



Leanachan Land Management Plan

Concept Map

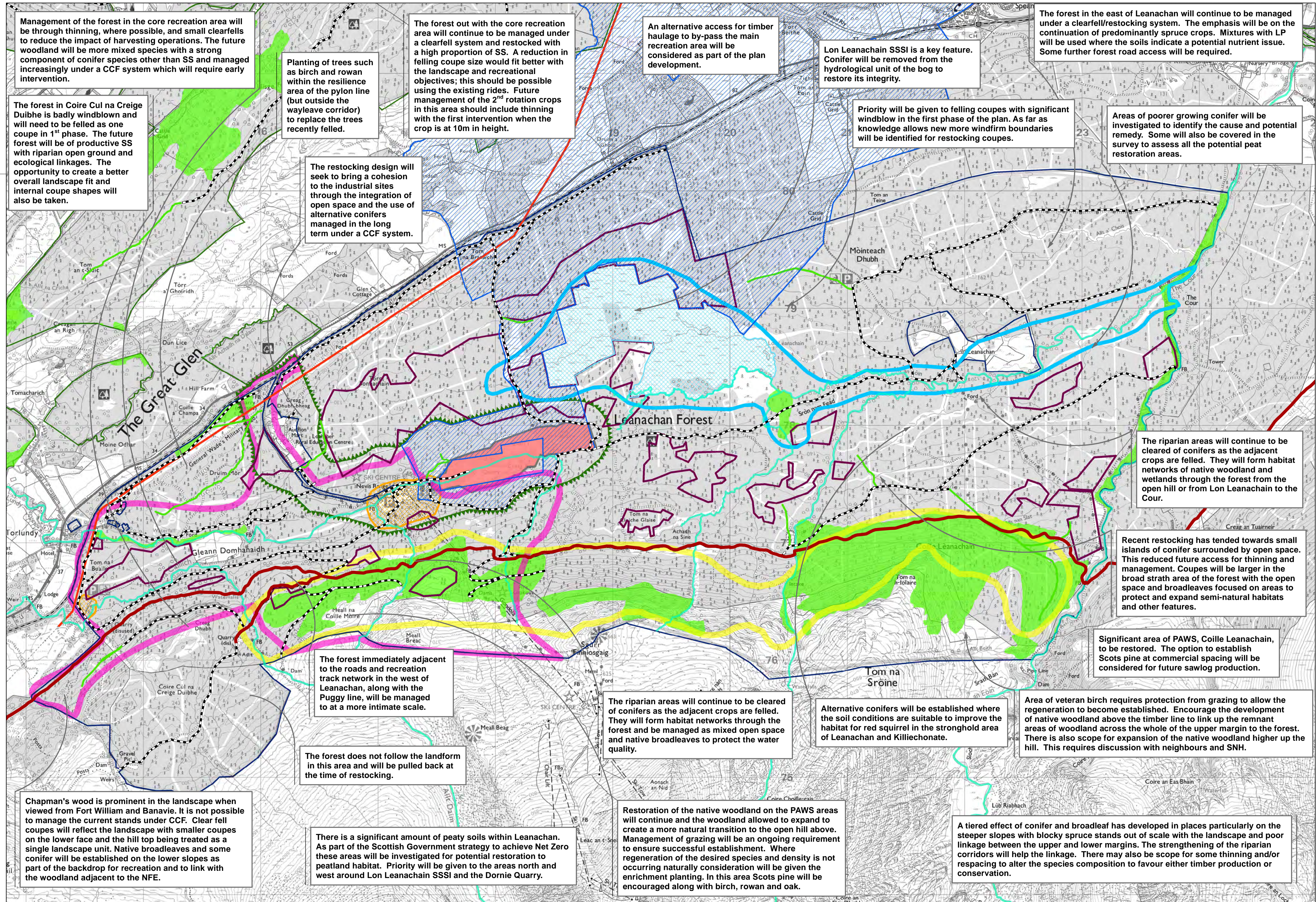
Author: U321221

Scale @ A1: 1:15,000

Date: 14/09/2023

Legend

- Leanachan
- Forest Roads
- Planned Roads
- Puggy Line
- Burns & Riparian Corridor
- Parallel Roads
- Lon Leanachan Bog
- Wetland Important Habitat
- Presumption To Restore
- Natural Transition Zone
- Business Zone
- Recreation Focus
- Quarry Lease
- Recreation Hubs
- PAWS



Management of the forest in the core recreation area will be through thinning, where possible, and small clearfells to reduce the impact of harvesting operations. The future woodland will be more mixed species with a strong component of conifer species other than SS and managed increasingly under a CCF system which will require early intervention.

The forest in Coire Cùl na Creige Duibhe is badly windblown and will need to be felled as one coupe in 1st phase. The future forest will be of productive SS with riparian open ground and ecological linkages. The opportunity to create a better overall landscape fit and internal coupe shapes will also be taken.

Planting of trees such as birch and rowan within the resilience area of the pylon line (but outside the wayleave corridor) to replace the trees recently felled.

The forest out with the core recreation area will continue to be managed under a clearfell system and restocked with a high proportion of SS. A reduction in felling coupe size would fit better with the landscape and recreational objectives; this should be possible using the existing rides. Future management of the 2nd rotation crops in this area should include thinning with the first intervention when the crop is at 10m in height.

An alternative access for timber haulage to by-pass the main recreation area will be considered as part of the plan development.

Lon Leanachan SSSI is a key feature. Conifer will be removed from the hydrological unit of the bog to restore its integrity.

The forest in the east of Leanachan will continue to be managed under a clearfell/restocking system. The emphasis will be on the continuation of predominantly spruce crops. Mixtures with LP will be used where the soils indicate a potential nutrient issue. Some further forest road access will be required.

Priority will be given to felling coupes with significant windblow in the first phase of the plan. As far as knowledge allows new more windfirm boundaries will be identified for restocking coupes.

Areas of poorer growing conifer will be investigated to identify the cause and potential remedy. Some will also be covered in the survey to assess all the potential peat restoration areas.

The restocking design will seek to bring a cohesion to the industrial sites through the integration of open space and the use of alternative conifers managed in the long term under a CCF system.

The riparian areas will continue to be cleared of conifers as the adjacent crops are felled. They will form habitat networks of native woodland and wetlands through the forest from the open hill or from Lon Leanachan to the Cour.

Recent restocking has tended towards small islands of conifer surrounded by open space. This reduced future access for thinning and management. Coupes will be larger in the broad strath area of the forest with the open space and broadleaves focused on areas to protect and expand semi-natural habitats and other features.

Significant area of PAWS, Coille Leanachain, to be restored. The option to establish Scots pine at commercial spacing will be considered for future sawlog production.

The forest immediately adjacent to the roads and recreation track network in the west of Leanachan, along with the Puggy line, will be managed to a more intimate scale.

The riparian areas will continue to be cleared of conifers as the adjacent crops are felled. They will form habitat networks through the forest and be managed as mixed open space and native broadleaves to protect the water quality.

Alternative conifers will be established where the soil conditions are suitable to improve the habitat for red squirrel in the stronghold area of Leanachan and Killechonate.

Area of veteran birch requires protection from grazing to allow the regeneration to become established. Encourage the development of native woodland above the timber line to link up the remnant areas of woodland across the whole of the upper margin to the forest. There is also scope for expansion of the native woodland higher up the hill. This requires discussion with neighbours and SNH.

Chapman's wood is prominent in the landscape when viewed from Fort William and Banavie. It is not possible to manage the current stands under CCF. Clear fell coupes will reflect the landscape with smaller coupes on the lower face and the hill top being treated as a single landscape unit. Native broadleaves and some conifer will be established on the lower slopes as part of the backdrop for recreation and to link with the woodland adjacent to the NFE.

There is a significant amount of peaty soils within Leanachan. As part of the Scottish Government strategy to achieve Net Zero these areas will be investigated for potential restoration to peatland habitat. Priority will be given to the areas north and west around Lon Leanachain SSSI and the Dornie Quarry.

Restoration of the native woodland on the PAWS areas will continue and the woodland allowed to expand to create a more natural transition to the open hill above. Management of grazing will be an ongoing requirement to ensure successful establishment. Where regeneration of the desired species and density is not occurring naturally consideration will be given the enrichment planting. In this area Scots pine will be encouraged along with birch, rowan and oak.

A tiered effect of conifer and broadleaf has developed in places particularly on the steeper slopes with blocky spruce stands out of scale with the landscape and poor linkage between the upper and lower margins. The strengthening of the riparian corridors will help the linkage. There may also be scope for some thinning and/or respacing to alter the species composition to favour either timber production or conservation.

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