

Appendix A13.1: Landscape Character Areas/Local Landscape Character Areas

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix supports Chapter 13 (Landscape) of the ES, and sets out the baseline landscape character using Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) to describe the study area, encompassing land up to 5km from the proposed Scheme. Settlements as have been identified as LLCAs, and are included as LLCA (Settlement) units within the baseline. The LLCAs boundaries were identified following field and desk-based assessment, including review of the following sources:
- Cairngorms National Park: Landscape Character Assessment (2009);
 - Landscape Study to Inform Planning for Wind Energy Final Report (2010);
 - Tayside Landscape Character Assessment: Scottish Natural Heritage Review 122 (1999);
 - A9 Dualling Programme. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Environmental Report Addendum. Appendix F – Strategic Landscape Review Report (2014); and
 - Cairngorms Landscape Character Assessment: Scottish Natural Heritage Review 75 (1996);
- 1.1.2 For each LLCA and LCA a description includes location, topography, drainage, land use, settlement and views with a further tabular summary stating Key Characteristics, Positive Character Attributes, Negative Character Attributes and including an assessment of Value (including Landscape Designations, Landscape Quality (Condition), Scenic Quality, Rarity, Representativeness, Conservation/Cultural Interest, Recreation Value, Perceptual Aspects and Associations), Susceptibility to Change (including Landscape Elements and Landscape Features) and Sensitivity (which has been derived from Value and Susceptibility).
- 1.1.3 The approach to defining the Sensitivity in addition to Value and Susceptibility is discussed in Section 13.2, Chapter 13 (Landscape).
- 1.1.4 Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) (p. 156) defines Landscape Elements as:
- ‘Individual parts which make up a landscape, such as, for example, trees, hedges and buildings’, and Landscape Features as ‘Particularly prominent or eye-catching elements within the landscape, such as tree clumps, church towers or wooded skylines or a particular aspect of the project proposal.’*
- 1.1.5 The locations of the LLCAs and LCAs are shown on Figure 13.2a and 13.2b of the ES.

2 Baseline Conditions

Local Landscape Character Areas

- 2.1.1 The LLCAs within the study area are described below.

Strath Tummel LLCA

- 2.1.2 The Strath Tummel LLCA comprises the flat-bottomed meandering River Tummel valley to the south of the town of Pitlochry. The essential qualities of the LLCA are those of a traditional highland strath; a flat-bottomed valley with steeply sloping sides. The Tummel is a large river which gently meanders across a broad, often level floodplain.
- 2.1.3 The LLCA is characterised by a wide valley floor which is covered with large areas of relatively fertile arable and pasture farmland. The farm land is most productive on the floodplain alluvium but also extends further up the valley slopes. The influence of large estates is often visible giving the valley a

well-wooded and structured appearance whilst there are large areas of coniferous forestry on upper slopes.

2.1.4 Settlement in the LLCA is scattered, with individual properties and farmsteads generally located above the floodplain. The landscape is open but the landform restricts views to linear long distance views within the strath, with limited views out.

2.1.5 A summary of the key characteristics off the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Landscape Character Summary for the Strath Tummel LLCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A traditional highland strath with a flat-bottomed valley and steeply sloping sides which lack many of the classic glacial features. • The open strath of the Tummel has a combination of farmland, forestry and estate woodland. Much of the woodland is designation as AWI. • There is agricultural use for much of the strath floor which includes large areas of relatively fertile farmland. It is most productive on the floodplain alluvium but also extends much further up the valley slopes. • A settled glen with important communication routes to the Highlands, including the corridor containing the historical General Wade's Military Road, the Highland Main Line railway and the A9.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open but enclosed Strath Tummel is dramatic and has an attractive variety of farmland and mature woodland. • The river is frequently visible and gently meanders with glacial-fluvial deposits a feature, forming a relatively level floodplain. • The road usually follows the edge of the strath at the base of the wooded slopes and there are often clear views across the strath. • Scenic long distance views are obtained along the valley floor to Ben Vrackie and other mountains beyond.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transport routes of the A9 and Highland Main Line railway are noticeable features along the strath.
Value	<p>Landscape designations: None</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape quality (condition): medium. Farmland and field boundaries are generally well maintained; • Scenic quality: medium. The open strath has an attractive combination of farmland with mature woodland and heather moorland on slopes and the hill tops. The A9 generally follows the edge of the valley at the base of the wooded slopes and there are often clear views across the strath. Long distance views to hills outside the LLCA are obtained along the strath; • Rarity: medium to high. The topography and dense ancient woodland play a key part in the LLCA character; • Representativeness: medium to high. The river and surrounding hills are the dominant features of this typical Highland glen landscape; • Conservation/cultural interest: medium. Some scheduled monuments and cultural heritage sites; • Recreational value: medium. Recreational features include campsites, nature reserves and woodland walks; • Perceptual aspects: medium. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but does have a sense of tranquillity; and • Associations: medium. Writers and artist have been historically attracted to the landscape. <p>Overall value: medium</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape elements: medium. Considered potentially tolerant to some change. Removal of ancient woodland would have the possibility to affect visibility and landscape character locally. • Landscape features: medium. Considered to have some ability to accommodate the proposed development. Due to the open nature of the LLCA and the context of the existing visible road corridor any changes to the woodland cover or visibility of the road are not likely to significantly alter the overall experience of the LLCA. <p>Overall susceptibility: medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: medium</p>

Strath Tummel: Pitlochry LLCA (Settlement)

- 2.1.6 Pitlochry LLCA (Settlement) comprises the town of Pitlochry, a superb example of a Victorian Highland holiday resort. The LLCA also includes the adjacent villages of Port-na-craig on the southern bank of the River Tummel and Moulin which lies to the north at a higher elevation. The LLCA is located between the Pass of Killiecrankie LLCA and Strath Tummel LLCA and the spectacular setting adds to the distinctive character of the town.
- 2.1.7 Pitlochry is set on the banks of the River Tummel, with the majority of the town located on the northern bank. The surrounding landscape is the product of glaciation with terminal moraines, drumlins and natural terracing created by glacial meltwater creating features within the townscape. Loch Faskally lies on the south western edge of the town and was formed in 1950 by the building of a dam across the River Tummel at Pitlochry, as part of a hydro-electric power scheme.
- 2.1.8 The LLCA encompasses two Conservation Areas (CAs); Pitlochry CA covers Pitlochry town centre and residential areas to the north and north-west whilst Moulin CA covers the adjacent village of Moulin. Pitlochry's main street, Atholl Road (General Wade's road), runs on a northwest/south-east axis with areas of Victorian suburban expansion flanking the north and west of the centre. Beyond the town centre to the north and east are areas of more recent residential development.
- 2.1.9 Pitlochry has for more than a century attracted great numbers of tourists and visitor attractions include the Blair Athol Distillery, the Pitlochry Festival Theatre on the southern bank of the Tummel and the Pitlochry Dam and Fish Ladder which has viewing chambers where visitors can watch salmon swimming upstream to spawning grounds.
- 2.1.10 A summary of the key characteristics off the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Landscape Character Summary for the Strath Tummel: Pitlochry LLCA (Settlement)

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The town of Pitlochry is set between the Pass of Killiecrankie LLCA and Strath Tummel LLCA and the spectacular setting adds to the distinctive character of the town. Set on the banks of the River Tummel and the river reservoir Loch Faskally and surrounded by high quality woodland. The core of the village lies on the northern bank of the river and is set across south facing slopes. The stone built, Victorian townscape of Pitlochry is relatively unaltered since it was developed as a Highland holiday resort during the last half of the nineteenth century. The Highland Main Line railway runs through the centre of the town but the main road transport corridor, the A9, by passes the town, following the southern bank of the River Tummel.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is both a variety and harmony of architectural styles, including Scottish Renaissance, Baronial and Victorian Gothic as well as more modest, vernacular buildings. Mature gardens and wooded areas contribute significantly to the townscape experience. The setting of the town, framed by forests and mountains beyond, is visually enriching.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual clutter often spoiling the architectural character of building groups and public realm areas. Unsympathetic built features of extensions and infill, generally dating from the mid-twentieth century onwards. Incongruous large, warehouse-type developments have a consequential effect on the settings of adjacent buildings and spaces.
Value	<p>Landscape designations: Pitlochry Conservation Area (CA), Moulin CA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape quality (condition): high. Mature gardens and wooded areas contribute significantly to the townscape experience. Good quality stone masonry work and decorative features are in evidence throughout the town centre and surrounding residential areas; Scenic quality: high. Pitlochry is framed by substantial tree groups and forested areas beyond providing a backdrop and visual enclosure; Rarity: high. The high quality of the architecture and the picturesque setting are in many ways unique; Representativeness: high. A variety and harmony of architectural styles, including Scottish Renaissance, Baronial and Victorian Gothic contribute to the town's Highland character with most building in local whin and sandstone. Many buildings are distinguished by picturesque Gothic and Baronial details, such as multi-gabled roof forms, bargeboards, bartizans and turrets, brattishing and

Landscape Attributes	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> finials; Recreational value: high. Numerous visitor attractions including campsites, Pitlochry Golf Course, the Blair Athol Distillery, the Pitlochry Festival Theatre, the Pitlochry Fish Ladder and woodland walks; Perceptual aspects: medium. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but does have a sense of tranquillity; and Associations: high. Numerous associations to the landscape including most notably Queen Victoria. <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape elements: medium. Considered potentially tolerant to some change. Open views across the town are obtained at higher elevations with substantial areas of trees seen in the middle distance restricting views of the A9 and removal of these may increase views to the road from the town. Landscape features: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, mature tree blocks and field patterns would significantly alter the townscape character. <p>Overall susceptibility: medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: medium to high</p>

Glen Garry: Upper Glen LLCA

- 2.1.11 The Glen Garry: Upper Glen LLCA comprises the upper reaches of Glen Garry where the effects of glacial erosion have weathered the hillsides into long smooth slopes and ridges. These hills frame a generally wide glen floor which narrows into a short steep-sided and wooded pass around Clunes Lodge to the south of the LLCA.
- 2.1.12 The River Garry has worked glacial-fluvial deposits into a narrow floodplain, but abstraction has reduced the water supply so that the riverbed is frequently revealed.
- 2.1.13 Land use is predominantly unimproved pasture which is interspersed with blocks of deciduous woodland, some relatively recently planted, extending across lower slopes. This woodland is supplemented by naturally regenerating birch along the roadsides and distinctive clumps of remnant birch 'wood pasture' along the glen floor.
- 2.1.14 Settlement is largely limited to a few large houses and buildings associated with shooting estates with a series of individual lodges located on elevated land and set within woodland. The remains of medieval and post-medieval settlement and 18th and 19th century farmsteads and walled enclosures are evident along the glen floor.
- 2.1.15 The LLCA is comparatively self-contained and its open character contrasts strongly with the enclosed Drumochter Pass to the north, where there is a transition to wilder countryside. The wide strath and low relief of the surrounding hills allow for scenic long distance views and shallow side valleys reinforce the sense of openness.
- 2.1.16 A summary of the key characteristics off the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Landscape character summary for the Glen Garry: Upper Glen LLCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gently graded smooth slopes enclosing a generally wide glen floor. Large scale open character. Settlement limited to a few large houses and buildings associated with shooting estates. A transitional 'Gateway' zone between Perthshire and wilder countryside to the north. Remnants of historic settlement and land use, notably the ruins of farmsteads, and the striking 'wood pasture' are features of the LLCA.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An open character with scenic views. Extensive woodland on slopes, supplemented by small shelter woods and distinctive clumps of

Landscape Attributes	Description
	remnant birch 'wood pasture' along the glen floor with riparian woodland.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport corridors of existing A9 and Highland Main Line railway. • The existing A9 is elevated and forms a skyline for views from the Highland Main Line railway looking north.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape designations: Cairngorm National Park. • Landscape quality (condition): medium. An unkempt quality with frequent unimproved grassland interspersed with ruins and remnant vegetation. • Scenic quality: high to medium. Attractive long distance views along Glen Garry. • Rarity: medium. Large scale fields with distinctive clumps of remnant birch 'wood pasture' along the glen floor. • Representativeness: medium. The river and surrounding hills are the dominant features of this typical Highland glen landscape. • Conservation/cultural interest: medium. Evidence of medieval and post-medieval land use and settlement and 18th/19th century farmsteads, walled enclosures and the regular shapes of improved, grazed fields along the glen floor. • Recreational value: medium. Recreational features include shooting lodges and riverside and woodland walks. • Perceptual aspects: high. Landscape is highly valued as is shown by its designation as a National Park. • Associations: medium. 18th century military roads. <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape elements: Medium. Considered potentially tolerant to change associated with the proposed development. Changes to mature tree blocks, shelterbelts and field patterns may potentially alter the landscape character, although the LLCA would have some ability to accommodate changes given the context of the existing road corridor. • Landscape features: Medium. Considered to have some ability to accommodate the proposed development. The LLCA would have some ability to accommodate changes to long distance views given the context of the existing transport corridor. <p>Overall susceptibility: medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: medium to high

Glen Garry: Mid Glen LLCA

- 2.1.17 The Glen Garry: Mid Glen LLCA comprises a wide strath floor formed at the meeting of Glen Garry and Glen Errochty. The River Garry meanders to form a relatively level floodplain with simple slopes, extending down from ridges smoothed by glacial erosion. Terraces and mounds of glacial-fluvial deposit sit along the edges of the broad strath floor.
- 2.1.18 Land use is dominated by extensive commercial forestry which is well established and located on the south facing slopes of the glen whilst northern slopes generally comprise unimproved grassland. On the strath floor the land is more level and together with the most accessible lower slopes, comprises drained and improved fields.
- 2.1.19 The key villages within the LLCA of Calvine, Old Struan and Pitagowan/Bruar are located at crossing points on the rivers. Regularly spaced farmsteads and villages combine with the existing road and rail corridors to create a settled character which is largely self-contained. The coherence of the 18th and 19th century regular field pattern together with associated farms reinforces the historic character of this area.
- 2.1.20 Views are generally long distance, with the road and railway transport corridors forming noticeable horizontal features, particularly where the routes are elevated on bridges and embankments. The visitor complex at Bruar also provides an additional focal point.
- 2.1.21 A summary of the key characteristics off the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Landscape character summary for the Glen Garry: Mid Glen LLCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The side slopes of the glen extend down from ridges smoothed by glacier erosion which has also deepened the main valley. The River Garry swings in wide meanders with glacial-fluvial deposits a feature, forming a relatively level floodplain and frequently exposed on the river bed due to water abstraction. Extensive well established commercial conifer woodland extends along the south facing slopes of the glen, while the northern slopes are dominated by unimproved grassland and some heather, with naturally regenerating birch along the very lower slopes. Well settled, with regularly spaced farmsteads throughout and key villages of Calvine, Old Struan and Pitagowan/Bruar.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The River Garry is strongly demarcated by surrounding riparian woodland. Policy woodland around Calvine, as well as specimen trees of copper beech, ash, oak and sycamore reinforce the lowland character of this area. The coherence of the 18th/19th century field pattern and associated regularly spaced farms reinforces the historic character of this area.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tangle of road and rail lines is most clearly experienced from more minor roads, from where the existing A9 seems out of scale with the detail of earlier settlement pattern and road network. The roads and Highland Main Line railway converge at Calvine through a narrow part of the glen. Elevated on bridges and overpasses, these structures create some confusion and clutter, although this is partly absorbed by extensive woodland. The visitor complex at Bruar and the associated car parking is a prominent area of development.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape designations: Cairngorm National Park, Falls of Bruar Garden and Designed Landscape, Blair Castle GDL. Landscape quality (condition): medium. The strath floor and gently graded lower slopes, are occupied by drained 18th/19th century improved fields. Fields are fenced, with occasional sparse hedges or scant lines of trees reinforcing the regularity of the field pattern. Scenic quality: medium to high. Attractive long distance views along Glen Garry and Glen Errochty. Rarity: medium. The Falls of Bruar, a spectacular gorge which has developed along a fault where the river drops steeply to the valley floor. Representativeness: medium. The river and surrounding hills are the dominant features of this typical Highland glen landscape. Conservation/cultural interest: high. Falls of Bruar GDL and Blair Castle GDL. The confluence of Glen Garry and Glen Errochty are marked by a striking medieval motte. The historic character of this area is further emphasised by the clusters of 18th/19th century small houses which are characteristic of the villages. Recreational value: medium. Recreational features include campsites and riverside and woodland walks. Perceptual aspects: high. Landscape is highly valued as is shown by its designations as a National Park and GDLs. Associations: medium. Duke of Atholl and Atholl Estate. <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape elements: medium. Considered potentially tolerant to change associated with the proposed development. Changes to views or mature tree blocks and field patterns may potentially alter the landscape character. Landscape features: medium. Considered to have some ability to accommodate the proposed development. The LLCA would have some ability to accommodate changes given the context of the existing transport corridor and the development at the Falls of Bruar. <p>Overall susceptibility: medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: medium to high</p>

Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA

- 2.1.22 The Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA surrounds the Glen Garry: Blair Atholl LLCA and is bordered by the Strath Tummel: Upper Glen LLCA to the south-east and the Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA to the west.
- 2.1.23 The main valley has been deepened by glacial erosion which together with the surrounding hills limits long distance views. The valley sides are rough and knobbly where the bedrock is exposed. Several rivers including the Banvie Burn and the River Tilt, drop steeply from tributary valleys and converge to

join the River Garry. The surrounding hills are generally wooded, whilst undulating lower slopes and more level land are covered by regularly shaped agricultural fields.

2.1.24 The LLCA encompasses a patchwork of agricultural land, extensive commercial conifer woodlands, riparian woodland and policy woodland. The extensive designed landscapes form strong elements and impart a distinctive arboreal and historic character to the LLCA.

2.1.25 A summary of the key characteristics off the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Landscape character summary for the Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main valley has been deepened by glacial erosion and a complex terrain of ridges, conical summits and undulations reflects the diverse composition of the metamorphic bedrock. Several rivers drop steeply from tributary valleys and converge to join the River Garry at Blair Atholl with alluvial outlets from the tributary valleys forming terraces and along the floor of the glen. A diverse land use with extensive commercial conifer woodlands on steeper slopes and frequent semi natural and riparian woodland. Pasture and arable fields occupy the undulating lower slopes and more level land. The area is unified by the frequency and consistency of designed landscape features across a number of conjoined estates.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive woodland including policy woodland, specimen trees, parkland, field boundary trees and semi natural and riparian woodland. The diversity of land form and land use, and the combination of prominent key focal points juxtaposed with features tucked away in more hidden, secluded settings, creates a rich landscape and experience. The designed landscapes created by individual estates underpin many of the distinctive features, and create a strong period setting.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing A9 occupies an elevated location along the southern side of the River Garry, and is partially screened by woodland. Shierglas Quarry is visually prominent on the slopes of Craig Odhar, in an otherwise largely unspoiled landscape.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape designations: Cairngorm National Park, Loch Tummel National Scenic Area (NSA), Blair Castle GDL. Landscape quality (condition): high. Generally good with the area unified in appearance by the frequency of designed landscape features across a number of conjoined estates. Scenic quality: high. Scenic quality with views across estate landscapes to distant hills. The existing A9 gives fine views to the north over Blair Castle and the Beinn a' Ghlo massif to the east which is frequently snow-capped in winter months. Rarity: high. The historical estate landscapes combined with the complex landform gives a special sense of place to the LLCA. Representativeness: high. A fine example of a Highland Glen landscape. Built features associated with the designed landscapes are common with walls and gateposts, bridges and walkways all combining to reinforce the extent of the individual estates. Conservation/cultural interest: high. Killiecrankie Battlefield, Blair Castle GDL. Recreational value: high. Recreational features include golf courses, campsites and visitor attractions such as Blair Castle, numerous footpaths and NCR7. Perceptual aspects: high. Landscape is valued as is shown by its designations as a National Park and NSA. Associations: high. Numerous notable associations to landscape including the Blair Atholl Estate, Queen Victoria and the site of the Battle of Killiecrankie. <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape elements: medium. Considered potentially tolerant to some change. Changes to views or mature tree blocks and field patterns may potentially alter the landscape character. Landscape features: medium. Considered to have some ability to accommodate the proposed development. The LLCA would have some ability to accommodate changes given the context of the existing transport corridor. <p>Overall susceptibility: medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: medium to high</p>

Glen Garry: Blair Atholl LLCA (Settlement)

- 2.1.26 The Glen Garry: Blair Atholl LLCA is surrounded by the Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA and falls within its influence as regard to its setting. The settlement is enclosed by a series of complex hills covered by a patchwork of agricultural land, extensive commercial conifer woodlands, riparian woodland and policy woodland. The compact size of Blair Atholl and its location in the valley at the confluence of the rivers Garry and the Tilt mean that the surrounding elevated topography plays a key part in views from the village and strongly influences townscape character.
- 2.1.27 The main street has a formal design and is bordered by Blair Castle which pre-dates the current village and its presence plays a strong role in the settlement's character. Most of the village's buildings are constructed from local sandstone or whinstone with slate roofs. Mid nineteenth century revivalist styles are prevalent, particularly Baronial, with characteristic details including crow steps, stone skewes, tall chimney stacks and corbelled wall corners.
- 2.1.28 The Highland Main Line railway adds to the picturesque setting of the village with an attractive railway station and ornate viaduct. The existing A9 occupies an elevated location along the southern side of the River Garry, with views to the village partially screened from the north by woodland.
- 2.1.29 The village attracts many visitors with Blair Castle and the Atholl Estate providing a long established tourist attraction and the surrounding area providing for a variety of leisure activities including walking, riding, hunting and fishing.
- 2.1.30 A summary of the key characteristics off the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Landscape character summary for the Glen Garry: Blair Atholl LLCA (Settlement)

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The compact village of Blair Atholl is set within the Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA and the spectacular setting adds to the distinctive character of the village. A planned estate village which developed from the early nineteenth century and enlarged with industrial growth in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The core of the village is a linear single-aspect high street which flanks the southern boundary of the Blair Castle estate. The Highland Main Line railway creates a sharp division within the village between the formal, planned main street frontage to the north and the more organic development of industrial and agricultural origin to the south. Modern twentieth century housing development lies to the south and west.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A planned estate village which is relatively unaltered since it developed from the early nineteenth century and enlarged with industrial growth in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The village is set amongst green spaces framed with mature trees and the Rivers Tilt and Garry which enrich the townscape and its scenic setting. The existing A9 occupies an elevated location along the southern side of the River Garry, and is partially screened by woodland.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no particular focus of pedestrian activity in a civic space or square. Some semi-derelict areas of land and buildings not conducive to the traditional architecture of the village
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape designations: Blair Atholl Conservation Area, Blair Castle GDL. Landscape quality (condition): high. The development of the planned estate village has created a varied but harmonious townscape which is generally in good condition. Scenic quality: high. Attractive setting with long distance views to the surrounding hills. There are tree lined corridors as one approaches the village on the main road from the east and the west. Rarity: high. Blair Castle GDL is rated as Outstanding for artistic, historical, horticultural, architectural, scenic and nature conservation values. Representativeness: high. A superb example of an estate village containing an attractive variety of architectural styles and forms. Conservation/cultural interest: high. Blair Atholl Conservation Area, Blair Castle GDL is rated as Outstanding for artistic, historical, horticultural, architectural, scenic and nature conservation value. Recreational value: high. Blair Castle and the Atholl Estate provide a long established tourist attraction whilst the surrounding area provides for a variety of leisure activities including walking,

Landscape Attributes	Description
	riding, hunting and fishing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perceptual aspects: medium. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but does have a sense of tranquillity. Associations: high. Strong historical associations with Clan Robertson and the Atholl family. Overall value: high
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape elements: medium. Considered potentially tolerant to some change. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, mature tree blocks and field patterns would significantly alter the townscape character. Landscape features: medium. The woodland areas to the south of the village which fringe the rivers Tilt and Garry restrict views of the existing A9 and may be sensitive to development pressures. Overall susceptibility: medium
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: medium to high

Pass of Killiecrankie LLCA

- 2.1.31 The Pass of Killiecrankie LLCA incorporates a section of Glen Garry where the River Garry flows through the narrow, incised Pass of Killiecrankie and a section of Strath Tummel where the River Garry joins the River Tummel and then broadens out to Loch Faskally.
- 2.1.32 The LLCA is heavily wooded and this combined with the landform of the steep sided hills bordering the river corridors, results in an enclosed character. Settlement is sparse comprising of farmsteads on the western slopes of the glen and some individual properties around Killiecrankie, Garry Bridge and Faskally House.
- 2.1.33 A summary of the key characteristics off the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Landscape character summary for the Pass of Killiecrankie LLCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pass of Killiecrankie is a “pinch-point”, separating Glen Garry from Strath Tummel, the pass forming an important communications route. The River Garry flows through a narrow, incised valley at the Pass of Killiecrankie and then meets the River Tummel, broadening out to Loch Faskally. The LLCA is heavily wooded with a large proportion of ancient deciduous woodland surrounding the Pass of Killiecrankie and mixed woodland of plantation origin surrounding Craigower and Dunmore Hill. The steeply sloping sides of the glen and predominant woodland cover result in limited views out and an enclosed character.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dense ancient woodland and steep glen imparts a special quality to the landscape. The dramatic nature of the landscape where the glen narrows to wild gorges and waterfalls, is particularly scenic and was favoured by followers of the picturesque and sublime. The Pass of Killiecrankie is of importance historically with story of the Soldiers Leap intrinsically related to the distinctive landform. Tay Forest Park is a popular resource with walkers and holiday makers.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transport routes of the existing A9 and Highland Main Line railway are noticeable features along the strath.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape designations: Cairngorms National Park, Loch Tummel NSA, Tay Forest Park. Landscape quality (condition): high. A large proportion of the LLCA is designated Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI). Scenic quality: high. Spectacular wooded views along Glen Garry and glimpsed views through dense woodland to the waterfalls of the Pass of Killiecrankie. Rarity: high. The narrow Pass of Killiecrankie is a landmark both visually and historically. Representativeness: high. The topography and dense ancient woodland play a key part in the LLCA character and the Pass of Killiecrankie is a fine example of a steep Highland river valley. Recreational value: high. Recreational features include woodland walks and activity centres.

Landscape Attributes	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perceptual aspects: high. Landscape is valued as is shown by its designations as a National Park and NSA. Associations: high. Numerous notable associations to landscape including the site of the Battle of Killiecrankie, the Soldiers Leap, "In the Pass of Killiecrankie" a famous painting by John Ruskin and the song "Killiecrankie". <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape elements: high. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. Removal of ancient woodland may affect views and the character of the LLCA. Landscape features: high. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. Due to the narrow linear nature of the Pass of Killiecrankie any changes to the woodland cover will have the possibility to significantly alter the experience of this enclosed LLCA. <p>Overall susceptibility: high</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: high</p>

Landscape Character Areas (Cairngorms National Park LCAs)

Drumochter Pass LCA

- 2.1.34 The Drumochter Pass LCA comprises steep, at times verging on sheer, side slopes which contain a narrow, elevated pass which links Speyside to the Perthshire glens. The lower slopes and the edge of the glen floor are covered in extensive hummocky moraine and other glacial-fluvial deposits which are very prominent, particularly after snowfall, where individual ridges indicate the glacial retreat.
- 2.1.35 Heather moorland over the sides of the pass, and unimproved grassland along the glen floor, create a simple vegetation pattern, which in detail reflects the smaller scale topography.
- 2.1.36 The Allt Dubhaig runs through the southern part of the pass with the source of the River Truim to the north. Active run-off chutes and smaller water channels drop down the hillsides in shallow gullies.
- 2.1.37 The pass has little settlement but human influence is strong with the existing A9, partially dualled, the Highland Main Line railway and the overhead pylon line packed into the narrow pass. Infrastructure such as road signs and the telecommunications mast at Drumochter are very visible in the sparse landscape.
- 2.1.38 Views from the elevated existing A9 into side valleys, such as where Loch Garry joins the Pass, create some relief from the overriding sense of enclosure.
- 2.1.39 A summary of the key characteristics off the LCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 8 below.

Table 8: Landscape Character Summary for Drumochter Pass LCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A narrow and steep sided elevated pass. The landform is covered with mounds of glacial deposits. Simple vegetation pattern with unimproved grassland on the glen floor and heather moorland on the slopes. A dramatic and sublime landscape with little settlement.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sense of drama related to travelling through such a pronounced 'pass' is reinforced by the narrowness of the glen and the precipitous side slopes. Scenic long distance views are obtained along the valley floor to the mountains beyond.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing A9, the Highland Main Line railway and the overhead pylon line are packed into the narrow pass. The infrastructure associated with the road and communications create visual clutter in this sparse landscape.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape designations: Cairngorm National Park.

Landscape Attributes	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape quality (condition): medium. A mixture of heather moorland and unimproved grasslands impart a simple quality. Scenic quality: high. There is a spectacular view south west from Dalnaspidal of Loch Garry and the views through the Drumochter Pass itself are very dramatic. Rarity: high. The topography of the dramatic steep sided pass plays a key part in the LLCA character. Representativeness: medium to high. The narrow pass is an integral part of typical Highland glen landscapes. Conservation/cultural interest: low. Few scheduled monuments and cultural heritage sites. Recreational value: medium. Recreational features include shooting estates and some core paths. Perceptual aspects: medium. The landscape is perceived as remote although the road and rail corridors and power lines have introduced development. Associations: medium. Writers and artist have been historically attracted to the “sublime” landscape. <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape elements: medium. The LLCA would have some ability to accommodate changes given the context of the existing transport corridor and other infrastructure development. Landscape features: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, and field patterns would significantly alter the landscape character. <p>Overall susceptibility: medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: medium to high</p>

The Southern Hills: South Western Glens LCA

- 2.1.40 The Southern Hills: South Western Glens LCA comprises the extensive, very gently undulating plateau of the Gaick and the Forest of Dalnamein and Atholl. The plateau lies about 800m in elevation, with occasional isolated, steep sided mountain summits rising to over 1000m, often with scree slopes. The lack of significant lithological variability in the underlying Moine psammite is reflected in the almost level terrain across the plateau.
- 2.1.41 The plateau edge rises in an escarpment above the surrounding lower ground with west-east drainage systems forming long rivers, often with braided reaches on the glen floors. Glacial activity has breached some watersheds to create several narrow, very steep-sided glens which penetrate through the interior of the plateau. The tributary valleys that drop steeply to the floors of these glens are often deeply incised.
- 2.1.42 There is extensive open shrub heath of heather and blaeberry across the upper hill slopes while acid grassland occupies the lower slopes along the major glens. Broadleaved woodland is relatively sparse, limited to occasional scattered birch across the valley floors.
- 2.1.43 Settlement is located along the more accessible glen floors and is nearly always associated with estates, with seasonally occupied lodges as well as the ruins of late 18th/19th century farmsteads. Private vehicle tracks extend far along the relatively flat glen floors, often linking to paths which continue through the narrow passes or branch out into the side glens
- 2.1.44 There are dramatic, framed views along the lengths of the deep, steep sided glens. From summits, there are extensive, often panoramic views to the north and east to the Cairngorms massif and Lochnagar.
- 2.1.45 A summary of the key characteristics off the LCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Landscape character summary for The Southern Hills: South Western Glens LCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extensive, undulating upland plateau with occasional isolated, steep sided mountain summits, often with scree slopes. Narrow, steep sided glens penetrate through the interior of the plateau. Open shrub heath of heather and blaeberry across the upper hill slopes with acid grassland on the lower slopes along glens. Settlement is limited and is nearly always associated with estates, located along the more accessible glen floors.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sense of expanse and openness experienced on the plateau with panoramic views. The steep sided glens and the escarpment at the edge of the plateau create a contrasting sense of enclosure. Scenic long distance views particularly to the north and east.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An abandoned remote character with numerous shieling sites, pre-improvement townships and the ruins of later farmsteads.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape designations: Cairngorms National Park. Landscape quality (condition): medium. Numerous former shieling sites, pre-improvement townships and the ruins of later farmsteads give an abandoned air. Scenic quality: high. From the summits, there are extensive, often panoramic, views north and east. Dramatic, framed views along the lengths of the deep, steep sided glens. Rarity: medium. The elevated upland plateaux is an integral part of typical Highland landscapes although not particularly rare. Representativeness: medium. The enclosed passes, with their long history of use and settlement, cut through the expanse of the open, exposed and often hostile plateau. Conservation/cultural interest: low. Few scheduled monuments and cultural heritage sites. Recreational value: medium. Recreational features include shooting estates and some core paths. Perceptual aspects: high. The mountain interior of this LCA is relatively remote, particularly in the more inaccessible Gaick plateau between Drumochter and Glen Tilt. Associations: medium. Writers and artist have been historically attracted to the "sublime" landscape. <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape elements: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, and field patterns would significantly alter the landscape character. Landscape features: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. Features are large scale and unlikely to be affected by distant changes. <p>Overall susceptibility: low</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: medium</p>

The Southern Hills: South Eastern Glens LCA

- 2.1.46 The Southern Hills: South Eastern Glens LCA comprise long, often narrow, glens contained by a complex topography of shallow side glens, intervening rocky ridges and truncated spurs. The hill tops are sinuous ridges or individual summits, and many of the highest peaks are very steep-sided with summits rising above extensive scree slopes. Long, enclosed glens, such as Glen Tilt, Glen Taitneach, Glen Ey and Glen Clunie, penetrate deep into the interior of the mountains, forming passes which link Deeside with the Perthshire lowlands.
- 2.1.47 On upper slopes and summits, there are sub alpine and montane habitats of sedge, rush and moss heath. Upper glen slopes are often managed as grouse moorland, while extensive acid grassland with occasional bracken extends along lower slopes. The narrow floodplains on the glen floors carry more fertile grasslands, often maintained by continued grazing. Occasional conifer woodland extends into the most accessible glens and broadleaved woodland is located on more inaccessible slopes, with riparian woodland along many of the watercourses, particularly to the west of the LCA.
- 2.1.48 Settlement is sparse, located along the glen floors, but estate buildings and the ruins of former farms can be found in the interior of the mountain core along the accessible passes. Private vehicle tracks

extend far along the relatively flat glen floors, often linking to paths which continue through the narrow passes or branch out to track up through the side slopes of the side glens.

- 2.1.49 Views are obtained northwards to the Cairngorm massif and east to Lochnagar. There are also dramatic, framed views along the lengths of the deep, steep sided glens, which are revealed in stages when travelling through the passes or long narrow glens.
- 2.1.50 A summary of the key characteristics off the LCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Landscape Character Summary for The Southern Hills: South Eastern Glens LCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long, enclosed glens which penetrate deep into the interior of the mountains, forming passes which link Deeside with the Perthshire lowlands • A complex topography of shallow side glens, intervening rocky ridges and truncated spurs created by glacial activity. • Heather and blaeberry over the upper glen slopes is often managed as grouse moor, while extensive acid grassland with occasional bracken extends along lower slopes. • The narrow floodplains on the glen floors comprise fertile grasslands with conifer woodland in the most accessible glens, broadleaved woodland on more inaccessible slopes and riparian woodland along many of the watercourses. • Settlement is sparse, located along the glen floors, but estate buildings and the ruins of former farms can be found well into the interior of the mountain core along the accessible passes.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The steep sided hills and the sense of the surrounding 'mass' create a very pronounced sense of enclosure when travelling through the narrow glens. • The steepness of the upper hill sides and the scree slopes create dramatic ridges, which can be experienced as relatively narrow, sinuous walking routes. • The silvery quartzite scree on the upper mountain slopes often catches the light and is a striking feature both from a distance and when traversing the mountain ridges. • Panoramic long distance views extend widely.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An abandoned remote character with numerous shieling sites, pre-improvement townships and the ruins of later farmsteads.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape designations: Cairngorms National Park. • Landscape quality (condition): medium. Numerous former shieling sites, pre-improvement townships and the ruins of later farmsteads give an abandoned air. • Scenic quality: high. From the summits, there are extensive, often panoramic, views particularly northwards to the Cairngorm massif and east to Lochnagar. • Rarity: medium. The long narrow glens are an integral part of typical Highland landscapes although not particularly rare. • Representativeness: medium. The enclosed glens have a long history of use and settlement. • Conservation/cultural interest: low. Few scheduled monuments and cultural heritage sites. • Recreational value: medium. Recreational features include shooting estates and some core paths. • Perceptual aspects: high. The narrow, relatively grassy glens and passes allow access deep into the interior, reflected in the plentiful evidence of their long use and formerly extensive settlement. • Associations: medium. Writers and artist have been historically attracted to the "sublime" landscape. <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape elements: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, and field patterns would significantly alter the landscape character. • Landscape features: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. Features are large scale and unlikely to be affected by distant changes. <p>Overall susceptibility: low</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: medium</p>

Glen Fender LCA

- 2.1.51 Glen Fender LCA comprises a wide, shallow upper bowl, with long undulating, gently graded slopes extending down to a narrow, steep sided river valley. The floor of the bowl is diversified by alternating

areas of rock ribs, mounds of melt water deposits and layers of glacial till. The glen is drained by a series of narrow tributaries to the Fender Burn.

- 2.1.52 The LLCA is mostly orientated west/east and the long south facing slopes are farmed, despite the high elevation of between 350m and 400m, with improved fields on gentle slopes of deep, well drained deposits which are bounded by fencing and used for grazing and fodder crops.
- 2.1.53 There are occasional coniferous shelter woods which are located around the farms or between fields, while the upper slopes of surrounding ridges are covered in moorland. Broadleaved, birch dominated, woodland occupies the steep sided river gullies and also extends across the unenclosed north facing slopes, where there are also more extensive areas of coniferous woodland.
- 2.1.54 Settlement within the LCA mostly comprises 18th/19th century farmsteads, spaced at regular intervals across the wider terraces. The pattern of the farmsteads is the most obvious contemporary evidence of a long history of past land use, but in the hinterland there are extensive areas of prehistoric hut circles and field systems, pre-improvement farmsteads and occasional abandoned 19th century farms.
- 2.1.55 The sense of elevation and a certain amount of surprise at seeing fields planned at such a high elevation is reinforced by the extensive views north and across high plateaux to the mountain hinterland. The shallow land form creates easy opportunities for 'borrowed' views into the mountainous interior north beyond Glen Tilt and westwards along Glen Garry. Most people enter Glen Fender through Lower Glen Garry and Blair Atholl, reinforcing the sense of elevation.
- 2.1.56 A summary of the key characteristics off the LCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Landscape character summary for the Glen Fender LCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An elevated, wide, shallow glacial bowl, with long undulating, gently graded slopes extending down to a narrow, steep sided river valley. • Large scale open character. • Improved arable and pasture fields on south facing slopes with woodland surrounding watercourses and moorland at high elevations. • Settlement limited to a few farmsteads. • The area is secluded, and feels set apart from Blair Atholl which lies below.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open character with scenic views. • Broadleaved woodland on slopes and surrounding watercourses, supplemented by small shelter woods. • The strong integrity of the 18/19th century pattern and form of the farm steadings impart a perception of a long settled area.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are occasional incongruous coniferous plantations.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape designations: Cairngorm National Park. • Landscape quality (condition): high. There is an intact quality to the historical agricultural pattern. • Scenic quality: high. Extensive views north and across the high plateaux to the mountain hinterland. • Rarity: medium to high. The enclosure of the landform and the high elevation of the farmland impart an unusual secluded character. • Representativeness: medium to high. The landform and well-defined 18th/19th field patterns combine to create a landscape of relative historic integrity. • Conservation/cultural interest: medium. Extensive areas of prehistoric hut circles and field systems, pre-improvement farmsteads and occasional abandoned 19th century farms. • Recreational value: low. No notable recreational features within the LLCA. • Perceptual aspects: high. Landscape is highly valued as is shown by its designation as a National Park. • Associations: low. No notable associations to the landscape. <p>Overall value: High</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape elements: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, and field patterns would significantly alter the landscape character.

Landscape Attributes	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape features: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. Features are large scale and unlikely to be affected by distant changes. <p>Overall susceptibility: low</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: medium</p>

Landscape Character Areas (Scottish Natural Heritage)

Highland Summits and Plateaux LCA

- 2.1.57 The Highland Summits and Plateaux LCA consists of an upland area separated by the principal glens to the north of the Highland Boundary Fault. This large scale and exposed landscape comprises hills of generally similar height with craggier peaks to the west and those in the east more rounded.
- 2.1.58 The upland landscape is characterised by open and unsettled moorland vegetation, which is in contrast to the more settled wooded glens and lowlands. Open moorland is managed for grouse, deer and sheep with arctic-alpine flora and ancient woodland mainly associated with lochs and rivers providing greater visual interest.
- 2.1.59 Settlement is limited and much of the LCA is inaccessible, however former shielings form local features in the landscape and some modern roads and recreational paths follow the route of historic tracks and paths, including important droving routes.
- 2.1.60 Electricity pylons which link hydroelectric plants are found crossing the exposed upland and although relatively small when compared to the expansive landscape, are modern intrusions.
- 2.1.61 The area is popular with walkers and climbers with Core Paths located along hill slopes. From elevated areas there are panoramic views across the landscape, although more sheltered and settled glens are hidden from views, adding to the feeling of remoteness.
- 2.1.62 A summary of the key characteristics of the LCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 12 below.

Table 12: Landscape character summary for Highland Summits and Plateaux LCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the wildest and most remote landscapes in the UK. Large scale open character. Upland areas separated by principal glens with sharply defined and often craggy hills. Distinct summits and ranges of the West Highlands, separated by fault line lochs. Vegetation includes mainly managed open moorland with ancient woodland along water courses and some extensive plantation with heather, grassland, blanket bog and arctic alpine plant communities reflecting the altitude and exposure of the area. Little to no settlement.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open character with scenic views. Sense of remoteness, with limited views to the settled glens due to the intervening topography and woodland. Scenic long distance views are obtained from elevated tracks and paths and hill peaks.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small electricity pylon lines associated with hydroelectric plants along hill slopes of the highland glens and across exposed upland, particularly in the West Highlands.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape designations: Cairngorms National Park, Loch Tummel NSA. Landscape quality (condition): medium. Generally good with the area unified in appearance with the muted colours and rough texture of the moorlands its and simple quality. Scenic quality: high. From the summits, there are extensive, often panoramic, views northwards to the Cairngorm massif.

Landscape Attributes	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarity: low to medium. The topography and moorland play a key part in the LCA character. • Representativeness: medium. The limited settlement and historic tracks and paths run through the expanse of the open, exposed and often hostile plateau. • Conservation/cultural interest: medium. Some scheduled monuments and cultural heritage sites. • Recreational value: high. Recreational features include core paths leading to popular hill peaks. • Perceptual aspects: medium. Landscape is not wild due to the managed moorland but does have a sense of tranquillity, wildness and remoteness. • Associations: low. No notable associations to the landscape. <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape elements: medium. Considered potentially tolerant to some change. Removal of ancient woodland would have the possibility to affect visibility, particularly towards lowland and settled glens, and the landscape character locally. • Landscape features: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. Features are large scale and unlikely to be affected by distant changes. <p>Overall susceptibility: medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: high

Highland Glens with Lochs LCA

- 2.1.63 The Highland Glens with Lochs LCA comprises the landscape around Loch Tummel, with the presence of the large loch dominating the surrounding gently sloping low hills. The area is a fertile, lowland strath and on the higher slopes there is a wilder landscape of rocky crags and bare, heather-clad summits. To the west of the area the topography gradually becomes simpler and less intimate.
- 2.1.64 The long and narrow Loch Tummel lies in the centre of the LCA, framed by frequent deciduous woodland, much of which is designated AWI. The area is famed for its beauty with the loch enclosed by wooded knolls and grassy braes, alongside fertile farms and estates. Much of the area is part of the Tay Forest Park and this includes the famous Queen's View on the northern shore of the loch. Semi natural woodland is frequent on steeper slopes and managed estate woodland is also common. Some blocks of coniferous forestry are also present. The woodland adds to the variety, imparting a tranquil and an enclosed character and historical features are common.
- 2.1.65 Arable agriculture is almost entirely absent from the area, with pasture on improved fields found on the mid slopes. Fields are of medium scale and frequently of irregular shape, reflecting the local landform, with dry stone walls and hedgerow boundaries.
- 2.1.66 The area has been inhabited by people over many centuries with many historic land-use and cultural associations. The area is well settled with a mixture of villages, small hamlets and farmsteads, with buildings generally in a vernacular style with stone walls and slate roofs. Settlement is mostly set on the shores of the loch which visually contributes to the prosperous character. Farms and cottages are associated with 18th century field patterns forming a fringe along the loch shores along with some larger 17th-19th century estates and policies. Remains of settlement from the prehistoric period onwards are found on the loch edges and glen sides, with crannogs in the loch itself.
- 2.1.67 A summary of the key characteristics of the LCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 13 below.

Table 13: Landscape character summary for the Highland Glens with Lochs LCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A highland glen distinguished by the dominance of the large Loch Tummel and the relatively gentle hills surrounding it. • A high proportion of native broad leaved woodland and estate woodland. • A combination of farmland, native woodland and estate woodland combine to produce a harmonious and tranquil landscape. • An enclosed character due to the high proportion of woodland.

Landscape Attributes	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A settled glen with many historical associations to the past.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strath Tummel is renowned for its beauty and has an attractive variety of farmland and mature woodland. • Loch Tummel is frequently visible and scenic views are obtained across its surface to the hills beyond. • A landscape filled with historical associations.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some inappropriate tourism development.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape designations: Loch Tummel NSA, Tay Forest Park • Landscape quality (condition): high. Farmland and field boundaries are well maintained; • Scenic quality: high. Famous views from the Queen's View west across the waters of Loch Tummel to the distant hills including the high peak of Schiehallion, and, on a clear day, as far as the mountains of Glencoe; • Rarity: medium to high. The topography and variety of woodland play a key part in the landscape character; • Representativeness: high. Loch Tummel and the surrounding woodland are the dominant features of this renowned Highland glen landscape; • Conservation/cultural interest: high. Historical estates and prehistoric scheduled monuments including crannogs on the loch. Much of the woodland is AWI designated; • Recreational value: high. Recreational features include the Tay Forest Park and woodland walks; • Perceptual aspects: high. The landscape is designated as an NSA and known for its beauty and tranquillity; and • Associations: high. The Queens View is a famous viewpoint associated with Queen Isabella, the wife of Robert the Bruce. The loch is also celebrated in song for its location on the Road to the Isles. <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape elements: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, and field patterns would significantly alter the landscape character. • Landscape features: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. Features are large scale and unlikely to be affected by distant changes. <p>Overall susceptibility: low</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: medium to high</p>

Highland Glens LCA

- 2.1.68 The Highland Glens LCA comprises a classic glaciated valley profile with hanging valleys, corries and misfit rivers, along with glacial deposits along the valley sides and along the valley floor which form a hummocky landscape of eskers and drumlins.
- 2.1.69 The Errochty Water lies in the middle of the narrow valley floodplain, cutting through glacial deposits which create incised meanders. At the head of the valley lies the man-made Loch Errochty which was created by a dam across the valley, as part of the Tummel hydroelectric power scheme.
- 2.1.70 Arable agriculture is almost entirely absent from the glen, with pasture on improved fields on the valley floor and rough pasture on lower slopes. Fields are small scale, reflecting the local landform with dry stone dykes and post and wire fencing. Native birch and oak broadleaved woodland is located on steeper ground with some areas designated AWI and there are substantial area of coniferous plantation, particularly on the southern side of the glen. Plantation species are mixed and include larch, sitka and other commercial species creating a more natural mottled appearance with broadleaved trees from field boundaries and burns encroaching into the plantations.
- 2.1.71 Settlement within the LCA mostly comprises stone farmsteads, often white washed with slate roofs and sited on the valley floor, in the lee of spurs or associated with small woodlands. The pattern of the farmsteads is the most obvious contemporary evidence of a long history of past land use, but in the hinterland there are extensive areas of prehistoric hut circles and field systems, pre-improvement farmsteads and occasional abandoned 19th century farms.

2.1.72 A summary of the key characteristics of the LCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 14 below.

Table 14: Landscape character summary for the Highland Glens LCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A traditional highland glen with a narrow valley and steeply sloping sides and many classic glacial topological features. • The presence of the mountains is the dominant influence on landscape character. • The narrowness of the glen results in a relatively small scale landscape. • Settlement comprises scattered farmsteads on lower slopes constructed from local materials. • A settled glen with dwellings mostly accessed from the B847.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open but enclosed Glen Errochty is dramatic and has an attractive variety of farmland and mature woodland. • The river is frequently visible and gently meanders with glacial-fluvial deposits a feature, forming a relatively level floodplain. • Rapids, gorges and waterfalls where bands of harder rocks occur; • The B847 usually follows the river at the base of the wooded slopes and there are often clear views across the valley from the road.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geometric blocks of commercial forestry plantations which do not fit with the natural flow of the landscape. • An imbalance within the glen due to a concentration of woodland on the southern slopes and the retention of pastures and open moorland on the northern slopes.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape designations: None • Landscape quality (condition): medium. Farmland and field boundaries are generally well maintained. • Scenic quality: medium. The open glen has an attractive combination of pasture in the valley with mature woodland and heather moorland on slopes and the hill tops. Long distance views to more distant hills are obtained along the glen. • Rarity: Medium to high. Distinguished by the concentration of pastoral agricultural activity on the valley floor and the predominance of rough grazing, bracken and heather moorland on the valley slopes. • Representativeness: medium to high. The river and surrounding hills are the dominant features of this typical Highland glen landscape. • Conservation/cultural interest: medium. Some scheduled monuments and cultural heritage sites. • Recreational value: low to medium. Recreational features include fishing on Loch Errochty, core paths and woodland walks. • Perceptual aspects: medium. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but does have a sense of tranquillity. • Associations: medium. Writers and artist have been historically attracted to the landscape. <p>Overall value: medium</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape elements: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, and field patterns would significantly alter the landscape character. • Landscape features: low. Considered potentially tolerant to substantial change. Dominant features are large scale and unlikely to be affected by distant changes. <p>Overall susceptibility: low</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: medium</p>

3 References

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