

Dunoon to Loch Long 132 kV OHL Rebuild

Environmental Impact Assessment

Volume 4 | Technical Appendix

Appendix 6.2 – Landscape Character



APPENDIX 6.2: LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE CHARACTER

1.1 Landscape Character

National Landscape Character Types

- 1.2.1 Figure 6.2 NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment shows the ZTV overlain on the NatureScot National Landscape Character Types (LCTs), and Table 1 summarises the key characteristics of the three NatureScot national LCTs traversed by the Proposed Development.

Table 1: National Landscape Character Types traversed by the Proposed Development

LCT	Key Characteristics
Steep Ridges and Mountains (LCT 34)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic mountain ridges with steep, plummeting slopes and numerous rocky outcrops. • Ribbon lochs and meandering rivers on narrow floodplains form dramatic contrast to surrounding slopes. • Extensive conifer forests on lower slopes and open moorland, with bare rock faces on upper slopes and summits. • Contrast between open land on upper slopes beyond the head dyke, and large fields enclosed by stone walls within lower glens. • Scattered birch woodland alongside burns and on upper slopes and oak woodland on sheltered lower slopes. • Settlement confined to narrow strip along loch edge and concentrated in small bays and at heads of lochs.
Steep Ridges and Hills (LCT 250)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steep-sided hills, with pronounced summits, which rise dramatically from narrow sea lochs and deep glens. • Craggier Cowal hills with upper slopes and summits broken with small rocky outcrops and knolls. These hills are deeply cut by glens and straths and by myriad smaller burns. • Long and narrow sea lochs of Loch Long, and the more sinuous Loch Goil. • Coniferous forest predominantly covers the lower slopes of the Cowal hills, extending high into narrow glens and merging with broadleaf woodlands. • Generally smoother Luss Hills forming conical peaks and long narrow ridges and spurs. These hills are more open with only small areas of coniferous forestry on lower slopes • Hills often seen in conjunction with the higher Highland Summits. • Some hills form key landmark features in views along the sea lochs • Settlement largely absent even from the narrow rocky coastal edges along the sea lochs and some parts feel relatively remote. Ministry of Defence (MOD) facilities on the fringes influence character in some areas.
Straths and Glens (LCT 253)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad u-shaped glens and straths with wide flat floodplains. • Lower side slopes often rolling and complex with hummocky moraine and rocky outcrops. • Many glen and strath sides are forested, predominantly with spruce, on upper slopes. Some of these forests occasionally extend across strath and glen floors. Scattered trees and remnants of native woodland are found along the edges of burns. • Rivers are prominent in open floodplains, often contained by flood barriers and levees. Less modified stretches of river feature pools, gravel beds and waterfalls. • Riparian woodlands trace the course of rivers and their tributaries.

LCT	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better drained strath and glen floors are farmed with improved pastures. Occasional small regular-shaped plantations and shelter belts pattern hill slopes and valley floors. • Mixed policy woodlands and avenues of trees line access tracks in places. • Settlements and farms are located on lower side slopes, raised above the floodplain, and often tucked between knolls. Settlements tend to be sited at bridging points or at the junction with side glens. • Road and rail transport corridors follow the edges of strath and glen floors. • Pylons and low voltage overhead power lines are highly visible features across open glen floors. • Open strath and glen floors allow views along and across the traditional farmed landscapes, attractive river landscapes and lochs, as well as the dramatic Highland setting of the surrounding rugged slopes and mountain summits.

LLTNP Landscape Character Types

1.2.2 Figure 6.3 LLTNP Landscape Character Types and Landscape Designations shows the ZTV overlain on the LLTNP LCTs and Table 2 summarises the key characteristics of the LCTs identified in the LLTNP 2010 Assessment traversed by, or considered potentially affected by, the Proposed Development.

Table 2: LLTNP 2010 Assessment Landscape Character Types potentially affected by the Proposed Development

LCT	Key Characteristics
Forested Glen Sides (LCT 11)	<p>Forested Glen Sides are described as important elements of visual diversity in the landscape. Well sited and designed forests contribute drama and a sense of visual scale to glen landscapes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense plantations for commercial timber production, comprising mosaics of forests, pockets of native woodlands and open space. • Poorly designed margins tend to create abrupt transitions to neighbouring areas, with better designed forest margins responding to topography and forming graded transitions. • Settlement is sparse, with occasional farms, isolated buildings and utilities infrastructure. • Way-leaves associated with pylons are prominent in forested landscapes. • Forest tracks tend to be highly visible where they are engineered across the slope of glen sides or access the public road. • Forest areas are often open to the public and popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders. • Good examples are species-diverse, including a percentage of native species and open space, wide age classes and well-developed ecological transition to adjacent open land, others have less wildlife benefit, being homogenous and dense with abrupt ecotones. • Well-designed forests maintain open views, respond to topography and contribute to the drama and scale of the glens. • Forests can obscure views and may detract from scenic quality where poorly sited and designed.
Forested Hills (LCT 2)	<p>Forested Hills are described as presenting a key opportunity for landscape and biodiversity enhancement of the upper margins. They are important transitions between commercial plantations and open hills, with unspoilt and wild qualities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense plantations of commercial timber production, with mosaics of forests, pockets of native woodland and open space. • Often fenced against deer with 2 m high fences.

LCT	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly designed margins tend to be straight and form abrupt transitions, better designed margins respond to topography and form graded transitions. • Unsettled, with absence of public roads and railways. • Occasional masts and pylons. • Generally Forested Hills are less accessible, with forest tracks not extending to the upper margins. • Good examples are species diverse, others have less wildlife benefit. • Bracken is extensive and prominent in many places. • Forest margins that respond to local topography and are graded contribute to the dramatic and natural qualities of upland landscapes. • Forests can obscure views. • Geometric upper forest margins introduce harsh lines into open hill landscapes.
Open Hills (LCT 1)	<p>Open Hills are important for their open unspoilt qualities, a sense of altitude and extensive space, panoramic views, significant landmark summits, open access for quiet recreation, remoteness and attributes of wildness and opportunities for encounters with wildlife.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland land use, open and largely unenclosed, with sporting estates and sheep grazing. • Upper margins of forest extend occasionally into otherwise open hill areas. • Unsettled with absence of public roads or railways. • Occasional masts and pylons. • Access generally by foot, mountain bike or ATV, via paths and stalking tracks, occasional hill and estate tracks which can become badly eroded. • Footpaths follow ridgelines and are most evident on the Munros and popular peaks. • Wide range of sward height of semi-natural vegetation: heather, typical moorland herbs, grasses, rushes, sedges and mosses. • Expansive outlook and panoramic views across neighbouring uplands: north into extensive highlands and south over the lowlands and the Clyde seaways. • Glimpsed overviews down through upland glens and obliquely along glens to lochs and farmed strath floors below. • Individual peaks are significant local and regional landmarks. • Masts and pylons introduce scale references and artificial elements into otherwise natural scene.
Farmed Strath (and Glen) Floors (LCT 14)	<p>Farmed Strath and Glen Floors are described as a defining scenic quality of the highlands, contrasting dramatically with wilder surroundings. They are significant cultural landscapes, occurring throughout the highland area of the National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable farm land, generally improved and enclosed into fields, commonly stock fence boundaries, occasional drystone dykes (often degraded) and hedgerows. • Occasional shelter belts, avenues of trees along access tracks and remnant parkland or policy planting. • The majority of the highland settlement occurs in Farmed Strath and Glen Floors. • Settlements and farms occupy higher ground on mounds and hillocks and beyond the edges of floodplains, and tend to focus at the transition between strath and glen floors and surrounding glen sides or adjacent loch areas. • Road and rail transport corridors tend to follow the edges, often forming strong man-made edges above which the hills rise. • Pylons and low voltage overhead power lines are visible features across open glen floors.

LCT	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent leisure-related developments such as chalet parks and caravan sites occur. • Farm tracks access fields and farms, tending to follow enclosure lines, with occasional paths, particularly by rivers or along disused railway lines. • Significant cultural heritage. • Farmland forms the rural setting of dispersed hamlets and nucleated villages, which are landmark features. • Farmed areas often form the focus of views. • Open quality of the LCT is particularly significant in views from villages, roads and routes, allowing views along and across the traditional farmed landscapes, attractive river landscapes and lochs, as well as the dramatic highland setting of surrounding slopes and hills.
Wooded Hills (LCT 3)	<p>Wooded Hills are important sequentially between enclosed glens and commercial plantations and the more exposed and wild land areas of open hills. They are also typically unspoilt, with a sense of remoteness of time and place, and occur infrequently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlands variable in type and nature: mature and closed canopy to more open newly regenerating, and found over variable landforms: smooth, hummocky and rocky. • Trees provide a degree of shelter in otherwise exposed and harsh climatic conditions. • Land is generally unenclosed, with few fences or dykes. • Plantation forests can also be present. • Unsettled, with absence of public roads and railways. • Occasional masts and pylons. • Inaccessible except by foot, horse, mountain bike or ATV, via paths and stalking tracks. • Paths typically follow ridgelines and watercourses. • Vegetation comprises relict woodlands, regenerated scrub and planted native woodland. • Sparsely scattered to close canopy trees, typically birch, oak, alder and rowan. • Where grazing continues, many of the trees are characterful, old, windswept, moribund trees, producing little viable seed, with young trees scarce or absent. • Generally without historic features or other land use patterns, with occasional shielings and pastorally related structures, woodland archaeology and extraction sites of all periods. • Woodlands are enclosing and wider views tend to be screened. However, framed and glimpsed views can be greatly enhanced by natural woodland setting, where the sculptural forms of trees make attractive foregrounds. • Woodlands are an important component within wider and local scenery. They are attractive in their own right and in composition with natural topography, open land and water. • Woodlands introduce a sense of scale, enhancing the grandeur of upland landscapes.
Wooded Upland Glens (LCT 6)	<p>Wooded Upland Glens are important sequentially and as buffers to the wild land areas of open hills. They are representative of how many of the upland glens would have been before historical woodland clearance and gradual loss of woodland through lack of regeneration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural woodland, which typically follows burns and also wood pasture over slopes.

LCT	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many areas managed historically as coppiced oak woods and wood pasture, traditional woodland management is being encouraged. • Occasional farming settlements and access tracks. • Footpaths, car parks, viewpoints, seats and interpretation have been incorporated into newly established native woodlands. • Significant for wildlife benefits and natural qualities, includes ancient and semi-natural woodlands and wood pasture. • Archaeology features may occur where natural regeneration has obscured sites and managed woodlands may have woodland archaeology. • Woodlands are attractive features of the upland glen landscapes. • Enclosing woodland can obscure views out and through the glens and the setting of patterns and features of cultural landscapes.
Forested Strath and Glen Floors (LCT 15)	<p>Forested Strath and Glen Floors are described as key areas for landscape enhancement. They obscure important open landscapes and the features of traditional farming and settlement, thereby reducing landscape diversity and scenic qualities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense plantations for commercial timber production comprising mosaics of forests and open space, with native woodland (if present) following rivers. • Forest margins tend to be straight, responding to field patterns. • Not generally settled, although they occupy former farmland, and recent leisure-related developments are a feature. • Infrastructure of railways and roads feature. • May be part of more extensive forest access and recreational infrastructure, popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders. • Good examples are species-diverse, others have less wildlife benefit and area dense and homogenous. • Archaeological features are often obscured by forests. • Although of a small scale, they can obscure variations in local topography and points of interest, thus detracting from scenic quality by obscuring characteristic field patterns. • Forests can enclose the public roads and tracks, which can be disorientating and have an adverse impact on views from the roads.
Forested Upland Glens (LCT 5)	<p>Forested Upland Glens occur throughout the National Park as entire glens or large plantations within them and are important sequentially and as buffers to the wild land areas of the open hills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense plantations for commercial timber production and mosaics of forests, pockets of native woodland and open space. • Poorly designed margins tend to be straight, forming an abrupt transition to open areas and better designed margins respond to topography and form graded transitions. • Settlement is sparse. • Pylons and pipelines feature locally, with way-leaves visible in forest environments. Forest tracks can be visible, with erosion scars, and over-deepened drainage ditches, culverts and cut slopes tending to remain unvegetated. • Some Forested Upland Glens are accessible by road and rail, forming traditional passes. Forest areas are popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders, with recreational infrastructure such as car parks, way-marked trails, forest rides and signs located on FCS estates. Forest tracks dominate the access network, but in places older tracks persist. • Good examples of Forested Upland Glens are: species-diverse, with various commercial species, a percentage of native species and open space mixed

LCT	Key Characteristics
	<p>throughout; and with wide age classes, and well-developed ecological transitions to adjacent open land. Others have less wildlife benefit, being dense and homogenous in nature, with abrupt ecotones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cool, damp, shaded and sheltered microclimate in the forests introduces habitat diversity and networks in otherwise open landscapes. • Archaeological features are often obscured by forests. Features are likely to include those represented in Open Upland Glens, former field systems, abandoned buildings and shielings and historic routes. Woodland archaeology as represented in wooded glens. • Well-designed forests maintain important views and respond to local topography. Graded upper margins contribute to the drama and natural qualities of the uplands. Poorly sited and designed forests obscure views and detract from scenic quality.
Open Upland Glens (LCT 4)	<p>Open Upland Glens are important sequentially and as buffers to the wild land areas of the open hills. Contrasting with the neighbouring wooded and forested areas, they contribute diversity to the landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland land use, with land unenclosed higher up, sheep grazing and sporting estates and land enclosed lower down where land has potential for improvement. • Settlement is sparse, with occasional farms and access tracks, isolated farm buildings and utilities infrastructure. • Pylons and pipelines feature locally, where power generation and transmission occurs. • Some access by road and rail, forming traditional passes. • Tracks and paths can be visible in open landscapes, particularly where they have been upgraded. • Paths and tracks for recreation and farmers often follow burn sides. • Lower and flatter ground is wet, with peaty soils and scattered trees and native woodland are found along the edges of burns. • Significant cultural remains include relict historic landscapes such as shielings and abandoned field systems, historic use of upland glens as passes with remains of routes common including railways, viaducts, tracks, military roads, barracks and bridges; and highland-type designed landscapes including estates and hunting lodges. • Classic views focus up and down the glens, framing the landscape that lies beyond them.
Sea Loch Shore Fringes (LCA 20)	<p>Sea Loch Shore Fringes are described as important transitional LCTs, significant for their natural and cultural heritage value and which make a particular contribution to the landscape and coastal environments. They tend to be limited in extent, and occur at Kilmor and Ardentinnny.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised beach features, expressed by rocky knolls and promontories, sea loch fringe woodlands, small fields and pockets of open space, sand or pebble beaches, turf banks and designed landscape features. • Modified loch shore fringes include retaining walls, roads and causeways and settled shoreline. • Settlement and development include linear coastal settlements, piers, jetties, pontoons and buoys. • Roads often follow sea loch shore fringes, with lay-bys, picnic areas and viewpoints. • Larger-scale tourist facilities and leisure developments are features of some sea loch fringes.

LCT	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation includes passive relaxation including walking, picnics, sitting and informal play with lochside paths and routes as well as tours and sightseeing, camping and fishing. • Cultural heritage includes occasional castles, mottes, churches, chapels and burial grounds as well as traditional boat and ferry activities. • The LCT has an outlook to the Clyde Seaways and Cowal peninsulas, with visual focus along sea lochs. • The LCT is critical to the setting of the lochs and, where not degraded, enhance their natural qualities. • Views to and from the sea lochs are layered with the loch shore fringe as an important structure element, framing glimpsed views through.
Farmed Glen Sides (LCA 13)	<p>Farmed Glen Sides are described as important cultural landscapes, forming part of the sequence and transition to wilder upland areas. Within the National Park they are found in small pockets, and farming is typically limited to rough grazing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland land use, with enclosed farmland, where land has favoured improvement of fields. Pasture is often wet and invaded by rushes, or with bracken encroachment. • Fields enclosed traditionally with drystone dykes, including old head dykes at the top of in-bye land, and, more recently, with post-and-wire fences. Enclosures of variable condition. • Occasional small regular-shaped plantations and shelter belts. • Settlement can extend from adjacent villages over lower reaches of Farmed Glen Sides. Elsewhere settlement is sparse, with occasional farms, isolated farm buildings and utilities infrastructure. Buildings more commonly over lower slopes. • Infrastructure of railways and pylons commonly feature along Farmed Glen Sides. Low voltage overhead power lines and telegraph poles are a feature of settled areas. • Upgraded tracks can be visible. Farm tracks and drove ways access fields and allow stock movement between lower-lying land and open hills. • Riparian woodlands, small pockets of native woodland and semi-natural grasslands are common, where soils and drainage have not been improvable for agriculture. Where agriculture has declined, natural regeneration of scrub and woodland occurs. • These areas may be abandoned or still in use, but farming remains a defining characteristic of the landscape: traditionally farmed land, where favourable conditions have allowed improvement, and enclosure, with isolated farms, farm buildings, drystone walls and fenced enclosure; and relict pre-improvement townships, steadings and abandoned field systems. • Farmed areas tend to occupy the lower tier of glen side slopes and often form the focus of views. Buildings, field patterns and brighter colours of improved land provide visual diversity within the wider landscape. Although of limited extent, this LCT makes a significant contribution to scenic qualities.

1.2.3 **Table 3** summarises the opportunities for landscape change and sensitivities to landscape change for the LLTNP LCTs that fall within the landscape Study Area, based on the LLTNP 2010 Assessment.

Table 3: LLTNP 2010 Assessment Landscape Character Types potentially affected by the Proposed Development: Opportunities for / Sensitivities to Landscape Change

LCT	Opportunities for Landscape Change	Sensitivities to Landscape Change
Forested Glen Sides (LCT 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create graded naturalistic transitions that respond to topographical features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the setting and interpretation of historic landscapes.

LCT	Opportunities for Landscape Change	Sensitivities to Landscape Change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructure forests and open ground around way-leaves and forest roads to soften geometric lines in the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid developments that require engineering works that would detract from unspoilt qualities. Ensure road upgrades, junctions and forest road access points are of an appropriate rural character and fit local vernacular with respect to boundaries and entrance features.
Forested Hills (LCT 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where developments such as masts and pylons are unavoidable, enclosing forest margins can create a setting and provide some screening. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The integrity of forest margins would be sensitive to clear felling to accommodate built developments, such as masts and turbines.
Open Hills (LCT 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be conserved and enhanced for their open, unspoilt and wild qualities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevated open hill land and skyline ridges are sensitive to highly visible built development including masts, pylons, wind farms and new tracks, which detract from unspoilt and scenic qualities.
Wooded Hills (LCT 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When opportunities arise through restructuring of plantations over forest hills, commercial forests should be converted to native woodlands. Responsible access through these attractive and atmospheric environments should be encouraged, with opportunities taken to open up selected viewpoints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The integrity, character and visual qualities of native woodlands would be compromised by any clearance to accommodate new infrastructure or built development, such as overhead or underground wires, masts or turbines.
Farmed Strath and Glen Floors (LCT 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A programme of undergrounding low voltage overhead power lines will be of great benefit to the rural character of these farmed landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of settlements and road improvements can detract from rural character. Loss of mature specimen trees along field and road boundaries or in areas of parkland as trees die out and are not replaced.
Wooded Upland Glens (LCT 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinstate PAWS sites. Create graded transitions between upper and edge forest margins and surrounding open landscapes and extend networks of native woodland through forests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where Wooded Upland Glens extend into open and farmed landscapes through agricultural decline and abandonment, or through establishment of new native woodlands.
Forested Strath and Glen Floors (LCT 15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where opportunities arise, preferably convert areas to locally-appropriate native woodland types with open structure of glades and routes. Enhance forest margins. Pull forests back from roads and public routes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and enhance the setting and interpretation of historic landscapes. Ensure adverse visual impacts of felling operations, such as brash, are minimised along public roads.
Forested Upland Glens (LCT 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create graded naturalistic transitions between upper and edge forest margins and surrounding open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where there are viable alternatives, consider employing sensitive means of timber extraction, sympathetic to

LCT	Opportunities for Landscape Change	Sensitivities to Landscape Change
	<p>landscapes, preferably with continuous-cover forests, or convert plantations to native woodland, with a high proportion of open ground or montane scrub.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance recreational routes through the Forested Upland Glens by opening up new routes and restructuring forests around existing roads and paths, incorporating irregular sequences of open space and opening up points of historical interest and views. Conserve and enhance the setting and interpretation of historic landscapes. 	<p>the landscape and with a low impact on the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where engineered solutions are unavoidable, encourage engineering approaches that minimise environmental impacts and mitigate adverse impacts through remediation or restoration.
Open Upland Glens (LCT 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural remains should be kept clear through managed grazing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid developments and land use change that detract from unspoilt and wild land qualities, such as engineered hill tracks, new infrastructure, masts and commercial plantations.
Sea Loch Shore Fringes (LCA 20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where inappropriate developments exist inland or within the LCT, seek opportunities to reinforce the screening function of natural loch shore fringe woodlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid inappropriate development in loch shore fringes and the wider landscape that would impact adversely on the scenic and tranquil qualities of loch environments.
Farmed Glen Sides (LCA 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In areas of agricultural abandonment, support and encouragement should be provided, preferably to bring these areas back into farming where practicable, or to maintain the key historic farming fabric, such as fanks and head dykes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sloping nature of glen sides makes them difficult to build on. Avoid developments such as buildings, hill and forest tracks and new infrastructure that require engineering works that would detract from their unspoilt qualities. Fragmentation of farm units through extensive afforestation of marginal areas may compromise viable agriculture. Encroaching scrub and woodland and extensive new native woodlands should be managed to incorporate open ground, ensuring that topographic features and patterns of past farming land use and other cultural heritage remain visible, continuing their critical contribution to landscape character, and to visual and scenic qualities.

1.2 Coastal and Seascape Character

Loch Long Mouth SCT

- 1.2.1 **Figure 6-4 Landscape Units and Landscape Character Types** shows the ZTV overlay on the LU and SU and **Table 4** summarises the key characteristics of the three coastal areas that fall within the Loch Long Mouth SU.

Table 4: Key Characteristics of Coastal Areas within Loch Long Mouth SCT

Topic Areas	Key Characteristics
Maritime influences and experience from the sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strone Point to north of Blairmore: This part of the coast contributes to the 'gateway' to Loch Long and is therefore a transitional point for marine users. The expanse of the sea reinforces the maritime setting, increasing a sense of exposure and openness. • North of Blairmore to Shepherd's Point, Glen Finart: The relative containment of the hill slopes and the modest width of the loch create a seascape of medium scale which has little visual association with the main Firth. The MOD development on the opposite east shore is very visible and has a strong influence on experience. • Coulport to Barons Point: This part of the coast contributes to the 'gateway' to Loch Long and is therefore a transitional point for marine users. The expanse of the sea, especially where it merges with the expanse of the Clyde, reinforces the maritime setting, increasing a sense of exposure and openness.
Maritime development and activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strone Point to north of Blairmore: There is recreational as well as having MOD and oil tanker activity, and anchorages at Blairmore. The Waverley paddle steamer still calls in at the fine wooden pier with its small ticket house during the summer period. • North of Blairmore to Shepherd's Point, Glen Finart: There is recreational as well as MOD maritime activity. There are anchorages at Shepherd's Point and Ardentenny, where there are also moorings and a pontoon near the hotel. • Coulport to Barons Point: There is recreational boating activity on this stretch of loch, with moorings at Barons Point, Cove Bay and associated with the Knockderry Hotel. There is also MOD activity and the passage of oil tankers.
Character and experience of the coastline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strone Point to north of Blairmore: The coastline faces east and is regular, with a narrow shingle foreshore backed by a high concrete retaining wall which supports the coast road (A880). The tidal reach is limited. It has a strongly urban character, although a short stretch of street trees create a tenuous sense of 'promenade', and the wooded pier is a feature. • North of Blairmore to Shepherd's Point, Glen Finart: The coastline faces east and is relatively regular, with occasional very small peninsulas created by alluvial outwash, and long, gently indented bays. The beaches are generally shingle with occasional slabby rocky outcrops. Tidal reach is limited, except at Finart Bay, where a long stretch of sandy shoreline appears at low tide. A concrete sea wall supports the road in places, especially close to and within settlements. • Coulport to Barons Point: The long, sweeping bays of this coast form gentle but easily recognisable curves which create subtle enclosure for the individual settlements. The road sits relatively close to the coast, although the character of the coast varies slightly relative to the settlements. The shoreline is simple, with a rocky, slabby foreshore and a short tidal reach. The coast between the shore and the road is undeveloped and informal, often semi-natural in character, with no railings or hard surfaces.
Topography and land use of hinterland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strone Point to north of Blairmore: Steep forested slopes rise directly behind the settlement, with commercial woodland as well as policy trees and mature broadleaves. The lower slopes provide an important visual backdrop and contribute to the setting of the settlement. • North of Blairmore to Shepherd's Point, Glen Finart: The steeper forested slopes generally form a backdrop to settlement and pastures and only in one location extend down to the shore. The forestry is largely commercial. There is some remnant policy woodland near Stronvochlan which forms the setting for the Glen Finart static caravan park. Small grass pastures are associated with more fertile and level alluvial fans. • Coulport to Barons Point: The topography and the land use varies from steep, inaccessible and undeveloped wooded slopes between the settlements to gently

Topic Areas	Key Characteristics
	<p>graded small fields along the shore at Peaton Lay. This coast is backdropped by relatively low profile and gentle slopes of the Rosneath peninsula, which is a prominent feature within the wider setting of the Clyde. There is a small, formal park at the cusp of the bay in Cove.</p>
Settlement pattern, built development and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strone Point to north of Blairmore: Settlement is linear, extending the length of this coastal character area and overlooks the coast, separated from the shore by the road. Many of the houses are the 19th century 'villa' style architecture enhanced with the complementary ornamental streetscape associated with seaside resorts. Some more recent housing occupies higher ground on the hillside, where more level ground and open fields in the woodland have proved attractive for development. There is a pier and small beach associated with a short row of shops forming the centre of Blairmore. • North of Blairmore to Shepherd's Point, Glen Finart: Settlement is clearly focussed on alluvial fans, including the villages of Ardentinny and Stronvochlan which sit either side of the mouth of Glen Finart. Other development includes the Glen Finart static caravan park, an outdoor centre at Ardentinny, an activity centre at Stronchullin and a caravan and camping site at Gairletter Point. There is a car park at Shepherd's Point and several forest walks extend north from here. • Coulport to Barons Point: This is a well settled stretch of coast. Cove, with villas set in large wooded gardens, is located in the relative shelter of a long sweeping bay, and smaller settlements to the north at Knockderry and Ardpeaton form largely continuous linear settlement. Ardpeaton is characterised by more recent development. Settlement is largely located on the landward side of the narrow road, with the exception of Ardpeaton House.
Setting of landmarks and features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strone Point to north of Blairmore: The church is a key landmark feature on the 'nose' of Strone Point, and above it is the privately owned Scots baronial style 'Dunselma', a prominent and widely visible feature, although its setting is partially compromised by housing to the north west. The attractive wooden pier at Blairmore is a local feature. • North of Blairmore to Shepherd's Point, Glen Finart: Key features include Finart Bay, which is readily accessible, and the historic tower at Glen Finart caravan park. • Coulport to Barons Point: Knockderry Castle and Knockderry Hotel form a cluster of unusual buildings which form an architectural feature.
Experience of isolated coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strone Point to north of Blairmore: This coast is populated, developed and busy, with no qualities of remoteness or wildness. • North of Blairmore to Shepherd's Point, Glen Finart: This coast is relatively developed with moderate maritime activity. It is strongly influenced by MOD development on the opposite shore, with no qualities of remoteness or wildness. • Coulport to Barons Point: The coast is easily accessible from the B833 and is settled along almost its entire length. There is also frequent maritime activity off shore which combines to limit the experience of isolated coast.
Aesthetic qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strone Point to north of Blairmore: The integrity of the settlement pattern is reinforced by the consistent orientation and domestic scale of the housing. The setting of varied woodland immediately behind the settlement, and trees along the sea front add to character. • North of Blairmore to Shepherd's Point, Glen Finart: The integrity of the settlement pattern is reinforced by the consistent orientation and domestic scale of the housing. The setting of varied woodland immediately behind the settlement, and trees along the sea front add to character. • Coulport to Barons Point: The diverse land use along this stretch of coast is its key differentiation from further north. The small fields at Ardpeaton are a particular feature. The coast has a semi-natural character, despite the settlement,

Topic Areas	Key Characteristics
	which creates an individual sense of place, contrasting with harder coastal edges associated with other villages.
Visual amenity and key viewpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strone Point to north of Blairmore: The sea is widely overlooked by housing and the A road, and the coast is very visible from other coasts across the loch. The extensive firth reflects light and views are characterised by their distance and constantly shifting clarity. Key viewpoints include the promenade and pier at Blairmore, and from the church at Strone Point. • North of Blairmore to Shepherd's Point, Glen Finart: From the sea, the main visual focus is along the length of the loch. Views from the shore can be intermittent, at times screened by shoreline woodland. The MoD development on the eastern coast is highly visible from this coast and the sea. Key viewpoints include Finart Bay, the A880 and the Shepherd's Point carpark and coastal walks. • Coulport to Barons Point: There are panoramic views along this coast, which is relatively open and visible from the B833. Key viewpoints include the Park at Cove and the views from and to the Knockderry castle, although the whole road offers sustained views of the sea and the wider panorama of the western end of the Clyde.

Loch Long SCT

1.2.2 **Figure 6.4 Landscape Units and Landscape Character Types** shows the ZTV overlain on the LU and SU and **Table 5** summarises the key characteristics of the three coastal areas that fall within the Loch Long SU.

Table 5: Key Characteristics of Coastal Areas within Loch Long SCT

Topic Areas	Key Characteristics
Maritime influences and experience from the sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepherd's Point to Coilessan: Marine users experience the increased sense of enclosure as the hill sides steepen and the loch becomes more narrow. The sense of expanse of the sea has long been lost, but the tidal reach and presence of seaweed, boats and wildlife maintains a maritime character. • Finnart Oil Terminal to Coulport: This stretch of coast is relatively difficult to access from the land, but from the sea it is visually dominated by the large structures associated with MOD and the oil terminal. Otherwise the loch is still relatively narrow, the sense of expanse of the sea has long been lost, but the tidal reach and presence of seaweed, boats and wildlife maintains a maritime character. The junction with Loch Goil is a significant 'hinge point' on Loch long, because of the increased complexity of the views and the sense of 'threshold' at this location.
Maritime development and activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepherd's Point to Coilessan: There is some recreational boating activity on this stretch of loch, with temporary anchorages at the small bay at Toll a Bhuic and Coilessan itself. The Finnart oil terminal (on the east side of the loch) is used by large oil tankers and the loch is also used by the MOD - there are frequent sightings of their vessels. • Finnart Oil Terminal to Coulport: There is recreational boating activity on this stretch of loch, and there are moorings at Portincaple. Oil tankers access Finnart oil terminal and this stretch of the loch is also well used by the MOD.
Character and experience of the coastline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepherd's Point to Coilessan: The coast is a series of gentle indented bays, generally separated by subtle promontories, often associated with tiny alluvial fans, which are more obvious on the ground, looking along the length of the coast, than they appear on the map. The shore line is relatively simple, with a rocky and boulder foreshore dropping steeply into the sea and a short tidal reach. • Finnart Oil Terminal to Coulport: The coast is characterised by relatively regular stretches of coastline and outward facing, convex promontories which are the

Topic Areas	Key Characteristics
	<p>main focus of the large developments. The shore line is relatively simple, with a rocky and boulder foreshore dropping steeply into the sea and a short tidal reach.</p>
Topography and land use of hinterland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepherd's Point to Coilessan: Steep forested slopes rise directly from the coast. Semi-natural oak-birch woodland is established along the lower edge and more substantively around major watercourses. This merges with commercially grown spruce on the upper slopes. Woodland extends to the shoreline. • Finnart Oil Terminal to Coulport: Steep slopes rise from the shoreline, although gradients have been significantly modified where major development associated with the oil terminal and the MOD base has taken place. There is extensive regenerating semi-natural woodland along the undeveloped stretches of coastline.
Settlement pattern, built development and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepherd's Point to Coilessan: The ruins of former settlements are to be found hidden in woodland associated with small flat, overgrown pastures on the alluvial outwash of watercourses. These are still linked by the forest roads, which form the basis of an extensive path network including waymarked access routes and cycleways. There are Forestry Commission car parks at both Shepherd's Point and Coilessan. • Finnart Oil Terminal to Coulport: Settlement is located at Portincaple, and there are residential blocks of flats at the Navy base at Coulport. In addition, there are extensive networks of roads, large buildings, hangars and holding tanks associated with the major developments. These large structures are out of scale with this landscape, and are visually dominant. They include coastal infrastructure including piers and dockyard facilities. There is an overhead line crossing the loch at this point. The village of Portincaple sits on an alluvial fan. The Clyde steamers once called at Portincaple, and were ferried to and from the steamers by small boat.
Setting of landmarks and features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepherd's Point to Coilessan: There are no exceptional coastal landmark features, although a striking erratic rock overlooks the conjunction of Loch Long and Loch Goil above Rubha nan Eoin, from where there are fine views. • Finnart Oil Terminal to Coulport: There are no exceptional coastal landmark features.
Experience of isolated coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepherd's Point to Coilessan: This coast is undeveloped and accessible only on foot or other non-vehicular transport. This lack of development, as well as the semi-natural character of the woodland on the lower slopes, creates seclusion. Nevertheless, it is forested, and forest operations limit the sense of isolation, as does the activity on the loch and views of the MOD and oil terminal which are located on the east shore. • Finnart Oil Terminal to Coulport: The coast is relatively well developed and there is frequent maritime activity both of which limit the experience of isolated coast, although the extensive semi-natural woodland does contribute to a localised sense of naturalness and a strong sense of seclusion.
Aesthetic qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepherd's Point to Coilessan: The steep hillsides accentuate the narrowness of this stretch of loch, which creates some drama, and is especially accentuated travelling north to the head of the loch. The tiny bright green alluvial fans stand out against the darker woodland. • Finnart Oil Terminal to Coulport: There are no exceptional aesthetic qualities related to this stretch of coast.
Visual amenity and key viewpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepherd's Point to Coilessan: The forestry car parks and access routes offer fine panoramic views, both from higher elevations and from along the shore. Views will become more frequent as the woodland is felled and restocked. Many of the views focus on the opposite shore, and the large terminals and MOD development are an inevitable focus, as can be large vessels when they are

Topic Areas	Key Characteristics
	<p>manoeuvring in the narrow loch. Views from the loch extend up and down its long length.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="491 320 1406 544">• Finnart Oil Terminal to Coulport: Viewpoints from on land in this area are difficult to identify because of the access restrictions related to the development. But there are views towards this area both from the water and the opposite shoreline (accessible through forest tracks) as well as more distant views along the length of the loch. The views from both the water and from the peninsulas at the mouth of Loch Goil are most significant because of the importance of the junction of these two lochs as experienced from both land and sea.