

Forest Design Plan Brecklet Forest LMP 2016 – 2026 Site Analysis

The Glencoe area is a major tourist destination. Brecklet provides a backdrop for a range of visitor experiences, from mountaineering to low level walking, coach tourism, and local visits.

Carnach Wood SSSI noted for its ash/alder woodland, borders the north-west side of the forest.

Area designated as PAWS that is gradually reverting back to native woodland.

Public footpath which links the village of Ballachulish and the Glencoe/Oban Sustrans route to the forest.

National Trust Scotland; Visitor Centre and Campsite. Highly sensitive visitor zone. Shared access route with FES.

Major viewpoint from the western end of the Aonach Eagach ridge path across to the north east side of the Brecklet forest. This path provides extensive opportunities for constant viewing of the forest.

Scattered throughout the forest are a number of identified heritage sites which include abandoned houses, quarries and agricultural structures which are all evidence of previous land uses in the area.

The scale at which the landscape is perceived is highly variable. Along the roads on the bottom of the glen the scale is relatively small. However when viewed from higher elevations the scale increases significantly.

Outdoor Archery Course

Major viewpoint from the Bheinn a Bheither ridge across to the SW slopes of the Brecklet forest

Glencoe SSSI and SAC borders the eastern side of Brecklet

There is 6.85Km of forest road in Brecklet with another 4.25Km required to complete the road network.

Forest operations over recent years has focused on breaking up the age structure of even-aged conifer plantations, lower the upper margins and introducing diversity through an increase in native tree species and open space. However commercial conifer plantations are still a large component of the LMP area.

Most of the land surrounding Brecklet is a designated SPA which will impact on the management of the area.



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Draft Deer Management Plan for

BRECKLET

Location: Lochaber Forest District

Owner(s): Managed on behalf of the Scottish Ministers by Forestry Enterprise Scotland

Draft Deer Management Plan Written By: John Jackson

Deer Species: Red, Roe and Sika

Area of deer management unit : 543 ha

Deer management Group: Brecklet is within Blackmount Deer Management group.

(a) Past/current deer management .

Main land use is productive forest with areas of native woodland and several ancient woodland sites. Deer are managed to attempt to achieve a balance with their habitat. This requires a low density population of 5/100ha or less.
Perimeter deer fences are important to separate the woodland from the higher deer population densities maintained on neighbouring sporting estates.
Internal fencing may be used where particularly vulnerable sites and species require extra protection.

(b) Previous Cull Records

Year	Red	Roe	Sika
12/13	34	4	1
13/14	29	9	0
14/15	62	19	0
15/16	61	25	0

Cull Records: Comment /Additional Information

Culls are taken both in and out of season and night shooting is employed as necessary. Male deer of all species are shot throughout the year, while females are not shot from 1st April to 30th September.

(c) Adjacent Land Use

	Comment
Existing Woodland	NTS, Common Grazing
Mixture of Woodland / Arable Land	NTS, Common Grazing
Unimproved Pasture /Open Hill	NTS
Public Access / Recreation Facilities	All FCS woodlands are open to public access at all times.
Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVCs)	SNH records
Public Safety issues	
Other	

B. Description of the Resources (Deer and Habitat)

1. Deer

(a) Information relating to demographics of the deer population

Deer Resource: Comment /Additional Information

The method currently being used to measure crop damage in Lochaber Forest District is via visual assessment and recorded in OGB4 stocking density assessment forms. Nearest Neighbour assessments are also conducted annually on all P1 restocks. As one of our key objectives in deer management is the prevention of damage. Damage assessment is therefore given a high priority in terms of determining appropriate cull levels.

(b) Information relating to any significant woodland deer population

Woodland Deer Density Indicators

<u>Evidence</u>	4-8/100 Ha Low Density	8-15/100Ha Medium Density	15+/100Ha High Density
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<u>Tracks</u>	Difficult to find deer slot marks or defined paths.	Defined paths slot marks easy to find in areas of soft ground.	Many well defined tracks and paths often black with constant use.
(Tick)			
<u>Dung</u>	Difficult to find with just the odd isolated pellet group.	Pellet groups relatively easy to find, particularly on woodland edges and good feeding areas.	Pellet groups very easy to find. Highly concentrated on favoured feed areas.
(Tick)			
<u>Browsing of Vegetation</u>	Natural regeneration of broad-leaved trees taking place with no or little damage to current years incremental growth.	Broad-leaved saplings present but showing significant damage.	No seedlings growing above dominant vegetation height. Often well defined browse lines on established shrubs and plants.
(Tick)			

(c) Information Relating to Known Deer Densities (counts etc)

Latest estimate is medium density.

2. Habitat

(a) Information Relating to Habitat and Condition

Habitat Type	<u>Area (Ha)</u> 543	<u>Vulnerable to deer pressure</u>	<u>Comment</u>
SSSI / SAC / SPA / NSA		n/a	
Open Hill Ground		n/a	
Internal Open Ground		Yes	
Native Woodland		Yes	
Broadleaves		Yes	
Commercial Conifers		Yes	
Other:			

(b) Evidence of historical / existing damage

(i) Impacts to woodlands, agricultural interests and habitats

Annual nearest neighbour assessments on all P1 restocking. FCS target is for less than 10% leader browsing. Currently browsing is above this across the area.

(ii) Impacts on natural heritage interests

SSSI
NSA
SPA

Part 2

Deer Management Plan

(a) Management Plan Objectives

The main objective of deer management within the FCS Woodlands is to regulate deer populations at a level that is compatible with their environment and our other management objectives. This means that we aim to will be to prevent unacceptable damage to commercial tree crops and in key areas to maintain or enhance biodiversity. This will be done in a professional and humane way, ensuring the physical well being of the remaining deer populations within the forest boundaries. Venison income will be optimised and opportunities to create revenue from permit stalking and leasing will be taken, but without compromising the over-riding issue of damage prevention. This strategy should be read in conjunction with FC Operational Guidance Booklet 5.

All species are capable of causing significant damage to productive forests and woodlands as well as reducing species diversity in the ground flora, resulting in the prevention of natural regeneration by native tree species. This is increasingly recognised as a major barrier to maintaining and increasing biodiversity in British woodlands. At very high densities deer are prone to increased levels of parasitism and disease (rare in UK conditions), poor breeding success and early mortality. In impoverished upland habitats they can also suffer from starvation.

(b) Method(s) used to assess if objectives are being met

Objective or issue	Method of assessment	Monitoring period and frequency	Who is responsible	Use of information
Deer numbers/ Density	EDU Clearance Dung Counts	5 yearly	FCS	Set cull levels
SSSI / SAC etc Impacts	Site Condition Monitoring		SNH	Set cull levels
	Grazing Toolbox		FCS	
Cull figures	Dung Counts, NN assessments, Site Condition Monitoring, Local Knowledge and Experience	Constant and ongoing	FCS	Set cull levels
Browsing, Bark Stripping, Fraying	NN Assessments	Annual		Set cull levels
Annual Recruitment	Cull data	Annual	FCS	Set cull levels

Monitoring: Comment /Additional Information

The monitoring on the National Forest Estate is via visual assessment and recorded in OGB4 stocking density assessment forms. Nearest Neighbour assessments are also conducted annually on all P1 restocks. As one of our key objectives in deer management is the prevention of damage. Damage assessment is therefore given a high priority in terms of determining appropriate cull levels.

(c) Record Keeping. (As Per Wild Deer Best Practice Guide).

All deer shot are recorded in the Wildlife Management System. Data captured include: Species, sex, age class, weight, location (grid ref and DMU), in/out of season, night shot, embryos, lactation, etc.

(d) Engagement with neighbours, DMG and Local Community

Comment /Additional Information

Liaison with neighbours is essential to the cost-effective implementation of Forestry Commission deer management objectives. Lochaber Forest District is an active participant in local deer management groups. Such groups provide a forum for explaining and gaining acceptance of Forestry Commission policy and for agreeing forms of mutually beneficial co-operation with regard to deer management matters. An open, honest approach will be taken with attempts made to promote a good understanding of the professional approach to deer management in our forests.

Lochaber Forest District

Map: Brecklet LMP

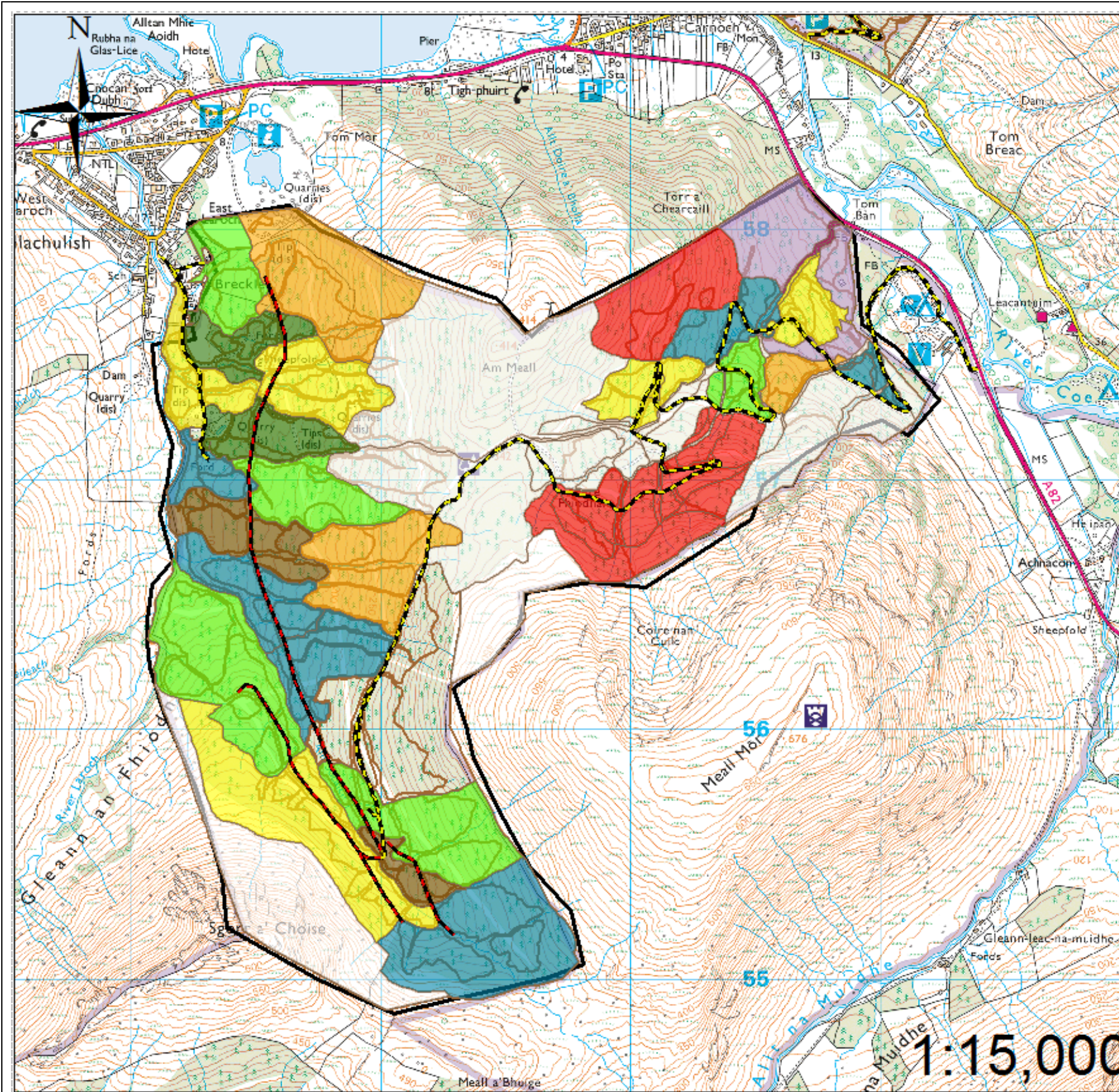
Type: **Future Felling**

Date: April 2016

Key

-  LMP Boundary
-  Road Segments
-  Proposed Roads
-  Phase 1 felling (2017 - 2021)
-  Phase 2 felling (2022 - 2026)
-  Phase 3 felling (2027 - 2031)
-  Phase 4 felling (2032 - 2036)
-  Phase 5 felling (2037 - 2041)
-  Phase 6 felling (2042 - 2046)
-  Phase 7 felling (2047 - 2051)
-  After 2051
-  Natural reserve
-  Minimum Intervention
-  Long term retention
-  Low impact silviculture
-  Open

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Lochaber Forest District

Map: Brecklet LMP

Type: **Heritage Sites**

Date: April 2016

Key

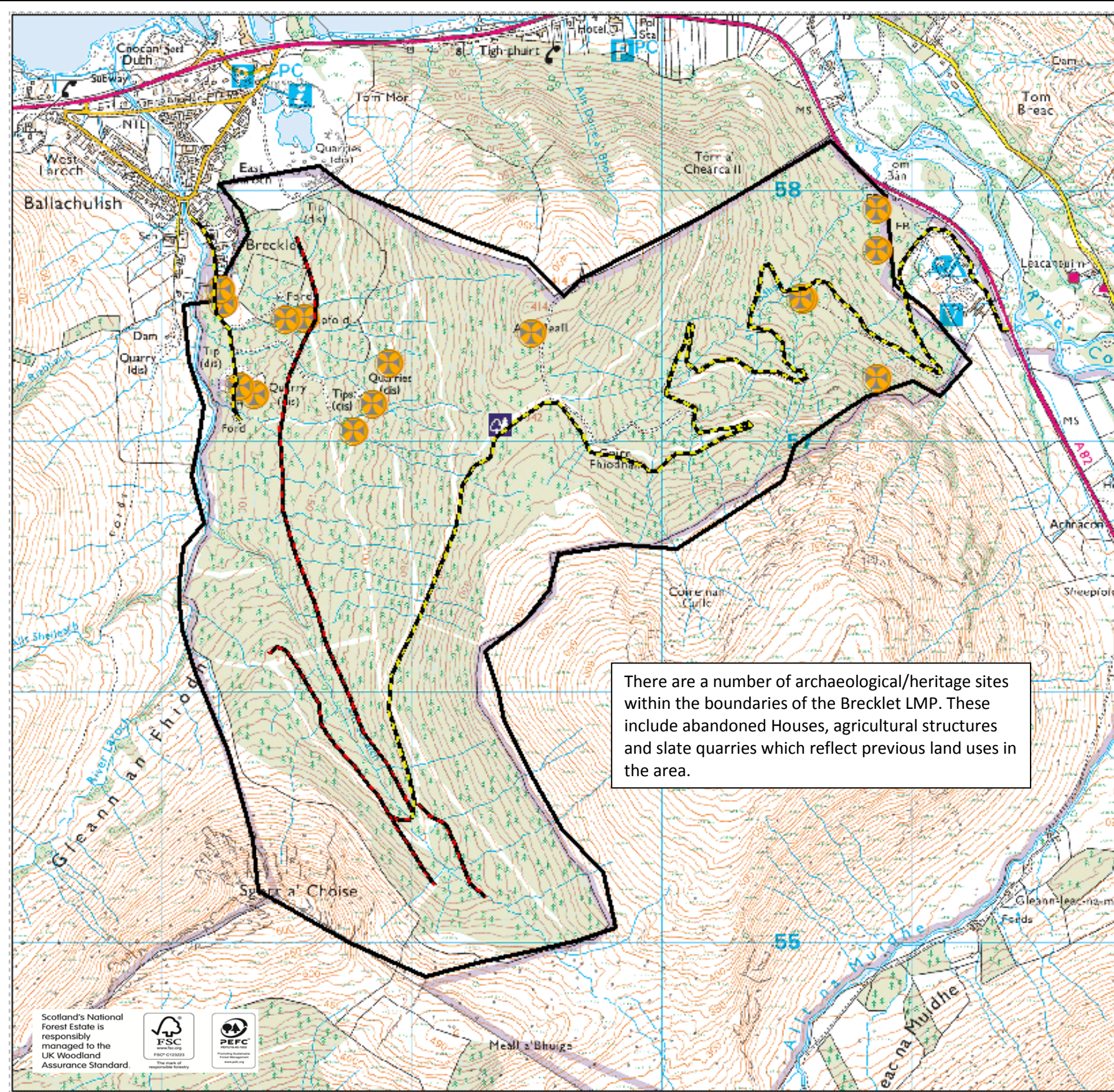
-  LMP Boundary
-  Heritage Site
-  Forest Road
-  Proposed Roads

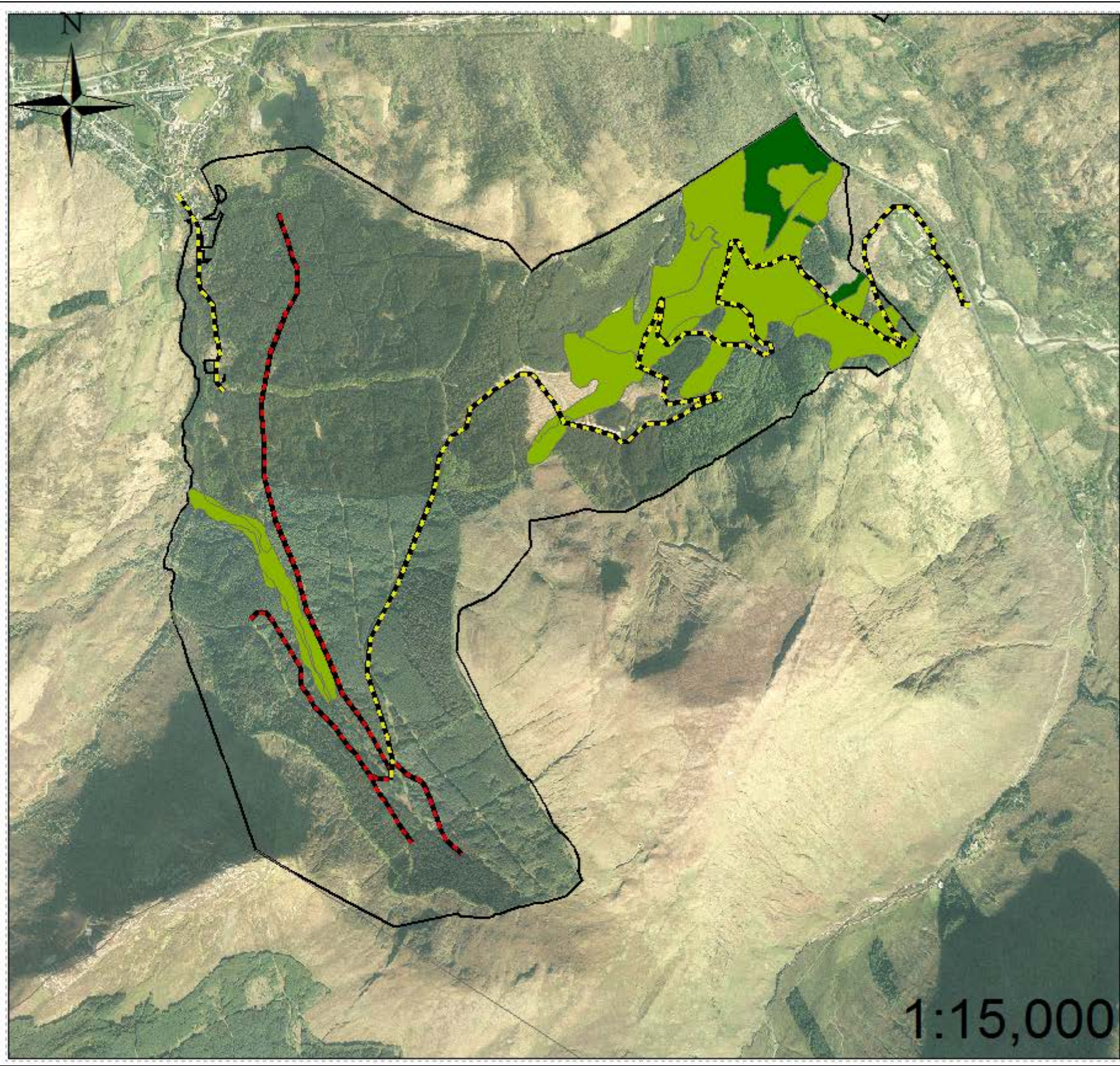
There are a number of archaeological/heritage sites within the boundaries of the Brecklet LMP. These include abandoned Houses, agricultural structures and slate quarries which reflect previous land uses in the area.



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Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba
Forestry Commission Scotland

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Key

Forest Road

Proposed Roads

AWS

<all other values>

Classification

- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands
- Open Ground
- PAWS
- Planted Site Native Woodland
- Non-PAWS with veteran trees
- Non-A SNW with veteran trees
- Suspect non-AWS
- Lost

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Lochaber Forest District

Map: Brecklet LMP

Type: **Soils Map**

Date: April 2016

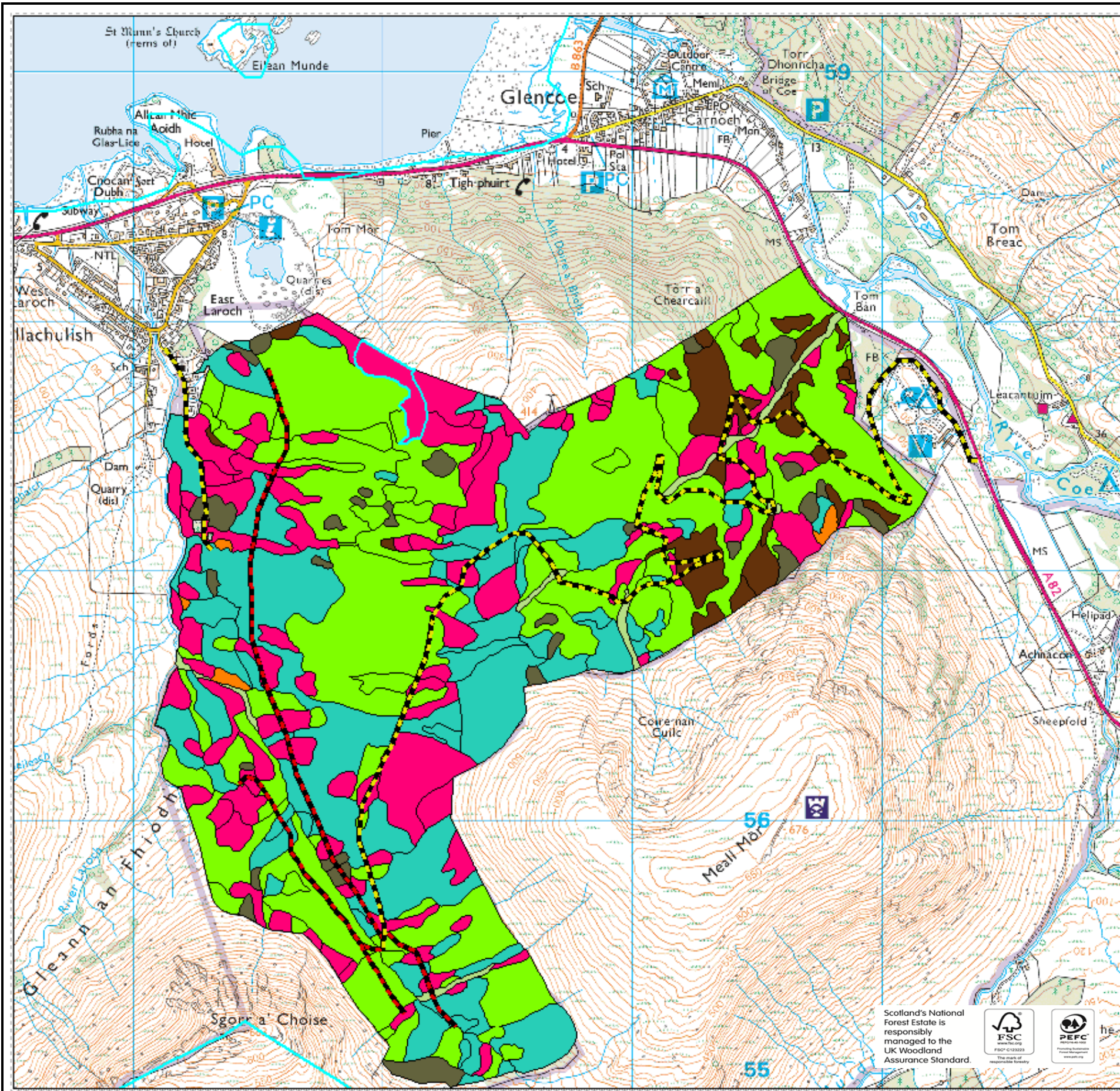
Key

-  Forest Road
-  Proposed Roads
-  <all other values>
-  Valley complex
-  Surface water gley
-  Typical peaty gley
-  Typical Podzol
-  Mining spoil
-  Basic brown earth
-  Rock
-  Limestone soil
-  Typical brown earth



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Brecklet LMP Tolerance Tables

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of restocking	Change to species	Windthrow response	Adjustment to road lines
<p>FC Approval not normally required</p> <p>(record and notify FC)</p>	<p><10% of coupe size. On A82 coupes up to 1 Ha or 10%.</p>	<p>Up to 7 planting seasons after felling (allowing fallow periods for Hylobius).</p>	<p>Change within species group E.g. Scots Pine to Birch.</p> <p>Non-native conifers e.g. Sitka Spruce to Douglas Fir.</p> <p>Non-native to native species (allowing for changes to facilitate Ancient Woodland policy).</p>	<p>Low sensitivity area</p> <p>Where wind throw represents more than 60% of the crop the area including standing trees may be felled plus up to 5Ha beyond in order to seek a wind firm edge.</p>	<p>Low sensitivity area</p> <p>Creation of turning points/ loading bays. Deviation of <100m either side of the predicted centre line of the road/ track.</p> <p>High sensitivity area</p> <p>Deviation <75m in either direction from centre of road/track.</p>
<p>Approval by exchange of letters and map</p>	<p>10-15% of coupe size. On A82 Coupes 1-5 Ha.</p>	<p>7 years +</p>	<p>Change of coupe objective that is likely to be consistent with current policy (e.g. from productive to open, open to native species).</p>	<p>Low sensitivity area</p> <p>As above to include 5-10 Ha of standing crop to seek a wind firm edge. Areas where wind throw represents <60%.</p> <p>High sensitivity area</p> <p>Areas where windthrow represents <60%.</p>	<p>Low sensitivity area</p> <p>Deviation of 100-150m in either direction from centre of road/track.</p> <p>High sensitivity area</p> <p>Deviation of 75-100m in either direction from centre of road/track.</p>
<p>Approval by formal plan amendment</p>	<p>>15% of coupe size. On A82 coupes over 5 Ha.</p>		<p>Major change of objective likely to be contrary to policy, e.g. native to non-native species, open to non-native.</p>	<p>Low sensitivity area</p> <p>As above. Windblown area + an area >10 Ha to find a wind firm edge.</p> <p>High sensitivity area</p> <p>Felling of standing trees beyond the area of windblow.</p>	<p>Deviations exceeding the above.</p>

Consultee Type	Consultee	Date Contacted	Reply Received	Issues Raised	FD Response to Issue
Statutory Consultees	Scottish Natural Heritage (D Warner)	Cathy Mayne By e mail 26/08/15	04/09/2015	Very supportive of the proposals in the Brecklet LMP though they did feel that we should cover the NSA in more detail and our plans to enhance the aesthetics of the LMP area.	Will give more details regarding our proposals to improve the aesthetics of the LMP area allowing it to sit more comfortably within the surrounding landscape.
	SEPA	By e mail 26/08/15	17/09/2015	Flood Risk INNS Felling % in each catchment 3 y pd Impact on Wet Lands Pollution Prevention General	The plan will detail forest operations and timing and the measures FES will take to prevent excessive water run-off. The district is currently carrying out a programme of eradicating rhododendron from the NFE which includes Brecklet. The district will also monitor the block for other INNS and take appropriate action if any are found. There will be no more than 20% of trees felled within each water catchment area in any 3 year period. Any areas of wetland will be identified and appropriate protection provided. All work plans will detail the measures taken to prevent pollution. Forestry & Water Guidelines.
	Historic Scotland	Alan Rutherford By e mail 26/08/15.	Judith Roebuck By e mail 31/08/2015	No specific issues advised that we should contact the local regional Archaeologist.	Work plans will be developed to protect all known and as yet undiscovered heritage sites.
	Regional Archaeologist				
	Highland Council (Planning & Transport)				
Others	Ballachulish Community Council	Monthly Meeting 04/08/15	04/08/2015	Attended monthly meeting of Ballachulish CC to distribute the 'Brief' and concept maps. Only concern was the proposed micro hydro scheme water pipe line and power house which may need to be within the Brecklet LMP.	The CC will be meeting with the power company to establish the line of the pipe and the location of the power-house. Further discussion to take place.
	Glencoe Community Council	Monthly Meeting 16/09/15	16/09/2015	Attended monthly meeting of Glencoe CC to distribute the brief and concept maps. No objections to the proposals but the CC will take a closer look at the proposals and feedback any comments	
	SSE				
	National Trust	Meeting with Scott McCombie 14/07/15		Scott confirmed that the Centre and the campsite no longer sourced water from the forest, they are now	While we are aware that the NT & campsite do not currently extract water from the original source in the forest. All

				connected to the mains supply. Though they still have the right to draw water from the old supply.	forest operations will adhere to the guidelines regarding forestry and water.
	Marine Harvest				
	Local DMG				
	Lochaber Fishery Board				
	BSW Sawmill				
Internal Consultation Discussion Forum	All Lochaber Staff + Renate Jephcott Richard Thomson	17/11/2015.			
	Andrew Hunt		06/11/2015	<p>Establishment Comment: We need to think and plan carefully any design or works related to natural regeneration, broadleave or soft conifer whether PAWS or productive crop.</p> <p>Previous attempts on the upper and lower slopes (especially behind the campsite) have failed/have no progress as a result of the additional challenges in protection (people). This is not a good advert given NTS went for different option and are having success.</p> <p>We should consider implications of such protection (culling/fencing strategy/tubes) prior to design.</p> <p>DM comments/thoughts are vital here.</p>	<p>Much of the area on the slopes above and adjacent to the National Trust Centre is designated as a Previous Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS). The district is committed to restoring this area to native woodland, which will complement the adjacent Carnoch SSSI to the south west while linking it to the Glencoe SSSI to the north east and harmonising with the existing National Trust restocking.</p> <p>It is important that the necessary steps are taken to ensure that we have</p>
	Henry Dobson		06/11/2015	Diary note from site visit Richard Thompson, Iain MacEchern and Henry Dobson incorporating subsequent discussion with Chris Tracey and Kenneth Knott.	The site visit notes will be included in the LMP as a guide
	Andrew MacMaster		06/11/2015	<p>The area around the core path is not wind firm and pockets of wind blow are appearing. These trees are large diameter and any significant wind blow will require a harvester to clear. The path is important to the local community and any closure due windblow would require clearing soon after the event.</p> <p>Please consider proximity of any adjacent coups and how this may affect wind blow to the core path.</p>	

				If possible it may be advantageous to extend the size of the coupe around the core path in order to act as a buffer.	
	John Jackson		06/11/2015	Deer density has been high, we are now moving to medium, as more mature conifer is felled there will be more open ground for deer control. It is very important to keep the deer fence against NTS deer proof, my thoughts are we should be able to protect broadleaf with no internal fence if we also renew the stock fence to the west.	
	Alistair Cumming		06/11/2015	My understanding is that part of the current 'productive area is being felled at cost'. This will be the skyline element. So consideration must be given to maximising the cost effective productive area and looking at the options for the best use of the current negative cost harvesting. Land stability is of course another consideration as some of the soils in Brecklet can be quite mobile.	
	Jim McKintosh		06/11/2015	Can we use the term native seed source rather than local broadleaves as local seed sources are not always suitable and it would give us more flexibility.	
	Renate Jephcott		27/01/2016	<p>The references to landscape should give greater emphasis to Brecklet's prominent position within this iconic landscape. I can assist you with this.</p> <p>We need to better distinguish between landscape and its visibility. They are two separate, though related, items in landscape.</p> <p>Could we be more specific than saying 'designated landscape'. It is an NSA – and one of the most iconic landscapes in Scotland. We need to include mention of the special qualities of the NSA, and how our management ties in with them. Again, I can assist with this.</p> <p>Map appears to give the same priority to items of heritage, the radio mast, and the reservoir- Is this intentional?</p>	

				<p>What is the relevance of the reservoir?</p> <p>I always become nervous when I see a 'commercial block' with a very straight upper margin running parallel with the contours...</p> <p>Within RT assessment, landscape is mentioned. Could I request we steer away from using subjective terms, such as 'poor' when referring to landscape. Instead we should refer to scale, shape, unity, diversity, landform and how this relates to the setting. Do let me know if you would like support with this. Also section referring to 'landscape aesthetics' does not really talk about it, but instead mentions alder regen.</p>	
Members of the Public. External Discussion Forum Advertised in Lochaber Life					






Lochaber Forest District

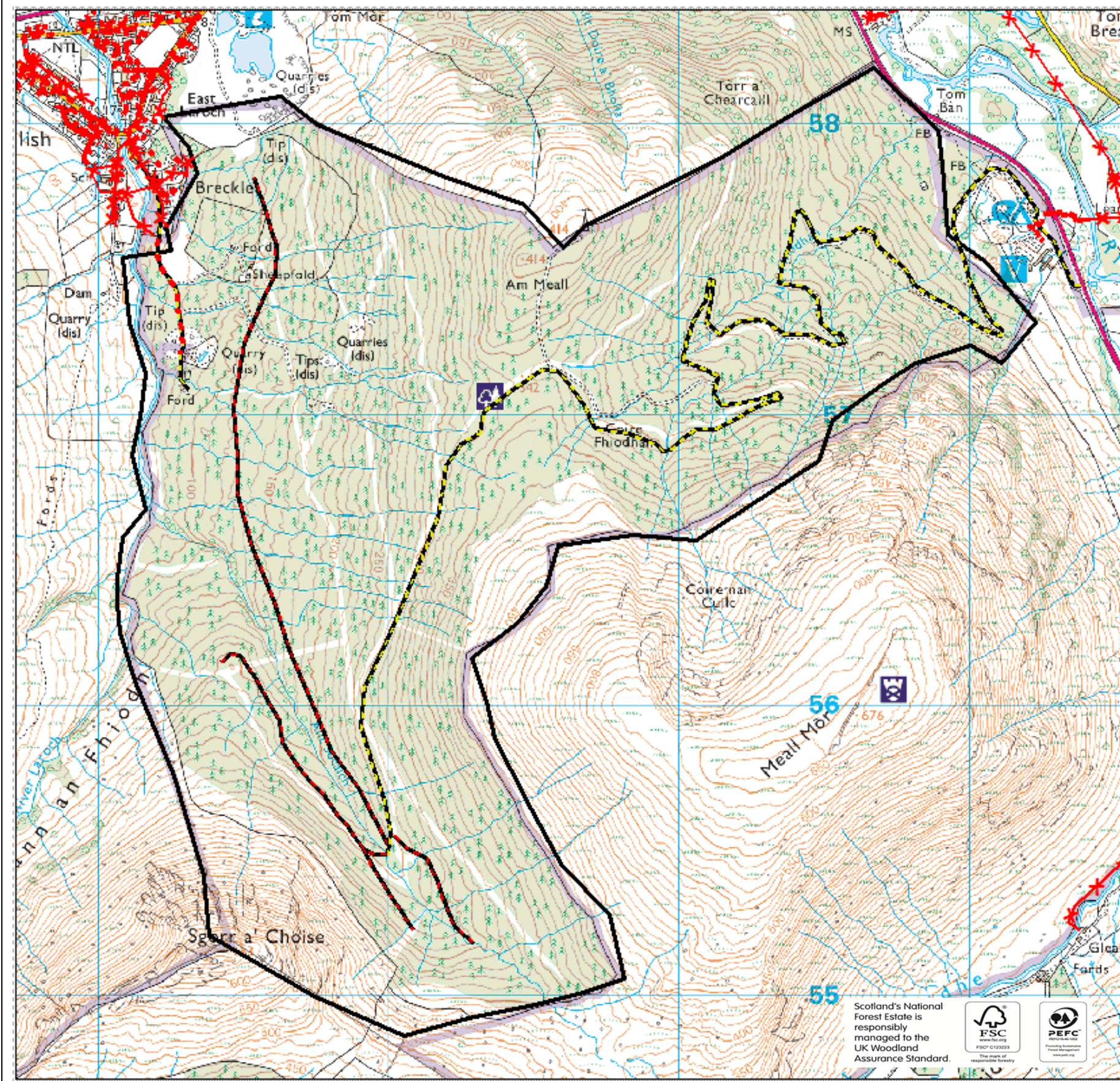
Map: Brecklet LMP

Type: **Electricity Lines**

Date: April 2016

Key

-  LMP Boundary
-  ELEC_S_AND_S_OH_LINES
-  ELEC_S_AND_S_UG_CABLES
-  Forest Road
-  Proposed Roads








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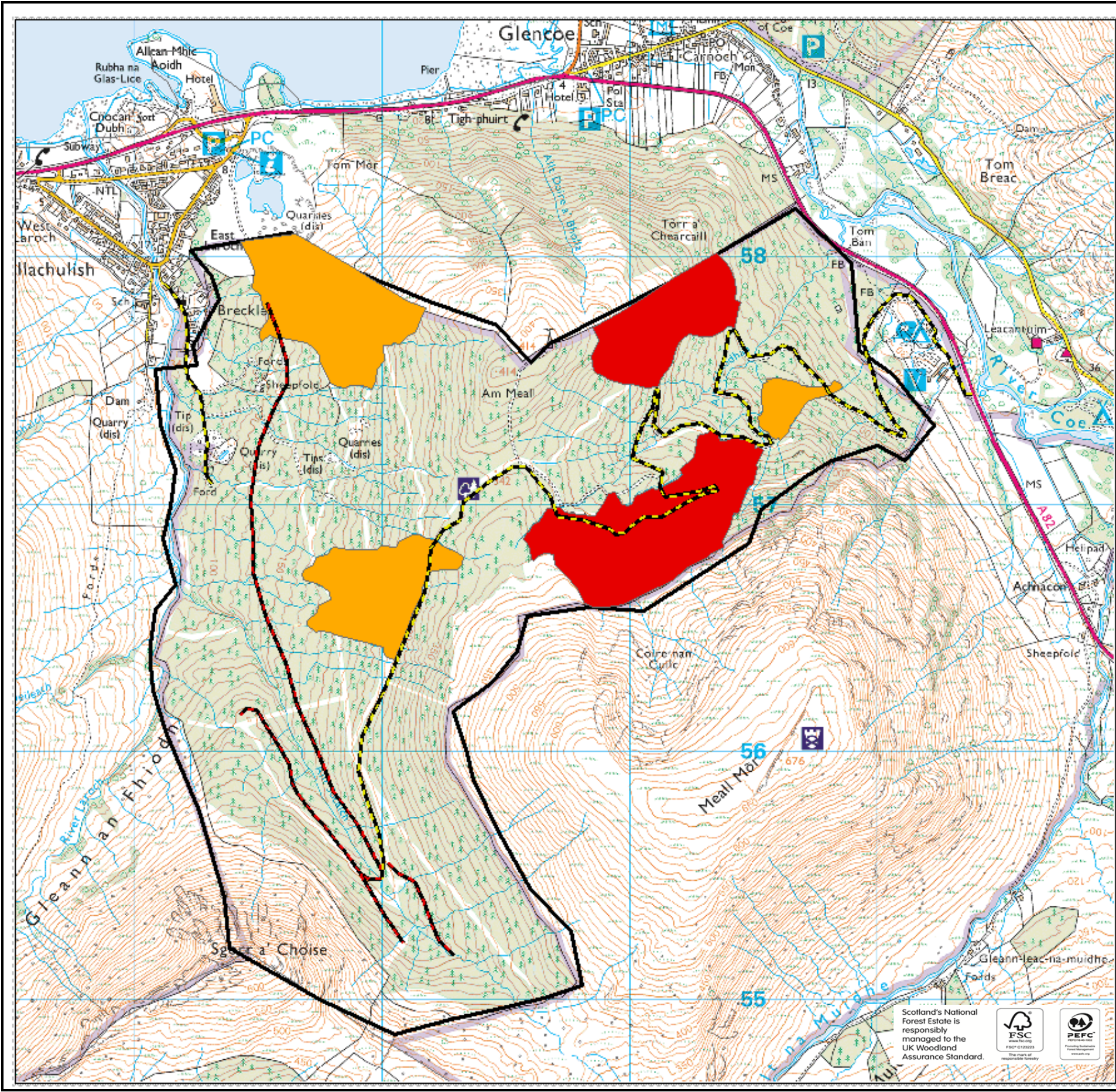
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Lochaber Forest District
Map: Brecklet LMP
Type: Felling Coupes 2016 – 2026
Date: April 2016

- Key**
-  **Forest Road**
 -  **Proposed Roads**
 -  **Phase 1 Felling**
 -  **Phase 2 Felling**
 -  **LMP Boundary**



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Lochaber Forest District

Map: Brecklet LMP

Type: Hydrological Map

Date April 2016

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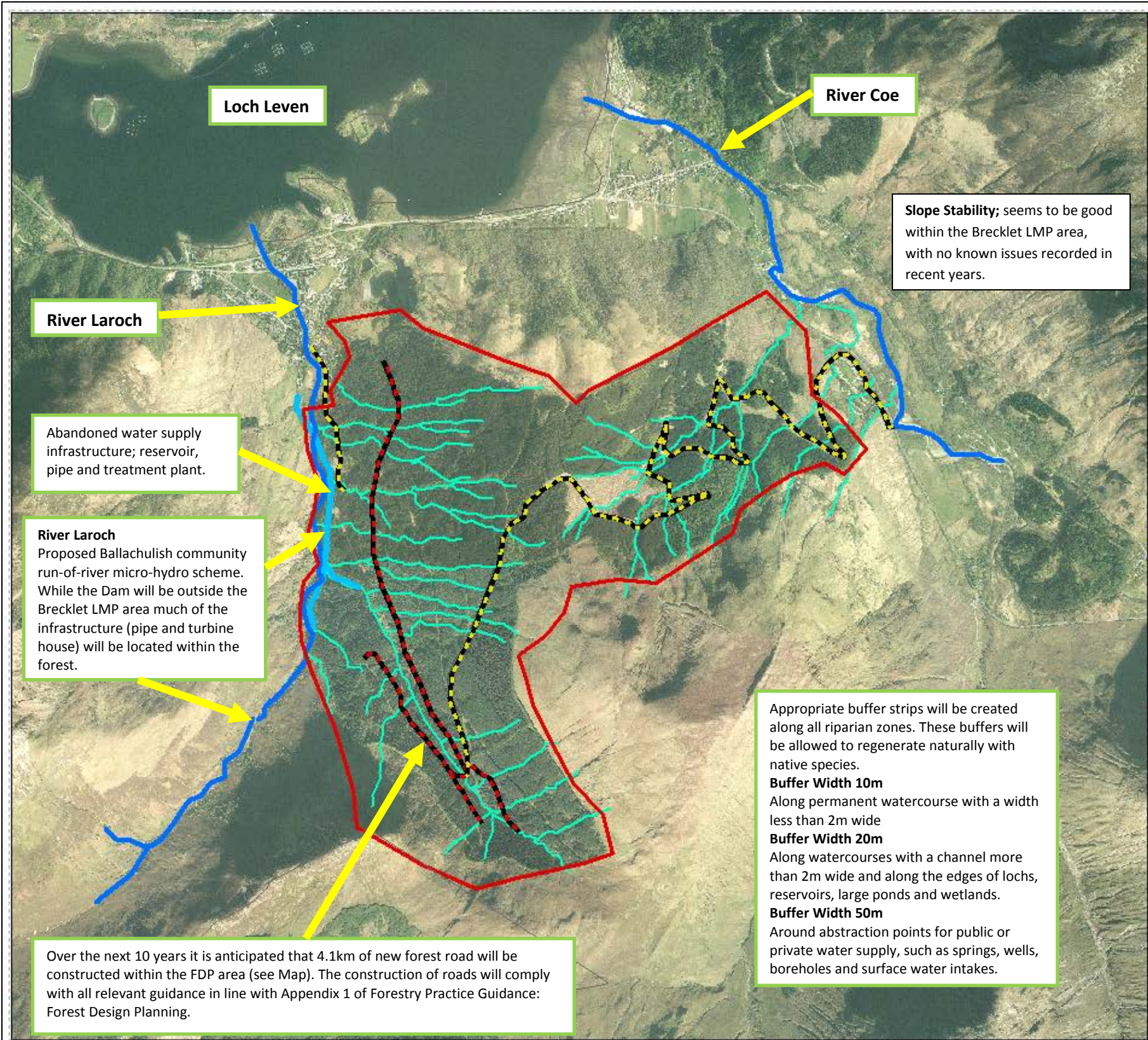
Key

- LMP Boundary**
- Forest Road**
- Proposed Roads**
- Main Watercourse**
- Waterpipe**
- Minor Watercourse**



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Loch Leven

River Coe

Slope Stability; seems to be good within the Brecklet LMP area, with no known issues recorded in recent years.

River Laroeh

Abandoned water supply infrastructure; reservoir, pipe and treatment plant.

River Laroeh
Proposed Ballachulish community run-of-river micro-hydro scheme. While the Dam will be outside the Brecklet LMP area much of the infrastructure (pipe and turbine house) will be located within the forest.



Appropriate buffer strips will be created along all riparian zones. These buffers will be allowed to regenerate naturally with native species.
Buffer Width 10m
Along permanent watercourse with a width less than 2m wide
Buffer Width 20m
Along watercourses with a channel more than 2m wide and along the edges of lochs, reservoirs, large ponds and wetlands.
Buffer Width 50m
Around abstraction points for public or private water supply, such as springs, wells, boreholes and surface water intakes.

Over the next 10 years it is anticipated that 4.1km of new forest road will be constructed within the FDP area (see Map). The construction of roads will comply with all relevant guidance in line with Appendix 1 of Forestry Practice Guidance: Forest Design Planning.

Lochaber Forest District
Map: Brecklet LMP
Type: National Scenic Area (NSA)
Date: April 2016

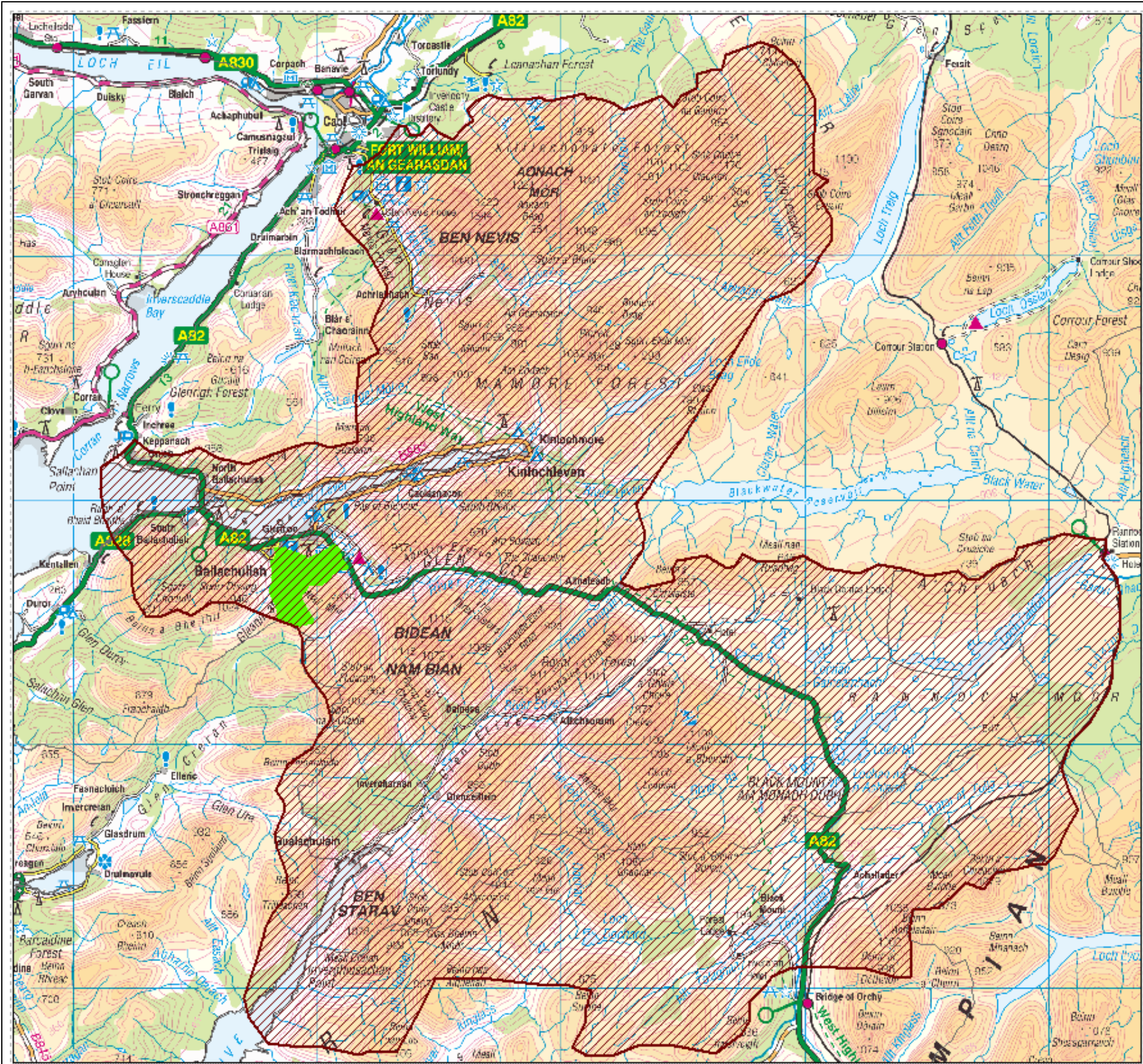


Key

-  NSA
-  LMP Boundary

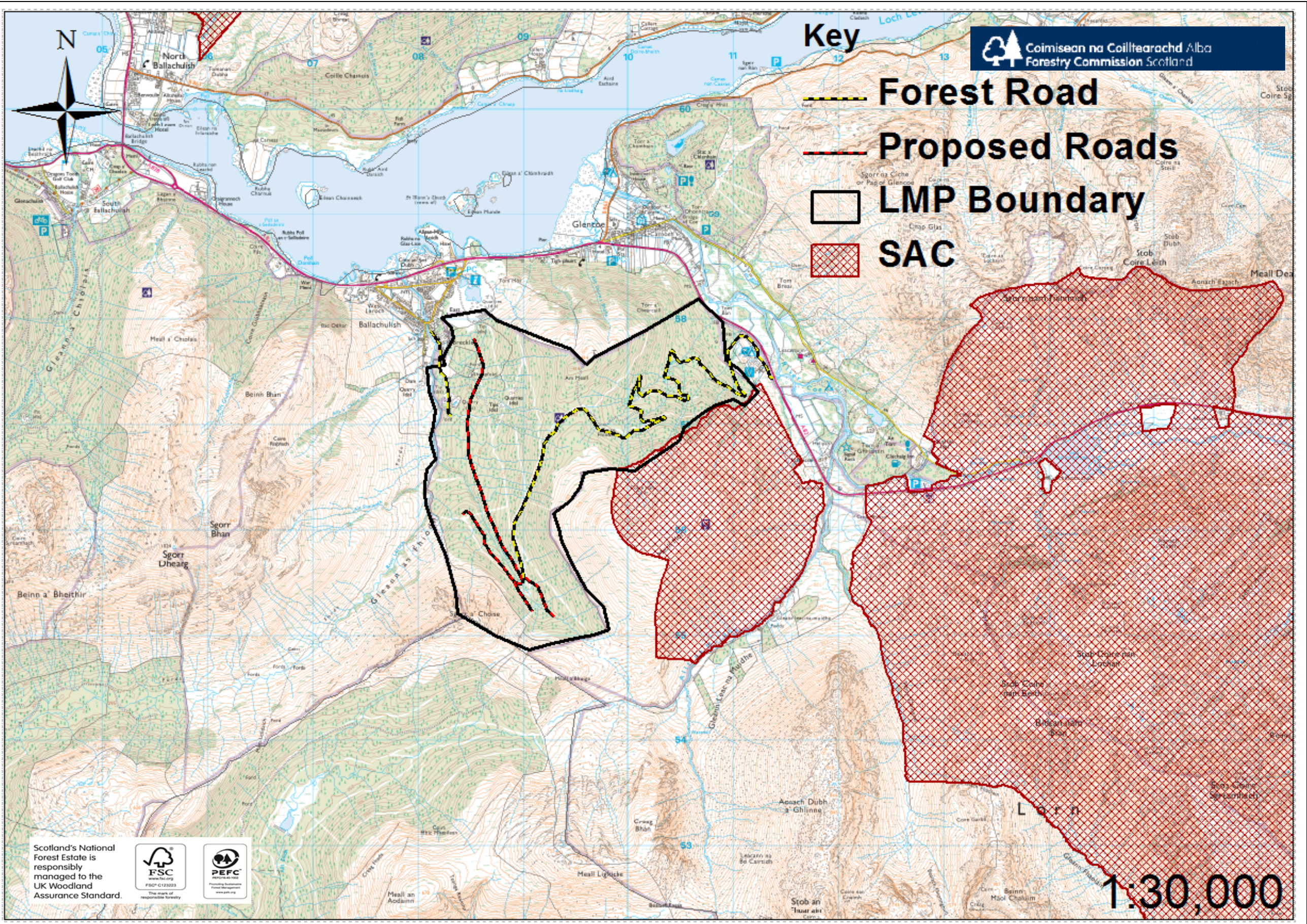


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Key

-  Forest Road
-  Proposed Roads
-  LMP Boundary
-  SAC



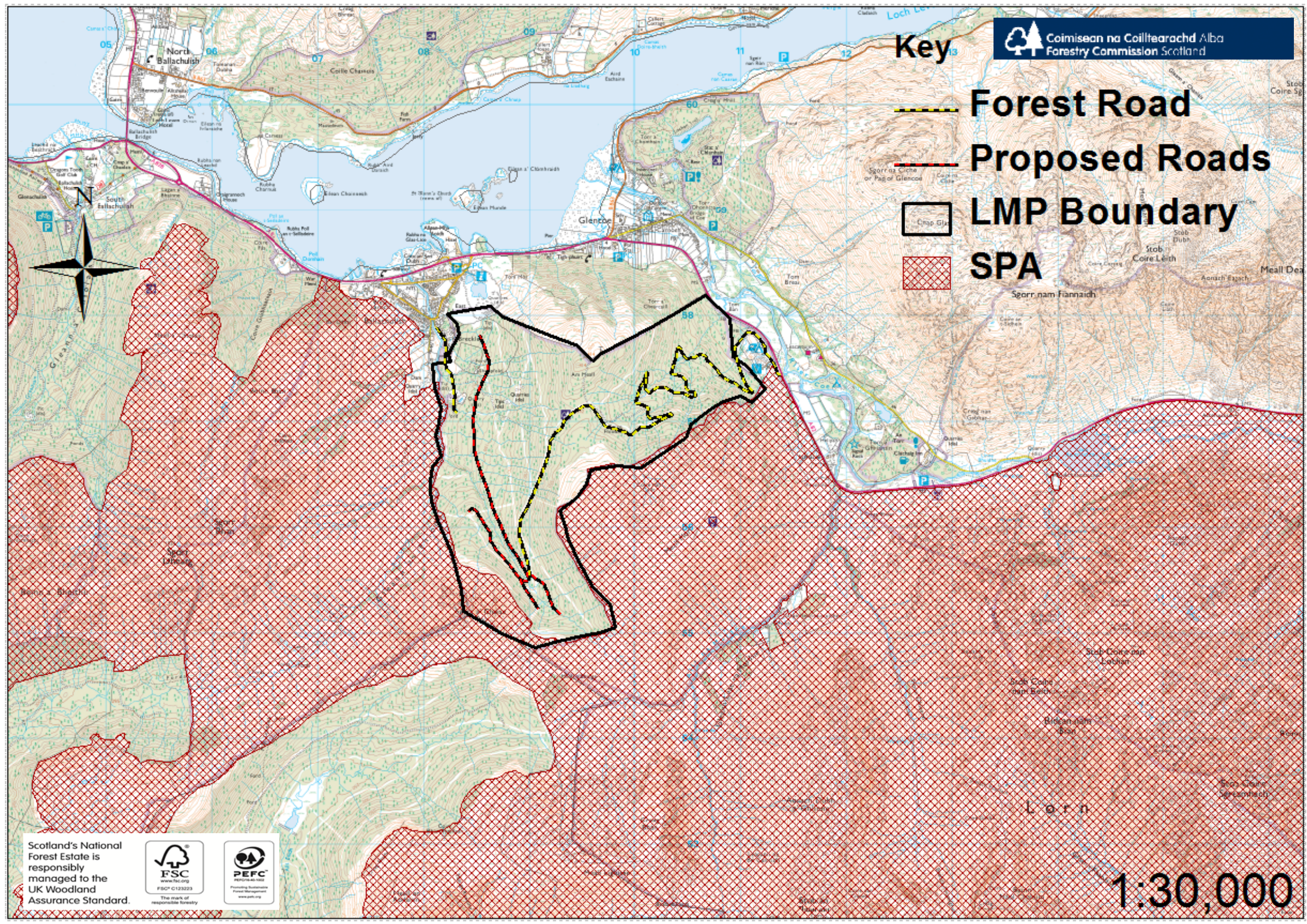
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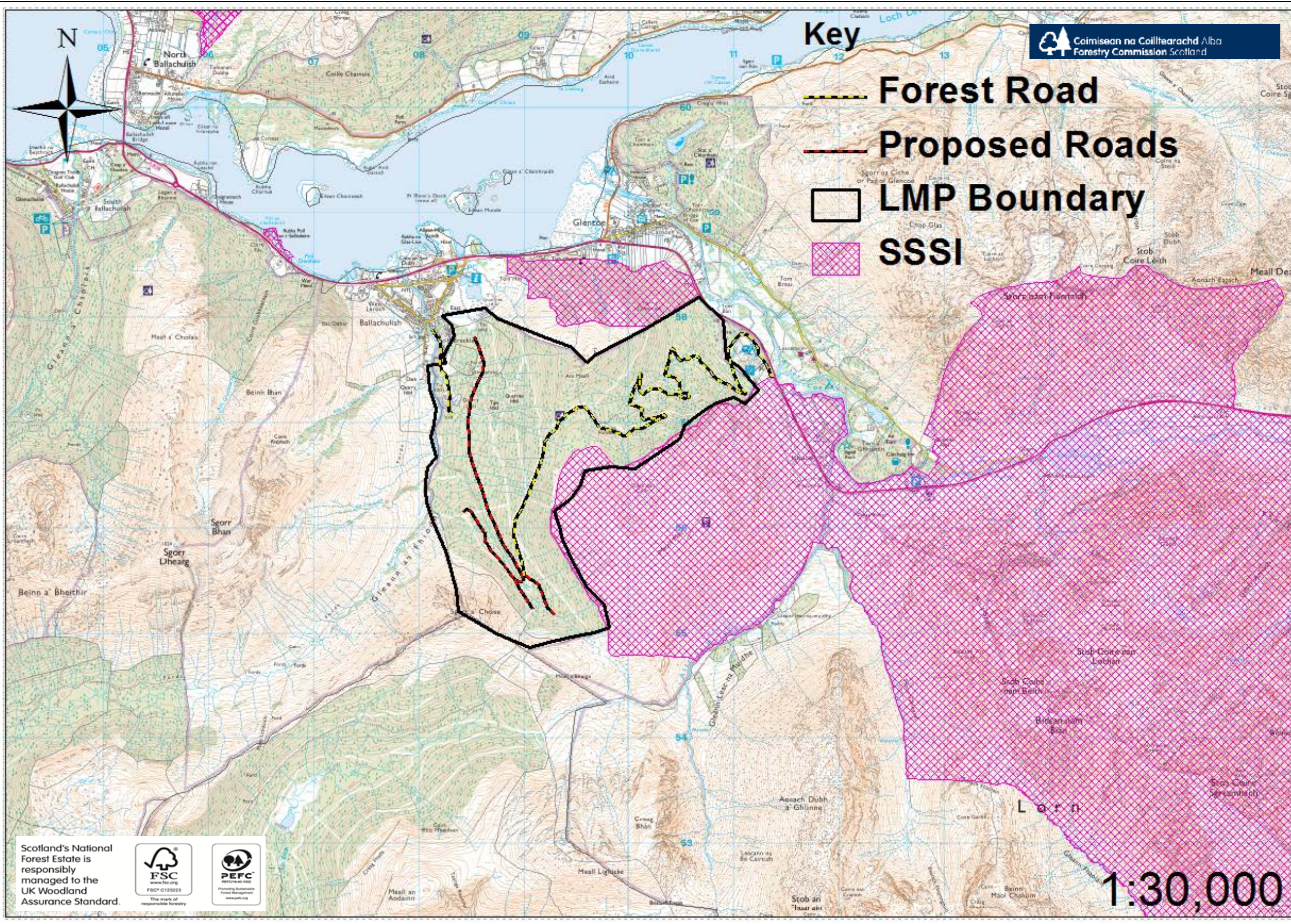
Key

- Forest Road
- Proposed Roads
- LMP Boundary
- SPA



Key

-  Forest Road
-  Proposed Roads
-  LMP Boundary
-  SSSI



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