



Scottish  
Forestry  
Coilltearachd  
na h-Alba

# Torr West Forestry Management Plan

## 2024 to 2034

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation

S e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

Please refer to the Management Plan Guidance note for advice on how to complete your management plan. This template includes a section for thinning permission.

You must have an approved Management Plan before you can apply for Forestry Grant Scheme funding.

## 1. Details

| Management Plan Details              |  |                           |                  |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------|
| Management Plan Name:                | Torr West Forestry Management Plan         |                           |                  |
| Business Reference Number:           |  | Main Location Code:       |                  |
| Grid Reference:<br>(e.g. NH 234 567) | NS/27358/8455<br>7 &<br>NS/27526/8444<br>3 | Nearest town or locality: | Rhu, Helensburgh |
| Local Authority:                     | Argyll and Bute                            |                           |                  |
| Management Plan area (hectares):     | 3  |                           |                  |

| Owner's Details  |  |                             |       |
|--|--|-----------------------------|-------|
| If owned by a business, the details must be for that business. Please note: We do not accept applications 'care of'. |  |                             |       |
| Title:   |  | Forename:                   |       |
| Surname:   |  |                             |       |
| Organisation:  |  | Position:                   | Owner |
| Primary Contact Number:  |  | Alternative Contact Number: |       |
| Email:   |  |                             |       |
| Address:   |  |                             |       |
| Postcode:  |  | Country:                    |       |

| Agent's Details  |  |                             |  |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--|
| You must submit a mandate with the application if it includes thinning. A template can be found on our <a href="#">website</a> |  |                             |  |
| Title:   |  | Forename:                   |  |
| Surname:   |  |                             |  |
| Organisation:  |  | Position:                   |  |
| Primary Contact Number:  |  | Alternative Contact Number: |  |

|           |  |          |  |
|-----------|--|----------|--|
| Email:    |  |          |  |
| Address:  |  |          |  |
| Postcode: |  | Country: |  |

## Access Consent – Complete if applying for thinning

**You are not obliged to give us consent to enter your land, however if we are denied access to your land, and cannot carry out an assessment because of this, we may reject your application. This consent is for access to assess this application as well as monitor compliance with any subsequent approval, where applicable.**

Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your property?

YES  NO

## Town and Country Planning – Complete if applying for thinning

Are any of the trees to be felled subject to a Tree Preservation Order?

YES  NO

If YES please provide details:

Are any of the trees to be felled within a Conservation Area?

YES  NO

If YES please provide details:

## Declarations – Complete if applying for thinning

**I hereby apply for a permission to fell the trees described in this application and I certify that:**

- I am the landowner or an occupier of the land with written permission of the landowner;
- Where the landowner is a business, I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business;
- If I am acting on behalf of the landowner or occupier, I have been mandated to do so;
- Any necessary consents from any other person(s) if required, have been obtained;
- I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas;
- I have notified all stakeholders that may be affected by the felling in this application and sought their views prior to submitting this application;
- I hereby acknowledge that Scottish Ministers may process any of my personal data contained in or relating to this application in accordance with the terms of [Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice](#);
- I have read and understand this application fully and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in this application is complete, true, and accurate;
- I accept that any false or misleading information provided in this application constitutes an offence and may result in any felling permission based on this application being revoked at any time.

[This application may only be signed by the owner of the land or the occupier of that land where they have written permission to do so. For land owned by a business it must be signed by someone with the authority

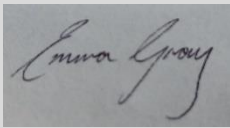
to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business. If you are an agent signing this on behalf of the aforementioned you must append a copy of your mandate.]

Signed:

Print:

Date:

## Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:

|  |   |                                |            |
|--|---|--------------------------------|------------|
| Management Plan Reference Number:            | MPL330218   |                                |            |
| Plan Period: (ten years)<br>(day/month/year) | From: 12/03/2024  | To: 12/03/2034                 |            |
| Operations Manager Signature:                |  | Approval Date:<br>(dd/mm/yyyy) | 12/03/2024 |

## 2. Woodland Description

Give information about the following:

- past management of the woodland
- current species and ages
- statutory and non-statutory constraints (e.g. designations, archaeological interests)
- existing or potential public access
- woodland protection

Use the Land Information Search to help you complete this section. For more detailed information on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland use the Scottish Forestry Map Viewer found on our website: [forestry.gov.scot](https://forestry.gov.scot)

### 2.1 Maps required

Provide maps to support your plan, as outlined in the guidance note. Please list all of the maps that you are including with your management plan.

|  |
|--|
| List of maps:                          |
| Map 1 – Woodland Category              |
| Map 2 – 1938 Map Showing Wood Boundary |
| Map 3 – Location 1: 10,000             |
| Map 4 – Location & Features 1:2,500    |
|  |

## 2.2 History of management

In the last 4/5 years there has been gradual clearing of small self-seeding scrub, felling and tidying of dead and dangerous trees in an attempt to restore the grazing boundaries shown in maps from 1850. There has also been an attempt to begin to bring the woodland into a safer and more manageable condition which will allow the larger specimens to thrive.

Following the transfer of the land to the current owner around 14 years ago there has been little active management apart from the removal of the encroaching scrub onto the grassland and the coppicing of a small coupe of alder within the last 4 years. The coppiced trees are very successfully regenerating at pace.

The woodland was historically grazed by a herd of dairy cattle from the 1940's and in the last four years sheep have openly grazed in the woodlands, but in low numbers. There is an intention to continue grazing in the adjacent field with access to the wood as required.

## 2.3 Species and age

The bottom part of the existing wood is long established plantation origin, in the main the trees located below the drystone dyke line (see Map 1). The broad woodland fringes including trees above the drystone dyke line and one section of land situated between and including two old quarries never featured on historic maps and is grazed pasture for farm animals as seen on the map 2 included.

The main species present are Alder, Beech and Oak. Alder is the dominant species through the woodland but there are also groups of mature beech and oak that are much older than the alder suggesting that they were once the dominant species. War time felling might therefore have removed a lot of the oak and beech to support the war effort and that they were never replanted, with the alder then seeding in to fill in the gaps.

There are some smaller areas of Ash, these are in the main smaller trees with just a few larger specimens closer to the entrance to the field.

Dotted throughout are some Birch, Larch and the occasional Sycamore.

Age range is approx:-

Alder 1-80 years old

Oak, Beech and Ash generally 80+ years although there are some younger self-seeded trees within the crop.

The area of land within the ownership is split roughly 50:50 with an agricultural field for grazing sheep on the upper margins with the woodland lower down the slope that is open for animals to shelter.

The native woodland survey for Scotland identified this woodland as being 95% native and typical of a W4 (wet woodland) type. However, there are drier areas that would indicate a more W11 type. Ground vegetation is predominately grassland species in the more mature areas with some small groups of blaeberry evident. The wetter areas are predominately a mixture of sedges and rush.

## 2.4 Constraints and designations

As per Scottish Forestry Guidance there are no statutory & non-statutory constraints.

## 2.5 Public access

Public access is limited to the odd walker across the adjoining field, it is not on any regular walking route & unlikely that walkers enter the wood.

Access is difficult in many areas due to the dense smaller self-seeding trees, fallen trees and branches.

## 2.6 Woodland Protection

### Plant Health (including tree health and invasive or noxious plants)

Generally, the majority of the woodland is healthy however, due to lack of management and thinning better specimens that have the potential to grow into large established trees are not being given the chance to develop to their potential due to the large volume of smaller self-seeded younger trees which are competing for space.

There are a few trees which have Ganoderma tree fungus or are now dying or dead as a result of this.

### Deer, Livestock and other mammals

The area is agricultural land which has and will continue to be used to graze animals. Wet conditions mean this is unlikely to happen all-year round however, on dryer spells animals will be on the grassland right next to the wooded area.

### Grey Squirrels

There is evidence of a small number of grey squirrels

### Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution etc.)

There is a minor watercourse running near the wood however, this has not and will not be affected in any way

### Environment (flooding, wind damage, fire, invasive species etc.)

There is evidence of bracken and Rhododendron Ponticum, measures have been taken to reduce these and continue to manage them.

### Climate Change Resilience (provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)

The wood is not uniform and has a reasonable diverse mix with Alder being the dominant species.

## 3. Vision and Objectives

Tell us how you intend to manage the woodland in the long term and your goals for its development.

### 3.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

To create a healthy, well stocked & diverse woodland that is well managed & maintained to ensure the existing trees are provided the environment and space to thrive.

### 3.2 Management objectives

Give your objectives of management and also how you will manage the woodland sustainably. Your objectives should be specific and you should also be able to measure their outcomes.

| No. | Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)  |
|-----|---|
| 1   | <p>Fell only within current Scottish Forestry exemption categories – i.e trees that DO NOT require felling permission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any trees with a diameter at breast height (measured at 1.3 metres from the ground) of ten centimetres or less do not require felling permission.</li> <li>Less than 5 cubic metres of timber, 5m<sup>3</sup> of timber can be felled within any set calendar quarter</li> <li>Dead trees</li> </ul>  |
| 2   | <p>Cut only very small amounts within the exemption categories to :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for current good quality stems to have more space to develop</li> <li>Provide space for any young oak and beech to develop and to aim for a more balanced mixture of species.</li> <li>Provide a fire wood source for the owner</li> <li>Help to create a more diverse age structure by supporting the coppicing of alder and to continue to manage part of the alder crop as a coppice.</li> </ol> |
| 3   | <p>Create wider spaced trees along the boundary of the woodland to allow the larger species to thrive. This should bring in much needed light which will increase the biodiversity of the woodland floor.</p>   |
| 4   | <p>Fell any trees identified as having significant pathogens and any others identified as being dangerous. Some of these would be cut leaving high stumps of up to 3m to help provide a large area of wood that would slowly rot away and while doing so provide an abundance of insects and habitat to improve on-site biodiversity.</p>   |

| No. | Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)  |
|-----|---|
| 5   | Remove some trees causing major damage by growing within 1.2m of the old dyke that runs through the woodland and although not a designated feature it does have local interest as being part of the farming heritage. |

## 4. Stakeholder Engagement

Please provide details on the stakeholder engagement you have undertaken, this must include contact with adjacent properties and potentially affected neighbours depending on the work you intend on carrying out in the woodland (e.g. thinning) and the constraints or designations that have been identified.

| Individual/<br>Organisation   | Date<br>contacted   | Date<br>feedback<br>received                         | Response  | Action  |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Scottish Forestry   | Walk<br>through<br>wood<br>7/05/21, 3<br>site visits, a<br>number of<br>emails &<br>phone calls | 7/05/21<br>– present                                 | Initial<br>discussion on<br>felling then<br>discussion on<br>management<br>plan | Create a<br>management<br>plan, submit<br>for feedback to<br>SF.  |
| Rhu and Shandon<br>Community Council,<br>circulated<br>management plan to<br>all members by CC<br>and Argyll and Bute<br>Council Elected<br>Members, including<br>immediate<br>neighbours | 11/05/22  | 10/06/22<br>in person<br>and<br>26/06/22<br>by email | Feedback to<br>comment on<br>management<br>plan & walk in<br>wood               | Some updates<br>to be made to<br>management<br>plan   |
| Marina Curran-<br>Colthart, Argyll and<br>Bute Council<br>Biodiversity Officer  | 23/05/22  | 25/05/22   | Will review<br>management<br>plan   | Feedback<br>received on the<br>importance of<br>active<br>woodland<br>management &<br>once updated<br>share plan<br>again |
| Scottish Forestry,<br>CC Members,<br>Elected Members &<br>other local members<br>of the public  | 10/06/22,<br>Walk<br>through<br>Wood  | 10/06/22   | Feedback on<br>management<br>plan   | To update<br>management<br>plan   |



## 5. Analysis and Management Strategy

Analyse the information from the previous sections and identify how to make best use of your woodland and its resources to achieve your objectives.

### 5.1 Constraints and Opportunities

Using the table below analyse any issues raised or relevant features within your woodland and record the constraints and opportunities.

| Feature/Issue   | Constraint   | Opportunity  |
|---|--|--|
| Difficult access  | Heavy machinery can't be used  | Some trees cut in the wood are left & not using heavy machinery would prevent any damage   |
| Water, minor watercourse running near wood                  | Watercourse not affected by any works. No heavy machinery will be used.                                  |  |
| Diseased & dying trees                                      | Poor forest health & spread of disease. Dead, dying trees will be highlighted & removed as appropriate   |  |
| Archaeology – stone dyke                                    | Dyke in proximity to tree damage within boundary. Trees are kept back from historic features as per UKFS |  |
| Biodiversity – invasive species present (e.g. Rhododendron) |  | Plan on monitoring & removing invasive species over period of plan. Biodiversity to increase through encouragement of natural regeneration & low impact management |
| Additional detail:  |  |  |

## 5.2 Management Strategy

Following your analysis, provide a broad statement describing your management strategy. Consider all aspects (economics, access, biodiversity, landscape) and pay particular attention to your silvicultural strategy for meeting your management objectives.

Only very low intensity work will take place throughout the wooded area with felling only within current Scottish Forestry exemption categories – i.e. trees that DO NOT require felling permission.

- Any trees with a diameter at breast height (measured at 1.3 metres from the ground) of ten centimetres or less do not require felling permission.
- Less than 5 cubic metres of timber, 5m<sup>3</sup> of timber can be felled within any set calendar quarter
- Dead trees

The wood contains mainly Alder these trees which are not eaten by deer due to the them being unpalatable to the deer population.

## 6. Management Proposals

Tell us the management operations you intend to carry out over the next 10 years to help meet your management objectives for the woodland. The submission of this plan will be considered as an application for permission to thin the woodland over the 10 year plan period, subject to the completion of Table 1 and the submission of appropriate maps. If you intend to carry out other types of felling (e.g. clearfelling) you must apply for that permission separately.

### 6.1 Silvicultural Practice

Outline silvicultural practice and management prescriptions. Include any past management practice that is relevant and the strategies to address the issues identified in section 5.

Only low intensity work will take place throughout the wooded area with felling only within current Scottish Forestry exemption categories – i.e. trees that DO NOT require felling permission. Trees will be identified by a 6 monthly walk through the wood to identify: dead, dangerous trees, ones likely to fall & destroy boundary fences or dykes, ones impinging growth of more established specimen species. The area will be checked for wildlife before any work began to ensure no animals or habitats are disturbed. No heavy machinery will be used and cutting will be by chainsaw.

Sheep only tend to access the much younger boundary trees for shelter, these are not LEPO category and are Alder which are not eaten by the sheep. The coppiced Alder is thriving vigorously demonstrating no competition between them.

If there is any intention in future to fell above the threshold, an application to Scottish Forestry for felling permission approval will be submitted. As part of this process formal consultation would be undertaken with relevant stakeholders.

**Map 1 to show part of the wood is Long Established Plantation Origin, new growth is not categorised**



## Ancient Woodland Inventory Scotland

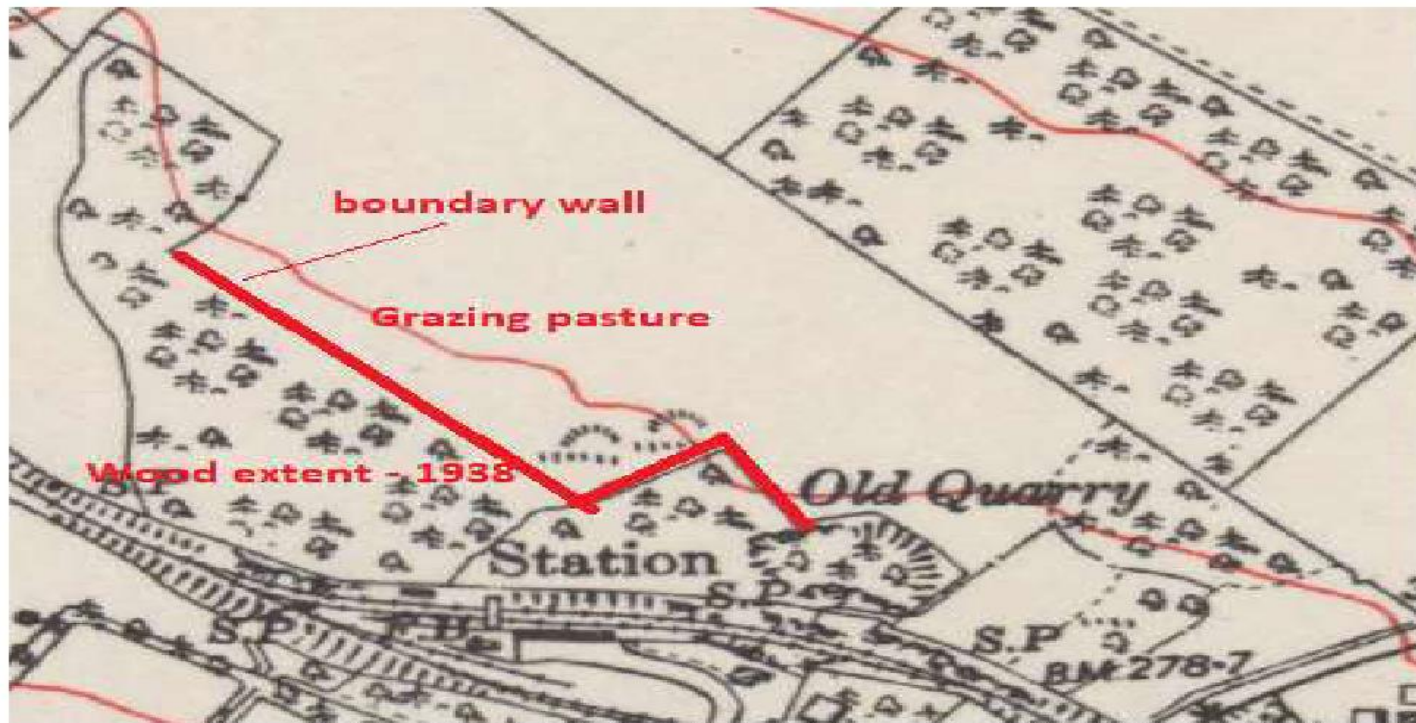
### ANTIQUITY

- Ancient (of semi-natural origin)
- Long-Established (of plantation origin)
- Other (on Roy map)

(Source: <https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap/> )

# Management Plan

Map 2 to show extent of the wood in 1938, wood sits below the boundary wall



Source: Ordnance Survey Dunbartonshire Sheet nXIII. SW 1938