



Achanellan Land Management Plan Summary

Achanellan Forest lies along the Southern shore of Loch Shiel, close to the hamlet of Polloch and about 6km East of Acharacle. The forest lies on the Northern slopes of Beinn Resipol, rising from 10 metres along the shore of Loch Shiel to 420 metres at Meall an Aisridh. The forested land lies on the lower slopes and shoreline leaving the rugged rocky and outcrops as the main areas of open ground. The topography is varied and complex with a mosaic of flatter gentler ground and localised steeper ground around rocky knolls. These rocks form part of the Moine series – Glenfinnan group, with the main central area consisting of Psammite and pelite, and the remaining areas formed from granofelsic rocks and banded schists. The soils derived from this are acidic in nature and, the geology in combination with the mild wet climate, has produced a complex range of soil types; including podzols, ironpans, brown earth, peaty gleys, blanket and Juncus bogs and rankers. Watercourses, lochans and Loch Shiel are important environmental considerations along with the associated biodiversity. Ancient woodland designations cover 231 ha most of which are covered by conifer species. Native woodland remnants include Upland oakwood and Upland Birch woodland habitats. Notable species include: dragonflies, Chequered skipper and Pearl bordered fritillary, Golden eagle, Black-throated diver, red squirrels, bryophytes and lichens. There is no access within the forest area and no immediate access to the minor public road near Polloch. The forest is most visible from boats on Loch Shiel, from the A861 at Dalnabreck and partially visible from the public road and neighbouring houses in the vicinity of Polloch.

Achanellan Indicative Forest Design Plan was approved on 22/02/2005 and runs for 10 years. The aims for this indicative plan are as follows:

- The restoration of the Upland Oakwood and its expansion
- Expansion of riparian and open water habitats
- Improved woodland boundaries as seen from viewpoints
- Protection and improvement of habitats for rare and endangered species

The primary objectives for the indicative plan area are:

- To fell to recycle 3.6 ha of non-native conifers
- To clear and stump treat 3.5 ha of rhododendron
- To undertake NVC, bryophyte and lichen surveys
- To monitor for the presence of Chequered skipper and other invertebrates
- To monitor deer populations and reduce deer numbers to a level where damage to habitats is negligible.

Total Plan Area	1239 hectares (ha)
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Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

Species Breakdown	(current)	(end of plan period)
Sitka spruce	425 ha	425 ha
Birch and other broadleaves	88.5 ha	88.5 ha
Scots pine	2 ha	2 ha
Lodgepole pine	180.5 ha	180.5 ha
Larch and other conifers	39 ha	39 ha
Open space	504 ha	504 ha

Planned Operations	2005– 2015 plan period
Felling	0 ha
Restocking	0 ha
Significant Environment / Conservation Features	
Designated sites:	
SSSI	Loch Shiel Claish Moss
SPA	Loch Shiel
SAC (adjacent to Western boundary)	Claish Moss & Kentra Moss
NSA (Central & Eastern sections only)	Loch Shiel
Minimum Intervention	13.17 ha
Priority Species 1	Golden eagle
Priority Species 2	Black-throated diver
Priority Species 3	Chequered skipper
Priority Species 4	Red Squirrel
Priority Species 5	Barn owl
Priority Species 6	Pearl bordered fritillary
Priority Habitat 1 – lochan complexes	Dragonfly assemblages Bladderwort Bog species



Consultation and Further Information:

Council area: Highland Council
Community Council: Acharacle C.C.
Sunart C.C.

Consultation: events / consultees:

Statutory Consultees:

SNH – 04/1/2004 & 21/02/2005
FC Conservancy – 04/11/2004
Highland Council – 18/02/2005

Community Groups:

Sunart Community Council - 20/02/2005
Neighbours

NGO – Lochaber District Salmon Fishery Board – 04/11/2004

For further information on the Plan, please contact:

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