

Camas a'Choirce



KEY FEATURES

Area

Total	123.9ha
Designated area	123.9ha
Woodland types (habitat extent)	
ASNW	
PAWS	119.1ha
Open	1.5ha

Woodland description

Mature oak woodland, including standards, and abundant birch regeneration in more open areas, contrast with the remaining conifer wood. Pine trees render the conifer areas less dense than some other conifer stands, which allows a grass and moss dominated ground flora to survive in places. Remnants of **ancient woodland by the Allt Camas a'Choirce are typical of many of the rich ravine refuges found throughout the SSSI where 'Atlantic' fern and epiphytic species of interest grow.**

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 **Camas a'Choirce.**

Conifer removal

Clearfell coupes c2008 and 2013
Halo thinning 2005.

Conservation features

Badgers
Hairy wood ant *Formica lugubris*

Lichen assemblages

The woodland does not appear to have been extensively surveyed with just five records overlapping the unit. No species of conservation concern have been recorded.

Bryophyte assemblages

The site is largely unsurveyed for bryophytes. A Category A burn flows through the middle of the wood. Other surveys have recorded only 30 bryophytes throughout this block. This includes six ORIS species and 22 Oceanic Species.

The east of the site contains a series of burns running down the slopes. Most are low-scoring category C burns. A category A burn runs through the middle of the site and a tributary to a high scoring category A burn runs through the western edge of the block.

Heritage features

Ceol Na Mara recessed platforms (two) and hut at the NW edge and a further 14 **noted to the SE of the woodland. Immediately to the NW of Camas a'Choirce is a** large scheduled area consisting of a group of about 50 circular and sub-circular recessed platforms, varying in diameter from about 5m to about 12m, together with seven or more free-standing stone foundations of circular, oval and rectangular plan.

The front scarps of the platforms are often revetted with stone. One of the free-standing foundations, at the west edge of the area proposed for scheduling, is a small circular feature that fully justifies description as a hut circle.

Although often attributed solely to early-modern charcoal burning, recessed platforms such as these are more likely to be level stances upon which timber roundhouses were built. Dates from the Neolithic to the early 2nd millennium AD have been suggested.

The Camus A'Choirk bridge is a good example of a parliamentary bridge built about 1814 to a design by Thomas Telford and still capable of carrying 44 tonnes lorries. The double curvature of the sides is virtually unique. The quarries from which the stone was taken can be seen in the plantation a few yards upstream.

PAWS

Camas a'Choirce is all classified as PAWS. The conifer has been removed from 2/3 of the woodland. Regeneration has been slow in the eastern section but is now becoming established, albeit at a low stocking density particularly on the upper slopes where the heather has now re-established. The ecological potential is medium in this area (32ha) and the threat from large herbivores, non-native regeneration and excess vegetation remains. The more recently felled (64ha) has a high ecological potential and regeneration is occurring from the retained broadleaves but has a similar threat from excessive herbivore impact. There are a good number of remnants of the original wood in the remaining conifer stands but these are threatened by shading. Scots pine has also been retained.

The natural regeneration is being monitored and is establishing, although the level of herbivore browsing precludes browse sensitive tree species. Development of deer extraction routes should lead to a sufficient reduction in browsing levels to allow development of greater tree species diversity.

Species	Area (ha)
Open	12.2
Felled	36.5
Birch	23.8
Japanese larch	7.8
Lodgepole pine	8.6
Mixed broadleaves	18.4
Mixed conifer	0.5
Norway spruce	0.9
Oak	2.6
Scots pine	4.2
Sitka spruce	6.9
Western hemlock	1.3

The conifer in the remaining coupe is P1955.

Other

Water supplies on Allt Camas a'Choirce and a tributary of Allt Craig an Eighich.

Also water pipe following the line of the track to the west NM75866170 to NM75576125.

Electricity wayleave above the public road.

The woodland is situated within the strategic deer fence.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

LT AWS management

The majority of the woodland will be managed for biodiversity using low impact systems. Intervention is necessary to establish woodland cover following the experience of the eastern coupe. Some infrastructure is in place, although further is needed in order to remove the final section of conifer forest, and it is proposed to use this infrastructure to manage the adjacent area for timber production from native woodland using low impact systems. Woodland associated with the main watercourse will be managed as Minimum Intervention within the area topographically associated with the ravine, due to the conservation importance of the bryophyte species present.

Initial operations

The existing felled areas are being monitored and enrichment planting will be required in the period of the plan, to ensure the establishment of woodland cover. Stocking and species re-established is also important in the areas identified as suitable for long term timber production. Some enrichment planting with oak grown from seed collected at Ariundle, is programmed for spring 2018 under SNH consent. Upgrading the access to aid deer extraction is programmed for January/February 2018, under SNH consent. Existing forwarder tracks will be modified to allow ATV access in the North-east part of the block that is beginning

to establish with regeneration. Increased deer management will aid the establishment through natural regeneration of more browse sensitive species such as oak, rowan and holly.

It is proposed to fell the final area of conifer within the period of the plan, in order to take advantage of the current deer fencing that will help the regeneration and planted trees to establish more rapidly. The coupe is mixed conifer species planted in 1955, with significant wind blow at the northern end. It will need to be felled as a single coupe due to the limitations of access and future stability.

Proposed felling coupe

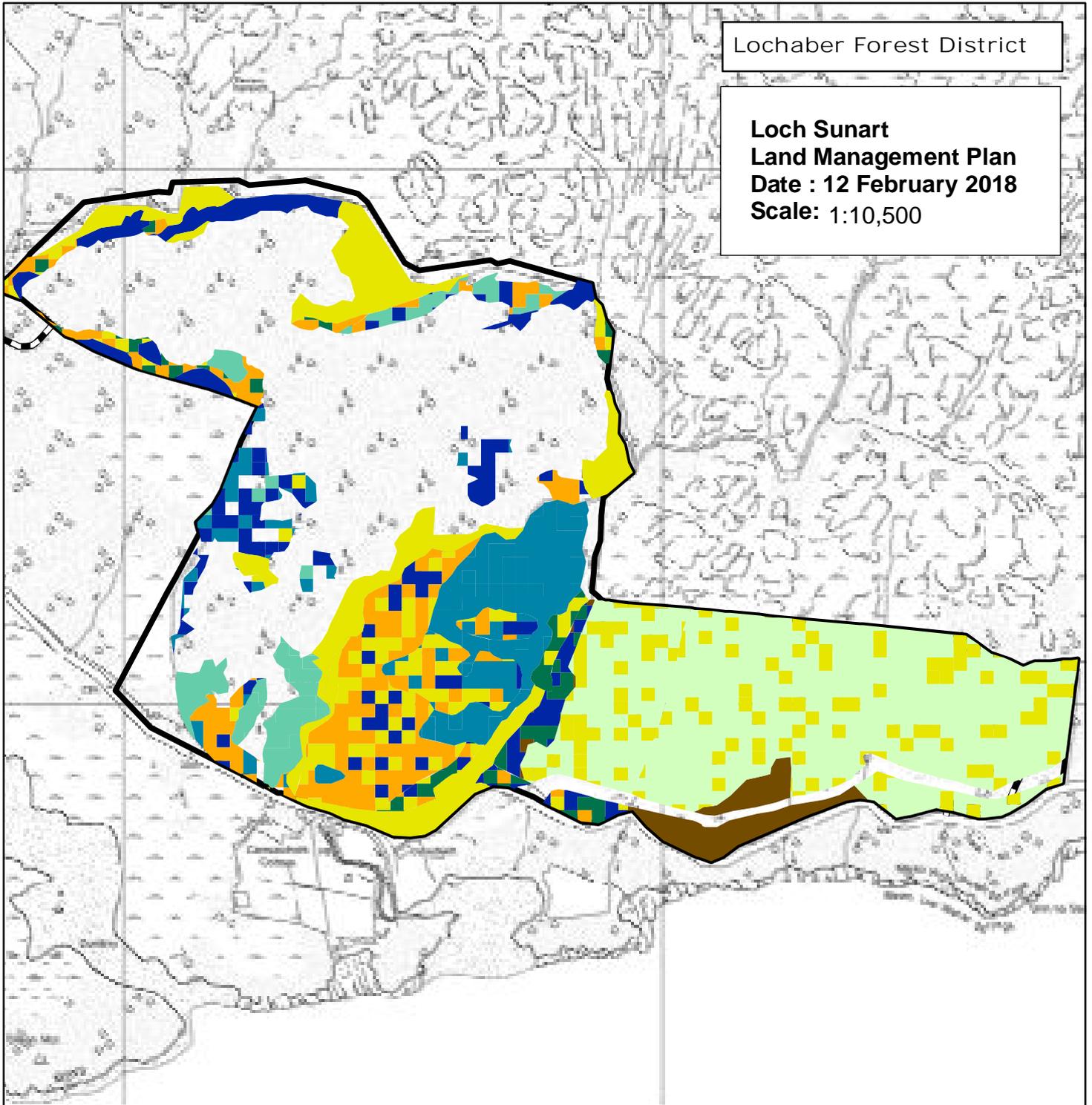
Coupe	Av Planting year	Av YC	Area Gross	Age MMAI	Fell year	Proposed Fell year
87644	1955	4-8	22.6ha	63	2018	Phase 2

All based on SS NT 1.7m models

The original loading bay will be reduced back to a track and standard forest entrance once felling is complete. An upgrade and creation of a loading bay will be required at the existing access point located at the eastern edge of this coupe. Creating a harvesting facility here will require the removal of at least one mature tree but will impact a significantly smaller area than the alternative, which is to form a new facility immediately to the west of the public road bridge and build a road crossing back east over the incised ravine.

Proposed forest roads

Period	Road number	Length	Coupe
Phase 2	SU	100m	87142

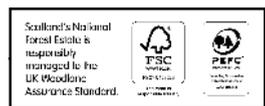


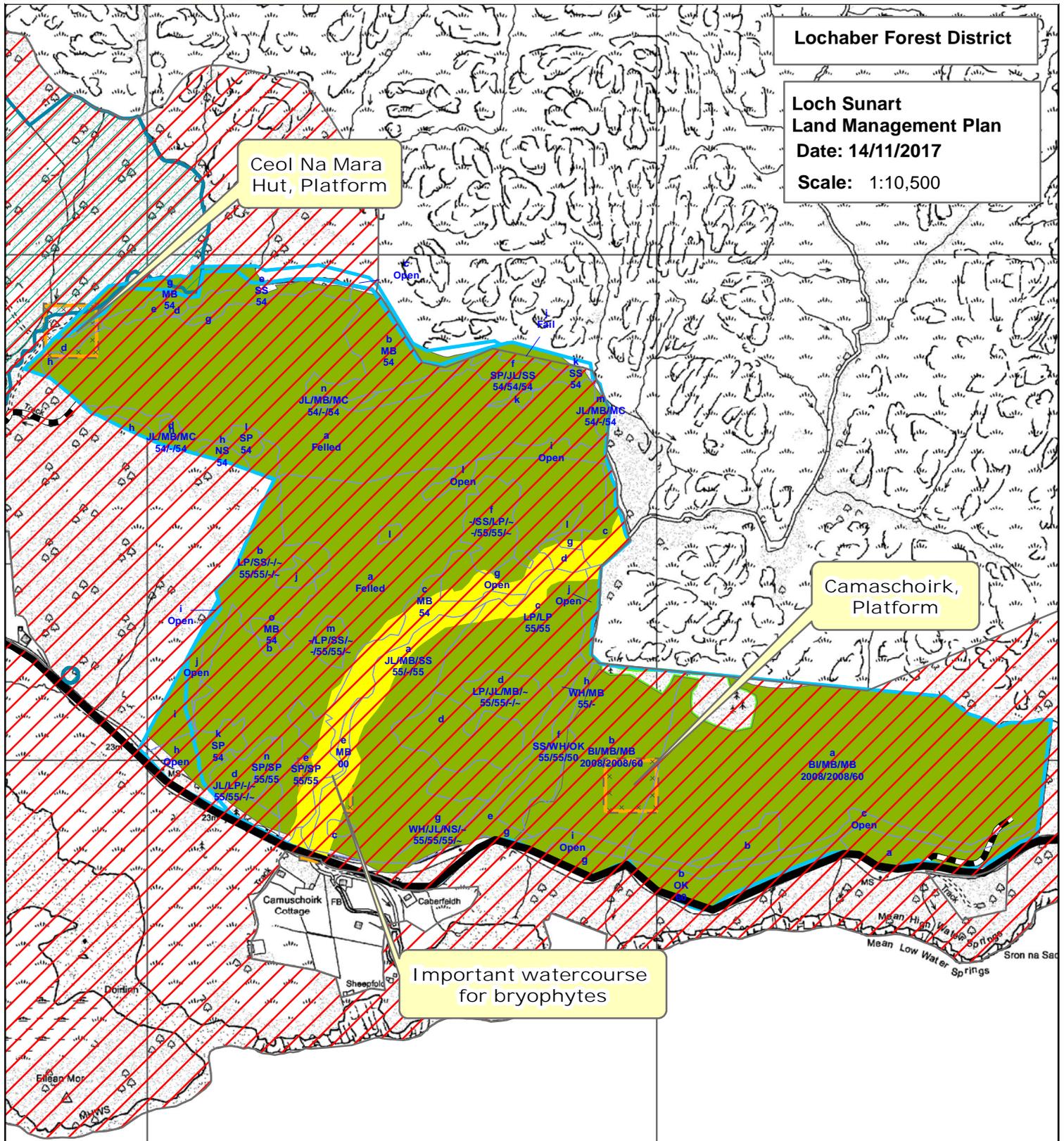
Lochaber Forest District

**Loch Sunart
Land Management Plan
Date : 12 February 2018
Scale: 1:10,500**

**Camus a' choice
Current Species**

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





Camas a' choice
AWS, SSSI, Conservation And Heritage Features

AWS

Classification

- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands
- Open Ground
- PAWS
- Planted Site Native Woodland

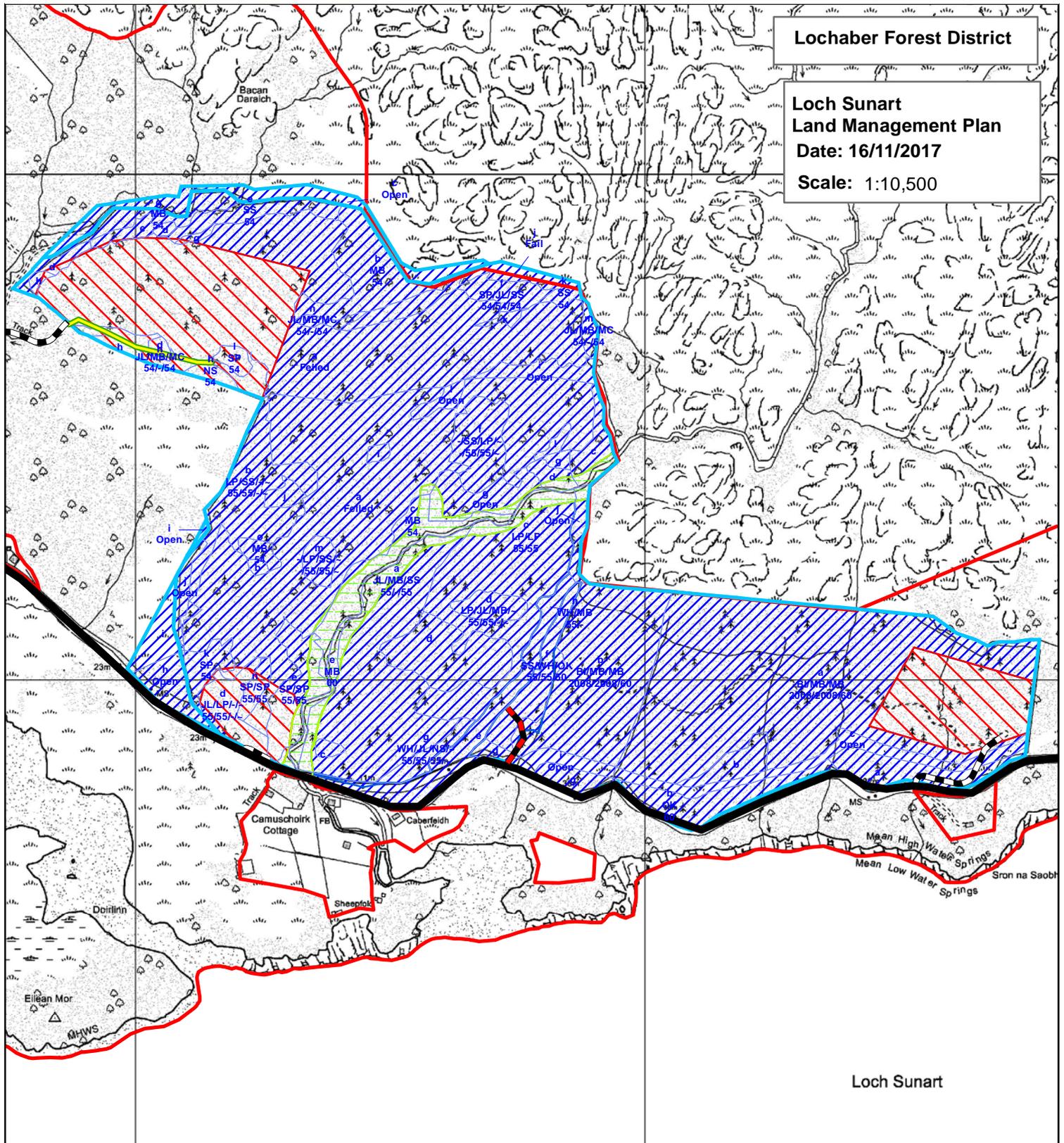
A861 Road

- National Forest Estate
- Sub-Compartments
- Conservation features
- Forest Roads
- SSSI

DESIGNATION TYPE

- Scheduled Monument
- Heritage Features Point
- Heritage Features Line
- Heritage Features Polygon



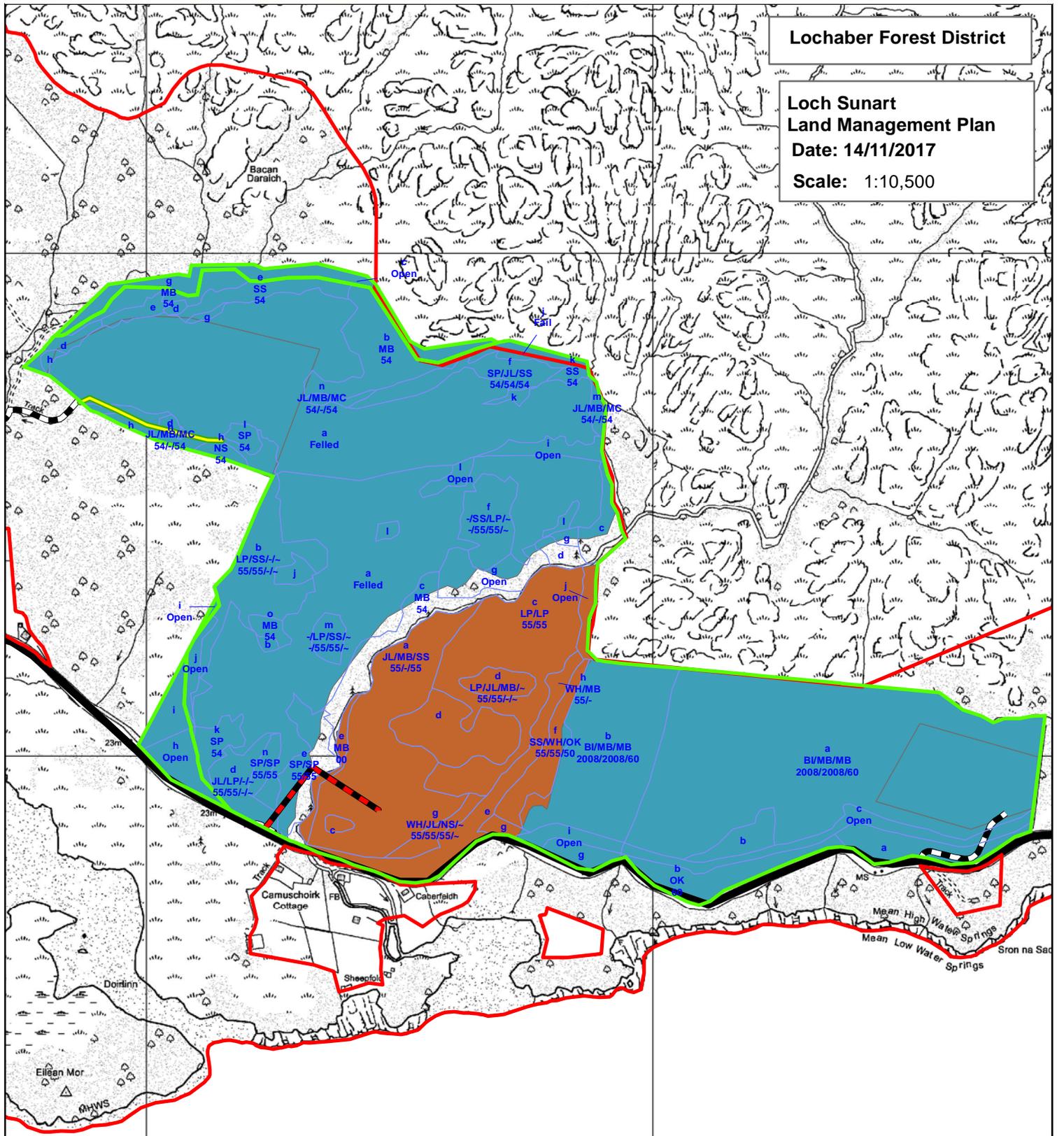


Camas a' choice

- | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Long term AWS management models | SSSI | Planned Road Segments |
| Model | National Forest Estate | Forest Roads |
| 1 - Minimum intervention (inc Nat Res) | Sub-Compartments | Existing ATV Access Track |
| 2 - LISS for biodiversity | A861 Road | Existing Recreation Routes |
| 3 - LISS for timber | | |

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Scotland's National Forest Estate is responsibly managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.



Lochaber Forest District

Loch Sunart
Land Management Plan
Date: 14/11/2017
Scale: 1:10,500

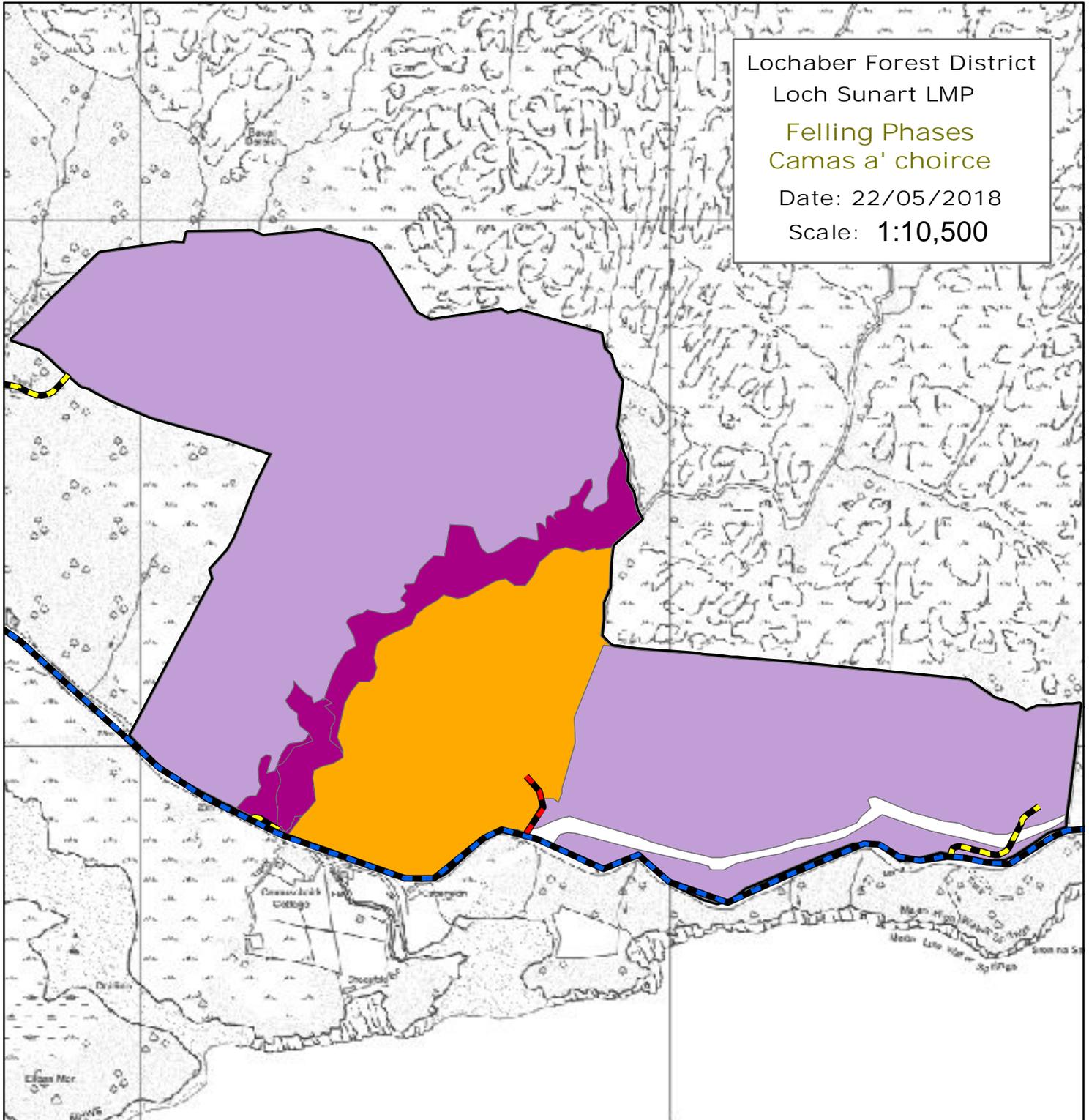
Camas a' choice
10 Year Management

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 10 Year Management | SSSI | Existing ATV Access Track |
| Operation | National Forest Estate | Existing Recreation Route |
| Clearfell conifers | Sub-Compartments | Planned Road Segments |
| Enrichment plant | A861 Road | Forest Roads |
| Re-space broadleaves | | |
| Selective fell of conifers | | |

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Lochaber Forest District
Loch Sunart LMP
Felling Phases
Camas a' choice
Date: 22/05/2018
Scale: 1:10,500

- 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



