



Landscape and visual considerations

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Scale @ A1: 1:50,000

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LEGEND

Land management plan area

National Scenic Area

Special Landscape Area

Landscape character types

Farmed strath with wooded side slopes

Narrow steep sided strath with wooded side slopes

Upland valley

Upland massif

Rocky moorland plateau

High Mountains

Unnaturally straight upper margin of forest, a key USP for local pony trekking business. Detrimental impacts on this should be minimised.

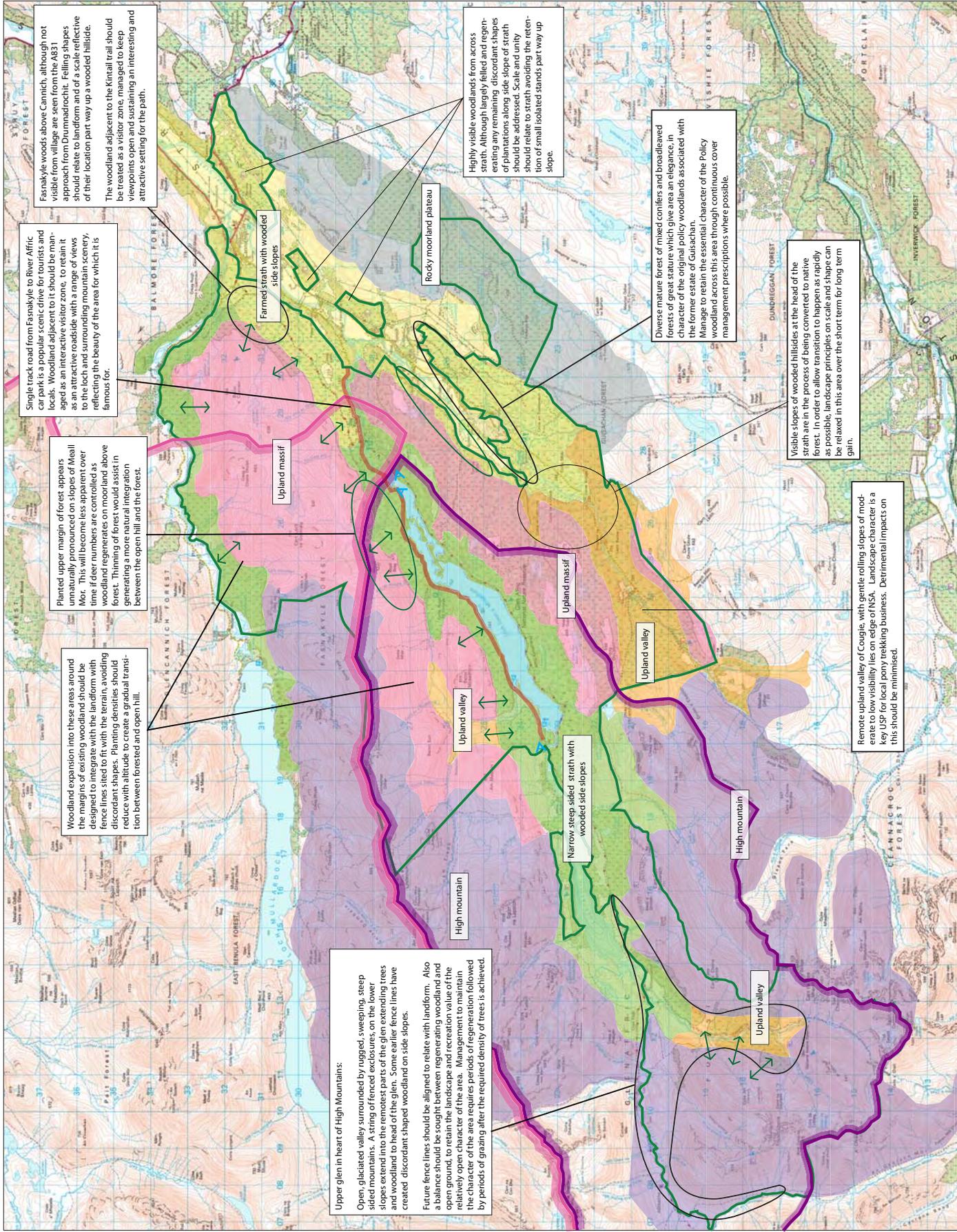


0 0.4750.95 1.9 2.85 3.8 km

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Scotland's national forests and land are responsibly managed by the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.



Single track road from Fasnakyle to River Affric car park is a popular scenic drive for tourists and locals. Woodland adjacent to it should be managed as an interactive visitor zone. To retain it as an attractive roadside with a range of views to the loch and surrounding mountain scenery reflecting the beauty of the area for which it is famous for.

Planted upper margin of forest appears unnaturally pronounced on slopes of Meall Mor. This will become less apparent over time if deer numbers are controlled as woodland regenerates on moorland above forest. Thinning of forest would assist in generating a more natural integration between the open hill and the forest.

Woodland expansion into these areas around the margins of existing woodland should be designed to integrate with the landform with fence lines sited to fit with the terrain, avoiding discordant shapes. Planting densities should reduce with altitude to create a gradual transition between forested and open hill.

Upper glen in heart of High Mountains: Open, glaciated valley surrounded by rugged, sweeping, steep sided mountains. A string of fenced enclosures, on the lower slopes extend into the remotest parts of the glen extending trees and woodland to head of the glen. Some earlier fence lines have created discordant shaped woodland on side slopes. Future fence lines should be aligned to relate with landform. Also a balance should be sought between regenerating woodland and open ground, to retain the landscape and recreation value of the relatively open character of the area. Management to maintain the character of the area requires periods of regeneration followed by periods of grazing after the required density of trees is achieved.

Highly visible woodlands from across strath. Although largely felled and regenerating any remaining discordant shapes of plantations along side slopes of strath should be addressed. Scale and unity should relate to strath avoiding the retention of small isolated stands part way up slope.

Diverse mature forest of mixed conifers and broadleaved forests of great stature which give area an elegance. In character of the original policy woodlands associated with the former estate of Gairloch. Manage to retain the essential character of the Policy woodland across this area through continuous cover management prescriptions where possible.

Visible slopes of wooded hillsides at the head of the strath are in the process of being converted to native forest. In order to allow transition to happen as rapidly as possible landscape principles on scale and shape can be relaxed in this area over the short term for long term gain.

Remote upland valley of Cougie, with gentle rolling slopes of moderate to low visibility lies on edge of NSA. Landscape character is a key USP for local pony trekking business. Detrimental impacts on this should be minimised.