



NORTH AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL

Cunninghame House,
Irvine.

20 June 2013

Cabinet

You are requested to attend a special Meeting of the above mentioned Committee of North Ayrshire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine on **TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2013** at **2.30 p.m.** to consider the undernoted business.

Yours faithfully

Elma Murray

Chief Executive

1. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

2. Minutes (Page 7)

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 June 2013 will be signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

GENERAL BUSINESS FOR DECISION

Reports by the Chief Executive

3. **Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy (Page 19)**
Submit report by the Chief Executive on the North Ayrshire Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy (copy enclosed).
4. **Provost's Hospitality Budget and Fundraising Activity (Page 73)**
Submit report by the Chief Executive on the Provost's committed Hospitality expenditure, forecasted expenditure for period 2013/14 and details of fundraising activity from September 2012 (copy enclosed).
5. **Council Plan, Performance Management Strategy and Single Outcome Agreement (SOA): 12/13 Q4 Progress Report (Page 81)**
Submit report by the Chief Executive on three Action Plans, namely (1) the Council Plan, (2) the Performance Management Strategy, and (3) the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

6. **Ad-hoc Property Guardians: Former Dreghorn Primary School (Page 135)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance & Corporate Support) on a pilot project to address on site security of the former Dreghorn Primary School through temporary occupation (copy enclosed).
7. **Update On Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland (HEEPS) (Page 141)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance & Corporate Support) on the progress that is being made in attracting ECO and HEEPS funding (copy enclosed).
8. **Remedial Works to the Slipway at Arran Outdoor Education Centre (Page 149)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance & Corporate Support) for additional funding in order to accept a tender to progress works at the most favourable time of the year (copy enclosed).
9. **Brodict Pier Redevelopment (Page 153)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance & Corporate Support) on the £18m Brodict Pier redevelopment and the creation of a Brodict Pier Redevelopment Group (copy enclosed).
10. **Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011 (Page 159)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on an administration/management charge to homeowners benefitting from Property Factoring services provided by North Ayrshire Council (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Corporate Director (Development & Environment)

- 11. Renewable Energy Investment Opportunities from the North Ayrshire Estate (Page 163)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) on the outcome of a Feasibility Study examining the opportunities for investment in renewable energy from the Council's land and building estate (copy enclosed).
- 12. Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy (Page 175)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) on the Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy (copy enclosed).
- 13. Step Change 2015 (Rest of Scotland) (Page 363)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) on progress with the Scottish Government's Digital Future: Infrastructure Action Plan and, in particular, the Step Change 2015 (Rest of Scotland) Project (copy enclosed).
- 14. Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (Page 369)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) on proposed bids to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (copy enclosed).
- 15. Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Sector Commitment on Waste Prevention and Recycling (Page 377)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) on the Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Sector Commitment on Waste Prevention and Recycling (copy enclosed).

GENERAL BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION

- 16. Clyde Valley Residual Waste Project (Page 381)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) on the progress in securing long-term treatment facilities for residual waste (copy enclosed).

MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

- 17. Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board: Minutes of 13 May 2013 (Page 385)**
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Education & Skills) on the minutes of the Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board held on 13 May 2013 (copy enclosed).
- 18. Urgent Items**
Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

Cabinet

Sederunt: **Elected Members**

Willie Gibson (Chair)
Alan Hill (Vice-Chair)
John Bruce
Marie Burns
Anthea Dickson
Tony Gurney
Alex McLean

Chair:

Attending:

Apologies:

Meeting Ended:

Cabinet
11 June 2013

Kilbirnie, 11 June 2013 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m. in Cunninghame House, Irvine .

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Tony Gurney, John Bruce, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson and Alex Mclean; E. Higton, M. Fraser and Very Reverend M. Canon McManus (Church Representatives); and E. Hawthorn and N. McDonald (Youth Representatives)

Also Present

John Bell and Alex Gallagher.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Corporate Director, Y. Baulk, Head of Finance and Property, D. Tate, Senior Manager (Housing, Assets and Investments) and A. Blakely, IT Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Kirk, Corporate Director, M. Docherty, Head of Education (3-18), L. Taylor, Senior Manager (Resources and Infrastructure) and D. Carracher, Senior Manager (Inclusion) (Education and Skills); I. Colvin, Corporate Director and A. Adrain, Divisional Manager (HQ) (Social Services and Health); C. Hatton, Corporate Director and K. Yeomans, Head of Development Planning (Development and Environment); E. McDonald, Communications Officer and M. Anderson, Committee Services Manager (Democratic and Administration Services) (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Gordon Smith (Teaching Representative)

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Hill, as a member of Fairlie Community Sports Club, declared an indirect non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 (Fairlie Tennis Club). Councillor Burns, as a Trustee of North Ayrshire Ventures Trust, declared an indirect, pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10 (Procurement of Third Party Share of North Ayrshire Ventures Limited).

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the previous Cabinet, held on 28 May 2013, was agreed and the Minutes signed in accordance with paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Outcome of the Consultation on Future Non-Denominational Education Provision for Children of Primary and Early Years Residing Within the Catchment of Moorpark Primary School and Glengarnock Primary School

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Education Skills) which (i) provided information on the outcome of the statutory public consultation affecting Moorpark and Glengarnock Primary Schools, which was undertaken in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; and (ii) invited the Cabinet to consider the three options set out at Section 6.1 of the report.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the capacity to accommodate future placing requests for Moorpark Primary School;
- the incidence of 'floating' catchment zones in North Ayrshire and elsewhere;
- the rationale and financial implications of retaining Moorpark Primary School in the light of the new community hub; and
- the current placing preferences of those within the 'floating' catchment zone.

Members expressed their appreciation of the work carried out by the Senior Manager (Resources and Infrastructure) pending the appointment of the new Head of Service Development (Education and Skills).

The Cabinet agreed that Moorpark Primary School remain open and the catchment areas for both Moorpark and Glengarnock Primary Schools be re-zoned.

4. Improving the Sciences and Mathematics in North Ayrshire Schools

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Education and Skills) which (i) provided information on the results of a benchmarking exercise highlighting the uptake of S5 pupils and higher in the Sciences and Mathematics, post-appeal; and (b) outlined the approaches being taken to improve the uptake and performance of pupils in these subjects.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the value of encouraging an interest in the sciences and engineering at primary school;
- staffing issues surrounding the teaching of the sciences; and
- the role of industry in highlighting engineering as a career option for pupils.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information presented; and (b) receive regular, annual updates, post-appeal.

5. Employer Engagement and Supporting Young People Into Work

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Education and Skills) which (i) provided information on the development of a range of work-ready educational experiences and industry recognised qualifications for young people whose aspiration is to progress directly from school into employment; (ii) gave details of the secondment of a teacher to development relationships with the business community, project manage the development of new courses and associated resources and take a lead in ensuring that these are ready for full implementation in August 2014; and (iii) highlighted the anticipated outcomes.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the Service's ability to deliver on the ambitious targets set;
- the mutual benefit to employer and employee of work experience and the Modern Apprenticeship programme;
- the importance of raising the profile and perceived value of vocational qualifications; and
- the range of vocational qualifications on offer.

Noted.

6. General Teaching Council for Scotland Revised Professional Standards

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Education and Skills) which (i) presented information on how the national development of professional standards for teachers will influence local arrangements and enhance provision for teachers and young people; and (ii) outlined the implementation of the Standards at a local level, including the piloting of professional update in two school clusters in partnership with the General Teaching Council for Scotland.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- feedback from the visit by the General Teaching Council of Scotland in May 2013;
- the need to recognise not only teachers' academic qualifications, but their commitment to, and investment in, extra-curricular activities within the school; and
- the importance of providing qualifications in middle leadership.

The Head of Education (3-18) undertook to provide Members with further information on the Middle Leadership learning opportunities.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note that that a further report would submitted to the Cabinet in September/October 2013 on the range of leadership and management opportunities in schools; and (b) otherwise to note the content of the report.

7. Fairlie Tennis Club, Castlepark Drive, Fairlie

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on (a) plans by a newly formed Fairlie Community Sports Club to make better use of the land shown at Appendix 1 to the report and provide sporting facilities for the local community; and (b) the proposed lease of the ground in question to Fairlie Community Sports Club.

The Cabinet agreed to approve a 25-year ground lease to Fairlie Community Sports Club, at an annual rental charge of £500 and subject to 5-yearly reviews.

8. Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (i) provided information on progress being made in developing a Property Factoring service; (ii) gave details of a planned public consultation process between August and October 2013; (iii) proposed the setting of a financial threshold for undertaking repairs without prior consultation with homeowners; and (iv) recommended the introduction of an administration/management charge to those homeowners benefitting from the service.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the appropriateness of the level of administration/management charge proposed, particularly when applied to high value repairs;
- the feasibility of introducing 'floats' as a means of keeping in place funds for repairs;
- the current level of bad debt associated with repairs; and
- the varying provision within individual Title Deeds for charging for repairs.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note progress that is being made in developing and delivering a Property Factoring service in-line with the Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011; (b) to note progress on the proposed methods of consultation with private home owners affected by the introduction of this service; (c) to approve the consultation threshold at a level of £250 per owner; and (d) that the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) submit a further report to the next meeting of the Cabinet on the proposed introduction of an administration/management charge.

9. Kirktonhall, 1 Glen Road, West Kilbride

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) provided information on Kirktonhall Business Centre Group as the preferred transferee in respect of Kirktonhall, West Kilbride; and (b) recommended that the property, together with the Kirktonhall sundial, be transferred to the Group on the basis of a nominal transfer value of £1.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- whether the proposed addition of the sundial would impact upon the transfer value of the site;
- the current value of the sundial and safeguards for its future;
- the criteria to be met before the Council can transfer assets for less than the market value; and
- the arrangements to be put in place to return the property to the Council in future, if necessary.

The Head of Finance and Property undertook to provide Members with further information on the criteria to be met in terms of the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010 to allow the Council to transfer assets for less than the market value.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the transfer of Kirktonhall and the sundial to Kirktonhall Business Centre Group for £1, subject to (i) grant funding being secured and (ii) a sufficiently robust business case being made available to the Council; and (b) that Officers (i) continue to liaise with the Group and (ii) agree conditions and dates for transfer when funding is obtained to restore the building.

10. Procurement of Third Party Share of North Ayrshire Ventures Limited

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) provided information on North Ayrshire Ventures Limited (NAVL), a company jointly owned by EDI and North Ayrshire Ventures Trust (NAVT), which owns assets at Kyleshill, Saltcoats and Pennyburn Road, Irvine; and (b) recommended the provision of a loan to NAVT to secure full ownership of NAVL and secure the underlying assets.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the rationale for the proposals.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the procurement of EDI's share of NAVL by NAVT; (b) note the loan default which occurs as a result of the sale by EDI; (c) note the proposed transfer of assets from NAVL to NAVT; (d) note the approach which NAVT plans to take to deliver its core objectives which strongly aligns with the Council's Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy; and (e) agree to provide funding to the value of £2.046m (as at 15 June 2013).

11. ICT Strategy 2011-16

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on progress on the ICT Strategy 2011-16 and, in particular, the delivery of network improvements, tenders to implement further network enhancements, the strategic assessment of all major applications, investment in a virtual server environment, the replacement of desktop devices, and the Council's redesigned website.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- whether migration to the virtual server had had any adverse impact on the speed of connection to the network;
- the timescale for linking HNS FACE with the Council's Carefirst;
- whether the Council's Report It app could be made available for Blackberry devices; and
- the potential for increasing the use of video-conferencing.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note progress in respect of the ICT Strategy 2011-16; and (b) receive reports on progress every 6 months.

12. North Ayrshire Older People's Housing Strategy

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which (a) provided information on the work of the Older People's Housing Strategy Working Group which was established to progress the development of the mainland North Ayrshire Older People's Housing Strategy; and (b) sought approval of the Strategy.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the mainland North Ayrshire Older People's Housing Strategy set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

13. Consultation on Delegation of Local Authority Functions - Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and Adults with Incapacity Act 2000

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which (a) outlined the Scottish Government's consultation on the delegation of Local Authority functions in respect of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and Adults with Incapacity Act 2000; and (b) sought approval of a proposed response to the consultation.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve North Ayrshire Council's consultation response being in line with the Association of Directors of Social Work (ADSW) response, as set out at Section 3 of the report; and (b) the North Ayrshire Council consultation process involving North Ayrshire Council Mental Health Officer service.

14. Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Regulations 2014

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which (a) outlined the Scottish Government consultation on the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Regulations 2014; and (b) sought approval of a proposed response to the consultation.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the response to the consultation on the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Regulations 2014, as set out in Section 3 of the report.

15. Town Centre Regeneration

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which (a) provided information on a number of proposed Town Centre Regeneration activities across North Ayrshire over the next 5 years; and (b) sought approval for the suggested approach set out in the report.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the populations of Ardrossan and Saltcoats;
- the provision of updates to Area Committees on regeneration activity; and
- whether regeneration attention should be focussed on towns other than the established population centres of Irvine and Saltcoats.

The Head of Development Planning undertook to provide Members with the latest population figures for Ardrossan and Saltcoats.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) an approach based principally on regenerating the two major centres of population, Irvine and Saltcoats; (b) approve the development of a series of master plans supporting the regeneration of Irvine and Saltcoats; (c) acknowledge the requirement to support wider Town Centre activities across North Ayrshire based on identified themes and priorities; and (d) develop an approach to dealing with vacant and derelict land and properties.

16. Establishing an Inward Investment Service for North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which (a) presented information on the potential to develop a competitive offer to attract inward investors to North Ayrshire; and (b) sought recognition of the requirement to develop an Inward Investment Strategy.

The Cabinet agreed that an Inward Investment Strategy be developed.

17. Business Support

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which (a) provided an update on the proposals presented by the Economic Development and Regeneration Board to encourage business growth; and (b) presented proposals for a new approach to business support.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the benefits of adopting a more proactive approach to supporting business growth;
- the feasibility of the timescale for the proposed major business event in October 2013; and
- the role of Irvine Bay Regeneration Company.

The Cabinet agreed to the new approach to business support through the implementation of the actions set out at Section 3 of the report.

18. Grant Offers for Outdoor Access Projects in the Financial Year 2013-14

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which (a) presented information on the outcome of funding applications for a number of projects to improve the outdoor path network in 2013/14; and (b) advised of arrangements to identify and apply for funding in respect of such projects in 2014-15 onwards.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the grant funding bids submitted, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) approve the acceptance and expenditure of the grant offers from Sustrans's Community Links Fund, SPT's Capital Fund and any future grant offers from SPT, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and (c) remit to the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) to identify potential projects for 2014/15 onwards (in partnership with Elected Members, local communities, internal Council Services and the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum) and apply for funding for 2014-15 onwards.

19. Millport Marine Biological Station

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which (a) sought agreement to support the Field Studies Council as the Council's preferred operator of the Millport Marine Biological Station; and (b) recommended pursuing Heritage Lottery Funding for investment in the Millport Conservation Area.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) the principle of Field Studies Council operation of the station as the most sustainable use; (b) the nature of potential North Ayrshire Council support to deliver the proposal including financial support and the potential for Council ownership of the station; and (c) the preparation and submission of a bid for Townscape Heritage Initiative Funding for the Millport Conservation Area.

20. Audit Scotland Report: An Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) summarised the findings of the recent Audit Scotland report on Local Government in Scotland; (b) provided information on the current position in North Ayrshire; and (c) presented further actions being taken to address the issues identified within the Audit Scotland report.

The Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) undertook to circulate a copy of Appendix 2 to the report to all Members for information.

Noted.

21. Pan Ayrshire Joint Equipment Service

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which sought approval to develop a tender for an Ayrshire wide Joint Equipment Store on a negotiated contract basis in partnership with South and East Ayrshire Councils and NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to a partnership approach led by North Ayrshire Council to the development and publishing of an Invitation to Tender document for a Joint Equipment Store; (b) to a "negotiated contract with competition" approach with the highest evaluated tender submission to fully develop a business case for development of an Ayrshire wide Joint Equipment Store; (c) that the findings of the negotiations and Business Case be presented to a future Cabinet for consideration; and (d) to receive a further report at a future meeting.

22. Council House Development Project: John Galt Primary School, Irvine

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which sought approval to tender and appoint a Contractor for the demolition of John Galt Primary School and to tender for a Contractor from the approved Council house building framework to construct 80 new houses on the cleared site.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) tender and appoint a Contractor for the demolition of John Galt Primary School; and (b) tender for a Contractor for the John Galt development from the Council house building framework of Contractors to construct 80 new houses on the site.

23. Measured Term Contract, Bitumen Felt Roofing - Tender Outcome

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) provided information on the results of the tender exercise for bitumen felt roofing; and (b) made a recommendation in terms of the award of the contract.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the contract award to Frank O'Hara Limited trading as Faskin Contracts based on a total contract value of £555,000.

24. Framework Agreement for Electrical Rewiring - Award of Call Off Contract

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) presented the results of a tender exercise for a call off against the framework agreement for electrical rewiring; and (b) made a recommendation in terms of the award of the contract.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the disparity between the tender amounts; and
- the quality element of the contract.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the contract award to GD Chalmers based on a contract value of £842,779.

25. Ayrshire Economic Partnership: Minutes of Meeting held on 17 April 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of Meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 17 April 2013.

Noted.

26. Economic Development Regeneration Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 24 April 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of Meeting of the Economic Development Regeneration Board held on 24 April 2013.

Noted.

27. Community Empowerment Policy Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 7 May 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Empowerment Policy Board held on 7 May 2013.

Noted.

28. Urgent Item

The Chair agreed that the undernoted be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the proposed action to be taken without delay.

28.1 Proposed Ayrshire Roads and Transportation Shared Services

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which (a) provided information on progress in terms of the proposed Ayrshire Roads and Transportation Shared Service; and (b) made recommendations in terms of actions in terms of not proceeding with the shared service at this point and instead developing more detailed proposals to improve the Council's Roads Service.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on any impact the proposed action might have on other shared services work.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the good work undertaken by the three Ayrshire Councils to analyse the potential for an Ayrshire Roads and Transportation Shared Service; (b) not to proceed with the Ayrshire Roads and Transportation Shared Service at this point to allow the Council to drive improved financial efficiency from the Council's own service and develop the new service as outlined in Sections 2.6 - 2.9 of the report; and (c) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) to bring back more detailed proposals on the improvements to be made to the Council's Roads Service in early course.

The meeting ended at 5.05 p.m.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 3

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy**

Purpose: To advise on the North Ayrshire Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to (a) approve the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy 2013/17: Early Years; and (b) note that further work is planned to expand the strategy to young people aged 8-18 years.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The North Ayrshire CPP, together with the Child and Public Protection Chief Officers Group, have developed a range of proposals over the last two years to increase early intervention and prevention activity in the early years (age 0-8). These have been brought together in a draft Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy 2013/17 which links closely to the draft SOA 2013/17 and its overarching theme on this priority. Plans for older children and young people will be addressed at a later stage.
- 1.2 The draft strategy includes the case for preventative action which is made in the Christie Commission's report. It highlights the social and economic inequalities that persist in Scotland and the need to reduce the demand on the public services currently responding to negative social outcomes.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 A mapping of services within the strategy illustrates what is in place in North Ayrshire for children at highest risk of harm, at medium risk and for all children and families, from pre-birth to 8 years. The strategy highlights the various factors which can lead to harm and chaotic families, such as domestic abuse, alcohol and drug misuse and poverty, and the negative outcomes which can result.
- 2.2 The strategy incorporates the Early Years Collaborative's work and its aims to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities for all babies, children, mothers, fathers and families across Scotland. It includes stretch aims relating to reducing infant mortality and to increasing the percentage of children who meet their developmental milestones at 27-30 months and on starting primary school.

2.3 The CPP's ambition is for a **Better Childhood** where children are safe, nurtured, happy, healthy and have the opportunities to fulfil their potential. The draft SOA 2013/17 contains the outcome that children's health and wellbeing is improved by breaking the cycle of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes.

2.4 The early intervention outcomes included in the draft strategy are:

- Parents and carers encourage and support their children
- Children are safe and cared for in a nurturing home
- Children are resilient and their life chances are improved
- Children can access the opportunities to help them succeed

3. Proposals

3.1 The draft Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy is attached at Appendix 1. An action plan which incorporates the projects within the early intervention and prevention programme designed to achieve these outcomes is included as an appendix to the strategy.

3.2 The overall total investment by the Council in early intervention and prevention over the next three years is detailed below.

Proposal	Lead service	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Parenting Programmes	Education & Skills	100,000	100,000	
Family Support Service	Social Services & Health	400,000	400,000	
Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Team	Social Services & Health	80,000	80,000	
Permanence	Social Services & Health	123,000	123,000	
Asset Based Development Programme	Chief Executive's/CPP	80,000		
Vulnerable Children's Service	Social Services & Health	265,000	360,000	360,000
Capacity Building with Parents	Education & Skills	190,000	228,000	228,000
Stop Now and Plan (SNAP)	Social Services & Health	232,000	307,000	307,000
Supported Carers Scheme	Social Services & Health	104,000	141,000	141,000
Integrated Support in Early Years Centres	Social Services & Health	289,000	372,000	372,000
Peripatetic Early Years Practitioner Support	Education & Skills	22,000	27,000	27,000
Total		1,885,000	2,138,000	1,435,000

3.3 In addition, there is significant investment by NHS Ayrshire and Arran of £621,875 in North Ayrshire in 2013/14 in initiatives such as the Childsmile dental health programme, child healthy weight interventions, improvements in maternity services and in the Family Nurse Partnership.

3.4 Future priorities within the strategy include:

- Support for pregnant women with substance misuse problems
- Reducing teenage pregnancy rates
- Identification and support to children affected by parental substance misuse and parents with mental health issues
- Adoption, permanence and contact arrangements
- Kinship care and foster care
- Issues highlighted through the Child Health Review

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy highlights the importance of preventative spending and describes what is planned to intervene in the early years to ease future demand on services. There should therefore be implications for future Council spending once the outcomes of the proposed projects have been achieved.

Human Resource Implications

4.2 There are no direct human resource implications.

Legal Implications

4.3 There are no implications.

Equality Implications

4.4 There are no implications.

Environmental Implications

4.5 There are no implications.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 This work supports the SOA 2013/17 outcome that children's health and wellbeing is improved by breaking the cycle of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes.

Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 There are no implications.


5. Consultations

- 5.1 The Early Intervention and Prevention Programme Board approved the draft early intervention and prevention strategy as a basis for consultation in April. The Council's Group Leaders were consulted on the draft strategy on 22 April.
- 5.2 The draft strategy has been issued for consultation to the Integrated Children's Services Plan Steering Group and to the Family and Parenting Support Steering Group. There has been further consultation on the proposed indicators to measure progress implementing the programme.
- 5.3 A consultation event for CPP Board and CHP Committee members and Elected Members, based on the Integrated Children's Services Plan Marketplace event, was held on 7 June. Overall throughout the consultation exercise, the draft strategy was well received.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy 2013/17: Early Years brings together recent developments in this area. It also contains information on existing services for children and some proposals on future direction and priorities.
- 6.2 Various amendments have been made a result of the consultation exercise. The Strategy has been considered by the CHP Committee and the CPP Board in June.

- 6.3 The Cabinet is asked to approve the strategy. Its action plan and indicators will be monitored by the Early Intervention and Prevention Programme Board in the future. This early intervention strategy, which is focussed on the early years from pre-birth to 8 years, will now be developed to address intervention and prevention activity for young people aged 8 to 18 years.



ELMA MURRAY
Chief Executive

Reference : MA

For further information please contact Marjorie Adams, Programme Manager on Tel No 01294 324128 or madams@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Background Papers

None

**North Ayrshire
Early Intervention & Prevention
Strategy 2013/17: Early Years**

Draft North Ayrshire
Early Intervention & Prevention Strategy 2013/17:
Early Years

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Appendix 1 – Outcome Map 1

Appendix 2 – Outcome Map 2

Appendix 3 – Outcome Map 3

Appendix 4 – Outcome Map 4

Appendix 5 – Early Intervention and Prevention Developments

**Appendix 6 – Early Years: Early Intervention and Prevention Action Plan
2013/14**

June 2013

i. Executive Summary

- 1.1. We are determined to improve the life chances of our children and young people and to achieve this by shifting our resources into early intervention and prevention. We are committed to taking action which will ensure that our children are nurtured and can access the opportunities which will help them succeed.
- 1.2 The Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy 2013/17 sets out North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's¹(CPP's)ambition to improve outcomes for vulnerable children from 0 to 8 years and how this will be achieved through a range of initiatives designed to encourage warm, responsive parenting, healthy attachment and resilience. The strategic plans for early intervention activity with older children and young people will be addressed in a separate strategy at a later stage.
- 1.3 The Strategy has been produced for 2013/17 to cover the same period as the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2013/17 and links to the outcomes and target within it. It will sit below the SOA and also links to the Integrated Children's Services Plan.
- 1.4 The case for preventative action is made in the Christie Commission's report which highlights the social and economic inequalities that persist in Scotland and the need to reduce the demand on the public services currently responding to negative social outcomes.

Our Vision and Outcomes

- 1.5 The CPP's vision of a better childhood is developed to focus on outcomes to support positive parenting, ensure that children are safe and nurtured and that their life chances are improved.
- 1.6 A mapping of services within the strategy illustrates what is in place in North Ayrshire for children at highest risk of harm, at medium risk and for all children and families, from pre-birth to 8 years. The various factors which can lead to harm and chaotic families, such as domestic abuse, alcohol and drug misuse and poverty, and the negative outcomes which can result, are included within the strategy. These outcomes include educational failure, poor health and criminal behaviour.
- 1.7 The strategy incorporates the Early Years Collaborative's work and its aims to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities for all babies, children, mothers, fathers and families across Scotland.

Our Plans for the Future

- 1.8 The research and evidence on the effectiveness of intervention in the early years is contained within the strategy together with the proposals now in place

¹ The North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership comprises North Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Police Scotland, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company, Jobcentre Plus, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, James Watt College and representatives of the community and voluntary sector.

to deliver this intervention and preventative activity in North Ayrshire. This includes support through parenting programmes, enhancing individual parenting capacity and building community capacity, providing integrated early years centres, delivering direct support to vulnerable families in their own homes, intensive support by family nurses to vulnerable young mothers and improving resilience in children.

Preventative Spending

- 1.9 There are details of the preventative spending planned and the use of the Early Years Change Fund. Identifying the extent of current spending and where savings will occur or where future costs can be avoided as a result of this preventative activity is a significant challenge to be addressed over the next few years. There is a considerable time lag in realising these savings which makes this task even more difficult.
- 1.10 An action plan and indicators have been developed to allow monitoring of the progress in implementing our proposals.
- 1.11 This strategy therefore describes North Ayrshire CPP's commitment and determination to improve the outcomes for our children.

1. Introduction

Intervention in the Early Years

- 1.1 The purpose of the strategy is to set out the North Ayrshire CPP's proposals for early intervention and prevention in the early years. It describes our vision and what we want to achieve over the next four years in improving outcomes for children.
- 1.2 The strategy indicates what action is planned through the projects within the Early Intervention and Prevention programme and the links to the Early Years Collaborative referred to in Section 4. It includes the major financial and other resource commitments which have been made and how the programme will be funded and evaluated. It also includes details of further work to develop our approach to intervention in the future.
- 1.3 The strategy focuses on intervention and prevention in the early years, primarily on the period pre-birth up to 8 years old. The involvement of parents and carers is critical in these early years. They are key to providing the nurture and support that allow young children to thrive and are therefore also essential to this strategy on the early years.

Intervention with Young People, Adults and Older People

- 1.4 There is a significant amount of other early intervention and prevention activity currently being carried out with young people, adults and older people. This includes youth diversion schemes to prevent young people from becoming involved in the criminal justice system and prevention initiatives for older people to improve fitness and reduce falls. This is not included in this strategy

but will be developed in the future, linking to other strategic developments for these age groups, to provide wider strategic direction on this theme.

What is Early Intervention and Prevention?

- 1.5 Early intervention and prevention can be defined as: *“Actions which prevent problems and ease future demand on services by intervening early, thereby delivering better outcomes and value for money”*.²

Early Intervention

- 1.6 Early intervention can be defined as getting in at the first signs of difficulty. For the early years, early intervention has been defined as: “those programmes which ensure that babies, children, and young people build the social and emotional bedrock to fulfil their potential and reduce dysfunction. This is a prerequisite to break the intergenerational cycle of dysfunction and underachievement.” Waiting for a child to reach school age before any problems are identified or addressed is simply too late, as by that stage most of the damage is already done³.

Prevention

- 1.7 Prevention is different in that it starts before the problem begins, stopping it happening in the first place. An example of a prevention-based programme is the Family Nurse Partnership. It involves working with teenage, first time mothers preventing risks to their child’s development before it is born and in the first two years of life. This is targeted prevention, preventing a poor outcome for a high risk group.⁴
- 1.8 The CPP’s Early Intervention and Prevention Programme has been developed to improve the outcomes for vulnerable children from pre-birth to eight years in North Ayrshire. It is designed to be both preventative and to provide early intervention.

Vulnerable Children

- 1.9 Vulnerable children can be defined as children who are at risk of, or who are already experiencing, social and emotional problems⁵. Vulnerability may be linked to disadvantage and poverty. Vulnerable children can include those who are affected by parental drug and alcohol problems and by parental mental or other health problems. Children who have multiple health problems, with the developmental delays that this can cause, can be vulnerable. This can also include children who have experienced domestic violence and children of young mothers, particularly those without family support.

² Scottish Government (2012) SOA Guidance to Community Planning Partnerships

³ Allen, G (2011) Early Intervention: Smart Investment, Massive Savings

⁴ Little, M & Sodha, S Prevention and Early Intervention in Children’s Services, The Social Research Unit, 2012

⁵ National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (2012) Social and Emotional Wellbeing: Early Years Guidance

Criminality is a factor and children with parents in prison are likely to be vulnerable.

2. The Case for Early Intervention and Prevention

- 2.1 The **Christie Commission** report on the Future Delivery of Public Services highlighted the need to take preventative action to reduce the inequalities and disadvantage being experienced in communities across Scotland. The report noted that the measures of social and economic inequality have remained unchanged despite significant growth in public service expenditure in recent times.
- 2.2 An estimated 40% of all spending on public services, however, is on interventions that could have been avoided by a preventative approach. It concluded that a radical change is needed to reduce demand and lessen inequality. As a result the Scottish Government has set out as its first of four Pillars of Public Service Reform - “*a decisive shift towards prevention*”.

Early Years Framework

- 2.3 The Scottish Government's **Early Years Framework** describes the transformational change needed to give all children the best start in life. It focuses on the period between pregnancy and 3 years which is increasingly being seen as critical in shaping children's life chances. This is based on evidence of brain formation, communication and language development, and the impact of relationships formed during this period on mental health and wellbeing. The early years are therefore a critical period of opportunity to change the poor outcomes being experienced by many children.
- 2.4 The **Early Years Taskforce** has been established to develop the strategic direction for the early years change programme and co-ordinate policy across Government and the wider public sector. The Early Years Framework is the basis of the Taskforce's case for action⁶
- 2.5 **Getting it right for every child** is the national practice model for improving outcomes for all children and young people. Its key principles include:
- Putting the child at the centre
 - Building on strengths and promoting resilience
 - Providing additional help that is appropriate, proportionate and timely
 - Ensuring services work collaboratively and share information, where appropriate.
- 2.6 **Curriculum for Excellence** is Scotland's vision for the education of all children. It aims to raise standards, improve knowledge and develop skills. The aim of all early years centres and of primary schools is to ensure that every child should experience a broad education that develops skills for learning and for life. They work with a real focus on literacy and numeracy and

⁶ Cosla, Scottish Government & NHS Scotland: The Early Years Taskforce Shared Vision and Priorities (2012)

promote an active and healthy lifestyle to children and their parents and carers.

- 2.7 When launching the **Children and Young People Bill** in 2012 the Scottish Government indicated that “a more rapid shift to the early years and early intervention is essential if we are to improve the outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people”. The Bill contains the case surrounding the need for early intervention.
- 2.9 It also includes a clear commitment to recognising, respecting and promoting children’s rights in Scotland. This will be done through developing and implementing policy which is consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 2.8 Focusing on early intervention and prevention is one of the three key principles in the Scottish Government’s **Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland**. The Strategy recognises that Scotland’s long standing and entrenched problems of poverty, poor health, poor educational attainment, unemployment and levels of substance misuse and crime are passed from generation to generation and concentrated, for the most part, in deprived communities.
- 2.9 The Scottish Government has taken a long-term and integrated policy approach with its three social policy frameworks which are aimed at supporting the early years (**The Early Years Framework**), tackling poverty (**Achieving Our Potential**) and health inequalities (**Equally Well**). These frameworks have been developed jointly with key partners, and are aimed at tackling the long term drivers of deprivation.
- 2.10 The principles of early intervention and prevention are at the heart of these frameworks, and the Government’s approach to tackling child poverty. The three social policy frameworks recognise that children’s start in life, cycles of poverty and poor health are interlinked. These are complex problems, involving complex solutions - often involving both cultural and structural change - and which require a long-term approach.
- 2.11 The **National Parenting Strategy**⁷ acknowledges the factors that influence a child’s outcomes – poverty, where they live, their housing, the local community, their friendships and the resources that their parents have or can access. It also recognises that deeply engrained problems of, for example, drug and alcohol dependency, and offending behaviour, can stem from poor experiences in the early years. The strategy promotes effective parenting to build more positive futures for children and their families which will have long-term benefits for communities and Scotland as a whole.
- 2.12 Professor Susan Deacon’s report “**Joining the Dots: A Better Start for Scotland’s Children**”⁸ proposed a “new generation” of children and family centres across Scotland and that there should be a “common sense consensus” on how important children’s early years are to an individual,

⁷ Scottish Government (2012) National Parenting Strategy

⁸ Prof Susan Deacon (2011) Joining the Dots: A Better Start for Scotland’s Children

society and the economy. She recommended that there should be a renewed focus on improving children's early years and an emphasis on the importance of effective parenting. The report recognised the importance of intervening more quickly when a child is at severe risk of abuse and neglect during the early years of life.

- 2.13 Early intervention in cases of neglect can allow a child to recover developmentally, and reduces the impact of the neglect on their future potential. The ability of a vulnerable child to benefit from interventions is greater in early life.
- 2.14 Children and young people who grow up in poverty are more likely to have low self-esteem, play truant, leave home earlier, leave school earlier with fewer qualifications and be economically inactive as adults⁹
- 2.15 The **Single Outcome Agreement 2013/17** makes clear commitments to build on existing good practice in developing further early intervention and prevention activity. It contains early intervention as one of its overarching themes.
- 2.16 The **Integrated Children's Services Plan 2010/15** sets early intervention at its heart. It is also central to progress which is being made in implementing Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), forging new ground in developing Partnership Forums, fostering good practice and improving partnership working.
- 2.17 Building on the strengths of **universal services** is fundamental as they have a key role to play in intervening early at various stages of a child or young person's life. The principle of 'progressive universalism'¹⁰ aims to ensure universal services (including maternity, child health, social services and education) support all vulnerable children and that they receive more intensive help to meet their additional needs.
- 2.18 We are developing our response in universal services around the role of the "named person" and the "lead professional" in terms of how we respond to children in need.

Growing Up in Scotland

- 2.19 It is clear that disadvantages experienced from birth can harm the life chances of children, particularly in the earliest years. By the time they reach three, children from difficult and troubled home backgrounds are already behind other children of their age in terms of their cognitive development and this gap remains at 5 years¹¹.
- 2.20 In the last few years there has been growing evidence that children who experience poor unstable environments often face greater challenges in later

⁹ Ermisch, J, Francesconi, M & Pevalin, D (2001) The Outcomes for Children of Poverty

¹⁰ National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (2012) Social and Emotional Wellbeing: Early Years Guidance

¹¹ Scottish Government (2011) Growing Up in Scotland

life as a result¹². It is also increasingly evident that it is in the first years of life that inequalities in health, education and employment opportunities are passed from one generation to another¹³.

- 2.21 The brains of young children grow very quickly in the first two years of life. If their experiences are supportive and consistent, the child learns that the world is a safe, nurturing place with opportunities to learn and grow. If this is not the case, however, the child experiences inconsistent responses to its signals for attention and the brain develops in a different way which affects learning, memory and judgement¹⁴.

Millennium Cohort Study

- 2.22 A child's experiences in the early years of life can have a life-long impact on their relationships, educational attainment and employability. Recent analysis of the Millennium Cohort study data follows the lives of 19,000 babies born in the UK in 2000/01. It has identified the factors which will increase the risk that children of 5 years and under will experience difficulties with their social, emotional and cognitive development. These factors include:

- Being of low socio-economic status
- Living in a low income or workless household
- Living in rented or social housing or in an area of deprivation
- Living with mothers who have specific issues, including mental health problems, alcohol misuse, mothers who smoked during pregnancy and / or mothers who themselves were living away from home before the age of 17
- Living with a lone parent or an unemployed lone parent; co-habiting parents; and living with a stepfather;¹⁵.

Effective Provision of Pre-school Education

- 2.23 The evidence is unequivocal that early years education enhances children's cognitive, social and behavioural development. This effect is long lasting and greatest for the most vulnerable children. These effects are largest for children with the longest duration of attendance and for children in higher quality provision.
- 2.24 Ensuring that vulnerable children have access to regular, high quality, early years provision, available as early as possible after 2 years old, is the best value foundation on which all other interventions should be built.

¹² Allen, G (2011) Early Intervention: The Next Steps

¹³ Scottish Government & Cosla, (2008) Early Years and Early Intervention policy statement

¹⁴ Scottish Government (2012) A Scotland for Children: A Consultation on the Children and Young People Bill

¹⁵ Scott. E & Woodman. K, NHS Health Scotland: (2013) Guidance about Effective Interventions to Support Parents, Their Infants and Children in the Early Years.

- 2.25 As well as promoting general development, early years provision has a key role in actively building children's social and emotional skills together with their parents. This is particularly important for more vulnerable children who can already by school entry be significantly disadvantaged by comparison with their peers.
- 2.26 The Effective Provision of Pre-school Education (EPPE) project focused on the effectiveness of early years education. It was a study of 3,000 children and findings indicate the positive impact of early years education in offering disadvantaged children a better start to primary school. This positive impact on a child's progress is over and above important family influences.¹⁶

3. Our Challenges

- 3.1 It is estimated that one fifth of children in Scotland are growing up in relative poverty and their future outcomes are heavily influenced by their parents' economic circumstances¹⁷.
- 3.2 North Ayrshire has the 4th highest level of child poverty of all local authority areas in Scotland, with 25% of children living in poverty. It is ranked 5th highest in Scotland in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2012) in terms of the percentage of datazones that fall within the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland. The number of these datazones increased slightly by three between 2009 and 2012. The severity of deprivation within deprived areas also shows signs of increasing. There were twice as many datazones in the 5% to 10% most deprived in 2012 as there were in 2004.
- 3.3 The number of children looked after in North Ayrshire is increasing each year, from 473 in 2007 to 582 in 2012. There are more looked after children living at home or in kinship care than in most other local authority areas and high levels of kinship care placements (30% compared to the Scottish average of 24% in 2011)¹⁸. This involves Social Services staff in managing greater risk in the community than colleagues in other areas.
- 3.4 The average number of children on the Child Protection Register has increased from 46.75 in 2009/10 to 65.58 in 2011/12. This reflects the increasing number of referrals and investigations and an improved approach to thresholds of risk. North Ayrshire had the highest number of children referred to the Reporter in Scotland per 1,000 of population under 16 in 2011/12
- 3.5 The educational attainment of looked after children and young people has been improving in recent years. The percentage of all 16-17 year olds ceasing to be looked after at home or away attaining at least one SCQF level 3 in any

¹⁶ Dept for Education and Skills (2004) Effective Pre-school and Primary Education 3-11 Influences on Children's Attainment and Progress in Key Stage 2

¹⁷ End Child Poverty (2012) Child Poverty Map of the UK

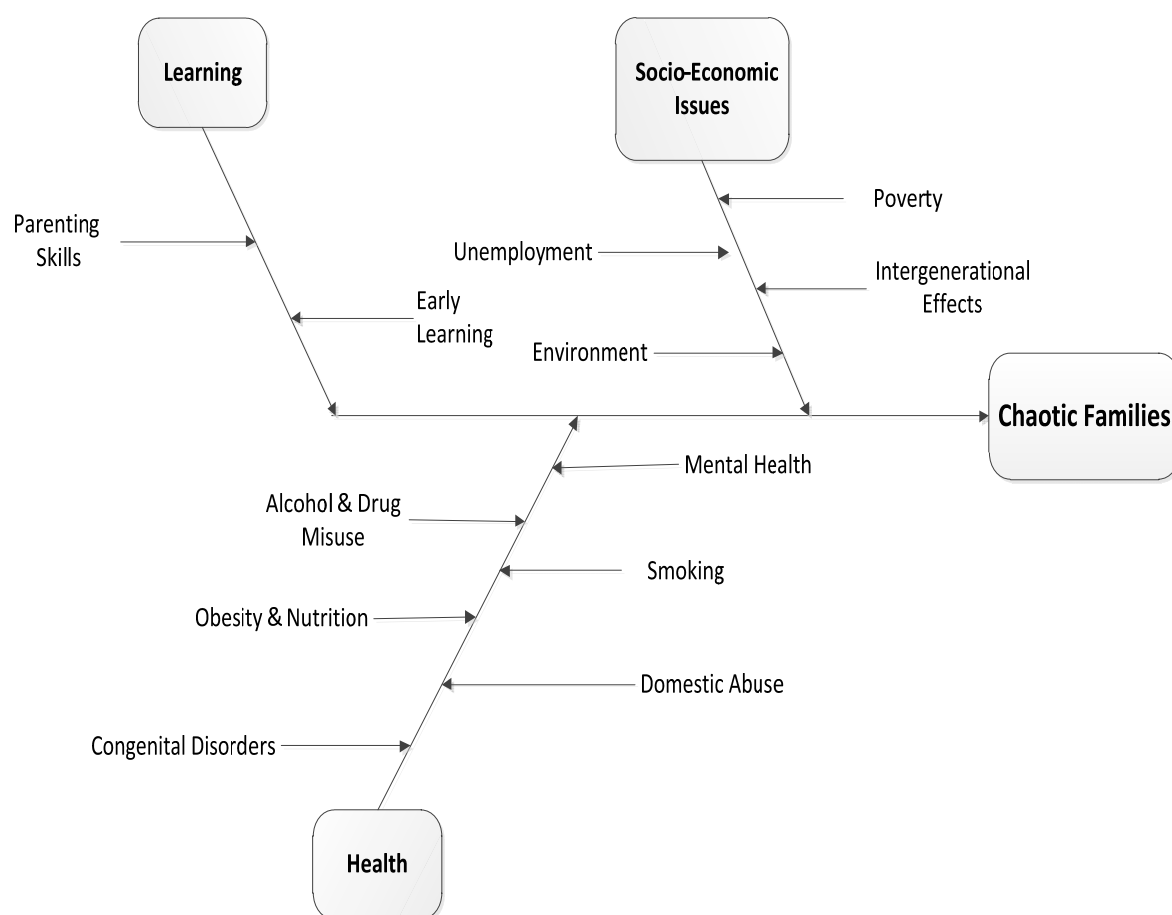
¹⁸ Social Services Children and Families Strategy 2013/16

subject increased from 42% in 2006/07 to 78% in 2009/10. The average tariff score in S4 for looked after young people rose from 89 in 2010/11 to 95 in 2011/12. This is still significantly lower, however, than the overall average tariff score of 179 in the same period.

- 3.6 North Ayrshire was the sixth highest area in Scotland in terms of the proportion of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police per 100,000 population in 2011/12. This was 1,404, compared to the Scottish average of 1,139. During 2011/12, North Ayrshire Council received 781 domestic abuse referrals from Strathclyde Police. A total of 1347 children were involved in these incidents. This is a 2.7% decrease from 2010/11.

Diagram 1

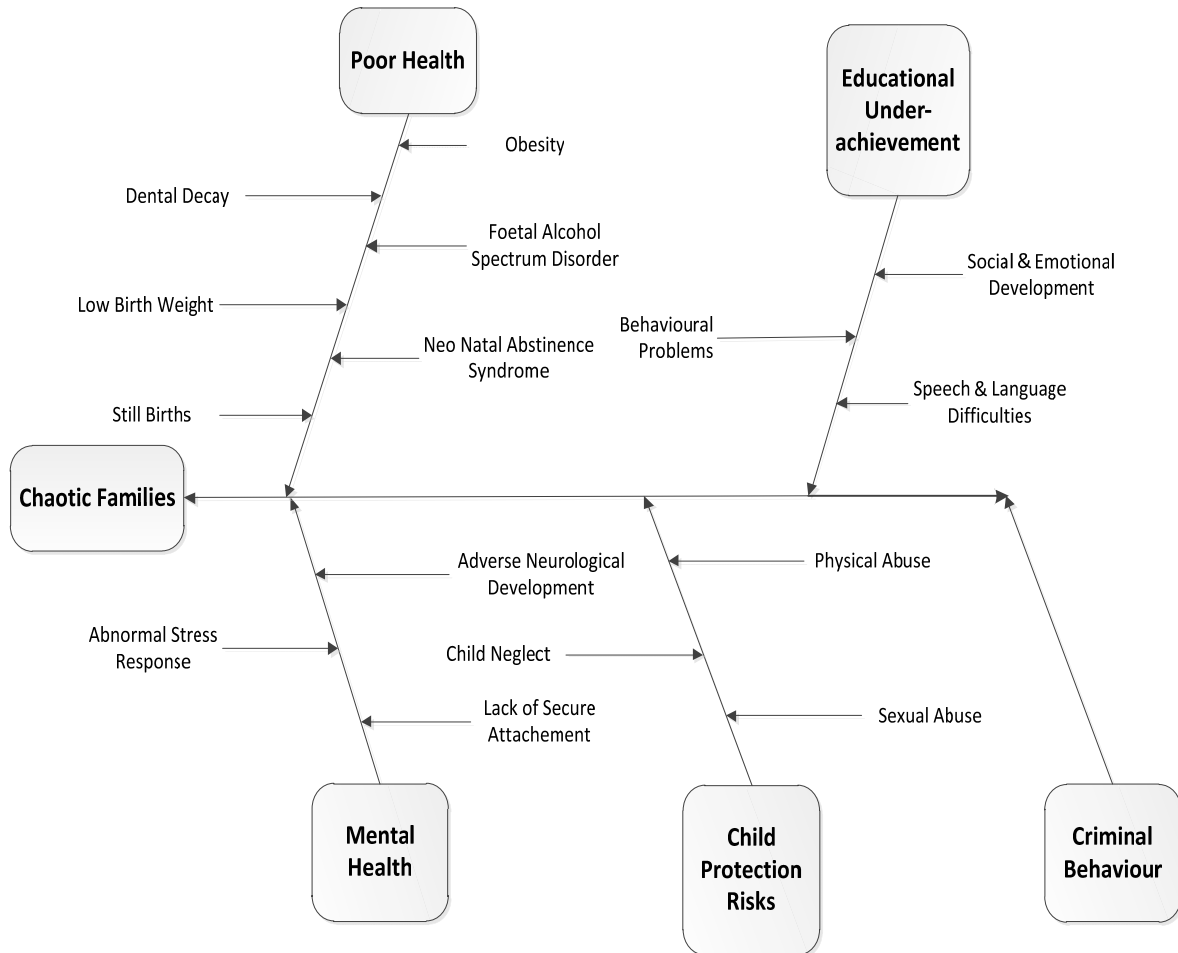
Causal Factors & Risks of Harm in Early Years: 0 – 5 years



The factors which affect children's life chances are shown in Diagram 1.

Diagram 2

Negative Outcomes in the Early Years

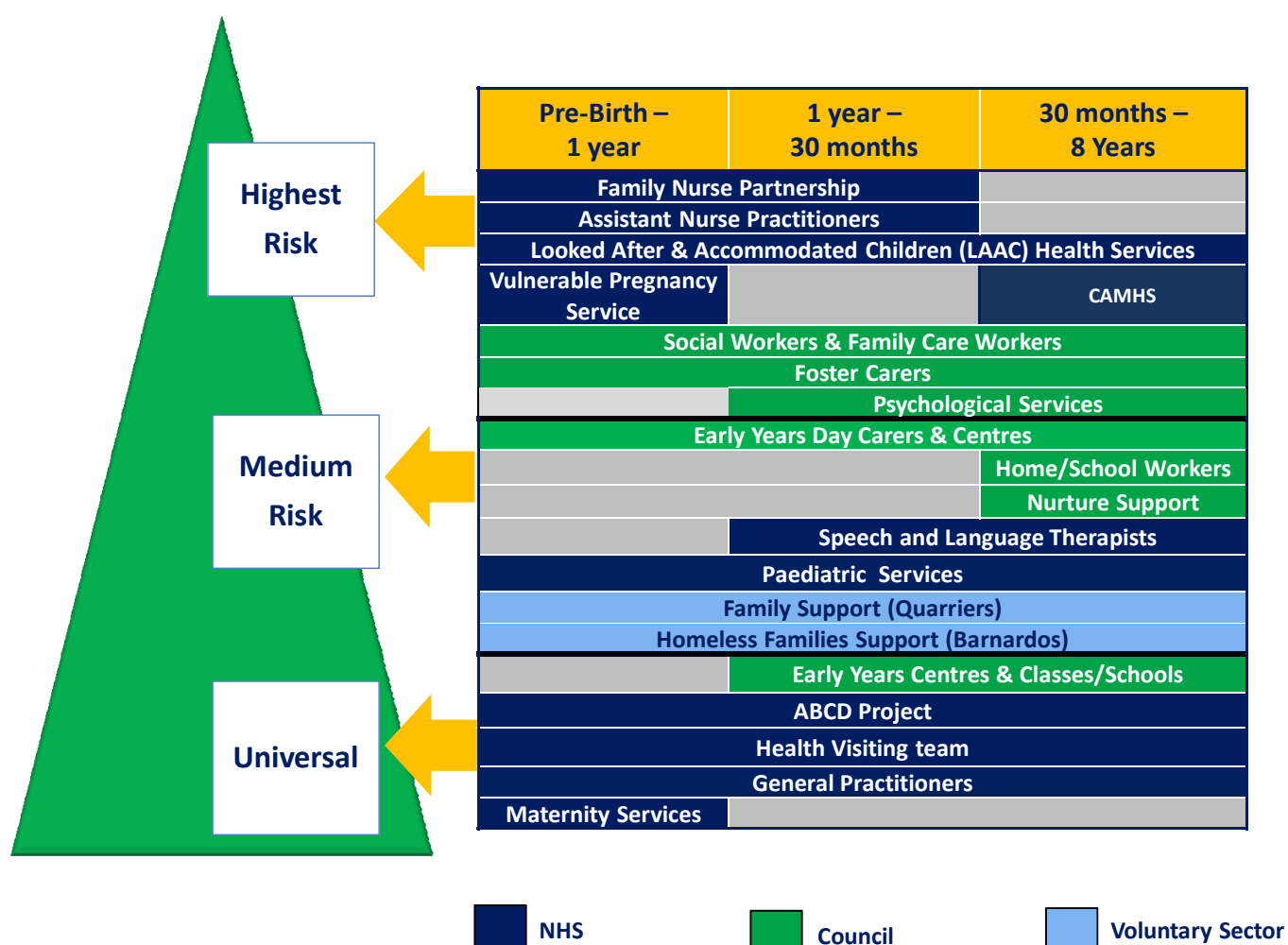


The negative outcomes which can result from the causal factors in Diagram 1 are shown in Diagram 2.

Mapping of Services

- 3.6 The mapping of services in North Ayrshire for the children at highest risk of harm to those children at very little risk of harm in universal services is shown in Diagram 3.

Diagram 3: Mapping of Services: Pre-birth to 8 years



- 3.7 Further work is needed in identifying the costs of these services. This is important in obtaining a wider understanding of the total spending across all services on children.

4. Our Outcomes

Vision: A Better Childhood

- 4.1 Our ambition for children in North Ayrshire is for a **Better Childhood** where they are safe, nurtured, happy, healthy and have opportunities to fulfil their potential. Children's early years are a vital period which significantly influences their future health, wellbeing and success in life. We want them to have the best possible early experiences where they grow up in a caring and nurturing environment that encourages them to be all they can be.

Outcomes

- 4.2 The national, single outcome agreement (SOA), integrated children's services plan (ICSP) and early intervention outcomes are:

National Outcomes

- Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors, and responsible citizens
- We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed

SOA Outcome

- Children's health and wellbeing is improved by breaking the cycle of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes

ICSP Outcomes

- Children and young people are nurtured and parents are supported
- Children and young people are safe, healthy, active, aspiring and achieving
- The life chances of vulnerable children and young people are improved

Early Intervention Outcomes

- Parents and carers encourage and support their children
- Children are safe and cared for in a nurturing home
- Children are resilient and their life chances are improved
- Children can access the opportunities to help them succeed

Outcome Mapping

Outcomes maps are attached at **Appendices 1, 2 3 and 4** which show how the projects and services contained within this strategy contribute to these outcomes.

Early Years Collaborative

4.3 In 2012 the Scottish Government launched the **Early Years Collaborative** in recognition that:

- By the age of 2, the brain is 80% of adult size.
- Vocabulary at age 5 has been found to be the best predictor of whether children who experienced social deprivation in childhood escape poverty in later adult life. Up to 50% of vocabulary is acquired by age 3.
- Boys assessed by nurses at age 3 who were assessed to be “at risk” had 2.5 times as many criminal convictions at age 21 than the group deemed not to be at risk.

4.4 The Early Years Collaborative (EYC) is a multi-agency Quality Improvement Programme to be led by Community Planning Partnerships. Its aim is to create transformational change in the early years.

4.5 There is a lot of evidence about successful early intervention approaches but there is inconsistency across Scotland in how this is implemented. The Collaborative aims to close this gap between what we know works and what we do. It has created structures where partners can learn from each other and recognised experts. The Early Years Collaborative is focussed around the following workstreams:

- Workstream 1: Conception to Year 1
- Workstream 2: 1 Year to 30 Months
- Workstream 3: 30 Months to starting primary school
- Workstream 4: Leadership

4.6 The Early Years Collaborative’s ambition is:

To make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up in by improving outcomes, and reducing inequalities, for all babies, children, mothers, fathers and families across Scotland to ensure that all children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.

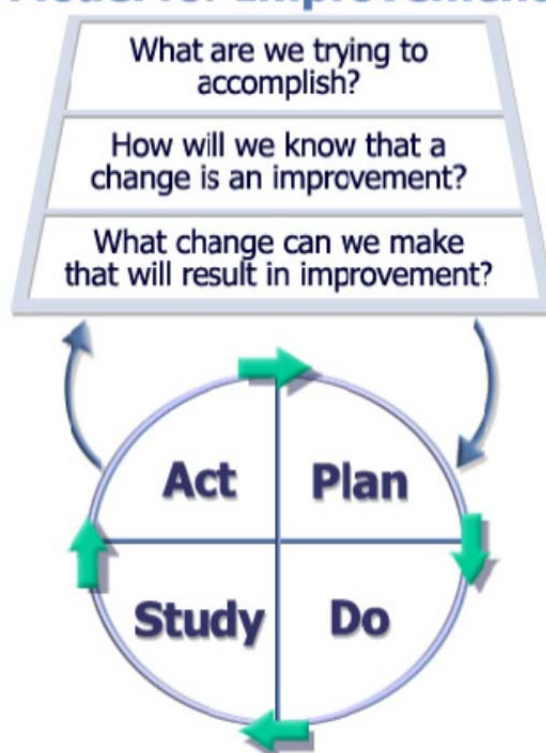
Stretch Aims

4.7 There are three “stretch aims” which sit below this ambition to give a focus for this work. These are:

1. To ensure that women experience positive pregnancies which result in the birth of more healthy babies as evidenced by a reduction of 15% in the rates of still births (from 4.9 per 1,000 births in 2010 to 4.3 per 1,000 births in 2015) and infant mortality (from 3.7 per 1,000 live births in 2010 to 3.1 per 1,000 live births in 2015);
2. To ensure that 85% of all children within each CPP have reached all of the expected developmental milestones at the time of the child’s 27-30 month child health review by end 2016; and

3. To ensure that 90% of all children within each CPP have reached all of the expected developmental milestones at the time the child starts primary school by end 2017.
- 4.8 The overall vision is to achieve transformational change in the early years which will provide a stable, nurturing environment for all of Scotland's children.
- 4.9 Test of change are now being taken forward throughout North Ayrshire to improve services as part of the Collaborative's work.

Model for Improvement



Matching Needs to Services

- 4.10 Getting a better fit between children who need help and services to help them could make a significant improvement in productivity of public services and outcomes for children. The Dartington Social Research Unit's work¹⁹ suggests that it is not unusual for over a third of children getting a lot of extra help not to necessarily need that help. Their care may not be doing them much harm but it is probably not to their benefit. This may be due to the process of sifting referrals and an understandable desire for caution which may keep too many children in contact with services for too long.
- 4.11 The analysis unusually also reveals that a significant proportion of the child population, around 5%, have serious impairments to their health and development that go unreported to services.

¹⁹ Little, M & Sodha, S Prevention and Early Intervention in Children's Services, The Social Research Unit, 2012

- 4.12 Outcomes could therefore improve significantly by shifting resources from those children getting support who don't necessarily need it, towards those in need but not getting it. There is an opportunity to save money and achieve better outcomes by better matching needs of children with the services they access.

5. Our Plans

- 5.1 CPP partners have recognised that a step change is needed to achieve the shift towards early intervention and prevention in North Ayrshire. Prior to a Chief Officers Away Day event in August 2011 there was a review of effective interventions being recommended nationally and consultation was carried out on which of these could be further developed in North Ayrshire.
- 5.2 The main areas for improvement were developed into the projects described below to achieve the desired outcomes shown.

Project	Outcomes
Parenting Programmes - to improve the co-ordination and roll out of the Solihull Approach and of parenting programmes consistently across North Ayrshire so that all parents who wish access to a parenting programme can do so in their local area.	This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve individual parents' capacity to be good parents; • build community capacity for parents to support each other and their children.
Integrated Support in Early Years Centres - to provide support and advice from Money Matters, Home Inclusion and Social Services staff in the five Early Years Centres.	This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure vulnerable families are less isolated and more connected to the wider community; • build parents' confidence and self-esteem to allow a greater focus on their child and improve attachment
Family Support Service – to provide a support service for families at risk of becoming chaotic to help with household organisation and to provide children with a more nurturing, stable and supportive home environment.	This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide children with a stable, nurturing home.
Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Response Team (MADART) - to respond to domestic violence incidents as soon as they are reported, offering support and services for victims, including children.	This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a quicker, more proportionate and more co-ordinated response to children experiencing domestic abuse.
Permanent Care for Children - to speed up the decision-making for children who cannot live with their parents so that they are placed in a	This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that children can form secure attachments to their

permanent new family more quickly.	parents and carers because they are moved between placements less often.
Family Nurse Partnership - to provide support to vulnerable first time mothers aged under 19 during pregnancy and throughout the first two years of their baby's life, offering advice on child development, parenting skills, healthy eating and employment opportunities	This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve young parents' capacity to be good parents; and • support their babies to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment.
Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) - to work with people in the Ardrossan Central and Castlepark areas to map community assets for the early years.	This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build community capacity for parents to support each other and their children; and • improve children's health outcomes
Vulnerable Children Support - to provide home-based practical support to vulnerable families.	This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide children with a stable, nurturing home.
Capacity Building with Parents – to increase engagement with parents, to provide easy access to parenting information and advice, and to provide training opportunities to build parents' capacity to support each other.	This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve individual parents' capacity to be good parents; • build community capacity for parents to support each other.
Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) approach - to reduce behavioural problems in primary school children.	This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve children's resilience and their ability to deal with their emotions.

5.3 Further details of these developments and the financial commitments made to them are attached at **Appendix 5**.

5.4 There are several new services developed not included in the programme which will have a significant impact on early intervention. For example, the **Assistant Nurse Practitioners** are now offering additional home-based support on parenting and on health advice. There is also a **Vulnerable Pregnancy Service** within Maternity Services which provides additional support and continuity of care to vulnerable pregnant women and their partners. It aims to improve the health and well being outcomes for the mother and baby at birth, reducing admissions to the neonatal unit, increasing

stability, improving the quality of attachment, and reducing the number of babies going into care.

6. Our Spending

Preventative Spending

- 6.1 Intervening in the early years should over time reduce the need for crisis interventions in later life which are costly to many services such as social services, health, police and criminal justice services. The Early Years Framework refers to creating a “**virtuous cycle**” whereby increasing savings should support more investment in early years and early intervention which in turn reduces the need for crisis intervention. The Early Intervention and Prevention programme should therefore bring savings to public services in the longer term.
- 6.2 There is increasing interest in preventive action and preventive spend as a means of improving key social outcomes in the medium to long term. The Scottish Parliament’s Finance Committee Inquiry into Preventative Spend was established “to consider and report on how public spending can best be focussed over the longer term on trying to prevent, rather than deal with, negative social outcomes”. It concluded that ‘considerable and sustained planning and investment will be required over the long term to ensure that the transition to a more preventative approach can be achieved’²⁰.
- 6.3 The highest rate of return in education, for example, is derived from investment in pre-birth to 3 years but investment in the UK currently involves far more being spent on tertiary education than on earliest education.
- 6.4 Key points made in the Committee’s final report include:-
- The amount spent on welfare in Scotland has doubled in the last 10 years but we still have the same re-offending rate for young people, little movement on child poverty, and increased problems with alcohol and drug misuse
 - There is compelling evidence of the benefits of early years intervention at as early a stage as possible, including pre-birth
 - Investing in early years is a route to reducing a series of intractable problems: school failure, health inequalities, alcohol and drug abuse and violence
 - There is very clear evidence of the effectiveness of early intervention, the focus should now be on implementation with a radical step change to the existing approach
- 6.5 There is a continuing commitment by CPP partners to funding early intervention and to increasing this funding over time.

Voluntary Sector

²⁰ Scottish Parliament Finance Committee Report on Preventative Spending (2011)

- 6.6 The voluntary sector will continue to be involved in supporting this preventative work. North Ayrshire Women's Aid, for example, is introducing a Children's Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery (CEDAR) project. Action for Children has been delivering "Roots of Empathy" classes to Primary School children and Barnardos has delivered You First Parenting classes to under 21 year old parents. A Third Sector Early Intervention Fund has been created by the Scottish Government for voluntary sector partners to support this form of activity.

Economic Case for Early Intervention

- 6.7 In addition to the benefits for children and families from support in the early years, there is international and Scottish evidence²¹ to show that significant savings can be made to the public purse from effective early years interventions. Investing in early years intervention from pre-birth to 5 years led to short term savings of up to £37,400 each year per child in severe cases. In the longer term, a failure to intervene effectively in early childhood can result in a nine-fold increase in direct public costs²².
- 6.8 The medium to longer terms costs are met by different services at various stages in an individual's life. Local authorities experience the higher proportion of costs between 9-18 years, primarily in social services. In the longer term, the UK Government experience a higher proportion of the cost through the benefits system, although Councils would be expected to experience high social housing costs and adult social services. From 40 years onwards the costs are split between health, local authorities and the UK Government.
- 6.9 A wide range of economic studies suggest that returns to early investment in children during the pre-birth period and first few months of life, up to the age of eight years old are high, but reduce the later the investment is initiated.
- 6.10 Graham Allen MP's report (2011) on 'Early Intervention: Smart Investment, Massive Savings' focussed on addressing the financial and economic costs. The report illustrated not only the price of failure to the taxpayer but also the costs to the economy of carrying across the generations underachievement, low skills and poor educational attainment.

Early Years Change Fund

- 6.11 The Early Years Taskforce oversees the Early Years Change Fund and is keen that it operates coherently and consistently across Scotland. It has indicated that the fund is an integral part of its collective response to improving outcomes for children.
- 6.12 The Early Years Change Fund has been created as a starting point to reconsider the way the total resource for early years services provision is invested. This is with a view to shifting investment upstream and to developing a clear strategy to make anticipatory and preventative approaches that work and that help to reduce the demand for more formal, higher intensity care in the future.

²¹ Scottish Government: Financial Impact of Early Years Interventions in Scotland (2010)

²² Scottish Government: Financial Impact of Early Years Interventions in Scotland (2010)

- 6.13 The Early Years Change Fund is a combination of existing funds currently committed and new funds. The Scottish Government has contributed £50 million to the Fund from 2012/13 to 2015/16.
- 6.14 An indicative allocation of £1,382,000 was issued in 2012/13 to NHS Ayrshire and Arran in respect of Child Healthy Weight Interventions, Childsmile, Infant Nutrition and Maternity Services, and the demand led budget for Healthy Start, managed centrally by the Health and Social Care Directorate. This includes funding of £1.6 million which has been allocated over three years from 2012 to 2015 to the Family Nurse Partnership's implementation in Ayrshire.
- 6.15 Indicative allocations of £984,549 in 2013/14 and £1,396,204 in 2014/15 have been issued for North Ayrshire Council. It is understood that these funds are not new but are a blend of currently allocated and redeployed resources.
- 6.15 In North Ayrshire the Council has allocated £1.9 million to the Early Intervention and Prevention programme in 2013/14. This increases to £2.1 million in 2014/15 and funding continues into 2015/16. It will be critical that the sustainability of this funding is maintained at the end of this period so that the positive impact of these interventions can be continued into the future.

Risks and Issues

- 6.16 There are some risks associated with early intervention and prevention which are related to the wider economic and legislative changes affecting Scotland and North Ayrshire. These are:
- The impact of welfare reform in potentially increasing child poverty and levels of deprivation which are the key factors affecting children's life chances
 - The impact of the economic recession in affecting levels of unemployment and of deprivation
 - The time lag involved between implementing an intervention and being able to see its results, as this can be relatively long term
 - The imminent integration of Health and Social Care in Scotland and the potential disruption to services caused by this integration
 - Uncertainty about the future positioning of children's services within new management structures
 - Pressures on services to find savings in mainstream services which may affect capacity in existing services which support preventative activity.
- 6.17 The Scottish Parliament Finance Committee's report (2010) indicated that barriers to preventative spending were as follows:-
- The public body which invests in preventative spending may not be the same body that derives the benefits
 - Elections are conducted every four years but the benefits of preventative spending will occur over a much longer timescale

- It can be difficult to prove conclusively that a specific intervention in early years is responsible for causing a particular outcome
- Budget restraints may make preventative spending less likely
- Increasing investment in preventative spending does not reduce demand for more reactive services, as our social problems will not simply go away, and dual funding may be needed.

7. Our Action Plan

Early Years: Early Intervention and Prevention Action Plan

- 7.1 The projects within the Early Intervention and Prevention Programme are contained in an action plan designed to achieve its outcomes. This aligns with the age groups used by the Early Years Collaborative and is consistent with actions being proposed.
- 7.2 The Early Years Early Intervention and Prevention Action Plan 2013/17 is attached at **Appendix 6**.

Future Developments

- 7.3 The next stage in developing early intervention and prevention work will be to produce a strategy and plan for older children and young people (8 to 18 years). This will include the effective early intervention activity being developed through the mentoring scheme and within youth justice.
- 7.4 In relation to the early years, in addition to the actions included in the Action Plan at Appendix 6, there will be priority in future in relation to:
- Support for pregnant women with substance misuse problems
 - Reducing teenage pregnancy rates
 - Identification and support to children affected by parental substance misuse and mental health issues
 - Adoption, permanence and contact arrangements
 - Kinship care and foster care
 - Issues highlighted through the Child Health Review

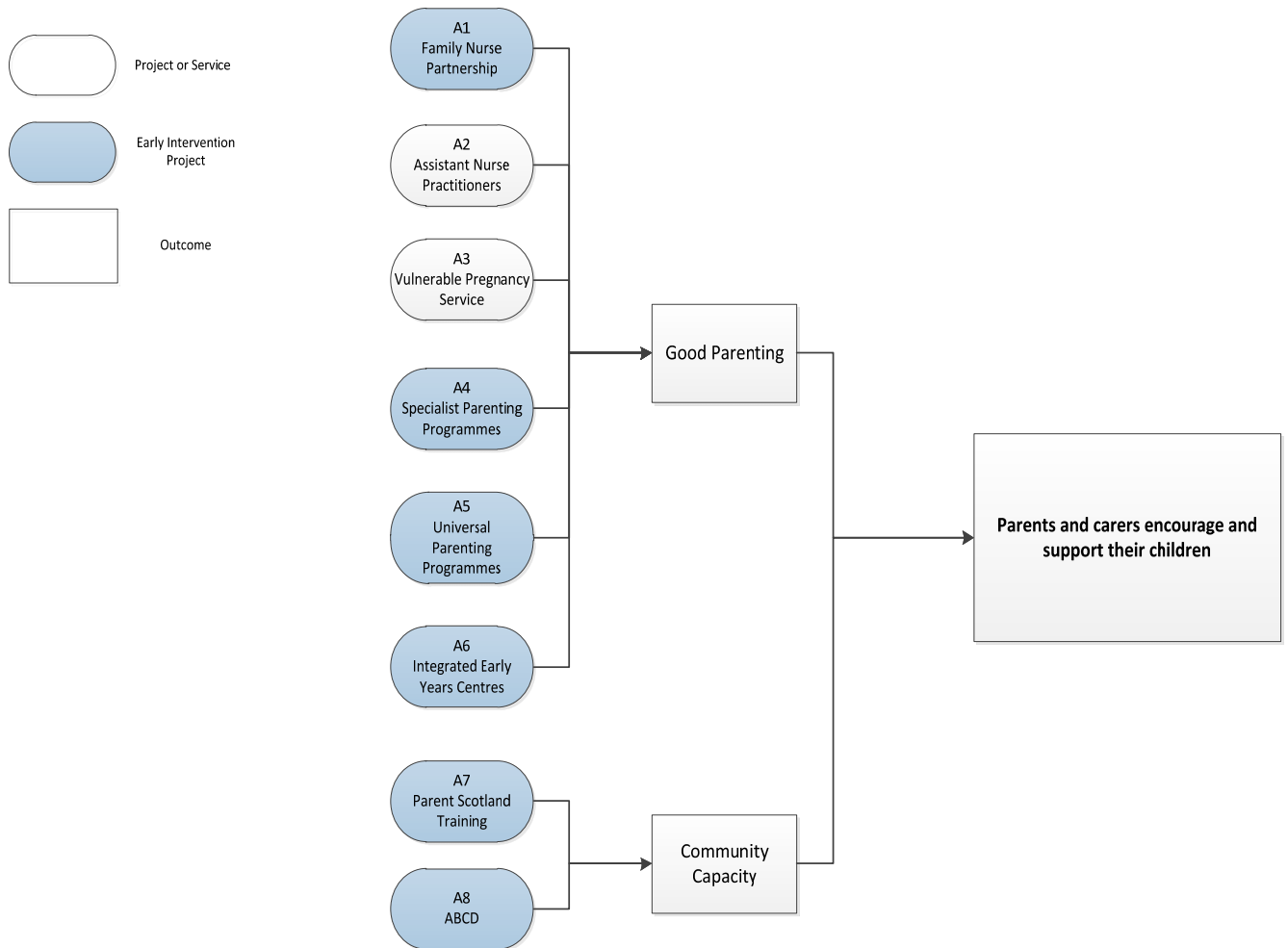
8. Our Monitoring

- 8.1 The Early Intervention and Prevention Programme Board has been set up to monitor progress is developing the programme's outcomes and an evaluation framework to measure progress. The Board comprises representatives from the Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and Police Scotland.
- 8.2 Quarterly progress reports are also being submitted to the CPP Board, CHP Committee, ICSP Steering Group and other relevant forums.

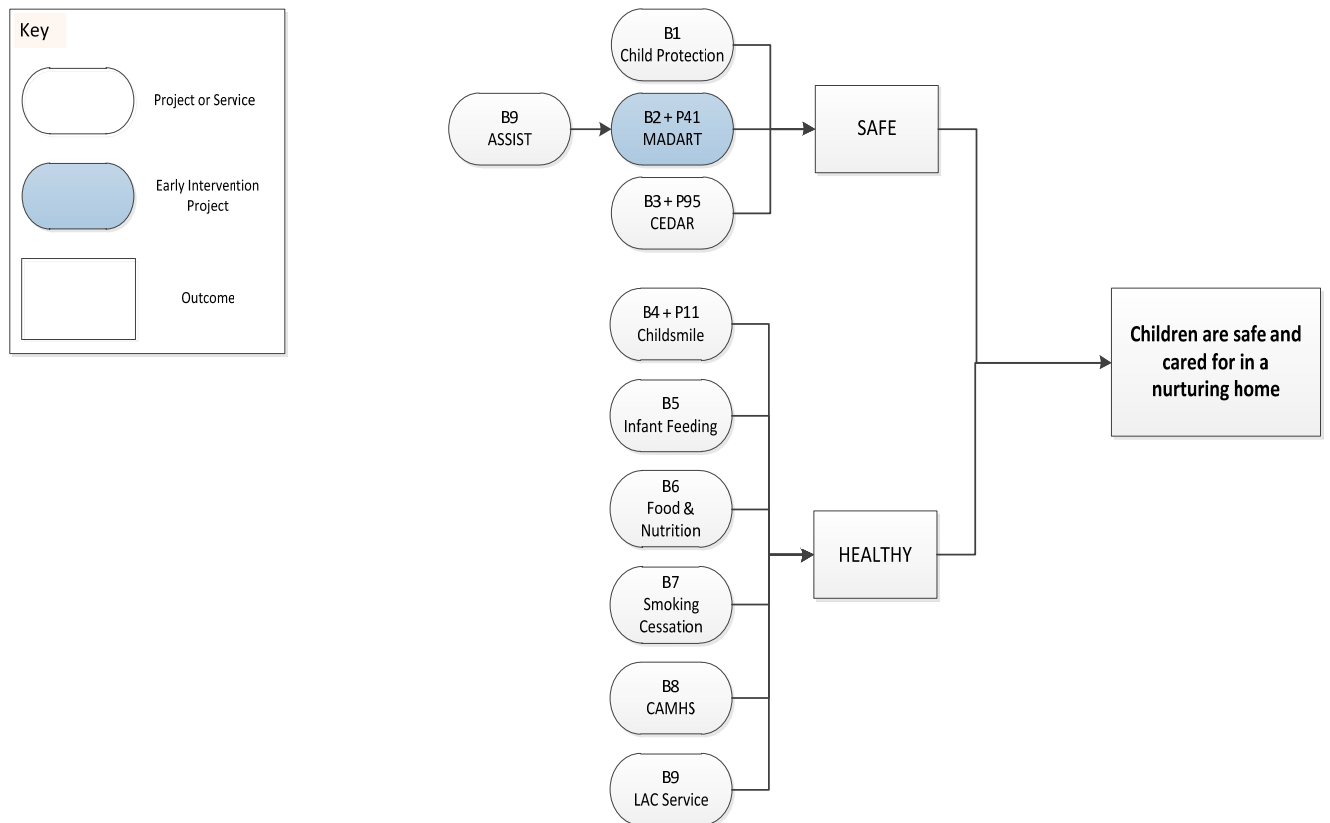
- 8.3 The action plan and the indicators being used to monitor progress are consistent with the actions and indicators contained in the SOA. Monitoring of the programme's progress will therefore also be reflected in the SOA annual report.
- 8.4 Although it can be challenging to demonstrate the benefits of intervention in the early years, as there can be a time lag between the intervention and the results, the action plan contains indicators which will be reported on annually to demonstrate impact of our early intervention activity. All of this activity will contribute to ensuring that North Ayrshire is the place to have a **Better Childhood**.

Outcome Map 1:

Parents and Carers encourage and support their children

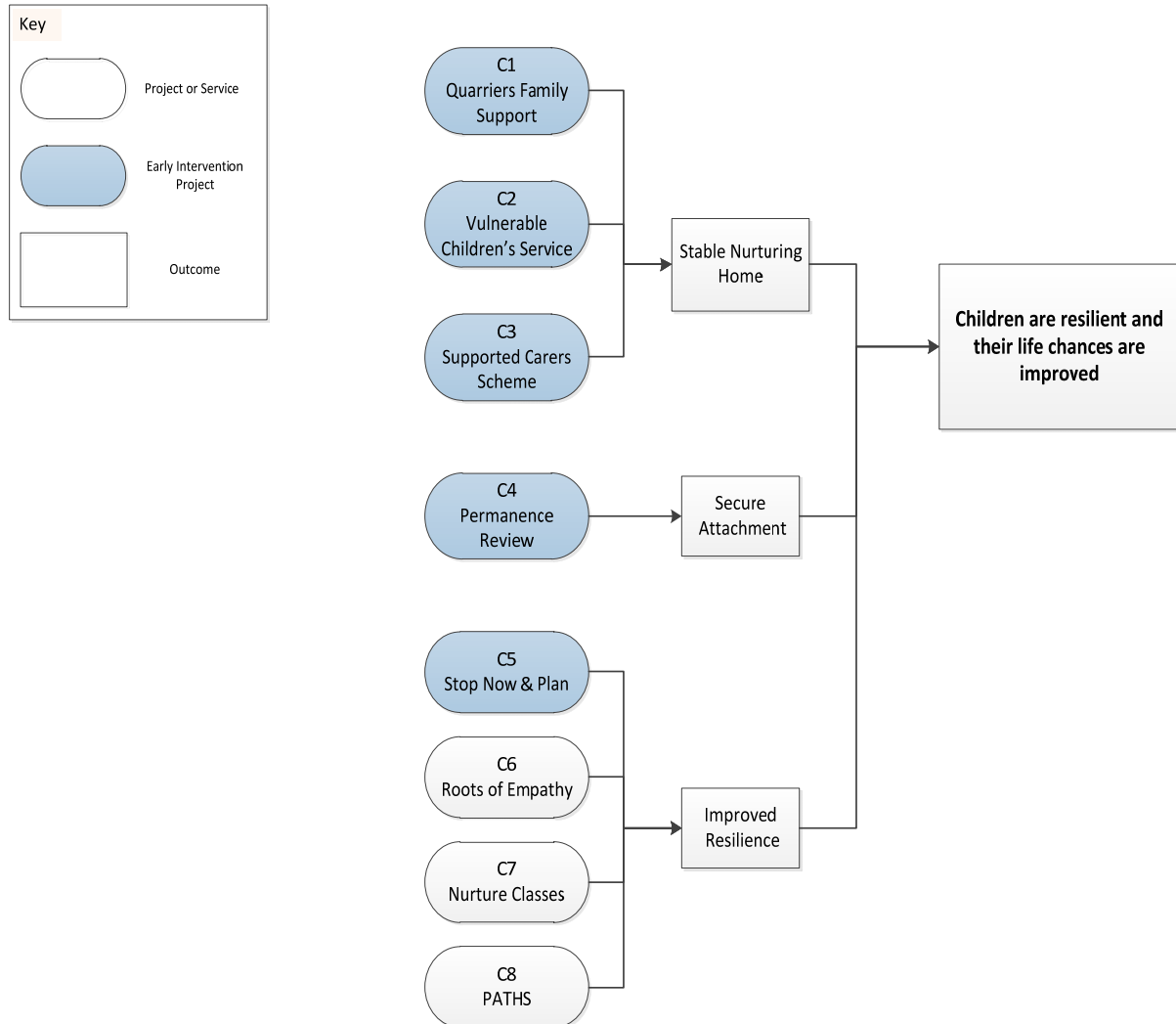


Outcome Map 2: **Children are safe and cared for in a Nurturing Home**



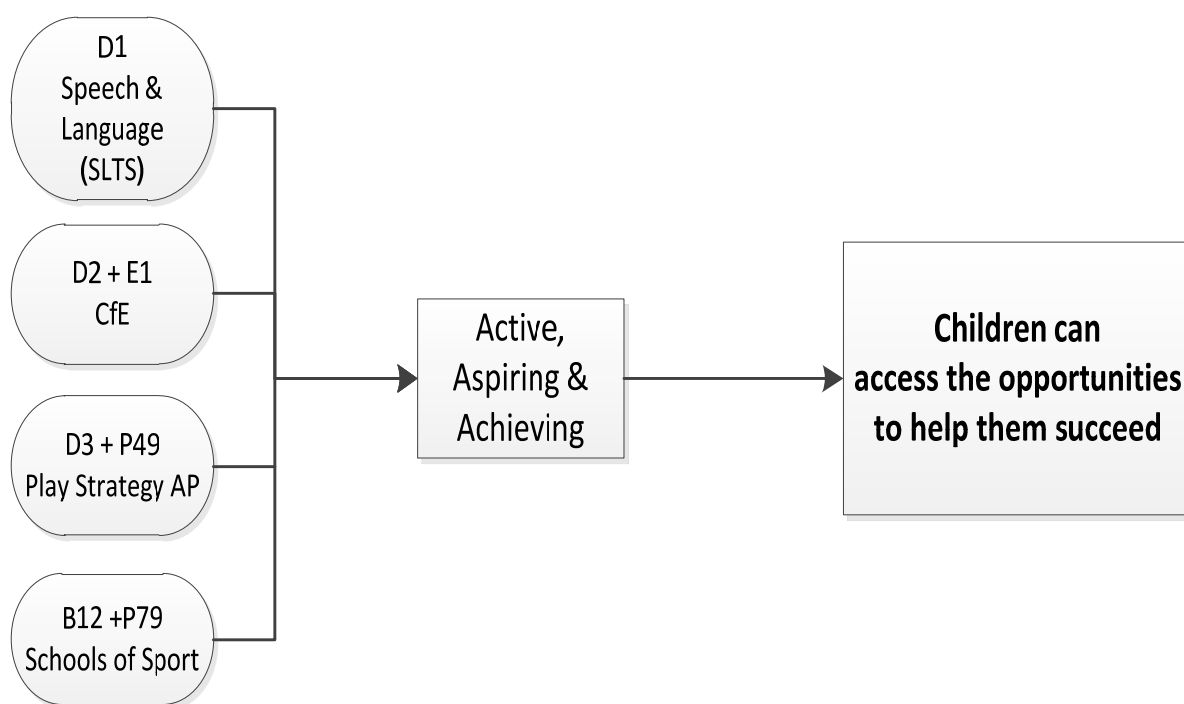
Outcome Map 3:

Children are Resilient and their Life Chances are Improved



Outcome Map 4:

Children can access the Opportunities to help them Succeed



Early Intervention Outcome Map Reference Numbers

A1	Family Nurse Partnership
A2	Assistant Nurse Practitioners
A3	Vulnerable Pregnancy Service
A4	Specialist Parenting Programmes
A5	Universal Parenting Programmes
A6	Integrated Early Years Centres
A7	Parent Scotland Training
A8	Asset Based Community Development Project
B1	Child Protection
B2 P41	Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Response Team
B13	Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery
B4 P11	Childsmile
B5	Infant Feeding
B6	Food & Nutrition
B7	Smoking Cessation
B8	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
B9	Looked After Children Health Service
C1	Quarriers Steps & Stages Family Support Service
C2	Vulnerable Children's Service
C3	Supported Carers Scheme
C4	Permanence Review
C5	Stop Now and Plan Approach
C6	Roots of Empathy
C7	Nurture Classes
C8	Positive Alternative Thinking Strategies
D1	Speech and Language Therapy Service
D2 E1	Curriculum for Excellence
D3 P49	Play Strategy
D4 P79	Schools of Sport

Early Intervention and Prevention Developments

1. Parenting Programmes and Approaches

The North Ayrshire Parenting and Family Support Strategy 2010/15 identifies that there is a need to provide a continuum of parenting and family support. The Parenting and Family Support Group has considered the parenting approaches available and how these should be developed further in North Ayrshire.

The **Solihull Approach** has been adopted in North Ayrshire as a foundation approach for all families with children aged 0-5 years, in addition to other more intensive parenting interventions. It is designed for use with individuals, rather than as a programme for all parents. It involves training professionals in its concepts to help them support the family more effectively. Its theoretical model is developed from three concepts of containment, reciprocity and behaviour management. It can be used alongside other interventions. Multi agency awareness-raising sessions and Solihull foundation courses have been delivered in North Ayrshire over the last year.

Additional funding has now been allocated to improve co-ordination and to roll out the Solihull Approach and other parenting programmes consistently across North Ayrshire. This should help to ensure that all parents who wish access to a parenting programme can do so in their local area.

There has been an **ABC Handling Children's Behaviour** course running for several years to assist parents in dealing with difficult behaviour. This course is designed for low level behavioural problems (Level 1/ 2). There are already almost 100 staff in nurseries, home visiting and social services trained to deliver this course which has been positively evaluated. A series of courses will be run by community nurseries which will cover all areas of North Ayrshire.

An evidence-based programme to support babies and children's learning and development, **Parents Early Education Partnership (PEEP)**, is now being delivered in North Ayrshire. Practitioners are being trained in the approach which is designed for all parents and carers.

Specialist parenting programmes are also to be provided for children and parents where there may be behavioural problems and in-depth support is needed, particularly where the child is vulnerable and there may be parental issues regarding drug or alcohol misuse and child protection.

Mellow Parenting is a 14 week parenting programme which will be introduced to provide such support for parents with children under 5 years. It is a more intensive programme (Level 3/ 4) for parents which is particularly designed for vulnerable

families where there may be substance misuse and child protection issues. It is effective in improving the mother child interaction and child behaviour problems.

Incredible Years is a parenting programme to promote social competence, emotional regulation and problem solving skills and to reduce behaviour problems in young children (0-12) years. It also is more intensive (Level 3/ 4) and involves two hour sessions with children over an 18 week period.

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Parenting	£100,000	£100,000	-

2. Integrated Early Years Centres

The five Early Years Centres offer a range of early learning and childcare, activities, services and support, as well as opportunities for parents to volunteer, to meet with other parents and to access support and advice in an accessible environment which is familiar and comfortable to them. Agencies work together in an integrated way and provide links to a range of professionals delivering services to families locally.

Services which can be provided from Early Years Centres include speech and language therapists, play workers, health visitors, mental health workers and family support workers. This has been found to have a major beneficial impact on the wellbeing and development of young children.

The purpose of expanding the early years centres is to develop the centres as hubs for work with children and families in the surrounding community to reduce the isolation experienced by vulnerable children and their parents and to support families to become more connected to the wider community.

The earlier we can offer support to vulnerable children and their families, and the more we can do this in a joined up and meaningful way, the better the outcomes we can expect for the families concerned. Delivering joined up services, including income maximisation and financial capability, has been highlighted as good practice in the first Annual Report on the Child Poverty Strategy.

Additional posts are being created within the 5 Early Years Centres for Education, Social Work and Money Matters Advice staff:

- A clear focus on the needs of the child and support to families within the centre and at home.
- Leading and supporting shared assessments and plans for what is actually needed to make things better for children and their families.
- Supporting families with complex needs.
- Close working relationships with early years centre and cluster primary school staff, as well as other statutory services such as midwifery, health visiting, GP's etc.

- An ability to help access a range of resources and services for parents including addiction services, domestic violence services and mental health services.
- Use of well evidenced groupwork and parenting programmes that can be jointly delivered with partners to vulnerable children and their carers.
- Provision of targeted advice and support to maximise household income and reduce pressure on household budgets, thereby contributing to children's well being and life chances.
- Improving money management skills and increasing household income to give increased choice and independence to service users and also promote positive outcomes for children living in poverty.
- Building capacity within families and supporting them to access training and other appropriate organisations.
- Provide information, advice and support on Welfare Reform which will have a significant and detrimental impact on vulnerable groups – and child poverty.

The social workers and advice workers will take self-referrals and referrals from Early Years Centre staff. Links will also be made with feeder primary schools in order to assist vulnerable children and their families. There will be particular focus on supporting vulnerable children with their transition from the Early Years Centre to primary school.

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Integrated Support in Early Years Centres	£289,000	£372,000	£372,000

3. Capacity Building with Parents

In order to build capacity with parents it is proposed to build on the existing provision in North Ayrshire and fully use the existing workforce while developing parent capacity through a strengths-based approach. The Parenting Learning and Development Co-ordinator will be essential to the success of the service.

The service aims to:-

- Increase effective and meaningful engagement with parents
- Identify needs and provide effective, appropriate support and opportunities
- Ensure all parents have easy access to information on parenting

- Ensure all parents know who to ask for help
- Develop parent-friendly areas where parents can socialise and engage
- Provide opportunities for parents to engage with children 0-5 to promote language development, play and interaction
- Provide training opportunities for parents and support them to facilitate groups
- Ensure all existing services for families in North Ayrshire are fully utilised

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Capacity Building with Parents	£190,000	£228,000	£228,000

4. Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Project

The Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) project is supporting work locally on early intervention and prevention in the early years which may be mainstreamed across North Ayrshire. It is engaging with parents using an asset based approach.

It has two bases in Castlepark, Irvine, and in Ardrossan and has consulted with parents and carers on their experiences of parenting in North Ayrshire and the issues for them. The project has identified community volunteers in both areas and is supporting them to build their capacity. Proposals for healthy eating information and cooking skills, and parenting programmes are currently being developed, along with the baby and child first aid training.

Another important aspect of the project's work is in assisting with young children's speech and language development, including the training of early years staff in "Learning Language and Loving It".

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
ABCD Project	£80,000	-	-

5. Peripatetic Early Years Practitioner Support in Early Years Classes

An additional peripatetic Early Years Practitioner (EYP) enables 5 early years classes to work more effectively with the families attending the class.

Early years classes are staffed on a 1 to 10 ratio. As staff are fully committed to working with children or planning and assessing it is difficult for them to find time to work with families and more challenging to build up effective relationships or provide required support for more vulnerable families.

The provision of this additional member of staff will help the staff in early years classes to be responsive to the needs of families and to build up stronger more effective relationships. This helps to support children's wellbeing and development.

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Peripatetic Early Years Practitioner Support	£22,000	£27,000	£27,000

6. Family Support Service

There is a wide range of professionals supporting parents, including teachers, midwives, health visitors, social workers, nursery nurses, home-school inclusion workers, etc. This support tends to be relatively small in scale and patchy in coverage.

Quarriers has been commissioned to provide a family support service to parents/carers with children aged up to and including 0 – 8 years of age in order to build capacity and capability. This will include practical and organisational support in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and their families.

Families referred to the Family Support Service will receive support in relation to housing, care, educational, social and health needs. These needs could be in relation to behavioural issues, routines, nutrition, budgeting, cleaning, cooking or literacy.

Referrals will be made by a range of Community Planning Partners including social services, health, education and skills and housing. A "named person" will submit a referral to the Family Support Service and will remain responsible for liaison with the Family Support Service until the intervention has concluded.

The service will provide a maximum of 12 weeks intervention in order to support identified needs and will adopt the most up to date evidence based approaches in terms of both practice and measuring outcomes.

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Family Support Service	£400,000	£400,000	-

7. Vulnerable Children's Service

Most of the vulnerable very young children on North Ayrshire's Child Protection Register are placed there as a result of neglect. Therapeutic intervention with these families is often not enough. Home-based practical support is needed to help

improve parenting and family circumstances in order to safeguard and improve the outcomes for vulnerable children.

Quarriers' Family Support Service will intervene early when parenting issues are identified by services. There is currently no service, however, for vulnerable very young children aged 0-5 years which focuses on practical household and domestic support in order to improve the wellbeing of children and families. This will be delivered by 10 Family Workers who would be managed by Social Services Team Managers to provide intensive support and to link to the Early Years Centres.

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Vulnerable Children's Support (0-5 years)	£265,000	£360,000	£360,000

8. Family Nurse Partnership

The Family Nurse Partnership is a preventative programme for vulnerable first time mothers. It involves a family nurse visiting mothers who are 19 and under every one or two weeks during pregnancy and throughout the first two years of their baby's life. The nurses work intensively with families to offer guidance on child development, parenting skills, eating and living healthily and support mothers choosing to take up education or employment opportunities.

The programme has an estimated cost of £3,000 per client per year. Cost savings estimated in the longer term are high and the programme is consistently rated as one of the most effective for vulnerable young families.

Scottish Government funding has been provided to NHS Ayrshire and Arran to introduce the programme in Ayrshire. Additional posts of Assistant Nurse Practitioners have also been established to focus on early intervention with 0-3 year olds in disadvantaged areas.

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Family Nurse Partnership	£1.6 million for Ayrshire over 3 years		

9. Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Response Team (MADART)

Every time the police are called to a family home in response to a domestic incident, a report is completed, detailing the circumstances, family composition, whether charges/arrests were made, and if children present. These reports (where children are involved) were previously sent automatically to Scottish Children's Reporters

Authority (SCRA) and Social Services for assessment and further action as appropriate.

The **Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Response Team (MADART)** now screens and initially assesses all domestic abuse incidents in the first instance. By having access to a variety of information systems under the one roof (Police, Housing, and Social Services), MADART will be able to effectively assess, quickly, what follow-up action, if any, is required.

The benefits are:

- Quicker response – The ability to share information at source as referrals are received, and calling on the expertise of staff in a multi disciplinary environment, leads to a quicker evidence-based response.
- Proportionate response – Only children assessed as most at risk will now be referred to SCRA. This should address the previous practice of ‘blanket’ referral and avoid unnecessarily challenging victims about how they will protect their children.
- Effective response – The suite of responses available to the team will ensure that the right response can be made at the right time and that victims (and their children where they have them) can be assisted to be safe.

The Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Response Team includes Police personnel, a Social Worker, a Housing Officer and an administrator. In addition, a named health professional is attached to the unit on a part-time basis.

Additional resources to provide **ASSIST (Advocacy, Support, Safety, Information, Services Together)** Workers have recently been agreed by Strathclyde Police and the Scottish Government. There are 6 ASSIST Workers for Ayrshire and they are based at Kilmarnock Police Station.

There is significant evidence of the impact on children affected by domestic abuse in terms of their health and emotional wellbeing. The **CEDAR (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery)** project is a successful Canadian model which has been piloted in three areas of Scotland recently. North Ayrshire Women’s Aid has received Big Lottery funding to allow this programme to be run in North Ayrshire. Although it will be aimed at older children aged between 4 and 12 years, there will be other benefits from the mothers’ involvement in this programme.

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
MADART	80,000	80,000	-

10. Permanence

Social Services need to act quickly and positively to bring young children taken into care back together with their parents where this is possible. Where this is not possible, measures need to be in place to put children in a new family permanently.

The damage caused to very young children who cannot form secure attachments because they are moved frequently between carers is well evidenced. It is estimated that this can involve moving from between 4 to 8 different placements in the child's first year. More work is needed to provide continuous care and to prevent this from happening.

It is proposed to speed up the arrangements for children who cannot live with their parents so that they are placed in a permanent new family more quickly. This should create better outcomes for children taken into care at an early age.

Additional posts have been established within Social Services to improve the existing processes. Arrangements are now in place for the development of a new model to:

1. Assess parental ability to care for children;
2. Provide support required to return children home where possible and appropriate;
3. Place children in permanent care timeously

There will also be annual public campaigns to increase the number of people volunteering to foster and to adopt children.

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Permanence	£123,000	£123,000	-

11. Stop Now and Plan (SNAP)

'At-risk' and vulnerable children and their families can be identified relatively easily within primary schools. The Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) approach, which is now being used by some Councils, focuses resources around primary schools to identify and intervene with children (and their parents) at an early stage. The primary goal of the programme is to keep 'at-risk' children in mainstream school.

It focuses on children with disruptive behaviour problems and includes a parent management training group along with community and school advocacy and support. The aims of the programme include:

- increasing emotion-regulation and self-control (parents and children)
- improving social competency
- engaging high-risk children and their families in supports at an earlier stage
- developing effective parent management skills

- connecting Children and Parents to community based resources

Although focusing on Primary School years, the approach will also support young people through transition into S1.

The proposal involves creating multi-disciplinary teams around the Primary School cluster groups and, most importantly, around vulnerable children and their families identified within those clusters. Some re-configuration of existing resources will be required, involving the Young Person's Support Teams, Educational Psychology, Home School Inclusion workers, Pupil Support Service and the Pupil Welfare Service. Discussions will also take place with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to identify ways they can link with the teams.

It is proposed that a number of support workers can be added to the teams to focus on ensuring that children and their parents are integrated and more connected to their local communities. Given the current prevalence of children affected by parental substance misuse in North Ayrshire, it is proposed that specialist addictions staff could also assist with the assessment of addictions issues on parenting capacity as well as in offering specialist support to parents.

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Stop Now and Plan	£232,000	£307,000	£307,000

12. Supported Carers Scheme

Supported carers provide a service to young people aged 16 – 19 years moving on from residential and foster care. Supported carers undergo a full assessment similar to that of foster carers and need to go through the fostering panel for approval or de registration. They are paid at a lower rate than foster carers because they do not have the responsibility of caring for a young person on a supervision order and due to their different role with this age range.

The number of young people receiving a service from the Social Services Throughcare team has increased by 20 % over the past 2 years.

Fewer young people are returning home following a period of care. The additional support offered by a supported carer is an added step to independence and more likely to achieve positive outcomes for these young people than a move to live immediately in their own accommodation. There would be financial benefits from increasing the number of supported carers as it is considerably less expensive to accommodate a young person with a Supported Carer (£185 per week) than to provide Foster Care (£400 per week) or residential care in a children's unit (£2,700).

A dedicated Senior Throughcare Worker could take on an overseeing role and deal with the general assessments on young people. They would drive the recruitment

campaign, assess, train and review the carers, link to national good practice, and link to fostering campaigns.

Programme	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Supported Carers Scheme	£104,000	£141,000	£141,000

Conclusion

The overall total investment by the Council in early intervention and prevention over the next three years is detailed below.

Proposal	Lead service	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Parenting Programmes	Education & Skills	100,000	100,000	
Family Support Service	Social Services & Health	400,000	400,000	
Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Response Team	Social Services & Health	80,000	80,000	
Permanence	Social Services & Health	123,000	123,000	
Asset Based Community Development Project	NHS Ayrshire & Arran (funded by CPP)	80,000		
Vulnerable Children Support	Social Services & Health	265,000	360,000	360,000
Capacity Building with Parents	Education & Skills	190,000	228,000	228,000
Stop Now and Plan (SNAP)	Social Services & Health	232,000	307,000	307,000
Supported Carers Scheme	Social Services & Health	104,000	141,000	141,000
Integrated Support in Early Years Centres	Social Services & Health	289,000	372,000	372,000
Peripatetic Early Years Practitioner Support	Education & Skills	22,000	27,000	27,000
Total		1,885,000	2,138,000	1,435,000

In addition, there is significant investment by CPP Partners in the Family Nurse Partnership, MADART and a range of other initiatives.

Early Years: Early Intervention and Prevention Action Plan 2013/14

Workstream 1 Pre-birth- 1 year			
Outcome	How will we measure success?	What will we do?	How will we do it?
Parents and carers encourage and support their children	Appropriate birth weight for gestational age	We will provide additional support to pregnant women aged 19 and under	Implement the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) and Vulnerable Pregnancy Service
	% of newborn children exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks	We will work with mothers to encourage breastfeeding and healthy living	Provide Assistant Nurse Practitioners
	No of pre-birth child protection referrals	We will support children at risk at an earlier stage	Provide intensive practical support to vulnerable families
	Pregnancy rates per 1000 population among under 16 year olds		
	Rate of stillbirths per 1,000 births		
	Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births		
	No of children placed on the child protection register who had previously been deregistered for 12 months		

Workstream 2 1 year - 30 months			
Outcome	How will we measure success?	What will we do?	How will we do it?
Children are safe and cared for in a nurturing home	% of children achieving developmental milestones by 27-30 month child health review No of moves once decision made for permanent placement No of early years referrals to Partnership Forums	We will expand the services, facilities and support available to parents and develop Early Years Centres as information hubs for parents	Integrate Social Services, Health, Education and Money Advice services in Early Years Centres
		We will provide more direct household and domestic support to vulnerable families	Deliver a Family Support Service with the voluntary sector (Quarriers)
		We will build capacity in parents to support and train each other	Provide parent-friendly space in nurseries, deliver Parent Scotland capacity building training and the ABCD project
		We will improve the time taken to place vulnerable children with an adult who cares for them	Review processes for parental assessments and the placing of children for adoption
		We will ensure all parents can access a Parenting Programme in their local area	Deliver universal and specialist parenting programmes through the Parenting Learning and Development Co-ordinator

Workstream 3 30 months to 8 years			
Outcome	How will we measure success?	What will we do?	How will we do it?
<p>Children are resilient and their life chances are improved</p> <p>Children can access the opportunities to help them succeed</p>	Children (pre-birth to 8) referred to the Reporter on care and protection grounds and total number of referrals	We will improve the services for women and children experiencing domestic abuse	Co-ordinate domestic abuse referrals through a Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Team (MADART)
	% of children achieving their developmental milestones at the time the child starts primary school	We will help children deal with their experience of violence	Implement the Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery (CEDAR) programme
	% of children with no obvious dental decay in P1	We will provide high quality educational experiences in our nurseries and Early Years Centres	Provide a well-trained early years workforce and Nurture classes in Primary 1 to help with transition from nursery
	% of children with a healthy weight in P1	We will improve children's resilience and ability to deal with their emotions	Introduce Stop Now and Plan programme to reduce violence and conduct disorders in primary school children
General			
Outcome	How will we measure success?	What will we do?	How will we do it?
Children are safe and cared for in a nurturing home	No of children pre-birth to 8 looked after at home/accommodated	Improve information sharing between services	Implement the Ayrshare initiative
		Undertake data analysis to improve identification of vulnerable children	Establish means of reviewing existing data on IT systems
		Use areas of family stress maps to improve how we match resources to needs	Develop Neighbourhood Approach
		Improve evidence base on what works to improve children's outcomes	Support Early Years Collaborative tests of change

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 4

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Provost's Hospitality Budget and Fundraising Activity**

Purpose: To inform the Cabinet of (a) the Provost's committed Hospitality expenditure and forecasted expenditure for period 2013/14; and (b) details of the Provost's fundraising activity from September 2012.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet (a) notes the contents of the report, (b) approves the requests for funding to date and (c) agrees to receive an update in six months.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Provost's hospitality budget for 2013/14 is £16,000. The budget is allocated to civic events and receptions including Marymass Festival and Largs Viking Festival; contributing toward the costs of the annual Provost's Civic Pride and Charity Awards Dinner, Irvine Remembrance Service and Town Twinning activity in Largs and in Irvine.
- 1.2 In September 2012, the Provost began fundraising for local charities and encouraged North Ayrshire Council staff to assist with this. To date a total of £27623.87 has been raised.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Provost's Hospitality Budget has been committed to the end of the financial year as detailed in Appendix 1. An estimated £1358.63 remains for disbursement until March 2014.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 gives details of the Provost's Hospitality expenditure from May 2012 and an estimated expenditure to the end of the financial year. Appendix 2 details the beneficiaries of the Provost's fundraising activity.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Cabinet is requested to (a) note the contents of the report; (b) approve the requests for funding to date; and (c) agree to receive an update in six months.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 A total of £27,623.87 has been raised for charity since May 2012.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 None arising from this report.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 The Provost's fundraising activities support a range of equality groups, in particular charities which provide assistance to people with disabilities.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 None arising from this report

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The Provost's fundraising activity supports Single Outcome Agreement: Local Outcome 11a "Levels of voluntary action and community involvement have increased".

5. Consultations

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Provost takes part in a significant range of civic engagements and fundraising events for the benefit of the local community. The Provost greatly appreciates the considerable contribution made by staff in fundraising for charity.



ELMA MURRAY
Chief Executive

Reference :

For further information please contact Garry Hamilton, Provost Office
Co-ordinator on telephone number 01294 324123

Background Papers

none

Provost's Hospitality Budget 2012/13

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
May 2012	Receptions for Karate European Championships	£2,372.50	£13,627.50
May 2012	Purchase of Past Provost's Medals	£505.90	£13,121.60
May 2012 – March 2013	Corporate gifts and presentations	£918.74	£12,202.86
May 2012 – March 2013	Special Catering and Receptions	£1,564.60	£10,638.26
August 2012	Marymass Festival Receptions	£4,625.74	£6,012.52
September 2012	Contribution to Princes Trust Regional Business Awards	£500	£5,512.52
September 2012	Visit to Forum Meeting in Voisins	£386	£5,126.52
October 2012	Kirkin of the Council programme	£207	£4,919.52
October 2012	Table at Irvine Incorporated Trades Big Pie	£182	£4,737.52
October 2012	Table at Ayrshire Hospice Ball	£1,000	£3,737.52
November 2012	Remembrance Services	£406.20	£3,331.32
March 2013	Host civic delegation visit from Voisins	£1,989.88	£1,341.44
March 2013	Provost's Dinner	£2,000	£658.56 overspend

Provost's Hospitality Budget 2013/14

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
April 2013	Reimbursement to Garnock Academy Vocal Ensemble for lunch after Provost's Reception.	£52.62	£15, 947.38
April 2013	Provost's Drinks Reception at Solace Conference 18 April	£945.65	£15,001.73
April 2013	Catering at Reception for NAC Young Musicians	£151.80	£14,849.93
April 2013	Design and Print of Provost Greeting Cards and Envelopes	£821	£14,028.93
April 2013	Gift Voucher-Young Scot Award Winner	£20	£14,008.93
June 2013	Civic Dinner for 3 visiting Mayors and invited guests marking the Largs Games 2013.	£294.80	£13,714.13
June 2013	North Ayrshire Council Meeting – Post meeting catering	£55.50	£13,658.63
July 2013	North Ayrshire Arts Exhibition Sponsorship	£200	£13,458.63
Recommended for Approval			
August 2013	Marymass Festival Receptions	£5,000 (est)	£8,458.63
August 2013	Accommodation costs for Voisins Visitors at Marymass Festival	£500 (est)	£7,958.63
September 2013	Largs Viking Festival Reception	£1,000 (est)	£6,958.63
September 2013	Visit to Voisins TBC	£1,000 (est)	£5,958.63
October 2013	Ayrshire Hospice Ball	£1,000 (est)	£4,958.63
November 2013	Remembrance Service programme, PA Hire and Pipe Band	£1,200 (est)	£3,758.63
December 2013	Provost Christmas Card Design and Print	£400 (est)	£3,358.63
March 2014	Contribution to Provost's Civic Pride Awards and Charity Dinner	£2,000 (est)	£1,358.63

Appendix 2

Provost's fundraising – beneficiaries

Date	Event	Recipient	Amount
September 2012	Staff Coffee Morning	MacMillan Cancer Support	£1,699.21
October 2012	Go Purple Day - North Ayrshire Council Staff – various fundraising events	Ayrshire Hospice	£2,860.27
November 2012	North Ayrshire Council Staff – various fundraising events	Children in Need	£532.85
November 2012	Marie Curie Cancer Care Donate Day – North Ayrshire Council Staff invited to donate a bag of unwanted goods to be sold for charity	Marie Curie Cancer Care	£850.00 (estimated worth of bags donated)
February 2013	North Ayrshire Council Staff – various fundraising events	Cash for Kids	£1,426.44
March 2013	Provost's Civic Pride and Charity Awards Dinner	Butterfly Club/Cash for Kids	£18,567.86
March 2013	North Ayrshire Council Staff Fundraising in Halls and Libraries	Comic Relief	£985.24
May 2013	Provost participating in Race for Life at Eglinton Park	Cancer Research	£702
Total to Date			£27,623.87

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 5

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Council Plan, Performance Management Strategy and Single Outcome Agreement (SOA): 12/13 Q4 Progress Report**

Purpose: To advise in implementing three Action Plans, namely (1) the Council Plan, (2) the Performance Management Strategy, and (3) the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to (a) note the progress made in implementing the three Action Plans for the Council Plan, Performance Management Strategy and SOA; and (b) refer the report to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee for its consideration.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 19 September 2012 the Council approved the Council Plan 2012/17 and noted that the Cabinet would receive six monthly progress reports on the Council Plan Action Plan 2012/13.
- 1.2 On 27 March 2012 the former Executive approved the Performance Management Strategy 2012/15 and Action Plan 2012/13.
- 1.3 On 15 March 2012, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board approved the Interim SOA 2012/13 including the SOA Action Plan 2012/13. The CPP Board on 14 March 2013 approved the SOA 2013/17 for submission to the Scottish Government.

2. Current Position

Council Plan Action Plan 2012/13

- 2.1 The owners of the 48 actions under the four core objectives in the Council Plan Action Plan have provided updates on progress over the year up to 31 March 2013.
- 2.2 Information on the status of each action is provided in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Information on the status of indicators is also provided in Appendix 1.

- 2.4 Council Plan actions highlight the Services' activity to deliver the Council Plan four objectives. Actions are aligned to specific Council objectives.
- 2.5 Council Plan Performance Indicators allow the Council to demonstrate if we are on track to deliver our objectives. The indicators allow us to monitor our performance over the short and long term and also compare our performance with other Councils.
- 2.6 The expected outcomes shown for the 48 actions in the action plan indicate: -
- 46 (96%) are complete
 - 2 (4%) are slightly adrift of target
- 2.7 The actions which are slightly adrift are:-

SP1213HS_AC_1.5 Launch and implement the new North Ayrshire Older Person Housing Strategy (Head of Community Care and Housing)

2012/13 - Quarter Four Update

The Older Persons Housing Strategy was originally scheduled for completion and launch in October 2012. This was delayed pending the recruitment of the new Older Persons Team. The strategy is now scheduled to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval May/June 2013.

SP1213ES_A_A07 To further build on the capacity of schools to support leavers make effective transitions into positive, sustained post-school destinations (Head of Education, Education and Skills)

2012/13 - Quarter Four Update:

We have continued to work closely with the three Ayrshire Colleges but have been unable to progress transition arrangements as a result of the regionalisation process being ongoing, until this process has been completed and the single Ayrshire college has been established, a formal set of transition arrangements cannot proceed. Additionally, we have consulted with Head Teachers on the impact of the 16+ Coordinators and the responses have been extremely positive with a recognition that this support for school leavers has been highly effective. Also external partners such as SDS report that the 16+ Coordinators have improved partnership working and are now receiving better support and advice and that employer engagement in schools has increased.

June 2013 Update

Initial analysis of the follow up measure of school leavers for year 2011/2012 shows an increase in positive destinations of 0.2%, up to 89.9%. Within the overall measure, young people in employment has increased from 17.6% to 20.7% and there has been a decline in those "unemployed seeking" from 8.7% to 7.9%. Although the increase of 0.2% in the overall measure is modest statistically, it is significant in the overall context of youth unemployment numbers in North Ayrshire which have previously shown that sustaining initial positive destinations has been a challenge and is the reversal of a trend where the follow up figure have shown a decrease in positive destinations.

- 2.8 The update on actions highlights the continued progress made towards meeting the Council's four objectives:

Regenerating our communities and increasing employment - 100% (12/13 progress recorded on covalent)

The Council continues to make progress in implementing the Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy and delivering its employability programmes. Regeneration of Town Centres and the Council's house building programme is ongoing.

Protecting vulnerable people - 99% (12/13 progress recorded on covalent)

The Council continues to implement its early years intervention and prevention programmes and is involved with its CPP partners in the Early Years Collaborative which aims to create transformational change in the early years. More vulnerable people are being supported in their own homes with telecare technology. The Council's approach to homelessness is highlighted nationally as a model for other local authorities

Improving educational attainment - 93% (12/13 progress recorded on covalent)

Significant progress has been made in taking forward Curriculum for Excellence and in improving outcomes for children and young people. Schools in all sectors have further developed and enhanced their approaches to providing personal support to children and young people. In terms of raising attainment our schools have further developed their mentoring approaches for individual pupils and/or groups of pupils, ensuring that effective rigorous tracking of pupil progress and target setting has been achieved in the 2012/13 session with updated pupil reports providing more focused information on progress to pupils and their parents.

Initiatives such as Pupil Support Services' Extended Outreach and school based 16+/Post School Coordinators have provided effective support to school leavers in North Ayrshire and have supported pupils in a variety of ways including assistance with college, university and job application forms as well as mock preparatory interviews. Additionally, schools have worked closely with external partners including Skills Development Scotland and Further/Higher Education sectors to enhance this support which has helped 89.7% of our 2011/12 school leavers to achieve positive post-school destinations.

Operating more efficiently and effectively - 98% (12/13 progress recorded on covalent)

Improvements include the new website, the launching of Bridgegate Customer Service Centre and investment in the ICT infrastructure to meet future requirements including wireless technology in schools and faster internet access to schools and libraries. The amount of waste being recycled continues to increase and exceeds the nationally set target. The Council is committed to benchmarking to support change and improvement.

2.9 Further detail on progress and a detailed analysis on performance indicators will be reported to Cabinet in the Public Performance Reporting /Annual Performance Report on the 24 September 2013.

2.10 Of the 18 indicators with targets and information that are currently available for 12/13 :

- 12 (67%) are coded on target
- 4 (22%) are coded significantly adrift of target
- 2 (11%) are coded slightly adrift of target

2.11 The indicators which are significantly adrift of target are:-

SOA1112_01d_001 Number of new businesses per 10,000 working age population (Head of Development Planning)
2012/13 - Quarter Four Update

This is a key indicator as part of the Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy to encourage new businesses into North Ayrshire. The main purpose of this figure is to provide an estimate of North Ayrshire's business stock per 10,000 of the working age population. This indicator is measured to capture entrepreneurship in terms of the propensity to start a new business and can be used as a baseline from which to assess change in entrepreneurship levels and compare with other areas. Information will be collated from Business Register and Employment Survey and The Committee of Scottish Bankers.

The 2012/13 figure totals 33. This performance is significantly below the target of 43.8. Gaining access to funding is difficult for new businesses with little or no track record and consumer confidence is relatively low. The current economic climate means trading conditions remain difficult for new businesses. The North Ayrshire Business Development Team continues to deliver a range of supports to businesses including promoting and assisting with business start-ups. The Regeneration Board looked at how we should help businesses grow through inward investment, helping existing businesses grow and increasing the rate of start-up and these recommendations are now being implemented.

SP1213ES_P_E01 Number of Active volunteers who have participated in training delivered by Community and Culture
(Head of Community and Culture)

2012/13 - Quarter Four Update:

The focus on volunteering within Community and Culture has been reviewed as part of the strategic decision making process in relation to outcomes based activities in our communities. Partly as a result of the Scottish Government Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill, there is an increased interest on the part of groups within the community to access training from Community and Culture to develop themes which are of interest to the wider community. This includes community associations, sports and cultural interest groups.

The focus on this work, and the increasing number of volunteers receiving support from Community and Culture in group settings, as reported in a separate indicator, is a more effective means of supporting a broader range of people within communities.

Individual volunteers are trained and supported where appropriate but, in future, targets have been designed to reflect increased participation in groups rather than on an individual basis. In addition, the Council is encouraging and supporting partner organisations to deliver training for volunteers, which is a more effective model in terms both of reaching a greater number of people and in delivering a more in-depth level of training and experience, but which also reduces the amount of direct delivery of training by Community and Culture. We are currently encouraging partner organisations to report via Covalent to provide a better reflection of the amount of activity undertaken in this area

SPI 01_A_03 The average number of days lost through sickness: teachers (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development)

2012/13 – Quarter Four Update

The total days lost for the full year 2012/13 was 6.6 days per teacher compared to 5.9 days for 2011/12 and 5.5 days for 2010/11. The SPI outcome for all Scottish local authorities for 2012/13 will not be available until later in the year, however, the Council was at the top of the second quartile of all outcomes for 2011/12 having dropped from being in the top quartile for 2010/11. It is anticipated that due to the increase this year that the Council may drop to the third quartile for 2012/13 (based on the assumption that all other Councils outcomes remain as for 2011/12). Sickness absence continues to be closely monitored and managed in accordance with the Maximising Attendance Policy and Procedures, and this, coupled with support through Occupational Health referral, is expected to reduce sickness absence levels going forward. In addition, a review of the Maximising Attendance Policy and Procedures is currently in progress and a report will be submitted to the Corporate Management Team in due course (the date for report submission is not yet finalised).

SPI 01_B_03 The average number of days lost through sickness: all staff (excluding Teachers) (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development)

2012/13 - Quarter Four Update

The total average days lost for the full year 2012/13 was 10.3 days compared to 9.8 days for 2011/12 and 8.0 days for 2010/11. The SPI outcome for all Scottish local authorities for 2012/13 will not be available until later in the year, however, the Council was at the top of the second quartile of all outcomes for 2011/12 having dropped from being the best performing Council in 2010/11. It is anticipated that the Council may drop to the third quartile for 2012/13 (based on the assumption that all other Councils outcomes remain as for 2011/12). Sickness absence continues to be closely monitored and managed in accordance with the Maximising Attendance Policy and Procedures, and this, coupled with support through Occupational Health referral, is expected to reduce sickness absence levels going forward. In addition, a review of the Maximising Attendance Policy and Procedures is currently in progress and a report will be submitted to the Corporate Management Team in due course (the date for report submission is not yet finalised).

2.12 The indicators which are slightly adrift of target are:-

SP1213FI_P_E03 Percentage of Council Tax collected in year
(Head of Finance and Property)

2012/13 - Quarter Four Update

The council tax in year collection figure was 93.5%, a reduction of 0.1% compared to last year and short of the 93.9% target. All recovery action was run on time and debt passed to the sheriff officer as quickly as possible. The sheriff officer reported that customers are paying, but paying more slowly and this is affecting the in-year collections. Over the life of the debt the overall collections are still expected to exceed the target of 96.5% (bad debt provision of 3.5%). Benchmarking has commenced with Clackmannanshire, West Dunbartonshire and Renfrewshire Councils to identify actions that will improve the collection performance of the council and good practice. A report on the benchmarking findings is due in October 2013.

SP1213FI_P_E42 The proportion of operational accommodation that is suitable for current use (Head of Finance and Property)

2012/13 - Quarter Four Update

Suitability - New suitability questionnaires have been prepared this year which include a section on DDA and accessibility from the Service users perspective. Questionnaires were completed by service departments/building key holders and their perception of suitability was taken into account. Additional questions on the use and sufficiency of the property were also included. This has resulted in a slight decrease in buildings suitable for current use, although it is anticipated that this can be addressed over the next 5 years by working with the Service users to resolve issues that have been identified through the introduction of the new questionnaires.

Performance Management Strategy Action Plan 2012/13

2.13 The Council has approved the Performance Management Strategy and endorsed the ambitious vision that, *by 2014, the Council will have sector-leading performance management systems and a supporting culture in place.*

2.14 The Action Plan 2012/13 provides more detail of what we need to do under the following headings:

- Leadership and vision for North Ayrshire
- Developing capacity for improvement
- Embedding performance management/continuous improvement
- Identifying, sharing and implementing best practice
- Acknowledging and celebrating success
- Developing performance management systems
- Public Performance Reporting
- Engaging staff
- Engaging communities

- 2.15 The owners of the 29 actions in the Performance Management Strategy Action Plan have provided updates on progress over the year up to 31 March 2013.
- 2.16 The expected outcomes shown for the 29 actions in the Action Plan indicate:-
- 27 (93%) are complete
 - 2 (7%) are slightly adrift of target
- 2.17 Information on the status of each action is provided in Appendix2.
- 2.18 The actions which are slightly adrift of target are:-

PM1213_5.3 Promote and support MJ Local Government Awards
(Head of Democratic and Administration Services)

2012/13 - Quarter Four Update

Although no Services made submissions for the 2013 awards additional work is being undertaken with Services to encourage the use of the MJ Awards to recognise innovation and promote the good work being done within the Council by staff.

SP1213CE_A07b Household Survey completed to inform new Administration's first budget (Head of Democratic and Administration Services)

2012/13 - Quarter Four Update:

A re-evaluation of the possible approaches/methods to carrying out a household survey was undertaken at the request of Cabinet. This review impacted on the delivery and implementation timescales. The survey is now underway. Results are expected Summer 2013

SOA Action Plan 2012/13

- 2.19 Progress on the status of SOA actions and indicators is detailed in Appendix 3.

The expected outcomes shown for the 27 actions in the action plan indicate:

- 27 (100%) are complete or on target (i.e. expected to be completed in line with the original plan)

- 2.20 Of the 33 indicators with targets and available information:

- 29 (88%) have been coded on target
- 2 (6%) have been coded slightly adrift of target
- 2 (6%) have been coded significantly adrift of target

2.21 The indicators which are significantly adrift of target are: -

SOA1112_06d_002a Number of patients waiting more than four weeks for appropriate discharge (NHS Ayrshire and Arran/ Social Services and Health)

2012/13 - Quarter Four Update

As per January 2013 census 2 patients waited more than 4 weeks for appropriate discharge against a target of 0. A range of services have been developed to provide additional support at home and to facilitate hospital discharge (such as Intermediate Care and Reablement Services, Telehealth care, Community Ward).

SOA1112_01d_001 Number of new businesses per 10,000 working age population (Head of Development Planning)

The 2012/13 Quarter 4 update is covered in paragraph 2.9

2.22 The indicators which are slightly adrift of target are:-

SOA1112_01a_001 Percentage of people in households describing public transport in North Ayrshire very/fairly convenient

2012/13 - Quarter Four Update

This indicator is sourced on an annual basis from the Peoples Panel. As such it is a subjective view of the convenience of public transport to and from North Ayrshire. The 2012/13 value is 74% against a target of 75%. Performance has varied since 2005/06 but the long term trend for this indicator is improving. North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership works with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport to improve local transport facilities and networks.

SP1213ES_P_A13 _Number of participants accessing community and culture youth programmes - youth work (Head of Community and Culture)

The annual reduction against this indicator is partly offset by recording one off events within the indicator *SP1213ES_P_D01 - Number of participants accessing Community and Culture information sessions and cultural events*. During 2012/13 indicator *SP1213ES_P_D01 - Number of participants accessing Community and Culture information sessions and cultural events* quarterly figures increased steadily. During 2011/12 , there were a number of high profile events which attracted a large youth audience. The Scottish Youth Parliament Sitting and Right Blether events were included in the previous years reports under the indicator - *Number of participants accessing community and culture youth programmes - youth work*. Similar events are now covered under indicator *SP1213ES_P_D01 Number of participants accessing Community and Culture information sessions and cultural events*. and provide a challenge for the service in meeting and maintaining its targets within a challenging financial climate .

- 2.23 Further detail on progress and a detailed analysis on performance indicators will be reported to Cabinet in the SOA Annual Report 12/13 on the 24 September 2013.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That the Cabinet agrees to (a) note the progress made in implementing the three Action Plans for the Council Plan, Performance Management Strategy and SOA; and (b) refer the Report to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee for its consideration.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 This report links to all of the SOA priorities and to all four of the Council's core objectives

Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 There are no community benefit implications.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The Extended Corporate Management Team has considered this report.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 By 31 March 2013, 96% of actions in the Council Plan Action Plan, 93% in the Performance Management Strategy Action Plan and 100% of actions in the SOA Action Plan were on target.
- 6.2 More detailed progress on the Council Plan will be incorporated into the Public Performance Reporting report to Cabinet on the 24 September 2013.



ELMA MURRAY
Chief Executive

Reference :

For further information please contact Anne Todd, Policy and Performance Office on telephone number 01294 324140

Background Papers













Council Plan 2012/17

Performance Management Strategy 2012/15

Single Outcome Agreement 2012/13







Section 1 - PI Summary

Objective 1 - Regenerating our communities and increasing employment

Code & Short Name	2011/12	2012/13
	Status	Status
SOA1112_01d_001 Number of new businesses per 10,000 working age population		
SOA1112_02a_004 Dependency ratio (number of dependents per 100 working age people)		
SP1213CE_C01 Percentage of working age population in employment		
SP1213CE_C12 Number of ED clients entering employment through ED sponsored initiatives		
SP1213ES_P_E01 Number of Active volunteers who have participated in training delivered by Community and Culture		
SPI 15_F_02 The percentage of the council's housing stock up to the SHQS - Total dwellings meeting SHQS		












Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Objective 2 - Protecting Vulnerable People

Code & Short Name	2011/12	2012/13
	Status	Status
SOA1112_06d_001 Percentage of older people (aged 65+) with intensive care needs (10+ hours) receiving Care at Home		
SOA1112_08a_001 Percentage of families placed on the Child Protection register who have previously been deregistered within 12 months		
SP1213HS_P_3.2 % reduction in homeless presentations		




















Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Objective 3 - Improving Educational Attainment

Code & Short Name	2011/12	2012/13
	Status	Status
SP1213ES_P_A02 % of pupils gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 3 or better (by end of S4)		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A03 % of pupils gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 4 or better (by end of S4)		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A04 % of pupils gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better (by end of S4)		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A05 % of pupils gaining 3 or more awards at SCQF Level 6 or better (by end of S5)		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A06 Average Tariff Score – S4	Data Only	Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A07 Looked After Children: Average Tariff Score – S4	Data Only	Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A08 Percentage Attendance – Primary Schools		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A09 Percentage Attendance – Secondary Schools		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A10 Exclusion Incidents per 1000 pupils – Primary Schools		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A11 Exclusion Incidents per 1000 pupils – Secondary Schools		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A14 % school leavers into Employment, Education or Training		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A15 % of young people choosing to stay onto S5 (Jan S5 roll), as % of S4 roll at September previous year		

Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4




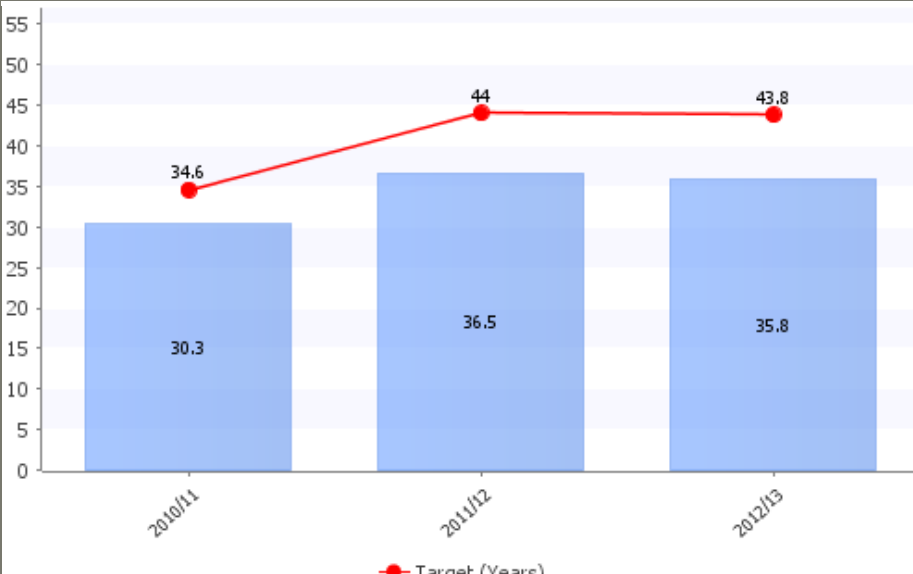









Objective 4 - Operating More Efficiently and Effectively

Code & Short Name	2011/12	2012/13
	Status	Status
CP1213_C04_01 Level of unearmarked reserves as a percentage of revenue budget		Data not available
CP1213_C04_08a Capital Expenditure: General Services - Actual expenditure as a percentage of budgeted expenditure		Data not available
CP1213_C04_08b Capital Expenditure: Housing Revenue Account - Actual expenditure as a percentage of budgeted expenditure		Data not available
KPI_F&I_ID_001 Overall carbon emissions (tonnes)		
SP1213FI_P_E03 Percentage of Council Tax collected in year		
SP1213FI_P_E11 To achieve improved performance through the Procurement Capability Assessment (%)		
SP1213FI_P_E42 The proportion of operational accommodation that is suitable for current use		
SPI 01_A_03 The average number of days lost through sickness: teachers		
SPI 01_B_03 The average number of days lost through sickness: all staff (excluding Teachers)		
SPI 22_E Overall percentage of road network that should be considered for maintenance treatment		
SPI 24_04 Percentage of municipal waste that was recycled and composted.		




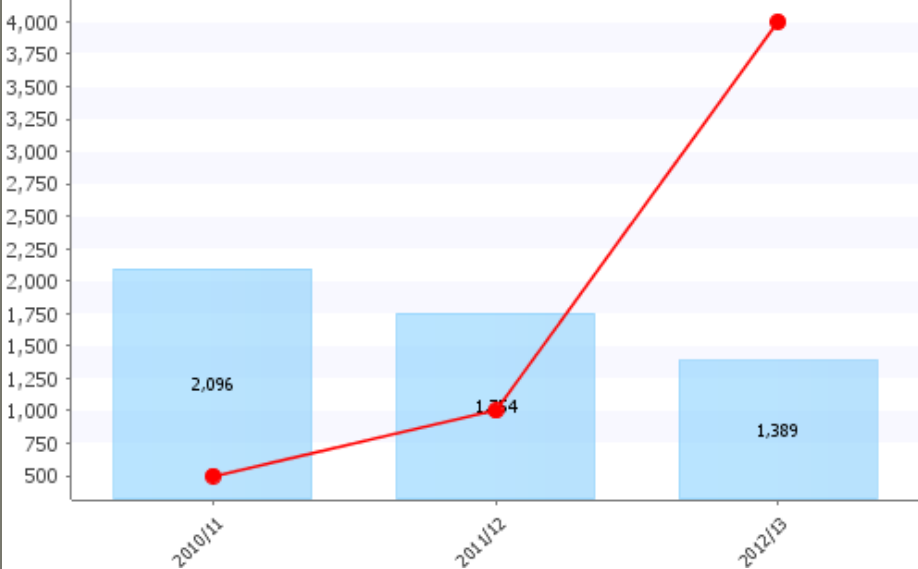









Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Section 2 - PI Detailed (Red & Amber)

Objective 1 - Regenerating our communities and increasing employment

Traffic Light																					
Red			2																		
Number of new businesses per 10,000 working age population				Status																	
Short Term Trend Arrow		Long Term Trend Arrow		Gauge Format Type	Aim to Maximise																
 <p style="text-align: center;">● Target (Years)</p>				<table><tr><th></th><th>Value</th><th>Target</th><th>Status</th></tr><tr><td>2010/11</td><td>30.3</td><td>34.6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2011/12</td><td>36.5</td><td>44</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2012/13</td><td>33</td><td>43.8</td><td></td></tr></table>			Value	Target	Status	2010/11	30.3	34.6		2011/12	36.5	44		2012/13	33	43.8	
	Value	Target	Status																		
2010/11	30.3	34.6																			
2011/12	36.5	44																			
2012/13	33	43.8																			
2012/13 - Quarter Four Update <p>This is a key indicator as part of the Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy to encourage new businesses into North Ayrshire. The main purpose of this figure is to provide an estimate of North Ayrshire's business stock per 10,000 of the working age population. This indicator is measured to capture entrepreneurship in terms of the propensity to start a new business and can be used as a baseline from which to assess change in entrepreneurship levels and compare with other areas. Information will be collated from Business Register and Employment Survey and The Committee of Scottish Bankers.</p> <p>The 2012/13 figure totals 33. This performance is significantly below the target of 43.8. Gaining access to funding is difficult for new businesses with little or no track record and consumer confidence is relatively low. The current economic climate means trading conditions remain difficult for new businesses. The North Ayrshire Business Development Team continues to deliver a range of supports to businesses including promoting and assisting with business start-ups. The Regeneration Board looked at how we should help businesses grow through inward investment, helping existing businesses grow and increasing the rate of start-up and these recommendations are now being implemented.</p>																					
Managed By	Karen Yeomans		Assigned To	Steve Morley; Angus O'Henley																	

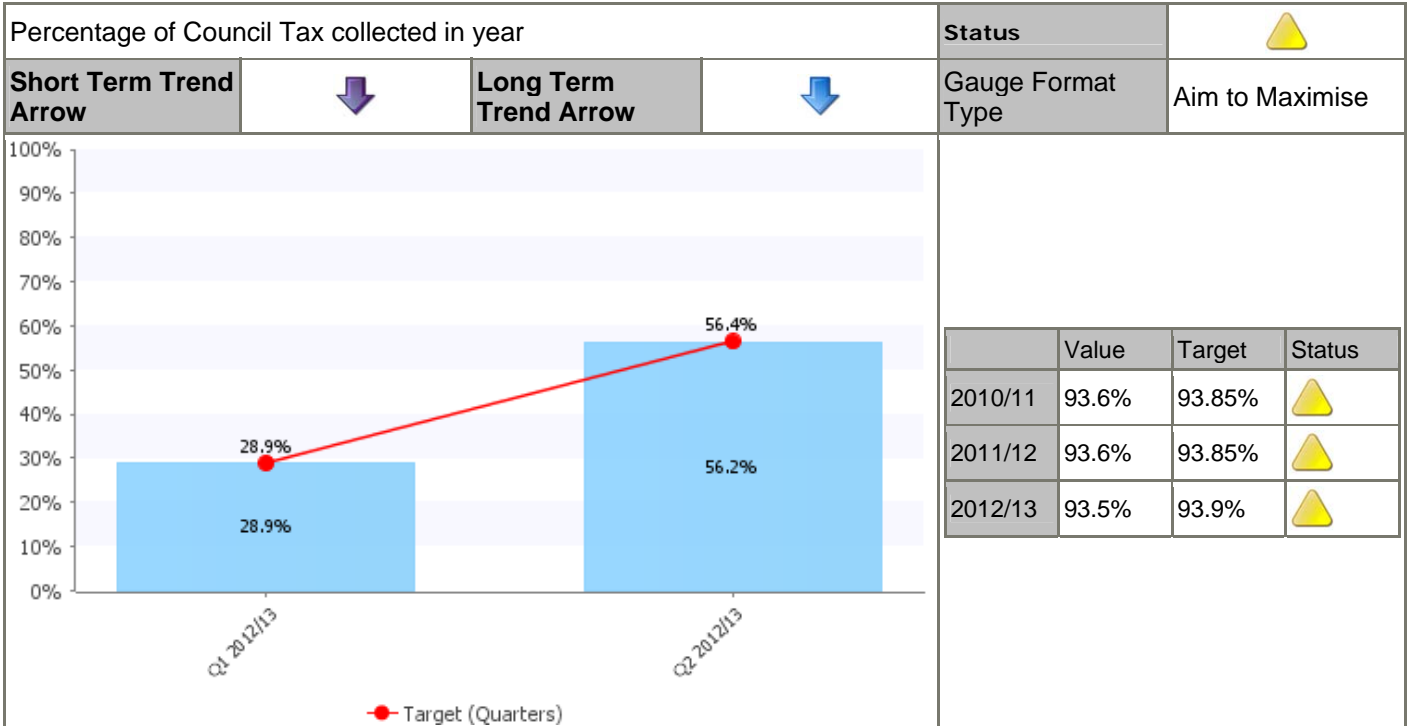
Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Number of Active volunteers who have participated in training delivered by Community and Culture				Status																	
Short Term Trend Arrow		Long Term Trend Arrow		Gauge Format Type	Aim to Maximise																
				<table><tr><th></th><th>Value</th><th>Target</th><th>Status</th></tr><tr><td>2010/11</td><td>2,096</td><td>500</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2011/12</td><td>1,754</td><td>1,000</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2012/13</td><td>1,389</td><td>4,000</td><td></td></tr></table>			Value	Target	Status	2010/11	2,096	500		2011/12	1,754	1,000		2012/13	1,389	4,000	
	Value	Target	Status																		
2010/11	2,096	500																			
2011/12	1,754	1,000																			
2012/13	1,389	4,000																			
<p>2012/13 - Quarter Four Update:</p> <p>The focus on volunteering within Community and Culture has been reviewed as part of the strategic decision making process in relation to outcomes based activities in our communities. Partly as a result of the Scottish Government Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill, there is in increased interest on the part of groups within the community to access training from Community and Culture to develop themes which are of interest to the wider community. This includes community associations, sports and cultural interest groups.</p> <p>The focus on this work, and the increasing number of volunteers receiving support from Community and Culture in group settings, as reported in a separate indicator, is a more effective means of supporting a broader range of people within communities.</p> <p>Individual volunteers are trained and supported where appropriate but, in future, targets have been designed to reflect increased participation in groups rather than on an individual basis. In addition, the Council is encouraging and supporting partner organisations to deliver training for volunteers, which is a more effective model in terms both of reaching a greater number of people and in delivering a more in-depth level of training and experience, but which also reduces the amount of direct delivery of training by Community and Culture. We are currently encouraging partner organisations to report via Covalent to provide a better reflection of the amount of activity undertaken in this area</p>																					
Managed By	John McKnight; Audrey Sutton			Assigned To	Alison McAllister; John McKnight; Audrey Sutton																

Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Objective 4 - Operating More Efficiently and Effectively

Traffic Light	
Red	3
Amber	2




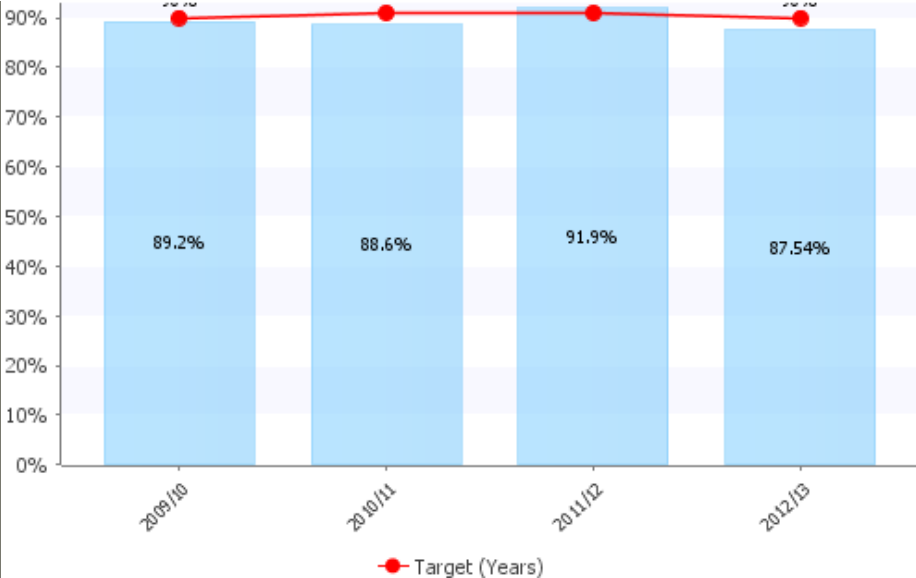











2012/13 - Quarter Four Update




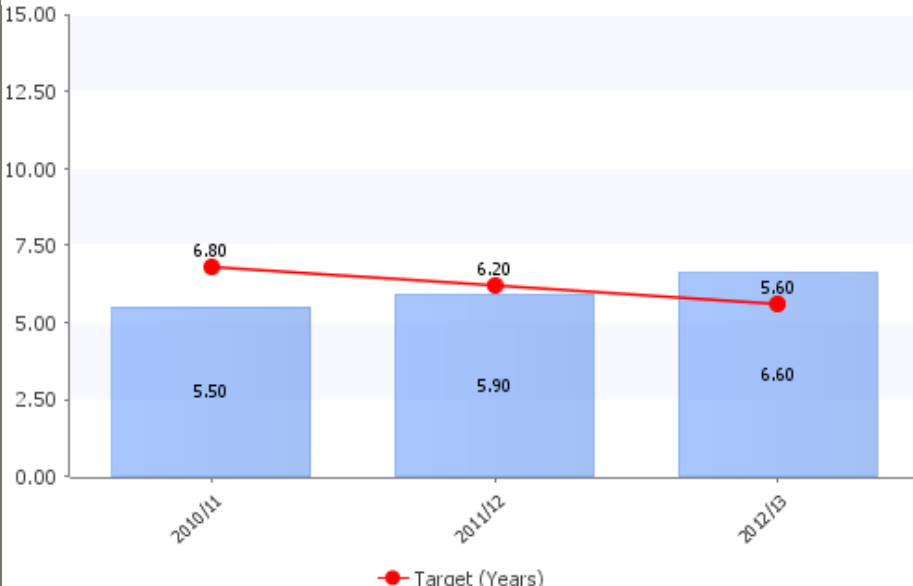









The council tax in year collection figure was 93.5%, a reduction of 0.1% compared to last year and short of the 93.9% target. All recovery action was run on time and debt passed to the sheriff officer as quickly as possible. The sheriff officer reported that customers are paying, but paying more slowly and this is affecting the in-year collections. Over the life of the debt the overall collections are still expected to exceed the target of 96.5% (bad debt provision of 3.5%). Benchmarking has commenced with Clackmannanshire, West Dunbartonshire and Renfrewshire Councils to identify actions that will improve the collection performance of the council and good practice. A report on the benchmarking findings is due in October 2013.

Managed By	Yvonne Baulk	Assigned To	Moira Follan
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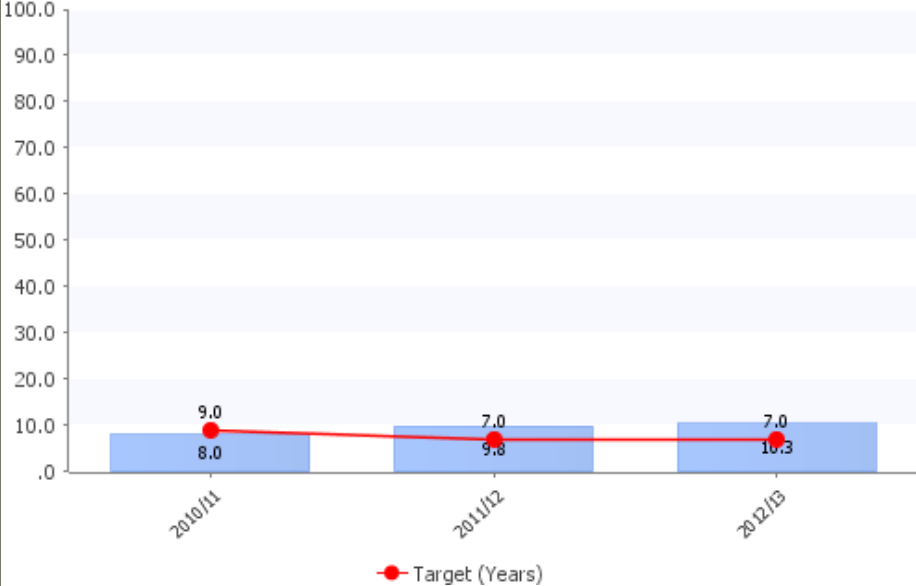









Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

The proportion of operational accommodation that is suitable for current use				Status																	
Short Term Trend Arrow		Long Term Trend Arrow		Gauge Format Type	Aim to Maximise																
 <p style="text-align: center;">● Target (Years)</p>				<table><tr><th></th><th>Value</th><th>Target</th><th>Status</th></tr><tr><td>2010/11</td><td>88.6%</td><td>91%</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2011/12</td><td>91.9%</td><td>91%</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2012/13</td><td>87.54%</td><td>90%</td><td></td></tr></table>			Value	Target	Status	2010/11	88.6%	91%		2011/12	91.9%	91%		2012/13	87.54%	90%	
	Value	Target	Status																		
2010/11	88.6%	91%																			
2011/12	91.9%	91%																			
2012/13	87.54%	90%																			
2012/13 - Quarter Four Update Suitability - New suitability questionnaires have been prepared this year which include a section on DDA and accessibility from the Service users' perspective. Questionnaires were completed by service departments/building key holders and their perception of suitability was taken into account. Additional questions on the use and sufficiency of the property were also included. This has resulted in a slight decrease in buildings suitable for current use, although it is anticipated that this can be addressed over the next 5 years by working with the Service users to resolve issues that have been identified through the introduction of the new questionnaires																					
Managed By	Yvonne Baulk			Assigned To	Tom Burns																

Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

1a) The average number of working days per employee lost through sickness absence for: b) teachers				Status																	
Short Term Trend Arrow		Long Term Trend Arrow		Gauge Format Type	Aim to Minimise																
 <p style="text-align: center;">● Target (Years)</p>				<table><tr><th></th><th>Value</th><th>Target</th><th>Status</th></tr><tr><td>2010/11</td><td>5.50</td><td>6.80</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2011/12</td><td>5.90</td><td>6.20</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2012/13</td><td>6.60</td><td>5.60</td><td></td></tr></table>			Value	Target	Status	2010/11	5.50	6.80		2011/12	5.90	6.20		2012/13	6.60	5.60	
	Value	Target	Status																		
2010/11	5.50	6.80																			
2011/12	5.90	6.20																			
2012/13	6.60	5.60																			
2012/13 - Quarter Four Update <p>The total days lost for the full year 2012/13 was 6.6 days per teacher compared to 5.9 days for 2011/12 and 5.5 days for 2010/11. The SPI outcome for all Scottish local authorities for 2012/13 will not be available until later in the year, however, the Council was at the top of the second quartile of all outcomes for 2011/12 having dropped from being in the top quartile for 2010/11. It is anticipated that due to the increase this year that the Council may drop to the third quartile for 2012/13 (based on the assumption that all other Councils outcomes remain as for 2011/12). Sickness absence continues to be closely monitored and managed in accordance with the Maximising Attendance Policy and Procedures, and this, coupled with support through Occupational Health referral, is expected to reduce sickness absence levels going forward. In addition, a review of the Maximising Attendance Policy and Procedures is currently in progress and a report will be submitted to the Corporate Management Team in due course (the date for report submission is not yet finalised).</p>																					
Managed By	Gavin MacGregor			Assigned To	Lorraine Crum; Gillian Park																

Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

1b) The average number of working days per employee lost through sickness absence for: a) local government employees and craft workers				Status																	
Short Term Trend Arrow		Long Term Trend Arrow		Gauge Format Type	Aim to Minimise																
 <p style="text-align: center;">● Target (Years)</p>				<table><tr><th></th><th>Value</th><th>Target</th><th>Status</th></tr><tr><td>2010/11</td><td>8.0</td><td>9.0</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2011/12</td><td>9.8</td><td>7.0</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2012/13</td><td>10.3</td><td>7.0</td><td></td></tr></table>			Value	Target	Status	2010/11	8.0	9.0		2011/12	9.8	7.0		2012/13	10.3	7.0	
	Value	Target	Status																		
2010/11	8.0	9.0																			
2011/12	9.8	7.0																			
2012/13	10.3	7.0																			
2012/13 - Quarter Four Update The total average days lost for the full year 2012/13 was 10.3 days compared to 9.8 days for 2011/12 and 8.0 days for 2010/11. The SPI outcome for all Scottish local authorities for 2012/13 will not be available until later in the year, however, the Council was at the top of the second quartile of all outcomes for 2011/12 having dropped from being the best performing Council in 2010/11. It is anticipated that the Council may drop to the third quartile for 2012/13 (based on the assumption that all other Councils outcomes remain as for 2011/12). Sickness absence continues to be closely monitored and managed in accordance with the Maximising Attendance Policy and Procedures, and this, coupled with support through Occupational Health referral, is expected to reduce sickness absence levels going forward. In addition, a review of the Maximising Attendance Policy and Procedures is currently in progress and a report will be submitted to the Corporate Management Team in due course (the date for report submission is not yet finalised).																					
Managed By	Gavin MacGregor		Assigned To	Lorraine Crum; Gillian Park																	




Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Section 3 - Action Summary

Objective 1 - Regenerating our communities and increasing employment

Expected Outcome	
On Target / Complete	12














Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
CP1213_1.02	Deliver North Ayrshire Employability Programmes	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
CP1213_1.03	Support development of Enterprise Area in Irvine to create high quality jobs	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
CP1213_1.04	Deliver the expanded Modern Apprenticeship programme	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
CP1213_1.07	Implement the Local Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2011/16	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
CP1213_1.11	Develop a 10 year Road Investment Strategy for the road network	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
CP1213_1.12	Continue to implement the Local Transport Strategy to improve accessibility and connectivity	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213CE_C01	Implement the Council's Economic & Regeneration Strategy	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213CE_C16	Deliver a coordinated approach to develop and create distinctive and vibrant town centres	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213ES_A_D03	Develop and deliver "softer" core skills programmes to enhance employability	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213ES_E_E03	Encourage the adoption of an asset based community development approach	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213ES_E_E04	Develop and enhance individual and community capacity	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213HS_AC_1.2	Ensure the Council house building project at Redstone Avenue, Kilwinning & Copeland Crescent, Millport are completed on time and within budget	<div><div>100%</div></div>	




Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4







Objective 2 - Protecting Vulnerable People




Expected Outcome	
On Target / Complete	18
Slightly Adrift of Target	1

Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
CP1213_2.02	Implement early years intervention and prevention programme	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
CP1213_2.09	Implement Employee Health Improvement Programme	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
CP1213_2.10	Implement the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy and Action Plan 2012-13	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
CP1213_2.13	Develop the personalisation model across Mental Health, Learning Disability, Independent Living Services, and Children with a disability	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
CP1213_2.17	Take action to prevent homelessness and reduce homeless presentations	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
CP1213_2.18	Ensure all unintentionally homeless people have access to permanent housing	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213CE_B03	Implement the Single Equality Action Plan 2012/13	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213ES_A_B02	Carry out a review of Early Years provision	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213ES_A_C01	Implement the national physical activity guidelines for early years and children and young people via the Play Strategy	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213ES_A_C02	Deliver the North Ayrshire Fit for the Future 2010-15 Strategy outcomes	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213FI_A_D01	Implement new Road Safety Plan 2011-2014 in line with Scotland's Road Safety Framework	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213HS_AC_1.5	Launch and implement the new North Ayrshire Older Person Housing Strategy	<div><div>90%</div></div>	
SP1213LP_A_C02	Implement an improvement scheme for the existing provision for outdoor access within Council ownership including path networks, parks and open space.	<div><div>100%</div></div>	

Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4




Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
SP1213SS_A_A07	Support more vulnerable people in their own homes by providing effective Telecare solutions which minimise risk and promote independence	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213SS_A_B01	Increase the availability of foster placements for children needing to be 'Looked After'	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213SS_A_B05	Develop an inter-agency network of Family Support Workers in partnership with Health, Education Services and Housing Services to work directly with vulnerable families to improve early childhood experiences	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213SS_A_B07	Establish a 'Mentoring Project' and provide a pro-social modelling approach to enhance vulnerable children's involvement in mainstream activities within their communities.	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213SS_A_C03	Establish North Ayrshire multi-agency Domestic Violence Team (DVT) and monitor the impact of the new service arrangements.	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213SS_A_D07	Implement a strategy for the delivery of financial related advice services throughout North Ayrshire	<div><div>100%</div></div>	




Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Objective 3 - Improving Educational Attainment

Expected Outcome	
On Target / Complete	2
Slightly Adrift of Target	1

Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
SP1213ES_A_A01	Continue to Implement Curriculum for Excellence	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #42a5f5; border: 1px solid black; text-align: right; padding: 2px;">100%</div>	
SP1213ES_A_A03	Improve attainment of pupils across all age groups	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #42a5f5; border: 1px solid black; text-align: right; padding: 2px;">100%</div>	
SP1213ES_A_A07	To further build on the capacity of schools to support leavers make effective transitions into positive, sustained post-school destinations	<div style="width: 80%; background-color: #42a5f5; border: 1px solid black; text-align: right; padding: 2px;">80%</div>	

Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Objective 4 - Operating More Efficiently and Effectively


Expected Outcome	
On Target / Complete	12
Slightly Adrift of Target	2




Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
CP1213_4.01	Develop new rent setting policy for Council Housing	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●
CP1213_4.02	Develop a Vision of a sustainable North Ayrshire and review Environmental Policy and monitoring framework to ensure sustainability	<div><div style="width: 82%;">82%</div></div>	●
CP1213_4.06	Implement the 're-vitalise and re-brand' improvement programme for Building Services	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●
SP1213CE_A04	Develop and implement a long term change programme to match with future funding gap, service demand projections and align with national public service reform agenda	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●
SP1213CE_A05	Drive implementation of the Performance Management Strategy 2012-14 and Action Plan	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●
SP1213CE_A07	Implement Communications Strategy	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●
SP1213CE_A09	Lead on implementation of Maximising Attendance policy and support services to achieve their agreed 2012/13 attendance at work targets.	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●
SP1213CE_B01	Progress the Organisational Development Strategy (ODS)	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●
SP1213CS_D1	Implement Customer Service Strategy	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●
SP1213FI_A_E03	Progress the Council's interim financial strategy	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●
SP1213FI_A_E06	The Welfare Reform Group to identify and assess the implications of each reform prior to implementation	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●
SP1213FI_A_E19	Implement 'transport hub' concept	<div><div style="width: 90%;">90%</div></div>	●
SP1213FI_A_F01	Implement actions arising from Waste Strategy	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●
SP1213IT_D01	Implement Information and Communication Technology Strategy and Action Plan	<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	●

Expected Outcome Key	●	On Target / Complete	⚠	Slightly Adrift of Target	✖	Significantly Adrift of Target
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Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Section 4 - Action Detailed (Red & Amber)

2 - Protecting Vulnerable People							
Expected Outcome							
Slightly Adrift of Target				1			
Parent Action							
Code	Description	Expected Outcome	% Progress	Latest Note	Due Date	Managed By	Assigned To
SP1213HS_AC_1.5	Launch and implement the new North Ayrshire Older Person Housing Strategy		<div><div>90%</div></div>	2012/13 - Quarter Four Update The Older persons Housing Strategy was originally scheduled for completion and launch in October 2012. This was delayed pending the recruitment of the new Older Persons Team. The strategy is now scheduled to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval May/June 2013.	31-Mar-2013	Olga Clayton	Alex Adrain


Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Council Plan 2012/13 – Quarter 4

3 - Improving Educational Attainment

Expected Outcome	
Slightly Adrift of Target	1







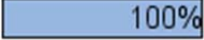

Parent Action




Code	Description	Expected Outcome	% Progress	Latest Note	Due Date	Managed By	Assigned To
SP1213ES_A_A07	To further build on the capacity of schools to support leavers make effective transitions into positive, sustained post-school destinations		<div><div style="width: 80%;">80%</div></div>	2012/13 - Quarter Four Update: The follow up measure of school leavers for year 2011/2012 shows an increase in positive destinations of 0.2%, up to 89.9%. Within the overall measure, young people in employment has increased from 17.6% to 20.7% and there has been a decline in those "unemployed seeking" from 8.7% to 7.9%. Although the increase of 0.2% in the overall measure is modest statistically, it is significant in the overall context of youth unemployment numbers in North Ayrshire which have previously shown that sustaining initial positive destinations has been a challenge and is the reversal of a trend where the follow up figure have shown a decrease in positive destinations	31-Mar-2013	Mary Docherty	Laura Cook

Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Objective 1. Leadership and Vision for North Ayrshire

Expected Outcome	
On Target / Complete	4








Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
PM1213_1.2	Develop and implement a new vision and Council Plan 12-17	 100%	
SP1213CE_A04	Develop and implement a long term change programme to match with future funding gap, service demand projections and align with national public service reform agenda	 100%	
SP1213CE_A06	Review the North Ayrshire Community Planning partnership to ensure it is at the centre of public service reform	 100%	
SP1213CE_A06b	Develop and implement the Single Outcome Agreement 2013/17 (SOA) with a stronger focus	 100%	




Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Performance Management Strategy 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Objective 2. Developing capacity for improvement

Expected Outcome	
On Target / Complete	7

Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
PM1213_2.3	Continue to implement High Impact Leadership programme for ECMT	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
PM1213_2.4	Continue to implement leadership / management development programmes for other staff	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
PM1213_2.5	Implement Performance and Personal Development (PPD) strategy	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
PM1213_2.6	Implement e-Learning strategy	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
PM1213_2.7	Implement Council wide mentoring programme	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213CE_A03	Develop and implement an Elected Member Induction and Development Programme	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213CE_A03a	Complete Elected Members Induction post 2012 election	<div><div>100%</div></div>	

Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Performance Management Strategy 2012/13 – Quarter 4



Objective 3. Embedding performance management and continuous improvement




Expected Outcome			
On Target / Complete		3	
Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
PM1213_3.1	Implement updated self assessment strategy	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #42a5f5; text-align: center;">100%</div>	●
PM1213_3.2	Seek “Committed to Excellence” award (Council-wide)	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #42a5f5; text-align: center;">100%</div>	●
PM1213_3.3	Seek “Recognised for Excellence” award (Housing Services)	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #42a5f5; text-align: center;">100%</div>	●

Expected Outcome Key	●	On Target / Complete	▲	Slightly Adrift of Target	✖	Significantly Adrift of Target
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Performance Management Strategy 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Objective 4. Identifying and implementing best practice




Expected Outcome			
On Target / Complete		2	
Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
PM1213_4.1	Undertake SOLACE benchmarking exercises	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
PM1213_4.2	Share good practice and learning across the Council	<div><div>100%</div></div>	




Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Performance Management Strategy 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Objective 5. Acknowledging and celebrating success




Expected Outcome	
On Target / Complete	2
Slightly Adrift of Target	1




Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
PM1213_5.2	Promote and support CoSLA Excellence awards	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
PM1213_5.3	Promote and support MJ Local Government Awards	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213CE_B01b	Implement employee recognition scheme - North Ayrshire Achieves	<div><div>100%</div></div>	

Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Performance Management Strategy 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Objective 6. Developing performance management systems



Expected Outcome			
On Target / Complete		3	
Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
PM1213_6.1	Support Services to implement their operational plans on Covalent	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
PM1213_6.2	Drive the Covalent Development Group to meet demand from Services to use Covalent	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
PM1213_6.3	Deliver Covalent training programme	<div><div>100%</div></div>	




Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Performance Management Strategy 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Objective 7. Public performance reporting


Expected Outcome	
On Target / Complete	2




Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
PM1213_7.1	Support Services to fulfil the Council's Public Performance Reporting obligations by providing a balanced picture of performance	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
PM1213_7.2	Develop and implement Reducing Burdens Portal	<div><div>100%</div></div>	

Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Performance Management Strategy 2012/13 – Quarter 4


Objective 8. Engaging staff




Expected Outcome			
On Target / Complete		1	
Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
SP1213CE_B01a	Complete first Council-wide employee engagement survey and develop action plan from findings by 31 October 2012	<div><div>100%</div></div>	

Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Performance Management Strategy 2012/13 – Quarter 4

Objective 8. Engaging staff; 9. Engaging communities




Expected Outcome			
On Target / Complete		1	
Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
SP1213CE_A07	Implement Communications Strategy	<div><div>100%</div></div>	




Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Performance Management Strategy 2012/13 – Quarter 4


Objective 9. Engaging communities


Expected Outcome	
On Target / Complete	2
Slightly Adrift of Target	1




Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
PM1213_9.2	Conduct People's Panel survey and develop action plan from findings	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
PM1213_9.4	Implement and deliver the Community Engagement Strategy incorporating the straight talking vehicle	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213CE_A07b	Household Survey completed to inform new Administration's first budget	<div><div>100%</div></div>	

Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Performance Management Strategy 2012/13 – Quarter 4
























Parent Action							
Code	Description	Expected Outcome	% Progress	Latest Note	Due Date	Managed By	Assigned To
PM1213_5.3	Promote and support MJ Local Government Awards		<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	2012/13 - Quarter Four Although no Services made submissions for the 2013 awards additional work is being undertaken with Services to encourage the use of the MJ Awards to recognise innovation and promote the good work being done within the Council by staff.	28-Feb-2013	Andrew Fraser	Steve Cloete

Parent Action							
Code	Description	Expected Outcome	% Progress	Latest Note	Due Date	Managed By	Assigned To
SP1213CE_A07b	Household Survey completed to inform new Administration's first budget		<div><div style="width: 100%;">100%</div></div>	2012/13 - Quarter Four Update A re-evaluation of the possible approaches/methods to carrying out a household survey was undertaken at the request of Cabinet. This review impacted on the delivery and implementation timescales. The survey is now underway. Results are expected Summer 2013.	30-Jun-2012	Elma Murray	Andrew Fraser
















Expected Outcome Key		On Target / Complete		Slightly Adrift of Target		Significantly Adrift of Target
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Single Outcome Agreement Action Plan 2012/13 - Section 1 - PI Summary

A Working North Ayrshire














Code & Short Name	2011/12	2012/13
	Status	Status
SOA1112_01a_001 Percentage of people in households describing public transport in North Ayrshire very/fairly convenient		
SOA1112_01b_001 Tourism visitor numbers		Data not available
SOA1112_01b_002 Tourist visitor expenditure		Data not available
SOA1112_01b_003 Numbers employed in tourism industry		Data not available
SOA1112_01c_001 Number of new businesses per 10,000 working age population		
SOA1112_01c_002 Number of dead businesses per 10,000 working age population		Data not available
SOA1112_01c_003 Number of surviving businesses per 10,000 adult population		Data not available
SOA1112_02a_002 Percentage of working age population claiming key benefits		Data not available
SOA1112_02a_004 Dependency ratio (number of dependents per 100 working age people)		
SOA1112_03a_004 % of people who have taken part in any training/learning experience in the last 2 years		
SOA1112_03b_001 Number of young people progressing through National Training Programmes		Data not available
SOA1112_03b_003 Percentage of Economic Development clients moving into work		
SOA1112_11a_001 Percentage of respondents who volunteer or are involved in charities, clubs or organisations		
SOA1112_11a_002 Percentage of respondents who volunteer, organise or attend local community/ representative groups		
SOA1112_11a_003 Number of young people involved in youth forums and Youth Council	Data only	Data only
SP1213CE_C01 Percentage of working age population in employment		

Single Outcome Agreement 12/13 – Quarter 4















Code & Short Name	2011/12	2012/13
	Status	Status
SP1213CE_C12 Number of ED clients entering employment through ED sponsored initiatives		
SP1213ES_P_A02 % of pupils gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 3 or better (by end of S4)		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A03 % of pupils gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 4 or better (by end of S4)		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A04 % of pupils gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better (by end of S4)		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A05 % of pupils gaining 3 or more awards at SCQF Level 6 or better (by end of S5)		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_A12 Number of participants accessing Community and Culture youth programmes -Work with children		
SP1213ES_P_A13 Number of participants accessing Community and Culture youth programmes - Youth work		
SP1213ES_P_A14 % school leavers into Employment, Education or Training		Data not available
SP1213ES_P_D02 Number of adults accessing Community and Culture Adult Learning Opportunities		
SP1213ES_P_D03 Number of individual participants accessing Community and Culture Adult Literacy Programmes		
SPI 10_A_03 Total population of North Ayrshire	Data only	Data only

Single Outcome Agreement 12/13 – Quarter 4

A Healthy and Action North Ayrshire


















Code & Short Name	2011/12	2012/13
	Status	Status
SOA1112_05a_001 Proportion of pre-school centres receiving positive inspection reports		Data not available
SOA1112_06a_001 Percentage of children with dental cavities in Primary 1	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06a_004 Percentage of children exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks review	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06a_005 Percentage of children in Primary 1 receiving a review who are obese	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06a_006 Rate of suicide per 100,000 population	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06b_001 Estimated average male life expectancy at birth in years in North Ayrshire	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06b_002 Estimated average female life expectancy at birth in years in North Ayrshire	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06b_003 % of people rating their general health as very or fairly good (Regen Areas)		
SOA1112_06b_004 % of people rating their general health as very or fairly good (outwith Regen Areas)		
SOA1112_06b_005 Mental health and well-being scores on WEMHWBS in regeneration areas of North Ayrshire		
SOA1112_06b_006 Mental health and well-being scores on WEMHWBS outwith regeneration areas of North Ayrshire		
SOA1112_06b_007 Age standardised mortality rates (directly standardised) per 100, 000 population in under 75 age group from coronary heart disease in regeneration areas of North Ayrshire	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06b_008 Age standardised mortality rates (directly standardised) per 100, 000 population in under 75 age group from coronary heart disease outwith regeneration areas of North Ayrshire	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06b_009 Age standardised mortality rates under 75s for cancer in regeneration areas per 100, 000 population	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06b_010 Age standardised mortality rates under 75s for cancer outwith regeneration areas per 100, 000 population	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06b_011 Rate of pregnancies among under 16 year olds per1,000 relevant population	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06b_012 Smoking prevalence	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06c_001 Number of people being assessed for alcohol and drugs misuse		
SOA1112_06c_002 Number of substance misusers accessing treatment and care service		

Single Outcome Agreement 12/13 – Quarter 4

Code & Short Name	2011/12	2012/13
	Status	Status
SOA1112_06c_003 Deaths per 100,000 population from alcohol related diseases.	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06c_004 Number of alcohol related and attributable hospital patients	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06c_005 Number of drug related and attributable hospital patients	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06c_006 Percentage of people very and fairly concerned about people using or dealing drugs in their neighbourhood		
SOA1112_06d_001 Percentage of older people (aged 65+) with intensive care needs (10+ hours) receiving Care at Home		
SOA1112_06d_002a Number of patients waiting more than four weeks for appropriate discharge		
SOA1112_06d_003a Number of emergency admissions of over 75 years population per 1000	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_06d_004a Length of stay for emergency admissions of over 75 years population per 1000	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_07b_002 Proportion of children living in households dependent on out of work benefits or child tax credits	Data not available	Data not available
SOA1112_08a_001 Percentage of families placed on the Child Protection register who have previously been deregistered within 12 months		
SOA1112_08a_002 Staff trained in Solihull Approach	Data only	Data only
SOA1112_06d_001Percentage of older people aged 65+ with intensive care needs (plus 10 hours) receiving care at home as a percentage of older people receiving long-term care		
SOA1213_06e_001 Number of attendances to all local authority supported pools (per 1000)		
SOA1213_06e_002 Number of attendances per 1000 for other local authority indoor sports & leisure facilities		

Single Outcome Agreement 12/13 – Quarter 4

A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire




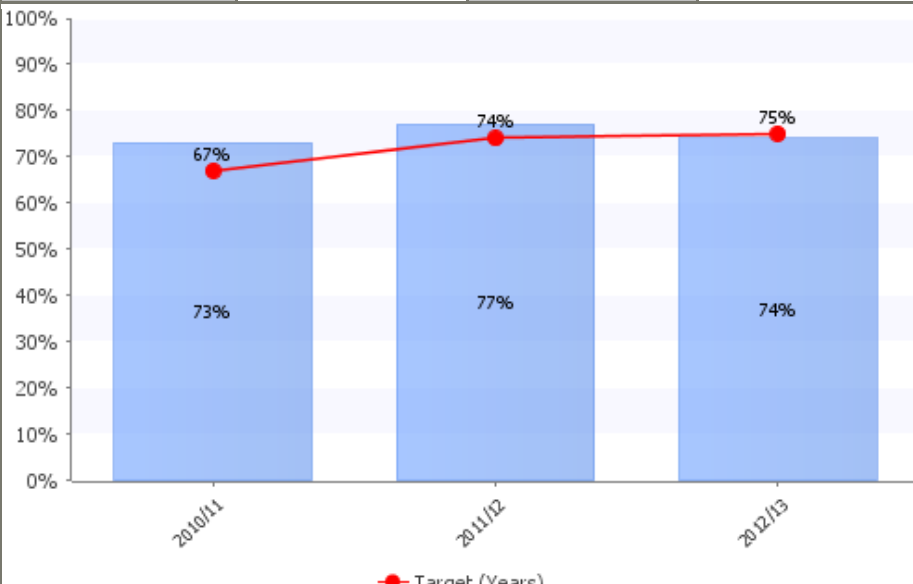









Code & Short Name	2011/12	2012/13
	Status	Status
SOA1112_09a_001 Percentage residents within North Ayrshire who feel unsafe walking in their neighbourhood after dark		
SOA1112_09b_001 Crimes of serious violence (per 10,000 population)		Data not available
SOA1112_09b_002 Common assault offences (per 10,000 population)		Data not available
SOA1112_09b_003 Detections for Drug Supply (per 10,000 population)		Data not available
SOA1112_09b_004 Detection rate for Domestic Abuse (per 10,000 population)		Data not available
SOA1112_09b_005 Street Drinking -Public reported incidences of street drinking per 10 000		Data not available
SOA1112_09c_004 Number of road accidents involving young drivers (<25years)	Data only	Data only
SOA1112_09d_001 Number of fire related fatalities (domestic premises)		
SOA1112_09d_002 Number of fire related casualties		
SOA1112_09d_003 Number of dwelling fires		
SOA1112_09d_004 Number of deliberate property fires		
SOA1112_09d_005 Number of secondary fires		
SOA1213_09b_006 Number of public reported incidents for anti-social behaviour	Data only	Data only
SOA1213_09b_009 Reconviction frequency rate	Data only	Data only
SP1213FI_P_D01 Number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents	Data only	Data only
SP1213FI_P_D02 Number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents	Data only	Data only
SP1213FI_P_D03 Number of people slightly injured in road accidents	Data only	Data only
SP1213HS_P_2.2 Number of antisocial behaviour complaints (serious and persistent)		

Single Outcome Agreement 12/13 – Quarter 4




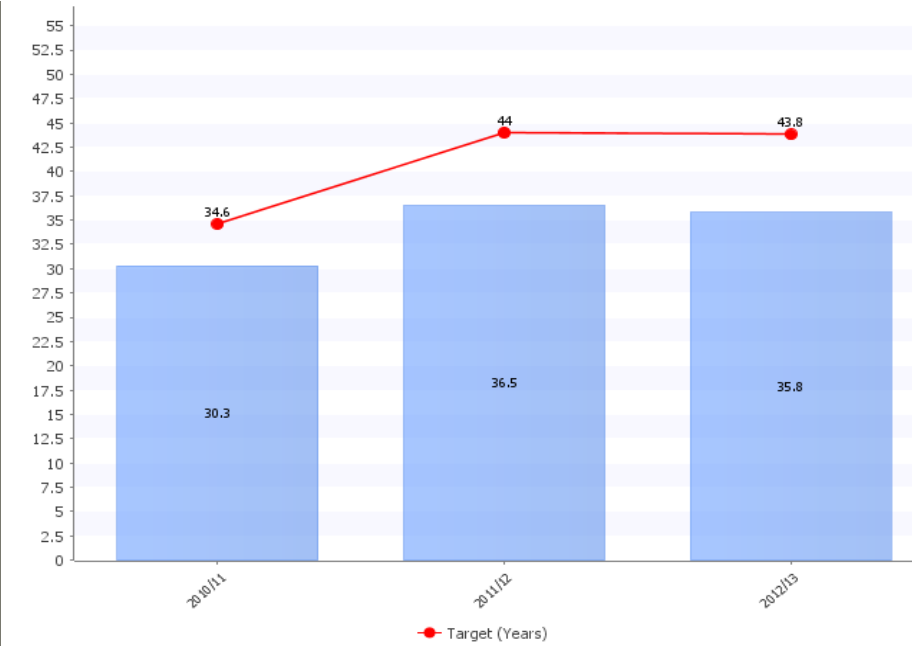









SOA 2012/13 - Section 2 - PI Detailed – Red and Amber

A Working North Ayrshire




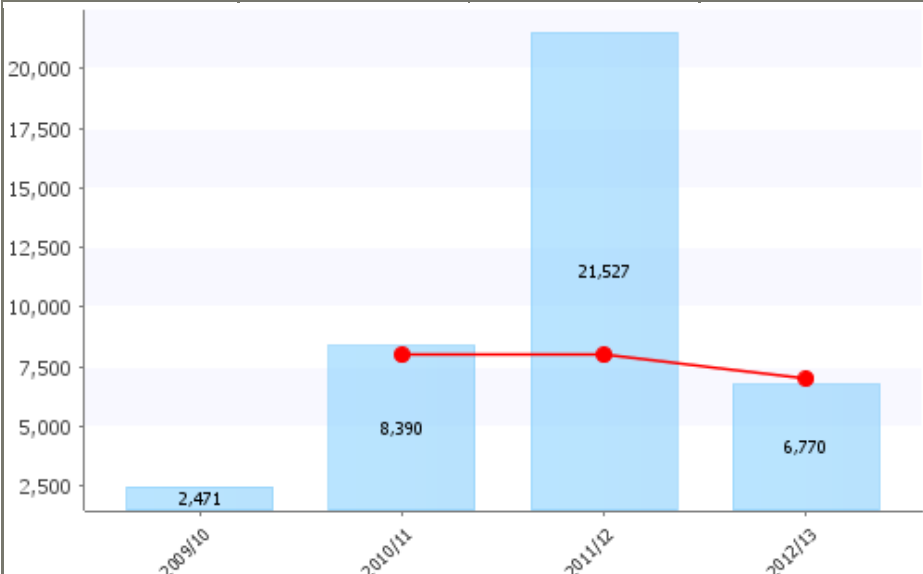









Traffic Light	
Red	1
Amber	2

Percentage of people in households describing public transport to and from North Ayrshire very or fairly convenient when travelling to places they wish to visit				Status																	
Short Term Trend Arrow		Long Term Trend Arrow		Gauge Format Type	Aim to Maximise																
 <p>100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0%</p> <p>2010/11 2011/12 2012/13</p> <p>73% 77% 74%</p> <p>67% 74% 75%</p> <p>Target (Years)</p>				<table><tr><th></th><th>Value</th><th>Target</th><th>Status</th></tr><tr><td>2010/11</td><td>73%</td><td>67%</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2011/12</td><td>77%</td><td>74%</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2012/13</td><td>74%</td><td>75%</td><td></td></tr></table>			Value	Target	Status	2010/11	73%	67%		2011/12	77%	74%		2012/13	74%	75%	
	Value	Target	Status																		
2010/11	73%	67%																			
2011/12	77%	74%																			
2012/13	74%	75%																			
2012/13 Quarter Four Update This indicator is sourced on an annual basis from the Peoples Panel. As such it is a subjective view of the convenience of public transport to and from North Ayrshire. The 2012-13 value is 74% against a target of 75%. Performance has varied since 2005-06 but the long term trend for this indicator is improving. North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership works with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport to improve local transport facilities and networks.																					
Managed By	Morna Rae		Assigned To	Morna Rae																	

Single Outcome Agreement 12/13 – Quarter 4

Number of new businesses per 10,000 working age population				Status																	
Short Term Trend Arrow		Long Term Trend Arrow		Gauge Format Type	Aim to Maximise																
				<table><tr><td></td><td>Value</td><td>Target</td><td>Status</td></tr><tr><td>2010/11</td><td>30.3</td><td>34.6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2011/12</td><td>36.5</td><td>44</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2012/13</td><td>33</td><td>43.8</td><td></td></tr></table>			Value	Target	Status	2010/11	30.3	34.6		2011/12	36.5	44		2012/13	33	43.8	
	Value	Target	Status																		
2010/11	30.3	34.6																			
2011/12	36.5	44																			
2012/13	33	43.8																			
<p>2012/13 - Quarter Four Update</p> <p>This is a key indicator as part of the Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy to encourage new businesses into North Ayrshire. The main purpose of this figure is to provide an estimate of North Ayrshire's business stock per 10,000 of the working age population. This indicator is measured to capture entrepreneurship in terms of the propensity to start a new business and can be used as a baseline from which to assess change in entrepreneurship levels and compare with other areas. Information will be collated from Business Register and Employment Survey and The Committee of Scottish Bankers.</p> <p>The 2012/13 figure totals 33. This performance is significantly below the target of 43.8. Gaining access to funding is difficult for new businesses with little or no track record and consumer confidence is relatively low. The current economic climate means trading conditions remain difficult for new businesses. The North Ayrshire Business Development Team continues to deliver a range of supports to businesses including promoting and assisting with business start-ups. The Regeneration Board looked at how we should help businesses grow through inward investment, helping existing businesses grow and increasing the rate of start-up and these recommendations are now being implemented.</p>																					
Managed By	Karen Yeomans			Assigned To	Steve Morley; Angus O'Henley																

Single Outcome Agreement 12/13 – Quarter 4

Number of participants accessing Community and Culture youth programmes - Youth work				Status																	
Short Term Trend Arrow		Long Term Trend Arrow		Gauge Format Type	Aim to Maximise																
				<table><tr><th></th><th>Value</th><th>Target</th><th>Status</th></tr><tr><td>2010/11</td><td>8,390</td><td>8,000</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2011/12</td><td>21,527</td><td>8,000</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2012/13</td><td>6,770</td><td>7,000</td><td></td></tr></table>			Value	Target	Status	2010/11	8,390	8,000		2011/12	21,527	8,000		2012/13	6,770	7,000	
	Value	Target	Status																		
2010/11	8,390	8,000																			
2011/12	21,527	8,000																			
2012/13	6,770	7,000																			
2012/13 - Quarter Four Update <p>The annual reduction against this indicator is partly offset by recording one off events within the indicator SP1213ES_P_D01 - Number of participants accessing Community and Culture information sessions and cultural events.</p> <p>During 2012/13 indicator <i>SP1213ES_P_D01 - Number of participants accessing Community and Culture information sessions and cultural events</i> quarterly figures increased steadily. During 2011/12, there were a number of high profile events which attracted a large youth audience. The Scottish Youth Parliament Sitting and Right Blether events were included in the previous year's reports under the indicator - Number of participants accessing community and culture youth programmes - youth work. Similar events are now covered under indicator SP1213ES_P_D01 Number of participants accessing Community and Culture information sessions and cultural events, and provide a challenge for the service in meeting and maintaining its targets within a challenging financial climate.</p>																					
Managed By		Assigned To		Alison McAllister; John McKnight; Audrey Sutton																	

Single Outcome Agreement 12/13 – Quarter 4

A Healthy and Active North Ayrshire

Traffic Light

Red

1

Number of patients waiting four weeks or more for appropriate discharge

Status



Short Term Trend
Arrow

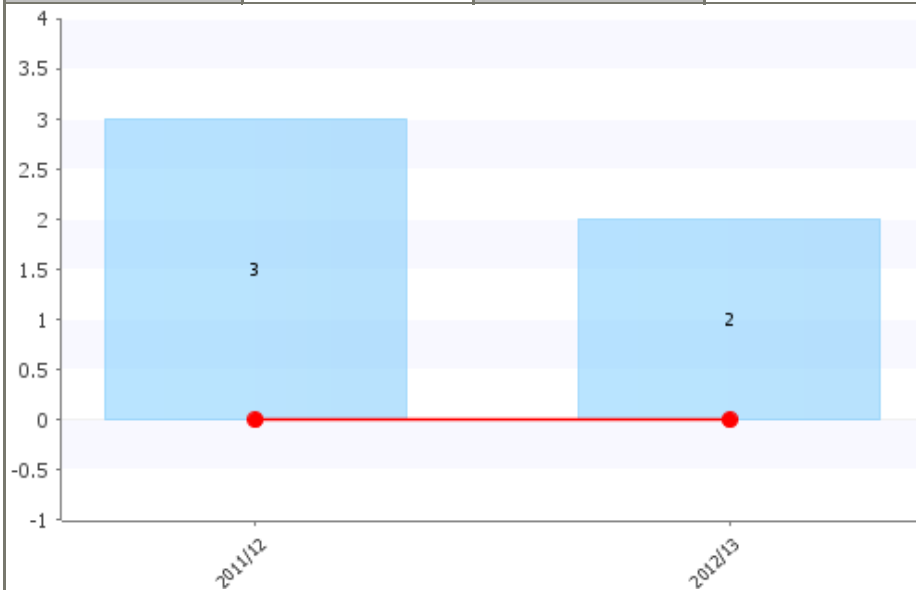


Long Term Trend
Arrow



Gauge Format
Type

Aim to Minimise



	Value	Target	Status
2010/11			
2011/12	3	0	
2012/13	2	0	

2012/13 - Quarter Four Update This figure is as per January 2013 census. The target for this indicator is 0 so when there is any deviation from this then it is significantly adrift of target. A range of services have been developed to provide additional support at home and to facilitate hospital discharge (such as Intermediate Care and Reablement Services, Telehealth care, Community Ward).

Managed By

NHS A&A

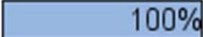















Assigned To

Single Outcome Agreement 12/13 – Quarter 4

Single Outcome Agreement 2012/13 - Section 3 - Action Summary









Expected Outcome	
On Target / Complete	27

A Working North Ayrshire

Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
CP1213_1.02	Deliver North Ayrshire Employability Programmes	 100%	
SOA1213_W3	Continue to invest in a three year programme of regeneration projects and support Irvine Bay Regeneration Company in its activities.	 100%	
SP1213CE_C01	Implement the Council's Economic & Regeneration Strategy	 100%	
SP1213CE_C10	Provide an enhanced Support for Social Enterprises	 97%	
SP1213CE_C15	Implement North Ayrshire and pan-Ayrshire Tourism Strategies	 100%	
SP1213ES_A_A01	Continue to Implement Curriculum for Excellence	 100%	
SP1213ES_A_D03	Develop and deliver "softer" core skills programmes to enhance employability	 100%	
SP1213SS_A_D07	Implement a strategy for the delivery of financial related advice services throughout North Ayrshire	 100%	

Single Outcome Agreement 12/13 – Quarter 4

A Healthy and Active North Ayrshire

Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
SOA1213_HA1	Implement the Integrated Children's Services Plan	<div><div>97%</div></div>	
SOA1213_HA2	Implement the Early Intervention Action Plan	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SOA1213_HA3	Implement Year 2 of the Change Fund - Reshaping Care for Older People and the development of the Joint Commissioning Strategy	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SOA1213_HA4	Implement Year 2 of the Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategy Plan	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213ES_A_C02	Deliver the North Ayrshire Fit for the Future 2010-15 Strategy outcomes	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213LP_A_C01	Continue to implement an improvements and signage scheme for the Core Paths Plan and wider path network.	<div><div>95%</div></div>	
SP1213LP_A_C02	Implement an improvement scheme for the existing provision for outdoor access within Council ownership including path networks, parks and open space.	<div><div>100%</div></div>	
SP1213SS_A_E03	Undertake a review of Mental Health and Learning Disability Services and consult with key stakeholder groups.-	<div><div>100%</div></div>	

Single Outcome Agreement 12/13 – Quarter 4

A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire

Code	Description	Progress	Expected Outcome
SOA1213_SS1	Deliver an asset based approach within areas targets by the Multi Agency Problem Solving Team	<div><div>100%</div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
SOA1213_SS2	Deliver the Scottish Government No Knives Better Lives Campaign throughout North Ayrshire governed by a sub group of the Safer North Ayrshire Partnership	<div><div>100%</div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
SOA1213_SS3	Develop a proposal for common boundaries in preparation for a Neighbourhood approach throughout North Ayrshire	<div><div>100%</div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
SOA1213_SS5	Implement the Anti Social Behaviour Strategy and Action Plan 2012 - 2013	<div><div>100%</div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
SOA1213_SS7	Develop closer working protocols and agreements with partners to share information regarding those member of the community most at risk from fire	<div><div>100%</div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
SOA1213_SS8	Develop local risk profiles to allow resources to be allocated to meet the areas of greatest need and demand	<div><div>100%</div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
SOA1213_SS9	Develop proposals to expand Prevention Pilot in schools to change attitudes about violence against women	<div><div>100%</div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
SOA1213_SS10	Establish Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery (CEDAR) project and associated partnership agreements	<div><div>100%</div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
SOA1213_SS11	Commission a rape crisis and counselling service to support survivors of rape and child sexual abuse	<div><div>100%</div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
SP1213FI_A_D01	Implement new Road Safety Plan 2011-2014 in line with Scotland's Road Safety Framework	<div><div>100%</div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
SP1213SS_A_C03	Establish North Ayrshire multi-agency Domestic Violence Team (DVT) and monitor the impact of the new service arrangements.	<div><div>100%</div></div>	<div><div></div></div>

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 6

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Ad Hoc Property Guardians: Former Dreghorn Primary School**

Purpose: To seek Cabinet's approval of a pilot project to address on site security of the former Dreghorn Primary School through temporary occupation.

Recommendation: Cabinet is asked to agree to (a) the proposal put forward by Ad Hoc Property Guardians to install between 5 and 7 guardians at Dreghorn Primary School; and (ii) use this as a pilot project to assess its feasibility as a security solution for suitable, unoccupied and unmarketable buildings.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Ad Hoc Property Guardians was set up approximately 20 years ago based on a business model that had proved successful in continental Europe. The company manages the security of vacant property by installing vetted guardians to live in the property and charging them a rent. The guardians occupy the property by virtue of a licence similar to a university hall of residence and can be asked to move with as little as 24 hours notice, although 14 days is the normal period of notice.
- 1.2 It is considered that this proposal represents an innovative solution to the ongoing problem of security and prevention of vandalism for certain Council properties, such as Dreghorn Primary School, which are difficult to sell in the short term.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The former Dreghorn Primary School became vacant in October 2012 and was declared surplus.
- 2.2 In Town Planning terms the property lies within an area allocated for residential land use but a number of issues result in the marketability of the property being seriously impaired. While the substantial red sandstone building fronting Main Street is not a listed building, there is a desire to retain a significant part due to its impact on the village townscape. The property market remains difficult, with depressed residential prices and development finance virtually unobtainable.

- 2.3 A working group has recently been set up with representatives from Planning, Housing, Estates and Roads to consider the future potential of the property. This group will consider development options, constraints and the requirement for more detailed development guidance to assist in marketing the property.
- 2.4 The security and integrity of the property will, therefore, remain a problem for the foreseeable future. At the current time, the Council is paying £7,000 per month on security alone. This level of expenditure cannot continue indefinitely and it is considered that entering into an agreement with Ad Hoc Property Guardians will address these issues over a defined period.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Council enters into an agreement with Ad Hoc Property Guardians for the temporary management of the former Dregghorn Primary School. The agreement will continue until terminated by either party on giving 16 days prior written notice. Should the Council require to terminate the Agreement within the first 3 months, there is no penalty fee payable to Ad Hoc as there is no management fee involved. A representative from the company has inspected the property and considers it is eminently suited to their style of operation. The Council would enter into an Authorisation Agreement with Ad Hoc. In terms of this Agreement, Ad Hoc will provide Guardian Services to the Council and the Council grants Ad Hoc permission to grant licences to occupy and also retain the licence fees. Guardian Services are defined as providing a presence in vacant property to act as a deterrent to the risks associated with vacant property.
- 3.2 Ad Hoc grants licences to occupy to previously vetted individuals. The licence states that there is no tenancy and that the premises will be shared with others. The licence runs from month to month but may be terminated in certain circumstances on 24 hours notice and otherwise on 14 days notice. The permitted use is described as the non-exclusive shared occupation by the licensee of the property for the purpose of providing Guardian Services.
- 3.3 In view of the previous use of the property, there is a good provision of toilet facilities and hot and cold water supply in each of the former classrooms. Ad Hoc would install, at their cost, demountable showers in the existing toilets at three locations, tapping into the existing water supply. Cooking facilities will be provided comparable to "Baby Belling" counter top cookers.

- 3.4 Before the hand-over to Ad Hoc, the Council will need to clear the building of rubbish and excess furniture. In addition, the Council will require to provide Ad Hoc with building security information. Ad Hoc have a list of guardians available to choose from for the purposes of occupying properties as required and have a continuous flow of interest in providing this service. The Guardians are obliged to furnish the premises with personal items including furniture and kitchen utensils to show occupancy, and to keep the premises in good order, reporting any damage or defect to Ad Hoc who in turn will report to the Council. Guardians are often shift workers to provide a continued presence within the property and Ad Hoc carry out regular inspections to ensure the premises are well maintained.
- 3.5 At termination of the Authorisation Agreement, Ad Hoc are obliged to hand back the property to the Council empty and unoccupied, having used best endeavours to terminate any licence and to evict the guardian and any trespasser from the property.
- 3.6 This is a pilot project with a specialist provider; therefore, it is not intended to go to tender as is usually required to comply with Standing Orders.
- 3.7 The company proposes that a total of between five and seven guardians could occupy the property, strategically spaced through the ground floor and consequently providing a visual presence.
- 3.8 The guardians will have been through a selection process that includes:-
- Face to face interview detailing what is expected from both sides in terms of looking after the property; and
 - Provision of employer and landlord references, photographic proof of ID, proof of current address and proof of employment.
- 3.9 All Ad Hoc Guardians come with a public liability insurance policy that covers them up to £2 million for public liability and if found liable, for damage caused to the building.
- 3.10 Negotiation with a single service provider requires Cabinet approval. Should the arrangement be successful, any further similar service will be procured under the Council's Standing Orders and competitive tenders sought.
- 3.11 In summary, the Cabinet is invited asked to agree to (a) the proposal put forward by Ad Hoc Property Guardians to install between 5 and 7 guardians at Dreghorn Primary School; and (ii) use this as a pilot project to assess its feasibility as a security solution for suitable, unoccupied and unmarketable buildings.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Council will require to supply a maximum of seven sets of keys for the property and arrange for the first floor to be isolated from the ground floor by installing locked doors at the internal stairwells. This is estimated to cost £200 per stair (2 stairs) and will be met from the Council's corporate property maintenance budget.
- 4.2 There is no charge payable by the Council to Ad Hoc for the provision of this service. Ad Hoc will retain the rental income received from the resident guardians, but will be responsible for payment of Non Domestic Rates as appropriate. With regard to repairs and maintenance, the Council will remain responsible for maintenance and major repairs.
- 4.3 All electricity, water and heating charges will remain the responsibility of the Council.
- 4.4 Through this arrangement the Council will save in the region of £80,000 in annual security costs.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.5 There are no human resource implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.6 At termination of the Agreement, Ad Hoc are required to use "best endeavours" to ensure that guardians and any trespassers are removed from the premises and has commenced and taken all reasonable steps to pursue legal action to evict any guardian failing to vacate the premises. Any such legal action would, however, be at the expense of the Council.
- 4.7 As the property lies within an area allocated for residential purposes on the Local Plan and forms part of the Town Centre, the Council's Planning Team have confirmed that they do not regard the proposed temporary use as causing any difficulty which would require a formal change of use consent.

Equality Implications

- 4.8 There are no equality implications.

Environmental Implications

- 4.9 There are no environmental implications.

Community Benefit Implications

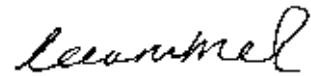
- 4.10 The primary community benefit is that the building is occupied by individuals in employment. This will provide peace of mind to neighbouring occupiers and prevent the property from potentially becoming a target for vandalism and illegal activity.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Legal Services have been consulted on the draft documentation and have advised that the proposed arrangement with Ad Hoc appears to be an acceptable legal agreement for the purpose envisaged. The proposed agreement gives the Council protection but this is not an absolute guarantee and there may be costs in enforcing the rights of the Council as outlined in paragraph 4.3 above.
- 5.2 West Lothian Council currently uses Ad Hoc to manage and protect a large former nursing home on the outskirts of Livingston. The building is listed and occupies a remote location. Officers have discussed the concept with a representative of West Lothian Council Estates Department. Their experience has been extremely positive. With people on site constantly, any maintenance issues are highlighted, immediately coupled with regular inspections by Ad Hoc personnel. They have confirmed that they will use Ad Hoc again should another suitable property become vacant.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is unlikely that the former Dregghorn Primary School will find a viable use in the short term. This leaves the Council with an ongoing security liability. Ad Hoc consider the property eminently suitable for their style of risk management and experience. Entering into an agreement with Ad Hoc will mean that the building is, in the short term, occupied and secure with a consequent positive impact on the immediate local neighbourhood. The Cabinet should note that the guardians are in employment and vetted prior to being granted licences to occupy.



LAURA FRIEL
Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference :

For further information please contact Mark Taylor, Estates Surveyor on telephone number 01294 225099.

Background Papers

None

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 7

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Update On Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Home Energy Efficiency Programme For Scotland (HEEPS)**

Purpose: To provide the Cabinet with an update on the progress that is being made in attracting ECO and HEEPS funding.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet (a) notes progress being made in attracting ECO and HEEPS funding; (b) notes the contents of the HEEPS funding bids submitted to the Scottish Government; (c) approves the appointment of British Gas as the ECO provider for projects 1, 2 and 3; and (d) delegates Authority to the Corporate Director (Finance & Corporate Support) to appoint the appropriate delivery partner for projects 4 and 5.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 26 March 2013, a report was presented to Cabinet, outlining the potential funding available via ECO and HEEPS. The report outlined the qualifying criteria for the funding and identified 3 projects that would be suitable for attracting funding. The report also provided an overview of the financial and resource challenges that successful funding bids would bring to the Council.
- 1.2 This report provides confirmation on the funding application submitted to the Scottish Government in April 2013 and advises the Cabinet of progress being made in attracting ECO and HEEPS funding.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 During the period January to May 2013, the Council has been in negotiations with the 'big six' energy providers, with a view to selecting a preferred ECO provider. The main selection criteria was based on the level of ECO funding that would be available, to part fund projects that complied with the qualifying criteria for the Scottish Government's HEEP scheme.

- 2.2 Following receipt of initial ECO funding offers from five out of the 'big six' energy companies, a significant level of competitive dialogue has now taken place, between the Council and the three energy providers who submitted the most attractive ECO funding proposals. This resulted in some revision to the projects previously presented to Cabinet and the identification of new projects.
- 2.3 The funding application was split into five distinct projects. The detail of these projects is outlined in Appendix 1, which summarises the projects as they were previously presented to Cabinet, along with the finalised submission. Appendix 1 identifies the variations associated with each project and provides explanation for these.
- 2.4 On 14 June 2013, the Council received notification from the Scottish Government, confirming HEEPS funding for 2013/14 at a level of £978,253. Under the Scottish Government's HEEPS 'core allocation' criteria, this funding award represents 100% of the HEEPS funding available to the Council.
- 2.5 Based on the cost information available, the combination of ECO and HEEPS monies being received is likely to allow delivery of projects 1, 2, 3 and 5 at nil cost to the private homeowners involved. A summary of the projects is attached as Appendix 2.
- 2.6 The Scottish Government has now confirmed that all Local Authorities must spend all HEEPS funding by 31 September 2014. An extension of six months from the original guidance.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 As the Scottish Government has confirmed the HEEPS funding at the requested level, the Council is proposing to appoint British Gas as the preferred ECO provider for projects 1, 2 and 3.
- 3.2 The Council is currently undertaking a competitive tender exercise, with a view to being in a position to appoint a contractor to undertake projects 1, 2 and 3 during late summer 2013.
- 3.3 With the funding package that has been secured, it is intended that projects 1, 2 and 3 will be delivered at nil cost to the private homeowners affected. However, in the event that this is not achievable, the Council will consult with the private homeowners in advance of any works progressing, in order to fully outline the funding shortfall and agree the reimbursement of the shortfall to the Council. In respect of projects 1 and 3, each homeowner reserves the right not to proceed with the works and may choose to exclude their property from the project.

- 3.4 Projects 4 and 5 relate to the delivery of insulation measures solely within the private tenure sector. Although offers of funding have been received from ECO providers, the Scottish Government has suggested that Local Authorities should explore the possibility of developing a delivery partnership with the Energy Agency. Discussions are ongoing with both the Energy Agency and ECO providers over these projects, with the aspiration being that the Council will progress delivery via the partner that can bring the maximum benefit to the residents of North Ayrshire.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the Cabinet (a) notes the level of ECO and HEEPS funding that the Council has secured; (b) notes the contents of the HEEPS funding bids submitted to the Scottish Government; (c) approves the appointment of British Gas as the ECO provider for projects 1, 2 and 3; and (d) delegates Authority to the Corporate Director (Finance & Corporate Support) to appoint the appropriate delivery partner for projects 4 and 5.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 Delivery of projects 1, 2 and 3 will have a financial cost of approximately £1.047 million to the HRA. £1 million has already been set aside for external wall insulation works in the 2013/14 budget, with a budget virement from the 'roofing and render' expenditure line addressing the shortfall.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 One additional Customer Liaison Officer is currently being recruited. Additional staff requirements are also currently being assessed to ensure the programme is delivered within the timescales and available budget. Any additional staffing costs will be met from the total funding available for the programme.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 None

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 None

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 This work will contribute towards the Councils commitment to the Single Outcome Agreement, under the following objectives:-

6d "More vulnerable people are supported within their own communities."

10a "The quality of social housing has improved."

12a "Our environment is protected and enhanced."

14b "The public sector's carbon footprint has reduced."

Community Benefit Implications

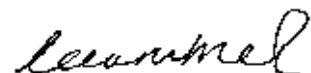
- 4.7 The Council is in the process of undertaking an EU procurement exercise for the appointment of a contractor for external wall insulation. The award of this contract will be subject to the Council Targeted Recruitment and Training (TRT) Policy.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Extensive consultation has taken place with Housing Services over the selection of suitable projects and Corporate Procurement in relation to the selection of a suitable ECO provider and an external wall insulation contractor.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Cabinet is asked to note the contents of this report, approve the appointment of British Gas as the preferred ECO provider for projects 1, 2 and 3 and delegate Authority to the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) to appoint the appropriate delivery partner for projects 4 and 5.



LAURA FRIEL

Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference :

For further information please contact David Tate, Senior Manager (Housing Assets & Investment) on telephone number 01294 225051

Background Papers

Nil.

Appendix I – Update on Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Home Energy Efficiency Programme For Scotland (HEEPS)

Finalised ECO and HEEPS Bids v Proposal outlined to Cabinet on 26 March 2013

Project Description (As Approved By Cabinet)	Project Description (finalised submission)	Variations From Cabinet Approval (26 March 2013)	Justification For Variation From Cabinet Approval
Project 1 Works - External wall insulation to 336 timber constructed houses at a cost of £2.8m. Grant Funding - £1.3m of ECO grant and £79k of HEEPS. HRA Costs - £864k. Owner's shortfall - £568k.	Works - External wall insulation to 330 timber constructed houses at a cost of £3.0m. Grant Funding - £1.649m of ECO grant and £665k of HEEPS. HRA Costs - £704k. Owner's shortfall - £0.	Works – Six fewer houses contained within project. Cost varied to reflect specification required. Grant Funding - Additional £349k of ECO and £586k of HEEPS. HRA Costs – Decrease of £160k. Owner's shortfall – Decrease of £568k.	Works – Following a desktop survey, the information available has confirmed a fewer number of Weir Timber properties. Grant Funding – improved ECO offers received following tender exercise. Scot Govt redefined HEEPS qualification criteria, thus much improved level of grant. HRA Costs – Fewer Council houses affected, thereby reducing the HRA costs. Owner's shortfall – Nil contribution achieved following improved funding offer and HEEPS guidance.
Project 2 Works - External wall insulation to 132 flats in Ardrossan at a cost of £924k. Grant Funding - £462k of ECO grant and £35k of HEEPS. HRA Costs - £350k. Owner's shortfall - £76k.	Works - External wall insulation to 53 flats in Ardrossan at a cost of £345k. Grant Funding - £116k of ECO grant and £58k of HEEPS. HRA Costs - £171k. Owner's shortfall - £0.	Works – A reduction of 79 properties. Grant Funding -£346k less ECO, but £23k additional HEEPS. HRA Costs – Reduction of £179k. Owner's shortfall – Decrease of £76k.	Works – Some of the properties originally identified do not qualify for funding due to the construction 'type.' Grant Funding – Due to the scale of works reducing, ECO has fallen. Scot Govt redefined HEEPS qualification criteria, thus much improved level of grant. HRA Costs – Fewer Council houses affected, thereby reducing the HRA costs. Owner's shortfall - Nil contribution achieved following improved funding offer and HEEPS guidance.
Project 3 Works - External wall insulation to 33 solid wall properties at a cost of £280k. Grant Funding - £132k of ECO grant and £11k of HEEPS. HRA Costs - £40k. Owner's shortfall - £97k.	Works - External wall insulation to 85 solid wall properties at a cost of £469k. Grant Funding - £149k of ECO grant and £149k of HEEPS. HRA Costs - £171k. Owner's shortfall - £0.	Works – An additional 52 properties now included. Grant Funding - Additional £17k of ECO and £138k of HEEPS. HRA Costs – Increase of £131k. Owner's shortfall - £0.	Works – Through additional survey data analysis, additional solid wall properties have been identified. Grant Funding – ECO increased is as a result of the project size increasing. Scot Govt redefined HEEPS qualification criteria, thus much improved level of grant. HRA Costs - More Council houses now included. HRA budget allocation identified. Owner's shortfall - Nil contribution achieved following improved funding offer and HEEPS guidance.

Project Description (As Approved By Cabinet)	Project Description (finalised submission)	Variations From Cabinet Approval	Justification For Variation From Cabinet Approval
Project 4 No proposal presented to Cabinet.	Works – External wall insulation to 55 privately owned solid wall properties in ‘rural areas.’ Grant Funding - £254k of ECO grant and £24k of HEEPS. HRA Costs – Not applicable. Owner’s shortfall – dependent on take-up, but estimated at circa £213k.	Entirely new project.	<p>Following guidance received from ECO providers and Scot Govt, there is an aspiration to promote energy efficiency throughout our communities. By submitting this project as part of our bid, it will allow property owner’s to receive part or full funding for major external wall insulation works.</p> <p>This project will have no cost to the Council and the intention is that this will be administered via the Energy Agency or a selected ECO partner.</p>
Project 5 No proposal presented to Cabinet.	Works – 520 loft insulations and 300 cavity wall insulations. Grant Funding - £0 (at source) ECO grant, £0 HEEPS. HRA Costs – Not applicable. Owner’s shortfall – £0	Entirely new project.	<p>Following guidance received from ECO providers and Scot Govt, there is an aspiration to promote energy efficiency throughout our communities.</p> <p>This work is fully fundable via ECO and although the Council will receive zero funding for this project, it is proposed that an ECO provider will undertake the works at nil cost.</p> <p>This project will have no cost to the Council and the intention is that this will be administered via the Energy Agency or a selected ECO partner.</p>

**Appendix II - Update On Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Home Energy Efficiency Programme For Scotland (HEEPS).
Indicative Funding Summary**

Project	Number of Private Houses	Number of Council Houses	Proposed HEEPS Funding	Proposed ECO Funding	Proposed Private Household Contribution	Proposed HRA Funding
Project 1 External wall insulation to 330 Weir Timber houses	152	178	£665,152	£1,649,158	0	£704,866
Project 2 External wall insulation to 53 flats	14	39	£57,666	£116,555	0	£171,654
Project 3 External wall insulation to 85 solid wall/hard to treat properties	41	44	£148,625	£149,382	0	£171,462
Project 4 External wall insulation to private owners in rural communities	55	0	£23,880	£254,320	£213,800	£0
Project 5 Loft and cavity installation to private owners across North Ayrshire	820	0	£0	No direct funding likely to be received. ECO partner likely to carry out works directly at nil cost.	£0	£0
North Ayrshire Council Management, marketing and administration costs			£82,930			
TOTAL	1,082	261	£978,253	£2,169,415	£231,800	£1,047,982

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 8

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: Remedial Works to the Slipway at Arran Outdoor Education Centre

Purpose: To seek authority for additional funding in order to accept a tender to progress works at the most favourable time of the year.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet authorises an additional £33,261 of capital funding in 2013/14 to ensure the medium to long term integrity of the slipway at Arran Outdoor Education Centre.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Arran Outdoor Education Centre slipway requires further investment to rectify defective areas, prevent further deterioration and prolong the life of the asset.
- 1.2 The costs of the slipway were originally to be met from the budget provision for the refurbishment of the centre, although only an allocation of £13,614 remained available. Therefore, on 22 November 2011, the former Executive approved an additional £32,000 to meet the anticipated cost of the slipway and a further £48,367 was approved by the Cabinet on 21 August 2012. The current budget provision, including these additional sums, equates to £93,981.
- 1.3 In March 2013 tenders were invited from existing North Ayrshire Council structures framework contractors. The lowest priced tender received on 15 April 2013 was £168,682. A review by Property Management and Investment considered and approved a re-tender on an open tender basis, out with the structures framework, in order to invite offers from contractors specialising in works in a marine environment.
- 1.4 In April 2013 tenders were invited from contractors registered on the Public Contract Scotland portal. The lowest priced tender received on 15 May 2013 was £115,145. After adding cost allowances for contingencies, professional fees and marine licences the total project cost limit is forecast as £127,242.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 There is presently £93,981 in the 2013/14 capital programme to effect the required repairs to the slipway.
- 2.2 The lowest priced tender received on 15 May 2013 includes for all works agreed at the Cabinet meeting on 21 August 2012.
- 2.3 No suitable Scottish Government or Scotland Excel contracts are available for similar works.
- 2.4 The project was advertised on Public Contracts Scotland as an Open Tender with interested contractors required to complete a Contractor's Health and Safety Accreditation Certificate. Three contractors submitted tenders on 15 May 2013.
- 2.5 Property Management and Investment evaluated the completed tenders in accordance with the Contract Standing Orders and JCT Practice Note 6 Series Two Main Contract Tendering Alternative 2.
- 2.6 The tender process has identified works required totalling £127,242, i.e. £33,261 more than the current agreed budget.
- 2.7 It is considered unlikely that any further tendering could provide a price within budget.
- 2.8 In order to progress the works in the most favourable time of year, it is imperative that an acceptance of tender can be issued without delay.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Cabinet is requested to agree the provision of an additional £33,261 of capital funding in 2013/14 to ensure the sustainability of the slipway at Arran Outdoor Education Centre.
- 3.2 The following work will be undertaken:-
 - Break out part of the unsuitable surface at the lower part of the slip way and replace with pre-cast concrete planks with an appropriate ribbed surface.
 - Repair the mass concrete lower end of the slip by cutting away the raised edges and metal protrusions and extending the end of the ramp to meet the seabed.
 - Repair the rock armoured slopes to protect the slipway head against future storm damage and erosion.
- 3.3 The completion of this project will redress the risks associated with the condition of the existing slipway, rock armour slopes and mass concrete end ramp.

- 3.4 This will ensure the long term integrity of the existing slipway and coastline.
- 3.5 This tender has a clearly defined scope of works which accurately reflects the necessary requirements.
- 3.6 This tender has a defined duration and is notifiable under CDM 2007.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 Additional capital funding of £33,261 is required to ensure the long term sustainability of the slipway and to address the effects of recent erosion. This is in addition to the £48,367 previously allocated in August 2012. This can be met from uncommitted resources within the 2013/14 General Services Capital Programme.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no Human Resource implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 Investment in the slipway will reduce the risk of personal injury to users and potential damage to craft at low tide periods.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no direct environmental implications. However the works will prevent further coastal erosion and prolong the life of the structure and the adjacent coastline.

Implications for Key Priorities

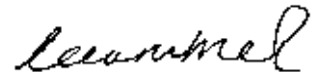
- 4.6
 - 10 We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need;
 - 12 We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations;
 - 15 Our Public Services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with the Arran Outdoor Education Centre Manager. Specialist advice has been received from Wallace Stone, Marine Engineers.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The scope of the tendered works will rectify defective areas, prevent further deterioration and prolong the life of the asset.



LAURA FRIEL
Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference :

For further information please contact Alex Kirk, Senior Manager (Property Maintenance and Investment) on telephone number 01294 325122.

Background Papers

Tender documentation.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 9

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Brodict Pier Redevelopment**

Purpose: To update the Cabinet of the proposed £18m Brodict Pier redevelopment and to advise the Cabinet of the creation of a Brodict Pier Redevelopment Group to be led by North Ayrshire Council.

Recommendation: The Cabinet (a) notes the proposals of an £18m project to redevelop Brodict Pier and (b) agrees to the Council chairing the Brodict Pier Redevelopment Group .

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brodict Pier is reaching the end of its serviceable life which is resulting in an increasing maintenance burden. The existing pier and facilities do not offer adequate provision in terms of passenger waiting space, parking and vehicle marshalling areas and depth of berth, and cannot accommodate concurrent vessel activities, which is an issue with a busy scheduled ferry service. The Ferries Plan (2013-22) Investment Plan confirmed Scottish Government support for proposals to implement an upgrade of Brodict Pier by 2016, as well as the provision of a second vessel on the Arran to Brodict Route during an extended period the summer months (May to September). Finance is not yet in place to allow the implementation of proposals to upgrade the pier and supporting facilities.
- 1.2 The report seeks to confirm the nature of Council support for the pursuit of proposals to redevelop Brodict Pier.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 Brodict Pier is owned by Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), and operated by CalMac Ferries Ltd (CFL). The Ardrossan to Brodict Service operated by CFL serves approximately 730,000 passenger, 134,000 non-commercial vehicle and 13,000 commercial vehicle (longer than 5m), trips on an annual basis and is a vital lifeline for residents and businesses on Arran. The Scottish Government Ferries Plan 2013-22 identified a number of weaknesses in the service provision for Ardrossan to Brodict in terms of the frequency of provision and the length of the operating day in the summer. This is to be addressed by a second vessel on the route, while the recently introduced pilot service from Ardrossan to Kintyre via Brodict also provides additional services to the island.

- 2.2 The Scottish Government Infrastructure Investment Plan Progress Report for 2012 stated that 'given the severe pressure on capital budgets, only essential harbour projects are being taken forward, and in each case on a 'do minimum' basis with future phases kept in reserve'. Progress with initial design works for proposals at Brodick were recognised. The Scottish Government Ferries Plan (2013-22) published in December 2012 confirmed through its Investment Plan that proposals to upgrade Brodick Pier would be implemented by 2016.
- 2.3 Public consultation on the proposals has already taken place on Arran and this confirmed considerable support for a new pier and facilities. The Pier cannot be rebuilt on the existing linkspan as this would involve a restriction in Ferry provision for a period of at least a year. The proposals would involve up to £18m of investment and would provide a new two-berth pier to the east of the existing pier and linkspan, a new terminal building with covered walkway, increased marshalling areas, reconfigured and expanded parking and drop off facilities, and a new bus stance. A plan is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The proposals represent a major capital investment in infrastructure in North Ayrshire. Detailed design works have recently commenced and will be completed in the winter of 2013/14 to allow construction works to be tendered in early 2014. While the Ferries Plan confirmed Scottish Government support for the new Pier, and additional finance will be made available by CMAL, funding is not in place for the entire projected cost of £18m. If the full amount is not forthcoming the project runs the risk of being delivered either on a phased basis or only the new pier with no development of any other facilities.
- 2.5 A new pier and associated facilities would provide the opportunity for significant economic benefit to the Island through capacity for an additional ferry and other vessels to be accommodated, increased passenger and commercial traffic with associated tourism spend, improved business competitiveness, and improved ferry service reliability.
- 2.6 Officers recently met with representatives of CMAL and Visit Arran, and agreed to the formation of a 'Brodick Pier Redevelopment Group' which would also include representation from Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The main aims of the group will initially to be to:
- Confirm the exact nature of the proposals including the opportunity for reuse of the existing pier facilities for leisure based boat traffic;
 - Determine the extent of economic benefit which the Pier proposals will bring to Arran and how this may be maximised;
 - Examine additional sources of funding to deliver the proposals; and,
 - Make the case for Scottish Government and other sources of investment to deliver the proposals within one phase of construction.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Cabinet is asked to note the proposals of an £18m project to redevelop Brodick Pier. It is proposed that North Ayrshire Council leads the Brodick Pier Redevelopment Group and provides the Chairperson to further the aims set out at 2.6 above.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There will be a small revenue expenditure associated with analysis of the economic benefits of the proposals. This will be shared with other members of the group.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 The redevelopment of the Brodick Pier will require a Harbour Revision Order to be pursued by CMAL, the process for which commenced in April 2013.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 Statutory consents associated with, for example dredging of the seabed at Brodick will require to be pursued by CMAL. CMAL have requested that Transport Scotland give them a 'Screening Opinion' in relation to the need or otherwise for an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The Council's Core Objective 1: Regenerating our communities and increasing employment is supported.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Officers recently met with representatives of CMAL and Visit Arran. Public consultation events relating to the Pier proposals were undertaken by CMAL on 3 December 2012, 4 March 2013 and 7 May 2013.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Proposals to redevelop Brodick Pier represent a major capital investment in infrastructure, which would bring significant economic benefit to Arran. The formation of a Brodick Pier Redevelopment Group in association with the owner of the asset (CMAL) and the private sector will pursue the implementation of the proposals by further articulating the case for investment, the exact nature of the proposals, and the pursuit of funding to implement the works in a single phase.



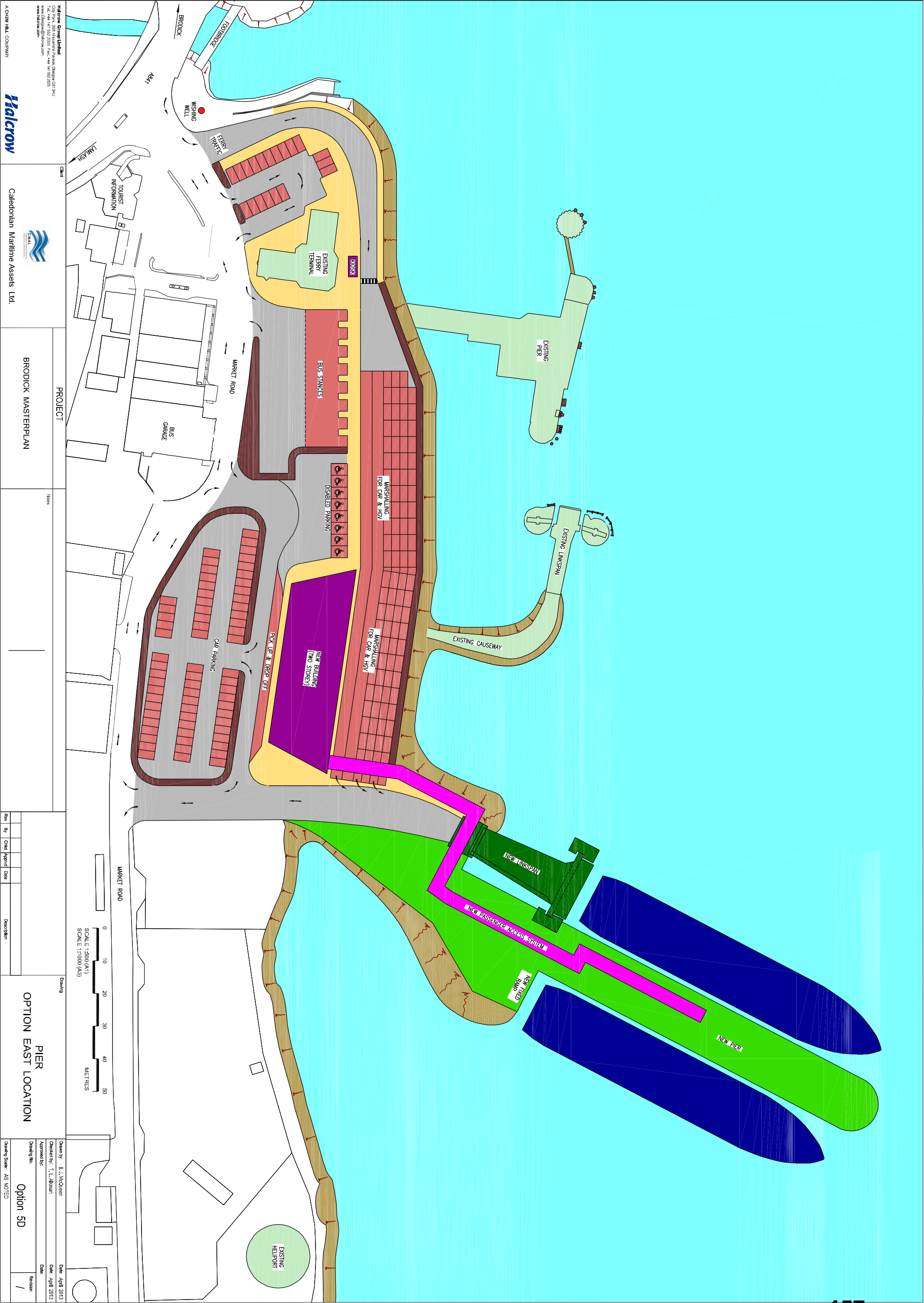
CRAIG HATTON
Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference : AL

For further information please contact Alasdair Laurenson, Team Manager (Regeneration) on telephone number 01294 324758

Background Papers

N/A



NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 10

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011**

Purpose: To advise the Cabinet of the proposed introduction of an administration/management charge to homeowners benefitting from Property Factoring services provided by North Ayrshire Council.

Recommendation: That, subject to the outcome of consultation exercise to take place between July and October 2013, the Cabinet approves the introduction of the administration/management charge set out at Section 3.2-3.3.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 11 June 2013, an update was provided to the Cabinet on progress being made in introducing a Property Factoring service to residents living in North Ayrshire Council (HRA) managed housing estates.
- 1.2 The Cabinet noted the consultation exercise that was being proposed, but requested that further consideration should be given to the intended administration/management fee structure. It was agreed that a revised proposal on this would be submitted to Cabinet on 25 June.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Council does not currently offer any formal Property Factoring service, but does undertake communal repairs to mixed tenure properties when required. As part of this current arrangement, no administration/management fee is recharged to private homeowners.
- 2.2 In order to comply with the Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011 (the Act), the Council require to provide all affected homeowners with a formal written statement of services and intend undertaking public consultation concerning the written statement and the implications of the Act during July to October.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 As part of the public consultation referred to in paragraph 2.2 above, where legally entitled to do so, the Council intends introducing an acceptable and appropriate administration/management fee. This fee would be payable by private homeowners who benefit from property Factoring services being provided. It is the intention that this fee will in part reimburse the Council for the costs associated with operating the Property Factoring service.
- 3.2 It is proposed that where the cost of an individual repair equates to £500 or less per household, that the administration/management fee is calculated at a rate of 10% of the value of the repair being recharged to the homeowner.
- 3.3 In relation to individual repairs in excess of £500 per household, it is proposed that the administration/management fee is capped at £50 per homeowner.
- 3.4 It is intended that the proposal relating to the above administration/management fee will form part of the consultation that will take place during July to October.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The initial costs associated with the Property Factoring service service will initially be funded via the HRA, with the due proportion of costs being recovered from each homeowner benefitting from the service.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 Clarification on various legal aspects of the introduction of this service are being obtained via Legal Services.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 None.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 Introduction of a Property Factoring service contributes to the following key priorities:

"The quality of our social housing has improved"

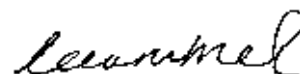
"Our environment is protected and enhanced"

5. Consultations

- 5.1 To date internal consultation has taken place involving Housing Services, Finance and Property, Legal Services and Building Services.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Cabinet is requested to approve the proposed administration/management fee structure set out in this paper.



LAURA FRIEL
Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference :

For further information please contact David Tate, Senior Manager (Housing Assets and Investment) on telephone number 01294 225051

Background Papers

None

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 11

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Renewable Energy Investment Opportunities from the North Ayrshire Estate**

Purpose: To seek the agreement of Cabinet to progress the outcome of a Feasibility Study examining the opportunities for investment in renewable energy from the Council's land and building estate.

Recommendation: That Cabinet agrees:

- a. to progress procurement of retrofit Biomass and Solar PV installations at suitable large buildings (with the exception of the sheltered housing complexes) within the Council Estate (as identified in Appendix 1) including the development of a business case for the creation of a biomass supply chain and wood fuel depot;
 - b. to remit the biomass opportunities for the sheltered housing complexes at Dickson Court and Robert W. Service Court for consideration by the Housing Business Planning Group.
 - c. to liaise at a national level with Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) to address contractual implications associated with retrofit on PPP properties;
 - d. to further explore the opportunities to install Solar PV on North Ayrshire Council housing stock through the Housing Business Planning Group;
 - e. to seek specialist advice to prepare tender documents for the procurement of Biomass and Solar PV installations.
-

1. Introduction

1.1 A study into the feasibility of harnessing energy from the Council's land and buildings has been completed. This followed publication of the Scottish Government Renewables Action Plan, 2009, updated 2011, in which the following targets are identified:

- 100% electricity demand equivalent from Renewables by 2020
- 11% heat demand from Renewables by 2020

- A new target of at least 30% overall energy demand for Renewables by 2020
 - A new target of 500MW community and locally owned renewable energy by 2020.
- 1.2 A range of renewable energy technologies has been explored which could:
- deliver investment opportunities designed to reduce annual revenue costs on heat and power;
 - support the Council's Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) and
 - identify associated community and economic benefits.
- 1.3 350 properties and 229 hectares of Council-owned land, covering 54 sites mostly in urban fringe areas, were assessed. An interim scoping report identified the most appropriate technologies applicable to the Council's land and building assets together with the most attractive and viable investment opportunities for further development.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 In 2011/12, the Council spent £3.58 million on electricity, gas, coal and oil. This represented 78,634MWhs (Megawatt Hours) of energy use. The proposals emerging from the feasibility study will deliver further reductions in energy emissions combined with CRC tax avoidance and annual energy savings. The Council is also devising a sustainable energy management strategy which will further build on this work across the area.
- 2.2 A range of options and technologies were considered as part of the study. Biomass and Solar Photovoltaic (Solar PV) have been identified as having the potential to deliver the greatest benefits to the Council at this time. Small and medium scale wind generation from land assets was precluded primarily due to the assessment of wind speeds, grid connections and planning policies. Similarly, small scale hydro schemes and short rotational coppicing for fuel reduction did not return effective models for further development.
- 2.3 Biomass heating is a technically mature source offering attractive financial returns when combined with Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) payments. Such investment also provides opportunities, set out below, to develop a local supply chain which is economic, effective and sustainable to support the operation of Biomass:-
- to buy into suppliers' chains and support from the extensive amount of forestry product which is produced in the Ayrshire and Arran area;

- to better utilise arboriculture arisings from Council maintenance works; and
 - to plant on extensive Council owned land, some of which is brownfield and potentially contaminated to develop a Council owned supply chain.
- 2.4 The development of a Woodfuel Depot to store and chip the raw material provides a further opportunity to reduce production costs of the raw materials, drive greater cost savings from the supply chain and provide local employment. It will be necessary to develop a Business Plan to fully examine the potential benefits to the Council of operating a Woodfuel Depot.
- 2.5 The biomass boilers will be designed to operate in parallel with the existing systems, which will provide a back-up system in the event of breakdown or downtime for maintenance of the biomass boiler and to cope with periods of peak demand. Where existing systems require to be replaced, this will be accommodated in the retrofit programme.
- 2.6 Solar PV is also a technically mature technology which utilises the solar panels to convert sunlight into electricity. Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) payments are available, which combined with the sustainability of electricity generation on NAC building stock and the current advantageous pricing of the PV panels, offers attractive financial returns. The level of FiT reduces after the first 25 projects are completed, although this may be subject to further review in respect of public sector schemes. North Ayrshire Council currently has only 2 operational PV schemes on which FiT is received.
- 2.7 Both RHI and FiT support renewable electricity projects and the payments are backed by legally binding Government contracts for 20 years. Both will also be subject to degression, which will reduce the projected financial benefits from schemes, where implementation results in the completed scheme becoming live after a degression date.
- 2.8 A list of the buildings that offer the most efficient rate of return is, along with the financial implications of each overall scheme, attached at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively.
- 2.9 The investment opportunities identified include installations at 4 schools delivered through the PPP contract. It will be necessary to negotiate the contractual changes required to enable these installations with the PPP contractor. Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) are supporting Council's, in their contractual discussions, who wish to install renewable energy infrastructure in their PPP schools.

- 2.10 There are a further two properties which are sheltered housing complexes at Dickson Court and Robert W. Service Court which are managed through the Housing Revenue Account. It will be necessary to request the Housing Business Planning Group to consider these further.
- 2.11 An initial assessment was also undertaken to identify potential for delivery of electricity from small on-building PV generation. This has identified that around 40 % (approximately 5000) of the Council's housing stock of 13,000 properties are likely to be suitable for installation of smaller scale solar PV systems. A similar system has been developed in Wrexham which has delivered benefits to tenants of the houses and an income to the Council. In North Ayrshire, a scheme of this nature could become part of a wider strategy to address fuel poverty. Further work is required to develop a business case.

Investment Programme

- 2.12 Proposals have been identified to deliver Biomass heating over 15 sites and a period of 3 years. Solar PV schemes are proposed at 9 properties with a delivery programme of 2 years. All projects relating to PPP schools have been identified for the latter stages of each programme. In respect of the Solar PV installations, a secondary programme has been developed in the event that the required delivery programme cannot be met due to structural, maintenance or ownership issues. Appendix 2 outlines the spend profile and illustrates the carbon savings, community benefits and projected revenue savings over a 20 year period.

3. Proposals

That the Cabinet agrees:-

- a. to progress procurement of retrofit Biomass and Solar PV installations at suitable large buildings (with the exception of the sheltered housing complex) within the Council Estate (as identified in Appendix 1) including the development of a business case for the creation of a biomass supply chain and wood fuel depot;
- b. to remit the biomass opportunities for the sheltered housing complexes at Dickson Court and Robert W. Service Court for consideration by the Housing Business Planning Group.
- c. to liaise at a national level with Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) to address contractual implications associated with retrofit on PPP properties;

- d. to further explore the opportunities to install Solar PV on North Ayrshire Council housing stock through the Housing Business Planning Group;
- e. to seek specialist advice to prepare tender documents for the procurement of Biomass and Solar PV installations.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of the proposed programme, excluding HRA properties, is estimated at £4.96 million. Appendix 2 contains a summary of the proposed investment programme, excluding HRA properties. There is £5m included in the approved 10 year capital programme for investment in renewable energy between 2014/15 and 2015/16.
- 4.2 Full investigation works on the conditions of buildings, and therefore the suitability for installation of solar PV's and biomass boilers, have still to be undertaken. This may identify additional financial investment required before work on the Renewables installations can be implemented. Programmes will be coordinated to ensure cost effectiveness although any work scheduled outwith the two year investment programme will not preclude the installation of Solar PV which can be stored and reused, if necessary.
The investment opportunities identified include 4 Schools delivered through the PPP Contract. Any changes to the building will require a change to the contract and may incur additional costs. Therefore the merits and financial implications of undertaking works in relation to any of the PPP schools requires to be investigated further.
- 4.3 An estimated annual revenue saving of £538,500 has been identified. Programming of the works is also significant particularly in respect of the Solar PV investment opportunities, where current keen pricing structures may be affected by future EU legislation on Chinese imports and the potential degression of non domestic tariffs payable by the department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) for Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) payments.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.4 Training will be provided to appropriate staff to maintain and manage the proposed renewable energy systems.

Legal Implications

- 4.5 Appropriate legal advice will be required to support the amendment of the existing PPP contract to facilitate the installation of biomass and Solar PV installations in the 4 schools.

Equality Implications

- 4.6 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

Environmental Implications

- 4.7 Implementation of the recommendations arising from this report will result in an improved carbon footprint in accordance with Scottish Government targets.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.8 The proposals will contribute to the achievement of the following core objectives:-
- Regenerating our communities and increasing employment
 - Operating efficiently and effectively.

Community Benefit Implications

- 4.9 The development of local supply chains will provide opportunities to create a small number of local employment opportunities. Community benefit clauses will also be included within the tender documentation for the installation of infrastructure.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Consultations have been undertaken through an officer working group comprising representatives of Finance and Property (Energy; Asset Management; Estates; Housing Investment; Procurement; Business Support); Social Services and Health (Housing) and Development Planning (Regeneration). The Corporate Management Team has also been consulted.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Feasibility study and investment proposals offer the Council an opportunity to invest in its assets through a retrofit programme which will secure affordable energy and power requirements; reduce its carbon footprint; and move towards the targets set by Scottish Government in the Scottish Renewables Action Plan 2009 (updated 2011) in respect of sourcing electricity, heat and energy demand from renewable technologies.



CRAIG HATTON
Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference : CH/ST/LB

For further information please contact Sandra Taylor, Planning Officer,
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Background Papers

None

Biomass Investment

NAC LARGE BUILDINGS

Site	Turn Capital (£)	Key Cost	Do nothing energy bill (£ - 2013)	New net energy cost (£ -2013)	Simple payback	Cumulative savings over 20 years (£)
Arran High School	237,650		49,786	5,818	3 years 8 months	1,243,413
Lamlash Primary	55,000		9,920	240	4 years 9 months	273,741
Skelmorie Primary (1)	60,000		8,280	-254	6 years	241,328
Cumbræ Primary	118,000		20,196	1,284	5 years	534,836
Arran Outdoor Centre	105,000		17,150	1,129	5 years 3 months	453,073
Beith Primary	185,000		18,990	3,573	6 years	583,995
Kilwinning Academy	185,000		25,191	2,006	6 years 9 months	655,653
Glencairn Primary	204,500		24,870	4,673	8 years	571,166
Stanley Primary	191,100		19,936	5,373	8 years 3 months	411,849
Woodlands Primary	175,500		17,070	3,209	9 years	391,998
Irvine Royal Academy	342,400		54,930	28,140	10 years	757,605
Abbey Primary	201,500		19,530	3,681	10 years	448,193
Caledonia Primary	155,000		14,490	2,728	10 years	332,631
St Matthews Academy	470,000		61,440	31,487	10 years 6 months	847,049
Greenwood Academy	459,375		60,300	30,896	10 years 7 months	831,548
Totals	3,145,025		422,079	123,983		8,578,078

[\[1\] Indicates that the new running cost is an effective income as RHI payments exceed biomass running costs in this case.](#)

HRA PROPERTIES

Site	Turn Capital (£)	Key Cost	Do nothing energy bill (£ - 2013)	New net energy cost (£ -2013)	Simple payback	Cumulative savings over 20 years (£)
Dickson Court SH	155,000		16,320	21	7 years 3 months	479,383
Robert W Service Court SH	148,000		14,670	2,758	9 years 10 months	336,870
Totals	303,000		30,990	2,779		816,253

Solar PV Investment

SOLAR PV ON LARGE BUILDINGS

List 1: Site		EPC D rating?	PV kWpeak installed	Turn Key Capital Cost	Generation Av. MWh pa	Returns: FIT + 50% export + savings	Simple pay back: years	Cumulative savings over 20 years
Year 1								
Irvine Royal Academy	NAC	D+	250	£339,000	209	38,200	8.87	764,000
Woodlands Primary	NAC	C	80	£111,000	67	12,500	8.88	250,000
Dalry Primary	NAC	C	78	£110,000	65	12,000	9.17	240,000
Beith Primary	NAC	C+	57	£80,000	44	8,300	9.64	166,000
Glencairn Primary	NAC	D+	39	£57,000	33	6,600	8.64	132,000
Cunninghame House	NAC	E+*	32	£45,000	27	5,400	8.33	108,000
Total Year 1			536	£742,000	445	83,000		1,660,000
Year 2								
Greenwood Academy	PPP	C+	250	£415,000	209	38,200	10.86	764,000
St Matthews Academy	PPP	C+	104	£179,000	90	16,900	10.59	338,000
Stanley Primary	PPP	B	95	£164,000	80	14,900	11.01	298,000
Total Year 2			449	758,000		70,000		£1,400,000
Total			985	£1,500,000		153,000		£3,060,000

Investment Programme: Spend Profile

Year	Solar PV spend	Biomass boilers[1]	Wood fuel depot	Fees etc[2]	Total spend
2013/14	£742,000	£338,000		£50,000	£1,130,000
2014/15	£758,000	£1,448,900	£250,000	£10,000	£2,466,900
2015/16		£1,358,219		£10,000	£1,368,219
TOTAL	£1,500,000	£3,145,119	£250,000	£70,000	£4,965,119

[\[1\] This costs includes all development fees, planning etc](#)

[\[2\] This covers £45,000 for planning/tendering the PV investment and £25,000 for developing the wood fuel depot business plan, costs are spread over the 3 years.](#)

IMPACT

Heading	Impact
Carbon saved (total NAC emissions are 57,000 tonnes)	Saves 4,120 tonnes a year (a 8.7% reduction)
CRC tax avoided by NAC	Saves £59,250 a year
Net new jobs created	Creates 7.4 FTE (mostly in biomass supply chain)
Net annual energy savings (incl. CRC savings)	Saves £538,550 a year (a permanent 16% reduction)
20 year net energy savings	Saves £12.46 million cumulatively
% of NAC's energy supplied by renewables	Provides 18.2% (compared to a 2020 national target of 30%)

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 12

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy**

Purpose: To seek approval of the Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

Recommendation: That Cabinet agrees to approve the Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Steering Group was formed in Autumn 2011 to undertake a comprehensive review of the Indicative Forestry Strategy for Ayrshire published in 2003. The Finalised Draft Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy (AAFWS) has been produced with grant funding from Forestry Commission Scotland, under the direction of a Steering Group comprising a range of stakeholders, including the Forestry Commission, the three Ayrshire Councils, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company, East Ayrshire Woodlands, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate, and was led by the Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit. It follows publication of a draft AAFWS, which was the subject of extensive public and technical stakeholder consultation.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The AAFWS contains a vision for the development of Ayrshire's woodlands over the forthcoming 40 years and provides updated spatial guidance for future investment in woodland management and creation of new woodland. The Strategy, reviewable every 5 years, aims to direct new planting proposals to the most appropriate locations and to maximise the economic benefit arising from associated, "downstream" timber processing industries. A copy of the strategy is attached at Appendix 1.

- 2.2 The AAFWS will inform the preparation of new supplementary planning guidance on the Central Scotland Green Network, and will also assist with providing an evidence base for future Council funding bids for environmental enhancement, access and biodiversity initiatives from bodies such as Forestry Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage and Central Scotland Green Network. In addition, the strategy has been produced to assist in determining planning applications and commenting on new forestry proposals.
- 2.3 The new strategy continues the 2003 Strategy's approach of seeking a balance between expansion of commercial forestry and other economic, social and environmental objectives. The new strategy identifies opportunities for woodland creation throughout the majority of Ayrshire and indicates that woodland cover could be expanded to around 25% of the land area within environmental limits. This figure takes account of the fact that it is neither feasible nor desirable that all areas recognised as being suitable for woodland creation will be converted to woodland due to competing economic opportunities and other environmental and social factors. The strategy continues to encourage expansion of productive forestry within the less sensitive areas where there is good access to the trunk road network. The priority areas identified for this type of woodland have remained broadly the same, although there have been some amendments to the boundaries as a result of adopting a more detailed mapping methodology.
- 2.4 Achieving multiple benefits from woodland management and creation requires a targeted approach both in terms of location and type of woodland. The strategy identifies broad locations where softwood forests, energy forests, native woodlands and mixed woodlands can contribute towards meeting the aims and objectives. Most areas have potential for one type of woodland and in many instances more than one type of woodland would be appropriate. The aim in all cases should be to design schemes which achieve multiple objectives using the spatial and thematic guidance provided in the strategy.
- 2.5 A number of spatial priorities are identified to provide advice on the priorities for woodland management and creation for specific geographic areas which share common characteristics and issues. The strategy identifies the following spatial priorities:
- (i) Lowland Areas - new expanded networks of woodland are required to improve resilience to climate change, enhance landscape character and contribute to agricultural diversification;

- (ii) Continued expansion of new woodlands in and around towns - to create a high quality landscape to attract investment and create opportunities to tackle inequalities in health and encourage regeneration of post-industrial landscapes;
- (iii) Further expansion of native woodlands and policy woodlands within the river corridors - to contribute to biodiversity, sense of place and economic activity with particular priority given to the active management and creation of habitat connections between them; and
- (iv) Greater emphasis to the restructuring of the existing upland softwood forests - identifies areas such as the south of Arran which will provide opportunities to create more diverse and attractive environments for biodiversity and people alike; the reinstatement of peat lands in the upland areas to achieve climate change and biodiversity objectives is also a key objective.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to approve the AAFWS, to replace the existing Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Strategy which was originally approved in 2003. The latter document required to be reviewed to ensure that it is aligned with the major changes to the development planning system, the Scottish Land Use Strategy, the designation of the Central Scotland Green Network, and increased significance attached to climate change within all areas of public policy. It was seen as particularly important to ensure that Ayrshire's woodland strategy is aligned with the new grant schemes that will be introduced under the revised Scottish Rural Development Programme for 2014 to 2020. Landowners, land managers and local communities will be better placed to benefit from these and other new grant schemes by virtue of having an up-to-date strategy.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out for the AAFWS and no significant alterations were required to the strategy as a result of the assessment.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 A Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out and formed an integral part of the preparation of the AAFWS. The strategy for enhanced woodland management and the creation of new woodlands is based on a number of key objectives including helping to tackle greenhouse gas emissions; restoring lost habitats and adapting to climate change; delivering ecosystem services; underpinning a sustainable forest products industry; supporting rural development; providing community benefits and enhancing urban areas and improving landscapes. The AAFWS will also provide a valuable contribution towards meeting the objectives of the Central Scotland Green Network.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The AAFWS is consistent with, and will help deliver the vision, key principles and core objectives of the Council Plan 2012-17 and will have positive economic, social and environmental benefits. In particular, the strategy seeks to encourage employment, training, and volunteering in woodland management and woodland creation which will be particularly beneficial to rural populations. It will help promote access to outdoor recreation and leisure and look to reduce the impact of timber haulage on rural communities in line with the on-going work of the Ayrshire Timber Transport Forum. The AAFWS will also be seen to contribute to the implementation of many of the Outcomes listed in the Single Outcome Agreement including Outcome 1b “North Ayrshire is a more attractive tourist destination”; Outcome 1c “North Ayrshire is a more attractive place to do business”; Outcome 2a “More people are in work and training”; Outcome 6e “People are more active more often” and Outcome 12a “Our environment is protected and enhanced”.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The draft strategy was presented to the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Board on 3 June 2013. Members sought and received clarification regarding grant funding availability for woodland planting. It was also confirmed that felling proposals for areas of commercial forestry are now considered on a smaller, phased basis to reduce landscape impact.

- 5.2 Consultation has been carried out with the Chief Executive's Department in relation to the Equality Impact Assessment. The AAFWS was the subject of an extensive public consultation exercise undertaken between May and June 2012, using a variety of methods, including targeted stakeholder consultation, newspaper advertisements and a poster and leaflet campaign in all local libraries and main Council Offices.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The AAFWS contains a vision for the development of Ayrshire's woodlands over the forthcoming 40 years (reviewable every 5 years) and provides updated spatial guidance for future investment in woodland management and creation of new woodland. The Strategy will replace the existing Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Strategy, approved in 2003, and aims to direct new planting proposals to the most appropriate locations and to maximise economic benefits. It has been produced to assist in determining planning applications and commenting on forestry proposals and will constitute new planning guidance. In addition, it will assist in future funding bids for environmental enhancement, access and biodiversity initiatives from bodies such as the Forestry Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage and Central Scotland Green Network.



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Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference : RRH/FG

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Background Papers

Existing Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Strategy which was approved in 2003



www.landuse.co.uk

Ayrshire and Arran

Forestry and Woodland Strategy

Prepared by LUC in association with Bidwells
May 2013

Project Title: Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy

Client: Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by Principal
4	01/05/13	Final	SMO / MM	SMO	NJ



www.landuse.co.uk

Ayrshire and Arran

Forestry and Woodland Strategy

Prepared by LUC in association with Bidwells
May 2013

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Executive summary

Executive summary

This document presents the conclusions and recommendations of the Ayrshire & Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy Steering Group, formed to consider how future investment in woodland management and creation can be directed to optimise economic, social and environmental benefit. It presents a Vision for the development of Ayrshire's woodlands over the next forty years, establishes a range of aims and objectives for achieving the Vision, and provides spatially-specific guidance to aid delivery by public bodies and land managers alike.

Function

The Strategy provides supplementary planning guidance for the Ayrshire development plans and provides strategic spatial and thematic advice on the priorities for woodland management and creation within Ayrshire & Arran.

It is intended to be used by Forestry Commission Scotland and others with responsibility for rural grant schemes in considering the incentives required to stimulate woodland management & creation; by the Ayrshire local authorities in responding to consultations on woodland grant applications; and to provide broad guidance to private and public landowners and local communities on the type(s) of woodland which, if encouraged in appropriate locations, will deliver the multiple benefits sought in the Vision.

In addition, the Strategy includes a series of priorities that can be taken to support related downstream industrial investment and employment, timber transport and to maximise the benefits of woodlands for local communities.

It is important to note that the Strategy has been developed at the strategic scale and does not make recommendations at the level of individual landholdings. The Strategy provides guidance for general locations on the forms of woodland management and creation that would be desirable. Detailed proposals for woodland management and creation schemes must comply with all relevant legislation and be designed in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard and related guidance.

Drivers

This replacement for the Ayrshire & Arran Woodland Strategy 2003 has been prepared at time of increasing emphasis on new woodland creation as a means to mitigate climate change. The Scottish Government's Climate Change Delivery Plan 2009 sets a target of planting 10,000 to 15,000ha of woodland per annum to sequester atmospheric carbon. Following the recommendations of the Woodland Expansion Advisory Group and the principles of the Scottish Land Use Strategy 2009, this Strategy seeks a balance between expansion and the environmental effects of new woodland creation. Therefore, rather than establish a target for new woodland creation, this Strategy identifies the types of woodland that can be created in different locations to achieve the Vision and ensure that Ayrshire and Arran delivers a sustainable contribution to national targets.

The Strategy also supports the delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network – designated as a 'national development' in National Planning Framework 2 – and identifies opportunities to achieve the sustainable expansion of woodland cover sought under this initiative.

Recommendations

The development of the Strategy has been informed by the results of a Strategic Environmental Assessment, which analysed the likely environmental effects of different levels of woodland expansion across four separate scenarios. Analysis indicates that woodland cover could be expanded to around 25% of the land area within environmental limits. This figure takes account of the fact that it is neither feasible nor desirable that all areas recognised as being suitable for woodland creation will be converted to woodland due to competing economic opportunities and other environmental and social factors.

Achieving multiple benefits from woodland management & creation requires a targeted approach both in terms of location and type of woodland. The Strategy identifies broad locations where softwood forests, energy forests, native woodlands and mixed woodlands can contribute towards meeting the Aims and Objectives. Most areas have potential for one

type of woodland and in many instances more than one type of woodland would be appropriate. The aim should in all cases be to design schemes which achieve multiple objectives using the spatial and thematic guidance provided in this Strategy.

Spatial priorities

The Spatial Priorities draws upon the spatial and thematic guidance to provide more detailed advice on the priorities for woodland management and creation for specific geographic areas which share common characteristics and issues.

In lowland areas, expanded networks of woodland are required to improve resilience to climate change, enhance landscape character and contribute to agricultural diversification.

In and around towns and villages, new woodlands are needed to create a high quality landscape to attract investment and create opportunities to tackle inequalities in health and encourage regeneration of post-industrial landscapes.

Within the river corridors native woodlands and policy woodlands are a rich resource for biodiversity and contribute significantly to sense of place and economic activity. Actively managing these woodlands and creating habitat connections between them is a priority.

Restructuring of the expansive areas of **upland softwood forests** in the south of the Ayrshire mainland and the south of Arran will provide opportunities to create more diverse and attractive environments for biodiversity and people alike and restore upland ecosystems and the benefits that they provide to the human population. New productive woodland is essential to maintain the timber processing industry. However, the new resource should be located on lower lying ground in more accessible locations to avoid sensitive peat soils and reduce pressure on rural road network in the future.

1

Introduction

1 Introduction

Introduction

- 1.1 Trees and woodland make a unique contribution to the environment and economy of Ayrshire and Arran. Comprising around 23% of land cover, they provide a key resource for biodiversity and deliver a wide range of environmental benefits that help to support the region's communities – whether they realise it or not.
- 1.2 The forestry sector is an important local employer, particularly in relation to the region's nationally-significant processing capacity. Woods are also an essential aspect of the area's character, from larger-scale woodlands in the uplands to riparian, policy and farm woodlands that create distinctive structure in the agricultural lowlands. In addition to the historic value of the woodland component of Ayrshire's many designed landscapes, trees and woodland form the setting of many of the region's finest historic assets.
- 1.3 Despite the undoubted importance of the woodland resource and allied industries, there is significant potential for their contribution to improved and expanded. This strategy is intended to help landowners and managers, the industry, communities, the Ayrshire Councils and Forestry Commission Scotland work together to unlock this potential.

Planning for woodland in Ayrshire & Arran

- 1.4 Ayrshire and Arran have a long and distinguished history of strategic planning for woodland and forestry. From the 1995 Strathclyde Structure Plan onwards, regional guidance has been in place to guide the expansion and management of woodland. In addition to recognising the importance of woodland to the region, successive guidance has acknowledged the social and environmental costs associated with some planting carried out in earlier decades as a result of different national priorities and support regimes.
- 1.5 The previous Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Strategy, published in 2003, was a ground-breaking – and award-winning – approach to planning for multi-benefit woodland management and expansion. In parallel with that strategy, targeted grant aid was successful in securing a significant increase in woodland cover, relating to some 1500ha over the lifetime of the strategy.
- 1.6 However, the national policy approach to woodland has evolved considerably since its publication, along with the emergence of new and changing pressures on woodland, the industry and the land use sector as a whole. These challenges, and our responses to them, necessitate a new approach – and a new strategy for the region's woodlands.

What is the strategy for?

- 1.7 The strategy is intended to guide woodland management and expansion in Ayrshire and Arran, providing a policy and a spatial framework to maximise the contribution of woodland and forestry to the people, environment and economy of the region.
- 1.8 Specifically, it will:
 - provide supplementary planning guidance for the three Ayrshire Local Development Plans;
 - inform local authority development management decisions on proposals that include woodland removal or creation;
 - guide local authority responses to consultation on planting proposals and application for grant support for woodland creation and management;

- assist with the development and approval of Forest District Strategic Plans and long term Forest Design and Management Plans; and,
- guide development of Regional Priorities for the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP).

Why is it being developed?

- 1.9 National objectives and policy for woodlands and forestry changed considerably during the lifespan of the previous strategy. Planning legislation has also been thoroughly overhauled, along with European and national changes in rural development priorities and support. To ensure that Ayrshire and Arran continue to recoup the best social, economic and environmental value from its woodlands a new strategy is required.
- 1.10 The production of new Local Development Plans for the three Ayrshire Councils is a major opportunity to ensure that forestry and woodland policy is fully integrated with wider use and development of land.

Terminology

The emphasis of current Scottish Government policy makes the delivery of multiple benefits – regardless of origin – a necessity. In line with this policy, this strategy uses the term ‘woodland’ throughout to refer to all areas of land, over 0.25 hectares in area, where trees are growing. ‘Forest’ is used only in relation large-scale planted woodlands managed for timber production.

The term ‘forestry’ is used to refer to the science, art and practice of managing woodlands on a professional and sustainable basis to ensure that their economic, social and environmental benefits to society are optimised.

Context of the Strategy

Policy and guidance

- 1.11 The management, use and expansion of woodlands sit at the interface of planning, environmental and forestry policy. While this means that trees and woodland can help to achieve a wide range of objectives, it also means that the regulatory situation is sometimes complicated. This does, however, help to ensure that adverse social and environmental effects can be identified and successfully avoided or mitigated.
- 1.12 The Strategy has been developed based on advice provided in ‘The Right Tree in the Right Place: planning for forestry and woodlands’ issued by the Scottish Government in 2010.
- 1.13 The Scottish Forestry Strategy (SFS) 2006 provides the wider context and Scottish Ministers’ vision for multi-benefit woodland management and expansion, and should be read in parallel with this strategy.

Drivers of woodland management and expansion

- 1.14 The SFS set the ambitious goal of achieving 25% woodland cover nationally by the second half of this century. The [Scottish Government Rationale for Woodland Expansion](#) (2009) expanded on this vision, highlighting the benefits of increasing Scotland’s woodland cover, including:
- Helping to tackle greenhouse gas emissions;
 - Restoring lost habitats and adapting to climate change;
 - Delivering ecosystem services;
 - Underpinning a sustainable forest products industry;

- Supporting rural development;
 - Providing community benefits;
 - Enhancing urban areas and improving landscapes.
- 1.15 It set a target of planting a further 650,000ha of woodland, necessitating a planting rate averaging **10,000ha per year**. This has been adopted as the national target, and is a critical means of achieving Scotland's emission reduction commitments¹. In parallel, the [Policy on Control of Woodland Removal](#) (2009) seeks to reduce the impacts of development on woodland resources and requires compensatory planting for woods lost to development.
- 1.16 The [Scotland Rural Development Programme](#) (SRDP) 'Rural Priorities' include a range of options to fund woodland creation and management, tailored to specific characteristics of the region. Although the emphasis of much recent planting has been on native species to enhance landscape character and contribute to habitat networks, funding is also available for productive conifer and broadleaved woodlands. Forthcoming reform of the Common Agricultural Policy will have a significant influence on the grant framework – and a key function of this Strategy is to ensure that Ayrshire and Arran is prepared, and has a robust set of priorities to shape our woodlands in a way that benefits the whole of the region.
- 1.17 Mainland Ayrshire is also included in the [Central Scotland Green Network](#) (CSGN), defined as a 'national development' in [National Planning Framework 2](#)². Promoting positive management of neglected woodlands, particularly in and around settlement, is a key part of the CSGN message, as is reinforcing and expanding green infrastructure through targeted multi-benefit woodland creation. This strategy is therefore intended as part of the 'toolkit' for helping to achieve the CSGN's aims in Ayrshire. In addition, the aim of reinforcing existing and creating new networks of high quality woodland habitat is a national priority to help facilitate ecological adaptation to climate change.

Operational

- 1.18 The Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy is intended to provide broad strategic, locational and delivery-focussed advice to those seeking to manage or expand woodlands. It cannot provide detailed guidance on site-specific sensitivities or the suitability of individual proposals. The importance of site-specific assessment of individual proposals for woodland expansion, or woodland removal, remains paramount.
- 1.19 It complements – and relies on – the existing regulatory process administered by Forestry Commission Scotland under SRDP and the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999. Where woodland creation or removal accompanies development within the meaning of the planning acts, the three Ayrshire Councils are responsible for determining applications.
- 1.20 In addition, woodland expansion and management will be expected to comply with the [UK Forestry Standard](#) and [Forestry Commission Scotland Guidelines and practice notes](#).

Status of the Forestry and Woodland Strategy

- 1.21 The strategy forms statutory Supplementary Guidance to the three Ayrshire Local Development Plans. It is therefore a material consideration in planning decisions involving development proposals affecting woodland³.

¹ See 'Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting the Emissions Reductions Targets 2010-2022'

² This means that it must be supported in all lower tier plans and strategies – namely the three Ayrshire Local Development Plans

³ As defined in Paragraph 25 of Scottish Planning Policy and Annex A of Circular 4/2009 *Development Management Procedures*

Table 1.1: Policy context summary

Forestry	Planning	Natural heritage	Historic environment	Water and soil
<p>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999</p> <p><u>UK Forestry Standard</u>;</p> <p>Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006 (SFS);</p> <p>(Scotland Rural Development Plan)</p> <p>Scottish Government Rationale for Woodland Expansion;</p> <p><u>Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal</u>;</p> <p>National Forest Estate Strategic Plan / Forest District Strategic Plan</p> <p><u>FC Guidelines</u></p>	<p>Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999, as amended</p> <p>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP);</p> <p>National Planning Framework 2</p> <p>Statutory development plans</p>	<p>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004;</p> <p>The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended;</p> <p>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</p> <p><u>Forests and landscape ;</u></p> <p><u>Forests and Biodiversity</u></p>	<p>Historic Environment (Amendment) Act 2011</p> <p>Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP)</p> <p><u>Scotland's Woodlands and the Historic Environment</u></p> <p><u>Forests and the Historic Environment</u></p>	<p>Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003;</p> <p>Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009;</p> <p>Scottish Soil Framework;</p> <p>Land Use Strategy;</p> <p>Scotland River Basin Management Plan</p> <p>Clyde Area Management Plan</p> <p><u>Forests and Water;</u></p> <p><u>Forests and Soil Guidelines;</u></p> <p><u>Forests and Peatlands</u></p>

Using the Strategy

- 1.22 The strategy is intended to be accessible and useful for all sections of society that have an interest in woodland and forestry issues. It highlights the important contribution that trees and woodlands can make to a wide range of economic, social and environmental policy agendas.

Ayrshire Local Authorities

- 1.23 The three Ayrshire Councils will use the strategy, and accompanying spatial data, in responding to consultations on proposals for woodland creation through SRDP.
- 1.24 The strategy provides a framework for assisting decision-making on development proposals that affect woodland to ensure that compensatory planting makes a meaningful contribution to Ayrshire's environmental, social and economic priorities. It also provides part of the 'toolkit' available to the Councils to help ensure that their activities and their decisions on new development make a positive contribution to the development of the Central Scotland Green Network.

Forestry Commission Scotland

- 1.25 FCS will require land managers seeking grants for woodland expansion or management in Ayrshire and Arran to develop their proposals in line with this Strategy, ensuring that they are suitable for the environments, constraints and opportunities of the area.

Land managers & developers

- 1.26 The Strategy provides a clear vision of how the woodland resource and forest-based economy in the region should develop over the next 40 years. The priorities established in Section 3 provide guidance on the types of woodland management and creation schemes that will be supported, and where, giving agents and landowners a degree of certainty in applying for support. They are also linked to the appropriate SRDP Rural Priorities to assist in the preparation of grant applications – supporting the aims and objectives of this Strategy are a strong justification for approval.

Communities

- 1.27 The Strategy provides communities across Ayrshire and Arran with a useful insight into the key issues, and the likely patterns of woodland management they are likely to see in their area. It also sets out the range of social, environmental and economic benefits that the Councils expect woodland and forestry to deliver to local people.
- 1.28 The region's woodlands are a major resource for its people, providing employment and business opportunities, high quality environments and a largely untapped sustainable energy reserve. They also provide a range of less tangible benefits, known as 'ecosystem services' – such as clean air, protection from flooding and erosion, and carbon storage – which contribute to everyone's wellbeing. The policies and actions set out in the Strategy ensure that local people have assurances that these interests will be safeguarded and enhanced.
- 1.29 The Strategy also provides opportunities to communities and individuals to get involved in the process of woodland management – from facilitating engagement in the planning process to developing community woodland and forest-based businesses.

2

Woodland in Ayrshire and Arran

2 Woodland in Ayrshire and Arran

Where we are

- 2.1 Ayrshire and Arran's woodlands already make an important contribution to the region's environment, economy and the quality of life of local people. However, there are a range of opportunities to improve the range of benefits delivered by the resource and allied industries.
- 2.2 This section of the Strategy examines the existing woodland resource, the benefits it currently delivers and identifies key issues that woodland and forestry can contribute to solving.

Existing woodland resource

- 2.3 The region has a rich and varied woodland resource, resulting from centuries of management and decisions on the use – or otherwise – of land. Whether woodland is of ancient, semi-natural origin or has been recently planted as part of the strategic timber resource, it has a role to play.
- 2.4 In recent years, the area of woodland created in Ayrshire and Arran has fallen, whilst the rate of woodland removal has increased significantly, principally as a result of large-scale wind energy developments. This has resulted in an overall reduction of woodland cover since the publication of the last Woodland Strategy. Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.2 below illustrate the composition and distribution of the region's current woodland resource.

Type and distribution

Native woodland

- 2.5 Native and semi-natural woodlands tend to be concentrated along lowland river valleys and along the steep former cliff lines found along much of the coastline of Ayrshire and Arran. Many of these woodlands are ancient in origin and some are judged to be of national importance for their flora and fauna. Examples include gorge woodlands along the River Ayr. Northern Arran is home to three endemic species of whitebeam⁴ - Scotland's rarest native trees.

Mixed woodland

- 2.6 Much of lowland Ayrshire is made up of pastoral farmland where hedges, field boundary trees, shelterbelts and other farm woodlands make an important contribution to the area's distinctive landscape character. Also of importance are the historic designed landscapes, including policy woodlands associated with many large estates. These are found throughout the area, with particular concentrations along some of the river valleys.

Softwood forests

- 2.7 Ayrshire and Arran saw a significant expansion in softwood forests during the twentieth century, with most plantations located in the Carrick Hills, Southern Uplands and parts of the plateau moorlands between Ayrshire and the Clyde Valley to the east. These woodlands are being restructured to include a greater proportion of open ground and more diverse age and species structures. There has been some felling to accommodate wind farm developments resulting in a net loss of cover, though national policy now requires any losses to be compensated. The presence of peat soils in some areas, together with the practical issues around timber extraction may also mean that some existing areas of forest are not replanted following harvesting. This highlights the importance of identifying areas that are suitable for new woodlands.

Urban trees

- 2.8 Trees and woods also make an important contribution to the character and setting of Ayrshire and Arran's towns and villages. Gardens, parks, street trees and riparian woodland all play their part.

⁴ Arran whitebeam *Sorbus arranensis*; Arran cut-leaved whitebeam *Sorbus pseudofennica*; and, Catacol whitebeam *Sorbus pseudomeinichii*

In many cases there is potential for additional woodland planting to enhance derelict and vacant land, and to integrate new development more effectively into the landscape. The creation of new orchards and energy woodlands can provide viable uses for land around the urban fringe.

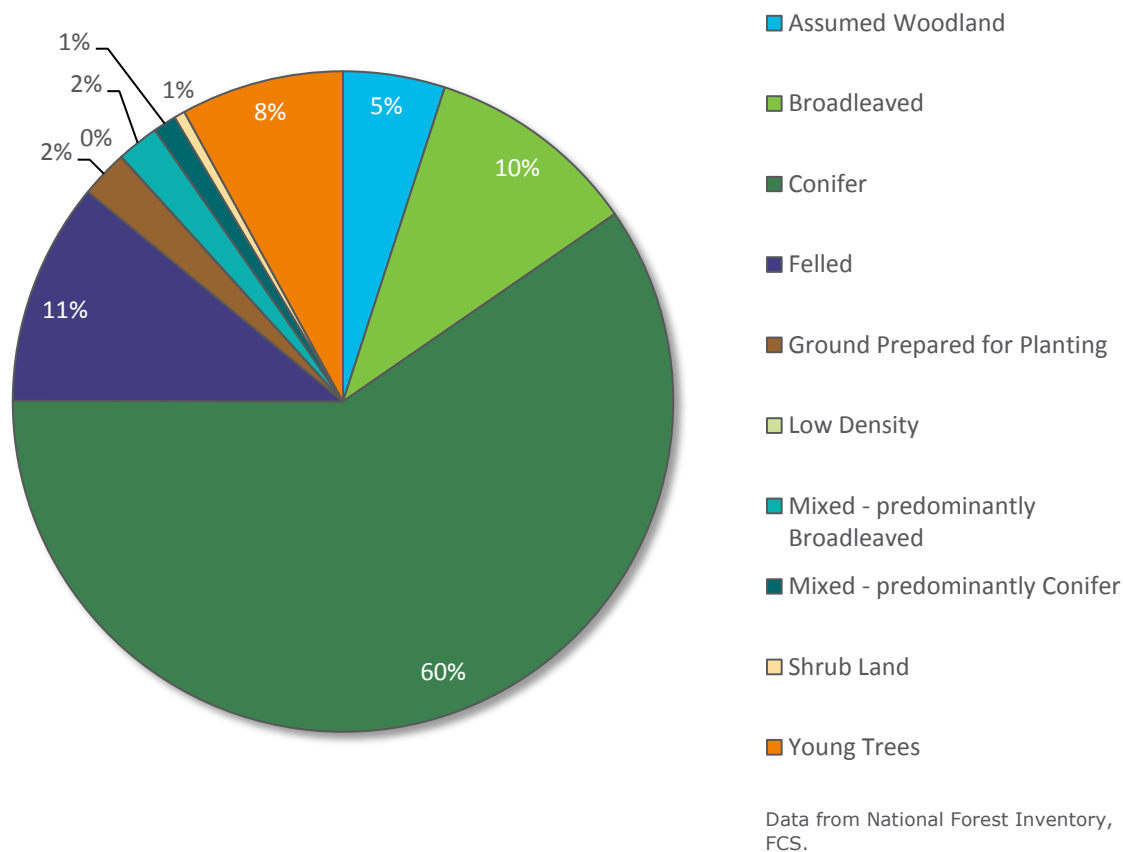
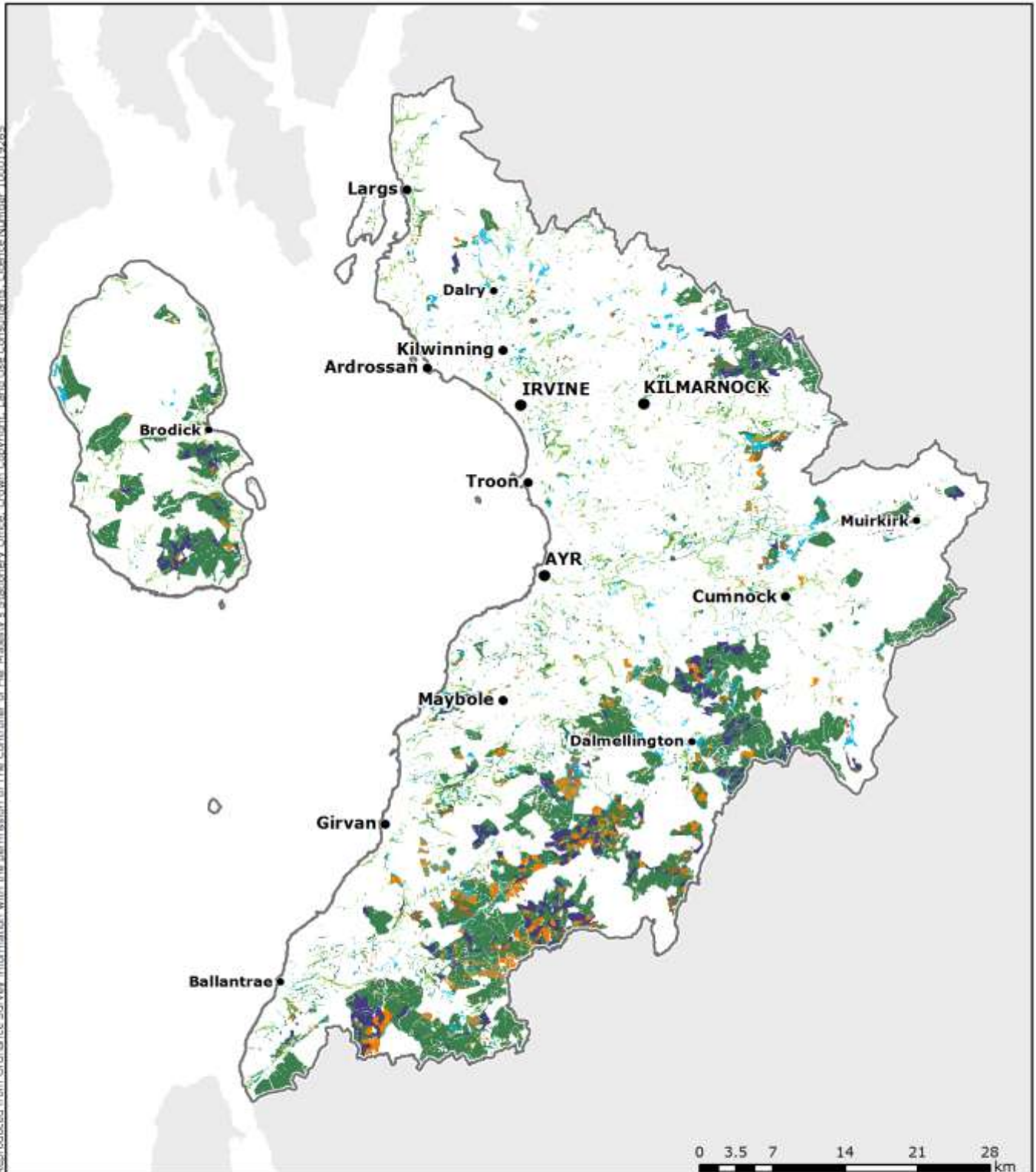


Figure 2.1: Composition of current woodland resource



Legend

Woodland type

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ Assumed Woodland | ■ Low Density |
| ■ Broadleaved | ■ Mixed - predominantly Broadleaved |
| ■ Conifer | ■ Mixed - predominantly Conifer |
| ■ Felled | ■ Shrub Land |
| ■ Ground Prepared for Planting | ■ Young Trees |

National Forest Inventory

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Woodland cover

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 2.2: Distribution and composition of the existing woodland resource

Where we want to be

A vision for woodlands and forestry

By 2050, Ayrshire and Arran's woodlands will make a significantly enhanced contribution to the region's economy, the health and wellbeing of its communities and the quality and resilience of its environment.

- Woodlands will support healthy timber production and processing industries, provide new opportunities for tourism and recreation and will be integrated with agriculture and other key land uses.
- Woodlands will improve communities' quality of life by improving local environments, involving people in woodland planning, management and ownership, and delivering recreation, education, active travel and health benefits.
- Woodland will contribute to a high quality, resilient and diverse natural environment, helping us to adapt to the challenges of climate change and reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases.

How we're going to get there

Aims and objectives

To optimise the role of woodland in addressing climate change:

- Reducing greenhouse gases emissions;
- Helping communities, the timber sector and the natural environment adapt to the changing climate.

To optimise woodlands' contribution to the economy of Ayrshire and Arran:

- Increasing and matching timber production and processing capacity;
- Developing sustainable timber transport solutions;
- Supporting development of a market for woody biomass;
- Increasing the role of woodland in creating a high quality environment for economic investment and regeneration;
- Supporting the development of tourism, recreation and related enterprises;
- Supporting rural diversification.

To optimise woodlands' contribution to communities' quality of life:

- Improving degraded urban and urban fringe landscapes;
- Creating opportunities for active travel, recreation, education and training and healthy lifestyles;
- Increasing community involvement in woodland planning, management and ownership.

To optimise woodlands' role in creating a high quality, resilient and diverse environment:

- Reinforcing Ayrshire and Arran's landscape character and sense of place;
- Improving degraded urban and urban fringe landscapes, derelict and vacant land and areas affected by mineral working;

- Improving woodland biodiversity while protecting important non-woodland habitats and species;
- Conserving historic designed landscapes and veteran trees;
- Protecting and improving understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment.

3

Future Forests

3 Future Forests

- 3.1 Managing woodland is an intrinsically long-term activity. Decisions made today will affect the environment and resources available to future generations in Ayrshire and Arran. This part of the Strategy sets out how woodlands could be managed, enhanced and expanded to achieve the Vision.
- 3.2 To be successful and sustainable, woodland needs to be planned for and managed in a way that is well integrated with other uses of, and aspirations for, the region's finite land resources. A key role of this Strategy is therefore to steer new planting and management activities to areas where benefits can be optimised. Equally, there may be instances where existing woodland is not the optimal land use, and the Strategy provides guidance to aid decision-making and steer appropriate compensatory planting to locations where a wider range of benefits can be delivered⁵.

Future extent of woodland

- 3.3 Ayrshire and Arran currently has a level of woodland cover above the Scottish average – but which has fallen in recent years as a result of a range of factors largely unforeseen in the 2003 Woodland Strategy.
- 3.4 A significant proportion of the planted conifer resource is approaching maturity and will be available for harvesting in the next decade, creating further challenges and opportunities. The increase in locally sourced wood fibre will contribute to the sustainability of processors in the region. Decisions on restructuring, restocking, relocating or developing new productive capacity will help to provide a robust and resilient resource for the future that delivers a wider range of benefits than at present.
- 3.5 In lowland areas, expanded networks of woodland will play an important role in improving resilience to the challenges of climate change, enhancing habitat connectivity, landscape quality and contributing to agricultural diversification.
- 3.6 In and around towns and villages, new trees and woodland can help contribute to regeneration, improving degraded environmental quality and adding to local character and distinctiveness, making Ayrshire a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

National objectives

- 3.7 It is the aim of the Scottish Government to encourage the creation of an additional 10,000ha of new woodland every year, thereby:
- helping tackle greenhouse gas emissions;
 - restoring lost and degraded habitats and aiding adaption to climate change;
 - helping manage ecosystem services;
 - underpinning a sustainable forest products industry;
 - providing community benefits; and,
 - enhancing urban areas and improving landscapes⁶.
- 3.8 The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) adds an extra dimension in mainland Ayrshire, particularly in and around settlements. The CSGN creates a range of opportunities for woodland

⁵ In line with the Scottish Government [Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal](#) – a strong presumption against woodland removal exists except where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits.

⁶ Scottish Government Rationale for Woodland Expansion, p.6

to contribute to regeneration, improving access to quality environments and assist in local efforts to adapt to climate change.

What will it look like?

- 3.9 The Strategy aims to ensure that the region's woodland cover is at least maintained at current levels (c.76,700ha, or 23% of land area), rising gradually to around a quarter of the region's land area. However, achieving the Vision, aims and objectives will mean that the resource looks a little different.
- 3.10 Over the 40 year horizon of the Strategy, people will notice that Ayrshire feels 'greener' – with a greater proportion of woodland located closer to settlement and transport routes. The larger-scale forests in the uplands, while maintaining a significant presence in the landscape, will include a greater proportion of native species and open ground – creating more diverse, attractive environments for biodiversity and people alike – as current and future forest plans are implemented. There is likely to be a movement of softwood forests 'downhill', moving from sensitive peat soils onto lower-lying ground.

Woodland expansion

- 3.11 In comparison with much of Scotland, Ayrshire and Arran is relatively well-wooded. While there are opportunities for expansion, which are explained in more detail below, the key message of the Strategy is to direct effort to where it can optimise the benefits delivered by woodland. Our overarching priorities are:
- managing the existing woodland resource and improving its environmental, social and economic contribution.
 - encouraging sufficient planting of a range of woodland types in appropriate locations to maintain the region's tree cover and deliver a sustainable contribution to national expansion targets. This means that past reductions in woodland cover need to be reversed and that any future losses are appropriately compensated within Ayrshire and Arran.
 - encouraging greater diversity in the mix of tree species planted in Ayrshire and Arran to promote greater resilience to the effects of climate change and emerging threats from pests and diseases.

Land categorisation

- 3.12 The land area of Ayrshire and Arran has been classified by broad sensitivity to woodland expansion, based on the guidance provided by 'The Right Tree in the Right Place' – FCS and the Scottish Government's advice on forestry and woodland strategies.
- 3.13 Categorisation is necessarily a strategic process, giving a general impression of an area's suitability or otherwise for woodland expansion – on detailed examination there will inevitably be small areas that could readily fall into a different category. The importance of site-specific assessment of individual proposals for woodland expansion, or woodland removal, is therefore paramount. The following categories have been adopted:
- **Preferred:** land that offers the greatest scope to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types, and hence, to deliver on a very wide range of objectives. Sensitivities are limited and it should be possible to address any site-specific issues within well-designed proposals that meet the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines.
 - **Potential:** land that offers considerable potential to accommodate a range of woodland types, but where at least one significant sensitivity exists. Design of proposals in this area will require careful, site-specific consideration to ensure they are of an appropriate type and scale to be successfully accommodated.
 - **Sensitive:** areas where the nature or combination of sensitivities restricts the scope to accommodate woodland expansion or removal. Limited expansion is only likely to be possible where proposals are of a scale and character which can be accommodated without significant negative impacts, and/or where it would positively enhance features of interest.
 - **Existing woodland:** land that is currently under woodland of any type.

- **Unsuitable:** land that is physically unsuitable for the growth or management of trees.
- **Built-up:** larger settlements, within which opportunities for woodland creation are generally too small to map effectively at a strategic scale.

3.14 The process of developing the mapping contained in the Strategy is set out in more detail in Appendix 1.

Scenario planning

3.15 The information generated by this process was used to test a range of possible scenarios for woodland expansion through the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process⁷.

3.16 This was necessary to understand the type, level and distribution of expansion that could be sustainably accommodated by the region's environment – and the contribution that Ayrshire and Arran could make to achieving Scottish Government targets. Four separate scenarios, all using the same base data (depicted in Figure 3.1 below), were developed to examine the potential for expansion against then-current national targets. These were as follows:

- **Scenario 1:** low level of expansion, based largely on maintaining existing levels (if not distribution) of woodland cover.
- **Scenario 2:** achieving 25% woodland cover, in line with the target set by the Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006⁸.
- **Scenario 3:** higher level of expansion, aimed at optimising contributions to the maintenance and expansion of the region's forestry industry and opportunities for carbon sequestration.
 - *Scenarios 1-3 followed an approach that applied standard conversion factors to each land class to achieve the desired level of expansion – the simplest method of testing externally-driven 'top-down' targets.*
- **Scenario 4:** followed the opposite approach, starting with an analysis of the notional environmental capacity of the region, broken down into broad landscape character-based 'zones' – depicted in Figure 3.2 below. The judgements on each zone's capacity for new woodland were then used to test the type and scale of expansion that could be accommodated within environmental limits – arriving at a figure of approximately 25% woodland cover. *Although Scenarios 1 and 4 generated approximately the same level of woodland cover, the greater responsiveness provided by Scenario 4 resulted in a more appropriately distributed resource⁹.*

3.17 Following a rigorous and extensive process of assessment, the outcomes of Scenario 4 were accepted by the project steering group as the most appropriate means of defining the upper limits of sustainable woodland expansion in the region. This is not intended as neither a target for the industry and regulators to meet – nor is it a cap in the strict sense. Instead, it represents the broad extent, type and location of expansion that can be sustainably accommodated. Site-specific assessment remains critical in determining the environmental acceptability of individual woodland creation proposals.

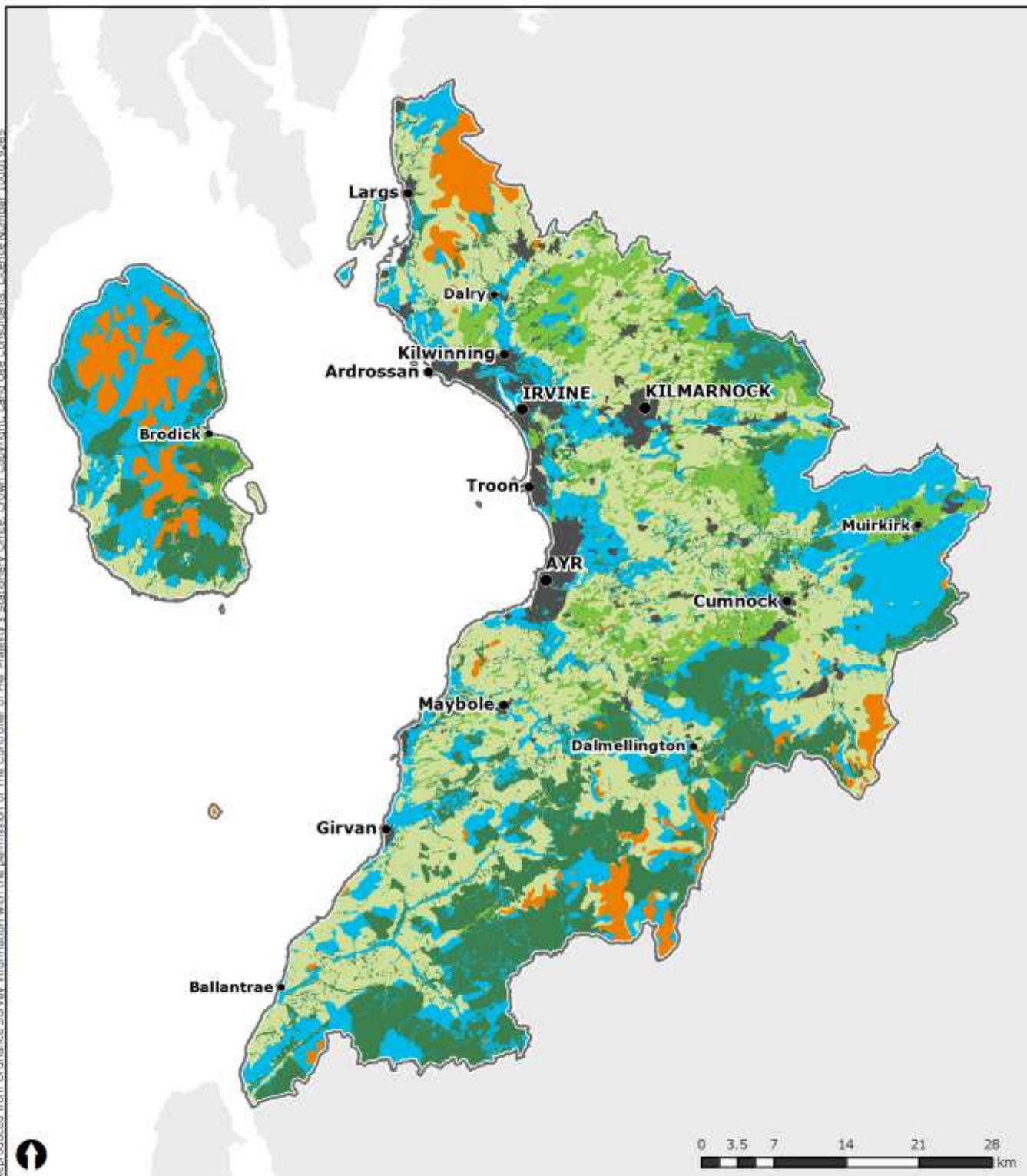
⁷ As a qualifying plan or programme, for the purposes of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, this was a statutory requirement for the Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

⁸ Although this target has now been superseded, it was FCS' and the Scottish Government's aspiration at the time the SEA was undertaken.

⁹ NB. It is not possible to accurately determine the locations in which proposals for woodland creation will come forward – or the type and scale of these schemes. This will largely be driven by economics and land managers' decisions, based on the balance of other uses to which land in the region can be put.

The assessment process is therefore necessarily strategic, and seeks to draw conclusions at the regional scale rather than focussing on essentially unpredictable site-specific effects.

For further information, please see the accompanying SEA Post-adoption Statement. For more general information on SEA, please see the Scottish Government SEA web pages.



Legend

- Built-up
- Existing
- Preferred
- Potential
- Sensitive
- Unsuitable

This map illustrates the strategic preferences set out in the FWS.

It is intended to provide users with a clear indication of the areas with the most - and least - ability to accommodate new woodland within accepted environmental limits.

It must be used in conjunction with the strategic and spatial recommendations of the FWS.

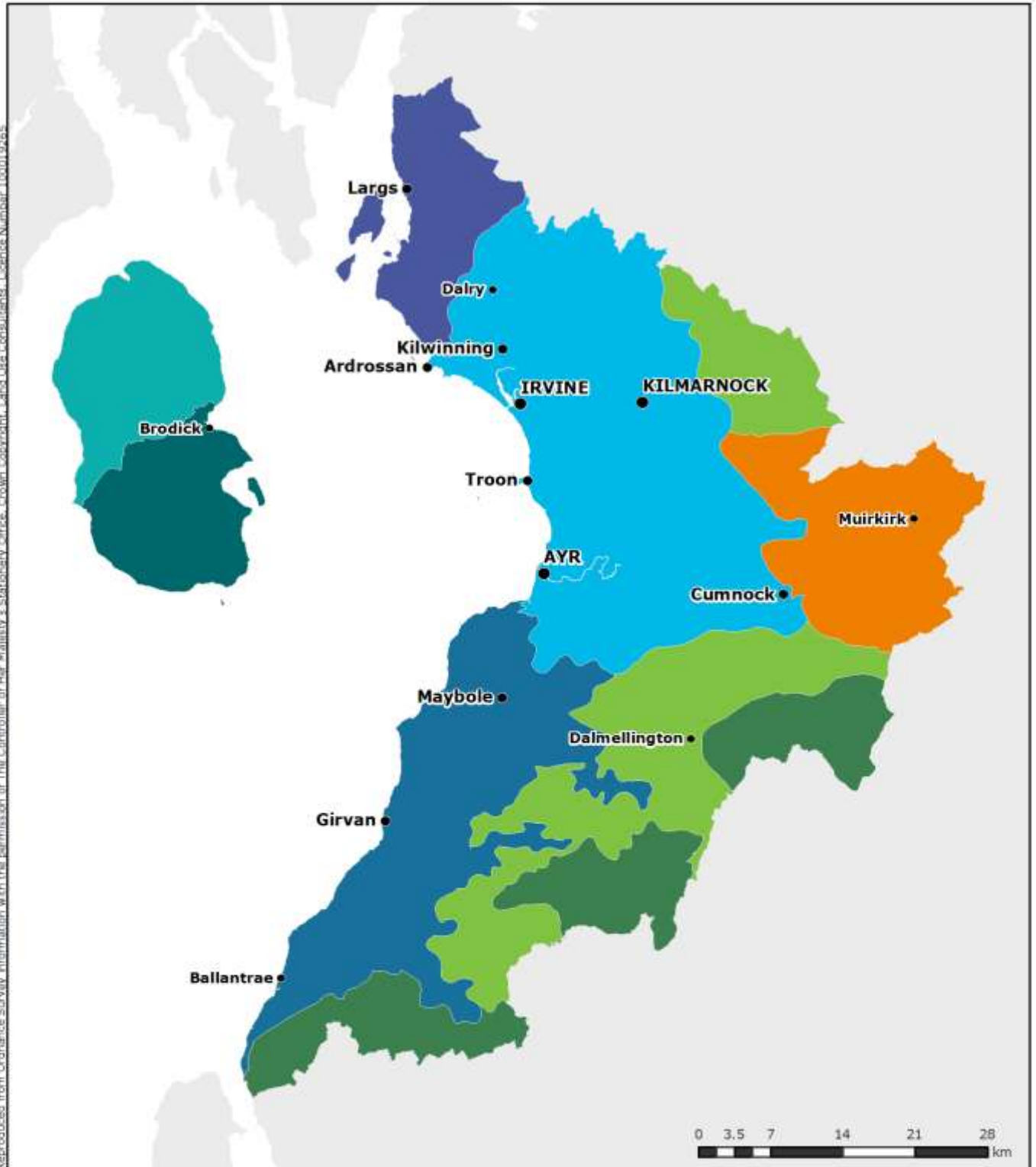
AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Land categorisation

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 3.1: Land categorisation



Legend

■ Ayrshire Uplands	■ North Arran
■ Carrick Hills and Valleys	■ Renfrew Heights
■ Lowland Basin	■ South Arran
■ Muirkirk Uplands	■ Southern Uplands and Galloway Hills

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Spatial framework

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Based on amalgamation of Landscape Character Types

Figure 3.2: Spatial framework

Potential for woodland expansion

3.18 Figure 3.3 indicates the level of potential for woodland expansion across the region. The map requires careful interpretation and does not illustrate the areas that will, or should, be planted. Instead, it depicts the broad level of environmental sensitivity of the region to new woodland of all types.

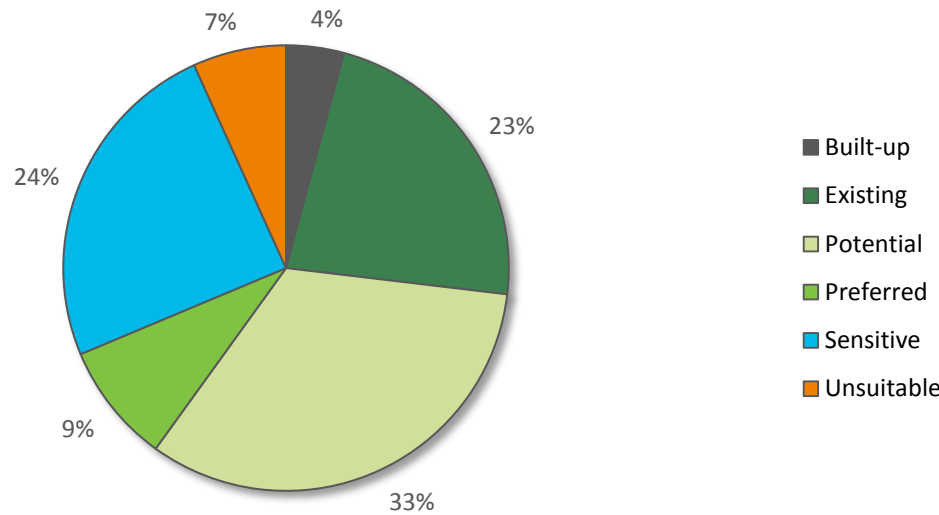


Figure 3.3: proportion of region within each land category

- 3.19 There is significant potential to accommodate new woodland within the region – with around 42% of land area assessed as having some capacity. This equates to an area nearly twice as large as that currently under woodland.
- 3.20 However, it would be neither practical nor desirable to suggest that this area should be entirely converted to woodland – however, it does illustrate the possibilities for addressing recent losses in woodland cover, and for the region to make an expanded contribution to Scottish Government aspirations.

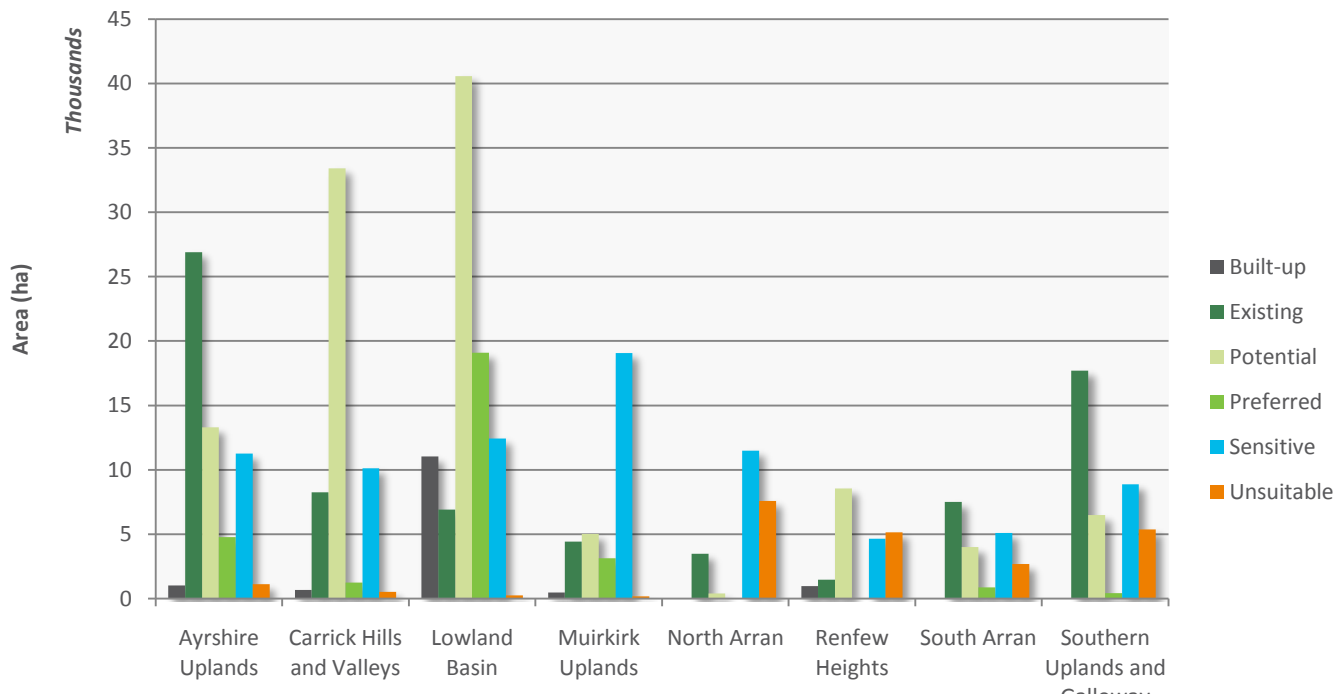
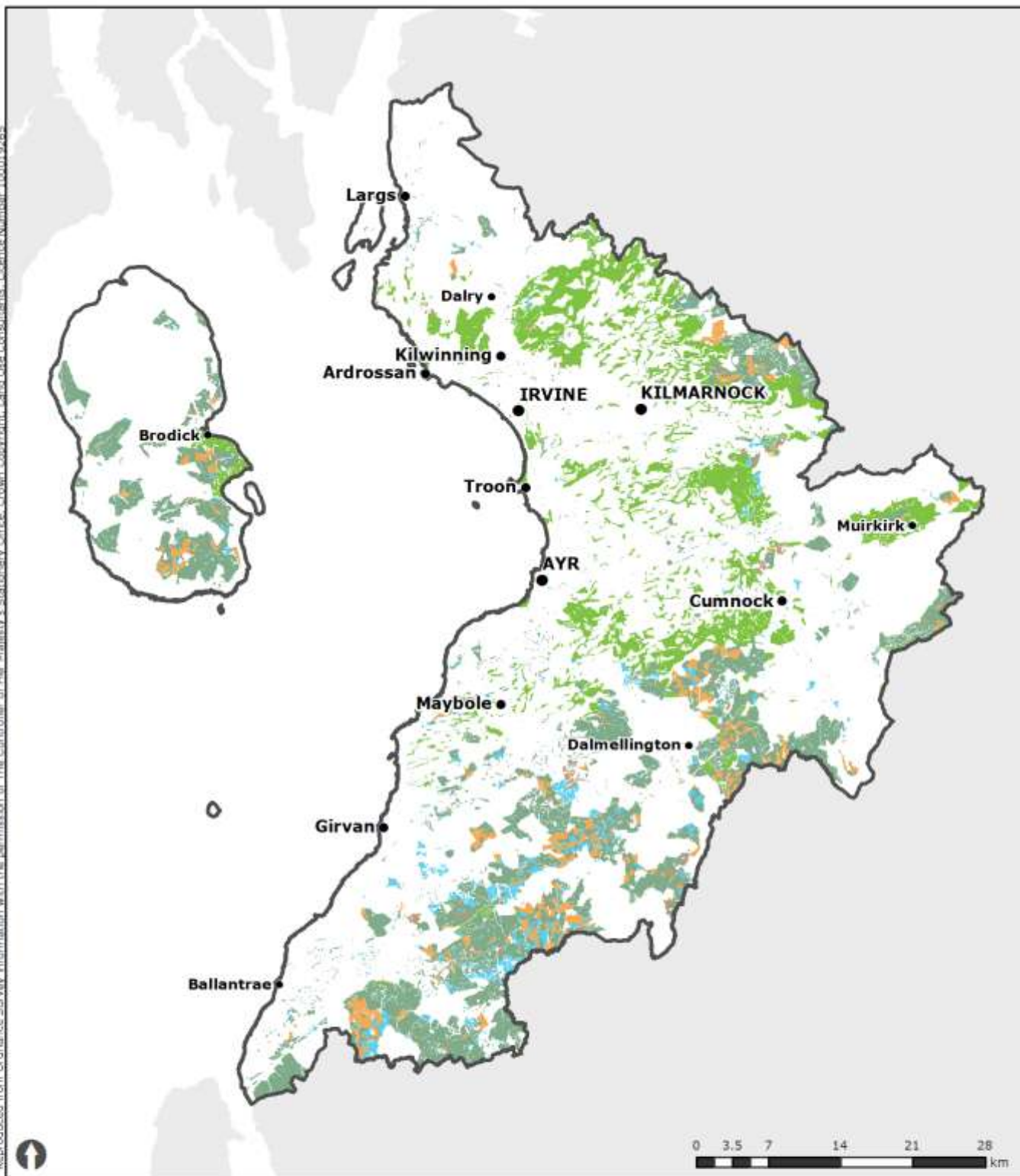


Figure 3.4: Distribution of potential for expansion

- 3.21 This potential is not, however, evenly distributed throughout the region as Figure 3.4 shows. Such is the quality of Ayrshire and Arran's environments that significant proportions of the area are subject to national and international designation – which fall into the 'sensitive' land category. This does not mean that these are 'no go' areas for new woodlands – but the significance of the constraints limits the type and scale of woodland that can be supported and highlights the need for exemplary planning and design.
- 3.22 Section 8 of the Strategy provides more detailed guidance on the types of woodland that are best suited to the opportunities of each of the region's landscape zones.

Woodland types

- 3.23 The Scottish Government's aspirations for woodland expansion cannot be achieved by concentrating on a single woodland type or strategic objective. Similarly, achieving the right mix of woodland in Ayrshire and Arran requires guidance on where each type is most appropriate and can add most value.
- 3.24 As previously noted, managing our existing woodland resource is a key priority of the Strategy – therefore spatial guidance is provided for both management and expansion of key woodland types in Chapter 8 of the Strategy. This is intended to develop a woodland resource that is diverse, resilient to the challenges of climate change and makes a positive contribution to the economy; securing environmental quality and helping communities achieve their potential.
- 3.25 This section sets out strategic guidance for the following woodland types:
- forests to provide a source of **softwood** timber;
 - woodlands for **energy**;
 - **mixed** woodlands, such as farm woodlands and shelterbelts;
 - **native** woodlands contributing to habitat networks; and,
 - woodlands contributing to strategic development and **regeneration** objectives.
- 3.26 These maps are indicative and intended to provide a starting point to inform the development and evaluation of more detailed woodland management and creation proposals. It is likely that there will be opportunities for each type of woodland outside the areas identified on these maps. Some areas are likely to be suitable for more than one woodland type, and some woodland may fall within more than one category.



Legend

- More accessible preferred land
- Existing softwood forests
- Recently felled
- Ground prepared for planting
- Recently planted

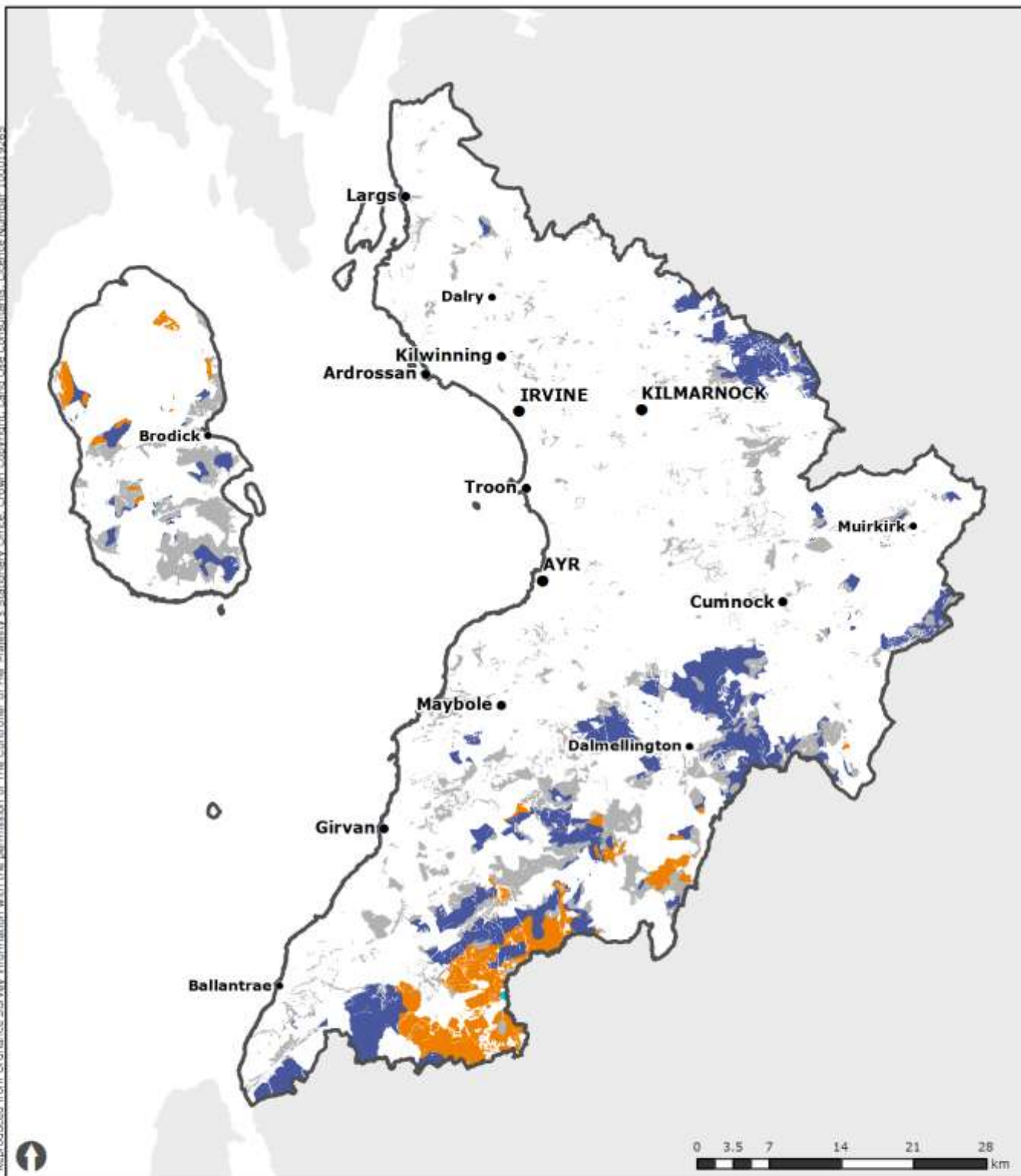
AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Opportunities for softwood forests

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 3.5: opportunities for new softwood forests



Legend

Existing woodland on peat soils

Peat type

- Blanket Peat
- Deep Blanket Peat
- Eroded Blanket Peat
- Semi-confined peat

Woodland not on peat soils



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Woodland on peat soils

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 3.6: woodland on peat soils

Softwood forests

Managing the existing resource

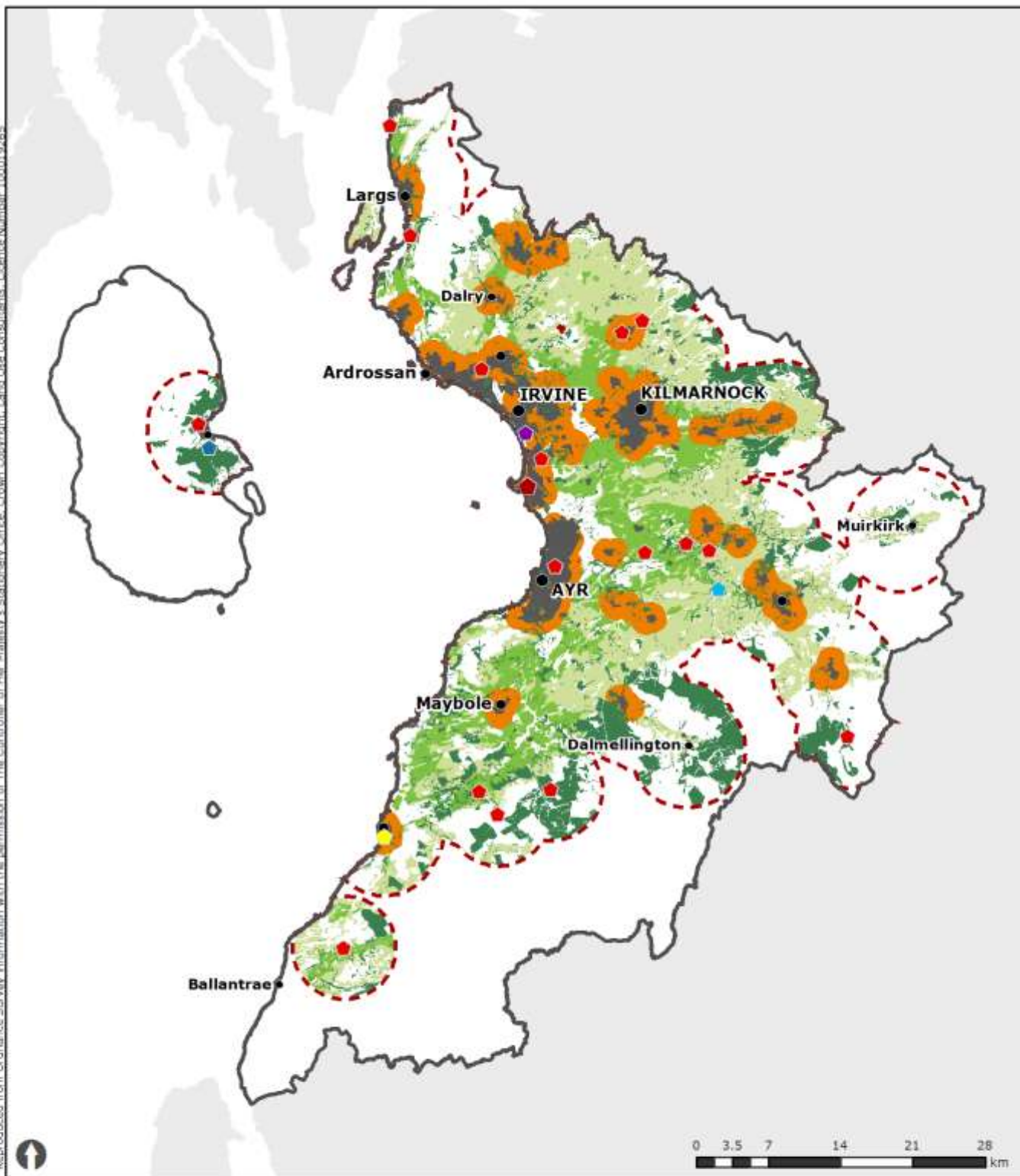
- 3.28 Existing conifer forests are concentrated on the upland fringes of the region – in the Carrick Hills, Southern Uplands and on the Ayrshire Rim. Much of the resource dates from the 1970s and 1980s and is approaching maturity, creating significant opportunities to restructure these plantations. This affords the sector unparalleled scope to:
- Add value to second rotation timber on suitable sites;
 - Where viable, adopt lower impact silvicultural systems;
 - Design in landscape and environmental quality and opportunities to support recreation and tourism; and,
 - Restore sites on sensitive peat soils and enhance key habitat networks, relocating woodlands to more accessible and appropriate locations.
- 3.29 As sites are harvested, difficult decisions will be necessary to weigh the environmental, economic and social benefits of restocking, restructuring or restoration.
- 3.30 Almost 50% of the existing softwood resource is located on peat soils¹⁰. Figure 3.6 illustrates where existing woodlands are located on peat and high carbon soils. In these locations there may be opportunities to add value through restructuring and restoration – prioritising sites with particularly high soil carbon content/peat depth. Restructuring also creates opportunities to contribute to habitat connectivity, allowing newly-created networks of native woodland, grassland and restored wetland to link existing resources in and around restructured forests.
- 3.31 However, Figure 3.6 is purely indicative, and decisions must be guided by detailed site-specific assessment.

Potential for expansion?

- 3.32 Current production forecasts indicate that, in less than 20 years, the region will experience a substantial drop-off in production (see [Figure 5.1](#) for details).
- 3.33 This suggests that new planting of productive conifers will be required to maintain the local contribution to the sustainability of the region's primary and processing sectors. Similarly, significant recent woodland removals and the likely reduction in productive area, resulting from restructuring first rotation forests and restoring less appropriate sites, will further reduce the area available for production.
- 3.34 As Figure 3.5 indicates, the land with the greatest potential to accommodate new productive woodlands is largely located on the lower slopes of Ayrshire's uplands. This land has the benefit of:
- Being more accessible from the transport network, and closer to markets/users;
 - Soils with depleted carbon content that would sequester significantly more carbon under woodland¹¹;
 - Offering an alternative sustainable land use to under-used or abandoned marginal farmland.
- 3.35 Further opportunities for productive woodland may be conferred through the restoration of former mineral sites, as part of long term remediation plans and in areas best-suited to producing a good quality timber crop.

¹⁰ Basin peat: 2%; Blanket peat: 34%; Deep blanket peat: 0.07%; Eroded blanket peat: 0.04%; Semi-confined peat: 13.4%

¹¹ Woodland soils generally hold twice the carbon stored in the trees themselves
Combating Climate Change: A Role for UK Forests (2009). The Stationary Office, Edinburgh



Legend

Potential industrial users

- Chipboard plant
- Power Plant
- Sawmill
- Major sawmill
- Paper mill
- Pellet producer

- Nominal 5km distance from likely users
- Larger settlements
- Existing woodland
- WIAT / urban fringe area
- Management of farm woods
- Wider range of opportunities

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Opportunities for Energy forests

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 3.7: opportunities for energy forests

Energy forests

Managing the existing resource

- 3.36 Much of the region's woodland has some potential to contribute to growing the biomass sector. Apart from productive conifer forests, the majority of the woodland resource is under-managed and would benefit from more active stewardship. In addition to providing a significant fuel resource, this could make a substantial contribution to the health of native woodland ecosystems, improve the appearance and value of neglected woods close to towns and villages and provide an income from a currently underperforming resource.
- 3.37 Developing robust supply chains is key to the long term sustainability of the local biomass industry. This is particularly significant on Arran, where the high cost of transporting material on and off the island makes the development of a robust internal market particularly attractive. Here, the most appropriate source of biomass is likely to remain harvesting residues, small diameter roundwood and, where it can be accomplished without adverse impacts, stump recovery following harvesting of conifer forests.
- 3.38 Rising fuel prices are a particular concern for island and other isolated communities without access to the gas network, as well as in the more deprived areas of Ayrshire where fuel poverty is a serious issue.
- 3.39 Residues from the region's major processors could add further value by either providing a source of on-site renewable energy (as in the case of UPM Caledonian Paper mill) or as a marketable product, through the production of wood pellets.

Potential for expansion?

- 3.40 It is unlikely that large-scale planting solely for biomass production will become a significant element of Ayrshire's woodland resource. In lowland areas, where land is suitable for short rotation coppice, land and agricultural values are likely to remain sufficiently high to limit uptake. Therefore in areas of better quality land, the creation of multipurpose farm woodlands is likely to provide the bulk of new material in the longer term.
- 3.41 Close to towns and villages, the expansion and enhancement of amenity woodlands will provide additional material through thinning and maintenance. Biomass could make an important contribution to the management of community woodlands – providing an income to fund access and recreation enhancements and, potentially, a source of fuel for community ventures.
- 3.42 In more marginal areas, short rotation forestry could become a component of new planting schemes. Building on work commissioned by the Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company, vacant and derelict land – and even stalled development sites – could provide an attractive location for new woodland with a biomass component. Equally, such an approach could be applied to the restoration and positive reuse of minerals sites.



Legend

- Existing native woodland
- Existing nearly-native woodland
- Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
- Search area for new riparian woodland
- Areas with potential to contribute to woodland habitat networks
- Other woodland

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Opportunities for new native woodlands

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 3.8: opportunities for new native woodland

Native woodland

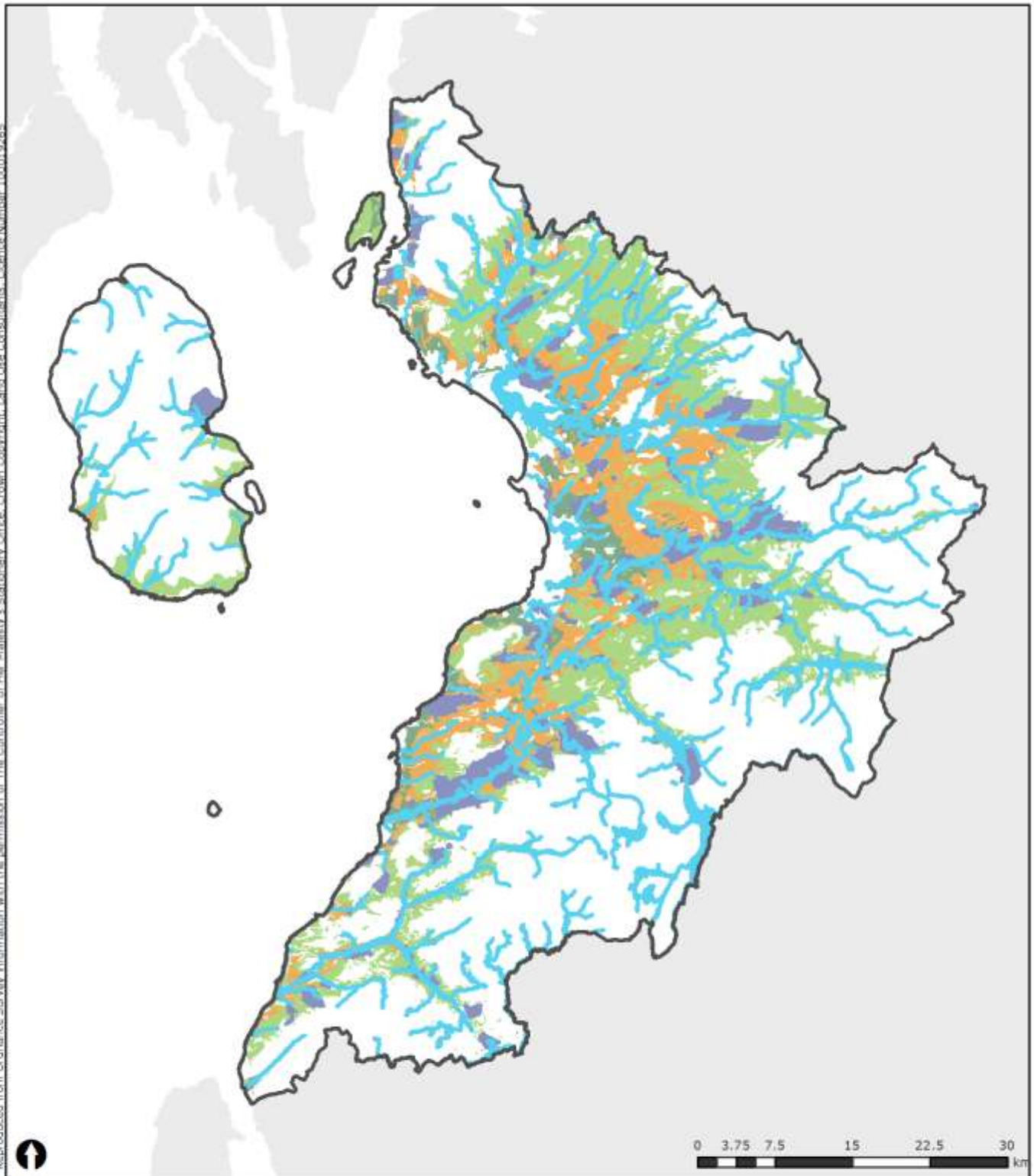
Managing the existing resource

- 3.43 Ayrshire and Arran in general has relatively fragmented native woodlands – with the notable exceptions of the larger river valleys which provide the broad structure of the resource. Of the 9 SSSIs in the region designated for their woodlands, only three are in ‘favourable’ condition, potentially indicating that the general health of these ecosystems is failing. Similarly, most native woodlands are relatively small, limiting their resilience to the effects of climate change and their overall habitat diversity.
- 3.44 A key objective for managing the region’s native woodlands are therefore to protect and enhance key sites – such as Arran’s upland birch and whitebeam woodlands and the remnant upland oak woodland in the Ayr gorge – targeting interventions to secure the ‘core’ of the region’s woodland habitat networks.
- 3.45 A number of larger estates contain ‘Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites’ (or PAWS) – areas that were once native woodlands, but have been subsequently felled and replanted, often with non-native species. Where the intactness of remnant features and/or the ancient woodland seed bank can be established, these sites could be progressively restored to native woodland.

Potential for expansion?

- 3.46 Given the level of fragmentation illustrated in Figure 3.8, there is a strong need for native woodland expansion to address a range of issues.
- 3.47 Creating and enhancing robust networks of woodland habitat will be critical, not only in assisting species’ adaptation to the effects of climate change, but in adding to the resilience of our own homes and communities. River corridors could therefore provide the initial focus of effort, bolstering existing riparian networks and contributing to wider sustainable water management efforts. As such, new native woodland may be useful in achieving wider objectives set by the Scotland River Basin Management Plan, and the associated Clyde Area Management Plan, particularly with regard to tackling diffuse pollution and managing flood risk. Current rural development funding, delivered through SRDP, offers a range of opportunities for landowners to create native woodlands, including those with a productive element contributing to the hardwood timber resource.
- 3.48 The Integrated Habitat Network data, used in the development of Figure 3.8 and other strategy mapping, will provide useful insights at the site-specific level. The Areas with potential to contribute to habitat networks¹² depicted in Figure 3.8 represent the possible ‘easy wins’ in the region – where new woodland could help to secure the integrity of core sites. However, the wider challenge is addressing the ‘white space’ shown on Figure 3.8 and creating robust networks of new woodland and other habitats.
- 3.49 New native woodlands could also make an important contribution to climate change adaptation, through the development of new riparian and floodplain woodland in suitable locations. Planning authorities will highlight the opportunities for the delivery of new native woodlands as part of the landscaping and sustainable drainage solutions proposed as part of new developments.

¹² Based on the Broadleaved and Yew Woodland IHN ‘priority enhancement areas’



Legend

- Supporting agriculture on prime land
- Supporting resilience and diversification
- Wider range of opportunities
- Search area for new riparian woodland
- Enhancing policy woodlands

Prime quality agricultural land (Land Capability Classes 2 and 3.1) are categorised as 'sensitive,' therefore particularly careful siting and design will be required in these areas

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Opportunities for mixed woodland

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 3.9: opportunities for mixed woodland

Mixed woodland

For the purposes of this strategy 'mixed' woodland is defined as "woodlands of mixed species composition, often including native broadleaves, traditional non-native broadleaves (such as beech, sycamore/ornamental Acers and horse chestnut) and conifers. They may be designed to provide year-round shelter, landscape enhancement, screening or enclosure, as well as the potential to provide products for local use¹³."

Managing the existing resource

- 3.50 The mixed woodland resource is focussed largely in and around the region's numerous surviving and former designed landscapes. Networks of policy woodland extend from estate centres out into farmland and river corridors, making an important contribution to landscape character and habitat networks. However, this resource is also fragmented often degraded – particularly where estates have been broken up or are not managed as a coherent entity (unlike those which have become Country Parks).
- 3.51 There is significant potential to bring these woodlands into more active management in a manner that is compatible with protecting and enhancing their cultural significance and natural heritage value. However, it is necessary to actively plan for the future of these sites. 'Succession planning' for specimen trees – particularly those in key landscape features such as avenues – is vital to ensure that character and significance are maintained. The effects of climate change should also be taken into account in the selection of species and provenance, helping to design in resilience.
- 3.52 Like the lowland woodland resource in general, farm woodlands are currently highly fragmented. The trend towards indoor overwintering of livestock has reduced the need for, and impetus to maintain, shelterbelts and field trees. Similarly, relatively high land values have impeded progress in development of more extensive woods. This is particularly the case for tenant farmers, where the long term nature of forestry offers little incentive to invest.
- 3.53 In the short to medium term, management effort should focus on arresting the decline of this important resource and planning for the replacement of field trees in good time. For larger woods, biomass potentially offers a useful route towards positive management – providing an income and funding for future interventions.
- 3.54 Bridging the gap between the strategy's aspirations for woodland management and low levels of activity on the ground is a key challenge that implementation of the strategy will need to address. There are likely to be a range of reasons why farm and estate woodland in particular are not managed more widely, including:
- Levels of financial assistance and return;
 - Availability of skills and relationship with land managers' core activities;
 - Awareness and individual land manager priorities.

Potential for expansion?

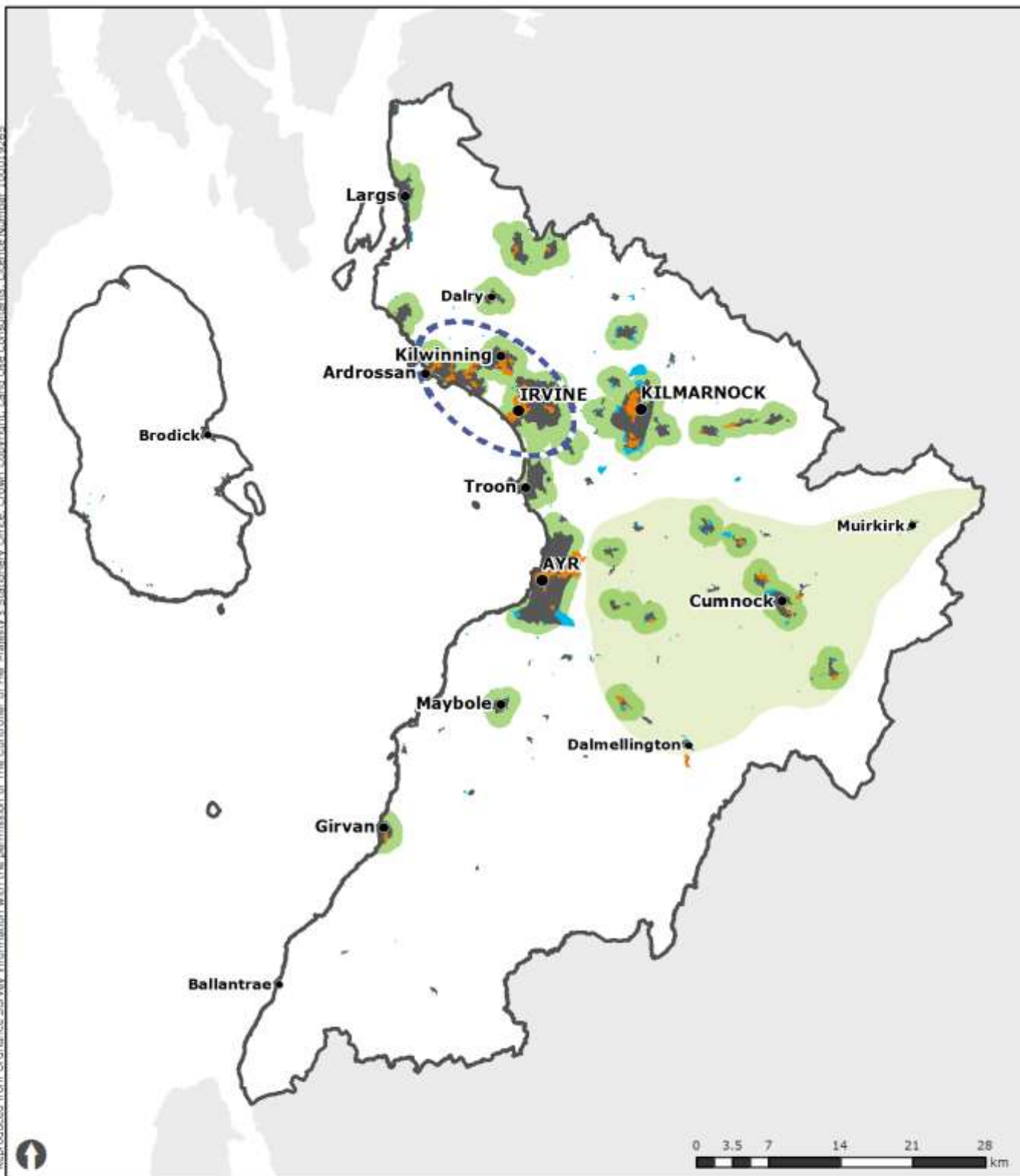
- 3.55 Although the previous Woodland Strategy was very successful in promoting woodland creation, stimulating the development of new farm woodlands proved difficult. Despite favourable rates delivered through the locational premium only 42ha of additional farm woodland was created between 2003 and 2008.
- 3.56 Farming practices and rural support will evolve significantly over the coming decades – and farm forestry needs to be positioned to support this change. Land capability and values are likely to increase as a result of climate change, potentially further reducing the economic case for farm forestry. However, highlighting the role of trees and woodland in meeting the challenge of adapting to climate change could help to boost uptake. Increasing planting in river corridors could help to mitigate the effects of floodwaters and also help to separate stock from

¹³ Adapted from the Scottish Government [Rationale for Woodland Expansion](#)

watercourses, contributing to reduction of diffuse pollution and impacts on river morphology¹⁴. Again, understanding how woodlands relate to the decisions of different land managers will be critical in developing incentives, information and support to help achieve this kind of expansion.

- 3.57 In areas of better quality land under arable agriculture, protecting the integrity of the soil resource by preventing wind and water erosion should be the priority. Prime agricultural land (in Ayrshire, Class 2 and 3.1) is classified as 'sensitive' to new woodland for the purposes of this strategy. This means that planting proposals in this area should incorporate the highest standards of planning and design.
- 3.58 Ayrshire's largely pastoral agricultural economy has not resulted in the level of field boundary loss seen in comparable areas of Scotland. Although eroded in places, the 18th-19th century landscape structure created by hedges and field trees remains and can readily provide the framework for appropriate expansion.
- 3.59 Mixed woodlands are also frequently located in and around Ayrshire's towns and villages, creating opportunities for new development to enhance existing and deliver new resources as part of well-designed landscaping schemes. In addition, there may be potential to enhance existing mixed woodland found in parks and gardens, and delivering expansion in under-used open spaces where this accords with community aspirations and relevant Open Space / Greenspace strategies and Local Development Plans.

¹⁴ Four major Ayrshire rivers (Ayr, Doon, Irvine and Garnock) and the coastline, are identified as 'priority catchments' for diffuse pollution in the Scotland River Basin Management Plan.



Legend

- Settlements
- Irvine Bay URC activity area
- Contributing to tackling multiple deprivation
- Enhancing the setting of new housing
- Enhancing urban fringe environments
- Contributing to restoration of former mineral sites

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Woodlands for regeneration

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 3.10: woodlands for regeneration

Woodlands for regeneration

- 3.60 Some of Ayrshire's communities are amongst the most deprived in Scotland. While the region shares the legacy of post-industrial decline with much of central Scotland, the relative isolation of many former mining communities frequently serves to exacerbate issues of exclusion and deprivation.
- 3.61 The potential of woodland, as a component of well-planned green infrastructure, to help improve local environmental quality, contribute to placemaking and quality of life is well understood. Ayrshire lies within the Central Scotland Green Network area which, along with the WIAT programme and SRDP, offers a potential source of funding for woodland creation in degraded areas. New planting can help transform the character and perceptions of such areas as well as stabilising slopes and stream banks and reducing diffuse pollution.
- 3.62 In addition to national programmes, local structures – such as East Ayrshire Woodlands – have a key role to play in making the links between communities, the woodland resource and funding opportunities.
- 3.63 Woodland and forestry also have an important role to play in supporting tourism and heritage-led regeneration.

Managing the existing resource

- 3.64 As noted above, a significant proportion of woodlands around towns and villages is undermanaged and, as such, does not make an optimal contribution to environmental quality or residents' quality of life. Assisting communities to engage with their woodlands so that they can help set the priorities for management and enhancement will be a key step in ensuring woods deliver a range of benefits over the longer term.

Potential for expansion?

- 3.65 With the exceptions of Kelburn, Eglinton and Dean Castle Country Parks, there are relatively few accessible large woodlands close to larger settlements, reducing the potential for recreational use. Therefore ensuring these sites maximise their potential is critical. Similarly, woodland delivered through proposed development and as part of enhanced green infrastructure – for example, delivered through the Irvine Bay urban regeneration company – has a key role to play in improving urban environments.
- 3.66 Woodland can also play a part in remediating vacant and derelict land, and provide a productive use for stalled development sites.

4

Climate Change

4 Climate Change

- 4.1 Climate change is recognised as one of the key challenges facing us in the 21st century. Woodlands have a key role to play in helping to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. They can also help us adapt and become more resilient to the climate changes that are projected to occur over the coming decades.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

- 4.2 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 set greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. Ayrshire currently emits around 2690 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide per annum¹⁵, representing around 6% of the Scottish total. Measures to reduce carbon emissions will include:
- The substitution of fossil based fuels with low carbon and renewable energy sources;
 - Improvement energy efficiency designed to reduce the demand for fossil fuels;
 - Initiatives to increase the amount of carbon absorbed and retained within the environment.
- 4.3 Woodland and forestry should contribute to all three types of response.
- 4.4 Increasing the amount of carbon sequestered by woodland is a national priority. There are two elements to this:
- Ensuring that reductions in woodland cover resulting from restructuring¹⁶ and development are more than compensated by new woodland creation elsewhere within Ayrshire and Arran. Sections 3 and 8 of this strategy provide strategic guidance on how and where such woodland creation can be accommodated.
 - Expanding woodland cover across Ayrshire and Arran in line with the strategic guidance contained in Sections 3 and 8 of this strategy. This expansion should avoid areas of high carbon soils.
- 4.5 Scotland's peatlands are our most significant carbon store – holding an estimated 1,600million tonnes of carbon – therefore protecting and, where possible restoring, this resource is of strategic national importance¹⁷.
- 4.6 In some cases, existing forests on high carbon soils should not be replanted following harvesting as peatland restoration may be more beneficial with regard to carbon sequestration and wider environmental objectives. Similarly, the policy of encouraging new softwood forests in lower-lying areas may increase productivity as well as reducing effects on sensitive landscapes, species and habitats. In any case, all woodland removal will need to be compensated by new planting elsewhere in Ayrshire and Arran, in line with the guidance provided in this Strategy. The [Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere](#) is taking forward a programme of peatland restoration that will have significant interactions with restructuring of existing forests.
- 4.7 Supporting the development of woody biomass as a source of low carbon fuel is key means of displacing non-renewable energy sources¹⁸. Key priorities include:

¹⁵ Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit (2010) Monitor 2010: Framework indicators for a sustainable Ayrshire

¹⁶ Internal re-design of woodlands to meet the UK Forestry Standard is not considered to be 'woodland removal' with regard to the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal, and therefore does not require compensatory planting

¹⁷ Reflected in Scottish Government policy, including the Land Use Strategy, and in the recent document *Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027*, Section 9.

¹⁸ It must be noted that woodfuel can only be considered to be 'low carbon' where the equivalent number of trees felled for fuel are replanted to reabsorb the carbon emitted through combustion.

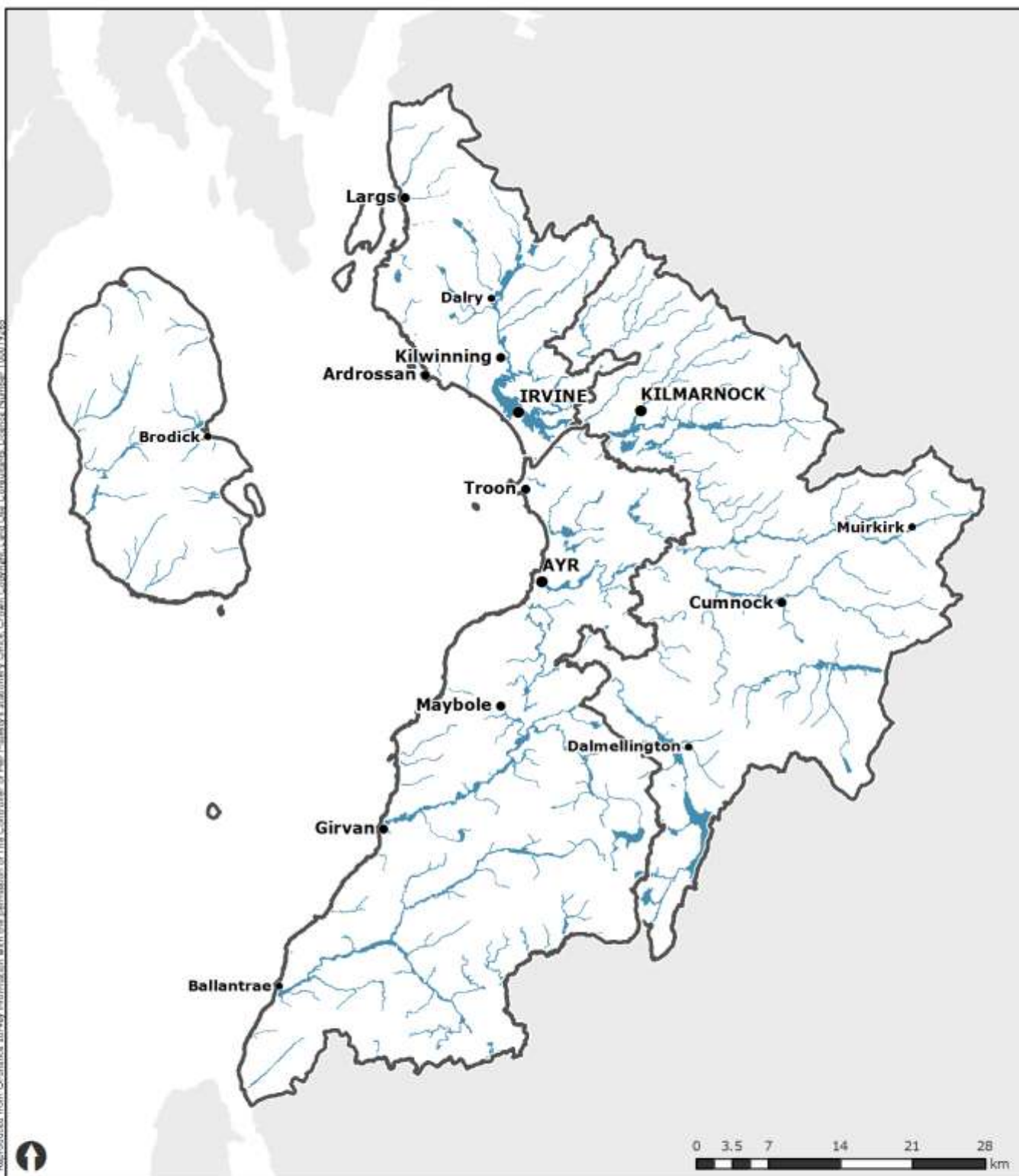
- Bringing existing woodland into positive management to increase the supply of logs and wood chips;
- Making full use of residues from thinning and harvesting operations;
- Establishing energy woodland (short and long rotation coppice) focused on urban fringe, derelict and vacant land, including restored mineral sites where appropriate;
- Supporting the development of a processing and supply chain;
- Supporting the development of a market comprising public and private sector organisations and householders, as well as existing large scale biomass users.

4.8 Other priorities include:

- encouraging the use of timber in construction, particularly where this substitutes high carbon building materials;
- facilitating other forms of renewable energy development (e.g. wind and hydro) where this does not result in a net reduction in woodland cover;
- encouraging energy efficiency in timber production, transport and processing.

Priorities

CC1	Implement the woodland removal policy, with compensatory planting required within Ayrshire and Arran
CC2	Achieve a net expansion of woodland cover to increase carbon sequestration
CC3	Continue to support development of the biomass market
CC4	Promote the wider use of local timber in construction
CC5	Facilitate renewable energy development
CC6	Encourage energy efficiency in the timber sector
CC7	Encourage the restoration of peatlands during forest redesign and restructuring, in locations with suitable hydrological, soil and vegetation conditions



LEGEND

- Ayrshire local authorities
- Areas at risk of flooding

Information from SEPA
Flood map (1-in-200 year)
© Crown Copyright, SEPA

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Flooding

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 4.1: water catchments and flood risk

Adapting to the changing climate

- 4.9 Climate change projections suggest that Ayrshire and Arran will experience milder, wetter winters, warmer, drier summers and rising sea levels. The frequency and intensity of storm events may increase. The area may need to adapt to more frequent flooding and waterlogging in winter and drought in summer. The changing climate will affect the liveability of urban areas and could have a major impact on existing habitats and species.
- 4.10 Trees and woodlands have a key role to play in helping Ayrshire and Arran adapt to the changing climate. Equally important is the need to manage existing tree cover to increase its resilience to climate change, and to ensure that new woodlands reflect the kinds of changes likely to occur during the trees' lifetimes.
- 4.11 A key priority is to explore how new woodlands can help reduce the risk of flooding associated with higher rainfall and more intense rainfall events. Woodland has the effect of intercepting rainfall, slowing and reducing the rate at which it runs-off into rivers and watercourses. This can reduce peak river flows and reduce the risk of flooding, or the requirement for investment in engineered flood defences. Woodland expansion needs to be considered as part of the integrated management of river catchments, but could comprise a mix of softwood, mixed and native woodlands. Planting in the middle and upper catchment can have the greatest benefits in reducing flood flows, particularly where rainfall is concentrated in upland areas.
- 4.12 Flooding occurs along most of the main river corridors in Ayrshire, potentially affecting many of the areas towns and villages which tend to be located at bridging points or where rivers reach the coast. This supports the case for appropriate forms of woodland expansion within the plateau moorland and upland areas, and along the transition from lowland agricultural to moorland areas.
- 4.13 Of equal importance is the role that woodlands can play in establishing habitat networks, linking existing areas of woodland and expanding the network into areas with lower amounts of woodland cover. By reversing the process of habitat fragmentation that has occurred over many decades, such networks can help plant and animal populations become larger and more resilient, as well as providing them with the means to migrate as the climate changes. The integrated habitat network (IHN) data set will guide the expansion and linking of woodlands across Ayrshire and Arran. It is likely that new woodlands will be made up of native and mixed woodlands, extending out from woodland cores and along river and burn corridors. Further information on IHN, and data downloads, can be obtained from the [SNH website](#).
- 4.14 Woodland can also help reduce soil erosion by reducing surface water runoff and waterlogging in winter and the risk of wind scour during drier summer weather. Trees can help stabilise steep slopes along river valleys and in upland parts of Ayrshire and Arran, reducing the risk of landslides when soils become waterlogged.
- 4.15 Trees also have an important role to play in maintaining the quality of urban environments as the climate changes by providing shelter from prevailing wind and rain and shade from the sun during summer months. Trees can also improve air quality along transport corridors.
- 4.16 While trees and woodland can help us adapt, it is likely that they too will be affected by climate change. Potential impacts could include:
- An increase in storm damage, particularly in more exposed coastal and upland areas;
 - Increasing levels of stress as trees have to cope with alternating periods of drought and waterlogging;
 - Increasing prevalence of pests and diseases, and potential spread of invasive species.
- 4.17 Without positive management, including planned programmes of replanting, this could result in the loss of veteran and specimen trees in parks and gardens, street trees and field boundary trees. There could also be adverse impacts on the native woodlands along the coastline and main river valleys.
- 4.18 It is likely that the changing climate will necessitate changes in the way that productive woodland is planned and managed. Higher rainfall and the risk of soil erosion are likely to support the move

from clear fell to continuous cover forestry. Higher and more exposed sites may become less suitable for forestry as a result of wind throw.

Priorities

CC8	Promote the role of woodland in terms of sustainable flood management, prioritising Potentially Vulnerable Areas ¹⁹ identified by SEPA
CC9	Promote the development of habitat networks to help species adapt to climate change
CC10	Promote the role of trees and woodland in conserving soils and stabilising slopes
CC11	Raise awareness of the role of trees and woodland in improving urban micro-climates
CC12	Adapt forest management practices to climate change and move to continuous cover forestry where appropriate

¹⁹ Areas of high flood risk identified under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009
http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/flood_risk_management/consultations/idoc.ashx?docid=673385a2-da60-4bc7-9b89-1c61ba9af2f4&version=-1

5

Economic Development

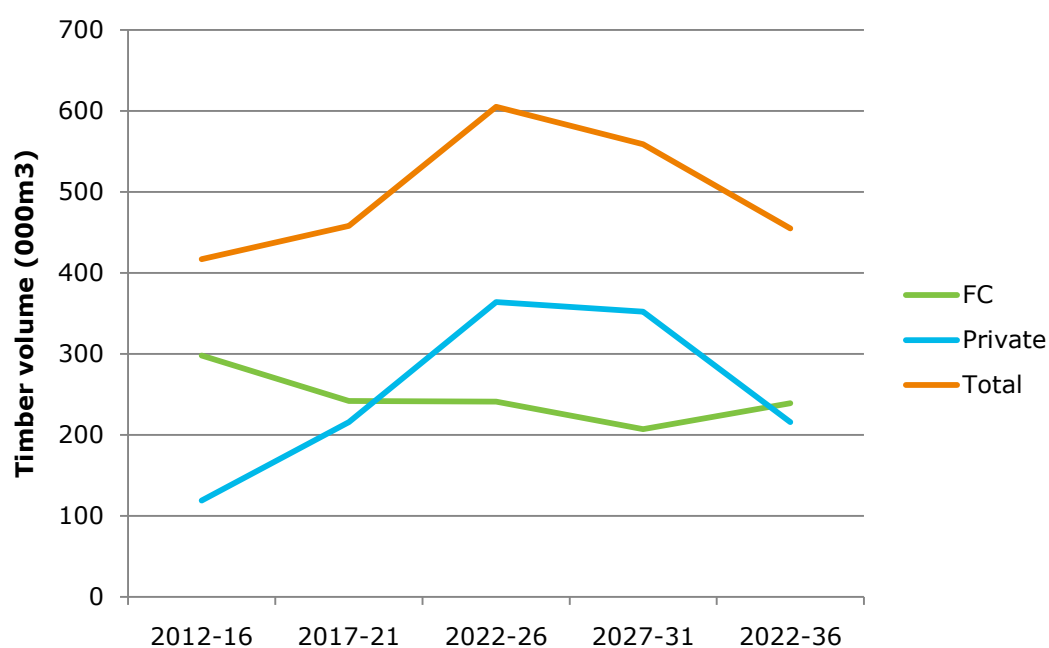
5 Economic Development

- 5.1 Directly and indirectly, woodland already makes an important contribution to the economy of Ayrshire and Arran. This part of the strategy aims to enhance this contribution by supporting further development of a healthy timber production and processing sector, developing new markets and recognising the role of woodlands in supporting the wider economy.

Timber production and processing

- 5.2 There is approximately 45,000ha of coniferous woodland in Ayrshire and Arran²⁰. The majority of this resource is utilised by a small group of well-established, internationally competitive, forest product business based in the region, including:
- Adam Wilson & Sons Ltd sawmill, located at Troon;
 - Caledonian Paper at Irvine, which makes lightweight coated paper and is owned by UPM Kymmene; and,
 - Egger (UK) Ltd, which makes particleboard and related value added products, and has a plant at Barony on the outskirts of Auchinleck.
- 5.3 These companies provided employment for approximately 665 people and had a combined annual turnover of approximately £200 million. In addition, a study conducted in 2006 identified a further 6 small family owned sawmills using coniferous roundwood that are located in Ayrshire. Since 2006, Land Energy Ltd has opened a major wood pellet production facility in Girvan which will add to the number of people employed and the turnover of the sector. In 2006, wood processing companies used approximately 800,000 tonnes per annum of roundwood, which is in excess of the potentially sustainable wood supply from Ayrshire & Arran's softwood forests. The Ayrshire economy therefore benefits from the value added through processing imported raw timber. Many of the larger areas of forest were planted around the same time, meaning that they are reaching the end of their first rotation at a similar time. Forecasts show a very uneven pattern of timber production, with timber volumes climbing to a peak of around 700,000m³ around 2025 before falling away rapidly. This raises particular challenges for the processing sector where capacity is largely fixed, and for the potential value that processed timber can achieve on the market, a challenge that is underlined by recent decreases in woodland cover resulting from restructuring and the woodland removal associated with wind farm development.
- 5.4 In the short term the peak in production can be smoothed by harvesting a proportion of the timber crop early or late, though this has implications for the yield and quality of timber. In the medium and longer term, a more diversified age class for replanted areas, and a move towards continuous cover forestry both offer potential to create a more consistent pattern of supply. It also further highlights the importance of ensuring that the area of softwood forest is maintained or increased over future years.
- 5.5 A steady supply of harvested timber will help ensure that processing makes best use of material grown in Ayrshire and Arran, and that smaller facilities can operate on a more sustainable footing. It will also help retain key processors within Ayrshire, securing employment and local economic benefits.
- 5.6 The planning process has a key role in facilitating the continued development and diversification of the processing sector.

²⁰ Based on the 2011 Forestry Commission *National Forest Inventory* dataset

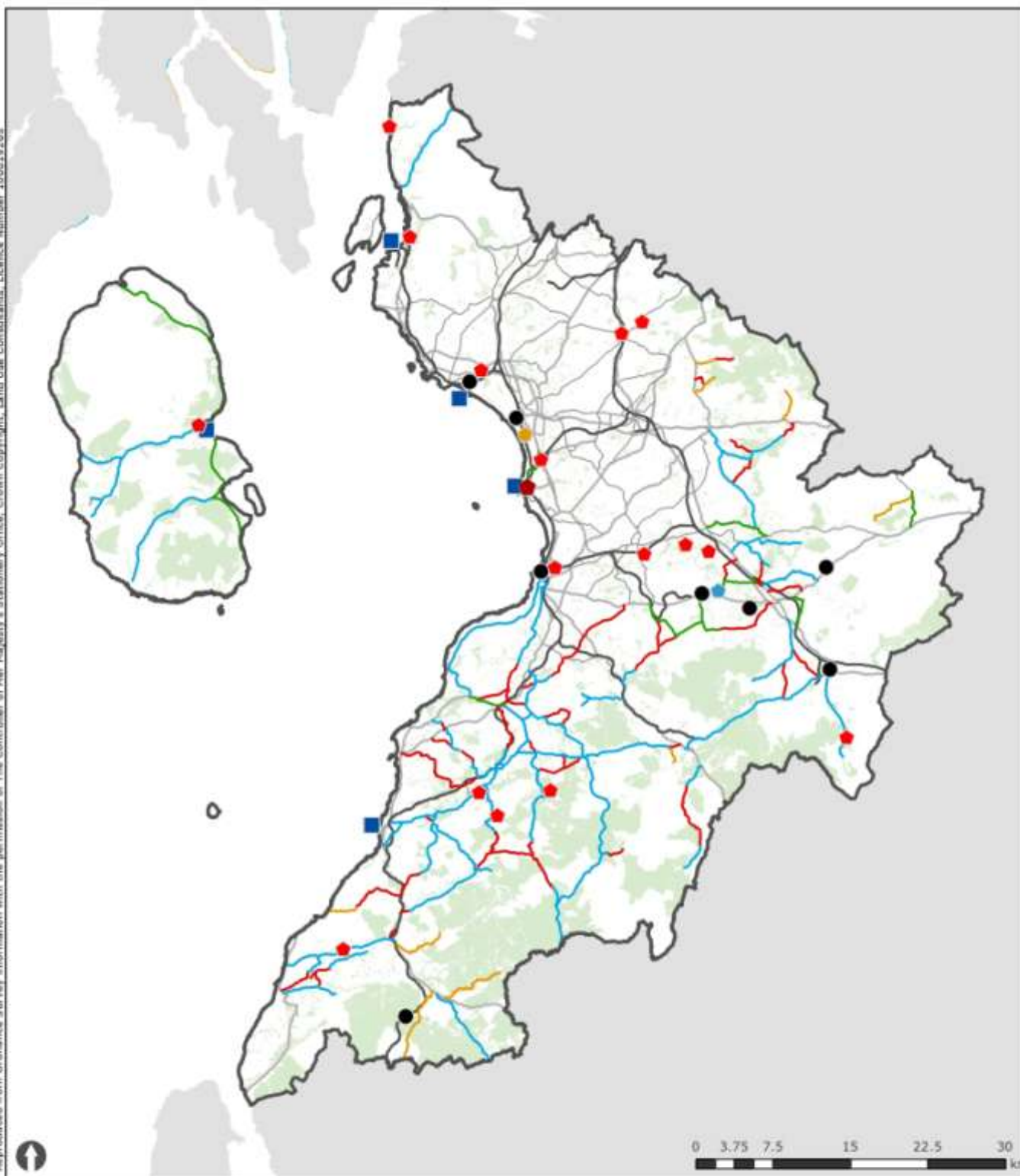


Figures provided by National Forest Inventory team, FCS – based on 2011 NFI data

Figure 5.1: 25-year conifer production forecast

Priorities

ED1	Manage woodland harvesting, restructuring and expansion to provide a more even pattern of timber production
ED2	Facilitate the retention and upgrading of timber processing facilities
ED3	Plan for future timber processing development



LEGEND

Wood processing sites Strategic transport network

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Chipboard mill | Potential Railhead |
| Sawmill | Agreed route |
| Major sawmill | Consultation route |
| Paper mill | Severely restricted route |
| Ports | Excluded route |

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

TITLE:

Transport network

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 5.2: Timber transport network

Timber transport

- 5.7 The movement of timber throughout the local road network and particularly on unclassified roads can generate significant problems for the local council road maintenance programmes and create tension between timber haulage companies and rural communities.
- 5.8 The Ayrshire Timber Transport Liaison Group was formed in 1998 to address the issues related to timber transport in a holistic and coherent manner. The ATTG has proactively pursued the implementation of the transport actions identified by the *Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Strategy 2003* and in 2005 published the Ayrshire Timber Transport Strategy. The Strategy brings forward a policy context that enables the sustainable extraction and transportation of timber over the forthcoming years.
- 5.9 Progress on timber transport issues to date within Ayrshire includes:
- Publication of agreed routes map to direct timber traffic onto appropriate routes. The routes are kept under regular review and the most recent revision was published in June 2012;
 - Investigation of opportunities to develop railheads to transfer timber from road to rail;
 - Timberlink – movement of 100,000 tonnes of timber per year by ship from ports in Argyll to Troon (removing 1 million lorry miles each year from roads);
 - Shipping of timber from Arran to Troon;
 - Funding package for construction of in-forest haul roads removing 24,000 vehicle movements from the B880 (String Road) and feasibility study looking at opportunities for a dedicated timber loading facility on Arran.;
 - Development of wood fired combined heat and power plant at Dyemill on Arran (which will utilise timber close to source);
 - Funding approval for road improvements in the Carrick area of South Ayrshire.
- 5.10 The timber production forecasts, allied to aspirations for biomass production, suggest that the volume of timber transported will continue to increase in the future. The Ayrshire Timber Transport Liaison Group has a key role to play in continuing to develop innovative solutions to minimise the impact on local communities and to promote efficiency within the timber transport sector.

Priorities

ED4	Support the work of the Ayrshire Timber Transport Liaison Group to enable the sustainable extraction and transportation of timber and promote efficiency
ED5	Continue collaborative working between the timber transport industry and public authorities to maintain and implement the Agreed Routes Map
ED6	Develop local solutions based on the use of forest haul roads to avoid sensitive locations
ED7	Continue to explore the potential for alternative transport of timber by rail and water
ED8	Support the retention and use of local timber processing plant and development of appropriate new local processing facilities
ED9	Ensure that proposals for new softwood forests reflect the capacity of the local road network

Biomass

- 5.11 The Scottish Government has set a target of 11% of heat demand to be met from renewable resources by 2020. The achievement of this target will be assisted by the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) which was introduced in November 2011 for the industrial, commercial and public sectors and is a follow on from earlier incentive schemes. The RHI is to be extended to domestic users by summer 2013.
- 5.12 There have been a small number of commercial scale biomass boilers installed in Ayrshire, including the combined heat and power plant at UPM Kymmene paper mill at Irvine and the wood pellet fired heating system at Girvan Community Hospital. More recently, Land Energy have opened a wood pellet manufacturing facility at Girvan which will supply 60,000 tonnes of pellets per annum. The plant itself is powered by a combined heat and power biomass boiler. An application has recently been submitted for a wood-fired combined heat-and-power plant in the Dyemill forest on Arran, making use of locally sourced – and currently under-utilised – woody biomass. In addition E.on operate a 44 megawatt wood fired electricity generating plant at Steven's Croft, Lockerbie which is likely to utilise timber produced in Ayrshire as well as elsewhere in Scotland and the North of England.
- 5.13 Demand for woody biomass is forecast to increase significantly within the next three years as a number of commercial scale wood fired plants are completed across Scotland and through increased demand from pellet manufacturers. The introduction of the RHI will lead to further increases. At the Scottish level, the largest sources of raw materials are softwood brash/branchwood, softwood logs/chips/SRW (50% of total resource) and recycled and waste wood (27%). Other sources include hardwood logs (8%) and arboricultural arisings (5%). Short rotation coppice is insignificant at less than 1%. It is likely therefore that the bulk of the increased demand for wood fibre for commercial scale heat and power plants will be met from the existing commercial woodland resource and harvesting and processing residues.
- 5.14 There are examples in Ayrshire of efforts to increase supply from other sources. The Ayrshire Woodfuel Forum brings together private and public sector organisations and individuals to promote both the supply of and demand for woodfuel. A consortium of estates has formed the Ayrshire Woodfuel Group which aims to utilise their own undermanaged woodlands to supply wood chip. EADHA Enterprises have been awarded funding from the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund to trial Aspen on former opencast coal sites in the East Ayrshire coalfield area. In addition to enhancing the ecology and landscape of the area, the project will also study the potential for establishing community based woodfuel supply chains using the future timber resource.
- 5.15 Domestic fire logs are supplied by a variety of small to medium sized companies in Ayrshire utilising timber arising from tree/woodland maintenance work. The availability of the Renewable Heat Incentive for domestic properties suggests a growing market for fire logs and opportunities therefore to bring more woodland into active management and generate jobs in the supply chain.
- 5.16 Further development of the biomass market in Ayrshire and Arran requires three main components to be in place:
- An increase in the supply of woody biomass from existing woodland, forest management operation and new energy forests;
 - An efficient processing and distribution chain, linking relatively local sources of biomass with nearby sources of demand;
 - A viable market for woody biomass, with public sector organisations and large companies investing in boilers and combined heat and power plant in order to pump-prime the sector.

Priorities

ED10	Increase the area of existing woodland that is managed to provide wood fuel
ED11	Encourage the creation of new energy woodlands on derelict and vacant land and in locations close to sources of current or potential demand

ED12	Facilitate the development of wood fuel processing and distribution infrastructure
ED13	Support the creation of a market for wood fuel by investing in biomass boilers, specifying combined heat and power units and raising awareness among developers, social enterprises and householders

Economic investment and regeneration

- 5.17 There is increasing recognition that a good physical environment plays an important role in attracting economic investment and attracting and retaining a skilled workforce. Ayrshire, like much of Central Scotland, is faced with a legacy of former industrial sites, areas affected by mineral working and degraded urban fringe landscapes. At the same time, there is a growing need to grow local companies and attract new investment into the area in order to grow and diversify the local economy.
- 5.18 Trees and woodland can play a role in enhancing the landscapes and townscape of these areas, contributing to place-making and supporting initiatives to attract economic investment to the area. On large derelict sites, or land awaiting development, woodland planting can help create a high quality landscape within which future development can be set. Bodies such as East Ayrshire Woodlands are already demonstrating the social and economic value of enhancing degraded environments, but there is significant potential for the sector to assist in driving regeneration.
- 5.19 In some locations there may be potential to establish temporary woodlands, including energy crops, on land intended for future development, thus creating a positive use and a potential source of income.

Priorities

ED14	Use new planting to enhance the enhance derelict and degraded land, including former industrial and mineral sites, urban fringe landscapes and stalled development sites
ED15	Use woodland planting and management to improve the environmental quality of key investment locations
ED16	Prioritise woodland planting in advance of development to create a high quality landscape framework, integrate development into the wider landscape, link into habitat networks and contribute to sustainable flood management
ED17	Highlight the potential of development to support the creation and consolidation of green networks, including delivery of the woodland component of the Central Scotland Green Network

Tourism and recreation

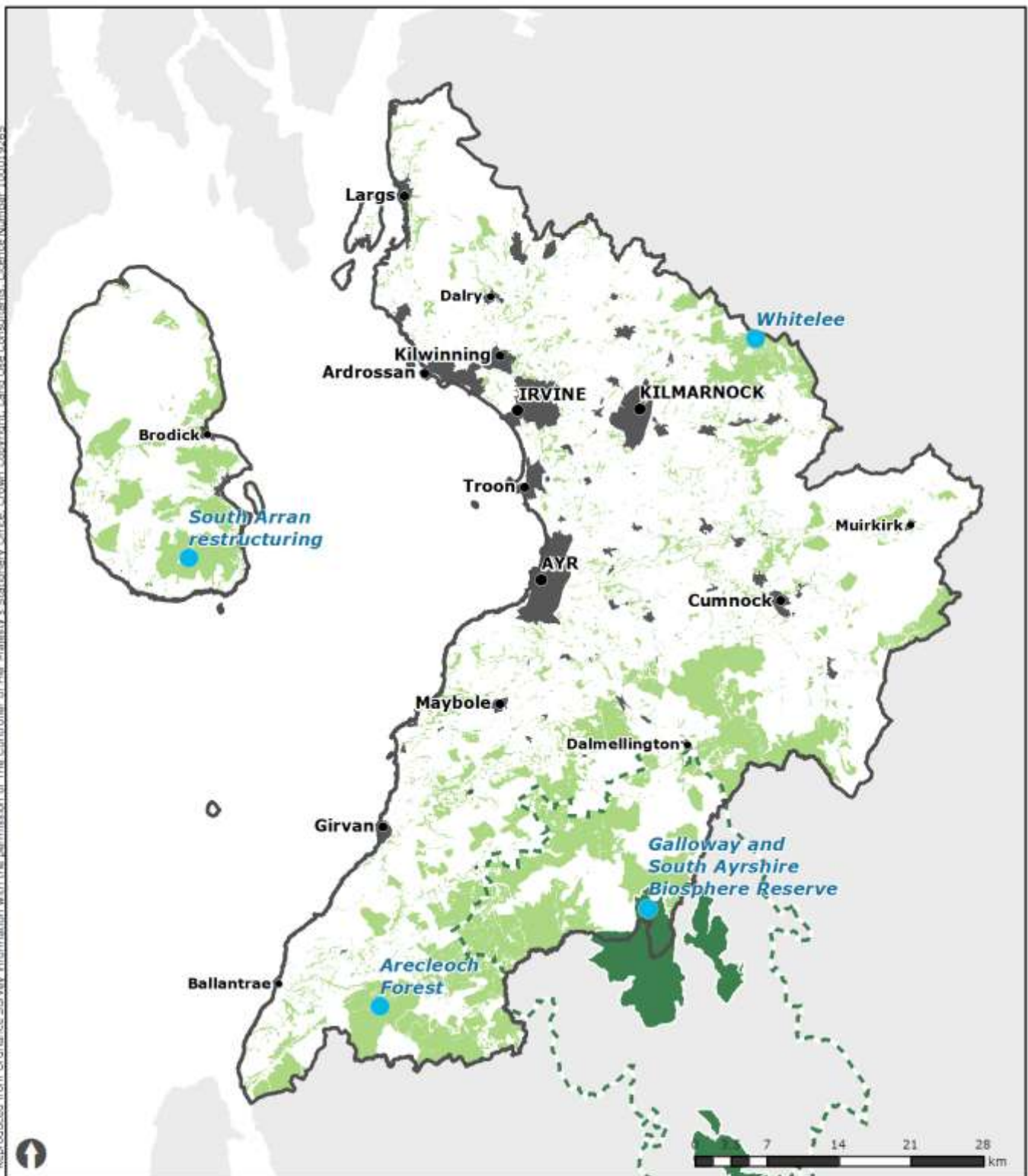
- 5.20 Woodlands already contribute to Ayrshire and Arran's appeal as a place to visit or spend leisure time, reflecting the wider trends towards active outdoor recreation. The quality of the region's environment is therefore critical in maintaining and expanding its appeal to local people and visitors alike.
- 5.21 There is significant potential to increase this contribution by expanding the range of woodland based recreation available in Ayrshire and Arran. Recent analysis of the Galloway and Southern Galloway Biosphere Reserve (which includes a number of different habitats) suggested that public sector investment in the project could yield returns of between 4:1 and 9:1 over a ten year period – much of which is projected to be delivered through tourism.
- 5.22 Currently, around 750,000 trips are made to the region each year, accounting for around £200million of direct expenditure and nearly 13,000 jobs²¹, with previous studies attributing up to 20% of this benefit to wooded landscapes²². However, most stays are relatively short and ensuring woodland-based attractions contribute to increasing duration of stays, and value added, is a regional priority.
- 5.23 The region's cultural heritage is an important draw for visitors and includes a number of sites where associated woodland-based recreation is important – most notably Culzean and Kelburn Castles. Wildlife tourism is also of increasingly important nationally, therefore unlocking the potential of Ayrshire and Arran – particularly as the Biosphere Reserve raises the profile of the area – is of regional importance.
- 5.24 The area is likely to continue to experience significant landscape change, as large-scale wind energy projects reach completion and major woodland restructuring changes the appearance of many upland landscapes. Capturing the best value from this change in terms of contributions to access, recreation facilities and tourism potential is therefore a priority. Working with local and national stakeholders, there is potential to build on the following strategic opportunities (depicted in Figure 5.3 below):
- The access, recreation and educational potential provided by the Whitelee forest and wind farm;
 - The access and recreation potential of changes to the Arecleoch forest as a result of wind farm development;
 - The large-scale landscape change underway in southern Arran, as large areas of softwood forest are harvested, restructured or more open landscapes restored – creating significant potential for access enhancement;
 - Creating a visitor centre in Ayrshire for the Galloway Forest Park and the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve, improving links into Ayrshire and the Glasgow conurbation.
- 5.25 Many other forests and woodland in Scotland include nature trails, cycle routes, interpretation facilities and sculpture parks. Developing and promoting woodland based attractions as part of Ayrshire and Arran's tourism offer will optimise benefits for the local economy. However, it will be necessary for partners to exploit opportunities for strategic collaboration

Priorities

ED18	Further develop the role of woodlands and forests in supporting the tourism sector across Ayrshire and Arran
ED19	Optimise the contribution of existing and proposed attractions in woodland settings to the development of eco-tourism in the region
ED20	Encourage the development of strategic links between key attractions, optimising the potential for combined marketing and promotion

²¹ VisitScotland West of Scotland tourism statistics
<http://www.visitscotland.org/pdf/Tourism%20in%20Western%20Scotland%202010.pdf>, accessed 20/10/2011

²² John Clegg Consulting Ltd; Laurence Gould Partnership Ltd; Cawdor Forestry Ltd (2006) *Ayrshire & Arran Woodlands: their present and future contributions to the diversification of the rural economy*, A report to the Ayrshire and Arran Woodlands Partnership.



Legend

- Strategic tourism opportunities
- Biosphere Core Area
- Biosphere Buffer Zone
- Woodland

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Strategic tourism opportunities

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 5.3: Strategic tourism opportunities

Rural diversification

- 5.26 Agriculture remains an important activity throughout much of Ayrshire, pastoral farming characterising much of the Ayrshire basin, with a distinctive pattern of fields, hedges and small farm woodlands.
- 5.27 Encouraging the positive management of these existing woodlands in order to increase their resilience, biodiversity and contribution to landscape character is a priority. Managed woodland can also create a source of wood fuel and timber for local use.
- 5.28 New farm woodlands, comprising copses, shelterbelts and field boundary trees could further expand these benefits, helping to diversify rural incomes, providing a source of low carbon wood fuel, contributing to habitat networks and sustainable flood management, absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and creating shelter and shade for animals and crops. In areas where farming activity is now marginal (e.g. along parts of the urban fringe or in areas affected by mineral working) new woodland can provide an alternative land use, with potential for local training and employment initiatives.
- 5.29 Woodlands can also provide a range of produce and products not related to timber or woodfuel. 'Non-timber Forest Products' (NTFP) comprise any product of biological origin – other than wood – derived from woodlands and trees, and can range from fungi, berries and game to sap, pharmaceuticals and decorative foliage. While the business development opportunities available within this sector may cater to particular niche markets, the diversity of produce delivered by woodlands creates real scope for diversification. However, it should be noted that the law concerning woodland produce is often complex, particularly where material is collected by parties other than the landowner. Deer and other game, as well as eco-tourism, are covered by separate legislation and policies, but landowners and prospective commercial users of NTFPs should consult the [Scottish Government Policy on NTFP](#). This will help ensure they are aware of the legal position, and plan their activities within appropriate environmental limits.

Priorities

ED19	Encourage the positive management of existing farm woodlands to provide a range of local economic and environmental benefits
ED20	Work with land managers to encourage the integration of woodland planting on farm enterprises with the aim of diversifying incomes and delivering a range of economic and environmental benefits
ED21	Support the development of markets for, and promotion of, non-timber forest products
ED22	Support the continuation and expansion of existing training initiatives linked to woodland creation and management

6

Communities and quality of life

6 Communities and quality of life

- 6.1 While recent decades have seen some improvement in the economic circumstances of the population, there remains a disparity between Ayrshire and for Scotland as a whole with employment, benefit dependency, household income and education all below the national average. The population is forecast to fall and become older over coming decades.
- 6.2 Trees and woodlands can contribute to quality of life, supporting the development of healthy and sustainable communities. In part this is about improving the environmental quality of our towns and villages. It is also about providing people with new ways to become involved in the planning, management and ownership of woodlands, and maximising the benefits for active recreation, education, training and the development of social enterprises.
- 6.3 The strategy aims to maximise this contribution under the following priority objectives:
- Improving local landscapes;
 - Supporting active travel, recreation and healthy lifestyles;
 - Involving and empowering local communities; and,
 - Developing education and skills.

Improving local landscapes

- 6.4 Like many other parts of Central Scotland, Ayrshire's industrial past has left a legacy of damaged and degraded land. Much of this is concentrated in and around the area's main settlements and coalfields, often compounding problems of social deprivation and poor health. Tackling these post-industrial landscapes is a key objective of the Central Scotland Green Network, and this strategy provides one means focusing environmental enhancement where it is needed most.
- 6.5 The importance of improving quality of life by enhancing urban and urban fringe environments is reflected in the Forestry Commission Scotland's Woods in and Around Towns (WIAT) programme. This scheme applies to areas within 1km of communities with a population of 2000 or more. It supports the management of neglected woodlands, the creation of new woodlands and projects designed to help people make more use of their local woodlands. It can deliver a wide range of benefits including improved opportunities for active recreation, habitat enhancement, the creation of new sources of woodfuel, or contributions to sustainable flood management. Measures to achieve environmental enhancement are accompanied by an emphasis on involving communities and reconnecting them with their local area.
- 6.6 Ayrshire's long history of mineral working (coal, aggregates and hard rock) means that there are significant areas of vacant, derelict or degraded land beyond the WIAT area. Key concentrations are focused around Muirkirk, Cumnock and Dalmellington in East Ayrshire where recent decades have seen extensive open cast mineral extraction. While the quality of site restoration has improved, there are significant opportunities for environmental enhancement, particularly close to coalfield communities. Projects such as the East Ayrshire Community Initiative, East Ayrshire Woodlands and the Coalfields Communities are tackling the legacy, regenerating communities, restoring landscape and creating new habitats. New native, softwood, mixed and energy woodlands can make an important contribution to these projects, securing environmental improvement, new opportunities for community involvement and sustainable sources of income and employment.

Priorities

QL1	Prioritise woodland creation and management in WIAT areas
QL2	Develop a strategy for woodland expansion in former mineral working areas, using native, mixed, softwood and energy forests to improve degraded landscapes and create new opportunities for employment

Education and training

- 6.7 There is a strong relationship between people's educational attainment and levels of employment and income. Woodland can provide a valuable resource whether providing a setting for school years education, vocational training or lifelong learning.
- 6.8 The Forest Education Initiative aims to increase the understanding and appreciation of the environmental, social, and economic potential of trees and woodlands and of the link between the tree and everyday wood products. The initiative has promoted the concept of Forest Schools which involve small groups of children or adults visiting local woodlands every one or two weeks to take part in a range of forest-based activities. Woodlands can also provide an opportunity for wider environmentally based education, particularly where Eco-schools have been established. The Rozelle Estate in South Ayrshire has been used as a pilot project for an outdoor nursery.
- 6.9 Woodlands can also provide opportunities for volunteering and training, with aim of providing a pathway towards employment. This could be particularly important in existing and new woodlands close to settlements, in the development of the biomass sector and in areas where habitat or landscape enhancement is being prioritised. There may be opportunities to build partnerships with training organisations and intermediate labour market initiatives, or to establish community based social enterprises based around woodland products and woodland management. The Forest Education Initiatives also promotes rural skills and vocational training accredited under the auspices of the Scottish Qualifications Authority. East Ayrshire Woodlands (EAW) is an important provider of local training opportunities, and manages an intermediate labour market programme in forestry skills, helping long term unemployed people into forestry careers. EAW, along with the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the East Ayrshire Coalfield Environment Initiative, also deliver a range of educational, volunteering and work experience programmes including Forest Schools, helping young people connect with and understand woodlands and the natural environment.

Priorities

QL3	Support the Forest Education Initiative in increasing the role of woodland in education
QL4	Raise awareness of the role of woodlands in supporting Eco-schools and other formal education
QL5	Develop opportunities for volunteering and training associated with woodlands.

Access, health and well being

- 6.10 Recent years have seen a growing recognition that active outdoor recreation and exercise can make a significant contribution to health and well-being, helping to tackle obesity and improve people's physical and mental health. Walking and cycling can also contribute to sustainable travel, reducing the impacts associated with motorised transport. Woodlands can provide important opportunities for outdoor recreation and can accommodate core paths, longer distance walking and cycling routes and facilities for mountain biking and other woodland-based outdoor challenges. A number of woodland attractions in the region are already well-used for formal and informal health-improvement initiatives, including:
- Galloway Forest Park and the Kite Trail;
 - Eglinton Country Park; and,
 - Innovative '[Branching Out](#)' programmes for adult users of mental health services, combining conservation activities, exercise, environmental art and 'bushcraft' skills to build confidence, self-esteem and physical wellbeing – delivered in partnership by Forestry Commission Scotland the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.
- 6.11 There is a key opportunity to develop practical partnerships between woodland owners and managers, the three access authorities and NHS Ayrshire and Arran with the aim of targeting, developing and promoting woodland based recreation provision where it is most needed. Core Plans, Open Space Strategies and forest plans will play a key role in bringing such projects forward.

Priorities

QL6	Use woodland management and creation to create high quality opportunities for outdoor recreation close to where people live
QL7	Target new access provision in areas with high levels of multiple deprivation and poor levels of access to outdoor recreation
QL8	Involve woodland managers, access authorities and NHS Ayrshire and Arran to focus activity and promotion where it is most needed

Community involvement in woodland planning, management and ownership

- 6.12 Publication of the Scottish Forestry Strategy in 2006 signalled a new emphasis on engaging and involving communities in the process of woodland planning and management. In part this about achieving a more effective dialogue between forest managers and communities where woodland expansion, management, harvesting and transport could affect local people. It also aims to encourage communities to become more involved in managing and ultimately owning local woodland. This can open up recreation opportunities and the potential to establish community owned businesses. It can also contribute to a high quality environment and foster a local sense of pride which can discourage vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
- 6.13 Achieving effective community involvement in the existing forestry planning process is a key priority. This can be achieved by clearly stating the requirement for community engagement as a condition of grant award, and by identifying the key stages at which consultation should be carried out. Equally, woodland managers should be trained to ensure they have the skills necessary for effective consultation.
- 6.14 A further priority is to explore the potential to create new community woodlands in and around towns and villages across Ayrshire and Arran. These may be based around existing woodlands, or associated with new native or mixed woodlands around the urban fringe. While some communities will be open to the idea of community woodlands, in other cases suitable organisations may not exist, or people may not appreciate how communities can benefit from

such projects. In such cases a partnership between forest managers and community development officers can help explain and explore the concept and develop the necessary capacity to take the project on at a local level. East Ayrshire Woodlands has been instrumental in assisting the establishment of community woodlands across the region. Other recent developments have included the community purchase of woodland adjacent to Muirkirk.

- 6.15 The establishment of community woodlands can lead to community ownership and, in some cases, significant changes in the way that woods are managed. In many cases woods are developed as a local recreation resource, or managed to enhance local biodiversity. There are a growing number of community orchards, providing a source of health food, a potential source of income and a range of social and community benefits. There are also examples of communities managing their woodlands to provide a source of wood fuel, creating training and employment opportunities, an income for the community and low carbon fuel for local households and businesses. Communities are likely to need training, advice and ongoing support.

Priorities

QL9	Provide forest managers with the training required for effective community engagement
QL10	Ensure communities are engaged in the process of planning woodlands and forests
QL11	Support the development of community woodlands, including community ownership of local woodlands
QL12	Provide training, advice and support for communities owning and managing local woodlands
QL13	Support community initiatives to establish social enterprises associated with woodland and forests

7

High quality environments

7 High quality environments

- 7.1 Ayrshire and Arran benefit from a rich natural and cultural heritage which provide a strong sense of place and local distinctiveness and which underpins the area's economic, environmental and cultural life. Trees and woodland already make an important contribution to the quality of the environment. This section of the strategy aims to further increase this contribution, both as a consequence of the way existing trees and woods are managed, and the way that new woodlands are established.
- 7.2 It should be noted that all new planting and management proposals are required to comply with the [UK Forestry Standard](#), and the associated suite of thematic guidance. UKFS sets out the approach of the UK governments to sustainable forest management, defines standards and requirements and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring.

Landscape character

- 7.3 Trees and woodlands are an integral and widely valued part of Ayrshire's landscape.
- The lowlands have a distinctive pattern of pastoral fields, enclosed by hedges and woodlands and drained by a series of often well wooded and incised river valleys;
 - To the east, the land rises to form a series of gently sloping plateau moorlands, some of which include extensive conifer plantations;
 - To the south the hills rise more steeply towards the rounded summits of the Southern Uplands. While native woodland is concentrated along deep valleys and dales, some of the higher areas are occupied by large softwood forests;
 - To the north lie the largely unwooded hills of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, extending north into Inverclyde and Renfrewshire;
 - The coastline of Ayrshire combines low-lying dunes and estuaries with sections of rocky, raised beach coast, where former cliffs are often marked by wind trimmed native woodlands;
 - The Isle of Arran combines a dramatic and nationally designated upland landscape with lower, sometimes forested hills and a craggy coastline;
 - Many parts of Ayrshire benefit from the policy woodlands, avenues and parklands associated with historic gardens and designed landscapes. Some have fallen out of management and many have trees that are mature or over-mature.
- 7.4 Trees and woods are also a vital component of Ayrshire's urban landscapes with trees along streets, in public parks, private gardens, green corridors and civic spaces all contributing to the quality of towns and villages.
- 7.5 The landscape of Ayrshire has developed over many centuries and continues to evolve as agricultural practices change, renewable energy projects are developed and settlements continue to grow. This strategy can help ensure that the continuing contribution of woodland to the landscape is reflected in the way that it is managed. It can also ensure that new woodlands make a positive contribution to the area's distinctive sense of place.
- 7.6 Several areas of the landscape are highly valued, and exhibit a range of sensitivities to change – including new woodland – reflected in the following:
- Designation of the remote, mountainous north of Arran as a National Scenic Area;
 - Identification of 'Sensitive Landscape Character Areas' in the approved Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan 2007 (Policy ENV2: Landscape Protection); and,
 - Identification of 'Search Areas for Wild Land' by Scottish Natural Heritage;

- Applies to the mountains of North Arran and a small area of the Southern Uplands, southwest of Loch Doon
For further information on 'wild land', consult the [SNH website](#).

These sensitivities have been taken into account in developing the spatial modelling underpinning the Strategy (however, as they frequently intersect other sensitive areas, they are not always individually visible).

Priorities

ENV1	Support the ongoing restructuring of existing conifer plantations to achieve a better fit with the landscape
ENV2	Encourage the positive management of lowland trees, farm woodlands and shelterbelts in recognition of the contribution they make to the agricultural landscape, highlighting the role of SRDP in providing funding
ENV3	Encourage the positive management of urban trees including street trees, urban woodlands and trees in parks and private gardens
ENV4	Explore the potential for additional tree planting within urban areas, particularly along road corridors and on underused areas of open space
ENV5	Encourage the positive management of veteran trees, specimen trees and policy woodlands associated with historic gardens and designed landscapes, including the planned replacement of over mature trees
ENV6	Promote the role of trees and woodland in enhancing the character and quality of degraded or damaged landscapes
ENV7	Ensure that new woodlands are designed and located to achieve a good fit with the underlying character of the landscape

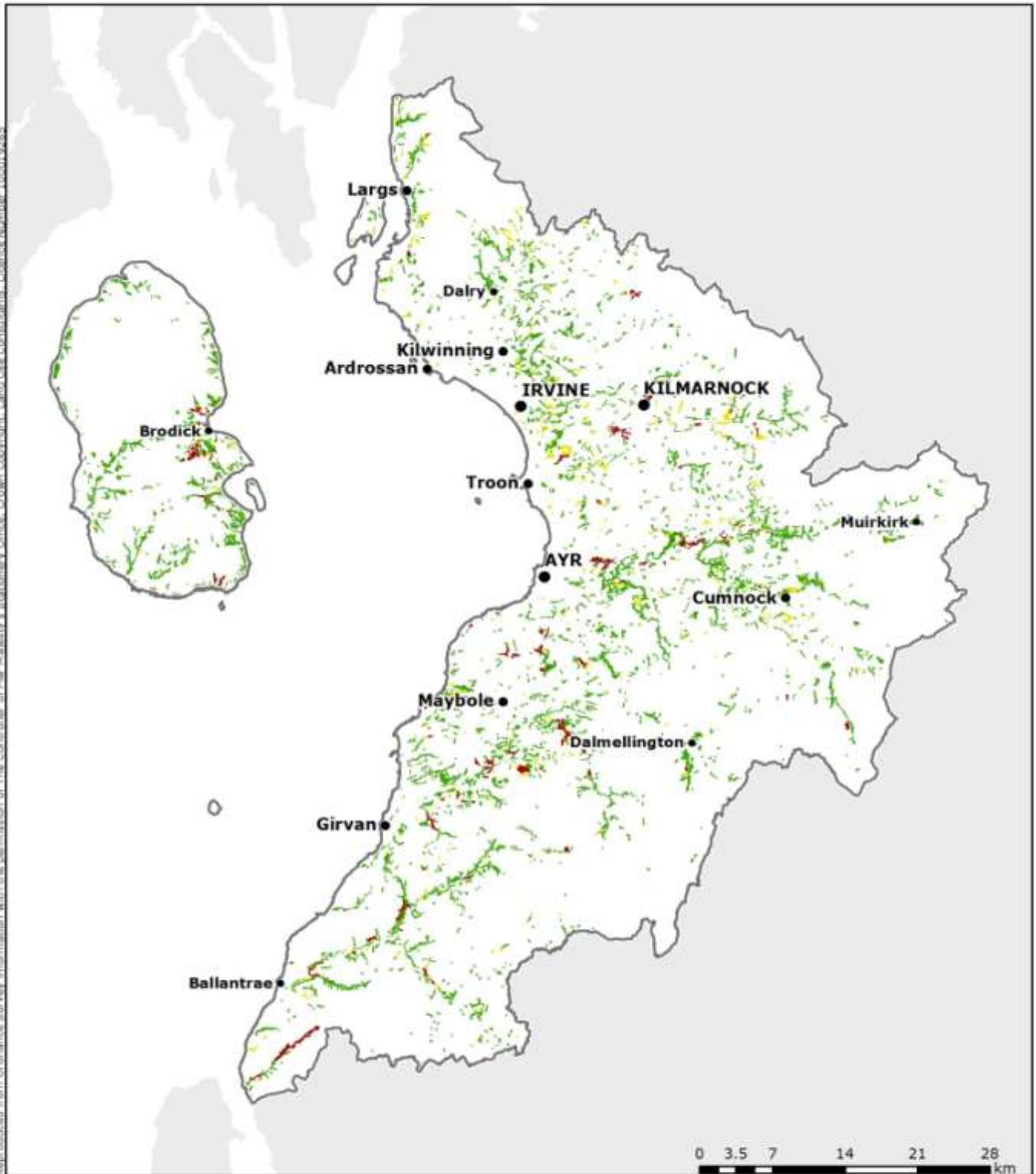
Enhancing woodland biodiversity

- 7.7 Trees and woodland already make an important contribution to Ayrshire and Arran's biodiversity. Native woodlands make up around 14% of the total tree cover in Ayrshire and Arran, over a third of which is classed as being semi-natural in origin. In the lowlands, some of the most valuable woodland habitats are found on steeper slopes within incised river valleys. Examples include the broadleaf, mixed and yew woodlands of the River Ayr Gorge SSSI. Priority woodland habitats identified in the [Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#) include upland mixed ash woods, upland oak woods, wet woodlands, lowland wood pasture and parklands, coastal scrub and planted conifers and ancient and species rich hedgerows.
- 7.8 As illustrated in Figure 7.1, while Ayrshire and Arran has a significant area of native woodland, this resource is highly fragmented and generally composed of relatively small woods. This poses two issues: firstly, small woods are less capable of supporting functional populations of key species and are less resilient to environmental change; secondly, fragmentation means that species are less able to travel between areas of suitable habitat – either while engaged in normal behaviour or migrating in response to climate effects.
- 7.9 Measures to improve woodland biodiversity focus on the management of existing native woodlands, particularly larger woodland capable of supporting populations of key species, and the development of habitat networks which could expand and link existing areas of native woodland along river corridors and in lowland parts of Ayrshire. There are also opportunities to establish more extensive areas of native woodland and wet woodlands within upland river valleys and on lower hill slopes, subject to other biodiversity interests.
- 7.10 The region's softwood forests also have the potential to make a substantial contribution to improving the status of woodland biodiversity. Ongoing processes of restructuring will introduce greater connectivity between other habitats, through the creation of networks within the conifer forest, and will significantly enhance the quality of woodland edge habitats benefitting key species such as black grouse. Similarly, the wider adoption of continuous cover techniques on suitable

sites can provide a more naturalistic character and promote management of the woodland ecosystem, rather than just the trees.

Priorities

ENV8	Manage and enhance existing native and semi-natural woodlands
ENV9	Promote the establishment of new native woodlands to expand existing assets and contribute to the development of woodland habitat networks
ENV10	Establish new native woodlands in areas affected by mineral extraction and around urban fringes
ENV11	Promote positive management of softwood forests to enhance biodiversity values, including adoption of continuous cover systems on suitable sites



Legend

Native Woodland Survey of Scotland

- Native woodland
- Nearly-native woodland
- Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites ('PAWS')

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

TITLE:

Native woodland

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 7.1: Native woodland

Conserving important non-woodland habitats and species

- 7.12 Ayrshire and Arran have a range of non-woodland habitats and species, some of which are designated as being of national or international importance. Figure 7.2 shows these designated sites.
- 7.13 Key assets include:
- Upland habitats designated for their upland plant assemblages and for bird species including hen harrier. Examples include the moors around Muirkirk, the Arran Moors and parts of the Renfrewshire Heights.
 - Lowland raised bogs designated for their peatland habitats. Examples include the internationally important Cockinghead, Bankhead and Dykeneuk Mosses.
 - Coastal habitats including salt marsh, dunes, shingle, mudflats, lagoons and coastal grassland. There are around 60 designated wildlife sites along the coast.
 - Freshwater habitats such as Loch Doon SSSI
 - Mountain habitats, specifically the Arran Northern Mountains which are designated for their geology as well as bird and insect species.
- 7.14 Information on the key natural heritage interests in the region can be obtained from the [SNH 'SiteLink' service](#) and the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 7.15 It is important to ensure that woodland expansion in Ayrshire and Arran does not affect these nationally and internationally important habitats. The design and location of schemes should therefore have regard to designated sites and the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan to ensure that adverse effects on protected and priority species and habitats are avoided.

Woodland and the Habitats Regulations

Ayrshire and Arran contains five **Special Protection Areas**, designated under the EU Birds Directive, and six **Special Areas of Conservation** designated under the EU Habitats Directive (known collectively as 'Natura 2000 sites'). These areas are of international significance, and are therefore subject to extensive protection under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended – generally known as the 'Habitats Regulations.' Consequently, all of these areas have been included within the 'sensitive' land class in the spatial modelling work undertaken in the production of this Strategy.

The quality and integrity of designated features often depend on ecological features and functions outside the designated area. Article 10 of the Habitats Directive requires member states to encourage the management of features in the landscape that are of major importance to wild flora and fauna, and contribute to the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 Network.

Proposals for woodland creation or management within, or likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interests of, a European site should be subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal.

Priorities

ENV12

Ensure woodland expansion does not have an adverse impact on nationally or internationally important non-woodland habitats

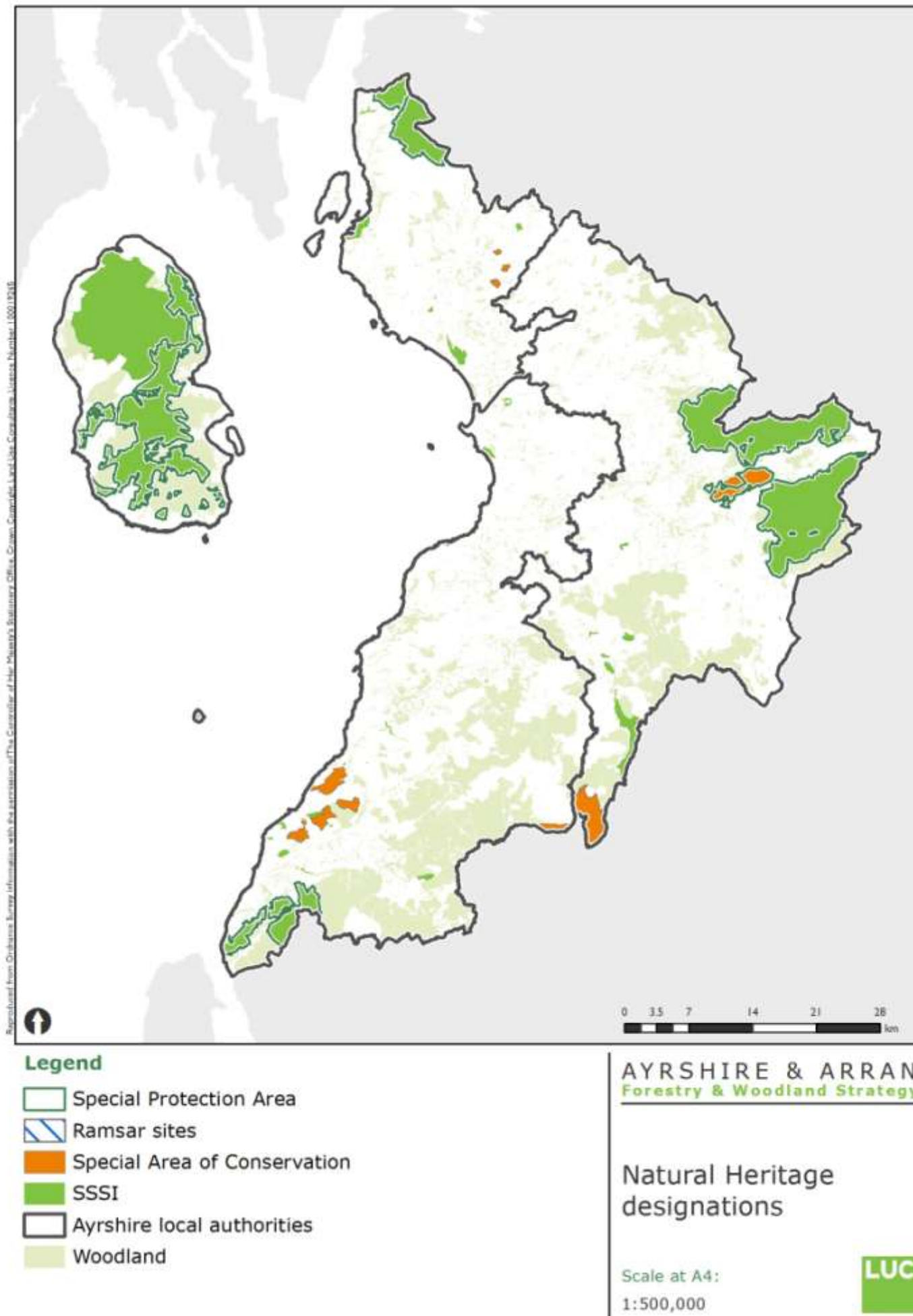


Figure 7.2: Natural heritage designations

Conserving historic designed landscapes and veteran trees

- 7.16 Historic gardens and designed landscapes are found across Ayrshire and Arran, often sited within river valleys or in commanding positions on the coast. The region has 13 Inventory-listed gardens and designed landscapes, and a large number of undesignated assets that often make a substantial contribution to landscape quality, character and sense of place. Key examples include Culzean, Kelburn, Brodick, Rozelle, Auchincruive and Loudon. Many of these landscapes are characterised by distinctive policy woodlands, parklands and policies that extend into the surrounding countryside.
- 7.17 Many of the trees in these historic landscapes are mature or over-mature and in some cases they are suffering due to a lack of appropriate management or from the effects of development. The changing climate could compound these issues as a result of storm damage, stress and disease. Positive management is needed to ensure that the historic, landscape and biodiversity significance of these landscapes is maintained. This may include planned replanting of individual trees, avenues or other features to ensure the character of these historic landscapes is maintained.

Priorities

ENV13	Encourage positive management of trees and woodlands within historic gardens and designed landscapes
ENV14	Carry out selective replanting of trees and woods to conserve the character and significance of designed landscapes, and improve their resilience to the effects of climate change
ENV15	Ensure that new woodland planting within or near historic gardens and designed landscapes reflects their historic design

Protecting the historic environment

- 7.18 While trees and woodlands are an important component of many historic landscapes, often reflecting past patterns of land management and industrial activity, there is potential for new woodlands, whether planted or naturally regenerated, to affect sensitive parts of the historic environment. Archaeological sites can be vulnerable to damage from tree roots and from the use of machinery during planting, forest management and harvesting operations, and poorly designed planting can adversely affect the character and setting of heritage assets.
- 7.19 The restructuring of existing areas of softwood forest following harvesting can provide an opportunity to improve the physical setting and interpretation of historic features such as field boundaries and buildings.

In planning and designing woodland creation and management proposals, land managers should seek advice on the local historic environment from [**West of Scotland Archaeology Service**](#).

Where proposals have the potential to affect Scheduled Monuments, Historic Scotland should be consulted.

Priorities

ENV17	Ensure that new woodlands are located and designed to avoid impacts on the historic environment
ENV18	Use forest restructuring as an opportunity to improve the setting and interpretation of historic features
ENV19	Promote understanding and awareness of trees and woodlands as part of the historic environment

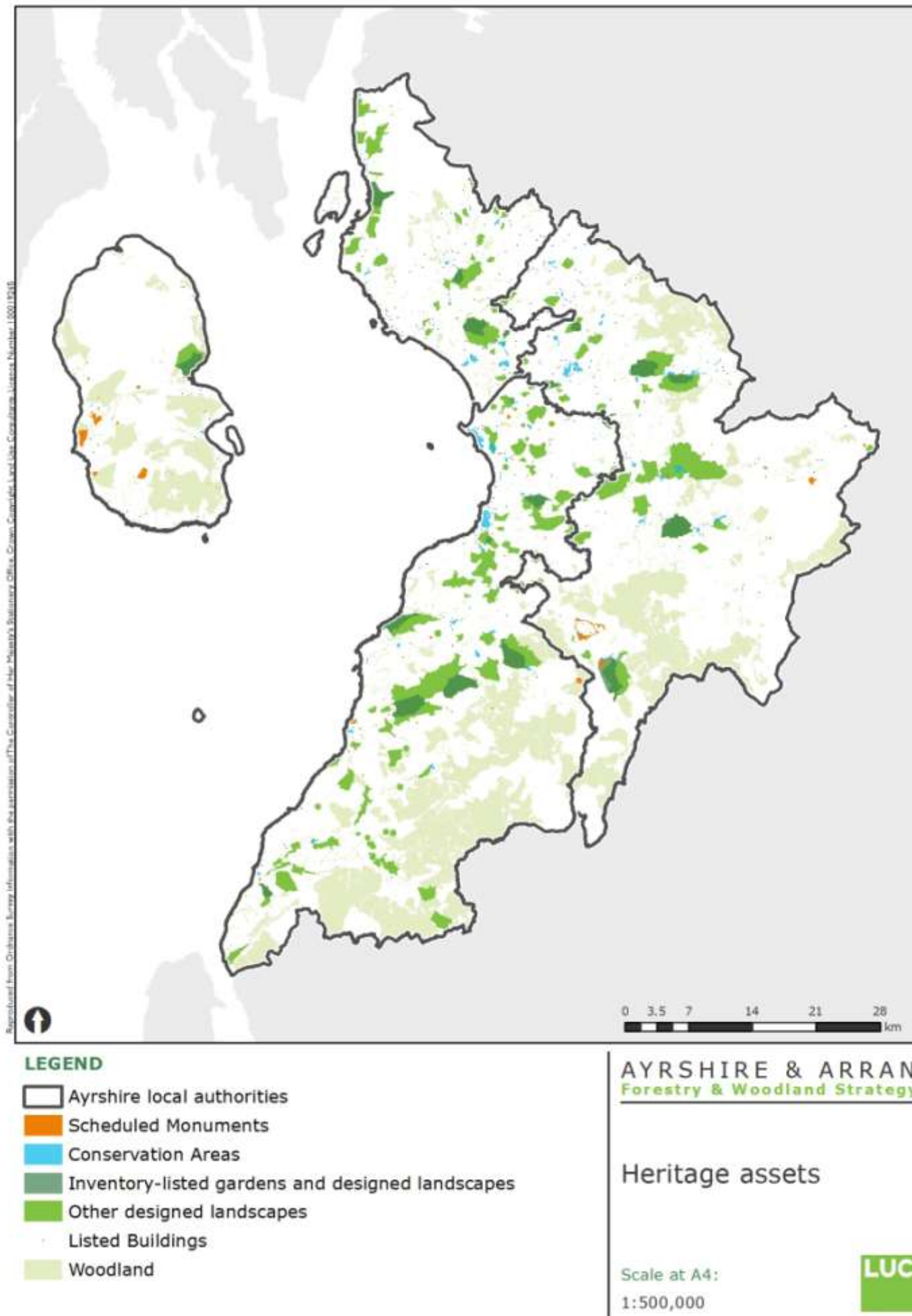


Figure 7.3: Heritage assets

Water environment

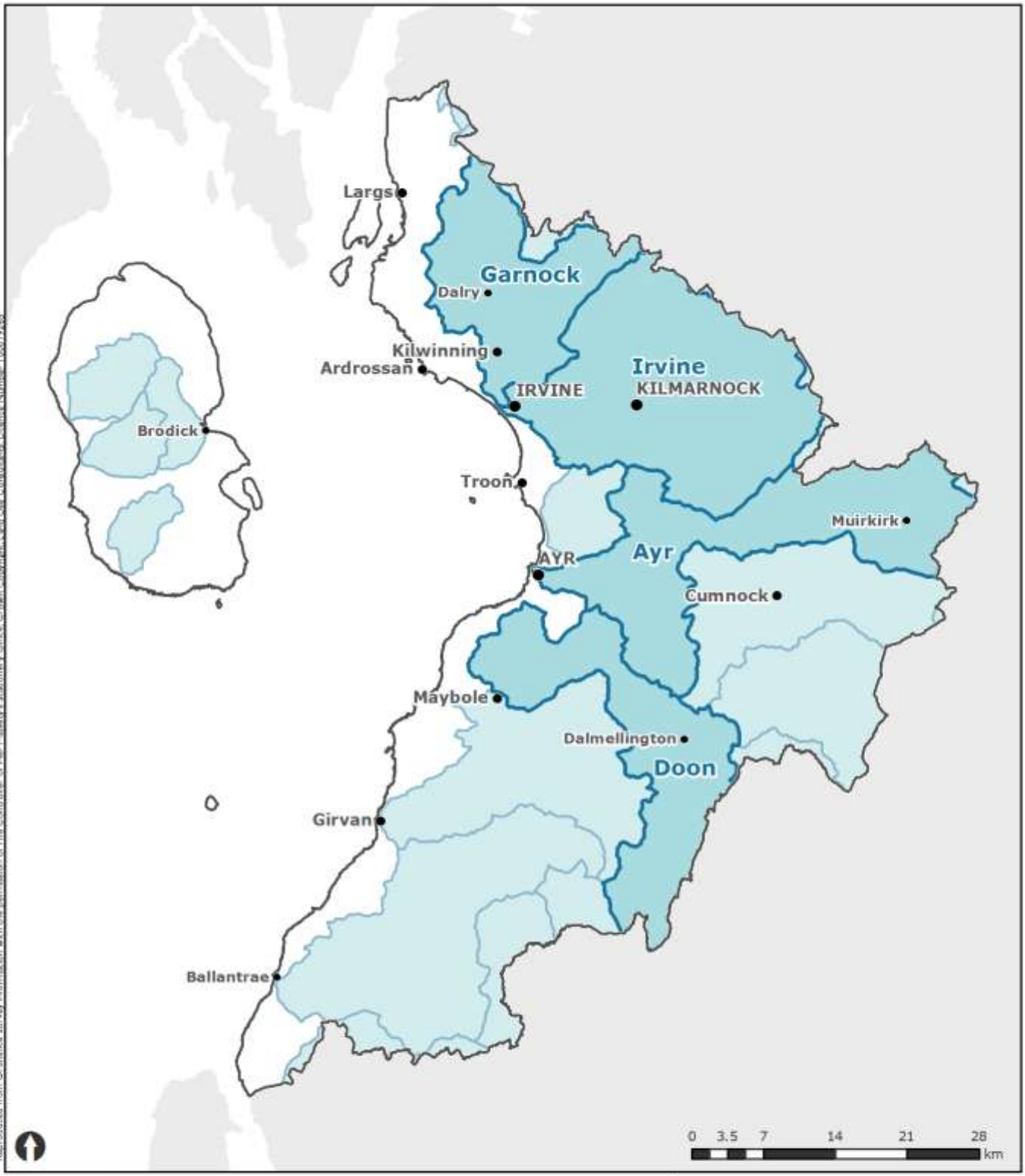
- 7.21 Implementation of this strategy is intended to help meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and the requirement to achieve 'good ecological status' in water bodies and the riparian zone. Tackling diffuse pollution in the catchments of the rivers Garnock, Irvine, Ayr and Doon (as illustrated in Figure 7.4) is a priority in the current Scotland River Basin Management Plan – therefore optimising the contribution of woodland is an important aspect of this Strategy.
- 7.22 Trees and woodland can play an important role in reducing pollution and sedimentation by slowing runoff and aiding infiltration, reducing the pollutant and sediment load reaching watercourses. In areas of pastoral agriculture – an important feature of Ayrshire's rural economy – ensuring that livestock are kept an appropriate distance away from watercourses is an important means of reducing pathogen concentrations and preventing damage to river morphology. Trees, hedgerows and farm woodland can help create physical barriers to livestock, as well as improving the landscape and biodiversity contributions of buffer strips. This could be an important means of assisting land managers meet their cross-compliance objectives that delivers a wider range of benefits.
- 7.23 Unfortunately, forestry and woodland can also have adverse effects on the water environment. Because of the huge surface area created by their needles, conifers are highly efficient at 'scrubbing' pollutants from the air. These are then dissolved in rainwater and can contribute to acidification of watercourses. Similarly, poorly planned forest operations also have the potential to result in pollution and sedimentation through runoff, for example during ground preparation or harvesting. However, all woodland expansion is expected to meet the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard and the associated [Guidelines on Forests and Water](#) which ensures land managers employ appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures.

Flooding is covered under the 'Climate Change' theme, and Priority CC8.

Priorities

ENV20	Ensure that proposals for woodland creation and management of existing woodland have regard to River Basin Management Plans, taking account of opportunities to improve water quality and delivering multiple benefits
ENV21	Promote the role of woodland in contributing to water quality in agricultural areas and the potential to assist in on-farm pollution reduction

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Legend

- River Basin Management Plan Priority Catchments
- River catchments

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN
Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Priority catchments
for water quality
enhancement

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Figure 7.4: Priority catchments in Ayrshire and Arran

Air Quality

- 7.24 Trees and woodlands can help filter and absorb pollutants and other airborne particulate matter. This can have a noticeable benefit along busy transport corridors and adjacent to industrial plant or mineral extraction and processing sites.
- 7.25 The use of woody biomass as a fuel source for heat and power can increase pollutant levels, particularly in larger urban areas or where air quality is already a concern. The types of equipment and fuels that can be used in Smoke Control Areas²³ and Air Quality Management Areas (none currently exist in Ayrshire) are restricted and, while this situation may change in the future, the emphasis should be on providing good advice to organisations and householders considering using wood fuel as a source of heat or power.

Priorities

ENV22	Promote the role of woodland in improving air quality
ENV23	Provide good information to potential biomass energy users to ensure there are no adverse effects on air quality
ENV24	Encourage the creation of new woodland in transport corridors, and planting of street trees in urban areas, to intercept pollutants and improve local air quality ²⁴

Soils

- 7.26 Healthy soil is a vital component of functioning woodland ecosystems of all types, therefore safeguarding the quality and long-term viability of the resource is critical.
- 7.27 Trees can also have a number of beneficial effects on soil quality. Planting on contaminated sites can help break down organic pollutants, reduce concentrations of heavy metals and contribute to improved soil quality. Trees can also help stabilise soils which might otherwise be subject to erosion by water or wind. They can also help reduce the risk of landslides and slumping when steep slopes become saturated.
- 7.28 Peat makes up a significant proportion of the region's soil resource, and around 50% of existing conifer woodland in the region is located on peat soils. Ongoing restructuring of this resource creates exciting opportunities to restore deep peats in suitable locations.
- 7.29 The [UK Forestry Standard Forests and Soils guidelines](#) provide advice on best practice and sustainable soil management in forest operations.

Priorities

ENV24	Promote the use of woodland planting to help remediate polluted sites
ENV25	Promote the use of woodland in reducing soil erosion and the risk of land slips.

²³ Dalry, Kilbirnie, Glengarnock, Ardrossan, Saltcoats, Stevenston and Kilwinning

²⁴ This may not be appropriate in acid-sensitive catchments

8

Spatial guidance

8 Spatial guidance

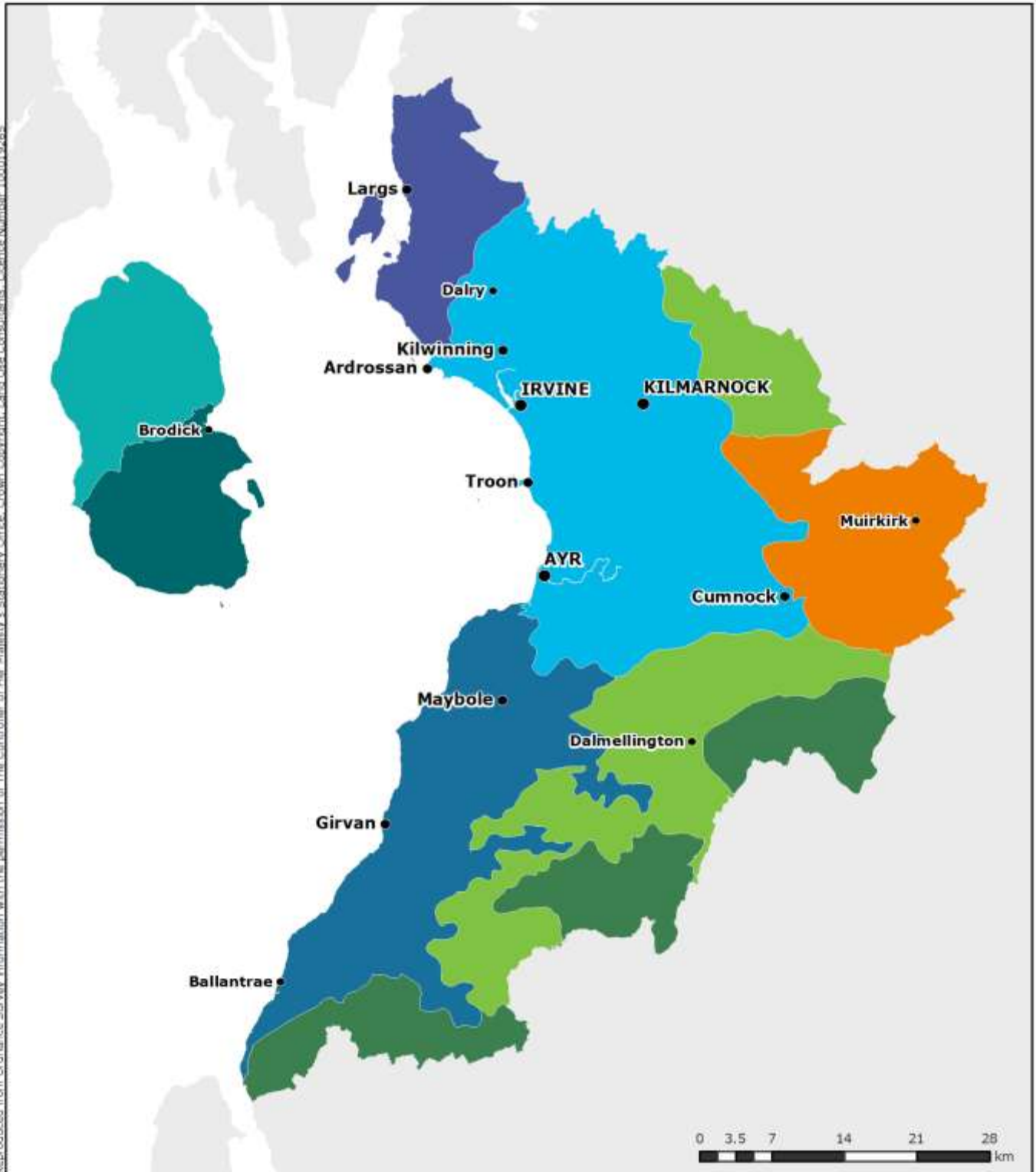
Introduction

- 8.1 This section of the Strategy sets out the regional priorities for woodland expansion and management by broad landscape 'zone.' It presents a breakdown of the potential for expansion in each zone and describes the principal opportunities and constraints that should be taken into account in new proposals.
- 8.2 Detailed mapping is provided, showing the land categorisation for each zone and the suitability for each of the five woodland types identified in Chapter 3 (Softwood, Energy, Native, Mixed and Contributing to regeneration).

Spatial framework

- 8.3 The spatial framework of eight separate 'zones' is based on broad landscape types, grouped to reflect key issues and opportunities for woodland creation and management. They are as follows:

Zone name	Description	Woodland cover – key facts
Ayrshire Uplands	Moorland plateaux, comprising uplands on the eastern boundary of Ayrshire, including Whitelee Forest; and, the foothills of the Southern Uplands from New Cumnock to Barrhill	26,475ha 45% of zone wooded 35% of regional resource
Carrick Hills and Valleys	Rolling hills and complex topography between the River Doon and the foothills of the Southern Uplands, including the lower valleys of the rivers Girvan and Stinchar	8,201ha 15% of zone wooded 11% of regional resource
Lowland Basin	The agricultural heart of Ayrshire, enclosed by the hills of the Renfrew Heights, the Ayrshire rim uplands and Carrick Hills	6,763ha 7% of zone wooded 9% of regional resource
Muirkirk Uplands	The more sparsely-wooded moorland hills and plateaux between Darvel and New Cumnock	4,498ha 14% of zone wooded 6% of regional resource
North Arran	The mountainous and remote north of the island of Arran	3,414ha 15% of zone wooded 5% of regional resource
Renfrew Heights	Uplands of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, rising from the coast between Skelmorlie and Ardrossan	1,465ha 7% of zone wooded 2% of regional resource
South Arran	The southern, lower-lying portion of Arran	7,319ha 36% of zone wooded 10% of regional resource
Southern Uplands and Galloway Hills	Wooded uplands of the Carsphairn, Carrick and Arecleoch Forests and Glen App	17,379ha 44% of zone wooded 23% of regional resource



Legend

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ayrshire Uplands | North Arran |
| Carrick Hills and Valleys | Renfrew Heights |
| Lowland Basin | South Arran |
| Muirkirk Uplands | Southern Uplands and Galloway Hills |

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Spatial framework

Scale at A4:
1:500,000



Based on amalgamation of Landscape Character Types







Figure 8.1: Spatial framework

Interpreting the maps

This section of the FWS provides a brief overview of what the detailed maps in accompanying the spatial guidance depict, and what this means for woodland management and expansion 'on the ground.'






Land categorisation

These maps depict the broad potential of the region's environment to accommodate new woodland of all types (per Figure 3.1)

KEY		Interpretation
Built-up		Settlements: opportunities for trees and woodland generally too small to be mapped at a strategic scale
Existing		Existing woodland of all types (derived from FC National Forest inventory)
Preferred		Land with no strategic constraint to woodland expansion. Detailed assessment may reveal site-specific issues.
Potential		Land with at least one strategic constraint to new woodland, but with some flexibility to accommodate expansion where this responds appropriately to local conditions.
Sensitive		Land with significant constraints to woodland expansion. The type and scale of acceptable new woodland likely to be very limited.
Unsuitable		Land physically unsuitable for the growth and management of trees.

Softwood

These maps depict areas of land currently managed for softwood timber production and the 'preferred' areas where new planting for timber production could be accommodated, subject to site-specific constraints and relevant design considerations.

KEY		Interpretation
Accessible preferred		Land with no strategic constraint to woodland expansion, and easily accessible from the transport network
Existing conifer		Existing planted softwood forests; may be approaching or at maturing – opportunities for restructuring
Felled		Areas of softwood forest recently felled; likely to be restocked
Ground prepared for planting		Areas ploughed / mounded but not yet planted (2011); woodland likely to be in place for c.30 years
Young trees		Areas recently planted, prior to canopy closure; woodland likely to be in place for at least 20 years

Energy

These maps depict the existing producers of biomass products, potential larger-scale producers of waste wood products that could be used in energy generation – and also potential users of biomass heat and power.

Land within 5km of potential markets is highlighted to optimise sustainability, reducing the impacts of transport of bulk products.

KEY		Interpretation
Potential suppliers / users	Assorted points	Installations producing – or with the potential to use – biomass for energy generation
Larger settlements		Towns and villages likely to sustain facilities that could make use of biomass, principally for heating (e.g. schools, hospitals and other public buildings)
Existing woodland		Woodland of all types that could contribute to the supply of material for biomass, either as a result of planned management operations or through bringing woodland into positive management
WIAT / urban fringe area		Areas close to settlements that could support planting and management of woodland to contribute to biomass supply
Management of farm woods		Areas of better quality agricultural land where the principal contribution to biomass will be through management and smaller-scale expansion of farm woodland.
Wider range of opportunities		Land of lower agricultural capability that offers greater flexibility to accommodate new woodland to contribute to biomass supply, including short rotation forestry and coppice where site-specific constraints allow.

Native

These maps depict the areas in which planting of new native woodland can deliver the widest range of benefits.

KEY		Interpretation
Existing native woodland		Woodland where canopy cover is composed mainly (>50%) of native species
Existing nearly-native woodland		Woodland where canopy cover is composed of between 40% and 50% native species. These are woodland that could have the potential to be converted into native woodland by gradual alteration of species mix
Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)		Planted woodlands identified as being in locations with 'natural' woodland cover prior to the mid-19 th century. Subject to detailed site assessment, these areas could have the potential for restoration to native woodland.
Search area for new riparian woodland		Areas adjacent to watercourses where new planting could contribute to networks of riparian woodland habitat. Detailed site assessment is required to understand the potential interactions with flooding and existing habitats
Areas with potential to contribute to woodland habitat networks		Areas within the 'moderate' and 'high' dispersal network areas identified by the SNH Integrated Habitat Network model (for broadleaved and yew woodland). This is land in which native woodland expansion could contribute to wider habitat connectivity, supporting resilience to climate change
Other woodland		All other non-native woodland

Mixed

These maps depict the areas in which establishing new mixed woodland has the potential to contribute to a range of objectives including rural diversification, enhancing cultural heritage and supporting resilience to climate change.

KEY	Interpretation
Supporting agriculture on prime land	Prime quality agricultural land (Class 1-3.1): identified as 'sensitive' in the land classification. Appropriate woodland expansion in these areas will focus on providing shelter for crops and livestock, reducing erosion and contributing to management of diffuse pollution. It will generally be small scale and focussed on native broadleaves.
Supporting resilience and diversification	Agricultural land in a wider range of uses where woodland could support existing practice, or contribute to farm diversification
Wider range of opportunities	Land of lower capability where the potential for new woodland with both broadleaved and conifer components could contribute to landscape character, climate change objectives and provision of high quality timber
Search area for new riparian woodland	River corridors and areas of higher flood risk where riparian woodland could contribute to water management objectives. Detail site assessment is required to fully understand this potential.
Enhancing policy woodlands	Gardens and designed landscapes with a significant woodland element.

Woodland for regeneration

These maps depict the potential for new woodland to contribute to regeneration and environmental enhancement across the region.

KEY	Interpretation
Contributing to tackling multiple deprivation	Areas in the 15% most deprived datazones in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012
Settlements	Larger settlements
Enhancing the setting of new housing	Land allocated for housing in current and emerging development plans
Enhancing urban fringe environments	1km buffer around larger settlements where new woodland can contribute to enhancement of degraded urban fringe areas
Contributing to restoration of former mineral sites	Contributing to restoration of mineral workings

Ayrshire uplands

Overview

- 8.4 Plateau moorlands running along the eastern side of Ayrshire and forming a transition between the Lowland Basin and the Southern Uplands and Galloway Uplands to the south. The Ayrshire Uplands comprises gently sloping areas of plateau moorland, cut by the valleys of the Rivers Irvine and Doon. Parts of these hills and valleys have formed a focus for mineral extraction, with large scale open cast mines and areas of restored land. The historic association with mineral extraction is reflected in a series of industrial settlements with concentrations of higher unemployment and poorer health.

Existing woodland resource

- 8.5 Existing woodland cover stands at around 45% of the zone, well above the average for Ayrshire and Arran as a whole, and is largely composed of extensive areas of softwood forest. This represents 35% of the regional woodland resource, and is therefore of key strategic importance to the industry and the wider economy.

Key issues

- 8.6 Local issues for woodland and forestry include:
- The need for environmental enhancement in areas affected by mineral extraction, particularly in river valleys and close to settlements;
 - The importance of protecting cultural heritage;
 - Contributing to climate change adaptation, particularly in terms of sustainable flood management;
 - Reversing habitat fragmentation by developing habitat networks from existing woodland cores within the river valleys;
 - Pressures for wind farm development and the importance of securing appropriate compensatory planting where woodland removal takes place;
 - Restructuring and enhancement of existing softwood forests, with opportunities to enhance their biodiversity, recreational and landscape benefits;
 - Potential benefits of prioritising restoring sites on deep peat, and moving resource 'downhill' into less sensitive, and more productive, areas.

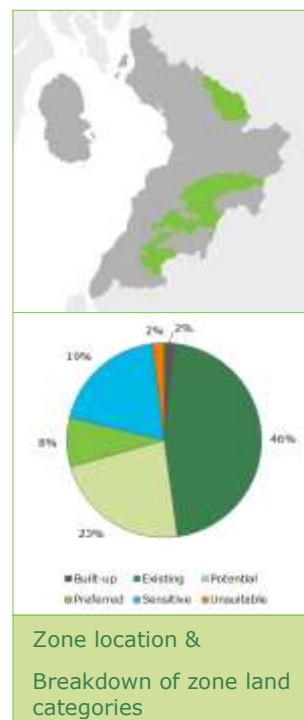
Local sensitivities

- 8.7 The Whitelee Forest, between Darvel and the M77, has experienced significant woodland removal to facilitate the construction of a major wind farm. Continued pressure on the uplands of the region, outside the large designated areas in the Muirkirk Uplands, is likely to present difficult choices regarding the most appropriate land uses in these areas.
- 8.8 A substantial proportion of the softwood resource is located on high carbon and peat soils, creating opportunities for peatland restoration – but also necessitating replanting in less sensitive locations to ensure the sustainability of the region's timber industry.

Priorities for woodland management and expansion

Existing woodland

- Management, expansion and linking of existing native and mixed woodlands within the river valleys;



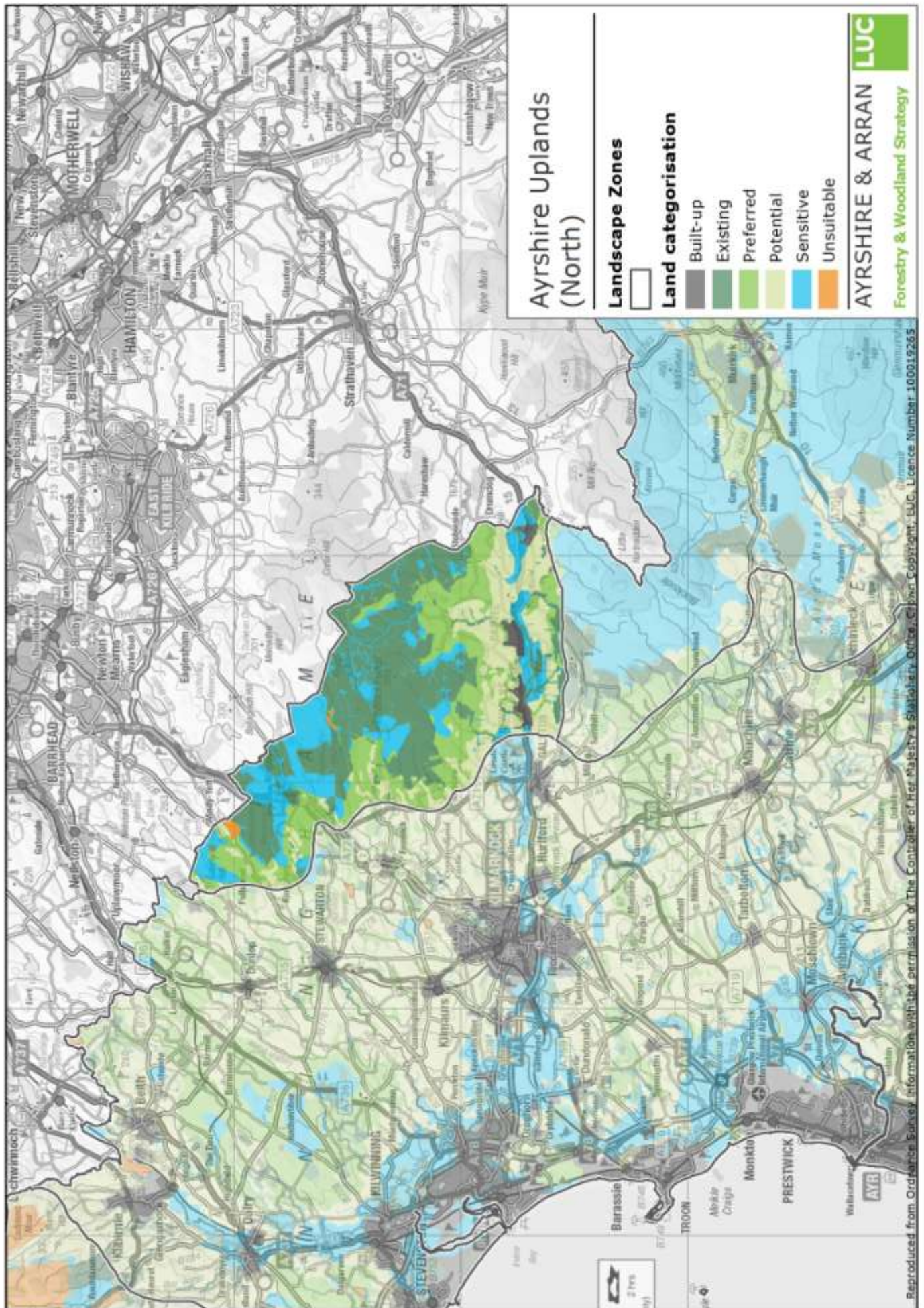
- Retention of existing areas of softwood forests, but restructuring to include a higher proportion of open ground, achieve a better landscape fit and contribute to peatland restoration objectives where appropriate;
- Ensuring that any reductions in the extent of woodland resulting from restructuring or wind energy development are compensated within Ayrshire where required by the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal.

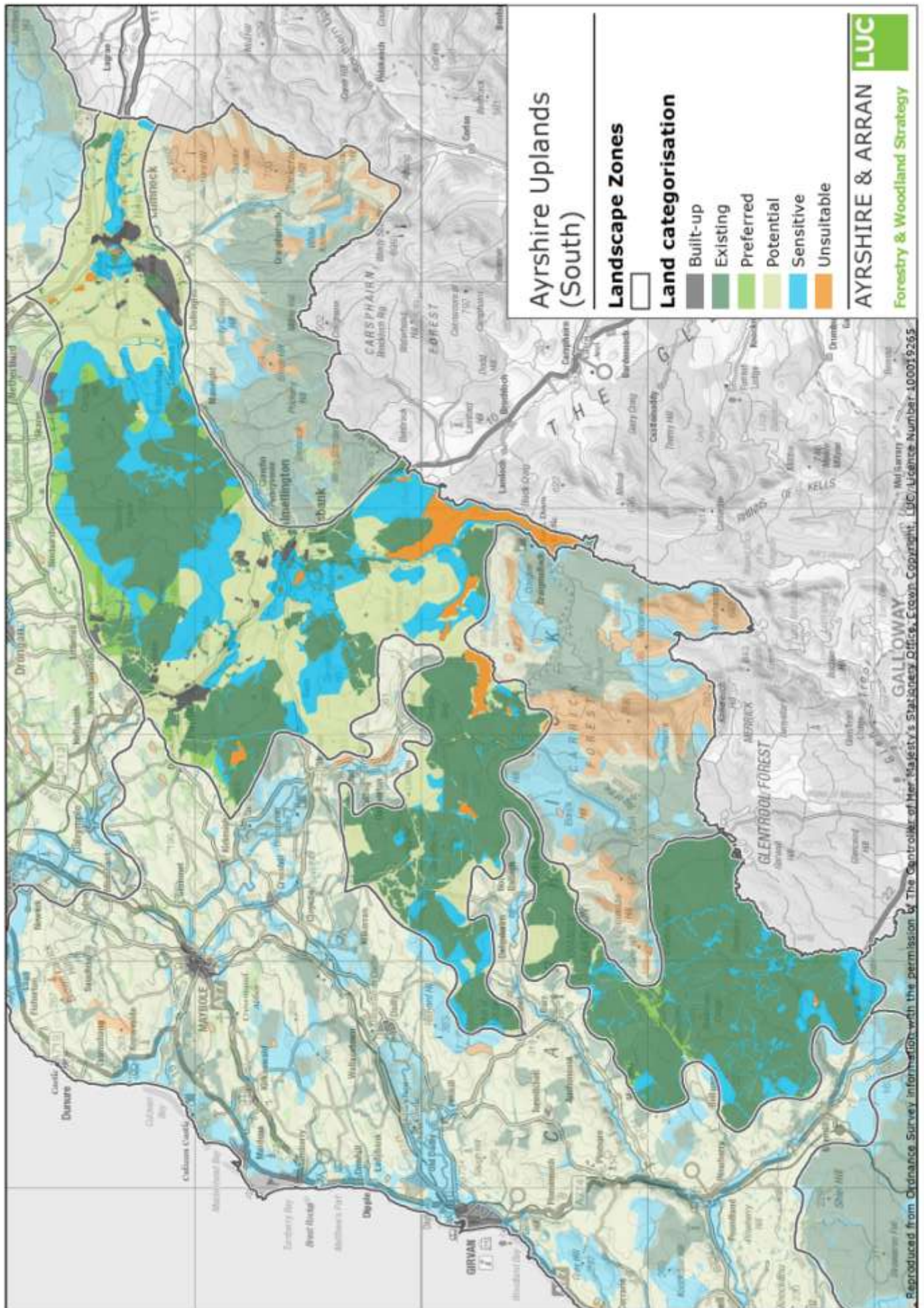
Potential for expansion

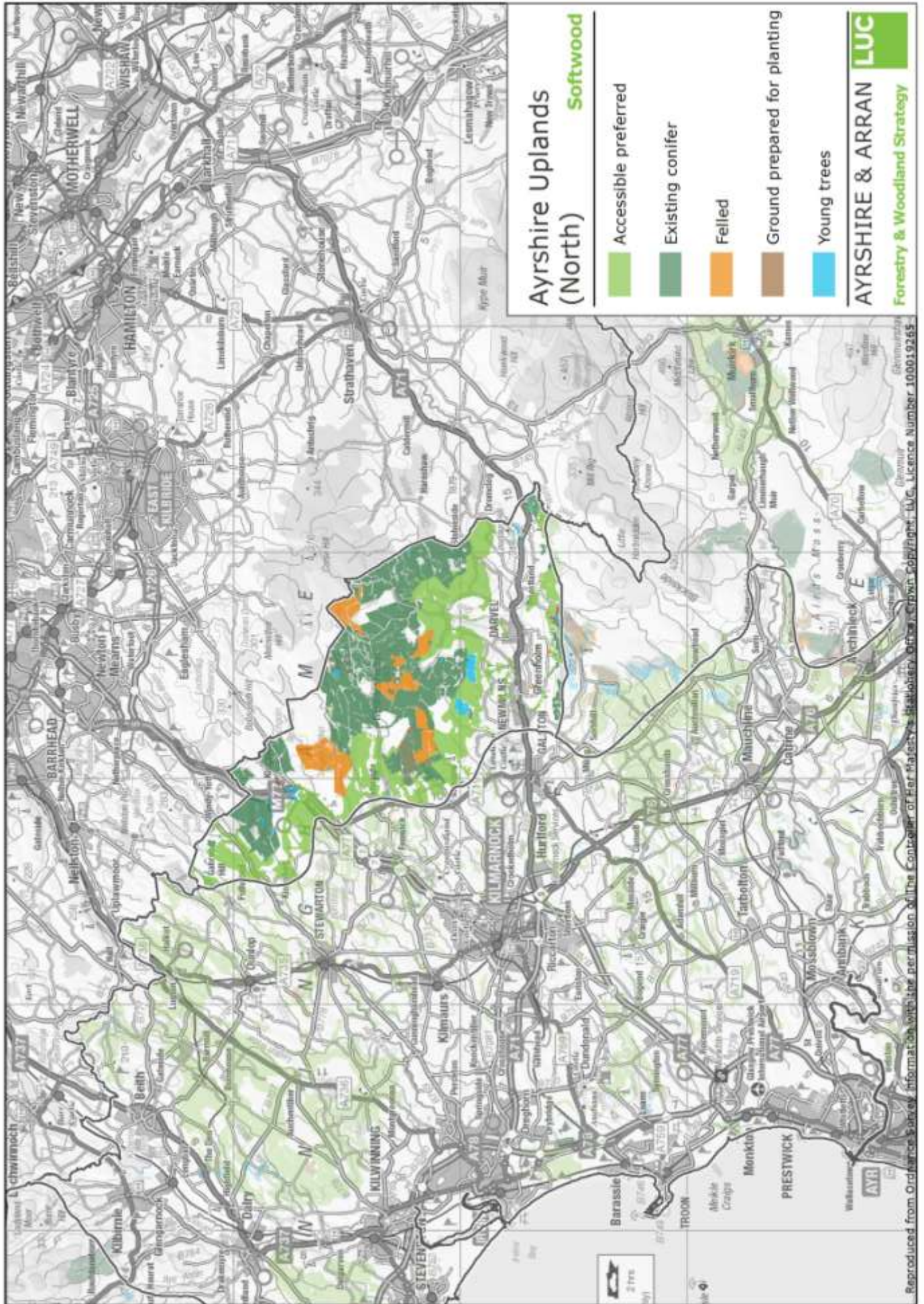
8.9 As this zone already holds such a significant proportion of the region's woodlands, ensuring an appropriate balance of land uses – particularly in relation to wind energy proposals – will be a key consideration. There is a substantial area of 'preferred' (c.4,796ha) and 'potential' (c.13,370ha) land, although it is likely that much of the expansion into these areas would largely be compensating for losses elsewhere due to wind energy development and restructuring of existing forests.

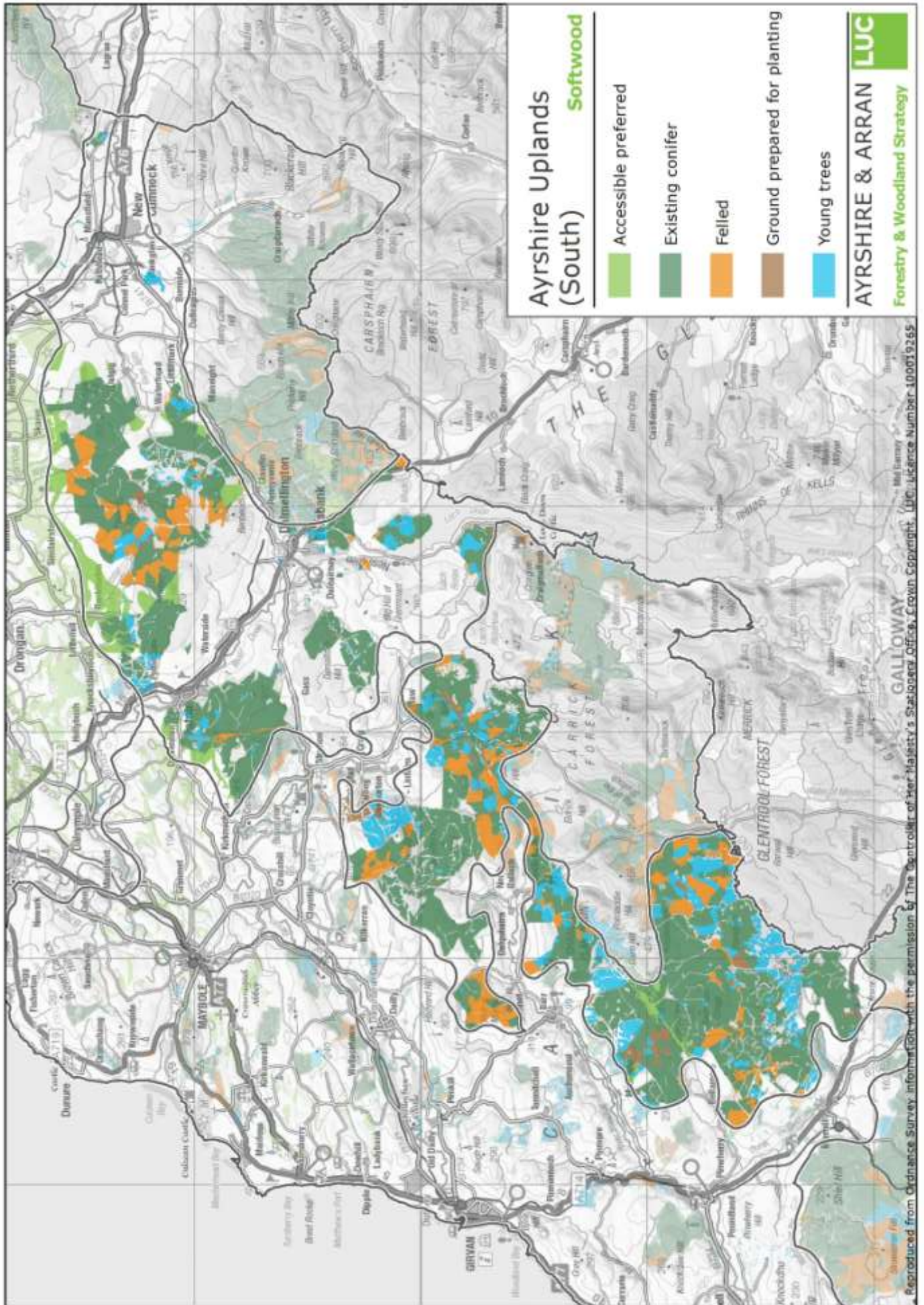
8.10 The priorities for new woodlands in this area include:

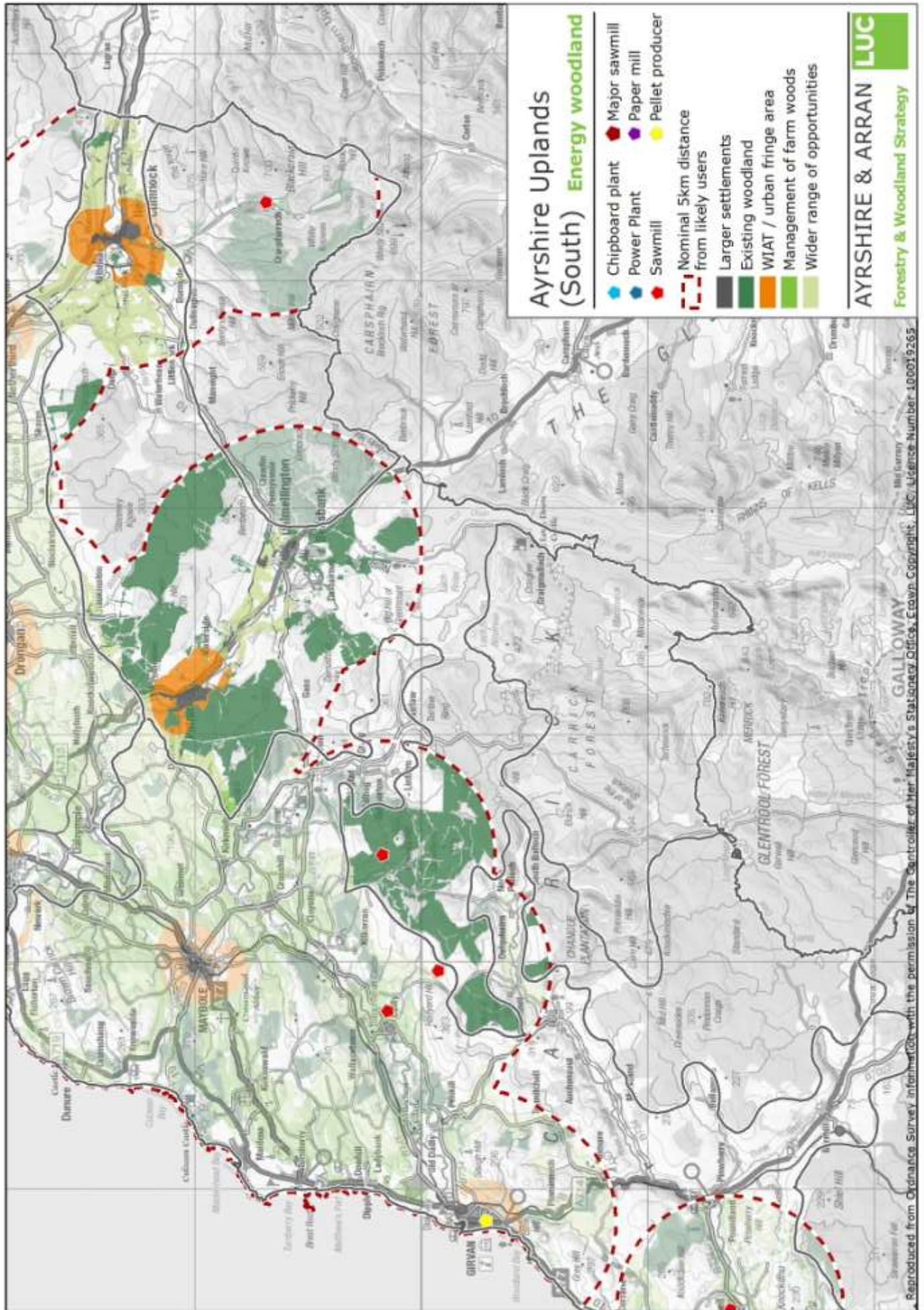
- Potential for new softwoods on the less sensitive soils and landscapes of the lower slopes of the uplands;
- Potential for new native, mixed and energy woodlands associated with mineral working to provide screening and form part of site restoration when extraction is complete;
- Potential for native woodland expansion to contribute to habitat networks along river valleys and tributaries;
- Potential for mixed woodland expansion associated with agricultural activity in lower parts of the river valleys.

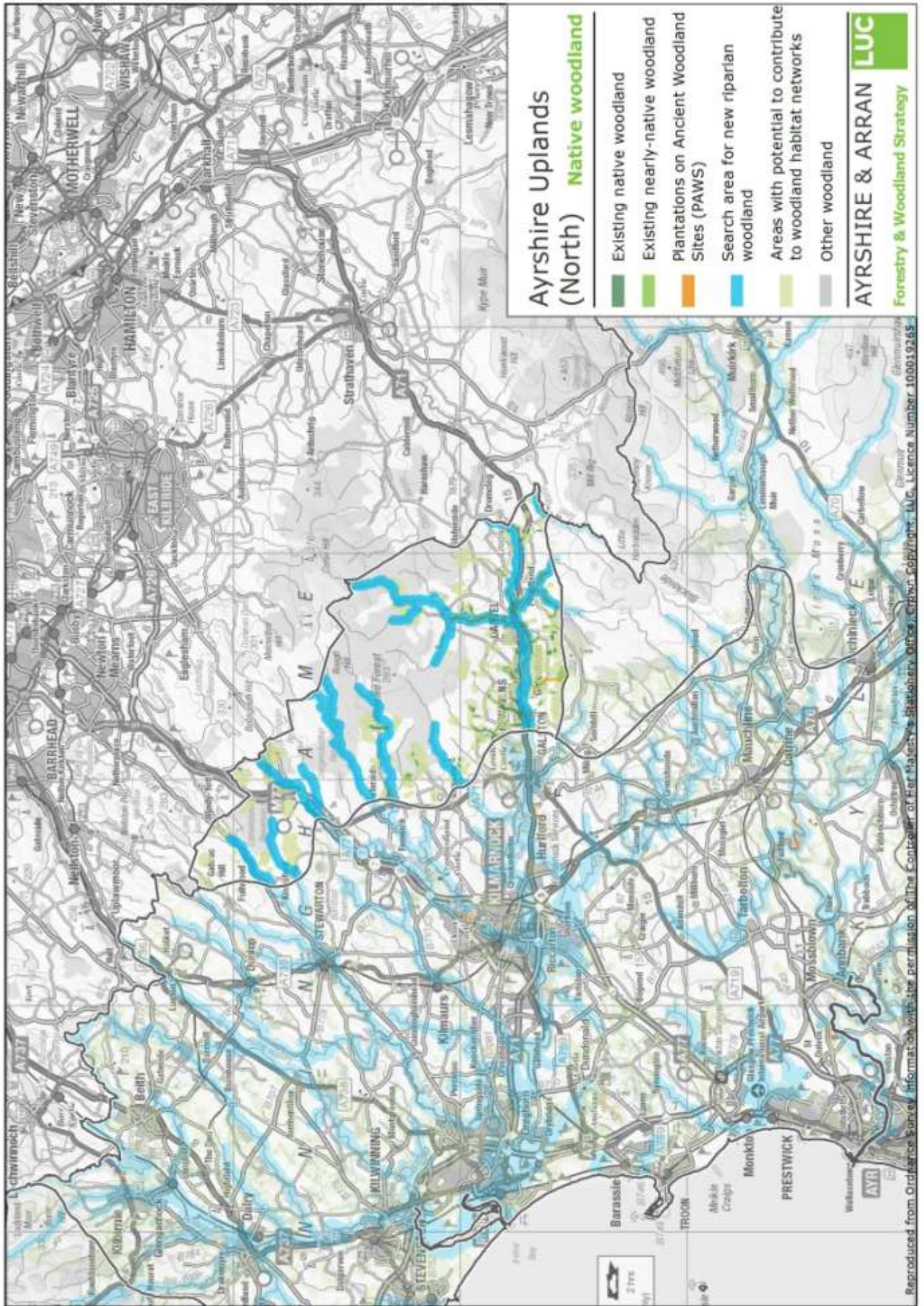


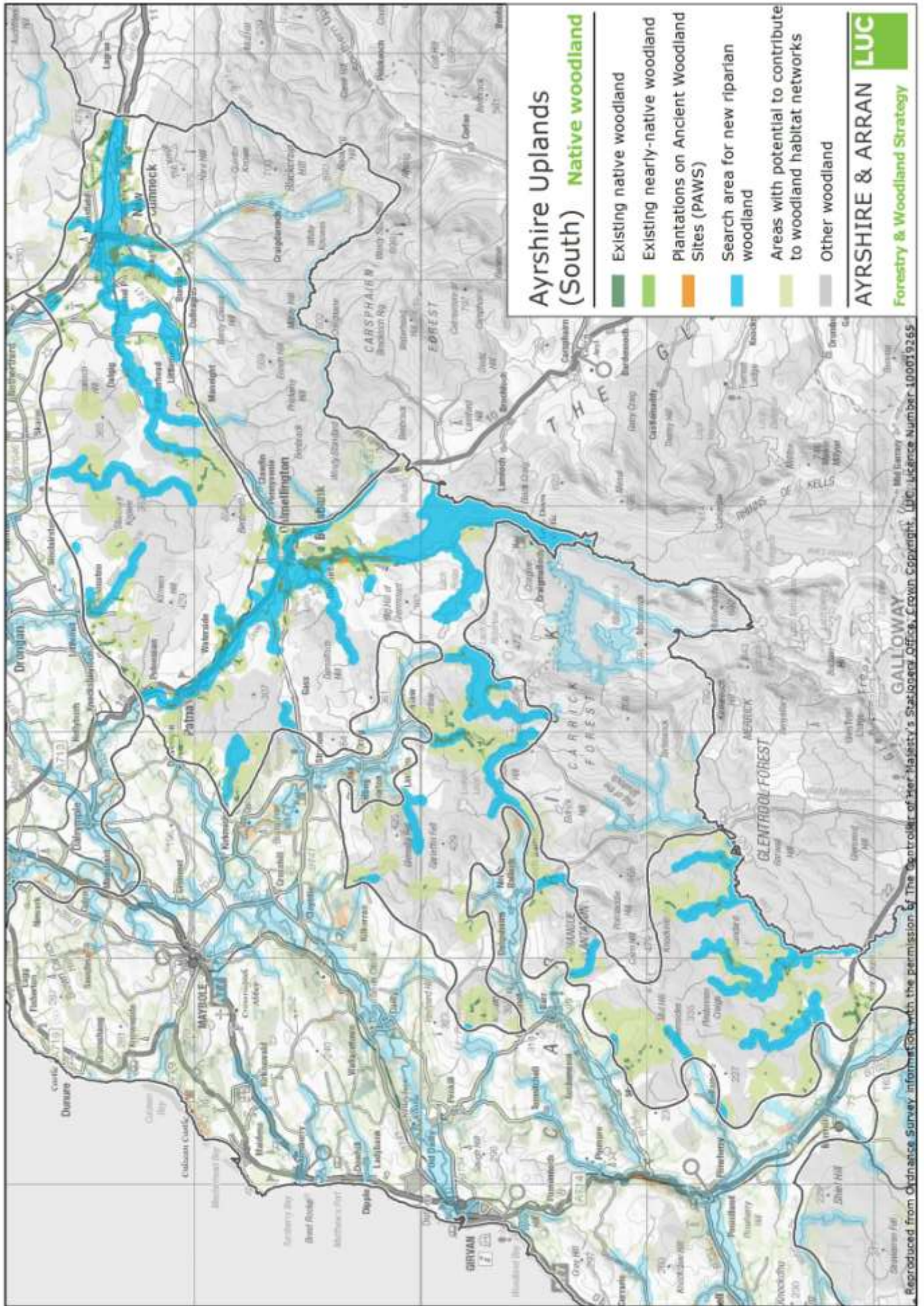


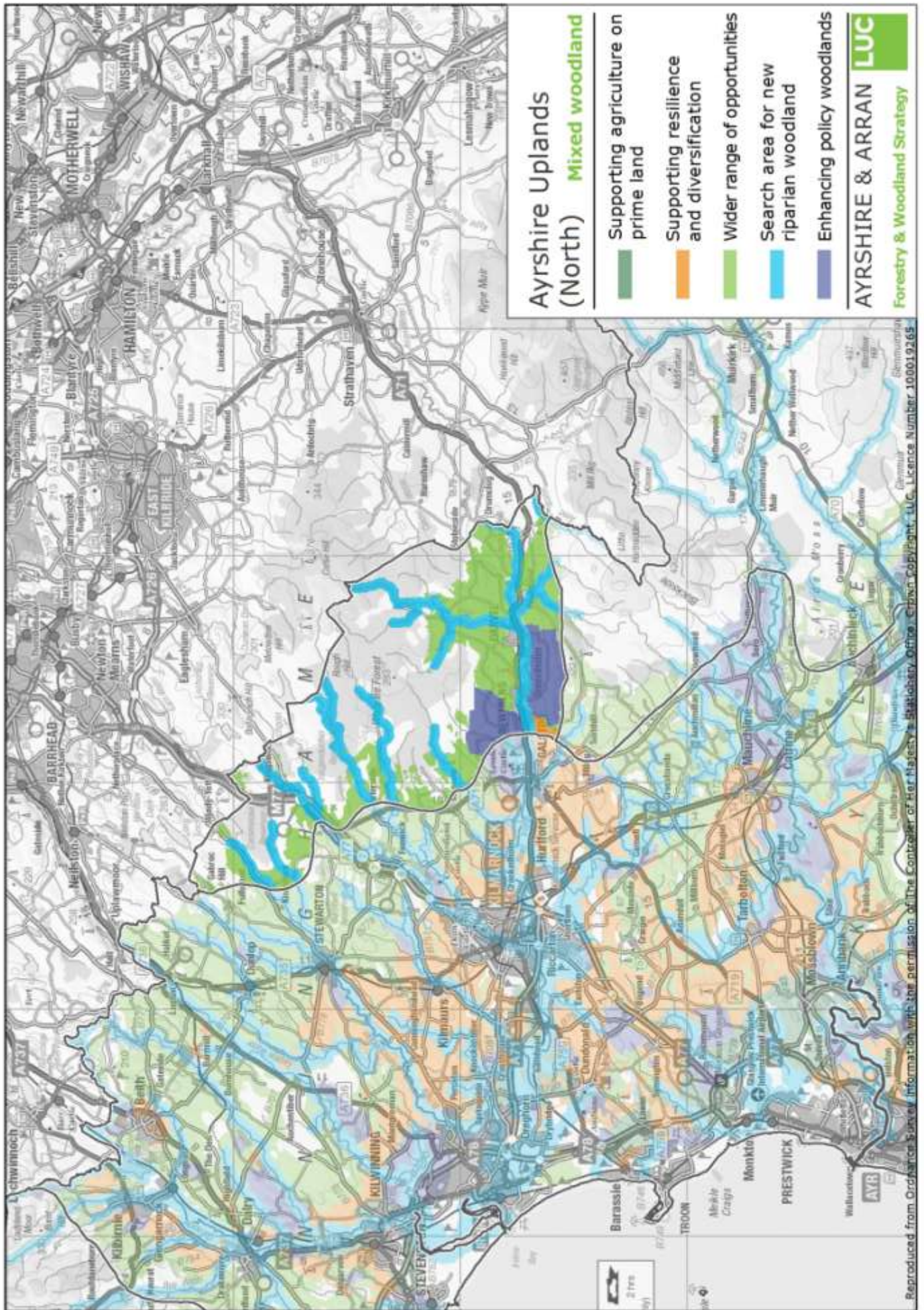


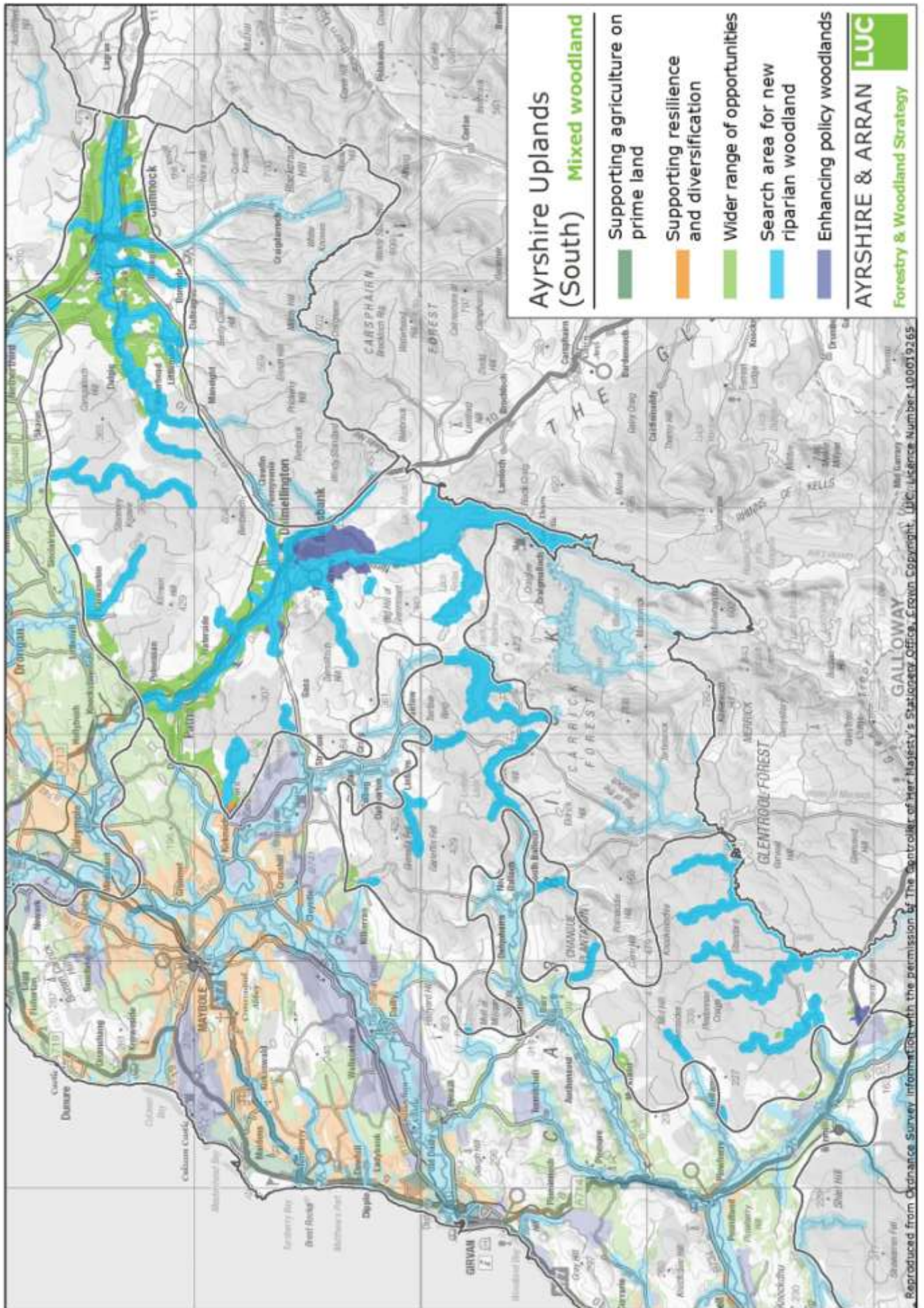


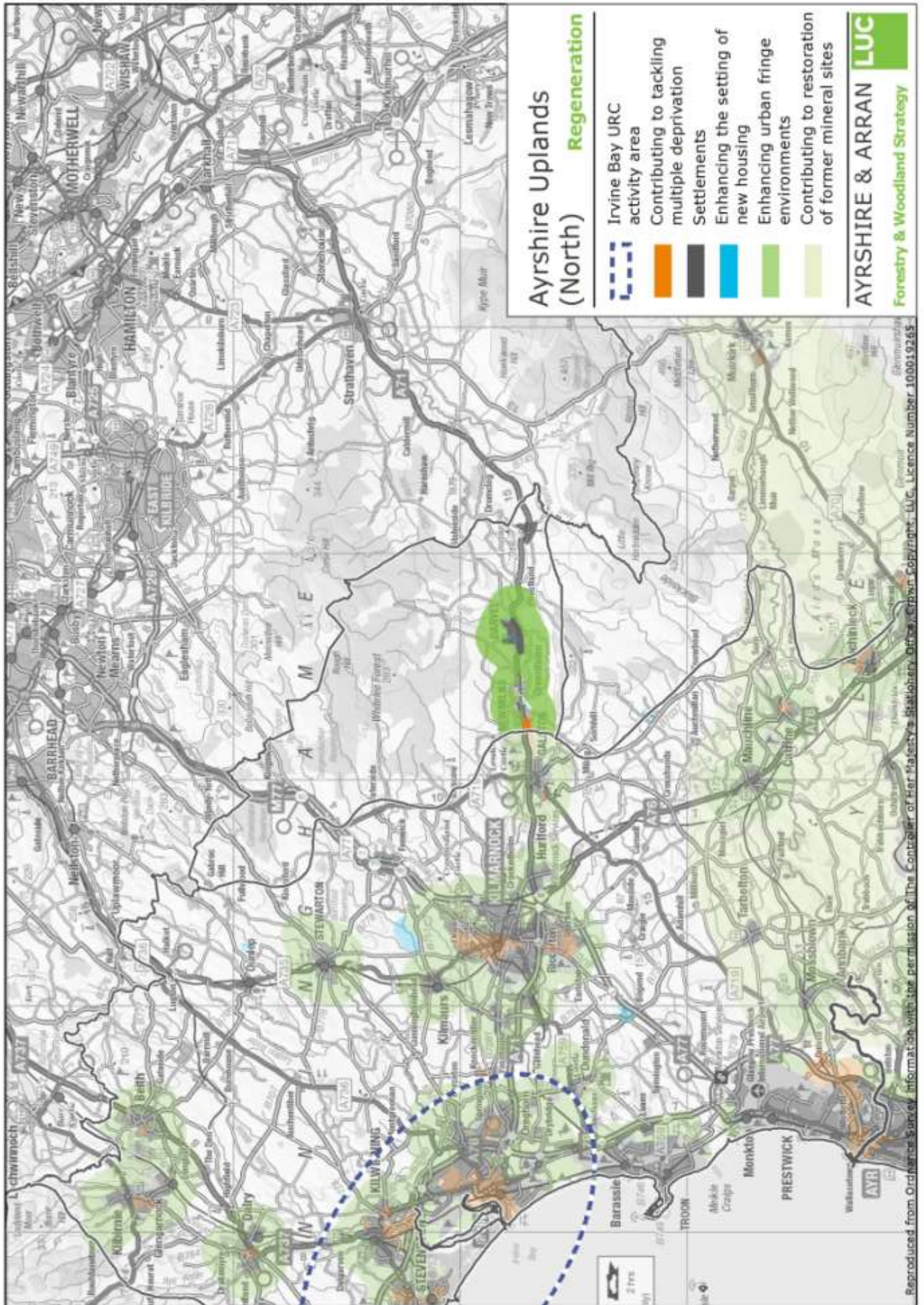


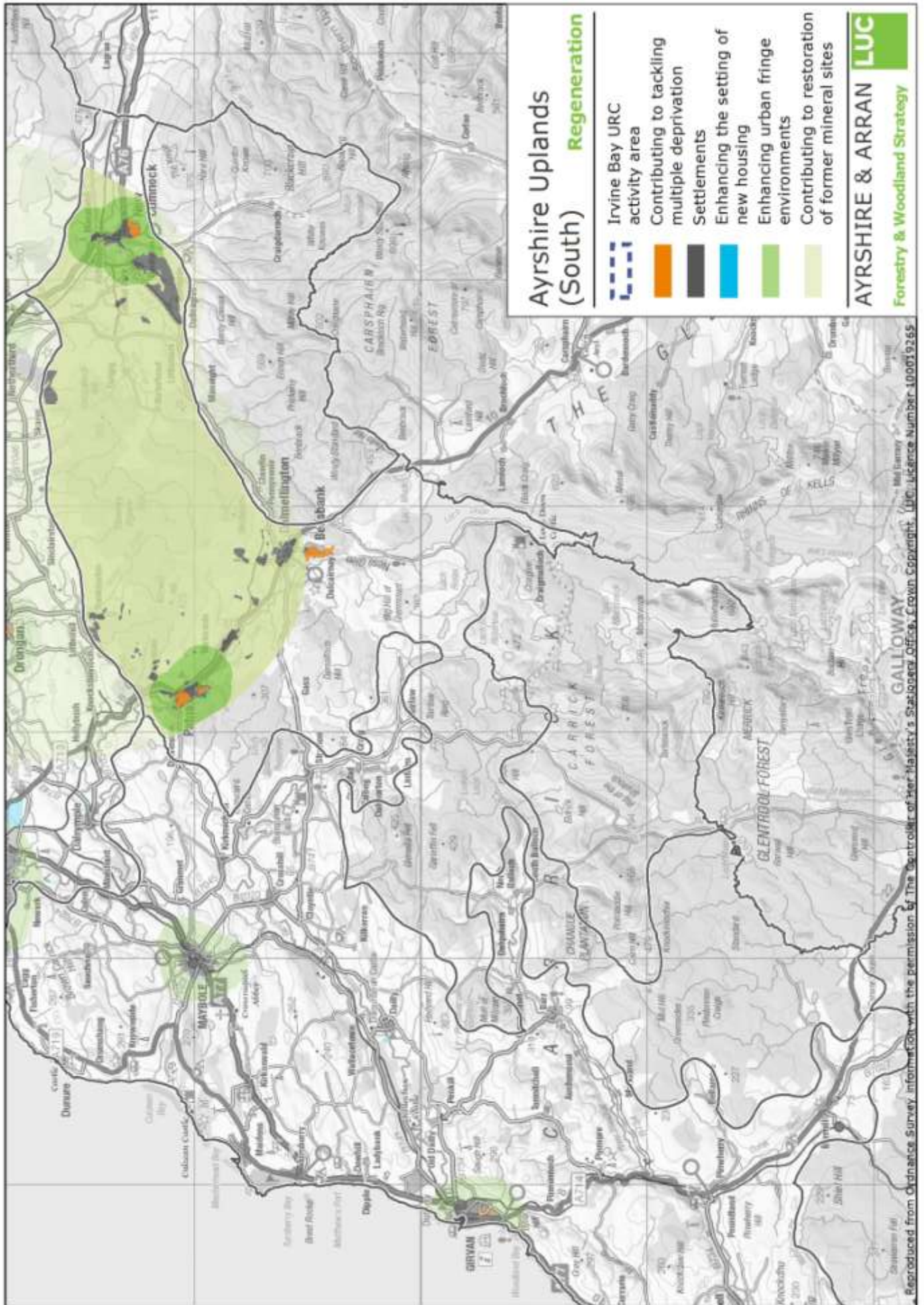












Carrick hills and valleys

Overview

- 8.11 A complex area of rolling hills, major river valleys, coastal and pastoral landscapes, the Carrick hills are sparsely settled and predominantly agricultural in character. The Stinchar and Girvan valleys are key elements in the zone, both in landscape terms and with regard to the concentration of the woodland resource. The woodlands of the major designed landscapes at Culzean, Bargany, Kilkerran, Glenapp and Blairquhan, and a large number of undesignated sites, are important structuring elements in the landscape.
- 8.12 The more exposed upland areas in the zone already host a number of wind farms, and are likely to experience continued development pressure.

Existing woodland resource

- 8.13 In many areas, woodland is an important aspect of this character, in the form of riparian networks, farm woodlands, field trees and a number of designed landscapes. Blocks of softwood forest, although generally far smaller than in the uplands, are also an important component of the zone's woodland resource.

Key issues

- 8.14 Local issues for woodland and forestry include:
- Reversing habitat fragmentation by developing integrated habitat networks building from existing woodland cores within the river valleys and linking existing woodlands across this area;
 - Pressures for wind farm development and the importance of securing appropriate compensatory planting where woodland removal takes place;
 - Restructuring and enhancement of existing softwood forests, with opportunities to enhance their biodiversity, recreational and landscape benefits, but potential reductions in the overall level of forest cover;
 - The importance of maintaining historic designed landscapes;
 - High peat content of some soils in the south of the area, with implications for woodland expansion and management.

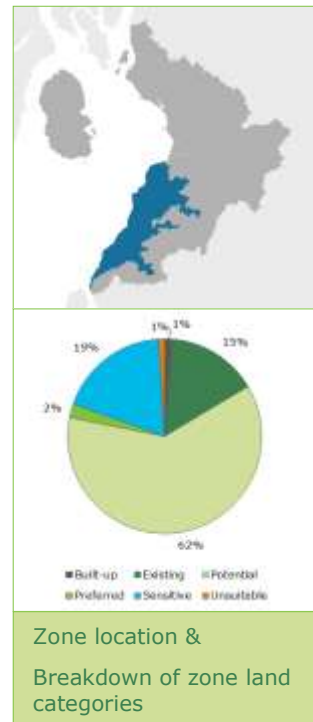
Local sensitivities

- 8.15 The Lendalfoot Hills SAC takes in a substantial area of moorland plateau of international significance for heath and grassland habitats, restricting the potential for expansion in this area. Large numbers of designed landscapes, both Inventory-listed and undesignated, require careful handling to conserve their character and significance – but also provide opportunities for expansion within the existing landscape framework.

Priorities for woodland management and expansion

Existing woodland

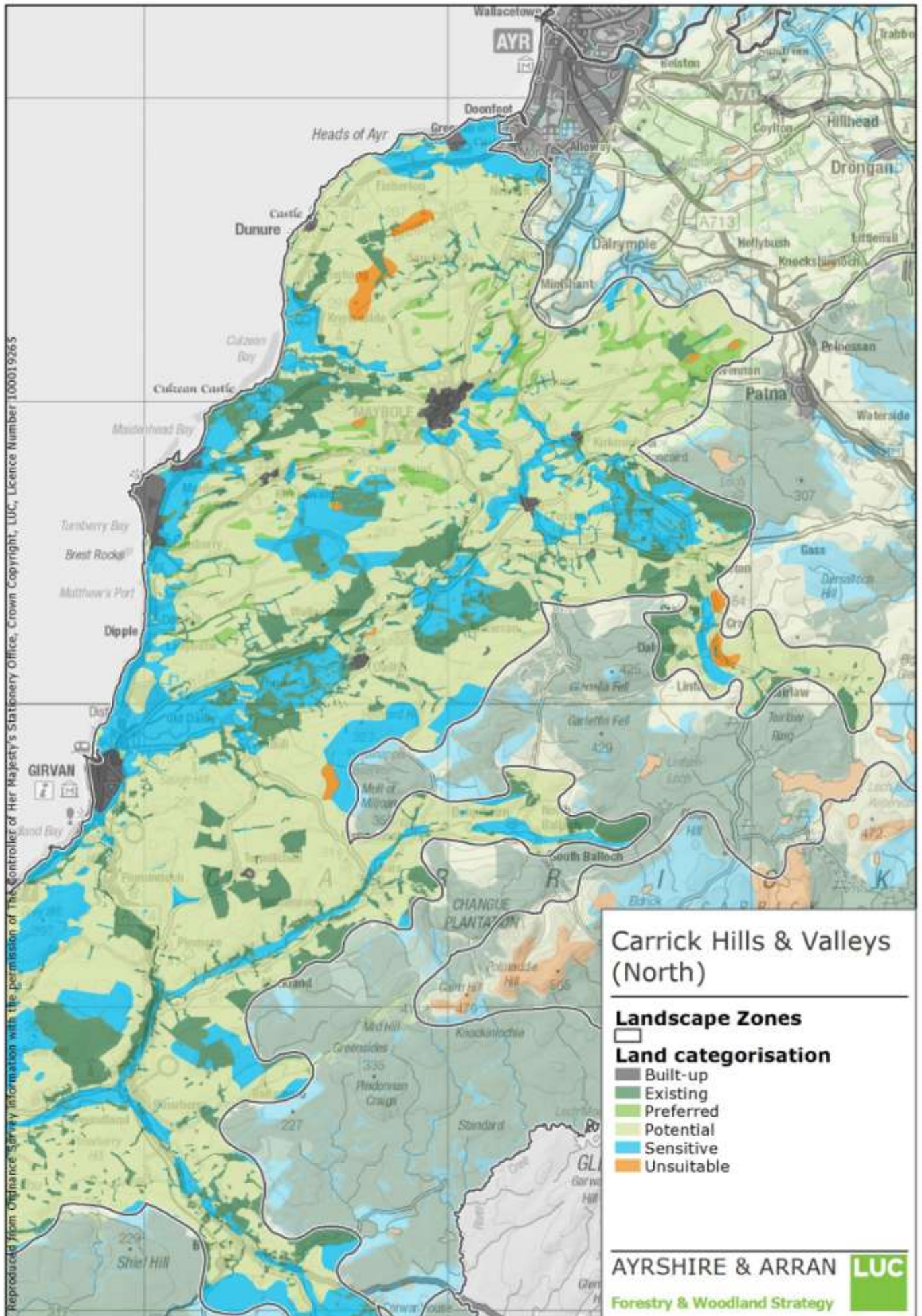
- Management, expansion and linking of existing native and mixed woodlands within the river valleys;
- Retention of existing areas of productive conifer plantation, with restructuring to include a higher proportion of open ground and achieve a better landscape fit;
- Ensuring that any reductions in the extent of woodland resulting from restructuring or wind energy development are compensated within Ayrshire, where required by the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal;



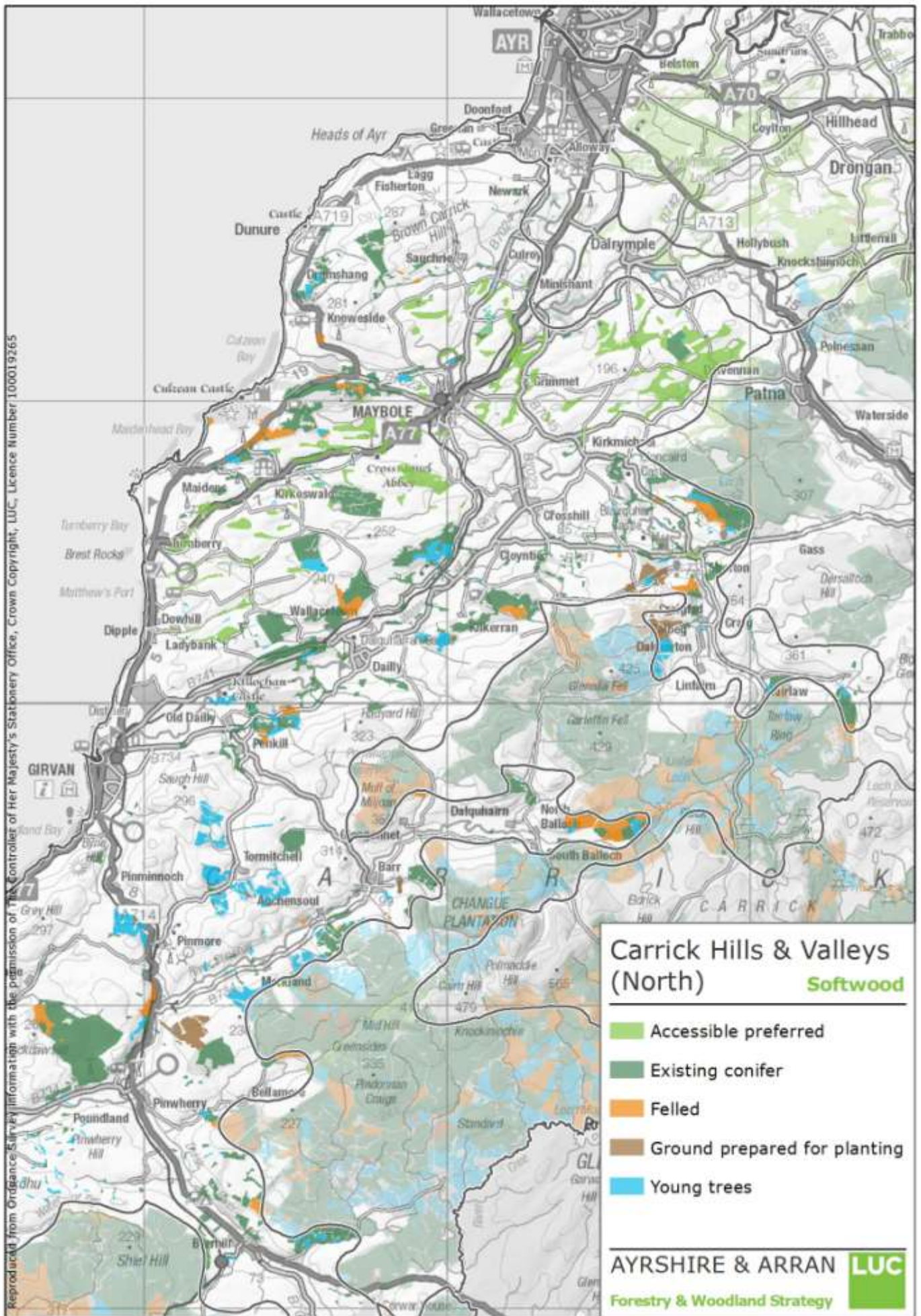
- Positive and proactive management of woodland and trees in designed landscapes, taking a strategic approach to succession planning and adapting to the effects of climate change through appropriate species and provenance choices.

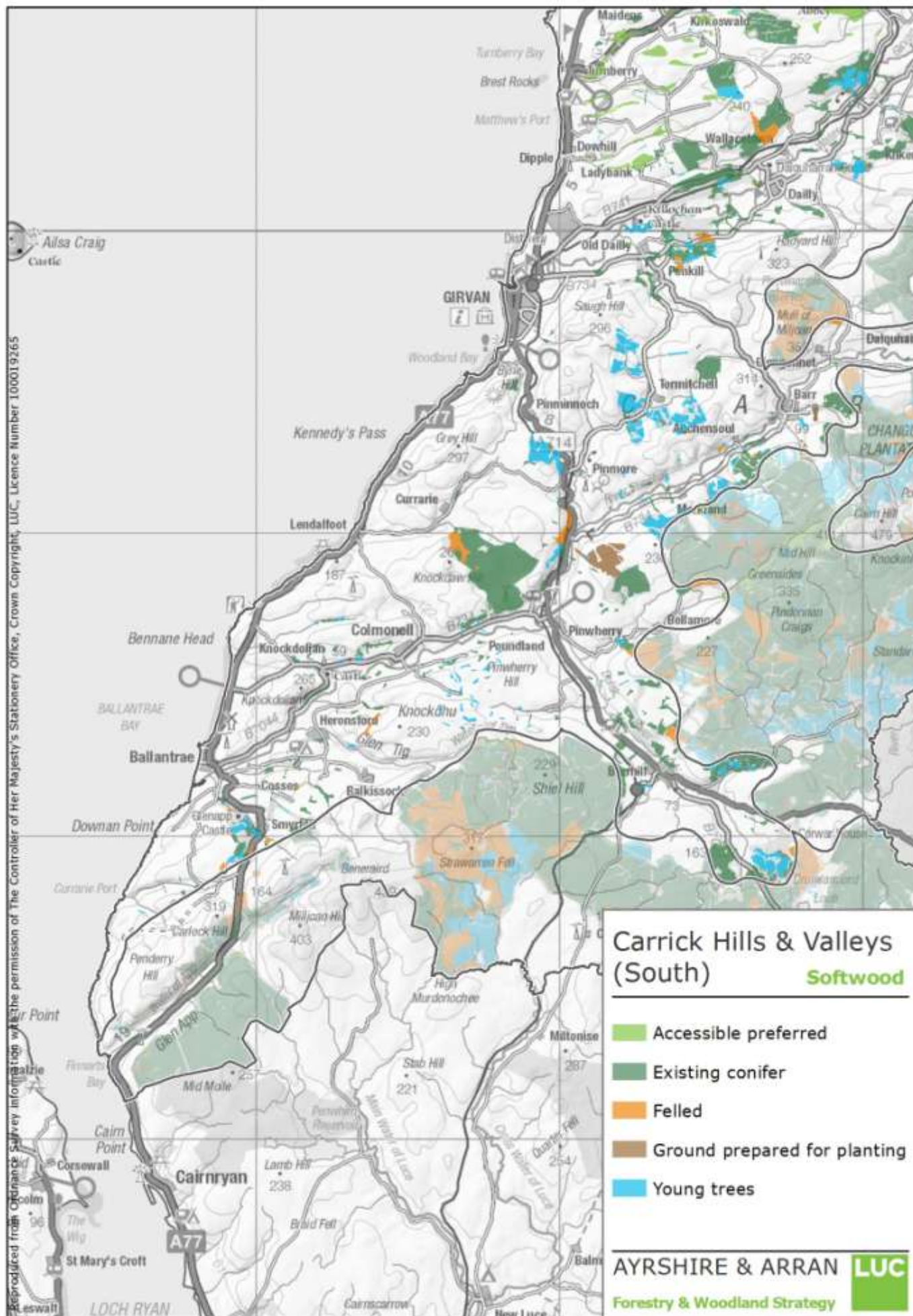
Potential for expansion

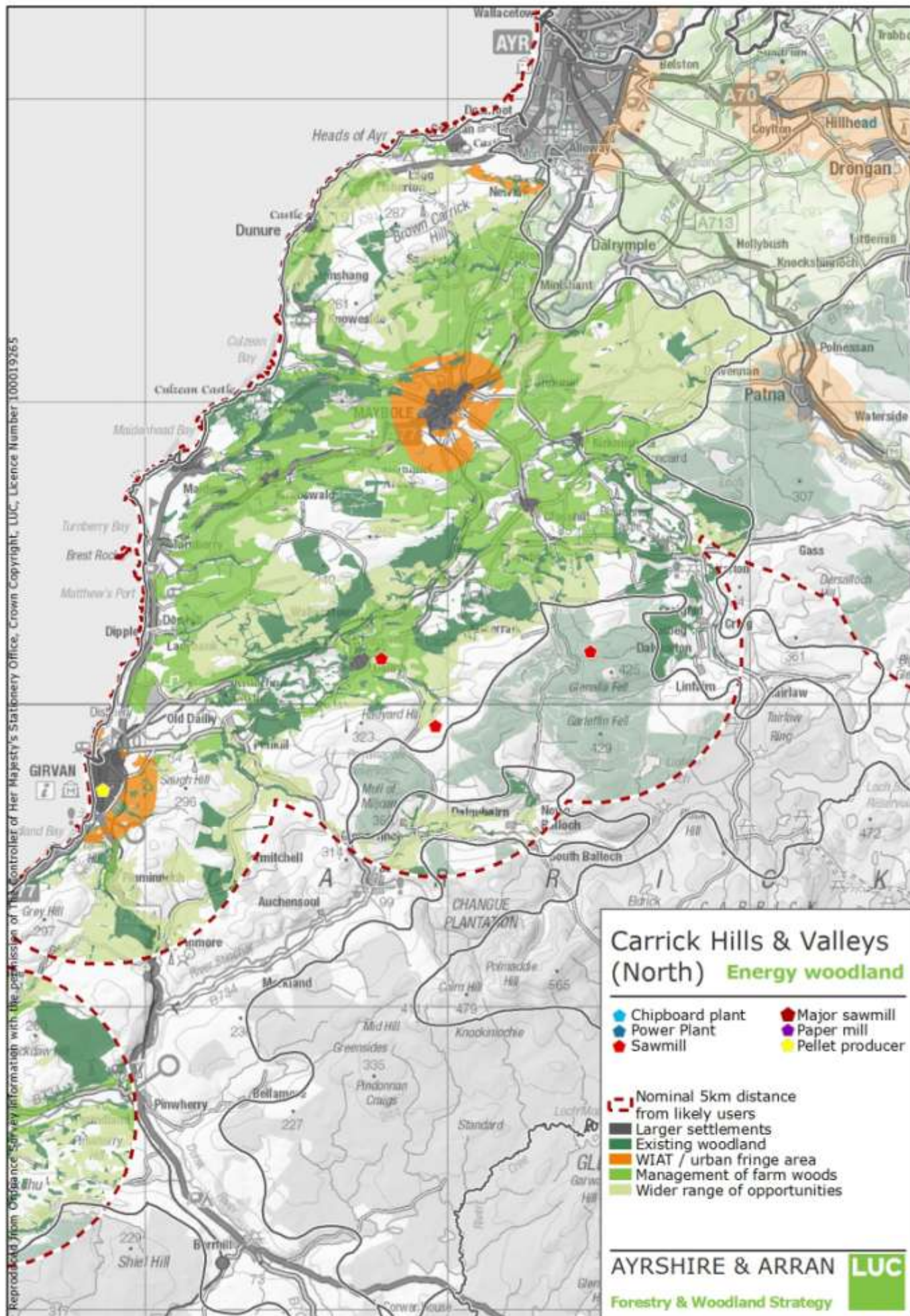
- 8.16 Significantly more than half of the zone is classified as having some potential for woodland expansion – although only a very small proportion of this is ‘preferred’ (c.1,200ha). The intricate landform, natural heritage sensitivities and historic landscape structure will have a strong influence on the design of new woodlands. However, the existing woodland framework of the zone offers considerable potential for well-planned expansion that contributes to landscape character and structure, reinforces and enhances existing resources and caters to existing and emerging markets.
- 8.17 Woodland expansion could therefore comprise:
- Enhancing native woodland networks, particularly in river corridors;
 - Well-designed smaller-scale softwoods, particularly in areas where they can be accommodated within existing landscape structure;
 - Expansion of mixed and farm woodlands in dales and valleys;
 - Restoration or enhancement of designed landscape features including field boundary trees, copses, ‘roundels’ and ‘wilderness’ planting.

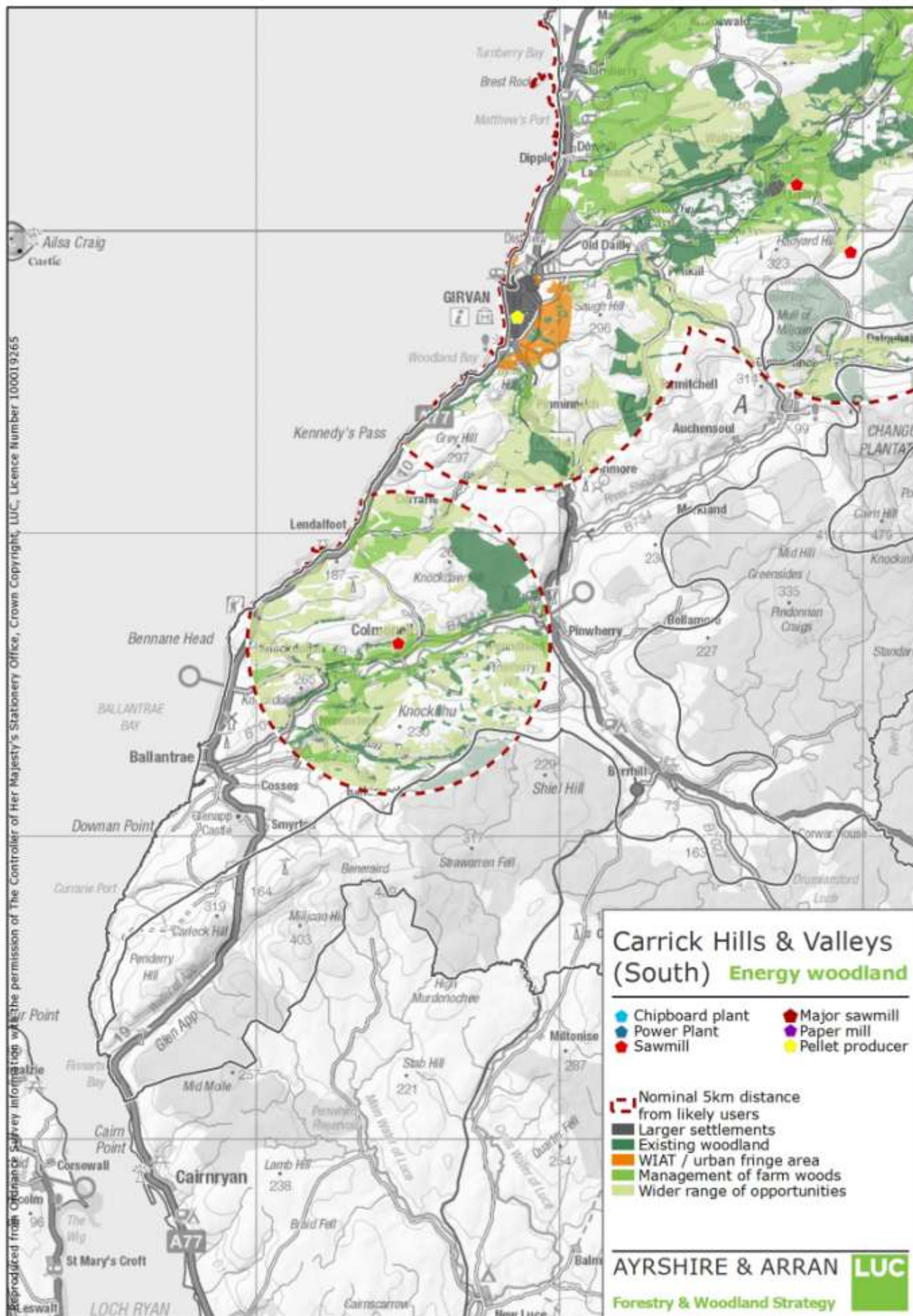


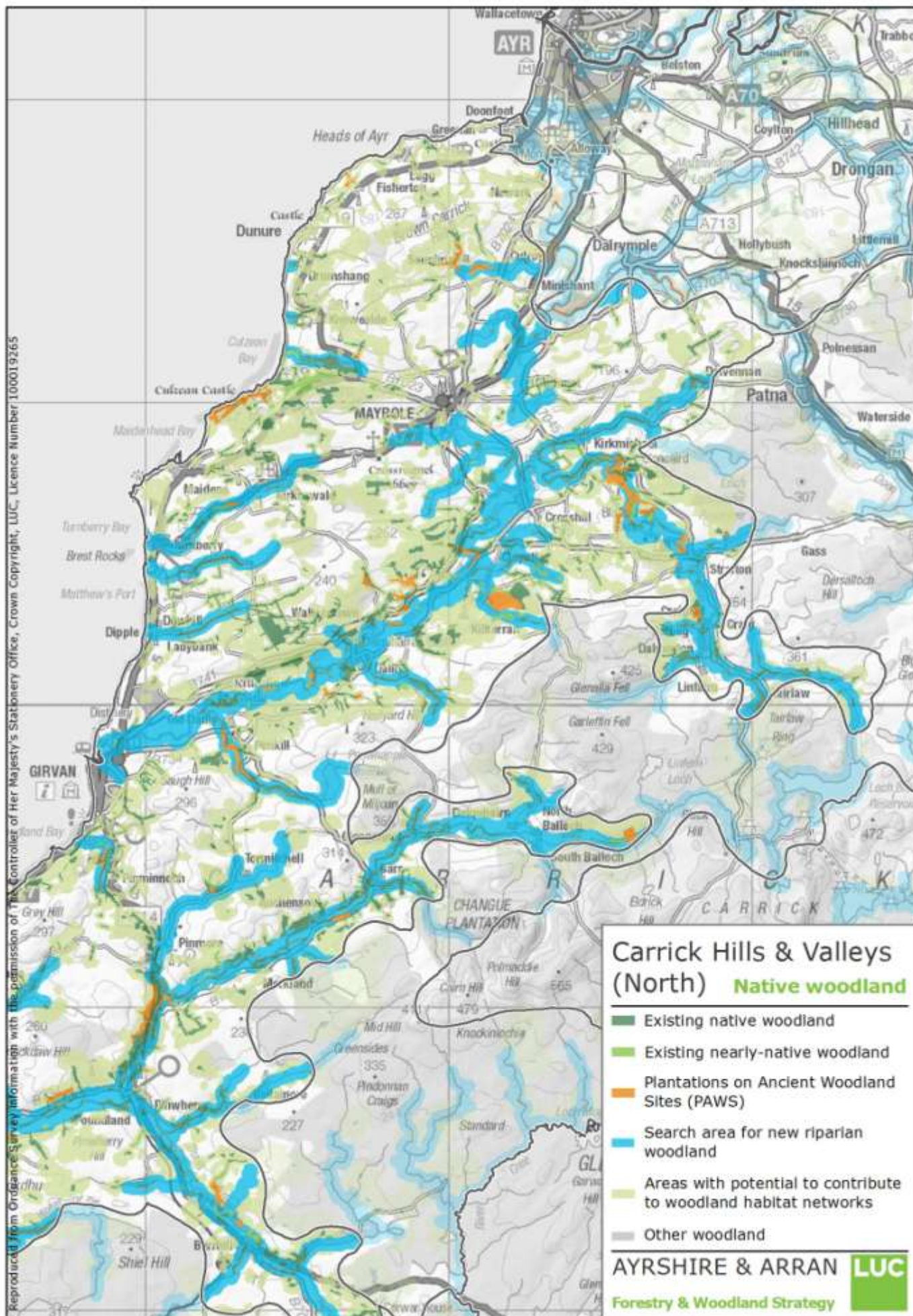
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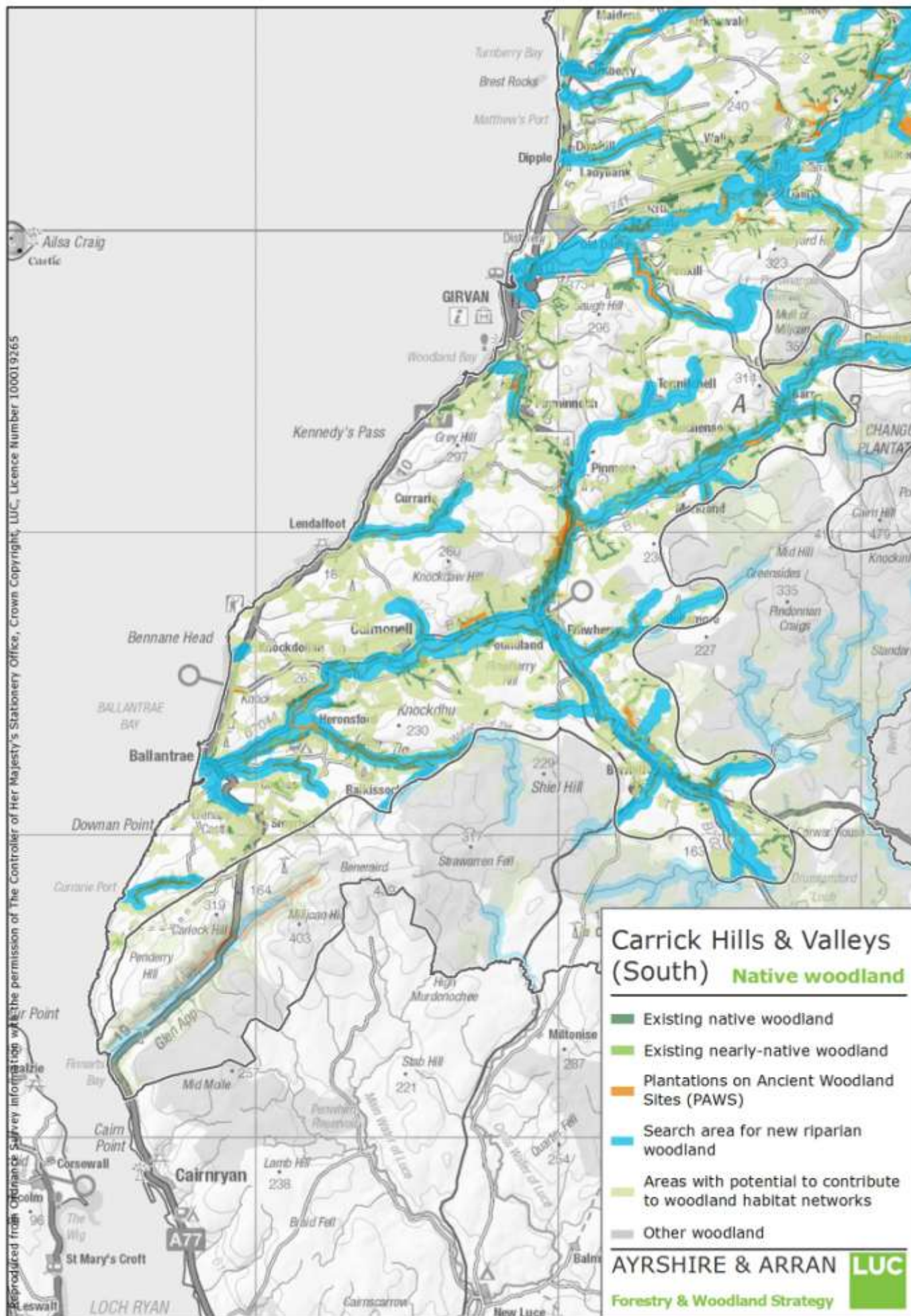


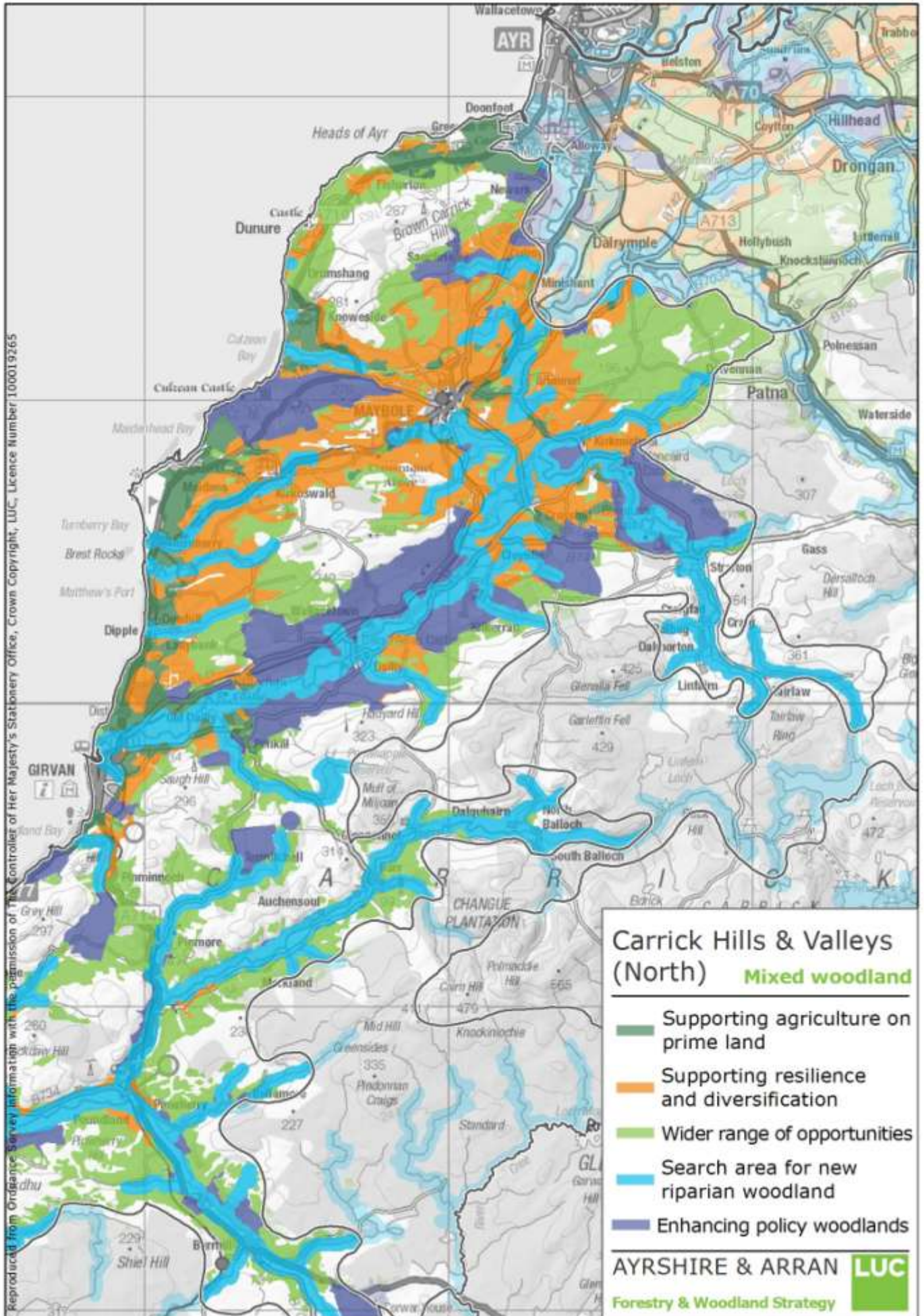


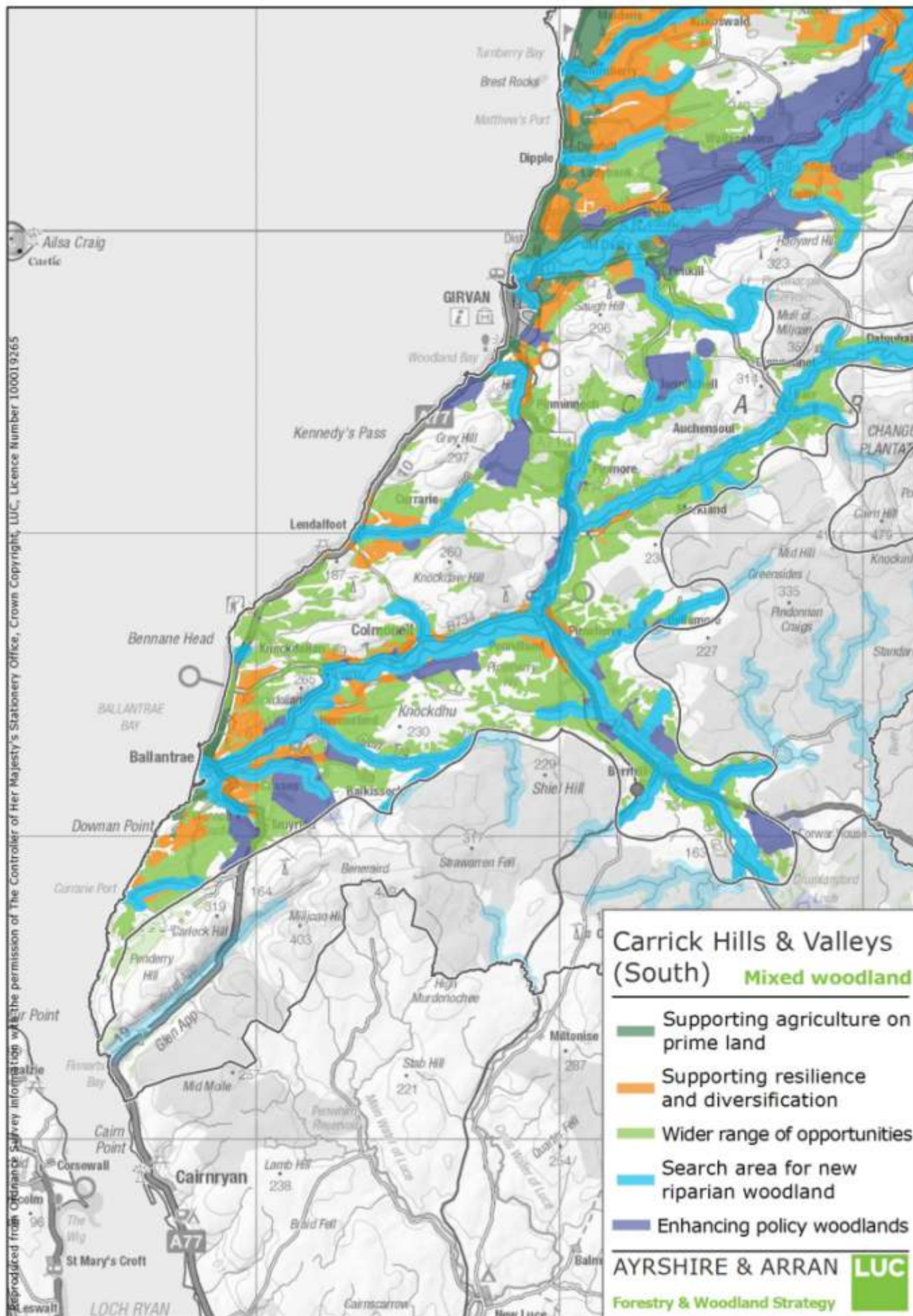


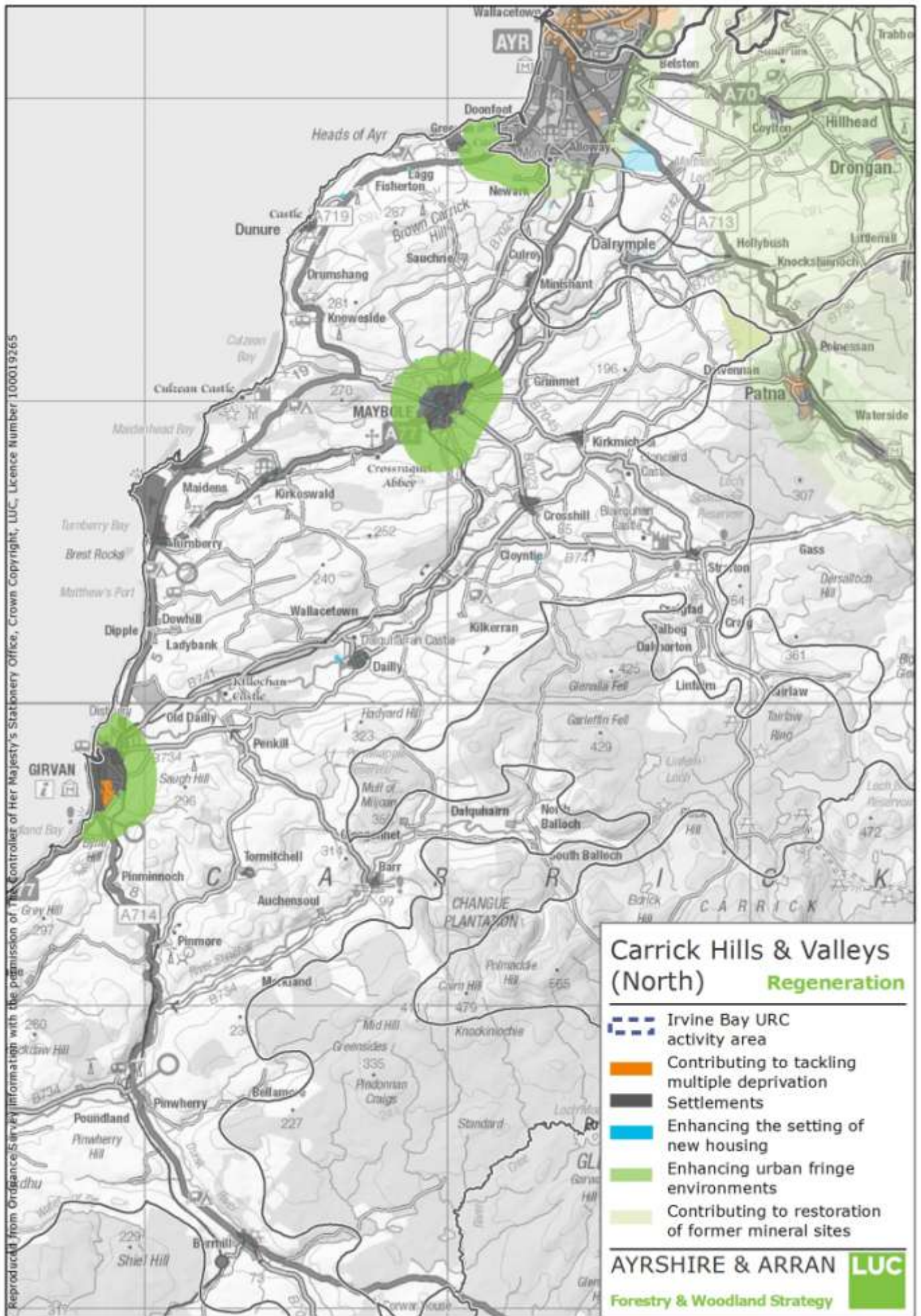


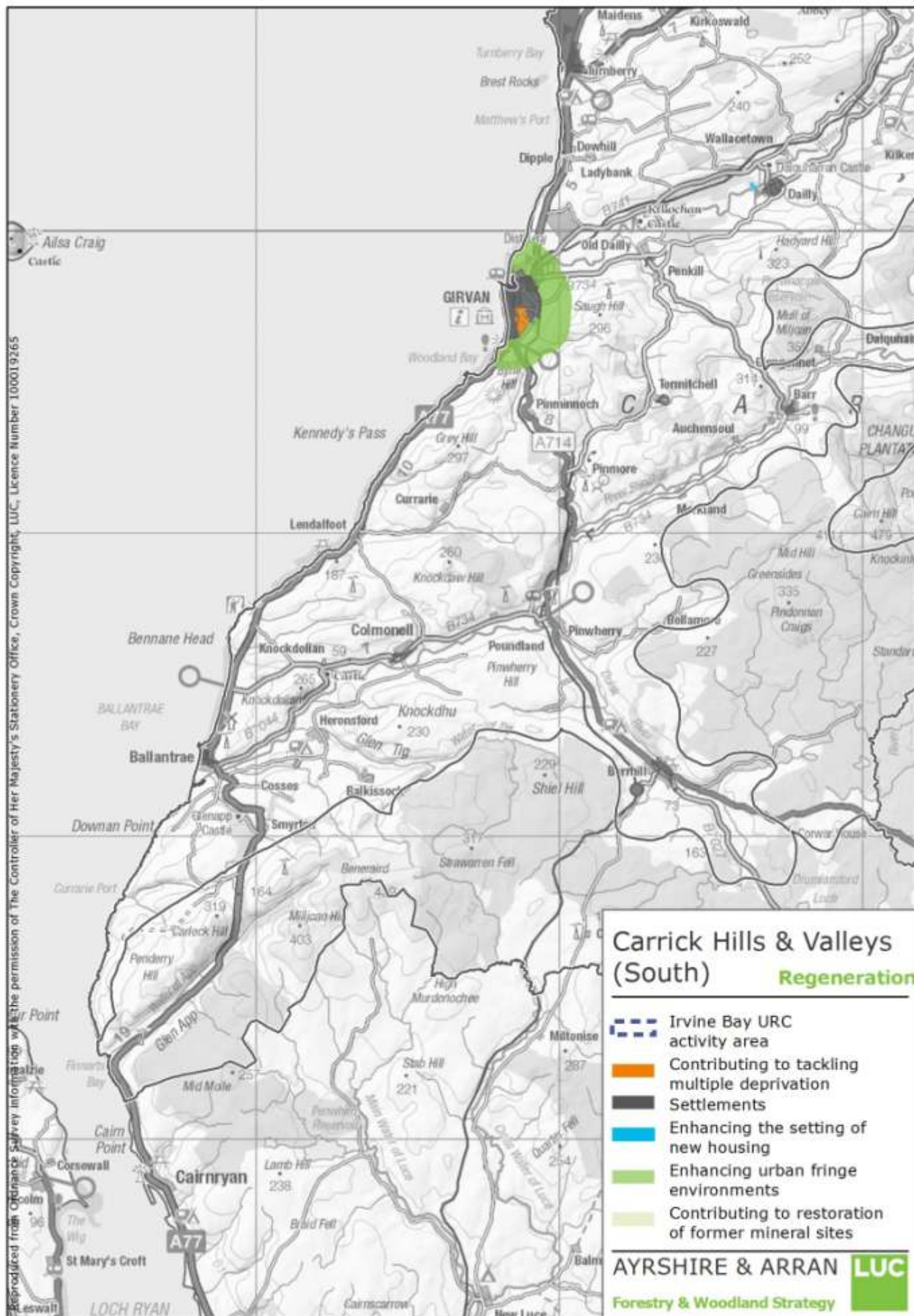












Lowland basin

Overview

- 8.18 The Lowland Basin lies at the heart of Ayrshire, comprising gently rolling relatively sparsely-wooded pastoral landscapes punctuated by a number of substantial river valleys where the woodland resource is concentrated. The area includes the region's larger settlements, including Kilmarnock, Irvine, Ayr and Troon, together with many villages.

Existing woodland resource

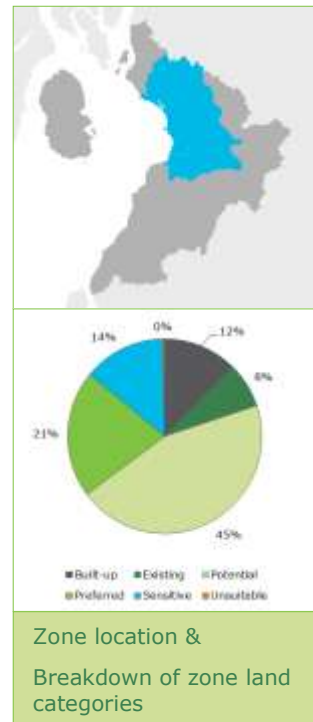
- 8.19 This zone has the lowest level of woodland cover in the region proportional to its size – with just 7% of its land area wooded (c.6,736ha). This resource is largely broadleaved, comprising a combination of farm, policy and riparian woodlands, containing a significant proportion of native woodland types.

Key issues

- 8.20 Local issues for woodland and forestry include:
- Increasing the contribution that woodland and forests make to the agricultural economy;
 - Maintaining distinctive character of this area, but using new planting and woodland management to improve the setting of towns and villages (particularly WIAT areas);
 - Enhancing and expanding existing larger native woodland assets that can act as 'core' areas for key species to improve resilience to change and restore ecosystem functions;
 - Reversing habitat fragmentation by developing networks of woodland building from existing woodland cores within the river valleys and linking existing woodlands across this area;
 - Contributing to climate change adaptation, particularly in terms of sustainable flood management, urban climate regulation and slope stability;
 - Contributing to recreation opportunities particularly in and around settlements and along river valleys and the coast;
 - Contributing to local economic development, creating environments that support investment in areas such as Irvine Bay.

Local sensitivities

- 8.21 The zone hosts a number of lowland raised bogs, both designated and undesignated, that are particularly sensitive to woodland expansion. Where these assets have already been subject to inappropriate afforestation, and there is a realistic prospect of restoring key elements of ecosystem function, they should be prioritised for restoration to contribute to biodiversity, sustainable water management and carbon sequestration objectives.
- 8.22 As the traditional focus of much of the region's agricultural activity, this zone also contains a significant number of estate centres and associated designed landscapes. While several, including Dumfries House and Eglinton Castle, are Inventory-listed the majority are undesignated. However, these assets make a substantial contribution to the character and structure of the zone's landscape, most notably in the Ayr valley. Here, a chain of designed landscapes stretching from the foothills of the Muirkirk uplands to the outskirts of Ayr is a defining feature, and the focus of a significant proportion of the zone's woodland resource.
- 8.23 This zone also contains the majority of Ayrshire's prime quality agricultural land, which represents a key resource for the region's economy. Broadly, larger-scale woodland expansion would be inappropriate in such locations – but new trees, shelter belts and appropriate farm woodlands may make a substantial contribution to agriculture's resilience to climate change and help with meeting cross-compliance objectives, particularly with regard to reducing diffuse pollution from livestock.



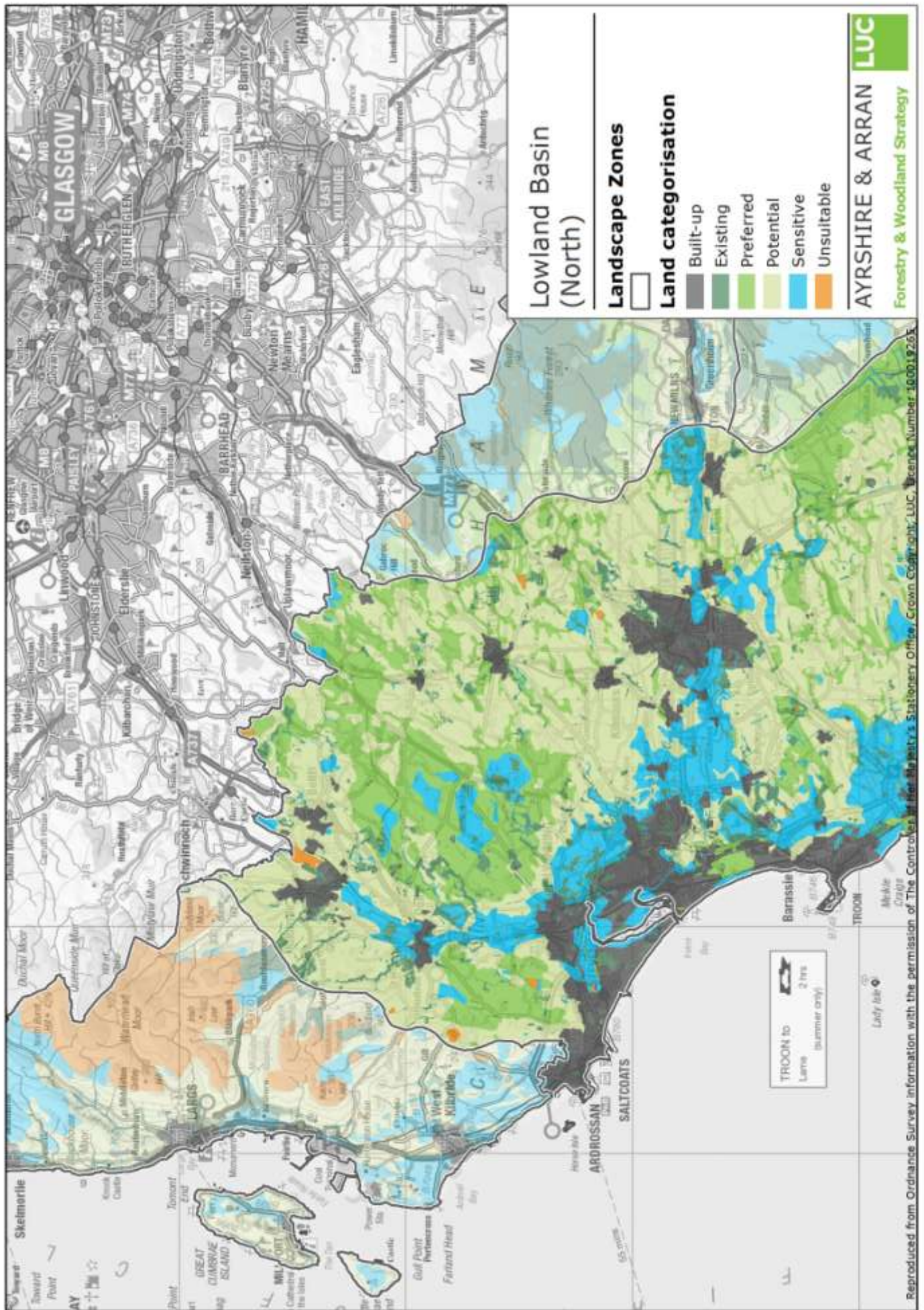
Priorities for woodland management and expansion

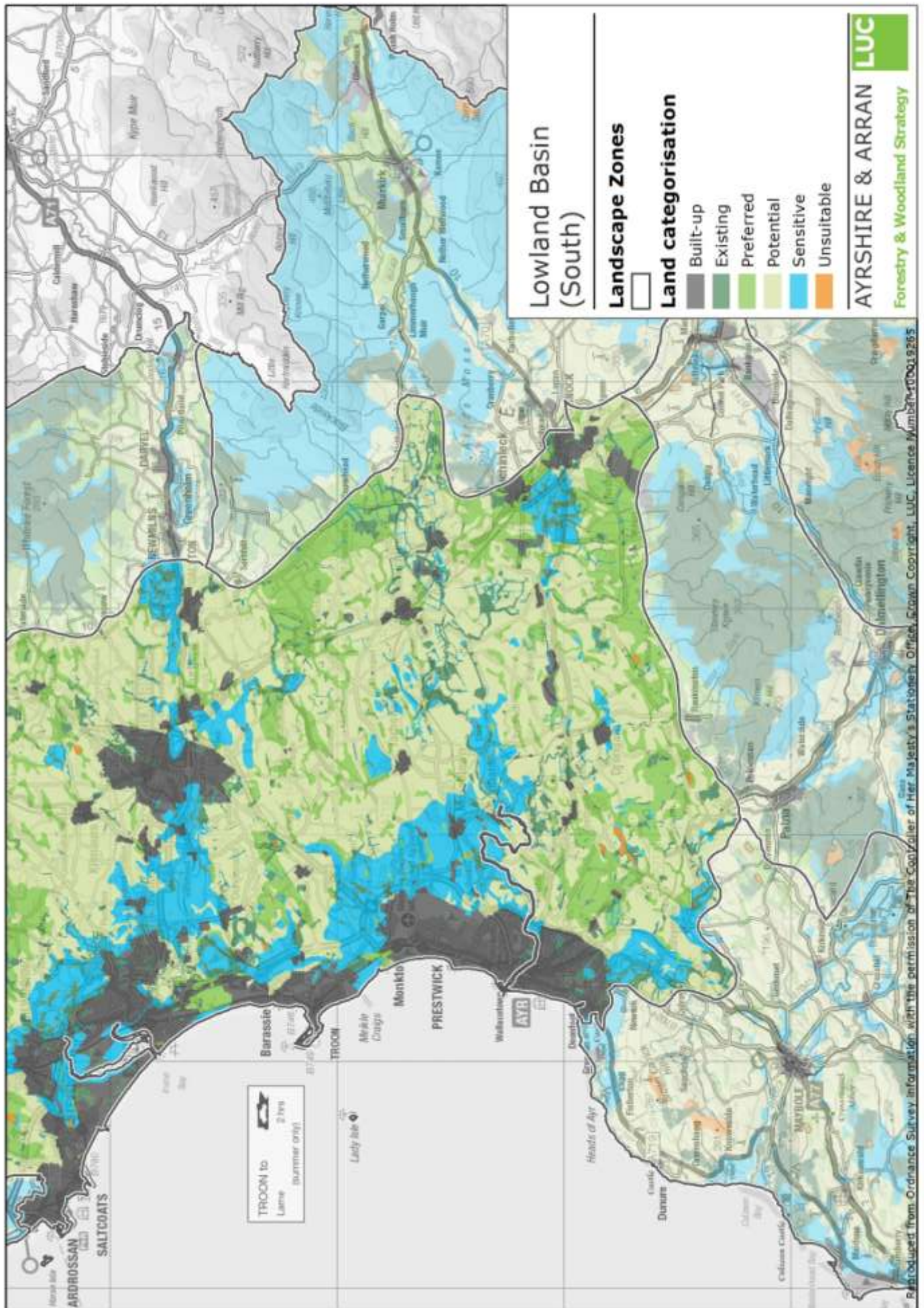
Existing woodland

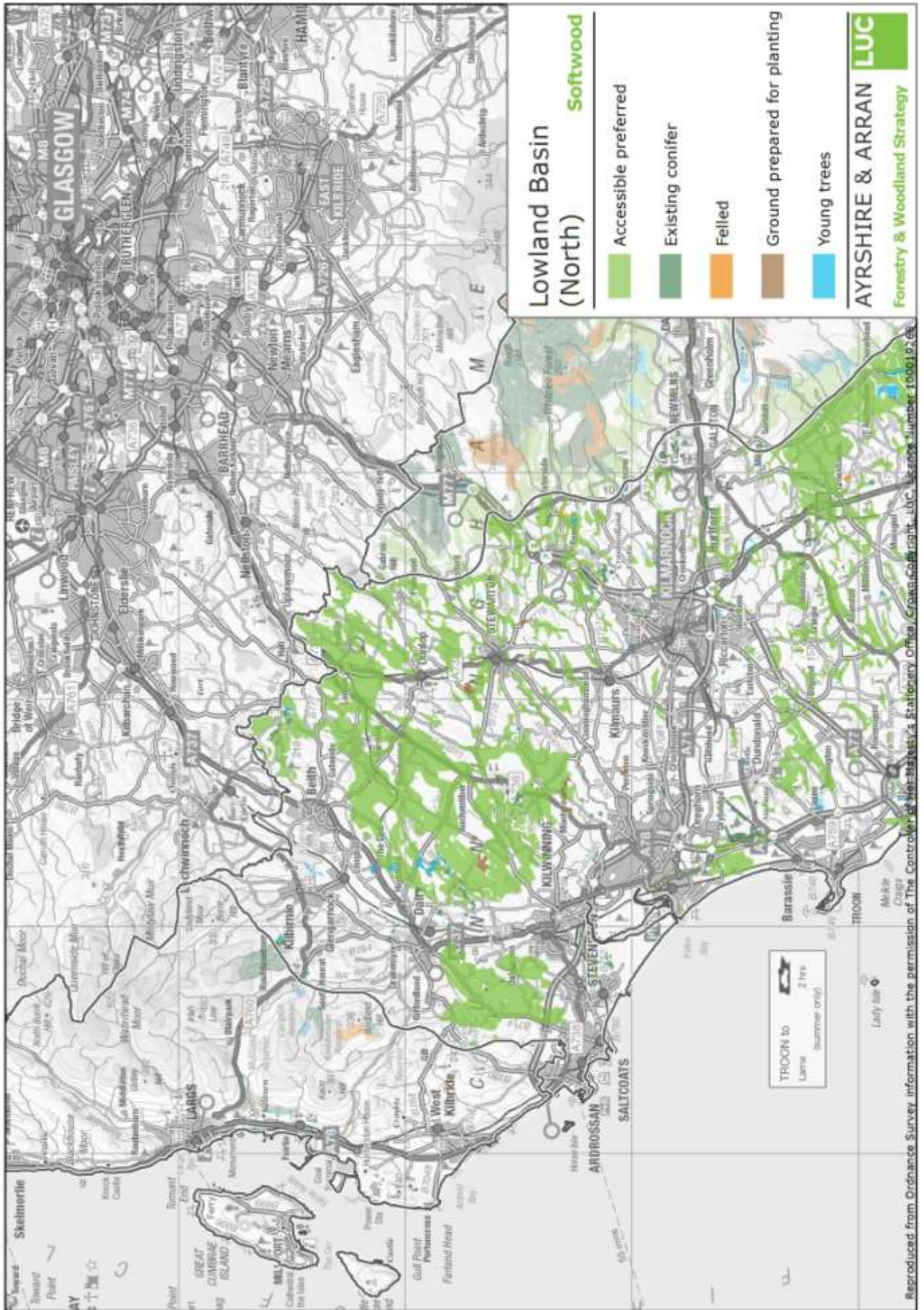
- Removal of woodland from raised bogs that have significant potential for restoration, with replanting in appropriate locations to maintain net woodland cover;
- Positive and proactive management of woodland and trees in designed landscapes, taking a strategic approach to succession planning and adapting to the effects of climate change through appropriate species and provenance choices;
- Bringing neglected farm and policy woodlands into positive management;
- Maintaining and restoring landscape structure by managing and planting field boundary trees and shelterbelts;
- Management and enhancement of strategically important larger native woodlands, particularly in the Ayr valley, to boost resilience and improve habitat values;
- Improving the management and use of woodlands in and around the region's main settlements.

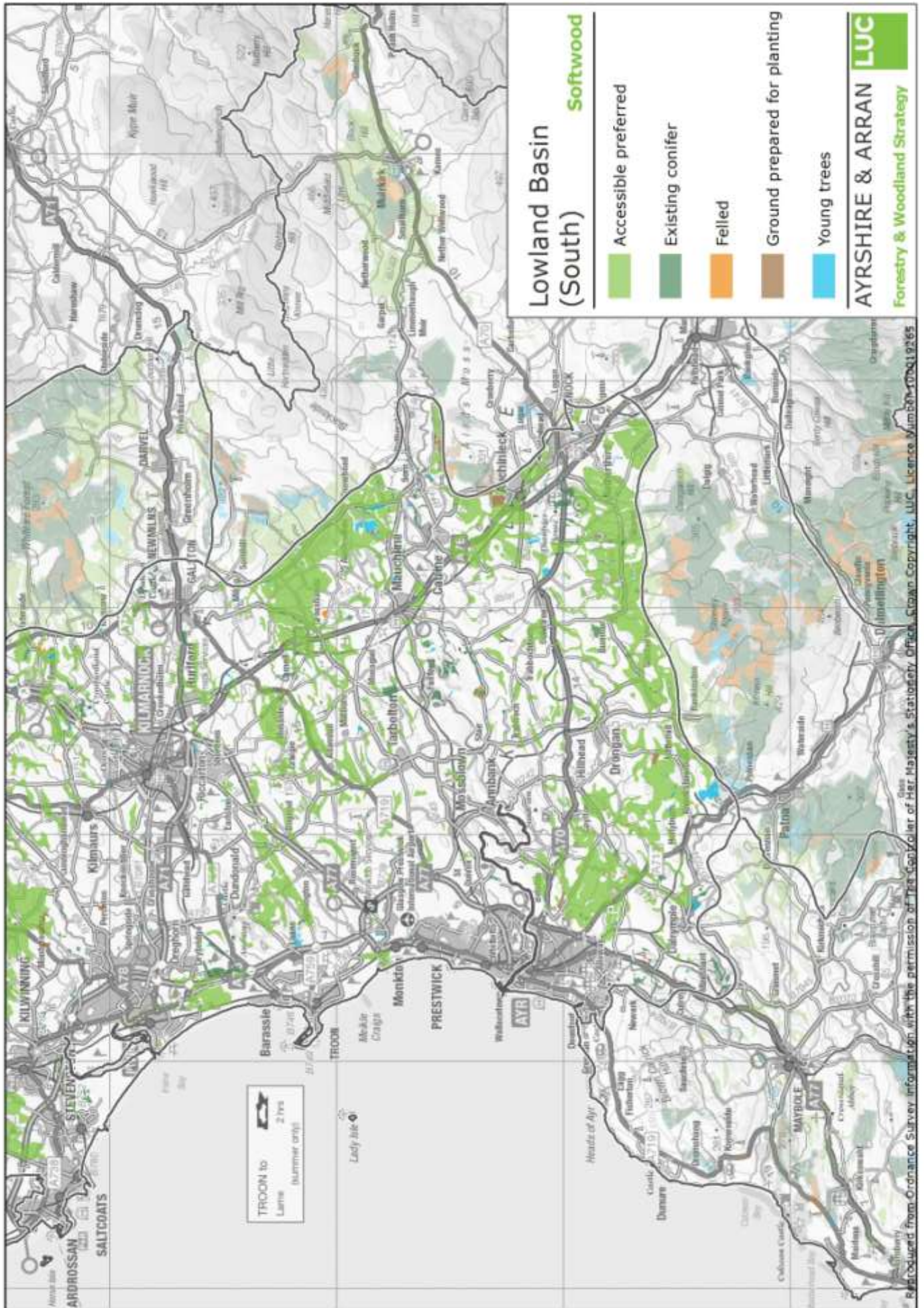
Potential for expansion

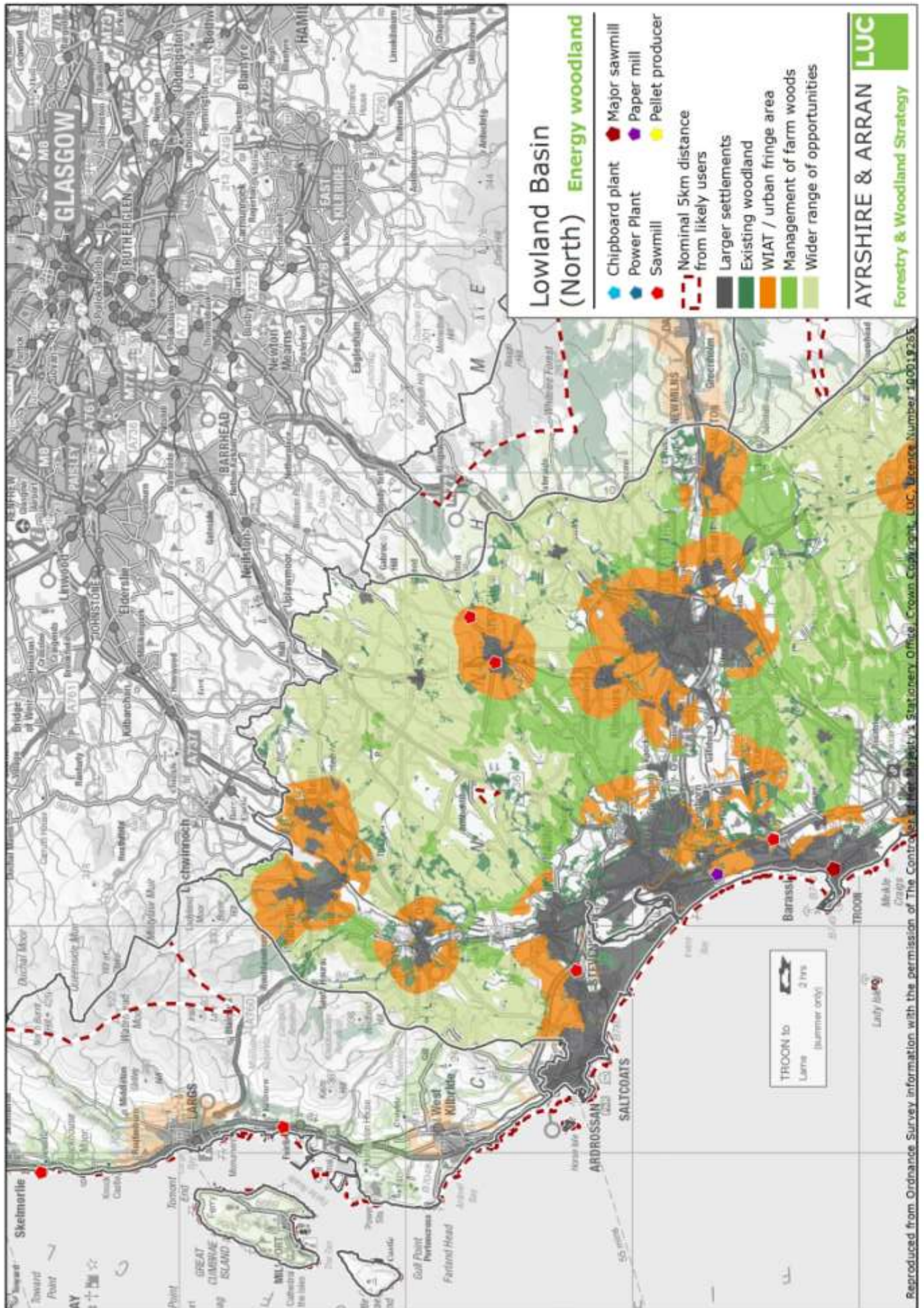
- 8.24 Almost 46% of the zone is identified as having some capacity for woodland expansion (19,123ha 'preferred'; 40,572ha 'potential'). Within this area, there is significant flexibility to accommodate a range of woodland types, contributing to a wide range of objectives and delivering a suite of social, environmental and economic objectives.
- 8.25 Woodland expansion in this zone could therefore comprise:
- New mixed woodlands, including farm woodlands, shelterbelts and expansion / restoration of policy woodlands;
 - Significant native woodland expansion in riparian corridors to improve connectivity with key habitat resources, and to provide the focus for wider development of woodland habitat networks;
 - Energy woodlands, such as short-rotation forestry or coppice, on vacant, derelict or under-used land, where this does not conflict with wider objectives;
 - New softwood and mixed woodlands in transitional landscapes between lowlands and more sensitive uplands;
 - Opportunities for 'greening' urban fringe locations, particularly where there are concentrations of vacant and derelict land, helping to build the green network and create resources for recreation close to communities.

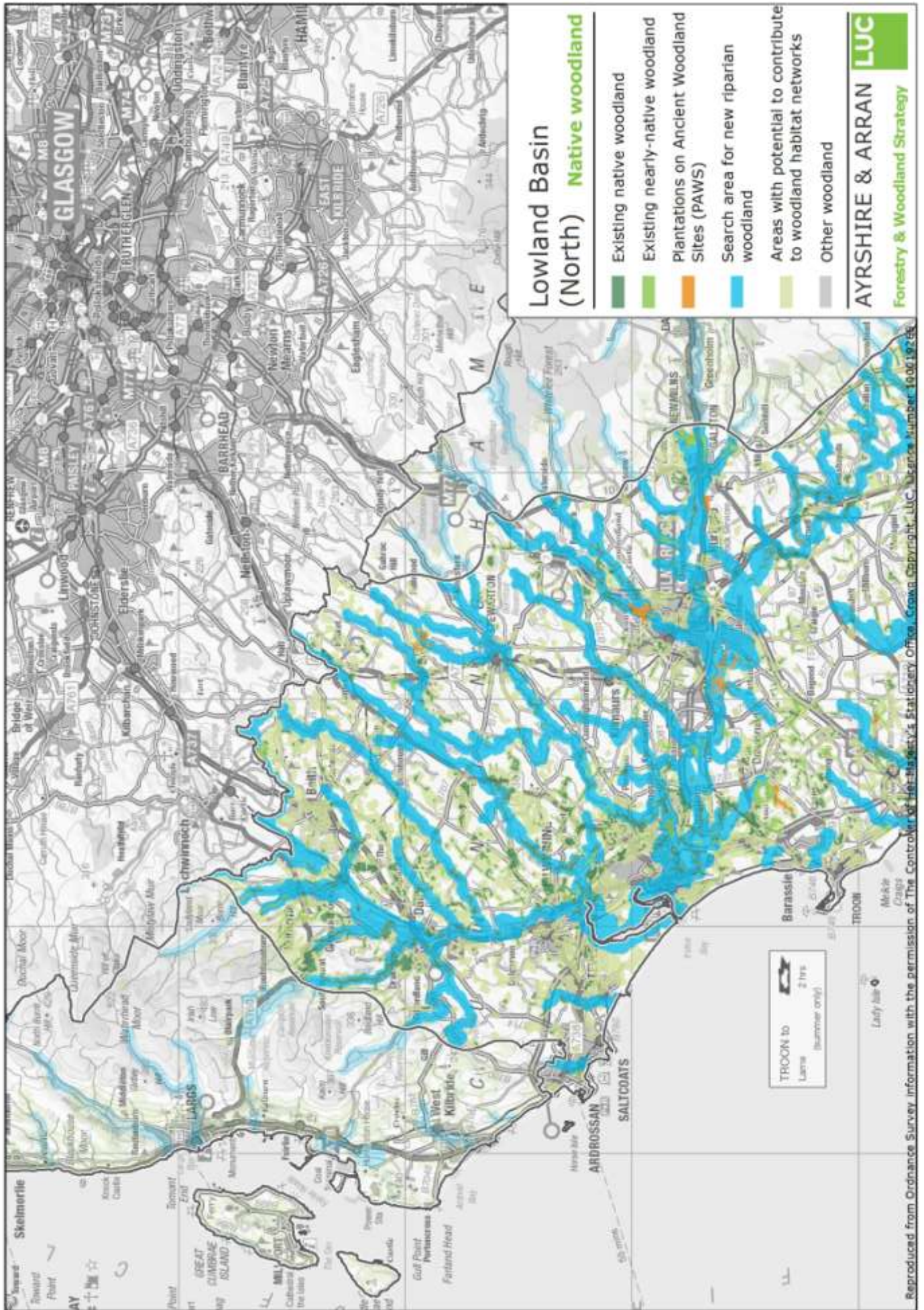


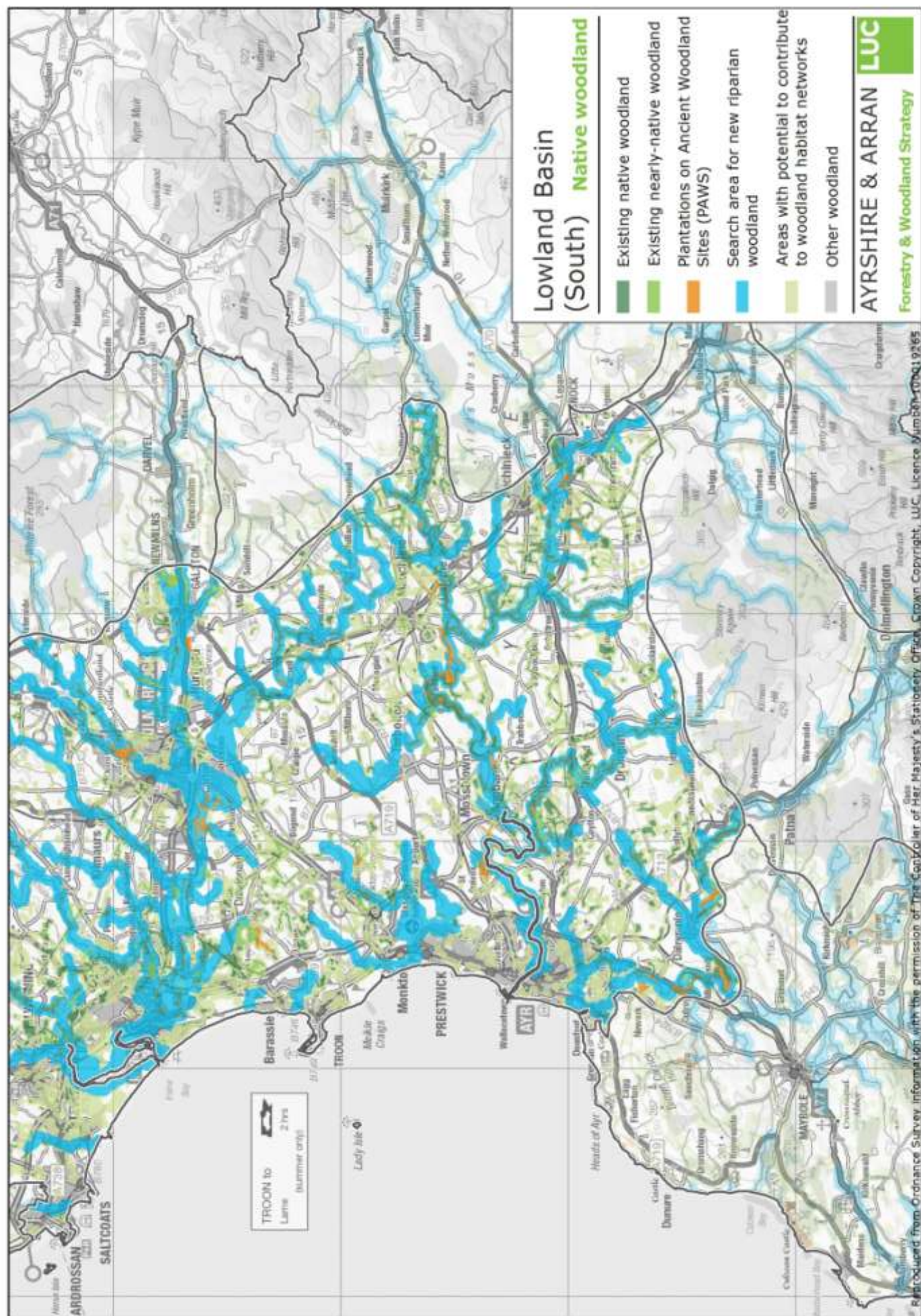


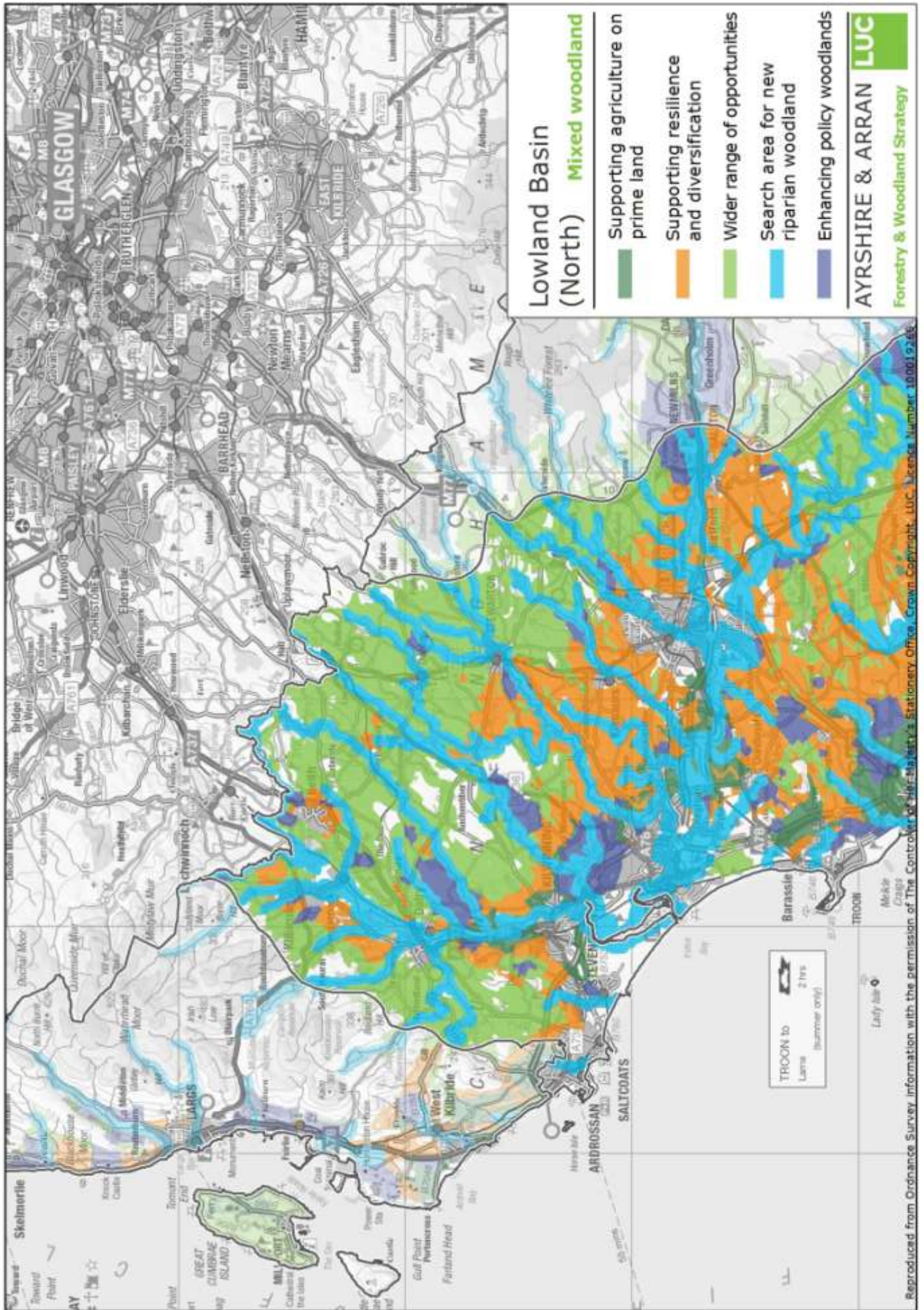


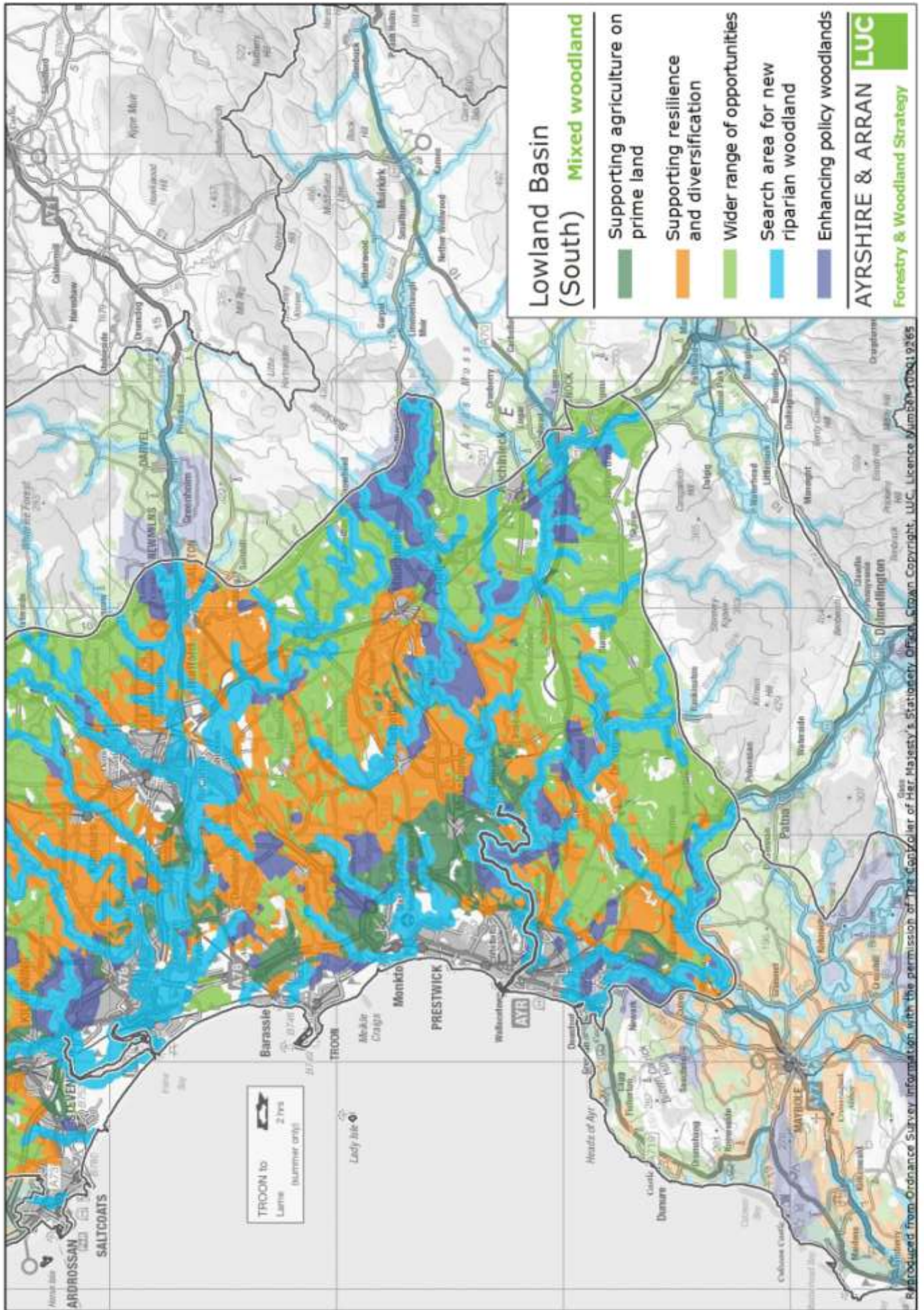


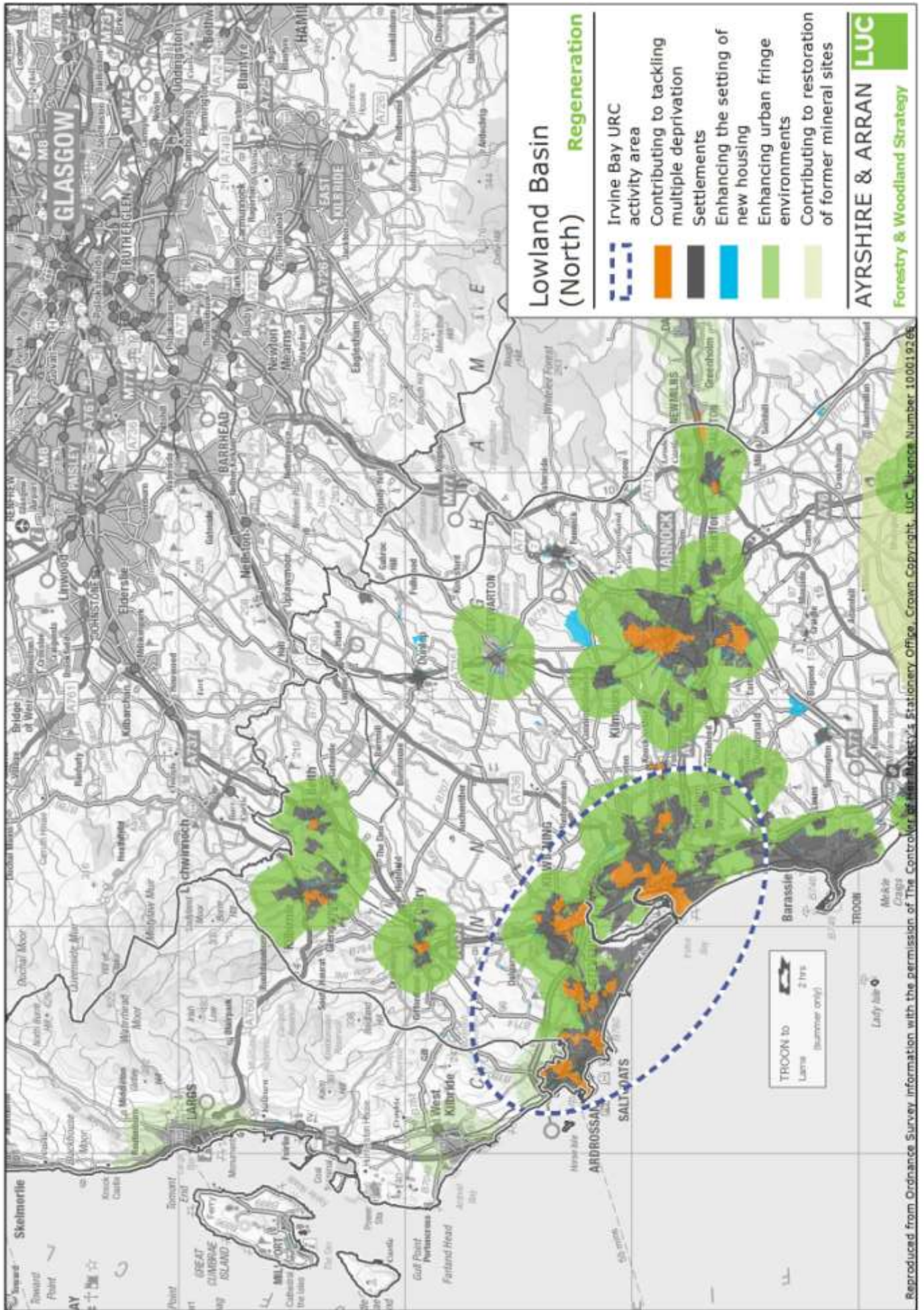


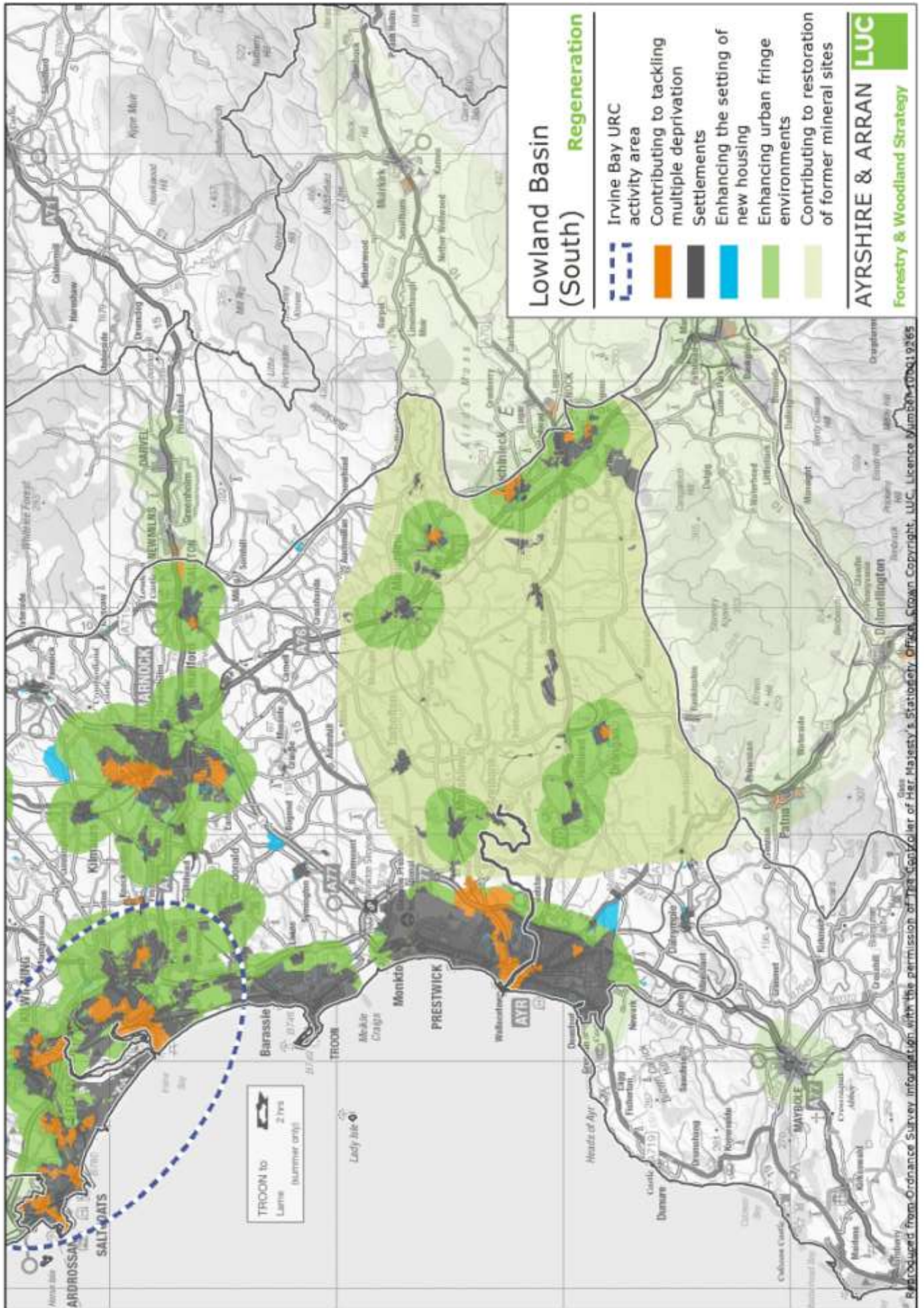












Muirkirk uplands

Overview

- 8.26 The area of plateau moorland on the eastern border of the region between Darvel and New Cumnock, centred on the former mining and industrial town of Muirkirk. The area is still significant for mineral working, particularly opencast coal, with a number of operational and restored sites within the zone, making remediation of environmental degradation a priority. The long history of mining in the area is strongly evident in the landscape, from numerous spoil heaps, bell-pits and other relict mineworkings, to the remains of John McAdam's tar works above Muirkirk.
- 8.27 The zone contains significant areas of land designated under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives that require careful consideration in the planning of proposals for new woodland.

Existing woodland resource

- 8.28 Unlike the Ayrshire Uplands, this zone is largely composed of open moorland, with some blocks of softwood forest on the hill fringes and in the Ayr valley.
- 8.29 The native woodland resource is very limited, and is largely restricted to the valleys of the Glenmuir Water and Bellow Water above Cumnock, with further fragments in and around the Ayr valley. These woodlands are highly fragmented and are generally not in active management.

Key issues

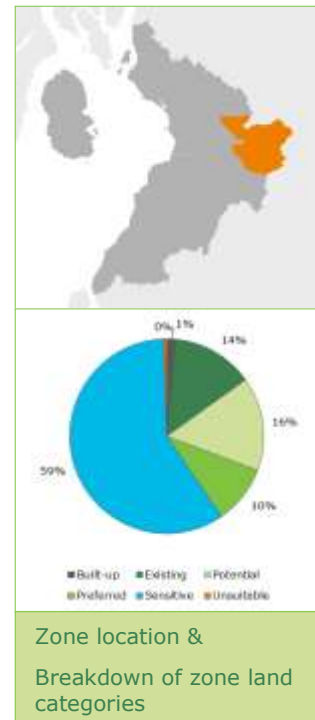
- 8.30 Local issues for woodland and forestry include:
- Contributing to the restoration and enhancement of former mineral working sites;
 - The importance of protecting industrial and cultural heritage;
 - Contributing to climate change adaptation, particularly in terms of sustainable flood management;
 - Reversing habitat fragmentation by developing habitat networks from existing woodland cores within the river valleys;
 - Restoring peatland habitats.

Local sensitivities

- 8.31 The open moorland hills of the zone are largely covered by the Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands Special Protection Area (SPA), of international significance for its assemblage of breeding birds. Deep peat soils are a key issue in this zone with substantial areas of blanket bog, including the Airds Moss Special Area of Conservation.
- 8.32 While European designation does not represent an absolute constraint on expansion, the creation of woodlands within or likely to have a significant adverse effect on the qualifying features of the site will require appraisal under the Habitats Regulations.
- 8.33 Balancing the restoration and remediation of former mineral workings with conservation and enhancement of the zone's industrial heritage is an important consideration.

Priorities for woodland management and expansion

- 8.34 Although over a quarter of the zone is assessed as having some potential for expansion (c.3,128ha 'preferred'; c.5,028 'potential'), in reality significant increases in woodland cover are unlikely. Loss of cover due to restructuring existing softwood forests on deep peat is likely to necessitate replanting in less sensitive areas to maintain the long term sustainability of the region's timber industry.



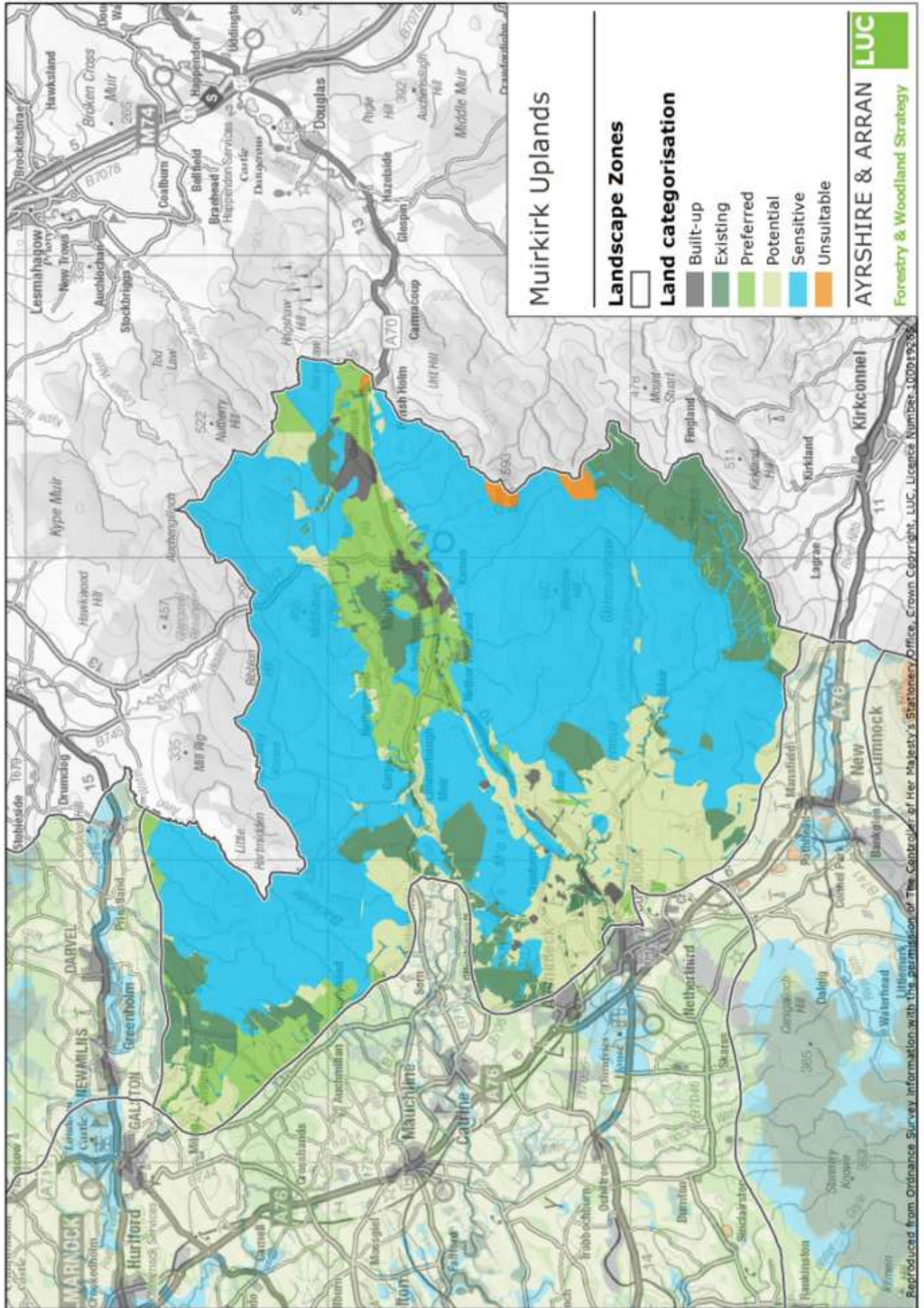
- 8.35 Conserving the zone's internationally important natural heritage will require extensive partnership working to ensure that land managers understand the key sensitivities that should be taken into account in scheme design and future management

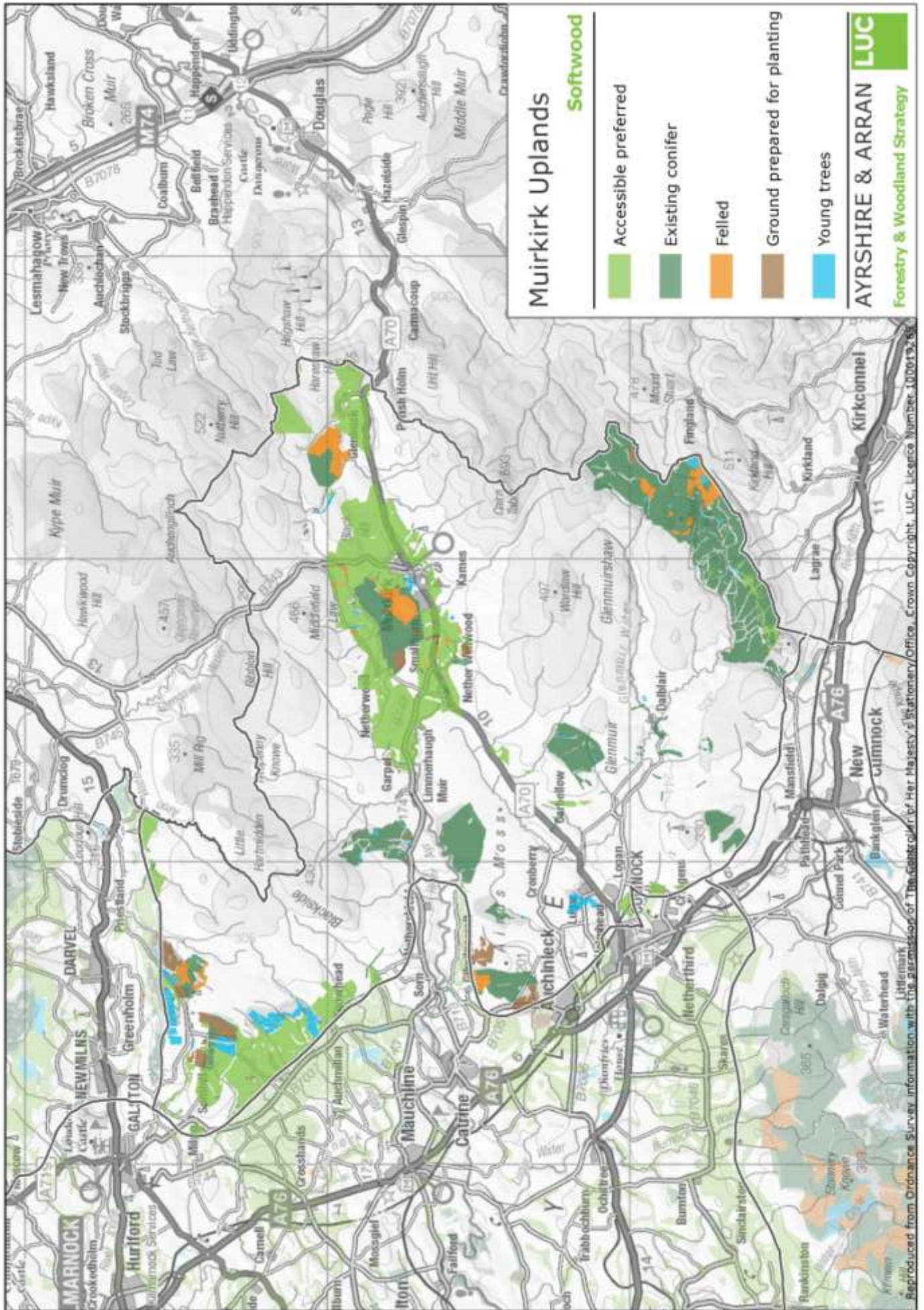
Existing woodlands

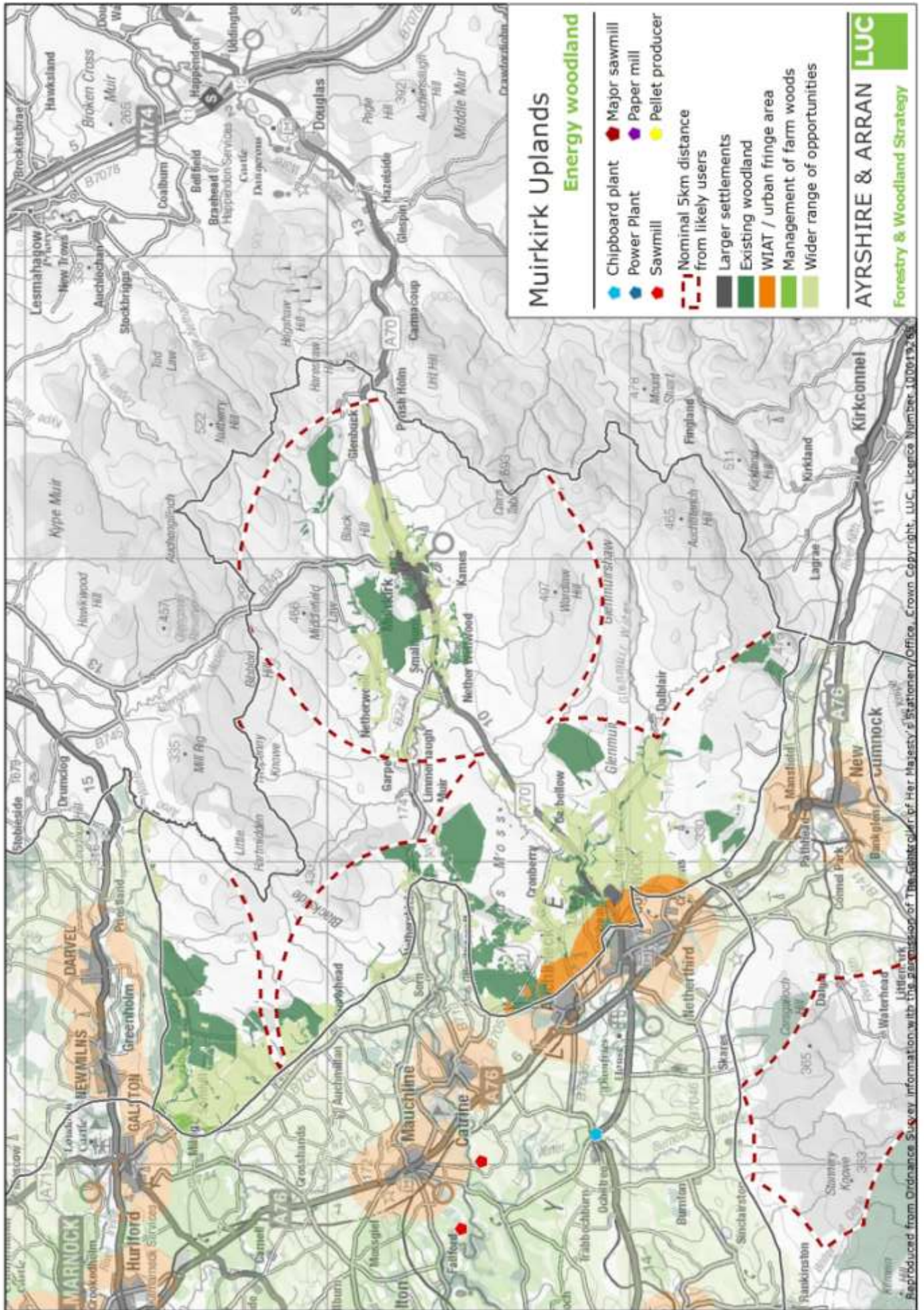
- Managing existing native woodlands to optimise their biodiversity and landscape value;
- Bringing neglected and under-managed woods into positive and productive management;
- Restructuring and redesigning existing softwood forests to comply with UKFS and deliver the optimal range of benefits.

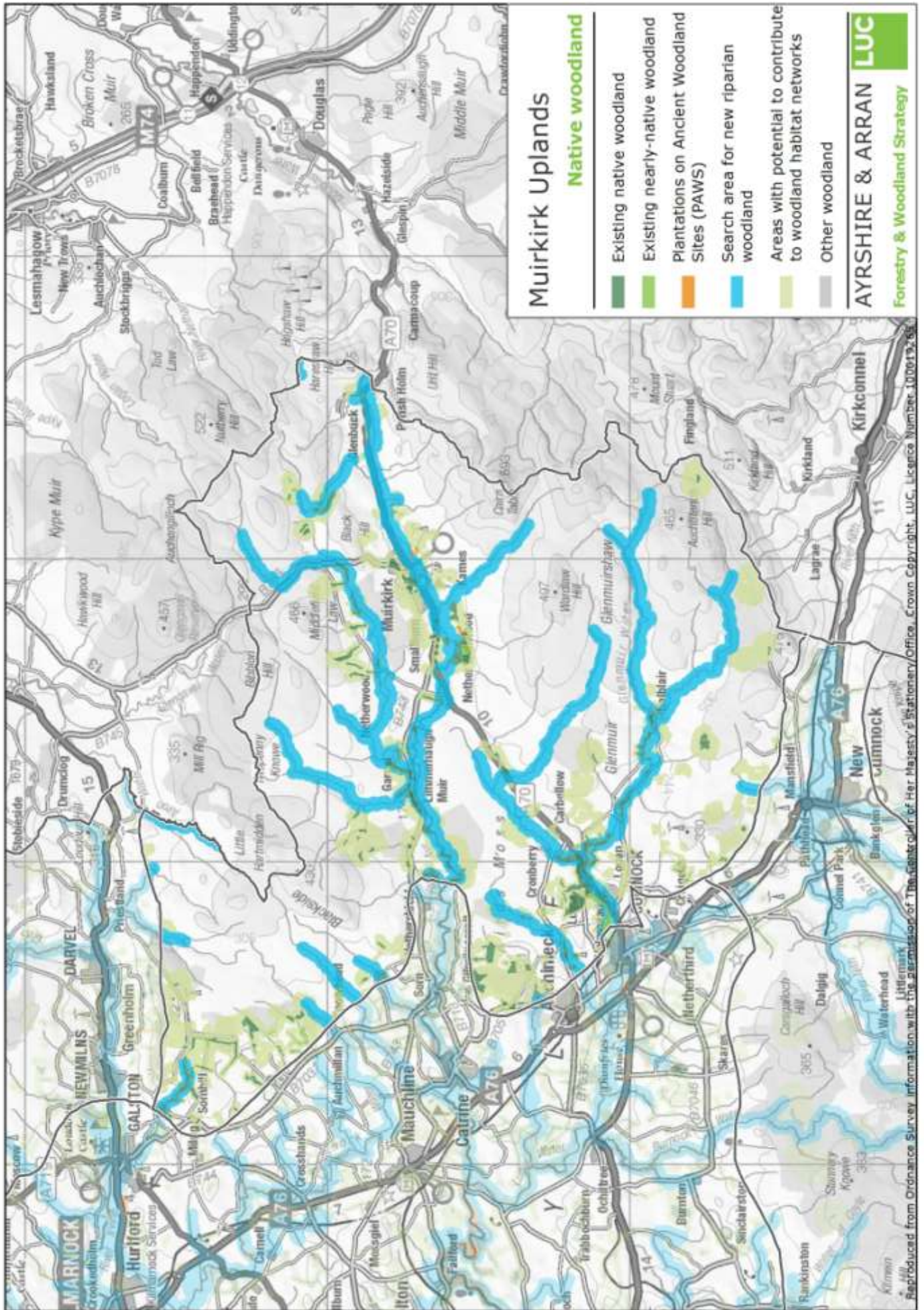
Potential for expansion

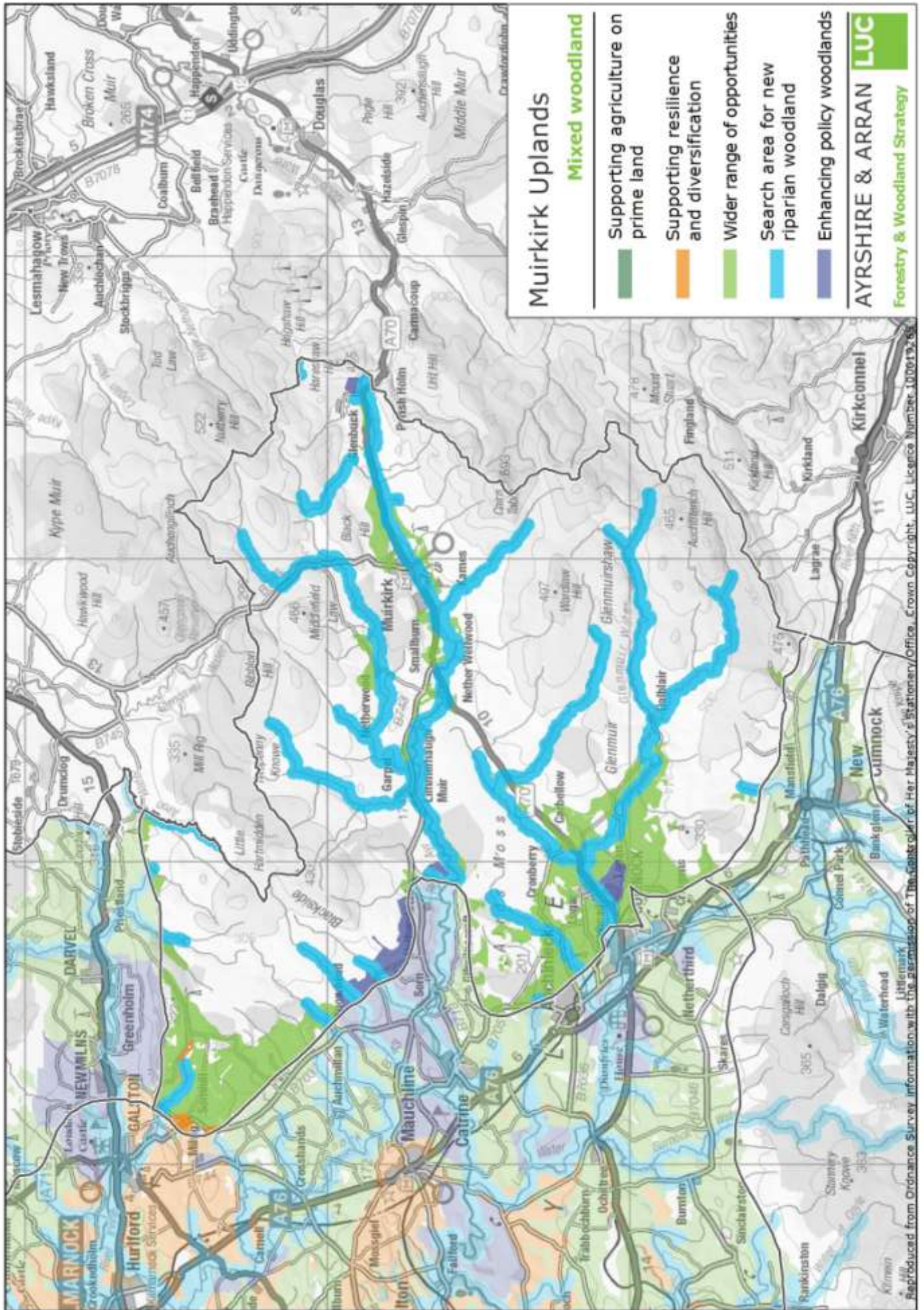
- Potential for new native, mixed and energy woodlands associated with mineral working to provide screening and form part of site restoration when extraction is complete;
- Potential for native woodland expansion to contribute to habitat networks along river valleys and tributaries and expand larger existing assets.

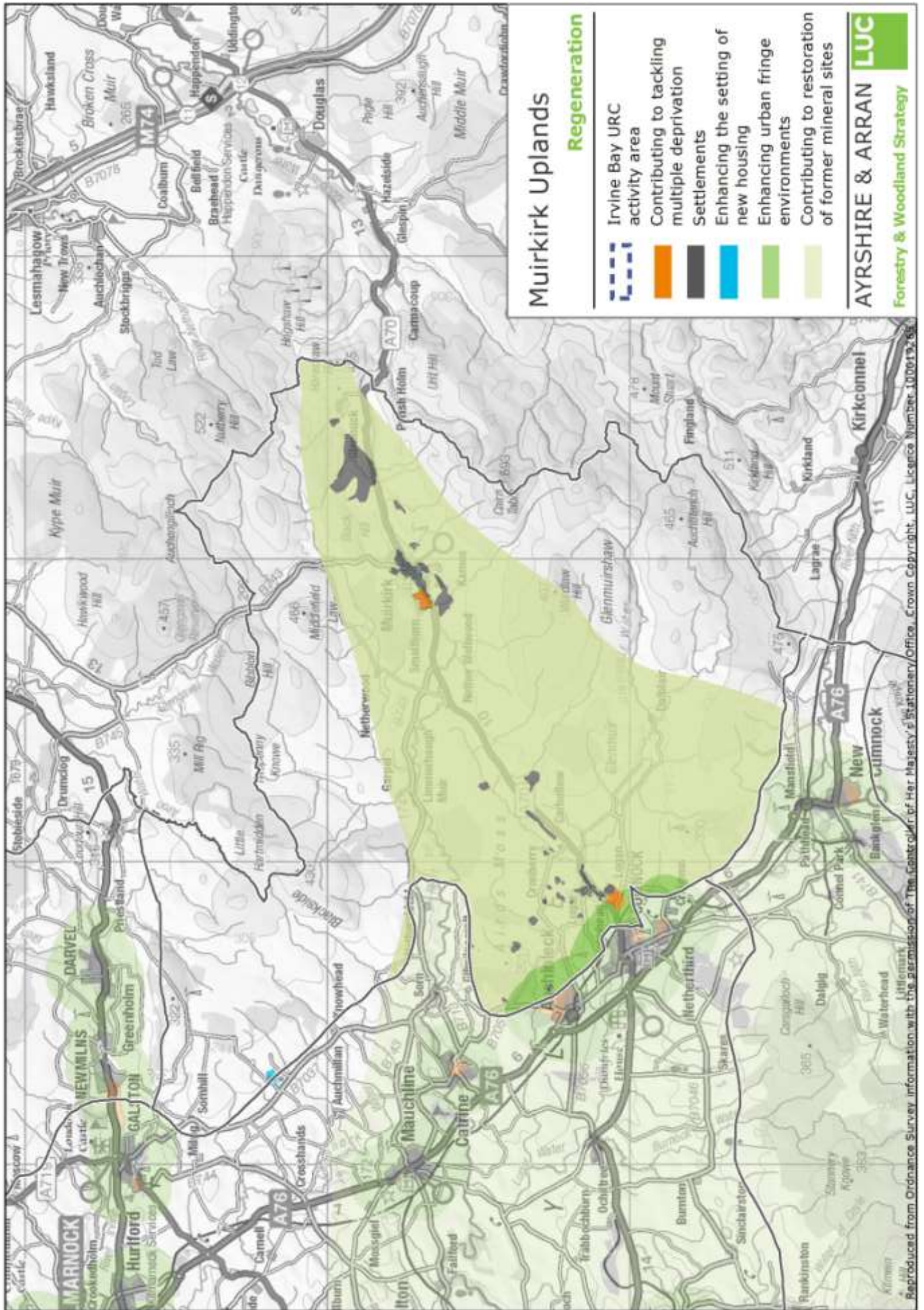












North Arran

Overview

- 8.36 This zone comprises the northern part of the Isle of Arran, north of the B880 between Brodick and Machrie Moor. This area is dominated by dramatic granitic uplands and deep u-shaped glens. It includes coastal headlands, narrow coastal strip and historic settlements such as Lochranza and Sannox.
- 8.37 Arran represents the region's most significant tourism asset, therefore protecting existing uses and diversifying and enhancing the island's appeal is a regional priority.

Existing woodland resource

- 8.38 Current woodland cover comprises around 15% of land area, and is principally composed of large-scale conifer blocks on the fringes of the uplands. The native woodland resource is composed largely of upland birchwoods concentrated around the coast, following the main glens into the interior. These areas are also home to the endemic species of Arran, Catacol and cut-leaved whitebeam.
- 8.39 Local issues for woodland and forestry include:
- Maintaining the landscape quality and recreational importance of the uplands;
 - Restructuring and enhancement of existing softwood forests, with opportunities to enhance their biodiversity, recreational and landscape benefits, but with likely reductions in the overall level of forest cover;
 - Potential for native woodland expansion along glens, lower hill slopes and around the coast;
 - Reversing habitat fragmentation by developing habitat networks building from existing woodland cores within the river valleys, along burns and gullies and around the coastline;
 - Potential to further increase the use of existing forests as a source of biomass.

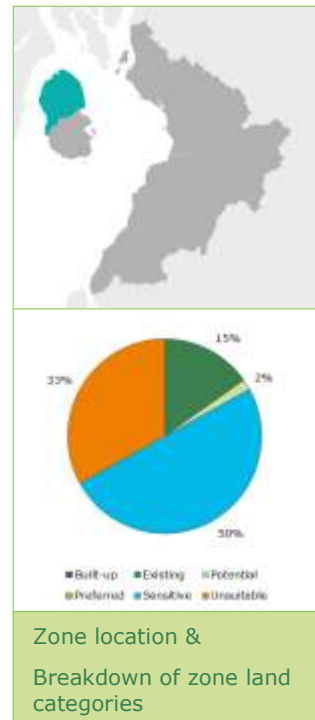
Local sensitivities

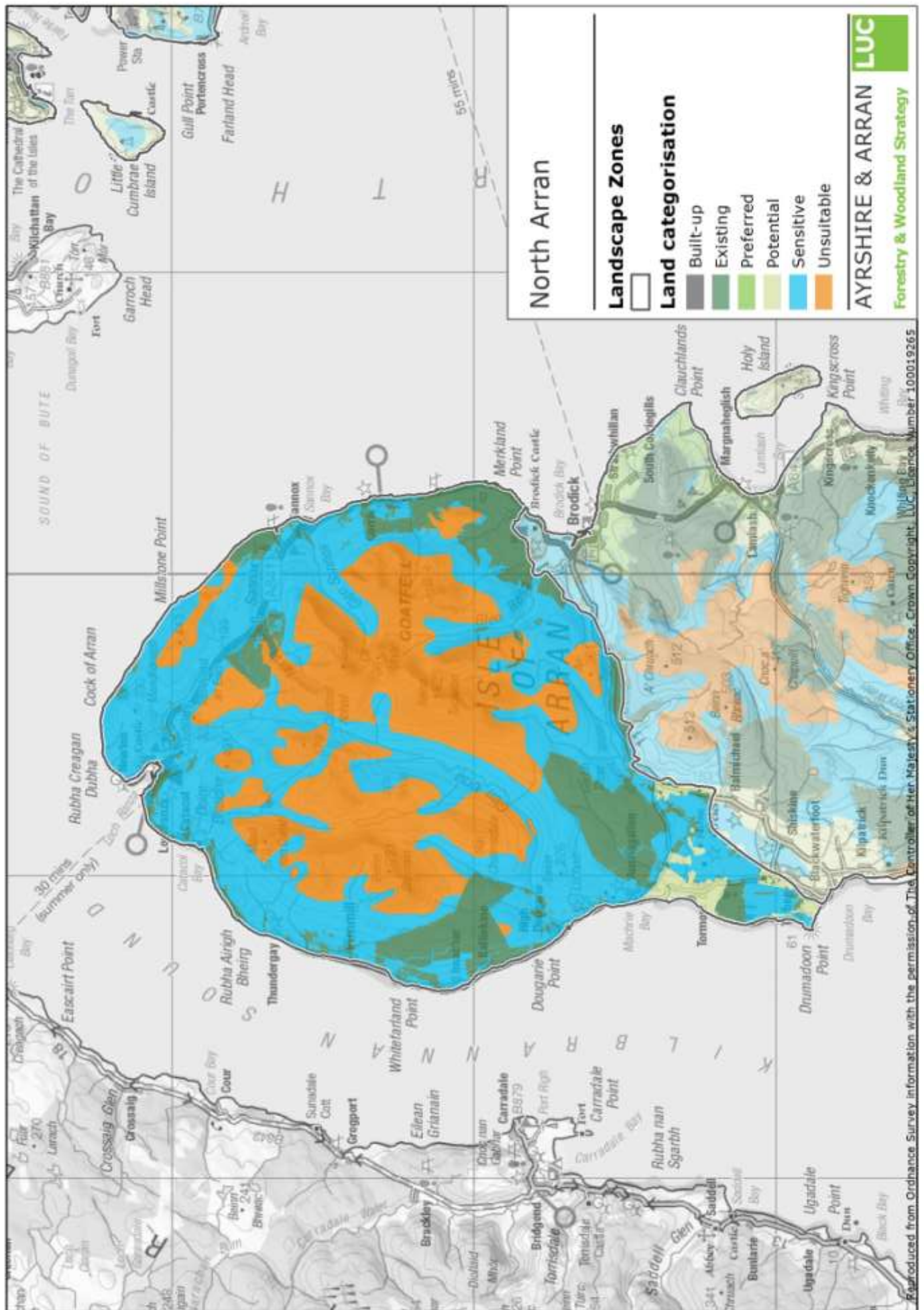
- 8.40 North Arran is designated as a National Scenic Area, therefore conservation of the 'Special Qualities' of the area is a priority. Similarly, it is one of the most important geological areas in the UK and is home to a range of valuable upland habitats. Virtually all of the open moorlands of Arran are designated as a SSSI and a Special Protection Area due to the presence of breeding hen harrier, making the conservation and enhancement of this resource a key priority. In the north, this resource is concentrated on the eastern side of the island, between Glen Sannox and Brodick.
- 8.41 The extensive prehistoric landscapes preserved on Machrie Moor are of national significance; therefore the fabric and setting of these assets require careful consideration in planning new woodland proposals.

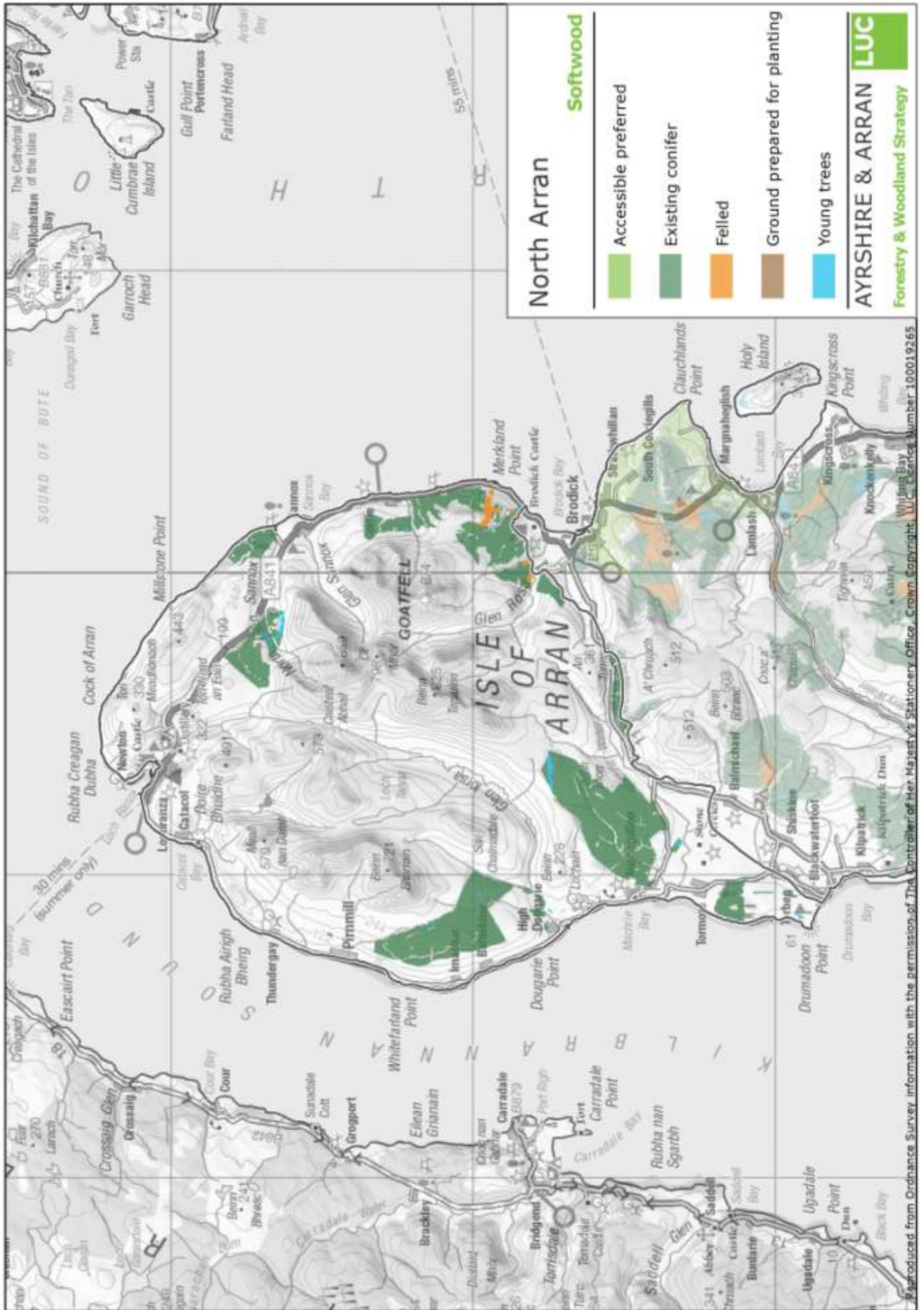
Priorities for woodland management and expansion

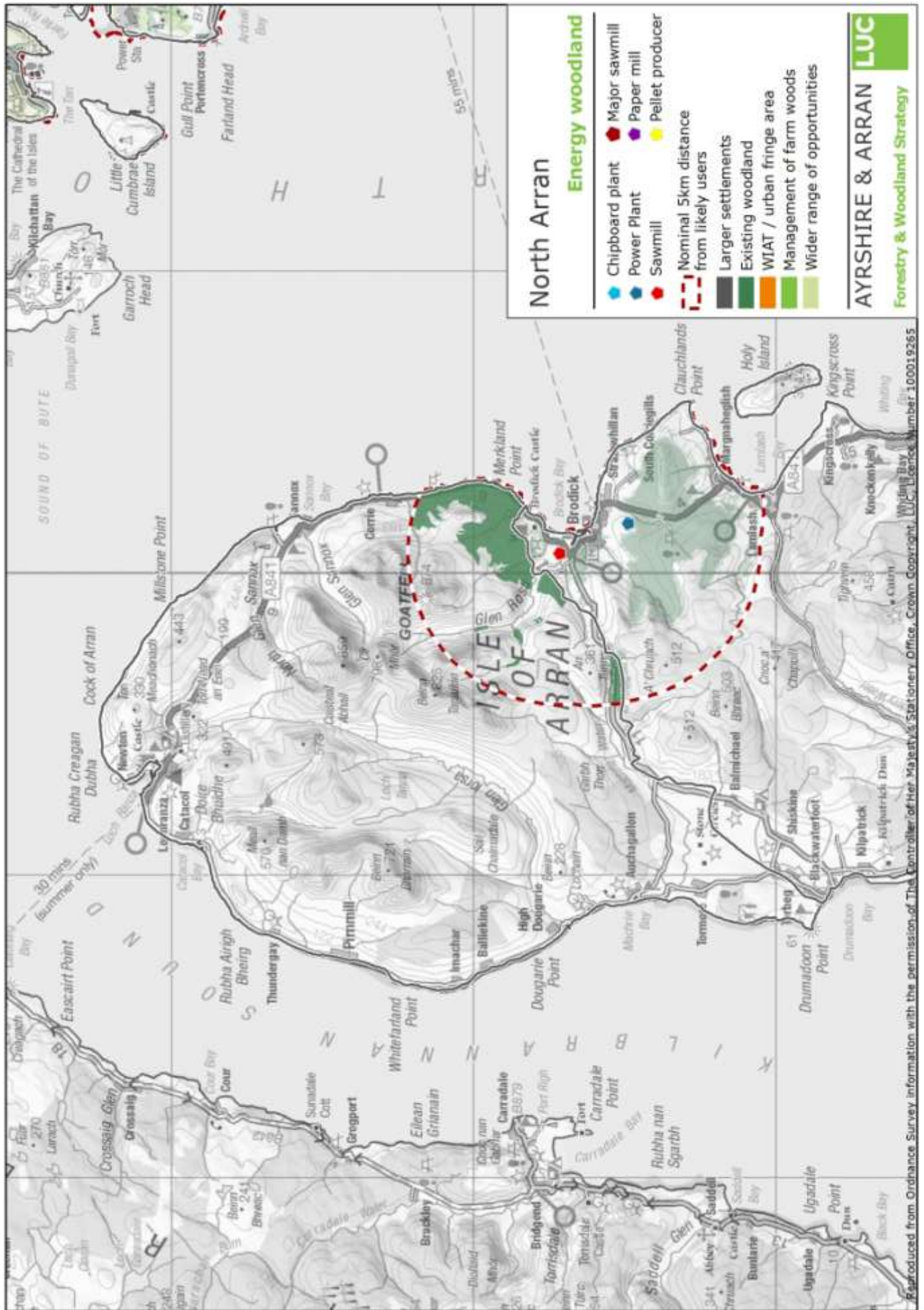
Existing woodlands

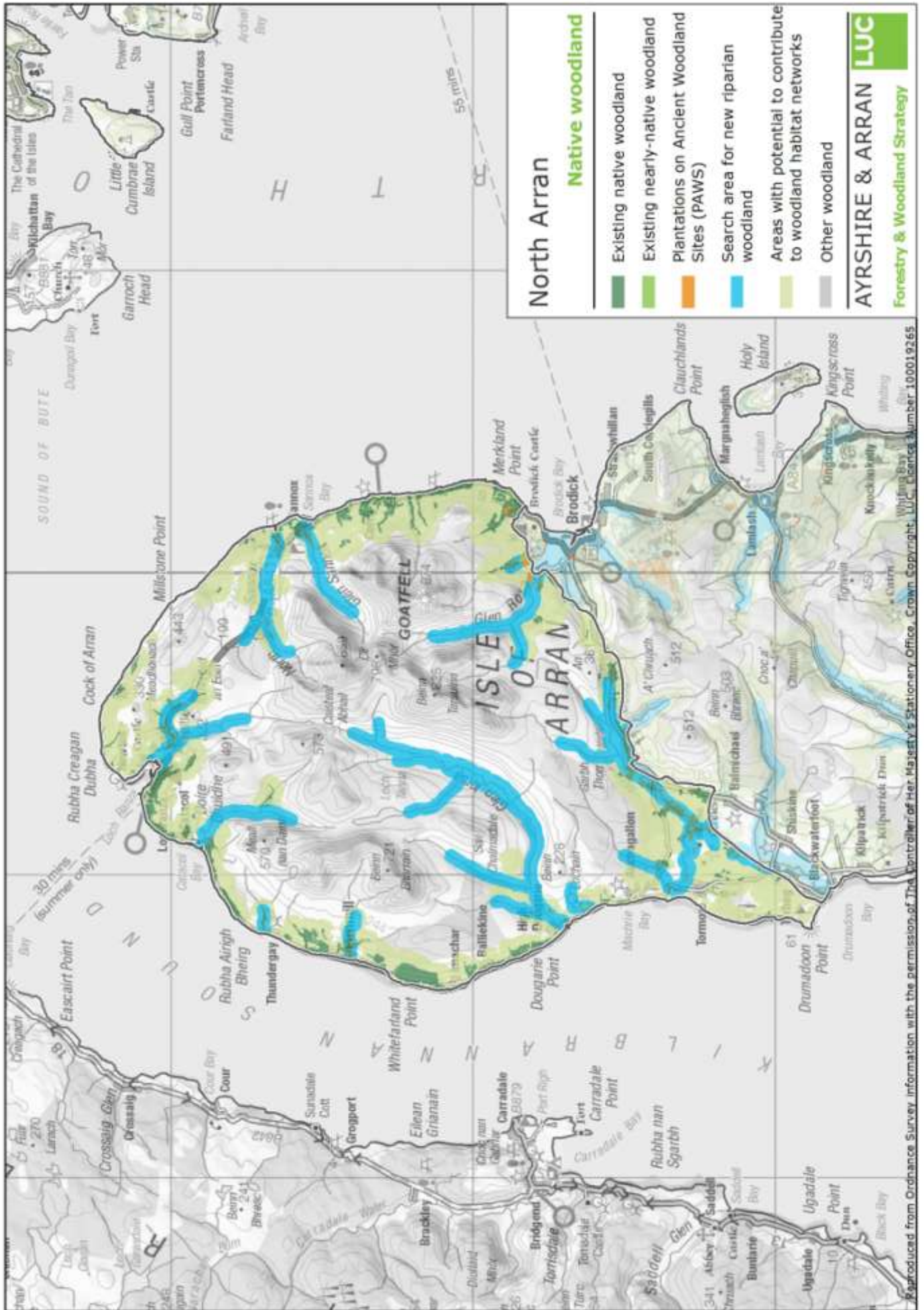
- Ongoing restructuring of existing softwood forests to include a higher proportion of open ground and native woodland networks to contribute to biodiversity, landscape and recreational values;
- Ensuring reductions in the overall extent of woodland are appropriately compensated, where required by the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal, is a regional priority;
- Conserving and enhancing north Arran's unique resource of endemic whitebeam species and designated upland birchwoods.

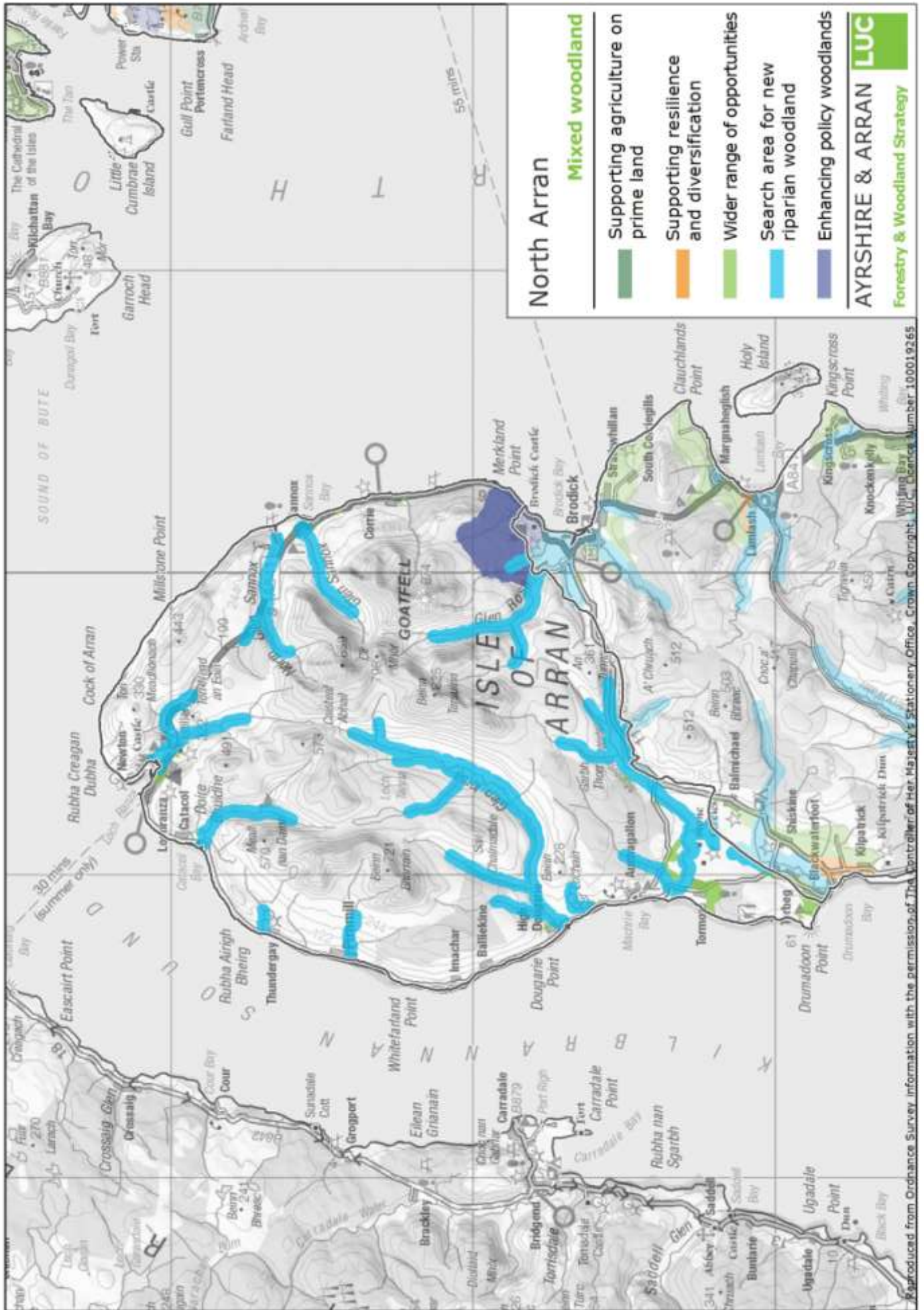


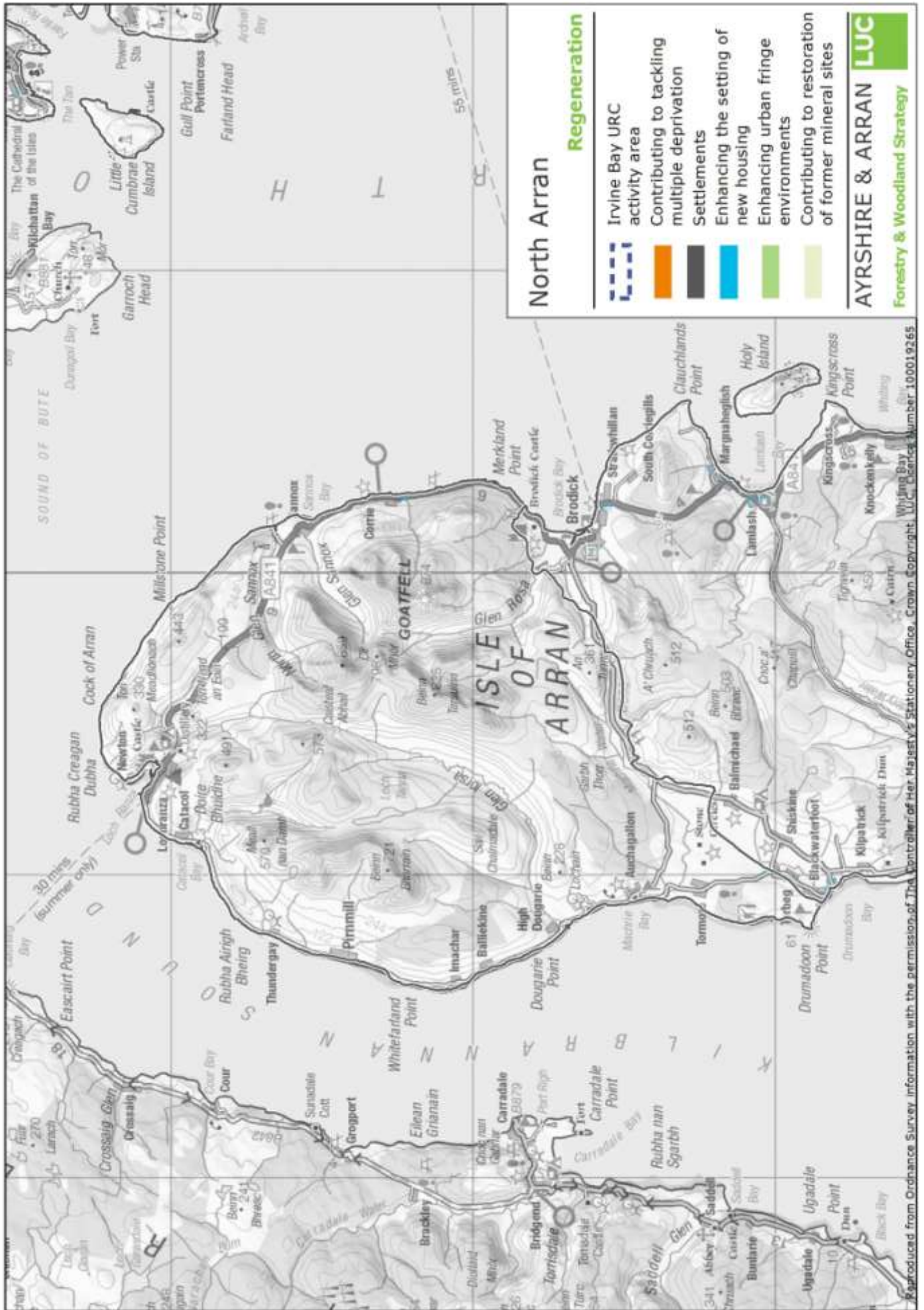












Renfrew heights

Overview

- 8.42 The Renfrew Heights is an area of elevated, rugged moorland in North Ayrshire, rising from the coastline between Ardrossan and Skelmorlie and bordered to the southeast by the broad lowlands of the Garnock valley. Much of the upland area forms part of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, extending into Inverclyde and Renfrewshire. The zone also contains the coastal fringe, a number of settlements and the Cumbræes.

Existing woodland resource

- 8.43 This zone is comparatively sparsely wooded, with just 7% of land area under trees. The resource is largely broadleaved and is composed principally of native woodland networks extending from the coastal fringe up the valleys of the Kelly Burn, the Skelmorlie Water and the Noddsdale Water. While much of this woodland was previously managed as estate policies, it generally has a more naturalistic character than that of lowland designed landscapes. The mixed woodlands of the Kelburn Castle policies, now a country park, are also an important feature.

- 8.44 A number of conifer blocks are present on the southern flanks of the Renfrew Heights, although some of this resource has been lost due to wind farm development.

Key issues

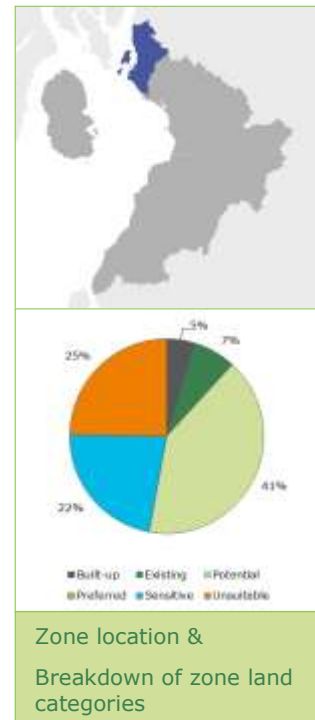
- 8.45 Local issues for woodland and forestry include:
- Large areas of the higher ground are unsuitable or sensitive to woodland expansion;
 - Recreation is an important activity across this area, reflecting Regional Park status;
 - Contributing to climate change adaptation, particularly in terms of sustainable flood management;
 - Reversing habitat fragmentation by developing integrated habitat networks building from existing areas of native woodland around the fringes of the hills;
 - Balancing continued pressure for wind energy development with other land uses.

Local sensitivities

- 8.46 A substantial area of the Heights is designated as a Special Protection Area due to the presence of a breeding population of hen harrier, accounting for approximately 2% of the British population. While European designation does not represent an absolute constraint on expansion, the creation of woodlands within or likely to have a significant adverse effect on the qualifying features of the site will require appraisal under the Habitats Regulations.
- 8.47 The presence of deeper blanket peat may represent a local constraint in some areas, while much of the moorland area is too exposed and/or elevated to successfully accommodate trees. Similarly, as the landscape is highly valued for recreation, optimising this potential is a key consideration – as well as a major opportunity.

Priorities for woodland management and expansion

- 8.48 Within the zone, around 44% of the land area (623ha 'preferred'; 8,541ha 'potential') is classified as having some potential for new woodland. However, the topography, climatic and soil conditions and landscape values within these areas is likely to restrict the type and scale of woodland that will be considered to be appropriate.

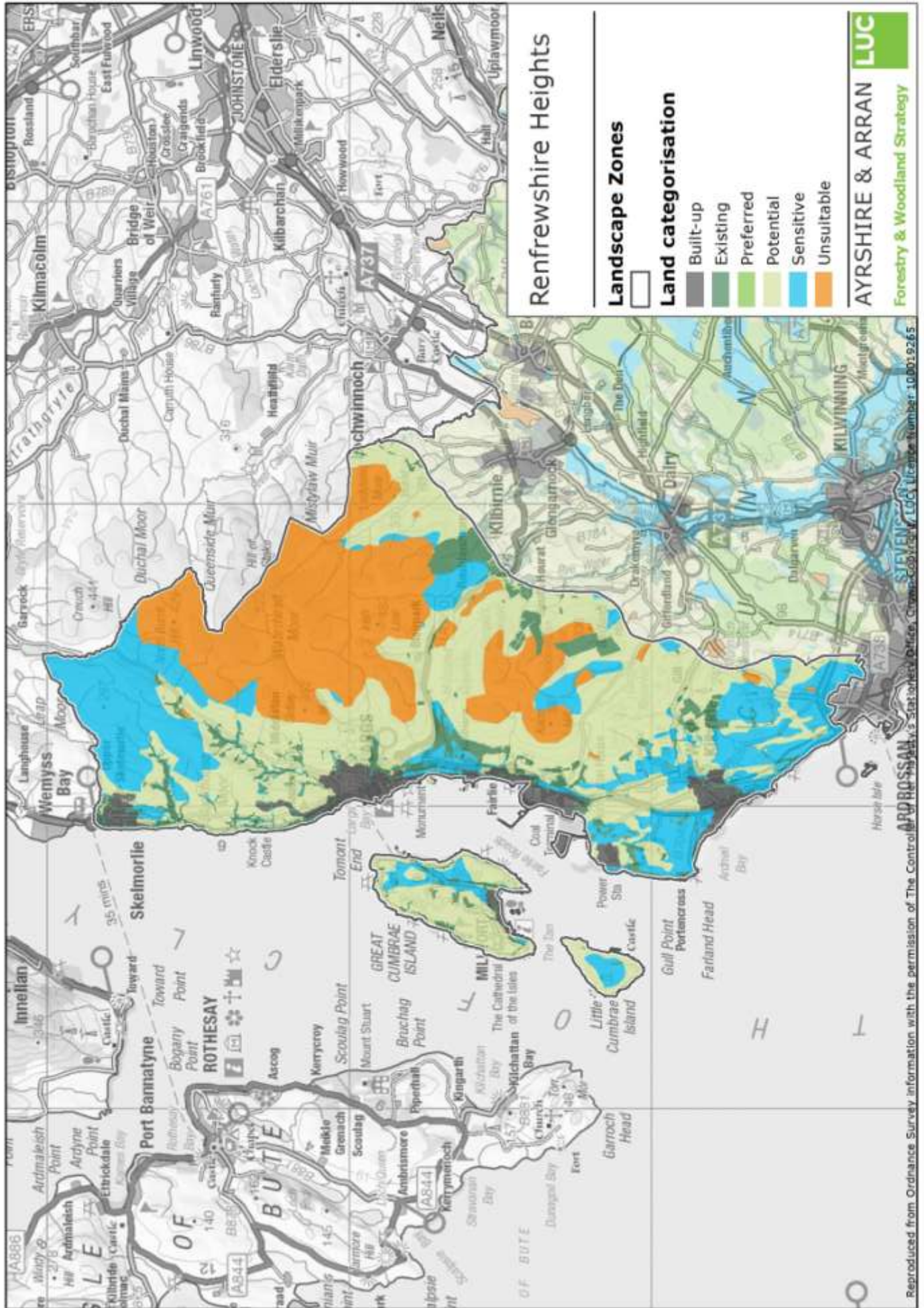


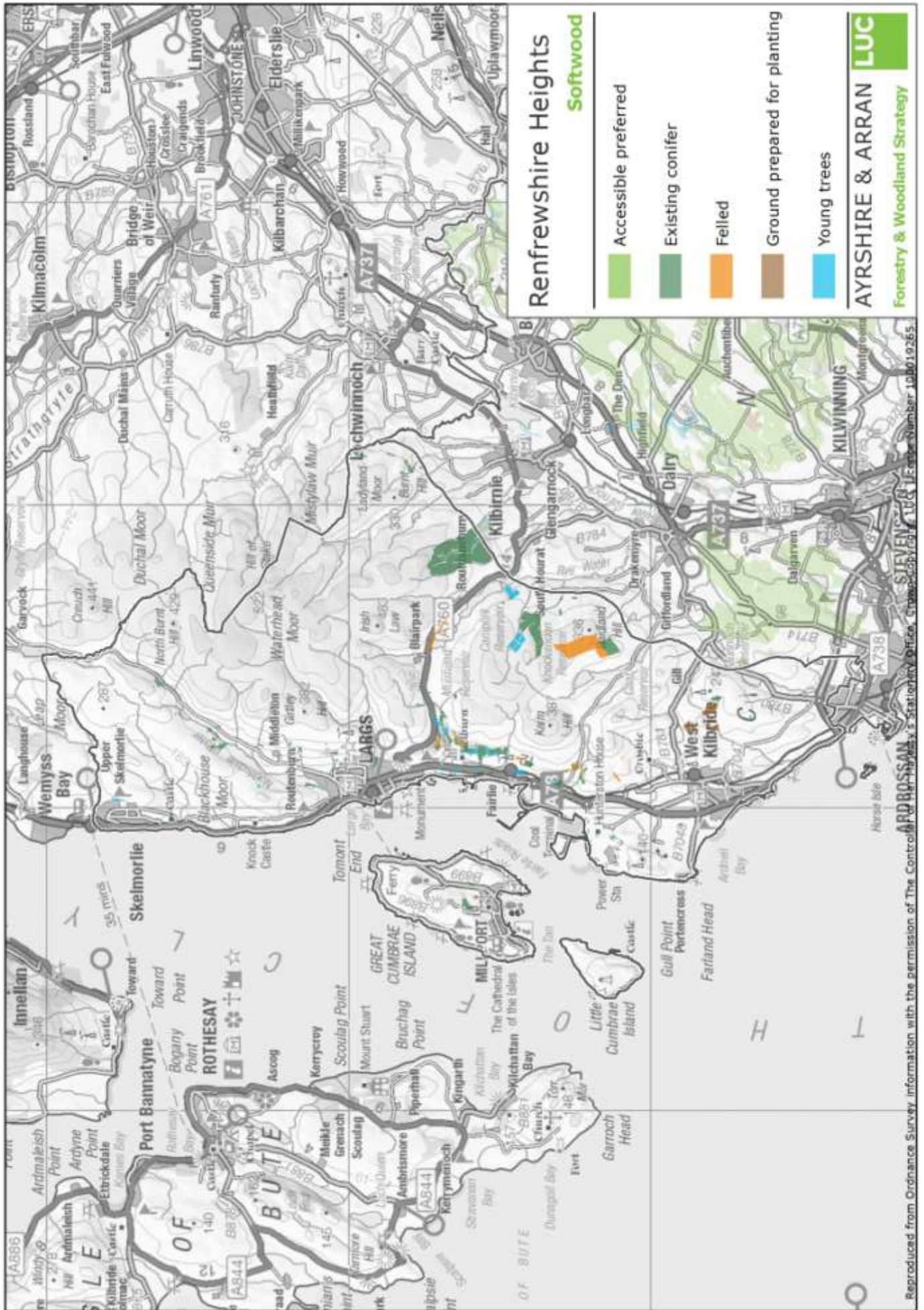
Existing woodlands

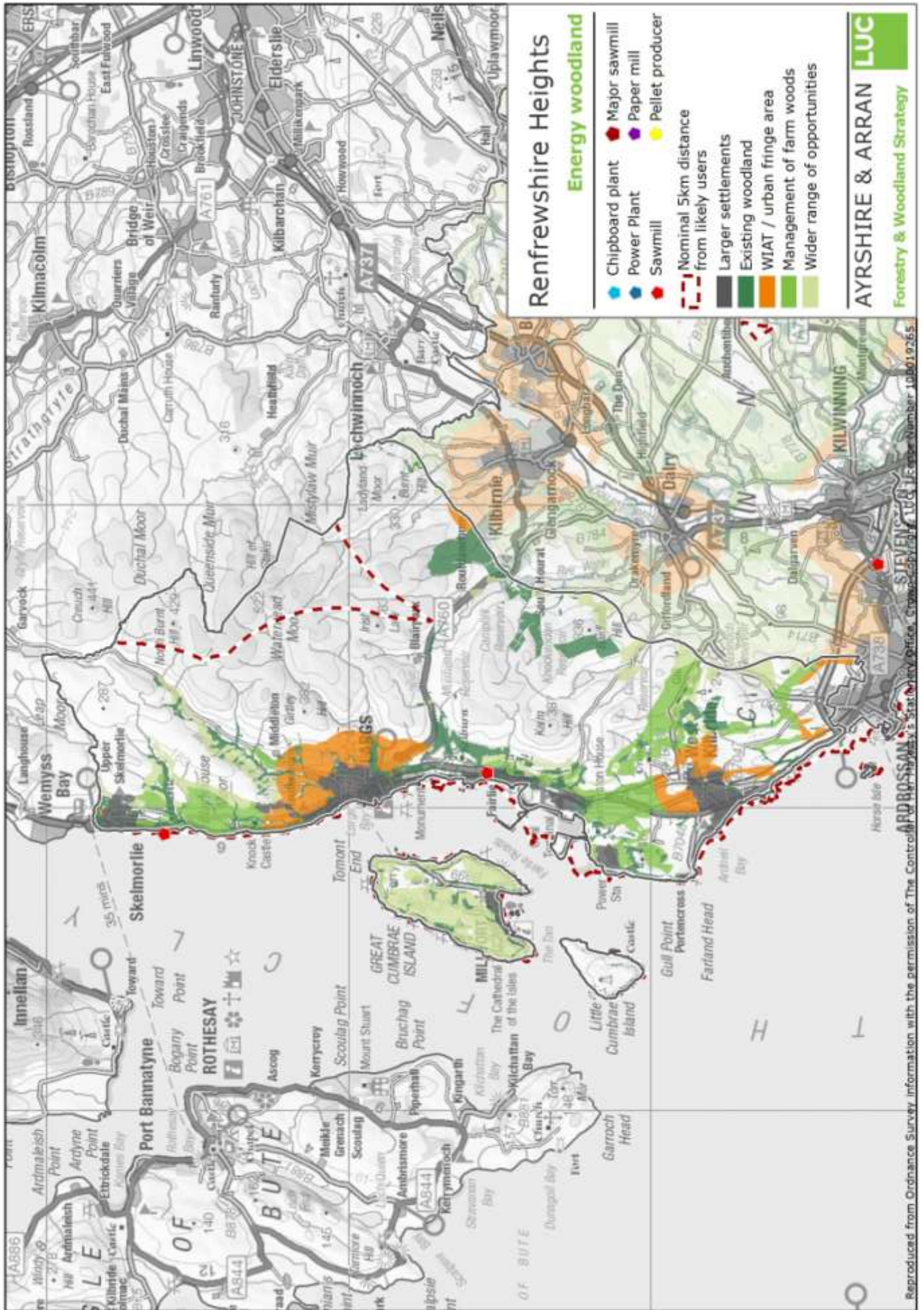
- Improving management of broadleaved woodlands along the coastal fringe and in upland valleys;
- Restructuring softwood forests on the middle and upper slopes;
- Effective planning to secure the resilience of historic gardens and designed landscapes.

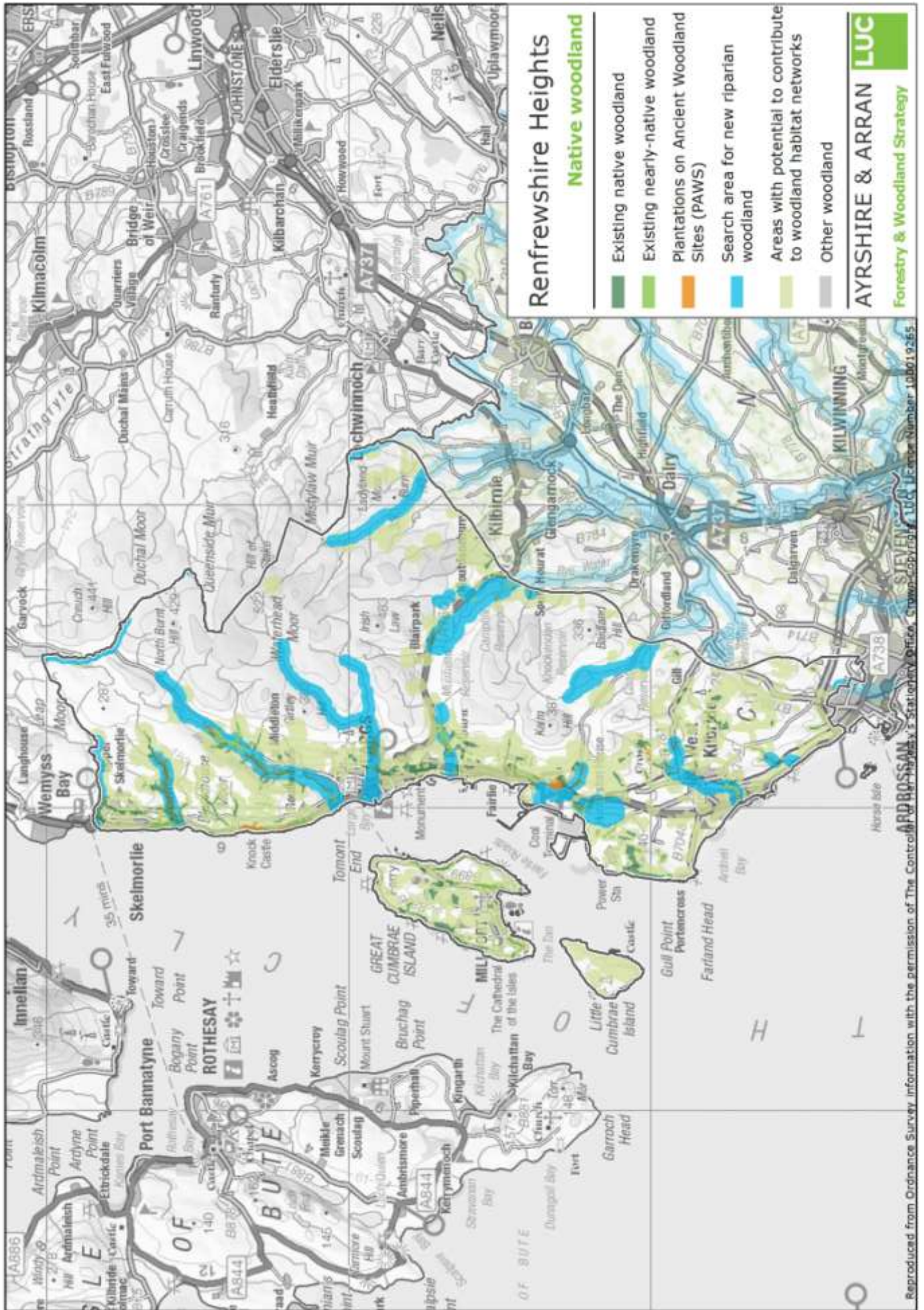
Potential for expansion

- Expanding the native woodland resource to improve resilience to climate change;
- Exploring the potential for riparian woodland to contribute to sustainable flood management;
- Securing appropriate compensatory planting for woodland lost to development;
- Small-scale expansion of softwoods on the lower slopes to compensate for losses to wind farms and restructuring.

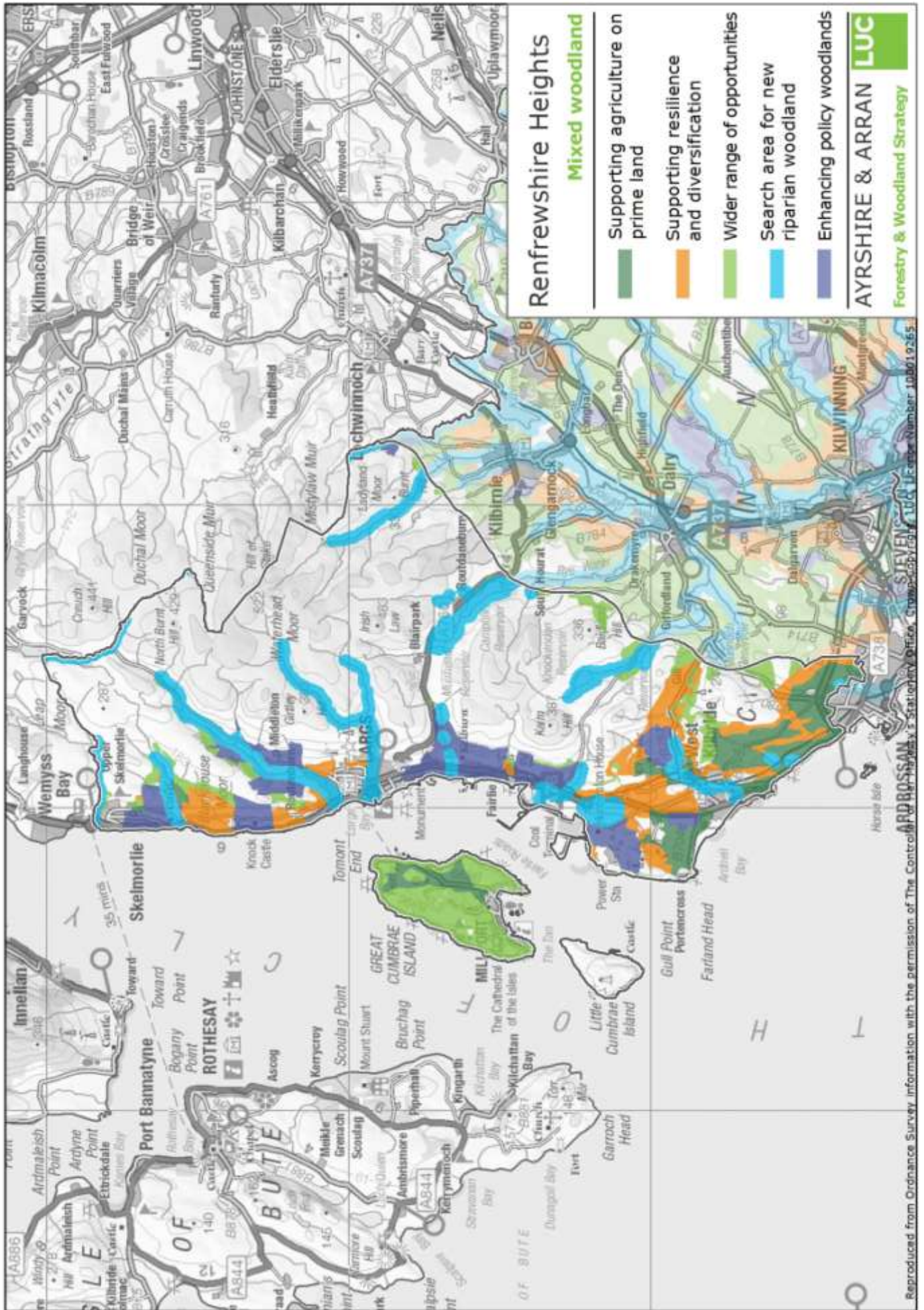


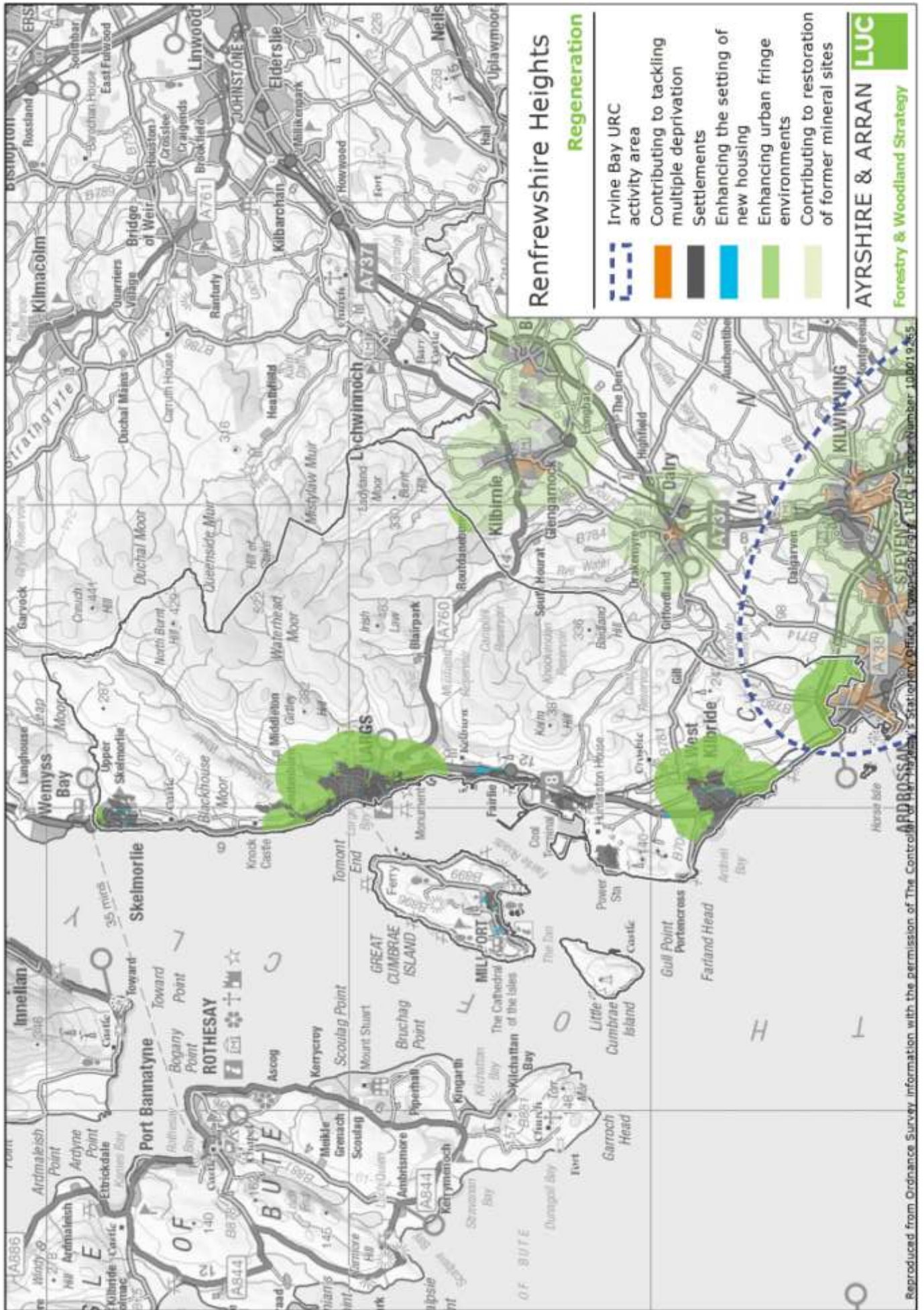






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South Arran

Overview

- 8.49 This area comprises the southern part of the Isle of Arran, south of the B880 between Brodick and Machrie Moor. The landscape contrasts with the rugged uplands of north, and is made up of more gently rolling moorland hills and valleys, with raised beach landscapes around the coast. Settlement, farming and crofting are concentrated around the coastline. Large-scale softwood forests are a currently a significant element in the landscapes of the interior.
- 8.50 Arran represents the region's most significant tourism asset, therefore protecting existing uses and diversifying and enhancing the island's appeal is a regional priority.

Existing woodland resource

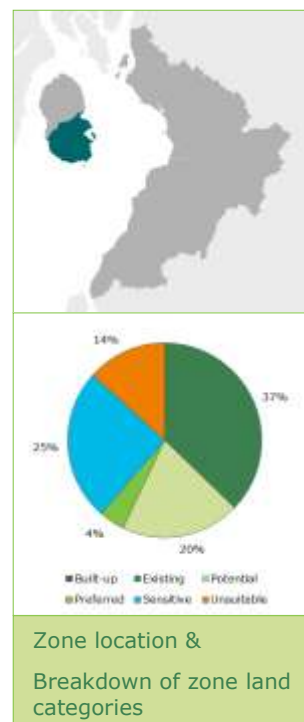
- 8.51 Woodland currently accounts for 36% of the zone's land area, overwhelmingly composed of planted softwood forests – much of which is due to be felled in the coming decade (with around 60,000m³ per annum to be extracted from the National Forest Estate²⁵).
- 8.52 The glens and coastline of the south have a varied native woodland composition, including oak and ashwoods, in addition to some areas of farm woodland, small policy woodlands and field boundary trees.

Key issues

- 8.53 The economics of island forestry have not proved favourable under recent conditions, meaning that a significant proportion of Arran's softwood resource is gradually being replaced with native pine and broadleaved woodlands to optimise natural heritage and recreational values. Retention of the most productive sites and development of sustainable on-island markets are therefore a regional priority.
- 8.54 There is significant potential for appropriately scaled and located biomass combined heat and power installations to provide a market for currently uneconomic forest products, such as small diameter roundwood, brash and stumps²⁶.
- Restructuring and enhancement of existing softwood forests, with opportunities to enhance their biodiversity, recreational and landscape benefits, but with likely reductions in the overall level of forest cover;
 - Developing and marketing the tourism and recreation potential of forest land;
 - Continuing to avoid impacts on the local road network by optimising the use of the forest road network for timber haulage;
 - Potential to further increase the use of existing forests as a source of biomass;
 - Enhancing and expanding native woodland networks around the coasts, and creating links to the interior via riparian corridors.

Local sensitivities

- 8.55 Virtually the entire upland plateau beyond the edges of the existing softwood forests is designated SSSI and SPA due to the presence of breeding hen harrier. This significantly reduces the opportunities to expand this resource. In subsequent rotations, the development of more naturalistic woodland edge habitats will convey significant landscape and biodiversity benefits.
- 8.56 Tourism and recreation are of significant economic value, therefore safeguarding and enhancing existing assets is a regional priority.



²⁵ All large softwood forests in South Arran are within the National Forest Estate

²⁶ Where site conditions and environmental constraints allow for stump harvesting / brash collection

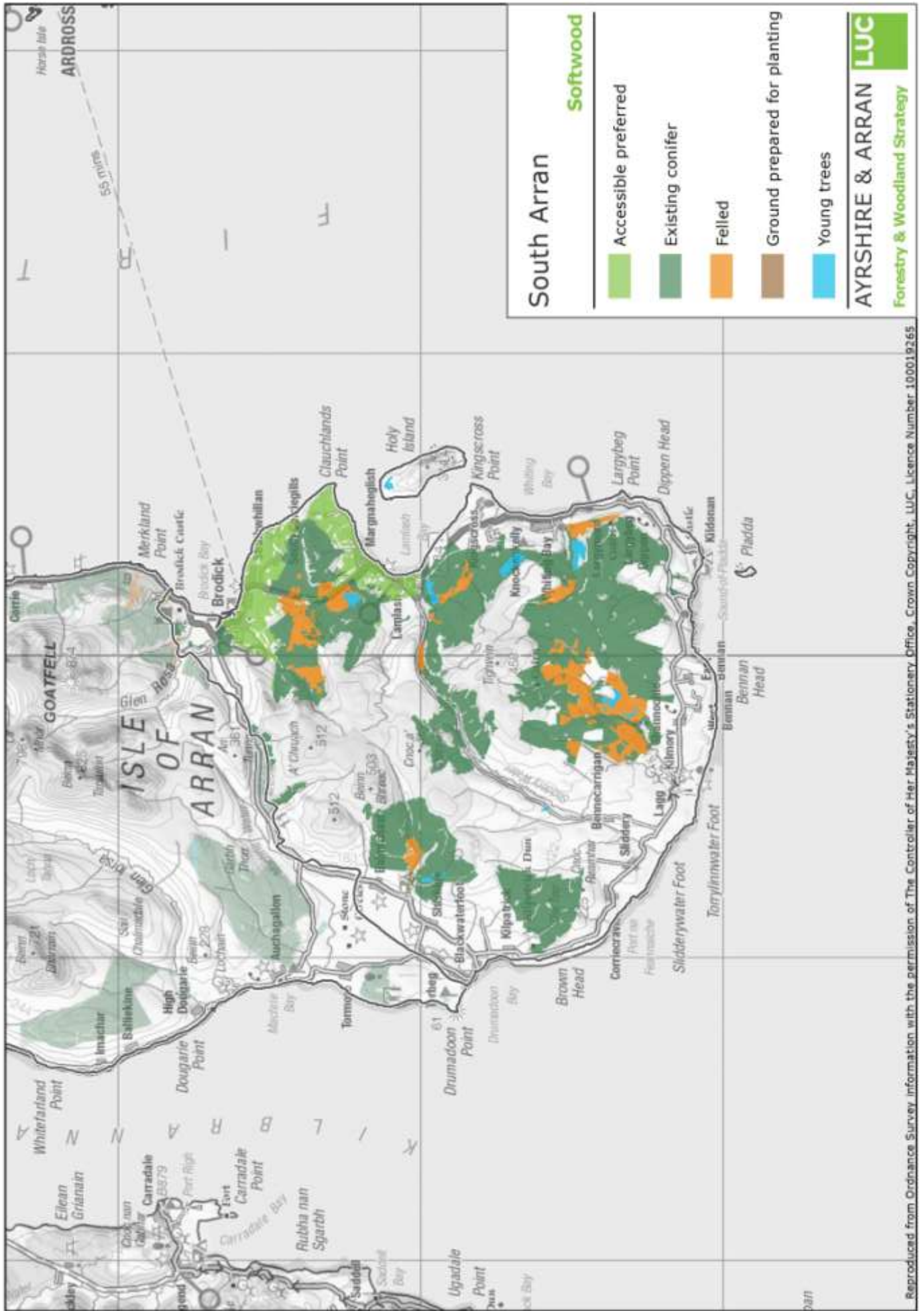
Priorities for woodland management and expansion

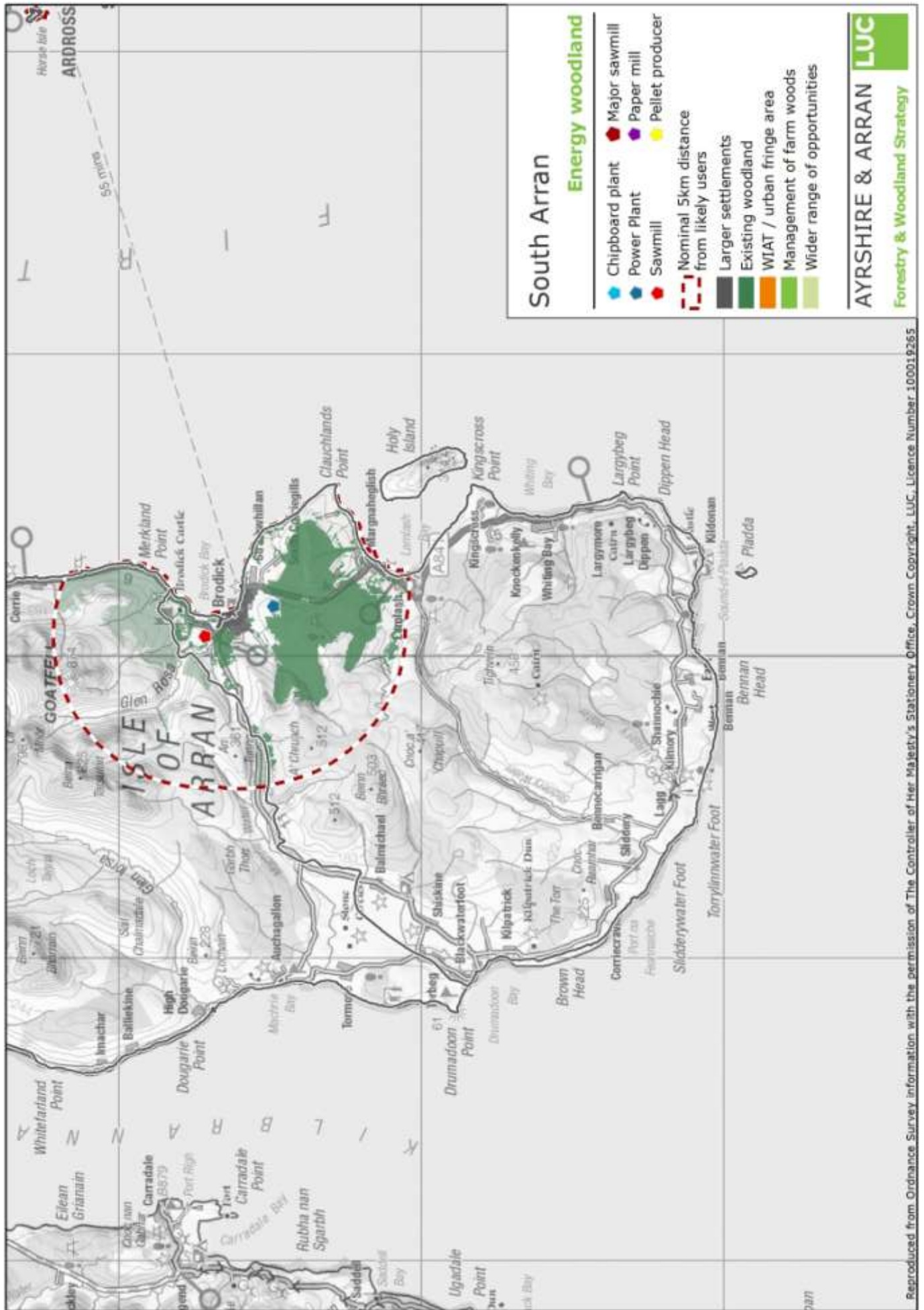
Existing woodlands

- Retention of areas of better quality softwood forest to cater to existing and emerging markets;
- Ensuring reductions in the overall extent of woodland are appropriately compensated, where required by the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal, is a regional priority;
- Positively managing the woodland component of historic gardens and designed landscapes, including the Inventory-Listed Brodick Castle;
- Bringing lowland and coastal mixed and native woodland into positive management.

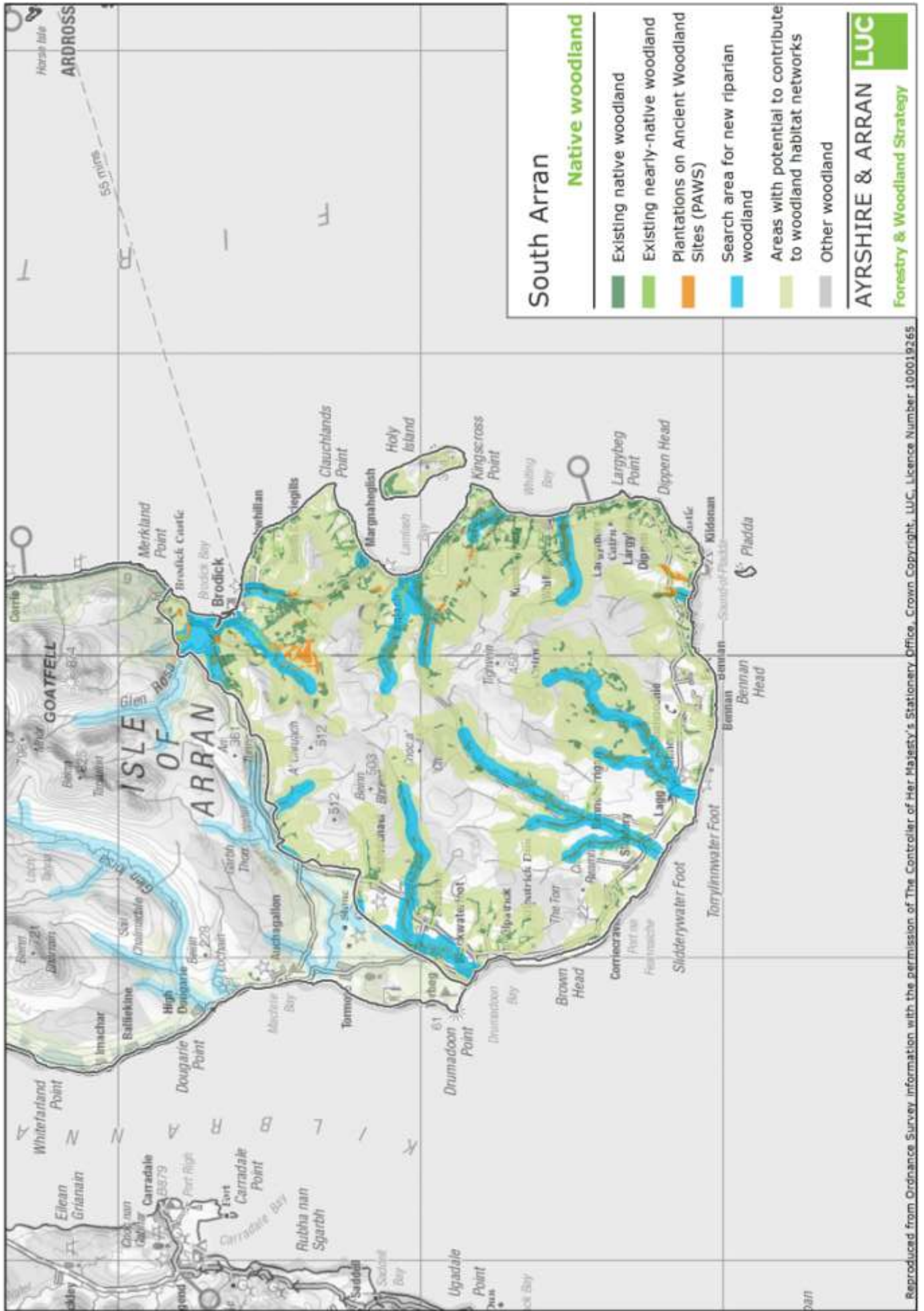
Potential for expansion

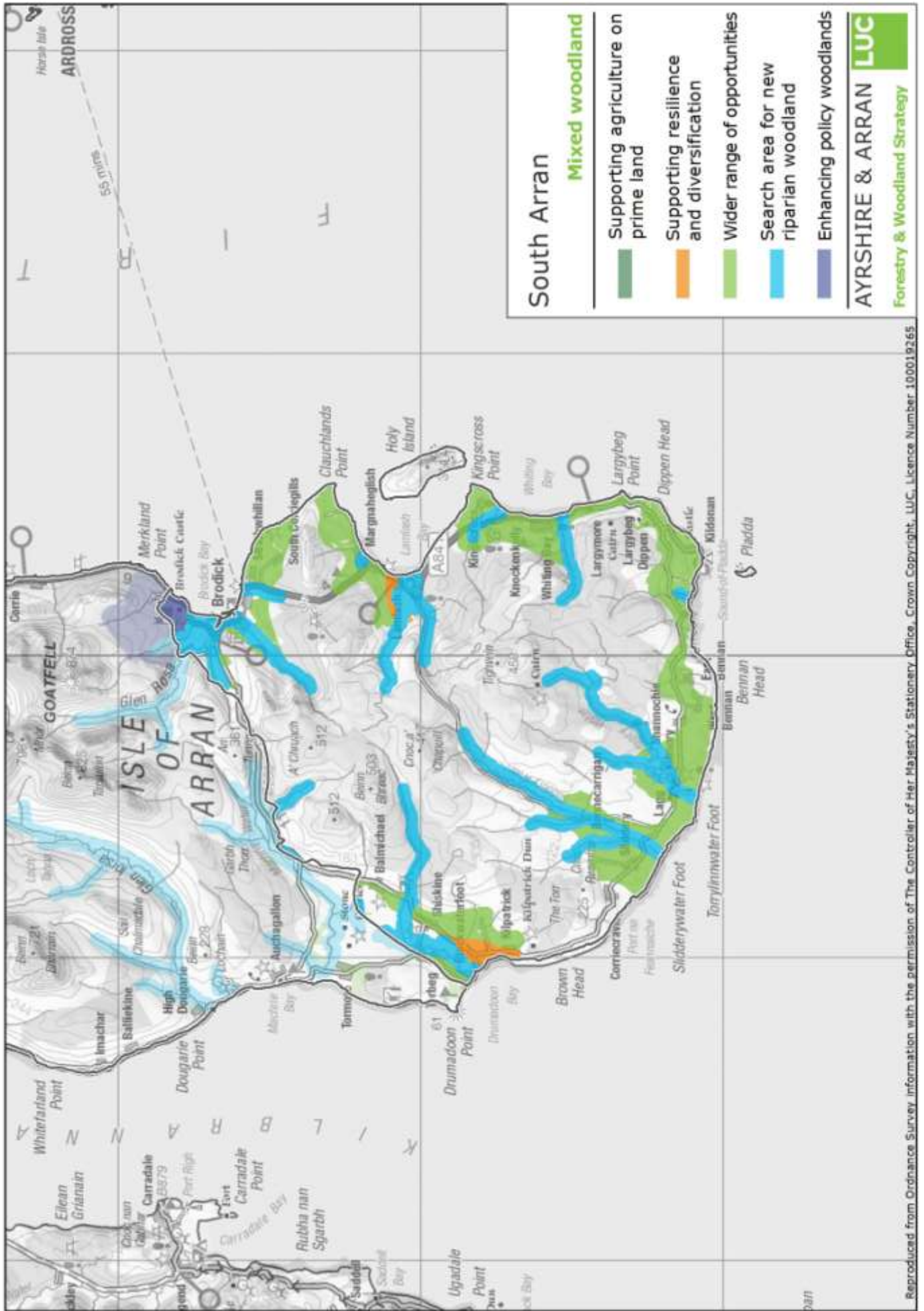
- Potential for native woodland expansion to contribute to habitat networks along river valleys and around the coastline;
- Potential for native and mixed woodland expansion in valleys, dales and the coastal fringe;
- Development of farm and croft woodlands to assist in diversification, contribute to landscape structure and deliver habitat connectivity.

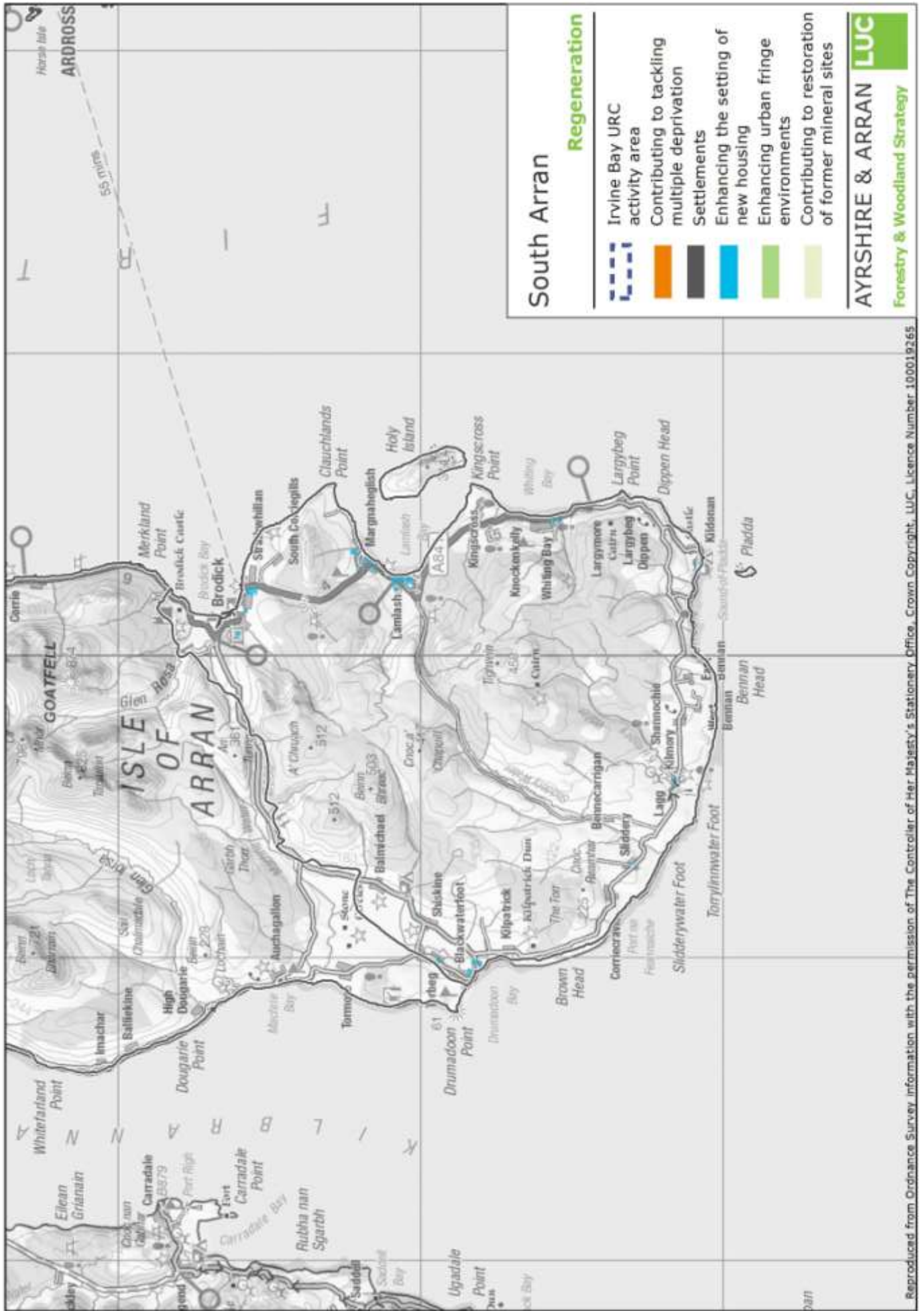




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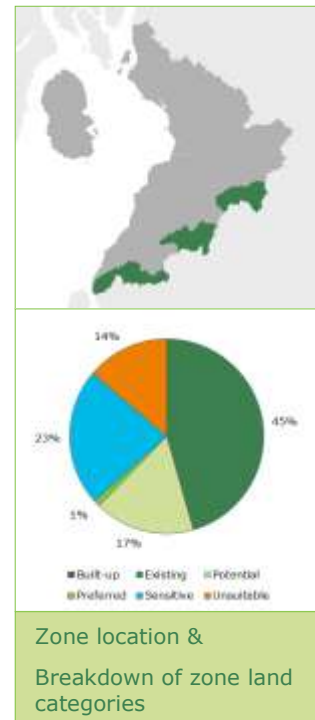
Southern Uplands and Galloway hills

Overview

- 8.57 This zone comprises the high, rounded and heavily forested northern edge of the Southern Uplands, stretching from Glen App in the west, via the Merrick, to the moorland hills above New Cumnock. Containing the northern extremity of the newly-designated Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve – centred on the Merrick Kells and Silver Flowe SAC – unlocking the environmental and economic potential of this zone is a regional priority.

Existing woodland resource

- 8.58 The zone is currently heavily wooded, with 44% of the land area currently under woodland, the vast majority of which is softwood. Small areas of mixed and broadleaved woodland are contained within Glen App and the valleys of tributary burns, but the resource is generally small-scale and fragmentary.
- 8.59 The major softwood forests of the zone are currently undergoing an extensive process of restructuring, particularly within the National Forest Estate, that is delivering more diverse woodland and open habitats



Key issues

- 8.60 Local issues for woodland and forestry include:
- Restructuring and enhancement of existing softwood forests, with opportunities to enhance their biodiversity, recreational and landscape benefits, but potential reductions in the overall level of forest cover;
 - Addressing habitat fragmentation by developing integrated habitat networks building from existing woodland cores within the river valleys;
 - Pressures for wind farm development and the importance of securing appropriate compensatory planting where woodland removal takes place;
 - High peat content of some soils, with implications for woodland expansion and management;
 - Ongoing efforts to reduce effects of surface water acidification from airborne pollutants;
 - Adding value within Ayrshire from the increasingly significant leisure uses of the Galloway Forest Park, and helping to unlock the potential of the Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere 'brand'.

Local sensitivities

- 8.61 The Merrick Kells SAC, an internationally important example of blanket bog, wet upland heath and alpine grassland habitats, is a key habitat resource in this zone. Creation or management of woodlands in or likely have a significant adverse effect on the qualifying features of the site will require appraisal under the Habitats Regulations.
- 8.62 Reducing the impact of timber transport on the local road network is a priority, as is ensuring that any further losses to development are appropriately compensated.

Priorities for woodland management and expansion

- 8.63 Reflecting the zone's already-significant woodland cover and the presence of natural heritage designations and sensitive peat soils, the potential for expansion is limited.

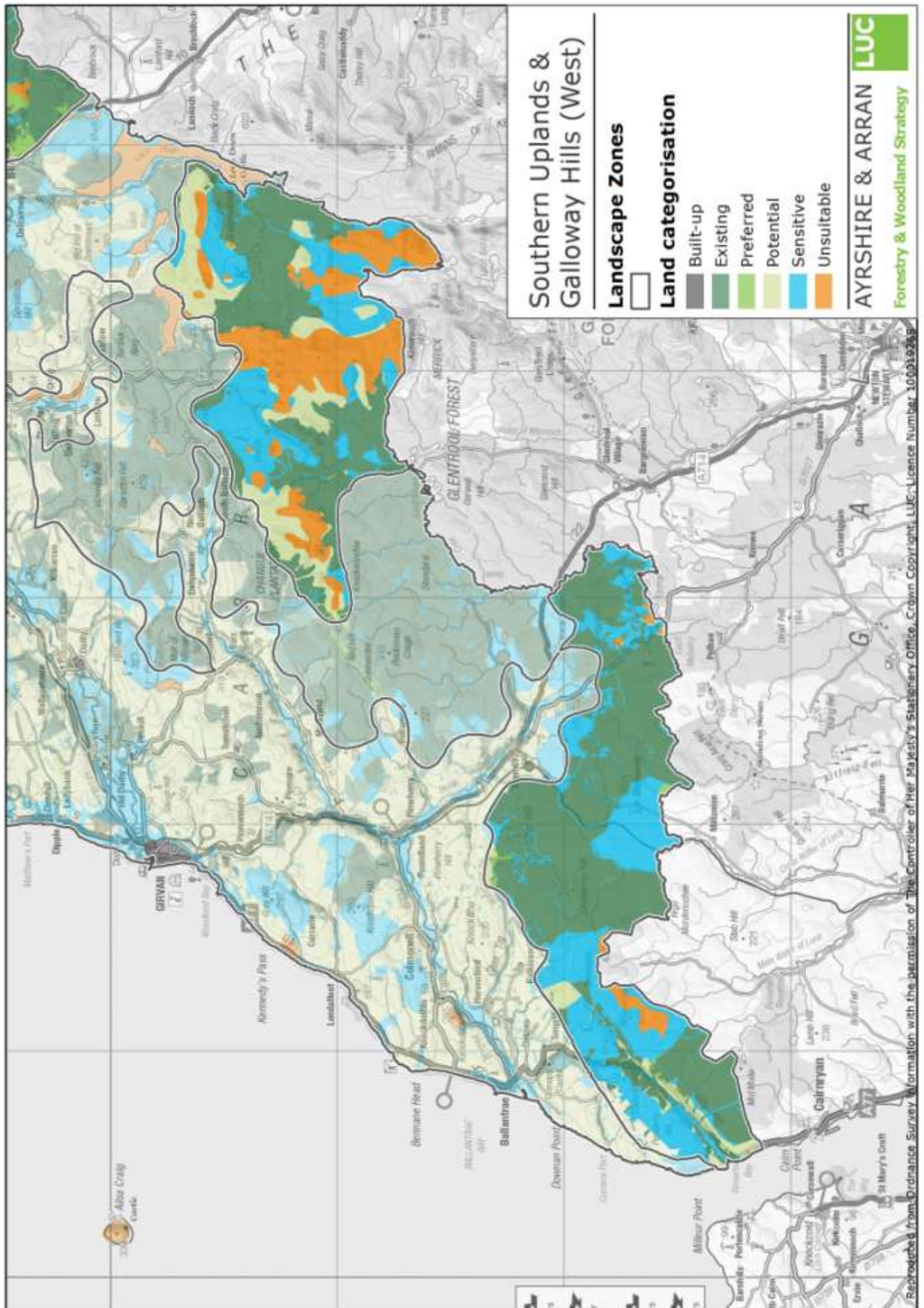
Existing woodland

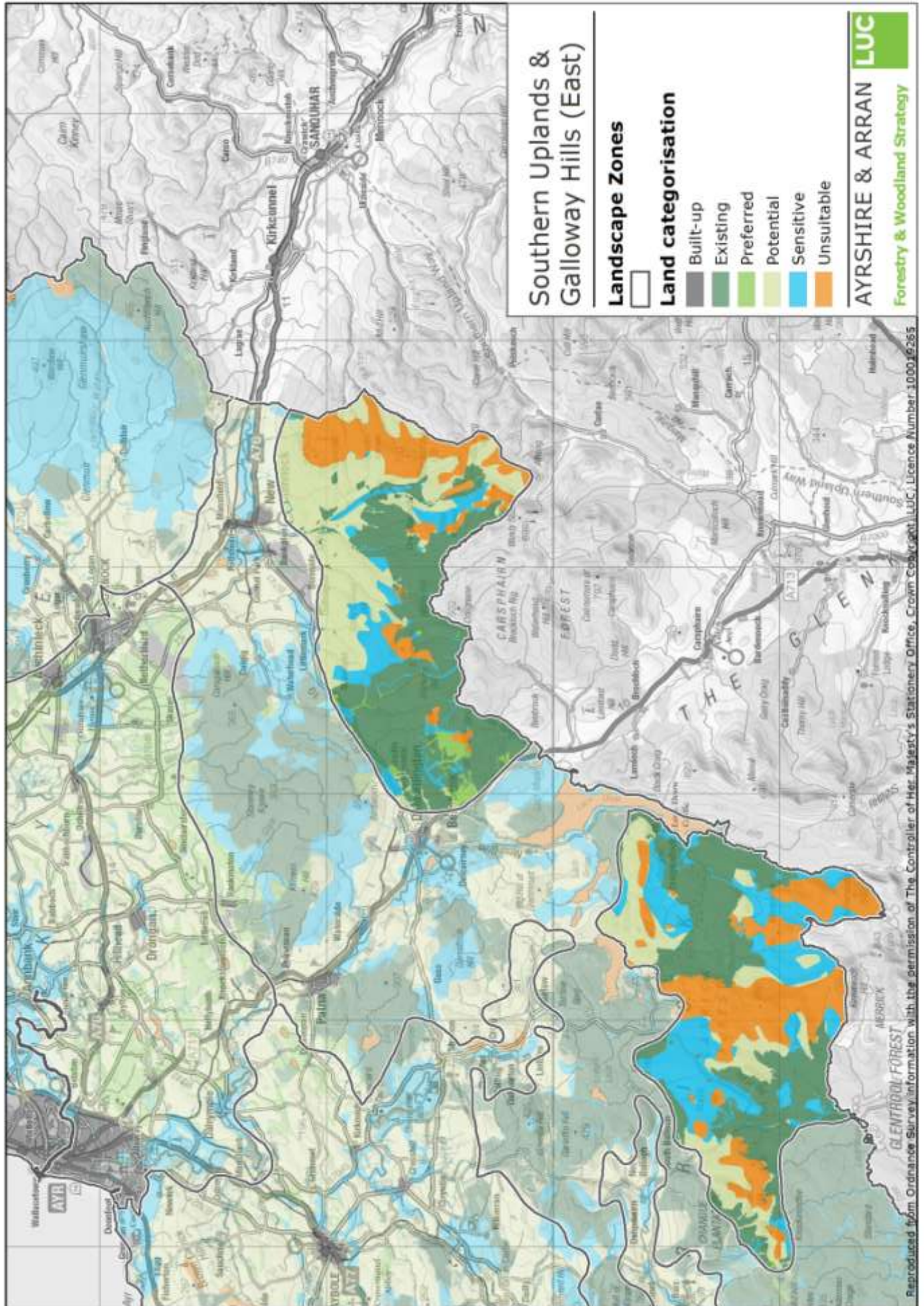
- Management, expansion and linking of existing native and mixed woodlands within the river valleys;

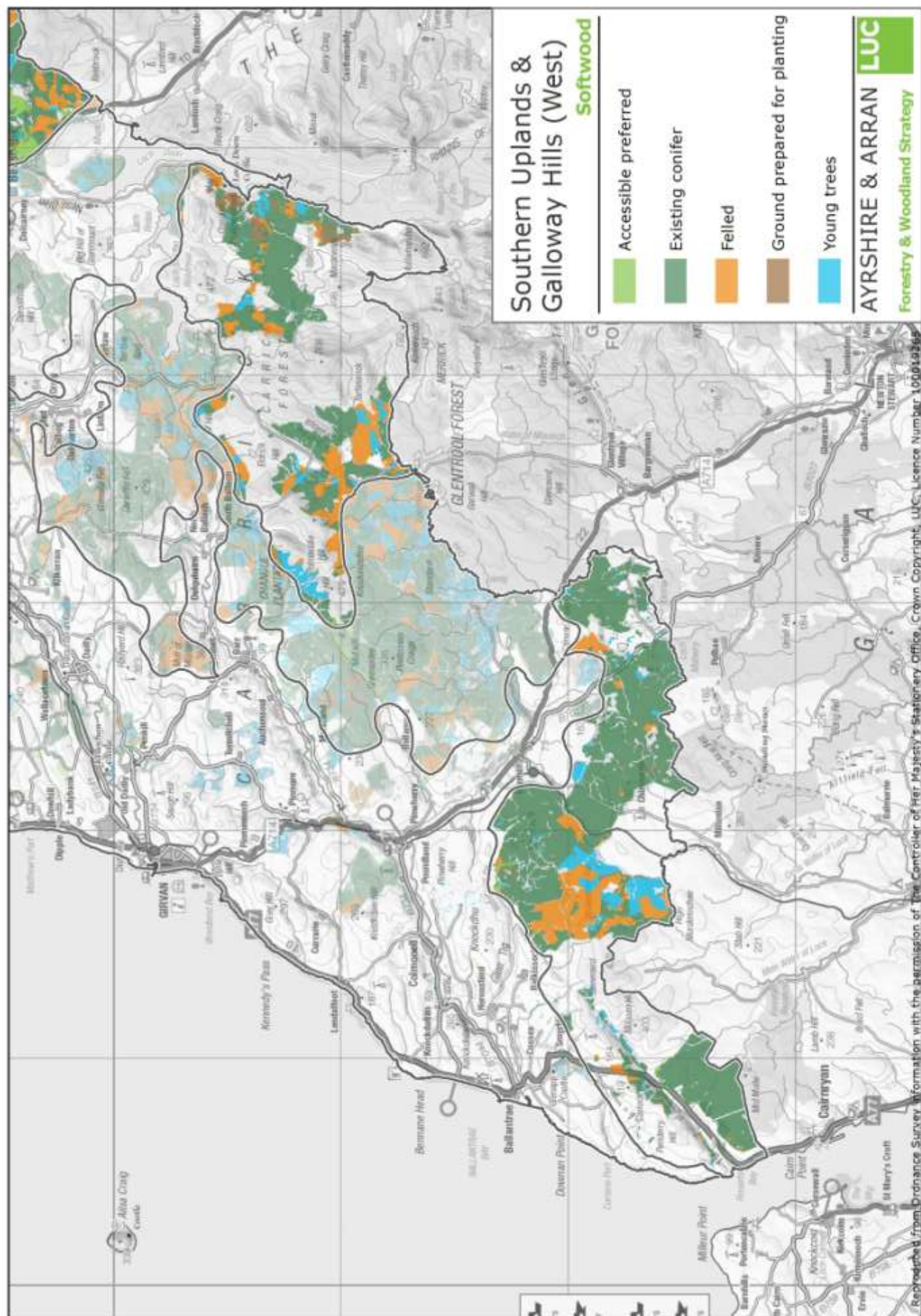
- Retention of existing areas of softwood forests, restructuring to include greater diversity, a higher proportion of open ground, achieve a better landscape fit and to restore peatland habitats where appropriate;
- Ensuring that any reductions in the extent of woodland resulting from restructuring or wind energy development are fully compensated within Ayrshire.

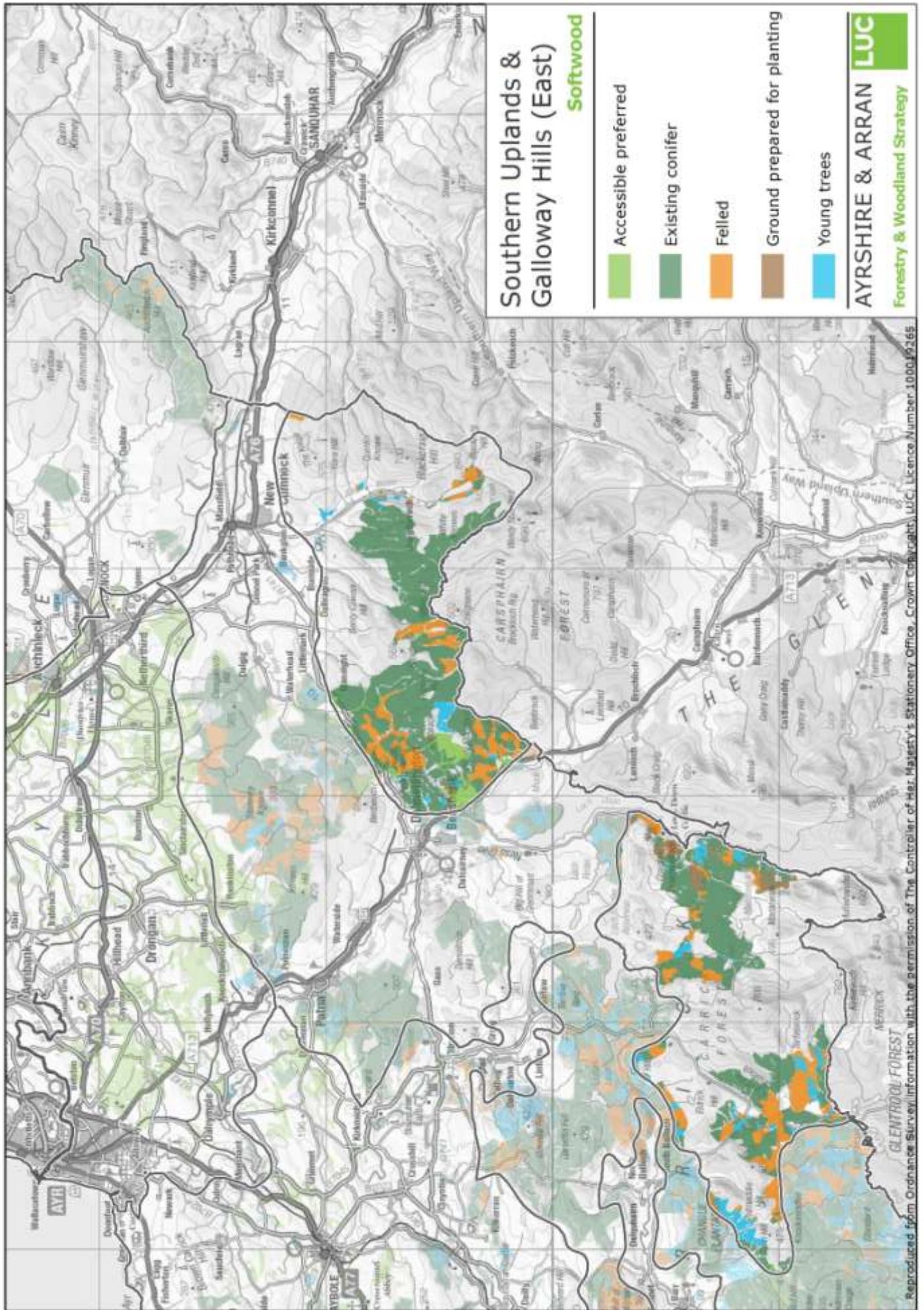
Potential for expansion

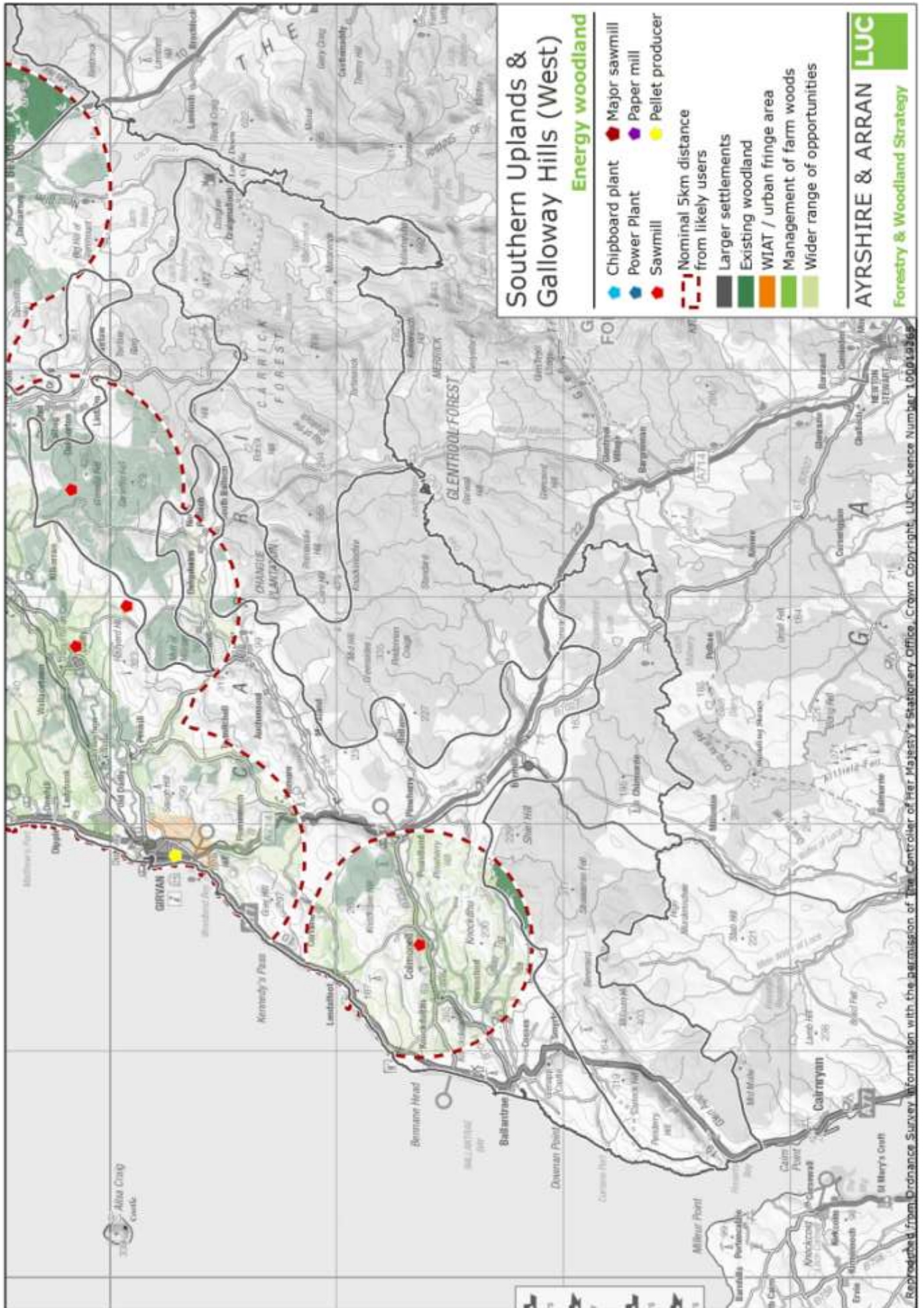
- Potential for limited expansion 'downslope' into less sensitive areas, contribution to processes of restructuring and improving transitional and woodland edge habitats;
- Expanding native woodland networks to improve connectivity between isolated resources (e.g. in the upper Doon Valley) and the lowlands.

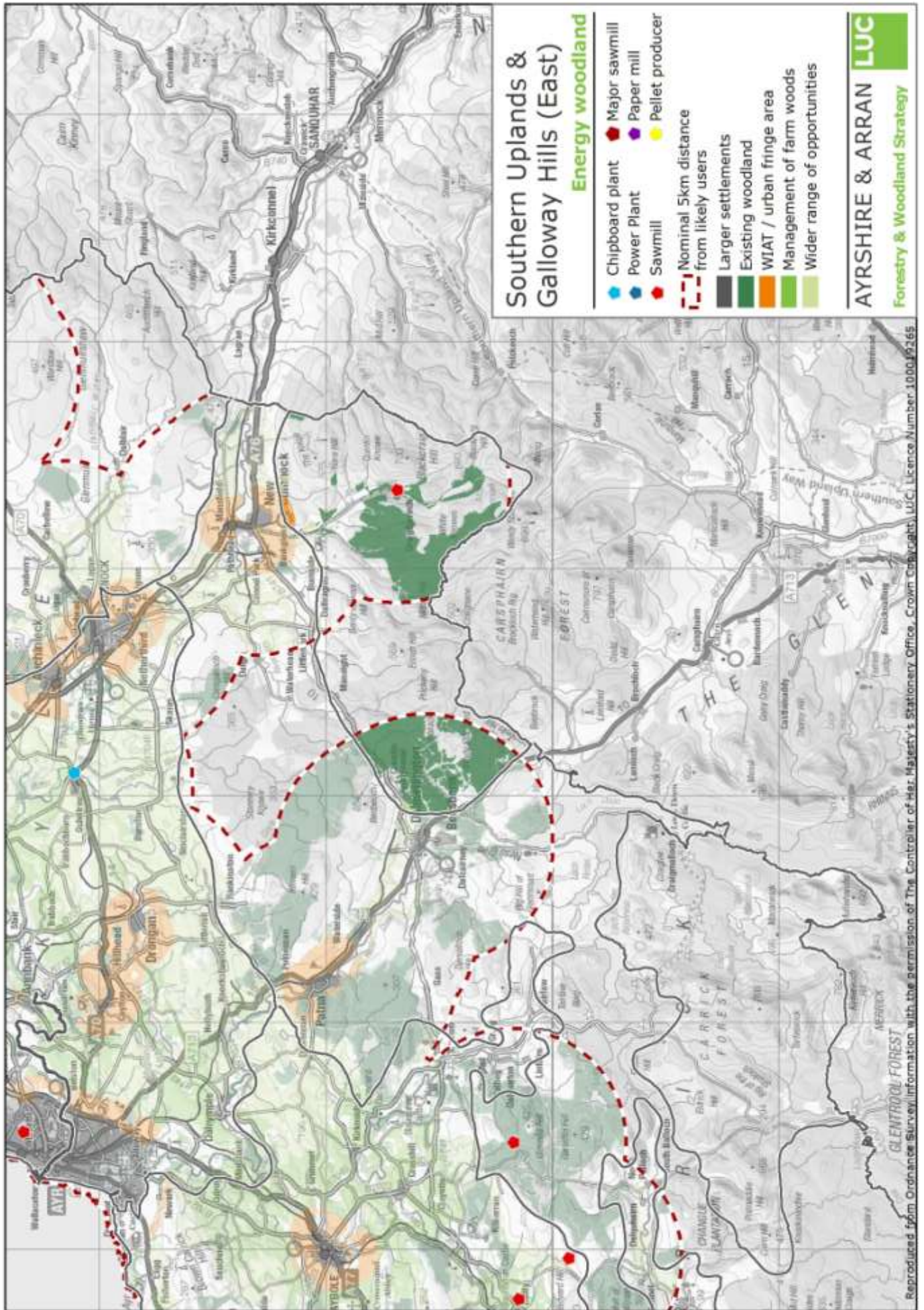


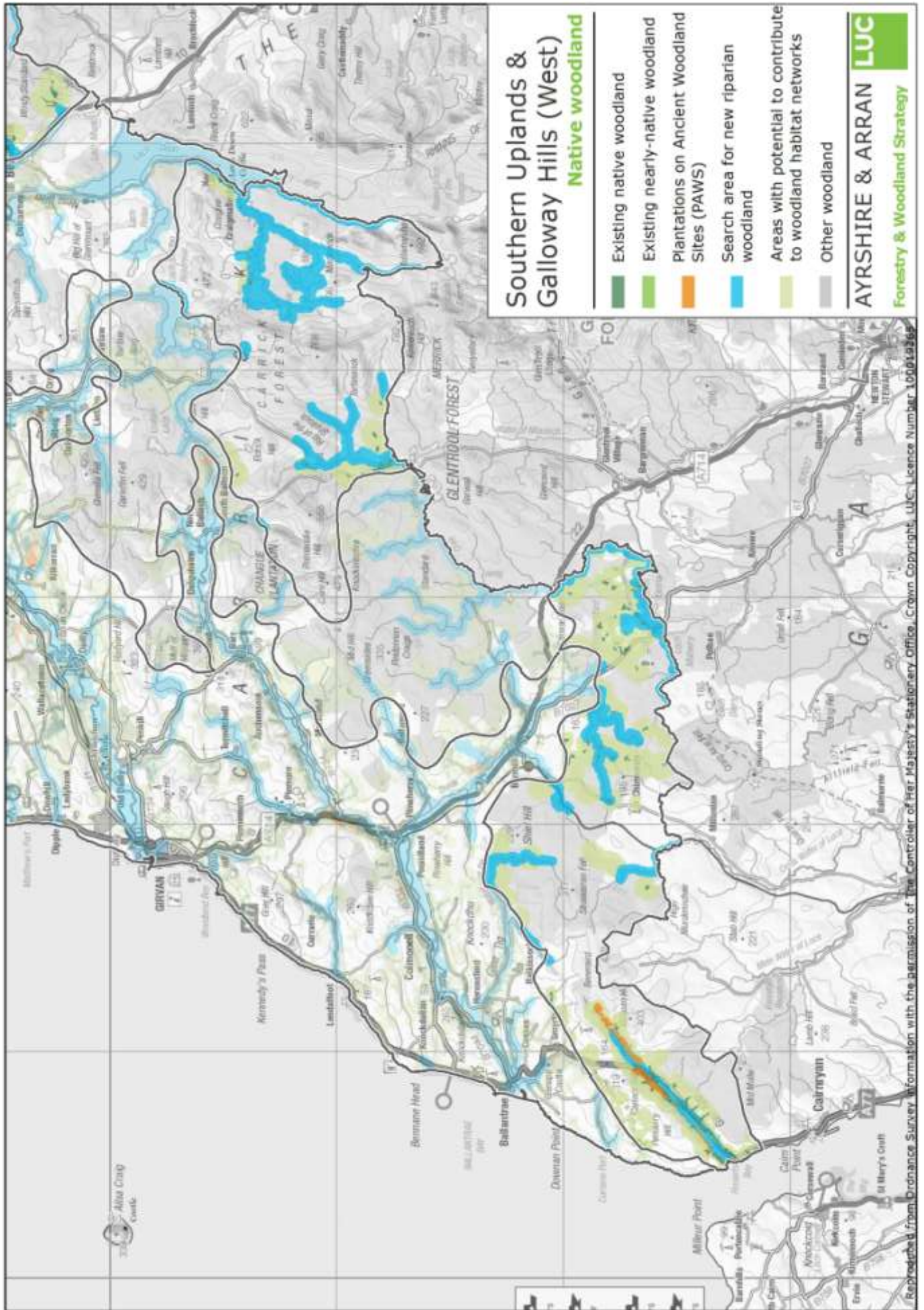


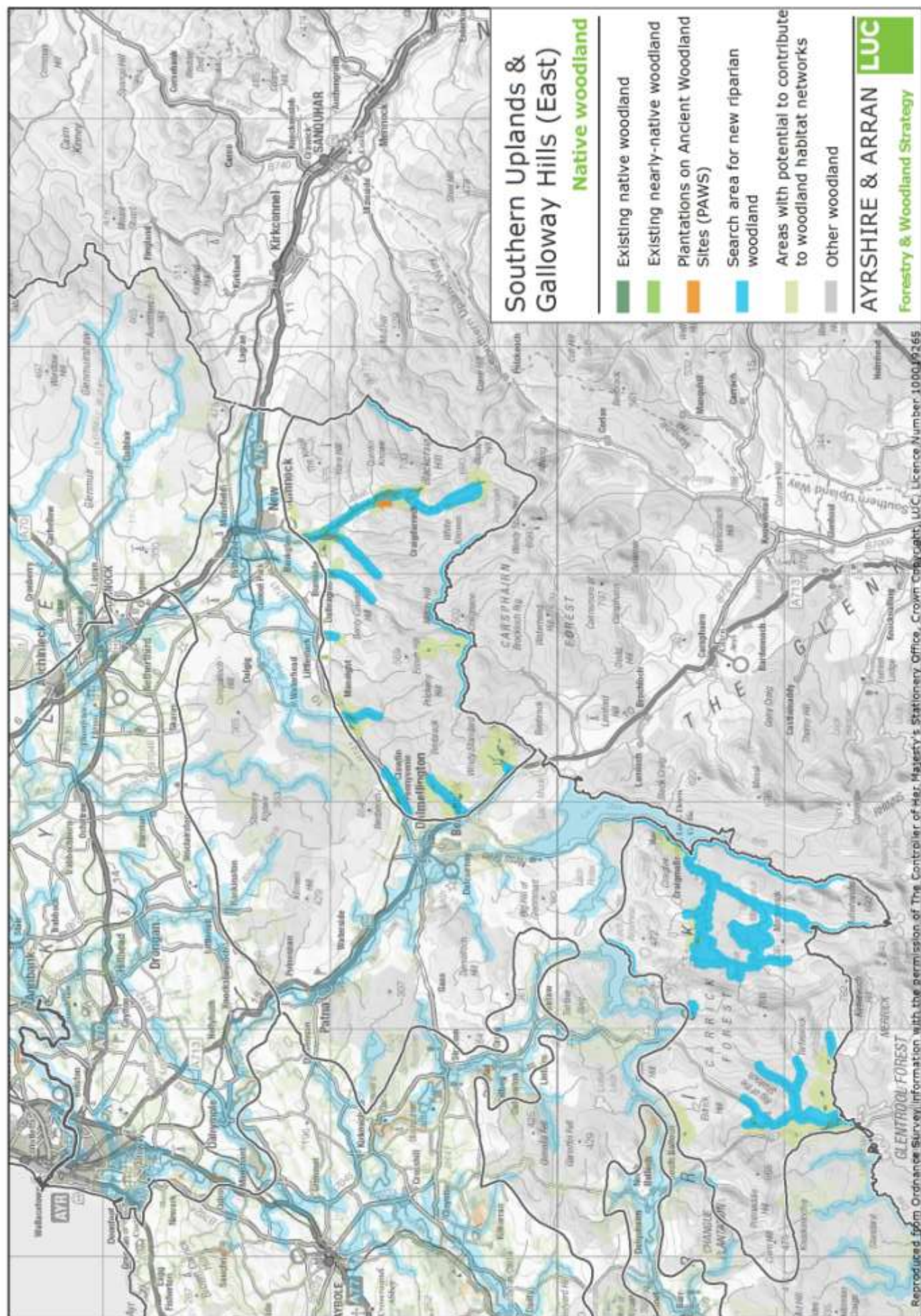


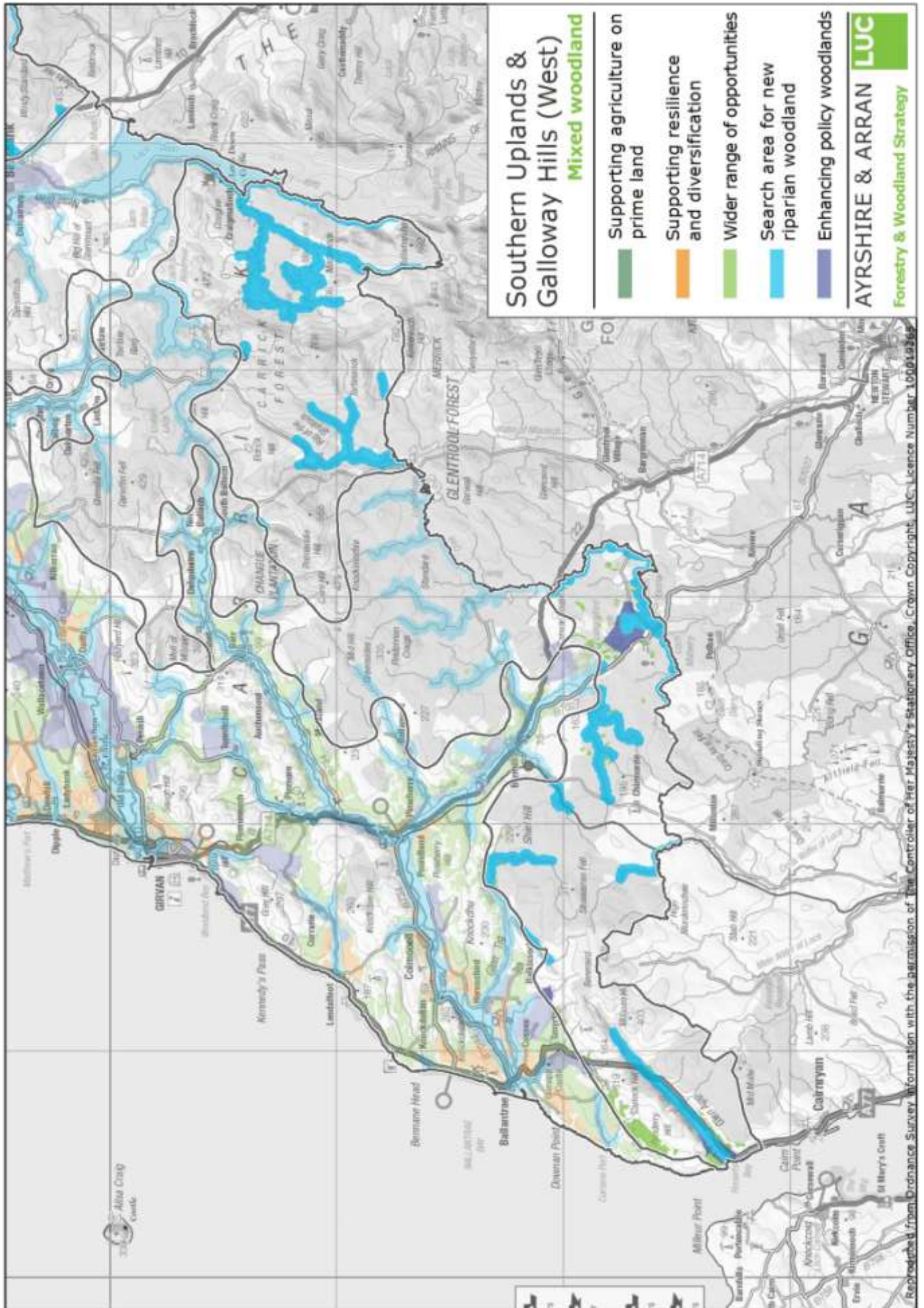


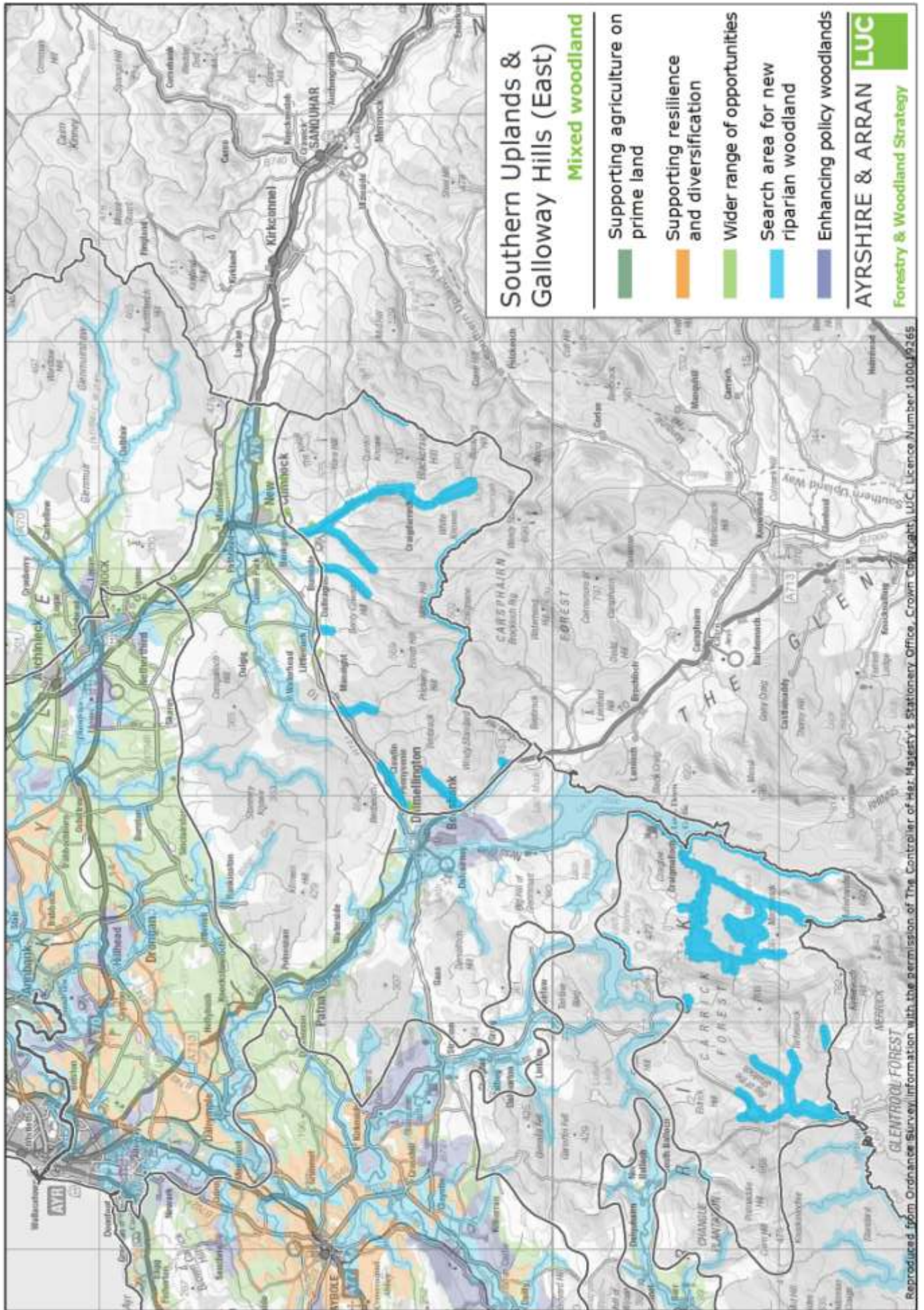


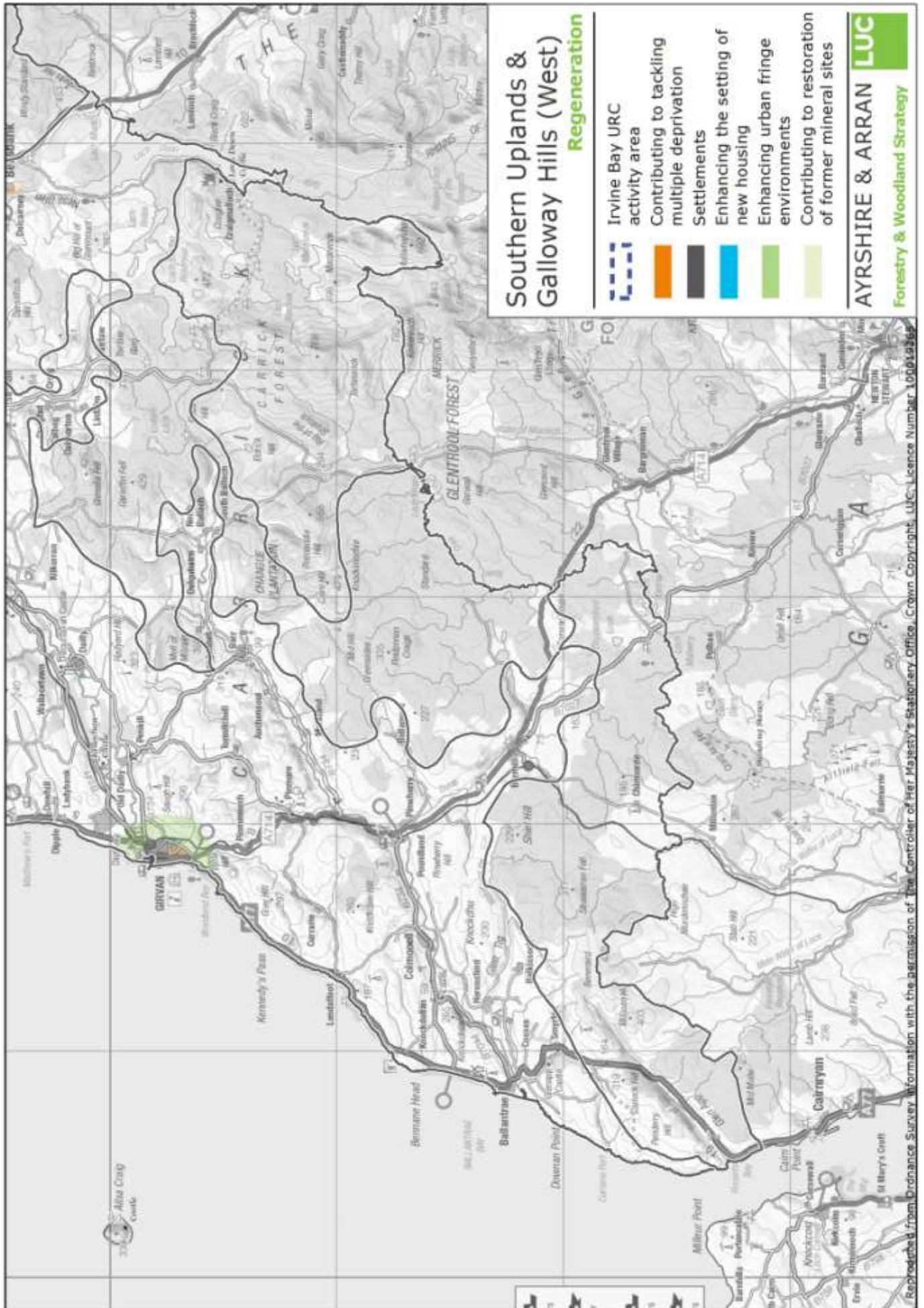


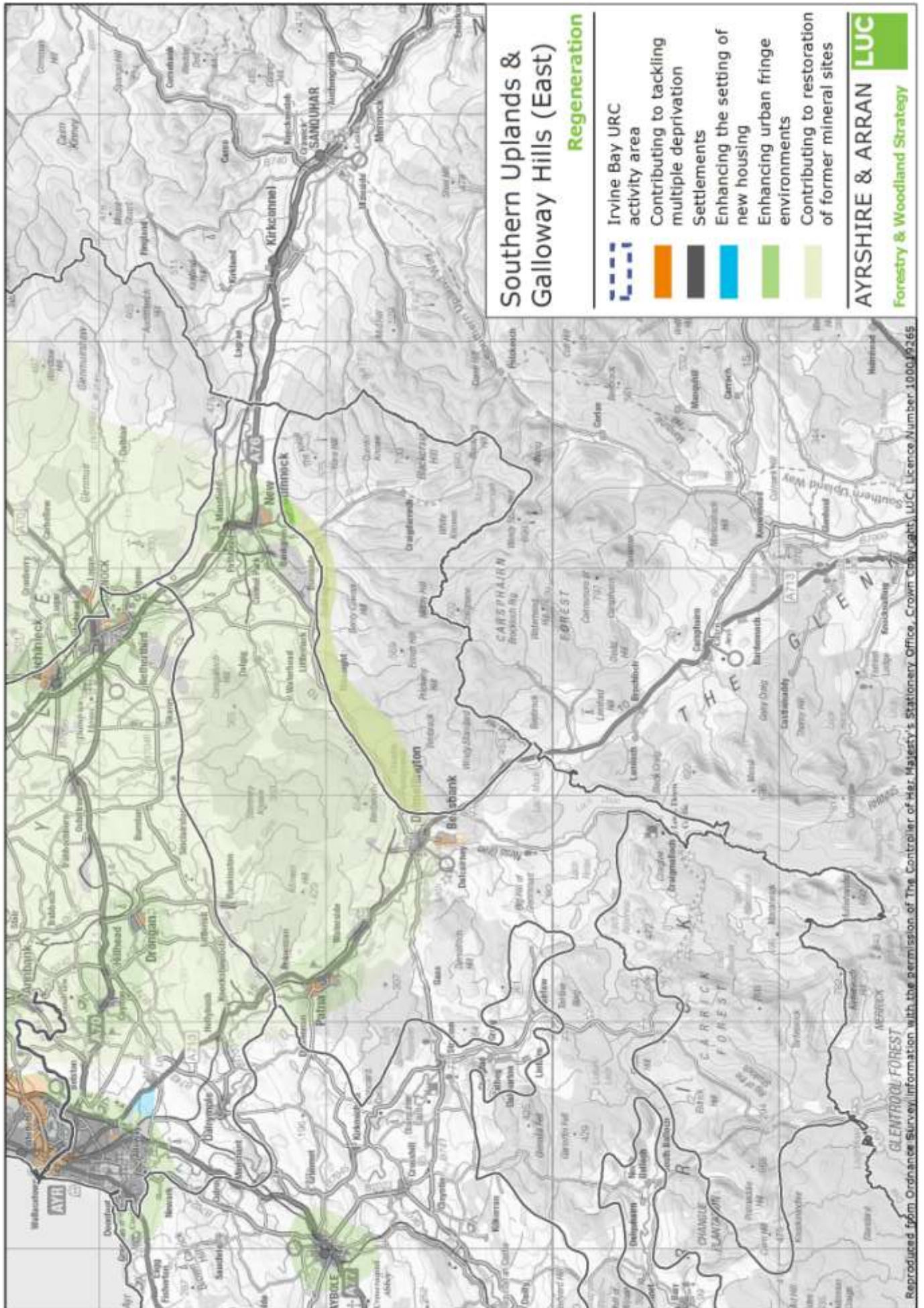












Appendix 1
Mapping methodology

Context

Scottish Government advice 'The Right Tree in the Right Place' (RTRP) provided the context for the mapping work, outlining the broad criteria that Forestry and Woodland Strategies should follow. It states that 'woodland strategies should divide land into categories, including the suitability of different locations for new woodland planting,' defining the following recommended categories:

- **Preferred** land will be that which offers the *greatest scope to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types*, and hence, to deliver on a very wide range of objectives. Within preferred areas sensitivities are, in general, likely to be limited, and it should be possible to address any particular site specific issues within well designed proposals that meet the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines. Future woodland expansion is therefore likely to be focused on preferred areas.
- **Potential** land will be that which offers considerable potential to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types, but *where at least one significant sensitivity exists*. The extent to which specific proposals in potential areas will be permissible will depend on how well sensitivities can be addressed within the proposals. The design of schemes in such areas will require careful consideration.
- **Sensitive** areas will be those where a *combination of sensitivities means there is limited scope to accommodate further woodland expansion*. Limited woodland expansion is only likely to be possible within sensitive areas where it is of a scale and character which can be accommodated without significant negative impacts and/or where it would positively enhance the features of interest locally. In some areas cumulative impact may be a relevant consideration.
It will be for planning authorities to determine the detailed list of sensitivities locally that should inform the categorisation of land, but it is expected that this will include priority species and habitats, landscape, the cultural and historical environment, and interactions with the water environment and soils.

RTRP is clear that planning authorities are responsible for developing an approach that is suitable for their area of responsibility and adequately addresses the environmental sensitivities of that area at an appropriate scale and level of detail.

Interpretation

RTRP implies that the 'land categorisation' map should apply to **all** woodland types, representing a summation of the key sensitivities that should influence decisions on proposed woodland expansion.

As a regional strategy, the Ayrshire and Arran FWS and its attendant Strategic Environmental Assessment focuses on regionally significant sensitivities and environmental effects. **Error! Reference source not found.** was therefore compiled using GIS datasets that depicted the most important environmental features of the region. In line with RTRP, each of the identified sensitivities was then assigned to the 'sensitive' or 'potential' category, depending on the likely level of constraint their presence would impose on *any type* of future woodland expansion, as indicated in

Table **A1.8.1** below. These were discussed and agreed with the project Steering Group and moved through a number of iterations.

Additional land categories were selected to draw out key messages of the FWS:

- **Existing woodland:** highlighting the presence (or absence) of the current woodland resource in the region
- **Unsuitable:** areas assessed as being physically unsuitable for the growth or management of trees (based on the-then Macaulay Institute Land Capability for Forestry)

- **Urban:** larger settlements comprising the metropolitan area of the GCV SDP region – reflecting the focus on regeneration and economic development, and the fact that opportunities for new woodland within settlements are often too small to map at a strategic scale

Table A1.8.1: 'Sensitivity' datasets

Category	GIS Dataset
Sensitive	Natura 2000 sites SSSI Scheduled Monuments Conservation Areas Inventory-listed Gardens & designed landscapes Inventory Battlefields National Scenic Areas Peat soils Ancient and Semi-natural woods Land capability for Agriculture Class 2 and 3.1 (no Class 1 in Ayrshire) (relevant Wild Land Search Areas included within other 'sensitive' areas, therefore not included)
Potential	Land capability for Agriculture Class 3.2-4.1 'Sensitive Landscape Character Areas' identified in Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan 2007
Preferred	No strategic constraints
Unsuitable	Land Capability for Forestry – unsuitable Water bodies
Built-up	Scottish Government urban/rural classification
Existing	FC National Forest Inventory dataset

Key assumptions

It is critical to understand that the mapping provided in this Strategy is necessarily indicative and that site-specific constraints and opportunities exist within each land classification – but cannot be effectively recorded or depicted at a scale appropriate for the FWS. Detailed assessment of individual woodland creation proposals, as required by forestry legislation and regulations, remains the primary means of environmental safeguarding. As noted above – and expanded upon in the Environmental Report – the mapping depends upon the effective administration of existing environmental safeguards (e.g. the UK Forestry Standard, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 and the

suite of Forestry Commission guidance). The maps in this document are therefore intended only to guide applicants towards suitable sites and to highlight areas where particular objectives apply.

The constituent datasets were all captured at different scales/resolutions which limit the range of scales at which the map can be used effectively.

GIS modelling process

A range of options for map creation were considered during the course of the project, but ultimately a relatively simple approach based on intersection of sensitivities was adopted, for a number of reasons:

- Transparency and potential for consultation in arriving at components of each land class and their relationships
- Greater certainty of results – as opposed to approaches using weighting / grid-based intersection analysis

Each of the datasets listed in **Table A1.8.1** was assembled into a unified 'category' layer using the relevant operations in ArcGIS. The seven category layers were then joined using a series of 'union' processes, which intersects each layer in the desired order and retains attribute information.

The resulting dataset was then streamlined (using the 'dissolve' process) to retain only the relevant attribute information. This was then used to calculate the area of the region falling into each category to begin to inform the quantitative scenario planning work within the SEA.

Quantifying woodland expansion

A key aspect of the SEA involved attempting to understand the potential effects of various approaches to delivering woodland expansion, ranging from a relatively low-level model (based on current trends) to more significant models based on the (then) Central Scotland Green Network or Scottish Forestry Strategy targets.

In common with the broadly landscape-driven approach adopted in the Strategy, the indicative map was subdivided by the landscape zones to provide a breakdown of the amount of preferred, potential, sensitive etc. land available in each zone.

This information formed the basis of the 'scenario planning' exercise undertaken as part of the SEA, determining the broad effects of attempting to meet various targets. For further information, see the Environmental Report.

Mapping woodland types

RTRP also states that, in addition to the land categorisation maps, authorities '*should also identify how the categories apply to different woodland types*' suggesting that the four main types of woodland identified in the Scottish Government Rationale for Woodland Expansion could be used. They are:

- Native woodlands
- Mixed woodlands (principally farm and riparian woodlands)
- Softwood forests
- Energy forests
- *Woodlands for regeneration* (additional, reflecting importance of major redevelopment in parts of Ayrshire)

The maps for each woodland type were developed using the indicative potential dataset as their basis, to ensure that key sensitivities were respected in each instance. Additional sources of data were used to draw out opportunities and different priorities. These included:

- Integrated Habitat Network datasets (highlighting opportunities for new native woodland)

- Land capability for agriculture (highlighting better quality agricultural land where the priority would be supporting existing agriculture – and more marginal areas where woodland could add value for farmers and the environment alike)
- Indicative flood risk map (highlighting the 'area of search' for new floodplain and riparian woodland to contribute to climate change adaptation)
- Strategic transport network [and distance buffer] (highlighting areas where land with potential for new productive woodlands are easily accessible from the public road network)

Appendix 2
Action plan

to be developed

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 13

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Step Change 2015 (Rest of Scotland)**

Purpose: To update Cabinet on progress with the Scottish Government's Digital Future: Infrastructure Action Plan and, in particular, the Step Change 2015 (Rest of Scotland) Project.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet (a) notes the current position of the Step Change 2015 (Rest of Scotland) project; (b) notes a financial contribution of £1.1m as agreed in the Cabinet report of 30 January 2013; (c) approves delegation to sign a Minute of Agreement with Scottish Ministers to the Chief Executive; (d) notes that a paper will be brought to the August 2013 Cabinet regarding the investment by the Highland and Islands Enterprise covering Arran and Cumbrae.

[(a), (b) and (c) above are dependent upon confirmation that Council's strategic priorities are met in the returned Invitation to Tender.]

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Scotland's Digital Future: Infrastructure Action Plan published on 31 January 2012, sets out the commitment to and the steps Scottish Government (SG) will take to deliver a step change in broadband speeds by 2015, paving the way for delivery of world-class, future proofed infrastructure across all of Scotland by 2020.
- 1.2 Improvements to digital infrastructure are essential if Scotland is to maintain and improve the ability of its businesses to compete in a global market place; be successful in attracting inward investment; transform the delivery of public services; respond to the challenges of a low carbon economy and have vibrant, strong and connected communities in its cities, towns and rural areas.
- 1.3 The Scottish Government's Infrastructure Action Plan sets out four critical programmes that combined will ensure the ambition for a world class digital infrastructure for Scotland is delivered:

Step Change 2015: Addresses the current digital divide and puts in place infrastructure in those areas that the market will currently not deliver. This programme is the foundation on which the other programmes build.

World-Class 2020: Delivers a longer-term plan, developed in parallel, to ensure there are the right mechanisms, partnerships and commercial models in place to deliver world-class infrastructure in a sustainable way and in partnership with industry.

Demonstrating Digital: Demonstrates and delivers innovative and local solutions: will be targeted at promoting locally based projects and programmes and also trialling new technologies.

Choose Digital First: Increases take-up and stimulates demand: will be targeted at raising digital participation rates (for businesses and individuals) and raising demand for services – helping to improve the commercial case for investment and delivering better outcomes for Scotland.

- 1.4 The Infrastructure Action Plan sets planned investment into broadband infrastructure that will have the capacity to deliver speeds of 40 to 80 Mbps for between 85% to 90% of premises. The investment will also deliver an infrastructure that ensures a significant uplift in service can be delivered to the remaining 10 to 15% for whom delivery of 40 to 80Mbps is not possible, including those areas where there is currently no level of service.
- 1.5 This paper will concentrate on the Step Change 2015 element of the Plan with specific reference to the provision of broadband infrastructure that will enable delivery of next generation broadband services to North Ayrshire residents and businesses.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The focus of the Scottish Government's Step Change 2015 Programme is to address the digital divide by extending the infrastructure needed to deliver next generation broadband to those areas where it is not commercially viable for the market to deliver. Scottish Government is clear that rural areas will not be left behind as progress is made with broadband across Scotland. This programme is the foundation on which the other programmes build.
- 2.2 The Step Change 2015 programme is progressing through two procurement exercises:
 - a procurement for the Highlands and Islands, led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), and
 - a procurement for the Rest of Scotland, led by a project team within the Scottish Government.

HIE announced a £146 million investment project on 26 March 2013, to be delivered by BT. The public sector investment towards the contract is £126.4m. This will be subject of a Cabinet paper in August.

- 2.3 The Scottish Government began the formal procurement process for the Rest of Scotland project in September 2012, with initial tender responses due in early June 2013. This has subsequently been delayed due to the requirement to de-scope city centres from the process with a tender response now expected on 18 June, 2013. It is anticipated that a Call Off Contract for the delivery of broadband infrastructure will be entered into by the Scottish Government and the chosen provider in July 2013.
- 2.4 The approach has been developed in collaboration with local government and COSLA, and the project team will continue to work closely with these key stakeholders throughout the delivery phase. North Ayrshire Council is represented on the Contributing Authority Group for the Rest of Scotland project and is in regular contact with the Scottish Government project team.
- 2.5 Fourteen local authorities communicated their intent to commit up to £50.65 million for additional investment in their own areas as part of the Rest of Scotland project, including North Ayrshire Council which committed £1.1M at the Council meeting of 30 January, 2013 as part of the Council's 10 year capital programme. The Invitation to Tender was issued with this included.
- 2.6 The Council's contribution, referred to as Additional Local Subsidy (ALS), is on the basis that a minimum level of 75% Next Generation Access has been achieved by the National Funding available to the project. The Council's contribution is in addition to the National Fund and is for the purpose of achieving local priorities beyond the 75% minimum. NAC's Additional Local Subsidy is aimed at providing 85% coverage across mainland North Ayrshire.
- 2.7 A template Minute of Agreement has been developed by the Scottish Government legal team in partnership with the contributing local authorities, including North Ayrshire Council. This document flows down from the Call Off Contract and agrees certain obligations being placed on the Scottish Government and captures the requirements of both the Scottish Government and North Ayrshire Council with regard to the Additional Local Subsidy. The Minute of Agreement must be signed prior to the Call Off Contract being signed. Due to the summer recess, this is asked to be delegated to the Chief Executive.

- 2.8 A response to the ITT is expected on 18 June 2013. In order to seek political approval from all contributing authorities to allow for contract signature by the end of June 2013, the project team has been working with the bidder in order to understand what authorities might expect for their contribution.
- 2.9 Detailed roll-out plans will not be known before contract signature and all indicative coverage is subject to survey. However the bidder has given an indication to the project team of coverage in percentage terms. For the National Funding, BT is confident of achieving a minimum level of 75% coverage in each local authority area.
- 2.10 On 15 April 2013, the project team met with BT and was told that at that stage, subject to the final stage of financial modelling that BT need to complete and survey assumption, they are confident of achieving North Ayrshire Council's requirements as identified in the Invitation to Tender i.e. coverage of at least 85% of mainland North Ayrshire including our main strategic business locations.
- 2.11 Assuming a contract is awarded in July, the Scottish Government project team will continue to work with local authorities throughout the roll-out phase and is in the process of developing an "Implementation Governance Protocol" to aid this activity.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That the Cabinet (a) notes the current position of the Step Change 2015 (Rest of Scotland) project (b) notes financial contribution of £1.1m as agreed in the Cabinet report of 30 January 2013; (c) approves delegation to sign a Minute of Agreement with Scottish Ministers to the Chief Executive, (d) notes that a paper will be brought to the August Cabinet regarding the investment by the Highland and Islands Enterprise covering Arran and Cumbrae.

[(a), (b) and (c) above are dependent upon confirmation that Council's strategic priorities are met in the returned Invitation to Tender].

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 At a Cabinet meeting on 30 January, 2013, the Council committed to contribute £1.1M over financial years 2013/14 (£400,000), 2014/15 (£350,000) and 2015/16 (£350,000). This amount has been committed within the Council's 10 Year Capital Programme. The mechanism for payment to the Scottish Government is via an agreed adjustment to the Annual Capital Grant. Prior to signing the Minute of Agreement with Scottish Government, the Council reserves the right to reassess its financial commitment.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There is a risk that the project does not achieve the desired outcomes (nationally or locally). The SG project team is responsible for mitigating this risk and that mitigation includes an early indication from the bidder on the likely coverage that might be achieved.
- 4.4 In order to agree a protocol for agreeing the actions required of the Scottish Government and the contribution Local Authorities a Minute of Agreement. Previous iterations of the Minute of Agreement did not approve a limit on the potential liabilities of the contracting bodies for any additional conditional contract costs. The situation has been addressed with an upper limit of £1m being proposed for Local Authorities, such as North Ayrshire who are contributing and Additional Local Subsidy.
- 4.5 Although North Ayrshire Council has a right to reassess and/or withdraw its indicative financial contribution, this has consequences for the Council and the project as a whole. The Invitation to Tender was issued with this funding included and the bidder has modelled the project on this basis. In the eventuality that North Ayrshire Council (or any other Council) withdraws its funding, the whole project may require to be re-tendered.
- 4.6 The tender process undertaken is fully EU compliant and has tested the market fully for a provider of the services required. The SG team tasked with delivering this project has also produced a strategy to demonstrate how steps have been taken to ensure that Value for Money has been delivered through this exercise.

Equality Implications

- 4.7 There are no equality implications.

Environmental Implications

- 4.8 There are no environmental implications.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.9 This project relates directly to the following Council priority – 1) Regenerating Communities and Increasing Employment – The provision of this infrastructure will ensure that the vast majority of North Ayrshire businesses will be able compete digitally in the future.

Community Benefit Implications

- 4.10 The provision of a minimum coverage of next generation broadband infrastructure of 85% will ensure that North Ayrshire residents are well positioned to benefit from the services available through this infrastructure.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Legal Services, IT, Audit & Risk staff and Economic Development officers have all been consulted on the content of this report.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Scottish Government, in partnership with contributing Local Authorities, is delivering the Step Change (Rest of Scotland) 2015 project to 85% of premises in contributing Local Authority areas. Cabinet is asked to note progress with this project and confirm agreement to delegating authority to the Chief Executive to subsequently sign a Minute of Agreement confirming North Ayrshire Council's participation in this project. This agreement is on the basis that the strategic priorities of the Council are addressed following receipt of the returned tender from BT and discussions with the Scottish Government.



CRAIG HATTON

Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference : JMcG/AM

For further information please contact John McGuire, Team Leader on telephone number 01294 225164

Background Papers

¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/01/1487>

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 14

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund**

Purpose: To inform the Cabinet of proposed bids to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to (a) approve the submission of bids by North Ayrshire Council for funding to support the delivery of proposals for the Millport Marine Biological Station and at Quarry Road, Irvine; and (b) confirm its support for bids led by the Irvine Bay Regeneration Company for Saltcoats Town Hall and Ardrossan Quayside Offices.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scottish Government launched the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) on 31 May 2013. The RCGF is a £25m fund to help transform disadvantaged areas. From 2014/2015, it will support projects by providing grant support for new or improved infrastructure to enhance the economic, social and physical environment of communities. The fund is open to all 32 Scottish Local Authorities, Urban Regeneration Companies (URC's) and regeneration special purpose vehicles.
- 1.2 The paper considers outline bid proposals for funding to support capital projects within North Ayrshire to be submitted by the deadline of 28 June 2013. It should be noted that this deadline is for outline bids only.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Scottish Government published its Regeneration Strategy 'Achieving a Sustainable Future' on 12 December 2011. It sets out a strategic approach to regeneration policy and the role of local authorities and other parties. It also provides information on resource levels and how these will be made available.

It states:-

- a focus moving away from ring fenced grant funding for specific organisations towards targeted support to areas most in need and through organisations that can best deliver results;
- increased support for community led regeneration;
- the use of sustainable investment (or loan based) models; and,
- the important role of the local authority in facilitating and delivering local regeneration.

2.2 While the RCGF was officially launched on 31 May, it emerged from the publication of this Regeneration Strategy and the commitment therein to a £175m programme of investment which also incorporates the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund, the People and Communities Fund, and mechanisms such as the SPRUCE loan fund (Scotland's joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas). From the £25m allocated for 2014/15, it has already been agreed that core funding support will be given to three Urban Regeneration Companies, including the Irvine Bay Regeneration Company. £20.5m will therefore be available on a competitive basis in 2014/15 and it is anticipated that up to £21.5m will be available for 2015/16.

2.3 Projects should demonstrate their fit with the aims and objectives of the fund and demonstrate clear regeneration impacts in line with the Scottish Government Regeneration Strategy and local area regeneration plans. Funding will be focused on:-

- areas that suffer from high levels of deprivation and disadvantage;
- the delivery of large scale transformational change with strong regeneration outcomes;
- encouragement for additional investment and projects which address market failure; and,
- projects which can demonstrate clear community involvement.

2.4 Given the restricted funds available multiple bids by an organisation require to be prioritised, including those submitted in partnership with other bodies. Appendix 1, therefore, presents an appraisal of a long list of projects against the criteria set out by Scottish Government. The projects considered have emerged from proposals contained within the Local Development Action Programme and current areas of activity sets out within the Town Centre Capital Programme. These projects are considered to be of a sufficient scale to demonstrate economic outputs at a national level. Funding for projects such as public realm or property facelift schemes would be beneficial for a number of town centres and demonstrate physical regeneration outcomes. However, when considered against the breadth of criteria set out by the Scottish Government, including community involvement and social regeneration, this type of project is not considered to score well enough in terms of direct outputs and community involvement. Such projects have, therefore, not been considered.

2.5 As a result of this appraisal exercise, the following projects are suggested for submission to the fund in advance of the deadline of 28 June 2013.

1. Priority 1: Quarry Road, Irvine - A project that has been in development and would be regarded as part of a Sports Village concept within the masterplan process agreed at Cabinet on 11 June 2013. The Development of a Sports Village concept comprises a range of community sport facilities alongside the proposed new Leisure Centre. The Quarry Road project includes the relocation of a local Boxing Club, the development aspirations of a local Gymnastics Club, new sports facilities, offices for Cunninghame Housing Association to provide a local housing base for the Vineburgh area, and office space including start up space for small businesses. The project, therefore, has the opportunity to unlock a range of facilities and services for the town centre and demonstrate strong community involvement which is one of the key criteria of this programme.
2. Priority 2: Millport Marine Station - Cabinet approval to support the proposed operation of the Station by the Field Studies Council was given on 11 June 2013. Funding would support a capital investment requirement of around £4m to which the Cabinet have agreed to contribute up to £1.5m. The project could demonstrate deliverables in terms of a preferred operator, economic impacts through the retention of employment and increased visitor stays within a fragile island economy, match funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and other external funders, and community involvement through the Cumbrae Community Development Company. Funding of £500,000 will be sought towards a total capital investment of circa £4m.

2.6 The following projects bids will also be submitted by Irvine Bay Regeneration Company.-

1. Priority 1: Saltcoats Town Hall - The redevelopment of Saltcoats Town Hall has funding approved through the Capital Programme for £1.9m. The proposals would see the transformation of the B listed building to become a civic and community service hub, accommodating the Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston housing offices, Saltcoats Registration Office, a customer service centre for Council services and a local Three Towns heritage centre. The main hall would also be restored for public and community use. The projected benefits of the project would primarily be in terms of physical and social regeneration through the reuse of a historic and central community building. Funding of £1,100,000 will be sought towards a total capital investment of circa £3.5m.

2. Priority 2: The development of offices at Ardrossan Quayside is contained within the IBRC Town Plan for Ardrossan as a priority project and is part of a wider regeneration scheme building on the phase 1 residential development at the Quayside, and linking to future development on the Ardrossan North Shore site. The project would provide some 10,000 sq ft of offices, with modern provision currently not provided by the market. Funding of £2,000,000 will be sought towards a total capital investment of circa £3.3m.
- 2.7 The short period since the launch of the fund on 31 August and the closing date for project bids on 28 June should be noted as leaving limited time for initial evaluations of projects. Only outline applications have been sought at this stage, and subject to initial approval during August 2013, projects would then require to be further developed in advance of a stage 2 application deadline in October 2013. Recommendations on these applications will then be made by an investment panel to allow a decision to be made by Ministers by January 2014. The timing of projects would see investment phased over financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Cabinet approves the submission of outline bids for projects at the Millport Marine Biological Station and Quarry Road, Irvine, and confirms its support for partnership bids led by Irvine Bay Regeneration Company for Saltcoats Town Hall and the Ardrossan Quayside Offices.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 In demonstrating project deliverability and council support, it is considered that the funding applications for the projects at Millport Marine Station and Quarry Road, Irvine should be supported by a commitment to contribute to the capital cost by the Council. This would equate to the £1.5m agreed at Cabinet on 11 June 2013 for Millport, and an indicative £1.25m for the Quarry Road, Irvine project. Both would come from the approved Capital budget for Town Centres. The approved capital programme makes provision for £1.9m towards the redevelopment of Saltcoats Town Hall, while the Ardrossan Quayside offices project would be supported by IBRC and external funding sources.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 The outline bids will require further work to scope the costs and benefits of the projects should detailed bids be invited in August. The outline and detailed bids would be developed by Officers from Development Planning Services and Irvine Bay Regeneration Company.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 None

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 For all projects capital investment works would improve the appearance of the local urban area.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 For all projects the Council's Core Objective 1: Regenerating our communities and increasing employment would be supported.

Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 A study by Jura Consultants in 2010 found that the Millport Marine Biological Station was responsible for 10 per cent of all employment on Great Cumbrae and contributed around £400,000 to the local economy each year. Safeguarding the future of the centre would therefore be of benefit to the Island of Cumbrae. In addition, the redevelopment of Quarry Road would bring additional community facilities and activity to Irvine town centre.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with the Irvine Bay Regeneration Company and Officers of Scottish Government. Public consultation on individual projects has taken place through the preparation of the Irvine Bay Town Plans and the Local Development Plan Action Programme.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The availability of funding support from the Scottish Government to encourage regeneration from capital investment provides an opportunity to help deliver priority regeneration projects. The presence of areas of disadvantage and the identification of projects that fit with the funding criteria set out by the Scottish Government for project intervention make a strong case for Scottish Government investment in North Ayrshire.



CRAIG HATTON
Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference : AL

For further information please contact Alasdair Laurenson, Team Manager (Regeneration) on telephone number 01294 324758

Background Papers

n/a

Appraisal of projects suggested for SG Regeneration Capital Grant Fund against Bid Criteria (Score out of 3 for each of the SG criteria)

Project	Description	Viability (10%)	Community Involvement (15%)	Physical Regen. (30%)	Economic Regen. (25%)	Social Regen. (20%)	Weighted Total (Score/3 x weighting)
Quarry Road, Irvine	Redevelopment of NAC land to provide Boxing Club, Gymnastics Club, sports pavilion, offices including start-up space. Demonstrates community involvement through the involvement of local clubs, support from Cunninghame Housing Association and local businesses. Economic impacts through new office provision and town centre activity. Funding support through the Town Centre capital budget.	2	3	3	2	3	265
Millport Marine Station	Funding would support a capital investment requirement of around £4m to deliver business plan of and operation by Field Studies Council. Demonstrates deliverables in terms of a preferred operator, economic impacts through the retention of employment and increased visitor stays within a fragile island economy. Match funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and other external funders, and community involvement through the CCDC. Funding support from NAC confirmed.	2	3	2	3	2	240
Kirktonhall, West Kilbride	Redevelopment of B Listed building to accommodate a creative media hub led by the West Kilbride Creative Media Group. Strong community involvement however lack of confirmed match funding at this stage.	1	3	2	2	2	205
Millport Pier	Refurbishment of pier to encourage additional boat traffic and visitors to the Island of Cumbrae, and to reduce the annual maintenance burden to NAC. Preferred option for the nature of any pier upgrade to be confirmed, and uncertainty over matched funding.	1	2	2	2	2	190

Stoneyholm Mill, Kilbirnie	Redevelopment of Stoneyholm Mill buildings to provide mix of uses. Lack of detail over proposals, extent of contribution from owner, and in particular the extent of the funding gap required to allow viability.	1	1	3	1	2	180
Irvine High Street	Provision of 'Designing Streets' approach to High Street through upgraded public realm, signage, analysis of traffic circulation. Design and consultation to be undertaken.	3	2	2	1	1	165
Police Station site, Kilbirnie	Mix of new events, landscaping and parking spaces. Impact of flood prevention scheme proposals to be confirmed, as well as design and public consultation.	3	2	1	1	1	135
Wilson Street, Beith	Redevelopment of prominent vacant site.	1	1	2	1	1	130
Smith Street, Dalry	Redevelopment of NAC and privately owned land.	1	1	2	1	1	130

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 15

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Sector
Commitment on Waste Prevention and Recycling**

Purpose: To seek the approval of Cabinet to sign up to Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Sector Commitment on Waste Prevention and Recycling.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agree to sign up to Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Sector Commitment on Waste Prevention and Recycling.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting of 10 April 2012, the former Executive agreed a Waste Management Strategy for the period 2012 to 2016. The strategy contains a number of key actions for development of services to meet the targets and objectives of the Zero Waste Plan, Scottish Government's national waste agenda. These include the promotion of waste prevention initiatives and the expansion of the recycling services and advice offered to businesses to promote resource efficiency.
- 1.2 The Zero Waste Plan seeks to increase the range of materials that businesses can recycle as their waste forms a large proportion of total waste arisings. Delivering the vision for zero waste therefore requires close working between businesses, waste producers, householders, central and local government.
- 1.3 Scotland's Resource Sector Commitment on Waste Prevention and Recycling is a voluntary commitment for the resource management sector to demonstrate its support for Scotland's zero waste ambitions. The commitment has been developed jointly by the Scottish Government, Zero Waste Scotland, representatives of the waste resource management sector and its customers.
- 1.4 The voluntary commitment has been developed to underpin progress and to enable the resource management industry to demonstrate its commitment to helping customers further reduce waste and recycle more. The objective of this voluntary commitment is to continue to progress towards a more resource efficient economy through an agreed set of actions and behaviours and to be a platform for the resources sector to work with Zero Waste Scotland and Scottish Government to deliver Scotland's Zero Waste Plan.

- 1.5 The commitment is to engage resource management operators in the task of helping Scottish Government achieve the waste reduction and recycling targets outlined in the Zero Waste Plan and the Safeguarding Scotland's Resources consultation. It is proposed that the commitment will run until 2016 initially, with a focus on current priorities and targets.
- 1.6 There are five key elements to the voluntary commitment:-
- Helping businesses to be more resource efficient;
 - Providing excellent collection and recycling services;
 - Offering clear and consistent contract management;
 - Offering comprehensive advice, feedback and improvement; and
 - Communicating service expectations to customers.
- 1.7 Signing up to this voluntary commitment will support the implementation and delivery of the actions from the Council's Waste Management Strategy.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 At its meeting on 3 June 2013, the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Board considered and supported the proposal to sign up to Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Sector Commitment on Waste Prevention and Recycling.
- 2.2 The Council currently offers a chargeable commercial waste collection service that also includes recycling collections of cardboard, glass and paper. Businesses on the Islands of Arran and Cumbrae can already access the co-mingled collection of dry recyclables.
- 2.3 Waste Awareness Officers currently liaise with businesses and offer support and advice around the sustainable management of their waste and compliance with their legal obligations.
- 2.4 The Council's Waste Strategy 2012 - 2016 contains actions to expand the recycling services provided to all businesses to mirror those provided to households. The actions are to increase the range of materials collected for recycling from businesses in two key areas:-
- Extending the co-mingled collection of dry recyclables provided to households through the 'blue bin' service to businesses. This will enable businesses to recycle paper, cardboard, metal cans, glass and the full range of plastics; and
 - Extending the food waste collection service for households to businesses.

- 2.5 The Council's Waste Strategy includes an action to develop and provide information packs for businesses to provide advice on their legal obligations in managing the waste they generate and how they can manage their waste in a more sustainable manner, making use of local charities, community groups and the Council's collection services. The packs will contain information that reminds businesses of the financial benefits that may be available through sustainable waste management.
- 2.6 The Council's current commercial waste service provision and the plans already detailed within the approved Waste Strategy 2012 – 2016 to expand the recycling services and advice offered to businesses means that the Council is already in a position to meet the five key elements within the voluntary commitment.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That the Cabinet agree to sign up to Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Sector Commitment on Waste Prevention and Recycling.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

4.2 Human Resource Implications

There are no human resource implications.

4.3 Legal Implications

Signing up to the voluntary commitment will assist in demonstrating the Council's commitment to delivering commercial waste collection services that comply with the obligations from the Waste Scotland (Regulations) 2012.

4.4 Equality Implications

There are no equality implications.

4.5 Environmental Implications

Signing up to the voluntary commitment and delivering the key elements within the commitment will have a positive impact upon the environment in three ways:-

- Reduction in the amount of waste disposed of at landfill;

- Increase in recycling of materials reducing the need to access virgin materials; and
- Increase in the re-use of materials reducing the impact of re-processing and the use of virgin materials.

4.6 Implications for Key Priorities

Signing up to the voluntary commitment will support the implementation and delivery of the actions from the Council's Waste Management Strategy which will contribute towards the achievement of the following SOA objectives:

- 12a: Our environment is protected and enhanced;
- 14a: Recycling of waste has increased and the amount of waste going to landfill has decreased; and
- 15a: Public perceptions of public services have improved.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with Zero Waste Scotland to identify the key elements of the voluntary commitment and how it aligns with and complements the delivery of the Council's Waste Management Strategy. The Environment and Infrastructure Policy Board have considered and support the content of the proposal as submitted to Cabinet for their consideration and approval.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet approve the proposal to sign up to Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Sector Commitment on Waste Prevention and Recycling.



CRAIG HATTON
Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference : DM/JA

For further information please contact David Mackay, Waste Services Manager on telephone number 01294 541525

Background Papers

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 16

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Clyde Valley Residual Waste Project Update**

Purpose: To advise Cabinet of the progress in securing long-term treatment facilities for residual waste.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet notes the progress to date for procuring residual waste treatment facilities.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting of 4 December 2012 Cabinet formally agreed to enter into an Inter Authority Agreement to procure a long-term solution for the treatment of residual waste with the Clyde Valley Partnership.
- 1.2 An update report was presented to Cabinet on 26 February 2013 summarising the procurement process and the project timetable.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The partnership formally commenced the procurement exercise by publishing an OJEU notice on the 31 January 2013.
- 2.2 An Initial Descriptive Document and Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) were uploaded to the Public Contracts Scotland – Tender, procurement portal. Eleven companies or consortia submitted a response.
- 2.3 The Project Team scored the submissions along with support from the appointed technical, legal and financial advisors.
- 2.4 The governance of the project is stated in the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) that has been signed by all partner councils. In the IAA the approval of the long list of bidders who will be invited to participate in dialogue is delegated to the Clyde Valley Waste Management Initiative (Residual) Steering group. A steering group meeting took place on 4 June 2013 for this purpose.

2.5 Following evaluation of the PQQ submissions the steering group approved that the following six applicants have been successful and will be invited to participate in the competitive dialogue process:

- Amey Cespa;
- Balfour Beatty/Urbaser;
- Covanta;
- FCC Waste Services;
- Neales Waste Management; and
- Viridor.

2.6 Following evaluation of the PQQ submissions the steering group approved that the following five applicants have been unsuccessful and will not be invited to participate in the Competitive dialogue process:

- Twence/Attero;
- Falck Renewables;
- Sita UK;
- Veolia; and
- William Tracey.

2.7 The project will now be progressed by the Project Team, with the issue of the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD) to the list of applicants stated in section 2.5 of this report.

3. Proposals

3.1 That the Cabinet notes the progress to date for procuring residual waste treatment facilities.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

4.1 The procurement of residual waste treatment facilities will require a long term funding solution. The current estimate of final costs, which will be established through the procurement exercise, requires additional funding of £1.948m, this has been identified within the Council's 10 year Financial Strategy. Of this sum, £0.549m would require to have been met through current and projected increased in landfill tax payments.

Human Resource Implications

4.2 There are no implications at this time.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 place restrictions upon the type and quantity of materials that can be disposed of at landfill from December 2020. The procurement exercise will identify a solution that will enable the Council to meet these requirements.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no implications at this time.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 The implementation of the Waste Management Strategy will have a positive impact upon the environment in three ways:
- Reduction in the amount of waste disposed of at landfill;
 - Increase in recycling of materials reducing the need to access virgin materials; and
 - and increase in the re-use of materials reducing the impact of re-processing and the use of virgin materials.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The procurement exercise will contribute to Corporate Object 4: Efficient and Effective Services.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The partner Council's have been consulted upon the report.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The procurement exercise will enable the Council to meet its regulatory obligations in respect of the treatment and disposal of residual waste.



CRAIG HATTON
Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference :

For further information please contact David Mackay, Waste Services Manager on 01294 541525.

Background Papers

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 17

25 June 2013

Cabinet

Subject: **Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 13 May 2013.**

Purpose: To submit the Minutes of the meeting of the Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board held on 13 May 2013.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to note the Minutes set out at Appendix 1.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The meeting of the Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board took place on Monday 13 May 2013.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Minutes of the Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board held on 13 May 2013 are attached as Appendix 1.

- 2.2 The key issues were:

- Additional Support Needs including:-
 - definitions
 - identification
 - Support Services
 - Psychological Services
 - current pressures
- Process for Naming New Schools

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the Minutes.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 There are no key priorities arising from this report.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 None required.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 None required.



CAROL KIRK
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

Reference : CK

For further information please contact Carol Kirk, Corporate Director (Education and Skills), on telephone number 01294 324411.

Background Papers

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Education Attainment & Achievement Policy Board

13 May 2013 at 2.00 pm

At a meeting of the **Education Attainment & Achievement Policy Board** of North Ayrshire Council held on **13 May 2013 at 2.00 pm** in the **Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine.**

Members Present:

Councillor John Bell
Councillor John Bruce
Councillor Catherine McMillan
Councillor Tom Marshall
Councillor Jim Montgomerie

In Attendance:

Carol Kirk, Corporate Director (Education and Skills)
Elizabeth Higton
Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus
John Corr, Parent Council Chair, Largs Academy

Chair:

Councillor Tom Marshall

Apologies:

Councillor Anthony Gurney
Mary Docherty, Head of Service (Education 3-18)
Ashley Lynch, Parent Council Chair, Blacklands Primary School

**1. Previous minutes
Matters arising**

Councillor Marshall chaired the meeting on behalf of Councillor Gurney.

The Minute of the previous meeting held on 11 March 2013 was accepted as a true record.

Item No. 6. Councillor Marshall asked to see a copy of the original letter sent out.

Members were advised that Steven Quinn has been appointed as Head of Service and will be taking up post in August.

2. Additional Support Needs : Presentation

Carol Kirk advised that as earlier meetings had looked at early years, primary and secondary this meeting is looking at wrap round support. Ian Wallace, Principal Psychologist, and David Carracher, Senior Manager (Inclusion) were introduced.

The presentation gave a definition of Additional Support Needs; duties of the Authority; numbers of pupils involved and how identified; how support is provided and pressures on the Authority.

Background was given on change from SEN (medical model of disability with a Statutory Plan Record of Special Education Needs for those in greatest need) to ASN which represents social model of disability (Statutory Plan involves a Coordinated Support Plan where different agencies coordinate needs).

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended 2009 – A child or young person has additional support needs ... where, for whatever reason, ... the child or young person is, or is likely to be, unable without provision of additional support to benefit from school education. The duty is on the Authority to provide adequate provision and to make arrangements to review.

The 2009 amendment provided significant changes:

“Looked After” children and young people are viewed as having additional support needs unless Authority determines that they do not (concern about under achievement and failure) and also have the right to make placing requests. Code of Practice provides a 3 part process to dispute resolution – Mediation; Independent adjudication ASN Tribunal.

15% of all pupils were identified as having additional support needs (from summary statistics for schools in Scotland 2011) which equates to approximately 3,000 pupils (aged 3-18) in North Ayrshire. However, 15% is commonly held to be an under estimate. Various categories are given in ASN Code of Practice eg have motor or sensory impairments; are being bullied; are particularly able or talented.

Pupils with Additional Support Needs are identified through:

- PreSCAT system for early years. Psychologists visit early years centres and tend to have identified high visibility children
- In primary schools through staged intervention (internal reviews; JST; LAC reviews, multi-agency GIRFEC and Partnership forum.

Staged intervention has essentially 4 stages

- 0 – class teacher
- 1 – targeted resources/differentiation to meet child's needs
- 2 – class teacher thinks it is not enough and having to access other resources within wider school
- 3 – where school does not think can meet need on its own ie education psychologist

- 4 – provision of education outside of mainstream school eg E19 (process have to go through if want child to move out of mainstream school) and RAMG (Resource Allocation Management Group – buy places from independent groups)

Inclusive Support which keeps child within mainstream school (obliged to do this by law except in extreme circumstances):

- All resources are within schools and nurseries and always building on this to give class teachers as much expertise as possible.
- Education Psychological service
- Specialist teams eg English as an additional language; Extended Outreach (provides support to challenging behaviour)
- Specialist additional teacher and classroom assistant time provided by Pupil Support Service in response to annual audit of pupils with ASN
- Partnership with social workers, young person support team, Health Visitors, School Nurses, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Paediatricians, Clinical Psychologists.

Education Support Resources are available as follows:

- 2 primary nurture bases (St Mark's and Hayocks) – attendance at base is part time (preferably no more than 2 days per week)
- Hearing Impairment unit in Towerlands Primary .– an Ayrshire wide primary provision and children do not attend full time.
- Communication Disorder Base in new Dreghorn Primary – includes autism but not limited to this. Full time attendance but not in unit all the time.
- Secondary Extended Outreach provides tailor made packages for children struggling to remain in secondary.
- Additional Support Needs schools 5 -18 years – 2 moderate additional support needs schools Stanecastle and James Reid. However, there is evidence that children with similar needs are still within mainstream. All new builds to have enhanced inclusive provision;
- 2 multiple and complex needs schools. James McFarlane and Haysholm – increasing rolls over last few years and existing schools at capacity. Consulting on the new single school including this provision.

Contentious issue of provision of living skills education as opposed to education and possibly there is a need for different support in mainstream secondary. Where support for learning staff in secondaries is involved in transition it is much easier.

There are various independent special schools, both day and residential which are used. These schools are very expensive. Other issues and pressures on service include:

- Increased awareness, choices and expectations supported by guidance and stature.
- New syndromes
- Increasing numbers of multiple and complex disabled

- ASfL and GIRFEC
- Capacity building versus specialised placements
- Conflicting expectations – inclusion versus specialist expertise
- Costs of resourcing internal and external
- Cross boundary responsibilities

Children and Young People Bill was published recently and it is not known how the statutory implementation of GIRFEC will sit with Coordinated Plan.

Building of capacity within mainstream schools could possibly overcome some of the need for external places.

LAC children remain the responsibility of the Authority no matter where they are placed in Scotland.

There is an issue with placing requests in that another Authority can charge “essentially what they like”. Carol Kirk advised that a legal challenge is being brought regarding this (Glasgow & South Lanarkshire).

Ian Wallace was thanked for his presentation and questions were invited.

ASN demands going up but classroom assistant numbers going down?

David Carracher advised that this was a resourcing issue and that the budget has increased. ie £1.6m in this financial year as opposed to £1.47m. It was advised that the numbers in external places have been significantly reduced especially behavioural units.

What procedures are put in place when pupils start secondary and do not attend?

It was advised that schools monitor attendance very closely and would pick up if a pupil not attending. Intervention would escalate and progress to build up a picture and try to get pupil back into school including referral to extended outreach and aim for 25 hours education per week.

Parents have the right to educate child at home and there are about 36 children home educated within North Ayrshire Council. If a child has never been in school there is no locus for the authority and the same would apply at secondary transition unless there is a child protection issue. Involvement with school nurse service.

What is current magnitude for very able/talented children?

It was advised that there is Nurturing Excellence Programme which covers sporting/ cultural progress and there are also access links to the Conservatoire. Free transport is provided to schools of dance/music/ Gaelic. These school fees are now paid for by the Government. There is some additional support within our schools eg School of Rugby. There is also additional help available on presentation of UCAS forms to young people applying for high tariff courses in universities via workshops run by Psychological Services.

A general question was raised regarding a news item which stated that university students are very stressed and it was asked whether we are failing youngsters so that they cannot deal with stresses in life?

Psychological Services has put together advice on dealing with critical incidents. Existence of PATHS project which is used to build up resilience and confidence in children. The issue of parental responsibility was also mentioned.

Question was asked about additional hours/packages for support needs and the work being done by classroom assistants in special schools.

It was acknowledged that this is a general area to be looked at to provide adequate training and numbers. There is a need to offer these resources as opposed to provision outside authority and encourage contribution of health service to this. Hopefully with new school and integration of special schools there will be health staff on premises.

Councillor Montgomerie left the meeting at 3.00 pm.

3. Implementing a process for naming new schools in North Ayrshire

As the Authority will have a new primary school in Irvine East and if the consultation for a combined campus goes ahead there will be another school. There has been no coherence to naming processes used in the past and it was decided it would be helpful to have a set process in place.

The proposal is that working groups (comprising of parents/ children/ members) be set up and would develop 3 options which should be well researched with three names to be presented to Cabinet. It was agreed that this should be taken forward and that Cabinet should have the decision on the final name.

4. Report of the Commission on the Delivery of Rural Education

A few key aspects should be noted within this Report and the Scottish Government is still to advise which ones will be responded to.

School Consultation Acts will apply to all schools and not just rural schools. It was advised that North Ayrshire Council already carries out in practice the suggestions within the Report. However it was noted that small schools carry significant additional costs which might not be sustainable into the future.

A recommendation has been made that there is a template to ensure financial information is presented consistently by all local Authorities.

There was no other business and the meeting finished at 3.25 pm.