



Appendix 2: Landscape and Visualisations

- **Loch Goil Landscape Comments**
- **Map M04a Felling Phases (to accompany Visualisations in Appendix 2)**
- **Visualisations VP1 – VP5**



Lochgoil Landscape comments

Introduction

This report summarises the landscape impacts for the strategic Larch felling plan for the FLS Loch Goil forest block, this report will focus on coupes that have been brought forward for felling which were not in phase 1 or 2 in the previous LMP submitted 2009.

Coupes that have been brought forward are predominately in, the north Strath Goil area around Pole Farm (*VP4a Strath Goil East, VP4b Strath Goil West*), the south end of Strath Goil, north of Inveronich (*VP5 The Steeple*). Notable coupes that were phase 1 but will be delayed until at least phase 2 are coupes along the south side of Glen Donich (*VP1 Ben Donich*), on Monadh Beag to the west of Strath Goil and above Cormonachan.

There are small-scale felling coupes proposed scattered through the southern side of Gleann Mor (*VP2 Gleann Mor*). Other larch felling coupes are located throughout the plan area and are generally small scale.

A larger coupe approved as a phase 1 in the previous LMP visible to the west above Lochgoilhead remains phase 1 planned (*VP3 LGH Car Park*).

Designations:

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP):

Within the National Park, Lochgoil sits in the 'Argyll Forest' area detailed in the SNH (2010) report '*The Special Landscape Qualities of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park*' SNH Commissioned Report No.376, the general special qualities listed relevant to the Loch Goil block:

- A remote area of high hills and deep glens
- A land of forests and trees
- The variety of glens

Detailed citation within the report expands on these special qualities, themes specifically relating to the block area are:

- *distinctive summits rising above forested slopes and steep-sided, glacially-carved troughs filled with sea lochs, lochs or flat-bottomed glens*
- *“Extensive conifer plantings cover most of the lower hillsides, with the afforested tracts of such vast scale and density that they are a distinguishing feature of the scenery*

In places broadleaved woodland clothes the lower hill slopes and glen floors, providing a lighter foreground to the dark backdrop of coniferous plantations.”

- *“In the uninhabited areas the **dense forests accentuate the sense of remoteness**, whereas around houses and settlements the woods **provide a sense of shelter and seclusion**.”*
- *“The forests can restrict long distance views, creating a visual and perceptual barrier between the **farmed glen floor and the upper, bare and open hill summits**. Often the **forests end abruptly at a distinctive tree-line**.”*
- *Gleann Beag (Hell’s Glen) and Gleann Mor, along with Glen Croe, form a circuit through the mountains of Arrochar. Each is deeply carved into the hills with rocky slopes reaching up to summits some 800m high and glen floors narrow and uneven ... Here **large boulders and steep rocky crags emerge from thick forested slopes**, the rocks and cliffs with distinctive shapes and overhang above the narrow road.*

Landscape Character Types (LCTs):

The area is characterised by lochs, forested glens and upland hills. Sea lochs are a feature of this area and the sinuous narrow Loch Goil sits to the south and east of the forest block.

NatureScot has produced a national map-based Landscape Character Assessment for Scotland. LCT descriptions provide a list of key characteristics, and typically include sections on physical, cultural and aesthetic elements of landscape. The LCTs that cover Lochgoil are:

LCT 250 Steep ridges and hills -> The steep sided hills around Lochgoilhead are a feature of this LCT with pronounced summits rising dramatically from the narrow sinuous sea loch of Loch Goil. The long sinuous Loch Goil features to the south with surrounding hills visible in views of sea lochs such as the view south from Lochgoilhead south west across the head of Loch Goil to Cruach nam Miseag.

LCT 251 Highland Summits -> This LCT comprises high mountains with a rugged and complex form and a massive scale and within the block covers the east side of Ben Donich land cover is open/agricultural grazing. **No change proposed within this LCT type.**

LCT 252 Upland Glens -> This LCT includes the larger glens which cut into the Highland Summits and Steep Ridges and Hills Landscape Character Types. The Gleann Mor area of the block is strongly enclosed with steep sided glens often with rocky outcrops, extensively forested on the lower slopes.

LCT 253 Straths and Glens -> This LCT covers the Strath Goil valley is characterised a broad u-shaped glens and straths with wide flat floodplains. The strath sides are forested with conifer species with scattered remnants of native woodland along the edges. Occasionally forest and woodland cover extends onto the strath floor. The glen floor are farmed with improved pasture. The river is a feature of the strath floor a sinuous course across the flat glen floor.

LCT 265 Settled coastal fringe -> This LCT is associated with the flatter areas dotted around coastal edges, Lochgoilhead located on an alluvial fan where Strath Goil meets Loch Goil. The

village is generally linear in shape following the flatter coast at the head of Loch Goil. The caravan and chalet park at Drimsynie House is a key feature sitting in a 19th C designed landscape. **No change proposed within this LCT type.**

Visibility and Viewpoints

Given the landscape features identified within the LLTNP Special Qualities (SQ) and landscape character, 6 viewpoints have been selected to be representative of the receptors around Lochgoilhead concentrating on areas with visibility of proposed felling coupes.

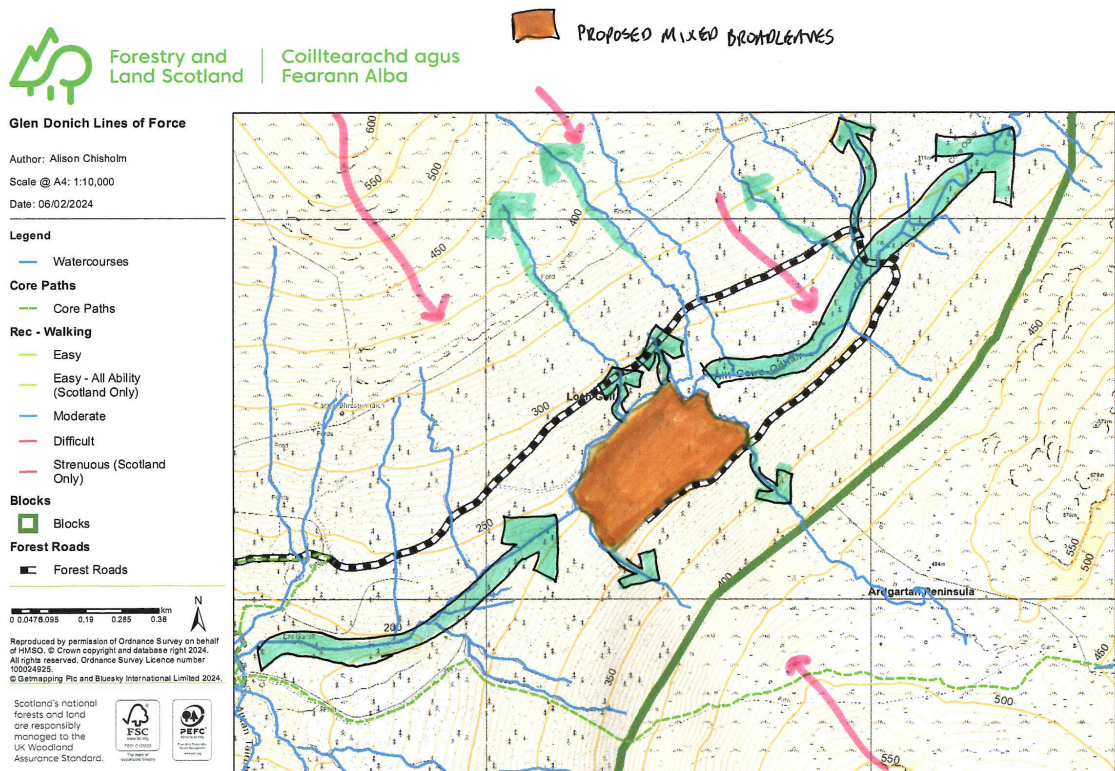
Viewpoint	Viewpoint description	Comment
<p>Ben Donich looking south</p> <p><i>VP1 Ben Donich</i></p>	<p>The summit of Ben Donich is a popular walk with ascent typically from the northern side. Views can be obtained from the summit of the upper margins of south side of Glen Donich which is visible in wider views of Argyll and south across Loch Long.</p> <p>The forest on the west side of Strath Goil and around Monadh Beag is also visible from the summit.</p> <p>A viewpoint <i>VP1 Ben Donich</i> was chosen from the southern slopes of Ben Donich summit, while not a frequently visited it is used to demonstrate the changes to the glen and show how the proposed coupe design diversifies the pattern of broadleaf and conifer with Glen Donich landscape.</p>	<p>There are no proposed larch felling coupes in Glen Donich visible from the summit.</p> <p>Previous Phase 1 coupes have now moved into Phase 2 to accommodate larch felling elsewhere.</p> <p>The proposed changes to coupe 04490 are visible with the proposed broadleaf habitat to the valley floor with a mosaic of broadleaf and mixed conifers are visible with conifer coupes on the slopes above. A proposed road extension submitted with the previous LMP 'Donich South Road' will be visible in this view which will still be required for the Phase 2 coupes.</p> <p>The year 2045 viewpoint view shows an increase in diversity within Glen Donich with a core habitat of broadleaves proposed for the centre of the glen and a mosaic of habitats developing.</p>
<p>Gleann Mor</p> <p><i>VP2 Gleann Mor</i></p>	<p><i>VP2 Gleann Mor</i> demonstrates the typical size and scale of clear fell proposed for Gleann Mor.</p>	<p>These are small scale clearfell coupes, visibility and landscape impact is minimal.</p>

<p>Lochgoilhead</p> <p>Looking west</p> <p><i>VP3 LGH Car Park</i></p>	<p>A review was made of coupe 04116 above Lochgoilhead to the west behind Drimsynie House, this phase 1 coupe was previously approved in the previous LMP, no changes to coupe boundary are proposed.</p>	<p>No additional landscape impact noted from previous approved LMP. Restock will be a permanent cover of broadleaves on the lower slopes with a conifer coupe above managed long term by clearfell. There are no cumulative impacts between planned coupe 04116 and any additional Larch felling coupes.</p>
<p>Strath Goil NORTH</p> <p>Looking north east</p> <p><i>VP4a Strath Goil East</i></p>	<p><i>VP4a Strath Goil East</i> shows the proposed coupes 04032 and 04026 which are on the lower slopes of Strath Goil east and visible from both sides of the glen. Due to targeting larch the extent of felling within phase 1 is more extensive than previously proposed and is adjacent to a recent clearfell coupe 04037.</p> <p>Clearfell coupes in Strath Goil will be screened in the wider landscape, there is no visibility from Lochgoilhead, Loch Goil, Hell's Glen or Gleann Mor.</p> <p>Visibility is generally around the upper end of Strath Goil, upper slopes of the surrounding glen, and enclosing summits such as Stob an Eas to the north and The Steeple to the south.</p>	<p>In the northern section of Strath Goil area, the felling coupes proposed will create a large change locally, combined with the recent clear fell 04037 will result in the northern portion of Strath Goil experiencing a large scale change within a relatively short timescale.</p> <p>Pole Farm will have views to the clearfell adjacent to the east, partially mitigated by roadside broadleaves. Views from Drumsyniebg are partially screened by riparian and roadside woodland.</p> <p>Restock is a mix of predominately broadleaves with conifer in coupe 04026 and once established will be a permanent cover and the proposed felling shape and size will not be used as coupe shape again.</p> <p>Coupe 04032 will be restocked with mixed conifers which will become a small scale future clearfell coupe and a better fitting small scale coupe within the lower slopes and strath floor.</p>
<p>Strath Goil NORTH</p> <p>Looking north west above Drumsyniebeg</p> <p><i>VP4b Strath Gol West</i></p>	<p><i>VP4b Strath Gol West</i> The western coupe 04087 is partially screened from the Strath Goil road by riparian broadleaves along the river Goil.</p> <p>The clearfell will be screened from Pole Farm by a small block of broadleaves to the south and west of the farm. Drumsyniebeg retains its enclosure to the north and west with the existing broadleaves in coupe 04049 which will</p>	<p>The viewpoint shows that coupe 04087 is a relatively large-scale coupe for the small-scale enclosed Strath. The viewpoint also shows that combined with proposed phase 2 felling and recent clearfell, for Strath Goil, there will be large scale change within a relatively short timescale.</p> <p>The felling coupe is necessary to target larch felling and the size and scale of felling to the lower slopes will not be repeated in future coupe boundaries.</p>

	<p>remain but will have views south to the clearfell coupe 04087.</p> <p>Visibility of clear fell is generally around the upper end of Strath Goil, upper slopes of the surrounding glen, and enclosing summits such as Ben Donich to the east, Stob an Eas to the north and The Steeple to the south.</p> <p>The viewpoint location shows a view of coupe 04087 when travelling south to north from the minor road, this view is brief and generally roadside and riparian woodland screen the lower slopes of Strath Goil from the road.</p>	<p>This short-term impact can be mitigated in the long term by the planned restock of conifer and broadleaf mix and a management prescription which will achieve a permanent tree cover. The future LMP should design a sequence of felling coupes that reduces large scale impacts on the Strath.</p> <p>The viewpoint visualisations for 2035 and 2045 show an ongoing restructuring of the forest around Strath Goil that creates greater diversity with a proportion of permanent cover to the lower slopes and edges adjacent to Strath Goil.</p>
<p>The Steeple looking North West</p> <p><i>VP5 The Steeple</i></p>	<p>Looking north from 'the Steeple' <i>VP5 The Steeple</i>, there is a view of Strath Goil and enclosing slopes and summits.</p> <p>The flat valley floor of pasture north of Lochgoilhead and around Pole Farm and adjacent to Inveronich House are easily identified.</p> <p>Visible in the view from The Steeple looking north are clearfell coupes 04043 and 04044. 04044 is larger than proposed in the previous approved LMP and combines a number of smaller coupes. This combined coupe 04044 removes a section of conifer plantation on the east side adjacent to the public road through the southern portion of the Strath Goil.</p> <p>Clearfell coupes 04087, 04032 and 04026 are also visible to the north of the Strath.</p>	<p>Larger areas of clear fell are visible on the lower slopes of Strath Goil. These coupe sizes are larger than would be typically be designed given the small scale enclosed valley floor. The size has been dictated by the required Larch felling and the sizes have been minimized to take the smallest footprint possible.</p> <p>Of note, the coupes 04037 and 04055 which have been felled and waiting restock are partially visible, combined with the other felling coupes results, in the short term, in Strath Goil slopes having larger areas of open ground than previously planned.</p> <p>Long term mitigation will ensure that this felling coupe pattern is not replicated. Future clearfell will be planned in a sequenced way to avoid a repeat of large-scale impact to Strath Goil.</p> <p>Within Strath Goil many areas of the lower slopes will be restocked by broadleaf planting and any future clearfell size and scale will fit with the scale of the landscape. The visualisation from 2045 demonstrates a greater proportion of broadleaf and permanent cover to the lower slopes of Strath Goil.</p>

Glen Donich

Not related to the Larch felling, there is a proposed change to the central area of Glen Donich centered on sub-compartment 5131B in clearfell coupe 04490. The approved LMP restock is currently Sitka Spruce which would be changed through this amendment to mixed broadleaves and the Sitka Spruce from 5131B swapped with the proposed natural regen in 5131A. Ground conditions around 5131B are better suited to a wet woodland and minimizes future ground disturbance. The overall ratio of Sitka Spruce to Broadleaves in compartment 5131 will remain largely the same, but the distribution changed. This is primarily due to ground conditions and easier establishment of broadleaves within the glen rather than the upper margins. Changes the sub-compartment design better reflect the landscape lines of force.



Coupe design takes advantage of this larger area of broadleaves to create a naturalistic and organic design through the glen. Using the broadleaf establishment as a core habitat spreading up Glen Donich and into gullies towards the mid to upper slopes. The diagram above shows how lines of force analysis was used to redesign coupe shapes in Glen Donich.

VP1 *Glen Donich 2045* shows a developing mosaic of woodland planting and open areas changing the characteristics of the glen from conifer plantation to a more diverse forest.

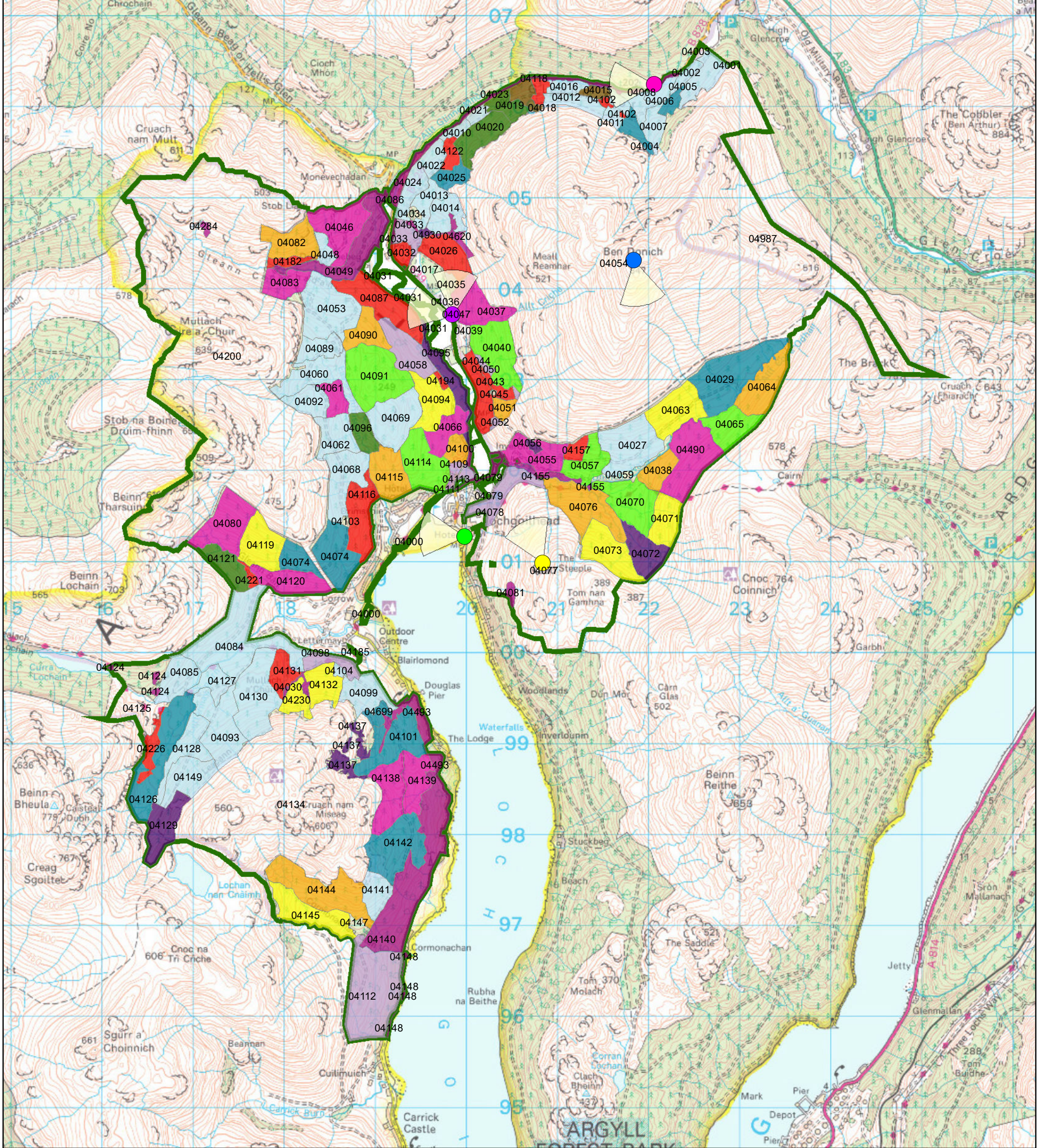
Summary

Larch felling will impact on Strath Goil to a greater extent than previously planned in the approved LMP. The location and extent of the clearfell adjacent to the small scale valley floor will in the short term open up the glen, increase the amount of open ground and decrease the perceived enclosure of the Strath.

In the long term the coupes will be restocked and the valley floor will become enclosed again. The restock to 04087 and 04026, the largest coupes proposed have a high proportion of broadleaves and will become permanent cover with any future clearfell coupes planned on the lower slopes of Strath Goil being small-medium scale. The change from conifer to native woodland to sections of the northern half of Strath Goil will **provide a sense of shelter and seclusion** as observed in the LLTNP SQ.

The broadleaf planting to the lower slopes interacts with the LLTNP SQ **extensive conifer plantings cover most of the lower hillsides**, changes in north of Strath Goil will introduce a lighter foreground to the backdrop of coniferous plantation.

Other areas of Larch felling do not impact on the landscape character or the Special Qualities of the National Park. The enclosed **dense forests accentuate the sense of remoteness** remain, especially in Gleann Mor where the SQ **large boulders and steep rocky crags emerge from thick forested slopes** remain. Elsewhere the **farmed glen floor and the upper, bare and open hill summits** remain and in places the forest continue to restrict some long distance views as noted in the LLTNP SQ. There are no proposed changes that would impact the **distinctive summits rising above forested slopes**.



M04a Felling Phases (to accompany Visualisations in Appendix 2)

Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

Date: 12/12/2024

Author: Jamie.Howie



Legend

Management Coupes - Felling Phases

- Recently Felled
- Phase 1 felling (2025 - 2029)
- Phase 2 felling (2030 - 2034)
- Phase 3 felling (2035 - 2039)
- Phase 4 felling (2040 - 2044)
- Phase 5 felling (2045 - 2049)
- Phase 6 felling (2050 - 2054)
- After 2059
- Long Term Retention (Fall after Phase 3)
- Natural Reserve
- Minimum Intervention
- Coppice
- Low Impact Silviculture

Viewpoint Location

- Ben Dorich Summit
- Glenn Mor
- Lochgoilhead Car Park
- Strath Gail
- The Steeple

- Field of View
- Loch Gail Forest



Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

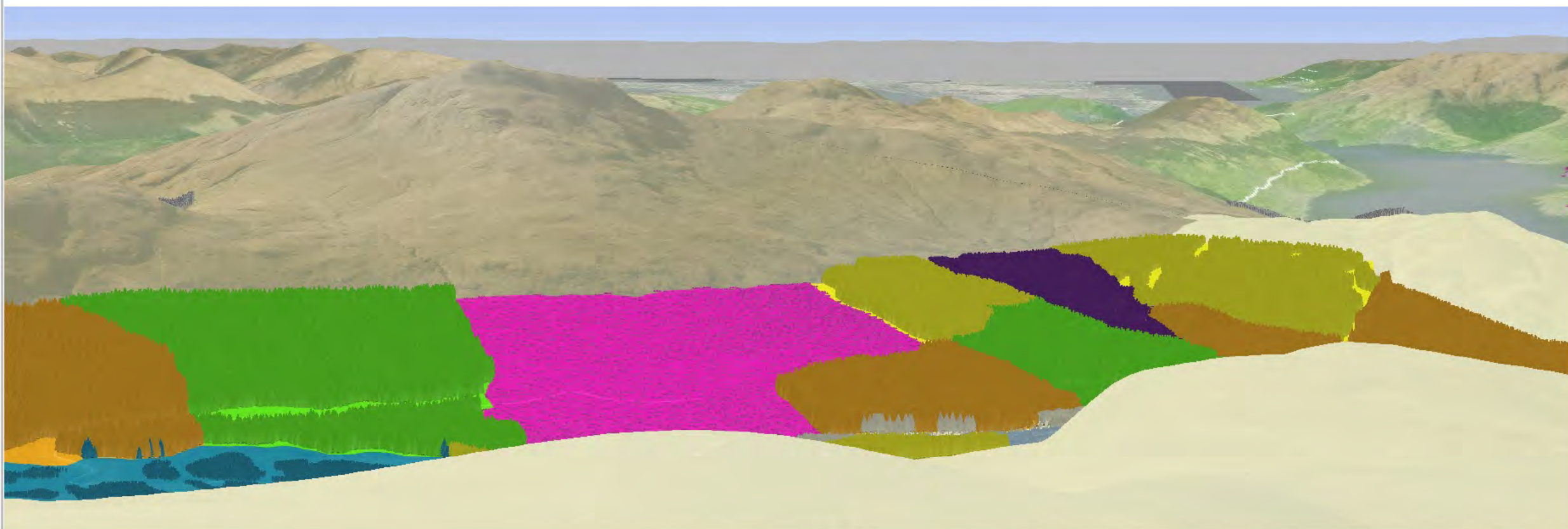
View Ben Donich summit
Grid Ref: NN 2186 0432 (to South)
Date: December 2024

Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year
Photo: Spring

Phases: from 2025

Felling Phases have a rolling 5 year period and for visualisations start on the date shown above.



-  Felled or fell year requires review
-  Phase 1: < 5 years
-  Phase 2: between 5 and 9 years
-  Phase 3: between 10 and 14 years
-  Phase 4: between 15 and 19 years
-  Phase 5: between 20 and 24 years
-  Phase 6: between 25 and 29 years
-  Phase 7: between 30 and 34 years
-  Phase 8: 35 years and greater
-  Clearfell with seed trees
-  Low Impact Silviculture
-  Minimum Intervention
-  Natural Reserve
-  Long Term Retention
-  Other/Open land
-  Neighbouring woodland



Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

View Ben Donich summit
Grid Ref: NN 2186 0432 (to South)
Date: December 2024

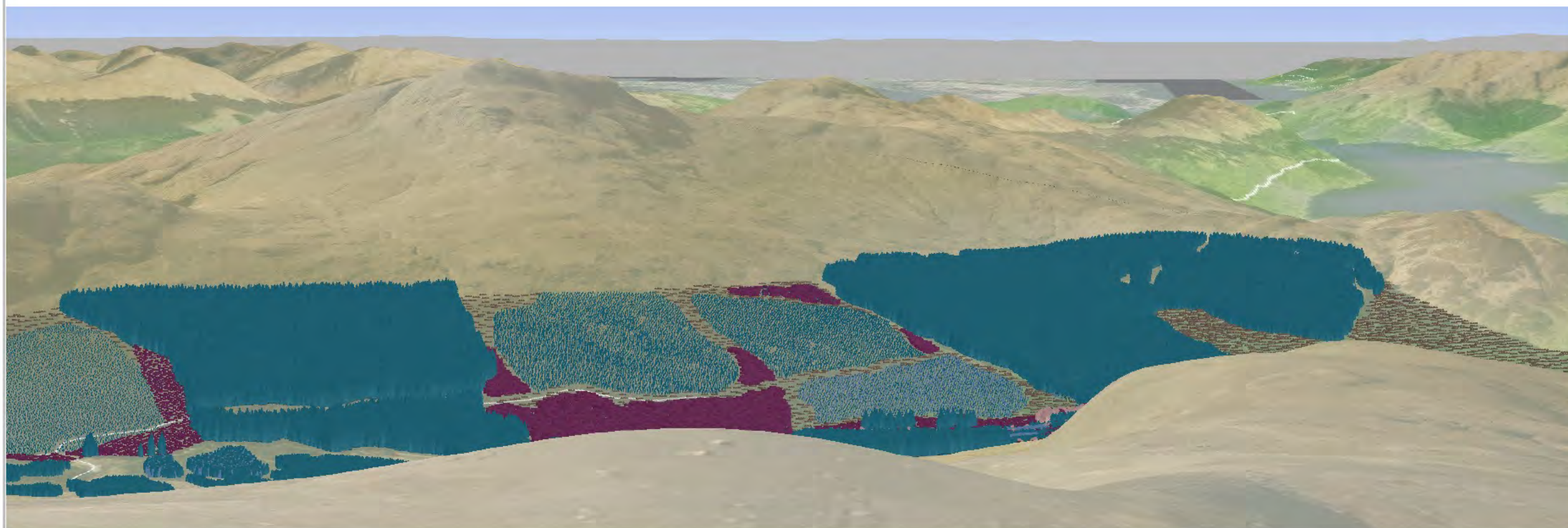
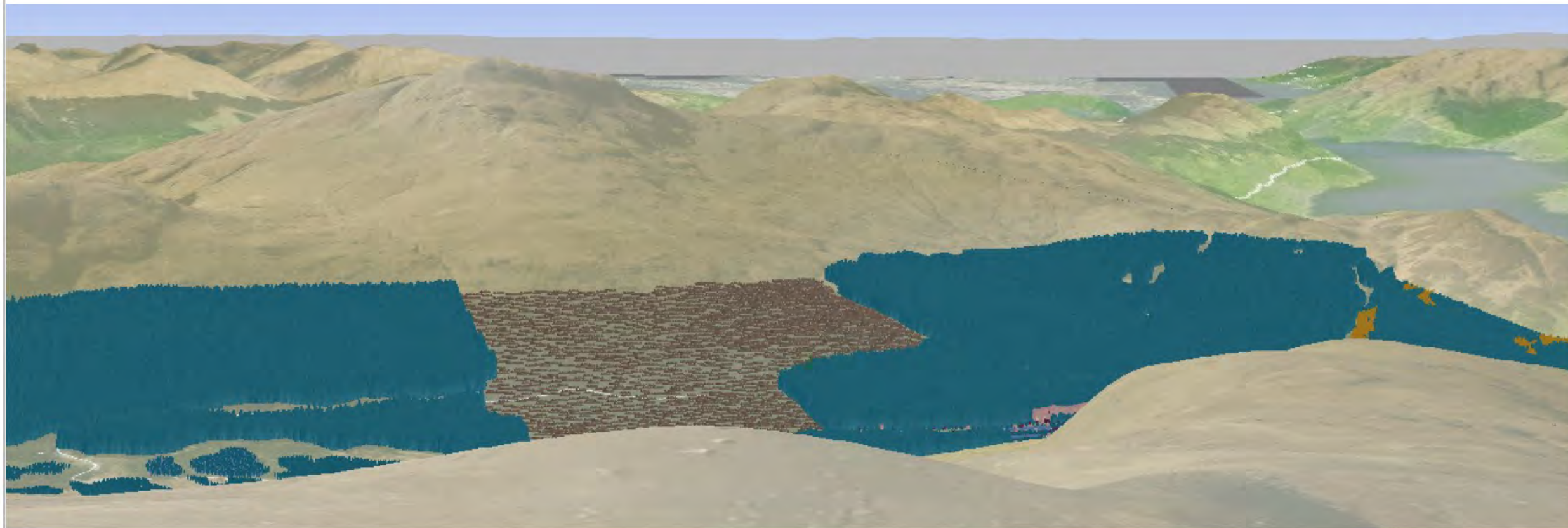
Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year

Species 2025

Species 2035

Felling Phases have a rolling 5 year period and for visualisations start on the date shown above.



-  Sitka spruce
-  Norway spruce
-  Scots pine
-  Lodgepole pine
-  Larch
-  Douglas fir
-  Mixed conifers
-  Ash
-  Oak
-  Beech
-  Birch
-  Mixed broadleaves
-  Native mixed broadleaves
-  Neighbouring woodland



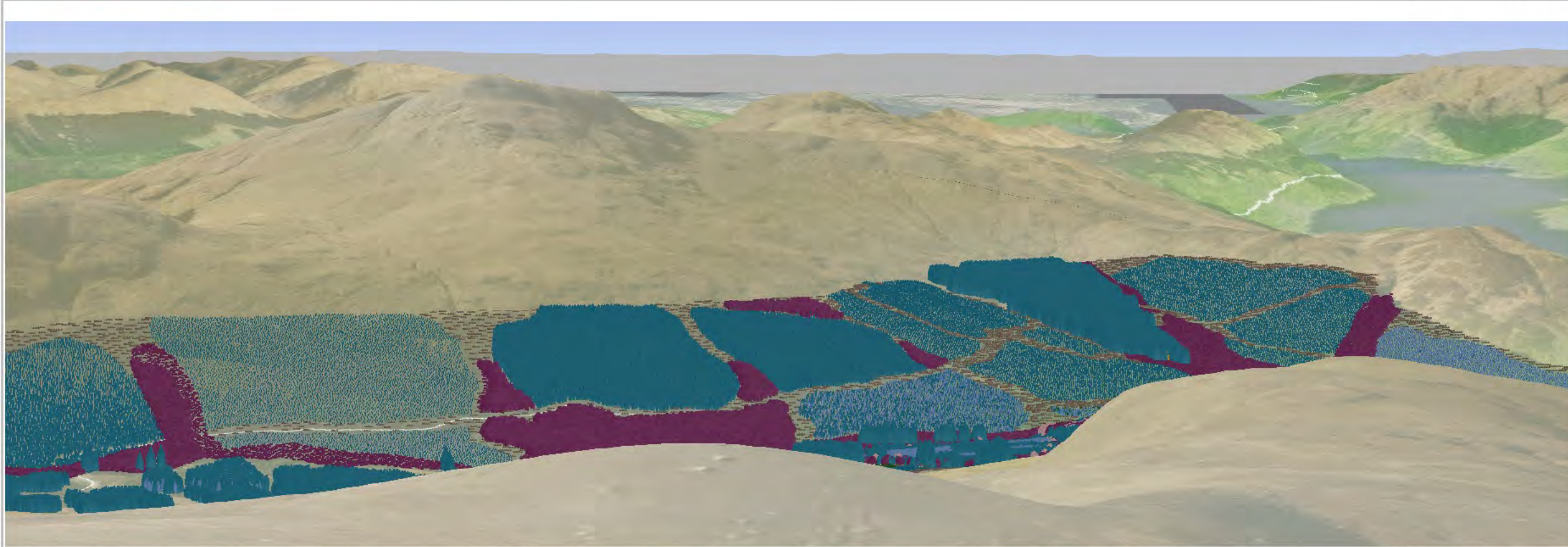
Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

View Ben Donich summit
Grid Ref: NN 2186 0432 (to South)
Date: December 2024

Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year
Species 2045
Autumn 2045

Felling Phases have a rolling 5 year period and for visualisations start on the date shown above.



-  Sitka spruce
-  Norway spruce
-  Scots pine
-  Lodgepole pine
-  Larch
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-  Oak
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-  Mixed broadleaves
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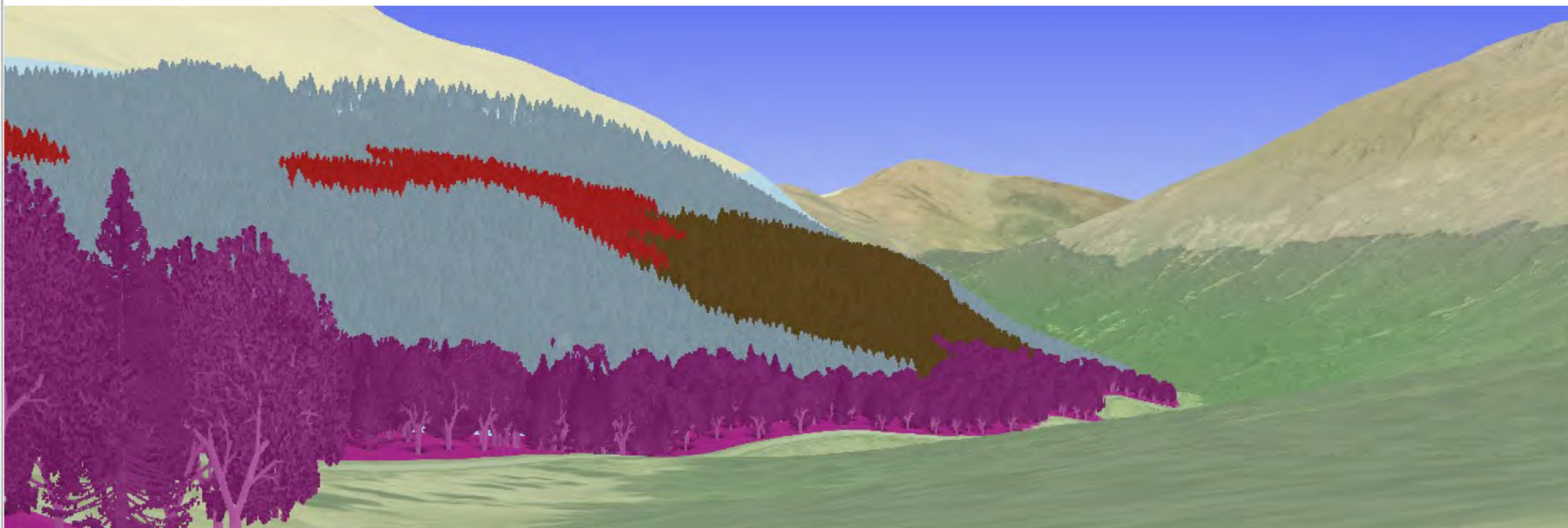
Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

View: Glenn Mor
Grid Ref: NN 2206 0624 (to West)
Date: December 2024

Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year
Photo: Autumn
Phases: from 2025

Felling Phases have a rolling 5 year period and for visualisations start on the date shown above.



-  Felled or fell year requires review
-  Phase 1: < 5 years
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-  Phase 8: 35 years and greater
-  Clearfell with seed trees
-  Low Impact Silviculture
-  Minimum Intervention
-  Natural Reserve
-  Long Term Retention
-  Other/Open land
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Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

View: Glenn Mor
Grid Ref: NN 2206 0624 (to West)
Date: December 2024

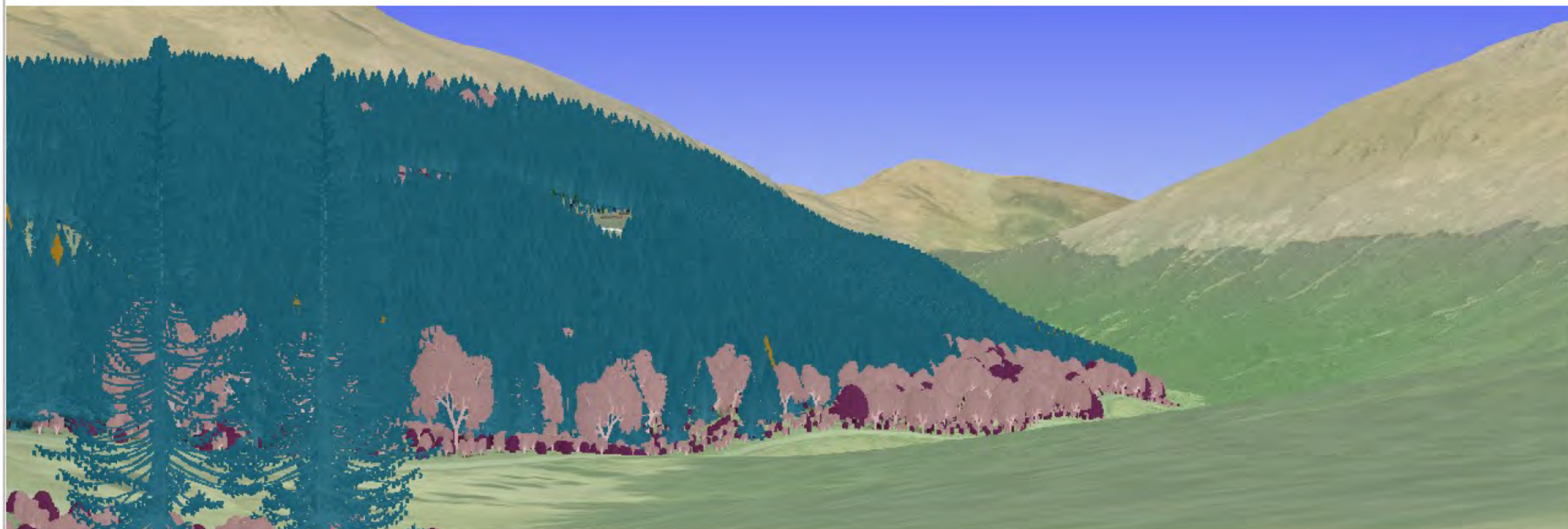
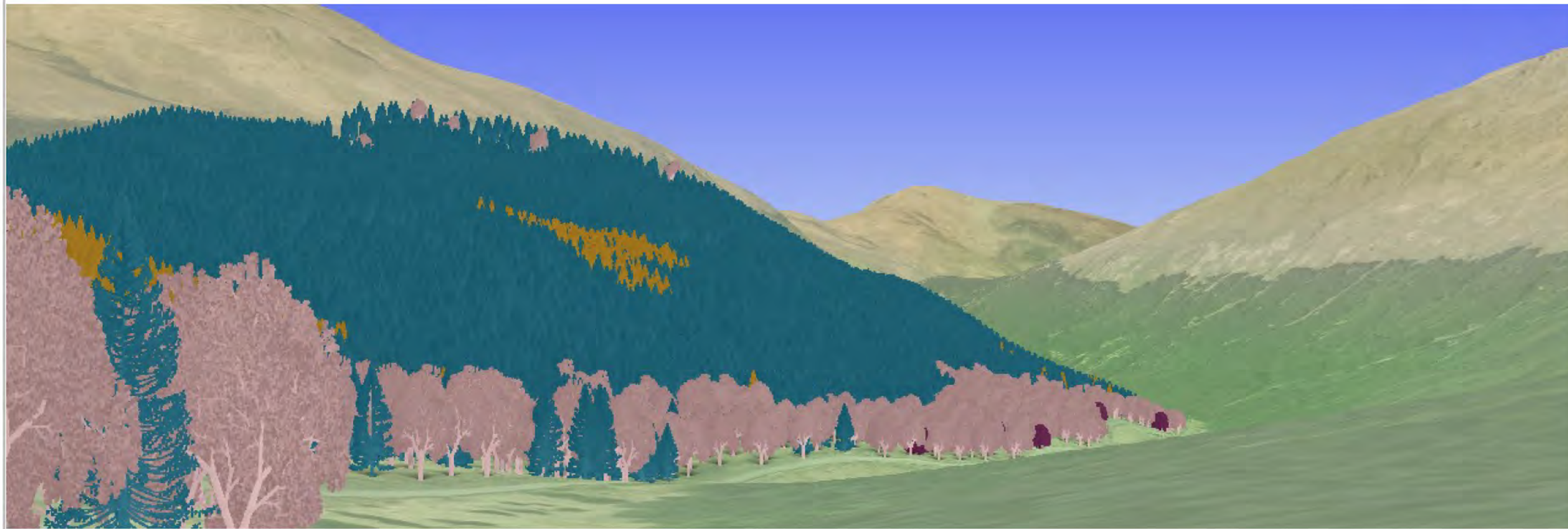
Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year

Species 2025

Species 2035

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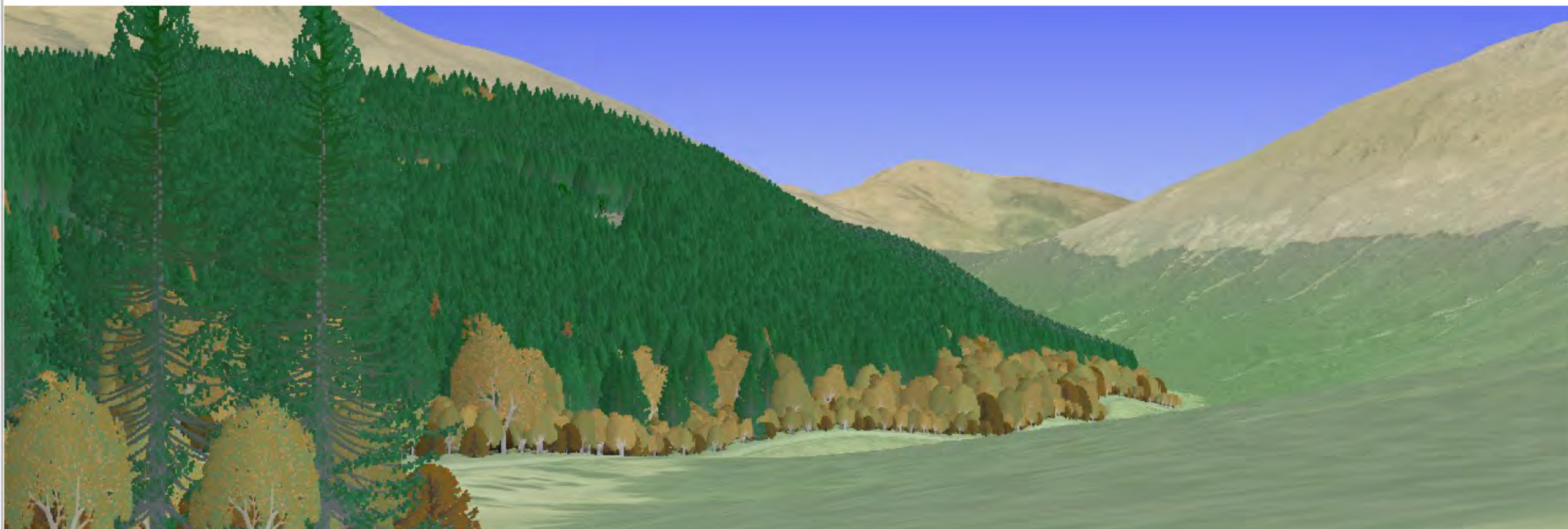
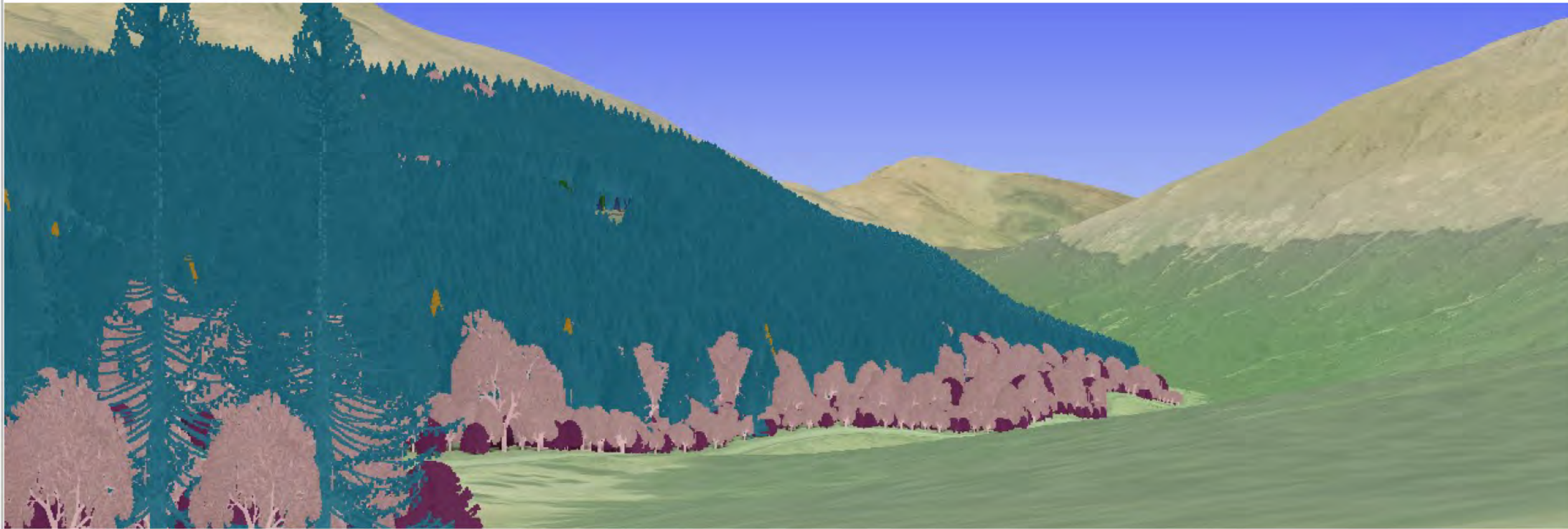
Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

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Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year
Species 2045
Autumn 2045

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Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

View Lochgoilhead Car Park
Grid Ref: NN 2001 0129 (to West)
Date: December 2024

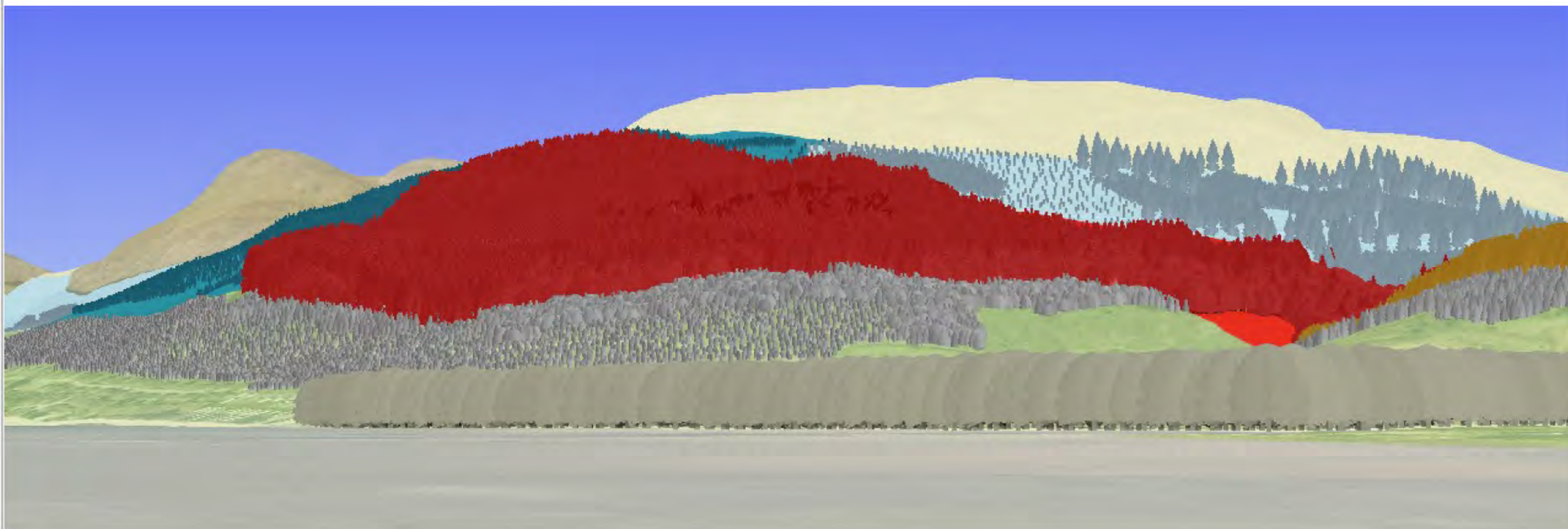
Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year

Photo: Summer

Phases: from 2025

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Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

View Lochgoilhead Car Park
Grid Ref: NN 2001 0129 (to West)
Date: December 2024

Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year
Species 2025
Species 2035

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Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

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Grid Ref: NN 2001 0129 (to West)
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Visualisation of Felling proposals

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Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

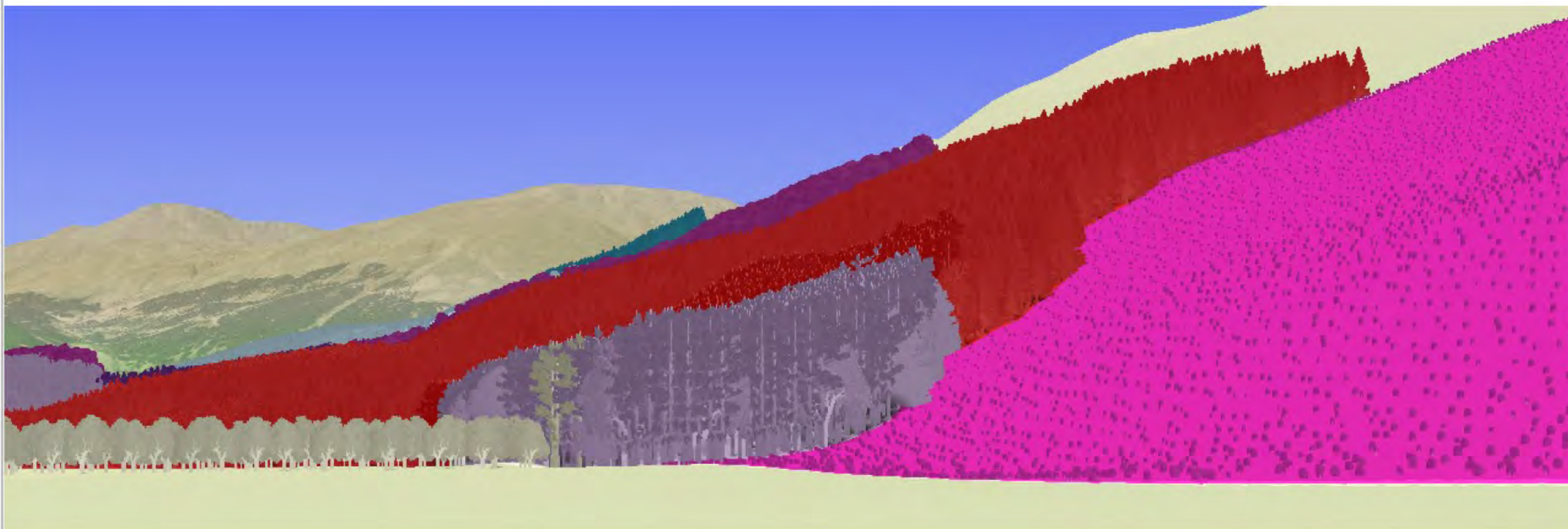
View Strath Goil East
Grid Ref: NN 1982 0371 (to North)
Date: December 2024

Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year
Photo: Spring

Phases: from 2025

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View Strath Goil East
Grid Ref: NN 1982 0371 (to North)
Date: December 2024

Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year
Species 2025
Species 2035

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Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

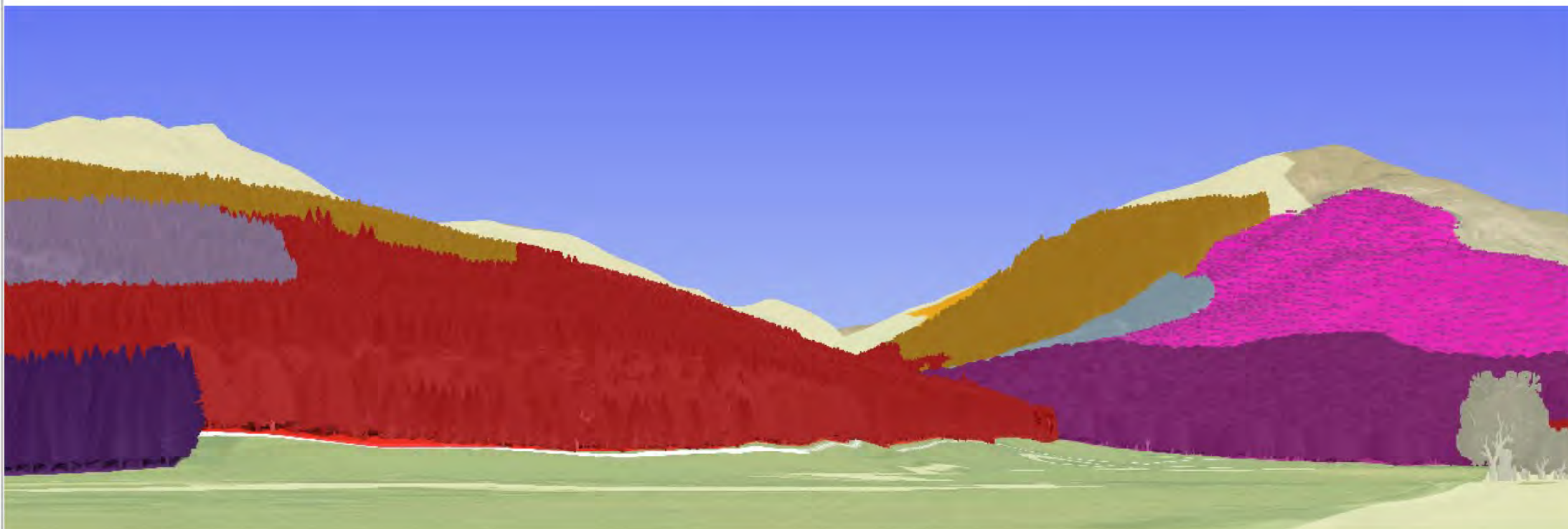
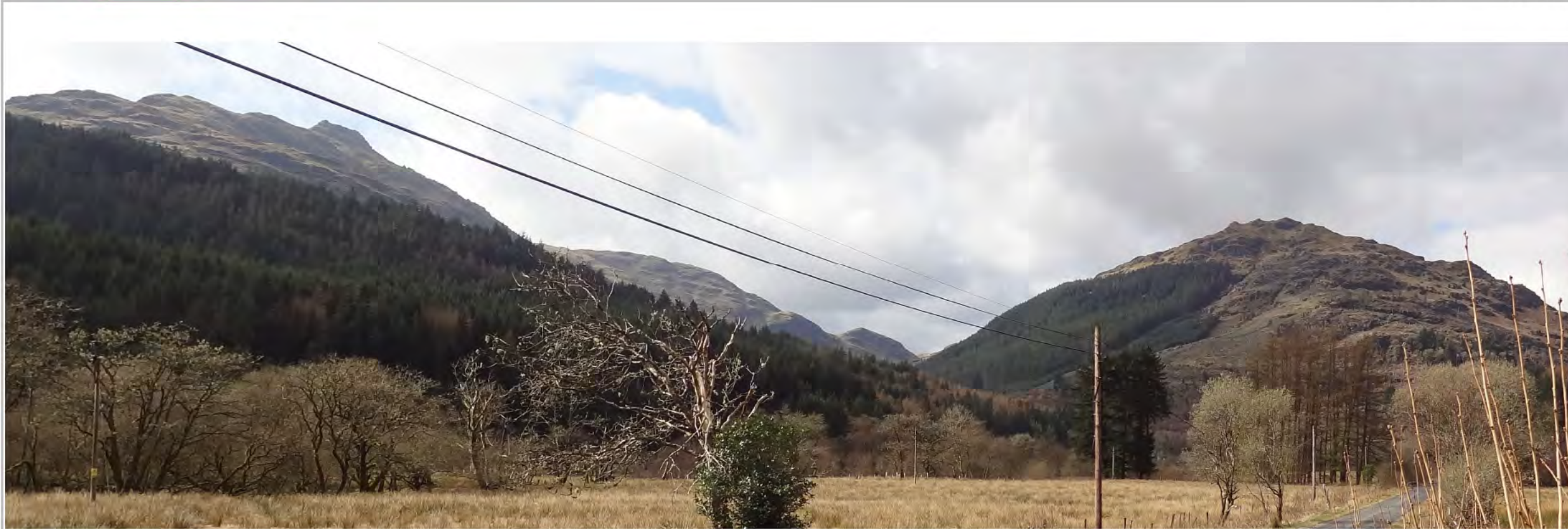
View Strath Goil West
Grid Ref: NN 1982 0371 (to NW)
Date: December 2024

Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year
Photo: Spring

Phases: from 2025

Felling Phases have a rolling 5 year period and for visualisations start on the date shown above.





Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

View Strath Goil West
Grid Ref: NN 1982 0371 (to NW)
Date: December 2024

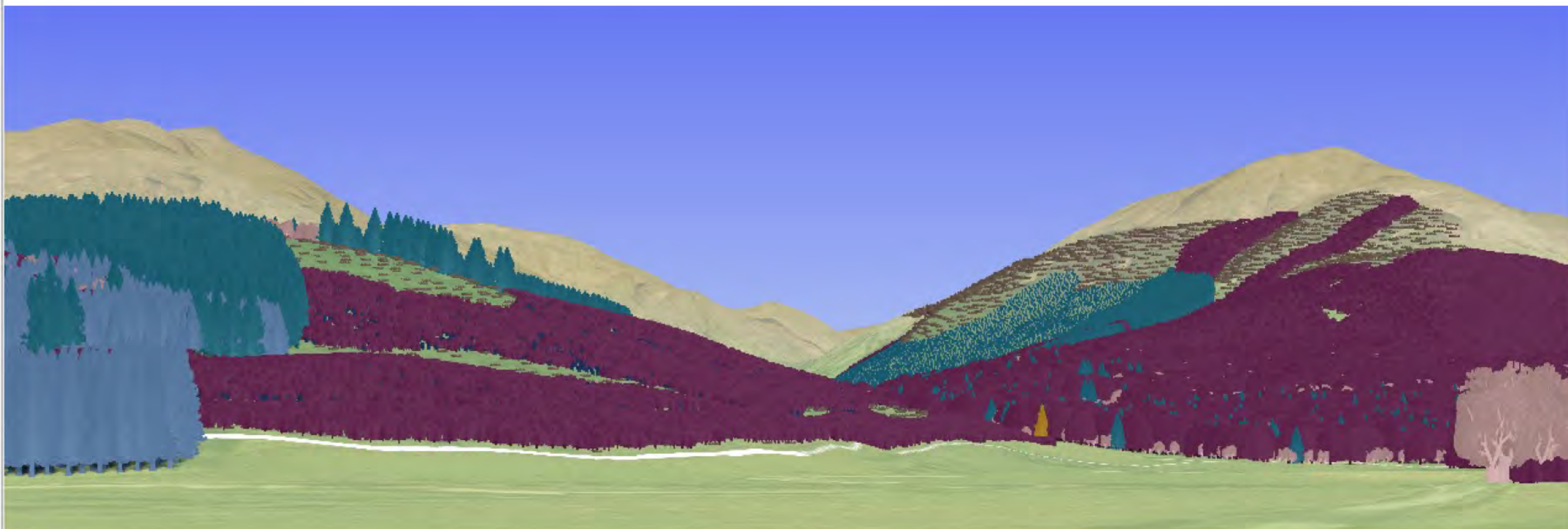
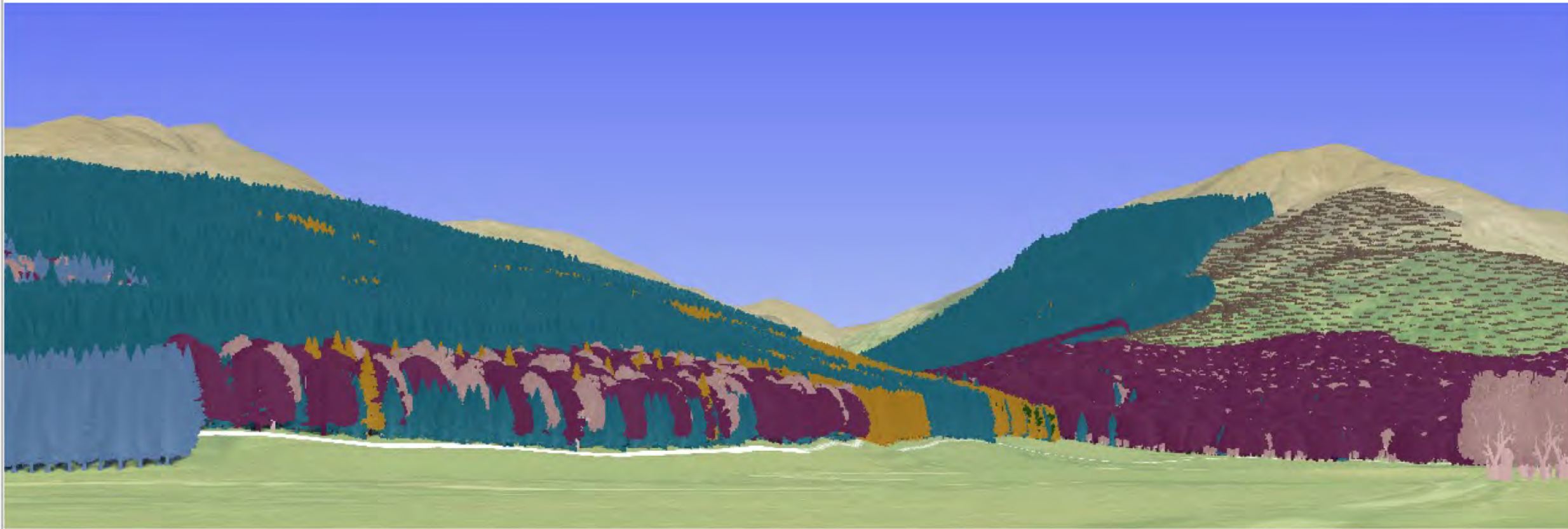
Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year

Species 2025

Species 2035

Felling Phases have a rolling 5 year period and for visualisations start on the date shown above.



-  Sitka spruce
-  Norway spruce
-  Scots pine
-  Lodgepole pine
-  Larch
-  Douglas fir
-  Mixed conifers
-  Ash
-  Oak
-  Beech
-  Birch
-  Mixed broadleaves
-  Native mixed broadleaves
-  Neighbouring woodland



Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

View Strath Goil West
Grid Ref: NN 1982 0371 (to NW)
Date: December 2024

Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year
Species 2045
Autumn 2045

Felling Phases have a rolling 5 year period and for visualisations start on the date shown above.



-  Sitka spruce
-  Norway spruce
-  Scots pine
-  Lodgepole pine
-  Larch
-  Douglas fir
-  Mixed conifers
-  Ash
-  Oak
-  Beech
-  Birch
-  Mixed broadleaves
-  Native mixed broadleaves
-  Neighbouring woodland



Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

View The Steeple summit
Grid Ref: NN 2083 0098 (to NW)
Date: December 2024

Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year
Photo: Summer
Phases: from 2025

Felling Phases have a rolling 5 year period and for visualisations start on the date shown above.



-  Felled or fell year requires review
-  Phase 1: < 5 years
-  Phase 2: between 5 and 9 years
-  Phase 3: between 10 and 14 years
-  Phase 4: between 15 and 19 years
-  Phase 5: between 20 and 24 years
-  Phase 6: between 25 and 29 years
-  Phase 7: between 30 and 34 years
-  Phase 8: 35 years and greater
-  Clearfell with seed trees
-  Low Impact Silviculture
-  Minimum Intervention
-  Natural Reserve
-  Long Term Retention
-  Other/Open land
-  Neighbouring woodland



Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

View The Steeple summit
Grid Ref: NN 2083 0098 (to NW)
Date: December 2024

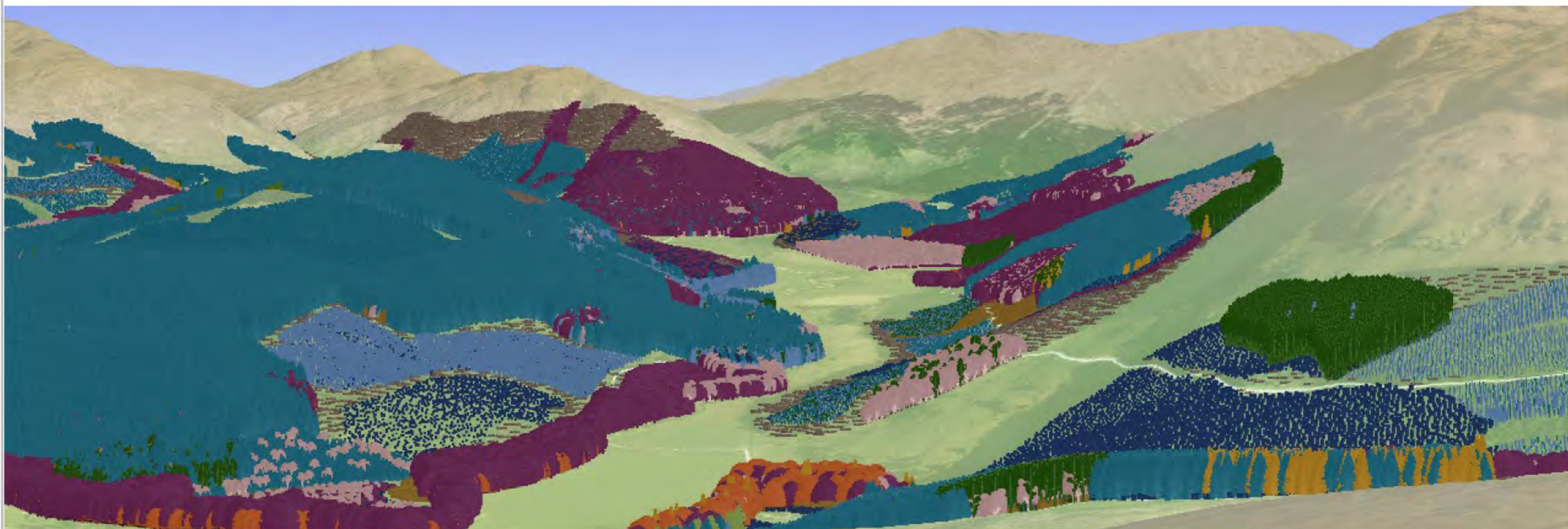
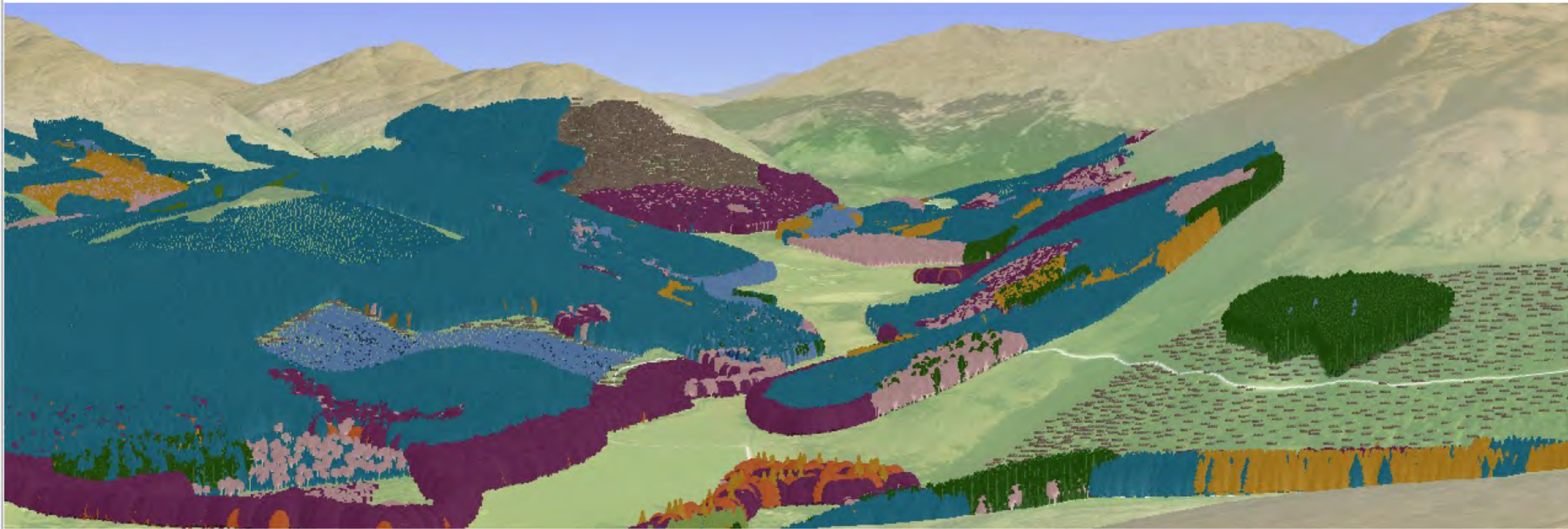
Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year

Species 2025

Species 2035

Felling Phases have a rolling 5 year period and for visualisations start on the date shown above.



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Loch Goil 2025-30 Strategic Larch Management Plan

View The Steeple summit
Grid Ref: NN 2083 0098 (to NW)
Date: December 2024

Visualisation of Felling proposals

Visualisation year
Species 2045
Autumn 2045

Felling Phases have a rolling 5 year period and for visualisations start on the date shown above.



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