



# Finlas Analysis and Concept Map: Accessible Text

## **Core Timber Production Zone (green zone on map)**

### **Analysis:**

A significant area of the block is commercial coniferous woodland.

### **Concept:**

The core productive area will continue to be restocked with predominantly coniferous species to ensure a sustainable supply of quality timber. The forest road network will be maintained to ensure access for felling and delivery operations.

## **Larch**

### **Analysis:**

Areas of larch have been impacted by *P.ramorum* and are now dead or diseased.

### **Concept:**

Remove larch where feasible, in line with revised FLS strategy, ensuring roads provide necessary access.

## **Visual Amenity Zone (yellow zone on map)**

### **Analysis:**

Parts of the forest are visible externally from the public road and associated residential properties, and from the core path; and internally from other recreational trails.

### **Concept:**

Improve the visual appearance of the forest from key visitor and residential zones through enhancement of structural and species diversity.

## **Riparian / aquatic zone (hashed areas on map)**

### **Analysis:**

Open water areas in the block include the Loch Finlas public water supply, and the Garpel Burn (salmonid breeding site); while Loch Doon SSSI is adjacent to the block.

### **Concept:**

Management of the plantation area within the Loch Finlas catchment to protect water quality. Enhance riparian and aquatic areas by restocking with native broadleaves and increasing open space.

## **Open Hillside**

### **Analysis:**

Significant areas of open space on hillsides, mainly Landscape Character Type '*Rugged Uplands – Ayrshire*'

### **Concept:**

Maintain as wild area of open hill top, and enhance ground habitat for a variety of species, including Black Grouse. Create diversity of species and structure in woodland fringes.

## **Objectives**

- 1) Management of plantation area within Loch Finlas catchment to protect water quality of the public water supply. Enhance riparian and aquatic zones by restocking with native broadleaves and increasing open space.
- 2) Maintain sustainable coniferous timber production.
- 3) Enhance structural diversity of the woodlands and manage open hillside habitats, to benefit biodiversity and priority species (Black Grouse and Red Squirrels).
- 4) Enhance visitor experience in the vicinity of recreation routes by increasing age and species diversity.