

# **Ardentinny Liaison Meeting**

# Meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June at Glenbranter – 10am

### **Attendees**

John Brint - Convener, Ardentinny Community Council Mark Rowthorn – Secretary, Ardentinny Community Council Keith Wood – Treasurer, Ardentinny Community Council Graham Stirling - SSE Distribution Chris Wood - SSE Distribution Martha Smart - SSE Transmission Paul Munn – SSE Transmission Fraser MacDonald - FLS Julie Ketley - FLS

FLS thanked everyone for attending and confirmed that the reason for the meeting was as a direct result of Ardentinny community's concern regarding the impact of Storm Eowyn. It was to allow discussion regarding the response to the storm specifically relating to the coordination of response between the various parties and to discuss future plans.

### **FLS Update**

FLS provided an update on the windblow that had taken place in the area above the public road to the west of Ardentinny. The areas affected have been designed into two separate areas to be worked and an amendment has been submitted and approved by Scottish Forestry. These areas are Coupes 09026/09126 to the north and 09023 to the south. Plan attached (5 Management Proposed). Correction made to minutes by FLS in email of 3/7/2025 Coupe is 09128 not 09026/

09126

In order to facilitate felling of these coupes road upgrades are required and this information is currently being packaged up to go out to tender later in June. It is hoped this upgrade work can be carried out in Aug/Sep 25. Once this is done we can market the coupes for sale through our Standing Sale process in Sep/Oct and estimate that the work will take approximately six months to complete from site start. Both coupes will be worked by one contractor. Extraction route drawings also attached. Please note that the extraction maps are just an indication of how the sites could be worked and are not a definitive plan.

A query was raised regarding coupe 09024 but FLS confirmed there was no plans to fell this area at the moment. SSE confirmed that the majority of faults had been within the two coupes that

are to be felled and the only fault in 09024 was from trees within 09023 falling northwards into the area.

Restocking of these coupes will include a mixture of species but will include more native woodland species as per the current LMP.

### **SSE Distribution Update**

SSE Distribution gave an update on the circumstances behind the outages experienced after the storm and explained the unique set of circumstances that had caused the problem. Due to an earlier storm just before Christmas 2024 Ardentinny was already being fed from the north as opposed to the usual direction from the south due to the fault at Blairmore. The Ardentinny faults (see Ardentinny FLS faults) then took out this connection to the line and although it was rectified further faults were found at both Whistlefield and Coylet which added to the delay in restoring power. See Ardentinny Faults Schematic.

One of the issues raised was the difference between the information provided by SSE staff on site which was generally good and that received by phoning or online where customers were told that power would be restored in a matter of hours. SSE Distribution explained that a national provider, Powertrack, deals with the updates which it takes direct from the system and does not always have the up to date position. In this instance this part of the network was on local control due to the earlier Blairmore fault and the national response may not have been aware of that. SSE to feed back this issue raised.

Discussion took place about the outages proposed during the felling works and SSE explained that the majority of the residences would be fed by generator and that there would only be a couple of hours outage whilst the switch was made. SSE will also take the opportunity to carry out maintenance works to the line when the harvesting works are being carried out to strengthen the temporary repairs carried out just after the storm. U/G options for this line are unlikely.

### **SSEN Transmission Update**

The new line proposed from Dunnoon to Garelochead is replacing the existing overhead line which connect Dunoon to the wider grid and which is now beyond end of life. The new line will build future resilience into the network. The submission for consent to the Energy Consents Unit was submitted for approval in 2023 and a decision is expected to be made in Autumn 2025. Although subject to final confirmation it is likely that construction will take place between 2026 and 2028.

Closer to the time more information will be shared through public meetings including opportunities for jobs and local contractors. Link to the project page below.

#### <u>Dunoon - SSEN Transmission</u>

Felling plans and the compound areas to be used are all in discussion. It was noted that the Dun Daraich area should be avoided due to its historic interest.

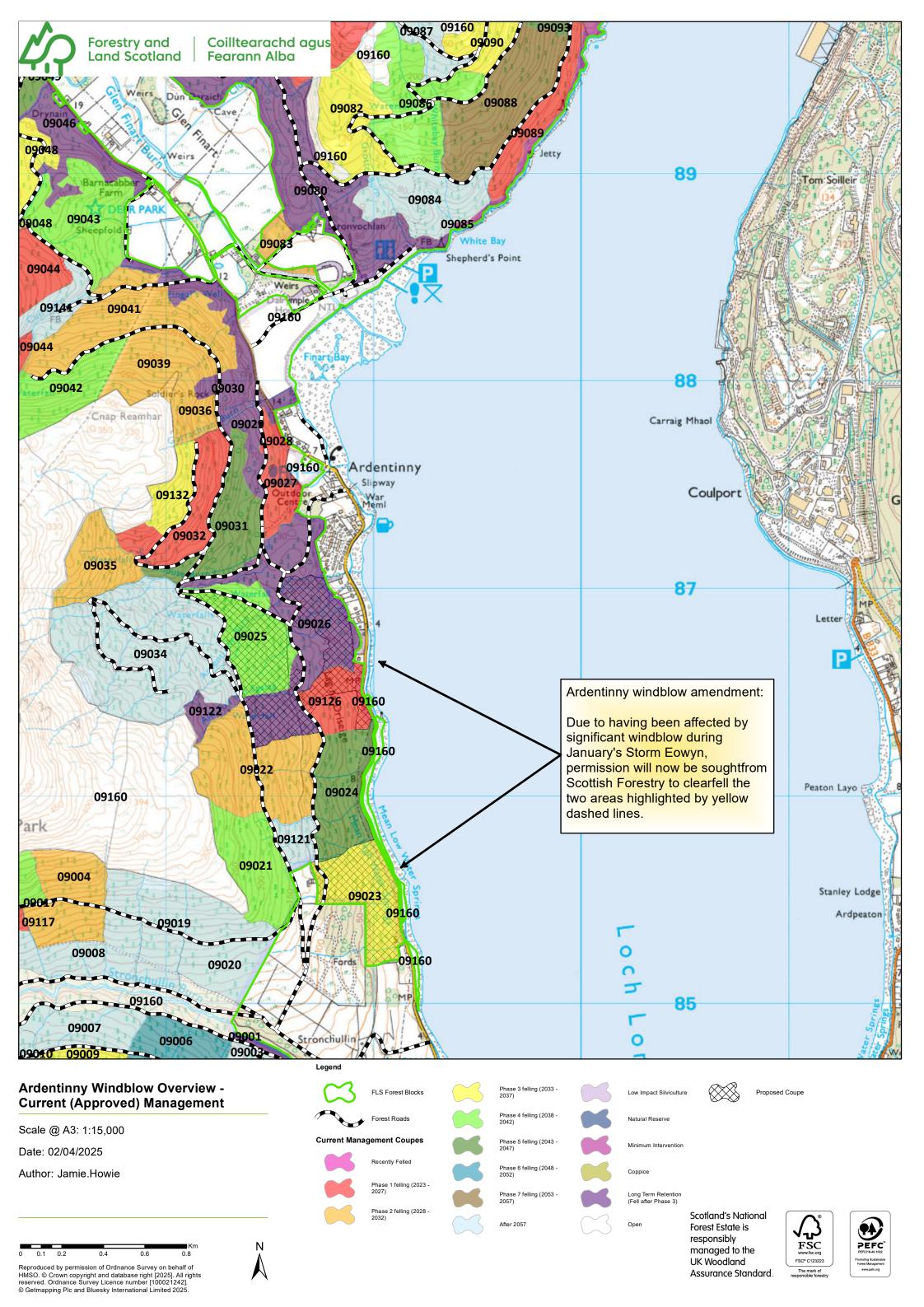
#### General

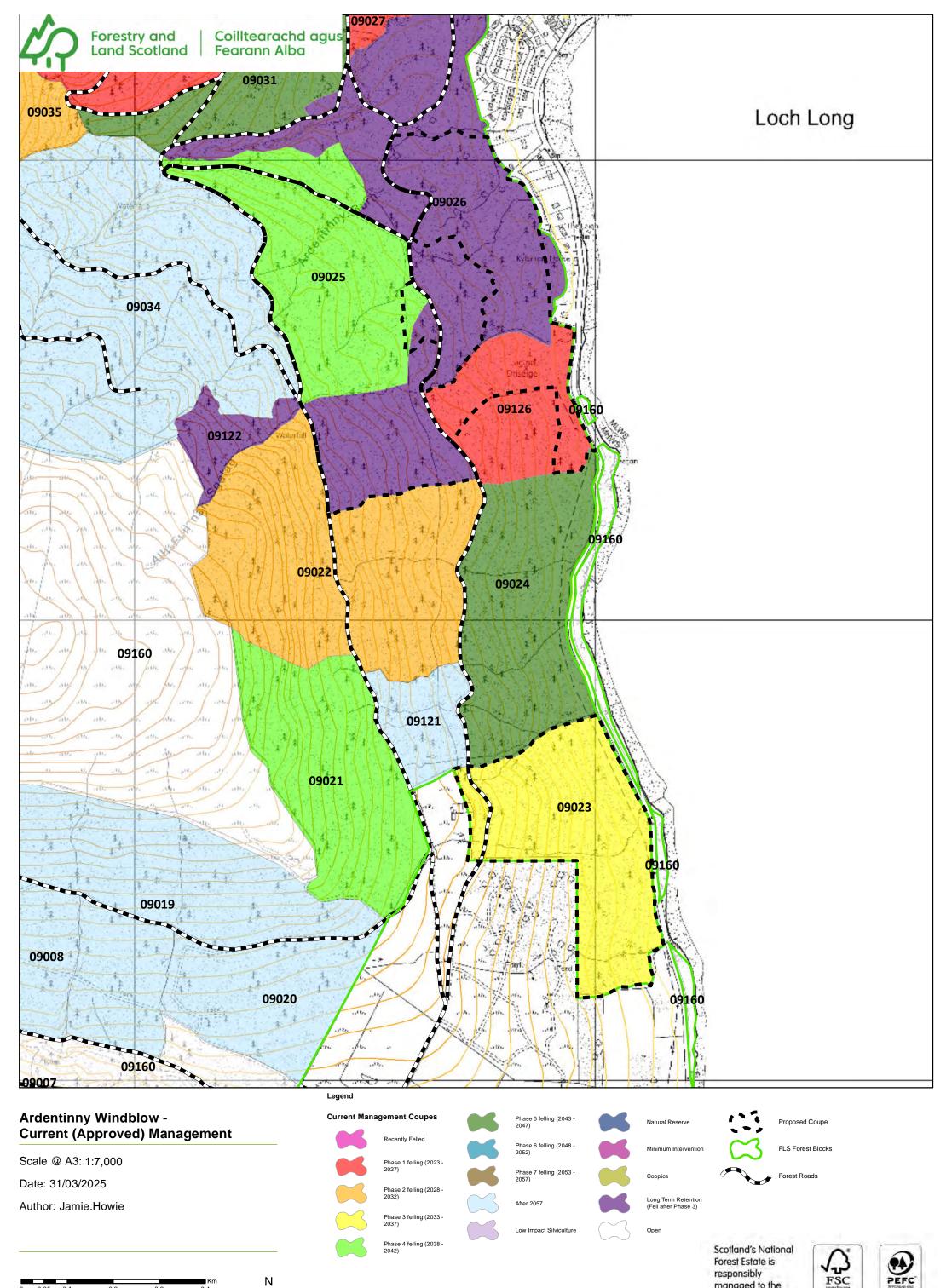
Other issues discussed related to the area between the two coupes to be felled and how we deal with future issues of trees on the line. The wayleave corridor is a clearly defined width and any change or restocking will need to be decided between FLS and SSE.

FLS have also had further meetings with Openreach and Argyll and Bute Council with a view to agreeing more pragmatic responses to issues involving multiple parties.

Dangerous trees on boundaries and close to houses should be reported to Forestry FLS Central Region Enquiries at the following email address enquiries.central@forestryandland.gov.scot These will be assessed and only removed if dangerous. We can also arrange an annual inspection of boundary trees. Specific mention of Anchorage Chalet and concerns for safety of the property given the proximity of the line and standing crops was discussed but this should be rectified when the coupes are felled.

Out of hours forestry number in case of emergency is 07776 194 062





managed to the **UK Woodland** 

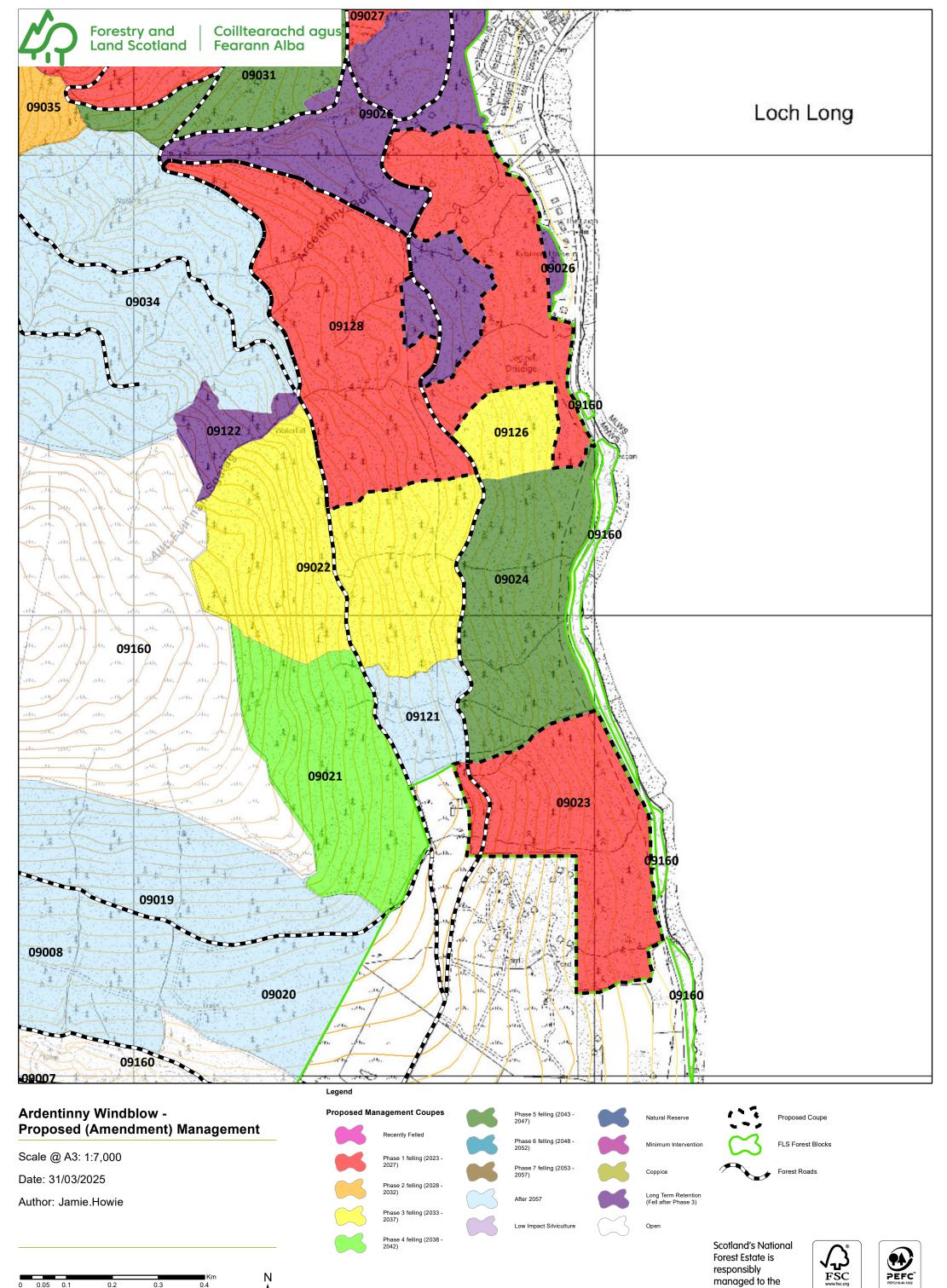
Assurance Standard.

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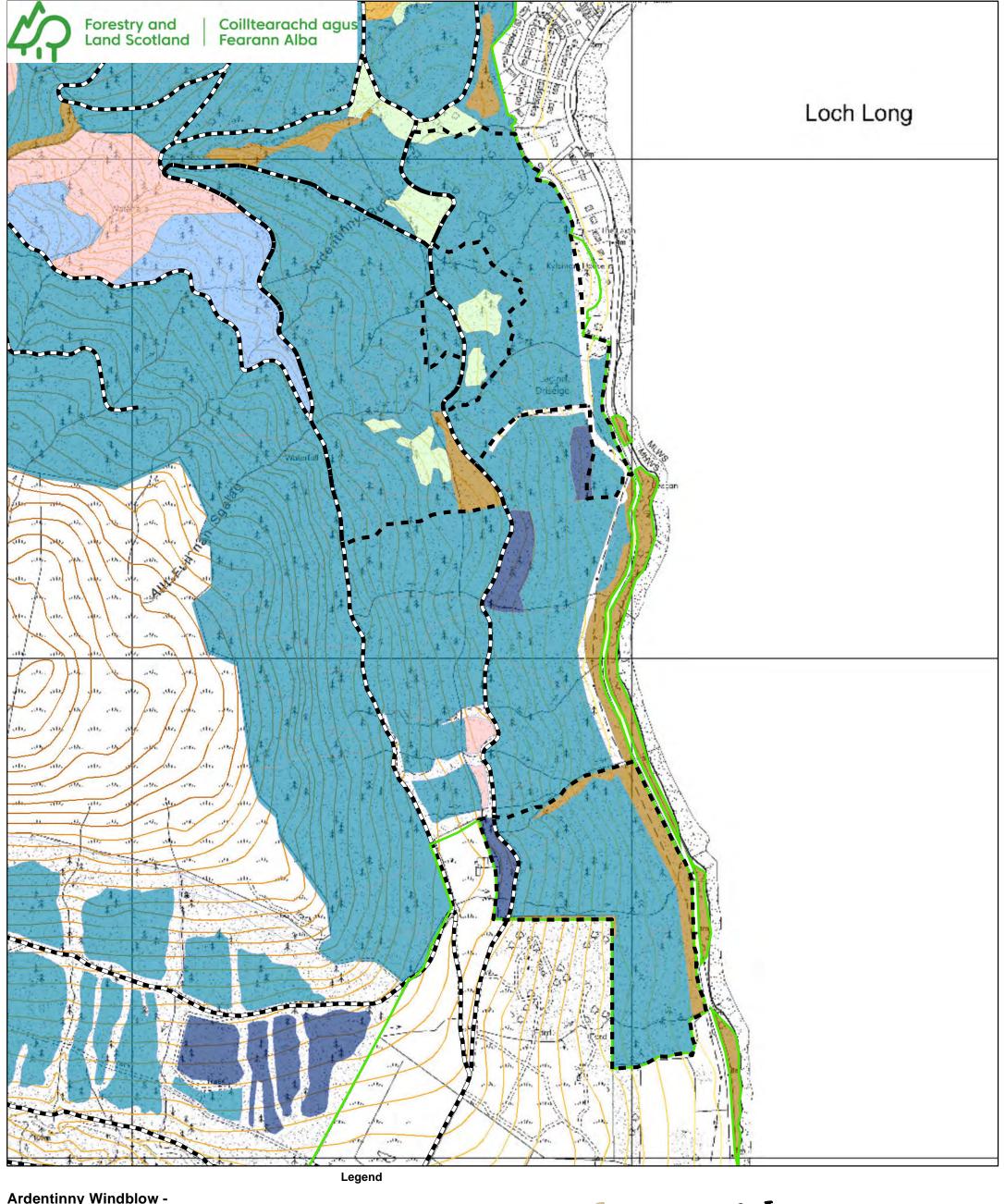
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### **Ardentinny Windblow -Current Species**

Scale @ A3: 1:7,000 Date: 31/03/2025

Author: Jamie.Howie

### **Sub-compartments - Species**



Birch

Other/Mixed Broadleaves



Other/Mixed Conifers



Douglas Fir



















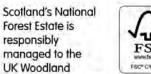
Proposed Coupe



FLS Forest Blocks



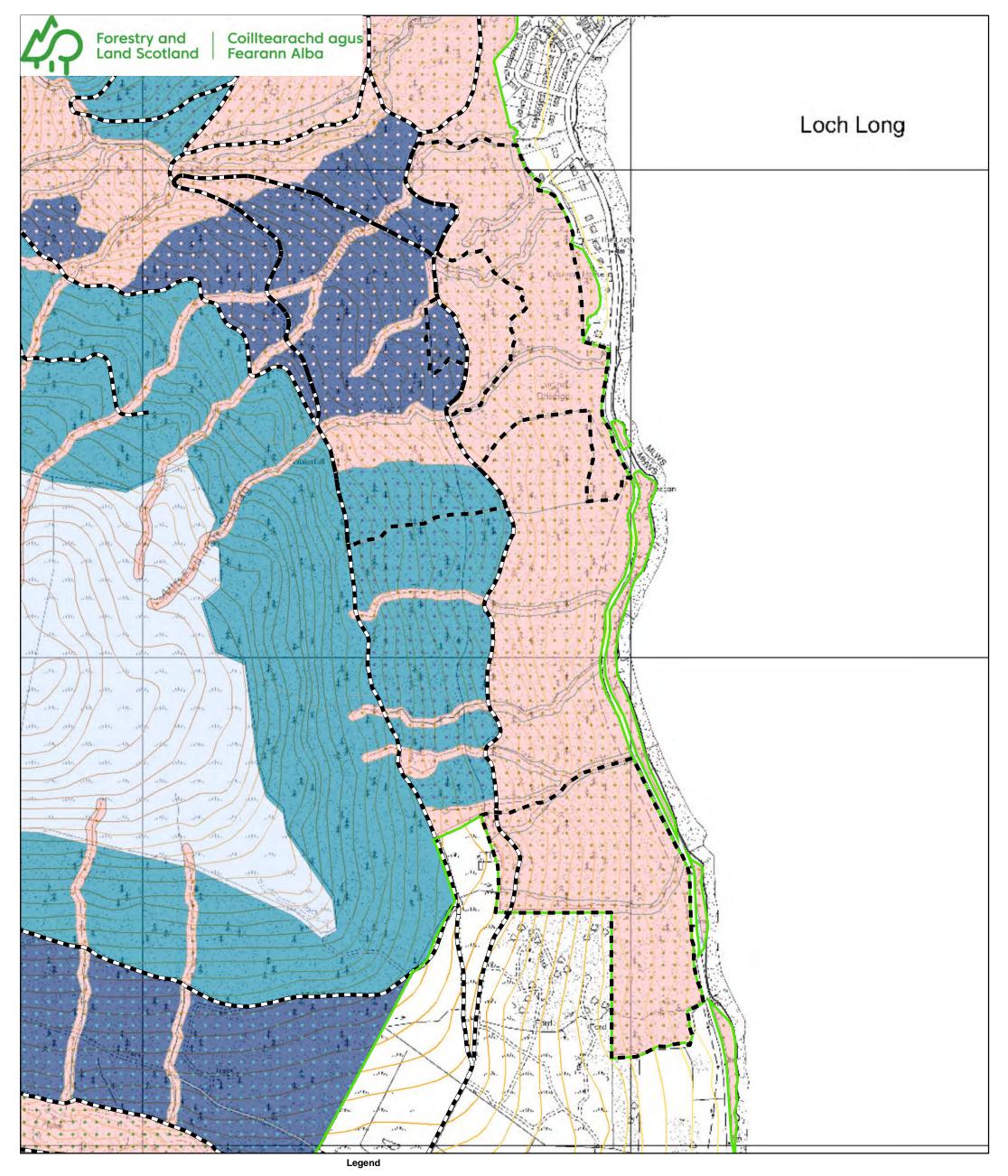
Forest Roads



Assurance Standard.







#### **Ardentinny Windblow -Future Habitats**

Scale @ A3: 1:7,000 Date: 02/04/2025

Author: Jamie. Howie

### Scenario Future Restock Coupes - Species Pure and Mixtures





Sitka Spruce



Birch with any Other



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Birch with Scots Pine



Other Conifers with Birch





Other Conifers with Sitka Spruce







Proposed Coupe



FLS Forest Blocks



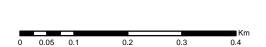
Forest Roads











## Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba



#### 09023

Scale @ A3: 1:2,500 Date: 28/05/2025

Author: Fraser Macdonald

#### Legend

OS 50k Contours (GB)

OS 50k Contours (GB)

Forest Roads

Forest Roads

### Scottish & Southern - Overhead Lines (Scot.)

... (555...)

Overhead powerline

SSE Scotland High Voltage Overhead Lines

SSE Scotland High
Voltage Overhead
Lines

### Management Coupes



Management Coupes

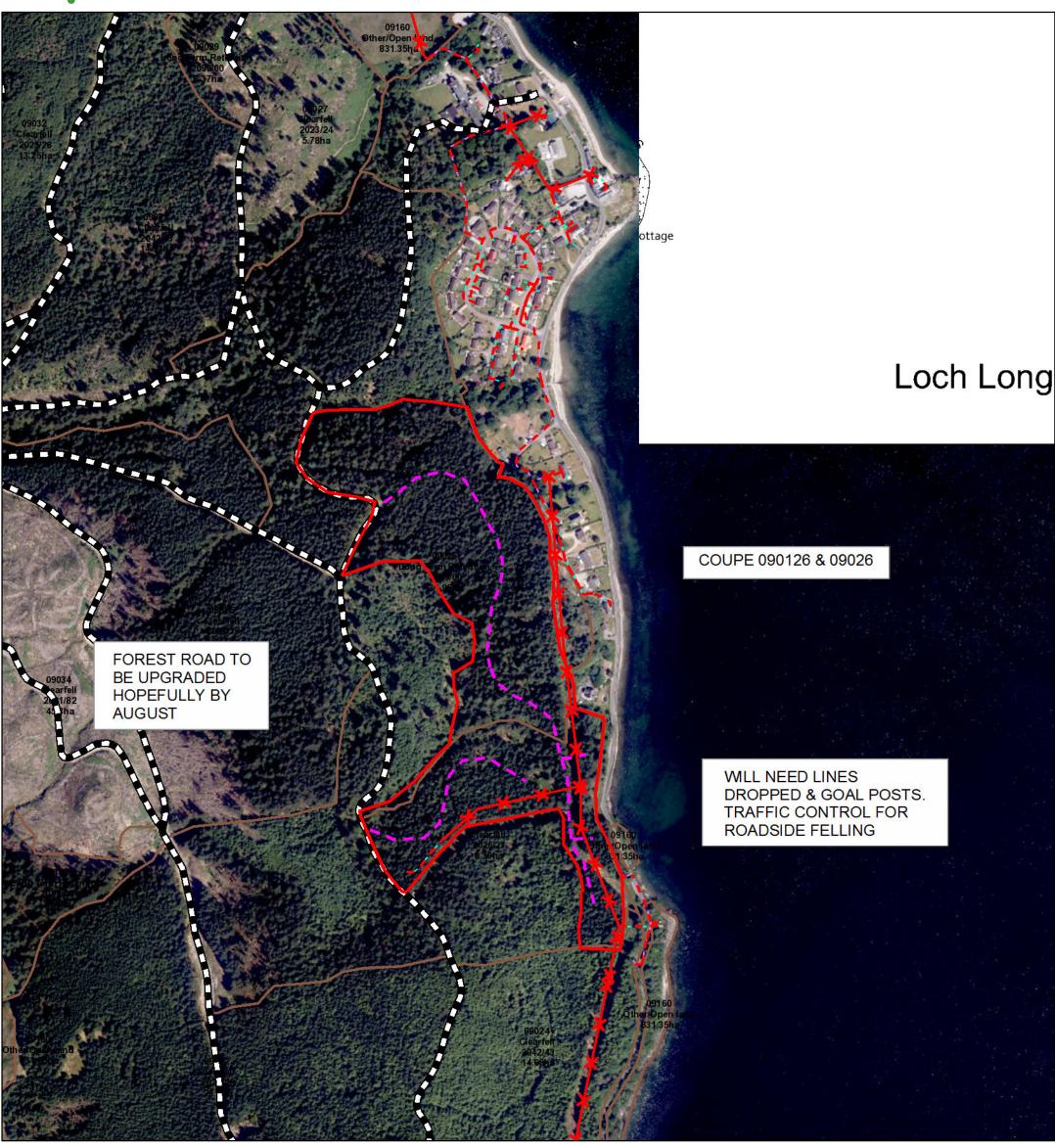
Scotland's national forests and land are responsibly managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.







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#### 09023

Scale @ A3: 1:5,000 Date: 28/05/2025

Author: Fraser Macdonald

#### Legend

Forest Roads

Forest Roads

Scottish & Southern - Overhead Lines (Scot.)



Overhead powerline

Scottish & Southern - Underground Lines (Scot.)



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Underground powerline

SSE Scotland High Voltage Overhead

SSE Scotland High
Voltage Overhead
Lines

# SSE Scotland High Voltage Underground Cables

SSE Scotland High Voltage Underground Cables

### SSE Scotland Low Voltage Overhead Lines

SSE Scotland Low Voltage Overhead Lines

#### SSE Scotland Low Voltage Underground Cables

SSE Scotland Low Voltage Underground Cables

### Management Coupes



Management Coupes

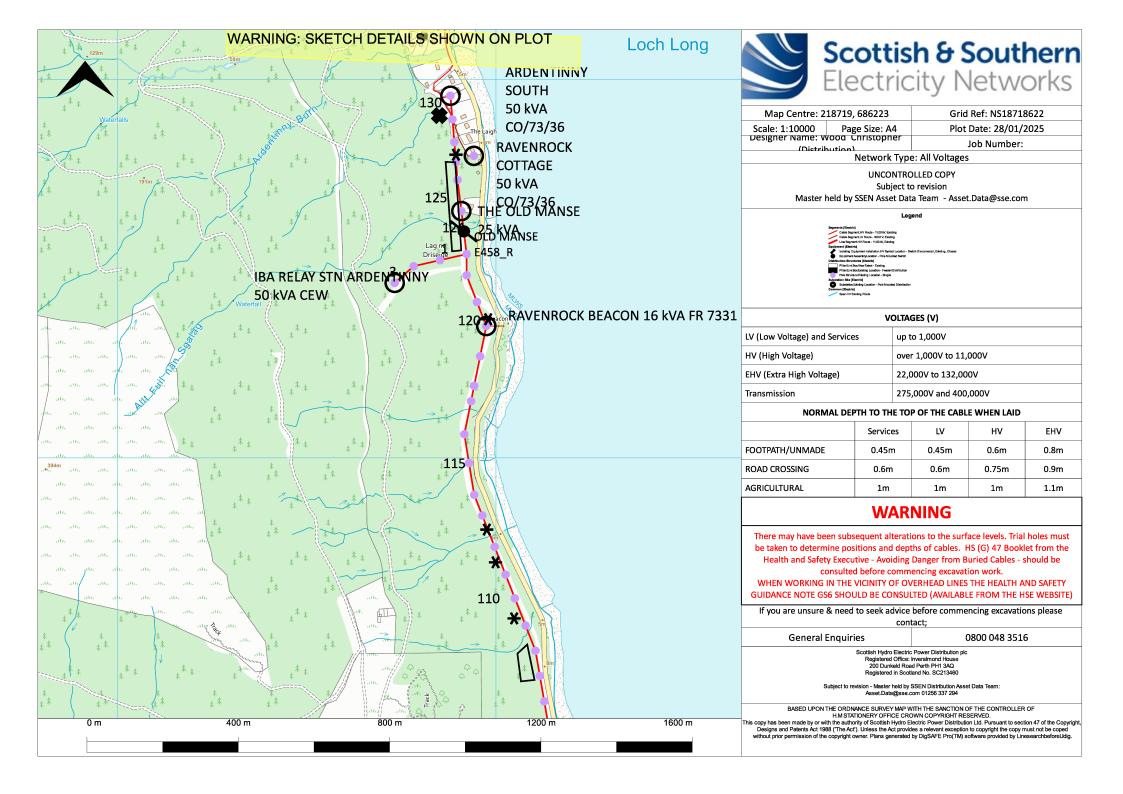
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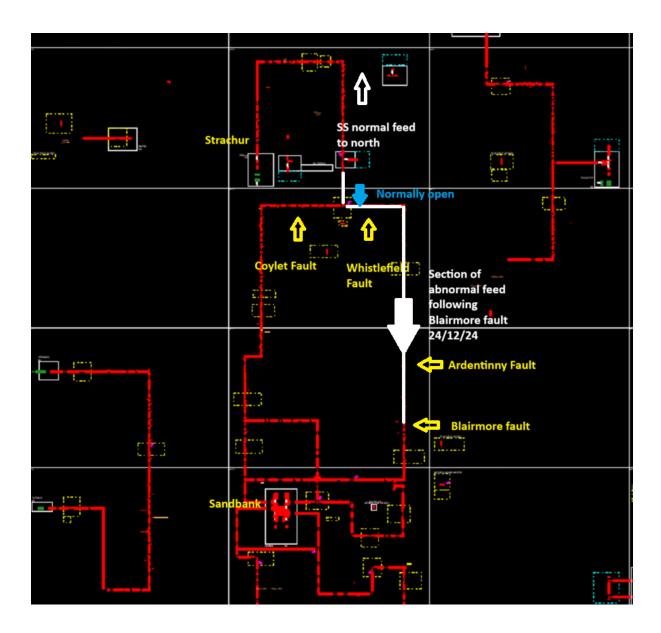




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Ardentinny Faults Schematic SSEN