broadleaved woodland against either open hill or extensive productive coniferous plantations.*

*Generally, the potential for new woodlands is variable; moderate potential in places but limited elsewhere. There is scope to extend woodlands from the foothills onto the higher slopes, provided the new planting is of medium scale, informal in pattern and interlocks well with the existing woodlands, hedgerows and landform. Where the existing open character is valued, there may be less opportunity. Wherever possible, new planting should follow gullies, side valleys and local depressions to create visual links between valleys and isolated areas of hillside trees.*

*Woodland planting should be avoided within the vicinity of archaeological sites and sites of ecological value (generally local wet flushes and areas with more species-rich acid grassland).*

#### Design Guidance

*Top-down approach - woodland shapes should reflect the underlying landform, with flowing outlines. Bottom-up approach patterns of enclosure and established woodland are more important influences on the shape of new woodland planting.*

*Scale should increase with elevation, with small-scale woodlands on the lowest ground, extending the established pattern of tree groups and small woods. On mid slopes and valley sides, medium scale is preferred, with large-scale woodlands capping the hill tops.*

*Diversity should decrease with increasing elevation. On lower slopes, woodland species should reflect variations in soils and growing conditions, including managed open ground to achieve an open structure and conserve sites of ecological and archaeological interest. At higher elevations, where, fertility diminishes, woodland and species structure should form simple patterns.*

*The introduction of new woodland should retain an open, interlocking pattern with the farmland landscape.*

*Conserve significant views to distant hills: restore and enhance neglected landscape features.*

#### Visibility

Viewpoints and a photomontage have been prepared. The views tend to be distant other than from High Tirfergus farm.



The woodland is within the lower slopes of Tirfergus Hill and does not approach the trig point.

#### **Public Access**

Public use is limited to occasional visits to the Tirfergus Hill trig point.

#### **Services**

There are no service lines crossing the site, and there are no residential private water suppliers emanating from the site.

Provide details of discussions with neighbours, local communities and consultees.

The list and discussions are noted in the issues log.

Fencing access is of interest to the neighbouring land owners.

You must carry out a site-based assessment of soil and vegetation to match species choice with the particular site. Refer to [\(ESC-DSS\)](#) during this process.

List the site surveys undertaken to inform tree species selection. For example: soil survey, soil depth survey, vegetation survey.

#### **Site surveys undertaken**

- Initial desktop survey;
- Walkover constraints survey;
- Walkover soils survey;
- Walkover vegetation survey;
- Ornithological survey;
- Walkover archaeological survey;
- Landscape and viewpoint analysis; and
- Assessment of desktop information.

See section on site description above for details on these.

Please indicate the climatic suitability of the site for the tree species you have chosen. Use the [FCS Map Viewer](#) - see the 'FGS (2014-20) Climatic Site Suitability' data.

#### **Suitability for Woodland Creation**

In terms of Land Capability for Forestry, a small part of the proposed planting area lies within land classified as F4 (Land with good flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops), with the large majority being within areas of F5 land (moderate flexibility).



This is supported by the ESC analysis results below.

The site has good pedestrian management access.

#### ESC Assessment

An Ecological Site Classification (ESC) analysis was run for three locations, covering both typical and more extreme site conditions in terms of soil type, exposure, and soil dampness.

The table below includes information on soil types, vegetation, and location of each sample, together with data from the ESC software on soil nutrient and moisture status. A note of any amendments to the software default (d) settings, in terms of planned site management and exposure, is also given (→).

Drainage was not included as a site management option. The option to add fertiliser was not included, as the soils appear to be reasonably to highly fertile.

| Site factors                | ESC 1<br>NR 66774 17799     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Planting mix                | Oak-birch                   |
| Location                    | Western edge, higher ground |
| Soils                       | Upland brown earth          |
| Vegetation                  | Improved grass              |
| SMR                         | Fresh (d)                   |
| SNR                         | Medium (d)                  |
| Drainage / Fertiliser (Y/N) | N / N                       |
| Exposure                    | DAMS 17 (High)              |
| <b>Species</b>              |                             |
| Scots pine                  | <i>suitable</i>             |
| Norway spruce               | <i>marginal*</i>            |
| Sitka spruce                | <i>suitable</i>             |
| Grand fir                   | <i>unsuitable*</i>          |
| Noble fir                   | <i>suitable</i>             |
| Pacific fir                 | <i>suitable</i>             |
| Western hemlock             | <i>suitable</i>             |
| Downy birch                 | <i>suitable</i>             |
| Silver birch                | <i>suitable</i>             |
| Pedunculate oak             | <i>suitable</i>             |
| Sessile oak                 | <i>suitable</i>             |
| Sycamore                    | <i>suitable</i>             |
| Aspen                       | <i>suitable</i>             |
| Alder                       | <i>marginal*</i>            |
| Rowan                       | <i>v. suitable</i>          |

\*limiting factor is exposure (DAMS)

For most species, exposure (DAMS) is the major limiting factor, except for the more sheltered, wetter, eastern part of the site where soil moisture regime (SMR) is the main limiting factor.

The ESC analysis has been considered in the selection and siting of the proposed species mixes, in conjunction with detailed site observations and prior experience on woodland establishment.

The ESC results suggest that the site is suitable for a relatively wide range of productive coniferous, broadleaved and native broadleaved species. Brief examination of tree and woodland growth and condition in the locality supports this view.

In addition, an ESC analysis was undertaken to provide guidance on suitable NVC native woodland types.

| SNR                                         | Medium (d)         | Medium (d)         |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Exposure                                    | DAMS 15 (Moderate) | DAMS 17 (High)     |
| <b>NVC Woodland</b>                         |                    |                    |
| W3 – Sallow with bottle sedge               | <i>v. suitable</i> | <i>unsuitable</i>  |
| W4 – Birch with purple moor grass           | <i>v. suitable</i> | <i>unsuitable</i>  |
| W6 – Alder with stinging nettle             | <i>suitable</i>    | <i>suitable</i>    |
| W7 – Alder-ash with yellow pimpernel        | <i>suitable</i>    | <i>marginal</i>    |
| W11 – Oak-birch with bluebell/wild hyacinth | <i>v. suitable</i> | <i>v. suitable</i> |



Woodland Strategy: Describe how your proposal fits with the Local Authority woodland strategy.

Argyll and Bute Woodland and Forestry Strategy

Classified as "Potential" for woodland expansion

BIO8 Ensure that woodland and expansion and management make a positive contribution to Argyll's biodiversity and people's understanding and appreciation of it

BIO9 Ensure that woodland and forest expansion and management protect and enhance internationally, nationally and locally important habitats and species.

CC1 Encourage the net expansion of woodland cover in Argyll and Bute with in order to further contribute to national targets for carbon sequestration

CD1 Support further community involvement in the ownership and management of woodlands, and in the creation of woodland based educational and social enterprises

CD2 Support schools and tertiary education providers, and the community development and voluntary sectors in making use of woodlands as a resource for inspiration, learning, enjoyment and a rewarding career

AH1 Further develop the role of woodlands and forests in contributing to outdoor access and recreation

Please use the Timber Transport Forum – [Agreed Routes Map](#) and confirm the sites timber route classification i.e. agreed, consultation, severely restricted, excluded or no classification.

Timber haulage is not a planned activity from this site

## Sensitive Areas & Potential Impacts

### Sensitive Areas:

- National Nature Reserve or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Park
- World Heritage Site
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- National Scenic Area
- Natura sites – Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Area of Conservation (SPA)
- Land on which there is a Nature Conservation Order
- Deep peat soil

### Potential Impacts:

- Population & Human Health
- Biodiversity
- Land, Soil, Water, Air, Climate
- Material Assets, Cultural Heritage, Landscape

List any **Sensitive Areas** and any **Potential Significant Impacts** relating to your site, including appropriate mitigation (refer to Annex 1). Detail any surveys completed to inform this assessment.

*For complex cases the Issues Log (Annex 2) can be used to record this instead.*

*(Scotland's Environment Web Land Information Search <https://www.environment.gov.scot/maps/land-information-search/> is a useful resource which may help you identify some of the constraints within your site).*

### **Potential Impacts**

- Population - Nil
- Land – N/A
- Soil – N/A
- Water – N/A
- Landscape – N/A

Refer to Annex 1 for an evaluation of the impacts and details of appropriate mitigation.



## Management Operations

### All Applications

Having assessed the site please provide information about how you are going to establish the new woodland.

**Ground Preparation:** Describe the method that you will use, including dimensions. Where you propose multiple ground preparation techniques then you must identify these on a map.

The aim is to provide a suitable planting location for tree establishment and growth while minimising visual, soil carbon release and hydrological impacts.

Ground preparation will comply with the Forestry Commission guidelines 'Cultivation of Soils for Forestry' (Bulletin 119) and with the 'Cultivation guidance for upland productive woodland creation sites'.

The soil-based objectives identified are:

- i) Manage soil wetness and waterlogging from the water table
- ii) Create weed-free planting positions
- All plantable ground, including riparian areas and native broadleaved planting, will be prepared by individual mounding, using a continuous moulder, tracked excavator or manual means to create the mounds, which may be inverted (on drier ground) or raised (on wet ground)

**Drainage:** Identify any existing drains/watercourses and provide information relating to new drains.

#### **Drainage**

**As a native woodland proposal drainage is not planned**

**NB No drainage works will be undertaken with catchments that serve as drinking water supplies for agricultural stock**

**Protection:** Describe how the site will be protected. For example: fencing, tree guards/shelters and pest management.

Append a deer management plan if required. You should refer to the [Deer Management Best Practice Guide](#) and the [Joint Agency statement on deer fencing](#). You may be asked to submit a checklist from the Joint Agency guidance (May 2010).

There are roe deer, rabbits, hares, and voles present in the locality, and much of the surrounding ground will continue to be grazed by sheep and cattle.

The existing march stock fences are generally in poor condition.

The site will be protected by deer fencing, with broadleaved trees being further protected by vole guards.

The fencing and gate requirements are set out below.

| Option             | Deer fence (m) | Management gates | Kissing gates |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Native broadleaved | 4,682          | 2                | 2             |
| <b>total</b>       | <b>4,682</b>   | <b>2</b>         | <b>2</b>      |

NB The exact location of the gate on the boundaries will be agreed with the neighbouring landowners, while the location of the southeastern fence will be agreed with the landowner with a view to potentially permitting him access to stock handling facilities within the site.

Vole guards will be fitted to all broadleaved trees, as detailed below:

| Cpt. | Mix           | Area/notes | Density (per ha) | No.           |
|------|---------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
|      | W17 oak birch | 4.00       | 1,600            | 6406          |
|      | W11 oak birch | 17.06      | 1,600            | 27300         |
|      | W7 alder      | 3.10       | 1,600            | 4960          |
|      | W4 birch      | 9.32       | 1,600            | 14915         |
|      | W17 oak birch | 4.00       |                  | 6406          |
|      |               |            | <b>total</b>     | <b>53,582</b> |

Stiles, water gates and slip gates will be erected as required.

A rationale for the protection methods proposed, and an analysis of alternative options is contained in Appendix 1.

**Planting; please provide the following:**

- Species to be planted and percentage of each. (Please use the components area table to record hectares planted).
- Describe the nursery stock and planting method to be used.
- Confirm if you will be planting vegetatively propagated Sitka spruce.
- For native woodland creation specify the Seed Source Zone.



## Woodland Design

The proposed planting species mixes and their distribution have been chosen taking into consideration the existing site conditions, biodiversity and landscape issues and the stated objectives.

The planting design entails the use of five species mixes, as detailed below.

Design features include:

- Particular attention paid to the site's boundaries and the upper margin due to their visual sensitivity;
- Using open ground and broadleaved planting to soften the woodland's edges;
- Enhancing riparian zones through the planting of native broadleaved woodland; and
- Retaining access and amenity to the Tirfergus hill trig point.

## Planting Specifications

- Native broadleaved plants will be grown from seed collected from a suitable provenance 106 if possible

### **a) Native broadleaves (based on NVC W11)**

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| Silver birch | 50 % |
| Sessile oak  | 20 % |
| Rowan        | 10 % |
| Hazel        | 10 % |
| Hawthorn     | 8 %  |
| Bird cherry  | 2 %  |

- This mix will be planted on free-draining soils
- An indication on planting location is given above:
  - oak and birch will be planted in an intimate mix on the more sheltered locations
  - the remaining birch will be planted in single-species drifts
  - rowan, hazel and hawthorn will be planted in small single-species groups
  - holly will be planted in small single-species groups, particularly focused on the edges of the planting
- This mix will be planted at 3m by 3m spacing to achieve 1,100 stems per ha at year 5

### **b) Native broadleaves (based on NVC W4 and W7)**

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| Downy birch  | 50 % |
| Common alder | 20 % |
| Goat willow  | 10 % |

Bleachfield, compensatory planting, native woodland creation  
Operational Plan

|             |      |          |
|-------------|------|----------|
| Grey willow | 10 % |          |
| Rowan       | 5 %  |          |
| Bird cherry | 5 %  | on edges |

- This mix will be on wetter soils
- Downy birch will be planted in single-species groups
- Alder and willow will be focused on the wetter soils
- Rowan will be focused on any pockets of freer-draining ground
- Bird cherry will be focused on the edges of the planting
- This mix will be planted at 3m by 3m spacing to achieve 1,100 stems per ha at year 5

**c) Native broadleaves**  
(based on NVC W17)

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| Sessile oak  | 50 % |
| Silver birch | 20 % |
| Rowan        | 10 % |
| Hazel        | 10 % |
| Hawthorn     | 8 %  |
| Bird cherry  | 2 %  |

- This mix will be planted on free-draining soils
- An indication on planting location is given above:
  - oak and birch will be planted in an intimate mix
  - rowan, hazel and hawthorn will be planted in small single-species groups
  - holly will be planted in small single-species groups, particularly focused on the edges of the planting
- This mix will be planted at 3m by 3m spacing to achieve 1,100 stems per ha at year 5

**Open Ground**

Open ground will be retained for the following reasons:

- to retain areas of biodiversity interest;
- to enhance riparian margins by watercourses;
- to soften woodland margins;
- to create accessible rides for future woodland management; and
- to maintain access to the archaeological features.

**Maintenance:** Describe the maintenance regime for the site (e.g. monitoring, weeding, beat-up, etc.).

**Maintenance**

- All fences and gates will be monitored regularly for signs of intrusion and maintained in a stock/deer proof condition
- All plants and guards will be maintained in a wind firm position

Bleachfield, compensatory planting, native woodland creation  
Operational Plan

- All trees will have a 1m<sup>2</sup> spot maintained in a substantially weed free condition until they are established – this will be achieved by the applications of systemic and residual herbicide and by hand weeding as necessary
- Plants will be monitored for signs of disease, nutrient deficiency, and damage, and appropriate action taken as necessary
- Replacement planting will be undertaken to ensure that the required stocking densities are maintained until year 5
- Vole guards will be removed when the trees are fully established
- Drains will be maintained in a functioning condition
- The site will be routinely monitored to ensure that the specifications are being achieved, and in order that any unforeseen problems can be identified and dealt with at an early stage

**Fertilisation:** Where applicable, describe the proposed fertiliser regime e.g. application rate, timing, etc.

The soils appear to be fertile, and no applications of fertiliser are anticipated. If a need to apply fertiliser is identified during the monitoring process, 'Forests and Water' guidelines (5<sup>th</sup> edition) will be adhered to.

**Other:** Please include any other silvicultural detail here.



## Annex 1

### Assessment of Potential Impact

Please use the following guidance to assist with describing any potential significant impacts and any mitigation which is proposed:

- **Population & Human Health:** Detail any discussions which you have had with neighbours, local communities or other stakeholders and explain how this has influenced your proposal. Explain what public access is currently undertaken on the site and what provisions you plan to make to continue or improve this in adherence with the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#).
- **Cultural Heritage:** Indicate what survey work has been undertaken and describe how archaeology will be protected.
- **Soil:** Provide an accurate assessment of the soil on site and describe how you will manage the quality of the soil including any effects from erosion and compaction.
- **Water:** Detail the nature of the likely impacts on water bodies or water supplies from your activities and how you will mitigate these impacts.
- **Air:** Detail the nature of the likely impacts on air quality or the impacts on light provision.
- **Biodiversity:** Detail the nature and extent of high value habitats such as those listed on the [Scottish Biodiversity List](#) and describe how you will protect these habitats. Detail the nature of the likely impacts on wildlife from your activities and how you will mitigate these impacts. Refer to [European Protected Species](#) for guidance.
- **Landscape:** Provide details of how the impact on the landscape has been assessed and how the application has been designed to minimise any impact.
- **Climate:** Provide details on the vulnerability of the project to climate change and how this impact was mitigated.
- **Land:** Does your application have an impact or an effect on prime agricultural land (defined as land use classes 1, 2 and 3.1), or the local land use balance with agriculture? Detail the nature of the likely impacts on agriculture from your activities and how you will mitigate these impacts and integrate with forestry.  
You should refer to the 'Guidance about Woodland Creation on Agricultural Land' located on [Woodland Expansion Advisory Group \(WEAG\)](#) web page for further details.
- **Material Assets:** Identify and describe all built and natural assets that are relevant to the site and which could be adversely impacted by the proposal e.g. utilities, minerals. Describe any mitigation proposed for these features.



Scottish  
Forestry  
Coilltearachd  
na h-Alba

Perth and Argyll Conservancy  
Scottish Forestry  
Upper Battleby  
Redgorton  
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PH1 3EN

0300 067 6005  
panda.cons@forestry.gov.scot

**Conservator:** Cameron Maxwell

Mr Neil McKay  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

mckayforestry@outlook.com

20-Jun-2023

Dear Mr McKay,

**Case Reference:**WCP-388

**Property Name:** Bleachfield

## **WOODLAND CREATION EIA SCREENING OPINION**

**The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**

I refer to your application for Bleachfield at Campbeltown which contains proposals for 31.73 hectares of afforestation.

We are required to provide a Screening Opinion under the above Regulations as to whether the work you are proposing is an EIA project and will require EIA consent.

I can confirm that the work you propose will not require EIA consent.

### **Biodiversity**

#### **Breeding Bird Survey**

*The planting and deer fencing has been designed with survey results in mind.*

**The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.**

### **Biodiversity**

#### **Protected Species**

*Agent has said that Badger gates are proposed and will be identified just prior to fence erection. These have been included in the planting plan. Agent has said that Otter on Tirfergus burn and on the Lochorodale boundary will be provided with maintained gaps in the water gates (or diversion tunnels on the banks). These have been included in the planting plan.*

**The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.**

### **Biodiversity**

The proposal is for a minimum 31.73 ha native woodland scheme. This will increase native woodland within Kintyre which contains a large percentage of coniferous forests.

A primary objective will be to enhance the biodiversity locally within and along the margins of this planting scheme. However, at the same time it is recognised that the activity must protect the existing habitats and species, most notably along the existing riparian areas.

LISS search results include Native woodland – Integrated Habitat Network, secondary zone for most of the upper area of the site.

*Positive response received from NatureScot for the compensatory planting.*

The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.

### **Climate**

Winters in south Kintyre are usually mild for Scotland. Summers are warm, with daytime temperatures in August typically reaching 17.3°C and nights dipping to 11.4°C.

Rainfall is high, totalling 1245 mm in a typical year. Precipitation is distributed evenly, falling over about 179 days per year.

The area has high sunshine totals, with 1361 hours of sunshine recorded in a typical year.

The wind rose for Machrihanish is distinctly west south west and east north east. Winds are described as Fresh to Strong.

*The planting has been designed with these comments/survey results in mind. Area of GWDTE left unplanted.*

The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.

### **Cultural Heritage**

Past map shows nothing on site.

Bealloch fort (SM3639) is some 650 m outside the ownership boundary to the east.

*Archaeological features are incorporated into the planting design by maintaining as open ground.*

The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.

### **Land**

The area of ownership extends from Low Tirfergus farm near Drumlemble. The lowest elevation is 40 to 50 m above sea level to a high point Tirfergus Hill at 260 m. Grid Ref: NR 6646 1722.

The ground is sloping with a northerly aspect.

There is evidence that the northernmost section was improved grassland having been reseeded with applications of lime in the past while the balance is moorland.

The land is currently used for sheep grazing on an annual basis by the neighbour.

According to Argyll and Bute Woodlands and Forestry Strategy geographic data the proposed site is classed as “sensitive” for the lower section whereas the body of the site is “potential” and the upper areas are “preferred”.

*The southern portion of the site within the Local Landscape Area has been left unplanted.*

The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.

### **Landscape**

Local Landscape Area - Mull of Kintyre

*The southern portion of the site within the Local Landscape Area has been left unplanted.*

The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.

### **Landscape**



The Landscape Character type (LCTs) SNH 2019 is noted as 39 - Plateau Moor and Forest – Argyll.

The site rises from the broad lowland plain between Campbeltown and Machrihanish Bay. Tirfergus hill is visible from Campbeltown 6 km distant and Machrihanish some 4 km.

The planting design will largely be dictated by the burns flowing south to north into Tirfergus burn. The upper and eastern margins do not have any sympathetic landform to follow and will require detail, possibly in the form of reducing stocking numbers.

NB it is not intended to plant much beyond the 200 m contour.

*The planting has been designed with the landscape/visualisations in mind. .*

The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.

### **Population & Human Health**

The scattered dwellings of Drumlemble is the nearest population contains a primary school with a school role of 32 pupils.

The landowner is keen to encourage the engagement with Drumlemble Primary School in this native woodland creation project.

A native woodland approach will have no long term detrimental impact through timber harvesting and haulage of any scale.

Public access appears limited, although some walkers do ascend to the trig point on Tirfergus hill.

*Include as community council and A&B access officer as consultees when put on EIA PR.*

The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.

### **Soil**

Hutton soils web maps show the lower parts of the site containing noncalcareous gleys, some peaty gleys and humic gleys. The central section of the proposed planting area is described as noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys, some brown forest soils and peaty gleys.

The upper section of the ownership, of which a small proportion will form part of the proposed planting area consist of peaty gleys and some peat.

It is not intended to plant within areas of deep peat.

*Planting design avoids areas of deep peat.*

The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.

### **Water**

#### **Private Water Supplies**

*Scottish Water have confirmed that there are no Scottish Water drinking water catchments or water abstraction sources, which are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas under the Water Framework Directive, in the area that may be affected by the proposed activity. UKFS and Forest and Water Guidelines will be followed. Agent will establish with neighbours where the 200mm uPVC rising main is to prevent any damage when bring in plant and machinery.*

The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.

### **Water**

Several small tributaries flow into the Tirfergus burn which is also fed by Killypole Loch to the west.

The small burns contain existing riparian woodland within the gulleys.

Native woodland establishment will benefit from cultivation in the form of mounds with the design including buffer zones from water courses as set out in UKFS Forestry and Water Guidelines.

Ploughing and draining shall be excluded from the cultivation options.

*UKFS and Forest and Water Guidelines will be followed. Planting Plan has incorporated suitable buffers/planting to enhance/protect riparian areas.*

The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have no significant negative environmental impacts.

Work in relation to this forestry project is expected to start within 5 years and be completed within 10 years from the date of this letter. If you have not started any of the work identified in this screening opinion within 5 years from the date of this letter but still wish to proceed with the project, then

please advise us. We will screen the proposal again to decide whether your project requires EIA consent under these Regulations.

Please note that if you intend to apply for grant funding for this work, you must wait until you get an approved contract from us before you start any of the work.

Please find below the final design map(s) for this project:

 [Bleachfield FINAL map 04.05.2023.pdf](#)

Yours sincerely,

Mandy Cook  
Woodland Officer

for Conservator  
Cameron Maxwell



Scottish  
Forestry

/ Coilltearachd  
na h-Alba

