



# Loch Sunart Land Management Plan Summary

Loch Sunart Forest lies on the northern shore of Loch Sunart ranging from 6.5km west of Salen village to 10 km east of the village. It comprises of seven separate woodland areas, all of which have direct access with public roads. They are generally lowlying woodlands with southerly aspects on a mosaic of soil types on mainly acidic bedrock.

Loch Sunart LMP was approved on 30/10/2018 and runs for 10 years. The key features of the LMP area are:

- SAC/SSSI and Ancient woodland designations dominate the area
- Protection of the features of the ancient woodland and designations
- PAWS – conversion from conifer to native woodland on ancient woodland sites as well as remaining forested areas is the main long term objective
- Effective deer management
- Public access to the woods and coast.

The primary objectives for the plan area are:

- Restore and maintain the SSSI/ SAC to favourable condition, protecting and enhancing its notified features and qualifying habitats.
- Continue to support local tourism through the provision of formal and informal recreation facilities and the enhancement of the landscape of the woodlands along the shore and road sides.
- Introduce low impact silvicultural management of some of the native woodland to increase its diversity and generate some timber, predominately of fire wood grade but with some future sawlog production possible.

<b>Total Plan Area</b>	<b>734 hectares (ha)</b>
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## Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

<b>Species Breakdown</b>	<b>(current)</b>	<b>(end of plan period)</b>
Sitka spruce	104 ha	9.35 ha
Birch and other broadleaves	215 ha	424.07 ha
Scots pine	44 ha	89.2 ha
Lodgepole pine	49 ha	8.4 ha
Larch	29 ha	6.28 ha
Other conifers	18 ha	4.3 ha
Open space	275 ha	192.4 ha



Planned Operations	2018– 2028 plan period
Felling	173 ha
Restocking	150 ha
Natural regeneration	55 ha
Road construction	3,150 metres
Significant Environment / Conservation Features	
Designated sites	Sunart SSSI Sunart SAC Nature Conservation Marine Protection Area (adjacent)
Minimum Intervention	104 ha
Natural Reserve	4 ha
Priority Species 1	Otter
Priority Species 2	Bats
Priority Species 3	Wildcat (in locality)
Priority Species 4	Chequered skipper butterfly
Priority Species 5	Dragonfly and damselfly communities
Priority Species 6	Other invertebrates – scarce craneflies, hoverflies and wood ants.
Priority Species 7	Badger
Priority Species 8	Red squirrel
Priority Species 9	Pine marten
Scheduled Monuments	An Cnap - Prehistoric cairn Salen Wood – Prehistoric cairn



### Critical Success Factors:

- **Conifer removal** – The completion of the clear fell coupes identified in the LMP over the life of the plan is critical as failure to achieve this will have a detrimental effect on the other objectives in the plan.
- **Construction of roads and tracks** – both for the removal of timber from the woods and for access for management of deer in particular.
- **Expertise to survey** – accurately for qualifying features prior to operations is essential.
- **Successful regeneration of site native species** – essential to realizing the long term vision for the woodlands. Early establishment of regeneration is the aim before ground vegetation becomes too rank and some form of intervention becomes necessary.
- **Deer Control** – will be essential for the establishment of native broadleaved species within the prescribed timescale. Maintenance of the strategic deer fencing, provision of access tracks and cooperation with neighbours over culls will also be essential.
- **Early intervention in natural regeneration management** – without intervention to ensure the appropriate species and stocking density e.g. respacing or enrichment planting at the correct time aspirations for future timber production from the native woodlands will not be realized. The species diversity and structural development will also be restricted.
- **INNS management** – including non-native conifer regeneration removal will need to be continued for many years to prevent the re-establishment of plantation areas.

### Consultation and Further Information:

**Council area:** Highland Council

**Community Council:** Strontian CC, Acharacle CC

#### Consultation: events / consultees

##### Statutory Consultees:

SNH – 09/08/2013

SEPA – 07/08/2013

Historic Scotland – 07/08/2013

Highland Council (Planning & Transport) – 30/05/2018

##### Public Consultation

North Sunart Woodland Owners – 10/10/2015

Strontian CC – 08/05/2014

Acharacle CC – 07/10/2014 & 02/12/2014

**Internal Consultation** – 16/07/2014 – 14/01/2015



Forestry and  
Land Scotland  
Coilltearachd agus  
Fearann Alba

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