

Lochaber Forest District

Bealach Land Management Plan

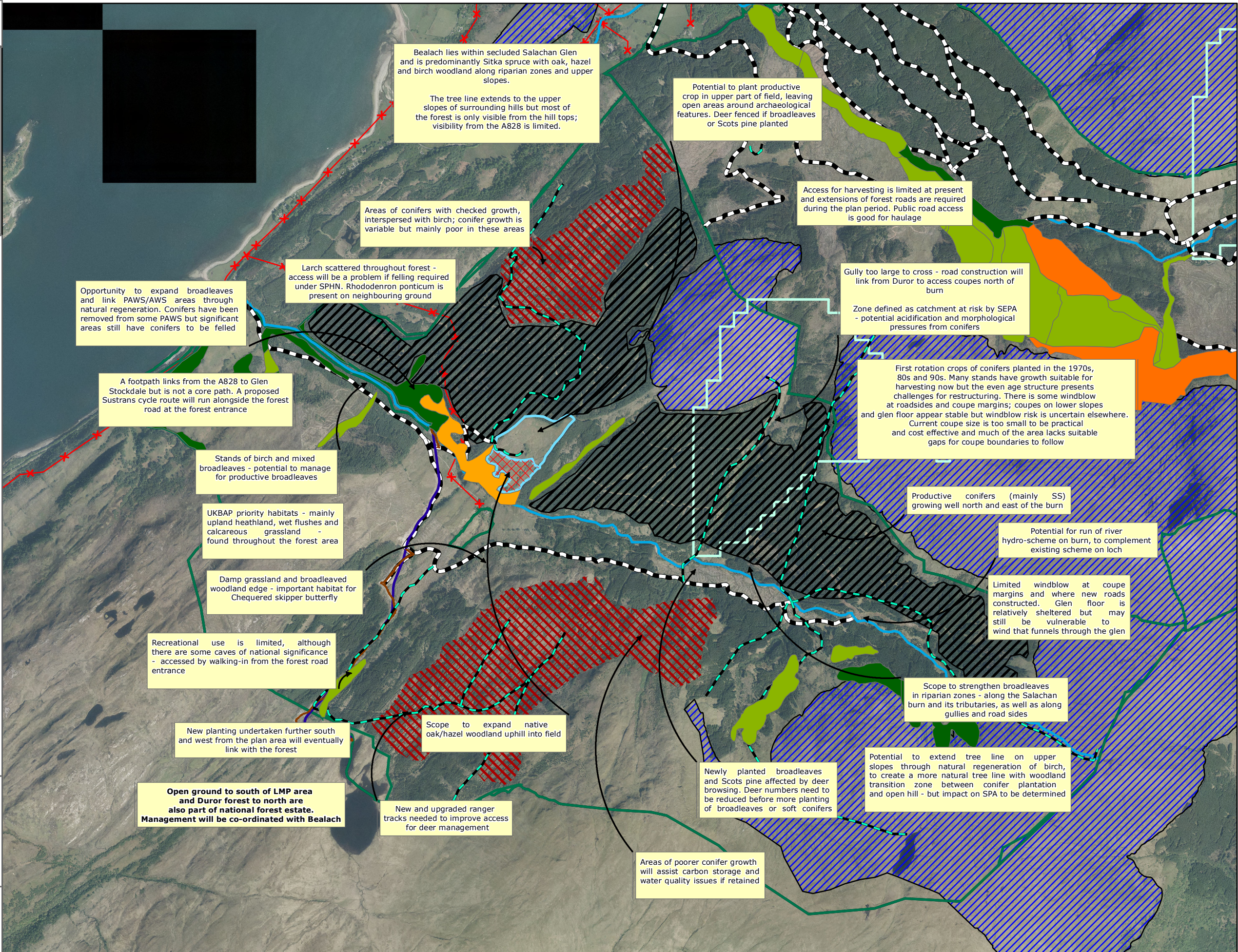
Analysis map

Date: 15/03/2018

Scale: 1:24,000



- Legend**
- AWS / PAWS**
- Classification**
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands
 - Open Ground
 - PAWS
 - Planted Site Native Woodland
 - Non-PAWS with veteran trees
 - Non-ASNW with veteran trees
 - Suspect non-AWS
 - ATV track
 - Natural track / ride
 - Lochan blar track
 - Lochan blar penstock
 - Roads
 - Potential nat regen
 - Potential planting
 - River
 - Checked conifers
 - Conifers growing well
 - Catchment at risk
 - Management Area
 - SPA
 - HV O - H Line route



Bealach lies within secluded Salachan Glen and is predominantly Sitka spruce with oak, hazel and birch woodland along riparian zones and upper slopes.

The tree line extends to the upper slopes of surrounding hills but most of the forest is only visible from the hill tops; visibility from the A828 is limited.

Potential to plant productive crop in upper part of field, leaving open areas around archaeological features. Deer fenced if broadleaves or Scots pine planted

Access for harvesting is limited at present and extensions of forest roads are required during the plan period. Public road access is good for haulage

Areas of conifers with checked growth, interspersed with birch; conifer growth is variable but mainly poor in these areas

Larch scattered throughout forest - access will be a problem if felling required under SPHN. Rhododendron ponticum is present on neighbouring ground

Opportunity to expand broadleaves and link PAWS/AWS areas through natural regeneration. Conifers have been removed from some PAWS but significant areas still have conifers to be felled

Gully too large to cross - road construction will link from Duror to access coupes north of burn

Zone defined as catchment at risk by SEPA - potential acidification and morphological pressures from conifers

First rotation crops of conifers planted in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Many stands have growth suitable for harvesting now but the even age structure presents challenges for restructuring. There is some windblow at roadsides and coupe margins; coupes on lower slopes and glen floor appear stable but windblow risk is uncertain elsewhere. Current coupe size is too small to be practical and cost effective and much of the area lacks suitable gaps for coupe boundaries to follow

A footpath links from the A828 to Glen Stockdale but is not a core path. A proposed Sustrans cycle route will run alongside the forest road at the forest entrance

Stands of birch and mixed broadleaves - potential to manage for productive broadleaves

Productive conifers (mainly SS) growing well north and east of the burn

Potential for run of river hydro-scheme on burn, to complement existing scheme on loch

UKBAP priority habitats - mainly upland heathland, wet flushes and calcareous grassland - found throughout the forest area

Limited windblow at coupe margins and where new roads constructed. Glen floor is relatively sheltered but may still be vulnerable to wind that funnels through the glen

Damp grassland and broadleaved woodland edge - important habitat for Chequered skipper butterfly

Recreational use is limited, although there are some caves of national significance - accessed by walking-in from the forest road entrance

Scope to strengthen broadleaves in riparian zones - along the Salachan burn and its tributaries, as well as along gullies and road sides

New planting undertaken further south and west from the plan area will eventually link with the forest

Scope to expand native oak/hazel woodland uphill into field

Newly planted broadleaves and Scots pine affected by deer browsing. Deer numbers need to be reduced before more planting of broadleaves or soft conifers

Potential to extend tree line on upper slopes through natural regeneration of birch, to create a more natural tree line with woodland transition zone between conifer plantation and open hill - but impact on SPA to be determined

Open ground to south of LMP area and Duror forest to north are also part of national forest estate. Management will be co-ordinated with Bealach

New and upgraded ranger tracks needed to improve access for deer management

Areas of poorer conifer growth will assist carbon storage and water quality issues if retained

