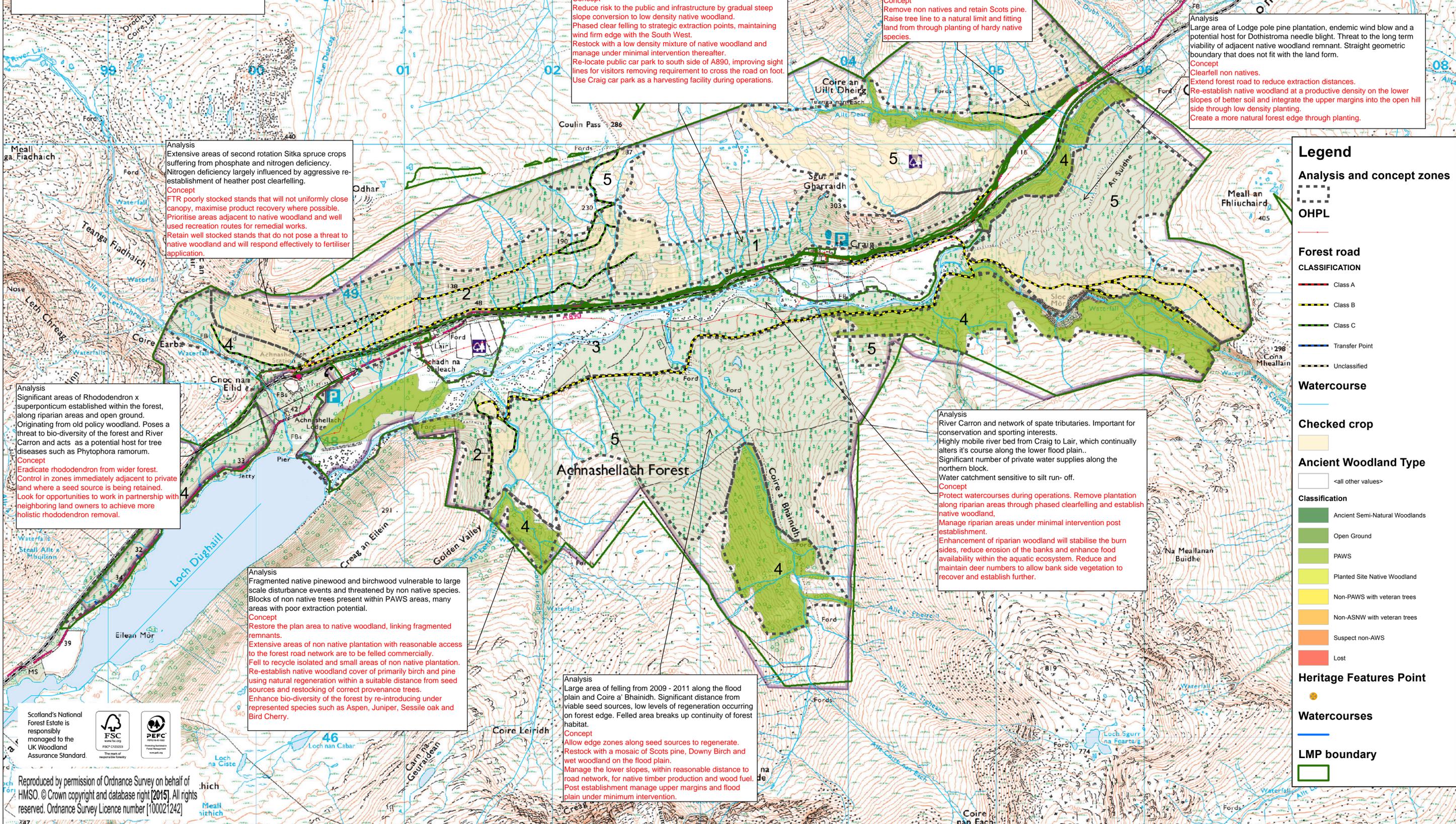


Zones (see appendix 8 for further details)

- 1: Commercial conifer plantation on north side of the River Carron, growing on steep terrain at risk of land slip. Highly restricted access for management.
- 2: Commercial conifer plantation growing on steep terrain at moderate risk of land slip. Improved access for management.
- 3: Riparian area of the River Carron and its tributaries
- 4: Fragmented remnants of native woodland of high ecological value and potential for restoration.
- 5: Commercial conifer plantation growing on accessible terrain composed largely of poor weakly flushed peat soils. A significant percentage of failed plantation suffering severe nutrient deficiency and historically felled areas awaiting natural regeneration.



Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba
Forestry Commission Scotland
Inverness, Ross & Skye Forest District
Achnashellach Land Management Plan
 2015 - 2025
 Map 5: Analysis & Concept
 1:12K



Analysis
 Steep unstable slopes directly above the A890 and Craig Hamlet. Mature forest planted between 1922 & 1971 and onset of wind blow occurring. Very limited access.

Concept
 Reduce risk to the public and infrastructure by gradual steep slope conversion to low density native woodland. Phased clear felling to strategic extraction points, maintaining wind firm edge with the South West. Restock with a low density mixture of native woodland and manage under minimal intervention thereafter. Re-locate public car park to south side of A890, improving sight lines for visitors removing requirement to cross the road on foot. Use Craig car park as a harvesting facility during operations.

Analysis
 Remnant fingers of Japanese larch and Scots Pine left after a historic fire. Steep terrain and poor soil. Poorly shaped forest edge

Concept
 Remove non natives and retain Scots pine. Raise tree line to a natural limit and fitting land from through planting of hardy native species.

Analysis
 Large area of Lodge pole pine plantation, endemic wind blow and a potential host for Dothistroma needle blight. Threat to the long term viability of adjacent native woodland remnant. Straight geometric boundary that does not fit with the land form.

Concept
 Clearfell non natives. Extend forest road to reduce extraction distances. Re-establish native woodland at a productive density on the lower slopes of better soil and integrate the upper margins into the open hill side through low density planting. Create a more natural forest edge through planting.

Analysis
 Extensive areas of second rotation Sitka spruce crops suffering from phosphate and nitrogen deficiency. Nitrogen deficiency largely influenced by aggressive re-establishment of heather post clearfelling.

Concept
 FTR poorly stocked stands that will not uniformly close canopy, maximise product recovery where possible. Prioritise areas adjacent to native woodland and well used recreation routes for remedial works. Retain well stocked stands that do not pose a threat to native woodland and will respond effectively to fertiliser application.

Analysis
 Significant areas of Rhododendron x superponicum established within the forest, along riparian areas and open ground. Originating from old policy woodland. Poses a threat to bio-diversity of the forest and River Carron and acts as a potential host for tree diseases such as Phytophthora ramorum.

Concept
 Eradicate rhododendron from wider forest. Control in zones immediately adjacent to private land where a seed source is being retained. Look for opportunities to work in partnership with neighboring land owners to achieve more holistic rhododendron removal.

Analysis
 Fragmented native pinewood and birchwood vulnerable to large scale disturbance events and threatened by non native species. Blocks of non native trees present within PAWS areas, many areas with poor extraction potential.

Concept
 Restore the plan area to native woodland, linking fragmented remnants. Extensive areas of non native plantation with reasonable access to the forest road network are to be felled commercially. Fell to recycle isolated and small areas of non native plantation. Re-establish native woodland cover of primarily birch and pine using natural regeneration within a suitable distance from seed sources and restocking of correct provenance trees. Enhance bio-diversity of the forest by re-introducing under represented species such as Aspen, Juniper, Sessile oak and Bird Cherry.

Analysis
 Large area of felling from 2009 - 2011 along the flood plain and Coire a' Bhainidh. Significant distance from viable seed sources, low levels of regeneration occurring on forest edge. Felled area breaks up continuity of forest habitat.

Concept
 Allow edge zones along seed sources to regenerate. Restock with a mosaic of Scots pine, Downy Birch and wet woodland on the flood plain. Manage the lower slopes, within reasonable distance to road network, for native timber production and wood fuel. Post establishment manage upper margins and flood plain under minimum intervention.

Analysis
 River Carron and network of spate tributaries. Important for conservation and sporting interests. Highly mobile river bed from Craig to Lair, which continually alters its course along the lower flood plain. Significant number of private water supplies along the northern block. Water catchment sensitive to silt run-off.

Concept
 Protect watercourses during operations. Remove plantation along riparian areas through phased clearfelling and establish native woodland. Manage riparian areas under minimal intervention post establishment. Enhancement of riparian woodland will stabilise the burn sides, reduce erosion of the banks and enhance food availability within the aquatic ecosystem. Reduce and maintain deer numbers to allow bank side vegetation to recover and establish further.

Legend

Analysis and concept zones

- OHPL

Forest road CLASSIFICATION

- Class A
- Class B
- Class C
- Transfer Point
- Unclassified

Watercourse

Checked crop

Ancient Woodland Type

- <all other values>
- Classification
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands
- Open Ground
- PAWS
- Planted Site Native Woodland
- Non-PAWS with veteran trees
- Non-ASNW with veteran trees
- Suspect non-AWS
- Lost

Heritage Features Point

Watercourses

LMP boundary

