

**West Strathyre
Land Management Plan**

**M13: Open Ground
Management
& Adjacent Land Use**

Legend

Land Management Plan area

Species Group

Mixed Broadleaves

Mixed Conifers

Sitka Spruce

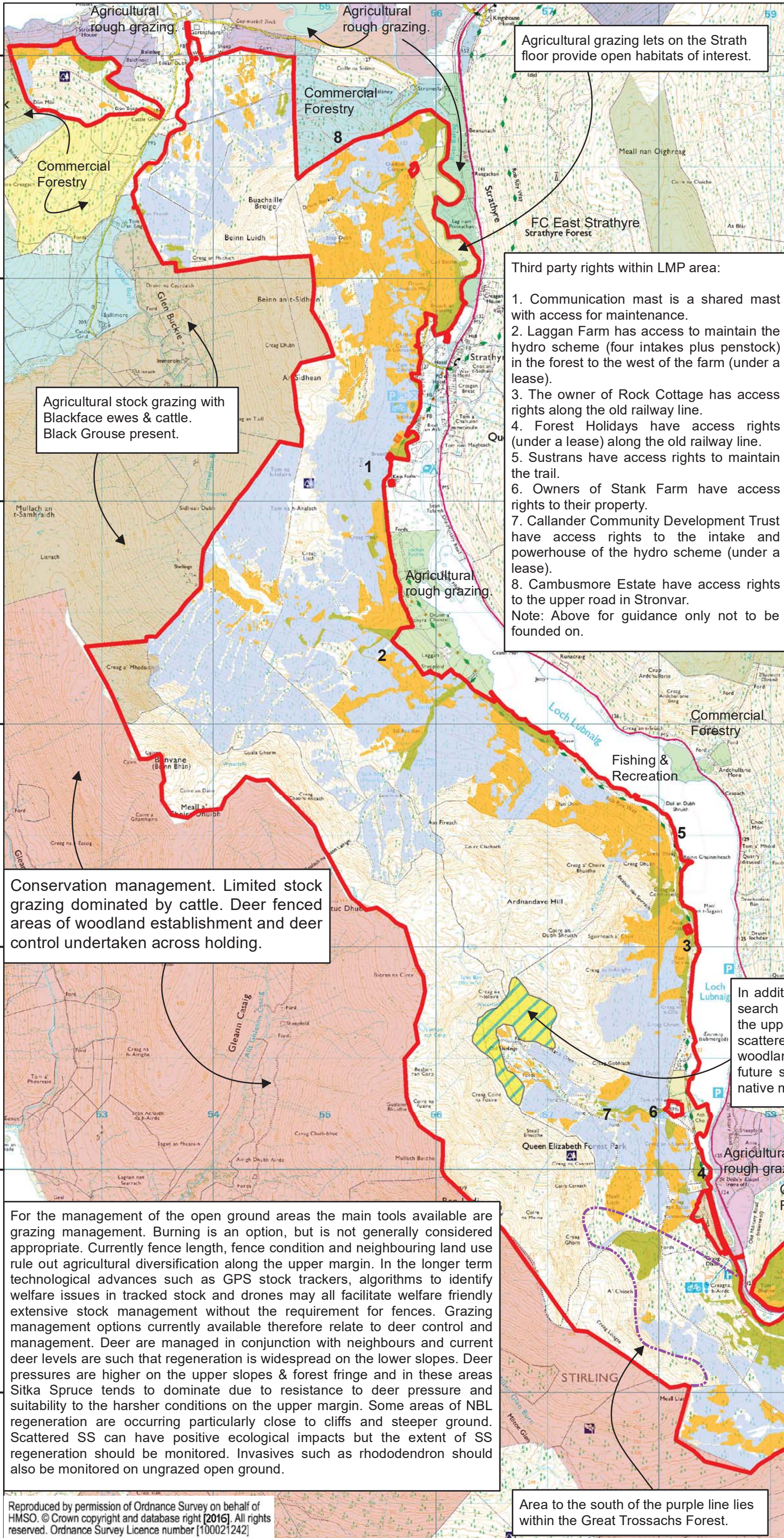
New Native Woodland Creation Search Area.

Note: Shading on adjacent land indicates the approximate extent of neighbouring holdings. Ownerships and boundaries have changed in some cases. Areas shown do not constitute any legal claim or inference of ownership.

Recreation & tourism businesses constitute important local land uses.

The LMP area lies at the eastern extremity of the Balquhiddier Deer Management Group area.

Scale: 1:35,000 @ A3



Agricultural grazing lets on the Strath floor provide open habitats of interest.

- Third party rights within LMP area:
1. Communication mast is a shared mast with access for maintenance.
 2. Laggan Farm has access to maintain the hydro scheme (four intakes plus penstock) in the forest to the west of the farm (under a lease).
 3. The owner of Rock Cottage has access rights along the old railway line.
 4. Forest Holidays have access rights (under a lease) along the old railway line.
 5. Sustrans have access rights to maintain the trail.
 6. Owners of Stank Farm have access rights to their property.
 7. Callander Community Development Trust have access rights to the intake and powerhouse of the hydro scheme (under a lease).
 8. Cambusmore Estate have access rights to the upper road in Stronvar.
- Note: Above for guidance only not to be founded on.

Agricultural stock grazing with Blackface ewes & cattle. Black Grouse present.

Conservation management. Limited stock grazing dominated by cattle. Deer fenced areas of woodland establishment and deer control undertaken across holding.

In addition to the Stank Glen New Woodland creation search area the plan will propose some adjustment to the upper margin to enhance the landscape. Additional scattered small enclosures of native montane woodland may be a cost effective way of creating a future seed source for the long term regeneration of native montane woodland.

For the management of the open ground areas the main tools available are grazing management. Burning is an option, but is not generally considered appropriate. Currently fence length, fence condition and neighbouring land use rule out agricultural diversification along the upper margin. In the longer term technological advances such as GPS stock trackers, algorithms to identify welfare issues in tracked stock and drones may all facilitate welfare friendly extensive stock management without the requirement for fences. Grazing management options currently available therefore relate to deer control and management. Deer are managed in conjunction with neighbours and current deer levels are such that regeneration is widespread on the lower slopes. Deer pressures are higher on the upper slopes & forest fringe and in these areas Sitka Spruce tends to dominate due to resistance to deer pressure and suitability to the harsher conditions on the upper margin. Some areas of NBL regeneration are occurring particularly close to cliffs and steeper ground. Scattered SS can have positive ecological impacts but the extent of SS regeneration should be monitored. Invasives such as rhododendron should also be monitored on ungrazed open ground.

Area to the south of the purple line lies within the Great Trossachs Forest.

Key for Map M13: Continuous Cover Forestry Crop Suitability & CCF Design Concept.

Map No.	CCF Design Concept
1	Potential to bring this area into CCF management now, however the following factors suggest that CCF management is impractical here in this rotation: no road access, powerline, low volumes, small clumps of crop with wide areas of open ground and riparian zones. No brash mats for open sections with salmon spawning burn just below area suggest high risk of diffuse pollution from CCF.
2	Large areas of windblow present. Adjacent Stronslaney Forest area to be clearfelled will create abrupt margin with landscape & stability issues. Clearfells with well landscaped coupes and retention of some areas of stable crop as CCF is recommended. In the longer term clearfelled areas should be restored to CCF, although management across the march may still require future clearfells.
3	CCF to favour NBL within PAWS area. Active respacing programme required as the first option. Where monitoring indicates that PAWS restoration is not being progressed, then clearfelling and restocking with NBL should be considered.
4	Mainly mature, well managed CCF areas, continue Uniform Shelterwood & Irregular Shelterwood approach. Bring any younger crops into CCF as soon as economically viable. Favour NBL along riparian zones.
5	Due to the strong WH presence and the proximity to the SSI this area should be clearfelled and restocked with NBL.
6	Bring into CCF, line thinning undertaken. Potential for areas of crop to be past thinning window & unstable. Monitor & adapt CCF approach where crop is unstable, Irregular Shelterwood would give the option for areas of thinned crop with small clearfells.
7	Young crop, bring into CCF in Phase 3.
8	Mature CCF well thinned, continue Uniform Shelterwood, monitor for windblow.
9	Unthinned areas of mature SS are more appropriate for clearfelling. In the longer term successor crops can be brought into CCF & young crops in this area should be brought into CCF.
10	Well thinned L & MC. Continue Uniform Shelterwood approach.
11	Bring area into CCF subject to access, burns, small areas, slope and stocking shape, which may make this difficult.
12	Areas of unthinned mature SS/MC with difficult access more suitable for clearfelling.
13	Areas of unthinned mature conifer more suited to Clear felling. Bring young areas and successor crops into CCF subject to access.
14	Prime CCF area, continue current CCF approach and bring younger crops into CCF.
15	Very difficult access with high landscape impacts. Depending on severity of windblow some potential for L to self thin via windblow leaving standing windfirm trees. Non intervention area but monitor for landscape impacts.
16	Area of high visual significance, PAWS area and access problematic in places. Retain forest cover as current for as long as feasible. In the longer term NBL with scattered MC would have a key role on the steeper slopes. Linking future NBL on the higher slopes with the Lochside NBL via riparian zones is desirable. Felling & restocking may be appropriate in future in order to emphasise specific knolls with a high landscape impact. Uniform P1988 SS crop to the south would benefit from some increased diversity although scale issues need to be avoided.
17	Mixture of well thinned mature MC and younger crops. Continue CCF management and bring younger crops into CCF.
18	Some potential in the longer term for productive broadleaves managed as CCF where this contributed to landscape, amenity & ecology.
19	Semi mature crop potentially past thinning window and areas of very young crop. Bring area into CCF management over successive rotations, but monitor for stability issues and clearfell if required. The area near the road junction has a high impact, has been thinned and can be managed as CCF.