

Inverness, Ross & Skye Forest District
Lochalsh Woodlands Land Management Plan 2016-2026
Map 6: Future habitat & species
1:20k

Native woodland
Upland birchwood: variable density downy birch, with eared willow and rowan forming a minor component.
Upland oakwood: mosaic of downy birch and sessile oak with hazel, holly and rowan as minor components at variable density.
Upland oak / ash: mosaic of sessile oak, downy birch and ash, hazel, alder and eared willow as minor components
Upland birchwood / pinewood: mosaic of downy birch and Scots pine on freely draining, podzolic knolls.
Riparian woodland: Low density mosaic of native species matched to the site type, predominantly composed of alder, downy birch, eared willow and bird cherry. Up to 40% open space.
Native treeline expansion: mosaic of downy birch, Scots pine, eared willow and juniper, established at a low density.
Amenity Woodland
Mixed woodland: Mosaic of native species and exotic conifer. Managed primarily for aesthetics and where suitable woodfuel production.
Productive Forestry
Productive conifer nurse mixture: 50/50 intimate mixture of lodge pole pine and Sitka spruce. Established at high density and managed for timber and biomass production.
Productive conifer: pure Sitka spruce and in mixture (intimate & blocky) with Western red cedar, Western hemlock (South Strone only), Douglas fir and Norway spruce. Established at high density and managed for quality timber production.

Where there is a suitable seed source and favorable ground conditions native woodland will be established through natural regeneration and where required enrichment planting.
Post establishment the majority of the native woodland will be managed under minimal intervention for biodiversity, landscape, soil and water protection.
The productive forest will be re-established by high density planting (2500 stems / ha). Minimal application of phosphate and potassium will be undertaken on the nurse mixtures due to the inherent low nutrient availability of the underlying geology.

Restore steep unstable slopes to lower density native woodland that maximises soil cohesion and provide a protective barrier to rockfall. This will also provide wildlife habitat and form a scenic backdrop to Loch Carron.

Stromeferry wood - maintain as a mixture of native woodland and naturalised exotics. Potential to manage regeneration for woodfuel production.

Continue restoration of former ancient woodland sites to native woodland.

Productive conifer will visually link into private forest to the North (Creagdarroch)

Focus demanding alternative conifer species on the richer soils with topographic shelter. Sitka spruce in mixture with Norway spruce, Western red cedar, Western hemlock. Blocks of pure Scots pine on podzolic knolls

Weakly flushed peat, low fertility and high levels of exposure. Establish Sitka spruce in a nurse mixture with lodgepole pine to alleviate nitrogen deficiency caused by 'heather check'. Revert poorest quality soil to birchwood and open habitat.

Expand riparian woodland along Glean Udalain burn. This will provide a network of woodland managed under minimal intervention.

New woodland creation on suitable open habitat. Within the Balmacara burn catchment will slow run-off during high rainfall events. Combination of planting and natural regeneration.

Restore and link fragmented former ancient woodland sites, providing a connected native woodland habitat and a buffer for the core habitat designated Coille Mhor

Maintain a core area of productive forest on accessible terrain with connections to forest road network.

Within the native woodland zones areas for potential woodfuel production (downy birch firewood) have been identified. This has been focussed where there are short extraction lengths to the forest road. Due to the slow growth rates this will only be viable where dense natural regeneration is achieved and will be considered on a site by site basis.

Legend

- Fuelwood
- Overhead powerline

Existing Forest Roads

CLASSIFICATION

- Class A
- Class B
- Class C
- Transfer Point
- Unclassified

New roads

Phase

- 1
- 2
- Outwith plan

- Portachullin Common Grazings
- LMP Boundary

Species

DESCRIPTION

- Mixed woodland
- Native treeline expansion
- Productive conifer
- Productive conifer nurse mixture
- Riparian woodland
- Upland birchwood
- Upland birchwood / pinewood
- Upland oak / ash
- Upland oakwood
- Open

UKBAP habitat

Habitat Largest Percentage

- Acid grassland
- Blanket bog
- Bracken
- Upland flush, fen & swamp
- Upland heathland

