

Appendix 13.2

Local Landscape Character Assessment Methodology and Field Sheets

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1 Introduction

1.1 General

1.1.1 The approach and methodology used is in accordance with best practice, as set out in the guidance noted below, and has been refined to enable a bespoke approach that enables a thorough evaluation of the potential landscape character effects within this highly scenic landscape.

Scope and Guidance

1.1.2 This EIA was undertaken with reference to the Highways Agency et al, '*Interim Advice Note (IAN) 135/10*' and DMRB Volume 11, Section 3, Part 5, '*Landscape Effects*', 1993 and The Scottish Government '*Planning Advice Note 1/2013 Environmental Impact Assessment*'.

1.1.3 The landscape character assessment was also undertaken in accordance with other guidance, which included '*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition*' (GLVIA 3) (Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013) and '*Fitting Landscapes: Securing more sustainable landscapes*' (Transport Scotland, 2014).

1.1.4 Landscape architects from the various Design Organisations across the A9 Dualling Programme formed a sub-group of the A9 Dualling Landscape Forum, to agree a common approach to assessment, to utilise a similar methodology and terminology.

1.1.5 The *A9 Dualling Programme Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report* includes a series of Strategic Considerations and Key Design Implications, which have been taken into account within this visual assessment, the outline design proposals for the Proposed Scheme and mitigation.

1.1.6 The landscape effect of the Proposed Scheme on users of the A9 is important. In accordance with the Highways Agency et al, IAN 125/09, 2009 the assessment of potential effect on views from the A9 are reported in **Chapter 9**.

Study Area

1.1.7 The study area for this assessment includes the visual envelope of the existing A9 between Dalnaspidal and Drumochter. **Drawing 13.1**, in **Volume 3** of this report, identifies an existing theoretical Zone of Visual Influence (tZVI) of the existing A9.

1.1.8 **Drawing 14.3** in **Volume 3** identifies a proposed tZVI based upon the Proposed Scheme. This includes the mainline, the Dalwhinnie junction and other features within the Proposed Scheme. tZVIs are based upon bare ground topography and do not take into account any screening or filtering of visibility by local landform, vegetation or built form, and are therefore a worst case indication of theoretical visibility. See **Appendix 13.1** in **Volume 2** for a description of the methodology behind the proposed tZVI.

1.1.9 Based on the extent of theoretical visibility indicated on **Drawings 13.1** and **14.3** in **Volume 3**, and due to the nature of the upland terrain that the A9 passes through, the visual assessment study area has been set at 5km, with the greatest impacts anticipated within 2km of the Proposed Scheme. These distance buffers are included on **Drawings 13.1** and **14.3** in **Volume 3**. Areas beyond 5km that are within the A9 viewshed will not be subject to perceived significant effects on the visual resource.

- 1.1.10 **Drawing 13.5 in Volume 3** indicates the topography of the area; this has also been taken into consideration when defining the study area, as indicated above.

Baseline data sources

Site Walkover and Surveys

- 1.1.11 The key data sources included Ordnance Survey (OS) map data at 1:25,000 scale, and detailed site assessments made by three chartered landscape architects over a series of visits in 2014 through to 2017. The assessments considered built and outdoor receptors, as follows:
- Built receptors include residential properties, workplaces and recreational buildings
 - Outdoor receptors include users of minor roads, the Highland Mainline (HML) railway, footpaths, cycleways and equestrian routes. The summits of surrounding Munros and other hills adjoining the road corridor are also included as popular recreational destinations

- 1.1.12 Representative viewpoints typical of the visual receptors likely to be affected by the Proposed Scheme have been identified and are set out in **Chapter 14**.

- 1.1.13 Field surveys were carried out to include both winter and summer scenarios. The surveys were carried out by at least two landscape architects on foot and/or by car. Data was collected using a standardised checklist; photographs of the current A9 alignment and potential changes in views associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme that may be physically affected; and photographs to/ from representative viewpoints that may have potential visibility of the scheme.

Desk-based Assessment

- 1.1.14 A desk-based assessment collected baseline information, including a review of the following:
- 1:5,000, 1:10,000, 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 scale OS mapping
 - Google Earth web-based photography
 - Aerial photography
 - Geographical Information System (GIS) datasets (including those obtained through the CFJV GIS team in liaison with relevant stakeholders)
 - Three dimensional visualisation models of the existing A9 and of the Proposed Scheme
 - Fitting Landscapes: Securing more Sustainable Landscapes (Transport Scotland, 2014)
 - Planning Advice Note (PAN) 1/2013: Environmental Impact Assessment (Scottish Government, 2013)

1.2 Local Landscape Character Assessment

- 1.2.1 The derivation of Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs) was based on the methodology and terminology set out by the Cairngorms National Park Authority.
- 1.2.2 The indicative study area for the assessment is represented by the LLCAs identified as likely to be potentially affected by significant effects from the Proposed Scheme. The identified LLCAs, shown on **Drawing 13.4 in Volume 3**, occupy the land included within approximately 1km either side of the Proposed Scheme; based on professional judgement, within land beyond 1km, direct

landscape impacts generally would be negligible due to topography and distance. However, where further potential effects on character were identified, LLCAs were extended accordingly for completeness. This approach was subsequently confirmed during the site assessment.

- 1.2.3 The landscape assessment was undertaken in accordance with DMRB Volume 11, Section 3, Part 5 Landscape Effects, including Section 7, Variation for Widening Schemes (Highways Agency et al., 1993) and Interim Advice Note 135/10 (Highways Agency et al., 2010). The A9 is of recognised importance as a tourist route, so consideration has also been given to the A9 Dualling Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the design principles for mitigation proposals.
- 1.2.4 The methodology described in this section was developed based on Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2002(GLVIA3)).
- 1.2.5 The study area is covered by the SNH commissioned Cairngorm National Park Landscape Character Assessment (CNPLCA), which was used as the basis for the landscape character assessment. This document divides the study area into various Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) of particular Landscape Character Types (LCTs). Detailed desk-based and field assessments were undertaken to allow the boundaries of LCAs to be refined and considered at a more local scale. This provided a level of detail that enabled the evaluation of sensitivity and impact assessment. In some cases, this has meant the subdivision of land which is identified in the SNH assessments as being of a single LCT or LCA into smaller scale units, or LLCAs to better reflect local variations in character.

1.3 Desk Study

- 1.3.1 The desk study entailed the following:
- A review of aerial photographs of the study area, and current 1:25,000 scale and 1:50,000 scale Ordnance Survey (OS), to help identify the presence of areas of statutory designation and protection, landscape elements and patterns;
 - An examination of data relating to landscape, archaeology, ecology, buildings and settlements to provide a thorough knowledge of conservation interests. Other human interests were established by analysing data relating to recreation and public rights of way;
 - Review of strategic studies of the wider programme of works being progressed by Transport Scotland to dual the full A9 from Perth to Inverness.
- 1.3.2 Information of relevance to the Proposed Scheme was extracted from these sources and the following topics were explored:
- Landform and topography
 - Landscape elements
 - Aesthetic and perceptual elements
 - Pattern and scale of landform, land cover and built development;
 - Special values including national and local landscape designations, Conservation Areas and historical and cultural associations.
- 1.3.3 Following the CNPLCA approach, this assessment utilises the Drumochter Pass LCA as a basis for deriving Local Landscape Assessment Areas, further sub dividing the regional character area in identifiably unique Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs). These are distinct and recognisable 'places', which are named, as far as possible, according to local place names. They are all different,

but within each one there is a consistency of character formed by the topography, land use, history, settlement and development pattern and the way the landscape is experienced. They are mapped and their differences developed using field work supported by desk-based review.

- 1.3.4 A description of the landscape characteristics and the landscape experience of each area are provided in written text, along with a succinct summary of what makes the character area distinctive from elsewhere in the Park. The character descriptions of the landscape areas are set out as bullet points, and broadly follow a description of topography and geomorphology, followed by comments on vegetation pattern and current land use, settlement pattern, relevant historic land use and infrastructure.

1.4 Field Survey

- 1.4.1 The study area was visited to conduct an up-to-date field survey that included identification of specific landscape constraints and verification/ supplementation of data collected in the desk study. Field surveys, undertaken in November 2016, were carried out by car and by site walkovers from the surrounding minor roads, tracks and footpaths by a team of two landscape architects.

- 1.4.2 The purpose of the field survey is to identify the key qualities and components of the landscape that cannot be determined by desk based assessment. The landscape character was assessed by completing a field survey sheet template for each landscape area (provided in section 2 below). The field survey sheets were derived from survey sheets developed by other authorities.

- 1.4.3 The survey itself was originally carried out by two assessors (both of which were Landscape Architects). Each Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) area was explored by car initially and footpaths walked where necessary to view inaccessible areas. Once the extent of the LLCA could be visualised on the ground by the assessors a suitable viewpoint was chosen to make the record. This was generally a high point in the landscape area from which a typical view of the LLCA and its components could be obtained. The information recorded included:

- Landform and topography
- Landscape elements, including:

- Built Form	- Woodland /Trees
- Farming	- Hydrology
- Land Cover	- Communications
- Aesthetic and perceptual elements, including:

- Scale	- Colour
- Enclosure	- Balance
- Diversity	- Movement
- Texture	- Pattern
- Form	- Tranquillity
- Line	- Visual Dynamic
- Special values, including national and local landscape designations, Conservation Areas and historical and cultural associations.

- 1.4.4 The data was entered directly into a Map Info database using a laptop. A concise summary was also recorded in the field for each LLCA. Rarity, condition and any comments regarding architecture was noted (including settlement form/vernacular style/local materials)
- 1.4.5 Photo Viewpoints (photos taken that covered all or part of the LLCA) were recorded and marked as selected for visual assessment on an OS map in the field. A representative photograph of the landscape character was taken for each LLCA. The survey point and the photo point locations were fixed using a 6-figure GPS reference.
- 1.4.6 The data recorded in the field was used to produce descriptions of each proposed Local Landscape Character Area. The initial descriptions were used as a basis for the text included in the Landscape Character Assessment chapter.

2 Field Assessment Sheets

Site Location: Dail A' Chuirn		Grid reference/Chainage: 20+000 - 20+900 (begins in Project 7)							
Photo viewpoint reference(s): 1, A									
Views across area (Mark on map):									
Nature of views:	Short	Medium	Long						
Desire lines / Footpaths (Mark on map):									
LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY:									
Flat Undulating Rolling Steep Vertical Exposed Rock	Plain Rolling Lowland Plateau Scarp / Cliffs / Ridge Hills Highland/Massif	Ravine Strath Glen Floodplain							
LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS:									
Built Form	Agriculture	Land Cover	Woodland /Trees	Hydrology	Infrastructure				
Scattered Farms/ farmhouses Village Urban Urban Fringe Industry Military Archaeological /Historical features Ecclesiastic Derelict Land Railway buildings Bridge	Arable Pasture Mixed Rough Grazing Regular fields Irregular fields Walls Hedgerows- managed Hedgerows- unmanaged Fences	Parkland Amenity /recreation Scrub Marsh Bog Moor / heath Meadow Agriculture Rough Grassland Forestry Quarry	Deciduous woodland Coniferous plantation Mixed Woodland Shelterbelt Hedgerow trees Orchard Copse Coppice Isolated trees Avenue Small blocks/ dumps	River – natural River – engineered Canal Burn Drainage ditch / dyke Reservoir Loch Lochan	Motorway A Roads B Roads / Lanes Access track Footpaths Railway Canal Military Pylons Mobile phone masts Telegraph poles				
AESTHETIC / PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS:									
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast	Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Busy
Enclosure	Tight	Enclosed	Open	Exposed	Pattern	Random	Organized	Regular	Formal
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex	Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very Rough	Security	Comfortable	Safe	Unsettling	Threatening
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal	Stimulus	Monotonous	Bland	Interesting	Inspiring
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous	Tranquility	Turbulent	Disturbed	Changeable	Peaceful
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish	Pleasure	Offensive	Unattractive	Attractive	Beautiful
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic	Visual Dynamic	Sweeping	Spreading	Dispersed	Channelled
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER:									
Brief Description: Open/shallow U-shaped strath floor made up of Dail A chuirn floodplain and shallow sloping sides. Coniferous shelterbelt plantation to the east of the A9 blocks views/impression of the character of this side of the area. Slopes are covered in open moorland with burnt umbra/speia winter vegetation colour palette.									
Key Characteristics and Distinctive Features and why important: Long distance views north towards central Cairngorm peaks. Much more open character in contrast to Pass of Drumochter. Presence of dwellings adds add feeling of human intervention in the landscape. Existing functional coniferous plantation to east of A9 create slight sense of enclosure.									
Rarity: Rare due to remote and wild nature of Highlands and location within CNPA. However infrastructure (A9) and obvious man made features (coniferous tree belt) slightly detract from rarity.									
Condition / Management: Moorland results from historic clearmace of primordial forest. Management for grouse shooting by muirburn, which together with occasional deer grazing prevents succession to shrub/woodland.									
Built form and infrastructure: (incl. settlement form/vernacular style/local materials): Drumochter Lodge and Balsporran cottages are dispersed. Drumochter Lodge located within woodland. Balsporran Cottages much more exposed. Both have characteristic white washed external walls and slate roofs. Drumochter Lodge has French style turret.									
Additional Comments (e.g. forces for change): The functional coniferous tree belt is a single species, generally single age tree belt that in the future may need a different management regime and to be supplemented with additon species to ensure its longevity.									

Site Location: Tom a'Bhacain		Grid reference/Chainage: 20+900 - 22+200								
Photo viewpoint reference(s): 1, 2										
Views across area (Mark on map):										
Nature of views:		Short			Medium			Long		
Desire lines / Footpaths (Mark on map):										
LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY:										
Flat		Plan			Ravine					
Undulating		Rolling Lowland			Strath					
Rolling		Plateau			Glen					
Steep		Scarp / Cliffs / Ridge			Floodplain					
Vertical		Hills								
Exposed Rock		Highland/Massif								
LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS:										
Built Form		Agriculture		Land Cover		Woodland /Trees		Hydrology		Infrastructure
Scattered Farms/ farmhouses		Arable		Parkland		Deciduous woodland		River – natural		Motorway
		Pasture		Amenity / recreation		Coniferous plantation		River – engineered		A Roads
Village		Mixed		Scrub		Mixed Woodland		Canal		B Roads / Lanes
Urban		Rough Grazing		Marsh		Shelterbelt		Burn		Access track
Urban Fringe		Regular fields		Bog		Hedgerow trees		Drainage ditch / dyke		Footpaths
Industry		Irregular fields		Moor / heath		Orchard		Reservoir		Railway
Military		Walls		Meadow		Copse		Loch		Canal
Archaeological / Historical features		Hedgerows- managed		Agriculture		Coppice		Lochan		Military
		Hedgerows- unmanaged		Rough Grassland		Isolated trees				Pylons
Ecclesiastic		Fences		Forestry		Avenue				Mobile phone masts
Derelict Land				Quarry		Small blocks/ dumps				Telegraph poles
Railway buildings										
Bridge										snow gates
AESTHETIC / PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS:										
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast	Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Busy	
Enclosure	Tight	Enclosed	Open	Exposed	Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal	
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex	Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic	
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very Rough	Security	Comfortable	Safe	Unsettling	Threatening	
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal	Stimulus	Monotonous	Bland	Interesting	Inspiring	
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous	Tranquility	Turbulent	Disturbed	Changeable	Peaceful	
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish	Pleasure	Offensive	Unattractive	Attractive	Beautiful	
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic	Visual Dynamic	Sweeping	Spreading	Dispersed	Channelled	
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER:										
Brief Description: The landscape feels more enclosed with coniferous snowbelt planting to the east. Coniferous plantation on the slopes of Tom a'Bhacain to the west create the feeling of a wooded character. Views open out towards Dalwhinnie with long distance views of the village. The junction and road, along with snow gates and the pylons make up the infrastructure in this area.										
Key Characteristics and Distinctive Features and why important: The landscape becomes more enclosed, with planting to the east and west, and plantation forest on Tom a'Bhacain to the west. Key man made landscape features are associated with the infrastructure										
Rarity: Rare due to remote and wild nature of Highlands and location within CNPA. However infrastructure (A9) and obvious man made features (coniferous tree belt) slightly detract from rarity.										
Condition / Management: Moorland results from historic clearance of primordial forest. Management for grouse shooting by muirburn, which together with occasional deer grazing prevents succession to shrub/woodland.										
Built form and infrastructure: The Beaully Deny powerline continues to the east of the A9, behind the coniferous snowbelt. Other infrastructure is associated with the A9 road and corridor, with snow gates and then the junction to Dalwhinnie.										
Additional Comments (e.g. forces for change): The functional coniferous tree belt is a single species, generally single age tree belt that in the future may need a different management regime and to be supplemented with addition species to ensure its longevity.										

Site Location: Dalwhinnie		Grid reference/Chainage: 22+200 - 24+000							
Photo viewpoint reference(s): 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, B									
Views across area (Mark on map):									
Nature of views:	Short	Medium	Long						
Desire lines / Footpaths (Mark on map):									
LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY:									
Flat	Plain	Ravine							
Undulating	Rolling Lowland	Strath							
Rolling	Plateau	Glen							
Steep	Scarp / Cliffs / Ridge	Floodplain							
Vertical	Hills								
Exposed Rock	Highland/Massif								
LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS:									
Built Form	Agriculture	Land Cover	Woodland /Trees	Hydrology	Infrastructure				
Scattered Farms/ farmhouses	Arable	Parkland	Deciduous woodland	River – natural	Motorway				
	Pasture	Amenity / recreation	Coniferous plantation	River – engineered	A Roads				
Village	Mixed	Scrub	Mixed Woodland	Canal	B Roads / Lanes				
Urban	Rough Grazing	Marsh	Shelterbelt	Burn	Access track				
Urban Fringe	Regular fields	Bog	Hedgerow trees	Drainage ditch / dyke	Footpaths				
Industry	Irregular fields	Moor / heath	Orchard	Reservoir	Railway				
Military	Walls	Meadow	Copse	Loch	Canal				
Archaeological / Historical features	Hedgerows- managed	Agriculture	Coppice	Lochan	Military				
	Hedgerows- unmanaged	Rough Grassland	Isolated trees		Pylore				
Ecclesiastic	Fences	Forestry	Avenue		Mobile phone masts				
Derelict Land		Quarry	Small blocks/ dumps		Telegraph poles				
Railway buildings									
Bridge									
AESTHETIC / PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS:									
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast	Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Busy
Enclosure	Tight	Enclosed	Open	Exposed	Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex	Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very Rough	Security	Comfortable	Safe	Unsettling	Threatening
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal	Stimulus	Monotonous	Bland	Interesting	Inspiring
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous	Tranquility	Turbulent	Disturbed	Changeable	Peaceful
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish	Pleasure	Offensive	Unattractive	Attractive	Beautiful
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic	Visual Dynamic	Sweeping	Spreading	Dispersed	Channelled
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER:									
Brief Description: Dalwhinnie is visible to the west, with long distance views to the Distillery. There are open views across to the surrounding mountains, with vegetated slopes forming a backdrop to Dalwhinnie, with occasional clumps of shrubs and trees surrounding the A9.									
Key Characteristics and Distinctive Features and why important: Rolling heather moorland to the east and views toward the Monadhliaths. Scattered vegetation to the east contrasts to the muted western slopes									
Rarity: Rare due to location within CNPA and Highlands of Scotland. Here rolling hills can be seen east and west with changeable view depending on weather.									
Condition / Management: Much of the surrounding landscape is managed for grouse shooting and grazing, which represents the vegetation that can be seen. There are extensive plantations to the west of Dalwhinnie.									
Built form and infrastructure: The Distillery is a key built feature, visible from numerous places in Project 8. Distillery is also a big tourist attraction.									
Additional Comments (e.g. forces for change): To the west of the town is a single species coniferous woodland, generally single age trees that in the future may need a different management regime and to be supplemented with additional species to ensure its longevity.									

Site Location: Leacainn		Grid reference/Chainage: 24+000 - 25+300							
Photo viewpoint reference(s): 9, 10, C, D									
Views across area (Mark on map):									
Nature of views:		Short		Medium			Long		
Desire lines / Footpaths (Mark on map):									
LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY:									
Flat		Plan			Ravine				
Undulating		Rolling Lowland			Strath				
Rolling		Plateau			Glen				
Steep		Scarp / Cliffs / Ridge			Floodplain				
Vertical		Hills							
Exposed Rock		Highland/Massif							
LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS:									
Built Form	Agriculture	Land Cover	Woodland /Trees	Hydrology	Infrastructure				
Scattered Farms/ farmhouses	Arable	Parkland	Deciduous woodland	River – natural	Motorway				
	Pasture	Amenity / recreation	Coniferous plantation	River– engineered	A Roads				
Village	Mixed	Scrub	Mixed Woodland	Canal	B Roads / Lanes				
Urban	Rough Grazing	Marsh	Shelterbelt	Burn	Access track				
Urban Fringe	Regular fields	Bog	Hedgerow trees	Drainage ditch / dyke	Footpaths				
Industry	Irregular fields	Moor / heath	Orchard	Reservoir	Railway				
Military	Walls	Meadow	Copse	Loch	Canal				
Archaeological / Historical features	Hedgerows- managed	Agriculture	Coppice	Lochan	Military				
	Hedgerows- unmanaged	Rough Grassland	Isolated trees		Pylons				
Ecclesiastic	Fences	Forestry	Avenue		Mobile phone masts				
Derelict Land		Quarry	Small blocks/ clumps		Telegraph poles				
Railway buildings									
Bridge									
AESTHETIC / PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS:									
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast	Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Busy
Enclosure	Tight	Enclosed	Open	Exposed	Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex	Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very Rough	Security	Comfortable	Safe	Unsettling	Threatening
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal	Stimulus	Monotonous	Bland	Interesting	Inspiring
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous	Tranquility	Turbulent	Disturbed	Changeable	Peaceful
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish	Pleasure	Offensive	Unattractive	Attractive	Beautiful
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic	Visual Dynamic	Sweeping	Spreading	Dispersed	Channelled
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER:									
Brief Description: Rolling moorland with the open expanse of the strath , with the pylons standing out as they cross the A9 from the east to west. The embankment of the HML railway is visible to the west. The open strath to the west is relatively featureless.									
Key Characteristics and Distinctive Features and why important: Occasional scattered trees stand out in the open landscape of undulating moorland									
Rarity: Rare due to location within CNPA and Highlands of Scotland. Here rolling hills can be seen east and west with changeable view depending on weather.									
Condition / Management: Land generally managed for grazing and grouse shooting, however some rare habitat type can be found.									
Built form and infrastructure: The BDL crosses over the A9 and visually stands out in this flat open landscape. The HML railway is also present to the west. Cuaich, small cluster of estate houses.									
Additional Comments (e.g. forces for change):									

Site Location: Cuaich		Grid reference/Chainage: 25+300 - 26+700							
Photo viewpoint reference(s): 9, 11, 12, 13, D, E									
Views across area (Mark on map):									
Nature of views:		Short			Medium			Long	
Desire lines / Footpaths (Mark on map):									
LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY:									
Flat		Plain			Ravine				
Undulating		Rolling Lowland			Strath				
Rolling		Plateau			Glen				
Steep		Scarp / Cliffs / Ridge			Floodplain				
Vertical		Hills							
Exposed Rock		Highland/Massif							
LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS:									
Built Form	Agriculture	Land Cover	Woodland /Trees	Hydrology	Infrastructure				
Scattered Farms/ farmhouses	Arable	Parkland	Deciduous woodland	River – natural	Motorway				
	Pasture	Amenity / recreation	Coniferous plantation	River– engineered	A Roads				
Village	Mixed	Scrub	Mixed Woodland	Canal	B Roads / Lanes				
Urban	Rough Grazing	Marsh	Shelterbelt	Burn	Access track				
Urban Fringe	Regular fields	Bog	Hedgerow trees	Drainage ditch / dyke	Footpaths				
Industry	Irregular fields	Moor / heath	Orchard	Reservoir	Railway				
Military	Walls	Meadow	Copse	Loch	Canal				
Archaeological / Historical features	Hedgerows- managed	Agriculture	Coppice	Lochan	Military				
	Hedgerows- unmanaged	Rough Grassland	Isolated trees		Pylons				
Ecdesiastic	Fences	Forestry	Avenue		Mobile phone masts				
Derelict Land		Quarry	Small blocks/ dumps		Telegraph poles				
Railway buildings									
Bridge									
AESTHETIC / PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS:									
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast	Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Busy
Enclosure	Tight	Enclosed	Open	Exposed	Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex	Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very Rough	Security	Comfortable	Safe	Unsettling	Threatening
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal	Stimulus	Monotonous	Bland	Interesting	Inspiring
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous	Tranquility	Turbulent	Disturbed	Changeable	Peaceful
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish	Pleasure	Offensive	Unattractive	Attractive	Beautiful
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic	Visual Dynamic	Sweeping	Spreading	Dispersed	Channelled
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER:									
Brief Description: Small settlement of houses and agricultural buildings close to the road, with clusters of tree and shrub planting surrounding the area. Access tracks and local roads are visible with open views of the Allt Cuaich meandering between the hills to the east of the A9.									
Key Characteristics and Distinctive Features and why important: The settlement with the surrounding coniferous and deciduous vegetation is a notable feature to the west. Lechden woods is a noticeable block of coniferous woodland to south of Cuaich.									
Rarity: Small settlements are dotted along the A9, there are no distinguishing features at Cuaich with many of the buildings associated with estate and agricultural use. However, due to location within Highlands of Scotland and CNPA this landscape is rare.									
Condition / Management: Land is generally managed for grazing and grouse shooting. Lechden woods is badly wind thrown, with many of the internal trees fallen over.									
Built form and infrastructure: Residential and agricultural buildings are clearly visible to the west of the A9, with associated access tracks for estate and recreational use.									
Additional Comments (e.g. forces for change): Lechden woods would need monitoring and resupplementing with new tree stock to ensure its survival.									

Site Location: Dallanach		Grid reference/Chainage:26+700 - 29+400								
Photo viewpoint reference(s): 13, 14, F										
Views across area (Mark on map):										
Nature of views:		Short		Medium			Long			
Desire lines / Footpaths (Mark on map):										
LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY:										
Flat		Plan			Ravine					
Undulating		Rolling Lowland			Strath					
Rolling		Plateau			Glen					
Steep		Scarp / Cliffs / Ridge			Floodplain					
Vertical		Hills								
Exposed Rock		Highland/Massif								
LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS:										
Built Form		Agriculture		Land Cover		Woodland /Trees		Hydrology		Infrastructure
Scattered Farms/ farmhouses		Arable		Parkland		Deciduous woodland		River – natural		Motorway
		Pasture		Amenity / recreation		Coniferous plantation		River–engineered		A Roads
Village		Mixed		Scrub		Mixed Woodland		Canal		B Roads / Lanes
Urban		Rough Grazing		Marsh		Shelterbelt		Burn		Access track
Urban Fringe		Regular fields		Bog		Hedgerow trees		Drainage ditch / dyke		Footpaths
Industry		Irregular fields		Moor / heath		Orchard		Reservoir		Railway
Military		Walls		Meadow		Copse		Loch		Canal
Archaeological /Historical features		Hedgerows- managed		Agriculture		Coppice		Lochan		Military
		Hedgerows- unmanaged		Rough Grassland		Isolated trees				Pylons
Ecclesiastic		Fences		Forestry		Avenue				Mobile phone masts
Derelict Land				Quarry		Small blocks/ dumps				Telegraph poles
Railway buildings										
Bridge										
AESTHETIC / PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS:										
Scale	Intricate	Small	Large	Vast	Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Busy	
Enclosure	Tight	Enclosed	Open	Exposed	Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal	
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex	Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic	
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very Rough	Security	Comfortable	Safe	Unsettling	Threatening	
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal	Stimulus	Monotonous	Bland	Interesting	Inspiring	
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous	Tranquility	Turbulent	Disturbed	Changeable	Peaceful	
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish	Pleasure	Offensive	Unattractive	Attractive	Beautiful	
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic	Visual Dynamic	Sweeping	Spreading	Dispersed	Channelled	
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER:										
Brief Description: Mostly open with some more enclosed areas of cutting with exposed rock, this area becomes more enclosed to the north. Wide open views across the strath with areas of the HMR clearly visible where it comes close to the A9. This area is contained to the east by the ridge line of Creag Ruadh.										
Key Characteristics and Distinctive Features and why important: Open views are a distinctive characteristic with rolling hills on the horizon. River Truim runs through landscape and along with the A9 is a main noticeable feature.										
Rarity: Rare due to location in Highlands of Scotland and CNPA.										
Condition / Management: Land generally used for grazing therefore mainly low level vegetation.										
Built form and infrastructure: This character area is open with glimpses of the Beaully Deny powerline visible to the west beyond the hills. The Highland Mainline Railway can also be seen adjacent to the A9 where it comes close to the road. GWMR is also visible across the strath the west.										
Additional Comments (e.g. forces for change):										

Site Location: Odharaich		Grid reference/Chainage: 29+400 - 30+000							
Photo viewpoint reference(s): 14									
Views across area (Mark on map):									
Nature of views:		Short			Medium			Long	
Desire lines / Footpaths (Mark on map):									
LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY:									
Flat		Plain			Ravine				
Undulating		Rolling Lowland			Strath				
Rolling		Plateau			Glen				
Steep		Scarp / Cliffs / Ridge			Floodplain				
Vertical		Hills							
Exposed Rock		Highland/Massif							
LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS:									
Built Form	Agriculture	Land Cover	Woodland /Trees	Hydrology	Infrastructure				
Scattered Farms/ farmhouses	Arable	Parkland	Deciduous woodland	River – natural	Motorway				
	Pasture	Amenity / recreation	Coniferous plantation	River– engineered	A Roads				
Village	Mixed	Scrub	Mixed Woodland	Canal	B Roads / Lanes				
Urban	Rough Grazing	Marsh	Shelterbelt	Burn	Access track				
Urban Fringe	Regular fields	Bog	Hedgerow trees	Drainage ditch / dyke	Footpaths				
Industry	Irregular fields	Moor / heath	Orchard	Reservoir	Railway				
Military	Walls	Meadow	Copse	Loch	Canal				
Archaeological /Historical features	Hedgerows- managed	Agriculture	Coppice	Lochan	Military				
	Hedgerows- unmanaged	Rough Grassland	Isolated trees		Pylons				
Ecclesiastic	Fences	Forestry	Avenue		Mobile phone masts				
Derelict Land		Quarry	Small blocks/ dumps		Telegraph poles				
Railway buildings									
Bridge									
AESTHETIC / PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS:									
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast	Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Busy
Enclosure	Tight	Enclosed	Open	Exposed	Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex	Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very Rough	Security	Comfortable	Safe	Unsettling	Threatening
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal	Stimulus	Monotonous	Bland	Interesting	Inspiring
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous	Tranquility	Turbulent	Disturbed	Changeable	Peaceful
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish	Pleasure	Offensive	Unattractive	Attractive	Beautiful
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic	Visual Dynamic	Sweeping	Spreading	Dispersed	Channelled
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER:									
Brief Description: This small character area has a feeling of enclosure , with the A9 passing through cutting and vegetation to either side of the road. Rock cutting is present to the eastern side									
Key Characteristics and Distinctive Features and why important: Cascades are present amongst areas of exposed rock and stand out as distinctive features. These are important due to rarity.									
Rarity: The rock slopes with occasional cascades add to the wild character of the area. Landscape is rare due to location with Highlands of Scotland and CNPA.									
Condition / Management: Rock formations are in good condition and have naturally vegetated over time. This would need monitoring and managing appropriately.									
Built form and infrastructure: This is limited to localised infrastucture associated with the A9.									
Additional Comments (e.g. forces for change): Widening the road in this location could have some impact upon the character with some loss of the vegetated slopes surrounding the A9.									

Site Location: Crubenmore		Grid reference/Chainage: 30+000 - 31+000								
Photo viewpoint reference(s): 15, G										
Views across area (Mark on map):										
Nature of views:		Short			Medium			Long		
Desire lines / Footpaths (Mark on map):										
LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY:										
Flat		Plain			Ravine					
Undulating		Rolling Lowland			Strath					
Rolling		Plateau			Glen					
Steep		Scarp / Cliffs / Ridge			Floodplain					
Vertical		Hills								
Exposed Rock		Highland/Massif								
LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS:										
Built Form		Agriculture		Land Cover		Woodland /Trees		Hydrology		Infrastructure
Scattered Farms/ farmhouses		Arable		Parkland		Deciduous woodland		River – natural		Motorway
		Pasture		Amenity / recreation		Coniferous plantation		River – engineered		A Roads
Village		Mixed		Scrub		Mixed Woodland		Canal		B Roads / Lanes
Urban		Rough Grazing		Marsh		Shelterbelt		Burn		Access track
Urban Fringe		Regular fields		Bog		Hedgerow trees		Drainage ditch / dyke		Footpaths
Industry		Irregular fields		Moor / heath		Orchard		Reservoir		Railway
Military		Walls		Meadow		Copse		Loch		Canal
Archaeological / Historical features		Hedgerows- managed		Agriculture		Coppice		Lochan		Military
		Hedgerows- unmanaged		Rough Grassland		Isolated trees				Pylons
Ecclesiastic		Fences		Forestry		Avenue				Mobile phone masts
Derelict Land				Quarry		Small blocks/ clumps				Telegraph poles
Railway buildings										
Bridge										
AESTHETIC / PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS:										
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast	Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Busy	
Enclosure	Tight	Enclosed	Open	Exposed	Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal	
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex	Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic	
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very Rough	Security	Comfortable	Safe	Unsettling	Threatening	
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal	Stimulus	Monotonous	Bland	Interesting	Inspiring	
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous	Tranquility	Turbulent	Disturbed	Changeable	Peaceful	
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish	Pleasure	Offensive	Unattractive	Attractive	Beautiful	
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic	Visual Dynamic	Sweeping	Spreading	Dispersed	Channelled	
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER:										
Brief Description: Wooded area at the most northern end of Project 8 which is mostly in cutting. Coniferous planting encloses the road to the east and west, with views are focused to the north and south, with glimpses of hilltops beyond the conifers. Occasional glimpse views west across the River Truim to the GWMR.										
Key Characteristics and Distinctive Features and why important: The enclosed nature of this character area is it's key feature and distinguishes it from the open character found mostly in Project 8.										
Rarity: There are limited sections of the A9 which feel enclosed and wooded and variety in the open and enclosed characters on the A9 all add to the sense of wildness experiences along to road. Rare due to location within the Highlands of Scotland and CNPA.										
Condition / Management: Due to slopes to/ from River Truim there is some tree cover in this location and floodplain land. Otherwise land is generally managed for grazing.										
Built form and infrastructure: Glimpse views to the west contain long distance views of the GWMR. Only infrastructure associated with the A9 itself is present through this character area.										
Additional Comments (e.g. forces for change): Widening the A9 will result in some tree loss which would impact upon the enclosed nature of this character area. It is anticipated that replacement and enhancement planting would take place to account for any lost vegetation.										