



Leanachan Land Management Plan

Recreation Map- Opportunities & Constraints

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Scale @ A1: 1:15,000

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The recreation opportunities in Leanachan make a significant contribution to Lochaber's claim as the Outdoor Capital of the UK. The west end of the forest has the greatest interaction with people either working or enjoying a range of outdoor activities from walking to downhill mountain biking.

Objective 1: Through forest design and management, create and maintain an attractive environment for people visiting the forest for leisure, outdoor activity and employment, in support of the local tourist economy.

Objective 3: In the core recreation area, manage the forest using lower impact silvicultural systems and a wider variety of tree species where crop condition, terrain and access are suitable.

Broadleaf and Scots Pine areas are increasing within the forest as PAWS restoration progresses. The woodland edge along the access road to Nevis Range has been opened up creating an attractive welcome to the forest. Scope for further work to manage the conifer forests to provide a suitable setting for the mountain resort and for recreation.

SS is the dominant conifer with little conifer species diversity. A lack of suitable soils compounded by disease restricting the planting of larch and the impact of browsing limits the scope for diversification. The lack of thinning in the forest limits the scope for management under LISS.

Forest roads and path network provide opportunity for cycling, walking and riding. Thinning along the old ski road has created attractive woodland edge and views to burn.

Many of the roads and tracks still have closely planted conifer stands along them creating dark corridors.

Linear routes, east to west, offered by historical features - the Puggy Line, Wades Road and rights of way connecting former settlements.

Few north to south linear routes which limits the scope for diverting users during forest operations. Not all of Wades Road is passable although there is an alternative forest road close by.

The Auction Mart, Quarry, timber production, Nevis Range all provide local employment.

Together however they also give an industrial feel to the area.

Area identified in the Masterplan for development of a variety of tourist accommodation. Planning permission granted for a Forest Holidays cabin site.

The forest is unthinned with limited scope to create small coupes to accommodate the construction of buildings or to manage under CCF.

Gleann Domhanaidh is an attractive area with the river and mixed woodland as well as being relatively flat. Opportunities for walking routes.

Significant proportion of unthinned SS. Ground wet in places requiring more costly path construction and maintenance.

North Face car park is a popular starting point for walkers and climbers wanting to access the Ben. Also a place for visitors to come away from the busier Nevis Range area.

Limited walking options from the car park. Relatively long forest road access with maintenance issues. Car park currently suffers from visitor pressure which also impacts on the local Torlundy community.

Popular recreation area making a significant contribution to the local tourism economy. The Local Plan has zoned part of the area for further major tourism development.

The forest structure lacks diversity in all aspects which would normally be desirable to support major recreation locations.

Walk offers good view of Ben Nevis for non-hillwalkers. North Face path provides good access to the CIC hut and Ben Nevis North Face as well as offering a medium length walk through the forest to a view point.

The forest is underthinned here and windblow is affecting the upper part. There is a lack of a clear destination for the forest walks.

Nevis Range Mountain Resort is a focal point for recreation in the forest attracting high numbers of day visitors and tourists.

Challenge to manage the forest in the immediate surroundings of the car park due to high public use all year round. The car parks and operational yard areas give a more industrial feel to the immediate surrounds of the gondola base station. This area is under an external lease.

Dornie Quarry benefits from the diverse geology of the area and provides local employment.

The quarry traffic, along with timber traffic, shares the access road to Nevis Range with the potential for conflict with recreation users.

Popular area for informal mountain bike trails.

Risk to other forest users if unmanaged.

Legend

- Leanachan
- Sgurr Fionnlosgaig viewpoint
- PuggyLine
- Bike Trails Easy
- Bike Trails Difficult
- Quarry Lease
- Nevis Forest Masterplan
- Gondola Line
- Walking Trails
- Forest Roads
- Recreation Hubs
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- PAWS



0.1 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Km

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