



# Text on the East Loch Shiel LMP

## Concept map

### General

Loch Shiel is an oligotrophic loch and is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The River Shiel water catchment is depicted by a thick blue line on the map.

Protect and maintain the single point of access off the A830 which serves FLS Glenhurich Forest all the LMP forests out with east Drumfern.

Red arrows on the map depict the direction of deer pressure from neighbouring land.

Prime chequered skipper habitat is depicted by orange dots with a black outline.

Develop a programme to prioritise and manage ancient woodland features in the LMP Natural Reserves, Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) designations. Improve the resilience of riparian and salmonid habitats through the gradual removal of non-native regeneration (NNR) and invasive non-native species (INNS).

Identify opportunities for productive forestry that is in keeping with the spirit of native landscape restoration where soils, exposure, exposure and slopes permit.

There are some private dwellings which are enveloped by the LMP area.

Ground truth private water supply (PWS) abstraction points.

Identify the associated PWS catchments to inform forest operations and water protection measures.

Work with neighbours to remove threats from rhododendron in the wider environment to protect designated and priority habitats, as well as to reduce *Phytophthora ramorum* threat to larch crops.

Long term conversion to native woodland will improve connectivity to neighbouring designated woodland habitats.

## Callop and Drumfern

Peat probe the afforested deep peat areas in Drumfern to identify forest-to-bog restoration areas which will bolster connection to surrounding nationally important deep peat habitats.

Assess afforested deep peats out with the forest-to-bog extent to identify woodland that will improve carbon stocks whilst considering wider habitat requirements.

Monitor the progression of native natural regeneration in the felled areas of Callop. Consider supplementary planting of desirable species of local provenance where seed sources are lacking in this European designated site.

Work with neighbour to secure the Ardgour pinewoods designations features to good condition.

Protect European designated habitat, restored peatland and woodland habitats. Secure perimeter fencing to facilitate effective and full deer control. Include deer grids at all forest road crossing points and construct self-closing pedestrian access gates.

Determine the extent of resilience felling in Drumfern. Consider threats to designated areas, Caledonian pinewood habitat, plant health and forest-to-bog restoration requirements. Priority given to restoring the SAC/Caledonian woodland habitat.

Identify operational access to enable priority felling in south Drumfern.

Programme the removal of windblown spruce crops in southern Drumfern.

Manage visitor use to eliminate the risk of fire as part of pinewood habitat resilience measures. This may include information boards and the re-location of the vehicular barrier to prevent overnight stays.

## Loch Shiel

Green solid polygons represent the felled areas awaiting native regeneration.

Introduce Scots pine to Scamodale and non-PAWS areas post felling to enable the expansion of native pinewood habitats.

Implement measures to remove grey alder crops and its invasive spread along forest road verges.

Identify measures to improve chequered skipper habitat in Scamodale and Dahl (Achanellan).

Identify felling proposals which minimises the impact on the wood ant colonies in south Loch Shiel.

Continue with the PAWS restoration. Fell mature spruce crops in south Loch Shiel to minimise the seeding threats in adjacent native regenerating felled areas. Monitor regeneration and supplementary plant to secure desired tree establishment.

Complete the construction of the ATV track to enable access to the Coire Thormaid deer herding location to facilitate deer control. Complete the upgrade of the strategic ATV track in the forested area in south Loch Shiel.

High elevation areas. Important upland open and woodland priority habitat, including montane heath. Accept native regeneration in non-priority habitats and upland heathland habitats where permitted, in particular around riparian areas.

Rubha an Fhaing Dubh Scheduled Monument. Remove scrub from the protective buffer area and manage its regrowth.

## Achanellan

Priority to identify operational access to this unroaded forest with economically mature conifer crops in a high-value environmentally sensitive area.

Commence the restructuring of Achanellan Forest starting where initial operational access is achieved in the eastern part of the forest.

Commence PAWS restoration as restructuring progresses in the eastern and central areas of Achanellan Forest.

Removal of larch crops will progress as felling for PAWS and peatland restoration proceeds, reducing the risk of *Phytophthora ramorum* infection.

Access to enable deer control will improve as planned roading is constructed.

Replace the bridge at Dahl.

Riparian Management Zone (RMZ). Implement the extended riparian habitat post felling operations to build resilience for salmonid spawning habitat.

Consider re-aligning the strategic deer fence to include the protection of high elevation open habitats.

Peat depth surveys are required to identify the extent of forest-to-bog restoration areas in west Achanellan. Peatland restoration here will improve the resilience of Claish Moss designations by expanding this habitat.

Corrantee Lead Mine Scheduled Monument. Remove scrub from the masonry and the heritage buffer area. Consider the removal of standing crop from the scheduled area.