# Appendix 1 - Description of Woodlands

| Description of woodlands |
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| Topography and Landscape |
| The South Loch Ness Land Management Plan area is situated in Inverness-shire, on the South shore of Loch Ness. The LMP Area covers a total of 4,388 ha of largely mixed coniferous woodland with some open hill ground above Erchite. The forest within the plan stretch from Knockie in the south along the southern shore of Loch Ness almost to Dores in the North and stretching to Whitebridge and Errogie in the East. There is a small outlying block to the East at Drumnaglass The forests are predominantly productive and of high significance for biodiversity with the plan area supporting a number of protected species. There are multiple designated sites within the LMP which includes SSSI's, SPA's and SAC's. As the forest is on the banks of Loch Ness it forms a prominent feature in the local landscape. It also forms a back drop to Loch Ness and is very visible from the popular A82 and Urquhart Castle. The rivers of Farigaig and Foyers run through the forest area and drain into Loch Ness. The alternative tourist route from Inverness to Fort Augustus, the B852, runs through the LMP area and there is high recreational use and the South Loch Ness Trail passes through the plan area.<br><br>(See Map 1 – Location) |
| Geology and Soils |
| **Geology**<br>The majority of the forest in the main part of South Loch Ness is situated over Middle Old Red Sandstone (BGS code 77) with low nitrogen and phosphorus availability.<br>**Soils**<br>Detailed soil maps exist for the entire South Loch Ness forest area (See **Map 9**). The majority of soils are rankers and ironpans; including peaty rankers and podzolic ironpans. These are generally suitable for low fertility tolerant species such as pine and birch but more nutritionally demanding species such as spruce would suffer from low Nitrogen availability. Rooting depth would also be a limiting factor.<br><br>A small proportion of the area consists of brown earths, podzols and surface water gleys. These soils are suitable for more nutrient demanding species such as spruce and certain broadleaves. |

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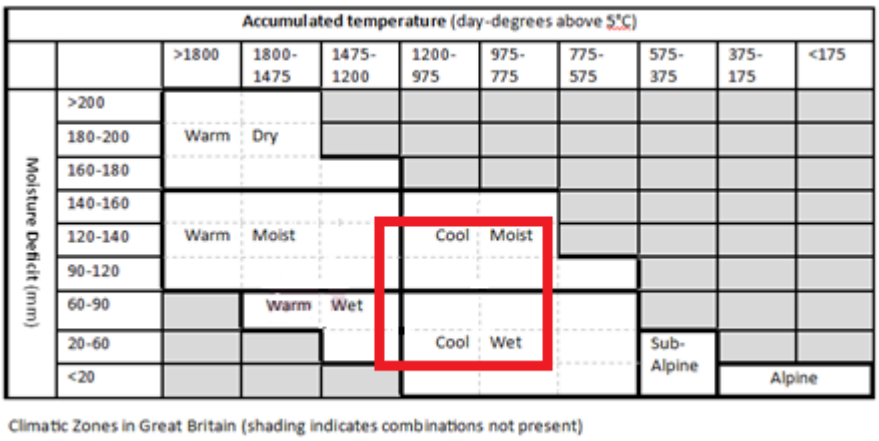
### Climate

The climate for this plan area determined from the Ecological Site Classification (ESC, Pyatt, Ray and Fletcher, 2001). The South Loch Ness LMP area is predominantly 'cool-wet'. There are very localised areas where the climate is 'cool-moist'. The exposure ranges from sheltered in the glens and beside loch Ness, to very exposed on some of the ridges. As a result the forests in this plan area benefit from a potential growing season and local climate suitable for commercial forestry and the establishment of a good variety of native woodland types.

Accumulated temperature (day-degrees above 5°C)
Min: 900, Max: 1200, Mean: 1050

Moisture Deficit (mm)
Min:40, Max: 125, Mean: 80

The climate of the LMP area is highlighted red in the figure below




Climatic Zones in Great Britain (shading indicates combinations not present)

*Figure 1: Climatic zones in Great Britain*

### Hydrology

Detail to be found in **Map 3 – Key Water Features** and **Appendix 8 – Forestry Water and Catchment Management**

### Windthrow

**Map 10 - DAMS** illustrates the DAMS scores for the Plan area.

DAMS scores of between 7 and 17, although these are the two extremes with most of the planted grounded sitting around 12 which is the higher end of sheltered. This is very suitable for the commercial forestry which is common throughout. The majority of the plan area is suitable for commercial forestry. However soils and high DAMS score across the LMP area mean impact silvicultural systems (LISS) and longer rotations are not possible due to high wind throw risk.

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| Adjacent land use |
| The following land uses are noted across the landscape adjacent to the LMP area:<br>• Productive forestry<br>• Conservation including native woodland establishment<br>• Tourism including outdoor pursuits, field sports and angling<br>• Renewable energy production including hydro power and wind power<br>• Arable and livestock agriculture<br>• Fish farm users<br>• Sporting Estates |