

Appendix 27.2

LVIA Landscape Character Types

LCTs (total area within the Study Area)	Landform	Land Use and Landscape Pattern	Man-made Features
5. Coniferous Woodland Plantation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No description
7. Flat Peatland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat or gently undulating Vast openness on plateau 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dominance of sky with extreme exposure and panoramic visibility Few visual foci except distant hills on horizon Water forms a dominant element with lochs, water channels, dubh lochans, and wet, spongy vegetation Cloths of coniferous plantation Inhabited by distinct flora and fauna (esp. insects and birds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic features Snow barriers Railway
10. High Cliffs and Sheltered Bays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long stretches of high cliff interrupted by the location of a bay Strong linear edge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dominated by sea/land edge Stacks, caves, pebbles, and collapsing cliffs Sandy, sheltered bays Short mat of vegetation – grazing and walking Soaring and nesting seabirds Wandering sheep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rigs, boats Prominent cliff top buildings – lighthouse Harbours Roads and tracks Small settlements and local facilities Car parks and tourist/visitor facilities
13. Inland Loch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No description
16. Long Beaches, Dunes and Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soft linear edge with smooth surface and gentle curve Wide open space with extensive visibility and exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple composition of sky/sea/land Inter-relationship between sea, weather and light patterns create dynamic landscape Exposed sand dunes and marram grass Areas of short grazed and trampled grass Wetland and scrub occasionally in hollows Edge of beach often covered by woodland or merging into rich agricultural land Seabirds are intrinsic characters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf links Recreational landscape - walkers Visitor facilities Camp and caravan sites Hotels and B&B's Settlements Roads, rail, and airstrips Industrial units
19. Mixed Agriculture and Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gently sloping landform Low hills, basins and shallow glens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland River, loch Grassland and bracken Arable fields and rough grazing Mature broadleaf and mixed woodland Rich habitat for birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruined crofts Dykes and stone walls Flagstone fences Settlements and isolated villages/housing estates Isolated 'kit' housing Estate properties Roads and power lines Historic features

LCTs (total area within the Study Area)	Landform	Land Use and Landscape Pattern	Man-made Features
21. Moorland Slopes and Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sloping, open moorland gradually undulating and rising to form broad hills. • The convex character of the slopes limits distant visibility and views of the hill tops from their base. • The tops of hills or plateau tend to be spaced far apart and of a similar height with massive proportions - their bases appearing wider than their height. • The sloping landform sometimes creates plateau, shelves and basins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varied ground cover relating to geology, drainage patterns and microclimates. • Ground cover ranges from rock to dense heather cover to moorland grasses and bog - peat haggings. • Rocky crags and outcrops on hilltops and glen sides with deposits on lower slopes. • Lochs and dubh lochans. • Fragments of dense, wind pruned broadleaf woodland associated with inaccessible and ungrazed locations. • Coniferous plantations located close to access routes and on foot slopes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towns, estates, crofts and farms, and infrastructure routes tend to be concentrated along the straths and coastline and at the edge of this LCT. • The interior is largely uninhabited, typically inaccessible to vehicles and grazed by deer.
22. Open Intensive Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide plain of simple ordered landscape • Open and flat or gently undulating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme exposure and extensive visibility • Smooth, open sky above agricultural land • Ordered pattern of fields • Shelterbelts and hedgerows • Wetlands and lochs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads and access tracks • Fence lines and dykes • Buildings • Historic features • People and machinery • Large commercial farms • Estate properties
25. Small Farms and Crofts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable • Moorland or coastal areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open moorland • Fragments of broadleaf woodland • Woodlots • Single trees • Cultivated fields and grazing land • Grassland • Coastal areas/harbours • Open space and dominance of sky • Rough grassland • Grazing land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordered crofts • Open and fairly rich, small farms • New 'kit' housing/holiday homes • Ruined properties • Roads and access tracks • Fences, walls • Power lines • Machinery • Local facilities • Sparse habitation • Croft ruins • Ancient structures

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26. Strath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear space - typically open floor with a central river or loch. • Dominant views passing along between opposite slopes. • Height and steepness of side slopes vary - sometimes the strath curves, restricting visibility and resulting in surprise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water is a key characteristic - loch, river, wetland, and tributaries. • Various land uses - woodland, agriculture, pastureland. • Landscape pattern tends to relate to distinct linear space. • Broadleaf woodland along the shores of rivers or lochs and sometimes reaching up the strath slopes and tributaries. • Coniferous plantations usually on strath slopes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic character inherited from tradition of settlement - ancient brochs, patches of mature woodland, old walled enclosures, neglected land drains, abandoned crofts. • Access routes to settlements and rural estates. • Power lines. • Settlements concentrated at bridging points, at the confluence of river courses, or at the mouth of straths.
27. Sweeping Moorland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide open and flat landscape • Gently sloping or undulating landforms eroded by watercourses to form shallow glens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominantly grouse and upland species, lacking in distinctive features • Influenced by weather and light conditions • Punctuated by watercourses - lochs, juvenile streams, and mature, meandering rivers • Peatland, coarse, damp and mossy vegetation cover • Ribbons of broadleaf woodland • Coniferous plantations • Pockets of improved grazing land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruined buildings • Field boundaries and drainage channels • Small settlements • Estates • Roads, rail, vehicle tracks and wheel markings • Power lines • Peat cuttings and haggling • Grouse management
28. Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable • Positioned near to the sea or river estuary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built form • Human activity • Complex and experiential core radiating out to less dense character or • Variable core with 'out of town' facilities • Woodland, parkland and common ground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads, footpaths • Buildings • Walls, fences • Signs and lighting • Car parks and cars • Tourist facilities