



Cormonachan Woodlands

2017 to 2027

Corrections made to change Cormonochan
Woodland Association to Cormonochan
Community Woodlands Ltd by Mike Strachan
Scottish Forestry 4/5/2021

Management plan remains as originally approved



Please refer to the Management Plan Guidance note for advice on how to complete your management plan.

You must submit the Management Plan before any related Forestry Grant Scheme application. We will not approve your grant application until your Management Plan has been approved.

1. Details

Management Plan Details			
Management Plan Name:	Cormonachan Woodlands		
Business Reference Number:	250873	Main Location Code:	
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NS 196 976 Car Park	Nearest town or locality:	Carrick Castle
Local Authority:	Argyll & Bute Council		
Management Plan area (hectares):	63.89		
List associated maps:			

Owner's Details			
Title:	Mr	Forename:	Douglas
Surname:	Locke		
Organisation:	Cormonachan Community woodlands ltd (SC 657915)	Position:	Secretary
Primary Contact Number:	01301 703098	Alternative Contact Number:	07748 130976
Email:	Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk		
Address:	Cruach House		
	Carrick Castle, Argyll		
Postcode:	PA24 8AF	Country:	Scotland

Agent's Details			
Title:		Forename:	
Surname:			
Organisation:		Position:	
Primary Contact		Alternative Contact	



Number:		Number:	
Email:			
Address:			
Postcode:		Country:	

Approval - to be completed by FCS staff:			
Management Plan Reference Number:			
Plan Period: (ten years) (day/month/year)	From:	To:	
Woodland Officer / Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	



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 [FC Map Viewer](#).

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 in section 1 Management Plan Details.

2.2 History of management

The majority of the woodlands have been managed as minimal intervention for the last few decades. There has been clear felling of exotic conifers as part of PAWS restoration in compartment 12 as well as individual and small area of conifer removal in compartment 1 and 9.

Compartment 9 has been replanted with oak, rowan with birch self seeding. Sitka spruce has also self seeded in this area.

Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre and CCW personnel have managed circa 20 ha for the last 18 years and in 2016 CWA & Ardroy signed a MoU with FLS to managed a further 38.9 ha until 2026.

Two areas have been deer fenced – part of cpt 12 PAWS area (8.9 ha, circa 2012) and a smaller area in cpt 3 (2001).

There has been considerable effort put into *Rhododendron ponticum* control in cpt 3, 6 and 7 by Ardroy and other volunteers.

The site is extensively used by groups from Ardroy for environmental education delivering John Muir Discovery Awards and there is a resource centre (Jan's Hideaway) where groups can base themselves for day activities.

For greater detail of the history please see website - <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/history.html> and past management plans.

2.3 Species and age

Mature native broadleaves mainly oak ranging from 200cm for the tall straight oaks to 540cm for a multi-stemmed pollarded tree. Areas of mature hazel stools with many examples of 'sticky glue fungus' and some sections of planted exotic conifers mainly Sitka spruce and Larch.



2.4 Constraints and designations

The whole of the woodlands is within the Argyll Forest Park and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

The site is recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory either from 1750 or 1860 depending on which part of the woodlands are considered (map). Sections of the woodlands are evident on the 1747-1755 Roy's Map shown as Currymonachan.

The woodland is recorded on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland and given the current dominate species in some areas in Sitka spruce some of this is considered PAWS

Sticky glue fungi – hazel – the hazel stands will need careful management in order not to damage habitat for the fungi but regenerate the stools?

There is a 7.8 ha area of exotic conifer which is excluded from the MoU so CCW do not have any control over the management of that area. – This area would be excluded from any area based grant payments.

A reliance on volunteers to run and manage the woodlands.

A lack of contingency funds or income stream from the woodlands.

2.5 Public access

There is a network of 2.5 km of circular footpaths in the north of the woodlands with links to the Forestry and Land Scotland road from Lochgoilhead at NS 193 982 and the Lochgoilhead to Carrick Castle Road at Lochwood.

There is also a route to be created after vegetation control (adventure walk) from the top of the south end of the Squirrel Trail path near the new car park running south to the old village of Upper Cormonachan and the waterfalls of Cormonachan Burn.

The car park at NS 196 976 was given planning permission by LLTTNPA in 2016. New interpretation signage boards are planned as part of the car park extension development.

The sticky glue fungus and red squirrels are of particular interest to visitors. Red squirrel feeders are located around Jan's Hideaway.

The CCW are installing natural sculptures to add interest for younger visitors.

6 Woodland Protection

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

Rhododendron ponticum is invading the woodlands from the north and is particularly bad in cpt 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 with isolated plants throughout the rest of the woodlands.

A small amount Japanese knotweed has been treated as part of the car park planning permission.



The CCW could promote the FLS Keep it clean campaign to raise awareness of the potential risk from plant pathogens.

Deer, Livestock and other mammals

Stalking rights are retained by FLS.

There is a need to monitor herbivore impact - the use of the grazing toolbox (Herbivore Impact assessment) could be applicable on this site.

There is no domestic stock grazing.

Grey Squirrels

None

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

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

There is a fire ban during times of peak fire risk.

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

The woodlands are mainly established mature woodlands ; the main aim of the management is to achieve age class diversity.

3. Vision and Objectives

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

3.1 Vision

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

The over arching vision is to create a sustainable Atlantic oak woodland habitat which is used both for education and recreation by locals and the general public. The management and development to be carried out by a dynamic community woodlands association.

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	Maintain and enhance the age class of the woodlands.
2	Manage to reduce the extent of invasive non native species in particular Rhododendron ponticum and Sitka spruce. The priority for the next 5 year period should be the sustainable removal of rhododendron.
3	Locate, map, age and improve the immediate habitat of the veteran oak trees in the the woodlands. Argyll Small Woods Co-operative have



No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
4	undertaken an initial surveys to assist with this. Locate, map and enhance the habitat of the hazel stands throughout the woodlands for the benefit of lichens and mosses and the red squirrel population.
5	Identify areas of historic woodland pasture and manage to best practice standards.
6	Provide learning resources to residents and visitors to the area to experience the importance of native woodlands and its historic use by man.
7	Create a local/tourist destination by installing interactive woodlands sculptures; increase the network of path throughout the woodlands and install hides and shelters in the woodlands.
8	Provide training opportunities for CCW members which are required to maintain the woodlands and have economic advantages for the individual e.g. chainsaw certification.
9	Build a vibrant group of CCW woodlands management volunteers with the aim of improving the physical & mental health of the members.

4. Stakeholder Engagement (if required)

This may be required depending on the work you intend on carrying out in the woodland and the constraints or designations that have been identified.

Individual/ Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Individuals Public Consultations to Loch Goil residents and visitors	24/04/15 01/08/15 12/06/16 01/08/16	Same dates	Need for expansion of woodlands car park	Obtained Planning Permission and applied for funding
Informed all adjacent houses of the CCW MoU with FLS managing the woodlands	24/01/17	Various	Positive	66% immediately joined the CCW. The other houses are second homes yet to visit.



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
Non-native tree species Sitka spruce	Reliance on volunteers to undertake the work.	Felling and replanting/ natural regeneration will create age class diversity.
Non Native plants Mainly Rhododendron ponticum Other non native plants identified in PAWS report adjacent to public road	Lack of co-ordinated management on adjacent land holding. CCW to consider discussing rhododendron control with neighbouring landowners and householders. Reliance on volunteers to undertake the work. Steepness of the terrain.	Pupils at Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre undertake a degree of manual clearance on suitable terrain. There will be trained volunteers who can undertake necessary herbicide application living locally. Cleared areas to be planted with appropriate tree species. if natural regeneration is not sufficient after 5 years post clearance Engage with wider Lochgoilhead community about the issue if invasive non native plants possible as part of the Community action plan
Herbivore impact	Stalking rights retained by FLS.	CCW can undertake monitoring – grazing tool box to inform required stalking effort.
Upper Cormanachan Township	Require funding for feasibility and archaeological survey. Funding to undertake the work.	Interpretation and improved access to this archaeological site will create a visitor attraction.



Mature oaks 'lost' in Sitka spruce plantation	Locating, mapping and aging the trees.	Gradually improve the habitat of the trees.
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.

The CCW will manage the woodlands to bring the native woodlands back into good condition with respect to age class, managing invasive species and with a well maintained and expanded access infrastructure.

Using low intervention silviculture techniques. The focus in the first 5 years will be controlling rhododendron and other invasive non native species, halo thinning mature and veteran alder and oak in cmt 8 and 9 and start felling Sitka spruce in cpt 1/7/9 along with establishing replacement trees, in key areas of the woodlands.

To obtain funding to develop the woodlands as a visitor destination with projects including woodlands sculptures, provision of wildlife hides, shelters and path to Upper Cormonachan township and Cormonachan Burn waterfalls.

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.

Please see attached spreadsheet with details of proposed operations