

## 1.0 Summary

### 1.1 Introduction

The Strath-nan-Lub Management Plan area is located between the villages of Strachur and Ormidale on the Cowal Peninsula (see map below). It lies across the glens and ridges of Glendaruel and Strath nan Lub, with an elevation range from 30-586m AMSL and very little flat ground. The plan area is split in to 3 distinct management outcomes with 500ha under farming lease, a further 500ha containing the Cruach Mhor Windfarm and the remaining land mainly afforested with productive conifer woodland dominated by Sitka Spruce. Although not located within the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, the eastern and northern plan boundaries do connect up to the park boundary. The surrounding area is a mixture of fields providing rough grazing, open hilltops and private forestry maintained for the purposes of timber production.

Timber production will remain an important element of the management plan objectives, site & climatic conditions limit species diversity but where sensible efforts will be made to provide a structural diversity.

### 1.2 Objectives

The Strath nan Lub Land Management Plan (LMP) draws on the key themes of the Scottish Forestry Strategy (SFS) (2019-29) and Forestry and Land Scotland's policy. The objectives of the new plan, which were developed following internal and external consultation, are summarised below and emphasise the key principals of maintaining the productive potential of the forest whilst delivering a range of other ecosystem services into the future.

- In the longer term establish rotation lengths that improve resilience by diversifying age structure whilst aiming to maximise economic potential.
- Continue to manage the forest for timber production, maximising potential by using Sitka spruce as the main species of choice.
- Actively target the removal of Larch trees within the plan area over the next 20 years, with at least 50% to be removed within the next 2 phases.
- Ensure the plan remains UKFS compliant by introducing a limited amount of diversity into productive areas where this does not significantly reduce volume production.
- Use habitat networks to further increase diversity and improve the visitor experience for user of the long distance recreation route.

# Strath nan Lub Land Management Plan 2020-2029

- Afford adequate protection to private water supplies during operations. Forest and water guidelines will be followed during forest operations. At restocking, create adequate buffers along the routes of these facilities.
- An appropriate deer management programme will be established to protect vulnerable planted stock and allow natural regeneration where this is the favoured method of establishment.

## 1.3 Key proposals

<b>Total Plan Area</b>	2582 (ha)
<b>Planned operations</b>	
Felling	288.26(ha); 117,894 (m <sup>3</sup> )
Thinning	121.3 (ha); 6,065 (m <sup>3</sup> ) of conifer; 32.4 (ha); 1,620 (m <sup>3</sup> ) of broadleaf.
Restock	214.61 (ha) of conifer; 28.64 (ha) of broadleaf.
New planting	0 (ha)
Roads and tracks	2050 length(m); 9850 tracks (m); 70 ramps (no.); upgrade 2990(m)
Public access	

## 1.4 Species diversity

Species group	2020	2030	2040
Sitka spruce	53.4%	52.1%	49.2%
Other conifers	8.6%	6.3%	4.7%
Native broadleaves	1.0%	1.3%	3.0%
Other broadleaves	3.7%*	3.7%*	3.7%*
Open space	33.3%	36.7%	39.4%

\* These species are in the main assumed native as they do not consist of productive plantation, records do not reflect exact species makeup and therefore they are categorised as "other broadleaves".

## 1.5 Major issues

Issue	Description/mitigation
Issue 1	Several areas of currently inaccessible Larch located mostly in the northern part of the plan area. Forest roads are to be built and a plan to remove the mature Larch required should infection become relevant.
Issue 2	
Issue 3	
Issue 4	

## 1.6 Critical success factors

- The planned removal of the majority of Larch within the forest block over the next 20 years with the majority being targeted in the first 10 years, in order to minimise the risk of infection of P.Ramorum. At the time of writing, the current FLS Larch Strategy calls for 20% of Larch within the plan area to be felled by December 2023.

- The balanced removal of timber produce to market at a sustainable level over the plan period and beyond, providing a diverse age structure and secure regular timber income.

## 1.7 Standards and guidelines

This plan takes account of Scottish Government and Forestry and Land Scotland policy and strategy. It has been developed in accord with the latest UKFS Guidelines and is audited under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. Forestry and Land Scotland Woodlands are certified as being sustainable by both FSC and PEFC.

## 1.8 Consultation

During the development of this plan we have consulted with stakeholders known to have an interest in this plan area. A list of stakeholders and their response can be found in Appendix I & II.

## 1.9 Contacts and further information

For further information on this or any other land management plan please contact:

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Plan area and Location

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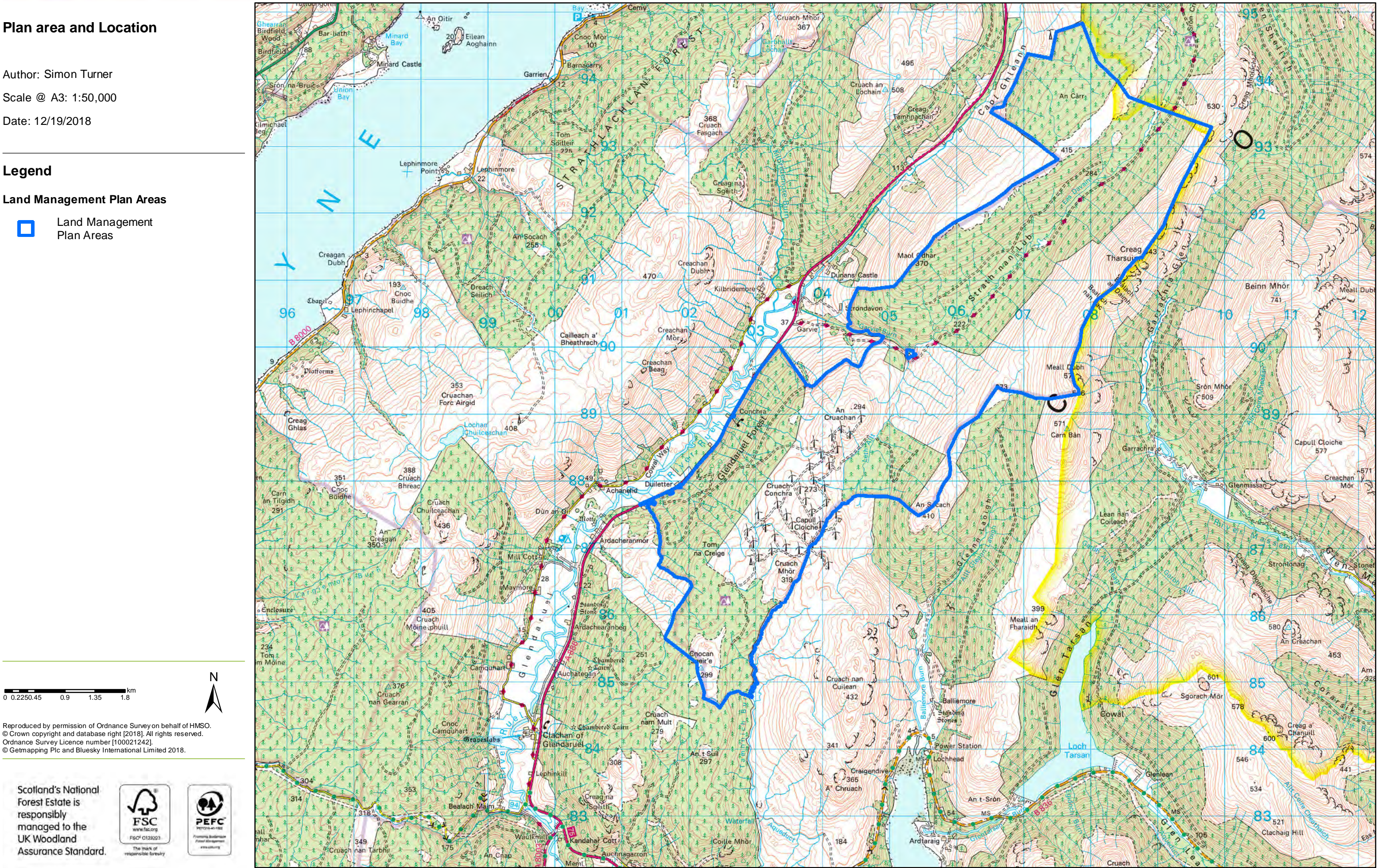
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Date: 12/19/2018

Legend

Land Management Plan Areas

- Land Management Plan Areas



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