

Perth & Kinross Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Supplementary Guidance (SG) has been produced to incorporate the review and update of Local Landscape Designations in Perth and Kinross into the Council's planning policy framework. The previous designations around Perth were made in the 1980s and were designated with a less rigorous methodology than is now available.

The purpose of this Supplementary Guidance is to reinforce Local Development Policy ER6 "Managing Future Landscape Change to Conserve and Enhance the Diversity and Quality of the Area's Landscapes" and help bring forward land management initiatives to protect and enhance the Special Landscape Areas.

This Landscape Supplementary Guidance has links with and complements other Supplementary Guidance developed or being developed including guidance on Housing in the Countryside, Placemaking, Green Infrastructure, Greenbelt Management, The Forest and Woodland Strategy, and Renewables (including Wind Energy).

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Supplementary Guidance (SG) has been produced to incorporate the review and update of Local Landscape Designations in Perth and Kinross into the Council's planning policy framework. 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.
- 1.2 Consequently, it was considered that this is 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 Special Landscape Designations 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 Special Landscape Designations.

- 1.3 The purpose of this Supplementary Guidance is to reinforce Local Development Policy ER6 "Managing Future Landscape Change to Conserve and Enhance the Diversity and Quality of the Area's Landscapes" and help bring forward land management initiatives to protect and enhance the Special Landscape Areas.
- 1.4 It is emphasised that the Special Landscape Areas 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.

2 Background

What is landscape

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.

Why is landscape important to us?

- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.

- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 In addition, an important quality found in some of Scotland's mountainous and coastal landscapes is the perception of wildness or tranquillity. 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.
- 2.6 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.

2.7 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 Perth and Kinross's landscapes are protected, enhanced and well managed for future generations as a place to live and work.

Local Landscape Designations

2.8 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. In recent years SNH and Historic Scotland guidance has sought to standardise the terminology related to Local Landscape Designations to **'Special Landscape Areas'**, to promote further understanding and awareness of the qualities of local landscapes in Scotland. Therefore in this SG and in future Local Development Plans it is proposed to use the term Landscape Areas (SLA)

Policy Context

2.9 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 (Special Landscape Areas) and designed landscapes.

European Landscape Convention

2.10 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"

National Planning Framework

2.11 The National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (NPF3)¹ 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 place-making. 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

- 2.12 Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 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).
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 Scottish Planning Policy (2014) 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."
- 2.15 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.
- 2.16 The Scottish Government's third National Planning Framework, published in June 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

2.17 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

- 2.18 PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage (2000) provides policy and planning advice regarding Scotland's natural heritage.
- 2.19 PAN 60 notes that landscape character assessment can provide the means of determining the extent of landscapes to be designated (paragraph 26). 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 (paragraph 39).
- 2.20 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 (paragraph 40).

Strategic Development Plan

- 2.21 TAYplan is the Strategic Development Plan for Dundee, Angus, Perth and North Fife (2012 – 2032). One of its objectives is to "*Protect and enhance the quality of the TAYplan area's built and water environments, landscape, biodiversity and natural resources*" (page 6).
- 2.22 Policy 3 states that regional distinctiveness and scenic value should be understood and respected through, *inter alia*, "safeguarding habitats, sensitive green spaces, forestry, watercourses, wetlands, floodplains (in-line with the water framework directive), carbon sinks, species and

wildlife corridors, geodiversity, landscapes, parks, townscapes, archaeology, historic buildings and monuments" (page 13).

Local Development Plan

2.23 The Local Development Plan (LDP) recognises the importance of landscape at all levels and in a number of policies in addition to the core policy ER6. This supplementary guidance has been prepared to provide further detail on the application of:

Policy ER 6 Managing Future Landscape Change to Conserve and Enhance the Diversity and Quality of the Area's Landscapes

Development and land use change should be compatible with the distinctive characteristics and features of Perth & Kinross's landscapes. 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 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;
- (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) they 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

In a footnote to the above Policy it was noted that Perth and Kinross-wide Supplementary Guidance was to be prepared. This Supplementary Guidance now fulfils that requirement.

Links with LDP policies and Supplementary Guidance

2.24 In addition to the core landscape policy above, a number of other LDP policies and proposals support the promotion and development of Green Infrastructure in Perth and Kinross of which landscape improvement is a key part. The "Forest and Woodland Strategy" also recognises the importance of landscape and has guidelines relating to tree and woodland planting for landscape mitigation, existing woodland management and new planting. The 'Forest and Woodland Strategy' accords with the landscape sensitivities and guidelines covered in this supplementary guidance. In addition, the Place-making Supplementary Guidance recognises the importance of landscape at all scales. The Greenbelt Management Plan also recognises the importance of managing it to protect manage and enhance the landscapes contained within it.

Figure 1: Links with other Supplementary Guidance



3 Landscape Character

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.



- 4 Guidelines for the Special Landscape Areas
- 4.1 This part of the guidance provides:
 - Assistance to developers, land managers and decisionmakers on appropriate actions to ensure each Special 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

- 4.2 The role of the Special Landscape Area designations is part of an *"all-landscapes approach"*, outlined in SNH/HS 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 Special Landscape Areas

- 4.3 Consequently the Special 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 marks



- 4.4 11 candidate Special 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 following are provided for each Special Landscape Area.
 - 1. A map showing the location and boundaries of the Special 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.
 - Description of the Special Landscape Area.
 Gives a Statement of Significance for each of the Special Landscape Areas.
 - 3. **Special Qualities of the Special 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 Special 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.

4.5 The statements of significance attached to each proposed Special Landscape Area are given in the following pages.



Rannoch Forest

This SLA 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 SLA 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 SLA borders the Glen Banchor, Laggan and Ben Alder SLA in the neighbouring Highland Council area. The SLA boundary follows the shoreline of Loch Ericht to the south, before skirting the edge of the conifer plantation at the foot of Sron Bheag. The eastern boundary of the candidate SLA 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 and 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 SLA**. The SLA 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 SLA 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 SLA 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 SLA 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.

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



Loch Lyon and Loch an Daimh

This SLA 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 SLA follows the Council boundary, which coincides with the Glen Lochay SLA 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 SLA follows the ridge above Glen Lyon, bordering the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA in the west and the Rannoch Forest SLA 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.

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



Loch Tay

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

Boundaries

The northern boundary of the SLA 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 SLA downstream. The southern boundary follows the ridge line which marks the visual edge of the Loch Tay landscape, bordering the Creag Gharbh SLA 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

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



Strath Tay

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

Boundaries

To the west this SLA shares a boundary with the Loch Tay SLA, 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 Balnamuir 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.

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



Ben Vrackie

This SLA 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 SLA 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 SLA 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 SLA 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 SLA. 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 Girnaig and above Kinnaird, 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.

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 smallscale designed landscapes and sheltered glens



Glen Quaich

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

Boundaries

The boundaries of this SLA 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 SLA, 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 Beauly-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.

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 Beauly-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



Sma' Glen and Glen Almond

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

Boundaries

The boundaries of this SLA are largely defined by the ridges which form the visual edges of the glen. The northern boundary is shared with the Glen Quaich SLA, 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 SLA, 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.

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



Upper Strathearn

This SLA 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 SLA 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 SLA from A' Chairidh east to Meall Tarsuinn, the 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 SLA 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 wellmaintained 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.

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 smallscale 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



Sidlaw Hills

This SLA 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 SLA includes the popular Kinnoull Hill on the outskirts of Perth.

Boundaries

The north western boundary of the SLA 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 Inchture and Longforgan. 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.

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 hill-foot 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 inventory-listed 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



Ochil Hills

This SLA 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 SLA 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 SLA is drawn along the A9 from Greenloaning, past Blackford to Gleneagles from where the railway line forms the boundary. The SLA 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 SLA 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 SLA in Stirling and the Ochil Hills SLA 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.

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



Loch Leven and Lomond Hills

This SLA is centred on Loch Leven in the south of the study area. The SLA 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 SLA follows the B996 from the Council boundary at Kelty northwards to Kinross. The SLA 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 Kinesswood. The boundary then follows the Council boundary over the western end of the Lomond Hills to Auchmuirbridge, bordering the Lomond Hills SLA in Fife. Turning westward it follows the River Leven and across Benarty, along the edge of the Loch Ore and Benarty SLA 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 $13km_2$, 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 16^{th} 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 16^{th} century. At the end of the 18^{th} 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 Kinesswood and Scotlandwell to the crags of Bishop hill and Munduff Hill. Both hill groups offer accessible walking and panoramic views over Kinrossshire and beyond. Between the hills the River Leven exits the loch via the 19th-century sluice house.

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, Kinesswood

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 loch-side 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

5 Wild Land Areas

- 5.1 In addition to the designation of Special Landscape Areas Policy ER 6 in bullets "(*c*) they safeguard the tranquil qualities of the area's landscapes; [and] (*d*) they safeguard the relative wildness of the area's landscapes" recognises the importance of protecting 'wild land' areas. For the purposes of this supplementary guidance that includes the areas within the SNH map and elsewhere in Perth and Kinross and particularly in the Special Landscape Areas where 'wildness¹' is seen as a key quality.
- 5.2 Of the 42 wild land areas identified in SNH's map of <u>Wild</u> <u>Land Areas (2014)</u> are wholly or in part in Perth and Kinross. The areas are:
 - 10 Breadalbane Schiehallion
 - 11 Lyon Lochay
 - 12 Ben Lawers
 - 14 Rannoch Nevis Mamores Alder
 - 15 Cairngorms
 - 16 Lochnagar Mount Keen

These are shown on the map to follow. Descriptions for each of these areas are currently being prepared by SNH, for publication in spring 2015 which will describe their attributes, qualities and character. When published these descriptions will be material to the consideration of any proposals which have the potential to have an effect on the attributes, qualities and character of Wild Land or wildness.

- 5.3 In order to avoid or minimise significant adverse effects, wildness and wild land should be considered at an early stage of a projects development and the SNH assessment guidance, when published, should be used to assess potential effects.
- 5.4 Wildness is considered differently within the context of the National Scenic Areas that are covered by SNH's Special Qualities reports. These reports will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
- 5.5 In the context of the Special Landscape Areas where wildness is one of the 'special qualities' there is clearly an overlap between the SLAs and the Wild Land Areas. In those instances the SNH descriptions and guidance will be a material consideration.

¹ 'Wildness' is a descriptive term distinct from wild land areas set out in Scottish Planning Policy 2014.



6 Supplementary Planning Statements

- 6.1 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 Special 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 Special Landscape Areas.
 - The Council will apply the Special Landscape Area boundaries as set out in Figures 4a – 4k in the implementation of the Local Development Plan policy ER6.

Justification

The Special Landscape Designation Review proposes appropriate boundaries for proposed Special 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.

The Council will use the statements of significance, associated special qualities and objectives attached to each of the proposed Special 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 will mean that the location and boundaries, designation statement and forces for change, contained within the Statement of Importance provided with each proposed Special Landscape Areas, will be used to evidence decisions taken. The SG will therefore support the Development Plan policies.

The Council will promote the use of the proposed Special 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 management recommendations within, to be used to identify areas where conservation and enhancement of the proposed Special Landscape Areas can be made. The aim of this is to maintain or enhance the special qualities within the proposed Special Landscape Areas.

7 Objectives

7.1 The following objectives set out the medium – long term goals for landscape in Perth and Kinross. They can be seen as overall ambitions rather than precisely defined actions.

Conserving and Enhancing

The landscape character, tranquillity and special qualities of the Special 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 Special 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 Special Landscape Areas.

Understanding and Enjoying

The importance of conserving the Special Landscape Areas will be recognised by visitors, and people living in adjacent urban areas will be aware of the Special 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 Special Landscape Areas' heritage assets is producing economic and social benefits.

The Special 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 Special Landscape Areas.

Living and working

Promote the Special 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 knowledgebased businesses, and ensure that all businesses have direct access to business support.

Improve the quality, variety and marketing of the tourism 'offer' within the Special Landscape Areas to extend the season.

The Special 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 Special Landscape Areas-based businesses like farming, sport,

tourism, game shooting, quarrying and water supply is being recognised and supported.

8 Monitoring

What is monitoring?

8.1 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. It is critical to understand:
 - What is being measured;
 - How key properties are likely to change;
 - The scale data is gathered at;
 - The frequency of possible monitoring intervals (e.g. how often key datasets are updated); and.
 - Whether the data available are robust or have any in-built error or bias;
- 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).

Progress on implementing the LDP and the condition of the Special Landscape Areas

8.2 In addition to monitoring the successful implementation of the Local Development Plan, the Council has an obligation to monitor the state (or condition) of the Special Landscape Areas through monitoring required by the SEA process. Both types of monitoring play important roles in identifying key issues and in assessing the continued relevance of Special Landscape Area's objectives and policies.

Monitoring the state of the Special Landscape Areas

- 8.3 Monitoring the state of the 11 Special Landscape Areas is a more long-term process. Good baseline information is required in respect of each of the special characteristics of the 11 Special Landscape Areas. A relevant indicator that can be consistently measured over time should then be identified for each special characteristic. However, information relating to each Special Landscape Area can be difficult to assemble, particularly given the size of the Special Landscape Areas.
- 8.4 Monitoring Landscape Change over Time Long-term, objective monitoring of landscape change takes time and resources. Fixed-point photography locations will be used to track changes although it will be a while before it helps to determine long-term trends. Such trends may be a result of global issues such as climate change, food prices and/or demand affecting rural land management.

Evaluation

8.5 Monitoring and reviewing these indicators will provide a means of assessing and communicating change over time,

and will thus inform reviews of this Supplementary 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.

8.6 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 Special 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 bought 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**. Those units which are highlighted in *italics* lie outside the study area and were not considered in the present study.

	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
	Highland Glens with Lochs:	2a Upper Highland Glens with Lochs	2a(i) Loch Ericht 2a(ii) Loch an Daimh 2a(iii) Loch Lyon
2		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

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Landscape Type	Landscape Sub Type	Landscape Units		Landscape Type	
		Fuaran/Creagan na Beinne Ranges 3a(iii) Ben Lawers and Beinn Heasgarnich Group 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			3c Transitional Moorland
		Forest 3a(viii) Ben Vrackie/Ben Vuirich/Beinn a' Ghlo Range 3a(ix) Carn an			Moorland with Forest
		Righ/Meall a' Choire Bhuidhe/Carn Bhinnein/Ben Gulabin			3d Transitional Moorland
		Ranges 3a(x) Meall Gorm/Carn an Daimh/Mount Blair Ranges	4	Plateau Moor	
	3b High Moorland Plateau	3b(i) Forest of Atholl 3b(ii) North East Blair Atholl	5	Highland Foothills	0

	Landscape Type	Landscape Sub Type	Landscape Units
65	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
8	lgneous 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

	Landscape Type	Landscape Sub Type	Landscape Units
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