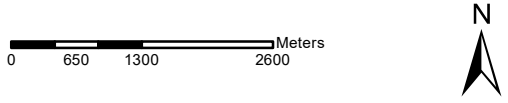


**Loch Katrine
Land Management Plan:
M3 Initial Analysis and Concept**

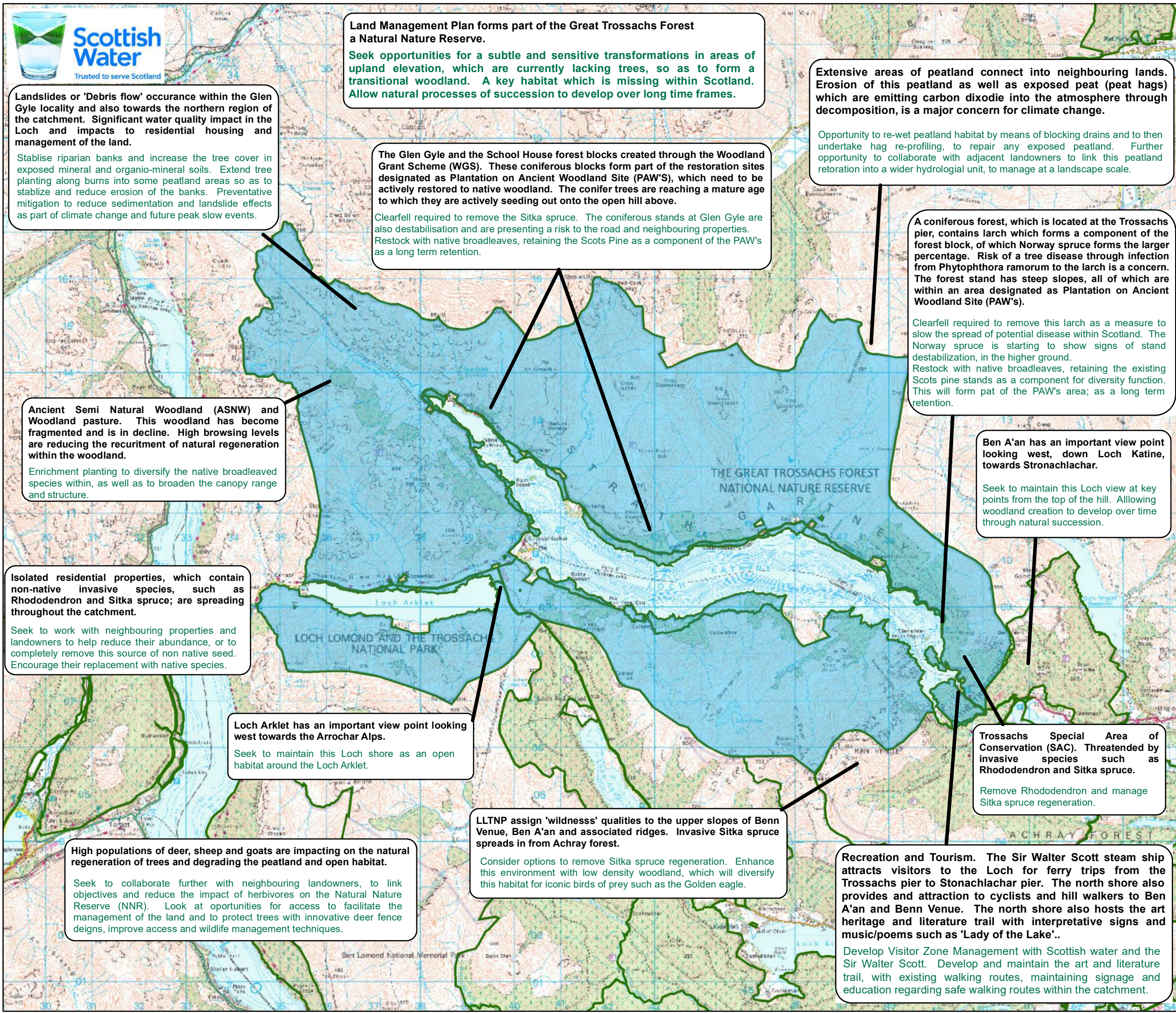
Author: James Hand
Scale @ A3: 1:75,000
Date: 29/09/2023

Legend

- Land Management Plan
- Forest Blocks



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Land Management Plan forms part of the Great Trossachs Forest a Natural Nature Reserve.
Seek opportunities for a subtle and sensitive transformations in areas of upland elevation, which are currently lacking trees, so as to form a transitional woodland. A key habitat which is missing within Scotland. Allow natural processes of succession to develop over long time frames.

Landslides or 'Debris flow' occurrence within the Glen Gyle locality and also towards the northern region of the catchment. Significant water quality impact in the Loch and impacts to residential housing and management of the land.
Stabilise riparian banks and increase the tree cover in exposed mineral and organio-mineral soils. Extend tree planting along burns into some peatland areas so as to stabilize and reduce erosion of the banks. Preventative mitigation to reduce sedimentation and landslide effects as part of climate change and future peak slow events.

The Glen Gyle and the School House forest blocks created through the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS). These coniferous blocks form part of the restoration sites designated as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAW'S), which need to be actively restored to native woodland. The conifer trees are reaching a mature age to which they are actively seeding out onto the open hill above.
Clearfell required to remove the Sitka spruce. The coniferous stands at Glen Gyle are also destabilisation and are presenting a risk to the road and neighbouring properties. Restock with native broadleaves, retaining the Scots Pine as a component of the PAW's as a long term retention.

Extensive areas of peatland connect into neighbouring lands. Erosion of this peatland as well as exposed peat (peat hags) which are emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere through decomposition, is a major concern for climate change.
Opportunity to re-wet peatland habitat by means of blocking drains and to then undertake hag re-profiling, to repair any exposed peatland. Further opportunity to collaborate with adjacent landowners to link this peatland restoration into a wider hydrological unit, to manage at a landscape scale.

A coniferous forest, which is located at the Trossachs pier, contains larch which forms a component of the forest block, of which Norway spruce forms the larger percentage. Risk of a tree disease through infection from Phytophthora ramorum to the larch is a concern. The forest stand has steep slopes, all of which are within an area designated as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAW's).
Clearfell required to remove this larch as a measure to slow the spread of potential disease within Scotland. The Norway spruce is starting to show signs of stand destabilization, in the higher ground. Restock with native broadleaves, retaining the existing Scots pine stands as a component for diversity function. This will form part of the PAW's area; as a long term retention.

Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Woodland pasture. This woodland has become fragmented and is in decline. High browsing levels are reducing the recruitment of natural regeneration within the woodland.
Enrichment planting to diversify the native broadleaved species within, as well as to broaden the canopy range and structure.

Ben A'an has an important view point looking west, down Loch Katrine, towards Stronachlachar.
Seek to maintain this Loch view at key points from the top of the hill. Allowing woodland creation to develop over time through natural succession.

Isolated residential properties, which contain non-native invasive species, such as Rhododendron and Sitka spruce; are spreading throughout the catchment.
Seek to work with neighbouring properties and landowners to help reduce their abundance, or to completely remove this source of non native seed. Encourage their replacement with native species.

Loch Arklet has an important view point looking west towards the Arrochar Alps.
Seek to maintain this Loch shore as an open habitat around the Loch Arklet.

Trossachs Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Threatened by invasive species such as Rhododendron and Sitka spruce.
Remove Rhododendron and manage Sitka spruce regeneration.

High populations of deer, sheep and goats are impacting on the natural regeneration of trees and degrading the peatland and open habitat.
Seek to collaborate further with neighbouring landowners, to link objectives and reduce the impact of herbivores on the Natural Nature Reserve (NNR). Look at opportunities for access to facilitate the management of the land and to protect trees with innovative deer fence designs, improve access and wildlife management techniques.

LLTNP assign 'wildness' qualities to the upper slopes of Benn Venue, Ben A'an and associated ridges. Invasive Sitka spruce spreads in from Achray forest.
Consider options to remove Sitka spruce regeneration. Enhance this environment with low density woodland, which will diversify this habitat for iconic birds of prey such as the Golden eagle.

Recreation and Tourism. The Sir Walter Scott steam ship attracts visitors to the Loch for ferry trips from the Trossachs pier to Stonachlachar pier. The north shore also provides an attraction to cyclists and hill walkers to Ben A'an and Benn Venue. The north shore also hosts the art heritage and literature trail with interpretative signs and music/poems such as 'Lady of the Lake'.
Develop Visitor Zone Management with Scottish water and the Sir Walter Scott. Develop and maintain the art and literature trail, with existing walking routes, maintaining signage and education regarding safe walking routes within the catchment.