

1.0: Summary

The Loch Eck Land Management Plan (LMP) area extends to 1912 Ha, and covers both the west and east shores of Loch Eck in the Cowal Peninsula (Text Map 1). The LMP area lies between Dunoon to the south and Strachur to the north and the A815 runs along the eastern shore. While there are variations in forest type, the general character and issues are similar across the plan area.

Loch Eck has both a diverse age class structure and species range and has been extensively restructured. Due to the age class of the crop a **period of intensive felling activity during the 1990's and early 2000's** was followed by a period of lower felling activity.

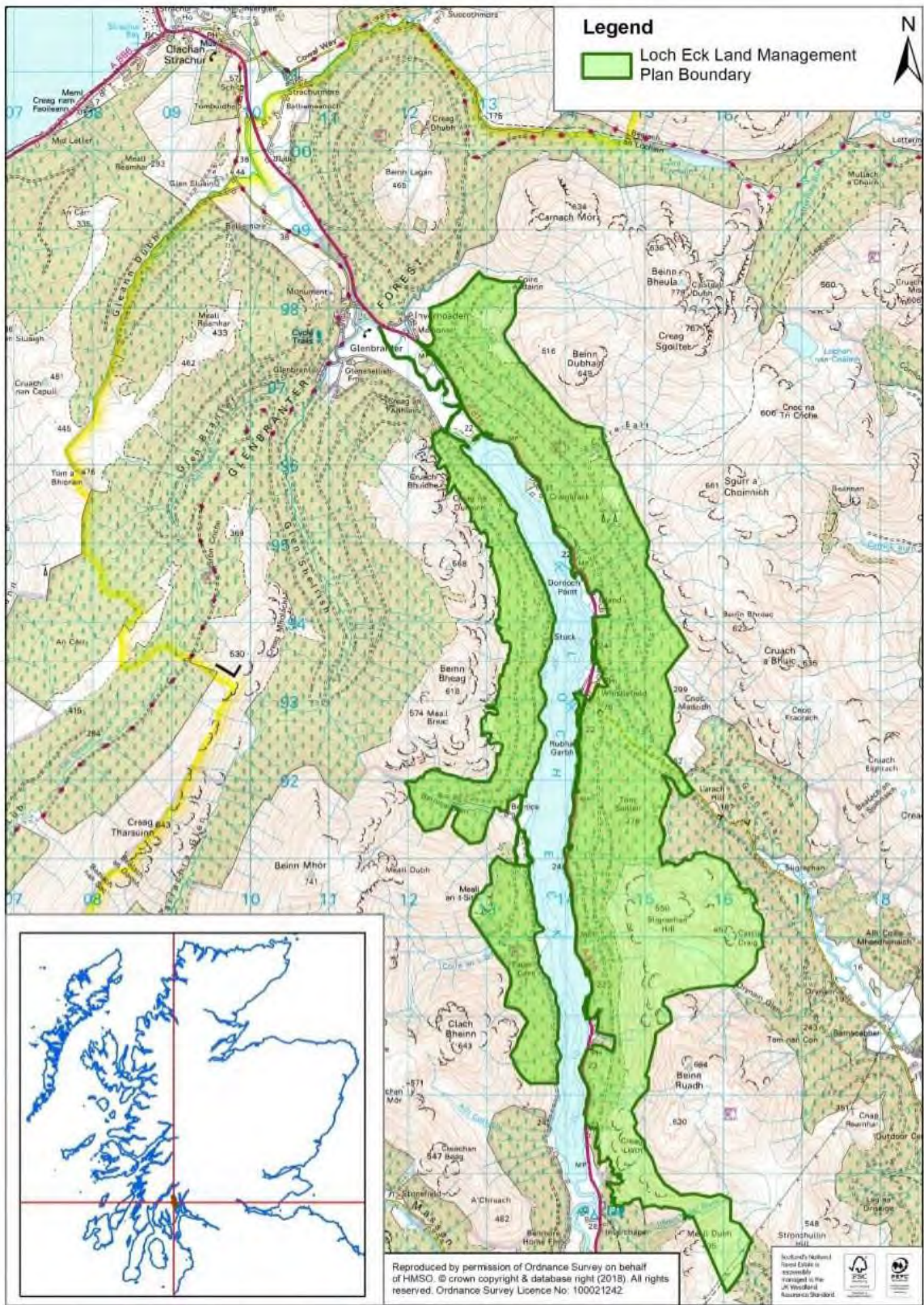
Loch Eck is located within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) and has a very high visual impact with extensive mixed forest being an integral part of the landscape. The A815 which runs through the LMP area is a major transport and tourist route. The terrain and aspect of the LMP area means that in many areas the whole profile of the forest from shoreline to treeline is visible.

There are a number of important constraints on site in addition to the landscape impacts and these include the Loch Eck SSSI, public and private water supplies, Red Squirrel strongholds, and Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) restoration.

The steep and rocky terrain poses problems for access and harvesting and in places slope stability is an issue. The road network requires upgrading to implement the LMP felling proposals and road density and hence cost is high in relation to crop area.

The plan presents felling and replanting proposals for the first ten years (2020 to 2030) in detail. Forest road and track formation during this period are also detailed. The first ten years are important because this relates to the parts of the plan that seeks approval for specific forestry operations. These are set out in Section 2 of this plan.

The following ten years (post 2028) and beyond are also considered in the plan to indicate a direction of travel and to provide context.



Text Map 1: Land Management Plan(LMP) Location

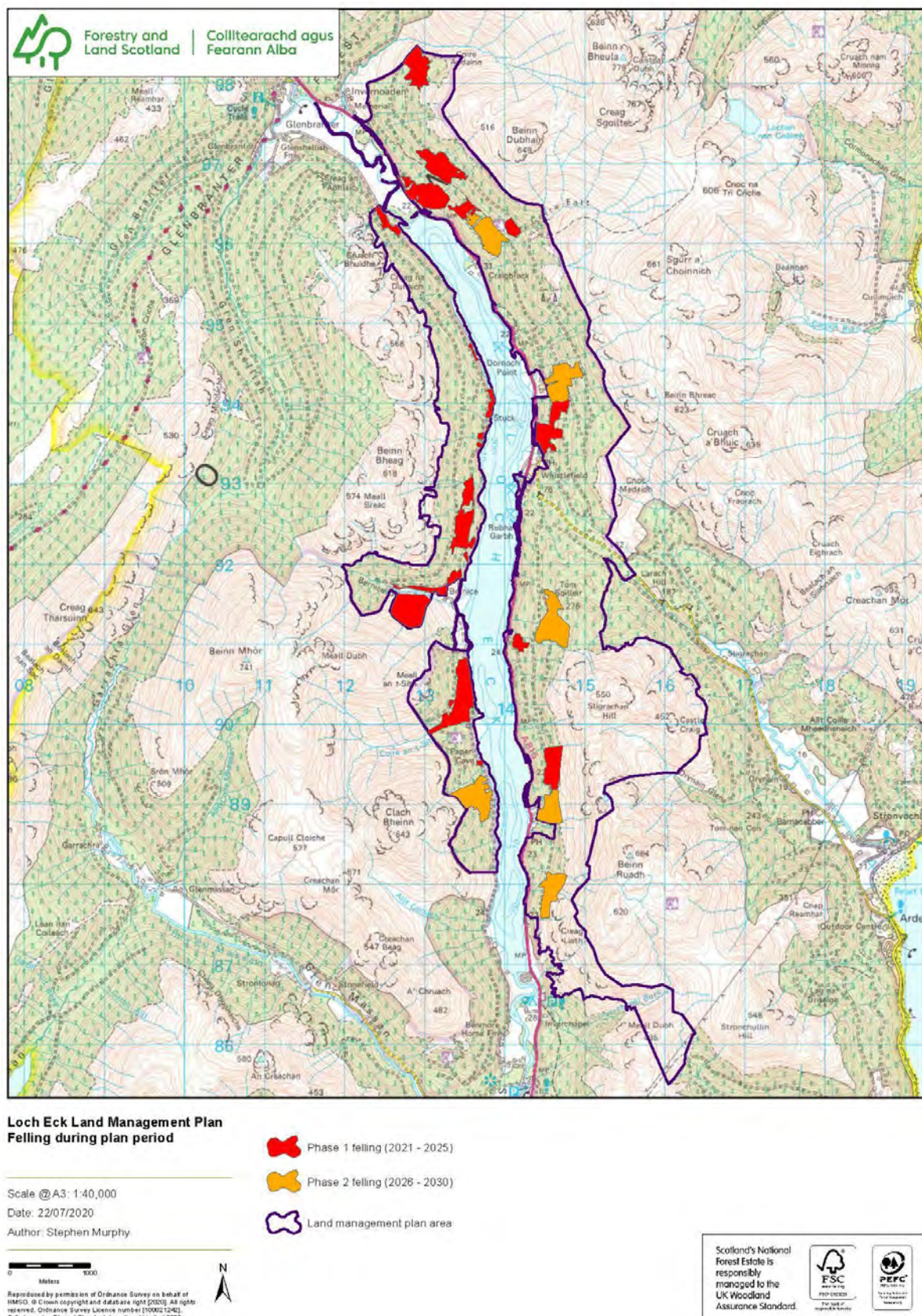
Objectives

The plan objective is to maintain a mixed, potentially productive woodland delivering a range of ecosystem services.

Specifically

- Protect and enhance designated conservation sites within and adjacent to the LMP area.
- Maintain a visually diverse woodland which is in keeping with the landscape character and integrated with neighbouring properties. Enhance the landscape by use of appropriate silviculture, coupe design and restocking proposals.
- Restore PAWS areas to create wider landscape scale native woodland linkages.
- Maintain a diverse range of conifer species of different ages in order to maintain the quality of Red Squirrel habitat. Consider how continuous cover forestry (CCF) and long term retentions can contribute to this objective.
- Timber production from a wide range of conifer species with the emphasis on matching species with site.
- Evaluate the PAWS restoration areas for productive broadleaves.
- Maintain and enhance the recreational infrastructure.
- Maintain and enhance water quality in relation to both private and public water supplies.
- Examine opportunities for woodland expansion.

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Map 2: Felling Phases 2021 to 2030

Summary of management proposals

The felling proposals in the first twenty years of the plan can be summarised as follows:

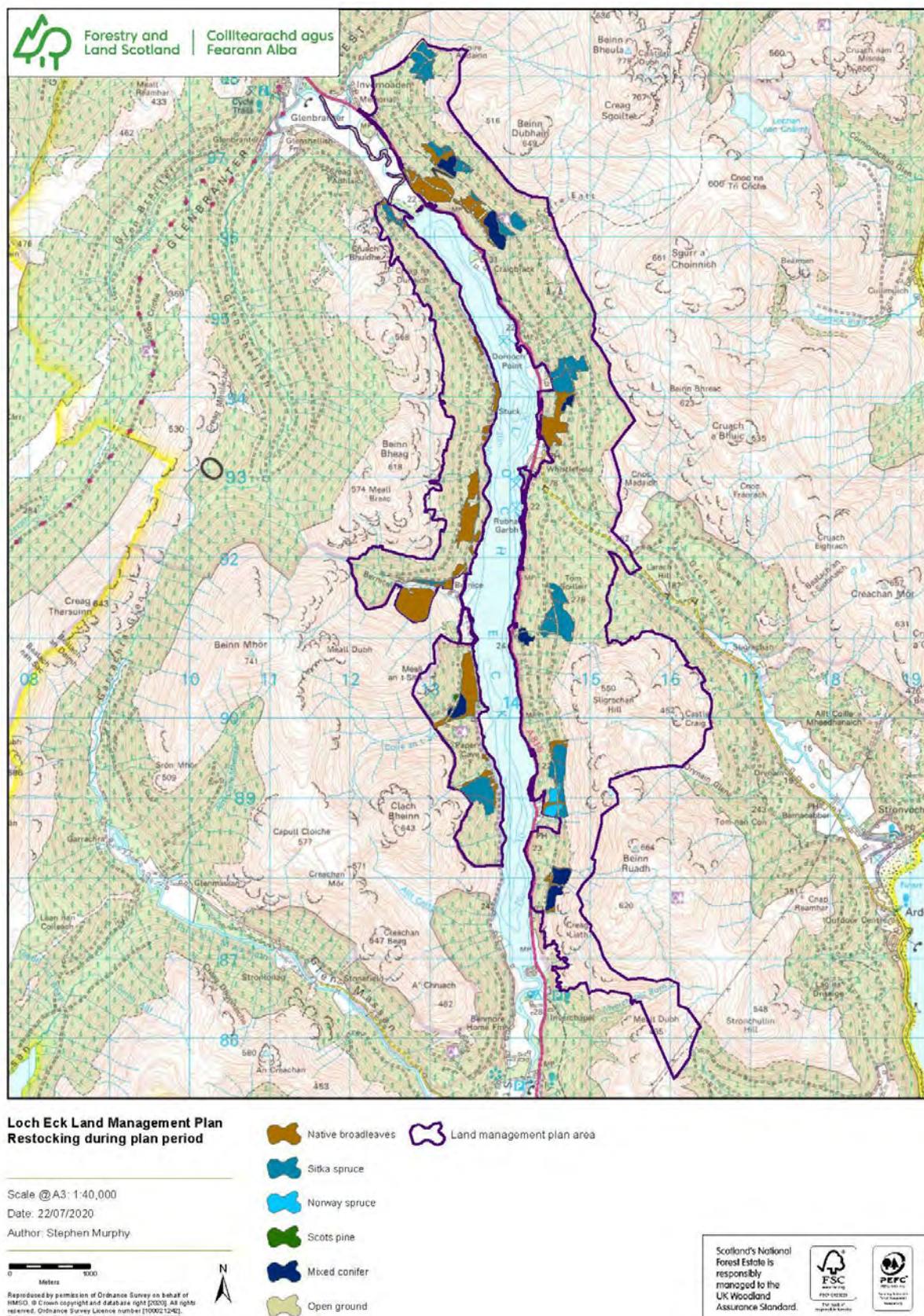
Felling	Area Ha	%
Phase 1: 2021 - 2025	129	7%
Phase 2: 2026 - 2030	77	4%
Phase 3: 2031 - 2035	119	6%
Phase 4: 2036 - 2040	136	7%
Total	461	24%

See Maps M11a and 11b for felling coupe locations. The first two felling phases are shown in **Text Map 2** as these would be the approved felling areas for this plan, with subsequent felling approvals being the subject of a plan review at year 10.

The species composition over the first twenty years changes over time as follows:

Species Group	Species Group @ 2020 Area Ha	Species Group @ 2020 %	Species Group @ 2030 Area Ha	Species Group @ 2030 %	Species Group @ 2040 Area Ha	Species Group @ 2040 %	% Change 2020 to 2040
Felled	4.45	0%					
Mixed Broadleaves	145.74	8%	240.35	13%	287.8	15%	7%
Diverse Conifers	253.05	13%	240.22	13%	220.47	12%	-1%
Open Ground	675.99	35%	690.07	36%	706.77	37%	2%
Sitka Spruce	832.61	44%	741.2	39%	696.8	36%	-8%
Total	1911.84	100%	1911.84	100%	1911.84	100%	

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Text Map 3: Restocking 2021 to 2030 (includes Phase 1 and 2 fellings, previously felled land, and some integral open ground)

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The biggest change in species composition relates to the proposed reduction of Sitka Spruce and the increase in broadleaves as part of the PAWS restoration.

Two new roads of approximately 425m and 385m are required to access coupes on the west side of Loch Eck.

Overall, the operations planned for the forest during the period 2021 – 2030 include the following activities:

<i>Planned operations</i>	<i>2021 – 2031 plan period</i>
<i>Felling</i>	<i>207Ha</i>
<i>Thinning</i>	<i>140Ha</i>
<i>Restock/Regeneration</i>	<i>190Ha</i>
<i>New woodland creation</i>	<i>0Ha</i>
<i>Road Construction</i>	<i>810m</i>
<i>ATV Track Construction</i>	<i>16100m</i>
<i>Quarry</i>	<i>Existing</i>
<i>New Road Access @ NS/14470/93400 to be evaluated.</i>	<i>150m</i>

Note: Restock area includes areas already felled and awaiting restocking and areas of integral open ground planted. Areas of created open ground are excluded. Note: Road Construction and ATV Track Construction outwith the existing road/track footprint require Prior Notification and EIA screening.

Consultation and further Information

During the development of this plan we have consulted with the local community and other stakeholders. For further information on the plan please contact:

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