



## Rest & Be Thankful Land Management Plan

### M2: Opportunities & Constraints

#### Legend

- 400m. Soil Constraint begins to limit species choice
- 450m. Exposure Constraint begins to limit species choice
- Unstable Areas General. Gully Areas demonstrating instability.
- Core Project Area
- Beinn an Lochain SSSI
- ▲ Recreational Hilltops
- ◆ Archaeology
- - - Recreational Paths

The primary objective of the project is to increase slope stability and reduce the impacts of landslips on transport infrastructure. The removal of livestock and the creation of a native woodland protection forest will aim to complement hard engineering elements on the unstable slopes. Slope stability constrains establishment methods and access infrastructure options.



Scale: 1:18,000 @ A3

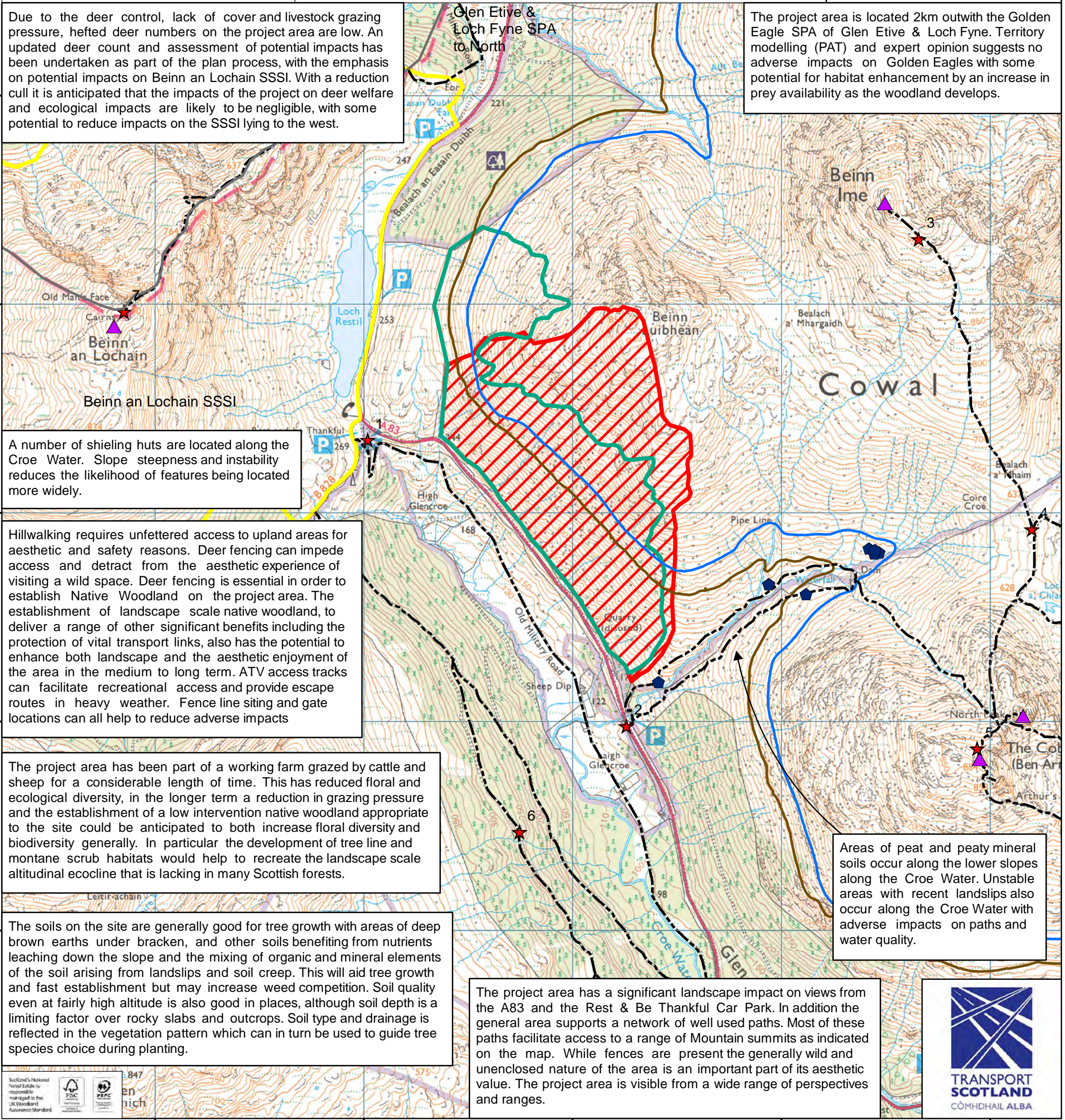
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The project area lies within the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park.

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Due to the deer control, lack of cover and livestock grazing pressure, hefted deer numbers on the project area are low. An updated deer count and assessment of potential impacts has been undertaken as part of the plan process, with the emphasis on potential impacts on Beinn an Lochain SSSI. With a reduction cull it is anticipated that the impacts of the project on deer welfare and ecological impacts are likely to be negligible, with some potential to reduce impacts on the SSSI lying to the west.

The project area is located 2km outwith the Golden Eagle SPA of Glen Etive & Loch Fyne. Territory modelling (PAT) and expert opinion suggests no adverse impacts on Golden Eagles with some potential for habitat enhancement by an increase in prey availability as the woodland develops.



A number of shieling huts are located along the Croe Water. Slope steepness and instability reduces the likelihood of features being located more widely.

Hillwalking requires unfettered access to upland areas for aesthetic and safety reasons. Deer fencing can impede access and detract from the aesthetic experience of visiting a wild space. Deer fencing is essential in order to establish Native Woodland on the project area. The establishment of landscape scale native woodland, to deliver a range of other significant benefits including the protection of vital transport links, also has the potential to enhance both landscape and the aesthetic enjoyment of the area in the medium to long term. ATV access tracks can facilitate recreational access and provide escape routes in heavy weather. Fence line siting and gate locations can all help to reduce adverse impacts

The project area has been part of a working farm grazed by cattle and sheep for a considerable length of time. This has reduced floral and ecological diversity, in the longer term a reduction in grazing pressure and the establishment of a low intervention native woodland appropriate to the site could be anticipated to both increase floral diversity and biodiversity generally. In particular the development of tree line and montane scrub habitats would help to recreate the landscape scale altitudinal ecocline that is lacking in many Scottish forests.

The soils on the site are generally good for tree growth with areas of deep brown earths under bracken, and other soils benefiting from nutrients leaching down the slope and the mixing of organic and mineral elements of the soil arising from landslips and soil creep. This will aid tree growth and fast establishment but may increase weed competition. Soil quality even at fairly high altitude is also good in places, although soil depth is a limiting factor over rocky slabs and outcrops. Soil type and drainage is reflected in the vegetation pattern which can in turn be used to guide tree species choice during planting.

Areas of peat and peaty mineral soils occur along the lower slopes along the Croe Water. Unstable areas with recent landslips also occur along the Croe Water with adverse impacts on paths and water quality.

The project area has a significant landscape impact on views from the A83 and the Rest & Be Thankful Car Park. In addition the general area supports a network of well used paths. Most of these paths facilitate access to a range of Mountain summits as indicated on the map. While fences are present the generally wild and unenclosed nature of the area is an important part of its aesthetic value. The project area is visible from a wide range of perspectives and ranges.

