

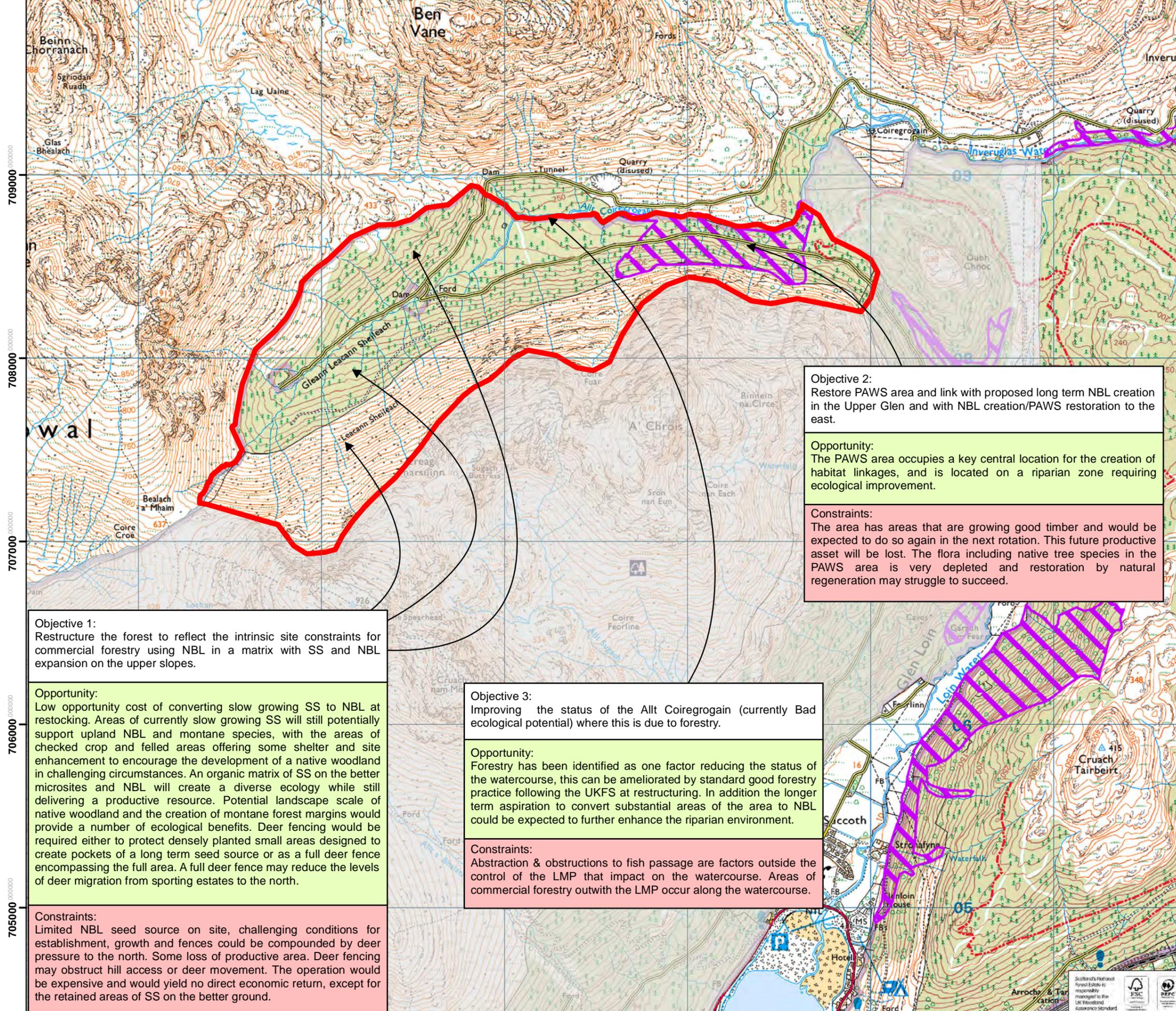


Glen Croe Land Management Plan

M26: Upper Glen Loin Opportunities & Constraints

Legend

- Upper Glen Loin Management Zone
- LMP area outwith Management Zone
- Planned Forest Roads
- Existing Forest Roads
- Ancient Woodland Inventory



Objective 1:
Restructure the forest to reflect the intrinsic site constraints for commercial forestry using NBL in a matrix with SS and NBL expansion on the upper slopes.

Opportunity:
Low opportunity cost of converting slow growing SS to NBL at restocking. Areas of currently slow growing SS will still potentially support upland NBL and montane species, with the areas of checked crop and felled areas offering some shelter and site enhancement to encourage the development of a native woodland in challenging circumstances. An organic matrix of SS on the better microsites and NBL will create a diverse ecology while still delivering a productive resource. Potential landscape scale of native woodland and the creation of montane forest margins would provide a number of ecological benefits. Deer fencing would be required either to protect densely planted small areas designed to create pockets of a long term seed source or as a full deer fence encompassing the full area. A full deer fence may reduce the levels of deer migration from sporting estates to the north.

Constraints:
Limited NBL seed source on site, challenging conditions for establishment, growth and fences could be compounded by deer pressure to the north. Some loss of productive area. Deer fencing may obstruct hill access or deer movement. The operation would be expensive and would yield no direct economic return, except for the retained areas of SS on the better ground.

Objective 2:
Restore PAWS area and link with proposed long term NBL creation in the Upper Glen and with NBL creation/PAWS restoration to the east.

Opportunity:
The PAWS area occupies a key central location for the creation of habitat linkages, and is located on a riparian zone requiring ecological improvement.

Constraints:
The area has areas that are growing good timber and would be expected to do so again in the next rotation. This future productive asset will be lost. The flora including native tree species in the PAWS area is very depleted and restoration by natural regeneration may struggle to succeed.

Objective 3:
Improving the status of the Allt Coiregrogain (currently Bad ecological potential) where this is due to forestry.

Opportunity:
Forestry has been identified as one factor reducing the status of the watercourse, this can be ameliorated by standard good forestry practice following the UKFS at restructuring. In addition the longer term aspiration to convert substantial areas of the area to NBL could be expected to further enhance the riparian environment.

Constraints:
Abstraction & obstructions to fish passage are factors outside the control of the LMP that impact on the watercourse. Areas of commercial forestry outwith the LMP occur along the watercourse.

