

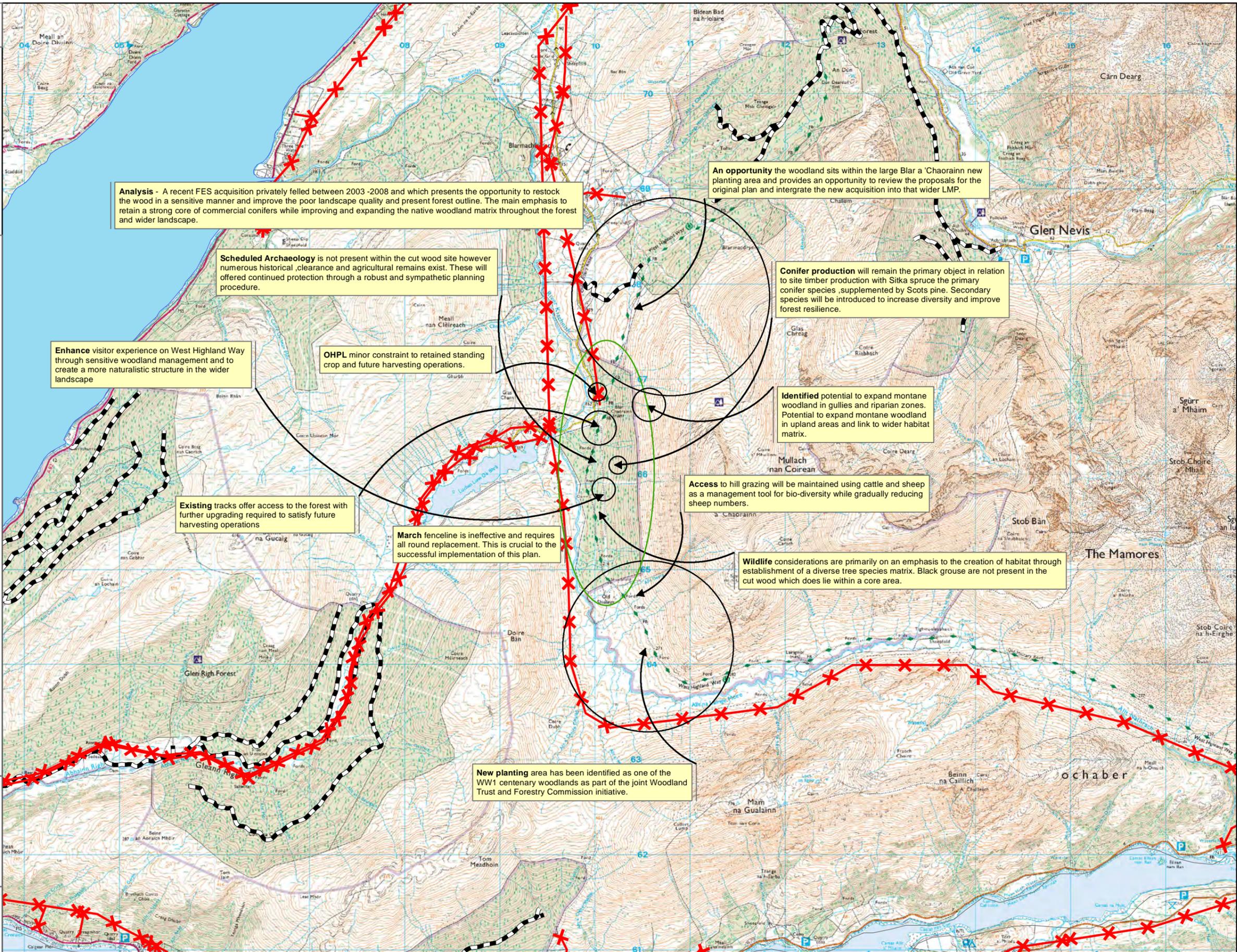
Lochaber Forest District

Cut Wood Amendment

M2: Analysis Map

Date: 14/02/2017

Scale: 1:38,764



Analysis - A recent FES acquisition privately felled between 2003 -2008 and which presents the opportunity to restock the wood in a sensitive manner and improve the poor landscape quality and present forest outline. The main emphasis to retain a strong core of commercial conifers while improving and expanding the native woodland matrix throughout the forest and wider landscape.

Scheduled Archaeology is not present within the cut wood site however numerous historical ,clearance and agricultural remains exist. These will offer continued protection through a robust and sympathetic planning procedure.

Enhance visitor experience on West Highland Way through sensitive woodland management and to create a more naturalistic structure in the wider landscape

OHPL minor constraint to retained standing crop and future harvesting operations.

An opportunity the woodland sits within the large Blar a' Chaorainn new planting area and provides an opportunity to review the proposals for the original plan and integrate the new acquisition into that wider LMP.

Conifer production will remain the primary object in relation to site timber production with Sitka spruce the primary conifer species ,supplemented by Scots pine. Secondary species will be introduced to increase diversity and improve forest resilience.

Identified potential to expand montane woodland in gullies and riparian zones. Potential to expand montane woodland in upland areas and link to wider habitat matrix.

Existing tracks offer access to the forest with further upgrading required to satisfy future harvesting operations

March fenceline is ineffective and requires all round replacement. This is crucial to the successful implementation of this plan.

Access to hill grazing will be maintained using cattle and sheep as a management tool for bio-diversity while gradually reducing sheep numbers.

Wildlife considerations are primarily on an emphasis to the creation of habitat through establishment of a diverse tree species matrix. Black grouse are not present in the cut wood which does lie within a core area.

New planting area has been identified as one of the WW1 centenary woodlands as part of the joint Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission initiative.

