

An Cnap



KEY FEATURES

Area

Total	117.6ha
Designated area	85ha
Woodland types (habitat extent)	
ASNW	18.3ha
PAWS	59.0ha
Open	2.1ha

Woodland description

The oak, birch and holly trees have been cleared of many conifers through much of this wood, with larch, pine and other conifers retained on the coastal promontories for visual and stability reasons. Groups of aspen on the hillside above the lochan add diversity to the woodland. The ground flora is fairly intact in parts, presumably as it has not been so shaded due to the more open configuration of the conifer planting. Where the conifers have been cleared in the last decade, the ground flora includes light-requiring and early colonising species. There are clear transitions from the inter-tidal flats through saltmarsh and Iris beds into woodland, particularly round Sailean nan Cuileag.

History of management

The woodland was acquired from the Board of Agriculture for Scotland in 1951 as part of a larger transfer including An Cnap, Bun Allt Eachain, Ardery and Camus a Choire.

The proximity to the bobbin mill at Salen and the lack of diversity in the An Cnap oakwoods suggest that these woods have been managed for timber in the past.

Moidart History Group – Salen Notes by JD:

“The Pirn Mill at Salen was sited behind the Old Post Office. It was constructed to produce bobbins or pirns for the Clark Company in Paisley. It operated from the early 1840s until 1854, when it was destroyed by fire, and was said to have been largely manned by lads from Glasgow. It was powered by water, the dam being on the hill above.

John Somers, writing in 1848, said this about the Pirn Mill: The extensive woods on the estate of Ardnamurchan afford a considerable amount of employment to the people. All along the side of Loch Sunart, and round the skirts of the parish generally, the sides of the hills are clothed with a profusion of birch, oak, and other natural trees. Wood-cutting is never at an end; for, when the foresters have concluded their work in one place, it is time to begin somewhere else. To promote the consumption of birch, which is the most plentiful description of timber, a pirn manufactory has been established at Salen, which works up about 1,400 tons of wood yearly. The price paid to the proprietor is 7s 6d per ton, laid down at the mill door. The pirns are cut by means of machinery; but in addition to a few men there are twenty-six boys employed in the factory, the greater part of whom are destitutes from Glasgow, who are fed and clothed in return for their labour. It is said that 75,000 pirns are made daily.”

“Salen itself was occupied by U.S. Army Rangers who suffered heavy casualties in the D-Day landings. One can find spent USA ammunition on the hill above Salen, a cartridge from Tarbert has been identified as having been fired from an American Remington carbine.”

“There are two handsome specimen trees near the picnic site: a *Cryptomeria* and a big Douglas Fir. Further to the west there is a group of four specimen trees next to the road: A Grand fir, a Douglas fir, a *Cryptomeria* and a coast redwood.”

A mix of non-native conifers was planted above the road in 1956.

Some of the first rotation conifer was felled on both sides of the public road in 2005.

Halo thinning by chainsaw around some of the remnant oak has created a potential hazard, with the treated trees being more liable to snap.

Conservation features

Hairy wood ant *Formica lugubris* recorded in the wood on the lower side of the public road

Lochan na Dunaich – this area is important for the **dragonfly assemblage** feature of the SSSI

Killarney fern *Trichomanes speciosum* (a European Protected Species) has been recorded at the more common gametophyte stage in this area.

Lichen assemblages

This is a very important area for its known lichen interest with two Critically Endangered lichens within the management unit:

1. *Calicium diploellum* (NR, CR) 2010
2. *Pyrenula dermatodes* (NR, CR) 2010

Both of these species have been recorded on Holly here, but can be found on the smooth bark of Hazel and Rowan elsewhere. They should be considered a priority in the plan.

Two other Nationally Rare lichen occurs in the area, *Arthothelium dictyosporum* (Near Threatened) and *Polychidium dendriscum* (Vulnerable). *A. dictyosporum* occurs on Hazel, Holly and especially Rowan while *P. dendriscum* is a generalist of mossy broadleaf trees in damp woodland.

Twenty four species of Nationally Scarce lichens have been recorded in or in the vicinity of this management unit, of which seven are considered Near Threatened i.e. approaching Vulnerable against IUCN criteria. They are all epiphytes and their distribution is presented in Lichen Map 5. Most of these species are only recorded to the 1-km square, so should be considered through general management practices.

Bryophytes

101 bryophytes have been recorded throughout An Cnap. This includes four ORIS species, 25 Oceanic Species, one Scottish Biodiversity list species (*Hedwigia ciliata*) and one Nationally Scarce Species (*Hageniella micans*). The Sunart ravine survey did not find any category A water courses here. The SSSI area to the north out-with FES management has many more species, including more rarities.

The bay supports 0.5Ha *Juncetum gerardi* **saltmarsh**.

Heritage features

a) Sailean nan Cuileag wood

Scheduled monument - a prehistoric cairn (Eorna Cottage, cairn 450m west of SM7802). The monument is visible as a stony mound and lies on the flank of a gentle spur. It consists of a round cairn measuring about 12m in diameter and about 2m in height. Cairns of this type are funerary monuments dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age, and may be expected to contain material relating to their mode of construction and use. The scheduled area is circular with a diameter of 35m.

Eorna Cottage Memorial Cairn to Allan McDonald was built by his son Alexander. Allan McDonald is believed to have lived at Resipol and died 15th August 1875 while returning from church driving his pony and trap.

Recessed platforms.

The fragmentary remains of a building that must have been of creel, which is a wickerwork building covered with thin turf. It may have been used to store bark.

b) An Cnap

There is a reference to a settlement of An Cnap just above the public road with nearby recessed platforms and a record of earlier settlement of boulder caves and huts. A further platform is noted close to the present Salen village.

PAWS

An Cnap contains one of the more complete and mature areas of ASNW (18ha) within the NFE on Loch Sunart below the public road. The PAWS below the public road has been cleared of conifers, other than a few scattered small

groups of Norway spruce and Scots pine. This area has high ecological potential and has regenerated with native woodland.

Above the public road, the conifers remain on most of the PAWS site but with high ecological potential (42ha). This area is recorded as threatened by the shading of conifers, with the area immediately above the road at the Salen side being critical. This is where there has been no halo thinning around the mature broadleaves.

The Sailean nan Cuileag area is out-with the SSSI boundary and only has a small area of PAWS recorded in the NW corner below the road. However, there are also remnants on the drier knoll to the east and natural regeneration of native species is occurring in the previous felled area above the bay.

Species composition

Species	Area (ha)
Open	35.1
Birch	7.0
Corsican pine, Macedonian pine	2.5 and 0.8
Douglas fir, grand fir, western hemlock	1.8
Japanese larch	8.0
Lodgepole pine	10.5
Mixed broadleaf	30.9
Oak	1.8
Scots pine	1.3
Sitka spruce	17.4
Norway spruce	0.5

The conifers were all planted between 1956 and 1958.

Access

Short length of forest road to the Wood School and ATV access beyond.
No vehicle access below the road.

Recreation

Lochan na Dunaich Car park & Trail: a gentle all-abilities trail close to the village of Salen, around a loch, frequented by dragonflies, accessible from both the north and the south of the woods. There is also an informal path in the oakwood below the public road.

The community have an interest in the woodland with a Wood School and composting toilet near to the village. There is also a community compost facility, although the latter does not appear to be actively used at present.

Sailean nan Cuileag Car Park & Trail: a short trail descends from the car park and picnic site, through mature, open woodland to a lochside bay.

Other

Overhead power line above the woodland.

Public road through the woods.

The woodland is situated within the strategic deer fence.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

LT AWS management

The long term aspiration for these woodlands is to manage them for biodiversity using low impact systems. Although planted through with conifer in the mid **1950's, the PAWS area retains enough features of interest to be managed with biodiversity as the primary objective.**

The An Cnap oakwood could be enhanced for biodiversity by gradually increasing the age structure and native species diversity through the removal a few selected oak trees over time; this could also provide some funding to offset the cost of the work. There are no plans to intervene during the 10 year period of this plan.

At the eastern side of Sailean nan Cuileag on the drier ground, there is scope for managing the future native woodland for timber using low impact systems. There is a mix of different pine species on the rocky outcrop above Loch Sunart in this area. It is proposed to remove as much of the Lodgepole pine as can be reached but to retain the small areas of Corsican and Maritime pine.

Mature trees through the existing plantation, particularly holly, hazel and rowan, may support rare lichens such as *Calicium diploellum* and *Pyrenula dermatodes*. A protocol for avoiding any inadvertent damage to any examples of these species has been developed as outlined in table 8 in the main LMP text.

The most important areas for lichens and bryophytes here are scheduled for Minimum Intervention.

Initial operations

The felling of the remaining conifers on the PAWS site will continue. The proposal is to break the felling into smaller areas where access and terrain allow, in order to be able to make smaller sized parcels of timber available for the local market. It is proposed to fell the remaining conifer over the next 20 years. The stands are, however, already 60 years old.

A priority area for felling is around the wood school on the western side of the woodland to open up the remnant oak present. The conifer forming the backdrop to the lochan will be retained until the 3rd phase of felling, wind permitting.

There are two areas of conifer in Sailean nan Cuileag where, because of the mixed nature of the stand and low risk of natural regeneration of non-native species as well as the challenge of access, it is proposed to do a more selective felling of the conifer component and the retention of some standing trees. At the very east of the wood, out-with the SSSI, a component of the existing large diameter Douglas fir will be retained among the oak.

Proposed felling coupes

Coupe	Av Planting year	Av YC	Area Gross	Age MMAI	Fell year	Proposed Fell year
87035 87101	1956	10-14	7.5ha 11.0ha	54	2010	Phase 1
87143 87708	1956	10-14	1.8ha 7.7ha	54	2010	Phase 2
87028	1956	6-14	14.0ha	56	2012	Phase 3
87047 87103	1955	6-8	5.5ha 9.7ha	59	2014	Phase 3

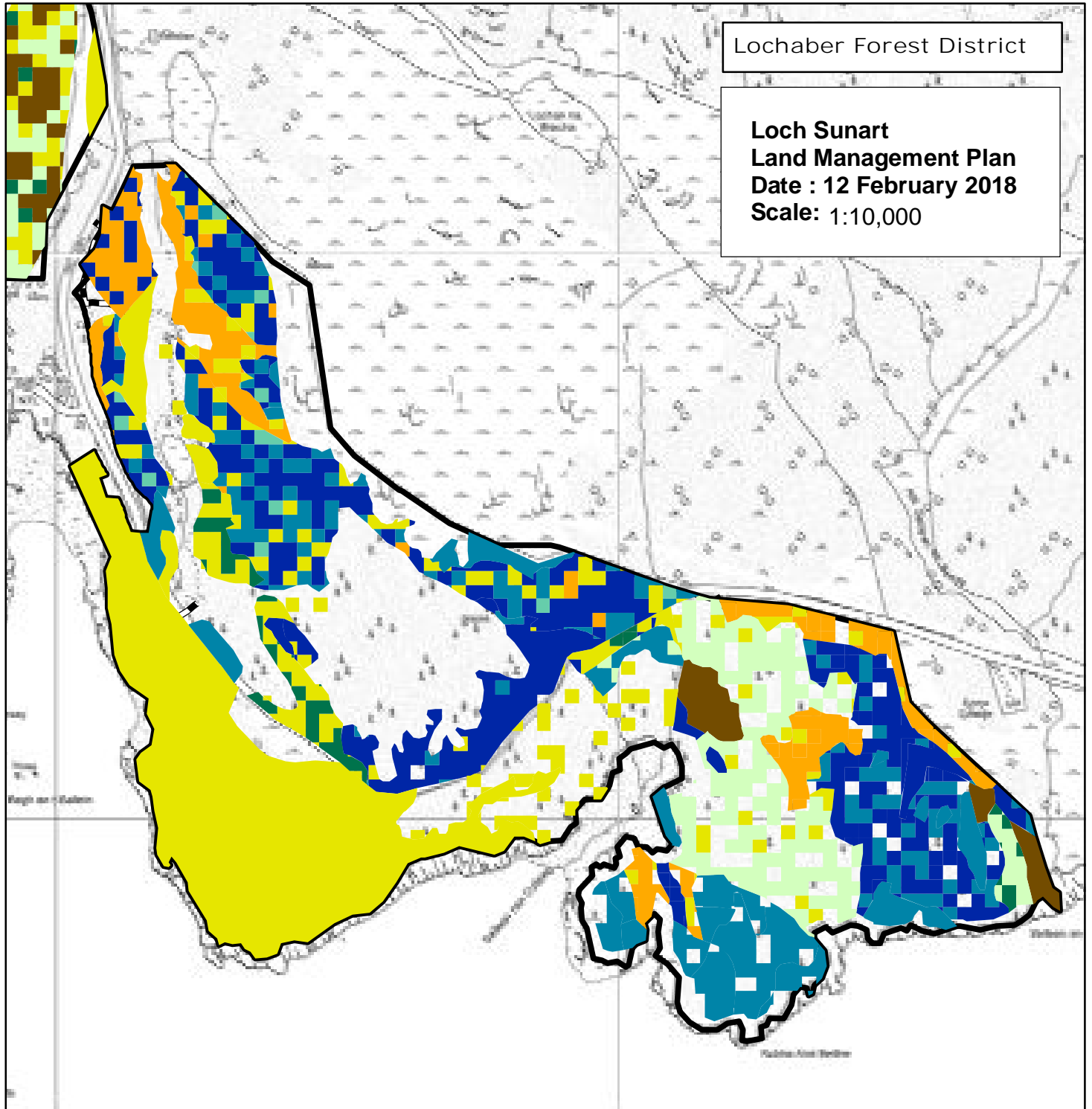
All based on SS NT 1.7m models

Further access, c380m, is required for the removal of conifers with the proposal to upgrade the current ATV track beyond SU3 and the wood school. To create a new access and short section of road north off the A881 and the build a section of road from the existing car park to access the timber to the south of the A881.

Proposed forest roads

Period	Road number	Length	Coupe
Phase 1	SU33	120m	87035 87101 87758
Phase 2	SU3	260m	87143 87708
Phase 3	SU32	275m	87028 87047 87103

In the areas where conifers have already been removed, further management will be required in the next 10 year period to secure the future of the woodland development. In An Cnap, enrichment is desirable to ensure sufficient stocking of a variety of site- suitable native trees. This will also help to increase the diversity of the woodland overall. In Sailean nan Cuileag, the regeneration will need respacing shortly to release species other than birch and to thin out the birch to create a more open woodland.



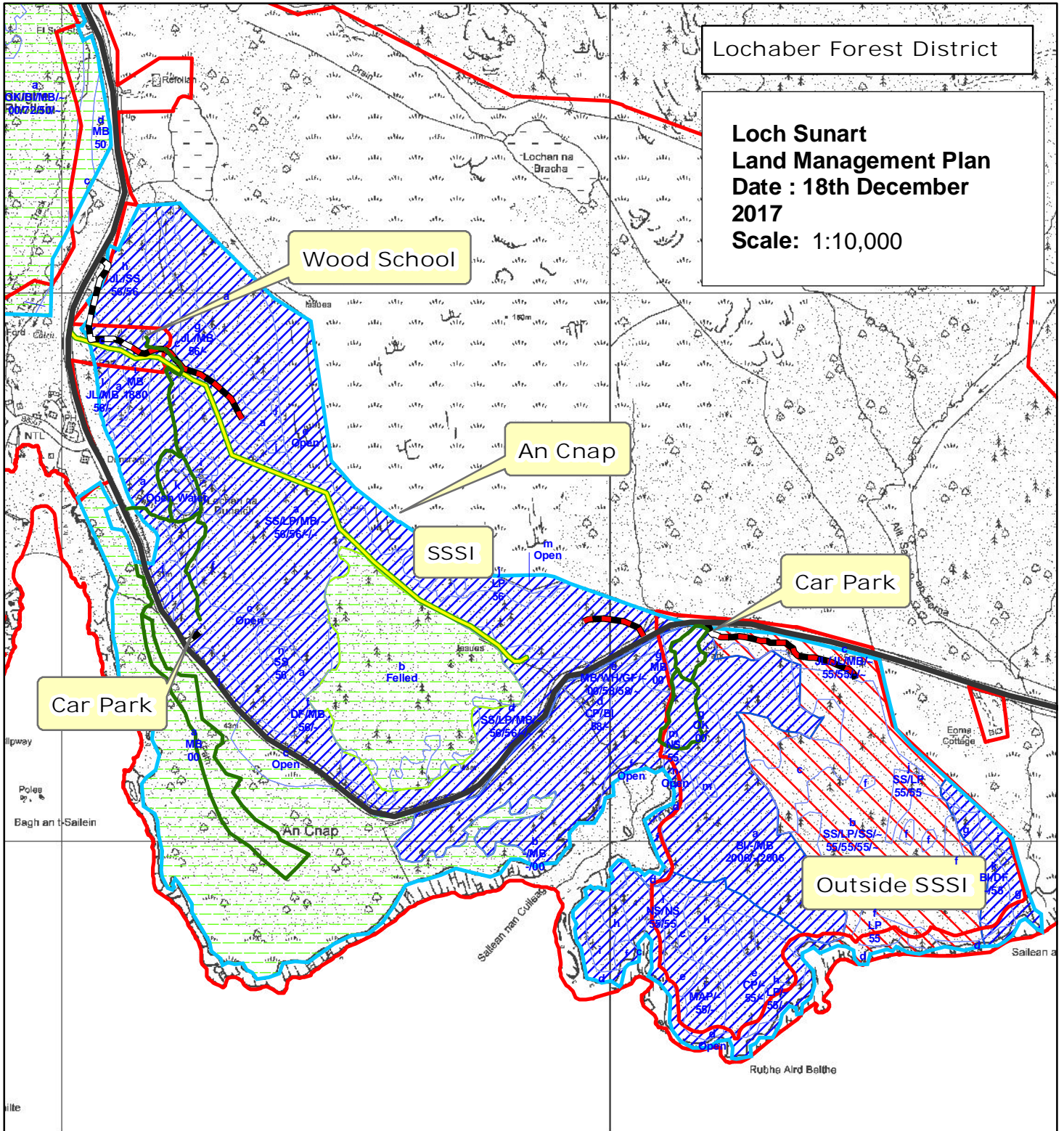
Lochaber Forest District

**Loch Sunart
Land Management Plan**
Date : 12 February 2018
Scale: 1:10,000

**An Cnap
Current Species**

- Scots pine
 - Other pines
 - Spruces
 - Larches
 - Other Conifer
 - Oak
 - Birch
 - Beech
 - Other broadleaves
- LMP Boundary
 - Forest Roads








An Cnap

Long term AWS management models

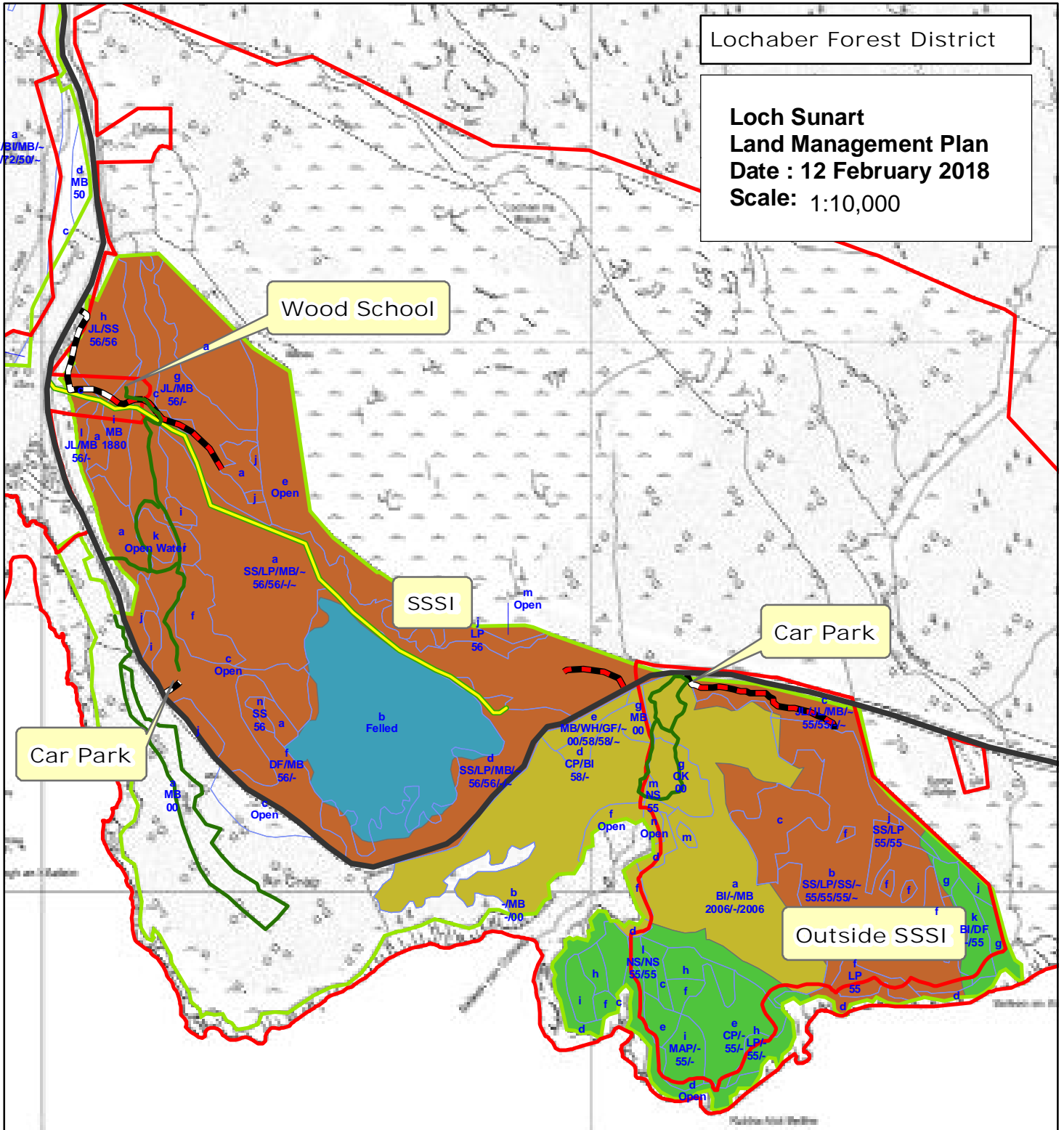
Model

-  1 - Minimum intervention (inc Nat Res)
-  2 - LISS for biodiversity
-  3 - LISS for timber

-  SSSI
-  National Forest Estate
-  Sub-Compartments
-  A861 Road
-  Forest Roads
-  Planned Road Segments
-  Existing ATV Access Track
-  Existing Recreation Routes



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Lochaber Forest District

**Loch Sunart
Land Management Plan**
Date : 12 February 2018
Scale: 1:10,000

Wood School

SSSI

Car Park

Car Park

Outside SSSI

**An Cnap
10 Year Management**

10 Year Management

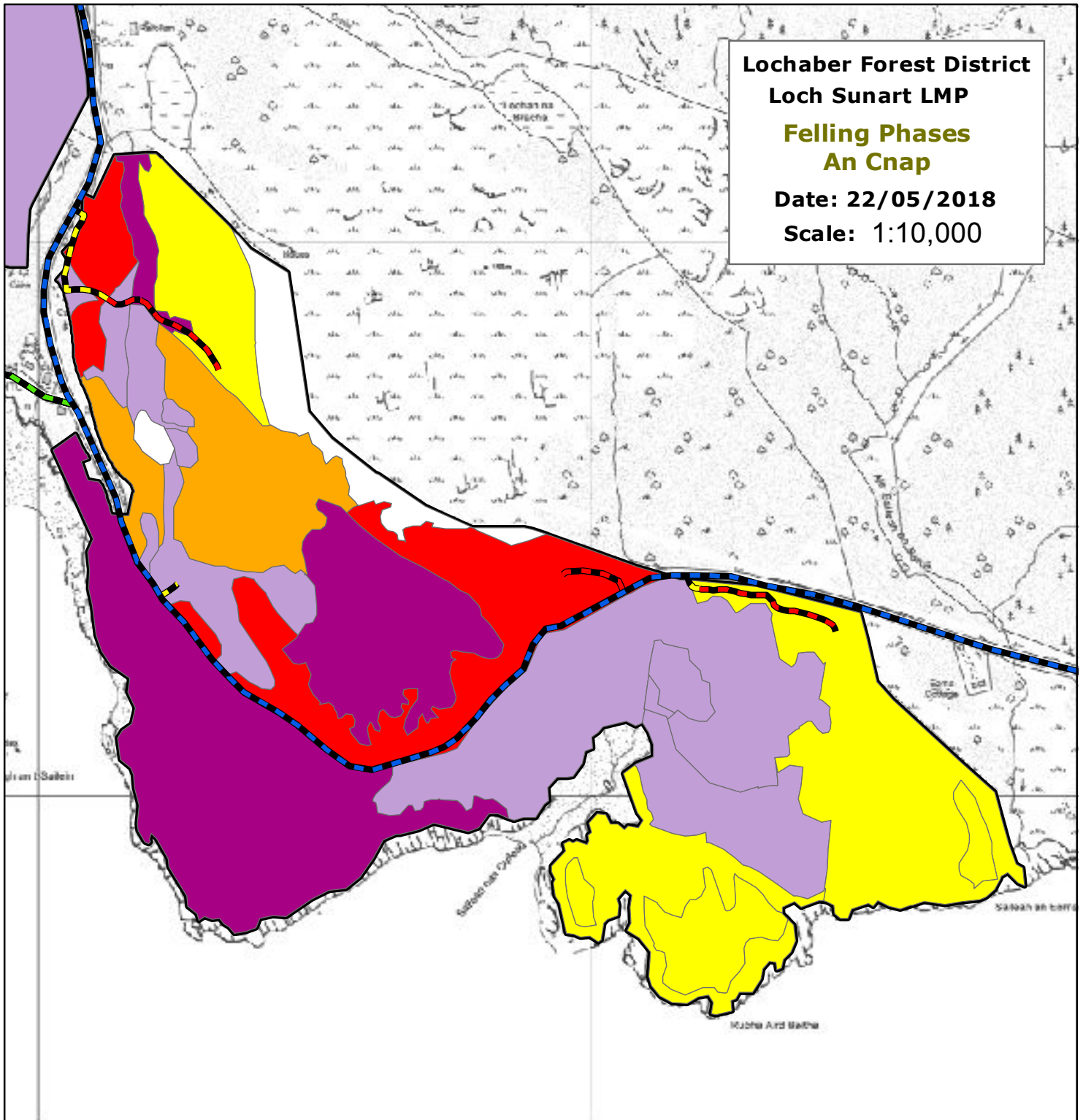
Operation

- Clearfell conifers
- Enrichment plant
- Re-space broadleaves
- Selective fell of conifers

- SSSI
- National Forest Estate
- Sub-Compartments
- A861 Road
- Existing ATV Access Track
- Existing Recreation Routes
- Planned Road Segments
- Forest Roads



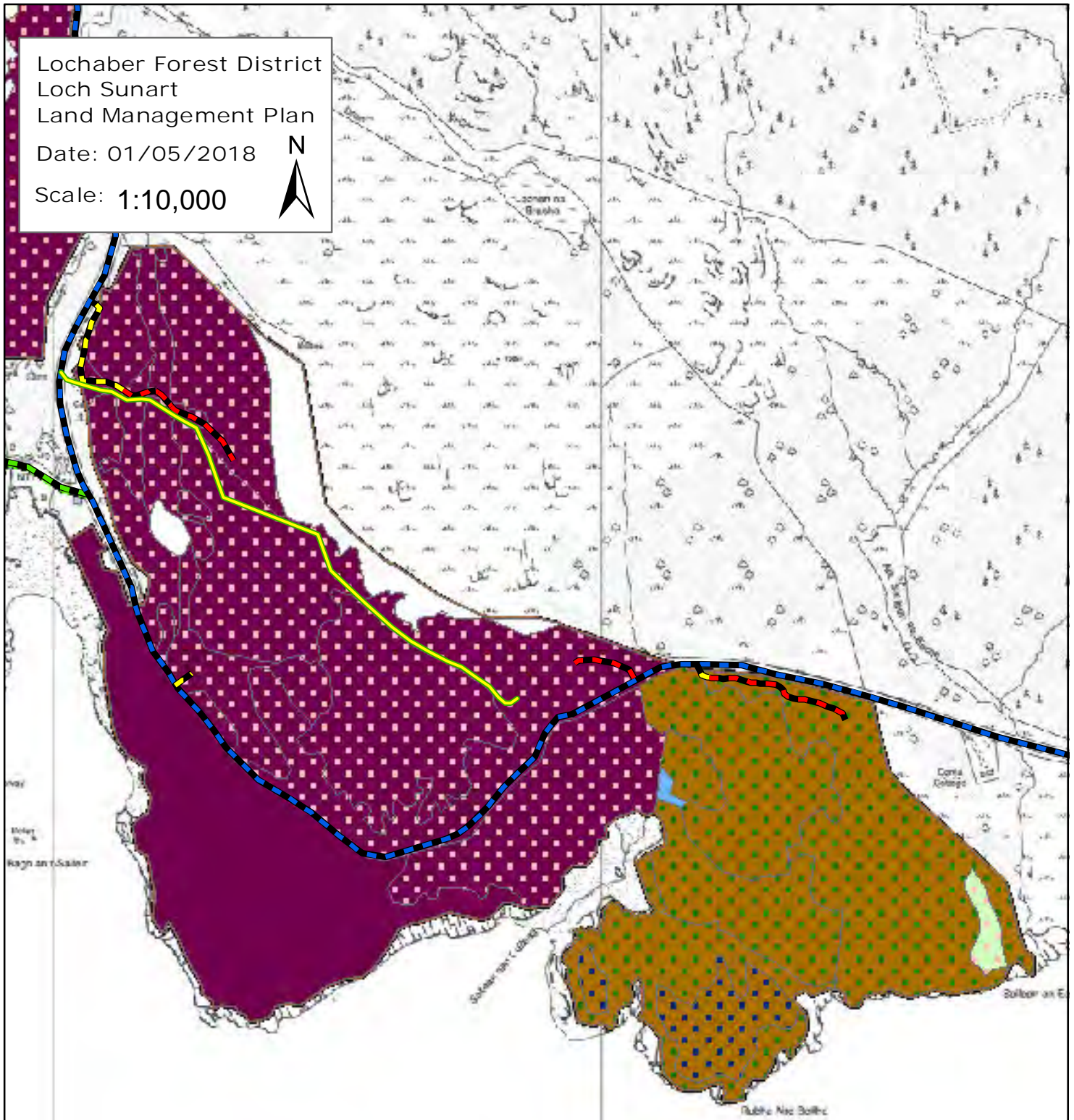
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Lochaber Forest District
Loch Sunart LMP
Felling Phases
An Cnap
Date: 22/05/2018
Scale: 1:10,000

- Phase 1 felling (2018 - 2022)
- Phase 2 felling (2023 - 2027)
- Phase 3 felling (2028 - 2032)
- Phase 4 felling (2033 - 2037)
- Phase 5 felling (2038 - 2042)
- Phase 6 felling (2043 - 2047)
- Phase 7 felling (2048 - 2052)
- After 2052
- Natural reserve
- Long term retention
- Minimum Intervention
- Low impact silviculture
- Open
- LMP Boundary
- A861 Road
- B8007
- Forest Roads
- Planned Road Segments





Lochaber Forest District
Loch Sunart
Land Management Plan
Date: 01/05/2018
Scale: 1:10,000



**Restock
An Cnap**

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Birch/Broadleaf | planting_area | Forest Roads |
| Broadleaf/Conifer | LMP Boundary | Planned Road Segments |
| Broadleaf/Scots Pine | Sunart_tracks | A861 Road |
| Douglas Fir/Birch | Existing ATV Access Track | B8007 |
| Norway Spruce | | |
| Oak | | |
| Oak/Birch | | |
| Open | | |
| Scots Pine | | |
| Scots Pine/Birch | | |