

Summary of Ardross Forest Design Plan (FDP) proposals at the mid-term review point

Ardross FDP, approved by the Highlands & Islands Conservancy on the 15th of February 2012, contains management proposals for several forest blocks (Garbhan Rock, Strathrusdale, Dam Wood, Stittenham and Gaick) situated in eastern part of Ross-shire, to the west of village of Ardross. Majority of the Plan area is located along Black Water in River Alness catchment. The total Plan area is c. 2133 ha.

Our vision for the Plan area is to have well managed and resilient productive forests, that are accessible and enjoyed by the public, contribute to local economy and complement the landscape. Increasing areas of native and riparian woodland are linked, and contribute positively to the water quality within the River Alness and Cromarty Coastal catchments.

Species breakdown	2017 (current, at mid-term review point)	2022 (end of plan period)
Conifers (mainly Sitka spruce, Lodgepole pine and Scots pine)	69%	61%
Broadleaves (mainly Downy and Silver birch)	2%	7%
Open (including agricultural and felled in fallow)	29%	32%

Planned operations	2017 - 2022
Felling	404.5 ha
Restocking	286.7 ha
New planting	46.8 ha
Road construction	300 m
Peatland restoration	4.5 ha

Significant Environment/Conservation Features	
Morangie Forest SPA (adjacent to the FDP area)	
Loch Achnacloch SAC & SSSI (outwith the FDP area)	

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 salmonids;
- Maintaining access to forest to ensure positive visitor experience.

Consultation and further information:

The Ardross Forest Design Plan was approved by the Highland & Islands Conservancy on the 15th of February 2012. 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. **The mid-term review with accompanying amendment was approved on the 21st of September 2017.** For further information on the Plan please contact North Highland Forest District on **0300 067 6841** or northhighland.fd@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

