

Appendix A13.1: Landscape Character Areas

1 Introduction

1.1.1 This appendix supports Chapter 13 (Landscape) of the Environmental Statement (ES), and sets out the baseline landscape character using Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) to describe the study area, encompassing land up to 5km from the proposed scheme. Settlements with distinctive character have also been identified as LLCAs and are included as LLCA (Settlement) units within the baseline. The LLCAs boundaries were identified following field and desk-based assessment, including review of the following sources:

- Cairngorms National Park Authority: Landscape Character Assessment (2009);
- David Tyldesley and Associates/Perth & Kinross Council; Landscape Study to Inform Planning for Wind Energy Final Report (2010);
- Scottish Natural Heritage: Cairngorms Landscape Character Assessment: Scottish Natural Heritage Review 75 (1996);
- Scottish Natural Heritage: Tayside Landscape Character Assessment: Scottish Natural Heritage Review 122 (1999); and
- Transport Scotland: A9 Dualling Programme. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Environmental Report Addendum. Appendix F – Strategic Landscape Review Report (2014).

1.1.2 For each LLCA and LCA a description includes location, topography, drainage, land use, settlement and views with a further tabular summary stating Key Characteristics, Positive Character Attributes, Negative Character Attributes and including an assessment of Value (including Landscape Designations, Landscape Quality (Condition), Scenic Quality, Rarity, Representativeness, Conservation/Cultural Interest, Recreation Value, Perceptual Aspects and Associations), Susceptibility to Change (including Landscape Elements and Landscape Features) and Sensitivity (which has been derived from Value and Susceptibility).

1.1.3 The approach to defining the Sensitivity in addition to Value and Susceptibility is discussed in Section 13.2 (Approach and Methods), Chapter 13 (Landscape).

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

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

1.1.5 and Landscape Features as;

'Particularly prominent or eye-catching elements within the landscape, such as tree clumps, church towers or wooded skylines or a particular aspect of the project proposal.'

The location of the LLCAs and LCAs are shown on Figure 13.1 of the ES.

2 Baseline Conditions

2.1 Local Landscape Character Areas

2.1.1 The LLCAs within the study area are described below.

Strath Tummel LLCA

2.1.2 The Strath Tummel LLCA comprises the flat-bottomed meandering River Tummel valley to the south of the town of Pitlochry. The essential qualities of the LLCA are those of a traditional highland strath; a

flat-bottomed valley with steeply sloping sides. The Tummel is a large river which gently meanders across a broad, often level floodplain.

2.1.3 The LLCA is characterised by a wide valley floor which is covered with large areas of relatively fertile arable and pasture farmland. The farm land is most productive on the floodplain alluvium but also extends further up the valley slopes. The influence of large estates is often visible giving the valley a well-wooded and structured appearance whilst there are large areas of coniferous forestry on upper slopes.

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

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

Table 1: Landscape Character Summary for the Strath Tummel LLCA

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

Landscape Attributes	Description
	context of the existing visible road corridor any changes to the woodland cover or visibility of the road are not likely to significantly alter the overall experience of the LLCA. Overall susceptibility: Medium
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: Medium

Pass of Killiecrankie LLCA

- 2.1.6 Pass of Killiecrankie LLCA incorporates a section of Glen Garry where the River Garry flows through the narrow, incised Pass of Killiecrankie and a section of Strath Tummel where the River Garry joins the River Tummel and then broadens out to Loch Faskally.
- 2.1.7 The LLCA is heavily wooded and this combined with the landform of the steep sided hills bordering the river corridors, results in an enclosed character. Settlement is sparse comprising of farmsteads on the western slopes of the glen and some individual properties centred around Killiecrankie, Garry Bridge and Faskally House.
- 2.1.8 A summary of the key characteristics of the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Landscape Character Summary for the Pass of Killiecrankie LLCA

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

Landscape Attributes	Description
	Overall value: High
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape elements: High. Removal of ancient woodland may affect views and the character of the LLCA. Landscape features: High. Due to the narrow linear nature of the Pass of Killiecrankie any changes to the woodland cover will have the possibility to significantly alter the experience of this enclosed LLCA. Overall susceptibility: High
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: High

Strath Tummel: Pitlochry LLCA (Settlement)

- 2.1.9 Pitlochry LLCA (Settlement) comprises the town of Pitlochry, a superb example of a Victorian Highland holiday resort. The LLCA also includes the adjacent villages of Port-na-Craig on the southern bank of the River Tummel and Moulin which lies to the north at a higher elevation. The LLCA is located between the Pass of Killiecrankie LLCA and Strath Tummel LLCA and the spectacular setting adds to the distinctive character of the town.
- 2.1.10 Pitlochry is set on the banks of the River Tummel, with the majority of the town located on the northern bank. The surrounding landscape is the product of glaciation with terminal moraines, drumlins and natural terracing created by glacial meltwater creating features within the townscape. Loch Faskally lies on the south western edge of the town and was formed in 1950 by the building of a dam across the River Tummel at Pitlochry, as part of a hydro-electric power scheme.
- 2.1.11 The LLCA encompasses two Conservation Areas (CAs); Pitlochry CA covers Pitlochry town centre and residential areas to the north and north-west whilst Moulin CA covers the adjacent village of Moulin. Pitlochry's main street, Atholl Road (General Wade's Military Road), runs on a north-west/south-east axis with areas of Victorian suburban expansion flanking the north and west of the centre. Beyond the town centre to the north and east are areas of more recent residential development.
- 2.1.12 Pitlochry has for more than a century attracted great numbers of tourists. Visitor attractions include the Blair Athol Distillery, the Pitlochry Festival Theatre on the southern bank of the Tummel and the Pitlochry Dam and Fish Ladder which has viewing chambers where visitors can watch salmon swimming upstream to spawning grounds.
- 2.1.13 A summary of the key characteristics of the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Landscape Character Summary for the Strath Tummel: Pitlochry LLCA (Settlement)

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The town of Pitlochry is set between the Pass of Killiecrankie LLCA and Strath Tummel LLCA and the spectacular setting adds to the distinctive character of the town. Set on the banks of the River Tummel and the river reservoir Loch Faskally and surrounded by high quality woodland. The core of the village lies on the northern bank of the river and is set across south facing slopes. The stone built, Victorian townscape of Pitlochry is relatively unaltered since it was developed as a Highland holiday resort during the last half of the nineteenth century. The railway line runs through the centre of the town but the main road transport corridor, the A9, by passes the town, following the southern bank of the River Tummel.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is both a variety and harmony of architectural styles, including Scottish Renaissance, Baronial and Victorian Gothic as well as more modest, vernacular buildings. Mature gardens and wooded areas contribute significantly to the townscape experience. The setting of the town, framed by forests and mountains beyond, is visually

Landscape Attributes	Description
	enriching.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual clutter often spoiling the architectural character of building groups and public realm areas. • Unsympathetic built features of extensions and infill, generally dating from the mid-twentieth century onwards. • Incongruous large, warehouse-type developments have a consequential effect on the settings of adjacent buildings and spaces.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape designations: Pitlochry CA, Moulin CA. • Landscape quality (condition): High. Mature gardens and wooded areas contribute significantly to the townscape experience. Good quality stone masonry work and decorative features are in evidence throughout the town centre and surrounding residential areas. • Scenic quality: High scenic quality. Pitlochry is framed by substantial tree groups and forested areas beyond providing a backdrop and visual enclosure; • Rarity: High. The high quality of the architecture and the picturesque setting are in many ways unique. • Representativeness: High. A variety and harmony of architectural styles, including Scottish Renaissance, Baronial and Victorian Gothic contribute to the town's Highland character with most building in local whin and sandstone. Many buildings are distinguished by picturesque Gothic and Baronial details, such as multi-gabled roof forms, bargeboards, bartizans and turrets, brattishing and finials. • Recreational value: High. Numerous visitor attractions including campsites, Pitlochry Golf Course, the Blair Athol Distillery, the Pitlochry Festival Theatre, the Pitlochry Fish Ladder and woodland walks. • Perceptual aspects: Medium. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but does have a sense of tranquillity. • Associations: High. Numerous associations to the landscape including most notably Queen Victoria. <p>Overall value: High</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape elements: Medium. Open views across the town are obtained at higher elevations with substantial areas of trees seen in the middle distance restricting views of the A9 and removal of these may increase views to the road from the town. • Landscape features: Low. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, mature tree blocks and field patterns would significantly alter the townscape character. <p>Overall susceptibility: Medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: Medium- High

Glen Garry: Blair Atholl LLCA (Settlement)

- 2.1.14 The Glen Garry: Blair Atholl LTCA is surrounded by the Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA and falls within its influence as regard to its setting. The settlement is enclosed by a series of complex hills covered by a patchwork of agricultural land, extensive commercial conifer woodlands, riparian woodland and policy woodland. The compact size of Blair Atholl and its location in the valley at the confluence of the rivers Garry and the Tilt mean that the surrounding elevated topography plays a key part in views from the village and strongly influences townscape character.
- 2.1.15 The main street has a formal design and is bordered by Blair Castle which pre-dates the current village and its presence plays a strong role in the settlement's character. Most of the village's buildings are constructed from local sandstone or whinstone with slate roofs. Mid-19th century revivalist styles are prevalent, particularly Baronial, with characteristic details including crow steps, stone skews, tall chimney stacks and corbelled wall corners.
- 2.1.16 The railway adds to the picturesque setting of the village with an attractive railway station and ornate viaduct. The A9 occupies an elevated location along the southern side of the River Garry, with views to the village partially screened from the north by woodland.
- 2.1.17 The village attracts many visitors with Blair Castle and the Atholl Estate providing a long established tourist attraction and the surrounding area providing for a variety of leisure activities including walking, riding, hunting and fishing.

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

Table 4: Landscape Character Summary for the Glen Garry: Blair Atholl LLCA (Settlement)

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The compact village of Blair Atholl is set within the Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA and the spectacular setting adds to the distinctive character of the village. A planned estate village which developed from the early 19th century and enlarged with industrial growth in the latter half of the 19th century. The core of the village is a linear single-aspect high street which flanks the southern boundary of the Blair Castle estate. The railway line creates a sharp division within the village between the formal, planned main street frontage to the north and the more organic development of industrial and agricultural origin to the south. Modern twentieth century housing development lies to the south and west.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A planned estate village which is relatively unaltered since it developed from the early 19th century and enlarged with industrial growth in the latter half of the 19th century. The village is set amongst green spaces framed with mature trees and the Rivers Tilt and Garry which enrich the townscape and its scenic setting. The A9 occupies an elevated location along the southern side of the River Garry, and is partially screened by woodland.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no particular focus of pedestrian activity in a civic space or square. Some semi-derelict areas of land and buildings not conducive to the traditional architecture of the village.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape designations: Blair Atholl CA, Blair Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL). Landscape quality (condition): High. The development of the planned estate village has created a varied but harmonious townscape which is generally in good condition. Scenic quality: High. Attractive setting with long distance views to the surrounding hills. There are tree lined corridors as one approaches the village on the main road from the east and the west. Rarity: High. Blair Castle GDL is rated as Outstanding for artistic, historical, horticultural, architectural, scenic and nature conservation values. Representativeness: High. A superb example of an estate village containing an attractive variety of architectural styles and forms. Conservation/cultural interest: High. Blair Atholl CA, Blair Castle GDL is rated as Outstanding for artistic, historical, horticultural, architectural, scenic and nature conservation value. Recreational value: High. Blair Castle and the Atholl Estate provide a long established tourist attraction whilst the surrounding area provides for a variety of leisure activities including walking, riding, hunting and fishing. Perceptual aspects: Medium. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but does have a sense of tranquillity. Associations: High. Strong historical associations with Clan Robertson and the Atholl family. <p>Overall value: High</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape elements: Low. It is unlikely that changes to distant views, mature tree blocks and field patterns would significantly alter the townscape character. Landscape features: Medium. The woodland areas to the south of the village which fringe the rivers Tilt and Garry restrict views of the A9 and may be sensitive to development pressures. <p>Overall susceptibility: Medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: Medium/High

Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA

2.1.19 The Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA surrounds the Blair Atholl LLCA and is bordered by the Strath Tummel: Upper Glen LLCA to the south-east and the Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA to the west.

- 2.1.20 The main valley has been deepened by glacial erosion which together with the surrounding hills limits long distance views. The valley sides are rough and knobbly where the bedrock is exposed. Several rivers including the Banvie Burn and the River Tilt, drop steeply from tributary valleys and converge to join the River Garry. The surrounding hills are generally wooded, whilst undulating lower slopes and more level land are covered by regularly shaped agricultural fields.
- 2.1.21 The LLCA encompasses a patchwork of agricultural land, extensive commercial conifer woodlands, riparian woodland and policy woodland. The extensive designed landscapes form strong elements and impart a distinctive arboreal and historic character to the LLCA.
- 2.1.22 A summary of the key characteristics of the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Landscape Character Summary for the Glen Garry: Lower Glen LLCA

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

Landscape Attributes	Description
	accommodate changes given the context of the existing transport corridor. Overall susceptibility: Medium
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: Medium/High

Strath Tay: Mid Glen LLCA

- 2.1.23 The Strath Tay: Mid Glen LLCA runs from south to north and has the essential qualities of a traditional highland strath; a flat-bottomed valley with steeply sloping sides cutting through glacial deposits. The River Tay is a large river which gently meanders across a broad, often level floodplain with tributaries cutting narrow, incised channels.
- 2.1.24 The LLCA is characterised by a broad valley floor which is covered with large areas of relatively fertile arable and pasture farmland. The farm land is most productive on the floodplain alluvium but also extends further up the valley slopes. The influence of large estates is often visible giving the valley a well-wooded and structured appearance whilst there are large areas of coniferous forestry, including Craigvinean Forest, part of the Tay Forest Park, on upper slopes.
- 2.1.25 Settlement in the LLCA is comprised of scattered villages which are frequently sited around tributary burns including Dowally, Guay and Kindallachan and also individual properties and farmsteads which are generally located above the floodplain.
- 2.1.26 The landscape is generally open and there are attractive views across the farmland along and across the valley to the surrounding hills. Views outwith the LLCA are frequently restricted by the enclosing landform although some long distance views are experienced along the strath to the mountains beyond in the north.
- 2.1.27 A summary of the key characteristics of the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Landscape Character Summary for the Strath Tay: Mid Glen LLCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A traditional highland strath with a broad, flat-bottomed valley and steeply sloping sides which lack many of the classic glacial features. • The open strath of the Tay has a combination of farmland, forestry and estate woodland, with much of the woodland is AWI designated. • There is agricultural use for much of the strath floor which includes large areas of relatively fertile farmland. It is most productive on the floodplain alluvium but also extends much further up the valley slopes. • A settled glen with important communication routes to the Highlands, including the corridor containing the historical General Wade's Military Road, the railway and the A9 route.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open but enclosed Strath Tay is dramatic and has an attractive variety of farmland and mature woodland. • The river is frequently visible and gently meanders with glacial-fluvial deposits a feature, forming a relatively level floodplain. • The road usually follows the edge of the strath at the base of the wooded slopes and there are often clear views across the strath, with views beyond the road in the south of the LLCA restricted by roadside vegetation and adjoin woodland. • Scenic long distance views are obtained along the valley floor to Ben Vrackie and other mountains beyond.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transport routes of the A9 and railway are noticeable features along the strath.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape designations: River Tay (Dunkeld) NSA, Tay Forest Park. • Landscape quality (condition): Medium. Farmland and field boundaries are generally well maintained. • Scenic quality: Medium. The open strath has an attractive combination of farmland with mature woodland and heather moorland on slopes and the hill tops. The A9 generally follows the edge of the valley at the base of the

Landscape Attributes	Description
	<p>wooded slopes and there are often clear views across the strath. Long distance views to hills outside the LLCA are obtained along the strath;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarity: Medium to High. The topography and dense ancient woodland play a key part in the LLCA character. • Representativeness: Medium to High. The river and surrounding hills are the dominant features of this typical Highland glen landscape. • Conservation/cultural interest: Medium. Some scheduled monuments and cultural heritage sites. • Recreational value: Medium. Recreational features include campsites, nature reserves and woodland and riverside walks. • Perceptual aspects: Medium. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but does have a sense of tranquillity in parts. • Associations: Medium. Writers and artist have been historically attracted to the landscape. <p>Overall value: High</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape elements: Medium. Removal of ancient woodland would have the possibility to affect visibility and landscape character locally. • Landscape features: Medium. Due to the open nature of the LLCA and the context of the existing visible road corridor any changes to the woodland cover or visibility of the road are not likely to significantly alter the overall experience of the LLCA. <p>Overall susceptibility: Medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: Medium / High

Strath Tay: Upper Glen LLCA

- 2.1.28 The Strath Tay: Upper Glen LLCA is located to the west of Ballinluig and comprises the flat-bottomed meandering River Tay. The essential qualities of the LLCA are those of a traditional highland strath; a flat-bottomed valley with steeply sloping sides. The Tay is a large river which gently meanders across a broad, often level floodplain with tributaries cutting through narrow, incised channels.
- 2.1.29 The LLCA is characterised by a wide valley floor which is covered with large areas of relatively fertile arable and pasture farmland. The farm land is most productive on the floodplain alluvium but also extends further up the valley slopes. The influence of large estates including GDLs is often visible giving the valley a well-wooded and structured appearance whilst there are large areas of coniferous forestry on upper slopes. There are attractive views across farmland along the valley to the surrounding hills.
- 2.1.30 Settlement in the LLCA is scattered, with small villages, individual properties and farmsteads generally located above the floodplain. The landscape is open but the landform including wooded hills restricts views out.
- 2.1.31 A summary of the key characteristics of the LLCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Landscape Character Summary for the Strath Tay: Upper Glen LLCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A traditional highland strath with a flat-bottomed valley and steeply sloping sides which lack many of the classic glacial features. • The open strath of the Tay has a combination of farmland, forestry and estate woodland. Much of the woodland is AWI designated. • There is agricultural use for much of the strath floor which includes large areas of relatively fertile farmland. It is most productive on the floodplain alluvium but also extends much further up the valley slopes.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open but enclosed Strath Tay is dramatic and has an attractive variety of farmland and mature woodland. • The river is frequently visible and gently meanders with glacial-fluvial deposits a feature, forming a relatively level floodplain. • Scenic long distance views are obtained along the valley floor to surrounding

Landscape Attributes	Description
	wooded hills and more distinct peaks beyond.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although not within it, the transport routes of the A9 and railway are noticeable features from eastern parts of the LLCA.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape designations: Taymouth Castle GDL, Bolfracks GDL, Castle Menzies GDL, Cluny House GDL, Grandtully Castle GDL, Tay Forest Park. Landscape quality (condition): Medium. Farmland and field boundaries are generally well maintained. Scenic quality: Medium. The open strath has an attractive combination of farmland with mature woodland and heather moorland on slopes and the hill tops. Rarity: Medium. The topography and dense ancient woodland play a key part in the LLCA character. Representativeness: Medium to High. The river and surrounding hills are the dominant features of this typical Highland glen landscape. Conservation/cultural interest: High. Five GDLs, Grandtully and Strathtay CA, Aberfeldy CA and some scheduled monuments and cultural heritage sites; Recreational value: Medium. Recreational features include campsites and woodland and riverside walks. Perceptual aspects: Medium. Landscape is not wild due to its developed nature but does have a sense of tranquillity in parts. Associations: Medium. Writers and artist have been historically attracted to the landscape. <p>Overall value: Medium</p>
Susceptibility to change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape elements: Medium. Removal of ancient woodland would have the possibility to affect the landscape character locally and visibility to the A9, particularly in the dense woodland after the eastern LLCA extents. Landscape features: Medium. The woodland areas in the east of the LLCA restrict views of the A9 and may be sensitive to development pressures. <p>Overall susceptibility: Medium</p>
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: Medium

2.2 Landscape Character Areas (Cairngorms National Park LCAs)

Glen Fender LCA

- 2.2.1 Glen Fender LCA comprises a wide, shallow upper bowl, with long undulating, gently graded slopes extending down to a narrow, steep sided river valley. The floor of the bowl is diversified by alternating areas of rock ribs, mounds of melt water deposits and layers of glacial till. The glen is drained by a series of narrow tributaries to the Fender Burn.
- 2.2.2 The LLCA is mostly orientated west/east and the long south facing slopes are farmed, despite the high elevation of between 350m and 400m, with improved fields on gentle slopes of deep, well drained deposits which are bounded by fencing and used for grazing and fodder crops.
- 2.2.3 There are occasional coniferous shelter woods which are located around the farms or between fields, while the upper slopes of surrounding ridges are covered in moorland. Broadleaved, birch dominated, woodland occupies the steep sided river gullies and also extends across the unenclosed north facing slopes, where there are also more extensive areas of coniferous woodland.
- 2.2.4 Settlement within the LCA mostly comprises 18th/19th century farmsteads, spaced at regular intervals across the wider terraces. The pattern of the farmsteads is the most obvious contemporary evidence of a long history of past land use, but in the hinterland there are extensive areas of prehistoric hut circles and field systems, pre-improvement farmsteads and occasional abandoned 19th century farms.
- 2.2.5 The sense of elevation and a certain amount of surprise at seeing fields planned at such a high elevation is reinforced by the extensive views north and across high plateaux to the mountain hinterland. The shallow land form creates easy opportunities for 'borrowed' views into the mountainous interior north beyond Glen Tilt and westwards along Glen Garry. Most people enter Glen Fender through Lower Glen Garry and Blair Atholl, reinforcing the sense of elevation.

2.2.6 A summary of the key characteristics of the LCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 8 below.

Table 8: Landscape Character Summary for the Glen Fender LCA

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

2.3 Landscape Character Areas (SNH)

Highland Glens with Lochs LCA

2.3.1 The Highland Glens with Lochs LCA comprises the landscape around Loch Tummel, with the presence of the large loch dominating the surrounding gently sloping low hills. The area is a fertile, lowland strath and on the higher slopes there is a wilder landscape of rocky crags and bare, heather-clad summits. To the west of the area the topography gradually becomes simpler and less intimate.

2.3.2 The long and narrow Loch Tummel lies in the centre of the LCA, framed by frequent deciduous woodland, much of which is designated AWI. The area is famed for its beauty with the loch enclosed by wooded knolls and grassy braes, alongside fertile farms and estates. Much of the area is part of the Tay Forest Park and this includes the famous Queen's View on the northern shore of the loch. Semi natural woodland is frequent on steeper slopes and managed estate woodland is also common. Some blocks of coniferous forestry are also present. The woodland adds to the variety, imparting a tranquil and an enclosed character and historical features are common.

- 2.3.3 Arable agriculture is almost entirely absent from the area, with pasture on improved fields found on the mid slopes. Fields are of medium scale and frequently of irregular shape, reflecting the local landform, with dry stone walls and hedgerow boundaries.
- 2.3.4 The area has been inhabited by people over many centuries with many historic land-use and cultural associations. The area is well settled with a mixture of villages, small hamlets and farmsteads, with buildings generally in a vernacular style with stone walls and slate roofs. Settlement is mostly set on the shores of the loch which visually contributes to the prosperous character. Farms and cottages are associated with 18th century field patterns forming a fringe along the loch shores along with some larger 17th-19th century estates and policies. Remains of settlement from the prehistoric period onwards are found on the loch edges and glen sides, with crannogs in the loch itself.
- 2.3.5 A summary of the key characteristics of the LCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Landscape Character Summary for the Highland Glens with Lochs LCA

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

Highland Summits and Plateaux LCA

- 2.3.6 The Highland Summits and Plateaux LCA consists of an upland area separated by the principal glens to the north of the Highland Boundary Fault. This large scale and exposed landscape comprises hills of generally similar height with craggier peaks to the west and those in the east more rounded.
- 2.3.7 The upland landscape is characterised by open and unsettled moorland vegetation, which is in contrast to the more settled wooded glens and lowlands. Open moorland is managed for grouse, deer and sheep with arctic-alpine flora and ancient woodland mainly associated with lochs and rivers providing greater visual interest.
- 2.3.8 Settlement is limited and much of the LCA is inaccessible, however former shielings form local features in the landscape and some modern roads and recreational paths follow the route of historic tracks and paths, including important droving routes.
- 2.3.9 Electricity pylons which link hydroelectric plants are found crossing the exposed upland and although relatively small when compared to the expansive landscape, are modern intrusions.
- 2.3.10 The area is popular with walkers and climbers with Core Paths located along hill slopes. From elevated areas there are panoramic views across the landscape, although more sheltered and settled glens are hidden from views, adding to the feeling of remoteness.
- 2.3.11 A summary of the key characteristics of the LCA in addition to its sensitivity to change associated with the proposed scheme is provided in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Landscape Character Summary for Highland Summits and Plateaux LCA

Landscape Attributes	Description
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the wildest and most remote landscapes in the UK. • Large scale open character. • Upland areas separated by principal glens with sharply defined and often craggy hills. • Distinct summits and ranges of the West Highlands, separated by fault line lochs. • Vegetation includes mainly managed open moorland with ancient woodland along water courses and some extensive plantation with heather, grassland, blanket bog and arctic alpine plant communities reflecting the altitude and exposure of the area. • Little to no settlement.
Positive Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open character with scenic views. • Sense of remoteness with views to the settled glens limited due to the intervening topography and woodland. • Scenic long distance views are obtained from elevated tracks and paths and hill peaks.
Negative Character Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small electricity pylon lines associated with hydroelectric plants along hill slopes of the highland glens and across exposed upland, particularly in the West Highlands.
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape designations: Cairngorms National Park, Loch Tummel NSA. • Landscape quality (condition): Medium. Generally good with the area unified in appearance with the muted colours and rough texture of the moorlands its and simple quality. • Scenic quality: High. From the summits, there are extensive, often panoramic, views northwards to the Cairngorm massif. • Rarity: Low to Medium. The topography and moorland play a key part in the LCA character. • Representativeness: Medium. The limited settlement and historic tracks and paths run through the expanse of the open, exposed and often hostile plateau; • Conservation/cultural interest: Medium. Some scheduled monuments and cultural heritage sites. • Recreational value: High. Recreational features include core paths leading to popular hill peaks; • Perceptual aspects: Medium. Landscape is not wild due to the managed

Landscape Attributes	Description
	moorland but does have a sense of tranquillity, wildness and remoteness. • Associations: Low. No notable associations to the landscape. Overall value: High
Susceptibility to change	• Landscape elements: Medium. Removal of ancient woodland would have the possibility to affect visibility, particularly towards lowland and settled glens, and the landscape character locally. • Landscape features: Low. Features are large scale and unlikely to be affected by distant changes. Overall susceptibility: Medium
Sensitivity (derived from Value and Susceptibility)	Overall sensitivity: High

3 References

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