

Land Management Plan

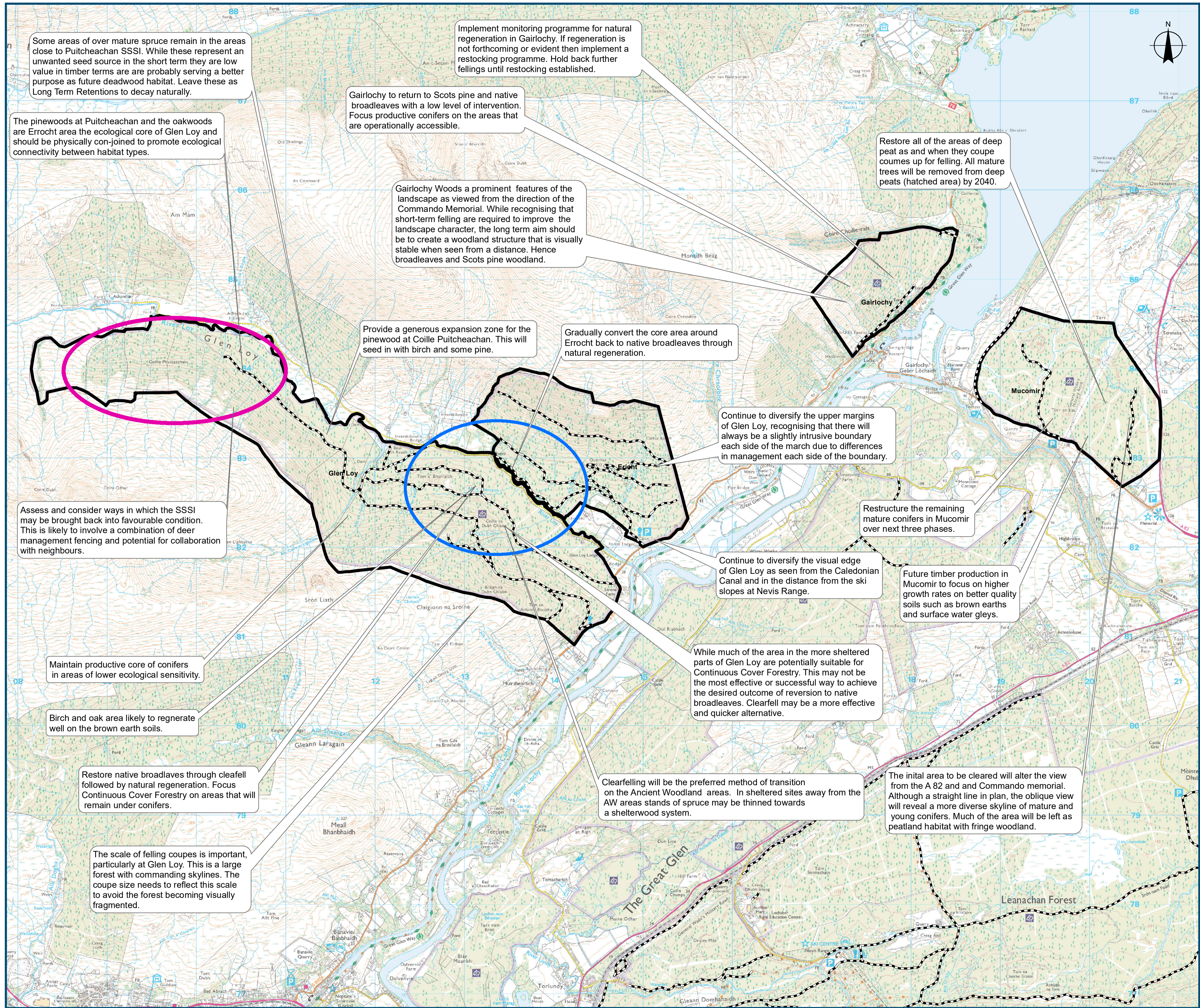
Glen Loy, Mucomir & Gairloch

**Map No.8
DESIGN CONCEPT**

Author: Ben Lennon

Scale @A1; 1:20 000

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Some areas of over mature spruce remain in the areas close to Puitcheachan SSSI. While these represent an unwanted seed source in the short term they are low value in timber terms and are probably serving a better purpose as future deadwood habitat. Leave these as Long Term Retentions to decay naturally.

The pinewoods at Puitcheachan and the oakwoods are Erocht area the ecological core of Glen Loy and should be physically con-joined to promote ecological connectivity between habitat types.

Implement monitoring programme for natural regeneration in Gairloch. If regeneration is not forthcoming or evident then implement a restocking programme. Hold back further fellings until restocking established.

Gairloch to return to Scots pine and native broadleaves with a low level of intervention. Focus productive conifers on the areas that are operationally accessible.

Restore all of the areas of deep peat as and when they coupe comes up for felling. All mature trees will be removed from deep peats (hatched area) by 2040.

Gairloch Woods a prominent features of the landscape as viewed from the direction of the Commando Memorial. While recognising that short-term fellings are required to improve the landscape character, the long term aim should be to create a woodland structure that is visually stable when seen from a distance. Hence broadleaves and Scots pine woodland.

Provide a generous expansion zone for the pinewood at Coille Puitcheachan. This will seed in with birch and some pine.

Gradually convert the core area around Erocht back to native broadleaves through natural regeneration.

Continue to diversify the upper margins of Glen Loy, recognising that there will always be a slightly intrusive boundary each side of the march due to differences in management each side of the boundary.

Assess and consider ways in which the SSSI may be brought back into favourable condition. This is likely to involve a combination of deer management fencing and potential for collaboration with neighbours.

Restructure the remaining mature conifers in Mucomir over next three phases.

Continue to diversify the visual edge of Glen Loy as seen from the Caledonian Canal and in the distance from the ski slopes at Nevis Range.

Future timber production in Mucomir to focus on higher growth rates on better quality soils such as brown earths and surface water gleys.

Maintain productive core of conifers in areas of lower ecological sensitivity.

While much of the area in the more sheltered parts of Glen Loy are potentially suitable for Continuous Cover Forestry. This may not be the most effective or successful way to achieve the desired outcome of reversion to native broadleaves. Clearfell may be a more effective and quicker alternative.

Birch and oak area likely to regenerate well on the brown earth soils.

Clearfelling will be the preferred method of transition on the Ancient Woodland areas. In sheltered sites away from the AW areas stands of spruce may be thinned towards a shelterwood system.

The initial area to be cleared will alter the view from the A 82 and and Commando memorial. Although a straight line in plan, the oblique view will reveal a more diverse skyline of mature and young conifers. Much of the area will be left as peatland habitat with fringe woodland.

The scale of felling coupes is important, particularly at Glen Loy. This is a large forest with commanding skylines. The coupe size needs to reflect this scale to avoid the forest becoming visually fragmented.



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