

# Scottish Natural Heritage in Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross



This map shows the Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross constituency and the boundaries of SNH's North Highland (dark green), East Highland [part](rest) and West Highland [part] (light blue) Areas.

**SCOTTISH  
NATURAL  
HERITAGE**



[www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk)

## Ten SNH Priorities

Scottish Natural Heritage's ten priorities over the lifetime of the next Scottish Parliament are to:

- Provide more opportunities for people to enjoy Scotland's natural heritage.
- Maintain and restore Scotland's rich diversity of animal and plant life.
- Promote the importance of the marine heritage.
- Promote the human and economic benefits to the nation of a high quality natural environment.
- Promote a sustainable and integrated approach to land and water management.
- Improve the quality of life for people in urban areas through better access to green open spaces.
- Help people to care for their local environment.
- Listen to our customers and partners and reflect their needs in our policies and procedures.
- Make information available more simply to more people.
- Increase our reputation as an authoritative and reliable organisation both nationally and internationally.

## Key Areas of Work for SNH in Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross

- Supporting the positive management of designated sites
- Increasing the understanding and awareness of our local natural heritage
- Developing footpath networks around the constituency
- Working in partnership with others to ensure local development is sustainable
- Supporting Rural Partnerships and local Fora
- Ensuring local people are key stakeholders in our work.

## The Natural Heritage of Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross

This constituency is extremely varied ranging from the lowlands of Caithness and the Moray Firth, to the moorlands and uplands of Sutherland, the dramatic north and west coastal landscapes and the internationally important Peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland. The surrounding coastal cliffs support internationally important breeding seabird populations and the fragile marine habitats and species, particularly of the inner Moray Firth, also add to the unique mosaic of natural heritage interest within the constituency. Crofting and farming is an important part of the economy and shapes both the local natural and cultural heritage.

## Key Features

### Important Habitats:

Peatlands, uplands, freshwaters, woodlands, coastal and marine habitats

### Designations:

161 Sites of Special Scientific Interest covering approximately 215,000 hectares

3 candidate Special Areas of Conservation and 15 Special Protection Areas

5 National Nature Reserves, 4 National Scenic Areas and 6 Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

### Countryside Enjoyment:

- 8 Ranger posts supported
- A Schools Grounds grant scheme which has benefited Thurso, Wick, Keiss, Durness, Lairg, Stoer, Kinlochbervie and Dornoch
- £3700 to Rosehall and District Action Group towards interpretation materials for a Forest Log Cabin Education Centre
- £1175 grant paid for a feasibility study by the Tain Initiative (old boating pond project)

## Scottish Natural Heritage – Our Role

### Scotland's natural heritage is truly special:

- It's a cornerstone of Scotland's character,
- It's vital to tourism and outdoor recreation,
- Rural industries such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture depend on it,
- It contributes to our overall quality of life and to wider health, education, employment, and social justice agendas.

### SNH's job is to promote:

- The care and improvement,
- The responsible enjoyment,
- The greater understanding and appreciation, and
- The sustainable use of the natural heritage.

### SNH's work includes:

- Advising Government and Parliament,
- Designated Sites such as the Natura series and Sites of Special Scientific Interest,
- Looking after 73 National Nature Reserves,
- Implementing Scotland's new access legislation and grant-aiding footpath networks,
- Grants for environmental projects and community initiatives,
- Supporting ranger services and projects with schools.

### Finding out more about SNH

- Our Area Offices are local sources of information,
- Our Headquarters details are in this leaflet,
- Consult our publications,
- Fact & Figures gives statistics on a wide range of our activities and our expenditure,
- Visit our website [www.snh.gov.uk](http://www.snh.gov.uk).

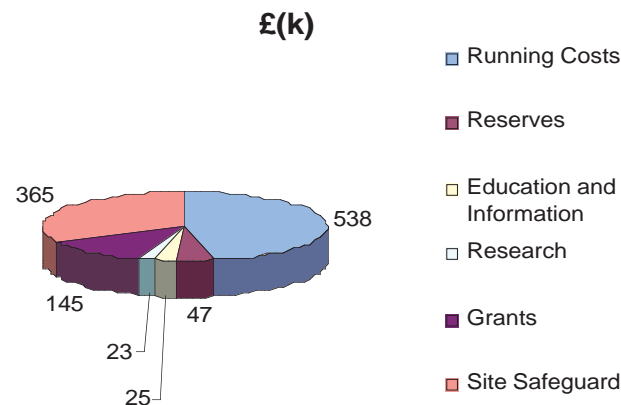
## Four Objectives for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross

We have a number of key objectives for this constituency. These are set out in our Natural Heritage Futures documents, which create a vision for Scotland's natural heritage for the next two decades and beyond.

### Our objectives are:

- To improve and enhance the natural heritage of the area whilst ensuring all development is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.
- To promote the creation path networks in the wider countryside
- To support the understanding and enjoyment of the outdoors through local initiatives providing interpretation, information and other countryside facilities.
- To engage with local people and participate in the wide range of local partnerships around the constituency, for example, The Sutherland Partnership, The Caithness Partnership, and the Moray Firth Partnership.

## The SNH North Highland Area Budget



## Key Contacts

Of the total SNH complement of over 730 full-time equivalent posts, there are currently 24 staff based in SNH's North Highland Area. The Easter Ross part of this constituency lies within SNH's East Highland Area.

### North Highland Area Manager

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### SNH North Areas Board

Our North Areas Board is the local SNH Board for the Highlands Area. The Areas Board oversees SSSI designations and guides staff on local approaches and initiatives.

### North Areas Board

Chairman    Amanda Bryan  
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### Board Members covering this constituency

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### SNH Chairman and Chief Executive

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