



"Gules, on a fess Argent, three mullets Or, two ravens in base respecting Sable, and a horseshoe Azure with seven nails Or; surmounted by a gold coronet of thistles and standing on a scroll with the motto, "Dluich lean do dhutchas le durachd. (Cling close to thy heritage)."

"Gules, on a fess Argent, three mullets Or, two ravens in base respecting Sable, and a horse shoe Azure with seven nails Or".
equates to "On a red field, with a silver band (through the middle) three Gold stars, two black ravens facing each other, with a Blue horse shoe with seven Gold nails in the centre".

According to Mr. David L.H. Patton, "Arms of the County Council's of Scotland", Sutherland being the southernmost part of the Jarldom of Orkney, the use of the black raven is both representative of the Norse Jarls of Orkney and of Sutherland's early beginnings. After the retraction of Harold, Earl of Orkney, from mainland Scotland Hugh of Moray, Lord of Sutherland, was given the land by William the Lion. Hugh of Moray's Arms are three gold stars in a red field, which was incorporated to signify both the removal of the Jarls of Orkney and the formation of Sutherland.

Both of these changes have been retained for continuity, and to them has been added the Arms of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch, the Blue horse-shoe with seven Gold nails. Dornoch was the only Royal Burgh in Sutherland prior to 1975, and it is thought appropriate to incorporate the horse shoe to signify, a) The Royal Charter, b) The Capital of Sutherland, c) the only former other Council, d) the Bishopric e) the importance of the outcome of the battle at Dornoch upon Sutherland.

The motto "Cling Close to thy Heritage" reflects the need not to forget the sad era of The Highland Clearances, with the hopes that such events shall not occur again.