

# Glen Loy, Gairloch and Mucomir

## Analysis Map text

### Glen Loy

- Opportunities to work with adjacent landowners to bolster the SSSI and create a more extensive and resilient core of native woodland
- Coille Putchichean Caledonian pinewood remnant & SSSI. Currently in unfavourable and declining condition due to impacts of deer browsing. Requires remedial action
- Glen Loy is generally more sheltered than many of the other woods in the area. This provides opportunities for thinning and for alternatives to clearfell
- Upper margin of Glen Loy has undergone some re-modelling but could be improved further
- Some good quality soils around Errocht that can support oak/hazel woodland. Out on the poorer soils, pine and birch are likely to be dominant.
- The western edge of Glen Loy is a prominent feature in the landscape as viewed from the Caledonian Canal towpath. This is also part of the Great Glen Way
- Glen Loy is popular with Mountain bikers with numerous informal trails and small car parking areas
- Large area of Glen Loy has been thinned. However, much of this is Ancient Woodland site and Continuous Cover Forestry may not be the most effective mechanism for reverting woodlands back to native broadleaves
- The central part of Glen Loy contains significant areas of Ancient Woodland remnants. Many of this have been planted with conifers, which are slowly being reverted back to broadleaves as they come to maturity and are felled.
- Hill path to Druim Fada offers a popular access for hill and mountain walkers.

### Gairloch

- Gairloch Woods a prominent features of the landscape as viewed from the direction of the Commando Memorial. A powerline runs along the lower contours which forms a visual and operational impediment
- Gairloch is steep with scattered remnants of pinewood. There are still some interesting mature conifers from previous rotations remaining
- Gairloch has suffered much from windblow and various felling operations which has left it looking visually battered. Some areas here have failed to regenerate and require restocking

### Mucomir

- Mucomir is predominantly spruce planted on poorer soils. This is in the early phases of rotational turnover

- Half of Mucomir Woods falls inside the Parallel Roads Geological SSSI. This is not a major impediment to design or operations, but distinct features may need to be taken into account during planning phases
- Some deep peats in Mucomir growing poor quality spruce. Opportunity for peatland restoration at the end of the current rotation where conifers are not likely to provide positive timber benefits
- Powerlines are a prominent feature of Mucomir. While the physical presence cannot be ignored attempts can be made to break up the visual impact on the landscape
- The Commando memorial is a major stopping point for tourists. This provides a significant point from which the landscape is regarded. This needs to be considered as a design viewpoint