

# 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>  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

Factors affecting the sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity	Higher Sensitivity	Characteristics of local landscape at the Site	Sensitivity Rating
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>

