

Ardery (Ard Airigh)



Area

Total	90.7ha
Designated area	90.7ha
Woodland types (habitat extent)	
ASNW	14.3ha
PAWS	63.0ha
Open	

Woodland description

There are distinct patches of oak and birch woodland, damp areas dominated by alder with willow, and aspen in groups from suckers near the coast. Old hazel coppice is evident. The recent conifer clearance is allowing the remaining broadleaves and ground flora to recover - this is clearly visible from the road, the A861. Heather and blaeberry dominated ground intersperses with bracken and moss-dominated e.g. *Rhytidiadelphus* sp. areas.

KEY FEATURES

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.

Conifer removal.

Initial felling c. 2000.
Halo thinning 2005.
Second felling 2014

Conservation features

All within the SSSI (boundary of the woodland is also the boundary of the SSSI).

Otters are present along the coast and within the woodland.

Chequered skipper is present with a known breeding site adjacent to the East of the block.

Wood ants – both the hairy wood ant *Formica lugubris* and the nationally scarce Scottish wood ant *F. aquilonia* occur in the woodland.

Dragonfly pool close by the forest entrance.

Lichen assemblages

The Nationally Rare and Vulnerable lichen *Polychidium dendriscum* has been recorded in this unit, near the road within the Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland block (NM740624). It is a generalist of mossy broadleaf trees in damp woodland. Fifteen Nationally Scarce species have been recorded in the unit including four considered Near Threatened. Most of these species have been recorded in one or more of three locations, all in shoreline woodland in the south of the unit. The two most easterly locations (NM743620 and NM744618) are likely to be recorded from native trees along the shore rather than in the PAWS area.

Bryophyte assemblages

The site is largely unsurveyed for bryophytes. The Sunart ravine survey covered the burn that flows through the north of this site and then on through to the edge of Bun Allt Eachain. It is a category C with the four ORIS species (*Aphanolejeunea microscopica*, *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia*, *Harpalejeunea molleri* & *Radula aquilegia*). Other surveys have only recorded 17 bryophytes throughout this block. This includes six ORIS and 18 Oceanic Species, though those records have likely come in part from the ravine survey.

Heritage features

Recessed platforms closer to the shore.

Small-scale quarrying operations, which could have resulted from prospecting for feldspar, known to have been carried out in the vicinity during WWI. Further evidence of quarrying in a rock face close to the old road with discarded piles of graded rock on the approach.

Possible Kelp Kiln at Ceann Traigh Breige with beach cleared for boats to land.

PAWS

Most of Ardery is classified as PAWS with an area of ASNW to the SW.

The PAWS area is now almost cleared of conifer and the remnants of the previous broadleaf woodland retained. It has high ecological potential (76ha). The earlier section to the SE (38ha) has regenerated successfully with native broadleaf. The later felled area (32ha) is regenerating slowly and remains threatened by excessive large herbivore impact.

The felled areas are all being monitored for natural regeneration.

A small area of conifer (1.4ha) remains in the SW corner adjacent to the power line.

The ASNW (14.3ha) has high ecological potential and includes an important gully area. Part of this site has been designated as natural reserve.

Species	Area (ha)
Open	33.0
Felled	30.7
Japanese larch	1.1
Mixed Broadleaves	15.1
Oak	9.0
Sitka Spruce	1.8

Recreation

Ardery is the most popular of the recreation facilities within the NFE woodlands of Sunart with c15k visitors a year. The focus of the facilities is the Garbh Eilean Wildlife Hide looking over Loch Sunart. This can be reached either by a gentle path from the Garbh Eilean Car Park or by a longer walk through native birch and oak woodlands from Ard Airigh Car Park.

Other

Water supply on tributary of Allt Eachain.

Power line above the road which has isolated a small area of conifer in the SW corner.

Car park and forest walks below the public road. The hide on the shore was built as part of the millennium project and is a popular place for watching seals and the more elusive otters.

The woodland is situated within the strategic deer fence.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

LT AWS management

The majority of Ardery has high ecological potential and it is proposed to actively manage the majority of the woodland for biodiversity through low impact system to realise this potential. In the vicinity of the existing forwarder track, there is scope to be more proactive in managing for timber from the native woodland as it develops.

Management will be fine tuning proposals to take into account potential expansion of bryophyte colonies.

Initial operations

The current forwarder access should be retained to allow for future management of the woodland. However, some work is needed to reduce its visual impact, manage the water and to extend it beyond the burn at the top.

The main focus of work in Ardery is to monitor the natural regeneration of the felled areas. It is likely, given the seed source available, that management intervention will be required on the most recently felled area in the plan period to ensure that woodland cover re-establishes before the weed growth makes this more difficult. Where timber production is proposed as the long term objective, a combination of enrichment and respacing is likely to be needed.

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.

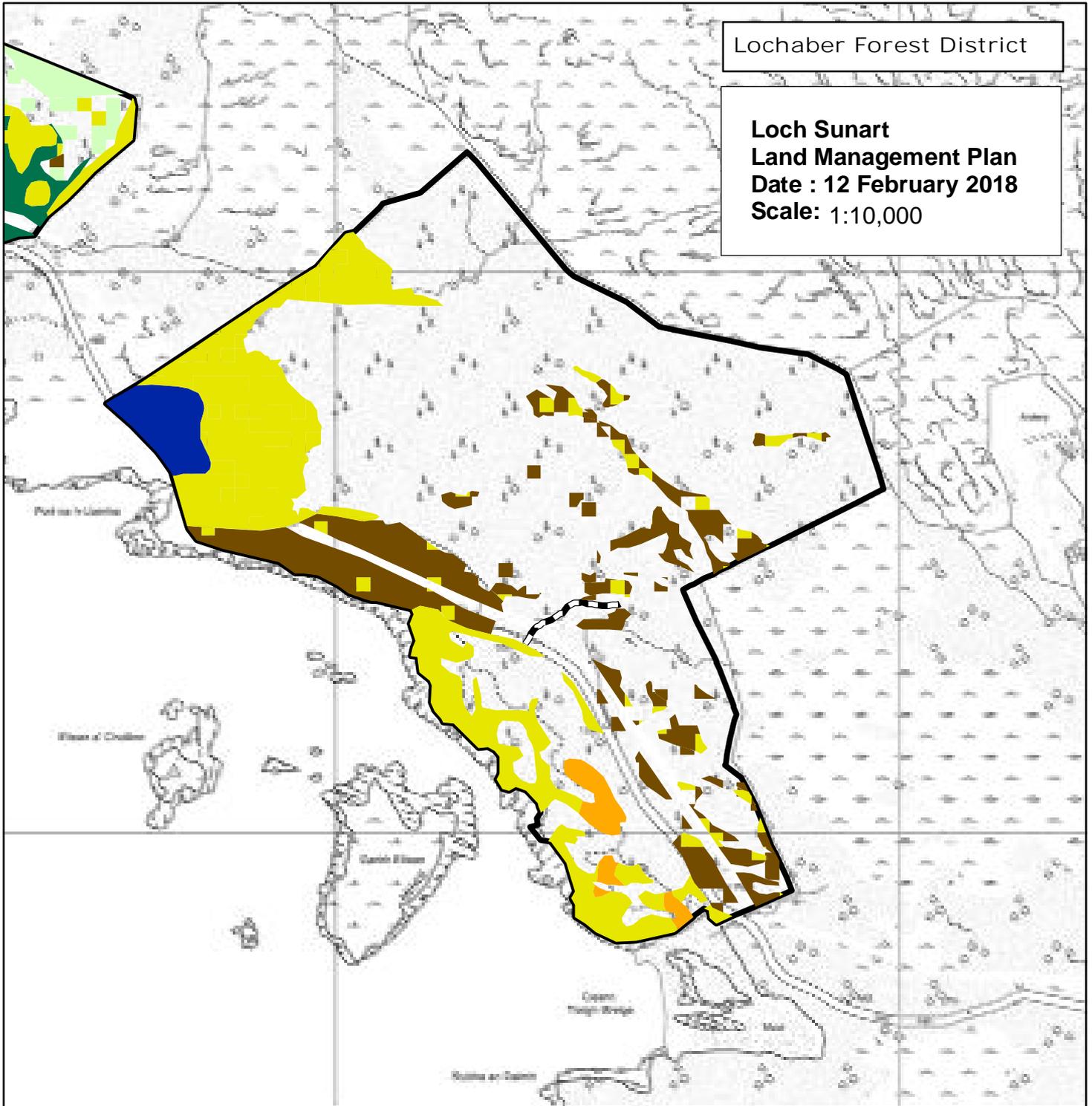
The area of successfully regenerated native woodland above the public road is programmed for respacing in the plan period, to allow development of a more open woodland structure.

If possible, the conifer in the SW corner of the wood will be removed but this is depended on the co-operation of SSE and the roads department.

Proposed felling coupes

Coupe	Av Planting year	Av YC	Area Gross	Age MMAI	Fell year	Proposed Fell year
8783982	1963	8	1.8ha	59	2022	Phase 1

All based on SS NT 1.7m models

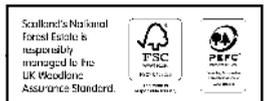


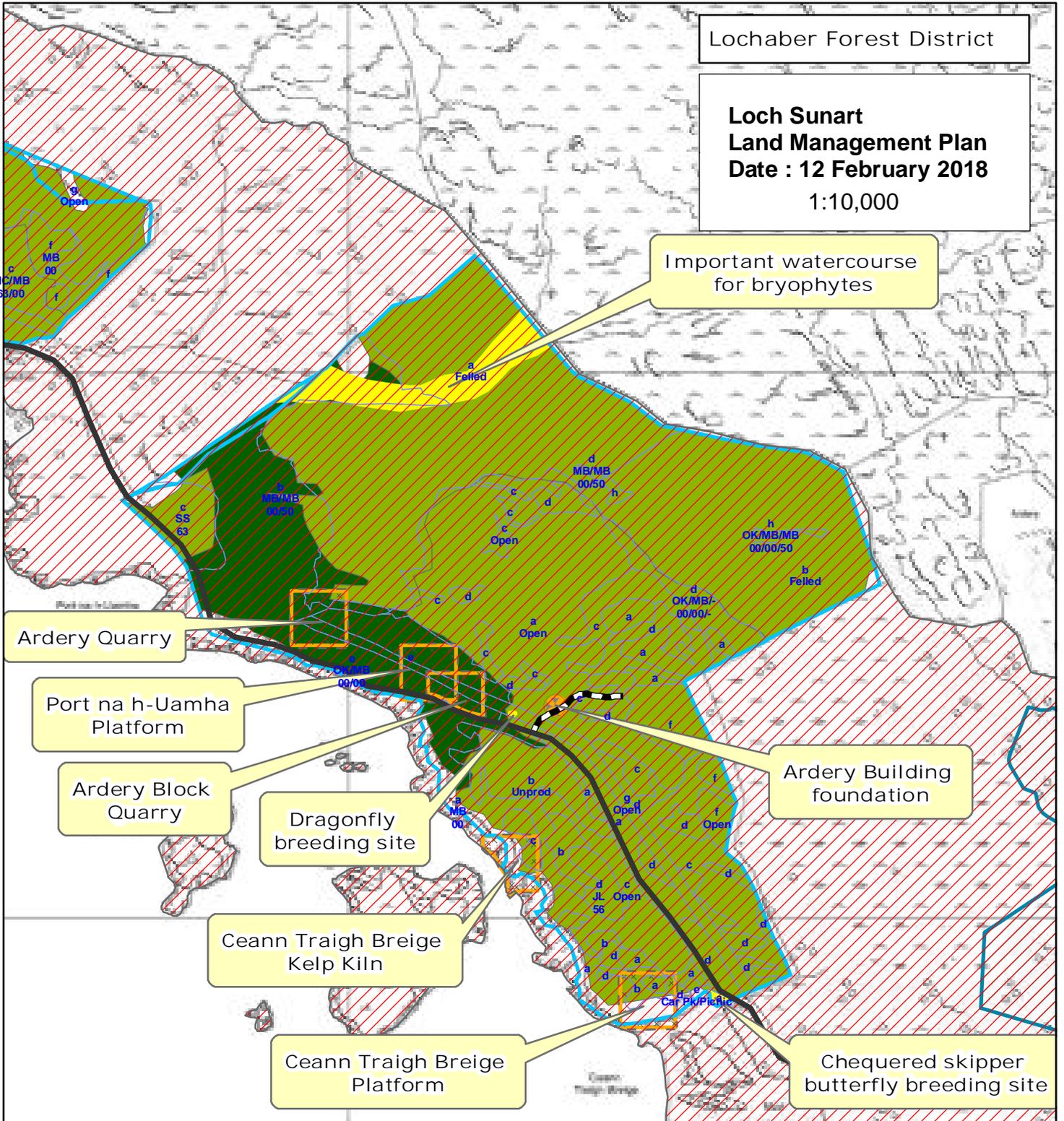
Lochaber Forest District

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

Ardery
Current Species

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





**Ardery
AWS, SSSI, Conservation And Heritage Features**

AWS

Classification

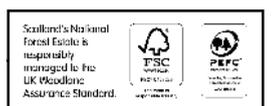
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands
- Open Ground
- PAWS
- Planted Site Native Woodland

A861 Road

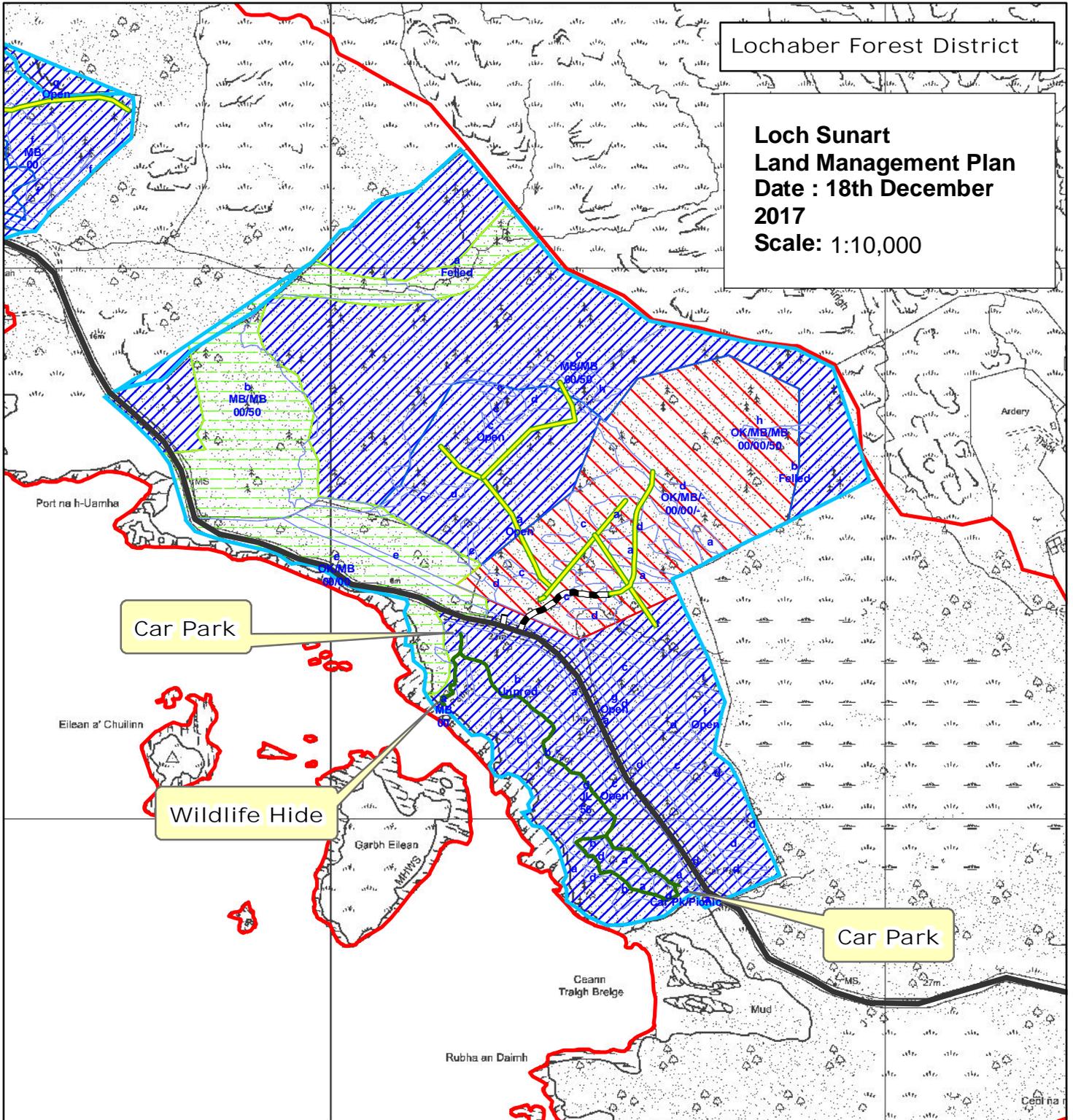
- National Forest Estate
- Sub-Compartments
- Conservation features
- Forest Roads
- SSSI

DESIGNATION TYPE

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



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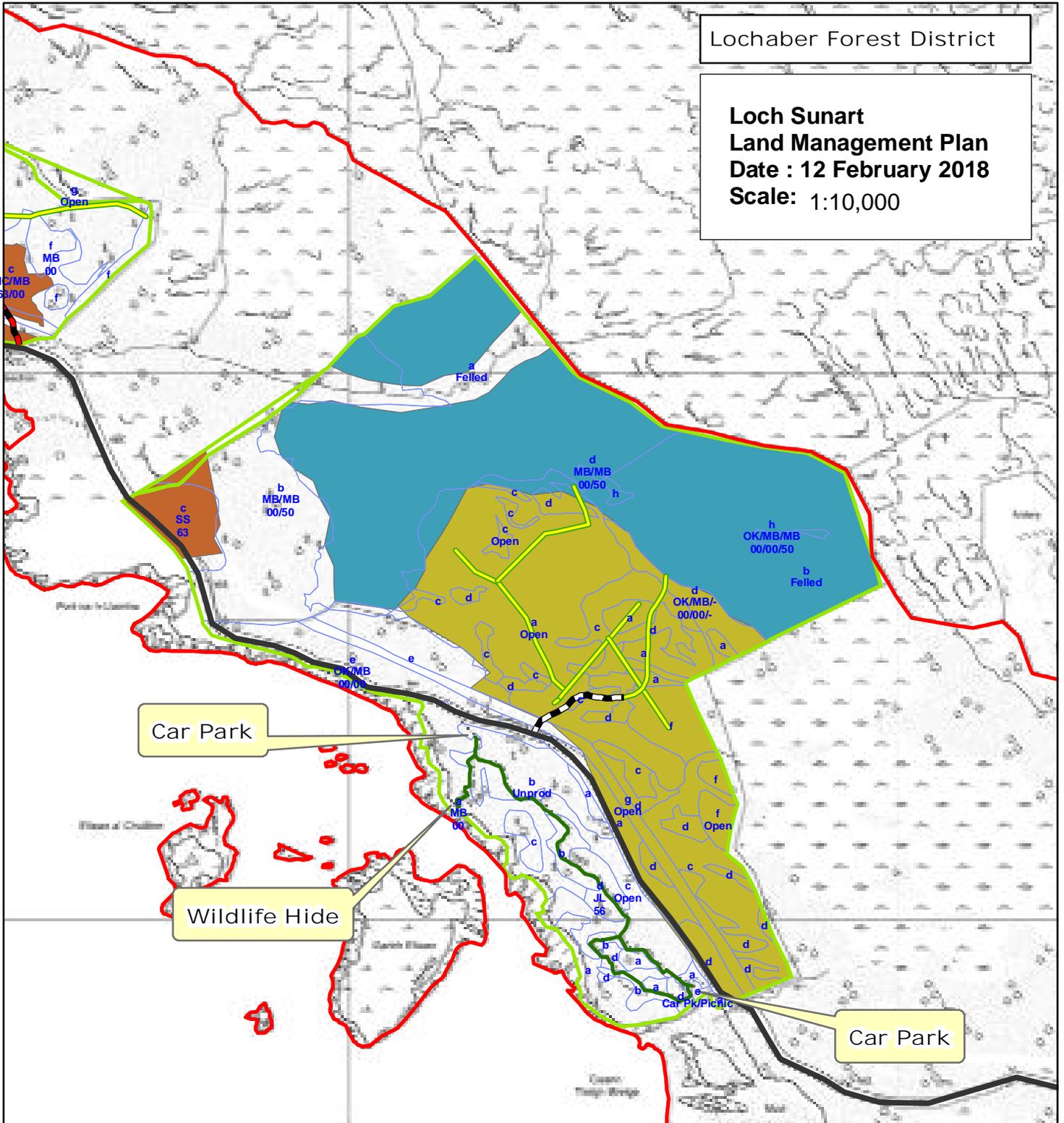
**Loch Sunart
Land Management Plan
Date : 18th December
2017
Scale: 1:10,000**

Long term AWS management models
Model
 1 - Minimum intervention (inc Nat Res)
 2 - LISS for biodiversity
 3 - LISS for timber

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

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

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Lochaber Forest District

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

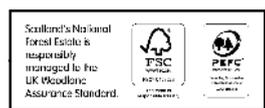
Car Park

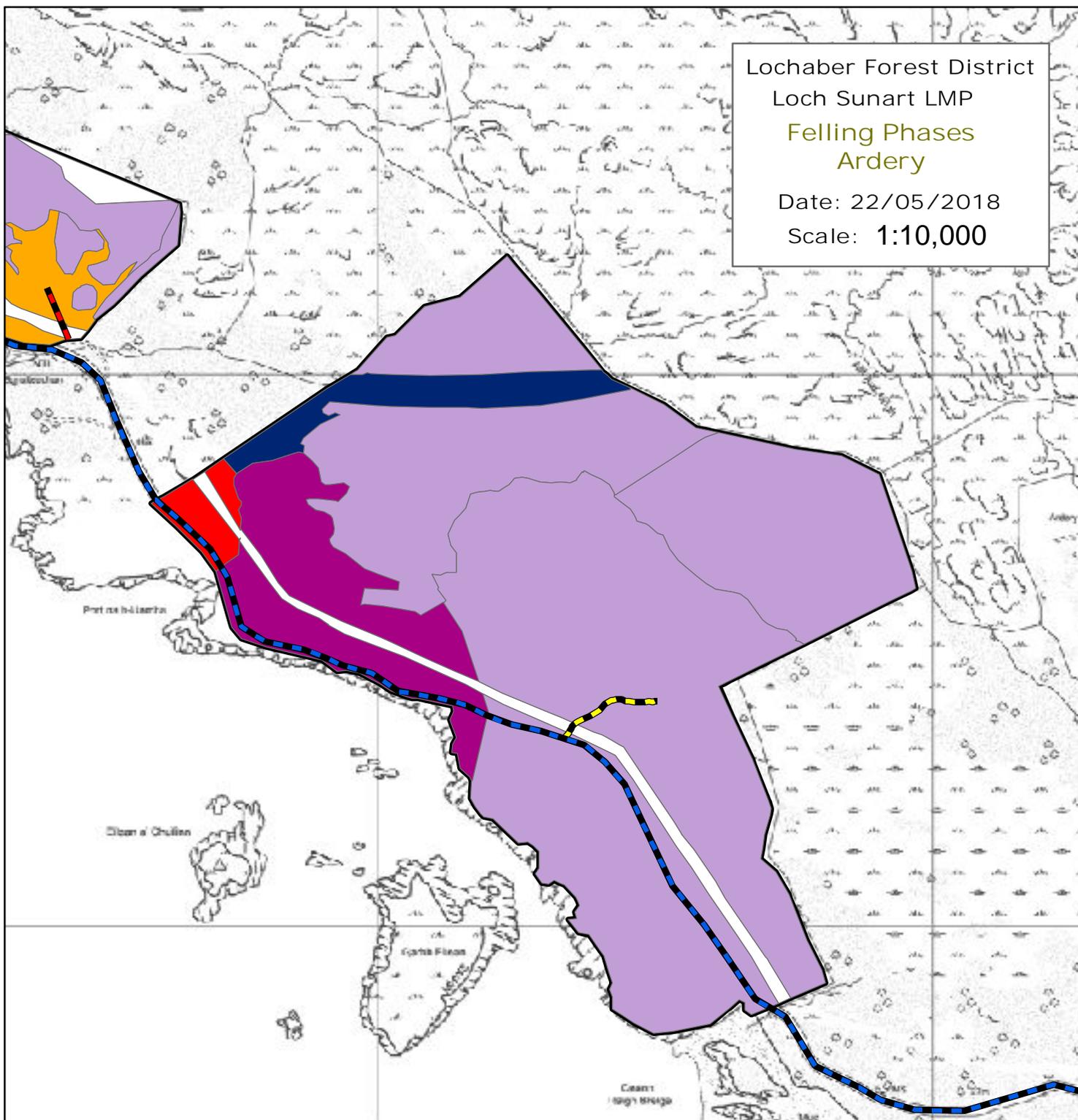
Wildlife Hide

Car Park

**Ardery
10 Year Management**

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

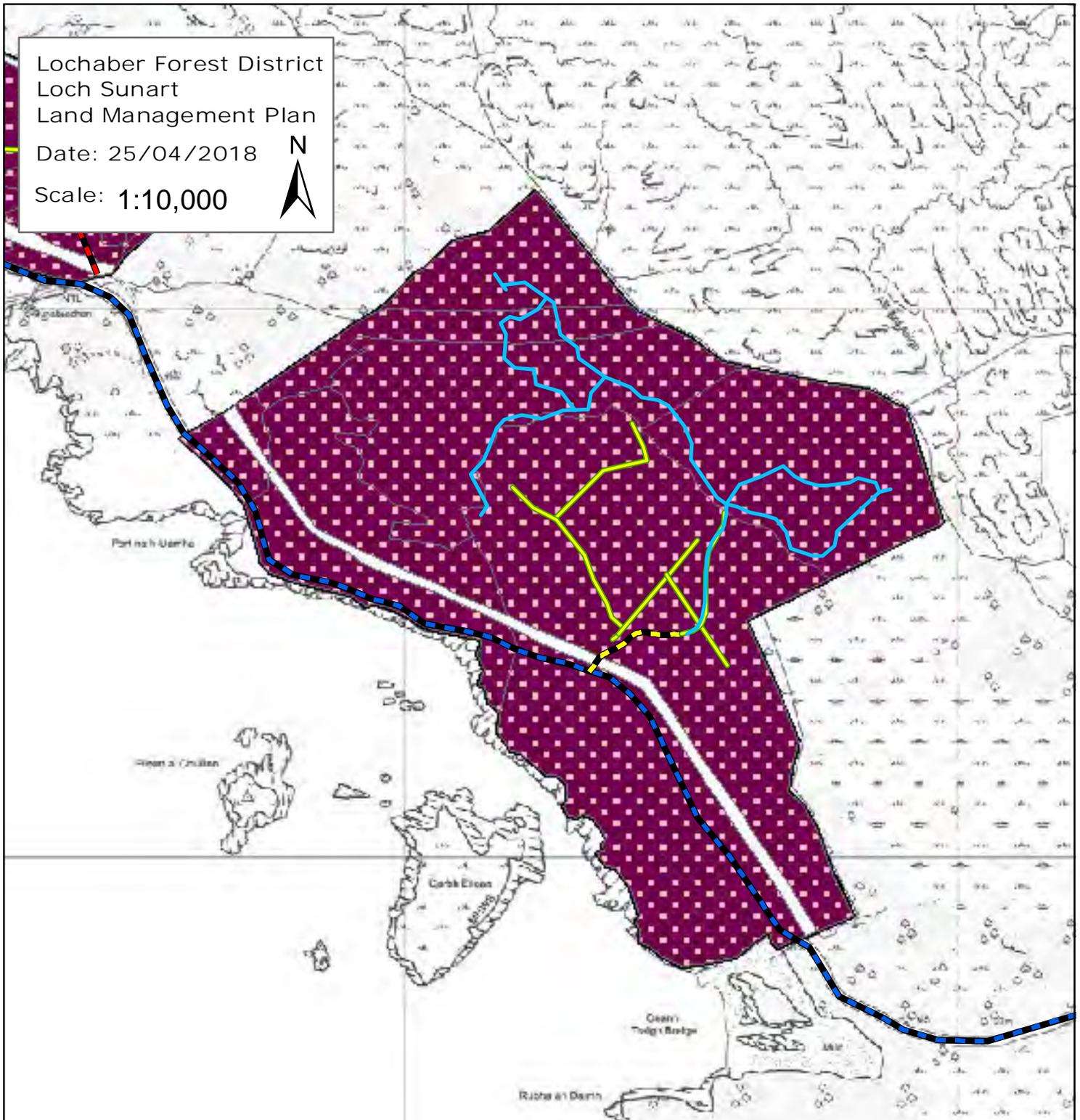




Lochaber Forest District
Loch Sunart LMP
Felling Phases
Ardery
Date: 22/05/2018
Scale: 1:10,000

- 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





Restock Artery

