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Scoping Information

Pennyghael

Long Term Forest Plan

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This document contains important information from the proposed long-term forest management plan.

Consultees are asked to respond by the **24th of March 2024** with any additional comments or currently unidentified key issues to be considered to:

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1. Description of Forest and Plan Outline.

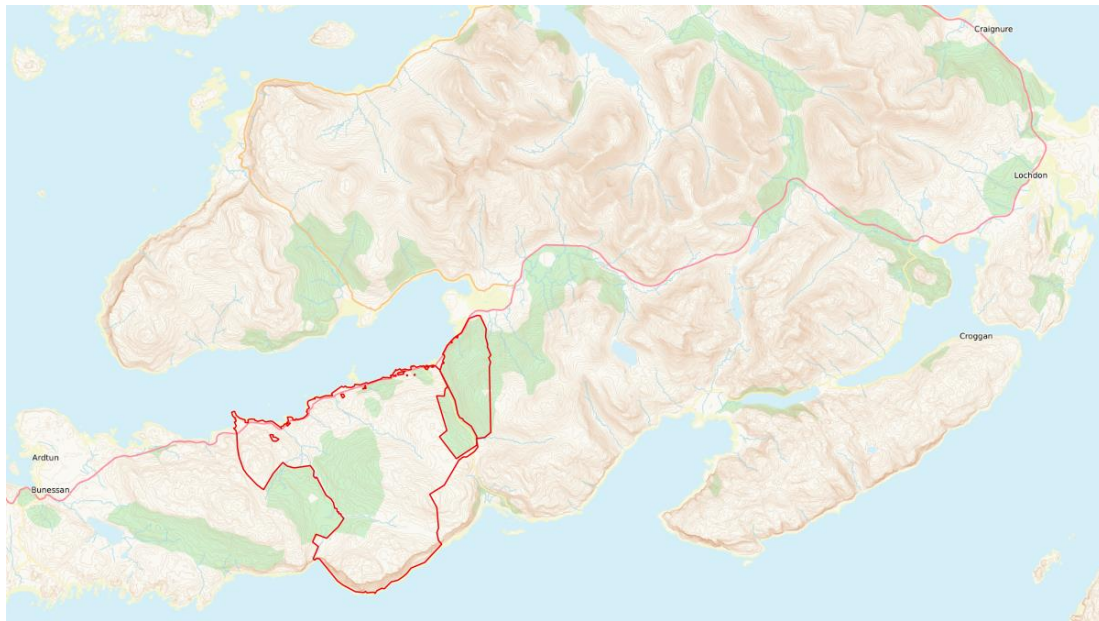


Figure 1: Pennyghael Location

Pennyghael Woodlands are located within Pennyghael Estate which has been owned by Blackmead Nature Services Limited since August 2022. The Estate was previously owned by Participatiemaatschappij Epsilon N.V. under whom operations set out in the previous 10 year management plan were undertaken. Tilhill has been involved with the Estate since 2013 and will continue as the Forest Managers.

The woodlands in Pennyghael cover 1,330 ha and are located across the open hill to the South and West of Pennyghael village which is 19 miles West of Craignure along the A849. The main entrances to the property can be found at grid references **NM 52153 26559** and **NM 48051 25273**. The existing woodlands were mostly planted in the 1980s, but Kinloch (**NM 530 260**) has recently undergone felling (completed in 2021) and restock which will continue under this new plan. Much of this historic forest was designated as productive woodland, which will continue under this plan as per the objectives of the new owner.

This new plan will assess past management activities and re-align the management of the property in line with the objectives of the new owners. This plan will also review management actions that may be required due to changes in conditions in the forest (e.g. for climate change future proofing, impacts of windblow / pest & disease, etc.). This plan does not cover potential future woodland creation elsewhere on the estate, but any woodlands permissioned and established will be added to the plan once established.

The LTFP sets out the planned operations for the next 20 years in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). The Owner's objectives are as follows:

- To obtain the maximum possible financial return from the growing crop through sustainable harvesting and restocking, and the practice of sound silviculture.
- To maintain and, where possible, enhance the landscape contribution, amenity and conservation value of the forest and to protect identified ancient monuments.
- To develop and maintain the biodiversity of the forest with the objective of creating a sustainable, balanced and dynamic forest ecosystem capable of supporting sustained timber yields.
- To safeguard the ecological status of water flowing in natural watercourses within the forest.
- To manage the forest in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS).
- To manage the forest sustainably in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme Standard (UKWAS), ensuring that it is FSC and/or PEFC certified.

This forest is currently managed under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and will continue to be so. The main operations that will be undertaken in the upcoming 10 years of this plan include:

- Completion of the restocking in Southern Kinloch (**NM 530 260**).
- Creation of a deer fence around Northern Kinloch to protect the restock.
- Ongoing management and maintenance of restocked forest areas, and areas left as Long-Term Retentions and Natural Reserves.
- Felling of the existing commercial timber in Brolass (**NM 492 224**) and restocking.
- Maintain the existing forest road network to facilitate timber extraction and haulage and non-motorised public access.
- Continue to manage the presence of deer within the forest through a mix of deer fencing and stalking.

Species by Woodland Area [Map 3]

Kinloch

Kinloch is a commercial block to the East and contains the most productive crop on the Estate. This block is made up of compartments 341 through 354, totalling 496.32ha.

Species	SS	SS in mix	Other conifer	MB	Awaiting Restock	OG	Total
Area (ha)	121.05	28.19	17.88	13.07	177.39	138.73	496.32

SS – Sitka spruce, MB – Mixed broadleaves, OG – Open ground

Brolass

Brolass is a commercial block, though with varying soil quality resulting in a crop with a mixture of different conifers and a wide range of yield classes. This block comprises compartments 1 through 34, covering 627.49 ha.

Species	SS	LAR	LP	MC	OG	Total
Area (ha)	152.49	14.84	57.45	115.10	287.61	627.49

LAR – Larch, LP – Lodgepole pine, MC – mixed conifer

Pennyghael

Pennyghael is a small block of mostly broadleaved woodland immediately adjacent to the village of Pennyghael, totalling 27.19ha and comprising compartments 111, 254 through 260, and 300.

Species	MB	SB	MC	OG	Total
Area (ha)	18.80	2.99	0.11	5.30	27.19

SB – Scrub woodland

Killunaig

Killunaig is a mixed woodland block, with broadleaved woodland along the shore between Pennycross and Park House, and commercial woodlands on the hill behind. This block totals 69.16ha comprising compartments 106, 112, and 233 through 253.

Species	SS	LAR	MB	SB	OG	Total
Area (ha)	11.25	1.24	31.08	6.00	19.59	69.16

Torrans

Torrans is a small mixed, mainly scrub, woodland with small pockets of conifer species along the shoreline to the north of Brolass. The block totals 15.44ha and comprises compartments 105, 107, 108, and 216 through 232.

Species	SS	LAR	MC	MB	SB	OG	Total
Area (ha)	1.83	0.49	0.37	1.00	5.43	6.32	15.44

Gorchen

Gorchen is a small commercial located just to the north of Brolass and south of Torrans, comprising compartments 109 and 110 and totalling 18.25ha.

Species	SS	LAR	OG	Total
Area (ha)	9.92	1.27	7.07	18.25

Beach

Beach is the westernmost block on the Estate, with both commercial, broadleaved, and scrubby woodland located around the lower slopes of *Beinn Bhugan*. The block totals 80.81ha and comprises compartments 100 through 104, and 200 through 215.

Species	SS	LAR	MC	MB	SB	OG	Total
Area (ha)	16.79	3.93	0.06	8.48	10.22	41.33	80.81

Geology and Soils

The underlying geology at Kinloch is predominantly of the Torosay Soil Association, specifically map unit 548 (Soil Survey of Scotland, Macaulay Institute)¹. This unit develops extensively on pneumatolysed basalts. The soils consist of mostly peaty gleys and rankers (~55%) with considerable areas of peat (~20%) and the balance made up of peaty podzols and brown earths.

The underlying geology at Brolass is approximately half Torosay and half Darleith, with the remaining forest blocks all being Darleith. Darleith is map unit 159² (Soil Survey of Scotland, Macaulay Institute). This unit develops on drifts derived from Tertiary basaltic rocks and contains a wide variety of soil types, with peaty podzols making up the majority overall. In Brolass, the soils tend towards the peatier end of the range with peaty podzols, peaty gleys and peats all present. The remaining forest blocks are more focussed on brown earths, given their location on the lower slopes down towards the coastline.

Hydrology

The *Leidle River* runs down the western edge of Kinloch, flowing out into *Loch Scridain* to the North. The *Leidle* has 9 tributaries that run through the forest and these fork into 14 distinct water channels within the block. The northern section of the western edge is delineated by the *Allt Fhearcair* which has 3 tributaries rising from within Kinloch. There are another 2 main watercourses within Kinloch, the *Allt Crag a'Chromain* and the *Garbh Uisge* – both of which have 2 tributaries. There are a further 4 minor watercourses discharging directly into *Loch Scridain*, one of which forks into 2, meaning a further 5 distinct water channels. Kinloch therefore has 24 distinct water channels which ultimately discharge into *Loch Scridain*.

Brolass is flanked to the west by the *Beach River*, which has 12 tributaries rising from within the block, forking into 35 distinct channels. The *Abhainn nan Torr* runs close to the NE corner of Brolass, with 3 tributaries rising within the block, one of which forks into 2 channels.

¹ [Scotland's Soils - soil maps \(environment.gov.scot\)](http://environment.gov.scot)

² [Scotland's Soils - soil maps \(environment.gov.scot\)](http://environment.gov.scot)

Additionally, the *An Leth-allt* rises within the block, giving a total of 40 distinct water channels which ultimately discharge into *Loch Scridain*.

The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) classifies main bodies of water in Scotland to identify areas in order to set objectives to improve the water quality. The classifications range from High (near natural), through Good, Moderate, Poor to Bad (severely damaged). The 3 bodies classified are *Loch Scridain*, the *Beach River* and the *Leidle River*, all of which have been classified as Good³.

Given the number of tributaries into both the *Beach* and *Leidle* rivers, and that all watercourses ultimately flow into *Loch Scridain*, the management of Pennyghael Woodlands has an important role to play in maintaining the water quality classifications.

The potential influences forest operations are likely to have on the water catchment are acidification (e.g. through conifer needle deposits), siltation (e.g. through poorly managed heavy machinery movements), and the release of chemicals, fuels, oils, and lubricants through accidental spills. Mitigation measures will be fully detailed in the Long Term Forest Plan following consultation. Risks from pesticide use will be managed through Tilhill's Pesticide Integrated Pest Management system and following legal guidance on pesticide use. Spill kits will be available on all operations where chemicals, fuels, oils, and lubricants are present on site.

Adjacent Land Use

Adjacent land uses consist of forestry, farming, and residential in the village of Pennyghael and along the A86. In addition to the farming, sporting is also a major land use of the neighbouring landowners. Tourism is also an important activity in the local area with a campsite in Pennyghael village, the Prot nan Gael Inn, and a community café and art gallery.

2. Consultees

The Forest Plan process will require consultation with the following Statutory consultees and interested parties:

- Argyll and Bute Council (Historic Environment Department, Roads Department, Planning Department)
- Forestry and Land Scotland
- Historic Scotland
- Mull Community Council
- NatureScot
- Pennyghael Development Association
- Pennyghael Community Association
- RSPB
- Scottish Forestry
- Scottish Raptor Study Group
- Scottish Water
- SEPA
- Timber Transport Forum
- Transport Scotland

³ [Water Classification Hub \(sepa.org.uk\)](http://sepa.org.uk)

- West of Scotland Archaeology Service
- Neighbouring residential and business properties

Neighbouring Landowners/Householders & Other interested parties:

- Carsaig Estate
- Scoor Estate
- Ardvergnish and Rossal
- Residential Neighbours

3 Designations

Within Pennyghael there are several designations, including the *Cnuic agus Cladach Mhuile* SPA for Golden Eagle⁴, and areas of Ancient Woodland⁵ across the north of the estate. The Southern boundary of the estate also includes the South Mull Coast SSSI⁶. While no forestry currently lies within the SSSI, it is an important feature within the bounds of the broader estate. While not directly within the forest boundary, the shores of the estate are directly connected to the Inner Hebrides and the Minches Special Area of Conservation through various watercourses.

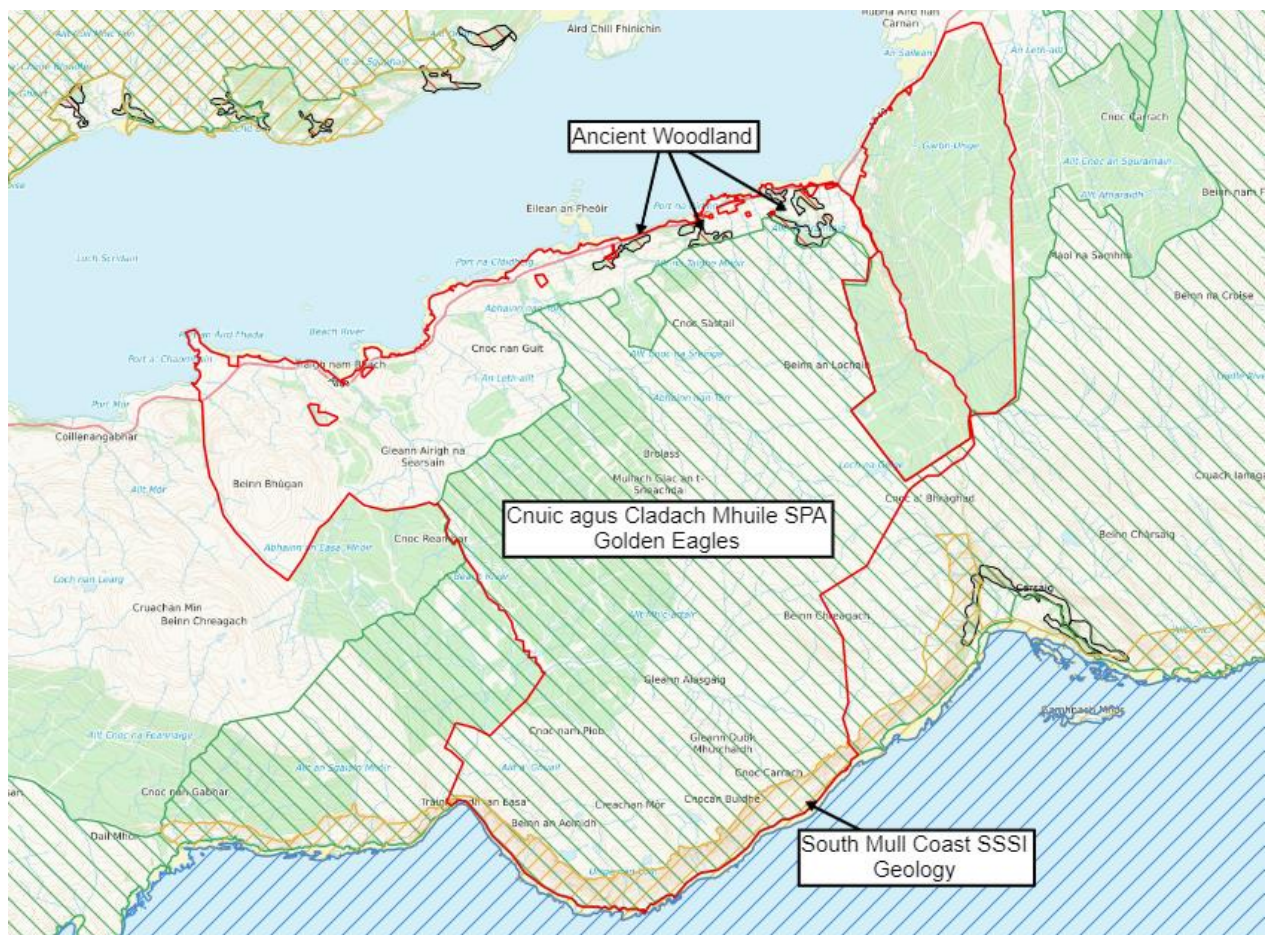


Figure 2: Designations present within Pennyghael Estate

⁴ Special Protection Area, referenced through NatureScot sitelink website (<https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8613>)

⁵ Ancient Woodland Sites – taken from Scotland’s environment website (<https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap/>)

⁶ Site of Special Scientific Interest and Geologic Review Site, referenced through NatureScot sitelink website (<https://sitelink.nature.scot/map>)

Cnuic agus Cladach Mhuile SPA – The Cnuic agus Cladach Mhuile SPA is a large area that covers the majority of the estate and the entirety of the Broilass woodland block, incorporating a large variety of habitat types. The SPA regularly supports a breeding population of Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), with 14 pairs present (approximately 3.3 % of the GB population). This population has a high breeding productivity for the west coast of Scotland (0.65 fledglings per pair per year between 1981 and 1999) and is one of the highest density populations in Britain.

South Mull Coast SSSI⁷ – This is a 17km coastal strip of South Mull centred on *Carsaig Bay*, encompassing sheer cliffs and scree slopes which follow an irregular sequence between cliff top and rocky shore. The neighbouring *Carsaig Bay* area presents multiple geological interests from thin sequences of sediments beneath lava flows and volcanic rocks that occur as thin sheets or sills which cut through pre-existing rocks. The abundantly vegetated cliffs are covered with coastal grassland with occasional coastal heath. Cliff ledge vegetation occurs over the lower cliff slopes.

The igneous (volcanic) and sedimentary rocks of *Carsaig Bay* are of international importance and encompass several unique features with the sedimentary sequence being the best developed on Mull demonstrating a wide variety of rocks and providing evidence of a varied climate, from hot and arid to warm and temperate. In addition, two volcanic sills of major importance cut through pre-existing rocks at the site. One of these forms the island of *Gamhnach Mhor* another occurs at Nun's Pass and is composed of more than one type of volcanic rock. These features contain unusual minerals including sapphire, as well as representing the best locality for the mineral mullite. This locality is therefore of major mineralogical significance.

On the surface, species rich coastal grasslands dominate the vegetated cliff slopes, with scattered stands of coastal heath occurring over thinner soils. The nationally rare thyme broomrape (*Orobanche alba*) occurs in association with wild thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*).

Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC⁸ - This is an area of water within Scotland's inshore waters, extending from Lewis in the North to Jura and Islay in the South. This is designated as an important summer habitat for the Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena Phocoena*). While forestry activities are unlikely to have a direct impact on the Harbour Porpoise population in general, forestry activities could have an adverse impact on the maritime environment within the SAC adjacent to the Estate if they are not managed correctly as the terrestrial environment is connected to the marine via the several watercourses that flow from the estate to the sea [See Hydrology].

Ancient Woodlands - The Native Woodland Survey of Scotland⁹ (NWSS) surveyed all native woods and near-native woods currently present on ancient woodland sites, as well as all other planted woods on ancient woodland sites (PAWS). Ancient woodlands usually have a high value for natural and cultural heritage because of their long history of continuous woodland cover. Ancient and semi-natural woods (i.e. those where the current stands appear to be naturally regenerated rather than planted) are the woodland category that generally has the highest biodiversity value.

There are areas of Ancient Woodlands of Semi Natural Origin and Long Existing Woodlands of Plantation Origin along the North edge of the estate, bordering the A849 from Pennyghael village to Torrains. These consist of Upland Oak Woodland, Upland Ash Woodland, and Upland Birch Woodland

These areas provide core areas of habitat and biodiversity within the Estate and so will be managed for these attributes, with felling only occurring if there is a need under health and safety or pest and disease concerns (i.e. windblow, or ash dieback making a tree unsafe).

⁷ [SiteLink - South Mull Coast SSSI \(nature.scot\)](https://www.nature.scot/locations/south-mull-coast-sssi)

⁸ [SiteLink - Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC \(nature.scot\)](https://www.nature.scot/locations/inner-hebrides-and-the-minches-sac)

⁹ [Scottish Forestry Map Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.arcgis.com)

Location (see Woodland Blocks Map)	Designation Type e.g. SSSI, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Shellfish waters, Habitat or Species Biodiversity Action Plan	Site Name e.g. Barry Buddon links, Finlaggan castle,	Designated Feature Affected e.g. Atlantic Oakwood, black grouse, marsh fritillary, Grade 1 building, sensitive water body	Management Activity impacting on feature e.g. track, change in grazing management, new planting	Nature of Impact Pos/neg provide further detail in Sections 1.2 – 1.5
Torrans, Beach, Killunaig, Pennyghael	Habitat Action Plan	Pennyghael	Atlantic Woodland	Long Term Forest Plan	Positive
Kinloch, Brolass	Habitat Action Plan	Pennyghael	Planted Coniferous Forest	Long Term Forest Plan	Positive
Kinloch, Brolass, Torrains, Beach	Habitat Action Plan	Pennyghael	Rivers and Streams	Long Term Forest Plan	Positive
NM529250 (Kinloch)	National Monument Records of Scotland Recorded Sites	Pennyghael	Glen Leidle Flint Arrowhead	Long Term Forest Plan	Positive
Brolass . Torrains, Killunaig, Pennyghael, Gorchen	Special Protection Area	Cnuic agus Cladach Mhuile	Golden Eagle	Long Term Forest Plan	Positive
Kinloch, Torrains, Beach, Killunaig, Pennyghael	Ancient Woodland	Pennyghael	Long-Established of Plantation Origin Ancient of Semi-Natural Origin	Long Term Forest Plan	Positive
Pennyghael	SSSI	South Mull Coast	Geology	Long Term Forest Plan	Neutral

4 Ecological interests

Argyll & Bute Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Habitat Action Plan for Planted Coniferous Forest. This HAP cited the threats to this habitat as:

- Wind-throw and fire.
- Uniform age and species composition of forests.
- Damage by pests and disease.
- Potential for shorter rotations due to improvement made in species/timber research.

The impacts cited are:

- Loss of timber.
- Reduction of suitable habitat for key species.

The objectives stated to maintain and improve this habitat are:

1. Ensure that at least 1% of existing conifer woodland is set aside as long-term retention to improve diversity.
2. Monitor progress with re-structuring conifer forests.

Habitat Action Plan for Atlantic Woodlands. The Key Habitat of "Upland Oakwood" is described as climax woodlands on acid soils in zones of high rainfall (>1800mm) and low mean July maximum temperatures. Semi natural woodlands provide a habitat for a range of key species including Bats, Otter, Pine Martin, Fungi and Lichens which are likely to utilise the habitat provided by the woodlands at Pennyghael.

The objectives stated to maintain and improve this habitat are:

1. To maintain and enhance the condition of existing Atlantic woodland.
2. To expand the area of Atlantic woodland, primarily through natural regeneration, creating links between existing severely degraded resources.
3. To restore areas of Atlantic woodland which have been severely damaged by, for example, *Rhododendron ponticum* or Sitka Spruce.

The renewed Long Term Management Plan for Pennyghael will identify and review the ecological threats as they apply to the woodland blocks within the estate, and it will set out objectives and work proposals that will mitigate against the impacts resulting from the stated threats and help this woodland meet the biodiversity objectives.

Whilst further survey may identify other key species that utilise the habitats provided by Pennyghael Woodlands the following are known to be present:

1. Bats
2. Lichen
3. Otter
4. White Tailed Eagle
5. Golden Eagle

In all cases, the renewed Long Term Management Plan for Pennyghael will identify and review the ecological and environmental threats as they apply to these species and it will set out objectives and work proposals that will mitigate against the impacts resulting from the stated threats and help this woodland contribute to their conservation in future.

Deer Management

A deer management plan to protect the restock of trees will be included within the Long Term Forest Plan.

5 Historical and Cultural Interests

36 features of historical and cultural interest can be found within Pennyghael estate¹⁰ [See Map 4]. Of these, only two features are currently within an area of active forestry. These are:

1. The site of the Glen Leidle Flint Arrowhead (NM 529 250).
2. The site and remains of Sean Dun (NM 533 279)

The remaining 34 identified features are predominantly the remains of old homesteads or settlements lying along the North shore and the A849, or old shielings and fanks on the open hill. There are features of note along the South Mull coast, including the settlement at *Airigh Mhic Cribhain*, a sandstone quarry and rock carvings. Most of these are within the estate boundary, but well out of the range of any suitable land for forestry activities.

All features of historical and cultural interest will be marked on the Hazards and Constraints map [Map 4], and on all operational maps with appropriate buffers put in place.

All further forestry work will be conducted in a manner that protects and conserves features of historical and cultural interests, and due diligence undertaken before any forestry work to identify any new features that may still be unidentified.

6 Landscape Interests

The most prominent view of Pennyghael is from across *Loch Scridain* to the North, with the views from the South masked by the cliffs of the South Mull coastline.

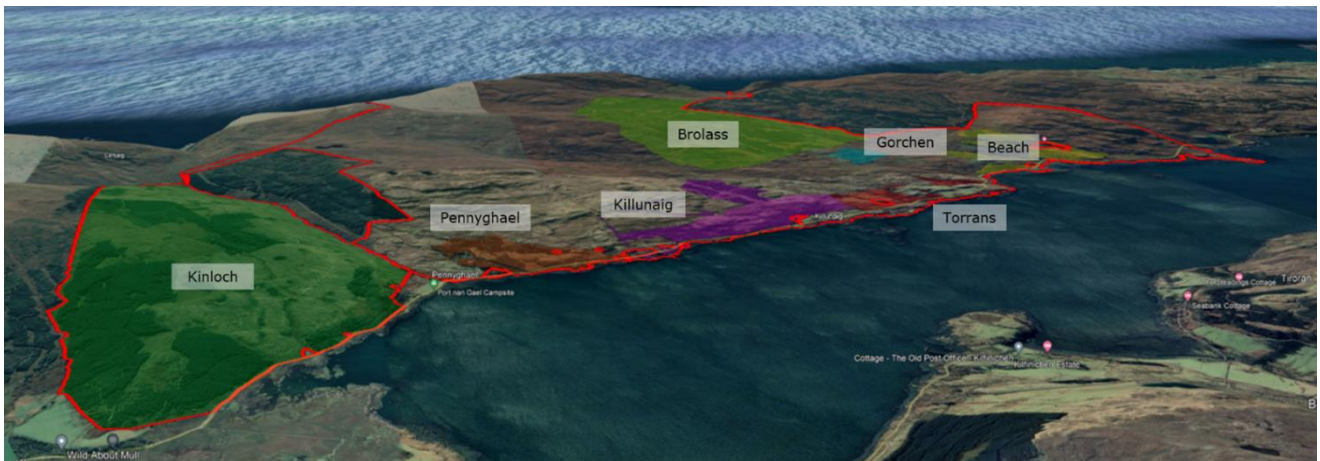


Figure 3: Viewshed render from Google Earth of Pennyghael Estate looking South from the summit of Ben More looking across *Loch Scridain*.

The prominent feature of the Kinloch woodlands to the East of the Estate has now been felled and awaiting restock with a mix of commercial Sitka Spruce and mixed conifers, including Scots Pine. Most of the woodlands along the A849 consists predominantly of mixed broadleaves and scrub. Brolass is a maturing woodland of mixed conifer of mixed quality, with areas of large open ground and wide rides between stands of various conifers.

The renewal of the forest plan will allow the potential landscape impact of planned forestry operations to be considered and an appropriate level of landscape design to be carried out.

¹⁰ Identified through Canmore - <https://canmore.org.uk>

Landscape Character Assessment¹¹

Landscape Character Type 35: Rugged Mountains - found in the north and north-east of Argyll and Bute, immediately to the south of Glen Coe and on the islands of Mull and Jura. Within the mainland area this character type comprises an extensive mountainous area on Mull from the central upland area of the island, partially within the Loch Na Keal National Scenic Area.

The Rugged Mountains form steep, mountainous ridges, broader in scale and more inaccessible than the relatively narrow Steep Ridgeland and Mountains to the south. The landform is varied, particularly on the island of Mull, where the underlying geology is fragmented by volcanic activity. Here the basalt has formed mountains with conical summits, sheer rock faces and scree slopes, while the granite has formed steep, craggy ridges with deeply trenched gullies. In places the landform is crinkled, elsewhere it is finely sculpted with concave slopes which sweep down into wide, u-shaped glens.

Bare rock faces and open moorland predominates, with blanket bog and small upland lochs in low-lying areas. The lack of vegetation creates an open, exposed landscape character where visual interest is held in the sculpted landforms. These montane areas are of national importance for nature conservation, since they represent habitats which are relatively rare in Britain. For instance, the mountains on the island of Mull support rare birds of prey such as the golden eagle. In winter, the soft orange tones of the upland grasses suggest an arid climate. There are scrubby birch-oak woodlands in some of the sheltered narrow glens and in some gullies and rock crevices. Extensive conifer forests have been planted on the lower slopes of some of the mainland high tops and on the floor of some of the wider glens on the island of Mull.

Key Characteristics:

- Rugged, steep sided mountain ranges with a massive scale.
- Diverse landform with gullies, scarp slopes and rocky screes.
- Striking exposed rock faces, with scrubby birch-oak woodland in gullies.
- Relatively wide glens between mountain ranges.
- Fast-flowing burns, waterfalls and small upland lochs are distinctive features.
- Extensive conifer forests on some lower slopes.
- Inaccessible and relatively uninhabited, with strong wildness qualities.
- Dramatic mountain scenery.

Landscape Character Type 45: Stepped Cliffs and Terraces – found on northern Mull and includes the numerous islands to the west of Mull, such as Staffa, Little Colonsay and Lunga. They have a simple, large-scale landscape pattern. This Landscape Character Type occurs where the basalt plateau weathers to form a series of fairly flat terraces, separated by steep rock faces and cliffs. This produces a distinctive landform with a strongly stepped slope profile. The coastal cliffs are particularly distinctive. Here the basalt cliffs are surrounded by a fan of rocky scree and the flat terraces at the foot of the cliff are strewn with large boulders which have broken away from the sheer rock faces above.

This is an exposed, open landscape of bare rock and, on the lower slopes, tussocky moorland grass. It is of medium to large scale. The few trees are confined to sheltered gullies and crevasses on the lower slopes and the low cliffs of the coastal terraces.

Key Characteristics:

- Steep upland summits, with distinctive stepped slope profile.
- Sheer basalt cliffs, surrounded by vegetated scree slopes with low, flat-topped headlands at the coast.
- Medium to large scale landscape
- Off-shore islands with a distinctive terraced form.
- Exposed rock faces and open, windswept moorland.
- Scrubby birch woodland in crevices, gullies and on the lower cliffs of the coastal terraces.
- Sparse settlement with few buildings, settlements or fields.

¹¹ [Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions | NatureScot](#)

Landscape Character Type 50: Stepped Rocky Coastlands - the Stepped Rocky Coastlands Landscape Character Type is found on Mull (where it generally occurs along the coastal fringe of the Sound of Mull, in the Gruline area and along the southern coast of Loch Scridain) and on the southern tip of Bute. This Landscape Character Type is found on the lower fringes of the high stepped basalt on the Isle of Mull. There is a further outcrop on the southern tip of the island of Bute, where the underlying basalt originated from volcanic eruptions on the Isle of Arran.

As basalt weathers, it produces slopes with a distinctive stepped profile. A sequence of flat terraces is separated by low vertical rock faces. This profile is clearly defined on the high stepped basalt of Mull, but is also apparent on the lower fringes of the basalt, where the ledges stand out as rocky outcrops and the landform has a distinctly horizontal grain. Here the plateau has been eroded to form a series of low ridges, averaging approximately 170 metres in height, which broadly follow a northeast-northwest alignment. There are sometimes ribbon lochs in the glens between the ridges, giving visual emphasis to the grain of the landform. However, at a detailed scale, the landform is uneven, rocky and often rather disorientating. A narrow outcrop of limestone to the east of Craignure provides a pocket of fertile land and the setting for the Torosay estate.

The plateau has a deeply indented coastline, with ledges of flat, dark grey rock jutting into the sea. The distinctive stepped profile shows up clearly on the small headlands which separate coves of dark-grey mudflats and shingle. There are numerous outlying rocks and off-shore islands.

The upper plateau is open moorland with patches of heather between rocky outcrops and tussocky moorland grass. There are extensive conifer forests on the lower slopes to the south of Tobermory and in Glen Aros.

The lower fringes of the moorland are a diverse, patchy mosaic of gorse, bog, moorland, scrubby woodland, scattered cottages and pastures. Many of the fields are partially derelict and enclosed by the broken remnants of stone walls. Most are rough pasture, with patches of rushes. The edges of the low-lying bog are fringed with scrubby woodland.

Key Characteristics

- Distinctive coastal low stepped headlands and sheltered bays.
- Undulating, eroded moorland on lower fringes of the high stepped basalt.
- Low ridges broadly follow a south-east/north-west alignment, with ribbon lochs in the glens.
- Indented coastline; low headlands have a distinctive stepped profile.
- Open moorland broken by rocky outcrops and ledges.
- Extensive conifer forests on lower slopes of plateau.
- Diverse, patchy mosaic of woodland, bog and marginal pasture on lower fringes of moor.
- Scattered small-holdings and cottages on edge of moor.
- Small estates influence the landscape character in some sheltered coastal bays.

7 Access [Map 1]

Access Points

There are 5 access points onto the estate. These are:

1. Kinloch Access – NM 52143 26559
2. Local Access towards Carsaig – NM 51440 26347
3. Brolass Access – NM 48048 25287
4. Local Access towards Scoor Estate and Beach Woods – NM 46520 24198
5. Local Access – NM 46121 24414

Public Access

There are no formal Public Rights of Way or paths within the core path network that run through the Estate. Despite this, the wood is occasionally accessed by members of the public for recreation along the existing estate road network.

The review of the Forest Plan will identify current access and whether increased provision could or should be considered. Operations will also be planned in such a way so as to keep members of the public safe while maintaining non-motorised access where it is safe to do so.

The Outdoor Access Code will be applied to the forest throughout the duration of this plan.

Timber Haulage

The Estate has direct access to the A849 to Craignure and Fishnish. The A849 is an agreed route under the Argyll and Bute Timber Transport Plan. There is also a pier on the South shore of *Loch Scridain* with the capacity to manage timber transfer onto boats, potentially limiting the impact of timber haulage onto the local road infrastructure from any future harvest activities.

8 Felling and Restructuring

The focus of previous felling operations on the Estate have focussed on the felling and restock of the commercial timber in Kinloch. This was completed in 2021 and will be restocked over the course of 2024/2025.

The next focus for felling and restructuring work will be on the commercial elements of the Brolass woodlands, and potentially with some areas in the Beach and Gorchen blocks. These were planted in the mid to late 1980s and are of a harvestable age.

The objective for all commercially viable woodlands will primarily be to maximise on the financial value of the timber asset. This will be managed according to UKFS and to UKWAS, which require minimum areas of open ground, native broadleaves and maximum proportions for monocrops. These have changed, with greater emphasis on diversity in the current version of UKFS meaning that all clear-felled woodlands will be more species and habitat diverse following clear fell and restocking.

Where the financial objectives of the timber asset cannot be met, the potential for further biodiversity enhancement will be pursued where possible.

UKFS stipulates the need to protect watercourses and private water supplies through harvesting and all other forestry operations. These will be identified through pre commencement meetings and risk assessed according to the operation being conducted.

9 Summary of Key Issues (Updated following consultation)

Individual/ Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Map 1: Pennyghael Location & Access

Appendix 2 – Map 2: Pennyghael Woodlands

Appendix 3 – Map 3: Pennyghael 2023 Species Mix

Appendix 4 – Map 4: Hazards and Constraints

Appendix 5 – Map 5: Pennyghael Concept Map

Appendix 10.2 – Map 2: Pennyghael Estate Woodlands



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Pennyghael Wood Blocks



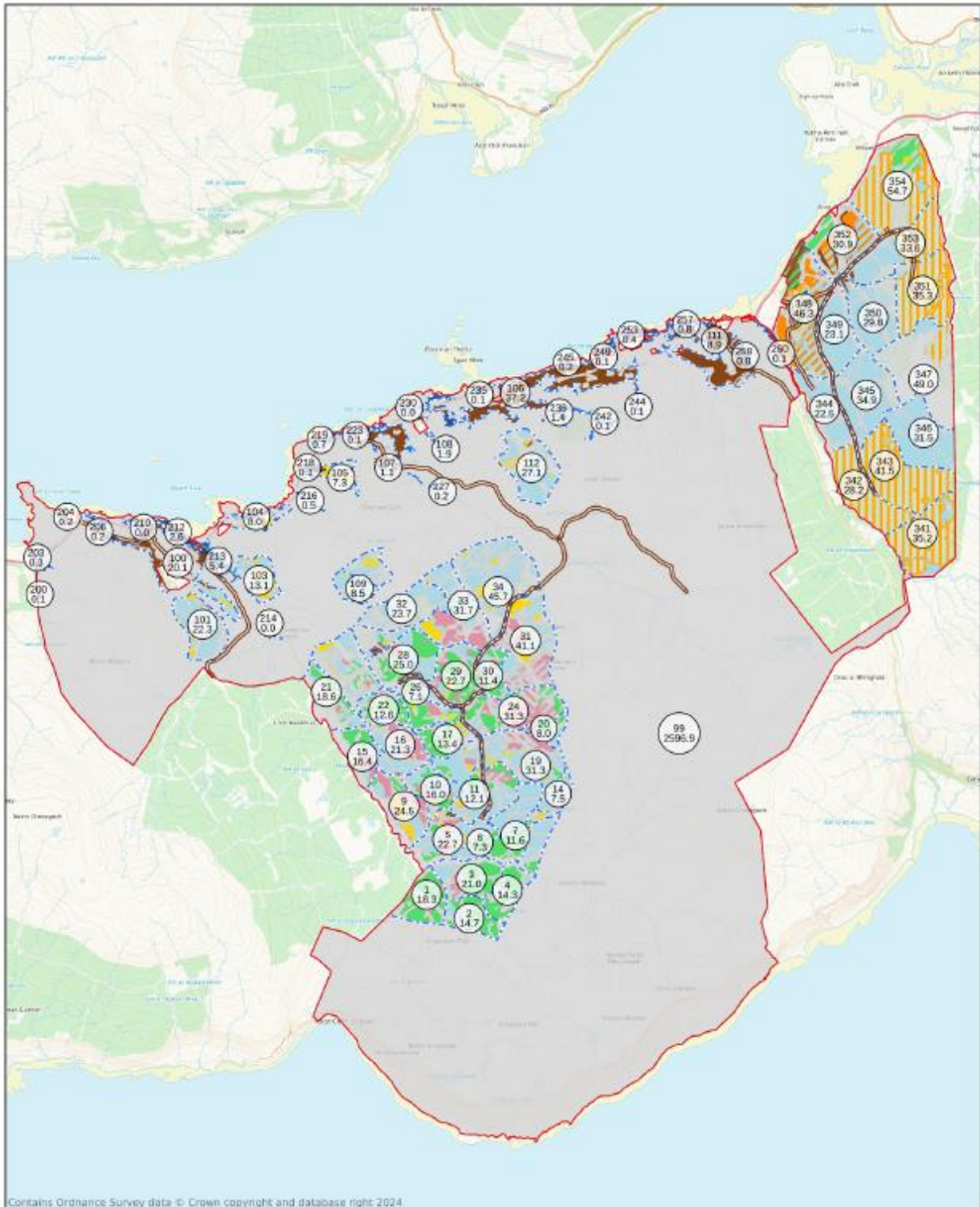
0 500 1000m
Scale: 1:35000
Printed at A3



Date Printed: 23/01/2024

- Forest Boundary
- Road
- OS VectorMap Local
- Woodland Blocks
- BEACH
- BROLASS
- GORCHEN
- KILLUNAIG
- KINLOCH
- ESTATE LAND
- PENNYGHAEL
- TORRAINS

Appendix 10.3 – Map 3: Pennyghael 2023 Species



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Pennyghael
2023 Species Mix



0 500 1000m
Scale: 1:35000
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Appendix 10.4 – Map 4: Hazards and Constraints



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Pennyghael
Hazards and Constraints Map (Large Scale)



0 500 1000m
Scale: 1:35000
Printed at A3



Date Printed: 23/01/2024

- Knowledge Point**
- Hazards
 - Technical Features
 - Water Bodies Point
 - Water Bodies Line
 - Paths
 - Green Spaces
 - Roads
 - Other Areas of Consideration
 - Other Protected Areas
 - Other Areas of Interest
 - Other Areas of Concern
 - Other Areas of Interest
 - Other Areas of Concern

