

Annex D - Landscape Character Sensitivity

September 2022



The sensitivity of the Plateau Moor and Forest LCT is assessed in detail below. Landscape sensitivity is not absolute and can only be defined in relation to each development and its location taking account of susceptibility as described in the methodology. To understand the sensitivity of a particular landscape and its location it is good practice to consider a range of criteria as set out in the table below.

The table below highlights the inherent sensitivities of this landscape to the Project, with reference to relevant characteristics as described within NatureScot's 2019 National Landscape Character Assessment. Extracts from this document are included in italics.

Table D.1 Sensitivity of the Plateau Moor and Forest LCT

Factors affecting the sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity	Higher Sensitivity	Characteristics of local landscape at the Site	Sensitivity Rating
Physical				
Scale	Large scale featureless landscapes	Small to medium scale landscapes with some scaling features	The landscape is an upland plateau with ' <i>winding narrow glens and wider glens</i> ', hence of moderate scale overall.	Medium
Openness	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	The rolling landform and parcels of forestry limit the sense of openness in some areas.	Medium
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	<i>'Upland plateau with rounded ridges, craggy outcrops and an irregular slope profile'</i> .	High
Land cover	Extensive areas of simple regular land cover (including farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	<i>'Large-scale mosaic of open moorland and forestry'</i>	Medium
Complexity and patterns	Simple and sweeping lines, linear features and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	As described above, the locality comprises expansive areas of commercial plantation and open moorland with ' <i>no field boundaries</i> '.	Medium
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<i>'Very few buildings; occasional isolated dwellings on edges of moor'</i> . There are several existing elements of electricity infrastructure in the locality, including the existing An Suidhe Substation and associated overhead lines.	Medium-Low
Overall physical sensitivity				Medium

Factors affecting the sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity	Higher Sensitivity	Characteristics of local landscape at the Site	Sensitivity Rating
Perceptual				
Wildness / Sense of Remoteness	Busy evidence of human activity	Remote, peaceful or sense and tranquillity, solitude and emptiness	Generally peaceful landscape with a sense of tranquillity, albeit commercial forestry limits sense of wildness. The local landscape incorporates existing elements of electricity infrastructure that signify this is a landscape influence by human activity.	Medium
Perception of Change	Dynamic or modern landscapes	Ancient landscapes, designed landscapes or with obvious historical continuity	As above, built form in the locality incorporates existing contemporary elements in the form of substation and overhead power lines. The wider surrounding landscape is more traditional in character.	Medium
Overall Perceptual Sensitivity				Medium
Visual				
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	The upland nature of the landscape means that it exerts some influence on the horizon albeit the neighbouring Craggy Upland LCT to the west encompasses higher peaks and ridges that form the skyline in many vistas.	Medium
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	The rolling landform in combination with plantation forestry and woodland results in limited intervisibility, which is reflected in the ZTV.	Low
Overall Visual Sensitivity				Medium
Value				
Rarity	Commonplace	Rare	The LCT encompasses a notable geographic area, and occurs in four geographic locations in Argyll and Bute.	Medium

Factors affecting the sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity	Higher Sensitivity	Characteristics of local landscape at the Site	Sensitivity Rating
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	Coastal parts of the LCT form part of the West Loch Fyne APQ. However, there are no landscape designations across more inland areas within the locality.	Medium
Cultural associations	No specific cultural associations	Strong cultural association	Some cultural / historical associations are evident including remains of cairns and enclosures.	Medium
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity function	Well used for amenity/recreation, especially for National trails or other long distance routes	Limited amenity function. The LCT incorporates parts of the Core Path network, albeit not in the vicinity of the Project.	Medium-Low
Overall Value				Medium
Overall Sensitivity of the Plateau Moor and Forest LCT				Medium