

Relatively warm and sheltered site conditions with extensive brown earths, below 175m. Cooler, increasingly wet and exposed, with gleyed soils above this. Retain a strong element of commercial conifer production but seek opportunities to use alternative species to Sitka spruce and continuous cover systems at lower elevations.

Red squirrels prevalent throughout woodlands with particular hot spots at lower elevations. Protect squirrels and seek to improve habitat to encourage spread.

Extensive areas of windblow now cleared and restocked. Several smaller areas of damage remain. Extensive areas of even aged spruce remain at risk of further blow. Incorporate windblow clearance into felling and restocking programme. Restructure to achieve greater age diversity and resilience.

Several recognised heritage sites and several other sites not yet formerly identified. Protect all sites during forest operations and retain appropriate buffers when restocking. Identify any new sites and incorporate these into heritage record.

Extensive areas of high quality ancient woodland. Some sites have been planted with non-native conifers or are otherwise degraded. Protect and enhance remaining stands of ancient woodland. Restore other priority sites and expand all where feasible.

Main road passes between forest blocks dominated by Sitka spruce. Seek opportunities to modify impact of spruce woodland by diversifying species and management of forest edge.

Many deep sided burns retain ancient woodland remnants. Incorporate burns into forest habitat network and encourage spread of native species around these.

Several burns are used for private water supply. Protect water supplies and ensure all relevant guidelines are followed during operations.

Invasive non-native species are problematic throughout plan area. Several small stands of western hemlock are acting as seed source and rhododendron ponticum is to found in many of the steep sided burns. Continue to control rhododendron. Incorporate removal of western hemlock into felling programme wherever possible or consider other options for its removal.

Western slopes visible from west bank of Loch Fyne. Continue programme of re-structuring to increase species and age diversity. Plan coupe shapes and felling programme to minimise impact on landscape.

Several protected bird species nest throughout plan area. Continue high level of protection and carry out operations only under strict guidelines. Devise management programmes sensitive to nesting requirements of birds and within existing legal frameworks.

Extensive areas of open ground habitat with deep peat and blanket bog. Important habitat for golden eagle, red grouse and with potential black grouse habitat on woodland margins. Several poor stands of Sitka spruce and variable density Sitka regeneration. Retain priority open habitats and examine options for management of native and non-native regeneration.

Expanding colonies of wood ants, *Formica lugubris*, in Lephimore and above Barnacarry. Protect existing colonies, seek to provide conditions to favour these species and monitor expansion.



# Strathlachlan

## Analysis and Concept

It's important to keep people informed about management proposals affecting their local forests

Forestry Commission forests are independently certified as being responsibly managed. We're regularly audited against the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard – the standard endorsed in the UK by the International Forest Stewardship Council® and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

Keeping in touch with our stakeholders is an important part of the standard. We welcome comments on these proposals

1:50,000 scaled to A3 paper

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