

**Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route**  
Environmental Statement Appendices 2007  
**Part C: Southern Leg**  
**Landscape Area Descriptions, Sensitivity and Impacts**

## **1.1 Introduction**

- 1.1.1 This appendix sets out the baseline landscape character using Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) to describe the Southern Leg study area. For each LLCA the description includes location, topography, drainage, land use, settlement, views, key characteristics, positive and negative attributes, designations, condition and scenic quality.
- 1.1.2 The location of the Local Landscape Character Areas and landscape designations are shown on Figures 26.2a-c.
- 1.1.3 Photographs illustrating the characteristics of each Local Landscape Character Area are shown on Figures 26.4a-r.
- 1.1.4 In Table 38 the main elements of each LLCA, both directly and indirectly affected, are described and a judgement made of the value and susceptibility. The sensitivity of each element is then evaluated.
- 1.1.5 Both Landscape sensitivity and the magnitude of change are combined in Table 39. The framework given in Chapter 26, Landscape, Table 26.4 was then used to help determine impact significance, taking into account mitigation proposals, for winter year of opening and in the summer after fifteen years.

### **Baseline Conditions**

- 1.1.6 The LLCAs within the Southern Leg study area are listed and described below in order of character type.

## **1.2 Hill Landscape Character Type**

### **Stranog Hill (Directly Affected)**

- 1.2.1 This LCA is an area of higher ground located approximately 4km south of the River Dee and covers a curving ridgeline of nine hills and the rolling ground between them.
- 1.2.2 Seven of the hills are clustered together to form a prominent, undulating ridge above the relatively flat land surrounding Red Moss and the farmland around Blaikiewell farm. The different hills feature as high points on the ridge rather than individual hills. The highest hills of the ridge, Berry Top (approximately 170m AOD) and Stranog Hill (164m AOD), have steep north-facing slopes, with gentler south-facing slopes running into the back of the ridge. The five unnamed hills on the ridge are smaller and less prominent, while the two remaining hills at either end of the main ridge are prominent features in the landscape.
- 1.2.3 The unnamed hill at the southern end of the ridge, upon which the settlement of Cookney is built, has a regular elongated shape with steep slopes on its northern and southern slopes and is approximately 160m AOD. This landform contrasts sharply with the flat ground of the adjacent Red Moss. At the north-eastern end of the ridge is the Hill of Auchlea, which has an irregular form with a small, elongated summit at 153m AOD. While it is one of the smaller hills in the ridgeline, it remains a visually prominent landmark and is discernable as an individual hill. The ridge offers extensive views over the relatively flat surrounding land towards the Dee Valley to the north and the North Sea to the east.

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- 1.2.4 The land across the LCA is generally open farmland, divided into regularly shaped fields of small to medium size, arranged around the hillside and the lower eastern slopes of the ridge. The land is generally used for rough grazing, with field boundaries defined by post and wire fencing, hedgerows and drystone walls, many of which have been lost, reflecting the degraded condition of the adjacent land. Vegetation generally consists of small stands and shelterbelts of mature coniferous and broadleaf trees, particularly across the Hill of Auchlea and the unnamed hill to the south of Berry Top. There is also a belt of mature mixed woodland that extends out from the birch woodland covering Red Moss across the lower slopes of the ridge around West Stoneyhill. The woodland stands provide visual enclosure and shelter locally to some of the scattered properties, but their impact is limited, with the majority of the area remaining open and exposed in nature.
- 1.2.5 The small community of Cookney sits on the prominent hill at the southern tip of the LCA, with a small parish church, which is a category C(S) listed building, serving the surrounding farms and dwellings. Further historic features in the area include two SAMs at East Crossley (the remains of a field system, houses and a cairn) and Craigentath (site of a field system and houses) and the category C(S) listed Boswell's Monument at the top of the Hill of Auchlea. The site of a former quarry in the hollow between Berry Top and Stranog Hill has been allowed to fill to form a small fishing pond with open views across low-lying farmland to the north.
- 1.2.6 With the exception of Cookney, settlement is generally limited to isolated farms and dwellings accessed by a network of minor roads. A line of pylons crosses the lower slopes of the Cookney Hill and the back of the ridge, continuing through the valley between the main ridge and the Hill of Auchlea. In the north-eastern corner of the character area, a cluster of telegraph poles for a telephone maintenance training facility forms a prominent landmark, but the general absence of significant development ensures that, overall, the area remains remote and peaceful.

**Table 1 – Landscape Character Summary for Stranog Hill**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Nine hill summits, seven forming a prominent ridgeline. Small stands of mature broadleaf and coniferous woodland. Rough pasture across gentle slopes with occasional steep slopes. Scattered farms and dwellings across area with a small cluster of properties at Cookney.
Positive Character Attributes	Hills provide prominent landmarks within the surrounding area. Extensive views to the Dee Valley and North Sea from the ridgeline.
Negative Character Attributes	Power lines across the back of the ridgeline. Many stone wall field boundaries have been lost.
Landscape Designations	None
Landscape Condition	Coniferous and broadleaf shelterbelts are generally in good condition. Loss of drystone walls on many field boundaries reflects degraded condition of some agricultural land.
Scenic Quality	Many open views across surrounding low lying land towards the Dee Valley and the North Sea to the north and east. The high ground of the ridgeline provides a contrasting backdrop to views from the west across the relatively flat farmland and Red Moss.

**Craigingles (Directly Affected)**

- 1.2.7 This LCA is located to the south of the Dee Valley, the B9077 and opposite the settlement of Milltimber.
- 1.2.8 Forming part of the southern ridge of the Dee Valley, the area features three summits (137m, 139m and 159m AOD) divided by an unnamed valley running northwest towards the River Dee. The gentle slopes in the south rise to 104m AOD and form a boundary with the rolling upland plateau where several rocky outcrops occur. The Blaikiewell Burn defines the western edge of the character area.

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- 1.2.9 The dominant land cover for the area is mixed-age woodland, which occurs in two distinct stands and is generally well-managed. Craingles Wood is a large coniferous plantation in the northeast and Cleanhill Wood is an area of mixed woodland which extends to Hill of Blairs in the south. The northern edges of both woodlands converge north of Kingcausie House before becoming fragmented on lower slopes as they merge with the agricultural landscape of the lower valley where individual fields occur in 'pockets' surrounded by woodland. North of Kingcausie House there is an associated designed landscape which, although not designated, is of notable landscape value. Drystone walls feature as field and access road boundaries, although circulation within the wooded areas is limited to a network of tracks.
- 1.2.10 The small settlement of Craigend in the south of the character area is located on a local road and comprises several dwellings and a school. Elsewhere, settlement is sparse and comprises Kingcausie House, which overlooks the River Dee, scattered dwellings generally around the edge of the character area and Storybook Glen, a theme park on the western boundary. Local roads form the southern boundary of this LCA and the busy B9077 runs east to west along the northern boundary, parallel with the River Dee.
- 1.2.11 The area is generally self-contained and enclosed by woodland with the only notable outward views being the Kingcausie Estate vista across the Dee Valley.

**Table 2 – Landscape Character Summary for Craingles**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Mature, dense woodland; Scattered settlement; Fields occurring in 'pockets' surrounded by trees; Drystone walls; and Seclusion.
Positive Character Attributes	Secluded and enclosed wooded character with sparse settlement; and, Well-managed, mixed-age woodland.
Negative Character Attributes	Dark and drab areas close to and within coniferous woodlands.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006) CENTRAL SECTION; and, 'Area of Landscape Significance' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006) NORTHERN SECTION.
Landscape Condition	The woodland is generally well managed.
Scenic Quality	A densely wooded hill landscape with limited views to the surrounding area and a notable view from Kingcausie Farm across the Dee Valley.

**Clochandighter (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.2.12 This area is on the southern edge of the basin enclosing Hare Moss.
- 1.2.13 This small, elongated hill (166m AOD) sits roughly 35m higher than the surrounding areas. To the east, the hill features occasional rocky outcrops and merges with the ridge around Hare Moss basin's southern boundary.
- 1.2.14 Land on the eastern slopes is used for grazing and fields are medium-sized and laid out in a strong, rectilinear pattern divided by drystone walls and areas of gorse. Elsewhere, the area generally comprises mixed age coniferous plantation woodlands, which are dense and impenetrable. Firebreaks are provided within the plantation, one of which incorporates an overhead transmission line (OHTL).
- 1.2.15 Views from the LCA are generally contained by dense coniferous plantation but from the eastern edge of the character area there are medium-range views in all directions.

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**Table 3 – Landscape Character Summary for Clochandighter**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Coniferous woodland plantation; Fields used for grazing with drystone walls and areas of gorse; Limited, secluded settlement; and, OHTL.
Positive Character Attributes	Strong field pattern and boundaries.
Negative Character Attributes	OHTL; and Dense impenetrable woodlands.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006).
Landscape Condition	The landscape is productive and well-maintained.
Scenic Quality	Densely wooded hill landscape with medium range views from the eastern edge of the character area.

**Lochend (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.2.16 This comprises the highest ground on the southern bank of the River Dee, located 2.5km west of the A90 (T).
- 1.2.17 Cran Hill, which forms the majority of this LLCA, is a large, irregular hill with a very undulating landform and several summits (the highest being 148m AOD). The north and west facing slopes are steep, with southern slopes more gentle as they merge with the basin containing Hare Moss.
- 1.2.18 There are extensive coniferous and mixed woodland shelterbelts, which are generally located on higher ground. Areas of grazing and arable land are divided into medium-sized fields laid out in an irregular pattern, dictated by local topography and the extent of woodland fringes. Boundaries are generally defined by drystone walls and occasional hedgerow trees.
- 1.2.19 Settlement consists of several isolated farms and dwellings grouped at the crossroads, which is sheltered by and close to mature woodlands. There are two local routes which run across the lower ground of the LLCA and around its western edge, with several access tracks branching off from these.
- 1.2.20 The high ground is largely enclosed by woodland resulting in secluded, enclosed and tranquil areas. The more open areas, through which roads pass, generally have views to the north, west and east.

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**Table 4 – Landscape Character Summary for Lochend**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Undulating area of higher ground; Mature woodland plantation; Irregular field pattern with drystone walls and occasional trees; Dispersed, sheltered settlement; and, Tranquillity.
Positive Character Attributes	Mature woodland plantations; and, Drystone walls with occasional trees.
Negative Character Attributes	Coniferous woodland plantation on higher ground.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006). 'Area of Landscape Significance' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006).
Landscape Condition	The landscape is productive and maintained.
Scenic Quality	A wooded rural landscape with medium range views from local roads to the north, west and east.

**Greenhowe (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.2.21 This area is located on the southern fringe of the Dee Valley and is to the immediate west of the A90 (T).
- 1.2.22 The majority of the area comprises Blue Hill (135AOD) and an unnamed hill to the west. The smooth grassed summit of Blue Hill merges with the upper slopes of the Dee Valley to the north and the rising plateau in the south. The unnamed wooded hill to the west features regular, gentle slopes.
- 1.2.23 Mixed woodland is located on higher ground in the west and is flanked by fields in mixed use bordered by drystone walls and lines of overgrown beech trees.
- 1.2.24 Settlement comprises a small number of secluded dwellings and one farm which area generally scattered alongside local tracks. Redmoss Road runs east-west through the area. A number of transmission masts are situated on higher ground.
- 1.2.25 The commercial woodlands of Duff's Hill enclose the area to the south and restrict views creating a sense of remoteness. To the north and east, the area is exposed and obtains open attractive views over an agricultural landscape to the Dee Valley, the City of Aberdeen, Kincorth Hill and in the far distance the North Sea.

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**Table 5 – Landscape Character Summary for Greenhowe**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Gently sloping, open landscape; Woodland blocks; Mixed agricultural land; and, Dispersed, secluded settlement.
Positive Character Attributes	Open, scenic views across surrounding landscape.
Negative Character Attributes	Transmission mast; and Reservoir (on the eastern boundary of the character area) and reservoir works.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006).
Landscape Condition	The landscape is productive and well-maintained.
Scenic Quality	A hill landscape with panoramic views to the north and east. Views south are limited by the woodlands of Duff's Hill.

**Kincorth Hill (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.2.26 Kincorth Hill lies between the settlements of Kincorth and Cove Bay and east of Altens industrial estate.
- 1.2.27 Steep slopes are located north and west of an undulating plateau which forms the boundary to built development at Kincorth and which rise to a small summit of open moorland at Kincorth Hill (105m AOD). A number of rocky outcrops define the area between the steep slopes and the plateau and there is evidence of past small-scale quarrying.
- 1.2.28 The dominant land use on the plateau is pastoral farming on small to medium sized fields, which are divided by drystone walls and often feature gorse and scrub. The remainder of the area is heath and scrub and there is a small area of coniferous woodland located northwest of Loirston Loch. A public viewpoint on the summit illustrates key landmarks and there are interpretation boards for walkers.
- 1.2.29 The area is crossed, on an east-west alignment, by a line of OHTL. Settlement is restricted to a small number of isolated farms and dwellings situated along Redmoss Road, which crosses the eastern edge of the character area in a north south alignment.
- 1.2.30 The area is very open with a panoramic view of the City of Aberdeen from the coast to the hills in the west and area forms a skyline feature on the southern edge of the city.

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**Table 6 – Landscape Character Summary for Kincorth Hill**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Exposed upland area which provides a physical barrier between Aberdeen City and the open farmlands around Loirston; Neighbouring industrial development; Drystone walls; Sloping ground featuring large areas of gorse, scrub and heath; OHTL; and Limited settlement.
Positive Character Attributes	Open fields with sporadic clumps of vegetation; Panoramic views; and Open rural character.
Negative Character Attributes	Visual impact of industrial development on the LLCA fringes; Areas of gorse; and OHTL
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004).
Landscape Condition	The condition of the area is reduced by the presence of degraded scrub moorland and former quarrying.
Scenic Quality	Hill landscape with panoramic views of the City of Aberdeen from the coast to the hills in the west. The hill is highly visible from the A90 (T) and the A956, presenting a rural contrast to built development to the north.

**Beanshill (Directly Affected)**

- 1.2.31 The area is situated immediately northwest of the settlement of Milltimber.
- 1.2.32 This is an area of gently undulating ground rising to 146 AOD in the centre of the character area and featuring many smaller summits. Some of these summits occur as rocky outcrops which have been colonised by gorse. On the southern fringe the ground slopes to the Dee Valley. There are several man-made drainage channels on the higher ground.
- 1.2.33 There is an irregular agricultural pattern and grazing is the dominant land use. Fields are small to medium-sized and laid out in an irregular pattern. There are trees and block of shelter planting along field boundaries and clumps of deciduous and mixed woodland associated with settlement.
- 1.2.34 Settlement is scattered and comprises isolated farms and dwellings on the higher ground, with a notable cluster of converted farm buildings at Upper Beanshill, linked by a network of access tracks. The only public highway is Contlaw Road which runs east to west through the area. There are significant numbers of wooden pole lines crossing through the character area.
- 1.2.35 Views and focal points change throughout this area due to the varying topography and degrees of enclosure from woodland, however views are generally open to the south and west and extend to the Dee Valley and the distant north eastern edge of the Highlands.

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**Table 7 – Landscape Character Summary for Beanshill**

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Gently undulating ground; Occasional rocky outcrops colonised by gorse; Pastoral agriculture and Irregular field pattern; Scattered settlement, typically with woodland clumps; and Wooden pole lines cross through the landscape.
Positive Character Attributes	Scattered settlement within traditional and converted buildings; Varied land cover around rocky outcrops; and Panoramic view to south and west.
Negative Character Attributes	Wooden pole lines.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Mix of maintained farmland and unproductive, exposed upland.
Scenic Quality	A hill landscape with good panoramic views to the Dee Valley and the north eastern edge of the Highlands.

**Fifeshill**

- 1.2.36 This LLCA features two hills, Gairnhill and Kingshill, and the gentle slopes and low-lying ground which surrounds them. The area is centred roughly 1km south west of the settlement of Kingswells.
- 1.2.37 The two hills are quite different in form. Gairnhill is a rounded summit with steep slopes on its southern side and 174m AOD in height. Kingshill is an elongated summit with an irregular form and 213m AOD in height. Between the two hills, and to the east and west of them, are gentler slopes which merge with the undulating lower ground of surrounding character areas.
- 1.2.38 The highest ground and steepest slopes are covered by mature Forestry Commission coniferous plantation with a network of access tracks and public footpaths. The adjacent land is divided into small to medium sized fields of rough grassland with drystone walls, post and wire fencing and occasional outcrops of gorse.
- 1.2.39 Settlement is limited to isolated farms and dwellings. Further features include a reservoir and a historic 'Cup and Ring' marked stone. As well as the numerous paths and access tracks within the forest, a busy minor road runs west to east through the south of the area. An OHTL crosses the northeast corner of the area and another runs parallel in the neighbouring character area.
- 1.2.40 The areas of woodland are dense and create a strong sense of enclosure. At the woodland fringes and on the lower lying areas, there is still a sense of seclusion but medium-range views across neighbouring areas are possible.



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**Table 8 – Landscape Character Summary for Fifeshill**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Two hill summits; Mature coniferous plantation; Gently sloping rough pasture; Woodland path network; and Scattered farms and dwellings around perimeter of area.
Positive Character Attributes	Good public access; and Pastoral farmland set out with drystone walls.
Negative Character Attributes	OHTL; and Monoculture, single-age woodland.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004). 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Coniferous plantation, agricultural land and drystone walls in good condition. Areas bordering A944 slightly poorer condition.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. Views out of the area are mostly restricted by forestry but views from the edges of forestry are possible across the lower lying areas of Clinterty/West Brimmond, Kingswells to the north and west. The high ground of Fifeshill provides the backdrop to views from the north from areas such as Clinterty/West Brimmond, Kingswells and Maidencraig.

**Auchlea (Directly Affected)**

- 1.2.41 This LLCA features a distinct, rounded hill summit centred 2km south west of the settlement of Kingswells.
- 1.2.42 The hill summit is 169m AOD and slopes evenly to a height of around 125m AOD on the north, west and south sides. To the east the hill is linked to Fifeshill character area by a rolling saddle formation.
- 1.2.43 Medium-sized pastoral fields are bounded by drystone walls. The area is open in character and several walls have been replaced by post and wire fencing. There is limited woodland cover with one field in the north of the area planted with conifers and a thin shelterbelt along one field boundary.
- 1.2.44 Settlement consists of several medium-sized farms and small groups of cottages. The area is bounded to the north by the A944 dual carriageway to Westhill and on the west by a busy minor road. Access tracks link farms in the area.
- 1.2.45 The area is very open with views to surrounding countryside. In the north, there are views across the A944 to the settlements of Westhill and Kingswells and to the south and west the views are long range. The A944 impacts on the tranquillity and remoteness of the area.

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**Table 9 – Landscape Character Summary for Auchlea**

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Rounded hilltop; Open agricultural pattern; Small area of coniferous woodland; and, Scattered farms and dwellings.
Positive Character Attributes	Open rural aspect to the south, west and north.
Negative Character Attributes	Visual and aural disturbance from fast-moving, high volume traffic on A944 to the north; Deterioration of drystone walls; and, Prominent modern houses in adjoining character areas.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); and, 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Generally good condition with agricultural land and field boundaries intact, with the exception of land close to A944 and loss of some field boundaries along access to Auchlea Farm which has resulted in slightly poorer condition.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. Attractive long-range views from Auchlea focus to the north towards the higher ground of Brimmond Hill and Cloghill and to the south they are long range across an attractive rural scene. Views to the east are restricted by the forestry plantations on Fifeshill. Auchlea Hill provides the backdrop to views from the north from areas such as Clinterty/West Brimmond and Brimmond Hill.

**Brimmond Hill (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.2.46 Brimmond Hill is 1km northwest of the settlement of Kingswells and is a popular public viewpoint.
- 1.2.47 The hill is irregular and smooth in form, steepest on the north, east and west slopes, gentler to south and south east, and reaches a height of 266m AOD.
- 1.2.48 The area is known as Brimmond Hill and has car parking facilities and a path network which is part of the Four Hills Walk. The hill features areas of open moorland, gorse, several transmitter masts and a war memorial. The north and west slopes are divided into medium to large sized, irregularly patterned fields of rough grazing. The gentle south slope has been divided into small and medium sized rectilinear fields of improved grassland and the majority of fields are bounded by drystone walls and post and wire fencing. Lines of mature broadleaved woodland and mixed tree belts separate the more intensely farmed areas from the moorland.
- 1.2.49 Settlement in the area is limited to isolated farms on the lower south slopes. There is a small network of access tracks and paths within the character area. An overhead transmission line passes through the south west of the area and there is a woodpole line on the lower slopes. Minor roads border the south west and northwest of the area.
- 1.2.50 The hill is high in relation to the surrounding landscape and is therefore very exposed. There are long-range views in all directions.

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**Table 10 – Landscape Character Summary for Brimmond Hill**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Prominent summit with several transmitter masts; Exposed open moorland with scrub vegetation and gorse; and Part of Four Hills footpath network.
Positive Character Attributes	Good public access; Long views in all directions.
Negative Character Attributes	Gorse overtaking naturally regenerating heather; Transmitter masts dominate views to and from hill.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Seen at close quarters, the landscape of Brimmond Hill is in a reasonable condition. Large areas of gorse introduce an untidy character. The presence of transmitters, fencing and a concrete path network introduce an urban character not in keeping with the rural situation and this degrades the landscape condition.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. Panoramic, long-range views possible in all directions. Brimmond Hill is a very prominent feature in most views from within and around Aberdeen but transmitter masts detract from the views to and from the hill.

### **1.3 Open Farmland Landscape Character Type**

#### **Blaikiewell (Directly Affected)**

- 1.3.1 This area lies south of Cleanhill Wood and Durriss Forest to the south of the Dee Valley and covers the relatively flat plateau above the valley.
- 1.3.2 This open expanse is contained by Cleanhill to the North and Stranog Hill to the south. The land rises gently around Burnside and around Crynoch Burn where it flows north to meet the Blaikiewell Burn. In spite of extensive field drainage across the area, permanent ponds remain due to the poor drainage inherent with the mossy ground that extends across much of this raised basin.
- 1.3.3 The land is generally in used as improved pasture land with some arable crops. The regular fields are bordered by post and wire fences or drystone walls, with several belts of hedgerow trees and more substantial shelterbelts. Small, scattered stands of mixed woodland provide screening for properties around the site, with most significant blocks around the clusters of properties at Burnside and Invercrynock.
- 1.3.4 Settlement within the area consists of isolated farms and small clusters of properties adjacent to the roads. The small group of buildings at Invercrynock, in the heart of the LCA, is centred around the listed buildings of Crynoch Mill and an associated bridge. There is also a listed structure at the southern edge of the area at Lairhillock Bridge. The primary road to the west of the area is the B979, with a network of local roads providing access to the scattered farms. Several OHTLs cross the farmland.
- 1.3.5 Views within the area are limited by the surrounding topography and the woodland of Durriss Forest and Cleanhill Wood to the north, but the relatively flat land allows extensive views across this open, rural area and west to the Grampian Mountains.

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**Table 11 – Landscape Character Summary for Blaikiewell**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Upland plateau contained by Cleanhill to the North and Stranog Hill to the south. Permanent ponds remain due to the poor drainage inherent with the mossy ground that extends across much of this raised basin. Several belts of hedgerow trees and more substantial shelterbelts. Relatively flat land allows open views across the area and west to the Grampian Mountains. Busy road corridor along western edge.
Positive Character Attributes	Regular field pattern with drystone walls, several belts of hedgerow trees and more substantial shelterbelts. Relatively flat land allows extensive views across this open, rural area and west to the Grampian Mountains.
Negative Character Attributes	Permanent ponds remain due to the poor drainage inherent with the mossy ground that extends across much of this raised basin. Several OHTLs running across the farmland. Busy road corridor at the western side.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Good overall condition, with productive agricultural landscape despite drainage issues. Field boundaries generally intact.
Scenic Quality	Scenic views across open farmland and west to the Grampian Mountains with adjacent ridgelines and woodland to the north and south providing contrasting backdrops. This rural area features in views from surrounding high ground, with clear views across the relatively flat farmland.

**Craiglug (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.3.6 This area is situated immediately south of the River Dee Valley and north of the Hill of Montsnaught.
- 1.3.7 The land falls steeply along the northern edge as it enters the Dee Valley. Immediately south of this at Upper Ashentilly the land becomes more undulating as it falls away to the south, east and west. A narrow valley has been formed in the east of the area following the course of the Tilbouries Burn.
- 1.3.8 The area is characterised by large open fields defined by coniferous forestry plantations to the north and west. Fields are defined by drystone walls and post with wire fencing. Scrub and gorse characterise the high ground alongside improved pasture and rough grazing. To the east of the area arable crops have been planted. A knoll of mature Scots Pine is an attractive feature at Ashentilly. Some degraded land exists immediately north of Nether Muirskie.
- 1.3.9 Minor roads traverse the area and settlements consist of isolated farms. The area is also traversed from north to south by an overhead power line.
- 1.3.10 Views from Upper Ashentilly and from the minor road through Ashentilly are panoramic and include distant views north east to Peterculter.

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**Table 12 – Landscape Character Summary for Craiglug**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Gently undulating ground falling steeply in the north toward the Dee Valley. Land forming a gentle valley in the east towards Tillbouries Burn with the valley becoming steeper and narrower further east towards East Tilbouries. Blocks of coniferous forestry plantation to the north and west of the area. Gorse scrub on high ground with improved pasture and rough grazing. Arable crops in the gentle valley to the east of the area. Large open grazing fields with drystone walls and post/wire fencing. OHTL crossing the area from north to south. Contrast of exposure on the high ground and enclosure in lower valley areas.
Positive Character Attributes	Panoramic views from Ashentilly. Knoll of pine trees on Ashentilly Hill. Gentle valley with arable crops.
Negative Character Attributes	Overhead transmission line north-south across the area. Degraded land at Nether Muirskie with fly tipping.
Landscape Designations	Area of Landscape Significance in north adjacent to the River Dee.
Landscape Condition	Good overall condition. Woodlands and fields well managed with some productive agricultural land.
Scenic Quality	Panoramic views from Ashentilly northeast across the Dee Valley towards Peterculter, west to the Grampians, south and east over undulating farmland.

**Merchant's Croft (Directly Affected)**

- 1.3.11 This area is located between Clochandighter Hill and Hill of Blairs in the south of the study area.
- 1.3.12 The land slopes south west and is strongly undulating and irregular.
- 1.3.13 The land is primarily used for sheep grazing and fields are divided by drystone walls. There are large areas of gorse and occasional scrubby trees. The small crofts and farmhouses, scattered through the area, are linked by stony tracks.
- 1.3.14 Scenic, distant views are obtained west to the distant hills and south to the Durris Forest

**Table 13 – Landscape Character Summary for Merchant's Croft**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Enclosed small scale upland landscape with scattered small crofts and farms; Remote and isolated linked by network of stony tracks; and Enclosed by higher wooded grounds to the north and east and with long views west and south.
Positive Character Attributes	Strongly rural upland character.
Negative Character Attributes	Areas of gorse.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006).
Landscape Condition	Productive and maintained agricultural landscape.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. Small scale upland landscape with scenic, distant views to the south and west.

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**Hare Moss (Directly Affected)**

- 1.3.15 This is an area centred approximately 2km south of the River Dee and directly west of the A90 (T).
- 1.3.16 The area comprises a wide, open and gently sloping area of farmland which is enclosed by higher ground to the north (Cran Hill and Blue Hill), west (Hill of Blairs) and south (Clochandighter).
- 1.3.17 The gently sloping area drains via a number of drainage channels to the low lying raised bog area of Hare Moss in the north of the LLCA. This area contains a variety of habitats and acid bog vegetation, arising from former peat cutting. Birch and Willow Fen dominates with an under storey of rush and mosses. An area of the Moss has been upfilled to form a level area used by an aero model club.
- 1.3.18 Elsewhere, the land is used for grazing. There is a well-defined, rectilinear field pattern which features drystone walls, often sub divided by post and wire fences and occasional beech hedging, areas of gorse and copses of trees. There are distinctive clusters of mature Scots Pine and rocky outcrops close to Duff's Hill where the mature coniferous plantation contains views to the north east and is a significant focal feature from throughout the area.
- 1.3.19 Settlement comprises isolated scattered farms and dwellings. There is a simple network of access tracks branching from two local routes which run north-south through the area, one of which is a popular walking and cycle route.
- 1.3.20 The low lying topography and woodland enclosure create a tranquil landscape except in the east of the character area due to the proximity of the A90 (T), its associated traffic and noise and the longer range views which are available.

**Table 14 – Landscape Character Summary for Hare Moss**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Wide, open and gently sloping farmland basin contained by Cran Hill (north), Craingles (west) and Clochandighter/Schoolhill (south) featuring Fen scrub woodland at Hare Moss; Strong field boundaries with drystone walls, occasional gorse and tree clumps; Scattered farmsteads and dwellings.
Positive Character Attributes	Tranquillity. Fen habitat.
Negative Character Attributes	Proximity to the A90 (T) and its associated traffic to the east of the character area; and Aero model club.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); 'Green Belt' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006); and 'Area of Landscape Significance' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006).
Landscape Condition	Poor drainage reduces the condition of this landscape.
Scenic Quality	An open gently undulating farmland landscape and with extensive views.

**Loirston (Directly Affected)**

- 1.3.21 This LLCA is located directly south of Kincorth Hill and is dissected by the A90 (T) and the A956. Charleston Junction is located centrally within the character area.
- 1.3.22 In the north, the steeper land drains via a burn and drainage channels to Loirston Loch, while the more gently undulating and level land to the south and east drains to the coast.

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- 1.3.23 The farmland, which is degraded in places, is used for grazing and many fields, bounded by either drystone walls or post and wire fencing, have been fragmented by the road corridors and a line of OHTL. Some field boundaries contain gorse and those to the immediate north of Loirston Loch feature conifer shelterbelts and scrub boundary trees.
- 1.3.24 Loirston Loch separates the farmland from the industrial edge of Cove and is a valuable site for breeding and over wintering of water fowl and is used for bird watching, wind surfing and walking.
- 1.3.25 Settlement is generally to the east of the A90 and comprises a number of scattered former farmsteads and more modern dwellings.
- 1.3.26 A relatively high number of roads pass through the land to the east of the junction and a network of local routes and access tracks branch off from these. The A90 (T) runs north to south through the centre of the character area and there is significant rock cuttings associated with the Charleston Interchange. The A956 follows a route north east towards Cove Bay and Aberdeen Harbour from the junction.
- 1.3.27 The area is very open and the surrounding industrial development, busy roads and OHTL have a significant negative impact. The land suffers from typical urban fringe constraints such as degraded landscapes, reduced agricultural use and continuous development pressures. Potentially attractive features such as Loirston Loch are influenced by the fragmented landscape.

**Table 15 – Landscape Character Summary for Loirston**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Fast moving traffic, road corridors and interchange; Fragmented and degrade agricultural land use; Large water body at Loirston Loch used for water sports heavily influenced by the A956 road corridor and industrial areas to the north east; and Scattered dwellings and former farmsteads.
Positive Character Attributes	Loirston Loch.
Negative Character Attributes	Fast moving traffic and noise associated with road corridors and interchange; Fragmented and degraded agricultural land; OHTL; and Urban Fringe and industrial use at the periphery.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004) NORTH EAST SECTION; 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004) NORTH EAST SECTION; and 'Green Belt' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006) AREAS TO SOUTH.
Landscape Condition	Degraded and fragmented by infrastructure and industry
Scenic Quality	An area of open farmland dissected by road corridors and OHTL which experiences negative visual impacts of the urban fringe and fragmented agricultural land. There are small local areas of higher scenic quality such as at Loirston Loch. Views medium to long range.

**Den of Leggart**

- 1.3.28 This LCA is located immediately to the south of the River Dee and west of the A90 (T).
- 1.3.29 The area includes the valley of the Burn of Leggart – a small tributary of the River Dee – and its small, upland catchment. The burn valley is broad and gentle for the majority of its course, becoming slightly deeper and steeper closer to the River Dee. A small number of drainage channels run to the burn. To either side of the burn the land rises steeply to the adjoining road corridors.

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- 1.3.30 The dominant land use for the area is mixed agriculture although the steepest lower sides of the burn valley are wooded with mature, broadleaved trees. Scrub woodland occurs along field boundaries where stone walls are common. Fields are large to medium-sized and rectilinear with a strong pattern which is based both perpendicular to the burn and as a herringbone arrangement.
- 1.3.31 Settlement is limited to a small number of scattered farms located alongside a small network of local routes and access tracks. A line of OHTL crosses the south of the character area in an east-west direction. The A90 (T) runs along the eastern edge of the valley and a local road along the western edge enclosing the lower ground.
- 1.3.32 Views are very open across the Dee Bridge and the Dee River and to the south of the City of Aberdeen and to the repetitive line of housing on the lower slopes of Kincorth Hill. The area is heavily influenced by the noise and visual disturbance of traffic on the A90 (T).

**Table 16 – Landscape Character Summary for Den of Leggart**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Broad gentle valley; Mixed agriculture with a strong field pattern; Noise and fast moving traffic on the A90(T) road; and Distant views to the city of Aberdeen.
Positive Character Attributes	Agricultural land on the edge of the city; Extensive views; and Mature broadleaved woodlands.
Negative Character Attributes	Noise and fast moving traffic on the A90 (T) road running alongside area.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004) (Eastern section only); 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004) (Eastern Section); 'Green Belt' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006)(Western section); and 'Area of Landscape Significance' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006) (small area to northwest)
Scenic Quality	An attractive area of open farmland which has interesting and panoramic views which extend to Aberdeen and sections of River Dee Valley but which suffers from noise and traffic movement on the A90(T).

**Westfield (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.3.33 This is an area lying south of Blacktop and west of Countesswells Wood. The northern, eastern and southern boundaries are defined by woodlands.
- 1.3.34 The undulating landform is rugged and rough over sections and drains via ditches and ponds south towards the Murtle Dam. There are large areas of marshy ground in the north and scrub and a series of ponds in the west.
- 1.3.35 Land is generally in agricultural use with fields of unimproved pasture in the west and north and with some cropping on lower slopes in the south. Fields in the west and south are defined by drystone walls. Mature trees line ditches and some field boundaries.
- 1.3.36 There is scattered settlement comprising private dwellings and a few farms throughout the area generally located along the local roads to the north, east and southern boundaries. Two lines of OHTL cross the area.
- 1.3.37 Views are generally short to medium range and limited by woodlands and landform. Views west extend over the Dee Valley to the heavily wooded slope on the southern edge of the valley. The area is rural in character, rugged and rough but generally tranquil.



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**Table 17 – Landscape Character Summary for Westfield**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Rugged undulating landform; Varied field pattern and large areas of marshy grassland and scrub; Drystone walls and gorse on higher ground in the north; and, Drystone walls more distinct in the south where some arable cropping is carried out.
Positive Character Attributes	Open and tranquil rural landscape.
Negative Character Attributes	OHTL.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); and, 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Condition ranges from productive to degraded land.
Scenic Quality	An open farmland area with short to medium range views limited by woodlands and landform.

**Anguston (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.3.38 This area is situated to the northwest of Peterculter. To the south it is bordered by the Forest of Drum and to the north by the Woods of Cairnie. The area also includes the northern section of the Culter Burn.
- 1.3.39 The topography is generally rolling and open with a narrow valley to the south east where the Leuchar Burn meets the Culter Burn and flows south towards the River Dee. A disused quarry is a feature at Mid Anguston but is hidden by the topography.
- 1.3.40 The area is predominantly open farmland with fields of improved grassland for grazing and arable crops. Marshland is a feature in the north of the area south of the Leuchar Burn. There are clumps of mixed woodland and a small number of forestry plantations. Dense riparian woodland follows the valley of the Culter Burn.
- 1.3.41 Settlement in the area consists of isolated farmland and a small cluster of housing in Mid Anguston immediately west of the disused quarry.
- 1.3.42 The area is traversed by the busy B979 and a minor road. Overhead transmission lines run through the area on a north-south and east-west orientation.
- 1.3.43 Views are limited by the topography and are medium range.

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**Table 18 – Landscape Character Summary for Anguston**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Rolling open farmland; Clumps of mixed woodland and small number of forestry plantations; Fields with improved pasture and arable crops. Marshland in north; Culter Burn with associated narrow valley and dense riparian woodland; Disused quarry at Mid Anguston; Isolated farms and small settlement at Mid Anguston; Two OHTLs; and Busy B979 and minor road.
Positive Character Attributes	Culter Burn.
Negative Character Attributes	OHTLs. B979.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Unproductive marshland in the north; and Agricultural land generally in good condition.
Scenic Quality	Medium views in a fairly bland landscape. The B979 OHTLs intrude into the rural landscape and thus have a detrimental effect on the scenic quality.

**Kingshill / Bogskeathy (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.3.44 The LCA is located immediately to the south of the settlement of Kingswells and the A944 route.
- 1.3.45 This is an area of gently undulating higher ground situated between the valley of the Den Burn in the north and Loanhead in the south. A busy local route runs north-south through the area with the slopes of Gairnhill to the west of the road and undulating lower ground to the east of the road. Several drainage channels cross the area, carrying water to the Den Burn and the various unnamed waterways in neighbouring character areas.
- 1.3.46 The major land use is agriculture and a significant portion of the eastern area is used for equestrian purposes. This pattern changes on the north-facing slopes in the north east of the area where there is more agricultural use. Fields are generally medium-sized and rectilinear with drystone walls or paddock-style fencing in the south of the area, and significant areas of gorse along field boundaries. Large woodland plantations enclose the area to the east and west. Although the majority of this woodland is coniferous, there is some mixed woodland adjacent to Loanhead in the south and a smaller mixed plantation at Langside in the west.
- 1.3.47 Settlement consists of scattered farms and small groups of dwellings, largely linear concentrations along the busy north-south local route. Recreational resources include a network of recreational paths and bridleways leading to Countesswells Wood and several equestrian centres. Two OHTL pass east-west through the area.
- 1.3.48 The outlook of this character area changes from north to south. In the north, the focus is towards the settlement of Kingswells and the western fringe of Aberdeen with long-range views possible to Brimmond Hill and beyond. There is a significant aural and visual impact from the A944 road corridor in the north of the character area. In the south of the area, dense planting at Countesswells and Hazlehead create an enclosed and secluded atmosphere despite the significant impact from the busy north-south local road.

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**Table 19 – Landscape Character Summary for Kingshill / Bogskeathy**

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Gently undulating higher ground; Drystone walls and paddock-style fencing; Pastoral agriculture with high concentration of equestrian use; Scattered settlement concentrated alongside roads; Large, mature coniferous plantations in the east and west (in neighbouring character areas); Open outlook to the north, enclosed to the south; and Two OHTL.
Positive Character Attributes	Attractive gently undulating pasture and paddocks; Limited development; and Enclosing woodland blocks.
Negative Character Attributes	Busy local road; Large areas of gorse; and Two OHTL.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	This area is in reasonable condition, with mostly intact drystone walls and agricultural land. Loss of walls in the Loanhead area and replacement fencing has introduced a poorer condition. Areas in the vicinity of the minor road between Loanhead and Kingswells are slightly degraded due to traffic impact.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. Long-range views possible to the north across Kingswells. Restricted views to the east, south and west due to landform and woodland. This area is part of the general backdrop in views from Kingswells and the A944.

**Clinterty / West Brimmond (Directly Affected)**

- 1.3.49 This is an area of land bounded on the east by Brimmond and Elrick Hill, to the south by the A944 and to the north by the A96.
- 1.3.50 In the north the topography is gently rolling, incorporating the lower western slopes of Elrick Hill and several smaller hillocks. To the south are gently rising, east and west facing slopes surrounding the Brodiach Burn and surrounding flat ground.
- 1.3.51 The dominant land use across the area is agriculture with small to large field sizes. Most fields have straight post and wire fence boundaries with some rough drystone walls in places. The field alignment and patterns are closely linked to topography and drainage patterns. There is some woodland cover in the form of small woodland blocks and boundary trees and there are notable tree avenues around Mains of Kinmundy in the south west of the area.
- 1.3.52 Settlement is scattered throughout the area consisting of farms, grouped cottages and isolated dwellings alongside the network of busy local roads. Other built developments include a sewage works, the Clinterty Centre which is part of Aberdeen College, and a caravan park, all clustered in the north of the area. Evidence of previous mineral extraction exists in the extreme north and south of the area. Two OHTL cross the area from northwest to southeast. There are several historic boundary and standing stones within the area.
- 1.3.53 This character area is surrounded by areas of higher ground which dominate the views out. Despite this, the area retains an open feel with attractive views of the surrounding rural landscape.

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**Table 20 – Landscape Character Summary for Clinterty / West Brimmond**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Rolling topography and lower hill slopes; Dispersed rural settlement pattern, concentrated along local routes; Rural farmland with a rugged, open character; Scattered small woodland blocks of varied type/quality; Mature tree lines and avenues; Network of local routes; Visual impact of Westhill Industrial Estate; Aural disturbance from A96, A944 and flight path; and, Two OHTL.
Positive Character Attributes	Rural, rolling farmland with a rugged, open character; Dispersed rural settlement; and, Mature tree lines and avenues.
Negative Character Attributes	Visual impact of Westhill Industrial Estate; Aural disturbance from A96, A944 and flight path; and, Two OHTL.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004) 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004)
Landscape Condition	South of area in reasonable condition. Loss of some field boundaries and gorse vegetation has introduced a slightly untidy character. Areas close to the A944 road corridor tend to be in slightly poorer condition due to traffic impact and landfill site.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. Views from this area are across open, attractive countryside and focus on the higher ground of Brimmond Hill and the built up Westhill area. This area is an attractive open farmland landscape and is generally viewed as part of the middleground from the western side of Brimmond Hill, Elrick Hill, the A96, the A944 and the eastern side of Westhill,.

**Maidencraig (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.3.54 This is a rolling area of countryside bounded on the west by Kingswells, on the east by the western fringe of the Aberdeen and on the south by the A944 and the B9119.
- 1.3.55 The highpoint of the area is a hill lying just east of Kingswells with a height of 183m AOD. This is a rounded summit with slopes running gently north towards the Bucks Burn, and more steeply towards the Den Burn in the south. Outwith the character area to the south, the steep, north-facing, and forestry clad slopes of Kingshill Wood are a prominent feature. The Den Burn and several drainage channels flow through the area. In the south west corner the Den Burn runs through a wetland area which has been developed as Den of Maidencraig Local Nature Reserve.
- 1.3.56 The dominant land use in the area is mixed agriculture with small to medium sized fields bordered with drystone walls. There is some evidence of farm diversification with rose bushes being grown in several fields. The pattern of fields is well ordered and rectilinear although many are set at an oblique angle to local routes and access tracks. A number of broadleaved woodland belts and clumps are located along the Den Burn Valley.
- 1.3.57 Settlement is limited to scattered farms and dwellings located alongside the A944 and the farm access tracks which cross the area in an east-west direction.
- 1.3.58 The area is dominated by the A944 which carries high volumes of traffic resulting in visual and noise disturbance. The high ground allows for views across a wide area in all directions, including views of Kingswells to the west and Aberdeen to the east.

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**Table 21 – Landscape Character Summary for Maidencraig**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Rolling, rural landscape; Well-ordered fields with drystone walls; Visual impact from Kingswells; and Busy road corridor.
Positive Character Attributes	Rolling landscape; Higher ground and forestry on Kingshill provides focal point; Well-ordered fields with drystone walls; and Open rural character.
Negative Character Attributes	Visual impact from settlement of Kingswells; and Busy road corridor.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004). 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Agricultural landscape in reasonable condition. Some slightly degraded areas around A944 and B9119 road corridors. Field boundaries generally intact.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. Attractive medium-range views across farmland to the north, west and south. Built up areas to the east and west have a negative impact on views. This attractive rural area features in views from the A944 and from the open agricultural land south of the A944.

**Greenferns (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.3.59 Greenferns is located east of Kingswells and west of the Northfield and Mastrick areas of the Aberdeen.
- 1.3.60 The area slopes down from a ridge height of 155m AOD which marks the southern boundary of the character area. The Bucks Burn forms the northern boundary and runs from west to east. Fernhill Reservoir is built on a steep embankment on the high point of the area and is therefore noticeable from the surrounding area.
- 1.3.61 The area has a rural, upland character. Rectilinear, pastoral fields cover most of the area and divide it with high quality drystone walls. A number of field boundaries have been planted with shelterbelts on their north-south axis. Further tree cover occurs in clumps at field corners, around settlement and along the southern bank of the Bucks Burn.
- 1.3.62 Settlement is limited to scattered farms and Bucksburn House. Farm tracks follow the field pattern and are generally in poor repair.
- 1.3.63 There are views out to the wider landscape, notably Brimmond Hill, Newton open farmland near Dyce, and the settlements of Kingswells and Aberdeen which detract from the scenic quality, but the planted field boundaries create a sense of enclosure and often limit these views to intermittent glimpses.

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**Table 22 – Landscape Character Summary for Greenferns**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Sloping farmland with some enclosure from field boundary planting; High quality drystone wall boundaries; Wooded Bucks Burn valley; Steep man-made embankment of Fernhill Reservoir; and Limited settlement within area.
Positive Character Attributes	Well maintained fields and boundaries; Strong rural character despite neighbouring conurbation; and Semi-enclosed and tranquil.
Negative Character Attributes	Views of suburban settlement impact on rural views.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Landscape in reasonable condition but several field boundaries tend to be either falling down or lost to post and wire fencing which gives the area an untidy character. Farm buildings and tracks also appear slightly neglected.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. This area allows views across open agricultural land to the north and intermittent views of urban development to the west and east through the mature tree field boundaries. Views to the south are restricted by landform. Views into this attractive agricultural area tend to be from the eastern edge of Kingswells, the western edge of Aberdeen and the minor road which connects Bucksburn and Kingswells.

## **1.4 Wooded Farmland Landscape Character Type**

### **Netherley/ Altries (Directly Affected)**

- 1.4.1 This LCA runs incorporates all the wooded farmland on the southern slopes of the Dee Valley within the study area and extends due south of the Dee throughout the rolling farmland to the woodland basin of Red Moss SSSI.
- 1.4.2 Agriculture is the dominant land use within the area, with arable and pasture divided by dry stone walls or hedgerows. The field pattern along the slopes of the valley tend to have a regular, linear layout, while further south they are more irregular as dictated by the undulating landform. The fields are used for a mixture of arable crops and improved pasture land.
- 1.4.3 The southern section of the area is dominated by the mixed woodland and scrub that covers Red Moss SSSI and the mixed woodland around the small settlement at Netherley. Muirskie Wood and several smaller blocks of woodland lie to the north around Altries, creating a sense of enclosure for the properties across the hillside leading down to the River Dee. Further east, a system of large deciduous and Pine shelterbelts partition the formal and historic field pattern associated with Blairs College, with more extensive woodland areas around Banchory-Devenick House.
- 1.4.4 Settlement consists of scattered farms and dwellings, with a small concentration of properties at Netherley, to the south of the area and a more widespread area of settlement around Altries to the northwest. The B979 from Stonehaven and the B9077 South Deeside Road provide the main access through the area, with a further network of minor roads.
- 1.4.5 The church and burial ground at Maryculter House is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and there are a number of listed buildings, including Blairs College and its associated buildings, Kingcausie House and Netherley House. Associated with Kingcausie House is a designed landscape which, although not designated, is of notable landscape value. A line of electricity pylons runs across the hillside near Blairs College, with several OHTL crossing the character area.

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1.4.6 There are extensive, scenic views across the River Dee from the wooded farmland adjacent to the Dee Valley, while views within the southern areas are more enclosed and framed by the surrounding topography and local woodland.

**Table 23 – Landscape Character Summary for Netherley/ Altries**

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Generally well-ordered field pattern in the north of the area, with irregular layout across undulating western and southern areas. Rolling, wooded agricultural land. Drystone walls and hedgerows. Red Moss conservation area covered in mixed woodland and scrub. Woodland clumps and belts. Busy road corridors and OHTL.
Positive Character Attributes	Mature woodland areas help to create a strong sense of enclosure for most areas, enhanced in the south by surrounding ridgelines. Mature mixed woodland across Red Moss. Views into the Dee Valley. Well-ordered field pattern along the relatively smooth valley hillside contrasts with the irregular layout of the undulating land of the plateau. Drystone walls and Consumption dykes.
Negative Character Attributes	Busy roads intrusive. Electricity pylons and OHTL.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004). 'Area of Landscape Significance' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002). Red Moss is a SSSI and SAC. (Not directly affected by Southern Leg.)
Landscape Condition	This area is in good condition with drystone wall field boundaries, mature mixed woodland shelterbelts, and rolling arable and pastoral fields.
Scenic Quality	Highly scenic views within the southern side of the area and across the Dee Valley to the north.

**Cammachmore (Indirectly Affected)**

1.4.7 This character area covers the rolling farmland to the west of the A90(T) between Newtonhill and Portlethen, approximately 5km to the south of Aberdeen.

1.4.8 The gently undulating topography of this wooded farmland area generally rises west towards the hills and ridgeline of the Stranog Hill and falls more steeply to the south within the valley around the Burn of Elsick, which is the primary watercourse, supplied by extensive field drainage across the adjacent farmland. The highest point within the area is Cairnwell Hill to the northeast, which reaches 133m AOD.

1.4.9 The majority of the land is used for agriculture, with medium to large fields of irregular shape and pattern, used for crops and pastoral grazing. The fields are generally defined by drystone walls or post and wire fencing, with a number of mature beech and pine shelterbelts strengthening the boundaries. There are several large woodland plantations across the area, the most significant of which are on the slopes of Cairnwell Hill and near to Berryhill House, with further recently planted screen woodland adjacent to Portlethen Golf Course in the north east.

1.4.10 Settlement across the area generally consists of scattered farms and dwellings, with a small cluster of properties at Cammachmore. Berryhill House is a Category B listed building, sheltered by mature woodland, with a stone wall along the northern boundary of the former estate. Four minor roads cross the area and join the A90 (T) located along the eastern edge of the character area, with additional access tracks to the isolated properties. There are also several OHTL running across the farmland.

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- 1.4.11 The gently rolling topography and stands of woodland contain and limit many views within the area, creating localised areas that are scenic and secluded, although the higher ground to the north allows open views across the surrounding farmland towards Cookney. Views into the area are possible from the higher ground to the west and from the A90 (T) along the eastern boundary, fragmented by the woodland.

**Table 24 – Landscape Character Summary for Cammachmore**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Gently undulating ground with steeper ground around shallow valley of the Burn of Elsick. Dense mature shelterbelts and woodland. Scattered dwellings and farms with small community adjacent to A90(T) at Cannachmore. Arable and pasture fields defined by drystone walls and post and wire fencing.
Positive Character Attributes	Mature woodland and shelterbelts. Farmland in good condition with maintained drystone walls across area.
Negative Character Attributes	Views from higher ground down to the busy A90(T) road running along eastern boundary.
Landscape Designations	None.
Landscape Condition	Landscape generally in good condition with most areas well maintained. Minor roads can be busy during rush hours but are quiet for the majority of the time which helps to minimise their impact on the area.

**Auchlunies (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.4.12 This area is located on the north facing slope of the Dee Valley and north of LLCA Blairs.
- 1.4.13 The sloping landform lies between the 55 and 115m AOD contours. The Shanna Burn flows along the western edge meeting the Kiln Burn and then flows south to the Dee Valley.
- 1.4.14 Mixed woodlands occupy land to the north and south and enclose and shelter semi improved and improved grassland areas. To the north the woodlands are coniferous and are edged to the west and south by mature semi natural woodlands. A hedge of overgrown mature beech trees lines the local access road and mature trees are found within grassland area and along field boundaries.
- 1.4.15 The area is small scale, enclosed, sheltered and balanced and generally comprises a private estate around Auchlunies House which is a 17<sup>th</sup> Century B listed house set in landscaped grounds. The local roads around the estate are bounded by drystone walls and mature trees and woodlands.
- 1.4.16 Views are generally limited by the woodlands and estate dwellings. A folly located on the southern boundary is a prominent feature in views to the area west of Hillhead of Heathcot.



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**Table 25 – Landscape Character Summary for Auchlunies**

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Private estate in heavily wooded landscaped grounds; Drystone walls; Overgrown hedge trees; and Vernacular buildings.
Positive Character Attributes	Distinctive folly on the edge of the area; Drystone walls; Vernacular buildings; and Mature woodlands and hedge trees
Negative Character Attributes	Masts and poles.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006)
Landscape Condition	Landscape generally in good condition with most areas well maintained.
Scenic Quality	A wooded landscape with views generally limited by woodlands and estate dwellings.

**Duff's Hill (Directly Affected)**

- 1.4.17 The LLCA lies south of Blue Hill and west of the A90 (T).
- 1.4.18 The area comprises mature and immature commercial coniferous plantation woodland managed by the Forestry Authority.
- 1.4.19 In the north the woodlands envelopes several fields and restricts views from these areas. There are some scattered settlements around the edge of the character area.

**Table 26 – Landscape Character Summary for Duff's Hill**

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Dense coniferous woodland; and Open areas enclosed by dense woodland.
Positive Character Attributes	Timber resource.
Negative Character Attributes	Lack of diversity and interest.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004).
Landscape Condition	The forestry is managed as a timber resource, with on-going clear-felling resulting in a relatively poor landscape condition.
Scenic Quality	The area is densely wooded and with limited views.

**Normandykes (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.4.20 This area is situated immediately north of the Dee Valley and to the south west of the settlement of Peterculter.
- 1.4.21 The topography comprises rolling hills with some steep south facing slopes. A narrow valley is a feature of the area along which Temple Burn runs. Contributing to the topography of the area is a dismantled railway line which runs roughly east to west.
- 1.4.22 There are large blocks and belts of woodland scattered across the area. These comprise both blocks of coniferous woodland and mixed woodland with smaller areas of deciduous woodland. Separating the blocks of woodland are fields with boundaries defined by hedgerow trees and stone

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walls. Fields in the area include arable, improved pasture and rough grazing. There are areas of degraded land associated with the dismantled railway line.

- 1.4.23 Settlement in the area consists of isolated farms and discrete clusters of houses. Peterculter Golf Club lies in the south east of the area north of the River Dee and is discretely contained by the topography with the land gently dropping towards it from the north – and in addition by woodland and shelterbelts.

**Table 27 – Landscape Character Summary for Normandykes**

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Fragmented landscape with valley and a diverse use of fields amongst the woodland; Mixed and plantation woodland; Rolling farmland – arable, improved pasture, rough grazing; Narrow valley with Temple burn; Disused railway track and associated abandoned/ degraded land; Hedgerow trees and stone walls; and Overhead transmission line running north-south across the site.
Positive Character Attributes	Woodland blocks. Folly.
Negative Character Attributes	Discordant, fragmented landscape; Dismantled railway track and associated degraded areas; and Overhead transmission line.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); and 'Green Belt' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006).
Landscape Condition	Managed Forestry Commission plantations in the north. Areas of degraded/ abandoned land along disused railway track.
Scenic Quality	Limited views along the River Dee. Poor scenic quality in enclosed valley with limited views.

**Craigton (Directly Affected)**

- 1.4.24 Craigton is located to the immediate north and west of Peterculter and thus separates the settlements of Peterculter and Milltimber.
- 1.4.25 The topography is rolling and features a rounded summit at Hill of Ardbeck (100m AOD) to the west of the Study area. A number of drainage channels have been created along field boundaries and drain south towards the Dee Valley.
- 1.4.26 In the north there is a golf course and Kippie Lodge which houses the Shell and BP social club; the International School for Aberdeen; and Culter House Nursing Home. The St Albyn School Playing fields bound the northern edge of the A93. South of the A93 there is a pocket of agricultural land comprising large fields bounded by drystone walls and used for mixed farming and which slope south to the woodlands which enclose Camphill School. Facilities and dwellings are scattered through the mature wooded area which extends almost to the river. The woodland comprises a mixture of semi natural and plantation trees.
- 1.4.27 Apart from the A93 the Culter House Road crosses the north of the area linking the settlements of Milltimber and Peterculter.
- 1.4.28 Due to the enclosing woodland and proximity of settlement, the area is very inward-looking. High volumes of traffic on the A93 and the associated visual and aural disturbance have an adverse impact on the area.

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**Table 28 – Landscape Character Summary for Craigton**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Mature mixed and plantation woodland; Gently rolling topography; Social and Educational facilities set within spacious mature wooded grounds; and Playing fields alongside A93.
Positive Character Attributes	Mature woodlands which screen and enclose.
Negative Character Attributes	High volumes of noise and traffic movement on the A93; and Change of land use from agriculture to recreation.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004).
Landscape Condition	
Scenic Quality	A wooded landscape with generally short range views limited by woodlands and maintained grounds with some views south to the Dee Valley.

**Murtle**

- 1.4.29 This is an area situated north of the A93 and the Dee Valley and lying to the north of and between the settlements of Milltimber and Bielside. The southern boundary is defined by the busy A93 which is a main route into Aberdeen for the settlements of Peterculter, Milltimber and Bielside.
- 1.4.30 The area of Murtle describes the catchment area for the Murtle Dam and features a steep-sided valley surrounded by a diverse and undulating landform which extends across the A93 and generally slopes towards the River Dee in the south.
- 1.4.31 North of the A93 the area around the Murtle Dam is heavily wooded and areas within the woodlands have been developed for residential use. The woodlands are edged by improved and semi improved grasslands. South of the A93 there are two large residential schools set within heavily wooded grounds which lie to the east (Newton Dee) and west (Murtle) and are separated by agricultural land both arable fields and improved grassland
- 1.4.32 Woodlands are a mixture of mature semi natural and plantation woodlands. There are large areas of semi natural woodlands east of Murtle Dam and on the steep bluff to the south of Murtle School. Fields are medium sized and generally divided by stone walls. North of the A93 sections of the walling are in disrepair.
- 1.4.33 Settlement is generally located close to Murtle Dam and comprises several clusters of large detached dwellings in sizable grounds to the immediate south west and east. Newton Dee School and Murtle Schools comprise an extensive number of buildings used both as accommodation and for educational purposes and laid out in a random pattern.
- 1.4.34 The extensive woodlands associated with these areas restrict views and result in a tranquil and secluded ambience. Outside of these areas, views are generally confined to mid-range by topography and woodland directing the main focus of the area towards the Dee Valley. This is a generally peaceful environment despite the busy A93 which crosses the character area.

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**Table 29 – Landscape Character Summary for Murtle**

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Undulating topography; Steep, wooded valley and the Murtle Dam; Woodland enclosure; Open agriculture with varied field pattern and quality; Scattered detached dwellings in extensive mature grounds; and, OHTL.
Positive Character Attributes	Tranquil wooded areas; and, Attractive views to the Dee Valley.
Negative Character Attributes	Traffic noise from the A93 North Deeside Road; and, OHTL.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); and, 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004).
Scenic Quality	An attractive wooded landscape with views limited by woodlands but with occasional open views to the south Dee Valley. Extensive views are obtained along the Dee Valley from the agricultural land in the south of the character area.

**Countesswells**

- 1.4.35 This LLCA is located immediately to the north of the settlements of Bielside and Cults and bound the eastern edge of Aberdeen.
- 1.4.36 Countesswells covers an area of diverse topography including steep slopes in the south which form the upper stretches of the Dee Valley and gentler undulating slopes between Countesswells House and Cults. A burn flows along an incised valley to the immediate north of Cults and is fed by several drainage channels.
- 1.4.37 Landcover is divided between woodland and pastoral agriculture. In the west, large mature plantations create a strong sense of enclosure for the area and surround a concentration of settlement at Countesswells House. The open ground in the east is divided into small - to medium-sized fields, predominantly of improved grazing, and with some equestrian use. Fields are bounded by drystone walls and have a strong rectilinear pattern. Trees have been planted in several fields and field sections, along boundaries and around farms and dwellings. Of particular note is an avenue of beech trees lining the road from Countesswells House. Throughout the area boundaries are lined by overgrown beech hedges.
- 1.4.38 There are a relatively large number of scattered traditional farms and attractive dwellings throughout the area. In addition to these, a school is located in the east. The main routes are Countesswells Road and Craigton Road which run east to west through the area. The LLCA is also crossed by two lines of OHTL.
- 1.4.39 The enclosing woodlands create a very inward-looking focus for the area. Views are complex and extend to the many contrasting elements within the landscape including the OHTL and traffic.

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**Table 30 – Landscape Character Summary for Countesswells**

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Diverse topography, generally sloping towards the River Dee; Large, dense plantation forming strong enclosure to north and west; Broad selection of land uses within well-ordered pattern; Drystone walls and overgrown hedges along road boundaries; Scattered settlement; Busy road network; and OHTL.
Positive Character Attributes	Enclosure; Mature trees and woodlands; Drystone walls; and Trees lining road from Countesswells House.
Negative Character Attributes	Impact of fast moving traffic on local roads; and OHTL.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004).
Scenic Quality	An attractive wooded landscape with limited views.

**Hazelhead (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.4.40 This LCA lies to the immediate west of the City of Aberdeen conurbation and approximately 3km north of the River Dee.
- 1.4.41 This is an area of upland ground, which forms part of the watershed between the River Dee and the Den Burn. Reaching 155m AOD it slopes steadily downhill to the east to 85m AOD and is gently undulating.
- 1.4.42 Extensive areas of mature woodlands with a high proportion of evergreen trees enclose the area to the north. Den Wood to the south generally comprises mature policy woodlands. A number of historic field boundaries remain as drystone walls and mature tree lines. A crematorium is sited within the north of the area and a small number of commercial planting nurseries are located in the south.
- 1.4.43 The northern boundary lies close to the B9119 Skene Road and the southern boundary by Countesswells Road. In addition to these routes there are many smaller pathways and access tracks. Settlement is restricted to that along the eastern boundary and the urban edge of Aberdeen.
- 1.4.44 Large woodlands provide enclosure and create a very secluded and tranquil environment with short-range views.

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**Table 31 – Landscape Character Summary for Hazelhead**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Mature woodland forming strong enclosure; Drystone walls and tree lines; and Gently sloping landform.
Positive Character Attributes	Mature woodland cover; and Good public access.
Negative Character Attributes	None
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Well managed and maintained.
Scenic Quality	Attractive wooded surrounds and enclosed and short range views.

**Broomfold (Directly Affected)**

- 1.4.45 This character area is located approximately 3km southwest of Kingswells, next to Auchlea and Fifeshill character areas.
- 1.4.46 Land rises steeply northwards from the Ord Burn which lies around 80m AOD to an area of rolling upland at approximately 130m AOD which is the lower slopes of Auchlea hill. The Silver Burn and several drainage channels run across the higher ground and down the slope. The western boundary of the character area is marked by the Brodiach Burn. All waterways in this area are tributaries of the Ord Burn.
- 1.4.47 There are several areas of woodland, comprising small to medium sized coniferous, broadleaved and mixed plantations. Between these woodlands are small, irregular pastoral fields of varying quality with drystone walls, post and wire fencing, trees and gorse along field boundaries. Lower ground tends to not be in productive use and rough in character.
- 1.4.48 There are a relatively high number of scattered dwellings, typically located on the steeper ground in the south of the area. Two local routes cross the area: one east to west and the other north to south. They meet at Broomfold where most dwellings are concentrated. Several long access tracks branch off from these roads to access dwellings.
- 1.4.49 Owing to the local topography and that of surrounding LCAs, the area is enclosed and tranquil. Views are typically short-range and inward looking.

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**Table 32 – Landscape Character Summary for Broomfold**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Steep valley slope and rolling higher ground; Mixed woodland and extensive forestry plantations; Pastoral agriculture laid out in irregular fields with varied boundary treatments; and Scattered dwellings.
Positive Character Attributes	Varied topography; Scattered dwellings; and Enclosing woodland blocks of varying type.
Negative Character Attributes	None.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	This wooded farmland area is in generally good condition. Some areas of lower ground tend to be neglected and rougher in character.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. Attractive, short-range views enclosed by vegetation are afforded throughout the character area. Views into the area are from the higher ground of Contlaw/Beanshill to the south and the higher areas in the Westhill settlement area.

**Kingswells (Directly Affected)**

- 1.4.50 This area is located to the west of the settlement of Kingswells.
- 1.4.51 The area is made up of the steeply undulating east, west and south facing slopes of Cloghill and lower Brimmond Hill as well as the lower ground around West Hatton and Kingswells Home Farm.
- 1.4.52 Agriculture is the dominant land use with small to large, rectilinear fields with a high proportion of drystone wall boundaries. There is also some use of land for equestrian facilities. There are several small clumps and belts of mature woodland in the area which break it into smaller compartments and create, along with the topography and settlement, a strong sense of enclosure. In the south of the area Kingswells Home Farm has mature woodland surrounding the house and Kingswells Park and Ride facility has introduced a large area of new woodland planting.
- 1.4.53 Settlement is limited to a number of farms and dwellings scattered through the area. The A944 runs east-west on the southern boundary of Kingswells and a number of access tracks and two overhead transmission lines pass through the area. In the south of the area there are a high proportion of drystone walls including a large consumption dyke which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- 1.4.54 The area is attractive but the prominence of the settlement of Kingswells and the visual and aural impact of the busy roads detract from this.

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**Table 33 – Landscape Character Summary for Kingswells**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Well-ordered, rectilinear field pattern in the south of the area; Sloping, wooded agricultural land; Drystone walls and Consumption dyke; Equestrian facilities; Busy road corridors and overhead transmission lines; and Woodland clumps and belts.
Positive Character Attributes	Strong sense of enclosure from Brimmond Hill, Cloghill, Kingswells and woodland belts; Well-ordered, rectilinear field pattern; and Drystone walls and Consumption dyke.
Negative Character Attributes	Busy roads; and Two overhead transmission lines.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004).
Landscape Condition	This area is in good condition with drystone wall field boundaries, consumption dykes, mature mixed woodland shelterbelts, rolling arable fields. The exceptions to this are the areas in the immediate vicinity of the A944 which have been impacted on by traffic.
Scenic Quality	Good scenic quality. A good variety of short, medium and long-range views are possible from the area. Elements within the area are of high scenic quality but Kingswells and Westhill and busy roads have a negative impact on views. This lower lying area forms part of the view from the surrounding higher areas of Brimmond Hill, Auchlea, Fifeshill and also from the western edge of Kingswells.

## 1.5 Valley Landscape Character Type

### Dee Valley (Directly Affected)

- 1.5.1 The area of the Dee Valley being considered extends from the A90 (T) to the settlement of Peterculter.
- 1.5.2 This valley surrounds the River Dee, which meanders through a broad, shallow floodplain. The area is tranquil despite the busy routes and traffic of the A93 to the north, the B9077 to the south and the B979 crossing.
- 1.5.3 The northern slopes are relatively steep and uniform, with part of the north bank featuring a steep bluff slope above which the Camphill Community at Murtle Estate is situated. On the undulating southern slope of the valley, the immediate riverside varies from steep escarpment further downstream to shallow floodplain.
- 1.5.4 A number of tributary burns flow perpendicular to the river on steeper ground, becoming more diverse at their confluence with the river. Land use on the valley floor generally comprises grazing and arable farmland, with scattered woodland and further semi-natural and coniferous woodland on slopes and less accessible sections of the valley. The Deeside Golf Club and the Aspire Golf Centre and practice area are located north and south of the river, respectively and Inchgarth Reservoir is constructed on the north of the river basin.
- 1.5.5 The large settlements of Cults, Bielside, Milltimber and Peterculter are situated on higher ground along the northern edge of the valley, while to the south there are small clusters and isolated dwellings spread along the B9077 route. The valley floor is accessed by a network of pathways and two lines of OHTL cross the river east and west of the settlement of Bielside.



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1.5.6 There are views northwards to the large number of traditional dwellings which overlook the valley and southwards across the rural landscape of wooded farmlands rising steeply from the valley floor, among which the spires of Blairs College are a prominent feature.

**Table 34 – Landscape Character Summary for Dee Valley**

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Meandering River Dee and flat floodplain; Steep northern bluff slope; Densely settlement on the northern edge of the valley; Extensive areas of mature woodland planting; Varied land use pattern of agriculture, recreation and woodland; and Medium range open views across the floodplain.
Positive Character Attributes	Valley floor is quiet; and Scenic views
Negative Character Attributes	OHTL; Manicured golf courses; and Traffic on the B9077, B979 and the A93.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); 'Green Belt' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006); and 'Area of Landscape Significance' (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006).
Landscape Condition	Well managed and productive area.
Scenic Quality	An attractive wooded river valley with attractive medium range views north and south and generally short range views along the valley floor limited by woodlands. Manicured golf courses are a familiar feature of the valley floor.

## 1.6 Coast Landscape Character Type

### Kincardine Cliffs (Indirectly Affected)

- 1.6.1 This LCA covers the rocky coastline that runs from the south of Aberdeen down to the small settlement at Catterline.
- 1.6.2 Much of the coastline is marked by steep rugged slopes and cliffs, with numerous coves and bays due to coastal erosion. Small raised beaches have formed in some of the coves above the rocky outcrops, with a more significant beach found in Stonehaven Bay, where a natural harbour has been developed with a breakwater to protect a small fishing industry. The land above most of the cliffs has quite steep undulating slopes with several small hills and rises across the area, the most significant of which are Black Hill (approximately 99m AOD) and Cran Hill (86m AOD). Several burn cross the area as they run down to the coast to enter the North Sea, the most significant of which are the Carron Water and Cowie Water, which flow through Stonehaven. Waterfalls are found along the coast where the burns run down the steep slopes.
- 1.6.3 The land within the LCA tends to be used as rough pasture across the sloping ground above the cliffs. The majority of the area is too exposed for arable crops to be grown, although the fields set further back from the coastline are more sheltered and allow greater diversity in land use. Fields tend to be laid out in irregular shapes dictated by the topography of the area and the coastline, and are generally defined by post and wire fences. Immediately to the north of Stonehaven part of the coastline is covered in a golf course. There are few woodland areas along the coastline, and they tend to be relatively small and in sheltered areas. The Den of Cowie at the edge of the golf course is the largest and most significant area, with mature mixed woodland on the steep lower slope of the Hill of Megray.

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- 1.6.4 Most of the older settlements in the area, such as Findon, Portlethen Village, Muchalls and Catterline, are former fishing villages built in the proximity of natural harbours. The larger settlement areas at the edge of the LCA, such as Newtonhill and Portlethen, are built on the cliff tops and hills above the coast and are based around the transport links of the railway and A90 (T) rather than any historical industry. Stonehaven is a mixture of the two settlement types, having developed across the hillside above its historical harbour area. There are all isolated farms and dwellings across the area. There are many listed buildings along the coast, with a concentration of buildings around the harbour area of Stonehaven, while the remains of Dunnottar Castle to the south of Stonehaven is a Scheduled Ancient Monument Settlement. The A90(T) runs through the character area to the north of Stonehaven as it heads towards Aberdeen, with part of the A92 coastal road running through the area to the south of Stonehaven. The railway line to Aberdeen also passes through the northern part of the area, with embankments and deep cuttings causing significant visual impact to the area. There are a number of OHTL running to the settlement areas, and to the west of Dunnottar Castle there is a cluster of radio and communication masts on the hillside.
- 1.6.5 Views to the west are sometimes limited by the higher ground of the western side of the region, but the hills of the surrounding character areas create an attractive backdrop to available views across the farmland. The undulating ground allows attractive views within the character area along the coastline. While most of the character area is overlooked by the surrounding areas, most of the cliffs and beaches are hidden from view by the sloping topography of the region.

**Table 35 – Landscape Character Summary for Kincardine Cliffs**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Rocky coastline with steep weathered cliffs above inlets and raised beaches; Older settlements built around natural harbours with newer settlements on cliff tops near transport corridors; and Exposed farmland on rolling slopes above cliffs.
Positive Character Attributes	Attractive views along coastline; Remains of Dunnottar Castle to the south of Stonehaven; and Historic harbour and beach at Stonehaven.
Negative Character Attributes	Busy road corridors of A90(T) and A92 run through the area, with railway line running on embankments and in deep cuttings; and OHTL running across farmland to settlements and isolated properties.
Landscape Designations	Area of Landscape Significance designation; SSSI designations east of Cove and at the northern tip of the area; and 'Greenbelt' and 'Greenspace Network' designations and 'District Wildlife' designation.
Landscape Condition	Farmland in relatively good condition for exposed location. Coastal erosion makes some of the cliff top areas unstable, particularly on the sandstone cliffs to the south of Stonehaven. Road and rail corridors in poorer condition due to impacts from traffic.
Scenic Quality	Ordinary scenic quality. Views within the area are attractive with open views of the rocky coastline, with some views to the west across the higher ground of the surrounding hills. The rising topography within the area restricts some views to the west. Most of the surrounding areas can see into and across the area towards the North Sea, although much of the coastline is too low to be seen in views.

## **1.7 Recreational Landscape Character Type**

### **Portlethen Golf Course (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.7.1 Portlethen golf course is located at the southern edge of the study area, immediately west of the settlement of Portlethen and the A90 (T) road corridor.
- 1.7.2 The topography slopes gently south-eastwards from a high point of 110m AOD in the northwest to a burn with associated series of ponds across the lower section of the course.

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- 1.7.3 The golf course introduces a manicured landscape between the industrial development at Portlethen and Badentoy Park Industrial Estate, either side of the A90 (T), offset by mixed age conifer and broadleaf plantation around the boundaries and more recently planted tree and scrub vegetation throughout the course. The open agricultural land north of the course is separated and screened from the golf course by landform and vegetation and views from the higher parts of the course to the south and east across Portlethen detract from the semi-rural setting.
- 1.7.4 The golf course is crossed by the access road to Badentoy Park which is used by large numbers of heavy goods vehicles. The club house is located on the western edge of the course close to several houses and industrial buildings out with the course boundary. The Causeymouth Right of Way follows the western side of the course, edged by a drystone wall.

**Table 36 – Landscape Character Summary for Portlethen Golf Course**

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	Gently sloping landform; Burn with associated series of ponds; Manicured landscape within semi-rural and industrial setting; and Conifer and broadleaf plantation around the boundaries and more recently planted tree and scrub vegetation throughout the course.
Positive Character Attributes	Vegetation with varied age structure; Burn with small ponds; and Drystone wall boundary.
Negative Character Attributes	Industrial surroundings.
Landscape Designations	None.
Landscape Condition	Well-maintained golf course.
Scenic Quality	Low scenic quality due to manicured landscape and industry.

**Hazelhead Golf Course (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.7.5 This LCA lies to the immediate west of the City of Aberdeen conurbation and approximately 3km north of the River Dee.
- 1.7.6 This is an area of upland ground, which forms part of the watershed between the River Dee and the Den Burn. Reaching 147m AOD it slopes steadily downhill to the east to 115m AOD and is gently undulating.
- 1.7.7 Hazlehead Golf Course comprises a manicured landscape which is enclosed by extensive areas of mature woodlands with a high proportion of evergreen trees.
- 1.7.8 Entrance to the golf course is by Hazelhead Avenue, a small access road west of the B9119. A school borders the grounds to the east and settlement occurs beyond this comprising the urban edge of Aberdeen.
- 1.7.9 Large woodlands provide enclosure and create a very secluded and tranquil environment with short-range views.

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**Table 37 – Landscape Character Summary for Hazelhead Golf Course**

<b>Landscape Attributes</b>	<b>Description</b>
Key Characteristics	Recreational facilities; Mature woodland forming strong enclosure; Manicured landscape within semi-rural setting; Drystone walls and tree lines; and Gently sloping landform.
Positive Character Attributes	Mature woodland cover
Negative Character Attributes	Artificial and over-managed appearance.
Landscape Designations	'Green Belt' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004); and 'Green Space Network' (The Finalised Aberdeen Local Plan City Wide Proposals Maps, 2004).
Landscape Condition	Highly maintained amenity landscape.
Scenic Quality	A recreational landscape with attractive wooded surrounds and enclosed and short range views.

## **1.8 Urban Area Landscape Character Type**

### **Portlethen (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.8.1 This commercial and housing settlement is situated on the undulating ground around the Burn of Findon valley between the A90 (T) and the Dundee to Aberdeen railway, 6km south of the City of Aberdeen.
- 1.8.2 The area features large-scale retail and industrial development situated adjacent to the A90 (T) and residential properties located further east.

### **Badentoy Park (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.8.3 This area is situated at the southern edge of the study area immediately west of the settlement of Portlethen and the A90 (T) road corridor. It consists of high density commercial and industrial premises within a formal amenity landscape. To the west is an area of land excavated for development. Otherwise the area is generally well maintained with amenity planting and lawns. The area occurs in a natural hollow which slopes from north to south and is surrounded by grazing farmland to the north, south and west.

### **Peterculter (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.8.4 The settlement of Peterculter is situated between the A93 (North Deeside Road) and Culter House Road roughly 7km south west of the edge of the Aberdeen conurbation. It covers an area of hillside overlooking the River Dee and Culter Burn and is around 1.5km<sup>2</sup> in size.
- 1.8.5 Residential development dominates the settlement with limited commercial development centred on the main street which is the oldest part of the town. Buildings in this area are traditional granite terraced housing and detached villas. Further development occurred along the main road to the east and north along the B979 between 1945 and 1970 with very limited development following this period. As a result of the settlement's location within the Dee Valley and on the Hill of Ardbeck, many homes gain views of the valleys and countryside to the south and west.

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**Milltimber (Directly Affected)**

- 1.8.6 Milltimber is spread along the A93 (North Deeside Road) and the slopes to the north. It is slightly over 1km<sup>2</sup> in size and centred roughly 5.5km south west of the edge of the Aberdeen conurbation.
- 1.8.7 The settlement developed more recently than the two either side of it with the majority of development occurring in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Housing is generally in the form of detached dwellings, many constructed with local granite, set within extensive, mature wooded gardens.

**Bielside & Cults (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.8.8 The two settlements merge into one another along the A93 (North Deeside Road) and are centred roughly 2.5km south west of the Aberdeen conurbation. They cover an area of around 2.5km<sup>2</sup> along the main road and spread up the slopes to its north.
- 1.8.9 Development of the residential settlement has occurred in several phases. The oldest properties, which line the main through road, the A93, date from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and are constructed in granite. This is the only area within the settlement where there are commercial and retail properties and these have been converted from former houses.
- 1.8.10 After 1900, the town spread northwards along a series of roads, which climbed the steeply sloping ground to the north. There are also a number of churches regularly spaced along the road and a large number of detached dwellings set within large, mature wooded gardens, particularly to the west. A large number of properties within the settlement gain broad views across the Dee Valley.
- 1.8.11 In more recent years the open spaces between the housing areas have been developed for housing.

**Kingswells (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.8.12 The settlement of Kingswells is located approximately 2km west of the western edge of Aberdeen, immediately north of the A944 route. It occupies around 2km<sup>2</sup> close to the Bucks Burn Valley and is overlooked by Brimmond Hill.
- 1.8.13 Kingswells is an almost exclusively residential commuter area with a relatively small area given over to local shops and community facilities. There is a small area of traditional housing in the south, adjacent to the A944, which dates from between 1900 and 1945, with the remainder of housing dating from the last 20 years. Similar to Westhill, Kingswells is designed around winding spine roads which feed smaller access roads and often culminate in cul-de-sacs. Some spine roads feature recent structure planting, and some border the mature woodland which is located on the fringe of the Bucks Burn valley. One notable feature of the surrounding area is a consumption dyke which is now partially surrounded by housing.

**Westhill (Indirectly Affected)**

- 1.8.14 Covering an area of around 4km<sup>2</sup>, Westhill is situated roughly 7km west of Aberdeen within the Aberdeenshire Council area.
- 1.8.15 The settlement is a commuter town linked to Aberdeen by the A944, and is predominantly residential with a medium-sized industrial estate to the south of the A944. The majority of housing has been constructed since the 1970s and has been laid out with spine roads feeding smaller access roads, often ending in cul-de-sacs. The spine roads often feature structure planting and fencing with little or no housing facing onto them.

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**Table 38 – Landscape Sensitivity Evaluation**

Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Factors Considered	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
<b>Directly Affected Areas</b>				
Open Farmland : Loirston (ch206100-207200)				
A90/ A956 corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Strong Influence of traffic on busy A90 and A956, prominence of roads, associated structures and earthworks.</li> <li>- Charleston Junction located centrally within the character area.</li> <li>-Strong 'Urbanising' influence of larger settlements and industry to the east including Charleston village.</li> <li>- Rock cutting, coniferous woodland planting and scattered roadside scrub in the junction area.</li> <li>-'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations within the Aberdeenshire Unitary Authority (UA) Boundary (Aberdeen Council August 2004).</li> </ul>	Low	Low	Low
Loirston Loch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Large water body used for recreation.</li> <li>- Surrounds to the loch are generally open with only sparse area of vegetation.</li> <li>- Existing influences of background traffic noise, and visual impacts of busy roads and industrial development.</li> <li>-'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations throughout the area (Aberdeen Council August 2004).</li> </ul>	Low to Medium	Low	Low to Medium
Scattered settlement and local access routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Network of local roads and tracks provide access to scattered dwellings.</li> <li>- Existing influences of background traffic noise, and visual impacts of busy roads and industrial development.</li> <li>-'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations within the UA Boundary (Aberdeen Council August 2004).</li> </ul>	Medium	Low	Low to Medium
Farmlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farmlands interrupted by the road corridor and areas of modern development and housing.</li> <li>- Existing influences of background traffic noise, and visual impacts of busy</li> </ul>	Low to Medium	Medium	Low to Medium

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	roads and industrial development. - 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations within the UA Boundary (Aberdeen Council August 2004).			
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Low to Medium</b>
<b>Wooded Farmland : Duff's Hill (ch205200-206100)</b>				
Woodlands	- Mature coniferous plantation woodlands are strong landscape elements but lack interest and diversity. - 'Greenbelt' designation in throughout the area adjacent to the A90 (Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2002).	Low	Low	Low
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Low</b>
<b>Open Farmland: Hare Moss (ch202200-205200)</b>				
Hare Moss	- In close proximity and susceptible to indirect impacts. - Low lying secluded area and dense scrub and bog vegetation. - Incongruous hard standing and manicured grass area within Hare Moss used for model aircraft.	Medium	Medium	Medium
Open rural landscape	- Wide, open and gently sloping valley enclosed by higher ground which drains towards Hare Moss. - Strong field boundaries with drystone walls, occasional gorse, groups of coniferous trees and tree clumps. - Land in agricultural production with scattered farms and dwellings. - Open tranquil rural character except in the east where the area bounds the A90 (T). - 'Greenbelt' designation throughout the area (Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2002).	Medium	Medium	Medium
Scattered dwellings and farms	- Scattered houses and traditional farms. - 'Greenbelt' designation throughout the area (Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2002).	High	High	High
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Medium to High</b>
<b>Open Farmland : Merchant's Croft (ch201100-202200)</b>				
All areas	- Enclosed small scale undulating and irregular upland landscape. - Large areas of gorse and occasional scrubby trees. - Scattered small crofts and farms. - Network of stony tracks. - Land in the east of the area designated as Greenbelt (Aberdeenshire Local	Medium	Medium	Medium

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Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Factors Considered	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
	Plan 2002).			
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Medium</b>
Open Farmland : Blaikiewelll (ch10200-11500 north-south, 200000-201100 west-east)				
All areas	- Extensive views northwest. - Open fields and wetland areas with occasional shelterbelts and hedgerows.	Medium	High	Medium to High
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Medium to High</b>
Hill : Craingles (ch100100-101400)				
All areas	- Mature dense woodland. - Fields occurring in 'pockets' surrounded by trees. - Scattered Settlement. - Drystone walls. - 'Greenbelt' designation in north half of the area ( Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2002).	High	High	High
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>High</b>
Wooded Farmland : Netherly/Altries (ch101400-101900)				
All areas	- Well-ordered field pattern along the relatively smooth valley hillside contrasts with the irregular layout of the undulating land of the southern plateau. - Rolling, wooded agricultural land. - Drystone walls, hedgerows, and consumption dykes. - Red Moss conservation area covered in mixed woodland and scrub. - Mature woodland areas help to create a strong sense of enclosure for most areas, enhanced in the south by surrounding ridgelines. - Busy road corridors and OHTL.	High	High	High
All areas	- 'Green Belt' (Finalised Aberdeen City Local Plan, 2004). - The north of the area adjacent to the River Dee is designated an 'Area of Landscape Significance' (Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2002). - Red Moss has SSSI and SAC/DWS status. - Highly scenic views within the southern side of the area and across the Dee Valley to the north.			
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>High</b>
Valley : Dee Valley (ch101900-102800)				



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All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dense settlement on the northern edge of the valley.</li> <li>- Extensive areas of mature woodland planting.</li> <li>- Varied land use pattern of agriculture, recreation and woodland.</li> <li>- Medium range open views across the floodplain.</li> <li>- Strong Influence of traffic on busy B9077, B979 and the A93.</li> <li>- Large scale valley encloses the meandering River Dee and its broad floodplain.</li> <li>- Steep distinctive bluff slope on the northern edge of the valley and strong 'Urbanising' influence of larger settlements which gain extensive views across the floodplain to the south.</li> <li>- Land rises more steeply on the southern edge of the valley.</li> <li>- Unimproved grassland on valley floor in fields defined by post and wire fences.</li> <li>- Manicured landscapes associated with the Aspire and Dee Valley Golf Clubs.</li> <li>- Designated an Area of Landscape Significance.</li> <li>- 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations from the Inchgarth Reservoir to West Cairnton along the northern side of the River Dee (Aberdeen Council August 2004).</li> <li>- Two lines of OHTL cross the valley and intrude into the gentle landscape.</li> </ul>	High	High	High
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>High</b>
<b>Urban Area : Milltimber (ch102800-103600)</b>				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mature amenity landscape.</li> <li>- Large dwellings.</li> <li>- Social and educational facilities set within spacious mature grounds.</li> <li>- Playing fields alongside A93.</li> </ul>	Medium to High	High	Medium to High
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Medium to High</b>
<b>Wooded Farmland : Craigton (ch103600-104400)</b>				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open fields bounded by woodland and plantation forestry.</li> <li>- Mature hedgerow trees.</li> <li>- 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations throughout most of the area (Aberdeen Council August 2004).</li> </ul>	Medium to High	High	Medium to High
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Medium to High</b>

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Hill : Beanshill (ch104400-106000)				
North of Beanshill	- Steep high ground with rocky outcrops colonised by gorse. - 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations throughout the area (Aberdeen Council August 2004).	Low	High	Medium
Agricultural land south of Beanshill	- Pastoral agriculture and irregular field pattern on south facing slopes. - Gently undulating ground. - Scattered settlement, typically with woodland clumps. - Wooden pole lines cross through the landscape. - 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations throughout the area (Aberdeen Council August 2004).	Medium	Medium	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Medium</b>
Wooded Farmland : Broomfold (ch106000-107700)				
West of Bishops Court	- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. - Dominant coniferous and mixed woodland plantations and local topography create an enclosed, tranquil area. - Short-range inward looking views.	Medium	Low	Low
West of Bishops Court contd.	- 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations throughout the area (Aberdeen Council August 2004).			
Silverburn	- Riparian woodland at Burn. - Open rolling farmland between Silverburn and Gairnhill. - 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations throughout the area (Aberdeen Council August 2004).	High	High	High
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Medium to High</b>
Hill : Fifeshill (ch107700-108500)				
Kingshill Wood coniferous plantation	- Highest areas dominated by mature coniferous plantations. - Extensive path network with high volume of users. - Dense planting gives strong sense of enclosure and limited views out of woodland. - 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations throughout the area (Aberdeen Council August 2004).	Medium	Low	Low to Medium
Farmland on lower slopes of	- Gently sloping pastoral farmland with drystone walls.	Low to Medium	Low to Medium	Low to Medium

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Kingshill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small to medium sized fields of rough grassland with gorse outcrops.</li> <li>- Scattered farms and settlements around perimeter of area.</li> <li>- Negative impact of one overhead transmission line crossing area with another visible outside area.</li> <li>- Sense of seclusion with medium-range views across neighbouring areas.</li> <li>- 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations throughout the area (Aberdeen Council August 2004).</li> </ul>			
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>
Hill : Auchlea (ch107700-108500)				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From north facing slopes some views possible towards Cloghill and AWPR route.</li> <li>- Views to the north include Westhill and the A944 road which detract from tranquillity and remote atmosphere.</li> </ul>	Low to Medium	Medium	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>
Open Farmland : Clinterty/ West Brimmond (ch108500-109000)				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strong influence of traffic on A944 in south, and A96 in north of area both of which have aural and visual impacts on the immediate surrounding areas.</li> <li>- Busy network of local roads across the area.</li> <li>- Area is surrounded by higher ground but retains an open feel with views of attractive, well-kept countryside.</li> <li>- 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations east of the Littlemill and Brodiach Burns (Aberdeen Council August 2004).</li> </ul>	Low to Medium	Low	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>
Wooded Farmland : Kingswells (ch109000-111300)				
Kingswells bypass road corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Aural and visual impact from A944 and bypass.</li> <li>- Strong influence of traffic on road detracts from the rural setting.</li> <li>- Rising landform, woodland and Kingswells settlement only allow short-range views in all directions from the road.</li> </ul>	Low	Low	Low

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations in the northern half of the bypass corridor to the west of the road (Aberdeen Council August 2004).</li> </ul>			
<p>Woodland and farmland west of Kingswells bypass</p> <p>Woodland and farmland west of Kingswells bypass</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kingswells, A944, Kingswells bypass and Park and Ride site detract from rural setting.</li> <li>- Attractive, rolling agricultural land with well ordered fields and high proportion of drystone walls.</li> <li>- Strong sense of enclosure due to clumps and belts of mature trees breaking area into smaller areas.</li> <li>- Adverse impact of two overhead transmission lines which cross area.</li> <li>- Area overlooked by higher ground on all sides resulting in enclosed atmosphere.</li> <li>- Consumption dykes are a nationally recognised, notable feature.</li> <li>- Large amount of equestrian use of fields.</li> <li>- Home Farm and Kingswells House in the south of area are set in heavily wooded surroundings.</li> <li>- Friends' Burial Ground Scheduled Ancient Monument is located in the southwest of this area.</li> <li>- Park and Ride is an urban presence encroaching on a rural setting but is well planted with establishing woodland.</li> <li>- 'Greenbelt' and 'Green Space Network' designations throughout the area (Aberdeen Council August 2004).</li> </ul>	Medium	High	Medium to High
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Medium</b>
<b>Indirectly Affected Areas</b>				
Hill : Kincorth Hill				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Exposed upland area which provides a physical barrier between Aberdeen City and the open farmlands around Loirston.</li> <li>- Neighbouring industrial development.</li> <li>- Drystone walls.</li> <li>- Sloping ground featuring large areas of gorse, scrub and heath.</li> <li>- OHTL.</li> <li>- 'Greenbelt' and 'Greenspace Network' designations.</li> </ul>	Low	Low	Low

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OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low</b>
Open Farmland : Den of Leggart				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Rough pasture covered moderately sloping lower hillside.</li> <li>- Regular pattern of small fields divided by fences and drystone walls.</li> <li>- Traditional/vernacular stone dwellings and farms.</li> <li>- Eastern edge of the character area heavily influenced by traffic on the A90 and A956.</li> <li>- 'Urbanising' influence of larger settlements and industry east of A9.</li> <li>- Long, open views to the coast and along A90 corridor.</li> <li>- Enclosing influence of rising landform and plantation to the west.</li> </ul>	Medium	Medium	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Medium</b>
Hill : Greenhowe				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Gently sloping, open landscape.</li> <li>- Woodland blocks.</li> <li>- Mixed agricultural land.</li> <li>- Dispersed, secluded settlement.</li> <li>- 'Green Belt' designation.</li> </ul>	Medium	Low	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>
Hill : Lochend				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. Views to the AWPR from the south of the area.</li> <li>- Undulating area of higher ground.</li> <li>- Mature woodland plantation.</li> <li>- Irregular field pattern with drystone walls and occasional trees.</li> <li>- Dispersed, sheltered settlement.</li> <li>- 'Green Belt' and 'Area of Landscape Significance' designations.</li> </ul>	High	Low	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Medium</b>

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Coast : Kincardine Cliffs				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. Views to the AWPR at Cookney from the A90 between Muchalls and Newtonhill settlements.</li> <li>- Area of Landscape Significance designation.</li> <li>- SSSI designations east of Cove and at the northern tip of the area.</li> <li>- 'Greenbelt' and 'Greenspace Network' designations and 'District Wildlife' designation.</li> </ul>	High	Low	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Medium</b>
Urban Area : Portlethen				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Commercial premises and housing on undulating ground.</li> <li>- Bordered by the A90 to the west and a railway line to the east.</li> </ul>	Medium	Low	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>
Recreational : Portlethen Golf Course				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Gently sloping landform.</li> <li>- Burn with associated series of ponds.</li> <li>- Manicured landscape within semi-rural and industrial setting.</li> <li>- Conifer and broadleaf plantation around the boundaries and more recently planted tree and scrub vegetation throughout the course.</li> </ul>	Low to Medium	Low	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>
Urban Area : Badentoy Park				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Industrial and commercial premises formed in a natural 'hollow' which slopes from the north to the south.</li> <li>- Contrived amenity landscape planting with lawns.</li> <li>- Surrounded by grazing farmland.</li> <li>- Excavated ground to the west of the area.</li> </ul>	Low	Low	Low

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<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Low</b>
<b>Wooded Farmland : Auchlunies</b>				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Private estate in heavily wooded landscaped grounds.</li> <li>- Drystone walls.</li> <li>- Overgrown hedge trees.</li> </ul>	Medium	Low	Low to Medium
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vernacular buildings.</li> </ul>			
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Low to Medium</b>
<b>Hill : Clochandighter</b>				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. Views to the AWPR from the north of the area.</li> <li>- Coniferous woodland plantation.</li> <li>- Fields used for grazing with drystone walls and areas of gorse.</li> <li>- Limited, secluded settlement.</li> <li>- OHTL.</li> <li>- 'Green Belt' designation (The Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2006).</li> </ul>	Low to Medium	Low to Medium	Low to Medium
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Low to Medium</b>
<b>Hill : Stranog</b>				
Gorse and scrub covered ridges and hilltops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Panoramic views east from Cookney, and north and east from Rothnick.</li> <li>- Peaceful and rugged with intimate and enclosed areas.</li> </ul>	Medium	High	Medium to High
Open pasture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shelterbelts provide local screening and shelter.</li> <li>- Very open, remote and peaceful.</li> </ul>	Medium	High	Medium to High
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Medium to High</b>
<b>Open Farmland : Craiglug</b>				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Panoramic views at Upper Ashentilly – distant view north east towards AWPR blocked by settlement of Peterculter.</li> <li>- Gently undulating ground falling steeply in the north toward the Dee Valley.</li> <li>- Land forming a gentle valley in the east becoming steeper and narrower</li> </ul>	Medium to High	Low	Low to Medium

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All areas	further east towards East Tilbouries. - Blocks of coniferous forestry plantation to the north and west of the area. Gorse scrub on high ground with improved pasture and rough grazing. Arable crops in the gentle valley to the east of the area. - Large open grazing fields with drystone walls and post/wire fencing. - OHTL crossing the area from north to south. - Contrast of exposure on the high ground and enclosure in lower valley areas. - 'Area of Landscape Significance' designation			
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>

Wooded Farmland :Normandykes				
All areas	- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. - Fragmented landscape with valley and a diverse use of fields amongst the woodland. - Mixed and plantation woodland. - Rolling farmland – arable, improved pasture, rough grazing. - Narrow valley with Temple Burn. - Disused railway track and associated abandoned/ degraded land. - Hedgerow trees and stone walls. - Overhead transmission line running north-south across the site. - 'Green Belt' designation to east of area (Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2002).	Medium	Low	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>

Urban Area ; Peterculter				
All areas		Medium	Low	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>

Wooded Farmland : Murtle				
Murtle Dam and woodlands	-Catchment area for Murtle Dam. -Steep sided valley surrounded by a divers and undulating landform. -Large areas of semi-natural woodlands enclose Murtle Dam and extend	Medium	Medium	Medium



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	northwards. -Peaceful environment.			
Agriculture  Agriculture	-Semi-improved grassland to the south adjacent to A93 with fields defined by drystone walls. -Improved grassland to the east and north with fields defined by drystone walls. -South facing valley slope with a main focus to the Dee Valley and the southern valley side.	Medium	Medium	Medium
Settlement	-Groups of detached houses are located within the wooded Murtle Dam areas and are generally screened from the proposed route. -Scattered farms and dwellings are located along Hillhead Road.	Medium	Medium	Medium
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Medium</b>
<b>Open Farmland : Westfield</b>				
All areas	- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. - Rugged undulating landform. - Varied field pattern and large areas of marshy grassland and scrub. - Drystone walls and gorse on higher ground in the north. - Drystone walls more distinct in the south where some arable cropping is carried out. - OHTL. - 'Green Belt' and 'Green Space Network' designations.	Low to Medium	Low	Low to Medium
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Low to Medium</b>
<b>Wooded Farmland : Countesswells</b>				
Countesswells Wood	- Large mature plantations create a strong sense of enclosure. - Countesswells Wood is a popular location for walking and has an extensive network of paths.	Medium	Low	Low to Medium
Farmland	- Diverse topography comprising steep slopes in the south. - West of Countesswells House, area of fields are relatively small and generally comprise improved grassland enclosed by a strong pattern of drystone walls. - East of Countesswells House, land is in arable use in larger fields with some drystone walls but more generally separated by plantation woodlands and	Medium	Low	Low to Medium

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	shelterbelts. - Views are generally short-range and limited by woodland areas.			
Scattered settlement and farms Scattered settlement and farms	- Countesswells House is enclosed by areas of semi-natural woodland to the west with more open views extending east. - Large numbers of scattered farms and dwellings, a school and commercial nurseries are located in the east.	Medium	Low	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>

Open Farmland : Anguston				
All areas	- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. - Rolling open farmland. - Clumps of mixed woodland and small number of forestry plantations. - Fields with improved pasture and arable crops. Marshland in north of area. - Culter Burn with associated narrow valley and dense riparian woodland. - Disused quarry at Mid Anguston. - Isolated farms and small settlement at Mid Anguston. - Two OHTLs. - Busy B979 and minor road. - 'Green Belt' and 'Green Space Network' designations.	Low to Medium	Low	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>

Wooded Farmland : Hazelhead				
All areas	- Not immediately adjacent to the route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. - Mature woodland forming strong enclosure. - Parkland, equestrian use and small plant nursery uses. - Short range views. - Drystone walls and tree lines. - Gently sloping landform.	Medium	Low	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				<b>Low to Medium</b>

Recreational : Hazelhead Golf Course				
All areas	- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect	Medium	Low	Low to Medium

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All areas	impacts. - Secluded and tranquil environment with short-range views. - Heavily used recreational area. - 'Green Belt' and 'Green Space Network' designations.			
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Low to Medium</b>
Open Farmland : Kingshill/ Bogskeathy				
All areas	- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. - Gently undulating higher ground. - Drystone walls and paddock-style fencing. - Pastoral agriculture with high concentration of equestrian use. - Scattered settlement concentrated alongside roads. - Large, mature coniferous plantations in the east and west (in neighbouring character areas). - Open outlook to the north, enclosed to the south. - Two OHTL. - 'Green Belt' and 'Green Space Network' designations.	Medium	Low	Low to Medium
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Low to Medium</b>
Urban Area : Kingswells				
All areas	- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect impacts. - Infrastructure related development recently built in south-western edge of Kingswells. - Reasonably attractive site with landscape planting around perimeter.	Medium	Medium	Medium
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Medium</b>
Urban Area : Westhill				
All areas	- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. - A commuter settlement 7km west of Aberdeen linked by the A944. Predominantly residential but with a medium sized industrial estate south of the A944.	Medium	Low	Low to Medium
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY</b>				<b>Low to Medium</b>

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Open Farmland : Maidencraig				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Attractive rural character enclosed between Kingswells to west and outskirts of Aberdeen to west.</li> <li>- Traffic from A944 and minor roads detract from rural setting.</li> <li>- Views possible from southwest facing areas towards AWPR.</li> </ul>	Low to Medium	Low to Medium	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low to Medium
Open Farmland : Greenferns				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts.</li> <li>- Enclosed and tranquil with strong rural upland character despite neighbouring conurbation of Kingswells and Northfield.</li> <li>- Attractive and enclosed agricultural area with views to neighbouring development largely reduced by tree lines.</li> <li>- Views to edge of Aberdeen detract from scenic quality.</li> <li>- Good views of Brimmond Hill possible from area.</li> </ul>	Low to Medium	Low	Low to Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Low to Medium
Hill : Brimmond Hill				
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remote from proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. Views to AWPR in southeast of area.</li> <li>- Exposed area much higher than surrounding land allowing long range views in all directions.</li> <li>- A network of footpaths which is part of the Four Hills walk.</li> <li>- Large scale masts detract from views to and from hill.</li> </ul>	High	Low	Medium
OVERALL SENSITIVITY				Medium

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**Table 39 – Landscape Impact Assessment**

Landscape Character Type and Area/ Settlement Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Details of Change Winter, Year of Opening	Summary of Mitigation Proposals Magnitude of Change, Winter, Year of Opening (taking into account the mitigation proposals)	Impact – Winter Year of Opening	Details of change Summer 15 years after opening Magnitude of change Summer 15 years after opening	Impact – Summer 15 years after opening
<b>Directly Affected Areas</b>						
Open Farmland : Loirston (ch206100-207200)						
A90/ A956 corridors	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Realignment of A956 to join with the Southern Leg and the A90 at Charleston junction at ch206600 – 207250 (on embankment ch206800 – 207100).</li> <li>- Introduction of Charleston Junction over bridge and associated street lighting at ch206650 – 206800).</li> <li>- Introduction of cuttings along A90 and slip roads linking the Southern Leg/ A956 to the A90.</li> <li>- Realignment of Old Stonehaven Road and Craighill (Redmoss) Road at junction with Southern Leg / A956 at ch206950.</li> <li>- Removal of mixed woodland at junction of A956 and A90 at ch 26600 – 206900</li> <li>- Realignment of culvert for Loirston Burn at ch207020.</li> <li>- Introduction of 2.8 meter noise barrier along the A90 slip road s/b</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scrub woodland and extra heavy standard trees to the east of the junction at ch20700-207200 to provide screening for scattered settlement west of Charleston.</li> <li>- Drystone wall to east of junction (ch206800-206950) continued along eastern slip roads to A90(T) to connect with existing stone walls associated with field patterns, provide a 'gateway' feature and tie in with landscape pattern. Also to act as a sound barrier for 'Novara' adjacent to the north-east slip road..</li> <li>- Mixed woodland adjacent to the northern A90 (T) slip road on the west of the junction to reinforce transition between character types and to screen the junction and cutting slopes.</li> <li>- Local grasses and wild flowers on cuttings / slip roads to the A90 to integrate with existing local environment and providing planting in areas of rock cutting.</li> <li>- Grading out of embankment east of the junction (ch206800-</li> </ul>	Negligible adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scrub, tree planting and woodland planting is established providing screening and continuation of existing vegetation.</li> <li>- Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent.</li> <li>Low magnitude.</li> </ul>	Negligible adverse impact

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A90/ A956 corridors	as above	as above	206900) and return to agriculture. - Grading out of embankment of realigned Craighill (Redmoss) Road and return to agriculture with extra heavy standard trees planted along access. - Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Low magnitude	as above	as above	as above
Loirston Loch	Low to Medium	- Not immediately adjacent to proposed route but in close proximity so only susceptible to indirect visual and aural impacts.	Adverse; medium-scale; long-term; permanent. Low magnitude.	Slight adverse impact	No change. Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Low magnitude.	Slight adverse impact
Scattered settlement and local access routes	Low to Medium	- New link road connecting the Lochton – Auchlunies – Nigg Road to Bothy Brig and continuing south for 1 kilometre connecting further housing and providing access to fields. Existing access roads from the A90 stopped up. Link road in cutting south of the Lochton – Auchlunies – Nigg Road moving onto embankment as it crosses the proposed AWPR (Hatton Accommodation Overbridge) with a further small embankment over Loirston Burn culvert and a cutting in a field adjacent to the A90 - Access road from Whistlebrae Cottage to the A90 to the south stopped up. - Visual and aural impact of new road - Settlement not in close proximity to proposed route so only susceptible to indirect impacts. - Introduction of the Hatton Accommodation over bridge at ch 206400.	- Mixed woodland around Hatton accommodation over bridge to screen and integrate into the landscape. - Broadleaf and scrub woodland planting along the top of the new link road cutting to integrate the cutting into the landscape and provide screening for properties to the west. - Scrub and riparian woodland around detention basins to provide screening to nearby properties. - Beneficial impact due to less traffic on local roads; medium-scale; long-term; permanent. - Adverse; medium-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium magnitude.	Moderate adverse impact	Adverse; medium-scale; long-term; permanent Medium magnitude.	Moderate adverse impact

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of detention ponds east of the A90 adjacent to Mains of Charleston.</li> </ul>				
Farmlands	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg in rock cutting (at ch206100 – 206500).</li> <li>- Loss or severance of fields.</li> <li>- Reintroduction of potential agricultural land through the infill of redundant A956 junction cutting.</li> <li>- Loss of woodlands at existing Charleston junction.</li> <li>- Visual and aural impact of new road on rural setting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sensitive rock cutting to integrate with existing landform and hydroseed to facilitate greening of ledges and crevices.</li> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland to integrate with existing woodland adjacent to A90 (T).</li> <li>- Ease slopes adjacent to A956 on the north eastern side of the A90 to 1:5 to allow potential return to agriculture.</li> <li>- Infill existing cutting to allow potential return to agriculture.</li> <li>- Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent.</li> <li>- Beneficial; medium scale; permanent.</li> <li>Medium to High magnitude.</li> </ul>	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland matured and integrated with existing woodland.</li> <li>- Old A956 cutting infilled and successfully returned to agricultural use.</li> <li>- Slopes adjacent to A956 successfully returned to agriculture.</li> <li>- Beneficial; medium scale; permanent.</li> <li>- Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent.</li> <li>Medium magnitude.</li> </ul>	Moderate adverse impact
Wooded Farmland : Duff's Hill (ch205200-206100)						
Woodlands	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg on embankment and in cutting.</li> <li>- Loss and fragmentation of coniferous woodland plantation.</li> <li>- Loss of habitat.</li> <li>- Rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed and scrub woodland to replace any vegetation lost and to increase biodiversity.</li> <li>- Pond re-sited to offset habitat loss, fragmentation and impacts on protected species.</li> <li>Adverse; medium-scale; long-term; permanent.</li> </ul>	Slight to Moderate adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed woodland and scrub planting matured to effectively replace lost vegetation and to increase biodiversity.</li> <li>- Wetland scrub and woodland matured and new habitat created.</li> <li>Adverse; medium-scale; long-term; permanent.</li> </ul>	Slight adverse impact

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			Medium to High magnitude.		Medium magnitude.	
Open Farmland : Hare Moss (ch202200-205200)						
Hare Moss	Medium	- In close proximity thus susceptible to visual and aural impacts.	- Drystone walls to integrate with surrounding landscape. Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium magnitude.	Moderate adverse impact	- Re-vegetation of disturbed earth. Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium magnitude.	Moderate adverse impact
Open rural landscape	Medium	- Introduction of Southern Leg in cutting ch202300 – 203000, and on embankment up to 3.5 m (ch203350– 205300). - Loss and severance of fields and field boundaries. - Introduction of 2.2 meter noise barrier at ch204780- 205050 e/b -Introduction of retention ponds north of AWPR at ch204500. - Realignment of minor road (Hilldowntree – Sunnyside Causewayport Road) on embankment and introduction of over bridge at ch204740. - Visual and aural impact of new road in rural setting. - Introduction of link road between Merchant's Croft and Sunnyside Steading.	- Drystone walls at top of cuttings and embankments in selected locations to screen and integrate with landscape pattern and to provide noise mitigation to nearby dwellings. - Scrub woodland introduced to minimise impact of cuttings and provide screening for noise barrier. - Embankment on realigned Hilldowntree road graded out to soften embankments, screen properties and allow potential return to agriculture with area next to the over bridge planted with mixed, feathered and scrub woodland. - Embankment on AWPR graded out to soften embankments, screen properties and allow potential return to agriculture at ch204200-205200. -Link road between Merchant's Croft and Sunnyside Steading aligned to allow retention of	Moderate adverse impact	- Graded areas integrated into agricultural use. - Scrub and mixed woodland planting established and matured to minimise structures and cutting. Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium magnitude. as above	Moderate adverse impact
Open rural landscape	as above			as above		as above



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			existing distinctive clump of trees. - Ponds located towards the edge of Hare Moss and designed with naturalistic shape and contours. Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium magnitude.			
Scattered dwellings and farms	High	- Introduction of Southern Leg alongside farms / dwellings at Bishopston, Little Bishopston, Midfield Cottage, Hare Moss Cottage, The Beechings, and Duff's Hill. - Introduction of overbridge and embankment to link Bishopston and Little Bishopston along existing track at ch203100-203250. - Visual and aural impact of new road and embankment on dwellings.	- Extended existing woodland around farm buildings to screen views north of Bishopston - Overbridge embankment at Bishopston graded out adjacent to AWPR and planted to integrate with field pattern. - Drystone walls at top of cuttings and embankments in selected locations to screen and integrate with landscape pattern. - Areas upfilled and graded to soften embankments, screen properties and allow potential return to agriculture at ch204500-205200. Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.	Severe adverse impact	- Woodland around farm buildings matured to provide screening for Bishopston Farm. - Re-vegetation of disturbed earth Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.	Substantial to Severe adverse impact
Open Farmland : Merchant's Croft (ch201100-202200)						
All areas	Medium	- Introduction of the Southern Leg at grade and in cutting at ch201350 to 202100. - Loss and severance of fields and field	- Scrub woodland to soften appearance of cuttings, replace lost vegetation, visually separate AWPR from realigned track and	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact	- Scrub woodland established effectively softening the appearance of the cuttings. - Mixed woodland planting	Moderate adverse impact

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>boundaries.</li> <li>- Severance of distinctive stoney tracks.</li> <li>- Introduction of link roads to Merchant's Croft and Sunnyside Steading.</li> <li>- Realignment of minor road linking Merchant's Croft, Birken Braes and Greenloaning and introduction of over bridge at ch202050.</li> <li>- Introduction of 2.7 m noise barrier at ch201100- 201200 e/b.</li> <li>- Possible loss of woodland on edge of copse south of Newlands.</li> <li>- Loss of scrub woodland planting south of Ferniebrae.</li> <li>- Visual and aural impact of new road on rural setting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tie-in with existing scrub.</li> <li>- Mixed woodland, scrub planting and standard tree lines to provide screening to properties and integrate over bridge into landscape.</li> <li>- Drystone walls introduced along the top of cuttings to integrate AWPR into landscape pattern.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium to High magnitude.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>established and matured to minimise impact of over bridge and cutting.</li> <li>- Mixed woodland also blending with existing woodland at Whitestone.</li> <li>- Planting established to provide effective separation of AWPR from realigned track and link roads.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent - Medium magnitude</p>	
Open Farmland : Blaikiewell (ch100000-100100 and 200000-201100)						
All areas	Medium to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of roundabout junction (Cleanhill Junction) connecting Fastlink with Southern Leg.</li> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg in cutting and on embankment.</li> <li>- Introduction of street lighting at new junction.</li> <li>- Introduction of 2 meter and 2.7 m s at ch200860- 201100 e/b, and 1 meter drystone wall noise barrier at ch200120-200420 e/b</li> <li>- Introduction of flood attenuation ponds to southeast of proposed Cleanhill Junction</li> <li>- New C5K over bridge for Lochton-Auchlunies-Rigg road, with realigned access to Burnhead Cottages and associated diversion and closure of local roads.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over bridges to incorporate drystone apron to tie into existing drystone walls.</li> <li>- Scrub and, mixed woodland and extra heavy standard trees to screen and integrate Fastlink, Southern Leg and Cleanhill junction with Cleanhill Wood.</li> <li>- Scrub and riparian ecological planting for landscape and habitat enhancement around ponds, Blaikiewell Burn diversion and existing habitat management at Blaikiewell Burn.</li> <li>- Mixed woodland to replace lost vegetation, link with existing woodland and screen views of</li> </ul>	Substantial to Severe adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scrub, mixed woodland and extra heavy standard trees matured to effectively screen and integrate Fastlink, Southern Leg and Cleanhill Junction with Cleanhill Wood</li> <li>- Scrub and riparian ecological planting established to achieve landscape and habitat enhancement around ponds, Blaikiewell Burn diversion and existing habitat management at Blaikiewell Burn.</li> <li>- Mixed woodland matured to effectively replace lost vegetation, link with existing woodland and screen views of over bridge at Burnhead Cottages (including existing sections of road to be</li> </ul>	Moderate to substantial adverse impact
All areas	as above			as above		as above

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New accommodation underpasses for Southern Leg, ch200100 and ch201000.</li> <li>- Severance of shelterbelts and hedgerows.</li> <li>- Introduction of NMU track parallel to AWPR between Merchants Croft and Burnhead dwellings.</li> <li>- Aural and visual effects on rural area with limited presence of traffic.</li> </ul>	<p>over bridge and AWPR at Burnhead Cottages (including existing sections of road to be grubbed up and planted.</p> <p>Mixed woodland, drystone walls, false cutting and extra heavy standard trees to integrate cutting between Burnhead and Whitestone into landscape , separate track from AWPR and provide screening to nearby properties.</p> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent.</p> <p>High magnitude.</p>		<p>grubbed up and planted).</p> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent.</p> <p>Medium to High magnitude</p>	
Hill : Craingles (ch100100-101500)						
All areas	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg on embankment, at grade and in cutting through Cleanhill Wood.</li> <li>- Loss and severance of woodland creating 'scar' across Cleanhill.</li> <li>- Loss and severance of shelterbelts and managed habitat planting at Blaikiewell Burn.</li> <li>- Introduction of under bridge at Blaikiewell Burn ch100150.</li> <li>- Introduction of Blaikiewell Road under bridge at ch100200.</li> <li>- Introduction of Kingcausie/Eastland underpass at ch100960</li> <li>- Realignment of burn west of Southern Leg ch101250 – 101500</li> <li>- Realignment of Cleanhill woodland track.</li> <li>- Views to Fastlink from woodland edge in south and southwest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scrub, mixed woodland and extra heavy standard trees to screen and integrate Southern Leg with Cleanhill Wood.</li> <li>- Mixed woodland and scrub planting immediately above area of possible rock cut to replace lost vegetation and minimise 'scar' across hillside.</li> <li>- Scrub planting, mixed woodland and standard trees to replace lost vegetation on west side of Southern Leg ch100950 to 101500 and replace/integrate with existing Beech boundary.</li> <li>- Earthworks, scrub planting and extra heavy standard trees around Blaikiewell Burn and</li> </ul>	Severe adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scrub and mixed woodland and tree planting matured to effectively screen and integrate Southern Leg with Cleanhill Wood.</li> <li>- Mixed woodland immediately above rock cut matured to minimise 'scar' across hillside.</li> <li>-Planting edge established to on west side of Southern Leg.</li> <li>-Scrub planting and extra heavy standard trees matured around Blaikiewell Burn and Blaikiewell Road underbridge to integrate structure into landscape and Cleanhill Woods</li> <li>- Scrub planting matured across and at either end of wildlife bridge to integrate structure into hillside and</li> </ul>	Substantial adverse impact

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of a green wildlife bridge at ch 100600.</li> <li>- Introduction of 2 m noise barrier at ch101000-101220 n/b.</li> <li>- Rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road.</li> </ul>	<p>Blaikiewell Road under bridge to integrate structure into landscape and Cleanhill Wood.</p> <p>- Scrub planting across and at either end of wildlife bridge to encourage use by wildlife and integrate into hillside and Cleanhill Wood.</p> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.</p>		<p>Cleanhill Wood.</p> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium magnitude.</p>	
Wooded Farmland :Netherly/Alttries (ch101500-101900)						
All areas All areas	High as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg on slight embankment at Kingcausie, south of the River Dee Valley</li> <li>- Introduction of 1.2 meter drystone wall barrier at ch101550- 101750</li> <li>-Introduction of new access track in slight cutting parallel to, and to the west of the main alignment at ch101800-101900.</li> <li>- Loss of semi-open field with mixed trees at Kingcausie (ch101500- 101900)</li> <li>- Interruption of scenic views north over the Dee Valley</li> <li>- Visual and aural impact of new road on rural setting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed and broadleaf woodland to the east of the AWPR at the edge of the open field to integrate with existing estate and screen views from Kingcausie House and Lodge.</li> <li>- Standard and extra heavy standard trees along the western edge of the AWPR to replace lost vegetation and integrate with existing boundaries and scattered parkland trees</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium to High magnitude.</p>	Substantial to Severe adverse impact as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed and broadleaf woodland matured to effectively integrate with existing estate woodland to the west of the open field and screen views from Kingcausie House and Lodge.</li> <li>- Trees along the western edge of the AWPR matured replacing lost vegetation and integrating road corridor planting with existing boundaries and scattered parkland trees.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium magnitude</p>	Substantial adverse impact as above
Valley : Dee Valley (ch101900-102800)						
All areas	High	- Introduction of Southern Leg on bridge	- Scrub and riparian woodland at	Severe adverse	- Scrub and riparian woodland at	Substantial to

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- spanning the River Dee and on embankment up to 12m high</li> <li>- Introduction of bridge and street lighting</li> <li>- Introduction of 1.2 meter parapets / noise barriers on River Dee bridge at ch101850-102200 n/b and s/b</li> <li>- Introduction of 2.3 meter noise barrier on top of earth bund (4 meters in total) at ch102200-102850</li> <li>- Interruption of floodplain by embankment</li> <li>- Loss of views east from B979</li> <li>- Interruption of views across the Dee Valley from caravan park and eastern/ southern edges of Camphill community.</li> <li>- Introduction of underbridge for B9077 at ch101900</li> <li>- Loss and severance of fields</li> <li>- Introduction of retention ponds to east of new road at ch102650 – 102800.</li> <li>- Re-routing of farm tracks from B979 to fields on eastern side of AWPR, interrupted by embankment. Introduction of access road routed around AWPR also on embankment.</li> <li>- Aural impact of the new road on surrounding properties</li> </ul>	<p>southern edge of the valley to integrate and enhance existing vegetation at the southern edge of the bridge and visually separate Dee and B9077 bridges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up-fill area between B979 and AWPR and plant with mixed, broadleaf, riparian and scrub woodland to introduce variety of texture, and colour to the embankment and screen road.</li> <li>- Ponds and associated contouring to be shaped to reflect and integrate with the topography and land available, Mixed woodland and riparian planting carried out to soften the visual impact of the boundary fencing and screen ponds</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.</p>	<p>impact</p>	<p>southern edge of the valley matured to effectively integrate and enhance existing vegetation at the southern edge of the bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planting matured on up-filled area between B979 and AWPR to provide improved screening</li> <li>- Vegetation matured around ponds. Ponds integrated into the landscape. Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent.</li> </ul> <p>High to Medium magnitude.</p>	<p>Severe adverse impact</p>
Urban Area : Milltimber (ch102800-103600)						
All areas	Medium to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg in cutting up to 5 m deep</li> <li>- Severance of Old Deeside Line Walk</li> <li>- Loss of school buildings</li> <li>- Loss of residential properties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up-fill area between B979 link road and AWPR and plant with mixed/broadleaf woodland.</li> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland to replace lost gardens and lost</li> </ul>	Severe adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planting in area between B979 link road and AWPR matured to provide screening.</li> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland in Milltimber matured to provide</li> </ul>	Substantial to severe adverse impact

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overbridge for A93 at ch103100</li> <li>- Realignment of minor road and overbridge for local traffic at Milltimber Brae at ch102940</li> <li>- Introduction of B979 link road parallel to and west of AWPR</li> <li>- Introduction of 1.5-2.5 m noise barrier along the Old Deeside Line Walk to the northern side of the walk to the north of the ponds and extending along the AWPR at ch102870- 102830 s/b.</li> <li>- Introduction of 2.5 m noise barrier at ch102930-103090 s/b; and 1.5 meter barrier at ch103100-103600 s/b; and 1-1.2 meter drystone wall barrier at ch103100-103600 n/b; and barrer along A93 w/b, west of the AWPR.</li> <li>- Minor road stopped up at ch103550</li> <li>- Loss of gardens, fields and field boundaries</li> <li>- Loss of woodland and woodland edges</li> <li>- Visual and aural impact of the new road on surrounding properties</li> </ul>	<p>trees and screen views of AWPR and noise barriers for properties in Milltimber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Broadleaf woodland to provide screening for adjacent properties and tie in with existing planting long Old Deeside Walk.</li> <li>- Groups of standard trees to integrate with existing hedgerow pattern and element of screening to road corridor.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent High magnitude</p>		<p>screening for properties and tie in with existing planting along Old Deeside Walk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Groups of standard trees matured to integrate with existing hedgerow pattern.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium to High magnitude.</p>	
Wooded Farmland : Craigton (ch103600-104400)						
All areas	Medium to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg in cutting up to 11m deep.</li> <li>- Introduction of B979 link road parallel to and west of the AWPR at ch103100 to 104000.</li> <li>- Introduction of Milltimber Junction joining the B979 to the AWPR in cutting and with overbridge at ch 104000. Slip roads in cutting with embankment at the east side of the AWPR.</li> <li>- Introduction of street lighting at new junction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland to replace lost woodland trees and screen views for properties in Milltimber</li> <li>- Groups of standard trees to integrate with existing hedgerow pattern to the west of the AWPR.</li> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland to screen Milltimber Junction and noise barriers and tie in with existing plantations.</li> <li>- Grade out embankment to the</li> </ul>	Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland matured to effectively replace lost woodland trees and provide increased screening of views for properties in Milltimber</li> <li>- Groups of standard trees matured to effectively integrate with existing hedgerow pattern to the west of the AWPR.</li> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland matured to effectively screen Milltimber Junction, tie in with existing</li> </ul>	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact

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All areas	as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of 2.5 - 3 m noise barrier at ch103600-103950 s/b; and 1.2 meter drystone wall barrier at ch103600-103990 n/b</li> <li>- Introduction of pedestrian / cycle path parallel to the AWPR and to the east joining the junction on embankment.</li> <li>- Loss of woodland edge to the east of the AWPR</li> <li>- Loss of woodland edge at ch 103950 to 104150 to the west of the slip road junction / Milltimber Junction.</li> <li>- Loss or severance of fields and field boundaries.</li> <li>- Minor road stopped up at ch 103750.</li> <li>- Overbridge at Milltimber Junction ch 104050.</li> <li>- Rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road.</li> </ul>	<p>east of the AWPR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone on bridge apron to tie in with existing drystone walls.</li> <li>- Scrub woodland and feathered tree planting to east and west of AWPR at ch104200 –ch104400 to screen and soften cutting and tie in with existing scrub planting.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.</p>	as above	<p>plantations and shelterbelt and integrate with bridge and junction structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scrub woodland and feathered tree planting matured to screen and soften cutting and tie in with existing scrub</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium to High magnitude.</p>	as above
Hill : Beanshill (ch104400-106000)						
North of Beans Hill	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg on slight embankment, at grade and in cutting across steep open ground.</li> <li>- Introduction of accommodation underpass at ch105950.</li> <li>- Rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road.</li> <li>- Loss or severance of fields and field boundaries.</li> <li>- Loss of scrub planting at ch 104400 – ch 104950</li> </ul>	<p>Scrub planting around accommodation underpass to tie into existing nearby vegetation and soften earthworks associated with underpass</p> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High Magnitude.</p>	Substantial adverse impact	<p>Matured scrub planting around accommodation underpass to tie into existing nearby vegetation and soften earthworks associated with underpass</p> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High Magnitude.</p>	Substantial adverse impact
Agricultural land south of Beans Hill	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg in deep cutting across agriculture fields on south and east facing slopes of Beans Hill.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drystone walls to tie into existing landscape pattern on east side of Southern Leg ch104</li> </ul>	Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed woodland and standard trees between realigned local roads and Contlaw Road overbridge matured to</li> </ul>	Substantial adverse impact

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Contlaw Road overbridge ch104750, including closure and realignment of local roads.</li> <li>- Introduction of 1.5 meter noise barrier at ch104700-104880 n/b</li> <li>- Rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road.</li> <li>- Loss or severance of fields and field boundaries.</li> <li>- Loss of tree planting at ch 105600 –105850</li> </ul>	<p>500 to 104900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existing drystone walls to tie into stone apron under Contlaw Road overbridge.</li> <li>- Mixed woodland and standard trees around realigned local roads and Contlaw Road overbridge to provide screening for nearby properties.</li> </ul> <p>Mixed woodland, coniferous and scrub planting to west of AWPR to soften cutting, provide screening to properties and integrate with existing planting pattern</p> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.</p>		<p>provide increased screening for close properties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed woodland, coniferous and scrub planting matured to west of AWPR to soften cutting, provide increased screening to properties and integrate with existing planting pattern</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.</p>	
Wooded Farmland : Broomfold (ch106000-107700)						
West of Bishops Court	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No direct impact but perception and views east may be marginally affected by landscape and visual impact of the Southern Leg.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent. Low magnitude.</p>	Slight adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mitigation planting matured to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; low-scale; medium-term; permanent. Low magnitude</p>	Negligible to slight adverse impact
Silverburn	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern leg on embankment up to 11m, at grade and in cutting.</li> <li>-Realignment of local road and introduction of underbridge at ch106450.</li> <li>- Loss of planting; scrub, woodland and hedgerows.</li> <li>- Introduction of retention pond at ch106050.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed and broadleaf woodland to tie in with existing woodland and screen close views of the AWPR / noise barriers from nearby properties.</li> <li>- Scrub planting to soften sections of the cuttings, screen noise barriers and tie into</li> </ul>	Severe adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland matured to effectively tie in with existing woodland and provide improved screening of close views from properties.</li> <li>- Mature scrub planting to soften sections of the cuttings and tie into existing planting patterns.</li> </ul>	Severe adverse impact



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ch 106250</li> <li>- Loss or severance of fields and field boundaries.</li> <li>- Introduction of 2.5 m at ch106000-106550 n/b and 3 meter barrier at ch107350-107600 s/b; and 1.6 meter barrier at ch107450-107700 n/b.</li> <li>- Stopping up of track at ch 107700 between Moss –Side of Auchlea and Tigh Na Bruaich.</li> <li>- Introduction of realigned access over AWPR South Kingswells Junction.</li> <li>- Access road to Gairn House stopped up.</li> <li>- Introduction of new access road and accommodation underpass at ch107320.</li> <li>- Rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road.</li> <li>- Loss of rural road experience.</li> </ul>	<p>existing planting patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drystone walls introduced at the top of cuttings to tie into the existing landscape pattern and screen sections of the AWPR.</li> <li>- Standard tree lines to integrate road corridor into field pattern, replace lost vegetation and severed hedgerows.</li> <li>- Riparian planting introduced around ponds to screen and integrate into landscape.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- Standard tree lines matured to integrate road corridor into field pattern, replacing lost vegetation and severed hedgerows.</li> <li>- Riparian planting matured around ponds providing increasing screening and integration into landscape.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.</p>	
Hill : Fifeshill (ch107700-108500)						
Kingshill Wood coniferous plantation	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg and junction with A944, with elevated crossing, associated slip roads and realigned local access, into foreground views from western and north-western edges of Kingshill Wood.</li> <li>- Introduction of street lighting associated with new junction.</li> <li>- Rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road.</li> </ul>	<p>See below for mitigation to views from edges of Kingshill Wood.</p> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.</p>	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact	<p>See below for mitigation to views from edges of Kingshill Wood.</p> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.</p>	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact
Farmland on lower slopes of Kingshill	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg and South Kingswells junction at A944 across sloping agricultural land south of A944.</li> <li>- Introduction of 2.6 – 2.8 m noise barriers at ch107700-108100 s/b;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drystone walls on east and west side of Southern Leg to tie into existing field boundaries and reflect the landscape pattern ch107700 to A944.</li> <li>- Regrading works to enhance</li> </ul>	Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed woodland and standard tree planting matured to effectively offset geometry of Southern Leg overbridge, define the ‘gateway’ and filter views of junction.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term;</p>	Substantial impact

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of street lighting associated with new junction.</li> <li>- Stopped up local roads and realigned tracks</li> <li>- Loss or severance of fields and field boundaries.</li> <li>- Rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road.</li> </ul>	rolling landscape and offset geometry of Southern Leg overbridge. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed woodland and standard tree planting to offset geometry of Southern Leg overbridge, define the 'gateway' and filter views of junction.</li> </ul> Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. High magnitude.		permanent. High magnitude.	
Hill : Auchlea (ch107700-108500)						
All areas	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg in cutting up across A944 valley into foreground views from eastern and north-eastern slopes of Backhill and across southern slope of Cloghill.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drystone walls on east and west side of Southern Leg and adjacent to slip roads to tie into landscape pattern A944 to approx ch107700</li> </ul>	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed woodland and standard tree planting matured to effectively offset geometry of Southern Leg over bridge, define 'gateway' and filter views of junction</li> </ul>	Moderate adverse impact
All areas	as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of junction with A944, with elevated crossing, associated slip roads and realigned local access in agricultural/light industrial land north of A944.</li> <li>- Introduction of street lighting associated with new junction.</li> <li>- Introduction of 2.6 and 2.8 m noise barriers at ch107700-108100 s/b</li> <li>- Visual and aural impact of new road has further detrimental effects upon existing rural and suburban setting (views to Westhill and the A944 road).</li> <li>- Loss or severance of fields and field boundaries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Re-grading works to enhance rolling landscape and offset geometry of Southern Leg over bridge.</li> <li>- Standard tree planting to offset geometry of Southern Leg over bridge, define 'gateway' and filter views of junction.</li> <li>- Mixed woodland on east side of s/b off-ramp to screen close views from nearby properties.</li> </ul> Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium to High magnitude.	as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed woodland on east side of s/b off-ramp matured to improve screening of close views for properties.</li> </ul> Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium magnitude.	as above
Open Farmland : Clinterty/ West Brimmond (ch108500-109000)						

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All areas	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg and South Kingswells Junction on embankment and in cutting.</li> <li>- Realignment of A944 to form roundabout.</li> <li>- Introduction of under bridges at ch108 470 (A944 South Kingswells under bridge south) and 108550 (A944 South Kingswells underbridge north).</li> <li>- Existing minor road (Westholm – East Kingsford Cottage) stopped up where it is severed by the Southern Leg. New access link roads to western and eastern sides of the new A944 roundabout.</li> <li>- Loss and severance of fields and field boundaries.</li> <li>- Visual and aural impact of new road on farm buildings.</li> <li>- Introduction of 2 meter barrier around south and east property barrier at Westholme.</li> <li>- Loss of rural experience on A944.</li> <li>-Introduction of flood attenuation ponds northwest of new South Kingswells junction at ch108600-108770.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Informal groups of standard trees to identify urban connection and filter views of junction.</li> <li>- Mixed woodland to screen close views from properties to east and west side of AWPR</li> <li>- Drystone walls to the east of the road to integrate with surrounding landscape and tie into existing field patterns.</li> <li>- Ponds to be designed as positive landscape features and wildlife habitats with naturalistic shape and contours. Native scrub and riparian planting carried out to soften the visual impact.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium to High magnitude.</p>	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Groups of standard trees matured to achieve filtered views of junction.</li> <li>- Mixed woodland matured to provide screening for properties with close views.</li> <li>- Scrub and riparian planting established around ponds to integrate ponds into landscape.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Medium to High magnitude.</p>	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact
All areas	as above			as above	as above	as above
Wooded Farmland : Kingswells (ch109000-111300)						
Kingswells bypass road corridor	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Views of AWPR to the west.</li> <li>- Aural impacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- False cutting (1:2 to AWPR, locally graded to Kingswells to keep existing pond and minimise loss of trees) to screen views from Kingswells / Kingswells bypass road corridor and Fairley Home Farm at ch109900-110350.</li> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland to</li> </ul>	Slight adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland matured to effectively screen close views from properties and Kingswells bypass road corridor.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent. Low to Medium magnitude.</p>	Slight adverse impact

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			<p>screen close views from properties and Kingswells bypass road corridor and tie in with existing woodland planting blocks.</p> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent.</p> <p>Low to Medium magnitude.</p>			
Woodland and farmland west of Kingswells bypass	Medium to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Southern Leg in cutting up to 16 m deep, at grade, and on embankment up to 10 m high.</li> <li>- Introduction of 3 meter noise barrier at ch108900-109250 n/b (slip road and mainline); and 3.5 meter barrier and 3 meter barrier at ch109880-110120 n/b; and 1.5 meter absorbent barrier at ch109830-109970.</li> <li>- Loss of broadleaf woodland at Denhead of Cloghill and mixed/broadleaf woodland at Fairly Home Farm, Darbeth Farm, West Hatton and Dykeside Steading and Braes of Fairly.</li> <li>- Loss and/or severance of fields and field boundaries.</li> <li>- Loss of residential property, Grandview and stopping up of associated access tracks.</li> <li>- Stopping up of tracks and access adjacent to West Hatton, Denhead of Cloghill.</li> <li>- Realignment of access road to link Denhead of Cloghill to West Hatton Croft , introduction of overbridge at ch109500</li> <li>- Farm access roads stopped up and introduction of new access roads west of Derbeth Farm at grade and in cutting. Over</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- False cutting (1:2 to AWPR, locally graded to Kingswells to keep existing pond and minimise loss of trees) west of Fairly Home Farm at ch109800 to 110350 to screen views and grading out of embankments with potential return to agriculture.</li> <li>- Mixed woodland and scrub planting to screen close views from properties (Cloghill and Denhead of Cloghill).</li> <li>- Scrub planting, standard trees introduce to soften the cutting in selected areas, integrate the over bridges into the landscape and tie into existing blocks of planting.</li> <li>- Drystone walls introduced at the top of cuttings to tie in with existing stone wall/ field boundaries.</li> <li>- Stone on bridge aprons.</li> </ul> <p>-Adverse; large-scale; long-term;</p>	Substantial adverse impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mixed/broadleaf woodland matured to effectively screen close views from properties (Cloghill and Denhead of Cloghill).</li> <li>- Sensitive rock cutting becoming revegetated with woodland blocks matured to effectively tie into existing woodland and screen views.</li> <li>- Scrub planting, standard trees matured increasing screening of cuttings and new bridge structures and tying into existing planting.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse; large-scale; long-term; permanent.</p> <p>High magnitude.</p>	Moderate to Substantial adverse impact

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		bridge at ch110500 to link new roads. - Rural setting affected by visual and aural impact of new road. - Visual and aural impact of Northern Leg from northern edge of area. - Views to AWPR from Fairley Home Farm.	permanent. - High magnitude.			
<b>Indirectly Affected Areas</b>						
Hill : Kincorth Hill						
All areas	Low	- No direct impact but perception and views southwest to Charleston Junction may be marginally affected by landscape and visual impact of the Southern Leg.	- Mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent. Low magnitude.	Negligible to Slight adverse impact	- Mitigation planting matured to reduce visual impact in distant and intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; reducing with time Low magnitude	Negligible to Slight adverse impact
Open Farmland : Den of Leggart						
All areas	Medium	- No direct impact but perception and views south from southern end of LCA may be marginally affected by landscape and visual impact of the Charleston Junction and Fastlink.	- Mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent. Low magnitude.	Slight adverse impact	- Planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments. Adverse and Beneficial (matured planting); medium-scale; medium-term; permanent. Low magnitude.	Negligible adverse impact
Hill : Greenhowe						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
Hill : Lochend						
All areas	Medium	- No direct impact but perception and views south from Cran Hill and Crossroads area	- Mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration	Slight to Negligible	- Mitigation planting matured to reduce visual impact in distant and	Slight to Negligible

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All areas	as above	may be marginally affected by landscape and visual impact of the Southern Leg.	of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent. Low magnitude.	adverse impact as above	intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; reducing with time. Low magnitude.	adverse impact as above
<b>Coast: Kincardine Cliffs</b>						
	Medium	- No change	- None			
<b>Urban Area : Portlethen</b>						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
<b>Recreation : Portlethen Golf Course</b>						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
<b>Urban Area : Badentoy Park</b>						
All areas	Low	- No change	- None			
<b>Wooded Farmland: Auchlunies</b>						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No direct impact but perception and views from southwest of Auchlunies estate may be marginally affected by landscape and visual impact of the Southern Leg.	- Mitigation planting, drystone wall and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent. Low magnitude.	Slight adverse impact	- Mitigation planting matured to reduce visual impact. - Grubbing up of bare earthworks. Adverse; medium-scale; medium-term. Low magnitude.	Negligible to Slight adverse impact
<b>Hill : Clochandighter</b>						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No direct impact but perception and views east from ridgeline may be marginally affected by landscape and visual impact of the Fastlink.	- Mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and	Negligible to Slight adverse impact	- Mitigation planting matured to reduce visual impact in distant and intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; reducing	Negligible to Slight adverse impact

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as above	as above	as above	intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent. Low magnitude.	as above	with time. Low magnitude. as above	as above
<b>Hill : Stranog</b>						
Gorse and scrub covered ridges and hilltops	Medium to High	- No direct impact but perception and views from northeast affected by visual and aural impact of new road.	- Mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views. Low magnitude.	Slight to Moderate adverse impact	- Mitigation planting matured to reduce visual impact in distant and intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; reducing with time. Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact
Open pasture	Medium to High	- No direct impact but perception and views from northeast affected by visual and aural impact of new road.	- Mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views. Low magnitude.	Slight to Moderate adverse impact	- Mitigation planting matured to reduce visual impact in distant and intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; reducing with time. Low magnitude.	Slight adverse impact
<b>Open Farmland : Craiglug</b>						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
<b>Wooded Farmland : Normandykes</b>						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
<b>Urban Area : Peterculter</b>						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
<b>Wooded Farmland : Murtle</b>						
All areas	Medium	- No change	- None			
<b>Open Farmland : Westfield</b>						

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All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
Wooded Farmland : Countesswells						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
Open Farmland : Anguston						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No direct impact but perception and views east from northwest boundary with Beans Hill may be marginally affected by landscape and visual impact of the Southern Leg.	- Mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent. Low magnitude.	Slight adverse impact	- Mitigation planting matured and marginal visual impacts reduced. Adverse; medium scale; reducing over time. Low magnitude.	Negligible to Slight adverse impact
Wooded Farmland : Hazelhead						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
Recreation: Hazelhead Golf Course						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
Open Farmland: Kingshill/Bogskeathy						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
Urban Area: Kingswells						
All areas	Medium	- No direct impact but perception and views to west and northwest of Kingswells will be affected by landscape and visual impact of the Southern Leg. - Indirect aural and visual impact from	- Mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views.	Slight adverse impact	- Mitigation planting to provide increased integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views. Adverse; medium-scale; medium-	Slight adverse impact



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		Northern Leg from northern point of the area.	Adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent. Low magnitude.		term; permanent. Low magnitude.	
Urban Area: Westhill						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No direct impact but perception and views from east and southwest of Westhill will be affected by landscape and visual impact of Southern Leg. (also to be assessed with the northern leg)	- Mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views. Adverse; medium – scale; medium term; permanent. Low magnitude.	Slight adverse impact	- Mitigation planting to provide increased integration of the road corridor into surroundings in distant and intermittent views Adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact
Open Farmland: Maidencraig						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change	- None			
Open Farmland : Greenferns						
All areas	Low to Medium	- No change (to be assessed with the northern leg)	- None			
Hill : Brimmond Hill						
All areas	Medium	- No direct impact but perception and views south from Brimmond Hill may be marginally affected by landscape and visual impact of the Southern Leg.	- Mitigation planting and earthworks to assist integration of the road corridor into surroundings. Adverse; medium-scale; medium-term; permanent Low magnitude	Slight adverse impact	- Planting matured to reduce impact and screen views of road corridor and embankments. Adverse and Beneficial (planting); medium-scale; medium-term; permanent. Low magnitude.	Negligible adverse impact