

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

1 Introduction

1.1.1 This appendix supports Chapter 13 (Landscape) of the Environmental Statement (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 have also 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:

- Landscape Study to Inform Planning for Wind Energy Final Report (David Tyldesley and Associates/Perth & Kinross Council, 2010);
- Tayside Landscape Character Assessment: Scottish Natural Heritage Review 122 (Scottish Natural Heritage, 1999); and
- A9 Dualling Programme. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Environmental Report Addendum. Appendix F – Strategic Landscape Review Report (Transport Scotland, 2014).

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 (GLVIA 3) (p. 156) defines Landscape Elements as;

‘Individual parts which make up a landscape, such as, for example, trees, hedges and buildings’,

1.1.5 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.’

1.1.6 The location of the LLCAs and LCAs are shown on Figure 13.2 of the ES.

2 Baseline Conditions

Local Landscape Character Areas

2.1.1 The LLCAs within the study area are described below.

Strath Tay: Lower Glen LLCA

2.1.1 The Strath Tay: Lower Glen LLCA comprises a glaciated valley profile covered by extensive semi-natural and managed estate woodland. It surrounds the Strath Tay: Dunkeld and Birnam LLCA (Settlement).

2.1.2 The River Tay lies in the middle of a narrow floodplain within the LLCA, the large river meandering past a series of surrounding spectacular steep hills such as Birnam Hill, Duncan’s Hill and King’s Seat. While glaciation has had a significant effect on the glen, the LLCA lacks many of the classic

depositional glacial features found higher up. The river is lined with riparian trees and frequently backed by mixed woodland.

- 2.1.3 Areas of relatively fertile farmland are concentrated around the floodplain, particularly to the south of the LLCA, with medium scale fields divided by post and wire fences. The influence of large estates is visible in the forms of lines of hedgerow trees giving a structured appearance.
- 2.1.4 Woodland is a defining element of the LLCA character and ancient and semi natural native birch and oak broadleaved woodland clothe many steeper slopes such as King's Seat and Birnam Hill, with a high proportion designated AWI. Coniferous woodland includes larch plantations around the crags above Dunkeld contribute with the landform, to impart a sense of enclosure within the glen. With the bare summits which rise beyond, these plantations help to create a dramatic upland character in a relatively lowland area.
- 2.1.5 This is one of the most settled parts of the Highland Glens which historically provided important communication routes through the Highlands. The Highland Main Line railway, existing A9 and traces of General Wade's Military Road follow the Strath Tay and significant bridging points across the river occur at Dunkeld and to the south of Inchmagrannachan. Settlement within the LLCA occurs in villages, hamlets, scattered farmsteads and individual properties which mostly comprise Victorian stone buildings. Larger historic estates have created parkland and extensive woodland which contribute to the wooded character.
- 2.1.6 The combination of woodland and large estates, Victorian settlements and productive farmland give this landscape a rich and dramatic character which contrasts with the more open lowland areas to the south and the wilder upland areas to the north.
- 2.1.7 A summary of the key characteristics of the LCA in addition to its attributes and sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Landscape character summary for the Strath Tay: Lower Glen LLCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A classic lower highland glen with a narrow valley and steeply sloping wooded hill sides. • Extensive broad leaved and coniferous woodland dominates and emphasises the enclosed nature of the LLCA. • In places the River Tay broadens out to meander through a fertile floodplain. • Well settled with a developed character due to the influence of farmland and large estates.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dramatic and attractive variety of farmland and mature woodland give a rich character. • The river is frequently visible and gently meanders with glacial-fluvial deposits a feature, forming a relatively level floodplain. • The presence of large historical estates brings structure to the landscape.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some areas the structure is in decline with fragmented lines of trees.
Value	<p>Landscape designations: River Tay (Dunkeld) NSA, Dunkeld House GDL, The Hermitage GDL, Murthly Castle GDL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape quality (condition): High. Farmland and field boundaries are generally well maintained. • Scenic quality: High. Views outwith the LLCA are generally limited by the enclosing landform and views within the LLCA are frequently highly attractive due to the high quality wooded landscape. Long distance views to more distant hills are obtained along the glen. • Rarity: High. An individual landscape due to the unusual combination of historic estates, the predominance of mature woodlands and the distinctive landform. • Representativeness: High. The river and surrounding hills are the dominant features of this typical Highland glen landscape. • Conservation/cultural interest: High. Reflected in the high number of designated landscapes and cultural heritage sites. • Recreational value: High. Recreational features include The Hermitage and Ossian's Hall of Mirrors, fishing on the River Tay and core paths and woodland walks in the Tay Forest Park. • Perceptual aspects: High. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but is of a high quality due to its historical landscape structure.

Landscape Attributes	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations: High. Birnam Wood is associated with Shakespeare's Macbeth. Writers and artist have been historically attracted to the landscape. <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape elements: Medium to High. Considered potentially tolerant to change associated with the proposed development. Removal of ancient woodland would have the possibility to affect visibility of the road and landscape character locally. Landscape features: Low. Considered to have some ability to accommodate the proposed development. Any changes to the visibility of the road are not likely to significantly alter the landscape features of the LLCA. <p>Overall susceptibility: medium to high</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: high</p>

Strath Tay: Dunkeld and Birnam LLCA (Settlement)

- 2.1.8 The Strath Tay: Dunkeld and Birnam LLCA (Settlement) comprises the settlements of Dunkeld, Birnam and Little Dunkeld which lie on the flat northern and southern banks of the River Tay. The area incorporates many fine examples of a Victorian Highland vernacular architecture. The LLCA is surrounded by the hills of the Strath Tay: Lower Glen LLCA and the spectacular setting adds to the distinctive townscape character of the LLCA.
- 2.1.9 The LLCA encompasses two Conservation Areas; Dunkeld Conservation Area and Birnam Conservation Area and lies adjacent to Dunkeld House GDL. It also lies within the River Tay (Dunkeld) NSA.
- 2.1.10 Dunkeld is set on the northern bank of the River Tay whilst Birnam and Little Dunkeld lie on the southern bank. Dunkeld is one of the most complete 18th century country towns in Scotland with many buildings restored by the National Trust for Scotland. The town is linked to Birnam and Little Dunkeld by the Thomas Telford designed Dunkeld Bridge. Dunkeld's main street, Atholl Street, runs north-south and leads downhill to the bridge with a key view looking south across the bridge and the River Tay. Views are also obtained to the south from open areas in Dunkeld adjacent to the northern bank of the River Tay.
- 2.1.11 The existing A9 and the Highland Main Line railway run in parallel along the southern side of the valley to the south of Birnam and views to the road from most locations within the LLCA are screened by intervening roadside vegetation.
- 2.1.12 Dunkeld and Birnam attract large numbers of tourists and visitor attractions include Dunkeld Cathedral and Beatrix Potter's Garden.
- 2.1.13 A summary of the key characteristics of the LLCA in addition to its attributes and sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Landscape Character Summary for the Strath Tay: Dunkeld and Birnam LLCA (Settlement)

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The settlements of Dunkeld, Birnam and Little Dunkeld straddle the banks of the River Tay. The spectacular amphitheatre setting of the surrounding hills adds to the distinctive character. The towns are set in the Strath Tay: Lower Glen LLCA and surrounded by dense mature woodland. The stone built, Victorian townscapes are relatively unaltered since they were developed as a Highland holiday resorts during the last half of the nineteenth century. The transport corridor of the existing A9 and Highland Main Line railway run to the south of the settlements generally hidden from view by vegetation.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dunkeld is architecturally one of the most complete 18th century country towns in Scotland. Mature gardens and riverside trees contribute significantly to the townscape experience. The setting of the settlements in a natural bowl, framed by forests and mountains

Landscape Attributes	Description
	beyond, is visually enriching.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual clutter sometimes spoils the architectural character of building groups and public realm areas.
Value	<p>Landscape designations: River Tay (Dunkeld) NSA, Dunkeld Conservation Area, Birnam Conservation Area.</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 scenic quality. Dunkeld and Birnam are framed by wooded hills 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, contribute to the town's Highland character with most building in local whin and sandstone. Recreational value: High. Numerous visitor attractions including Dunkeld Cathedral, the Birnam Oak and campsites. Perceptual aspects: Medium. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but does have a sense of tranquillity. Associations: High. Numerous associations to the landscape including Macbeth and Beatrix Potter. <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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall sensitivity: medium/high

Strath Tay: Mid Glen LLCA

- 2.1.14 The Strath Tay: Mid Glen LLCA runs south from the River Tay's confluence with the River Tummel at Logierait until the glen is enclosed by a steep sided pass which lies south of Inchmagrannachan. The LLCA has the essential qualities of a traditional highland strath; a flat-bottomed valley with steeply sloping sides cutting through glacial deposits. The River Tay is a large river which gently meanders across a broad, often level floodplain with tributaries cutting narrow, incised channels.
- 2.1.15 The LLCA is characterised by a broad 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, including Craigvinean Forest, part of the Tay Forest Park, on upper slopes.
- 2.1.16 Settlement in the LLCA comprises scattered villages which are frequently sited around tributary burns including Dowally, Guay and Kindallachan and also individual properties and farmsteads which are generally located above the floodplain.
- 2.1.17 The landscape is generally open and there are attractive views across the farmland along and across the valley to the surrounding hills. Views outwith the LLCA are frequently restricted by the enclosing landform although some long distance views are experienced along the strath to the mountains beyond in the north.
- 2.1.18 A summary of the key characteristics off the LLCA in addition to its attributes and sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Landscape Character Summary for the Strath Tay: Mid Glen LLCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A traditional highland strath with a broad, flat-bottomed valley and steeply sloping sides which lack many of the classic glacial features. • The open strath of the Tay has a combination of farmland, forestry and estate woodland, with much of the woodland is AWI designated. • 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 railway and the A9 route.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open but enclosed Strath Tay 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, with views beyond the road in the south of the LLCA restricted by roadside vegetation and adjoining woodland. • 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 railway are noticeable features along the strath.
Value	<p>Landscape designations: River Tay (Dunkeld) NSA, Tay Forest Park.</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 and riverside walks. • Perceptual aspects: Medium. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but does have a sense of tranquillity in parts. • Associations: Medium. Writers and artist have been historically attracted 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 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/high</p>

Strath Tay: Upper Glen LLCA

- 2.1.19 The Strath Tay: Upper Glen LLCA is located to the west of Ballinluig. The essential qualities of the LLCA are those of a traditional highland strath; a flat-bottomed valley with steeply sloping sides. The Tay is a large river which gently meanders across a broad, often level floodplain with tributaries cutting through narrow, incised channels.
- 2.1.20 The LLCA is characterised by a wide valley floor which is covered with large areas of relatively fertile arable and pasture farmland. The farmland is most productive on the floodplain alluvium but also

extends further up the valley slopes. The influence of large estates including GDLs is often visible giving the valley a well-wooded and structured appearance whilst there are large areas of coniferous forestry on upper slopes. There are attractive views across farmland along the valley to the surrounding hills.

2.1.21 Settlement in the LLCA is scattered, with small villages, individual properties and farmsteads generally located above the floodplain. The landscape is open but the landform including wooded hills restricts views out.

2.1.22 A summary of the key characteristics of the LLCA in addition to its attributes and sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Landscape Character Summary for the Strath Tay: Upper Glen 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 Tay has a combination of farmland, forestry and estate woodland. Much of the woodland is AWI designated. • 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.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open but enclosed Strath Tay 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. • Scenic long distance views are obtained along the valley floor to surrounding wooded hills and more distinct peaks beyond.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although not within it, the transport routes of the A9 and railway are noticeable features from eastern parts of the LLCA.
Value	<p>Landscape designations: Taymouth Castle GDL, Bolfracks GDL, Castle Menzies GDL, Cluny House GDL, Grandtully Castle GDL, Tay Forest Park.</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. • Rarity: Medium. 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: High. Five GDLs, Grandtully and Strathtay CA, Aberfeldy CA and some scheduled monuments and cultural heritage sites. • Recreational value: Medium. Recreational features include campsites and woodland and riverside walks. • Perceptual aspects: Medium. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but does have a sense of tranquillity in parts. • 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 the landscape character locally and visibility to the A9, particularly in the dense woodland after the eastern LLCA extents. • Landscape features: Medium. Considered to have some ability to accommodate the proposed development. The woodland areas in the east of the LLCA restrict views of the A9 and may be sensitive to development pressures. <p>Overall susceptibility: medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: medium</p>

Strath Tummel LLCA

- 2.1.23 The Strath Tummel LLCA comprises the flat-bottomed meandering River Tummel valley which is located between Pitlochry and Ballinluig. The defining 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.
- 2.1.24 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.
- 2.1.25 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.
- 2.1.26 A summary of the key characteristics off the LLCA in addition to its attributes and sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 5 below.

Table 5: 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 AWI designated. • 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 railway and the A9 route.
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 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. • Associations: Medium. Writers and artist have been historically attracted to the landscape. <p>Overall value: medium</p>

Landscape Attributes	Description
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)	Overall sensitivity: medium

Landscape Character Areas (SNH)

2.1.27 The LCAs within the study area are described below.

Highland Foothills LCA

- 2.1.28 This character area is located to the east of Strath Tay from Dunkeld and comprises a series of foothills which run along the line of the Highland Boundary Fault and have a complex geological structure.
- 2.1.29 The LCA is characterised by a mass of glacial moraine superimposed onto a landscape of steep whale backed hills with intervening valleys orientated on an east-west axis. These hills are less pronounced to the west. Watercourses cut through the landscape and there are several kettle lochs along the course of the Lunan Burn which hold nature conservation importance.
- 2.1.30 The LCA is under intensive agricultural use comprising a mix of fertile grasslands and arable fields on more level better drained land. Many farms combine sheep and cattle rearing on the uplands with arable cultivation at lower levels. A number of coniferous plantations are found on the foothills while broadleaved woodland is found on steeper slopes, particularly around lochs and burns that cut steep courses through the hills.
- 2.1.31 The hills are relatively well contained with only occasional glimpses to the heath moorland above or the open lowland below. These longer distance views make an important contribution within the LCA.
- 2.1.32 The foothills are covered by a network of circuitous minor rural roads, often bordered by hedgerows and steep banks. Settlement is limited with a scattering of farmsteads and a few small hamlets. The LCA is a gateway to the glens and forms a boundary between highland and lowland and the limit of Roman occupation, with many archaeological sites ranging from hill forts to ancient stones and crosses. The nature conservation interest around the Lunan valley means the area is popular for recreation and tourism and several caravan parks are found within the foothills.
- 2.1.33 A summary of the key characteristics of the LCA in addition to its attributes and sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Landscape Character Summary for the Highland Foothills LCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complex series of hills with glacial deposits positioned along the Highland Boundary Fault. Winding gorge-like river valleys with kettle lochs. Mixed farming with pasture at higher elevations and arable on lower slopes An enclosed character with views frequently restricted by landform. A sparsely settled rural landscape which is tranquil and has many historical associations to the past.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sparsely settled rural landscape which imparts a tranquil undeveloped character. High quality nature conservation sites along the Lunan valley. A landscape filled with historical associations.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some inappropriate tourism development.

Landscape Attributes	Description
Value	<p>Landscape designations: River Tay NSA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape quality (condition): High. Farmland and field boundaries are well maintained. • Scenic quality: Medium. Views are relatively well contained with only occasional glimpses to the heath moorland above or the open lowland below. • Rarity: Medium. The topography and variety of woodland are not unusual but are integral to landscape character. • Representativeness: Medium. The kettle lochs of the Lunan valley and the surrounding woodland are key features of this complex landscape. • Conservation/cultural interest: High. Scheduled monuments. Much of the woodland is AWI designated. • Recreational value: High. Recreational features include the Loch of the Lowes Visitor Centre and woodland walks. • Perceptual aspects: High. The landscape is designated as an NSA and known for its beauty and tranquillity. • Associations: High. Loch of the Lowes is famous for its breeding ospreys. <p>Overall value: high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape elements: Considered potentially tolerant to change associated with the proposed development. Low. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, and field patterns would significantly alter the landscape character. • Landscape features: Low. Considered to have some ability to accommodate the proposed development. Features are unlikely to be affected by distant changes. <p>Overall susceptibility: low</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: medium to high

Highland Glens LCA

- 2.1.34 The Highland Glens LCA comprises Strath Brann, 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.
- 2.1.35 The River Braan lies in the middle of the narrow valley, cutting through glacial deposits which create incised meanders. It passes over several notable falls including the Falls of Braan and at Rumbling Bridge. The River Tay (Dunkeld) NSA covers a small part of the LCA to the east. Long distance views along the glen are obtained from open locations to hills in the east and west.
- 2.1.36 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 woodlands are located on steeper ground. Some of these woodlands are designated AWI. In addition to the broadleaved woodlands there are substantial area of coniferous plantation, particularly on the northern side of the glen. Plantation species are mixed and include larch, sitka spruce and other commercial species creating a more natural mottled appearance with broadleaved trees from field boundaries and burns encroaching into the plantations.
- 2.1.37 Settlement within the LCA mostly comprises villages, hamlets and 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.
- 2.1.38 A summary of the key characteristics of the LCA in addition to its attributes and sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 7 below.

Table 7: 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 hamlets and scattered farmsteads on lower slopes constructed from local materials. • A settled glen with dwellings mostly accessed from the B822.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open but enclosed Strath Braan 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 B822 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.
Value	<p>Landscape designations: River Tay (Dunkeld) NSA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: 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 the River Braan, 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 to high</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape elements: Low. Considered potentially tolerant to change associated with the proposed development. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, and field patterns would significantly alter the landscape character. • Landscape features: Low. Considered to have some ability to accommodate the proposed development. 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 to high</p>

Highland Summits and Plateaux LCA

- 2.1.39 The Highland Summits and Plateaux LCA is an upland area separated by the principal glens to the north of the Highland Boundary Fault and is located to either side of Strath Tay. 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.
- 2.1.40 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.

- 2.1.41 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.
- 2.1.42 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.
- 2.1.43 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.
- 2.1.44 A summary of the key characteristics of the LCA in addition to its attributes and sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 8 below.

Table 8: 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 views to the settled glens limited 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	<p>Landscape designations: Cairngorms National Park, Loch Tummel NSA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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 sensitive to 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 to have some ability to accommodate the proposed development. Features are large scale and unlikely to be affected by distant changes. <p>Overall susceptibility: medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	<p>Overall sensitivity: high</p>

3 References

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