







Loch Eck Land Management Plan

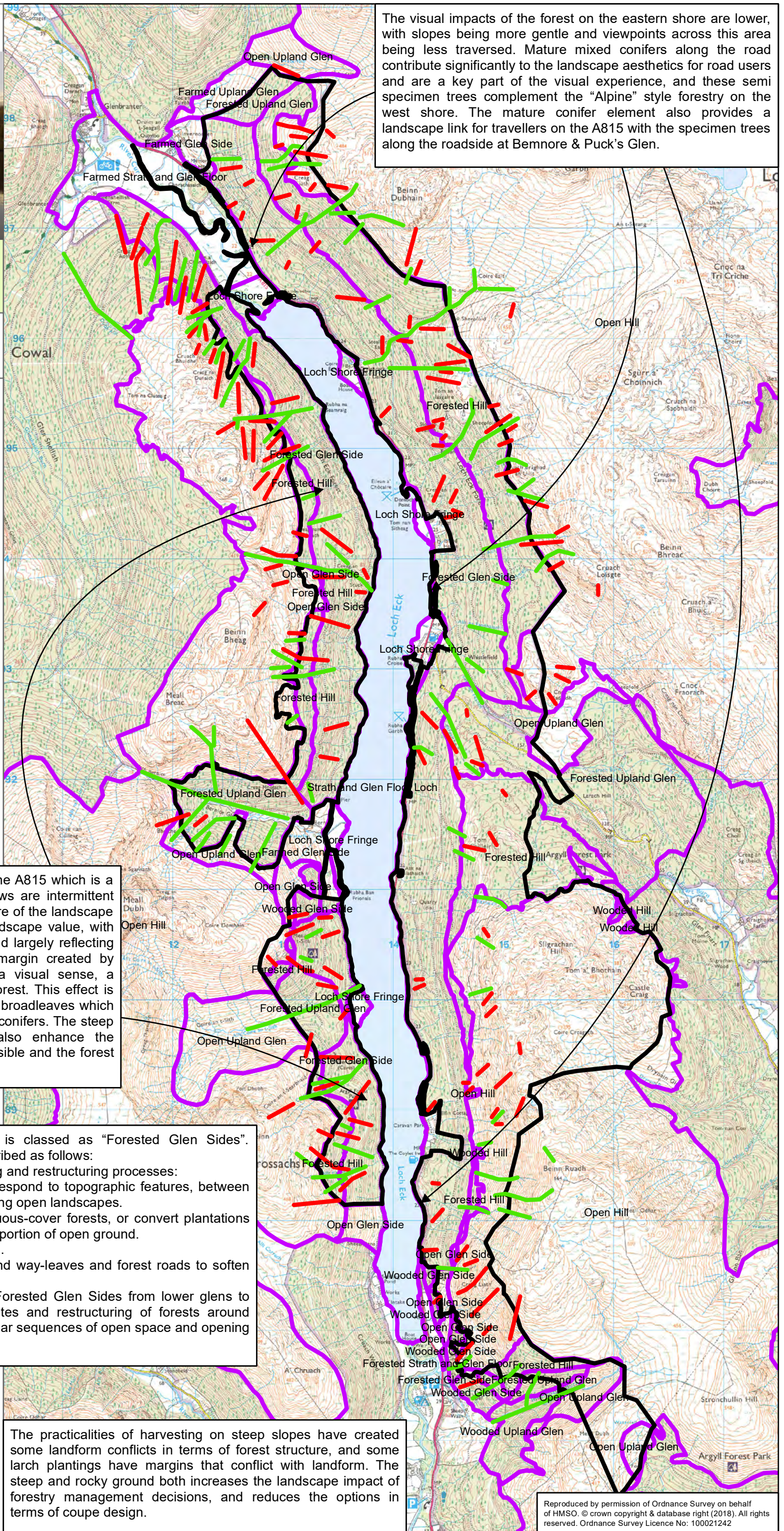
M8 Landscape Character Type & Landform Analysis

Legend

-  Loch Eck LMP Boundary
-  Landscape Character Type (LLTNP)

Landform Analysis

-  Eye is drawn down ridges
-  Eye is drawn up gullies



The visual impacts of the forest on the eastern shore are lower, with slopes being more gentle and viewpoints across this area being less traversed. Mature mixed conifers along the road contribute significantly to the landscape aesthetics for road users and are a key part of the visual experience, and these semi specimen trees complement the "Alpine" style forestry on the west shore. The mature conifer element also provides a landscape link for travellers on the A815 with the specimen trees along the roadside at Bemnore & Puck's Glen.

The LMP area has a high visual impact on the A815 which is a key transport corridor and tourist route. Views are intermittent due to roadside tree cover. The forested nature of the landscape is a fundamental component of the high landscape value, with broadleaves and conifers adding diversity and largely reflecting landform and altitude. The diverse upper margin created by natural conifer regeneration recreates, in a visual sense, a natural forest margin reminiscent of alpine forest. This effect is complemented by the Loch side and riparian broadleaves which define the lower boundary of the commercial conifers. The steep slopes with unplatable rocky outcrops also enhance the landscape as these features remain highly visible and the forest margin around them reflects the landform.

The dominant Landscape Character Type is classed as "Forested Glen Sides". Opportunities for landscape change are described as follows:
 When opportunities arise through forest felling and restructuring processes:

- Create graded naturalistic transitions that respond to topographic features, between upper and edge forest margins and surrounding open landscapes.
- Create more naturalistic, preferably continuous-cover forests, or convert plantations to native woodland, preferably with a high proportion of open ground.
- Reinstate PAWS through forest restructuring.
- Restructure forests and open ground around way-leaves and forest roads to soften geometric lines in the landscape.
- Enhance recreational routes through the Forested Glen Sides from lower glens to upper slopes, with opening up of new routes and restructuring of forests around existing roads and paths, incorporating irregular sequences of open space and opening up viewpoints

The practicalities of harvesting on steep slopes have created some landform conflicts in terms of forest structure, and some larch plantings have margins that conflict with landform. The steep and rocky ground both increases the landscape impact of forestry management decisions, and reduces the options in terms of coupe design.

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Scale: 1:35,000 @ A3



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