



Bridge over the Kinnel Burn.

Improving timber transport case study

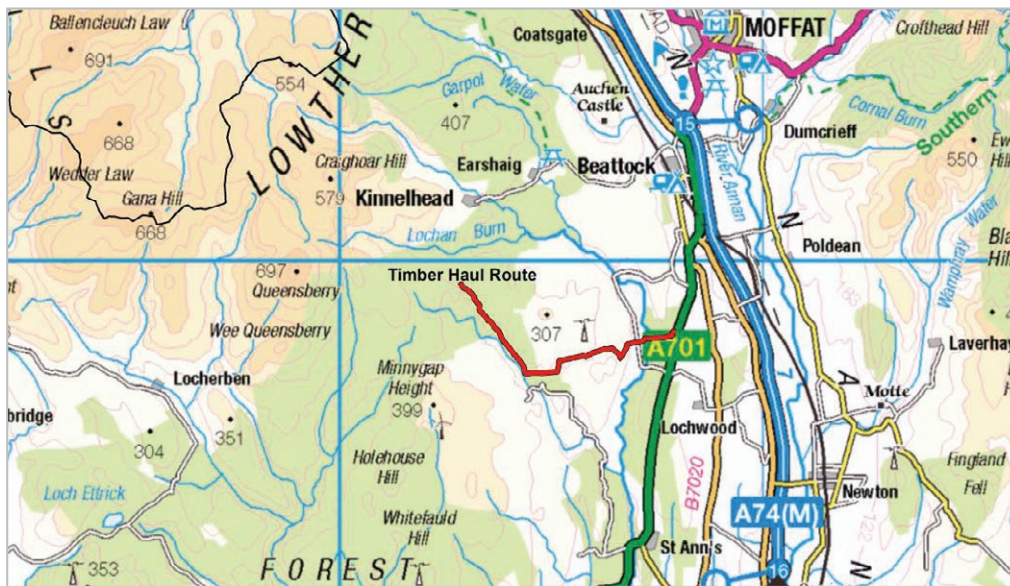
Annandale and Ae Timber Haulage Route

What?	7 km of in-forest haul route
When?	Started 2010 and opened in 2013
Where?	Dumfries and Galloway
Who?	Forestry Commission Scotland, Annandale Estates, Dumfries and Galloway Council
How much?	£1.52m (STTS £760 000)
Timber tonnage	1.1m tonnes over 25 years



The route serves over 3400 hectares of commercial forestry including the central part of the Forest of Ae and maturing plantations on Annandale Estate.

Annandale and Ae Timber Haulage Route



Location map.

Timber from the Forest of Ae previously relied on a number of minor public roads to get to market, such as the 'crooked road' between Kinnelhead and Beattock and a fragile road to the south which led timber lorries out at St Ann's and on through Johnstonebridge. Although unsuited to heavy traffic, this shortcut to the M74 became a 'rat run' for timber lorries.

Complaints from the community councils, together with a recognition that the amount of timber haulage was going to rise significantly in the coming years, led to a search for a solution. The timber transport officer for Dumfries & Galloway set out a number of proposals for cross-country diversion routes but the high value of farmland in the area made most options unfeasible.

Annandale Estate has land and forests adjacent to the Forest of Ae and discussions led to a proposal for a 7 km route, linking existing forest roads, crossing tenanted farmland and requiring a 20 m span bridge over the Kinnel Burn. Annandale Estates were prepared to contribute substantial quantities of road stone, as well as land and access rights.

The project was not required to provide an Environmental Impact Assessment but concerns raised by a nearby home-owner led to a full EIA being undertaken. To mitigate possible impacts from sound and dust, two earth bunds were created as screens along short stretches of the haul route.

The road will be maintained by the partners, with costs apportioned according to the tonnage hauled.

The haul road bypasses all the minor public roads leading out onto a fast, straight stretch of the A701, the main road from the A74 to Dumfries. The trunk road authority required a wide bellmouth with long sightlines, good signage and a wheelwash – the latter to ensure the lorries do not bring mud out onto the road.

With the haul route now open, the Council has introduced weight restrictions to prevent timber haulage on the minor roads. Over 25 years, the route will save half a million road miles and take 40 000 lorry loads of timber off the minor roads through St Ann's, Johnstonebridge and Beattock.

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