

Salen (An Sailean)



A woodland walk through Salen wood

KEY FEATURES

Area

Total 97.2ha

Designated area 80.6ha

Woodland types (habitat extent)

ASNW

PAWS 62.2ha

Open

Woodland description

This wood is notable for its surviving natural features, intactness and size. It supports rich 'Atlantic' bryophyte, lichen and fern communities. The woodland is mainly oak-dominated rising into birch wood, with rowan, holly and ash. The ground flora is typical of broadleaf woodland, and in places is showing recovery from heavy *R. ponticum* infestation or conifer overshadowing.

History of management

Purchased from the trustees for C.B. Holman in 1967.

This woodland has been cleared of virtually all the conifers (felled to recycle c.1995) and restoration of broadleaf woodland is especially noticeable in the ground flora species.

Conservation features

Hairy wood ant *Formica lugubris* recorded in the woodland.

Dragonfly breeding site including Northern Emerald.

Chequered skipper

Common Orache *Atriplex praecox*, a strand line plant, which forms part of the SSSI **vascular plant** assemblage, at NM 68500 65340.

Lichen assemblages – not surveyed.

Bryophytes

A largely unknown bryophyte flora, with the exception of some of the burns, though what little information is available suggests a good oceanic woodland and ravine flora.

Burns surveyed through the Sunart survey did not find any Category A watercourses in this woodland, though some of the burns did hold specialist ravine indicator species such as *Colura calyptrifolia*, *Harpalejeunea molleri*, *Lophocolea fragrans*, *Radula aquilegia* and *Aphanolejeunea microscopica*.

Heritage features

The woodland has evidence of human activity for centuries.

Scheduled prehistoric cairn. (Salen, cairn 600m NNW of head of Salen Bay SM7818) It comprises a round cairn measuring approximately 10.5m in diameter and about 1.7m 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. 35m diameter circular scheduled area. There is a second cairn closer to the shore but off the NFE.

Collection of 15 **receded platforms at Ruighe a'Phollain. These are across the main road from the Ruighe a'Phollain deserted township.**

Salen village head dyke – recorded as a point but separately, a couple of buildings are also recorded close the head dyke.

Salen mill - In the 19th Century, Salen had a thriving bobbin industry because of the availability of birch and oak in the surrounding woodlands. The Pirn Mill at Salen was sited behind the Old Post Office and 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. The mill was powered by water, the dam being on the hill above. *The following unsigned comment is found in a Clan Cameron Archive on the Internet: "An extensive manufactory of bobbins for thread is carried on at Salen, on Loch Sunart; the machinery is very ingenious, and moved by immense power, the water-wheel being forty feet in diameter."* Claimed to be the largest in Western Scotland.

PAWS

62 ha of PAWS of high ecological potential along with a 4ha fringe of native woodland that is not categorised in the Ancient Woodland Inventory but that does displaying PAWS characteristics. The balance of the area is open ground with varying levels of natural regeneration of native species. The SSSI boundary approximately follows that of the PAWS. Out-with the designated area, there is former conifer woodland and open space with varying degrees of natural regeneration.

Species composition

Species	Area (Ha)
Open	33.1
Birch	29.3
Mixed BL	7.7
Mixed conifer	0.8
Oak	26.4

Access

There is one vehicle access point to edge of wood that passes through residential properties. No vehicular access within wood. Wood can also be accessed on foot via tracks from the village and the electricity substation on A87 to north.

Recreation

Informal recreation - mainly walking, from the village.

Other

Powerline on eastern edge of woodland.

Underground power supply to covered reservoir at NM68536502

Water supply in Allt a t'Sailean.

Mains water pipe under the track that runs parallel to the A861 (NM69066543 to NM68896495).

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

LT AWS management

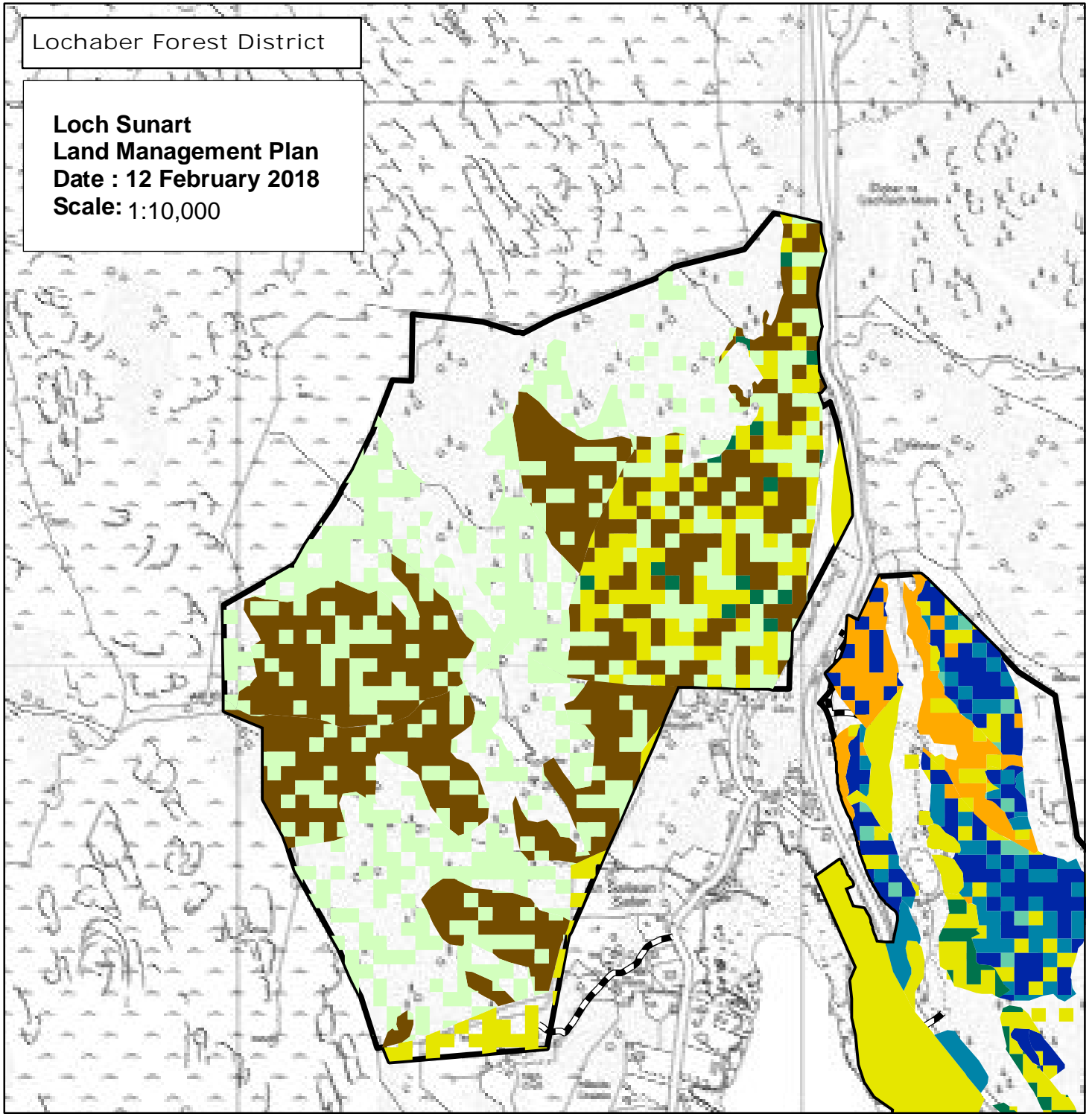
Minimum intervention

Initial operations












None

Lochaber Forest District

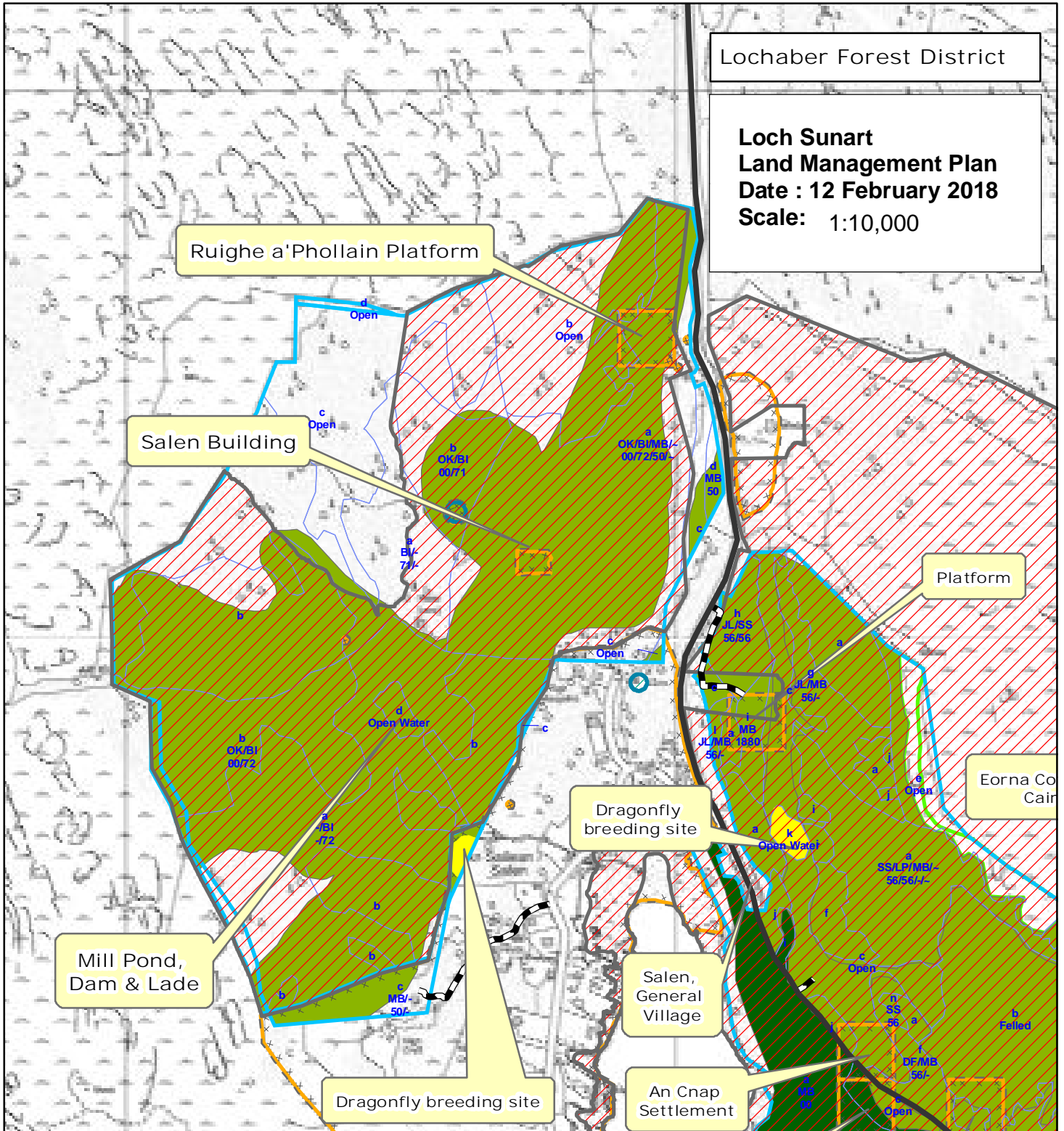
**Loch Sunart
Land Management Plan**
Date : 12 February 2018
Scale: 1:10,000



**Salen Wood
Current Species**

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





Lochaber Forest District

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

Salen Wood

AWS, SSSI, Conservation And Heritage Features

AWS

Classification

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

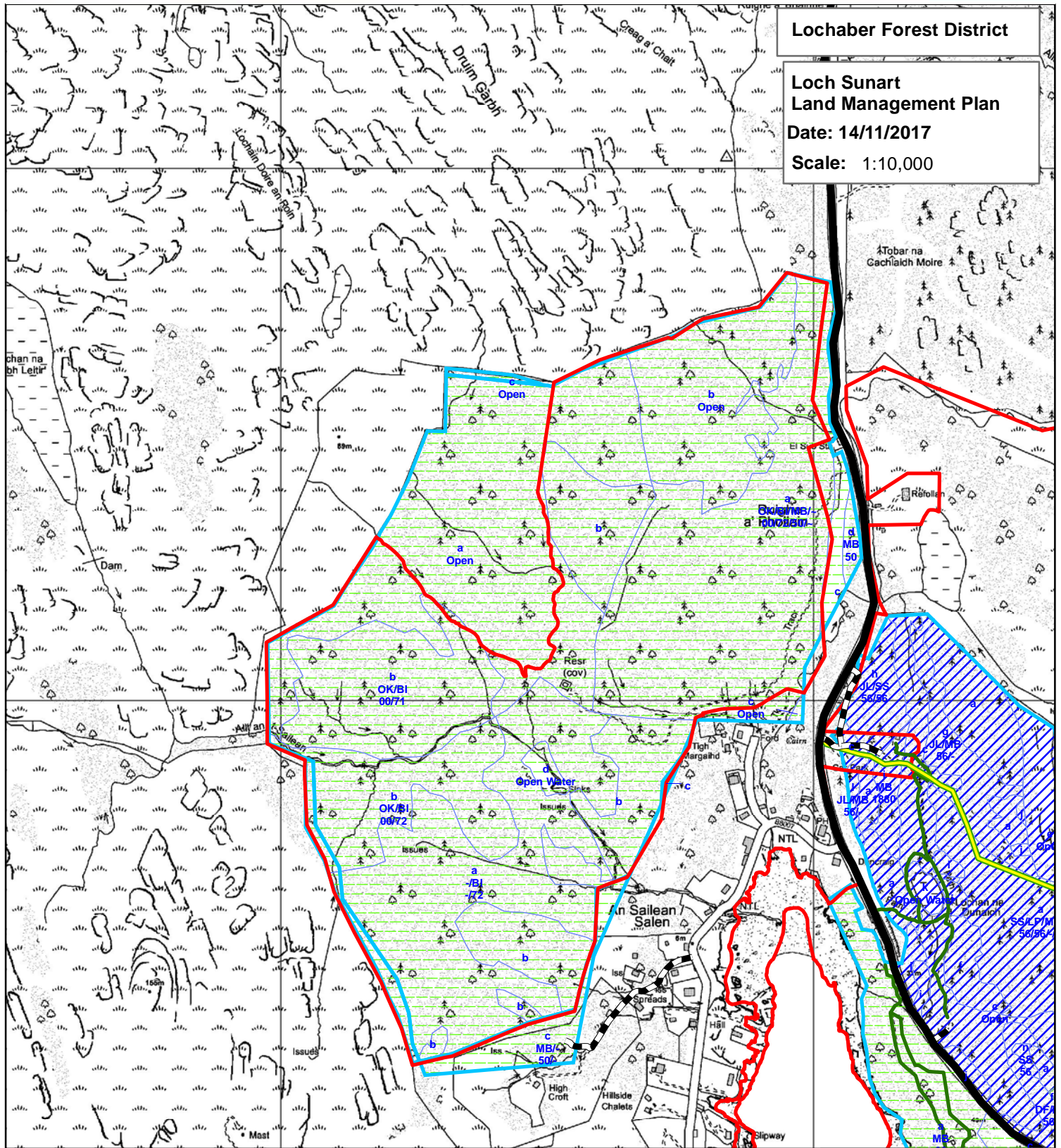
- A861 Road
- National Forest Estate
- Sub-Compartments
- Conservation features
- Forest Roads
- SSSI

DESIGNATION TYPE

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



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right 2018. All rights Reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number [100021242]



Lochaber Forest District

**Loch Sunart
Land Management Plan**

Date: 14/11/2017

Scale: 1:10,000

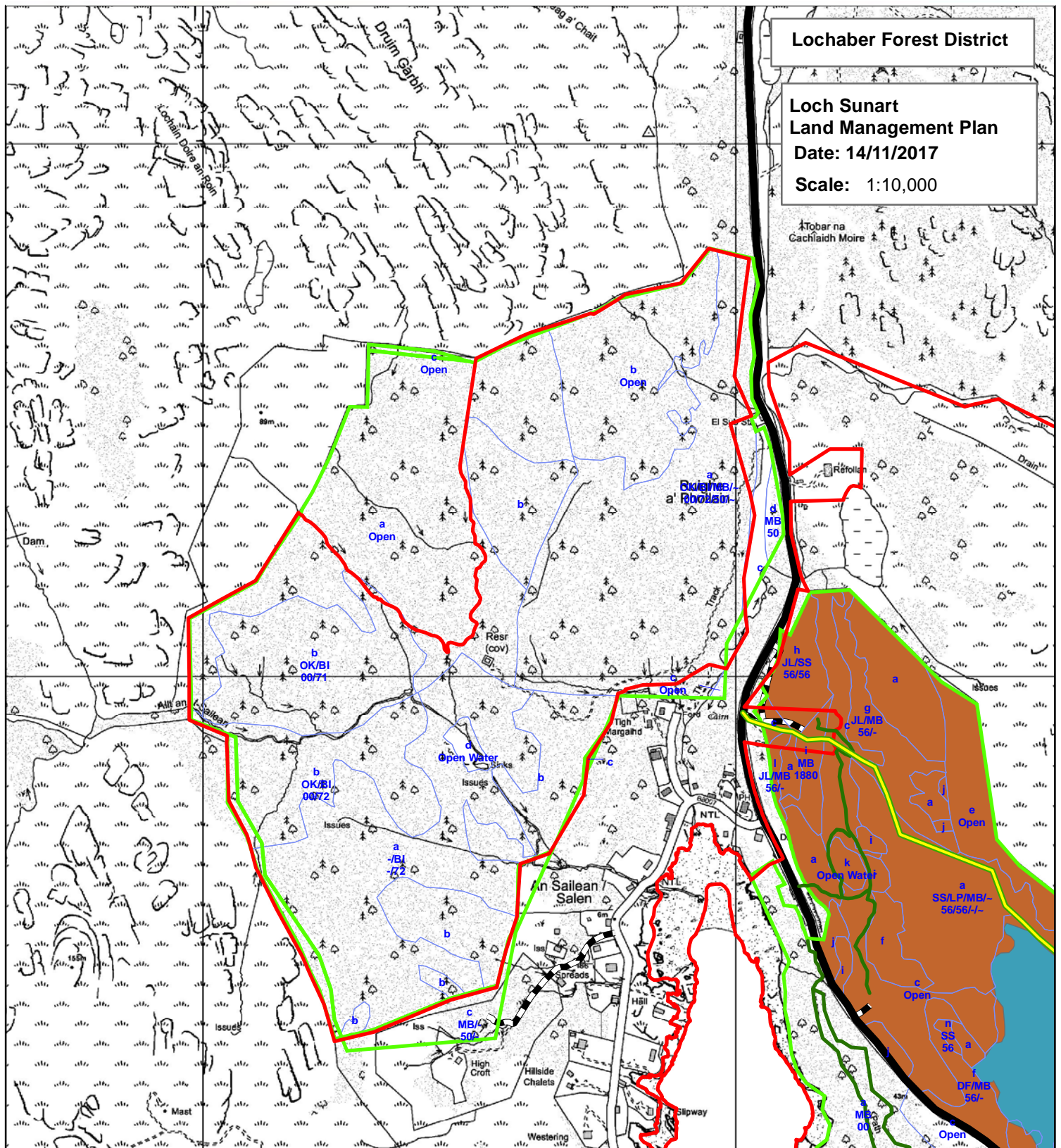
Salen Wood

Long term AWS management models

1 - Minimum intervention (inc Nat Res)	SSSI	Forest Roads
2 - LISS for biodiversity	National Forest Estate	Planned Road Segments
3 - LISS for timber	Sub-Compartments	Existing ATV Access Track
	A861 Road	Existing Recreation Route

N

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: 1:10,000

Salen Wood

10 Year Management

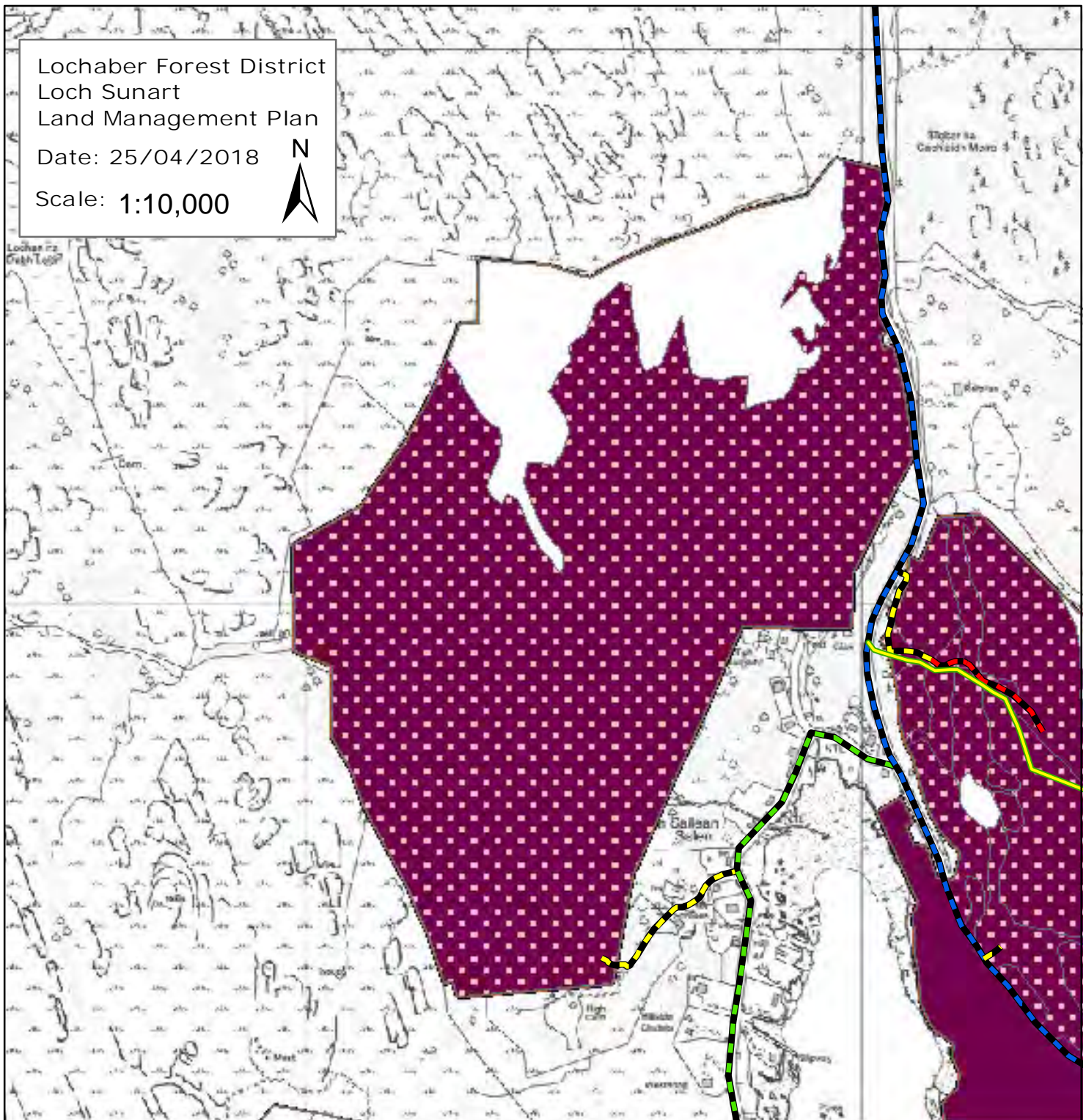
10 Year Management

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 Route
- Planned Road Segments
- Forest Roads





Lochaber Forest District
Loch Sunart
Land Management Plan
Date: 25/04/2018
Scale: 1:10,000



Restock Salen Wood

