



Text on the East Loch Shiel LMP

Analysis map

General LMP analysis

High deer pressure on LMP fences and habitats from neighbouring sporting estates. Strategic fences are porous in places.

Access to Callop, Loch Shiel and Achanellan is totally reliant on forest road LS1. There are some 3rd party users reliant on this route, in particular access to a fish farm.

Loch Shiel has Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA) designations. The thick blue line on the map denotes the River Shiel Catchment. All watercourses in the LMP out with eastern Drumfern flow into these designations. Water based designation features include oligotrophic loch and black-throated diver.

Other designations include Loch Shiel SSSI with terrestrial features including oakwood, pinewood and chequered skipper. The Moidart and Ardgour SPA affects the open high elevation areas of Loch Shiel Forest and much of the southern extent of Callop which includes pinewood. Part of the Loch Moidart & Loch Shiel Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) lies on the western shores of Loch Shiel. Designation features include western acidic oak woodland, mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes and otter. Otter is a European protected species which is also found within the LMP.

The Loch National Scenic Area (NSA) landscape designation affects all of the LMP out with western Achanellan.

Proximity to historic Statutory Plant Health Notices in surrounding land which relates to Phytophthora ramorum outbreaks in larches and rhododendron. This is a notifiable disease. This LMP lies within the Larch Strategy's Priority Action Zone (PAZ) which means that there will be rapid action to contain disease outbreaks.

Areas of ancient woodland comprising of both Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) are found throughout the LMP forests. Some of the LMP watercourses are important salmonid spawning locations.

The LMP lochans and pools are habitat for dragonfly and bird assemblages.

A few dwellings are enveloped by the LMP. The abstraction points and associated catchments of private water supplies associated with these dwellings lie within the LMP boundary.

Callop & Drumfern specific analysis

This forest is affected by SAC, SSSI and Caledonian Pinewood Inventory (CPI) designations. All non-native crops have been removed from the Callop section of the forest. These felled areas protected by internal deer enclosures and are awaiting natural regeneration of native species. The Ardgour Pinewoods SAC affects Callop and southern Drumfern. This designation extends into the neighbouring Estate. The Loch Shiel CPI core pine areas are found in Callop and the Callop River CPI areas are found in southern Drumfern. Here some wild pines extend well outside the CPI regeneration zones.

Threats to the CPI areas include: porous fencing facilitating the loss of control over deer management; high Herbivore Impact Assessment (HIA) affecting native pine regeneration; damage caused by a hydro water pipeline; including the ongoing hydro intake maintenance and mature spruce crops in CPI core and regeneration zones with associated NNR seeding issues.

In Callop there are low levels of non-native regeneration (NNR) and invasive non-native species (INNS). Habitats are not fully protected by strategic deer fencing and as such there is browsing damage to native saplings.

Neighbouring Estates including the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) have large areas of rhododendron.

There is a trail at Torran Giubhais which links with NTS trails via a footbridge over the Callop River.

There is a small informal car park in Callop. There are issues with overnight parking and damaging campfires in the SAC designated habitat.

Mature lodgepole pine on deep peat in western Drumfern in proximity to the Ardgour pinewood SAC has a pine condition score three. This relates to the potential threat of the Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB) which negatively affects pines, including Caledonian pines.

There are mature spruce crops on presumption to restore deep peat soils in northern Drumfern. These areas lie adjacent to nationally important peatland as described by the James Hutton Institute (JHI).

A small area of mature crop lies in adjacent land.

Windblow has started to impact the mature spruce crops on the sloping ground in southern Drumfern.

Loch Shiel specific analysis

The northern extent of Loch Shiel Forest comprises of mid-point second rotation spruce crops on Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) Roy designation.

PAWS restructuring is underway in south Loch Shiel Forest.

Mature spruce crops in this area contain well-developed wood ant colonies which are confined to upland brown earth and ironpan soils.

Open habitat in Scamodale is prime chequered skipper habitat.

The high elevation areas consists of priority open and woodland habitat, including montane heath.

Rubha an Fhaing Dhuibh Scheduled Monument lies on the shore of Loch Shiel.

Coire Thormaid in Scamodale is a deer herding area which is difficult to access.

Achanellan specific analysis

This forest contains relatively even-aged spruce crops which are approaching economic maturity. The forest is devoid of roading (operational access) in difficult terrain in an environmentally sensitive areas in an NSA.

Poorly performing spruce crops lie close to neighbouring SSSI woodland and adjacent to the Claish Moss RAMSAR designation. Claish Moss is blanket bog and eccentric mire habitat with dragonfly assemblage and bog flora.

Afforested deep peat soils that connect to the adjacent Claish Moss. Pools and lochans in this area are rich with dragonfly assemblage. This crop also contains larch which is in close proximity to a relatively recent SPHN at Torran regarding an outbreak of *Phytophthora ramorum*.

A large area of PAWS designation is ready for removal of non-native crops to facilitate native woodland restoration.

Prime chequered habitat is located in lower slopes in woodland edge habitat.

Much of the upland open priority habitat lies outside the protective deer fence.

The Corrantee Lead Mine is a Scheduled Monument. It straddles FLS and neighbouring land.