

FORESTRY AND LAND SCOTLAND (FLS)

Update to the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group 03/11/21

- The timber market remains strong with high demand for all grades of timber. The FLS timber cut is dictated by forecast of sustainable production and approved management plans, so there is limited capacity to increase production on short timescales. Depending on winter weather throughout Scotland the West/Argyll can sometimes be a key area for keeping timber supplies moving when other areas are snow or ice bound.
- Phytophthora ramorum disease in larch is unfortunately fairly well established in the south of Argyll and Cowal with current outbreaks in Kintyre, the Loch Awe area, near Oban and on Mull. Infected trees have to be felled based on statutory timescales issued from Scottish Forestry. This can prove very challenging where there is limited access or suitable resources are hard to source. Further spread of this disease is expected with measures being undertaken hopefully slowing the rate and extent of spread.
- The proposed windfarm south of Tarbert is nearing the formal planning submission stage and we are working with the developers on their detailed proposals. The windfarm with planning approval at Clachaig Glen is undergoing detailed proposals discussion on an updated layout.
- Early works and surveys are taking place to allow the scale of peatland restoration to be significantly increased through the Argyll area – there will be some large areas to restore in some forests, though details of this are not precise until additional survey is complete.
- The Stay the Night scheme was largely successful and discussions are taking place about how this evolves into 2022.
- Land Management Plans (LMP) are being revised for the Glen Orchy/Glen Lochy area, Cologin just south of Oban, On Mull, at Carradale and soon to start at Beinn Ghuilean near Campbeltown.
- The Inveraray – Crossaig powerline upgrade project first phase to Port Ann is almost complete and work is now starting on the second section between Lochgilphead and Crossaig – a significant length of this runs through FLS land.

Donald McNeill | Planning Manager

Forestry and Land Scotland