



Landscape

Supplementary Guidance

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INTRODUCTION

1

This Supplementary Guidance (SG) was produced to incorporate the review and update of Local Landscape Designations in Perth and Kinross into the Council's planning policy framework in 2015. The previous designations around Perth were made in the 1980s and were designated with a less rigorous methodology than is now available. Whilst the designation in Kinross-shire was more recent this area also fell when the Perth and Kinross Local Development Plan became operational in January 2014.

Consequently, it was considered that it was an opportune time to undertake a complete re-evaluation across the whole of Perth and Kinross. Prior to the Local Development Plan coming into effect the Area of Great Landscape Value designations were concentrated on the area around Perth and in Kinross-shire. The re-evaluation was therefore intended to consider the full range of areas of landscape quality through a consistent methodology. As a result the Council engaged Land Use Consultants (LUC) and the STAR Development Group to prepare a Local Landscape Designation Review (LLDR).

As part of this process a panel of residents and interested bodies was established to assist LUC in identifying those areas with the potential to be designated. In addition an online survey was undertaken to get a wider set of opinions on which landscapes were valued in Perth and Kinross.

Following on from this LUC identified a set of proposed Local Landscape Designations (previously Special Landscape Areas) for consultation. This was done through a robust methodology that involved a desk-based study, a field survey and stages of refinement. In addition the LLDR identified measures to improve the conservation and management of Local Landscape Designations.

The purpose of this Supplementary Guidance is to reinforce Local Development Policy 39: Landscapes and help bring forward land management initiatives to protect and enhance the Local Landscape Areas.

It is emphasised that the Landscape Supplementary Guidance does not duplicate or provide guidance for National Scenic Areas or Gardens and Designed Landscapes. These national designations have their own guidance and management initiatives.

BACKGROUND

2.1 What is landscape ?

Landscape is more than just ‘the view’. It is about the relationship between people, place and nature. It is the ever-changing backdrop to our daily lives. It can mean a small patch of urban wasteland as much as a mountain range and an urban park as much as a lowland strath.

Landscape results from the way that different components of our environment – both natural and cultural – interact together and are perceived by us. People value landscape for many different reasons. It is therefore important to understand what the landscape is like today, how it came to be like that and how it may change in the future.

2.2 Why is landscape important to us?

Perth and Kinross is renowned for its high quality, distinct and diverse landscapes, many of which form a significant part of Scotland’s natural and cultural heritage. These landscapes are an important resource that contributes to the social and economic well-being of our area. They provide the surroundings for our daily lives, adding positively to the quality of life and economic performance of the area. And they provide the special places whose character and scenic quality is the main attraction for tourism, sport and outdoor recreation and can contribute to health improvement and wellbeing.

The landscape character of Perth and Kinross is constantly changing as a result of various forces that affect the physical

appearance of the landscape and consequently, landscape character. By controlling the location, siting and design of new development and proactively planning for change we will have a strong influence on the nature of change and the character and appearance of the landscape.

There are various factors which affect the change to landscape character; for example renewable energy projects, meeting the area’s housing requirements, improving infrastructure, creating employment sites and improving countryside management. Both the Council and the Scottish Government has recognised the need to marry development and environmental protection in order to achieve a balanced approach to implementing wide-ranging policies. Concern for the landscape is therefore part of wider efforts for a more sustainable future.

In addition, an important quality found in some of Scotland’s mountainous and coastal landscapes is the perception of wildness or tranquility. Perth and Kinross has many areas of this type which are also worthy of recognition and protection. Historic landscapes are also of importance and worthy of protection.

While it is important to value all landscapes this is not a substitute for identifying and taking action for landscapes which merit special attention, either because they are of particular value and warrant protection, or because they are degraded and require active management or positive restoration, or are under threat from inappropriate development. Consequently, in order to meet these challenges we need to do more than just identify important or “high quality” landscapes.

The purpose of this supplementary guidance is to help developers, land managers and decision-makers to take appropriate steps to protect, manage and enhance the landscapes of Perth and Kinross. The guidance is intended to ensure that the landscapes of Perth and Kinross are protected, enhanced and well managed for future generations as a place to live and work.

2.3 Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

There are many areas in Scotland where the scenery of the landscape is highly valued at a local level. To recognise this, local authorities can designate the landscape through a Local Landscape Designation. Originally designated “Special Landscape Areas” Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland draft guidance (2017) seeks to standardise the terminology related to Local Landscape Designations to ‘Local Landscape Areas’(LLAs), to promote further understanding and awareness of the qualities of local landscapes in Scotland.

This supplementary guidance document supports European and national policies and initiatives relating to landscape. It also supports policies in the Council's Local Development Plan together with associated strategy documents that relate to protection and enhancement of landscape character, landscape designations (Local Landscape Areas) and designed landscapes.

3.1 European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) came into force in the UK in March 2007. The Convention establishes the need to recognise landscape in law; to develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and planning of landscapes; and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies. It also encourages the integration of landscape into all relevant areas of policy, including cultural, economic and social policies.

The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as: "... an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors"

3.2 National Landscape Policy

National Planning Framework

The National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) recognises the contribution Scotland's landscapes makes to our quality of life, our national identity and the visitor economy:

"Landscape quality is found across Scotland and all landscapes support placemaking. National Scenic Areas and National Parks attract many visitors and reinforce our international image. We also want to continue our strong protection for our wildest landscapes – wild land is a nationally important asset. Closer to settlements landscapes have an important role to play in sustaining local distinctiveness and cultural identity, and in supporting health and well-being" (para 4.4).

Scottish Planning Policy

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014) is the Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land-use planning matters. The policy outlines the need for planning authorities to protect, enhance and promote "access to natural heritage, including green infrastructure, landscape and the wider environment" (para 29).

SPP notes that "International, national and locally designated areas and sites should be identified and afforded the appropriate level of protection in development plans. Reasons for local designation should be clearly explained and their function and continuing relevance considered when preparing plans" (paragraph 196). It identifies that non-statutory local designations should be limited to areas designated for their local landscape or nature conservation value.

SPP recognises the importance of landscape throughout the document. It highlights that development plans should address the potential effects of development on landscapes and natural heritage and that siting and design of development should take account of local landscape character. It states that: "the purpose of areas of local landscape value should be to:

- safeguard and enhance the character and quality of a landscape which is important or particularly valued locally or regionally; or
- promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes; or
- safeguard and promote important local settings for outdoor recreation and tourism.”

In addition, the policy requires that development management decisions take account of potential effects on landscapes and that developers must minimise adverse impacts; it advises refusal of planning permission where development would have an unacceptable impact on landscape and natural heritage.

The Scottish Government’s third National Planning Framework (2014) recognises wild land as a “nationally important asset”, and indicates Scotland’s wildest landscapes merit strong protection. Scottish Planning Policy sets out how this should be achieved. This includes the identification of wild land and its safeguard in Development Plans and in Spatial Frameworks for onshore wind farms. Paragraph 215 of the SPP also states “In areas of wild land development may be appropriate in some circumstances. Further consideration will be required to demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation.”

Scotland’s Landscape Charter

Scotland’s Landscape Charter (2010) encourages action from everyone to fulfil its vision to ensure that all Scotland’s landscapes are protected for future generations. Individuals and organisations are encouraged to sign it to demonstrate their concern and responsibility for Scotland’s distinctive landscapes and to put into practice the actions suggested.

Planning Advice Note 60

PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage (2000) provides policy and planning advice regarding Scotland’s natural heritage. PAN 60 notes that landscape character assessment can provide the means of determining the extent of landscapes to be designated. Landscape designations are stated to be of more value when forming part of a wider land-use framework and habitat network and contributing to the realisation of the national natural heritage strategy.

In relation to landscape designations, PAN 60 advises that these “should be valued beyond their immediate locale”. The importance of “development guidelines designed to safeguard landscape character and quality” is highlighted.

3.3 Strategic Development Plan

TAYplan is the Strategic Development Plan for Dundee, Angus, Perth and North Fife (2016 – 2036). Policy 9 states that Local Development Plans should ensure responsible management of Tayplan’s assets by “understanding and respecting the regional distinctiveness and scenic value of the TAYplan area through safeguarding the integrity of natural and historic assets; including ...wild land...landscapes...and by allowing development where it does not adversely impact upon or preferably enhances these assets.”

3.4 Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan (LDP) recognises the importance of landscape at all levels and in a number of policies in addition to the Policy 39. This supplementary guidance has been prepared to provide further detail on the application of Policy 39.

POLICY 39: LANDSCAPE

All Landscapes

Development and land use change, including the creation of new hill tracks, should be compatible with the distinctive characteristics and features of Perth and Kinross's landscapes; which requires reference to the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment. Accordingly, development proposals will be supported where they do not conflict with the aim of maintaining and enhancing the landscape qualities of Perth and Kinross. They will need to demonstrate, with reference to an appropriate landscape capacity study, that either in the case of individual developments, or when cumulatively considered alongside other existing or proposed developments:

- a. they do not erode local distinctiveness, diversity and quality of Perth and Kinross's landscape character areas, the historic and cultural dimension of the area's landscapes, visual and scenic qualities of the landscape, or the quality of landscape experience;
- b. they safeguard views, viewpoints and landmarks from development that would detract from their visual integrity, identity or scenic quality;
- c. they safeguard the tranquil qualities of the area's landscapes;
- d. they safeguard the relative wildness of the area's landscapes including, in particular, the areas identified on the 2014 SNH Wild Land Areas map;
- e. they provide high-quality standards in landscape design, including landscape enhancement and mitigation schemes when there is an associated impact on a landscape's qualities;

- f. Reference should be made to Landscape Supplementary Guidance, and the individual statements of significance for each LLA should be used to consider potential impacts on their special qualities and objectives incorporate measures for protecting and enhancing the ecological, geological, geomorphological, archaeological, historic, cultural and visual amenity elements of the landscape; and
- g. they conserve the experience of the night sky in less developed areas of Perth and Kinross through design solutions with low light impact

Wild Land Areas

Development which would affect a Wild Land Area, as identified on the 2014 SNH map of Wild Land Areas, will only be permitted where the Council as Planning Authority is satisfied that: it can be demonstrated that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation.

Local Landscape Areas

Local Landscape Areas (LLAs) are the local landscape designation. Development should only be permitted where it will not have a significant adverse impact on their special character or qualities, or where these impacts are clearly outweighed by social and economic benefits that are more than of local significance to Perth and Kinross.

Note: reference should be made to Landscape Supplementary Guidance, and the individual statements of significance for each LLA should be used to consider potential impacts on their special qualities and objectives

Links with LDP Policies and Supplementary Guidance

In addition to the core landscape policy above, a number of other LDP policies and guidance support the promotion of landscape in Perth and Kinross.

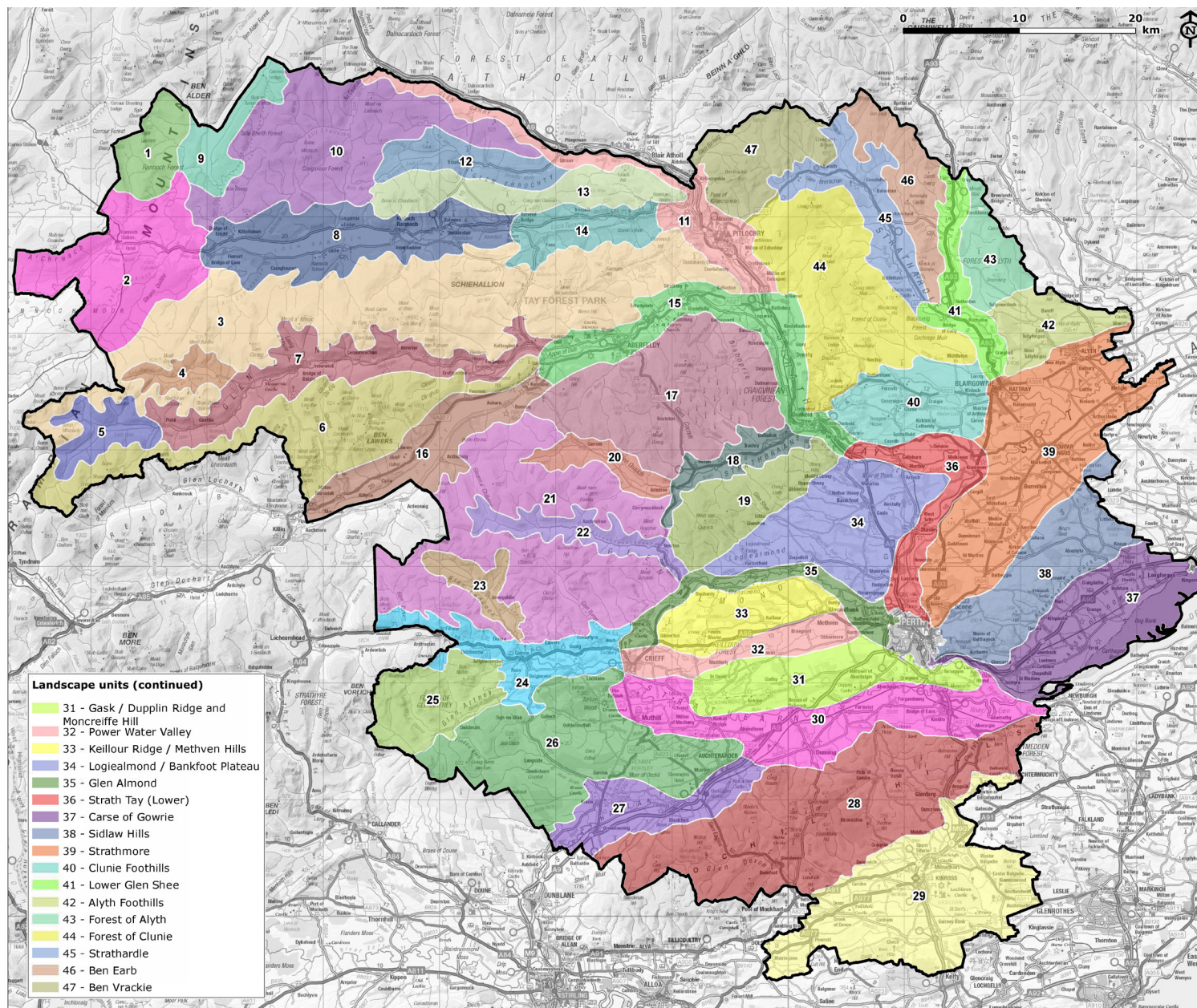
Figure 1: Links with other Policies and Supplementary Guidance



Landscape Character is the distinct, recognisable, and consistent pattern of elements that makes one landscape different from another. Variations in geology, soils, landform, land use, vegetation, field boundaries, settlement patterns, and building styles all help give rise to different landscapes, each with its own distinctive character and sense of place. Landscape Character Assessment involves mapping, classifying, and describing these variations in landscape character. It also involves making judgements about the character and condition of the landscape, and analysing forces for change, to help us make informed decisions about how we should manage change in the future.

The LLDR has drawn upon the landscape character assessment (LCA) presented in the *Landscape Study to Inform Planning for Wind Energy Final Report* (David Tyldesley and Associates, 2010), referred to in this report as the *Tyldesley Landscape Study*. This refined and subdivided some of the landscape character types and units identified in the earlier *Tayside Landscape Character Assessment* (TLCA) (LUC, 1999), and is therefore the most recent and detailed available characterisation of the whole of the Perth and Kinross landscape.

The landscape character types and units identified in the *Tyldesley Landscape Study* are listed in **Table 1** in **Appendix 1**, which is drawn from Table 1 of the *Tyldesley Landscape Study*. The landscape types and units are illustrated in **Figure 2** to follow



GUIDELINES FOR THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

5

This part of the guidance provides:

- Assistance to developers, land managers and decision-makers on appropriate actions to ensure each Local Landscape Area is protected, managed or enhanced; and
- Assistance to the Council in planning decisions (including proposals for wind energy developments), commenting on land management proposals (including proposals for forest and woodland planting) and monitoring landscape change.

Purpose of designation

The role of the Local Landscape Area designations is part of an “all-landscapes approach”, outlined in Scottish Natural Heritage / Historic Environment Scotland Guidance which states that Local Landscape Designations can be particularly useful in the following circumstances to:

- safeguard important landscapes and landscape features which are particularly valued and may have limited capacity for change;
- promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of the landscapes of a local authority area;
- promote some of the most important outdoor settings for sport, recreation and tourism within a local authority area; and
- contribute to wider policies for guiding urban expansion, by specifically identifying and safeguarding areas of landscape importance within or close to existing settlements.

Structure of Information on Local Landscape Areas

Consequently the Local Landscape Areas identified are those which:

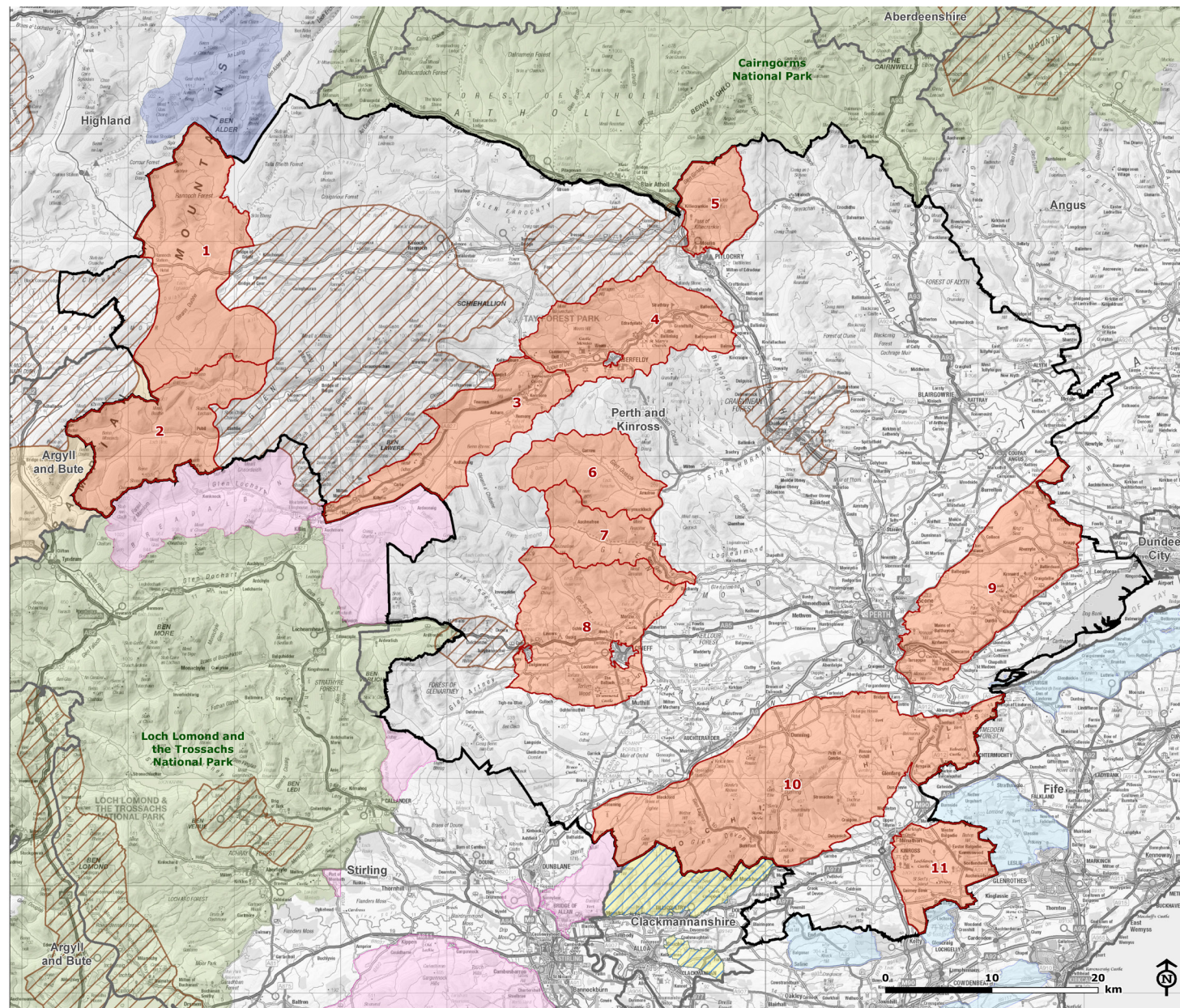
1. make a positive contribution to the wider **identity, image and sense of place** of Perth and Kinross
2. are **rare or unique** landscapes
3. are **well managed** and in a good state of repair
4. feel **wild or remote**
5. have strong **scenic qualities**
6. are important for **sport, recreation and tourism**
7. have a strong **historic character** or important cultural or spiritual associations
8. have important **natural features and habitats**
9. form part of the **setting of towns and villages**
10. have important **views, viewpoints or land mark**

11 Local Landscape Areas are identified. These are spread across Perth and Kinross – and consist of a range of highland and lowland areas covering some 1444 km², or around 27% of Perth and Kinross. They complement the National Parks and National Scenic Areas. The LLAs are shown in figure 3.

The following are provided for each Local Landscape Area.

1. **A map showing the location and boundaries of the Local Landscape Area.** The location and boundaries statement gives a description of where the area is and most importantly there is justification of the boundaries of the area.

2. **Description of the Local Landscape Area.** This gives a **Statement of Significance** for each of the Local Landscape Areas.
3. **Special Qualities of the Local Landscape Area.** This details the particular features that make the landscape special and factors identified in the landscape character area descriptions and fieldwork.
4. **Forces for Change**
5. **Objectives.** To enable locally appropriate development and landscape management guidance to be attached to each Local Landscape Area. This can be used by developers and the development management process to identify development types that would not be encouraged in the designated area. However they can also be used as indicators of how improvements could be made to counter the forces, for example through land management initiatives.



Perth and Kinross Council Local Landscape Designations Review

**Figure 3: Local Landscape
Areas**

- Study Area
- Local Authority boundary
- Local Landscape Area
(Perth & Kinross)
- 1 - Rannoch Forest
- 2 - Loch Lyon and Loch an Daimh
- 3 - Loch Tay
- 4 - Upper Strath Tay
- 5 - Ben Vrackie
- 6 - Glen Quach
- 7 - Glen Almond and the Sma' Glen
- 8 - Upper Strathearn
- 9 - Sidlaw Hills
- 10 - Ochil Hills
- 11 - Loch Leven and Bishop Hill

Existing landscape designations

- National Park
- National Scenic Area
- Local Landscape Area
(Stirling)
- Area of Panoramic Quality
(Argyll & Bute)
- Special Landscape Area
(Fife)
- Special Landscape Area
(Highland)
- Area of Great Landscape Value
(Clackmannanshire)
- Special Landscape Area
(Clackmannanshire)

Map Scale @ A3: 1:350,000



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LUC EDI FIG12_01_6032_CandidateLA_A3 17/11/2014

Source: Perth & Kinross Council, SNH, SG, LUC

5.1 Rannoch Forest

This Local Landscape Area (LLA) comprises Rannoch Forest, in the north west of Perth and Kinross, between the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA to the west, and the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA to the east.

Boundaries

The north western edge of the LLA follows the Council boundary north of Rannoch Station along the Sròn Leachd a' Chaorainn – Carn Dearg – Sgòr Gaibhre – Beinn a' Chumhainn ridge, before travelling south east along the Alder Burn into Loch Ericht. Here the LLA borders the Glen Banchor, Laggan and Ben Alder LLA in the neighbouring Highland Council area. The LLA boundary follows the shoreline of Loch Ericht to the south, before skirting the edge of the conifer plantation at the foot of Sròn Bheag. The eastern boundary of the candidate LLA follows the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA boundary, formed by the ridge which runs to the west and south of Bridge of Gaur, crossing the B846 immediately to the west of the village and passing through conifer plantations and across an elevated ridgeline. At Cam Chreag the boundary turns west across the Meall Buidhe – Meall Cruinn ridge to the north of Glen Daimh, where it borders the Loch Lyon and Loch an Daimh LLA. The LLA boundary then heads north along the PKC boundary and along the eastern boundary of the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA which is formed by the edge of a large conifer plantation and the train line.

Statement of Significance

This area comprises a key landscape of unique geography and scenic value linking two National Scenic Areas. Rannoch Moor itself is a vast and rugged glaciated plateau moorland of blanket

bog, lochans, rivers and rocky outcrops, with some remnants of ancient Caledonian Pine forest. The landscape is distinctive and iconic within Perth and Kinross. Parts of Rannoch Moor have been designated as NSAs at a national level, and the Rannoch Forest LLA bridges the gap between the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA to the west and Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA to the east.

Rannoch Forest comprises an upland landscape of dramatic mountain summits and ridges rising to the Munro summits of Carn Dearg (941m) and Sgor Gaibhre (955m), with extensive areas of conifer plantation on the lower plateau and in the glens. There are numerous streams, and large and small lochans including Loch Eigheach.

The area is remote and the majority is relatively inaccessible, except from the B846 which terminates at Rannoch Station, a popular starting point for walkers exploring the areas' mountain summits and woodland trails. The West Highland railway line skirts the western boundary of the LLA and is an important and scenic route for visitors to north west Scotland. Long views to Glen Coe to the west and Schiehallion to the east can be appreciated from the road and railway, as well as from higher summits and ridges.

The area has a strongly undeveloped character, with a high degree of naturalness despite some extensive coniferous plantations. Large areas of this landscape can only be accessed on foot, via long walks across rugged terrain. Heading north west across the area is the route of the ancient 'road to the isles', to Fort William via Loch Ossian and Loch Treig, and running south west is the Rannoch Drove Road to Loch Talla. The LLA contains no villages or settlements, only the hotel at Rannoch Station which is a popular tourist destination at the end of the long drive across Rannoch Moor from Loch Rannoch.

RANNOCH FOREST

Special Qualities

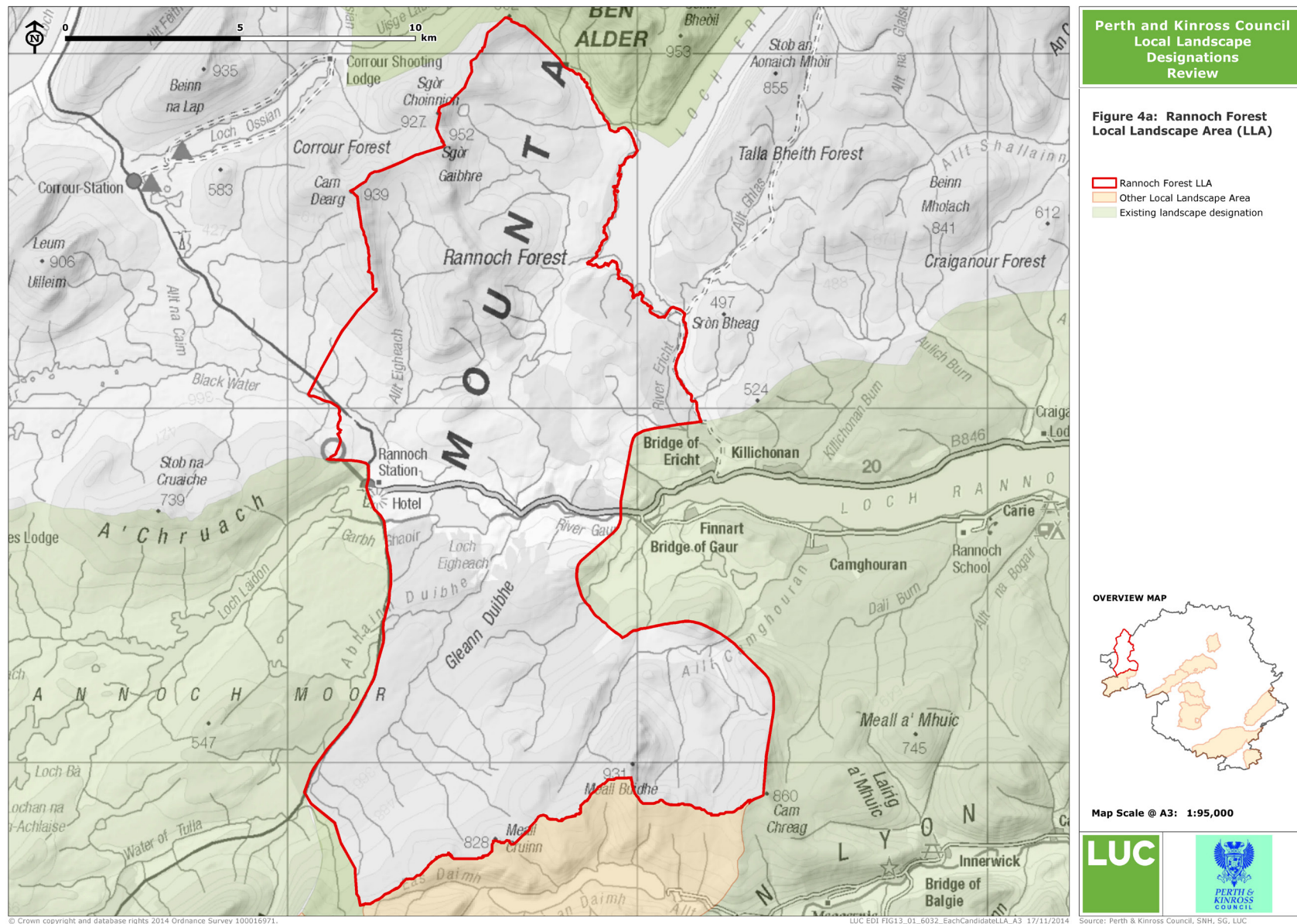
- Rugged moorland plateau framed by dramatic mountains
- Blanket bog, lochans, rivers and rocky outcrops
- Remote, wild and relatively inaccessible
- Historic 'Road to the Isles' track to Corrour
- Dramatic ridges and panoramic views: Beinn Pharlagain; Sgor Choinnich
- Scenic drive along the B846 to and from Rannoch Station
- Strong relationship with adjacent NSAs: long views towards Schiehallion and Glencoe

Forces for Change

- Changes in forestry management within the large coniferous plantations
- Changes to farming and upland grazing practices that could release land for forestry
- Small-scale residential or tourist development at Rannoch Station
- Hill tracks
- Small-scale hydro schemes and associated infrastructure

Objectives

- Restore Caledonian pine and peatland mosaics in Rannoch Forest and its environs and enhance habitat connectivity
- Maintain wild land quality of the wider area
- Enhance access and raise awareness of this landscape, via Rannoch station, for a range of user groups
- Ensure any development proposals respect the vernacular architecture of the area



5.2 Loch Lyon and Loch an Daimh

This LLA includes Loch Lyon and Loch an Daimh to the north east, at the head of Glen Lyon, and the ridge which separates them.

Boundaries

The southern boundary of the LLA follows the Council boundary, which coincides with the Glen Lochay LLA in neighbouring Stirling, and is formed by the elevated ridge separating Glen Lochay and Glen Lyon which rises to a peak at Creag Mhòr (1,047m). The western boundary follows the Beinn a' Chaisteal – Beinn nam Fuaran – Beinn a' Chuirn – Beinn Achaladair ridge along the Argyll and Bute boundary, where it coincides with an Area of Panoramic Quality. The northern boundary of the LLA follows the ridge above Glen Lyon, bordering the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA in the west and the Rannoch Forest LLA in the east, above Loch an Daimh. The eastern boundary borders the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA, passing along the adjoining ridge line and crossing the unnamed tracks into Loch an Daimh and Loch Lyon.

Statement of Significance

Glen Lyon, the “longest, loneliest and loveliest glen in Scotland” according to Sir Walter Scott, becomes even lonelier at its western end. These two isolated upper glens, each with its own reservoir, are among the most remote parts of Perth and Kinross. They are only accessible by road at their eastern openings, where minor roads lead up to the dams.

Each of the glens is enclosed by a ring of mountains, craggy summits rising to well over 1,000m. Loch Lyon in particular is framed by Munros: Beinn a' Chreachain (1081m), Beinn Achaladair

(1038m) and Beinn Mhanach (953m) to the north; and Creag Mhor (1047m) and Beinn Heasgarnich (1078m) to the south. Meall Buidhe (932m) and Stuc an Lochain (960m) watch over Loch an Daimh. The slopes of these peaks and ridges fall rapidly to the lochs, which occupy almost the whole valley floor.

The only settlement in these valleys is the tiny hamlet of Pubil. The dams, built in the 1950s, are the only significant human influence in the landscape. The Giorra Dam holds back Loch an Daimh, which absorbed Loch Giorra when the water level was raised. Lubreoch Dam at the head of Loch Lyon incorporates its own small power station. The landscape around the lochs is almost treeless, and tracks cut into the open hillsides are highly visible in places.

To the north west of Loch Lyon is the remotest glen in the area, Gleann Cailliche. Within the glen, overlooked by Beinn a' Chreachain, is the Tigh nam Bodach, a shrine to the Cailleach, a pre-Christian goddess. This small structure houses a group of stones representing the Cailleach, her husband the Bodach, and her children. It is still regularly maintained, the stones being brought out of the house each summer. An old ‘coffin road’ follows the northern side of Loch Lyon, and was used for carrying the dead of Glen Lyon to the kirkyard at Killin. Despite its remoteness, the area is popular with walkers, providing low-level routes around the loch sides as well as more strenuous climbs up to the Munro summits.

LOCH LYON AND LOCH AN DAIMH

Special Qualities

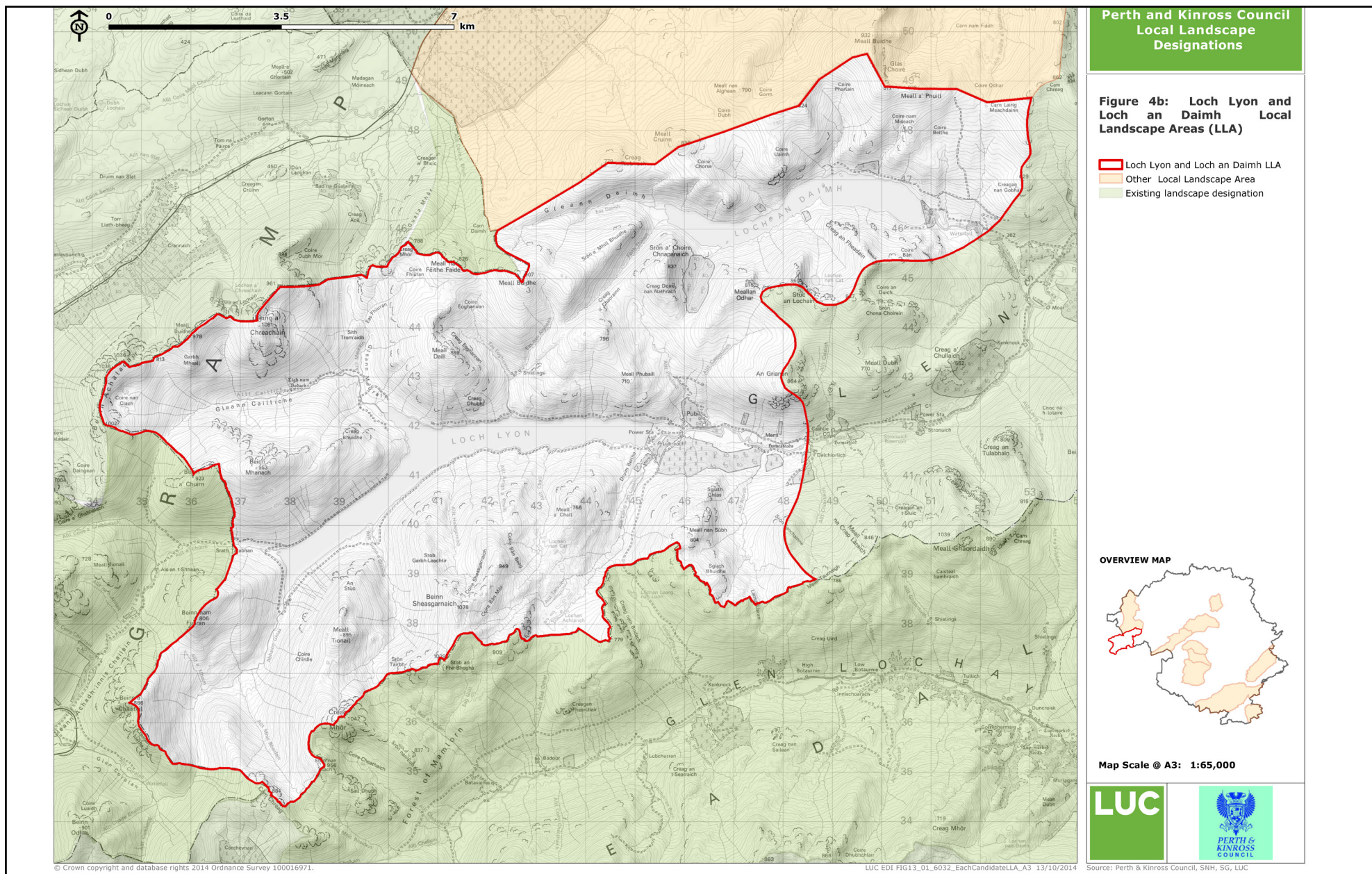
- Remote lochs enclosed by rugged mountains and steep ridges
- Remote and wild landscape accessed only after long journey up Glen Lyon or minor road from Killin via Kenknock
- Monuments of the hydro schemes of the 1950s
- Ancient shrine of the Tigh nam Bodach in Gleann Cailliche
- Strong relationship with Glen Lyon, within the NSA to the east

Forces for Change

- Construction of further tracks across hillsides
- Upgrading of hydro-electric infrastructure
- Small-scale hydro schemes and associated infrastructure, and new woodland planting

Objectives

- Maintain high wildness value of these remote glens
- Ensure development of tracks and estate buildings is undertaken sensitively
- Support for appropriate tree species and woodland expansion in the right place to suit both soil and landscape



5.3 Loch TAY

This LLA covers the length of Loch Tay within Perth and Kinross, together with its shores and enclosing ridges.

Boundaries

The northern boundary of the LLA follows the edge of the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA, from the Council boundary in the west to Fortingall in the east. It includes lower Glen Lyon to Keltneyburn, and the eastern boundary is shared with the Upper Strath Tay LLA downstream. The southern boundary follows the ridge line which marks the visual edge of the Loch Tay landscape, bordering the Creag Gharbh LLA in Stirling to the south west. The western boundary excludes the head of the loch which is within Stirling, and lies at the edge of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

Statement of Significance

Loch Tay stands at the head of the River Tay, the principal watercourse of Perth and Kinross. A long, sinuous loch, it stretches over 23km from Killin in Stirling to Kenmore, but is rarely more than 1km across. The loch fills the valley floor, leaving little room for other land use; enclosed grazing is confined to the gentler slopes along the loch side, particularly to the north. The south shore is more wooded, though there are important areas of native woodland along both sides of the loch. Distinctive wooded gullies run perpendicular to the loch shore on either side. Coniferous plantations occupy the higher slopes at Boreland and Drummond Hill, parts of the Tay Forest Park.

The loch is framed by Ben Lawers to the north, within the Loch

Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA. The hills on the south side are lower, but rise to craggy summits up to 716m at Beinn Bhreac. Side glens offer glimpses into the upland beyond. Small settlements are sited at the opening of these glens, including Fearnan which gives access to lower Glen Lyon. The Lyon loops around the north side of Drummond Hill to reconnect with the Tay.

At the eastern end of the loch is the planned settlement of Kenmore, closely associated with Taymouth Castle which stands by the Tay to the east. The Campbells of Taymouth Castle have had a long influence on the landscape of this area, laying out the parkland around the castle and planting woodland across the surrounding glen. Though much of the latter has been replaced by commercial conifer plantations, and a golf course now occupies the park, the designed landscape is still largely intact as a setting to the category A listed castle.

The earlier history of the area is represented by the numerous Iron Age crannogs, of which the reconstructed example near Kenmore is the best known. Loch Tay is hugely popular with tourists and visitors, being readily accessible by road and yet largely tranquil. The A827 links Perth and Kinross with the National Park to the south west, and follows a relatively elevated course offering long views of the loch and hills. Walking and cycling routes circumnavigate the loch, and lead up into the upland to either side. Sailing and other water sports take place on the loch itself.

LOCH TAY

Special Qualities

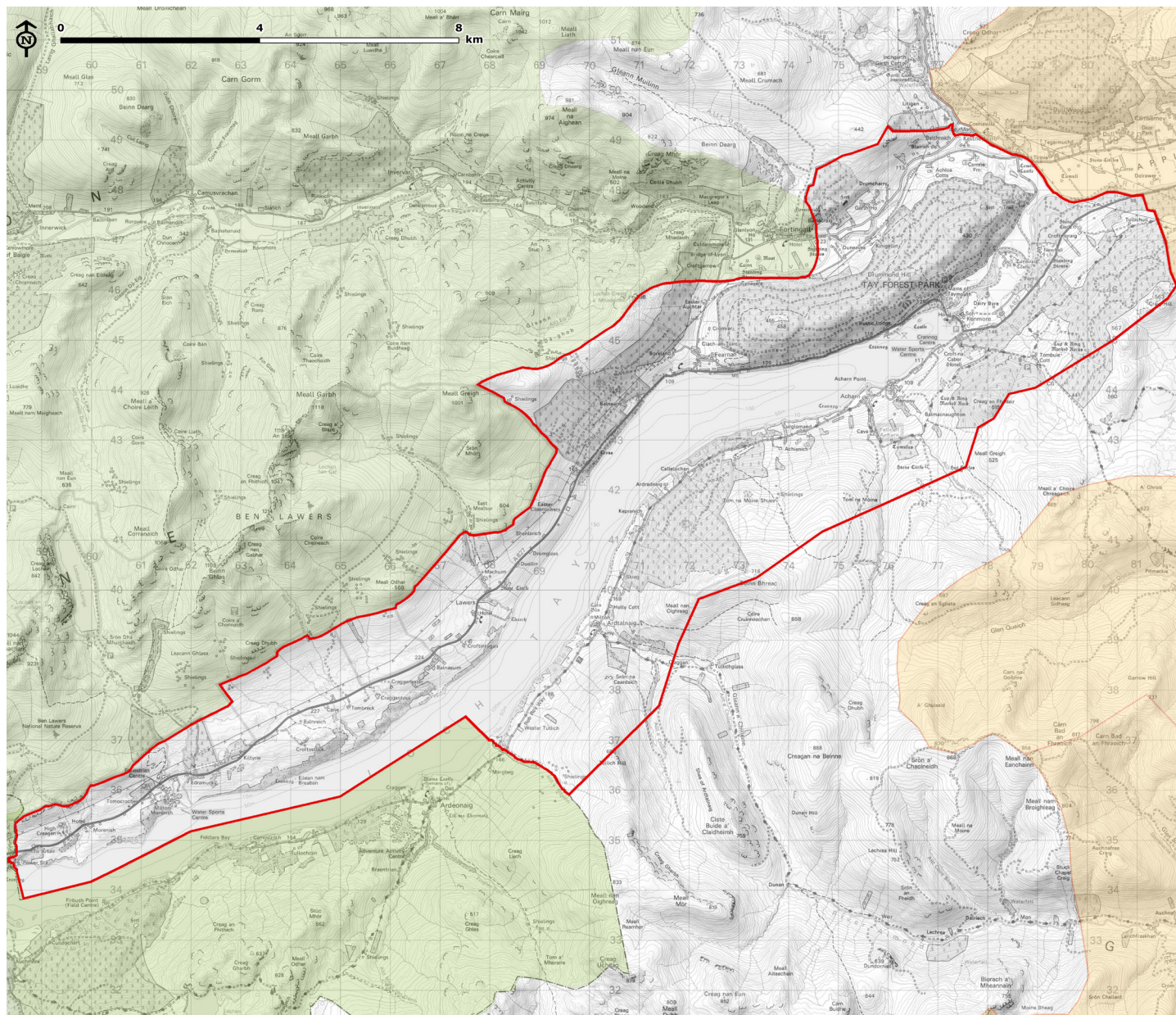
- Elongated, sinuous loch, framed by steep slopes and waterfalls, all overlooked by Ben Lawers massif
- Focus for tourism, sport and recreation: walking, riding, sailing, canoeing and more
- Gateway between Perth and Kinross and the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- Distinctive character and architecture of loch-side settlements
- Crannogs and crofting settlements hint at longevity of settlement
- Long views along and across the loch

Forces for Change

- Changes in forestry management, including felling and replanting
- Wind energy proposals and associated infrastructure
- Small-scale hydro and associated infrastructure
- Pressure for increased visitor access and tourist facilities
- Small-scale expansions of settlements
- Redevelopment of Taymouth Castle and estate

Objectives

- Maintain native character of loch side woodlands, and expand coverage of deciduous woodland and other appropriate woodland types
- Ensure sensitive restructuring of coniferous plantations as felling regimes allow
- Ensure high design quality of any tourist development proposed in the area
- Maintain distinctive character of local buildings, such as use of stone or timber, particularly where these are in prominent roadside locations
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines



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LUC EDI FIG13_01_6032_EachCandidateLLA_A3 13/10/2014

Perth and Kinross Council Local Landscape Designations Review

**Figure 4c: Loch Tay Local
Landscape Area (LLA)**

- ▬ Loch Tay LLA
- ▬ Other Local Landscape Area
- ▬ Existing landscape designation

OVERVIEW MAP



Map Scale @ A3: 1:75,000



Source: Perth & Kinross Council, SNH, SG, LUC

5.4 Strath Tay

This LLA includes the Tay valley between Loch Tay and Ballinluig, including the area around Aberfeldy, Strath Tay and Grandtully.

Boundaries

To the west this LLA shares a boundary with the Loch Tay LLA, along the River Tay and River Lyon between Craig Hill and Tirinie. The northern boundary follows the ridge which climbs up from the Keltney Burn to Creag Odhar and up to Meall Tairneachan. It then runs along the edge of the Loch Tummel NSA as far as Meall a' Charra, where it turns south east to follow another ridge to Dunfallandy Hill, descending towards Logierait. The eastern boundary crosses the Tay at Balamuir then follows a track up the south flank of the strath. The southern boundary is formed by the lip of the plateau to the south of Strath Tay.

Statement of Significance

The River Tay is central to the identity of Perth and Kinross, the largest river in the area. As with the adjacent Loch Tay, this section of Strath Tay is at the heart of Perth and Kinross as a visitor destination. The river in this section flows across a broad floodplain, the Appin of Dull, before meandering around Aberfeldy. The strath then narrows significantly, forming a narrow and well wooded incised section which opens out once more downstream of Grandtully. The contrast between the open floodplain, with long views across and along the strath, and the narrow intimate incised sections, set this segment of Strath Tay apart from other areas further downstream. Westward views are focused on the Ben Lawers massif in particular.

The strath is framed to the south by low hills forming the edge of a moorland plateau, and rising to around 420m. To the north the hills are higher, but are set further back from the strath. The ridge between Meall Tairneachan (780m), Farragon Hill (783m) and Meall a' Charra (617m) separates Strath Tay from Strath Tummel, though a lower ridge forms the immediate setting of the former. This includes Weem Hill above Castle Menzies, and the extensive forestry of Dunfallandy Hill and Dull Wood.

This section of the Tay is rich in historical associations. Stone circles and burial mounds are clearly visible on the floodplain at Dull, which is also linked to the 7th century Saint Adomnan. A long history of settlement throughout the strath is apparent in the numerous old churches as well as castles and country houses. The influence of the latter is most visible in parkland landscapes and estate buildings along the valley. The 18th century Wade's Bridge at Aberfeldy is famous in its own right, as is the Den of Moness, renamed the Birks of Aberfeldy after Robert Burns' 1787 poem. The waterfalls of Moness are a popular attraction for their scenic value, sharing several characteristics with the wooded sections of the Tay.

Strath Tay

Special Qualities

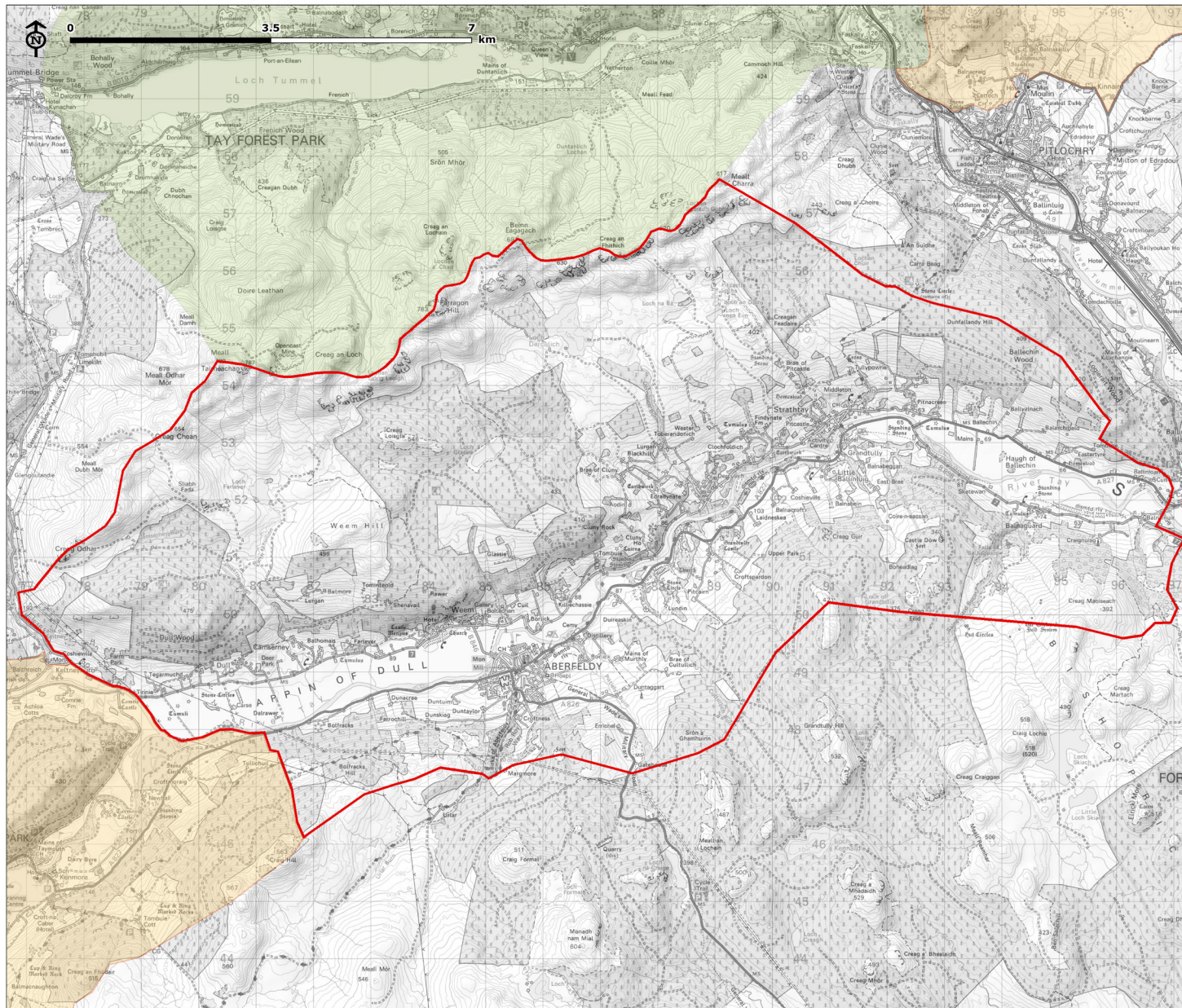
- At the heart of Perth and Kinross, with a strong sense of place
- Transition from the wooded and settled small-scale valley, to the surrounding open upland rising to the north
- The setting for historic settlements, castles, designed landscapes, as well as Wade's iconic bridge over the Tay and the famous Birks of Aberfeldy
- Important east-west route, as well as a hub for tourism, sport and recreation
- Long views to Schiehallion and Ben Lawers, contrasting with more enclosed valley

Forces for Change

- Changes in forestry management, including felling and replanting
- Small-scale hydro and associated infrastructure
- Wind energy proposals and associated infrastructure
- Pressure for increased visitor access and tourist facilities
- Small-scale expansions of settlements
- Barytes mining

Objectives

- Maintain native character of woodlands, and expand coverage of deciduous woodland and other appropriate species
- Ensure sensitive restructuring of coniferous plantations as felling regimes allow
- Ensure high design quality of tourist developments or housing proposed in the area
- Maintain distinctive character of settlements and built development, particularly the Victorian farm buildings often prominent by the roadside
- Support initiatives to preserve field boundaries and to restore trees and woodlands in the long term
- Support initiatives to retain and enhance policy woodlands
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines



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Perth and Kinross Council Local Landscape Designations Review

**Figure 4d: Strath Tay Local
Landscape Area (LLA)**

- Strath Tay LLA
- Other Local Landscape Area
- Existing landscape designation

OVERVIEW MAP



Map Scale @ A3: 1:65,000



Source: Perth & Kinross Council, SNH, SG, LUC

5.5 Ben Vrackie

This LLA is a compact group of rugged moorland hills north east of Pitlochry, centred on Ben Vrackie, a key landmark above the Tummel Valley.

Boundaries

The western boundary of the LLA follows the eastern edge of the **Loch Tummel NSA** above the Pass of Killiecrankie. The NSA overlaps slightly with the southern tip of the **Cairngorms National Park**, and the north-western boundary of the LLA continues along the south edge of the latter, as far as Meall Breac. The eastern boundary is drawn along the Allt na Leacainn Moire, which flows south to the A924 that forms the southern boundary. To the south west, the LLA extends to the settlement edge of Moulin and Pitlochry, and west to the A9.

Statement of Significance

Ben Vrackie, the Speckled Mountain, is an iconic summit in Perth and Kinross. At 841m it ranks as a Corbett, towering over Pitlochry and the Tummel Valley. Adjacent to the Loch Tummel NSA and the Cairngorms National Park, Ben Vrackie has a role in the wider setting of both, as well as for the Killiecrankie battle site which is now in National Trust for Scotland ownership.

Pitlochry is a key settlement to the Perth and Kinross tourist industry, a principal stopping point on the A9 it provides a wealth of visitor services. From Pitlochry, many visitors and residents choose to walk up to the Craigower viewpoint to look along Loch Tummel, crossing the golf course and woodlands within the LLA. Alternatively, they take the relatively easy climb to the summit of

Ben Vrackie through a landscape of classic highland scenery, with rugged outcrops, lochans and open moorland hills, subdivided by small upland glens. Its remote character belies its proximity to the busy A9 corridor, and its relative accessibility.

The only present day settlement is at the fringes of Moulin, including the impressive houses of Baledmund and Balnakeilly with their parklands. However, the landscape was not always so empty. Traces of deserted post-medieval settlements have been identified around Glen Giraig and above Kinnaid, where a number of Bronze Age hut circles are also evident. The area is also important habitat for bird life, forming part of the Cairngorm Massif Special Protection Area with qualifying interests of Golden Eagle and Capercaillie.

Ben Vrackie

Special Qualities

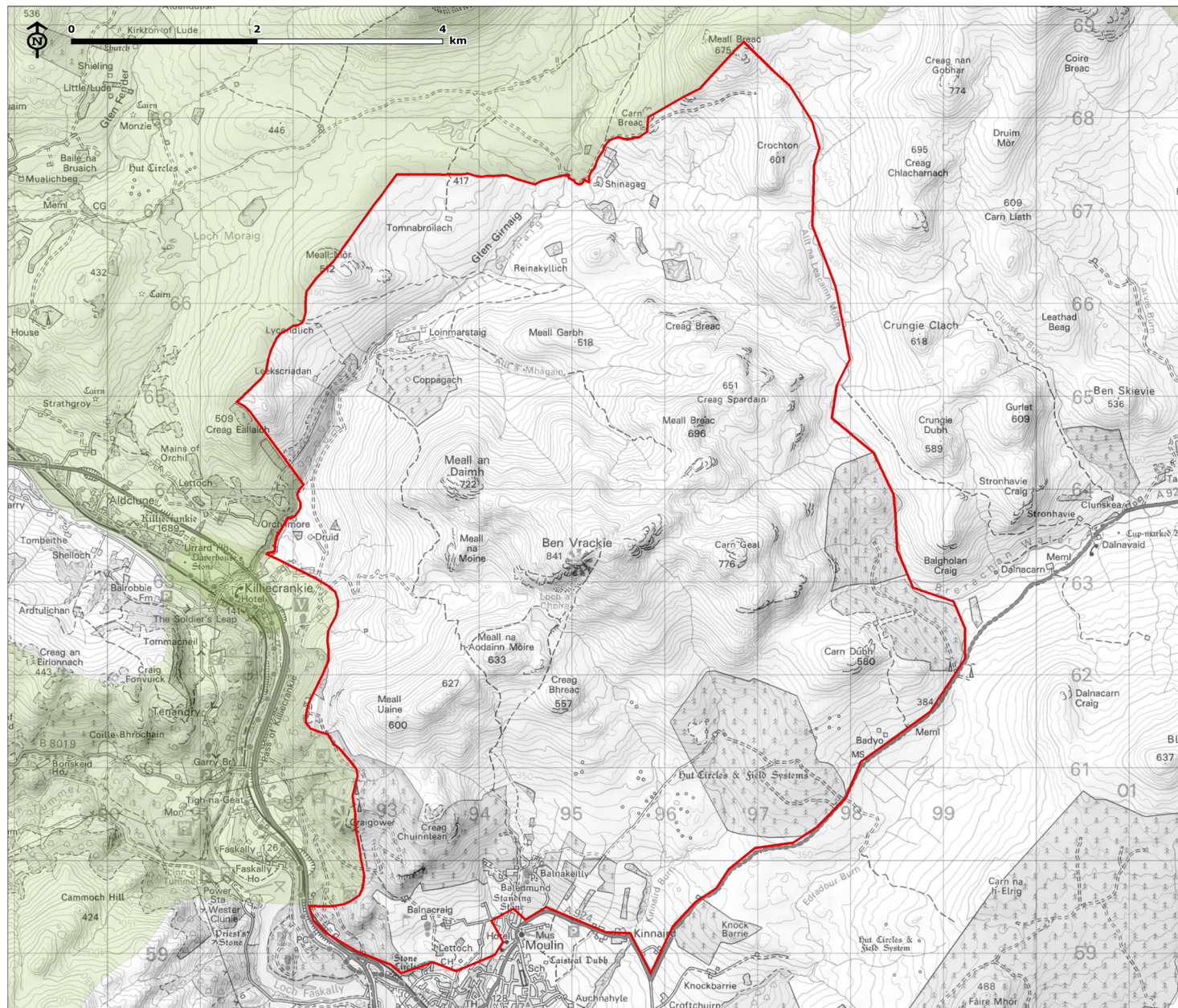
- Iconic Perthshire mountain which is ever popular with hill walkers
- Panoramic views over most of Highland Perthshire, and over Strath Tay and Strath Tummel in particular
- An essential part of the backdrop to Pitlochry when seen from within Strath Tay
- Important link to the higher, wilder hills of the Cairngorms National Park to the north
- Scattering of upland archaeology hints at the settled past of this now sparsely inhabited area

Forces for Change

- Changes in moorland management and agricultural practices, including construction of estate tracks
- Felling or planting of conifer plantations within the glens
- Small-scale hydro schemes and associated infrastructure
- Footpath erosion along popular ascents
- Residential development at the upper edges of Pitlochry and Moulin

Objectives

- Ensure tracks and other estate infrastructure is sensitivity sited and implemented
- Maintain footpaths and manage access to minimise damage to the land
- Ensure a high standard of design in any development proposals at the settlement edge, reflecting the distinctive character of Pitlochry and Moulin
- Promote creation of native woodlands or other appropriate woodland types across lower slopes, associated with small-scale designed landscapes and sheltered glens



Perth and Kinross Council Local Landscape Designations Review

**Figure 4e: Ben Vrackie
Local Landscape Area (LLA)**

 Ben Vrackie LLA
 Existing landscape designation

OVERVIEW MAP



Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Source: Perth & Kinross Council, SNH, SG, LUC

5.6 Glen Quaich

Glen Quaich is a popular route across Perthshire between Strathbraan and Strath Tay due to its accessibility. The LLA includes the length of the glen from Amulree westwards, and the ridges containing the glen.

Boundaries

The boundaries of this LLA are defined by the ridge lines of the hills which frame the glen on three sides. These boundaries are drawn to link high points, from Craig Hulich above Amulree westwards across Creag Choille, Meall Dun Dhomnuill and Meall a' Choire Chreagaich. The head of the glen lies between Creag and Sgliata and Sron a' Chaoineidh. The south boundary is shared with the Glen Almond and the Sma' Glen LLA, and traverses Meall nan Eanchainn, Garrow Hill, Meall nam Fuaran and Am Bodach. The eastern boundary follows the A822 through Amulree at the opening of the glen into Strathbraan.

Statement of Significance

A classic highland glen, this area comprises a narrow upper river valley framed by open hills, and containing small-scale settlement, pasture and a loch. The glen sides rise to relatively modest summits, the highest to the south including Sron a' Chaoineidh (870m), and below 700m to the north. Irregular summit outcrops lend these hills a degree of grandeur, although the attraction of Glen Quaich is its contained, sheltered quality, in contrast to the vast scale of the surrounding uplands.

The flat glen floor is given over to pasture, with small woodlands along the River Quaich and on valley sides. Woodland and wetland

fringe Loch Freuchie, which is popular for fishing and canoeing. Small coniferous plantations also add variety to the landscape. Settlements are limited to farmsteads and cottages, aside from the village of Amulree with its church and hotel. The Beaully-Denny overhead power line is a more recent human intervention, though it is likely that in time, as the scars of construction work fade, this too will become part of the landscape.

Glen Quaich has long been settled, and long been used as a route from Loch Tay to the lowlands via Amulree. Traces of Bronze Age hut circles and a crannog are found alongside Loch Freuchie. The high pass over Glen Lochay to the south links to Glen Almond, and is today the route of the Rob Roy Way long-distance walking route. The minor road through Glen Quaich is the highlight of this area, and a popular tourist drive. From the high ground of A' Chrois, as the road descends, is a panoramic view southward along and across the glen, with Loch Freuchie as its focal point, and a backdrop of distant hills beyond.

Glen Quaich

Special Qualities

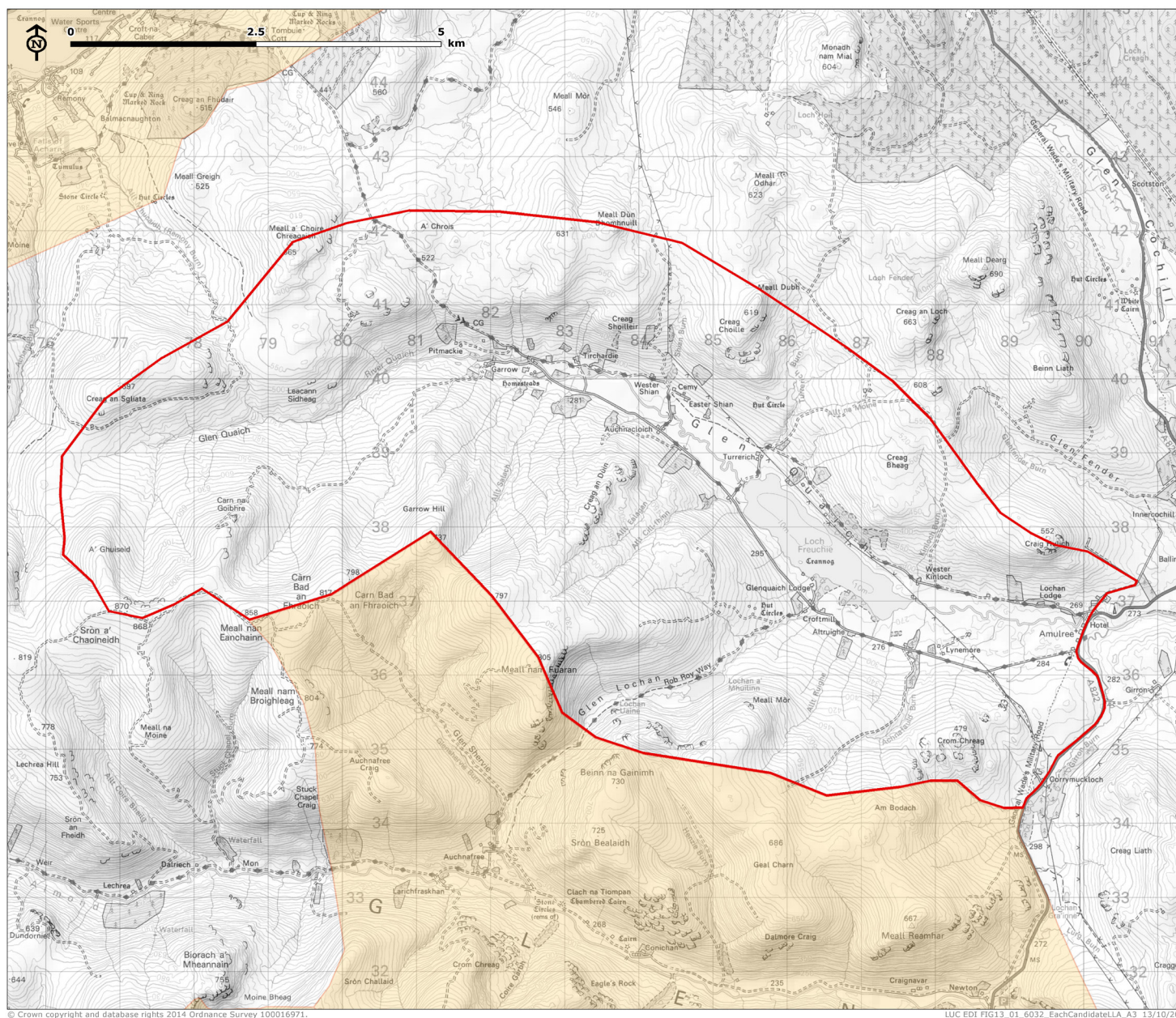
- Exemplar of a Highland Perthshire glen, combining all the 'ingredients' of open hills, farmed glen, loch, woodlands and settlement
- Tranquil, and wild in its upper reaches, yet accessible
- Scenic route from Kenmore descending from the hills into the glen, with unfolding views over Loch Freuchie
- Scenic route from Amulree ascending to high point by An Chrois with first glimpses of Loch Tay and the mountains to the north
Opportunities for sport and recreation including the Rob Roy Way
- Remains of former settlements, a reminder of the Highland Clearances

Forces for Change

- Ongoing work to upgrade the Beaully-Denny power line
- Changes in estate management practices, including construction of tracks and felling of plantations
- Construction of wind farms and associated infrastructure in adjacent areas
- Development of hydro-electric power schemes and associated infrastructure
- Intensification of grouse management including hill tracks

Objectives

- Maintain open character of the glen, and views north from the glen particularly as perceived from the descent along the minor road from Kenmore
- Promote further expansion of native woodland or other appropriate woodland type
- Manage shores and wetlands around Loch Freuchie for benefit of habitats and biodiversity
- Preserve character of Victorian vernacular architecture, expressed in farm buildings
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines



Perth and Kinross Council Local Landscape Designations Review

Figure 4f: Glen Quaich Local Landscape Area (LLA)

Glen Quaich LLA
 Other Local Landscape Area

OVERVIEW MAP



Map Scale @ A3: 1:50,000



Source: Perth & Kinross Council, SNH, SG, LUC

5.7 Sma' Glen and Glen Almond

This LLA includes part of upper Glen Almond and the dramatic section, the Sma' Glen, which pierces the Highland Boundary Fault.

Boundaries

The boundaries of this LLA are largely defined by the ridges which form the visual edges of the glen. The northern boundary is shared with the Glen Quaich LLA, and runs from Meall nan Eanchainn to Meann nam Fuaran and Am Bodach. It turns south along the A822 then climbs the ridge of Dun Mor to the east of the Sma' Glen. The south east boundary follows field and woodland edges to include the opening of the glen. The southern boundary, which is shared with the Upper Strathearn LLA, crosses the Fendoch Burn then climbs the ridge to Meall Tarsuinn, across Auchnafree Hill to A' Chairidh. The western boundary crosses Glen Almond at the narrow point between Sron Challaid and Stuck Chapel Crag, continuing north to Meall nan Eanchainn.

Statement of Significance

The Sma' Glen is a gateway into the Highlands from Lowland Perthshire. A long-established strategic location, the Sma' Glen has been used by the Romans and by the 18th century General Wade for military routes: a Roman signal station and fort lie at the mouth of the glen, while the Military Road winds through to Amulree, now largely followed by the A822. Today the A822 is enjoyed by tourists and visitors, presenting an unfolding sequence of views as it enters the Sma' Glen, passes under the overhanging crags, and crosses the Almond via the 19th century Newton Bridge. Beyond Newton, tracks continue into the glen linking isolated farmsteads and cottages, with traces of deserted settlements. An even earlier past

is hinted at in the chambered cairn at Clach na Tiompan, and the standing stone long associated with the mythical bard Ossian.

The Sma' Glen itself is a small feature, a narrow chasm no more than 4km long. The deeply incised gorge is framed by steep cliffs rising to over 500m on either side, leaving a narrow flood plain overlooked by rocky slopes, too steep to permit the muirburn which patterns adjacent moors. The wooded riverside and the small plantations add to the visual diversity of the route through the glen. Parking at Newton Bridge ensures this a popular spot for photography.

Less visited the upper section of Glen Almond winds westward into the uplands. Wider than the Sma' Glen, it retains the steep sides and overhanging craggy summits, which here rise to Meall nam Fuaran (805m) and Auchnafree Hill (789m). The farmstead at Auchnafree stands in a triangle of open flood plain, with pasture and woodland. This point marks the conjunction of Glen Almond, Glen Shervie and Glen Lochan, which carries the Rob Roy Way over to Glen Quaich. Westward, the Rob Roy Way links back to Loch Tay.

Sma' Glen and Glen Almond

Special Qualities

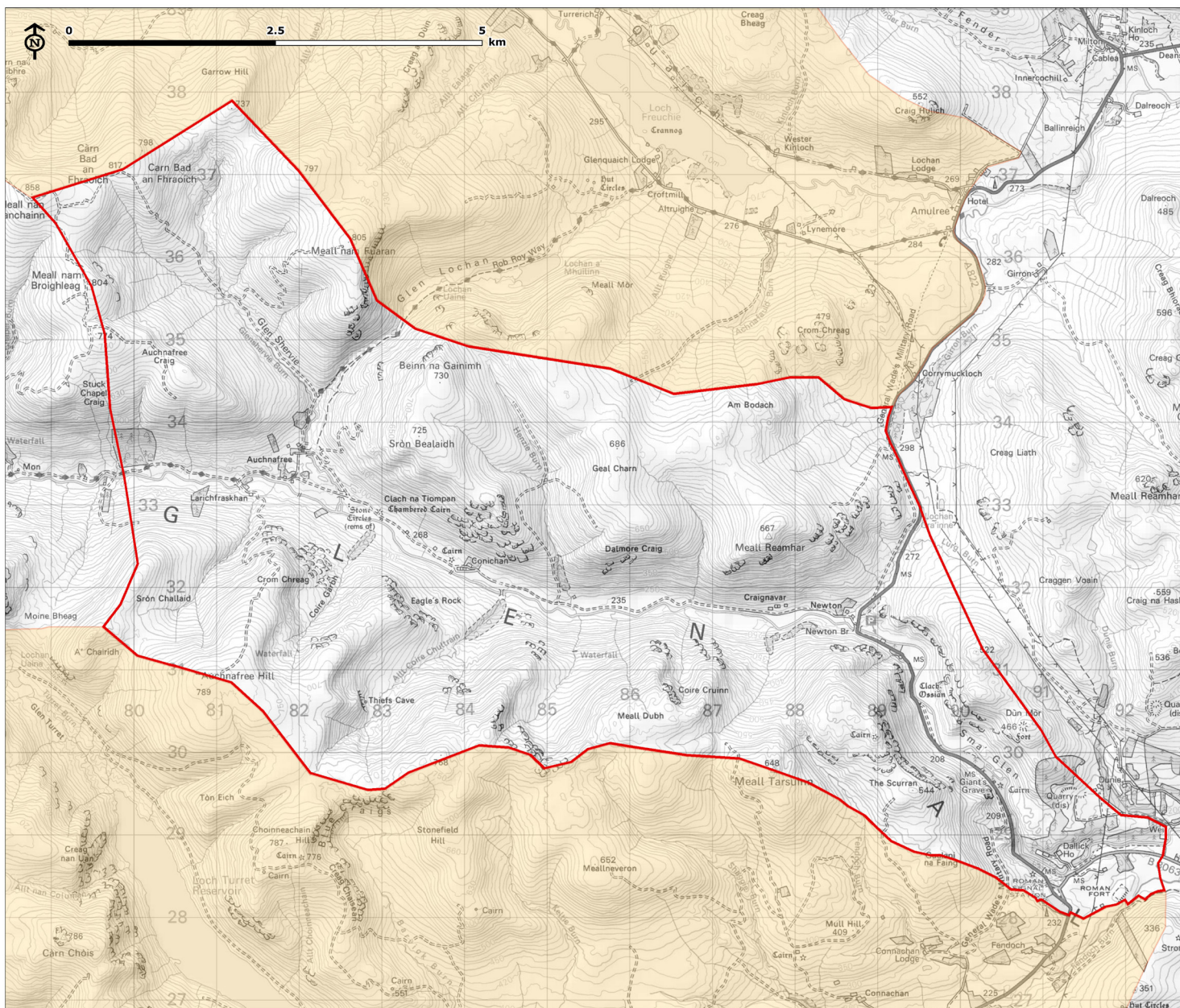
- A distinctive highland glen, rugged and enclosed, yet accessible to all
- The A822 through the Sma' Glen presents a series of dramatic framed views
- A historic portal from the lowlands to the highlands
- The woodland and river lend the Sma' Glen a sense of tranquillity
- Upper Glen Almond becomes increasingly wild, away from the road and closer to the mountains

Forces for Change

- Changes in estate management practices, including construction of tracks and felling of plantations
- Development of hydro-electric power schemes and associated infrastructure
- Road upgrading along the A822, a key route through the highlands
- Extension of parking area
- Intensification of grouse management including hill tracks

Objectives

- Promote the further expansion of native or appropriate woodland types along the glen, including replacement of existing conifer plantations where possible
- Maintain the high wildness value of upper Glen Almond in particular
- Seek to protect the experience of travelling through the Sma' Glen, along the A822, which is a key experience for visitors to the area
- Ensure any road improvements, for example upgrading of laybys, installation of crash barriers, are undertaken in a sensitive unobtrusive way



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**Figure 4g: Sma' Glen and
Glen Almond Local
Landscape Area (LLA)**

Sma' Glen and Glen Almond LLA
 Other Local Landscape Area

OVERVIEW MAP



Map Scale @ A3: 1:45,000



Source: Perth & Kinross Council, SNH, SG, LUC

5.8 Upper Strathearn

This LLA includes areas on either side of the Highland Boundary Fault: on the lowland side, the landscape around Comrie, Crieff and Drummond Castle; on the highland side, the hills around Glen Turret.

Boundaries

The western edge of this LLA follows the boundary of the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA at Comrie, running north through Glen Lednock to the summit of Ben Chonzie. The boundary continues around the ridge to the north of Glen Turret, following the boundary of the Glen Almond and the Sma' Glen LLA from A' Chairidh east to Meall Tarsuinn, then down to the Fendoch Burn. The eastern boundary follows the ridge beside the Fendoch Burn to Gilmerton, then a minor road east of Crieff as far as Dalpatrick on the Earn. The southern boundary follows minor roads from Muthill across to Glen Lednock, then north again past Cultybraggan to Comrie.

Statement of Significance

The Highland Boundary Fault cuts across Perth and Kinross from west to east, dividing highland and lowland as it does across Scotland. Here it is clearly and dramatically expressed where it forms the backdrop to the settlements of Comrie and Crieff in this part of Strathearn. The distinctive range of hills contrasts strongly with the well kept farmland of upper Strathearn.

The lowland section of this LLA includes the meandering River Earn as it emerges from Comrie, and the flat, open carse to the east. South of the river are low rolling hills rising to Torlum (393m);

mainly clothed in deciduous and coniferous woodland, these hills incorporate rocky crags and are prominent features from the valley. To the south west, long views are available into Glen Artney, the continuation of the Highland Boundary Fault. The extensive wooded designed landscape of Drummond Castle is within this area, centred on the famous formal gardens by the castle, but also including the Pond of Drummond (Drummond Lochs SSSI) and part of the South Tayside Goose Roosts SPA. South of Crieff, the Earn flows on through gently rolling arable farmland, characterised by field boundary trees and lowland dykes. A strong pattern of field boundary trees and small woodlands extends across this area, linked by well maintained farmland. Neolithic monuments are scattered across this area, as well as traces of Roman occupation.

To the north of the river the landscape becomes increasingly highland in character. To the north of Crieff is The Knock, a steep wooded hill which provides an accessible and popular lookout point over the Strathearn landscape. The foothills to the north are wooded and settled, with country houses and castles. Steep, fast flowing burns descend from the hills through wooded gullies and waterfalls. The irregularity of this area gives a pleasing visual diversity, underlain by intricate geology, expressed at the Craig More SSSI near Fordie. The route of General Wade's military road can be traced north of Crieff, approaching the Sma' Glen.

As the ground rises the landscape becomes more simple, with pasture and deciduous woodland giving way to moorland and conifer plantations. Around Glen Turret the heather shows the distinctive patchwork of muirburn. Glen Turret forms the main entry point into this group of hills, with road access as far as the dam. Incised tracks cut across the east side of the loch, as far as Lochan Uaine in the deep glacial corrie below Ben Chonzie (931m), a Munro summit at the head of ridge walks either side of the Glen Turret. Loch Turret is also a destination for fishing and canoeing.

Upper Strathearn

Special Qualities

- The Highland Boundary Fault, the meeting point of upland and lowland, and a dramatic introduction to the Highland landscape
- Strong variety of landform and land cover: open mountains, glens, moorland, wooded slopes and river valley farmland
- Setting of Crieff and Comrie within the valley, backed by steep rugged hills
- Concentration of Neolithic landscape monuments
- A highly scenic conjunction of landscape elements, with many opportunities to enjoy the view
- A well managed landscape with important parkland, policy woodlands and field boundary trees

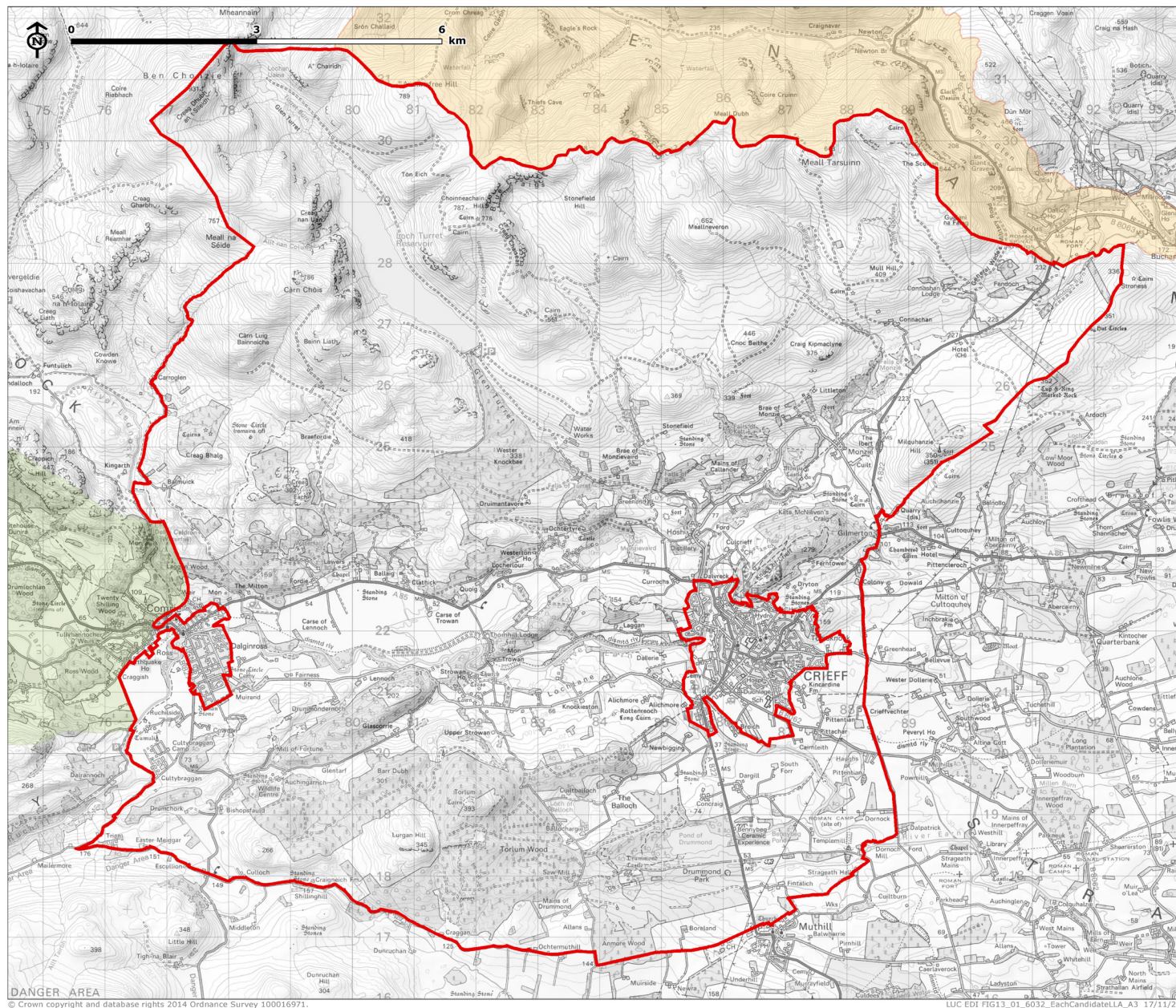
Forces for Change

- Changes in estate management practices potentially affecting the large highland and lowland estates in the area
- Felling and restructuring of forestry plantations
- Proposals for renewable energy schemes including small-scale hydro and associated infrastructure
- Construction of upland tracks
- Settlement expansion at Comrie and Crieff

- Changes in agriculture such as the increasing use of agricultural plastics

Objectives

- Ensure sensitive restructuring of forestry plantations
- Ensure tracks and other upland estate infrastructure is sensitivity sited and implemented
- Provide interpretation for local geology and biodiversity to aid understanding of the Highland Boundary Fault landscape
- Support initiatives to retain the pattern of field boundaries and to restore trees and hedges in the long term
- Retain and enhance policy woodlands
- Support additional mixed woodland planting with appropriate species subject to site suitability
- Preserve the character of Victorian roadside buildings such as farm buildings and cottages
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines



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**Figure 4h: Upper Strathearn
Local Landscape Area (LLA)**

- ▬ Upper Strathearn LLA
- ▬ Other Local Landscape Area
- ▬ Existing landscape designation

OVERVIEW MAP



Map Scale @ A3: 1:60,000



Source: Perth & Kinross Council, SNH, SG, LUC

5.9 Sidlaw Hills

This LLA covers the Sidlaw Hills in the east of the study area, and includes part of the Carse of Gowrie as well as Moncreiffe Hill to the south of the Tay. The LLA includes the popular Kinnoull Hill on the outskirts of Perth.

Boundaries

The north western boundary of the LLA follows the A94 from the western edge of Perth to Balbeggie, then a minor road towards Newtyle, turning south to follow the Angus Council boundary over the hills, and continuing south around the Rossie Priory estate to the A90 between Inchtute and Longforan. The south-eastern boundary follows the A90 to St Madoes, then crosses the Tay at Inchyra to follow the minor road south of Moncreiffe Hill. The western boundary is drawn along the M90 through Craigend Gap and over the Friarton Bridge, then following the western settlement boundary of Perth.

Statement of Significance

The Sidlaws are a range of igneous hills, dividing the Firth of Tay from the agricultural landscape of Strathmore. At their south west end the hills are expressed as dramatic cliffs overlooking the Tay as it winds its way out of Perth. Although rising in elevation towards the north east, the hills generally become less dramatic as the range approaches the Angus Council boundary. Within the hills are a series of sheltered hidden valleys, not viewed from outside but containing arable farmland in contrast to the hill pastures which make up the majority of the landcover. There is a strong network of woodland across the hills, including a large amount of policy woodland.

The southern flank, the Braes of the Carse, retains an important relationship with the adjacent Carse of Gowrie. Distinctive summits along the north side include King's Seat and Dunsinane. The latter, best known for its association with Macbeth, has one of a large number of Iron Age hill forts that are scattered across this area. Other historic features include deserted medieval fermtouns and settlements along the foot of the Braes, and the drove roads linking them with Strathmore. The remaining settlements along the Braes of the Carse retain their historic character, and alternate with the country houses and designed landscapes which spread across the hills and the carse, including Kinfauns and Fingask.

Kinnoull Hill is the southern end of the Sidlaw range. Comprising open space and woodland it is readily accessible from Perth and forms a key setting to the city. The sheer cliffs on the south side hang above the Tay and the M90, accentuated by the 18th-century tower. Across the Tay is Moncreiffe Hill, separate from the Sidlaws but continuing the igneous geology and steep south-facing scarp. This stands above the Earn and marks the southern approach to Perth via the Craigend Gap. Moncreiffe is also topped with a hill fort, with later castles and country houses on its slopes.

Sidlaw Hills

Special Qualities

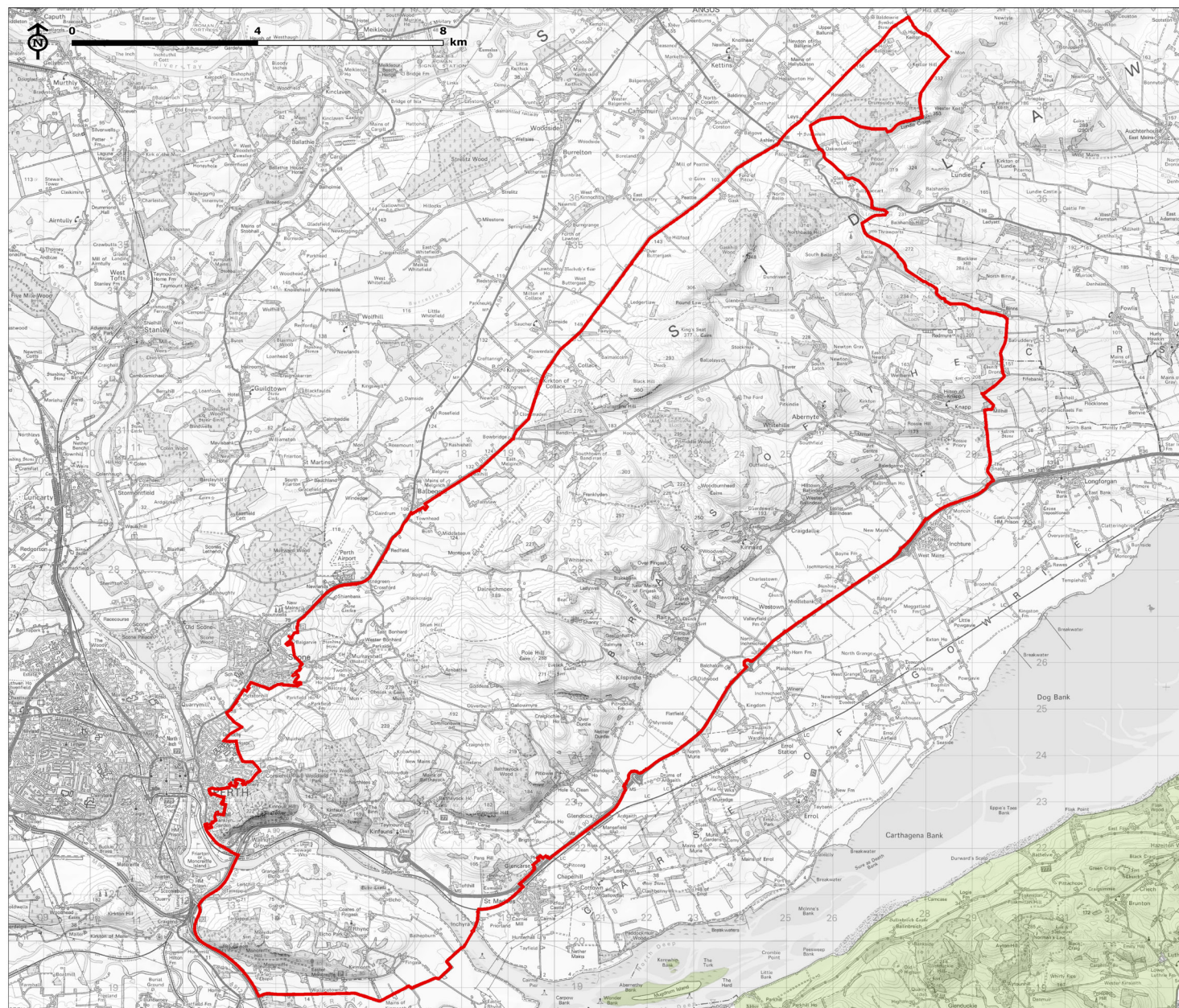
- Volcanic hills with distinctive south-east facing scarps and braes
- Important backdrop and setting to Strathmore, Perth, the lower Tay and the Carse of Gowrie
- Accessible sport and recreation adjacent to the city of Perth, with prominent viewpoints at Kinnoull Hill and Moncreiffe Hill
- Rich heritage of hill forts and castles and designed landscapes
- Hidden glens behind the braes, away from the more prominent hills
- Characteristic hillfoot villages of the Carse of Gowrie, backed by the steep wooded Braes of the Carse
- The drama of the cliffs, woodland and tower at Kinnoull Hill, high above the motorway and the cliff extending beyond towards Dundee

Forces for Change

- Development pressures around the edge of Perth and Scone
- Changes in farm management for example use of agricultural plastics or construction of large farm buildings
- New buildings and small-scale settlement expansion in villages
- Wind energy and small-scale hydro schemes with their associated infrastructure

Objectives

- Seek to manage and expand woodland cover with native and other appropriate species in glens thus strengthening the woodland network which already exists
- Ensure high design quality of new development in this landscape
- Ensure long-term maintenance of policy woodlands and designed landscapes, whether listed on an inventory or otherwise, which make a strong contribution to this area
- Preserve distinctive character of small villages along the Braes of the Carse
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines



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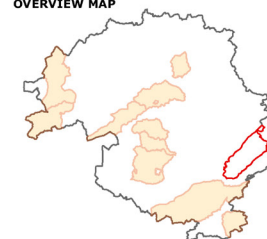
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Perth and Kinross Council Local Landscape Designations Review

**Figure 4i: Sidlaw Hills Local
Landscape Area (LLA)**

- Sidlaw Hills LLA
- Existing landscape designation

OVERVIEW MAP



Map Scale @ A3: 1:80,000



Source: Perth & Kinross Council, SNH, SG, LUC

5.10 Ochil Hills

This LLA includes the whole of the Ochil Hills range, which lies between Strathearn and the Loch Leven basin. The western Ochils are locally designated in neighbouring Stirling and Clackmannanshire, and this LLA extends this across the width of Perth and Kinross.

Boundaries

The northern edge of the Ochils is formed by the Strathallan and Strathearn valleys. The boundary for the LLA is drawn along the A9 from Greenloaning, past Blackford to Gleneagles from where the railway line forms the boundary. The LLA therefore includes Dunning and Forteviot, from where the boundary runs along the B935 then along minor roads to Aberargie, then the A913 through Abernethy to the Council boundary at Newburgh. The Council boundary runs south over Pitmedden Forest then south west to Glenfarg. The south boundary of the LLA follows minor roads and tracks between Glenfarg and Carnbo, marking the line between enclosed farmland and unenclosed hills. From Carnbo to Yetts o' Muckhart the boundary is drawn along the A91 at the foot of the hills. The western boundary follows the Council boundary across the hills and glens to Greenloaning, bordering the **Western Ochils LLA** in Stirling and the **Ochil Hills LLA** in Clackmannanshire.

Statement of Significance

The Ochils are the most significant hill range in central Scotland, cutting dramatically across the lowlands between Forth and Tay. Although the dramatic scarp of the Ochil Fault lies largely outside Perth and Kinross, the westward expanse of the hills forms a major feature in the area, contributing to the setting of both Kinross-shire to the south and Strathearn and Strathallan to the north. The Ochils are at their broadest in Perth and Kinross.

Reaching 632m at Blairdenon Hill in the west, the hills gradually diminish towards the east. However, they retain their relative prominence, with hills such as Pitcairlie (282m) forming a landmark above Abernethy. The hills are dissected by many small-scale glens, which wind into the upland from north and south. These range in scale from the picturesque Glen Farg to the broad Glen Devon – Glen Eagles which carries the A823 right across the range. These deep glens result from glacial meltwater action following the last ice age.

To the north the foothills around Dunning and Forteviot provide setting to the hills, and also have strong historical associations with the Ochils. Forteviot is linked to the Pictish monarchy and has been at the centre of archaeological investigations in the area. Hill forts occur across the Ochils, as well as castles and country houses on lower ground.

The landcover of the hills is generally open moorland of grassland and some heather. The unenclosed landscape has an exposed character in contrast to the sheltered glens with their enclosed pastures. Several upper glens have been dammed to form reservoirs, and there are extensive coniferous plantations, yet significant wildness qualities remain in many locations, without being substantially affected by the wind farms and masts which are seen on hill tops. Projects to expand native woodland have restored areas of juniper to Glen Devon.

The Ochils form a backdrop to a whole series of communities to north and south, and have a clear identity as a distinct landscape feature. Their accessibility and proximity to many settlements ensures they are well used for numerous forms of outdoor sport and recreation.

Ochil Hills

Special Qualities

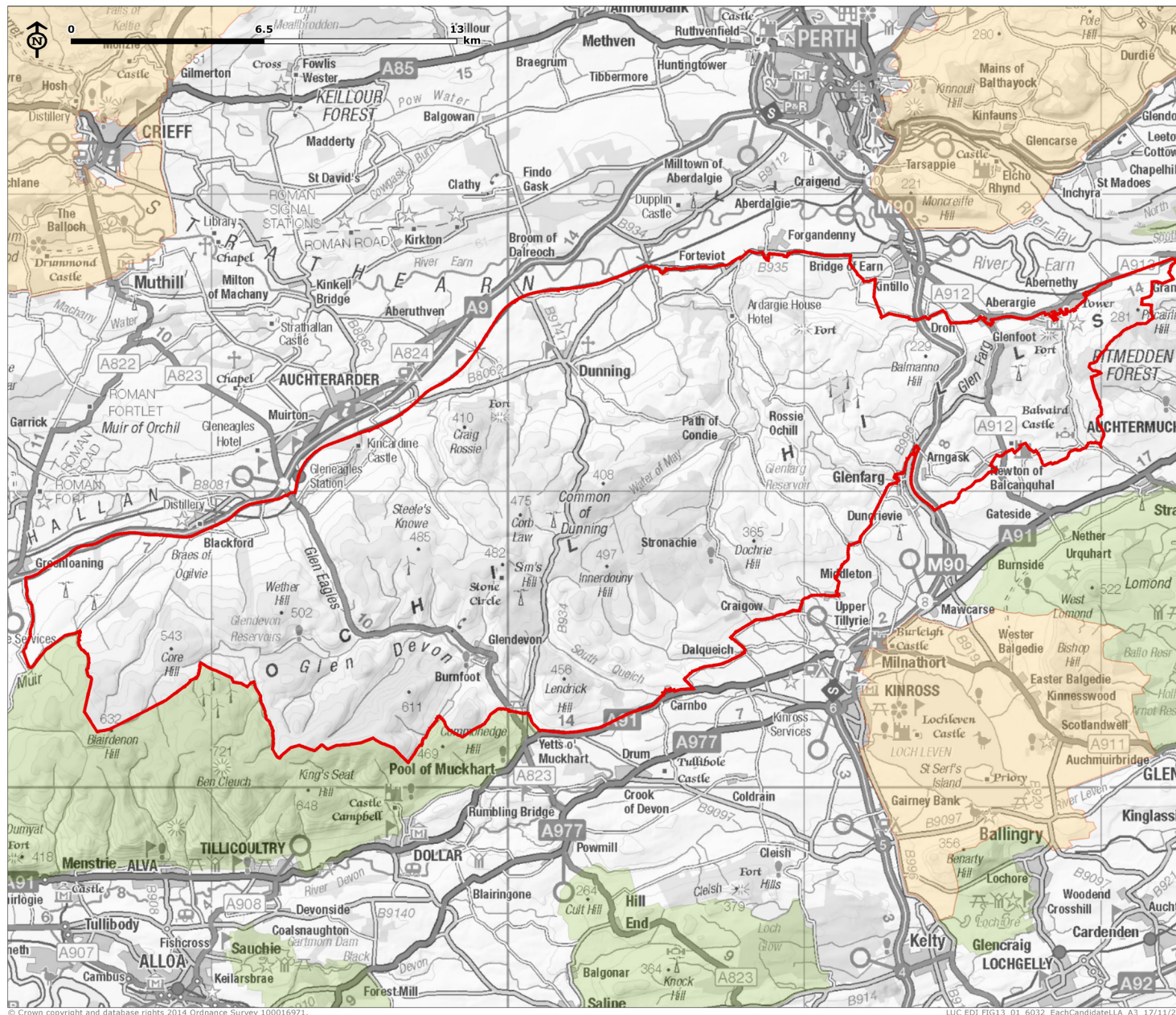
- Prominent band of hills forming a barrier and gateway between Perthshire and Kinross-shire, and the setting to both
- Relatively wild and tranquil, yet readily accessible and with good provision for a range of users
- Extensive natural landcover of heather moorland, grassland and woodland
- Distinctive southern scarp slopes, steep interior glens
- Though there are few distinctive peaks, there are many accessible summits and viewpoints
- Rich in features of geological and historical interest

Forces for Change

- Changes to forestry management and felling of coniferous plantations
- Expansion of native woodland
- Development of single wind turbines and wind farms, as well as pylons and other tall structures

Objectives

- Continue expansion and management of native woodlands or other appropriate species, and seek sensitive restructuring of coniferous plantations where opportunities arise
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines
- Preserve historical landscapes, including features such as dykes and rig-and-furrow as well as the scheduled hill forts
- Maintain the character of vernacular buildings within settlements and dispersed across the hills



Perth and Kinross Council Local Landscape Designations Review

**Figure 4j: Ochil Hills Local
Landscape Area (LLA)**

- Ochil Hills LLA
- Other Local Landscape Area
- Existing landscape designation

OVERVIEW MAP

Map Scale @ A3: 1:125,000

Source: Perth & Kinross Council, SNH, SG, LUC

5.11 Loch Leven and Lomond Hills

This LLA is centred on Loch Leven in the south of the study area. The LLA includes the western edge of the Lomond Hills and the northern edge of Benarty, which enclose the loch to the east and south.

Boundaries

The western boundary of this LLA follows the B996 from the Council boundary at Kelty northwards to Kinross. The LLA boundary follows the western edge of Kinross, though including areas within the settlement boundary which are associated with the loch: Kirkgate Park; Kinross House; and Kinross Golf Course. The northern boundary follows the Milnathort settlement boundary, then the B996 to Arlary. It continues along a minor road past Killyford Bridge to Muirs of Kinnesswood. The boundary then follows the Council boundary over the western end of the Lomond Hills to Auchmuirbridge, bordering the Lomond Hills LLA in Fife. Turning westward it follows the River Leven and across Benarty, along the edge of the Loch Ore and Benarty LLA in Fife, to Kelty.

Statement of Significance

Loch Leven is a feature of central significance within Perth and Kinross, and is important in Scottish history generally. Its deep links with historical events give rise to strong associations with the monastic heritage of Scotland and with the life of Mary, Queen of Scots. Framed by the dramatic slopes of Benarty to the south and Bishop Hill to the east, Loch Leven is also a highly scenic location, readily accessible and visible to residents, visitors and those passing on the M90.

Loch Leven itself covers around 13km², following a reduction in

the water level in the 19th century, and remains one of the largest lochs of lowland Scotland. It contains two small islands. St Serf's Inch is the site of a priory founded in the 11th century, replacing an earlier monastic community, and which was occupied until the 16th century. Loch Leven Castle is located on the smaller Castle Island, and was long a property of the Douglas family. Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned here in the 16th century. At the end of the 18th century Sir William Bruce built Kinross House on the loch side, aligning his gardens towards the castle in a gesture combining history and landscape.

The parkland surroundings of Kinross House dominate the western side of the loch, separating the settlement from the waterside. The other shores are lined with native woodland or open farmland, with large areas of wetland habitat for migrating birds at the National Nature Reserve and RSPB's Vane Farm Reserve and Visitor Centre. It is also a Ramsar Site, SPA and SSSI. A footpath and cycleway now runs around the entire circumference of the loch, with artworks placed along the route.

To the south the land rises sharply to the distinctive hill of Benarty which lies on the Fife boundary. To the east similarly steep hills rise above Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell to the crags of Bishop hill and Munduff Hill. Both hill groups offer accessible walking and panoramic views over Kinross-shire and beyond. Between the hills the River Leven exits the loch via the 19th century sluice house.

Loch Leven and Lomond Hills

Special Qualities

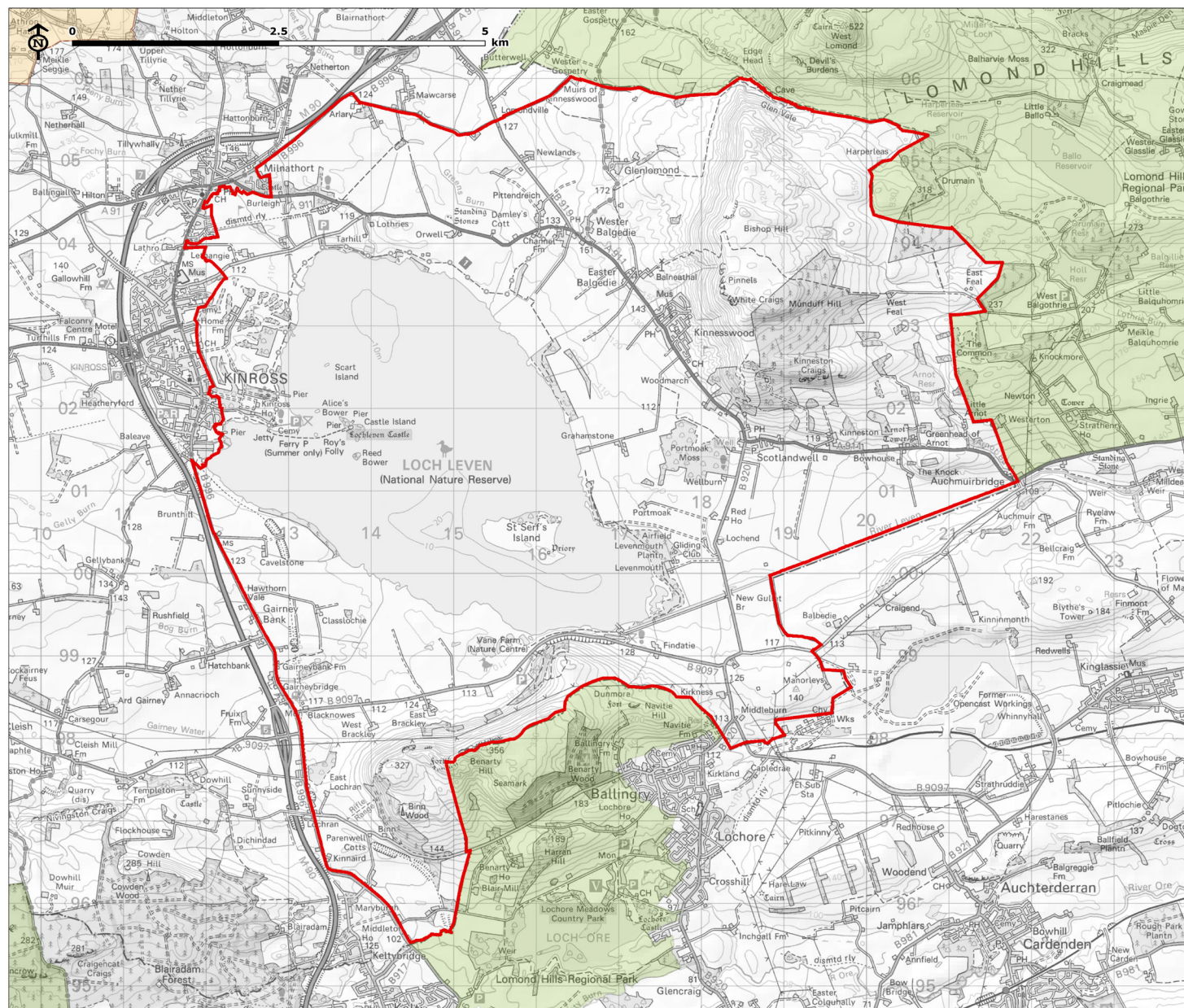
- Contrast between the broad, flat loch, farmed foothills and steep surrounding hills
- Striking and dramatic form of Benarty and the Lomond Hills seen from the loch side, from Kinross and the M90
- Historically a focus for human settlement and land use, with a key relationship between Kinross, Kinross House and Loch Leven Castle
- Essential sport and recreation resource for the region, suiting a broad range of users, e.g. gliding and bird watching as well as walking and cycling
- The expanse of open water fringed with wetland with wooded fringes providing an internationally important ecological habitat for birds is recognised and widely appreciated

Forces for Change

- Changes in farm management around the loch shore, for example use of agricultural plastics
- Wind energy proposals and their associated infrastructure
- Management of forestry plantations at Munduff Hill including the timing of felling and restocking with appropriate species
- Expansion of settlements within and adjacent to this area, e.g. Milnathort, Kinross, Kinnesswood

Objectives

- Maintain accessibility of this area for diverse user groups, and for diverse sport and recreational uses from bird watching to gliding
- Retain and expand native or other appropriate woodland coverage around the loch and on the adjacent hills while retaining the dramatic open landform
- Maintain special character of lochside buildings and designed landscape features, including those not listed on the Historic Scotland Inventory
- Manage agricultural land around the loch to provide benefits for biodiversity and habitats
- Increase the extent of wetland around the loch in order to enhance this internationally important wildlife site
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines



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LUC EDI FIG13_01_6032_EachCandidateLLA_A3 17/11/2014

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**Figure 4k: Loch Leven and
Lomond Hills Local
Landscape Area (LLA)**

- ▬ Loch Leven and Lomond Hill LLA
- ▬ Other Local Landscape Area
- ▬ Existing landscape designation

OVERVIEW MAP



Map Scale @ A3: 1:45,000



Source: Perth & Kinross Council, SNH, SG, LUC

Wild Land Areas and Wildness

6

Wild Land Areas (WLAs) are the most extensive areas where wildness qualities are best expressed. They are identified on the map of Wild Land Areas by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) sets out the importance of wild land: “Wild land character is displayed in some of Scotland’s remoter upland, mountain and coastal areas, which are very sensitive to any form of intrusive human activity and have little or no capacity to accept new development.”

LDP Policy 39 states:

“Development which would affect a Wild Land Area, as identified on the 2014 SNH map of Wild Land Areas, will only be permitted where the Council as Planning Authority is satisfied that: it can be demonstrated that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation”

Of the 42 Wild Land Areas the following map shows those which are wholly or in part in Perth and Kinross:

- 10 Breadalbane - Schiehallion
- 11 Lyon - Lochay
- 12 Ben Lawers
- 14 Rannoch – Nevis – Mamores - Alder
- 15 Cairngorms
- 16 Lochnagar – Mount Keen

SNH have published **Wild Land Area Descriptions** of the attributes, qualities and character of each Wild Land Area. These are material to the consideration of any proposals which have the potential to have an effect on the Area.

In order to avoid or minimise significant adverse effects, Wild Land Areas should be considered at an early stage of project development. The SNH guidance, Assessing Impacts on Wild Land 2017 should be used to assess potential effects.

Wildness

5.5 Policy 39 also recognises the importance of wildness both within and outside WLAs :

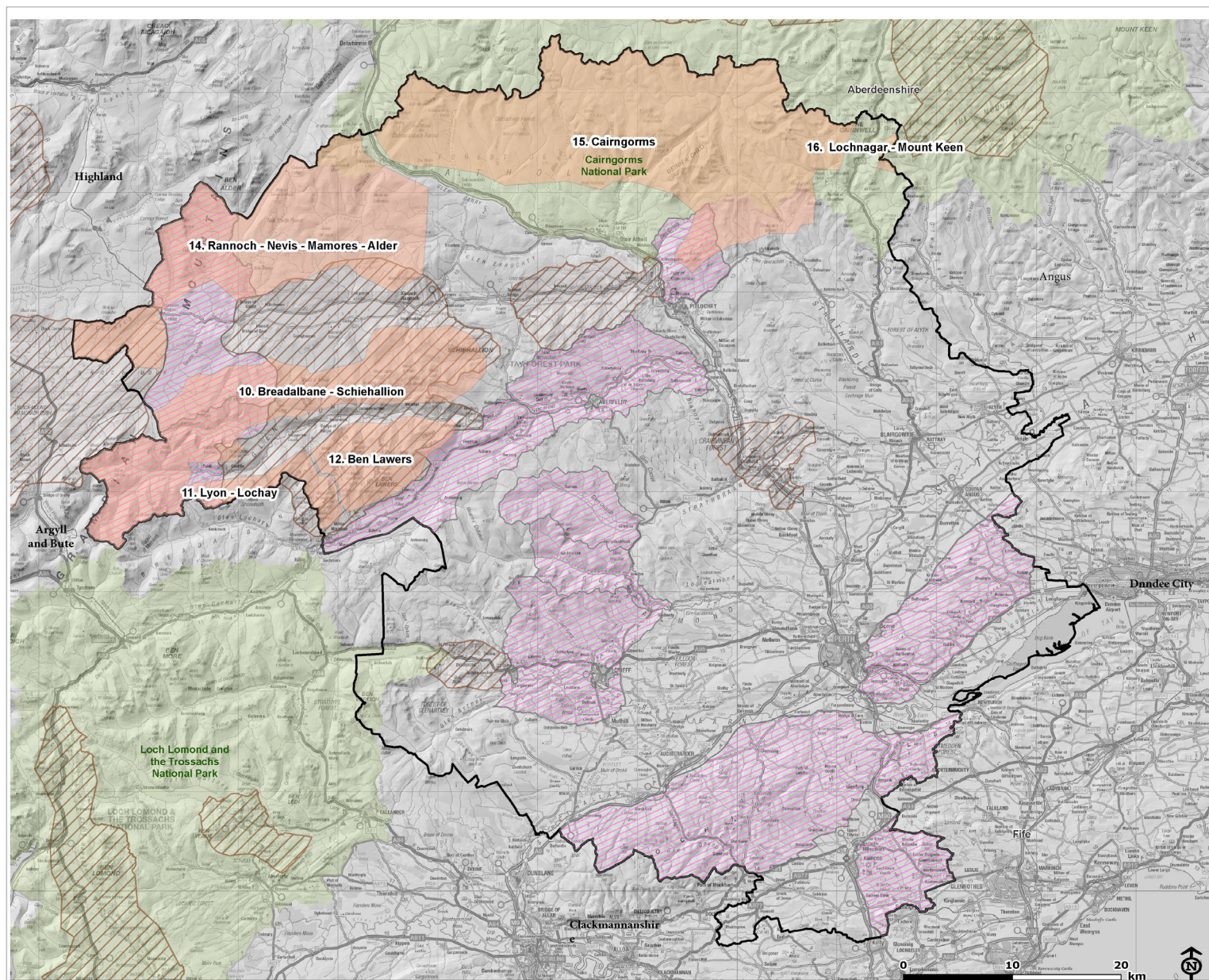
(d) they safeguard the relative wildness of the area’s landscapes including, in particular, the areas identified on the 2014 SNH Wild Land map

5.6 Where wildness¹ is a special quality of a Local Landscape Area the impact on the wild qualities should be addressed in submissions. A Wild Land Assessment will not be required but the SNH assessment guidance may be useful to address this quality.

National Scenic Areas

Wildness is considered differently within the context of the National Scenic Areas that are covered by SNH’s Special Qualities reports. LDP Policy 38B notes that these reports will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

¹ Wildness¹ is a descriptive term distinct from identified Wild Land Areas



Perth and Kinross Council Local Landscape Designations Review

**Figure 5: Wild Land Areas
and Local Landscape Areas**

- SNH Wildland Areas 2014
- Local Landscape Areas
- Perth & Kinross Council boundary
- National Scenic Area
- National Park

Map Scale @ A3: 1:325,000



Supplementary Planning Statements

7

In order for the Local Landscape Designation Review to influence the policy approach of Perth & Kinross Council with regard to decisions affecting local landscape designations it is necessary to set out supplementary policies. The three statements below allow for the proposed Local Landscape Areas and ensure that the statements of the special qualities can be used as a material consideration to better evidence relevant development management decisions, and to help inform decisions on conservation and enhancement measures for management of the Local Landscape Areas.

1 The Council will apply the Local Landscape Area boundaries as set out in Figures 4a – 4k in the implementation of the Local Development Plan policy 37

Justification: The Special Landscape Designation Review proposed appropriate boundaries for the Local Landscape Areas. The process of evaluation in the LLDR means that the boundaries can be justified as being robust. However the Council will monitor and update the boundaries, if there is an appropriate reason to do so, through future iterations of the Local Development Plan

2 The Council will use the statements of significance, associated special qualities and objectives attached to each of the proposed Local Landscape Areas as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications

Justification: The statement aims to ensure that the Supplementary Guidance is used in the development management process. In particular this means that the location and boundaries, designation statement and forces for change, contained within the Statement of Importance provided with each proposed Local Landscape Area, is used to evidence decisions taken. The Supplementary Guidance therefore supports the Development Plan policies

3 The Council will promote the use of the proposed Local Landscape Areas for management measures taking into account the statements of the special qualities

Justification: The aim of the policy is for the statement of special qualities, and particularly the management recommendations within, to be used to identify areas where conservation and enhancement of the proposed Local Landscape Areas can be made. The aim of this is to maintain or enhance the special qualities within the proposed Local Landscape Areas.

Objectives

8

Conserving and Enhancing

- The landscape character, tranquillity and special qualities of the Local Landscape Areas are fully understood by policy makers and land managers.
- Environmental limits are widely respected, and the landscape is recognised as a provider of ecosystem services as well as an inspirational place in which to live, work and visit.
- The landscape character, tranquillity and special qualities of the Local Landscape Areas and their settings are conserved and enhanced.
- To ensure that all farming, forestry and land management enterprises in Perth and Kinross are contributing to the conservation and enhancement of the landscape, wildlife, cultural heritage and natural resources of the Local Landscape Areas.

Understanding and Enjoying

- The importance of conserving the Local Landscape Areas will be recognised by visitors, and people living in adjacent urban areas will be aware of the Local Landscape Areas sporting and recreational potential.
- The importance of the historic landscape is understood by everyone and designated assets are being protected and actively cared for.
- There is a strong and recognisable sense of identity which is linked to deep rooted cultural heritage.

- Local people and visitors are actively investigating, enjoying and celebrating heritage, and the value of the Local Landscape Areas' heritage assets is producing economic and social benefits.
- The Local Landscape Areas landscape is being used as a learning resource by schools, universities and adult education providers.
- Understand the rate and degree of landscape change within the Local Landscape Areas.

Living and working

- Promote the Local Landscape Areas as a high quality places to live and work, so as to attract new 'low impact' businesses with high quality jobs, and increase the proportion of young adults and people of working age living in the area.
- Maintain and develop strong business networks covering farming, sport, tourism, creative industries and knowledge-based businesses, and ensure that all businesses have direct access to business support.
- Improve the quality, variety and marketing of the tourism 'offer' within the Local Landscape Areas to extend the season.
- The Local Landscape Areas' 'brand' is being exploited by sustainable enterprises capitalising on environmental qualities maintained by a successful farming and forestry industry supported by thriving communities.
- The contribution to the wider economy made by Local Landscape Areas-based businesses like farming, sport, tourism, game shooting, quarrying and water supply is being recognised and supported.

Monitoring

What is Monitoring?

Monitoring can be understood as a systematic process, taking regular measurements of a defined property or characteristics, known as 'indicators', of a system or asset (in this case, landscape) to observe change against a baseline state or progress against a particular objective.

To be effective, monitoring processes therefore require robust:

- Baseline data: which defines the key characteristics and current state of the landscape;
- Indicators of change: that can be used to measure change against the baseline.
- Objectives: to ensure that monitoring processes are consistent and provide useful, intelligible outputs that are fit-for-purpose i.e. that can make a meaningful contribution to the future management of landscape change.

Why Monitor?

In addition to monitoring the successful implementation of the Local Development Plan 2, the Strategic Environmental Assessment process requires the Council to monitor the state (or condition) of the Local Landscape Areas. Both types of monitoring play important roles in identifying key issues and in assessing the continued relevance of Local Landscape Area's objectives and policies.

Monitoring the State of the Local Landscape Areas

Monitoring the state of Local Landscape Areas is a long-term process. A national landscape monitoring programme is being developed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The varied components of landscape mean that a number of indicators is needed. Each indicator provides an insight into an aspect of landscape change. The indicators are grouped into themes:

- Landscape qualities
- Public perception
- Land cover
- Built development

Where possible these national indicators and monitoring results can be used to monitor change, and will also work in collaboration with Scottish Natural Heritage to develop local scale indicators. Long-term, objective monitoring of landscape change takes time and it may be a while before long-term trends can be determined.

Evaluation

Monitoring and reviewing these indicators provides a way to assess and communicate change over time, and will inform reviews of this Guidance and Local Development Plan Policy. The indicators will only be part of the analysis. Issues, changes and trends will need to be re-examined through appropriate research and information.

As part of the review process, evaluation will be necessary to reflect on the lessons learned from the experience of operating the policy and Supplementary Guidance. It will also highlight how external changes have affected, and are affecting, the state and special qualities of each Local Landscape Area.

Appendices

Appendix 1: European Landscape Convention Article 1 Definitions

Landscape - means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

Landscape policy – means an expression by the public authorities of the need to frame an official policy on landscape. It sets out the basic general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes.

Landscape quality objective – means for a specific landscape (once a particular landscape has been identified and described) a detailed statement of the characteristics which local people want recognised in their surroundings.

Landscape protection – actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape.

Landscape management – means action from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise change which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes.

Landscape planning means strong forward looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes.

Appendix 2: Landscape Character Units

The following table presents the landscape types and units within Perth and Kinross, which are drawn from Table 1 of the Tyldesley Landscape Study. The landscape types and units are illustrated in Figure 2.

	Landscape Type	Landscape Sub Type	Landscape Units
1	Highland Glens	1a Upper Highland Glens	1a(i) Glen Garry 1a(ii) Glen Quaich 1a(iii) Glen Almond 1a(iv) Glen Turret 1a(v) Glen Tilt 1a(vi) Glen Brerachan 1a(vii) Glen Fearnach 1a(viii) Glen Lochsie & Glen Taitneach 1a(ix) Gleann Beag / Upper Glen Shee
		1b Mid Highland Glens	1b(i) Glen Lyon 1b(ii) Strathbraan 1b(iii) Sma' Glen 1b(iv) Glen Lednock 1b(v) Glen Artney 1b(vi) Strathardle 1b(vii) Mid Glen Shee

	Landscape Type	Landscape Sub Type	Landscape Units
		1c Lower Highland Glens	1c(i) River Garry / River Tummel 1c(ii) Strath Tay 1c(iii) Strathearn 1c(iv) Lower Glen Shee
2	Highland Glens with Lochs:	2a Upper Highland Glens with Lochs	2a(i) Loch Ericht 2a(ii) Loch an Daimh 2a(iii) Loch Lyon
		2b Mid Highland Glens with Lochs	2b(i) Loch Errochty 2b(ii) Loch Rannoch 2b(iii) Dunalastair 2b(iv) Loch Tay 2b(v) Loch Earn 2b(vi) Loch Freuchie
		2c Lower Highland Glens with Lochs	2c Loch Tummel
3	Highland Summits and Plateaux	3a Mountain Summits & Steep Ridges	3a(i) Ben Vorlich & the Forest of Glenartney 3a(ii) Creag Liath/ Creag Ruadh/Creag Uchdag/ben Chonzie/ Meall Dubh/Meall nam Fuaran/Creagan na Beinne Ranges 3a(iii) Ben Lawers and Beinn Heasgarnich Group

	Landscape Type	Landscape Sub Type	Landscape Units
			3a(iv) Beinn Mhanach/ Stuc an Lochain/Meall Buidhe/ Carn Gorm/ Schiehallion/ Farragon Hill Ranges 3a(v) Beinn a' Chuallaich 3a(vi) Rannoch 3a(vii) Talla Bheith Forest 3a(viii) Ben Vrackie/ Ben Vuirich/Beinn a' Ghlo Range 3a(ix) Carn an Righ/ Meall a' Choire Bhuidhe/Carn Bhinnein/ Ben Gulabin Ranges 3a(x) Meall Gorm/Carn an Daimh/Mount Blair Ranges
		3b High Moorland Plateau	3b(i) Forest of Atholl 3b(ii) North East Blair Atholl 3b(iii) Coire a' Bhaile 3b(iv) Craiganour Forest 3b (v) Meall Dearg/ Meall a' Choire Chreagaich 3b(vi) Meall nan Caorach

	Landscape Type	Landscape Sub Type	Landscape Units
		3c Transitional Moorland with Forest	3c(i) Meall a' Chathaidh 3c(ii) Tummel Forest 3c(iii) Drummond Hill 3c(iv) Weem Hill/ Dunfallandy Hill 3c(v) Craigvinean Forest 3c(vi) Forest of Clunie 3c(vii) Knock of Balmyle 3c(viii) Forest of Alyth
		3d Transitional Moorland	3d Obney Hills
4	Plateau Moor	4 Plateau Moor	4 Rannoch Moor
5	Highland Foothills	5 Highland Foothills	5(i) Clunie Foothills 5(ii) Alyth Foothills
6	Lowland Hills		6(i) Knaik Hills 6(ii) Drummond Hills 6(iii) Strathallan Plateau 6(iv) Gask/Dupplin Ridge & Moncreiffe Hill 6(v) Keillour Ridge / Methven Hills 6(vi) Logie Almond / Bankfoot Plateau
7	Lowland River Corridors		7(i) Strath Tay 7(ii) Glen Almond

	Landscape Type	Landscape Sub Type	Landscape Units
8	Igneous Hills	8a Ochil Hills	8a(i) Ochil Western & Central Hills and Glens 8a(ii) Ochil Northern & Central Hills and Glens 8a(iii) Ochil Southern & Eastern Hills and Slopes
		8b Sidlaw Hills	8b(i) Sidlaw Southern & Central Hills and Slopes 8b(ii) Sidlaw Eastern Plateau
9	Dolerite Hills		9(i) Lomond Hills 9(ii) Benarty Hills 9(iii) Cleish Hills
10	Broad Valley Lowlands		10(i) Strathmore 10(ii) Pow Water Valley 10(iii) Strathearn 10(iv) Strathallan
11	Firth Lowlands		11 Braes of Gowrie
12	Lowland Basins		12 Loch Leven Basin

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