

## Appendix IX: Glen Loin felling proposals (coupe 01027)



# Appendix IX: Coupe 01027 Glen Loin tree felling proposals

## Site grid ref. NN 312 068

*Note: This is an edited version of the original document which was written as part of the consultation with Nature Scot, February 2023.*

## Background

Forestry & Land Scotland are preparing a revised management plan for our Cruach Tairbeirt forest by Arrochar & Tarbet, Argyll. The purpose of this revised plan is to target removal of Larch spp. from the forest in light of the rapid spread of *Phytophthora ramorum*, a tree disease that kills Larch. This has involved the design of a series of clearfelling coupes that involve the removal of other non-Larch conifers. The proposed felling coupes can be seen illustrated in the accompanying map, *M04 Felling and Thinning*.

## Coupe 01027 and Glen Loin Woods SSSI/SAC

Coupe 01027 can be seen on map *M04* in the middle of the forest, stretching over to the west from a planned forest spur road towards Glen Loin. The intention in this coupe is to remove all conifers, principally Hybrid larch and Sitka spruce; tree felling will be limited to conifers only. The western edge of the conifers borders and in some places encroaches into the SSSI/SAC area as mapped. This can be seen on the accompanying map *M07 Designations* and in detail on the following map, *Glen Loin felling (detail)* (note that on this map there is a slight mismatch of the SSSI and SAC areas). The planned forest road spur is just outside the frame of the detailed map to the northeast, but can be seen in the other maps; the coupe will be accessed from this spur road.

## Operational method

In advance of operations, FLS will liaise with NatureScot about entering the SSSI/SAC areas and agree detailed, site-specific protection methods.

In outline, protection methods for the felling operations can be expected to be as per our normal operational methods and include:

- All trees will be felled away from SAC to reduce chances of damage
- Any trees leaning towards the SAC will be winched in by either hand or machine
- Any debris from felling (branches etc) will be lifted out of the SAC into felling coupe
- There will be no machine access in the SAC
- Operations will follow Forest and Water guidelines during operations
- Crossing of water courses that lead into SAC will be avoided but when this is not possible robust log bridges will be constructed with regular monitoring taking place over their condition
- Silt catch points to be installed prior to operations commencing (this will include silt netting and sump traps that lead into already existing drainage networks)

- All vehicles on site will have full pollution control kits
- No working in heavy rain conditions, especially during weather warning periods
- Pollution control plans issued to all operators on site before work starts
- No machine access within 10m of all watercourses to prevent ground damage

## Restocking

It is our intention in the proposed revised plan to restock this coupe with native broadleaf species in line with NVC types W11, W17 & W4 depending local site variation, and in common with existing native woodland in the Glen Loin and wider Loch Lomond area; this can be expected to be composed of sessile oak, downy birch, hazel, common alder and willow spp. Please see accompanying map *M05 Future Habitats*.

## Further information

The revised management plan for Cruach Tairbeirt, called Cruach Tairbeirt Strategic Larch Removal Plan, is in the final stages of development and awaiting approval from the regulator, Scottish Forestry. The draft has not yet been published on FLS' website but will be concurrently with being published on Scottish Forestry's Public Register; as a stakeholder, NatureScot will be informed when this take place.

The draft document is quite large due to the numerous accompanying appendices and is still subject to some amendments but can be provided in this form if required.





### Glen Loin felling (detail)

Author: Jamie Howie

Scale @ A4: 1:2,500

Date: 07/02/2023

#### Legend

##### Harvesting Programme (Editable)

- Fell
- Thin

##### Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest

##### Special Areas of Conservation

- Special Areas of Conservation

##### Land Management Plan Areas

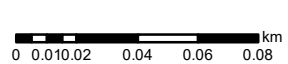
- Land Management Plan Areas

##### Watercourses

- Watercourses

##### OS 50k Contours (GB)

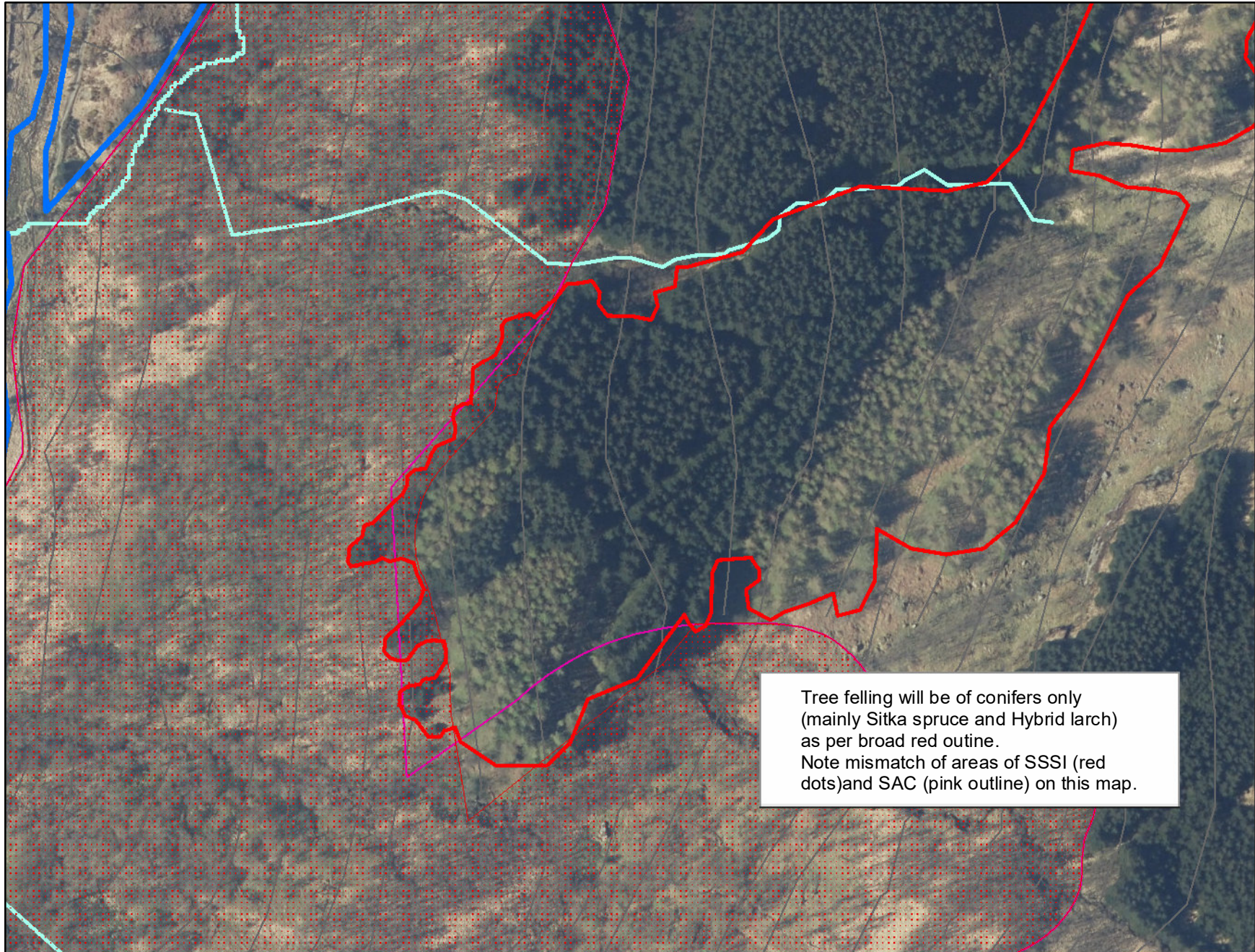
- OS 50k Contours (GB)



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Tree felling will be of conifers only (mainly Sitka spruce and Hybrid larch) as per broad red outline. Note mismatch of areas of SSSI (red dots) and SAC (pink outline) on this map.