

Summary of Central Sutherland Land Management Plan proposals

Central Sutherland LMP, approved by the Highlands & Islands Conservancy on the 18th of October 2016, contains management proposals for several forest blocks (previously covered by three separate Forest Design Plans - FDPs) situated in central part of Sutherland, between Lairg, Bonar Bridge and Rosehall. Majority of the Plan area is located to the west of River Shin; with River Carron marking the southern boundary, and Loch Shin – the northern one. The total Plan area is 9898 ha.

Our vision for the Plan area is to have well managed productive forests that are accessible and enjoyed by the public, contribute to local economy and complement the scenic landscape of Central Sutherland. Excessive areas of native woodland and other rare habitats are linked with adjacent designated sites, support populations of protected species and contribute positively to the water quality within the River Oykel and Kyle of Sutherland catchments.

Species breakdown	2016 (current)	2026 (end of plan period)
Conifers (mainly Sitka spruce, Scots pine and Lodgepole pine)	47%	51%
Broadleaves (mainly Downy and Silver birch)	5%	18%
Open (including agricultural and felled in fallow)	48%	31%

Planned operations	2016 - 2026
Felling	1021.89 ha
Restocking	1853.42 ha
New planting	30.7 ha
Road construction	2815m

Significant Environment/Conservation Features	
Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC, SPA & RAMSAR	Kyle of Sutherland Marshes SSSI
River Oykel SAC	Grudie Peatlands SSSI
7 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)	

Critical Success Factors:

- Delivery of roading programme enabling a sustainable timber production supporting local timber market and wider timber industry;
- Creation of riparian and native woodland network;
- Positive contribution to water quality, with special attention to protection of watercourses supporting population of freshwater fresh mussels and salmonids;
- Maintaining access to forest and improving/maintaining visitor facilities, to ensure positive visitor experience.

Consultation and further information:

The Central Sutherland Land Management Plan was approved by the Highland & Islands Conservancy on the 18th of October 2016. During the development of this Plan we have consulted publicly, including meetings with local community representatives and stakeholders known to have interest in this plan area. For further information on the Plan please contact North Highland Forest District on **0300 067 6841** or northhighland.fd@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

