

# 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 locality is enclosed by surrounding forestry in combination with the underlying landform.  | Low                |
| 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-Medium        |
| 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><br><br>The locality is extensively covered with plantation forestry.               | Low                |
| Complexity and patterns           | Simple and sweeping lines, linear features and patterns                                | Complex or irregular patterns                                      | As described above, the locality is strongly influenced by the simple expanse of commercial forestry, with adjoining areas of open moorland. | Medium-Low         |
| 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> .  | High-Medium        |
| Overall physical sensitivity      |  |  |  | Medium             |
| 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.                              | High-Medium        |

| <b>Factors affecting the sensitivity</b>                         | <b>Lower Sensitivity</b>   | <b>Higher Sensitivity</b>   | <b>Characteristics of local landscape at the Site</b>   | <b>Sensitivity Rating</b> |
|--|--|---|---|---------------------------|
| Perception of Change   | Dynamic or modern landscapes   | Ancient landscapes, designed landscapes or with obvious historical continuity | As above, the extensive forestry, with its geometric lines / edges, represents a more modern influence on the landscape.  | 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 contributes to the horizon from lower-lying coastal areas.   | High-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                    |
| Designated scenic quality  | No specific designation  | National or regional designation  | The West Loch Fyne APQ extends across eastern parts of the LCT. Very localised western parts of the LCT are within the Knapdale NSA. However, the Site and surrounding locality are not designated. | Medium                    |
| Cultural associations  | No specific cultural associations                                      | Strong cultural association   | Some cultural / historical associations are evident including cup and ring marked rocks.  | Medium                    |

| <b>Factors affecting the sensitivity</b>                      | <b>Lower Sensitivity</b> | <b>Higher Sensitivity</b>  | <b>Characteristics of local landscape at the Site</b>   | <b>Sensitivity Rating</b> |
|---|--------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|
| Amenity and recreation  | Limited amenity function | Well used for amenity/recreation, especially for National trails or other long distance routes | Amenity function is primarily focused on the network of Core Paths that extend through certain areas of forestry. | Medium                    |
| Overall Value   |                          |  |   | Medium                    |
| <b>Overall Sensitivity of the Plateau Moor and Forest LCT</b> |                          |  |   | <b>Medium</b>             |

