



Rosarie and Greenhills Land Management Plan Review

Initial Statutory and Public Consultation
April – May 2024

Key Features

Timber production will likely stay a key focus in this area. We'll need to restructure older forest blocks and keep adding new broadleaf and conifer woodland.

There **are private water supplies** and pipelines in the forest and nearby farmland. We'll need to record them and make sure their catchments are well protected.

Several small **watercourses** start in the forest and flow into the River Spey and River Isla. These rivers are important for wildlife and as sources of drinking water. We'll focus on improving riverbank habitats and keeping them connected.

We'll also improve how the forest fits into the **landscape**. That means softening the forest edges and avoiding rigid, geometric shapes when planting.

There are **historic features** throughout the forest, including old smallholdings and field enclosures. We'll take care to protect these during forest operations.

Some areas are classed as **long-established woodland of plantation origin**. We'll assess these sites and manage them using the latest guidance.

Location and Landscape

The current Land Management Plan runs until 23 September 2025. There aren't any other active schemes in place.

Rosarie and Greenhills, now including the Curlusk and Broadfield establishment schemes, lies in upland Morayshire near Mulben and Keith. The land includes broad, rolling slopes rising from around 120 to 350 metres. The area is mostly rural with a low population.

This landscape is classed as Upland Farmland. It includes conifer plantations, open moorland and patches of native broadleaves. Some forest edges are highly visible from nearby public roads like the A95 and B9014 and from tourist rail routes.

Most of the mature trees were planted between 1948 and 1952, with more added in later years. The whole plan area covers about 1,160 hectares.

Soils

The soils here vary, from peaty gleys and humus podzols to brown earth forest soils. This makes the area suitable for a mix of forestry types. Productive conifers grow well, and broadleaves do best on the better-drained soils.

There are also small patches of blanket bog. We'll assess any areas with peaty soils to see whether they're better suited to restocking or peatland restoration.

Woodland Description

Age Class

The current age class distribution of the crops within the plan area is shown below. A large area is still waiting to be restocked. That's partly because some major planting is already underway but hasn't been finished yet. Storm Arwen also caused damage that needed large felling operations, and we're now preparing those areas for restock.

Figure 1: current age class coverage.

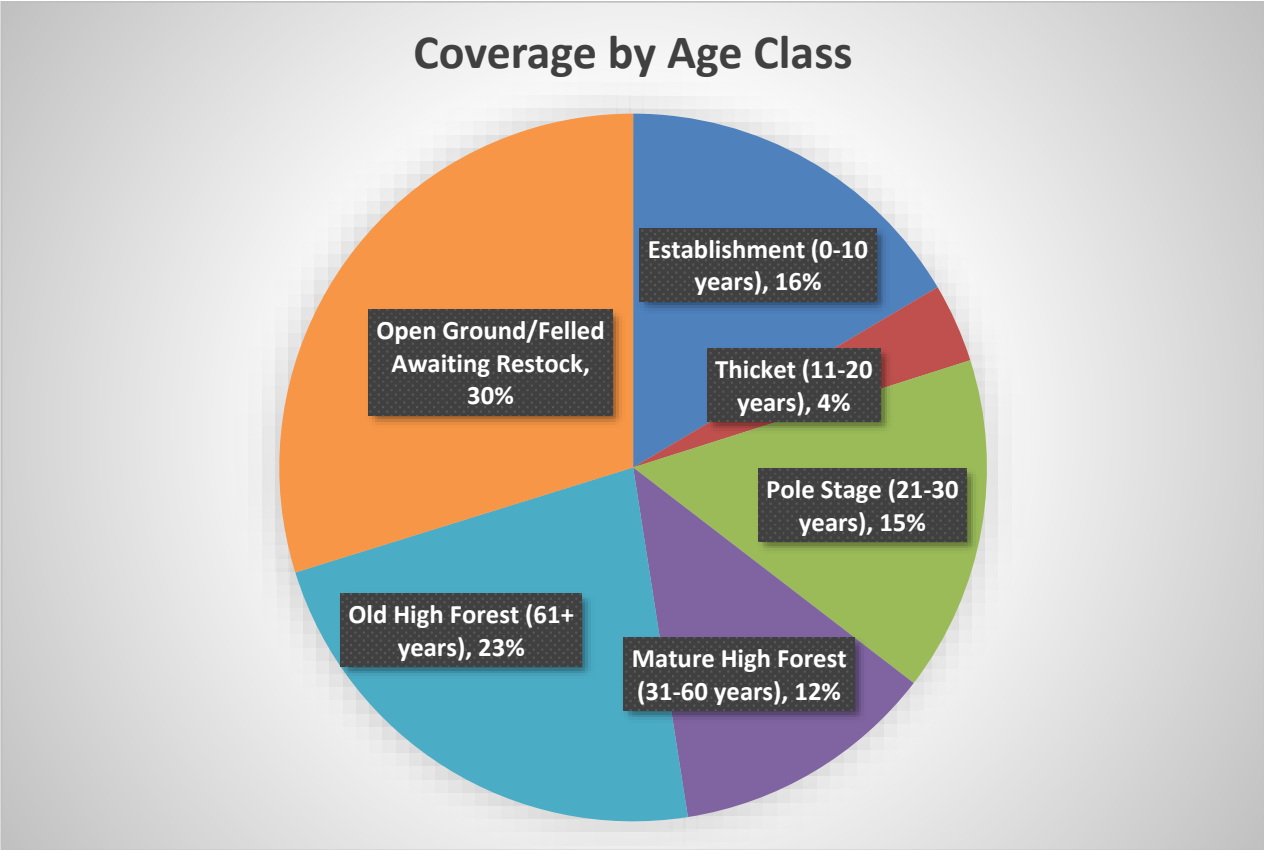


Table 1: current age profile.

Age Profile	Area (ha)	Area (%)
Establishment (0-10 years)	191.3	16.5
Thicket (11-20 years)	41.9	3.6
Pole Stage (21-30 years)	177.8	15.3
Mature High Forest (31-60 years)	140.4	12.1
Old High Forest (61+ years)	263.1	22.7
Open Ground/Felled Awaiting Restock	345.7	29.8
Total	1160.2	100

Species Coverage

Sitka spruce and Scots pine are the most common tree species, making up nearly half the forest. We’re meeting the UK Forest Standard targets for broadleaf coverage and open ground. Broadleaves now make up 12.6% of the area, and open space accounts for 11%.

When we choose new planting mixes, we’ll aim to keep diversifying the species, especially in wetland areas. We’ll use productive conifers where they suit the soil and site, and native broadleaves to help improve riverbank habitats.

Figure 2: current species.

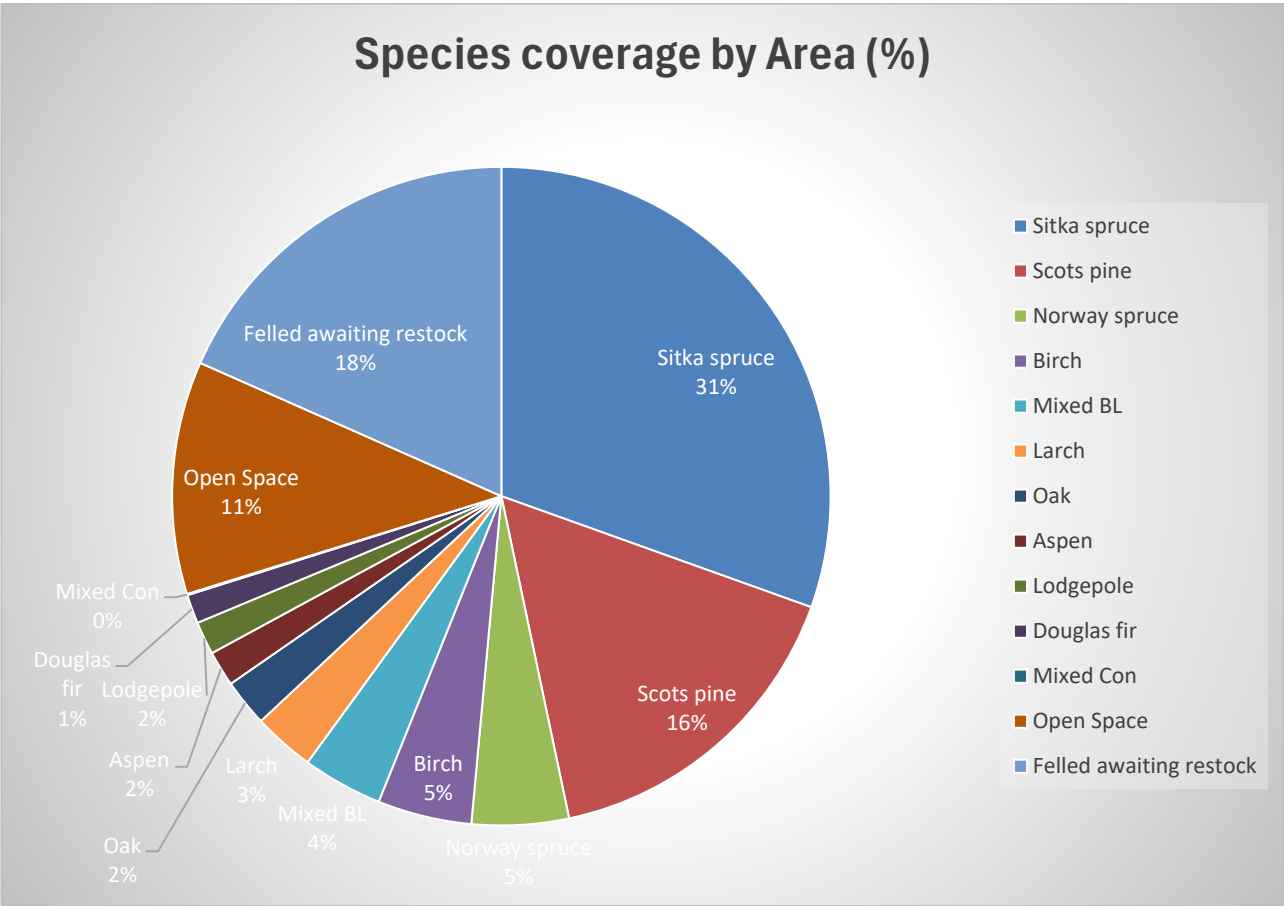


Table 2: current species.

Species	Area (Ha)	Area (%)
Sitka spruce	353.5	30.5
Scots pine	188.2	16.2
Norway spruce	55.2	4.8
Birch	53.6	4.6
Mixed Broadleaves	45.7	3.9
Larch	35	3
Oak	26.9	2.3
Aspen	20.2	1.7
Lodgepole pine	18.8	1.6
Douglas fir	16.5	1.4
Mixed Conifer	0.7	0.1
Open	132.6	11.4
Felled awaiting restock	213.1	18.4
Total	1160	100

Hydrology

Rosarie and Greenhills includes the sources of several small watercourses. Streams from Greenhills flow west to the River Spey. Others flow north and east to the River Isla and the River Deveron.

Because these streams are small and make up a tiny percentage of the broader catchments, they're unlikely to have a major impact on the wider river systems. But we'll still take care to protect water quality during any forestry work.

Private Water Supplies and Associated Pipelines

There are private water supplies (PWS) in the forest. These include both Type A and Type B systems, which follow different rules.

PWS users are responsible for looking after their own supply. But where FLS manages the land, we also share the duty to protect water sources and supply networks like pipes, tanks and channels.

We'll follow national water guidance. This means a 50-metre buffer around water sources, and a 20-metre buffer (10 metres each side) for pipelines. These buffers will be kept open, though we may include up to 20% native broadleaves.

If a water source is shallow or surface-fed, we'll map the catchment, avoid using heavy machinery nearby, and manage brash heaps with care.

Public Access and Recreation

The area isn't a recreation hub, but people do use the forest tracks for walking, cycling and horse riding. In Broadfield, some paths link with the Isla Way, a regional walking route.

We'll continue to support public access under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Historic Environment

There aren't any scheduled monuments in the area, but we've identified old field systems and cairns. We'll protect these features using site buffers and careful operational planning.

Biodiversity

We're supporting the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy by:

- helping forests regenerate naturally
- planting a wider mix of tree species
- improving woodland cover and understorey
- connecting forest habitats and other land uses

Our forests need to stay productive and continue storing carbon. But we'll also design and manage them in ways that improve biodiversity and help wildlife move through the landscape.

We've recorded several Biodiversity List species and FLS Key Species across the plan area. These include:

- birds of prey and wetland birds
- red squirrels and pine martens, found throughout the forest
- badger setts
- areas of afforested bog

Rosarie and Greenhills includes 356.4 hectares of long-established woodland of plantation origin. These sites have been wooded since at least 1750 or 1860. We'll assess their potential and manage them using the most up-to-date guidance.