

Woodland and Forestry Plans for Drimnin Estate

The Long Term Forest Plan

1. Approved October 2015
2. Mungosdail Forest
 - Restructure over time – consider peatland restoration and increase species diversity
 - Maintain and improve Barr footpath
3. Auliston Plantation – restructure when felled (>10 years out)
4. Sunart SSSI and SAC
 - Continue to protect Drumbuidhe regeneration area
 - Potential Chalara ash dieback infection.
 - Fence SSSI to west of Sornagan for regeneration
5. Policy woodlands
 - Selective planting and invasive non native species control (rhododendron removal)
 - Thin Alice Horsman's wood
6. Planting – ca 40ha by Mungosdail and create circular walk

1. Mungosdail Forest

Plan

- *Restructure over time – consider peatland restoration and increase species diversity to improve forest resilience*
- *Maintain and improve Barr footpath*

Action

- Initial 29.5ha of harvesting of poor Lodgepole has been replanted with Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Douglas fir and native broadleaf species
- Footpath marker posts above forest reinstated and stile installed to allow circular walk
- Machinery purchased to allow work on footpath

2. Auliston Plantation

Plan

- *Restructure when felled (>10 years out)*

Action

- Will play a key role in timber transport
- Deer being allowed access in short term to replace grazing lost in SSSI/SAC
- Monitoring deer numbers and habitat impacts and adjusting deer management to compensate

3. Sunart SSSI/SAC

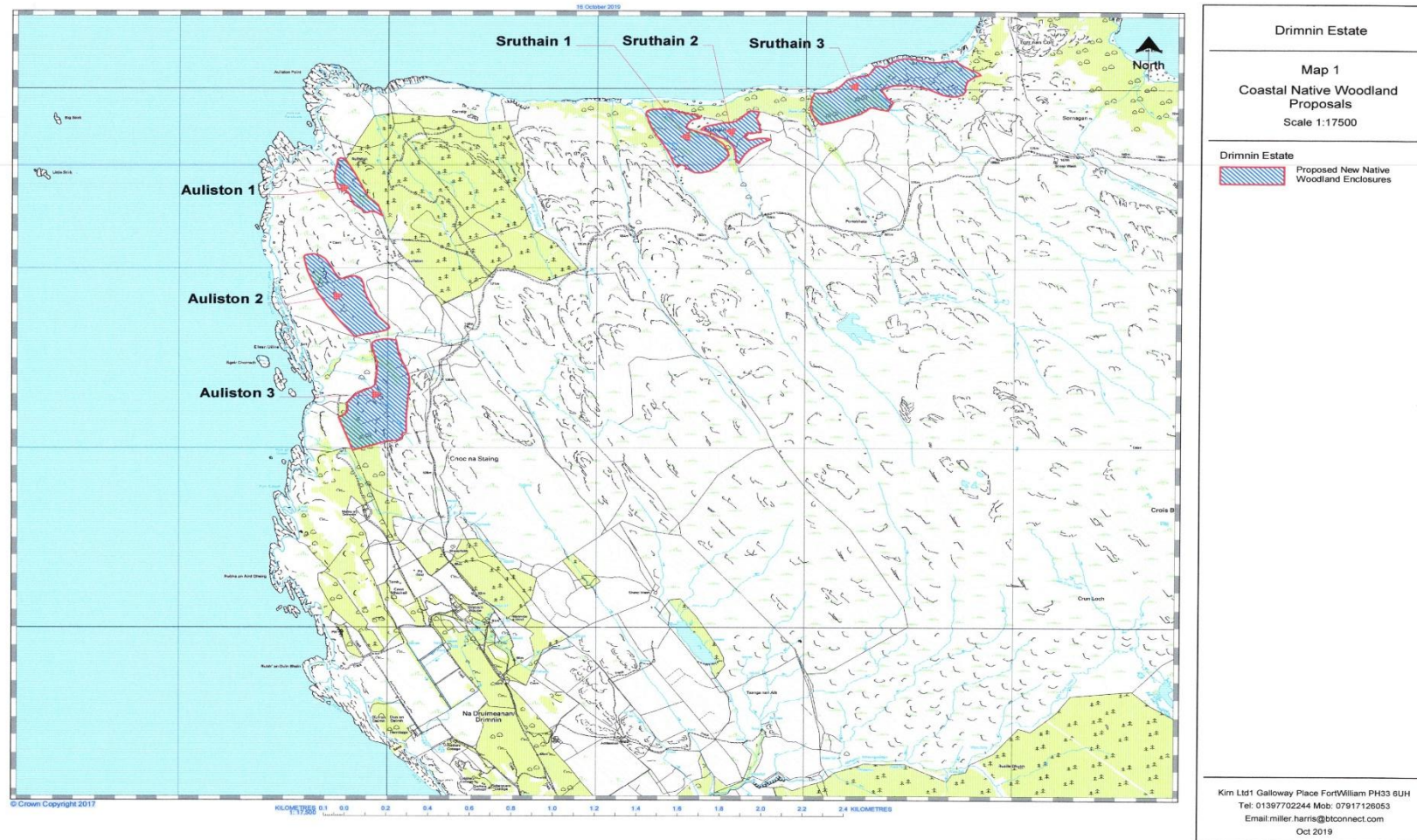
Plan

- *Continue to protect Drumbuidhe regeneration area*
- *Fence SSSI to west of Sornagan for regeneration*

Action

- Plan for native woodlands nearly complete
- Drumbuidhe remains enclosed, very limited grazing in one section and maximum deer exclusion; regeneration progressing well in vicinity of other trees including oaks
- Plans developed for enclosures to allow regeneration and planting of native species in SSSI between Sornagan and Auliston plantation
- Further plans developed to enclose and plant native species south of Auliston to extend coastal tree cover and provide habitat linkage

Native Woodland Coastal Enclosures



4. Policy Woodlands

Plan

- *Selective planting and invasive non-native species control (rhododendron removal)*
- *Thin Alice Horsman's wood*

Action

- Some planting undertaken, including planting of walled garden as orchard
- Selective rhododendron removal undertaken, more major programme part of Designated Site Woodland Management Plan
- Aunt Alice's wood to be thinned in next phase with additional planting below

5. Planting

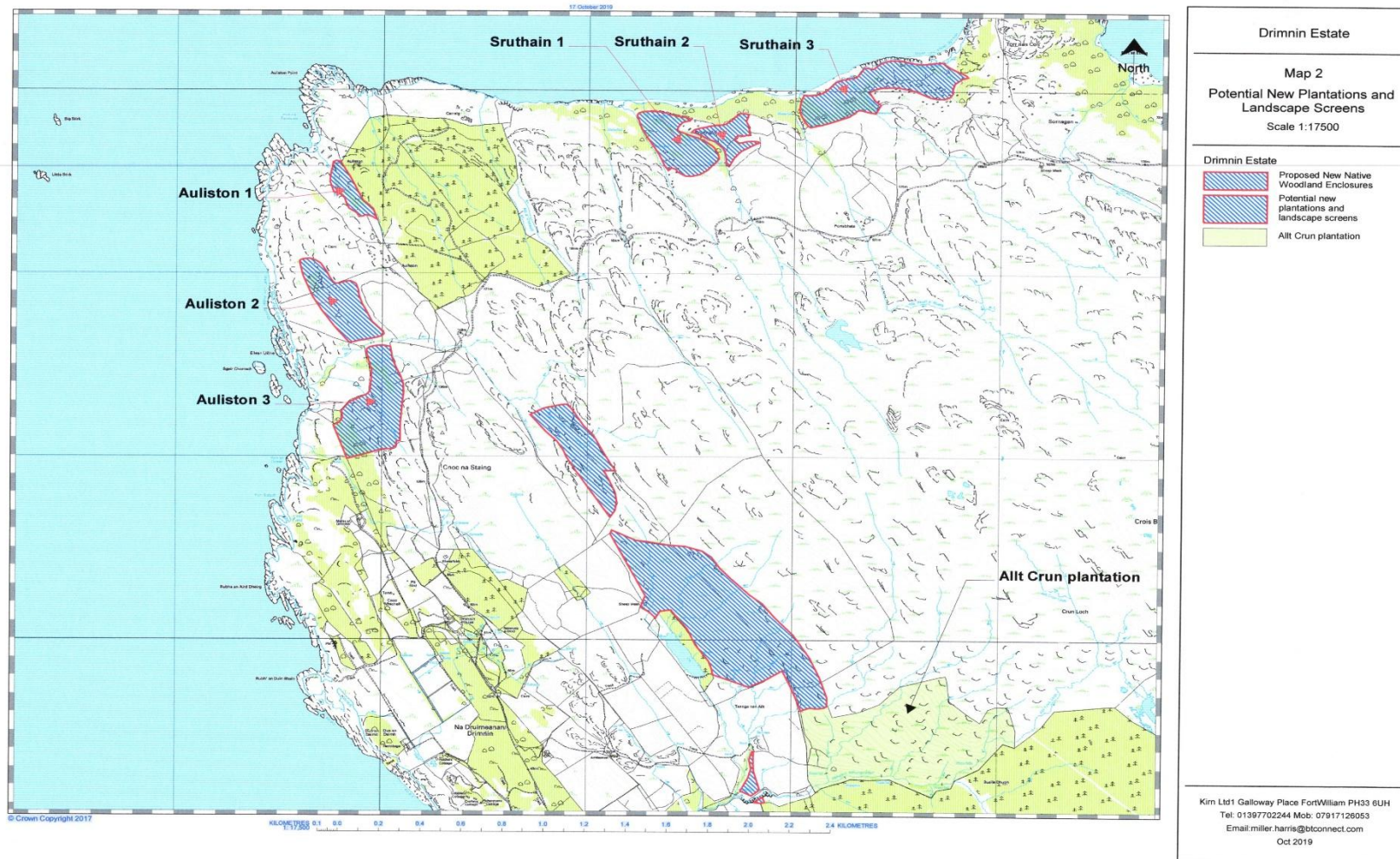
Plan

- *Plant ca 40ha by Mungosdail and create circular walk*

Action

- Planted 37ha by Mungosdail (mixed commercial and native) in 2018
- Footpath created through plantation (some drainage still needed)
- Further 30-40ha of mainly native species planting being planned to extend woodland north towards Auliston
- Will increase woodland/forest cover to 50% of Estate land area

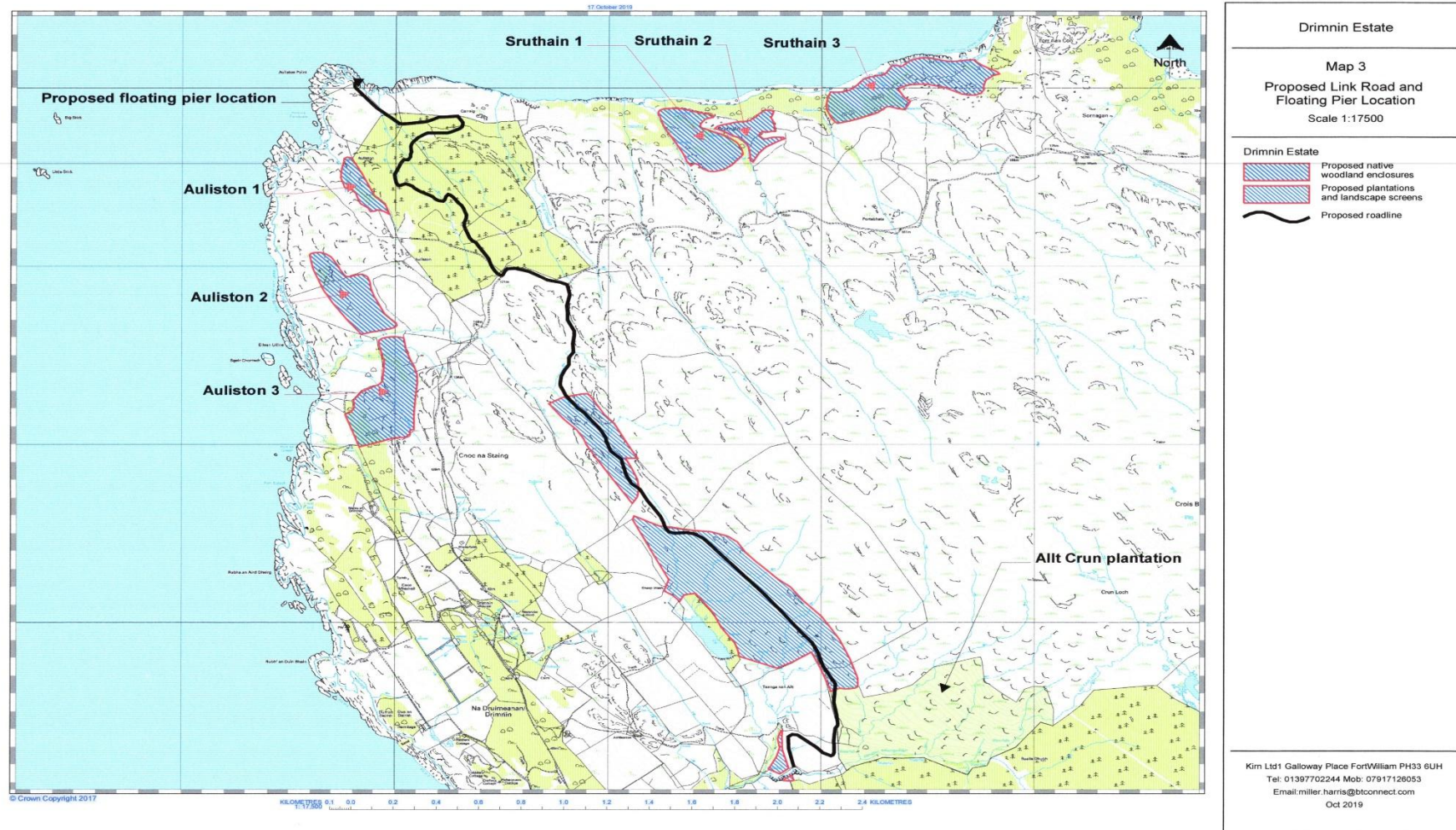
Potential New Planting



Timber Transport - Background

- Important unresolved issue for forests and community
- No immediate prospect of previous high level road materialising
- Have been working on alternative approach to:
 - Eliminate any need to take timber down B849 Drimnin to Lochaline; maintain 'excluded' status
 - Minimise overland transport; avoid need to use Lochaline to Corran road
 - Avoid intrusion into landscape
 - Include additional public amenity

Timber Transport - Proposal



Timber Transport - Proposal

- New forest road from Mungosdail into Auliston plantation, to floating pier just east of Auliston point
- Road screened by landform and new planting planned north of Allt Crun
- Considering use of low ground pressure vehicles to allow lighter-duty construction
- Pier requires anchor points on rocky shore, with timber stacking area and connecting track; pier removed when not in use
- Pier location not visible from estate track or Auliston village
- Environmental and archaeological impact surveys conducted
- Creates new circular walking and cycle route
- Owners of Auchnasaul and Carnacailliche forests, HTTG and SF supportive



Timber Transport – Next Steps

- Archaeological survey being undertaken
- Scottish Forestry carrying out consultation with statutory stakeholders for EIA determination
- Submit Prior Notification for road and Planning Application for pier (November 2019)
- Invite tenders for work (January 2020)
- Conclude contractual arrangements February 2020)
- Submit application for support from STTF (March/April 2020)
- Construction (June-September 2020)