

West Strathyre
Land Management Plan

M7: Biodiversity

Legend

- Land Management Plan Area
- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (1a & 2a) Areas
- SSSI
- SAC (Special Area of Conservation)

Current Species Groups

- Mixed Broadleaves
- Mixed Conifers
- Sitka Spruce
- Felled awaiting restock

X ASNW areas largely carrying NBL with small areas of PAWS to be restored.

Acronyms in text boxes:

- ASNW: Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
- NBL: Native broadleaves
- PAWS: Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
- MC: Mixed Conifer
- NS: Norway Spruce
- LMP: Land Management Plan

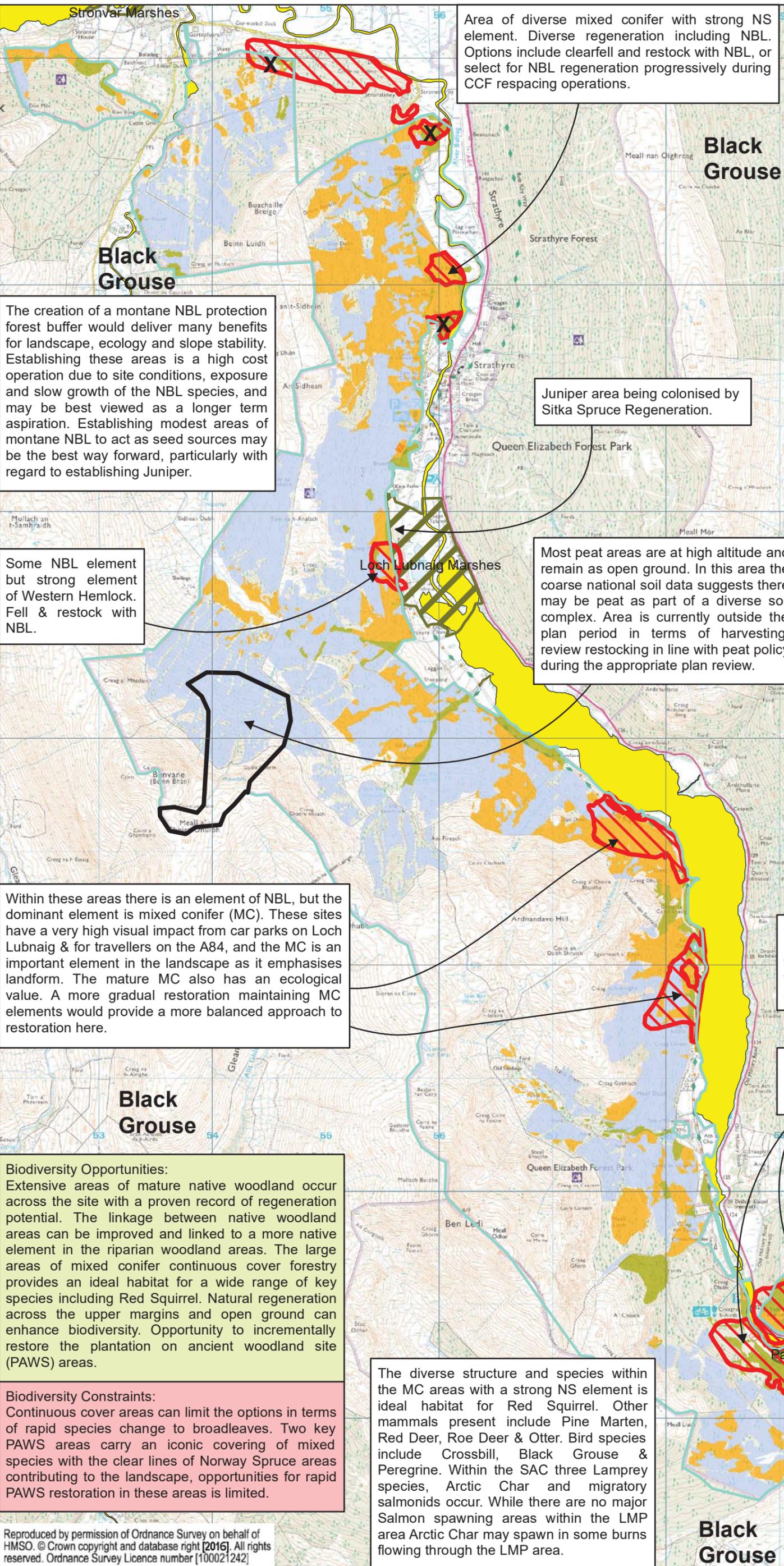
Scale: 1:35,000 @ A3



Continuing to extend the forest habitat network is a key objective. Riparian woodland and linkages between the ASNW fragments are important elements of this approach.

Most of ASNW area here carries mature NBL or is in the process of being restored to NBL woodland.

Juniper being shaded by ash regeneration



Area of diverse mixed conifer with strong NS element. Diverse regeneration including NBL. Options include clearfell and restock with NBL, or select for NBL regeneration progressively during CCF respacing operations.

The creation of a montane NBL protection forest buffer would deliver many benefits for landscape, ecology and slope stability. Establishing these areas is a high cost operation due to site conditions, exposure and slow growth of the NBL species, and may be best viewed as a longer term aspiration. Establishing modest areas of montane NBL to act as seed sources may be the best way forward, particularly with regard to establishing Juniper.

Some NBL element but strong element of Western Hemlock. Fell & restock with NBL.

Juniper area being colonised by Sitka Spruce Regeneration.

Most peat areas are at high altitude and remain as open ground. In this area the coarse national soil data suggests there may be peat as part of a diverse soil complex. Area is currently outside the plan period in terms of harvesting, review restocking in line with peat policy during the appropriate plan review.

Within these areas there is an element of NBL, but the dominant element is mixed conifer (MC). These sites have a very high visual impact from car parks on Loch Lubnag & for travellers on the A84, and the MC is an important element in the landscape as it emphasises landform. The mature MC also has an ecological value. A more gradual restoration maintaining MC elements would provide a more balanced approach to restoration here.

Biodiversity Opportunities:
Extensive areas of mature native woodland occur across the site with a proven record of regeneration potential. The linkage between native woodland areas can be improved and linked to a more native element in the riparian woodland areas. The large areas of mixed conifer continuous cover forestry provides an ideal habitat for a wide range of key species including Red Squirrel. Natural regeneration across the upper margins and open ground can enhance biodiversity. Opportunity to incrementally restore the plantation on ancient woodland site (PAWS) areas.

Biodiversity Constraints:
Continuous cover areas can limit the options in terms of rapid species change to broadleaves. Two key PAWS areas carry an iconic covering of mixed species with the clear lines of Norway Spruce areas contributing to the landscape, opportunities for rapid PAWS restoration in these areas is limited.

The diverse structure and species within the MC areas with a strong NS element is ideal habitat for Red Squirrel. Other mammals present include Pine Marten, Red Deer, Roe Deer & Otter. Bird species include Crossbill, Black Grouse & Peregrine. Within the SAC three Lamprey species, Arctic Char and migratory salmonids occur. While there are no major Salmon spawning areas within the LMP area Arctic Char may spawn in some burns flowing through the LMP area.