

Culbin Land Management Plan Summary

Culbin forest is situated on the Moray coast overlooking the Moray Firth. Nairn is 3 km to the west, also on the coast, Forres is 4 km in land and Findhorn is 1.5 km east, across the mouth of Findhorn Bay. The plan area is mostly within the Moray council area, with a small proportion crossing the boundary into the Highland council area.

Analysis of the available information has led to two **primary objectives** for Culbin:

- ☐ management to create woodlands with high environmental value for species, habitats and landscape.
- ☐ the production of a quality crop of timber.

An additional **secondary objective** has been identified as:

- ☐ management of the woodland to provide a key recreational resource for Nairn, Forres and the surrounding area.

This plan also covers the management of Culbin Sands, Forest and Findhorn Bay SSSI, notified for its geological and biological features. The SSSI comprises of four distinct areas; Culbin Sands where marine processes and weather still influence the dunes and shingle deposits; the area of windblown sand and relict dune systems, now afforested, known as Culbin Forest; Findhorn Bay; and the Maviston and Lochloy section where the semi-natural woodland along with Cran Loch and Loch Loy are important features. Our proposed management of the LMP area includes the aim of maintaining and where practical enhancing the SSSI's notifiable features.

The majority of the timber production from Culbin Forest will come from managing the block under Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) of uniform shelterwood, group shelterwood or selection; largely relying on natural regeneration to establish the next rotation. LISS conversion periods (from even aged to uneven aged stands) will vary for different coupes according to tree species and growth rate but we expect the average to be 100 to 150 years using 7 to 10 year intervention cycles.

Total plan area	3412.5 ha
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Species	Area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Scots Pine	1882.4	55.2
Corsican Pine	689.6	20.2
Birch	116.6	3.4
Sitka Spruce	66.9	2.0
Lodgepole Pine	51.3	1.5
Broadleave	45.4	1.3
Larch	13.2	0.4
Other conifers	11.3	0.3
Douglas Fir	5.6	0.2
Open land	200.7	13.3
Felled	74.7	2.2

Critical Success Factors

- Undertake the planned thinning and felling programme in order to increase the quality of the timber within the plan area and to meet the production targets.
- Undertake the thinning planned for the LISS areas in order to manage the light levels to allow the development of the appropriate ground vegetation and natural regeneration.
- Continue with the maintenance of the forest road network to allow forest operations to be successfully completed.
- Control deer populations to allow natural regeneration within LISS areas.
- Undertake the programme of biodiversity actions detailed within the plan.
- Undertake the programme of recreation actions detailed within the plan.

Consultation and Further Information

During the development of this plan we have consulted publically including local community representatives and stakeholders known to have an interest in this plan area.

For further information on the plan please contact Mark Reeve, Planning Forester, Forestry Commission Scotland on 07990802079 or mark.reeve@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

