

Summary of North Sutherland Land Management Plan proposals

North Sutherland LMP, approved by the Highland and Islands Conservancy on the 16th of June 2016, contains management proposals for three forest blocks (Borgie, Rosal and Dalchork) situated in northern part of Sutherland, between Lairg, Tongue and Bettyhill. Loch Shin and A836 form the western boundary of the Plan area, with the eastern boundary on River Naver and River Brora. Total Plan area: 14266 ha

Our vision for the Plan area is to have well managed productive forests that complement the scenic landscape of North Sutherland, with extensive areas of native habitats linked with adjacent designated sites, supporting populations of protected species and contributing positively to the water quality within the wider area.

Species breakdown	2016 (current)	2026 (end of plan period)
Conifers (mainly Lodgepole pine and Sitka spruce)	37%	30%
Broadleaves (mainly Downy birch)	2%	7%
Open (including felled in fallow)	61%	63%

Planned operations	2016 - 2026
Felling	2419.19 ha
Restocking	2072.46 ha
New planting	7.22 ha
Road construction	5283m

Significant Environment/Conservation Features	
Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC, SPA & RAMSAR	West Borgie SSSI
Strath Carnaig and Strath Fleet Moors SPA & SSSI	West Strathnaver SSSI
Lairg and Strath Brora Lochs SPA & SSSI	Cnoc an Alaskie SSSI
River Borgie SAC & SSSI	Ben Klibreck SSSI
River Naver SAC	20 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)

Critical Success Factors:

- Delivery of roading programme enabling a sustainable timber production and facilitating crop removal from areas marked for peatland restoration;
- Restoration of identified priority open bog habitats and creation of successional/native/riparian woodland buffers between open habitats and productive forest;
- Creation of riparian woodland network to protect and improve water quality for sensitive salmonids and freshwater pearl mussels populations

Further information:

The North Sutherland Land Management Plan was approved by the Highland and Islands Conservancy on the 16th of June 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

