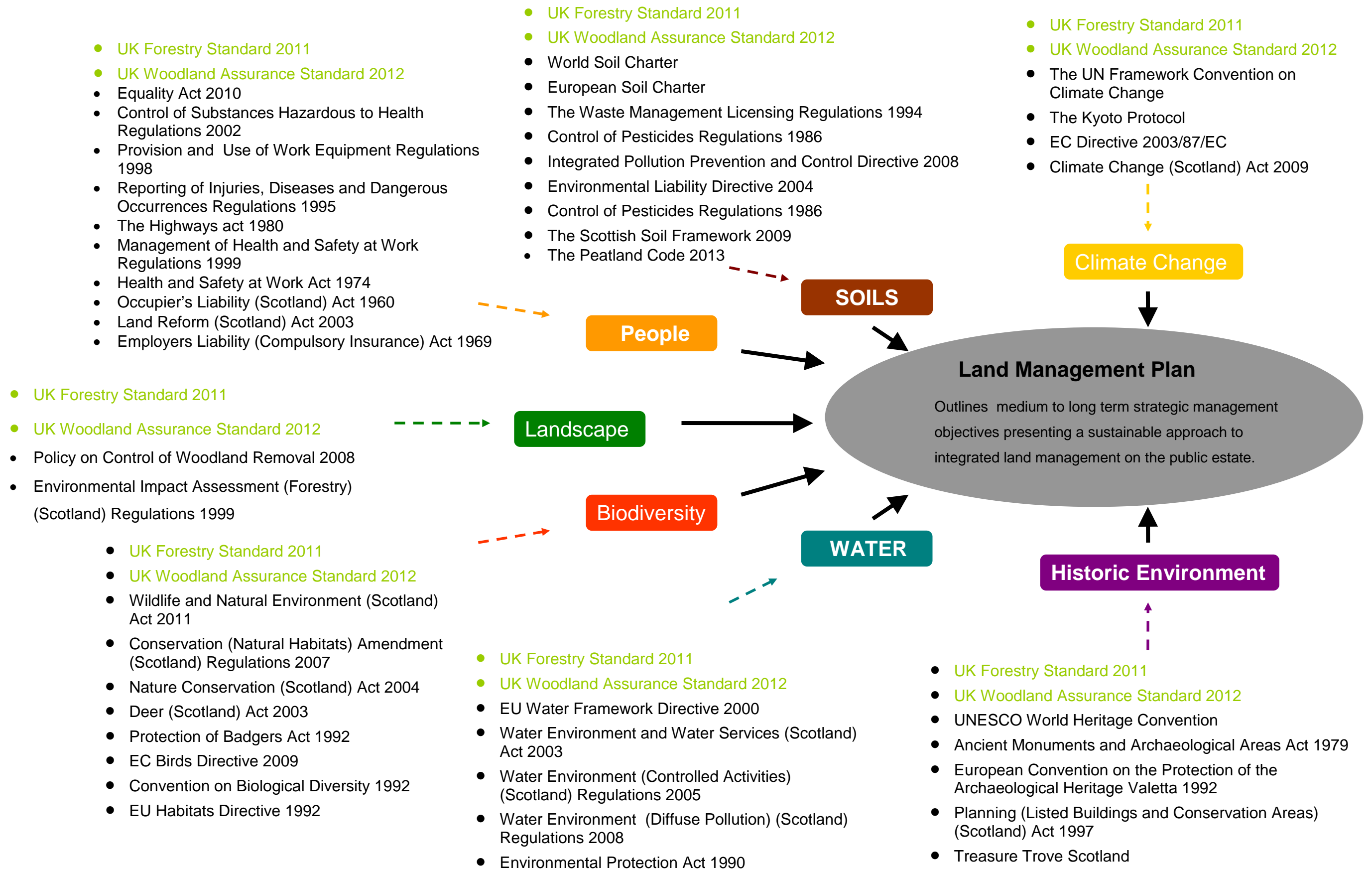


Appendix I: The Relevant Planning Framework in Scotland

FC Scotland prepares Land Management Plans within the following planning framework:

<p>1. The National Level</p> <p>Document purpose:</p> <p>Document purpose:</p> <p>Document purpose:</p> <p>Document purpose:</p> <p>Intended audience:</p>	<p>Document name: The Scottish Government’s Scotland Performs 2007 – Present</p> <p>Reports on the Scottish Government’s attempts to create a more successful country through the seven purpose targets.</p> <p>Document name: The Scottish Government’s Land Use Strategy 2011 – Present</p> <p>Takes a strategic approach to achieving a more sustainable and integrated approach to land use in Scotland. Focusing on common goals for different land users it provides a set of principles for use as a policy guide and decision making tool.</p> <p>Document name: The Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006 – 2016</p> <p>Describes how the Scottish Government will deliver its forestry policies in Scotland and sets out the priorities for the next five to ten years.</p> <p>Document name: Forestry Commission Scotland Strategic Directions 2013 – 2016</p> <p>Sets a vision for the National Forest Estate and identifies six National Key Commitments.</p> <p>Local Forestry Commission Scotland team; Forestry Commission conservancy team; key stakeholders; statutory consultees; general public.</p>
<p>2. The Regional Level</p> <p>Document purpose:</p> <p>Intended audience:</p>	<p>Document name: Highland Forest & Woodland Strategy 2006 - Present (Consultative Draft)</p> <p>Provides a regional expression of the Scottish Forestry Strategy, describing priorities and programmes for using trees, woodlands and forestry to help meet the needs of the Highlands.</p> <p>Local Forestry Commission Scotland team; key stakeholders; statutory consultees; general public.</p>
<p>3. District Level</p> <p>Document purpose:</p> <p>Intended audience:</p>	<p>Document name: The Forest District Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017</p> <p>Serves as a guide to the management of forests within North Highland Forest District. It ensures that forestry activities reflect the local, economic, social and ecological individuality of the forests. Strategic objectives are presented within the context of the Scottish Executive’s strategic priorities for forestry in Scotland (e.g. to create a diverse forest resource for the future; make a positive contribution to the environment; to help communities benefit from woods and forests).</p> <p>Local Forestry Commission Scotland team; key stakeholders; statutory consultees; general public.</p>
<p>4. The Forest Level</p> <p>Document purpose:</p> <p>Intended audience:</p>	<p>Document name: The Land Management Plan (Covering a ten year period from date of approval)</p> <p>Takes a holistic view of integrated land management at the landscape scale, outlining the medium to long term strategic direction for integrated land management across the public estate.</p> <p>Local Forestry Commission Scotland team; key stakeholders; statutory consultees; general public.</p>
<p>5. Coupe Level</p> <p>Document purpose:</p> <p>Intended audience:</p>	<p>Document name: Work Plans (permanent coupe record)</p> <p>Each forest operation has a related Work Plan. At production of this plan, local staff will identify site specific interests and outline the constraints and opportunities that are relevant to the coupe at an operational scale not detailed in the LMP. Forms the record of all decisions made regarding coupe management.</p> <p>Local Forestry Commission Scotland team; key stakeholders; statutory consultees where required;</p>

APPENDIX II: KEY POLICIES AND GUIDANCE



Appendix III: Forest Design Plan Consultation Record (External)

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response (Incl amendments made to plan as a result of consultee comments)
Creich Community Council	03.07.2014	-	No response.	
Dornoch Community Council	03.07.2014	-	No response.	
Rogart Community Council	03.07.2014	-	No response.	
Scottish Natural Heritage (Golspie)	21.12.2013	14.02.2014	<p>Achormlarie Forest (within) and Rogart Forest (adjacent) to Strath Carnaig & Strath Fleet Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) should be managed with consideration to the favourable but declining condition of the SPA. Open ground in glades and rides and more open range moorland should be maintained to support hen harrier nesting and foraging habitat.</p> <p>All works carried out on the ground within & adjacent to River Evelix & Dornoch Firth and Morrich More Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) should accord with the Forest & Water Guidelines.</p> <p>Ospreys breeding near or within forest blocks located within Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA could be affected by forestry operations.</p> <p>Landscape management should be fully assessed in the plan as it will have an impact on Dornoch Firth National Scenic Area (NSA) and Loch Fleet Special Landscape Areas.</p> <p>Protected species (otter & water voles) may be present in the woodlands covered by the plan. Otter & water vole surveyed should be carried out & if relevant, species protection plans should be submitted.</p> <p>Protected bird species (outside sites designated for their protection) could occur near or within woodland blocks and could be affected by forestry operations.</p> <p>The plan should address how any essential access controls during forestry operations will impact on recreational users (walkers, cyclists and horse riders).</p> <p>The plan should include a deer management plan, explaining how deer will be managed within the woodland over the coming years to minimise welfare impacts and secure woodland establishment. Any proposed deer fences should comply with The Joint Agency Guidance on Deer Fencing (May 2010).</p>	<p>The species and habitats noted are recognised as important buy NHFD.</p> <p>The proposals are designed to follow all current (and Subsequent) guidance on management of these species and habitats, so conservation objectives are a high priority for this plan area.</p>
Highland Council Forestry Department	27.06.2014	-	No response	
Highland Council TEC Services	27.06.2014	-	No response	
Kyle of Sutherland District Fishery Board	27.06.2014	29.07.2014	<p>Forestry activities in River Evelix Special Area of Conservation (SAC) should be planned with special consideration (pearl mussels, salmon and sea trout populations can be affected). Native deciduous trees should take precedence over commercial conifer species, particularly in riparian areas. Harvesting operations should be undertaken in as sensitive a manner as possible with the best practice in terms of silt management etc. employed at all times.</p> <p>In the medium to long term plans consideration should be given to the</p>	<p>Riparian woodlands will be expanded within the LMP area. Extensive planting of riparian woodland in Achormlarie conflicts with a need of keeping high percentage of open ground for hen harries (please see SNH comments above),, but pockets of riparian woodland will be planted where it's consider to provide biggest benefits.</p>

			creation of riparian buffer strips of native species to mitigate potential impact of future felling operations.	Harvesting operations will adhere to Forest and Water Guidance. Water quality monitoring will be carried out on River Evelix tributaries to establish bench mark parameters, to assess potential impact of forest operations.
RSPB	27.06.2014	-	No response.	
Highland Council Access Officer	27.06.2014	Meeting in Golspie, 21.07.2014	<p>There should be signs in Dornoch for Camore Forest.</p> <p>Given the size of Dornoch Blocks, felling coupes should be smaller than they currently are.</p> <p>General access should be maintained & promoted by providing space for parking/turning of cars (and horseboxes) at the forest entrances. If the forest blocks are fenced, sufficient access points should be provided. Care should be taken during the forest operations to minimise potential damage to forest roads/paths by making sure that heavy machinery (harvesters & forwarders) will avoid crossing the roads/paths where possible.</p> <p>Given the high community engagement, something should be done to promote Rogart Forest. Highland Council will be happy to promote the recreational facilities within Rogart Forest the same way as it promotes core paths.</p> <p>While planning for the new forest roads consideration should be given to how the public could benefit from improved access. Blind bends and blind summits should be avoided where possible.</p>	<p>Access across LMP area is encouraged and guaranteed under Scottish Outdoor Access Code (2005). Visitors are welcome in all FC forest, but formal visitor facilities are provided in Skelbo and Camore, where dedicated carpark facilities exist.</p> <p>Damage to the forest/roads during the forest operations is sometimes difficult to avoid, but care will be taken to protect these facilities, and restore them to previous condition if badly damaged.</p> <p>Currently Rogart Community is negotiating an agreement with the District's CRT Team to share the responsibilities of managing and promoting the footpaths in Rogart Forest.</p> <p>Best practice will be followed while planning new forest roads.</p>
Scottish & Southern Energy	27.06.2014	-	No response	
Highland Council Archaeology	27.06.2014	-	No response	
Advertisement in Northern Times inviting comment.	11.07.2014	-	No response	

<p>Open Meetings</p>	<p>Dornoch - 16.07.2014 Rogart - 17.07.2014 Dornoch Show – 19.07.2014</p>	<p>Questionnaires filled at the venue or received by mail by 01.08.2014</p>	<p>1. Most often visited forests (% of the answers from the questionnaire): Camore (26%), Skelbo (21%), Fourpenny (14%), Balvraid & Douchess/Countess (12% each), Harriet & Rogart (7% each), Achormlarie (0%)</p> <p>2. Activities undertaken by the forest visitors: walking/dog walking (51%), wildlife watching (19%), horse riding & cycling (8% each), jogging (3%), other (4%)</p> <p>3. Frequency of visiting forest: less than once a week (38%), few times a week (29%), daily (19%), once a week (14%)</p> <p>4. Main role of the forest: place to relax/exercise (27%), wildlife habitat (25%), timber production & landscape enhancement (19% each), carbon sequestration (11%)</p> <p>5. Opinion that FC manages local forest well: agree (67%), strongly agree (19%), undecided (5%), disagree (5%), strongly disagree (5%)</p> <p>6. Feeling of concern about the way FC manages forests: no (57%), yes (24%), no answer (19%)</p> <p>7. Actions suggested to improve visitor experience (most frequent): improve road surface to allow for wheelchair/equestrian access; marking the walks with posts and providing maps; more benches/picking tables; create more open space and plant more deciduous trees; maintain the paths to keep them open; improve biodiversity; allow more local engagement by managing forests by Woodlot licences</p> <p>8. The way the members of the public found out about the consultation: posters at forest gates (47%), local newspaper (24%), word of mouth (18%), in FC tent at Dornoch Show (12%)</p>	<p>Skelbo and Camore are the most frequently visited forest in the LMP area. The visitor facilities are provided and a new visitor facilities management plan is to be developed in spring 2015. The new plan will be widely consulted, to allow for public participation.</p>
<p>“Rogart for the Future” Group</p>	<p>03.07.2014</p>	<p>Meeting with Chris Whealing, Rogart, 25.07.2014, letter from Roger Hughes (received by email on 30.07.2014)</p>	<p>Existing path network should be protected during forest operations by keeping heavy machinery away.</p> <p>More broadleaves should be planted along the paths, so they don't disappear among the conifers.</p> <p>Create/keep some viewpoints along the top forest road.</p> <p>Rogart Community aspires to construct a new path linking existing path network to the quarry road (works to be financed by the community) & a new access to/from the public road across Rovie Farm.</p> <p>Land along the main burn (Allt More) should be kept open, allowing for potential community hydro scheme.</p> <p>Dalmore Quarry & the nature reserve on the SE face of Creag na Dallach Moire) are important bird habitats.</p> <p>Access to the viewpoint on the top of Creag na Dallach Moire should be open.</p>	<p>Maintenance and promotion (potential for marking and interpretation board) of the footpaths in Rogart is currently being discussed and a formal agreement between the Rogart Group and the District is being negotiated.</p> <p>The LMP proposes felling of the wind damaged commercially grown conifers on Creag na Dallach Moire. Once the crop is felled, there will be scope for re-opening the viewpoint (access to which is currently prevented by the extensive windblow).</p> <p>The granny pines and the mature broadleaves along the railway line will be managed as Natural Reserve.</p>

			<p>Scots Pine on the quarry side has become semi-naturalised and has considerable wildlife value, so should not be felled at the same time as the crop covering the rest of the hill.</p> <p>Existing path network is underused due to lack of markings and maps/interpretation panels showing the routes.</p> <p>Native planting along the numerous gullies would be more preferable to the exotic conifers.</p> <p>Large amount of timber left after last felling was unsightly but over time created a useful wildlife habitat, so should not be cleared now. In the future however a more sympathetic approach, using more of the "waste" timber would be good to see.</p>	
Scottish Natural Heritage (Golspie)	18.12.2014	26.01.2015	<p>Positive comments regarding management proposals for Achormlarie (they will allow the site to increase its hen harrier potential).</p> <p>Assessment of Special Qualities of Dornoch Firth NSA was requested.</p> <p>The potential presence of otters in Camore was highlighted.</p> <p>The need to comply with Forest & Water guidance and the need to realignment of existing drains so River Evelix SAC (fresh water pearl mussels) won't be negatively affected by forest operations was raised.</p> <p>The information about Deer Vehicle Collision in Skelbo/Harriets A9 corridor was requested along with information about what FC is doing to reduce that risk. Information about FC's involvement in creation of South-east Sutherland Deer Management Group was requested.</p>	<p>The proposals for Achormlarie will be the same in the final LMP draft.</p> <p>Dornoch Firth NSA Assessment was carried out and now is appended to the Plan.</p> <p>All operations will comply with relevant FC Guidance.</p> <p>NHFD is aware of the special significance of River Evelix and its population of fresh water pearl mussels. All operations will comply with Forest and Water Guidance. In addition, drains will be realigned and increased areas of riparian woodland will have positive impact on water quality in tributaries to River Evelix. The information about FC's approach to deer management and, especially the actions to reduce the Deer Vehicle Collision on A9 at Skelbo/Harriets is now included in 'Deer Management' section of the Plan. FC is supportive to creation of South-east Sutherland Deer Management Group, but as for now not all the relevant landowners have taken part in discussion.</p>
Confor (Jamie Farquhar)	Email 13.02.2015	-	No response	
SEPA	Email 19.02.2015	Email 06.03.2015	<p>Notification of the waterbody classification update for some of the watercourses within the plan area.</p> <p>Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems present outside Rogart block was highlighted as needing protective buffer (250m and 100m depending on type of operation).</p>	<p>The waterbody classification within the LPM text will be updated. The exact location of wetlands must be determined to check if operations within Rogart block boundaries are falling into the buffer zones – SEPA to supply the data.</p>
SEPA	Email 06.03.2015	Email 12.03.2015	<p>List of highly dependent Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE) and link to a map showing the location of GWDTE in lower River Fleet area(http://map.environment.scotland.gov.uk/seweb/map.htm)</p>	<p>The GWDTE highlighted in SEPA's consultation response (M23 Wet Grassland; M13 Springs, flushes and seepages and S27 swamp) are about 1400m away from the Rogart block boundary, therefore any operations within that block are well outside protective buffers for these wetlands.</p> <p>Presence of GWDTE in lower River Fleet area will be highlighted within the LMP text. Forest and water guidance will be adhered to, in order to protect water quality.</p>

Appendix IV – FDP Internal Scoping Consultation

An internal scoping meeting was held on 27th of May 2014 at the NHFD Forest District Office, Golspie with the following officers in attendance:

Tim Cockerill	Forest District Manager
Malcolm MacDougall	Planning Manager
Neil McInnes	FD Environment Manager
Hazel Maclean	CRT Manager
Hugh Mackay	Programme Manager
Avril Maclennan	Planning Forester
Seam Miller	Operational Forester
Graham Johnstone	Operations Forester
Steve Jack	CRT Stewardship Forester
Agata Baranska	Planning Forester

Issues highlighted were as follows:

- A full review of coupes was undertaken and HMK noted the coupes now in business planning that ideally shouldn't change. The need to secure an approval for felling of coupe 54305 (Fourpenny), currently not covered by a LMP was noted.
- A review of the stakeholder list was undertaken and neighbours confirmed.
- A review of designations and other environmental constraints took place and NMI noted the presence of a number of European Protected Species. Achormlarie Forest is a designated area (hen harrier SPA). Water quality was highlighted as a fundamental issue (River Evelix is a fresh water pearl mussels SPA). Following Forest & Water guidelines is essential and suitable riparian woodlands must be put in place.
- Deer pressure within the area covered by the plan is moderate to low. Deer fencing isn't required for the Dornoch Blocks, as they're surrounded by agricultural ground. Achormlarie is deerfenced (the fences are marked to protect black grouse population). Rogart is stockfenced. There's no scope for strategic deer fencing within the LMP area.
- CRT confirmed the locations of FCS facilities, core paths and Public Rights of Way. Visitor zoning should be included for these facilities and the rights of way should be protected. Expansion is unlikely due to limited founding & staff resources. Some works might be carried out in cooperation with Rogart for Future community group (Rogart Forest) following clearfelling on Creag na Dallach Moire. Skelbo & Camore will remain the main recreational sites within the plan area, with the paths and trails marked and mapped.
- The OHPL running through coupe 54304 (Duchess Countess Plantation) is becoming overgrown. Early felling should be considered to deal with this issue. Disposal should be considered. Southern part of coupe 54802 (south from the power line) should be considered for disposal as well.
- Majority of Skelbo & Camore Forests should be maintained as CCF to maintain and protect the existing recreational provisions and archaeological features.

Follow up meetings and consultations have been held with Malcolm MacDougall (FD Planning Manager), Hugh Mackay (FD Programmes Manager), Graham Johnstone (Operations Forester), Derick Macaskill (FD Wildlife Ranger Manager), Alison Grant & Renate Jephcott (FCS Landscape Architects) to clarify issues and proposals.

Appendix IX: Archaeological Record

Designation	SAM Number	Feature description/location	Grid reference
Scheduled Monument	5484	Glen Cottage long cairn; Skelbo Wood	NH 7863 9427
Scheduled Monument	1885	BROCH; Skelbo Wood	NH 7820 9443
Scheduled Monument	5573	Proncy, HUT-CIRCLE; Harriets plantation	NH 7726 9269
Scheduled Monument	5898	Camore Wood settlement; Camore	NH 7710 8920
Scheduled Monument	5493	Davochfin, chambered cairn; Camore	NH 7710 8970
Scheduled Monument	5483	Carn an Fheidh, long cairn, Harriets plantation	NH 7610 9320
Scheduled Monument	4505	Creagan Reamhan, farmstead, kiln and fields, Achormlarie	NH 6810 9420

Appendix vi: Assessment of the Special Qualities of the Dornoch Firth National Scenic Area

Within the area covered by the East Sutherland Land Management Plan, only one, Camore, is located within the Dornoch Firth NSA. The following are relevant special qualities of the NSA that may be affected by the proposals:

Special Quality	Possible effects (positive and negative)	Any mitigation or enhancement required
1. The contrast between the enclosed west and the expansive east	Forest management in Camore doesn't influence this special quality.	N/A
2. Inhabited surround within a wilder backdrop of hills and moors	Change to the extent of and variety of tree cover on the northern shores which might alter the mosaic like qualities of landscape.	Camore is to be almost entirely through Low Impact Silvicultural Systems. There will be no noticeable change to the appearance of the block in the landscape, therefore it will continue to blend into 'the mosaic of farms and woods on the coastal flats'
3. A wide diversity of woodland cover	Change to the extent of and variety of tree cover on the northern shores which might alter the mosaic like qualities of landscape.	Camore is being managed almost totally through LISS, avoiding clear fell in all but very small parts of the woodland. As a result there should be no noticeable change to the extent and variety of tree cover within the forest block.
4. A rich variety of alluvial land, dunes and links	No effects. Alluvial lands will not be changed as a result of forest management.	None required.
5. The ever- changing Firth	Forest management in Camore doesn't influence this special quality.	N/A
6. The tranquillity of an undeveloped coastline	Forest management in Camore doesn't influence this special quality.	N/A
7. Migdale, a microcosm of the wider Dornoch Firth.	Forest management in Camore doesn't influence this special quality.	N/A

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