

Landscape Character Vignettes

Report No. F99NB07

For further information on this report please contact:

Edward Mackey
Scottish Natural Heritage
2 Anderson Place
Edinburgh EH6 5NP

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COMMISSIONED REPORT

Summary

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

Report No: F99NB07
Contractor : David Tyldesley and Associates
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BACKGROUND

Scottish Natural Heritage, in partnership with local authorities and others, undertook a national programme of landscape character assessment (LCA) between 1994 and 1998. This assessment, which covers the whole of mainland Scotland and all of the main islands, identified around 4,000 different units of landscape character. These were grouped into 372 "landscape character types". Visual evidence of landscape change was recorded and categorised according to a pre-defined list of 165 'forces for change'.

In the reporting of results from the forces for change analysis, landscape character types have been grouped here into 18 natural heritage settings. A 'vignette' for each of the 18 settings summarises distinctive elements of their landscape character and the main forces for change (according to whether they were associated with agriculture and aquaculture; forestry; urban development and transport; energy generation and transmission; industry and mineral extraction; or other forms of socio-economic activity).

MAIN FINDINGS

Summary findings across different, though not mutually exclusive, settings in the mid-1990s, were as follows.

- Settlements: deterioration farmland in urban fringe; urban expansion; road building.
- Farmland: intensification; amalgamation; deterioration of boundary features; lowland urban development; telecoms and wind farms in the uplands; decline of crofting.
- Woodland: new planting countering broadleaved woodland declines in the lowlands; over-grazing (by deer) as well as its control in the uplands; improved design and restructuring of conifer forests.
- Mountain and moorland: recreational uses of montane environments; deterioration of moorland; house building; wind farms; telecoms masts.
- Fresh waters: development in the lower reaches of rivers; more intensive uses of lochs extending to remoter areas.
- Coast: urban, industrial and recreational development; wind turbines; fish farming.

For further information on this project contact :
E. C. Mackey, SNH, 2 Anderson Place, Edinburgh EH6 5NP (tel. 0131 446 2415)
For further information on the SNH Research & Technical Support Programme
contact The Co-ordination group; Advisory Services, 2 Anderson Place,
Edinburgh. Tel: 0131 446 2400

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Scottish Natural Heritage, in partnership with local authorities and others, undertook a national programme of landscape character assessment between 1994 and 1998. That assessment classified Scotland into 372 “landscape character types” (Appendix A). As any given landscape character type can occur in more than one place, almost 4,000 individual landscape units were recorded in mainland Scotland and the main islands. In 1998, the 29 individual landscape character assessments which made up the national programme (Appendix B) were brought together into a national landscape character dataset. Since then, the 372 types have been grouped or re-classified in various ways, for different purposes. Here, they have been categorised into 18 natural heritage settings, which were geographically defined mainly on the basis of dominant land cover, according to the Land Cover of Scotland 1988 map.

Part of the distinctiveness of Scotland’s landscape is that it is remarkably diverse. In the time available, not all of the 372 landscape character types could be allocated neatly into one of the settings. For example, there were extensive rocky or boulder moorlands, or moors dominated by grasses that could not easily be allocated to heather moorland. Similarly, there was often no sharp distinction between uplands and lowlands, glens and mountains, hills and valleys. Instead, landscape character types might represent the transitions between such terrain features. Other landscape types included mixed farmland, with a balance between arable and grassland that could not be allocated to one or other on the basis of land cover dominance. Some landscape types were so complex and diverse that they defied categorisation into simple land cover settings.

In this rapid review it was not necessary to be exhaustive. Rather, the purpose was to describe key aspects of landscape character within settings defined by land cover dominance, and to summarise associated forces for change (Appendix C). In total, 259 (over two-thirds) of the 372 types were considered to be broadly representative of the 18 land cover settings. These are listed in Table 1 (unallocated types are also listed in the lower part of the table, with an explanation of why they were not be categorised).

It was not possible in the time available to undertake a detailed analysis of the distribution and scale of the non-categorised types, but a broad overview indicated generally that:

- a] particularly complex landscape types, and the mixed farmland landscape types, were distributed widely throughout the mainland and the islands; and
- b] grass moorlands tended to occur in the Southern Uplands, rocky moorlands occurred mainly in the Highlands and Islands, and most of the transitional landscapes were concentrated around the fringes of the Midland Valley.

Forces for Change in the Landscape

Given the diversity of landscapes in Scotland, it was not surprising to find that the forces for change within each landscape type were also varied. These are summarised in Table 2. Changes may be inter-related. For example, a decline in stock farming on the hills may be associated with abandonment of hill grazing areas, neglect of drystone dykes and dereliction of buildings at the upland steadings. Road construction can be related to urban expansion, fragmentation of woodlands, and losses of semi-natural habitats through changes in drainage and land management.

Based on forces for change recorded in each of the 29 Landscape Character Assessments, the analysis of those and the national dataset, and knowledge of Scottish landscapes, forces for change have been categorised into one of two types:

- frequent and / or widespread and / or accelerating; or
- occasional and / or localised and / or declining.

The analysis here is based on a national overview. There is bound to be local variation, within Vignette Settings and between Landscape Character Types. For that level of detail, reference needs to be made to the dataset itself or to the original landscape character assessments.

Table 1
Allocation of Landscape Character Types into Vignette Settings

Context	Vignette Setting (defined mainly by land cover dominance)	Landscape Character Types (codes explained in Appendix A)	No
Urban	1. Urban greenspace	ABC1, STC3, STC9, STC11	4
Farmland	2. Lowland arable	BDR15, 16, BFB3, CTR7, FFE6, FFE9, KNS5, LTH6, MYF6, MYF9 ABS2, AYS11, STC2, TAY10, 11, 15 [LLT1]	16
	3. Lowland grassland	AGC14, AYS7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, BDR27, BDR29, CTR6, DGW4, 5, 6, 8, 14, LLT2, LTH5, STC4, 5, 10, TAY6	21
	4. Upland grassland	AYS14, 15, BDR2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 22, 23, 26 DGW10, 11, 17, 20, KNS3, STC6, 12, 13, 14	21
	5. Crofting	CSL16, INV14, LBR16, MYF5, RCY14, RCY15, SKL13, SKL14, WIS1 - 5,	13
Woodland	6. Lowland broadleaved	ABC5, LTH3, STC8	3
	7. Upland broadleaved	BDR25, BDR28, CSL18, INV6, INV8, [MLG3 INV9]	5
	8. Native pinewoods	MLG3 CNG3 INV9	3
	9. Coniferous plantation	BDR5, SKL11, AYS18, 20, 22, 24, 26, DGW19, 21, 23, 26, KNS10, LBR4, LLT5, CSL17	15
Mountain and Moorland	10. Peatland	AGC15, AGC23, CSL2, LBR1, LBR11, ORK15, SHD2, SKL4, TAY4, WIS7	10
	11. Heather moorland	AGC8, AYS19, AYS23, BDR1, BDR4, CSL1, DGW18, DGW22, FFE1, INV2, INV5, KNS1, LGN2, LBR5, LLT9, LTH1, MLG2, ORK17, RCY1, RCY2, RCY3, SKL1, STC17, STC18, STC21	25
	12. Montane	AGC1, 2, 5, 12, CNG1, CSL5, CSL6, CTR1, INV1, LGN1, LBR2, LBR7, LBR8, LBR18, LLT10, MLG1, ORK22, RCY6, RCY7, SKL5, 6, 7, 8, TAY3, WIS11, WIS12	26
Fresh Water	13. Running waters	ABS5, AGC3, AYS9, BFB4, CTR2, DGW7, 9, FFE7, FFE8, INV10, 11, KNS2, 8, 9, LLT1, LLT6, MLG4, MRN3, ORK21, RCY8, RCY9, SHD4, TAY1, 7, [AYS10, 14, DGW5, 6, 8, 10, 11, INV8, STC8, 10, TAY10, 11]	24
	14. Standing waters	AGC4, CTR3, INV7, LGN4, LGN5, LBR3, LLT4, 13, 14, RCY10, TAY2	11

Context	Vignette Setting (defined mainly by land cover dominance)	Landscape Character Types (codes explained in Appendix A)	No
	15. Tidal waters	FFE18, MYF1, MYF2 MYF3, CSL9	5
The Coast	16. The land margin	ABC3, ABS1, AGC18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, AYS1 - 6, BFB1, BFB2, BDR19, 20, 21, 30, CSL7, 8, 11, CTR9, DGW1, 2, 3, 15, 24, FFE11 - 15, LBR10, LBR15, LTH7, MRN1, MRN2, MYF4, ORK4 - 14, RCY12, SHD7, STC1, TAY14, WIS6	56
	17. The shore	FFE16, FFE17 [MYF1, MYF2 MYF3]	2
The Sea	18. Surrounding seas	FFE19, [CSL9] RCY11, SKL9	3
Too complex, diverse or a mosaic of different types		ABC2, ABS3, AGC10, 16, AYS17, CTR5, FFE2, 3, 4, INV12, INV13, LLT8, 12, MYF10, SKL10, SHD5, SHD6, TAY 5, 12, 13	20
Mixed farmland with no dominance of either arable or grassland		ABC4, AGC13, BDR8, 9, 17, 18, 24, CSL10, CSL14, CSL15, CTR8, CLK2, CLK3, FFE5, FFE10, KNS4, KNS7, MYF8, ORK18, SKL16	20
Other types, such as rocky, grass or mixed moorlands and fringe / transition landscapes or peatland landscape types in the lowlands, rather than the mountains / moorlands		ABS4, AGC6, 7, 9, 11, 17, 24, AYS21, 25, 27, BDR3, 14, CNG2, CSL3, 4, 12, 13, CLK1, CTR4, DGW12, 13, 16, 25, INV3, 4, 15, KNS6, LGN3, LGN6, LBR6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 17, LLT3, 7, 11, LTH2, LTH4, MRN4, MYF7, ORK1, 2, 3, 16, 19, 20, 23, RCY4, 5, 13, 16, SKL2, 3, 12, 15, SHD1, 3, STC7, 15, 16, 19, 20, TAY8, TAY9, WIS8, 9, 10	69
Total no. Landscape Character Types: 366 + 4 Fife maritime LCTs +2 Forest / wood LCTs			372
Landscape Character Types shown in [square brackets] are allocated to more than one Vignette but are not double counted.			

Table 2
Overview of Forces for Change

	Vignette Setting																									
		1		2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12		13	14	15		16	17		18	
Forces for Change (grouped into like-types) Forces for change are categorised thus: ● = Frequent / widespread / accelerating ○ = Occasional / localised / declining	<i>Urban Environment</i>	<i>Urban Greenspace</i>	<i>Farmland</i>	<i>Lowland Arable</i>	<i>Lowland Grassland</i>	<i>Upland Grassland</i>	<i>Crofting</i>	<i>Woodland</i>	<i>Lowland Broadleaved</i>	<i>Upland Broadleaved</i>	<i>Native Pinewood</i>	<i>Coniferous Plantation</i>	<i>Mountains & Moorland</i>	<i>Peatland</i>	<i>Heather Moorland</i>	<i>Montane</i>	<i>Fresh Waters</i>	<i>Running Waters</i>	<i>Standing Waters</i>	<i>Coastal Waters</i>	<i>The Coast</i>	<i>The Land Margin</i>	<i>The Shore</i>	<i>The Sea</i>	<i>Surrounding Seas</i>	
Agriculture / aquaculture																										
A.1-4 Loss of agricultural land to other uses		●		●	●	●	○		○			●			○	●			○					●		
A.5-6 Loss / improvement of grassland				●																			●			
A.7-8 Change / neglect drainage				○		○				○				○					○		○					
A.9 Flood prevention works		○		○															●		●					
A10 & 13-16 Changes in hill farming inc. outbye and muir						●	●					●		●	●	●			●	○			●			
A.11-12 Conversion semi-natural habitats to agriculture										○					○								○			
A.17-18 Enlargement of fields / boundary removal				●	○				○					●	○	○			○				●			

	Vignette Setting																								
		1		2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12		13	14	15		16	17		18
Forces for Change (grouped into like-types) Forces for change are categorised thus: ● = Frequent / widespread / accelerating ○ = Occasional / localised / declining	Urban Environment	Urban Greenspace	Fairland	Lowland Arable	Lowland Grassland	Upland Grassland	Crofting	Woodland	Lowland Broadleaved	Upland Broadleaved	Native Pinewood	Coniferous Plantation	Mountains & Moorland	Peatland	Heather Moorland	Montane	Fresh Waters	Running Waters	Standing Waters	Coastal Waters	The Coast	The Land Margin	The Shore	The Sea	Surrounding Seas
A.19 Neglect / loss of hedgerows		●		●	●	●												●				●			
A.20 Neglect of drystone dykes				●	●	●	●		○			●			●	●		○	●			●			
A.29 Decline / redundancy / dereliction of steadings		○				●	●								●			○				○			
A.30 Conversion of steadings		●		●		●				●					●								○		
A.31 Large new agricultural buildings		●		●	○													○							
A.32 Decline of crofting							●					○		●						○		○			
A.34 New or extended fish farm installations																			●	●		●			●
A.22/F20 Neglect / over-maturity / loss of farm woods		●																							
A.24 & 25 Neglect / over-maturity / loss of hedgerow trees		●		●	●				○									●				●			

	Vignette Setting																										
		1		2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12		13	14	15		16	17		18		
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A.26 Neglect / over-maturity / loss of shelterbelts				●					●														○				
A.36 Inappropriate use of post and wire fencing						●	●							●	●								●				
Forestry																											
F.1-3 New coniferous afforestation						●						●		●	●	●		○	●				●				
F.4-5 New mixed or broadleaved woodland planting							○		●		○				●												
F.6-7 New shelterbelt / farm planting									○																		
F.10-11 Planting of open / wild / moorland											●		●	●	●												
F.12 Planting of marginal hill farmland						●					●																
F.13 Planting of other semi-natural habitats						●							●	●					○								

	Vignette Setting																								
		1		2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12		13	14	15		16	17		18
Forces for Change (grouped into like-types) Forces for change are categorised thus: ● = Frequent / widespread / accelerating ○ = Occasional / localised / declining	Urban Environment	Urban Greenspace	Fairland	Lowland Arable	Lowland Grassland	Upland Grassland	Crofting	Woodland	Lowland Broadleaved	Upland Broadleaved	Native Pinewood	Coniferous Plantation	Mountains & Moorland	Peatland	Heather Moorland	Montane	Fresh Waters	Running Waters	Standing Waters	Coastal Waters	The Coast	The Land Margin	The Shore	The Sea	Surrounding Seas
F.14 New / extension of native woodlands											●				○	○			○			○			
F.15-17 Planting obscuring landscape features / views												●			●	○									
F.18-23 Neglect / decline of woodland / shelterbelts		●		●	●	●	●		●	●	○			○	○	○		○	●			●			
F.24-27 Replanting with inappropriate species					○				○	○	○							○							
F.28-31 Maturity / decline of woodland / trees		●		●	●	●			●	●								○	●			●			
F.32-34 Restructuring plantations / edges at restocking											●	●		○	●	○			○			○			
F.35-36 Fragmentation / severance of woodland		○							○	○	●	●										●			
F.40 New or improved Forestry tracks										○	○	●			●	○									
F.42 Loss of wood to built and other development											●														

	Vignette Setting																								
		1		2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12		13	14	15		16	17		18
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Development																									
D.1-6 Urban / village / industrial expansion		●		●	●	●	○		●	○	●							●	○	●		●	○		
D.35 New single houses in the countryside					●	●	●			●				●	●				○			●			
D.9 Port harbour or marina developments																				●		●	●		
D.11-13 Tourism / other devt related to scenic value					●	○	○			○	●			●	●	●		●	●	●		●	○		
D.14 Caravan and Camping sites																○		●	●			●			
D.15 Golf Courses									○													●			
D.16 Water sports																		●	●	●					
D.17 Motorised vehicles off road															○	○									

	Vignette Setting																									
		1		2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12		13	14	15		16	17		18	
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D.18 Skiing and related infrastructure																○										
D.19 Leisure or recreational developments generally		●					○		●	○	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●		●				
D.20 Waste management schemes																				●		●	○			
D.21 Telecommunication and other masts / towers						●								○	●	●		○	○			●				
D.24 Industrial decline and dereliction					○	○														○						
D.25-27 Redevelopment of derelict / unused land		●														○										
D.29-30 New road / bridge construction		●			○					○						○		●	○	○		●	●			
D.31 Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads		●			●	●				●	●			●	●	○		●	○			●				
D.32 Increasing urbanisation roadside clutter		●				●	○											●	○	○						

	Vignette Setting																										
		1		2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12		13	14	15		16	17		18		
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D.34 Erosion of vegetation by recreational pressure										○	○	○		●	○	●						○					
D.39 Coast defence works																				●		●	●				
D.40 Inappropriate siting design or materials in new dev		●		●	●	●	●											●	○			●					
Energy																											
E.3-6 Wind turbines in the landscape						●					●			●	●	○				●		●				●	
E.7 Hydro electric power schemes															●	●		●									
E.8 Biomass planting for energy production				○																							
E.9 Petro-chemical / Gas installations																				●		●				○	
E.10 Overhead lines					●							○		●	○	○		●		●		●					
E.11 Pipelines		●																				●				○	

	Vignette Setting																									
		1		2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12		13	14	15		16	17		18	
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Minerals																										
M.1-3 Sand and Gravel extraction				●	●	○			●						○				●		●		●	●		○
M.4-5 Hard / crushed rock aggregates quarries						○				○		○			○				○				●			
M.7 Open cast coal extraction				●	●	○			●										○							
M.8-9 Peat extraction commercial / domestic							○							●	○								●			

	Vignette Setting																								
	Urban Environment	1 Urban Greenspace	2 Farmland	3 Lowland Arable	4 Lowland Grassland	5 Upland Grassland	6 Crofting	7 Woodland	8 Lowland Broadleaved	9 Upland Broadleaved	10 Native Pinewood	11 Coniferous Plantation	12 Mountains & Moorland	13 Peatland	14 Heather Moorland	15 Montane	16 Fresh Waters	17 Running Waters	18 Standing Waters	19 Coastal Waters	20 The Coast	21 The Land Margin	22 The Shore	23 The Sea	24 Surrounding Seas
Forces for Change (grouped into like-types) Forces for change are categorised thus: ● = Frequent / widespread / accelerating ○ = Occasional / localised / declining																									
Other																									
P.1-3 Neglect loss/ decline of designed landscapes		●						●										○				●			
P.4-5 Loss decline historic/ archaeological features		●			○								○						●			●			
P.6 New, extended or intensified military activities																									
P.7 Overgrazing by / overpopulation of deer									●	●					○	○			○						
P.8 Natural erosion of coast and coastal habitats																				●		●	●		
P.9 Reclamation of coastal edge																				●		○	●		
P.10 River Engineering for fishing																		●							

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

Landscape character and forces for change have been summarised for Landscape Character Types most representative of 18 natural heritage settings. These are tabulated as a set of vignettes, or 'word pictures', for each. The categories for each vignette, are as follows.

THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

1. Urban greenspace

FARMLAND

2. Lowland arable
3. Lowland grassland
4. Upland grassland
5. Crofting

WOODLAND

6. Lowland broadleaved (mixed broadleaved)
7. Upland broadleaved (birchwoods / ashwoods / oakwoods)
8. Native pinewoods
9. Coniferous plantation

MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS

10. Peatland
11. Heather moorland
12. Montane

FRESH WATERS

13. Running waters
14. Standing waters
15. Tidal waters (estuaries)

THE COAST

16. The land margin
17. The shore (intertidal)

THE SEA

18. Surrounding seas

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES		
1. THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT Urban Greenspace		
Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Urban conurbations, cities and towns across the whole of Scotland. Usually lowland and mainly in Midland Valley and coastal locations.
	Landform	Very varied and sometimes contrasting land forms but many gorges, river valleys, steep slopes, cliffs, coastal braes, dens, deans, floodplains, small peatlands etc that, historically, deterred development. Some are on hills and elevated sites with fine viewpoints utilised by builders of large houses who retained open space around them and resisted development to protect views during the 18th and 19th centuries.
	Land cover / land use	Very varied including: arable farmland, improved, semi-improved and semi-natural grasslands, heath, bog, scrub, woodland, plantations, urban parks, designed landscapes, golf courses, playing fields, recreation grounds, under-farmed and under-used land, derelict land, old railway and other embankments and cuttings, grounds of large hotels or institutions e.g. hospitals or museums.
	Settlement patterns	Green fingers, wedges and corridors often penetrating deeply into urban form, along rivers or coasts etc, strongly related to land form. Generally the spaces are undeveloped or have very few buildings, but they are surrounded, or flanked, by urban or suburban development. The towns have expanded to surround or envelope these open spaces.
	Distinctive point features	Large houses, many now used / converted as offices, hotels, hospitals, nursing homes, museums, local government. Old mills, bridges, weirs and industrial archaeological features.
	Distinctive linear features	River and burn corridors, canals, towpaths, footpaths, cycleways, sometimes hedges or dykes. Roads and railways.
	Scale / openness	Usually small scale and enclosed, sheltered, sometimes intimate spaces created in designed landscapes or by land form, trees, hedges and woods. However, many Scottish towns have one or more, often large, open space on elevated, prominent hills which are open and exposed, of medium to large scale, and with long distance views all of which contribute significantly to their distinctive character.
	Colour / texture	Very varied, the colours of surrounding or adjacent development may range from subdued grey stones to garish render, tiles or cladding, contrasting with the varied greens and mellow browns of the open spaces.
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Usually varied and complex but the elevated hill spaces can be very simple or uniform. Urban greenspaces are usually either well tended (even manicured in some parks and gardens) or depressed or degraded by urban fringe conflicts, unmanaged or sometimes neglected particularly where land is earmarked for development.
	Line / pattern	Varied, often planned, regular, organised or formal patterns with rectilinear, straight or angular lines; but often locally surprisingly semi-natural, irregular, or indistinct patterns and sinuous, sweeping or curving lines, for example, in the deep valleys or on higher hills.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES					
1. THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT Urban Greenspace					
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	These are usually busy, disturbed, sometimes noisy landscapes, often with roads or railways crossing or passing through them. Many have the incessant drone of urban traffic rising up the slopes and at night the spilled glow of urban lights. However, others, especially the woodlands, designed landscapes and sheltered valleys can be important havens for quiet retreat or informal recreation, where wildlife, inspiring designs, sculptures, tranquillity, even solitude, may be enjoyed.			
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A2 A9 A14 A19 A22 A24 A25 A29 A30 A31	Loss of agricultural land to urban development Flood prevention works Changes in type or density of grazing Neglect of hedgerows Loss of small farm woodlands Loss of hedgerow trees Neglect of hedgerow trees Decline / redundancy / dereliction of farm buildings / steadings Conversion of steadings Addition / replacement of (large) new agricultural buildings	● ○ ○ ● ● ○ ● ○ ● ●	
	Forestry	F19 F20 F23 F28 F29 F36	Neglect / decline of broadleaved / mixed woodland Neglect / decline of farm woodland Neglect / decline of avenues / tree lines / roadside trees / copses Maturity and potential decline of broadleaved / mixed woodland Maturity and potential decline of policy woodland Severance of woodland by roads / pipelines / overhead wires etc.	○ ○ ● ● ○ ○	
	Development	D1 D2 D4 D5 D19 D26 D29 D31 D32 D40	Major urban expansion Edge of town development (incremental) Industrial, Business, Retail and Warehousing Neglect / decline of countryside around towns Leisure or recreational developments generally Redevelopment of rural buildings (e.g.. MoD, Hospitals) New main road / bridge construction Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads Increasing urbanisation through roadside clutter Inappropriate design and use of materials in new building	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	
	Energy	E11	Pipelines	●	
	Minerals				
	Others	P1 P2 P3 P4	Neglect or decline of gardens and designed landscapes Loss of gardens and designed landscapes Development in gardens and designed landscapes Loss or decline of historic / archaeological features	● ○ ○ ●	
	Examples	Characteristic	STC3	Urban Greenspace of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley	
		Others	ABC1, STC9, STC11		

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
1. THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT Urban Greenspace			
Refs	SNH Review Series	80 116	Landscape Character Assessment of Aberdeen Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment

1. Urban Greenspace

All conurbations, cities and towns across Scotland have urban greenspace but the most significant areas are those of the Midland Valley and eastern coastal lowlands including Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Perth. There are three particularly distinctive kinds of change in these landscapes. Firstly, the stable, enduring, protected open spaces of the National Trust for Scotland and Local Authority held land, including country and urban parks, recreation grounds and grounds of large houses, museums etc. where change is rare, slow and usually small scale, and localised. Secondly, the slow decline and dereliction of unused or derelict former industrial or railway land, mainly in the Midland Valley, continues, albeit more slowly than in the past, with many sites maturing into locally important landscape and wildlife features. New policies encouraging the redevelopment of these “brownfield” sites may well turn the tide of these changes, ensuring earlier re-cycling of derelict land in urban areas. By contrast, the third type of change is where farmland on the urban edge, or in the green corridors, declines rapidly through neglect or abandonment, often soon followed by urban development or new road building or other infrastructure schemes. Pressures for urban development and road construction are widespread, associated with most substantial settlements throughout Scotland. The effects of urban expansion are large scale, permanent and accelerating, undoubtedly one of the most significant pressures for change in the Scottish landscape.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES		
2. FARMLAND Lowland Arable		
Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Lowland, inland or coastal, concentrated on higher quality, better drained soils
	Landform	Flat, gently sloping land to facilitate machinery. Often on the floor of valleys / straths, or loch basins, or on alluvial plains, terraces and gentle coastal slopes.
	Land cover / land use	Cultivated land, cereals, root crops, rape in a highly seasonal, arable cycle. Often interspersed with improved grasslands or ley grass rotations. Strong seasonal rhythm.
	Settlement patterns	Regular, often expanded villages and frequent large, modern, well maintained, often neat and tidy steadings conspicuous in the open landscape.
	Distinctive point features	Steadings, silos, tree clumps by steadings, doocots, farm cottages often in pairs or neat, low, stone or harled terraces.
	Distinctive linear features	In some places (e.g. parts of Fife and the Lothians), shelterbelts were laid out in 18th or 19th centuries, now mature they give strong spatial structure to the landscape. Drystone dykes, post and wire fences are frequent but there are relatively few hedges and they are usually gappy and low.
	Scale / openness	Medium to large scale, open, sometimes windswept
	Colour / texture	Seasonal variations of bright yellows, blues, golds after green after brown, sometimes distinctive red / brown / grey earth. Smooth textures.
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Simple, homogenous, regular, usually very well tended, intensively managed, neat and tidy landscapes.
	Line / pattern	Fields, crops and boundaries create angular, straight lines and recti-linear, geometric, regular, formal, organised or planned patterns
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Generally fairly quiet, still landscapes, with occasional noise as tractors travel up and down fields. However, landscapes often have drone of traffic noise as they are well settled with frequent linear movement along the many roads / railways.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
2. FARMLAND Lowland Arable				
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A2	Loss of agricultural land to urban development	●
		A5	Conversion of grassland to arable	●
		A7	Drainage of agricultural fields	○
		A8	Drainage of semi-natural areas	○
		A9	Flood prevention works	○
		A17	Enlargement of field size / pattern	●
		A18	Removal of field boundaries	●
A19		Neglect of hedgerows	●	
A20		Neglect of stone dykes	●	
A25		Neglect of hedgerow trees	●	
A26		Neglect of shelterbelts	●	
A30		Conversion of steadings	●	
A31		Addition / replacement (large) new agricultural buildings	●	
A38		General intensification of arable cultivation with loss or incremental erosion of semi-natural habitats and vegetation	●	
A40	Affects of set-aside on arable land	●		
Forestry	F20	Neglect / decline of farm woodland	●	
	F22	Neglect / decline of shelterbelts	●	
	F23	Neglect / decline of avenues / tree lines / roadside trees / copses	●	
	F30	Maturity and potential decline of shelterbelts	●	
Development	D1	Major urban expansion	●	
	D2	Edge of town development (incremental)	●	
	D28	Conversion / redevelopment of farm steadings	●	
	D40	Loss or erosion of landscape character due to inappropriate siting, design or building materials in new development	●	
Energy	E8	Biomass planting for energy production	○	
Minerals	M1	New or extended Sand and Gravel - below ground extraction	○	
	M7	New or extended open cast coal extraction	○	
Others				
Examples	Characteristic	BFB3 LTH6 FFE6 FFE9 MYF6 MYF9 CTR7	Agricultural Heartlands of Banff and Buchan (now Aberdeenshire) Lowland Plains of Lothian Lowland Open Sloping Farmland of Fife Lowland River Basin of Fife Open Farmed Slopes of Inner Moray Firth Intensive Farming of Inner Moray Firth Lowland River Valleys, specifically Carse of Forth E and W of Stirling, Stirling to Grangemouth LCA	
	Others	ABS2, AYS11, BDR15, BDR16, KNS5, LLT1, STC2, TAY10, TAY11, TAY15		

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
2. FARMLAND Lowland Arable			
Refs.	SNH Review Series	19	Dunfermline District Landscape Assessment
		37	Banff and Buchan Landscape Character Assessment
		90	Inner Moray Firth Landscape Character Assessment
		91	The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment
		102	South and Central Aberdeenshire Landscape Character Assessment
		111	Ayrshire Landscape Assessment
		112	The Borders Landscape Assessment
		113	Fife Landscape Character Assessment
		122	Tayside Landscape Character Assessment
		124	Stirling to Grangemouth Landscape Character Assessment

2. Lowland Arable

Concentrated on the higher quality, better drained soils of the flat or gently sloping lowland river valleys, plains and terraces, especially in Aberdeenshire, Ayrshire, the Clyde and Forth Valleys, Fife, and the Lothians. Over the last 30 years or so there has been a general trend of intensification of arable cultivation involving new drainage and flood prevention schemes, loss of field boundaries, creation of larger fields, with fewer trees and woodlands and the neglect of remaining boundaries and shelterbelts. The pace of these changes is probably slowing, but locally conversion of grassland to arable and loss of semi-natural habitats and features continues. Amalgamation of holdings has led to many steadings being abandoned or converted. Those still in use have been extended with large, often industrial-scale sheds of modern, conspicuous building materials. The intensive nature of the agriculture has led to the loss, fragmentation, isolation and neglect of farm woodlands, shelterbelts, avenues and copses, once characteristic of these areas. Conversely, there are early indications of some small areas of productive arable land being planted for biomass, or through the Woodland Grant Scheme for permanent woodland. Urban development expansion is encroaching on these areas around towns e.g. south east Edinburgh where the permanent loss of prime agricultural land is inevitable. Elsewhere, temporary loss is occurring because of opencast coal and aggregate extraction, especially in Ayrshire, Fife and the Lothians.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES		
3. FARMLAND Lowland Grassland		
Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Lowland, inland, usually between 10 and 150 metres elevation and typically on boulder clays or other damp, heavy soils over sedimentary limestones, sandstones and coal measures, or on thin acid, sandy soils.
	Landform	Flat or gently sloping river valley bottoms, floodplains and low terraces but with increasingly steeper slopes up valley sides. Lower parts of northern straths and middle parts of dales in the Southern Uplands. Often with many glacial features, such as drumlins or eskers, and with peaty hollows and other small scale wetlands which add diversity.
	Land cover / land use	Improved grasslands on lowest ground gradually giving way to semi-improved on lower slopes and less intensive or unimproved on steeper slopes in south and progressively to all slopes furthest north and west. Pockets of arable occur but never dominate, wetlands and woodlands are frequent but small. Many trees give a well wooded appearance.
	Settlement patterns	Steadings either frequent and small or larger and more sporadic, but usually modest in size and more traditional than in the arable areas though silage clamps and new sheds can be conspicuous. Often located on mounds, low hills, bridging points or along spring lines. Many forts, castles, mills, well maintained or converted historic houses often with designed landscapes. Many expanded settlements with historic, linear or nucleated conservation area cores around market streets or squares, in locations closely related to landform, drainage and woodland patterns.
	Distinctive point features	Grazing beef and dairy cattle, sheep and pigs. Buildings, small woodlands, copses, parkland trees and bridges. Locally individual houses.
	Distinctive linear features	Hawthorn and beech hedgerows and (oak, beech, ash and sycamore) hedgerow trees, shelterbelts, riparian woodland and shrubs along meandering burns and rivers, narrow tree lined lanes following sides of the valleys, more important major transport corridors, and, in some parts, stone dykes, policy woodlands, avenues.
	Scale / openness	In most places intimately enclosed, sheltered, small scale landscapes but on the later enclosures of the, historically, more recently drained river valleys, carselands and lower straths they can be quite large scale, open, exposed landscapes with more intensive ley grasslands and fewer trees.
	Colour / texture	Generally smooth, verdant areas with variations of green interspersed with splashes of colour of buildings, gorse, and occasional crops.
Complexity / variety / intervention	These are generally well tended, diverse and varied areas with occasional, small pockets of disturbed land or derelict former industrial land and old railways.	

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
3. FARMLAND Lowland Grassland				
	Line / pattern	Late enclosure areas have distinct rather geometric, regular, organised or planned, rectilinear patterns and angular lines, but the older, smaller scale areas have very indistinct, irregular patterns with curving and sinuous lines largely hidden by the landform and trees.		
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Agricultural smells and the sounds of animals, particularly in summer, are characteristic of these generally quiet, calm, tranquil, peaceful, pastoral landscapes but some also have parts which are noisy, disturbed, busy, transport corridors.		
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A2	Loss of agricultural land to urban development	●
		A3	Loss of agricultural land to other land uses	●
		A18	Removal of field boundaries	○
		A19	Neglect of hedgerows	●
		A20	Neglect of stone dykes	●
		A24	Loss of hedgerow trees	○
		A25	Neglect of hedgerow trees	●
		A31	Addition / replacement of (large) new agricultural buildings	○
	Forestry	F18	Neglect / decline of semi-natural or native woodland	●
		F19	Neglect / decline of other broadleaved / mixed woodland	●
		F20	Neglect / decline of farm woodland	●
		F21	Neglect / decline of policy woodland	●
		F26	Replanting of policy woodland with inappropriate species	○
		F28	Maturity and potential decline of broadleaved / mixed woodland	●
		F29	Maturity and potential decline of policy woodland	●
		F31	Maturity and potential decline of avenues / tree lines / roadside trees	●
		F41	New woodland planting / afforestation of unspecified scale or type	○
	Development	D2	Edge of town development (incremental)	●
		D6	Village expansion (incremental)	●
		D10	Linear developments along roads	○
		D11	Tourism related developments generally	○
		D24	Industrial decline and dereliction	○
		D29	New main road / bridge construction	○
		D30	New minor road / bridge construction	○
		D31	Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads	●
		D35	New single houses in the countryside	○
		D40	Loss or erosion of landscape character due to inappropriate siting, design or building materials in new development	●
	Energy			
	Minerals	M1	New or extended Sand and Gravel - below ground extraction	○
		M7	New or extended open cast coal extraction	○
	Others			

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
3. FARMLAND Lowland Grassland			
Examples	Characteristic	AYS7 AYS8 AYS10 AYS12 AYS13 AYS16 DGW4 DGW5 DGW6 DGW8 DGW14 TAY6	Ayrshire Lowlands, probably the classic. Broad valley Lowland of Ayrshire Upper River Valleys of Ayrshire Middle Dales of Ayrshire Intimate Pastoral Valleys of Ayrshire Lowland Hills of Ayrshire Shallow Flat Bottomed Valley of Dumfries and Galloway Narrow Wooded River Valleys of Dumfries and Galloway Intimate Pastoral Valleys of Dumfries and Galloway Middle Dales of Dumfries and Galloway Drumlin Pastures of Dumfries and Galloway Lowland Hills of Tayside
	Others	AGC14, BDR27, BDR29, CTR6, LLT2, LTH5, STC4, STC5, STC10	
Refs.	SNH Review Series	78 91 94 111 112 116 122 123 124	Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment Dumfries and Galloway Landscape Assessment Ayrshire Landscape Assessment The Borders Landscape Assessment Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment Tayside Landscape Character Assessment Central Region Landscape Character Assessment Stirling to Grangemouth Landscape Character Assessment

3. Lowland Grasslands

Lowland, inland and coastal locations, mainly in South and East Scotland, especially in Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders, the Clyde valley and Stirling / Falkirk / West Lothian (e.g. the Kippen Muir and Slammanan Plateaux). Lowland grasslands have been less vulnerable to changes in agricultural subsidy compared to the upland pastures and dairying and beef and sheep farming have persisted with fewer and smaller scale changes in grazing regimes. However, there is still a continuing trend towards improvement of grasslands and conversion of older pastures to ley grassland. Despite their potential usefulness, mixed and semi-natural woodlands, shelterbelts and policy woodlands, small farm woodlands, hedgerow trees, hedges and drystone dykes, continue steadily to decline through neglect and replacement by more flexible, more easily maintained, post and wire fences. However, decline and loss is not as severe as in arable areas and the pace and scale of change and new buildings at the steadings tends to be slower and smaller, though there are some very large and conspicuous animal sheds in Ayrshire and the Lothians. In the past there has been some rural industrial dereliction, for example, of mills, leets etc but these are now absorbed into the landscape. The greatest change to the lowland grasslands is the accelerating loss to urban development and other land uses, especially in the Midland Valley, close to the main towns. Everywhere, character can be eroded by new road construction, incremental road improvements and new single houses in the countryside often of inappropriate design and materials. There is occasional reference to small scale quarrying for aggregates and in Ayrshire, Fife and the Lothians to landtake for opencast coal extraction.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES		
4. FARMLAND Upland Grassland		
Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Very widespread, generally above 150 - 200 metres elevation and mainly in the south and west
	Landform	Variable, upland glens of the Highlands, varied valleys of the Midland Valley and the Southern Upland dales, grass moorland and occasionally on open tops.
	Land cover / land use	Unimproved or semi-improved permanent pastures, with transitions upwards to rough hill grazing and moorland and downwards increasingly to improved pastures, ley grass and arable. Anywhere there can be pockets of sedges, rushes, bracken or gorse where reversion is occurring and in some areas many, or even most, fields are in decline as hill farming and upland grazing change and diminish. Grazing is, however, still the dominant land use. Tree cover is sparse and restricted to a few wind-sculptured hedgerow trees or stunted shelterbelts or, more often, to regular blocks of coniferous plantations.
	Settlement patterns	Generally settlement is sparse with a few, irregularly spaced, isolated, low, traditional steadings of grey stone and slate roofs tucked into a hollow or sheltered by a stand of sycamore. Some steadings are abandoned or converted, and there may be a few scattered, isolated cottages, many now in tourist use. There are frequent castles, cairns and archaeological sites. However, in the south of Scotland mining and other settlements have penetrated much further into the upland grassland areas.
	Distinctive point features	Steadings and other buildings, masts, towers, cairns, large trees,
	Distinctive linear features	Head dykes and other drystone dykes and thin, gappy hedges
	Scale / openness	Large scale, open often windswept landscapes
	Colour / texture	These are generally green and pastoral landscapes but much darker and with rougher textures and more subdued colours than the lowland grasslands.
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Generally simple, but certainly not uniform, landscapes where there appears, simultaneously, to be a balance and a tension between the dominance of man's marginal hill farming, his mowing and grazing arresting the advance of the moors, and the natural processes and elements
	Line / pattern	Curving, flowing slopes and lines in natural, irregular often indistinct patterns
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	These are usually relatively quiet, calm, harmonious, little disturbed, and surprisingly rather remote, upland landscapes often dominated by big skies with clouds billowing over boldly rolling, windswept hills dotted with sheep and beef cattle, bracken and gorse

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

4. FARMLAND Upland Grassland

Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A1 A4 A8 A13 A14 A16 A19 A20 A21 A29 A30 A36	Loss of agricultural land to forestry Loss of or "improvement" of semi-natural, unimproved or semi-improved grasslands Drainage of semi-natural areas Abandonment of hill farming / grazing Changes in type or density of grazing Loss of heather moorland or heather cover on moorland, improvement of outbye land Neglect of hedgerows Neglect of stone dykes Neglect of ditches / drains Decline / redundancy / dereliction of farm buildings / steadings Conversion of steadings Inappropriate use or poor maintenance or redundancy of post and wire fences	● ● ○ ○ ● ● ● ○ ● ● ● ● ●
	Forestry	F2 F12 F13 F18 F22 F30	New medium-large scale coniferous afforestation Planting of marginal hill farmland Planting of other semi-natural habitats Neglect / decline of semi-natural or native woodland Neglect / decline of shelterbelts Maturity and potential decline of shelterbelts	● ● ● ● ○ ●
	Development	D3 D11 D21 D24 D31 D32 D35 D40	Housing generally Tourism related developments generally Telecommunication and other masts / towers Industrial decline and dereliction Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads Increasing urbanisation through roadside clutter New single houses in the countryside Loss or erosion of landscape character due to inappropriate siting, design or building materials in new development	● ○ ● ○ ● ● ● ●
	Energy	E5 E10	Wind farms generally or unspecified Overhead lines	● ●
	Minerals	M1 M5 M7 M10	New or extended Sand and Gravel - below ground extraction New or extended Hard rock quarries New or extended open cast coal extraction Decline of mineral extraction and dereliction	○ ○ ○ ○
	Others	P4	Loss or decline of historic / archaeological features	●

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
4. FARMLAND Upland Grassland			
Examples	Characteristic	BDR2 BDR7 BDR10 BDR11 BDR12 BDR13 BDR22 BDR23 DGW10 DGW11 DGW17 DGW20 KNS3 STC6 STC12 STC13 STC14	Plateau Grassland of the Scottish Borders Cheviot Foothills of the Scottish Borders Grassland with Rock Outcrops of the Scottish Borders Grassland with Hills of the Scottish Borders Undulating Grassland of the Scottish Borders Poor Rough Grassland of the Scottish Borders Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor of the Scottish Borders Pastoral Upland Valleys of the Scottish Borders Upper Dales of Dumfries and Galloway Upland Glens of Dumfries and Galloway Upland Fringe of Dumfries and Galloway Foothills of Dumfries and Galloway Upland Slopes of Kinross-shire Rugged Upland Farmland of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Upland River Valleys of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Broad Valley Upland of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Upland Glens of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley
	Others	AYS14, AYS15, BDR6, BDR26	
Refs.	SNH Review Series	77 91 94 96 111 112 116 122 123	The Landscape of Kinross-shire The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment Dumfries and Galloway Landscape Assessment Clackmannanshire Landscape Character Assessment Ayrshire Landscape Assessment The Borders Landscape Assessment Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment Tayside Landscape Character Assessment Central Region Landscape Character Assessment

4. Upland Grassland

Very widespread, generally above 150 - 200 metres elevation, with the main concentrations in Argyll and Bute, Loch Lomond area, Stirling, Clackmannanshire, Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, the Scottish Borders and parts of Fife and Tayside. Recent changes in hill farming have accelerated a long term decline in many marginal upland farms. Large areas of upland grassland have been and continue to be afforested. Large areas remain open but are declining, with reversion to scrub, gorse, sedge or rush as grazing, drainage and husbandry change. These areas are vulnerable to conspicuous and increasingly more frequent developments such as mineral extraction, windfarms, telecommunication masts, pylons, overhead wires, reservoirs and other infrastructure, single houses, inappropriate steading conversions and extensions, and village edge development which can be stark in these open landscapes.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

5. FARMLAND Crofting

Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	The extreme north and north west, parts of the west coast of the mainland, the Shetland and Western Isles, some of the Hebridean islands and remnants in the Orkney Isles. Usually along relatively narrow strips of land by the coast, at the hillfoot or burnside in a glen.
	Landform	Varied but usually fairly flat or gently sloping, a break to an increasing slope can mark the edge of the croft fields or inbye. Locally may be quite steep or sweeping slopes to the coast or may include knock and lochan landscapes in the Western Isles
	Land cover / land use	Small fields of arable cultivation with mainly semi-improved pastures, in the crofts with unimproved grasslands in the inbye of small farms which can be interspersed between the crofting townships. Frequently pockets of woodland, coniferous plantations, machair, and sandy beaches and bays.
	Settlement patterns	Distinctively of two main kinds - linear and scattered but many variations of each.
	Distinctive point features	Long low crofting cottages, some abandoned, small farm houses, brightly coloured or rusting tractors and old machinery lying in the fields, small woods and many archaeological features e.g. black houses, cairns, standing stones, monuments, mounds and ruins.
	Distinctive linear features	Drystone dykes, shorelines, fences, narrow very straight or twisting lanes and the gullies of burns
	Scale / openness	Varies, on the mainland and scattered crofts of islands, often very small scale, intimate landscapes enclosed by landform and woodlands. On islands and linear crofting areas can be very large scale, open very exposed landscapes, but many variations and exceptions to both types.
	Colour / texture	Usually intricate, quite colourful landscapes with rough or varied textures but colours can be subdued by poor light and mist
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Generally complex, varied and detailed tended landscapes yet the linear crofting areas can be of a simple overall harmonious composition. Where the crofting system is breaking down the landscapes soon adopt an air of decline and neglect with abandoned and quickly ruined buildings, fields reverting to moor, marsh or scrub, rusting scrapped machinery and collapsing fences and dykes.
	Line / pattern	Linear crofting can be very balanced and unified in a sometimes strikingly regular, planned, strongly geometric, rectangular, symmetrical and repetitive pattern. Scattered crofting can be highly dispersed with completely random patterns causing visual confusion.
Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Frequently pervaded by the sights, sounds and smells of the coast and the sea, these are deeply cultural landscapes with human activity so closely tied to the natural elements and resources of the land and the sea that, even where they are laid out with geometric regularity the crofts seem to be naturally integrated into the landscape. Despite their settled nature, these can be quite wild, remote, isolated landscapes; many having a strong island ambience. They are also peaceful and inspirational and can generate a powerful sense of place and history which continues to feed a strong cultural tradition in all of the arts and language	

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
5. FARMLAND Crofting				
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A1 A10 A13 A14 A15 A20 A21 A29 A32 A36	Loss of agricultural land to forestry Decline of traditional drainage / irrigation methods Abandonment of hill farming / grazing Changes in type or density of grazing Changes in practice of muirburn Neglect of stone dykes Neglect of ditches / drains Decline / redundancy / dereliction of farm buildings / steadings Decline of crofting Inappropriate use or poor maintenance or redundancy of post and wire fences	○ ○ ○ ● ○ ● ● ● ● ●
	Forestry	F5 F18 F22	New small-medium scale mixed or broadleaved woodland planting Neglect / decline of semi-natural or native woodland Neglect / decline of shelterbelts	○ ○ ●
	Development	D3 D6 D11 D19 D32 D35 D40	Housing generally Village expansion (incremental) Tourism related developments generally Leisure or recreational developments generally Increasing urbanisation through roadside clutter New single houses in the countryside Loss or erosion of landscape character due to inappropriate siting, design or building materials in new development	● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ●
	Energy	N/A		
	Minerals	M8	New or extended peat extraction (commercial)	○
	Others	N/A		
	Examples	Characteristic	WIS1-4 WIS5 MYF5 RCY14 SKL13 RCY15 SKL14	Crofting 1 - 4 Western Isles Uist Farming Western Isles Crofting Inner Moray Firth Linear Crofting on Ross and Cromarty and Skye and Lochalsh Scattered Crofting on Ross and Cromarty and Skye and Lochalsh
Others		CSL16, INV14, LBR16		
Refs.	SNH Review Series	71 90 92 93 97 100 103 114 119	Skye and Lochalsh Landscape Assessment Inner Moray Firth Landscape Character Assessment Western Isles Landscape Character Assessment A Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Isles Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment Orkney Landscape Character Assessment Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment Inverness Landscape Assessment Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment	

5. Crofting

The extreme north and north west, parts of the west coast of the mainland, the Shetland and Western Isles, together with some of the Hebridean islands (and remnants in the Orkney Isles). Some of the most typical and distinctive are the variations found in the Shetland and Western Isles, including the distinctive Uist Farming; and the Linear and Scattered Crofting patterns on Ross and Cromarty and Skye and Lochalsh. Usually located along relatively narrow strips of land by the coast, at the hillfoot or burnside in a glen. Whilst some of the traditional crofting areas are experiencing landtake for development and afforestation, the main and most widespread threat to the crofting landscapes is the demise of the very crofting management and townships which have created these areas and sustained them to mature and form unique and deeply cultural, almost semi-natural highland and island landscapes. Sustaining these landscapes in the future will depend on maintaining the crofting way of life and farming patterns.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

6. WOODLAND Lowland Broadleaved (mixed broadleaved)

Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Found throughout lowland Scotland but usually in the context of undevelopable, unusable or inaccessible land or as an integral part of the farming and estate landscapes.
	Landform	In the lowland, ancient, semi natural woodlands are almost invariably small, often linear, remnants of the former natural woodland cover, found in remote or inaccessible places such as steep-sided gorges, escarpments, bluffs, dens and incised river valleys or floodplains or other wetlands. By contrast, the policy or park woodlands, estate plantations and woods of designed landscapes are often found in the flatter, otherwise quite intensively farmed and managed areas where they have been introduced for sport, amenity, shelter and fashion. In some areas, small farm woodlands including many shelterbelts, copses, screens, groups of trees around steadings, avenues, riparian and roadside trees and hedgerow trees can be so densely scattered that they create a distinctive wooded farmland landscape character.
	Land cover / land use	
	Settlement patterns	Tree cover in these landscapes can be so dense that the settlement pattern is obscured and highlighted only by glimpses of villages or steadings or tall houses, castles, brochs, towers or masts projecting above the trees. These are the most distinctive point features along with the occasional bare, protruding hill tops.
	Distinctive point features	
	Distinctive linear features	Linear shelterbelts, avenues, riparian and roadside trees and lines of hedgerow trees, together with estate walls, hedges and occasional stone dykes; woodland edges may be sharply defined by arable headlands or ancient woodland banks or may be transitional, merging gradually into scrub or heath.
	Scale / openness	Generally very intimate, sheltered, small scale landscapes
	Colour / texture	Smooth, billowing summer canopies of many varieties of greens followed by very colourful autumnal hues spreading northwards and upwards as autumn approaches and as the tree species and temperature gradually change over elevation, distance and time. Then brown and rougher textures of the winter woodland followed by the fresh greens of a new spring.
	Complexity / variety / intervention	These are often complex, diverse landscapes which may be well tended and neatly maintained in the estates of the south and west but more often they are neglected and over-mature, albeit very important landscape features.
	Line / pattern	Vary from the sinuous, curving lines and irregular, indistinct or natural patterns of semi natural woodlands to the straighter or more directional, angular lines and strong linear or recti-linear patterns of the policies and shelterbelts.
Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Secluded, quiet, calm, peaceful, tranquil landscapes with little movement other than the trees; they have high natural heritage, inspirational and recreational values and many are accessible from towns and villages.	

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
6. WOODLAND Lowland Broadleaved (mixed broadleaved)				
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A2 A18 A20 A24 A25 A26	Loss of agricultural land to urban development Removal of field boundaries Neglect of stone dykes Loss of hedgerow trees Neglect of hedgerow trees Neglect of shelterbelts	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ●
	Forestry	F5 F7 F18 F19 F20 F21 F22 F23 F25 F28 F29 F30 F31 F35 F36	New small-medium scale mixed or broadleaved woodland planting New farm woodland planting Neglect / decline of semi-natural or native woodland Neglect / decline of other broadleaved / mixed woodland Neglect / decline of farm woodland Neglect / decline of policy woodland Neglect / decline of shelterbelts Neglect / decline of avenues / tree lines / roadside trees / copses Replanting woodland with inappropriate species Maturity and potential decline of broadleaved / mixed woodland Maturity and potential decline of policy woodland Maturity and potential decline of shelterbelts Maturity and potential decline of avenues / tree lines / roadside trees Fragmentation of woodland Severance of woodland by roads / pipelines / overhead wires etc.	● ○ ● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ● ● ● ● ○ ○
	Development	D2 D4 D6 D15 D19	Edge of town development (incremental) Industrial, Business, Retail and Warehousing Village expansion (incremental) Golf Courses Leisure or recreational developments generally	● ● ● ○ ●
	Energy			
	Minerals	M1 M7	New or extended Sand and Gravel - below ground extraction New or extended open cast coal extraction	● ●
	Others	P1	Neglect or decline of gardens and designed landscapes	●
	Examples	Characteristic	LTH3	Lowland River Valleys of the Lothians
Others		ABC5, STC8		

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
6. WOODLAND Lowland Broadleaved (mixed broadleaved)			
Refs.	SNH Review Series	19	Dunfermline District Landscape Assessment
		90	Inner Moray Firth Landscape Character Assessment
		91	The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment
		94	Dumfries and Galloway Landscape Assessment
		96	Clackmannanshire Landscape Character Assessment
		101	Moray and Nairn Landscape Assessment
		111	Ayrshire Landscape Assessment
		112	The Borders Landscape Assessment
		113	Fife Landscape Character Assessment
		116	Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment
		122	Tayside Landscape Character Assessment
		123	Central Region Landscape Character Assessment

6. Lowland Mixed and Broadleaved Woodland

Is found throughout lowland Scotland but particularly in Ayrshire, Clackmannanshire, the Clyde, Forth and Tay valleys, Dumfries and Galloway, Fife, the Lothians, Moray, Perth and Kinross, Stirling and the Tweed Lowlands. The most serious changes are those primarily related to the neglect and consequent decline of all types of lowland woodland. The exception to this generality is new planting relating to the Community Woodland, Central Scotland Woodland Trust and other similar initiatives which are reversing the historic decline in woodland. Although new planting areas are usually quite small, they are, cumulatively, modestly increasing the area. The decline is especially acute in respect of many shelterbelts, plantations, copses, avenues and similar features which were planted in the 18th and 19th centuries and are, therefore, now mature or over-mature. Ancient semi natural woodland probably continues to be lost through neglect and landtake, mainly now to development and mineral extraction rather than agriculture, but at a slower rate and smaller scale than in the past. Previous trends of replanting ancient woodland and historic plantations or designed landscapes with inappropriate species appears now to be extremely rare, with Forestry Commission policies generally sustaining the woodland area and important species compositions of the lowland woodlands of wildlife and amenity importance.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

7. WOODLAND Upland Broadleaved (birchwoods / ashwoods / oakwoods)

Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Found throughout the uplands of Scotland, and some of the more exposed northern lowlands, upland broadleaved woodland in this context comprises mainly birchwoods, ashwoods and oakwoods, in many permutations and with a number of other important species diversifying their composition and thus their character, including rowan, alder, hazel, lime, willow and the introduced beech and sycamore. The woods tend to be located above about 200 to 300m elevation but much depends on the geographic position (far more extensive in the north and west) proximity to the coast and degree of shelter.
	Landform	Typically they are remnants of once much more extensive cover which have survived in wet hollows, steep cliffs or slopes, dens, gorges, gullies, steep-sided glens, on poor soils in the middle glens and exposed lower straths of the north.
	Land cover / land use	Whilst the broadleaved woodland locally prevails to create the character of these landscapes, it is rare for other land cover not to be present in a very variable mosaic usually including coniferous or mixed plantations, small pockets of wetland vegetation which may provide clearings in the woodland canopy, burns, pools, lochans, lochs, rivers, heath, and upland pastures enclosed by drystone dykes.
	Settlement patterns	Settlement is sparse, which can be the reason for the woodland's survival, but in most cases there are small steadings and cottages on the edge of the woods. Occasionally the woods have survived because they have been incorporated into estates or designed landscapes so castles, large houses, lodges and gatehouses and other buildings may be concealed within them. Steep slopes, gorges, gullies and cliffs will be devoid of buildings and are the most natural of the woodland locations.
	Distinctive point features	The woodland cover conceals most features within these areas but castles, large houses, monuments, towers or masts may protrude, sometimes incongruously, above the billowing crowns and roads may wind their way through the woodland or along the edges. The woodlands tend not to have sharp edges except where they are positively fenced to an enclosure, when deer fencing can be conspicuous. Where they merge into other semi-natural vegetation they tend to have informal, feathered edges, particularly to the upper tree line on the moors and mountains.
	Distinctive linear features	
	Scale openness /	These are generally small scale, enclosed, intimate landscapes but from elevated viewpoints the canopies of the trees may stretch for some distance giving a deceptively large scale appearance.
	Colour texture /	Seasonally very varied and very colourful with light greens turning darker in the summer followed by sometimes spectacular autumn colours. The crowns of the trees give a smooth texture in the summer but after leaf-fall the woods tend to have a more uniform brown colour and rough texture

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
7. WOODLAND Upland Broadleaved (birchwoods / ashwoods / oakwoods)				
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Locally these can be very complex, diverse, semi-natural landscapes where management intervention appears to be indiscernible, except perhaps for the occasional stack of timber, new woodland footpath or mown ride		
	Line / pattern	Lines are informal, curving and sinuous, patterns are indistinct in a complex, random mosaic reflecting drainage, soil and other natural influences over the woodland composition.		
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Secluded, quiet, calm, peaceful, tranquil landscapes with little movement other than the trees; the sounds of birds in spring and the smell of damp vegetation in the autumn are typical. They have high natural heritage, inspirational and recreational values enhanced by their relative isolation, inaccessibility and less disturbance than the lowland woodlands.		
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A8 A12	Drainage of semi-natural areas Conversion of woodland to agriculture	○ ○
	Forestry	F18	Neglect / decline of semi-natural or native woodland	●
		F19	Neglect / decline of other broadleaved / mixed woodland	●
		F24	Replanting of semi-natural woodland with inappropriate species	○
		F25	Replanting of other broadleaved / mixed woodland with inappropriate species	○
		F28	Maturity and potential decline of broadleaved / mixed woodland	●
		F35 F36	Fragmentation of woodland Severance of woodland by roads / pipelines / overhead wires etc.	○ ○
	F40	New or improved Forestry tracks	○	
Development	D3	Housing generally	○	
	D11	Tourism related developments generally	○	
	D19	Leisure or recreational developments generally	○	
	D28	Conversion / redevelopment of farm steadings	●	
	D30	New minor road / bridge construction	○	
	D31	Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads	●	
	D34 D35	Erosion of vegetation owing to recreational pressure New single houses in the countryside	○ ●	
Energy				
Minerals	M5	New or extended Hard rock quarries	○	
Others	P7	Overgrazing by / overpopulation of deer	●	
Examples	Characteristic	BDR28 INV8 INV9 MLG3	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley of the Scottish Borders Wooded Glen of Inverness Narrow Wooded Glen of Inverness Wooded Glens of Mar Lodge	
	Others	BDR25, CSL18, INV6,		
Refs.	SNH Review Series	103 112 114	Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment The Borders Landscape Assessment Inverness Landscape Assessment	

7. Upland Broadleaved Woodland

Found throughout the uplands of Scotland, and some of the more exposed northern lowlands, upland broadleaved woodlands tend to be located above about 200 to 300m elevation but much depends on the geographic position (far more extensive in the north and west) proximity to the coast and degree of shelter. There are distinct concentrations in Argyll, the Highlands, the former Central, Tayside and Grampian Regions and to a lesser extent in the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway. Loss of upland, broadleaved, semi-natural woodland has probably slowed and is now rare except where land is taken for developments, which can still threaten these woodlands locally, especially around upland villages and steadings and where there is pressure for leisure and tourist developments. They are vulnerable to fragmentation by road improvements or other infrastructure developments, but these too seem to be slowing in their effects on the woods, though evidence is difficult to gather. Loss to agriculture was once a serious threat but now almost stopped by controls and incentives that encourage the sustainable management of these woodlands, more and more of which appear to be coming under formal maintenance agreements. However, overall, gradual over-maturity, neglect and decline with grazing preventing regeneration and no restocking is the greatest threat to the continued presence of these woods which contribute so much to the character of the Scottish landscapes.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

8. WOODLAND Native Pinewoods

Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	North of the Highland Boundary Fault, native pinewood occurs sporadically in small pockets throughout most of the Highlands and former Grampian regions.
	Landform	Varies and includes both very steep slopes on uplands (Loch Marie) and lower, flatter ground, e.g. at Rothiemurcus / Abernethy
	Land cover / land use	Characteristically dominated by the highly distinctive, mature pinewoods, with pockets of scrub and heath and often containing very small lochans, wetlands, burns and some areas where broadleaved trees such as alder, oak and birch prevail, or which have been restocked with non-native conifers. Land uses are generally confined to forestry, sporting estates, recreation and nature reserves
	Settlement patterns	Generally the upland, western and more remote pinewoods are devoid of present day settlement and exhibit little evidence of past settlement, except for occasional cairns and bothies. In the east, however, the lower pinewoods are fragmented by and surround expanding settlements.
	Distinctive point features	The dense forest cover limits the views of point or linear features but clearings give views of distant hills, cairns or monuments and tracks or burns lead the eye to the occasional bridge or building or the edge of a village. Some have very fast, turbulent rivers which roar down their boulder strewn beds in spate after storms or snow-melt. In some woods, lodges and large houses of the estates appear in or on the edge of the pinewoods giving them a more settled, estate - like character.
	Distinctive linear features	
	Scale / openness	Generally where tree cover and understorey is dense, or they stand on islands in lochs or hill features in a lowland landscape, these woods have small scale, enclosed, intimate spaces; but from elevated viewpoints the scale of the larger remnants can be surprisingly extensive, flowing over and concealing the subtle landform of the lowlands or upland slopes.
	Colour / texture	The pinewoods have a range of subtle greens, greys, browns and purples with remarkably limited seasonal variation compared to many other woodland landscapes. Their textures are equally varied.
	Complexity / variety / intervention	The variations of tree cover and vegetation, patterns of open spaces and enclosure, transitions to more open wood-pastures and thence to open moorland with scattered pines, the varied age and height of the trees, the understorey and the wildlife and wetlands, all combine to create a complex, diverse but extremely harmonious and balanced landscape where human activity appears to be subservient to natural processes. However, although native and usually of ancient origin, most of the woods are far from natural and management intervention needs to be high, albeit not conspicuous to the untrained eye.
Line / pattern	Lines and patterns are irregular, random and indistinct in these semi-natural woodlands.	

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
8. WOODLAND Native Pinewoods			
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience		The woods have very distinctive smells of pine, damp earth, mosses, peat and other wet vegetation. They are seasonally quiet, even dead calm, with an eerie stillness in winter snows, but alive with birdsong in the spring and early summer. There is frequent movement of birds through the canopy and animals can be heard to move, but often frustratingly unseen where the understorey is dense. These are generally enduring, stately, majestic, mature, sheltered, peaceful, tranquil, natural, inspirational landscapes with a strong feeling of history and cultural links to ancient woodland management and crafts, to early settlement, and to historic and modern arts. They can also be quite wild and exposed in the higher and western areas and frequently shrouded in mists that heighten the observer's curiosity, intrigue, sense of place and history
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	N/A	
	Forestry	F5 F14 F18 F24 F32 F34 F36 F40 F42	New small-medium scale mixed or broadleaved woodland planting New / extension of native woodlands Neglect / decline of semi-natural or native woodland Replanting of semi-natural woodland with inappropriate species Changes in forestry management as plantations near / reach commercial maturity Changes in character of woodland edges Severance of woodland by roads / pipelines / overhead wires etc. New or improved Forestry tracks Loss of woodland to new built development and changes of use other than agriculture
	Development	D6 D11 D19 D28 D31 D34	Village expansion (incremental) Tourism related developments generally Leisure or recreational developments generally Conversion / redevelopment of farm steadings Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads Erosion of vegetation owing to recreational pressure
	Energy	N/A	
	Minerals	N/A	
	Others	P7	Overgrazing by / overpopulation of deer
	Examples	Characteristic	MLG3 INV9
	Others	CNG3	Cairngorm Straths
Refs.	SNH Review Series	75 79 97 101 11412 0	Cairngorms Landscape Assessment Mar Lodge Landscape Assessment Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment Moray and Nairn Landscape Assessment Inverness Landscape Assessment Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaidh Landscape Character Assessment

8. Native Pinewoods

North of the Highland Boundary Fault, native pinewoods occur sporadically in small pockets throughout most of the Highlands and former Grampian regions but they are distinctly concentrated and form a landscape of distinction, as opposed to distinctive landscape features, in the areas covered by the Cairngorms (75), Mar Lodge (79), Lochaber (97), Moray and Nairn (101), Inverness (114) and Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaidh (120) Landscape Character Assessments. Most of the main remnants of these native pinewoods are protected through nature reserves, management agreements, forestry controls and other instruments. They are being brought increasingly into sustainable management. However, there may continue to be some loss and / or decline of smaller pockets, in remote areas, and certainly those on the edge of villages are prone to landtake to accommodate development pressures for residential and tourism / leisure related building. New roads and tracks can further fragment the often small and scattered remnants and new planting is, in places, seeking to build up larger areas of continuous cover. Apart from development pressures and neglect, the other great threat to these woods is over grazing by deer which has long prevented natural regeneration. To arrest this decline many woods are subject to new deer fencing which can have a significant effect on the character of the woods and create new edge effects.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES		
9. WOODLAND Coniferous Plantation		
Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	A ubiquitous landscape occurring throughout most of Scotland except above the tree line and on the most exposed parts of the north-west and the islands.
	Landform	Extremely varied because planting can occur on hills, slopes and wetlands that may deter other uses. The detail of the topography can often be concealed by the forest cover. Typically, most afforestation has occurred on rolling hills and moors, rounded peaks and high, level skylines, foothills, rugged hills with steeper slopes, upland plateaux and flat peatlands
	Land cover / land use	This is a cyclical landscape with very long, undisturbed periods when change is slow, but noticeable, as the blanket of growing trees darkens and envelopes the land and obscures views and other landscape features. Then the forests are used primarily for informal recreation and occasionally for more organised sport and recreation or leisure pursuits. The peaks of activity occur at first ploughing and planting, thinning and harvesting / restructuring when the forestry objective of timber production is at its most obvious. In most areas there are small remnants of unimproved pastures surrounded by neglected stone dykes.
	Settlement patterns	Towns and villages are rare and hamlets scarce, but most areas have isolated cottages now hidden in the forest and old steadings enveloped by the advancing plantations. Forestry and haulage offices, yards and depots also occur
	Distinctive point features	Yards and depots become more common and increase in size and conspicuousness as the timber is harvested needing large areas for turning, storage and haulage. Other point features are rare but may include bridges, rock outcrops, masts, fire towers or small lochans.
	Distinctive linear features	The hard, straight, fenced edges of the older plantations and forestry tracks driven into hillsides, slopes and escarpments are very conspicuous, so too are the straight fire breaks, wayleaves for overhead wires and underground pipelines and, temporarily, the plough-lines for new planting can also be very noticeable
	Scale / openness	For most of the forestry cycle the plantations create an enclosed, sheltered local environment of small spaces in the gaps and rides of the forests but these are a marked contrast to the vast or large scale, open, exposed and often wild landscapes on which the forest was planted. Views are limited in most directions by the dense tree cover but elevated viewpoints give a panorama over the seemingly endless, uniform, canopy of trees.
	Colour / texture	Generally the colours and textures are uniform with the dark green of the spruce and pine prevailing. However, particularly in Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway, the uniformity is relieved by the lighter greens / browns of the deciduous larch and broadleaves along the edges and rides. Occasional rock outcrops and pastures give rougher textures.
	Complexity / variety / intervention	For most of the forestry cycle the plantations are simple and uniform landscapes with little obvious human activity.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
9. WOODLAND Coniferous Plantation				
	Line / pattern	Older plantations are dominated by straight lines and edges and repetitive, strongly geometric patterns. However, more recent afforestation and restructuring has created more informal edges with more natural patterns and lines responding to land form and soil / drainage / vegetation changes.		
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	For most of the forestry cycle these are very sheltered areas with the smell of pine or damp earth pervading an almost unnatural ambience of stillness; exploring the maze-like paths and rides can bring a feeling of isolation and solitude relieved by occasional glimpses of other people, deer or birds and insects the noise of which can be disproportionately noticeable in the quiet calmness. However, the felling, haulage, ploughing and replanting create, temporarily, a busy, often noisy, "working" landscape with continuous sound and movements, where felled coups can have a chaotic appearance.		
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A1	Loss of agricultural land to forestry	●
		A4	Loss of or "improvement" of semi-natural, unimproved or semi-improved grasslands	●
		A13	Abandonment of hill farming / grazing	●
		A16	Loss of heather moorland or heather cover on moorland, improvement of outbye land	●
		A20	Neglect of stone dykes	●
		A32	Decline of crofting locally in LBR	○
	Forestry	F1	New large scale coniferous afforestation	●
		F2	New medium-large scale coniferous afforestation	●
		F3	New small-medium scale coniferous afforestation	●
		F10	Planting of open / wild land	●
F11		Planting of moorland	●	
F12		Planting of marginal hill farmland	●	
F15		Planting obscuring landform	●	
F16		Planting obscuring other landscape / historical features	●	
F17		Planting obscuring views	●	
F32		Changes in forestry management as plantations near / reach commercial maturity	●	
F34		Changes in character of woodland edges	●	
F35		Fragmentation of woodland	●	
F40	New or improved Forestry tracks	●		
Development	D19	Leisure or recreational developments generally	●	
	D34	Erosion of vegetation owing to recreational pressure	○	
Energy	E5	Wind farms generally or unspecified	●	
	E10	Overhead lines	○	
Minerals	M5	New or extended Hard rock quarries	○	
	M6	New or extended vein and rare mineral extraction	○	
Others				

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
9. WOODLAND Coniferous Plantation			
Examples	Characteristic	SKL11 AYS18 AYS20 AYS26 BDR5 DGW19 DGW21	Coniferous Woodland Plantation of Skye and Lochalsh Foothills with Forest of Ayrshire Plateau Moorland with Forest of Ayrshire Rugged Granite Upland with Forest of Ayrshire Southern Uplands Forest Covered in the Scottish Borders Plateau Moorland with Forest of Dumfries and Galloway Foothills with Forest of Dumfries and Galloway
	Others	AYS22, AYS24 CSL17, DGW23, DGW26, KNS10, LBR4, LLT5	
Refs.	SNH Review Series	71 77 78 94 97 102 103 111 112 119 122	Skye and Lochalsh Landscape Assessment The Landscape of Kinross-shire Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde Dumfries and Galloway Landscape Assessment Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment South and Central Aberdeenshire Landscape Character Assessment Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment Ayrshire Landscape Assessment The Borders Landscape Assessment Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment Tayside Landscape Character Assessment

9. Coniferous Plantation

A ubiquitous landscape occurring throughout most of Scotland, except above the tree line and on the most exposed parts of the north-west and the islands. However, there are distinct concentrations and very extensive areas in the eastern Highlands, the Great Glen, Argyll and Bute, Moray, Aberdeenshire, parts of Tayside and the Loch Lomond area, and particularly in Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway and parts of the Scottish Borders. Large scale afforestation is still being undertaken in many parts of Scotland but the plantations now are better designed and more varied in composition, responding to landform and changes in soil, drainage and vegetation creating less uniform and geometric shapes. Increasingly, the trend in the lowlands is to create new broadleaved woodland but on the uplands and higher slopes of the lowlands coniferous softwoods continue to be the dominant species, even in mixed plantations. Perhaps the greatest changes will be the harvesting and replanting of the vast areas planted throughout the 20th century. The harvesting itself creates large scale changes which may last for short periods in any one plantation, or coup, but over a whole community area may last for decades. The opportunity to extensively restructure the forests is being taken and phased harvesting, restocking and restructuring is an accelerating, widespread and large scale change to coniferous plantations throughout Scotland, with the earliest and most noticeable changes to date being recorded for the Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway Foothills.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES		
10. MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS Peatland		
Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Blanket bog occurs on hills throughout Scotland but the large peatlands with an upland character are primarily restricted to the Highlands and Islands with some in the former Central and Tayside Regions. The southern peatlands and lowland raised mires and lowland / intermediate bogs are not included here as they tend not to have the same wild and remote, expansive character of those of the north, west and islands and they are less appropriate to the "Mountains and Moorlands" context
	Landform	The peatlands range from the remote vastness of the Caithness and Sutherland flow country, to the high wet mountain bogs of Rannoch Moor, to the low lying boggy moorlands of Islay and the Shetlands, to the coastal basins such as Kentra Moss in Lochaber, and the estuarine mire of Moine Mhor in Argyll. All share the common characteristic of being covered mainly in sphagnum mosses and a range of bog vegetation over deep peat which has frequently been worked extensively, either domestically or commercially. Generally, overall, a very flat, expansive, horizontal blanket of bog vegetation and water, but the detailed surface topography reveals many boulders of glacial debris, humps, hollows, hummocks, pools, small lochans, rills, ditches and burns. Uses are restricted to peat cutting, water abstraction and forestry with some grazing where the peat has been drained.
	Land cover / land use	
	Settlement patterns	There is no settlement on the bogs themselves but all around there are steadings and houses, sometimes clustered into loose hamlets or villages. Some have crofting townships close by with related grazing on the mires.
	Distinctive point features	Point features on the bogs are very rare, they are generally empty and uniformly horizontal or very slightly domed. Occasionally, rocky volcanic plugs rear sharply out of the flat expanse or bridges or masts are conspicuous and coniferous plantations stand out.
	Distinctive linear features	Tracks, roads and even railways cross or skirt the peatlands and together with the meandering rivers and burns form the most distinctive linear features. In some places there are long straight drystone dykes and ditches
	Scale / openness	The peatlands are very large scale, flat, exposed landscapes with immense openness, and panoramic views from the upland bogs. However, all are surrounded by mountains to some extent, even if only on the distant horizon.
	Colour / texture	In summer the peatlands can be colourful with varying textures and constant wildlife activity with colourful insects and calling birds. However, for much of the year they are subdued, monochrome browns and greys, frequently shrouded in mists with rough textures.
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Generally these are simple, relatively uniform landscapes

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
10. MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS Peatland				
	Line / pattern	Lines are usually straight or angular but rivers can flow in looping meanders across the horizontal surface. Patterns may be regularly geometric where peat cutting predominates, but elsewhere patterns are indistinct or random.		
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	These are flat, horizontal, remote, empty, semi-natural landscapes with a wildland quality, pervaded by the smell and feel of wet, spongy vegetation, peat and the sound of slowly trickling water, buzzing insects and calling waders and wildfowl. They are dominated by the sky, wind and weather; and water is an ever-present element underfoot or in the rain or mists.		
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A8 A13 A14 A15 A16 A18 A32 A36	Drainage of semi-natural areas Abandonment of hill farming / grazing Changes in type or density of grazing Changes in practice of muirburn Loss of heather moorland or heather cover on moorland, improvement of outbye land Removal of field boundaries Decline of crofting Inappropriate use or poor maintenance or redundancy of post and wire fences	○ ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
	Forestry	F1 F2 F10 F13 F18 F32	New large scale coniferous afforestation New medium-large scale coniferous afforestation Planting of open / wild land Planting of other semi-natural habitats Neglect / decline of semi-natural or native woodland Changes in forestry management as plantations near / reach commercial maturity	● ● ● ● ○ ○
	Development	D11 D12 D19 D21 D31 D34 D35	Tourism related developments generally Tourism related development along tourist routes and at tourist attractions Leisure or recreational developments generally Telecommunication and other masts / towers Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads Erosion of vegetation owing to recreational pressure New single houses in the countryside	● ● ● ○ ● ● ●
	Energy	E5 E10	Wind farms generally or unspecified Overhead lines	● ●
	Minerals	M8 M9	New or extended peat extraction (commercial) New or extended peat extraction (domestic)	● ●
	Others	P5	Loss or neglect of historic buildings / archaeological sites	○
	Examples	Characteristic	LBR1 TAY4 SHD2 AGC23 CSL2	Classic upland peatland is the blanket bog of Rannoch Moor Classic island coastal moorland bogs are these on Yell or and Islay Classic expansive blanket bog of the flow country is the Flat Peatland of Caithness and Sutherland
Others		AGC15, LBR11, ORK15, SKL4, WIS7		

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
10. MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS Peatland			
Refs.	SNH Review Series	78 92 93 97 100 103 122	Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde Western Isles Landscape Character Assessment A Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Isles Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment Orkney Landscape Character Assessment Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment Tayside Landscape Character Assessment

10. Peatlands

Blanket bog occurs on hills throughout Scotland but the large peatlands with a mountain / moorland character are primarily restricted to the Highlands and Islands with some in the former Central and Tayside Regions. The southern peatlands and lowland raised mires and lowland / intermediate bogs are not included here. Like many of the mountain and moorland landscapes, peatlands appear at first to be stable, enduring areas that have resisted change due to their inhospitable character, with only the steady progress of peat cutting being a clearly visible sign of human activity. However, change can be insipid, gradual and irreversible before it is easily noticed. Even the most remote peatlands continue to experience a wide range of threats including water abstraction, commercial peat extraction, drainage and land take for agriculture and coniferous afforestation, all of which still occur but probably less extensively and more slowly than in the past. The peatland character can also be eroded by cumulative changes such as occasional masts, single houses, a large farm building, new fencing, road improvements etc. These soon destroy the semi-natural, open, empty, wild ambience of the bogs.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

11. MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS Heather Moorland

Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Elevated moorlands throughout Scotland, usually located between about 300 - 400m and up to 600 - 800m elevation (though locally less than 50m in the Orkneys), above the enclosed upland grasslands and below the montane areas, but with often wide areas of transition.
	Landform	Elevated flat plateaux, sometimes with basins and hollows, broad undulating, rounded and rolling upland ridges and hills, often with steep convex side slopes with hanging valleys. The moors are dissected by deep gullies in which semi-natural upland woods may survive. Occasional rocky outcrops but not enough to give appearance of rocky or boulder moorland.
	Land cover / land use	Heather moorland dominates but almost invariably there are varying degrees of mosaic created by pockets of moorland grasses, bogs, rock, lochans, pools, semi-natural woodland, and coniferous plantations. Land use is limited to grazing, deer stalking, grouse shooting, fishing, hill walking and other informal outdoor recreations and peat cutting
	Settlement patterns	Today the moors are generally devoid of settlements but there are occasional steadings and individual houses on the moorland edges, and many cairns, ruins, abandoned shielings, forts, castles and other archaeological remains are a witness of past occupation.
	Distinctive point features	Point features are rare in the wide, horizontal landscapes but the steadings, masts, cairns and plantations draw the eye.
	Distinctive linear features	Dominated by a long, level, uninterrupted skyline, other linear features include the boundary drystone dykes, field enclosures on the moorland edge, gullies, burns and waterfalls.
	Scale / openness	Large to vast scale, very open and exposed with extensive panoramic views.
	Colour / texture	Seasonally very colourful when draped with heather in flower but in winter the moors may be snow covered for long periods. The vegetation cover at close range has a rough texture, heightened by the effects of burning, but the overall character of the moorland hills is one of noticeable smoothness, distinguishing them from the rugged mountains and the rocky moorlands.
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Generally uniform, simple, harmonious, flowing semi-natural landscapes which seem to roll endlessly over horizons where there are few obvious influences of human activity unless the moors are hung with the drifting smoke clouds of the muirburn
	Line / pattern	Undulating, flowing lines and natural, random or indistinct patterns and vegetation mosaics made even more complex by the variations introduced by systematic or occasional muirburn, creating a distinctive moorland patchwork of many colours and textures.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

11. MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS Heather Moorland

	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Dominated by the elevated, massive rolling landform, the sky and the weather these are semi-natural, remote, isolated, simple, balanced, invigorating landscapes of inspirational scale and wildland qualities, with the sound of birds and insects pervading a quiet stillness on a fine, calm, summer day. By contrast in winter the stillness is heightened by the soft blanket of snow. At other times the wildness and remoteness can be emphasised by a strong, biting wind and driving rain on extremely exposed moorland tops.		
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A1 A4 A13 A14 A15 A16 A18 A20 A29 A36	Loss of agricultural land to forestry Loss of or "improvement" of semi-natural, unimproved or semi-improved grasslands Abandonment of hill farming / grazing Changes in type or density of grazing Changes in practice of muirburn Loss of heather moorland or heather cover on moorland, improvement of outbye land Removal of field boundaries Neglect of stone dykes Decline / redundancy / dereliction of farm buildings / steadings Inappropriate use or poor maintenance or redundancy of post and wire fences	○ ○ ● ● ● ● ○ ● ● ●
	Forestry	F1 F2 F4 F5 F10 F11 F13 F14 F16 F18 F32 F40 F41	New large scale coniferous afforestation New medium-large scale coniferous afforestation New large scale mixed or broadleaved woodland planting New small-medium scale mixed or broadleaved woodland planting Planting of open / wild land Planting of moorland Planting of other semi-natural habitats New / extension of native woodlands Planting obscuring other landscape / historical features Neglect / decline of semi-natural or native woodland Changes in forestry management as plantations near / reach commercial maturity New or improved Forestry tracks New woodland planting / afforestation of unspecified scale or type	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ● ○ ● ● ●
	Development	D11 D13 D17 D19 D21 D28 D31 D34 D35	Tourism related developments generally General development pressure related to scenic value Motorised vehicles off road Leisure or recreational developments generally Telecommunication and other masts / towers Conversion / redevelopment of farm steadings Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads Erosion of vegetation owing to recreational pressure New single houses in the countryside	● ● ○ ● ● ● ● ○ ●
	Energy	E5 E7 E10	Wind farms generally or unspecified Hydro electric power schemes Overhead lines	● ● ○

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
11. MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS Heather Moorland				
	Minerals	M1	New or extended Sand and Gravel - below ground extraction	○
		M5	New or extended Hard rock quarries	○
		M8	New or extended peat extraction (commercial)	○
		M9	New or extended peat extraction (domestic)	○
	Others	P7	Overgrazing by / overpopulation of deer	○
Examples	Characteristic	AGC8 INV2 LBR5 LTH1 RCY1 RCY2 RCY3 SKL1	Moorland Plateau of Argyll Rolling Uplands of Inverness Smooth Moorland Ridges of Lochaber The Lothian Uplands Smooth, Undulating and Sloping Terrace Moorlands of Ross and Cromarty Smooth Stepped Moorland of Skye and Lochalsh	
	Others	AYS19, AYS23, BDR1, BDR4, CSL1, DGW18, DGW22, FFE1, INV5, KNS1, LGN2, LLT9, MLG2, ORK17, STC17, STC18, STC21		
Refs.	SNH Review Series	19 71 75 77 78 79 91 94 96 97 100 103 111 112 113 114 116 119 120 122 123	Dunfermline District Landscape Assessment Skye and Lochalsh Landscape Assessment Cairngorms Landscape Assessment The Landscape of Kinross-shire Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde Mar Lodge Landscape Assessment The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment Dumfries and Galloway Landscape Assessment Clackmannanshire Landscape Character Assessment Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment Orkney Landscape Character Assessment Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment Ayrshire Landscape Assessment The Borders Landscape Assessment Fife Landscape Character Assessment Inverness Landscape Assessment Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaidh Landscape Character Assessment Tayside Landscape Character Assessment Central Region Landscape Character Assessment	

11. Heather Moorland

Elevated moorlands throughout Scotland, usually located between about 300 - 400m and up to 600 - 800m elevation though locally less than 50m in the Orkneys and innumerable other variations to the rule. They are typically above the enclosed upland pastures and below the montane areas, but with often wide areas of transition with frequently changing edges as moorland expands and recedes. The most extensive areas are in Argyll, the Highlands and Islands, the Southern Uplands and major hill ranges such as the Ochils. These may appear to be long established, stable and enduring landscapes but they are some of the most dynamic in Scotland and extremely vulnerable to change. There are accelerating and widespread pressures from urban development, single new houses and mineral developments in the south, and from recreation and tourism developments almost everywhere. The moorlands are attractive potential locations for windfarms, and several are under pressure from new roads, overhead wires and other infrastructure. Traditional heather moorland management is also declining in many parts, with changes to muirburn and conversion to grasslands or abandonment to scrub and woodland. In most places coniferous plantations appear still to be encroaching on the moors, and in the north there are losses to new areas of naturally regenerating Caledonian pinewoods.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

12. MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS *Montane*

Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	North and west of the Highland Boundary Fault in the former Central, Grampian, Highlands and Tayside Regions and the Islands, generally the land above the natural tree line, ranging from about 600m or 800m to well over 1,000m, typically above the continuous heather moorland with a rugged cover of bare rock and thinner vegetation. Although over 600m elevation the Montane vignette excludes the high moorlands of Argyll, Cairngorms, Caithness and Sutherland because these fit better in the Heather Moorland vignette.
	Landform	Mountain massif, plateaux and peaks, sometimes isolated lone mountains but usually in vast, high, rugged ranges, or interlocking or sequential ridges; huge rounded rocky peaks or summits or massive convex plateaux usually with steep sides. Heavily glaciated with a multitude of large montane landform features which include peaks, crags, gullies, scarps, aretes, corries, gullies, saddles, screes, deeply incised glens, sheer cliffs, rock terraces, steps and outcrops. Sharp, jagged or rounded but usually very distinctive, recognisable peaks and summits.
	Land cover / land use	Dominated by rock or a thin, often boulder-strewn, cover of short grasses, moss, bogs, rocky pools, dwarf willow, sub-alpine or sub-arctic vegetation, with peat hags, heather, bracken, sedges and rush. In sheltered hollows and glens there are scrubby, stunted, semi-natural broadleaved and native pinewoods. Occasionally there are small coniferous plantations on the lowest, sheltered slopes and lochs and lochans are frequent features, often dark, deep and hidden in high corries. Seasonally covered by snow, often for long periods, nearly permanently in the north facing corries. Land use is restricted to mountaineering, hill walking, wild camping, skiing and other winter sports, deer stalking, and occasional forestry.
	Settlement patterns	Generally absent but there is evidence of past settlement in cairns, derelict shielings and other archaeological features. There are occasional bothies, refuge huts, bivouac walls, paths and signs.
	Distinctive point features	Very few other than natural landform features such as peaks and lochs but occasional bothies or signs may attract the attention.
	Distinctive linear features	Skylines, horizons, shorelines of lochs, boundary dykes, paths, tracks, ski / chair lifts, fast flowing burns with waterfalls and gullies which are often lined with stunted trees.
	Scale / openness	Vast scale, massive bulk, sheer, plunging slopes and extremely high cliffs and peaks create a scale that dwarfs everything except the landform and sky. Extremely exposed with vast, expansive, panoramic views.
	Colour / texture	In spring, summer and early autumn, rough textures and very varied but not bright colours, in winter smooth white blanket of snow.
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Usually simple but by no means uniform landscapes, however, the boulder-strewn areas with a multitude of intricate land form features, such as the Irregular Massif can appear to be chaotically complex. These are semi-natural landscapes where human intervention now is very limited, but strikingly obvious and uncharacteristic where it does occur, e.g. the skiing infrastructure.
	Line / pattern	Sweeping, natural, curving and flowing lines and random, natural, bold, mosaic patterns

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
12. MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS Montane				
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Dominated by the vast elevated landform, the weather, clouds and the sky, and especially the sound and feeling of the wind. Water is also a powerful influence, whether in wispy scudding clouds on a fine day or in the ice, rain, snow or mist. These landscapes are the highest, most remote, inaccessible, isolated, rugged and challenging landscapes; vast areas of semi-natural, enduring, wild land unique to Scotland with a strong sense of place and an ambience and character which imparts inspiration, invigoration and solitude.		
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A1 A14 A15 A16 A18 A20	Loss of agricultural land to forestry Changes in type or density of grazing Changes in practice of muirburn Loss of heather moorland or heather cover on moorland, improvement of outbye land Removal of field boundaries Neglect of stone dykes	● ● ● ● ○ ○
	Forestry	F1 F2 F10 F14 F17 F18 F32 F40	New large scale coniferous afforestation New medium-large scale coniferous afforestation Planting of open / wild land New / extension of native woodlands Planting obscuring views Neglect / decline of semi-natural or native woodland Changes in forestry management as plantations near / reach commercial maturity New or improved Forestry tracks	● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
	Development	D11 D12 D13 D14 D17 D18 D19 D21 D27 D30 D31 D34	Tourism related developments generally Tourism related development along tourist routes and at tourist attractions General development pressure related to scenic value Caravan and Camping sites Motorised vehicles off road Skiing and related infrastructure Leisure or recreational developments generally Telecommunication and other masts / towers Redevelopment of airfields or MoD land New minor road / bridge construction Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads Erosion of vegetation owing to recreational pressure	● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ●
	Energy	E5 E7 E10	Wind farms generally or unspecified Hydro electric power schemes Overhead lines	○ ● ○
	Minerals	M12	Unspecified mineral extraction	○
	Others	P7	Overgrazing by / overpopulation of deer	○
	Examples	Characteristic	CNG1 MLG1 LBR2	Mountain Plateau of the Cairngorms / Mar Lodge High Tops of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde
Others		AGC1, 2, 5, 12, CSL5, CSL6, CTR1, INV1, LBR7, 8, 18, LGN1, LLT10, ORK22, RCY6, RCY7, SKL5, 6, 7, 8, TAY3, WIS11, WIS12		

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
12. MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS Montane			
Refs.	SNH Review Series	71	Skye and Lochalsh Landscape Assessment
		75	Cairngorms Landscape Assessment
		78	Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde
		79	Mar Lodge Landscape Assessment
		92	Western Isles Landscape Character Assessment
		97	Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment
		100	Orkney Landscape Character Assessment
		103	Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment
		114	Inverness Landscape Assessment
		119	Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment
		120	Ben Alder, Ardrverikie and Creag Meagaidh Landscape Character Assessment
		122	Tayside Landscape Character Assessment
		123	Central Region Landscape Character Assessment

12. Mountains and Moorlands: Montane

North and west of the Highland Boundary Fault in the former Central, Grampian, Highland and Tayside Regions and the Islands, generally the land above the natural tree line, ranging from about 600m or 800m to well over 1,000m, typically above the continuous heather moorland with a rugged cover of bare rock and thinner vegetation. For the most part these are enduring landscapes that see little or very slow change. However, they are so attractive to mountaineers, walkers, skiers and others who seek the experience of these vast mountain areas that recreational access represents the most serious and obvious change. Pressure is undoubtedly increasing though the effects may not be increasing to the same extent as more and better management is introduced. Coniferous plantations encroach on the lower slopes and skiing apparatus, roads and overhead wires are regularly recorded as increasingly affecting the mountains.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

13. FRESH WATERS Running Waters

Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Occurring throughout the whole of Scotland running waters vary in character by geographic gradation and elevation. They become faster, and more turbulent, natural and liable to spate further north and west. Through the vertical plane they vary with descending elevation, often grading from fast flowing small burns cutting narrow, deep gorges or flowing rapidly off and through the peatlands of the moorlands and mountains, then down, more slowly, through the sloping glens of the Highlands and middle dales of the Southern Uplands, and then to the flat, wide floodplains of the lower dales, straths and carselands with their meandering loops of lethargic, wide rivers often contained by floodbanks. They vary enormously in length from the short, steep, dashes of the coastal dens and deans of Fife and the Scottish Borders, to the long and varied routes of the Clyde, Forth, Tay, Tweed, Spey, Dee and other names famous across the world for their industry, whisky, fishing and scenery. Throughout their journey to the loch or the sea, rivers and burns actively carve and create landform. Their valleys are often over-enlarged by glacial action such that the rivers seem too small - misfits in their own plain. Features such as river cliffs, spurs, bluffs, moraines, floodplains, ox bows, gravel beds and river terraces, gorges, gullies, flats, carselands, peatlands, marshes, fens, bogs, and many more are testament to the huge variety of watercourses and their associated features in the Scottish landscape.
	Landform	
	Land cover / land use	From the Lothians to the Highlands, the rivers have been described as the life-blood of the countryside, the focus of views and the unifying features of the landscape. They are used for fishing and many other sports and recreations, for water supply, transport and energy production. Their power has been harnessed by agricultural and industrial mills and their waters supply most of the distilleries. The banks of the rivers are frequently clothed in ancient semi-natural woodland, especially where slopes were too steep to farm or develop. Elsewhere the rivers and burns are bounded by innumerable land uses of which agriculture, forestry, urban development, golf courses, pubs, restaurants and hotels, designed landscapes and industry are amongst the most common.
	Settlement patterns	Settlement pattern varies according to the geographic location and stage of the river. For the most part the upper catchments are sparsely settled with occasional villages clustered at bridging points or a linear scatter of cottages along the river-side road. Settlement frequency and density increases rapidly from the middle to the lower valleys where towns and villages will generally be located on the rivers rather than away from them, subject always to the historic influences of flooding. Floodplains, spring lines, river corridors and landform and wetlands still determine the shape, location and distribution of settlements in many parts of Scotland.
	Distinctive point features	Bridges, spurs, bluffs, cliffs, waterfalls, dams, weirs, mills, towers and castles are amongst the many point features associated with rivers.
	Distinctive linear features	Banks and levees, riparian woodland, parallel roads and railways, pylon lines, canals, hedgerows and drystone dykes are all linear features distinctive of the settings of rivers and burns.
	Scale / openness	Enormously variable from the extremes of intimate, deeply incised and enclosed, small scale gorges to very large scale, open flat, horizontal exposed carselands such as those of the River Forth at Stirling to Clackmannan and Falkirk.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
13. FRESH WATERS Running Waters				
	Colour / texture	Variable, but often colourful with many subtle hues of green and brown and many varied textures.		
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Again very variable, most of the settled, middle and lower reaches of the rivers are complex, diverse landscapes which have been extensively modified by human activity and engineering. The upper catchments tend to be simpler and more natural with fewer signs of man's intervention in their natural processes, except, for the all too obvious hydro schemes.		
	Line / pattern	Many vertical and horizontal lines which are usually curving or sinuous in flowing, dynamic and irregular patterns. However, the more intensively farmed and settled lower valleys have more organised, planned, rectilinear and geometric layouts with straight and angular lines.		
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	The presence, sight, sound and movement of running water are irresistible and contribute to the natural, peaceful, enduring, reassuring ambience and very high recreational value of the burns and rivers. Waterfalls and rapids can be invigorating and inspirational. Upper dales of the Southern Uplands, and elsewhere remote, hidden burns on the mountains and moorlands can be places of great solitude with high restorative powers. Scottish rivers have been a focus for every kind of art, for hundreds of years, contributing significantly to the powerful links between the cultural and natural heritages for which the Scottish landscape has few equals.		
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A2 A4 A8 A9 A17 A19 A20 A24 A25 A29 A31	Loss of agricultural land to urban development Loss of or "improvement" of semi-natural, unimproved or semi-improved grasslands Drainage of semi-natural areas Flood prevention works Enlargement of field size / pattern Neglect of hedgerows Neglect of stone dykes Loss of hedgerow trees Neglect of hedgerow trees Decline / redundancy / dereliction of farm buildings / steadings Addition / replacement of (large) new agricultural buildings	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	Forestry	F2 F18 F19 F20 F23 F25 F26 F31	New medium-large scale coniferous afforestation Neglect / decline of semi-natural or native woodland Neglect / decline of other broadleaved / mixed woodland Neglect / decline of farm woodland Neglect / decline of avenues / tree lines / roadside trees / copses Replanting of other broadleaved / mixed woodland with inappropriate species Replanting of policy woodland with inappropriate species Maturity and potential decline of avenues / tree lines / roadside trees	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
13. FRESH WATERS Running Waters				
	Development	D2	Edge of town development (incremental)	●
		D4	Industrial, Business, Retail and Warehousing	●
		D6	Village expansion (incremental)	●
		D10	Linear developments along roads	●
		D11	Tourism related developments generally	●
		D13	General development pressure related to scenic value	●
		D14	Caravan and Camping sites	●
		D19	Leisure or recreational developments generally	●
		D21	Telecommunication and other masts / towers	○
		D29	New main road / bridge construction	●
		D31	Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads	●
		D32	Increasing urbanisation through roadside clutter	●
		D35	New single houses in the countryside	●
D40	Loss or erosion of landscape character due to inappropriate siting, design or building materials in new development	●		
	D42	Canal related development	●	
	Energy	E7	Hydro electric power schemes	●
		E10	Overhead lines	●
	Minerals	M2	New or extended Sand and Gravel - extraction from features e.g.. kames, eskers etc.	●
		M5	New or extended Hard rock quarries	○
M7		New or extended open cast coal extraction	○	
Others	P1	Neglect or decline of gardens and designed landscapes	○	
	P10	River Engineering for fishing	●	
Examples	Characteristic	AYS9	Lowland River Valleys of Ayrshire	
		CTR2	Highland River Valleys of Central LCA	
DGW9		Flooded Valley of Dumfries and Galloway		
STC8		Incised River Valleys of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley		
TAY1		Highland Glens of Tayside (good Northern gradation)		
Others	ABS5, AGC3, AYS10, AYS14, BFB4, DGW5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, FFE7, FFE8, INV8, 10, 11, KNS2, 8, 9, LLT1, 6, MLG4, MRN3, ORK21, RCY8, RCY9, SHD4, STC10, TAY7, 10, 11			
Refs.	SNH Review Series	78	Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde	
		91	The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment	
		93	A Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Isles	
		94	Dumfries and Galloway Landscape Assessment	
		96	Clackmannanshire Landscape Character Assessment	
		97	Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment	
		100	Orkney Landscape Character Assessment	
		101	Moray and Nairn Landscape Assessment	
		111	Ayrshire Landscape Assessment	
		112	The Borders Landscape Assessment	
		113	Fife Landscape Character Assessment	
		116	Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment	
		119	Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment	
		122	Tayside Landscape Character Assessment	
123	Central Region Landscape Character Assessment			
124	Stirling to Grangemouth Landscape Character Assessment			

13. Running Water

Occurring throughout the whole of Scotland running waters vary in character by geographic location and elevation, becoming faster, and more turbulent, natural and liable to spate further north and west. They vary enormously in length from the short, steep, dashes of the coastal dens and deans of Fife and the Scottish Borders, to the long and varied routes such as those of the Clyde, Forth, Tay, Tweed, Spey and Dee. Hydro schemes and river engineering for fishing continue to affect the upper reaches of the highland and island rivers but otherwise they tend to be more prone to natural changes, or occasional incidents of pollution or habitat loss or degradation, rather than to serious effects of development. Middle stage valleys on foothills and slopes can be subject to development pressures normally in the form of residential building, but the main changes here tend to be related to changes in agriculture and forestry. Many of the semi natural habitats of the upper and middle stretches of rivers have declined and continue to do so, though the scale and pace of change in habitats and features associated with river systems is difficult to assess. The lower dales, straths and valleys are generally under quite intensive, and probably increasing development pressure. Flood protection, new bridges, road improvements, new pipelines and other engineering and infrastructure schemes continue to threaten the character and naturalness of the rivers.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

14. FRESH WATERS Standing Waters

Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Although lochs and lochans occur frequently throughout Scotland, and vary enormously in size, this Vignette concentrates on the larger, deeper inland lochs to the north of the Highland Boundary Fault.
	Landform	The lochs tend to form a long, sinuous ribbon or a long series of lochs in a deep, often trench-like, steep sided glen with a narrow strip of land around the loch-shore, and moraines and other glacial debris at the ends of the valleys. The steep glen sides may include screes, spurs, outcrops, ridges, cliffs and waterfalls.
	Land cover / land use	Freshwater on the loch, sometimes dotted with small, rocky islands of native pinewood or semi-natural broadleaved woodland, often some boating, fishing, water sport and other leisure, recreation and tourism uses. Thin, poor, wet soils and steep slopes restrict use of the narrow fringe of farm land to rough pasture. In the north there are some loch-side crofts. The edges of the lochs are frequently lined with native pinewoods, semi-natural broadleaved woodland and coniferous plantations.
	Settlement patterns	Settlement tends to be linear, along the shorelines or in distinct clusters at the loch head or in sheltered bays. Steadings tend to be away from the loch shore but castles, large houses and their gate houses / lodges may be closer to the water.
	Distinctive point features	Castles, large houses, kirks, monuments, piers, jetties, dams and islands are characteristic.
	Distinctive linear features	The most distinctive linear features are the shorelines, often with roads following along both parallel shores, together with burns, rivers, waterfalls, hydro scheme pipelines and pylons. In summer the shorelines may be particularly conspicuous when the loch water level has been drawn down by the hydro schemes or water abstraction.
	Scale / openness	Usually large scale but relatively enclosed, depending on the width of the loch. The tunnel effect of glens can make them windswept
	Colour / texture	Varied colours, often seasonally colourful, and many textures with woodland and rocks contrasting with the often smooth stillness of the water. Night time reflections of surrounding lights on the water of the lochs, especially on calm nights
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Usually complex, diverse landscapes with many features sometimes doubled by reflections in the water surface. The natural lochs contrast with the often well tended and managed estates and loch-side areas.
	Line / pattern	Strong sinuous curving lines of the shores, with a marked contrast between the vertical lines of the glen slopes and the flat, horizontal lines of the lochs
Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Despite the activities on and around the lochs, these tend to be quiet, relatively calm, well tended landscapes where sound can echo across the stillness of the water. Other areas are busy transport corridors with traffic noise and almost continuous movement. The lochs can be a strong focus for communities and communication, and an important influence on art, leisure and cultural associations	

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
14. FRESH WATERS Standing Waters			
Examples	Characteristic	AGC4 CTR3 TAY2	Mountain Glens of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde Highland Lochs of Central Region Highland Glens with Lochs of Taysid
	Others	INV7, LGN4, LGN5, LBR3, LLT4, 13, 14, RCY10	
Refs.	SNH Review Series	78	Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde
		97	Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment
		114	Inverness Landscape Assessment
		119	Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment
		120	Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaidh Landscape Character Assessment
		122	Tayside Landscape Character Assessment
		123	Central Region Landscape Character Assessment

14. Fresh Waters: Standing Waters

Although lochs, lochans, reservoirs and pools of many kinds occur frequently throughout Scotland, and vary enormously in size, this Vignette concentrates on the larger, deeper inland lochs to the north of the Highland Boundary Fault, especially those in the Highlands, Argyll, and the former Central, Grampian and Tayside Regions. The most important pressures for change are those relating to hydro electric power schemes, fish farming and tourism, sport and leisure developments. These are generally widespread and increasing, gradually affecting more and more lochs, in increasingly remoter locations. As most of the Highland glens with larger lochs tend to be important transport corridors they are vulnerable to road improvements, either in the form of occasional major schemes or the incremental effects of many smaller improvements. These landscapes contain important examples of estates with a diverse range of historic artefacts and other features. Those which are not statutorily protected through regulatory controls are sensitive to loss or inappropriate management, or other change, which cumulatively can erode the character of the landscapes of the lochs and glens.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

15. FRESH WATERS Tidal Waters (Firths and Estuaries)

Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Principal Firths and estuaries on the mainland, coastal, low lying, quasi maritime
	Landform	Funnel-like, horizontal form, with flat or gently sloping or gently undulating land around the flat horizontal estuary with its continuous cycle of the tide covering and exposing the flat or very gently sloping sand or mud flats, saltmarsh, shingle etc of the intertidal estuarine areas, with permanent sea covering the sub-tidal. Raised beaches are common, spits and bars have accreted in some areas. Elsewhere there are locally conspicuous intrusions of rocky islands and stacks.
	Land cover / land use	Estuaries are used extensively for fishing, shooting, sailing and other recreational activities, commercial fishing and fish farming, ports, harbours, transport and navigation, mineral extraction including aggregates, oil and gas, military and industrial installations and activities, nature reserves and research. The northern and western firths characteristically have a delta of flat land at the head typically used for grazing and small scale arable cultivation.
	Settlement patterns	Absent on the estuaries but extensive urban and industrial development around and to landward in the estuaries of the Midland Valley. To the north and west the settlement pattern is more limited on the outer firths due to extreme exposure, usually small villages clustered in sheltered hollows or on stable, rocky promontories and headlands in the lee of higher hills. Loch / estuary head or river mouth villages and towns, often with harbour are typical of the more sheltered inner firths.
	Distinctive point features	In many firths and estuaries of the north and west there is a notable absence of point features but in the lowland, settled firths there are frequent small islands, occasional rock pinnacles or stacks and many bridges, rigs, masts, poles, buoys and other navigational infrastructure, jetties, piers, slipways and moored boats
	Distinctive linear features	The shoreline and tidelines, the constantly advancing and receding edge of the sea, headlands, promontories, horizons, waves, sand bars and spits, sand banks and sinuous, meandering outwash channels, straight groynes, long bridges some seemingly flying high over the lowland firths
	Scale / openness	Very large scale, very open, exposed
	Colour / texture	Very varied, bright, reflected blues and greens of the sea and the ever present white of the rolling and breaking waves, and reflective silver of the river and outwash channels at low tide contrast with the subdued browns and greys of the mudflats and dark, rough textured rocks. Night time reflections of surrounding lights on the water of the firths especially on calm high tides
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Simple, but rarely uniform and even locally diverse land and seascapes which are often the focus of both landward and maritime activity. Some of the less developed estuaries are more natural landscapes dominated by the tidal cycle by the weather and the sky rather than by human intervention.
	Line / pattern	Sinuous, flowing, curving lines, natural, random, patterns, extensive, panoramic views.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
15. FRESH WATERS Tidal Waters (Firths and Estuaries)				
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Natural landscapes dominated by the sights, sounds and smells of the sea, by the sky and the weather, where vast numbers of birds may congregate in noisy, wheeling, feeding or roosting flocks. These are flat, horizontal, locally busy landscapes crossed by large numbers of people over the great bridges of the Clyde, Forth and Tay, known throughout the world, and the symbol of how Scottish engineering has contributed to landscape character and distinctiveness. Other, less well known, estuaries can be relatively still, remote, wild, natural and inspirational landscapes of great solitude and recreational importance		
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A9 A11 A34	Flood prevention works Conversion of coastal habitats to agriculture New / extended / intensified fish farming installations	● ○ ●
	Forestry	N/A		
	Development	D2 D4 D9 D11 D16 D19 D20 D22 D24 D29 D37 D39	Edge of town development (incremental) Industrial, Business, Retail and Warehousing Port or harbour or pier new or extended / improved Tourism related developments generally Water sports Leisure or recreational developments generally New or extended waste management schemes Fish Farming related development onshore Industrial decline and dereliction New main road / bridge construction New or extended marinas Coast defence works	● ○ ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ● ○ ●
	Energy	E5 E6 E9 E10 E11	Potential for tidal barrages Wind farms generally or unspecified Single wind turbine generators Petro-chemical / Gas installations Overhead lines Pipelines	○ ● ● ● ● ●
	Minerals	M1	New or extended below ground sand and gravel extraction	●
	Others	P8 P9	Natural erosion of coast and coastal habitats Reclamation of coastal edge	● ○
	Examples	Most characteristic	FFE18 MYF1 MYF2 MYF3	Firths of Forth and Tay (Fife) Open Firth Narrow Firth and Narrow Firth Corridor of the Moray Firth
Others		CSL9	Kyles Firths and Sea Lochs of Caithness and Sutherland	
Refs.	SNH Review Series	90 103 113	Inner Moray Firth Landscape Character Assessment Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment Fife Landscape Character Assessment	

15. Tidal Waters (Estuaries and Firths)

The principal Firths and estuaries on the mainland, including, for example, the Clyde, Forth and Tay in the Midland lowlands and the Beauly, Cromarty, Dornoch and Moray Firths and Munlochy Bay in the north east. These are typically coastal, low lying, quasi maritime landscapes which may be rural and quiet or heavily industrialised. The intrinsic beauty, solitude and inspirational naturalness of these vast, flat, wet and muddy landscapes with their huge flocks of birds have not always been appreciated. For hundreds of years they have been relentlessly developed because of their flat land, shelter and access to the sea. Industrial fortunes have waxed and waned leaving a legacy of dereliction and desolate, under-used land in some areas, sharply contrasting with extensive estates of new houses or commercial sheds in others. A long programme of artificial coast defence and flood prevention has virtually ended because it is now recognised as unsustainable, and new national policies and legislation have introduced tight restrictions. However, all seem to be subject to development pressures to some degree and most have at least one major development project, such as a new bridge or a landfill or reclamation scheme. Military activity and land use is generally in decline, but not universally. Ports and harbours are either small and declining or large and rapidly expanding. Many of the estuaries have extensive nature reserves and the once ever-threatened mudflats are now more secure through their international nature conservation designations.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

16. THE COAST The Land Margin

Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	The landward margin of the coast, all around the mainland and the islands, from high water mark up to, in places, over 750m elevation, ranging from a narrow strip of perhaps only 50 metres to wide, coastal plains over 5km wide, essentially, the area which is strongly influenced by the presence or proximity of the sea.
	Landform	Enormously variable from very steep, almost cliff-like slopes to rolling hills, raised beaches, headlands and peninsulas, coastal plains and terraces, to coastal flats, dunes and links.
	Land cover / land use	Again, very variable including gorse knolls, scrub or stunted woodland, open moorland, rough or improved pastures, mixed farmland, open arable land, sand dunes, golf courses, designed landscapes, urban, leisure, tourism, industrial or commercial development, derelict land, military land, power stations, ports, harbours and transport corridors.
	Settlement patterns	Settlement patterns range from the uninhabited, inhospitable, exposed coasts of the Highlands and Islands through crofting and small farm areas to small villages and then, on the central lowland coasts of the Midlands Valley, some of Scotland's largest cities and towns. Settlements often have a strongly linear form along the coast and nucleated forms at the head of sea lochs.
	Distinctive point features	Settlements, steadings, landform features, telecommunication masts, commercial satellite dishes, towers, castles, monuments, lighthouses, coastguard installations, steadings, large houses, bridges and small groups of trees can all form distinctive point features.
	Distinctive linear features	Linear shelterbelts, shoreline or riparian woodland, linear settlements along loch shores, canals, rivers, burns, waterfalls, roads and railways (often following the coast), promenades, tracks and paths, and locally hedges and drystone dykes.
	Scale / openness	Variable from enclosed, sheltered coastal dens, gorges and valleys to large scale, extremely exposed, open, elevated hills.
	Colour / texture	Varies according to land cover and season but typically colours and textures are varied. Many coastal areas are very colourful.
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Again, varies according to the type, elevation and geographic location of the coast but usually quite complex, diverse landscapes with a lot of human activity focused on coastal strips and margins.
	Line / pattern	Usually landscapes with strong but variable lines and patterns.
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Landscapes with a character that is pervaded by the sights, sounds and smells of the sea, by the sky and the weather, and which are very distinctive, with a strong sense of place (often heightened by distinctive building styles and materials and settlement patterns) and important links between the natural, built, cultural and historic heritages. These are landscapes of considerable recreational, tourism, educational and artistic importance.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES

16. THE COAST The Land Margin

Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	<p>A1 Loss of agricultural land to forestry</p> <p>A2 Loss of agricultural land to urban development</p> <p>A3 Loss of agricultural land to other land uses</p> <p>A6 Conversion of permanent pasture to ley grass / rotations</p> <p>A10 Decline of traditional drainage / irrigation methods</p> <p>A11 Conversion of coastal habitats to agriculture</p> <p>A14 Changes in type or density of grazing</p> <p>A17 Enlargement of field size / pattern</p> <p>A19 Neglect of hedgerows</p> <p>A20 Neglect of stone dykes</p> <p>A21 Neglect of ditches / drains</p> <p>A23 Loss of shelterbelts</p> <p>A26 Neglect of shelterbelts</p> <p>A29 Decline / redundancy / dereliction of farm buildings / steadings</p> <p>A30 Conversion of steadings</p> <p>A32 Decline of crofting</p> <p>A34 New or extended or intensified fish farming installations</p> <p>A36 Inappropriate use or poor maintenance or redundancy of post and wire fences</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>○</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>○</p> <p>○</p> <p>○</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p>
	Forestry	<p>F1 New large scale coniferous afforestation</p> <p>F2 New medium-large scale coniferous afforestation</p> <p>F3 New small-medium scale coniferous afforestation</p> <p>F14 New / extension of native woodlands</p> <p>F18 Neglect / decline of semi-natural or native woodland</p> <p>F19 Neglect / decline of other broadleaved / mixed woodland</p> <p>F23 Neglect / decline of avenues / tree lines / roadside trees / copses</p> <p>F28 Maturity and potential decline of broadleaved / mixed woodland</p> <p>F29 Maturity and potential decline of policy woodland</p> <p>F32 Changes in forestry management as plantations near / reach commercial maturity</p> <p>F35 Fragmentation of woodland</p> <p>F36 Severance of woodland by roads / pipelines / overhead wires etc.</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>○</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>○</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p>

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
16. THE COAST The Land Margin				
	Development	D1 D2 D4 D6 D9 D10 D11 D12 D14 D15 D19 D20 D21 D22 D29 D31 D34 D35 D38 D39 D40	Major urban expansion Edge of town development (incremental) Industrial, Business, Retail and Warehousing Village expansion (incremental) Port or harbour or pier new or extended / improved Linear developments along roads Tourism related developments generally Tourism related development along tourist routes and at tourist attractions Caravan and Camping sites Golf Courses Leisure or recreational developments generally New or extended waste management schemes Telecommunication and other masts / towers Fish Farming related development onshore New main road / bridge construction Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads Erosion of vegetation owing to recreational pressure New single houses in the countryside New built development - unspecified Coast defence works Loss or erosion of landscape character due to inappropriate siting, design or building materials in new development	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ● ● ● ● ●
	Energy	E5 E9 E10 E11	Wind farms generally or unspecified Petro-chemical / Gas installations Overhead lines Pipelines	● ● ● ●
	Minerals	M1 M2 M3 M5 M8 M10	New or extended Sand and Gravel - below ground extraction New or extended Sand and Gravel - extraction from features e.g.. kames, eskers etc. New or extended Sand and Gravel - extraction from dunes New or extended Hard rock quarries New or extended peat extraction (commercial) Decline of mineral extraction and dereliction	● ● ● ● ● ●
	Others	P1 P4 P5 P8 P9	Neglect or decline of gardens and designed landscapes Loss or decline of historic / archaeological features Loss or neglect of historic buildings / archaeological sites Natural erosion of coast and coastal habitats Reclamation of coastal edge	● ● ● ● ○
Examples	Characteristic	LBR10 ORK4-14 FFE11-15 STC1	Rocky Coastal of Lochaber for western Highland coasts Orkney Coastal Landscapes for the range of Island coastal types Coastal Hills, Terraces, Cliffs, Braes and Flats of Fife for the coastal lowlands of the east Raised Beach of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley for the raised beaches of the west coast lowlands	

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
16. THE COAST The Land Margin			
	Others	ABC3, AGC19, 20, 21, 22, 25, AYS1 - 6, BFB1 and 2, BDR19, 20, 21, 30, CSL7, 8, 11, CTR9, DGW1, 2, 3, 15, 24, LTH7, MRN1 and 2, MYF4, RCY12, SHD7, TAY14, WIS6 Less good examples are: ABS1, AGC18, LBR15	
Refs.	SNH Review Series	19 37 78 80 90 91 92 93 94 97 100 101 103 111 112 113 116 119 122 123 124	Dunfermline District Landscape Assessment Banff and Buchan Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde Landscape Character Assessment of Aberdeen Inner Moray Firth Landscape Character Assessment The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment Western Isles Landscape Character Assessment A Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Isles Dumfries and Galloway Landscape Assessment Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment Orkney Landscape Character Assessment Moray and Nairn Landscape Assessment Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment Ayrshire Landscape Assessment The Borders Landscape Assessment Fife Landscape Character Assessment Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment Tayside Landscape Character Assessment Central Region Landscape Character Assessment Stirling to Grangemouth Landscape Character Assessment

16. The Coastal Land Margin

The landward margin of the coast, all around the mainland and the islands, from high water mark up to, in places, over 750m elevation, ranging from a narrow strip of perhaps only 50 metres to wide, coastal plains over 5km wide. Essentially, the area which is strongly influenced by the presence or proximity of the sea, and although extremely varied, good examples include the Highland coasts of Lochaber in the west, the range of Island coastal types found on Orkney in the north east, the Coastal Hills, Terraces, Cliffs, Braes and Flats of the east coast lowlands in Fife, and the Raised Beach of the west coast lowlands in the Clyde Valley. Not surprisingly, these remarkably varied landscapes have the widest range and longest list of pressures for change affecting them. Generally, pressures increase in the lowland areas and nearer to the main settlements. Urban expansion, leisure, tourism and recreation pressures are widespread and accelerating. Agricultural and forestry changes can be profound, but tend to be more localised. Many of the coastal landscape features such as semi-natural woodland, shelterbelts, designed landscapes, stone dykes, and dune / heath grasslands are in decline and the strong traditions of coastal architectural styles and building materials are widely being weakened by standardised design and materials.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
17. THE COAST The Shore (Intertidal)			
Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Intertidal shoreline of the mainland and islands	
	Landform	Comprises steeply sloping sand or shingle banks, sloping, stepped, terraced, shelved or flat rock, gently sloping or nearly flat shell or sandy beaches, or muddy flats used only for recreation, bait digging, shore fishing, navigation, nature reserves or research.	
	Land cover / land use		
	Settlement patterns	Absent	
	Distinctive point features	Jetties, piers, slipways, buoys, moored boats, occasionally natural rock pinnacles, stacks, caves or blowholes	
	Distinctive linear features	The shoreline and tidelines, the constantly advancing and receding edge of the sea, bays, headlands, promontories, horizons, waves, sinuous, meandering outwash channels, straight groynes	
	Scale / openness	Large to vast scale, very open and exposed	
	Colour / texture	Very varied, bright smooth white and yellow shell and sandy beaches; but otherwise muted colours of the dark, rough textured rocks, dark, brown or grey, smooth, highly reflective mud, and reflective silver of the outwash channels. At high tide, blues and greens of the sea and the ever present white of the rolling and breaking waves.	
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Simple, sometimes uniform but locally diverse areas which are natural or semi-natural, where the tidal cycle controls activity and intervention is generally limited to management of coastal processes and recreational use of beaches.	
	Line / pattern	Sinuous, flowing, curving lines, natural, random, patterns, extensive, panoramic views.	
Changes	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Natural landscapes dominated by the sights, sounds and smells of the sea, by the sky and the weather where waders scurry across the shore to the waters edge, sea birds rest on the sands or fly and call overhead. These are flat, horizontal, locally and seasonally busy, even crowded, landscapes on a fine summer's day, but at other times, and in many places these can be relatively natural and inspirational, often wild, remote landscapes of great solitude and emptiness.	
	Agriculture / aquaculture	N/A	
	Forestry	N/A	

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
17. THE COAST The Shore (Intertidal)				
	Development	D2 D4 D9 D11 D20 D29 D37 D39	Edge of town development (incremental) Industrial, Business, Retail and Warehousing Port or harbour or pier new or extended / improved Tourism related developments generally New or extended waste management schemes New main road / bridge construction including causeways New or extended marinas Coast defence works	○ ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○ ●
	Energy		Potential	
	Minerals	M1	New or extended Sand and Gravel - below ground extraction	●
	Others	P8 P9	Natural erosion of coast and coastal habitats Reclamation of coastal edge	● ●
Examples	Characteristic	FFE16 FFE17	Sandy shores Fife Landscape Character Assessment	
	Others	MYF1, 2 and 3		
Refs	SNH Review Series	90 113	Inner Moray Firth Landscape Character Assessment Fife Landscape Character Assessment	

The Shore

Entire coastline of mainland and all islands except estuaries (see Vignette 15) and where steep cliffs fall directly into sub-tidal areas. Self evidently these areas are not themselves developed, except for maritime structures or localised dredging or mineral excavation. However, former intertidal areas have been subject to extensive land claim by seaward extension of development, often involving waste disposal and other major engineering works to create harbours, docks, piers, jetties, embankments, railways, defence installations, marinas etc. They have also been extensively manipulated by coast protection and flood defence schemes. However, there is a growing awareness of the importance of sustaining natural systems and geomorphological processes and new legislation and policy has made these kinds of changes now uncommon, and smaller in scale where they do still occur. Nevertheless, there are recent examples, on the east coast, of pressures for waste disposal and mineral extraction on the intertidal.

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES				
18. THE SEA Surrounding Seas				
Distinctiveness	Distribution / context	Maritime areas and remoter off shore islands, below the intertidal and outwith the estuaries		
	Landform	Flat, permanently covered by sea but with conspicuous intrusions of rocky islands and stacks		
	Land cover / land use	Saltwater and rock, some cliff or sparse grass / moor vegetation on islands. Sea used for fishing, sailing and other recreational activities, transport and navigation, mineral extraction including aggregates, oil and gas		
	Settlement patterns	Absent except for rare island habitation and oil / gas rigs, automatic lighthouses and lightships		
	Distinctive point features	Islands, stacks, rigs, ships, navigational features		
	Distinctive linear features	Horizon, waves and wakes		
	Scale / openness	Vast scale, very exposed		
	Colour / texture	Can be very colourful with smooth textures and many blue / green variations reflecting sky, cloud and light, and sails of yachts and navigation infrastructure can be colourful; but sea colours can also be subdued with grey of haars and dense fogs		
	Complexity / variety / intervention	Uniform, simple, very natural landscape with little visible human intervention		
	Line / pattern	Occasionally breaking waves and wakes create linear features and patterns but usually patterns irregular and natural, created by scatter of islands or buoys and boats		
	Sounds / smells / movement / ambience	Landscapes always dominated by the vastness of the sea and the sky and the weather and light conditions. Constant sound of the sea, often also the wind and sea birds which fly almost continuously over the sea, or wheel higher in the sky or around islands and cliffs. Slow movement of ships and rolling of swell and waves.		
Changes	Agriculture / aquaculture	A34	New or extended or intensified fish farming installations	●
	Forestry	N/A		
	Development	N/A		
	Energy	E5 E9 E11	Wind farms generally or unspecified Petro-chemical / Gas installations Pipelines Potential for tidal barrages in bays.	● ○ ○ ○
	Minerals		Marine aggregate dredging	○
	Others			

SNH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER VIGNETTES			
18. THE SEA Surrounding Seas			
Examples	Characteristic	FFE19	The North Sea Fife Landscape Character Assessment
	Others	Fife is only Landscape Character Assessment to include sub-tidal maritime landscapes, but CSL9, RCY11 and SKL9 refer to fjords and sea lochs	
Refs.	SNH Review Series	71 103 113 119	Skye and Lochalsh Landscape Assessment Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment Fife Landscape Character Assessment Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment

18 Surrounding Seas

Maritime areas around the whole of the mainland and islands, below the intertidal and outwith the estuaries. Includes many small, uninhabited and remote off shore islands, but not those included in the Landscape Character Assessments such as Ailsa Craig, Arran, the Hebrides, the whole of the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland islands. The maritime landscapes tend to be very stable and enduring, even though the use of the seas and the effects of human activity continue to increase, probably at an accelerating pace. The water quality and carrying capacity of the seas may change without a visible change to the seascapes. On shore development is one of the most obvious effects on the character of the seas. Other noticeable changes tend to be increases in shipping or new structures such as inshore bridges or port extensions or, further out to sea, rigs, masts or wind turbine generators, but these are rare and their effects on character are usually quite localised. even though they may be visible over long distances.

APPENDIX A LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

Aberdeen City

ABC1	Major River Valleys
ABC2	Hills
ABC3	Coast
ABC4	Open Farmland
ABC5	Wooded Farmland

Aberdeenshire South & Central

ABS1	Coastal Strip
ABS2	Agricultural Heartlands
ABS3	Farmed Moorland Edge
ABS4	Moorland Plateaux
ABS5	Straths and Valleys

Argyll and the Firth of Clyde

AGC1	Steep Ridgeland and Mountains
AGC2	High Tops
AGC3	Hidden Glens
AGC4	Mountain Glens
AGC5	Open Ridgeland
AGC6	Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic
AGC7	Craggy Upland
AGC8	Moorland Plateau
AGC9	Rocky Moorland
AGC10	Upland Parallel Ridges
AGC11	Boulder Moors
AGC12	High Stepped Basalt
AGC13	Rolling Farmland with Estates
AGC14	Bay Farmland
AGC15	Lowland Bog and Moor
AGC16	Marginal Farmland Mosaic
AGC17	Basalt Lowlands
ASC18	Lowland Ridges and Moss
AGC19	Coastal Plain
AGC20	Rocky Mosaic
AGC21	Low Coastal Hills
AGC22	Coastal Parallel Ridges
AGC23	Flat Moss and Mudflats
AGC24	Slate Islands
AGC25	Sand-Dunes and Machair

Ayrshire

AYS1	Raised Beach Coast
AYS2	Lowland Coast
AYS3	Coastal Fringe with Agriculture
AYS4	Coastal Headland
AYS5	Coastal Valley with Policies
AYS6	Coastal Lowland Moor
AYS7	Ayrshire Lowlands
AYS8	Broad Valley Lowland
AYS9	Lowland River Valleys
AYS10	Upper River Valleys
AYS11	Lower Dale
AYS12	Middle Dale
AYS13	Intimate Pastoral Valleys
AYS14	Upland Glen

AYS15	Upland Basin
AYS16	Lowland Hills
AYS17	Foothills
AYS18	Foothills with Forest
AYS19	Plateau Moorland
AYS20	Plateau Moorland with Forest
AYS21	Rugged Moorland Hills and Valleys
AYS22	Rugged Moorland Hills Valleys with Forestry
AYS23	Southern Uplands
AYS24	Southern Uplands with Forest
AYS25	Rugged Granite Upland
AYS26	Rugged Granite Upland with Forest
AYS27	Rocky Volcanic Islands

Banff & Buchan

BFB1	The Coast
BFB2	Coastal Farmland
BFB3	Agricultural Heartland
BFB4	River Valley's

Borders Region

BDR1	Dissected Plateau Moorland
BDR2	Plateau Grassland
BDR3	Plateau Outliers
BDR4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
BDR5	Southern Uplands Forest Covered
BDR6	Cheviot Uplands
BDR7	Cheviot Foothills
BDR8	Rolling Farmland
BDR9	Platform Farmland
BDR10	Grassland with Rock Outcrops
BDR11	Grassland with Hills
BDR12	Undulating Grassland
BDR13	Poor Rough Grassland
BDR14	Upland Fringe Moorland
BDR15	Lowland with Drumlins
BDR16	Rolling Lowland Margin
BDR17	Lowland Margin Platform
BDR18	Lowland Margin with Hills
BDR19	Coastal Farmland
BDR20	Coastal Pasture
BDR21	Coastal Moorland
BDR22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor
BDR23	Pastoral Upland Valley
BDR24	Upland Valley with Farmland
BDR25	Upland Valley with Woodland
BDR26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
BDR27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
BDR28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
BDR29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
BDR30	Coastal Valley

Cairngorms

CNG1	Mountain Plateau
CNG2	Uplands and Glens
CNG3	Cairngorm Straths

Caithness and Sutherland

CSL1	Sweeping Moorland
CSL2	Flat Peatland
CSL3	Moorland Slopes and Hills
CSL4	Cnocan
CSL5	Lone Mountains
CSL6	Irregular Massif
CSL7	High Cliffs and Sheltered Bays
CSL8	Long Beaches Dunes and Links
CSL9	Kyles Firths and Sea Lochs
CSL10	Strath
CSL11	Coastal Shelf
CSL12	Harbour
CSL13	Town
CSL14	Open Intensive Farmland
CSL15	Mixed Agriculture and Settlement
CSL16	Small Farms and Crofts

Central Region

CTR1	Mountains
CTR2	Highland River Valleys
CTR3	Highland Lochs
CTR4	Lowland Hills
CTR5	Lowland Hill Fringes
CTR6	Lowland Plateaux
CTR7	Lowland River Valleys
CTR8	Lowland Valley Fringes
CTR9	Coastal Margins

Clackmannanshire

CLK1	Hills
CLK2	River Valleys
CLK3	Valley Fringes

Dumfries and Galloway

DGW1	Peninsula
DGW2	Peninsula with Gorsey Knolls
DGW3	Coastal Flats
DGW4	Shallow Flat Bottomed Valley
DGW5	Narrow Wooded River Valleys
DGW6	Intimate Pastoral Valleys
DGW7	Lower Dale (Valley)
DGW8	Middle Dale (Valley)
DGW9	Flooded Valley
DGW10	Upper Dale (Valley)
DGW11	Upland Glens
DGW12	Moss and Forest Lowland
DGW13	Drumlin Pasture in Moss and Moor Lowland
DGW14	Drumlin Pastures
DGW15	Coastal Plateau
DGW16	Flow Plateau
DGW17	Upland Fringe
DGW18	Plateau Moorland
DGW19	Plateau Moorland with Forest
DGW20	Foothills
DGW21	Foothills with Forest
DGW22	Southern Uplands
DGW23	Southern Uplands with Forest
DGW24	Coastal Granite Uplands
DGW25	Rugged Granite Uplands
DGW26	Rugged Granite Uplands with Forest

Dunfermline Subsumed into Fife

Fife

FFE1	The Uplands
FFE2	Upland Slopes
FFE3	Upland Foothills
FFE4	Pronounced Volcanic Hills and Craigs
FFE5	Lowland Hills and Valleys
FFE6	Lowland Open Sloping Farmland
FFE7	Lowland Dens
FFE8	Lowland Glacial Meltwater Valleys
FFE9	Lowland River Basin
FFE10	Lowland Loch Basin
FFE11	Coastal Hills
FFE12	Coastal Terraces
FFE13	Coastal Cliffs
FFE14	Coastal Braes
FFE15	Coastal Flats

Inverness

INV1	Rugged Massif
INV2	Rolling Uplands
INV3	Rocky Moorland Plateau
INV4	Rocky Moorland Plateau with Woodland
INV5	Flat Moorland Plateau with Woodland
INV6	Farmed and Wooded Foothills
INV7	Broad Steep-Sided Glen
INV8	Wooded Glen
INV9	Narrow Wooded Glen
INV10	Fanned Straths
INV11	Narrow Fanned Straths
INV12	Rolling Farmland and Woodland
INV13	Enclosed Farmland
INV14	Crofting Settlement
INV15	Inverness

Kinross-shire

KNS1	The Uplands
KNS2	Ochil Glens
KNS3	Upland Slopes
KNS4	Loch Leven Basin Low Hills
KNS5	Loch Leven Basin
KNS6	Kinross House
KNS7	Crook of Devon
KNS8	Devoll Gorge
KNS9	Black Devon
KNS10	Blairadam

Laggan

LGN1	Isolated Mountain Plateau
LGN2	Smooth Rounded Hills
LGN3	Small Craggy Knolls and Hills
LGN4	Loch and Glen
LGN5	Steep Sided Trench
LGN6	Traffic Corridor Through Irregular Edged Glen

Lochaber

LBR1	Blanket Bog
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LBR2	Mountain Massif
LBR3	Settled Lochs
LBR4	Broad Forested Strath
LBR5	Smooth Moorland Ridges
LBR6	Rocky Moorland
LBR7	Rugged Massif
LBR8	Interlocking Sweeping Peaks
LBR9	Rugged Coastal Hills
LBR10	Rocky Coastal
LBR11	Expansive Moss
LBR12	Lowland Ridges and Moss
LBR13	Craggy Upland
LBR14	Granite Moorland
LBR15	Stepped Basalt Landscape
LBR16	Crofted Basalt Coast
LBR17	Volcanic Moorland
LBR18	Angular Mountain Range

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs

LLT1	The Carse of Forth
LLT2	Rolling Farmland
LLT3	River Plain with Settlement
LLT4	Lochs and Loch Basins
LLT5	Forests
LLT6	Glens and Straths
LLT7	The Trossachs
LLT8	Braes of Balquhidder
LLT9	Mountain Plateaux
LLT10	Mountains and Uplands
LLT11	Flanking Hills and Crags
LLT12	Foothills
LLT13	Lowland Loch Fringe
LLT14	Loch Islands

Lothians

LTH1	Uplands
LTH2	Upland Fringes
LTH3	Lowland River Valleys
LTH4	Lowland Hills and Ridges
LTH5	Lowland Plateaux
LTH6	Lowland Plains
LTH7	Coastal Margins

Mar Lodge

MLG1	The Plateaux
MLG2	Southern Moorlands
MLG3	Wooded Glens
MLG4	Upper Deeside

Moray & Nairn

MRN1	Coastal
MRN2	Coastal Lowlands
MRN3	River Valleys
MRN4	Uplands

Inner Moray Firth

MYF1	Open Firth
MYF2	Enclosed Firth
MYF3	Narrow Firth Corridor

MYF4	Hard Coastal Edge
MYF5	Crofting
MYF6	Open Farmed Slopes
MYF7	Forest Edge Farming
MYF8	Enclosed Farmed Landscapes
MYF9	Intensive Farming
MYF10	Forested Backdrop

Orkney

ORK1	Holms
ORK2	Whaleback Island Landscapes
ORK3	Ridgeline Island Landscapes
ORK4	Low Island Pastures
ORK5	Undulating Island Pasture
ORK6	Coastal Plain
ORK7	Coastal Basins
ORK8	Inclined Coastal Pastures
ORK9	Coastal Granite Pastures
ORK10	Isolated Coastal knolls
ORK11	Enclosed Bay Landscapes
ORK12	Coastal Hills and Heath
ORK13	Cliff Landscapes
ORK14	Coastal Sand Landscapes
ORK15	Peatland Basins
ORK16	Loch Basins
ORK17	Low Moorland
ORK18	Plateau Heaths and Pasture
ORK19	Rolling Hill Fringe
ORK20	Moorland Hills
ORK21	Glaciated Valley
ORK22	Rugged Glaciated Hills
ORK23	Urban and Rural Development

Ross and Cromarty

RCY1	Smooth Moorland
RCY2	Undulating Moorland
RCY3	Sloping Terrace Moorland
RCY4	Rocky Moorland
RCY5	Cnocan
RCY6	Rugged Mountain Massif
RCY7	Rounded Hills
RCY8	Narrow Farmed Strath
RCY9	Wide Farmed Strath
RCY10	Linear Loch
RCY11	Fjord
RCY12	Enclosed Bay and Offshore Islands
RCY13	Forest Edge Farming
RCY14	Linear Crofting
RCY15	Scattered Crofting
RCY16	Harbour Settlement

Skye and Lochalsh

SKL1	Smooth Stepped Moorland
SKL2	Rocky Moorland and Rocky Undulating Plateau
SKL3	Landslide Edge
SKL4	Feat Hag
SKL5	Rugged Massif
SKL6	Interlocking Sweeping Peaks
SKL7	Angular Mountain Range
SKL8	Rounded Hills

SKL9	Sounds and Narrows
SKL10	Coastal Strath
SKL11	Coniferous Woodland Plantation
SKL12	Service Corridor
SKL13	Linear Crofting
SKL14	Scattered Crofting
SKL15	Harbour Settlement
SKL16	Rural Estate Settlement

Shetland

SHD1	Major Uplands
SHD2	Peatland and Moorland
SHD3	Undulating Moorland with Lochs
SHD4	Inland Valleys
SHD5	Farmed and Settled Lowland and Coast
SHD6	Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds
SHD7	Coastal Edge

Strathclyde

STC1	Raised Beach
STC2	Floodplain
STC3	Urban Greenspace
STC4	Rolling Farmland
STC5	Plateau Farmland
STC6	Rugged Upland Farmland
STC7	Fragmented Farmlands
STC8	Incised River Valleys
STC9	Green Corridors
STC10	Broad Valley Lowland
STC11	Broad Urban Valley
STC12	Upland River Valleys
STC13	Broad Valley Upland
STC14	Upland Glen
STC15	Foothills
STC16	Drumlin Foothills
STC17	Old Red Sandstone Hills
STC18	Plateau Moorlands
STC19	Moorland Hills and Ridges
STC20	Rugged Moorland Hills
STC21	Southern Uplands

Tayside

TAY1	Highland Glens
TAY2	Highland Glens with Lochs
TAY3	Highland Summits and Plateaux
TAY4	Plateau Moor: Rannoch Moor
TAY5	Highland Foothills
TAY6	Lowland Hills
TAY7	Lowland River Corridors
TAY8	Igneous Hills
TAY9	Dolerite Hills
TAY10	Broad Valley Lowland
TAY11	Firth Lowlands
TAY12	Low Moorland Hills
TAY13	Dipslope Farmland
TAY14	Coast
TAY15	Lowland Basin

Western Isles

WIS1	Crofting One
WIS2	Crofting Two
WIS3	Crofting Three
WIS4	Crofting Four
WIS5	Uist Farming
WIS6	Machair
WIS7	Boggy Moorland
WIS8	Rocky Moorland
WIS9	Knock and Lochan
WIS10	Rock and Lochan
WIS11	Mountain Massif(One)
WIS12	Mountain Massif(Two)

APPENDIX B

Landscape Character Assessment Reports which comprise the SNH National Programme of Landscape Character Assessment 1994 - 1998.

Review Series No.	Title	Date	Author(s)
19	Dunfermline District Landscape Assessment	1996	Tyldesley, David and Associates
37	National programme of landscape character assessment Banff and Buchan	1994	Cobham Resource Consultants
71	Skye and Lochalsh landscape assessment	1996	Stanton, C.
75	Cairngorms landscape assessment	1996	Turnbull Jeffrey partnership
77	The landscape of Kinross-shire	1995	Tyldesley, David and Associates
78	Landscape assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde	1996	Environmental Resources Management
79	Mar Lodge landscape assessment	1996	Turnbull Jeffrey Partnership
80	Landscape character assessment of Aberdeen	1997	Nicoll, L. Johnstone, A. Campbell, L.
90	Inner Moray Firth landscape character assessment	1997	Fletcher, S.
91	The Lothians landscape character assessment	1997	ASH Consulting Group
92	Western Isles landscape character assessment	1998	Richards, J.
93	A landscape assessment of The Shetland Isles	1998	Gillespies
94	Dumfries and Galloway landscape assessment	1998	Land Use Consultants
96	Clackmannanshire landscape character assessment	1998	ASH Consulting Group
97	Lochaber landscape character assessment	1998	Environmental Resources Management
100	Orkney landscape character assessment	1998	Land Use Consultants
101	Moray and Nairn landscape assessment	1998	Turnbull Jeffrey Partnership
102	South and Central Aberdeenshire landscape character assessment	1998	Environmental Resources Management
103	Caithness and Sutherland landscape character assessment	1998	Stanton, C.
111	Ayrshire landscape assessment	1998	Land Use Consultants
112	The Borders landscape assessment	1999	ASH Consulting Group
113	Fife landscape character assessment	1999	Tyldesley, David and Associates
114	Inverness landscape assessment	1999	Richards, J.
116	Glasgow and the Clyde Valley landscape assessment	1999	Land Use Consultants
119	Ross and Cromarty landscape character assessment	1999	Ferguson McIlveen
120	Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaidh landscape character assessment	1999	Landscape Group, Advisory Services, SNH
122	Tayside landscape character assessment	1999	Land Use Consultants
123	Central Region landscape character assessment	1999	ASH Consulting Group
124	Stirling to Grangemouth landscape character assessment	1999	Tyldesley, David and Associates

APPENDIX C FORCES FOR CHANGE

Code	Description
A	<i>Agriculture / Aquaculture</i>
A1	Loss of agricultural land to forestry
A2	Loss of agricultural land to urban development
A3	Loss of agricultural land to other land uses
A4	Loss of or "improvement" of semi-natural, unimproved or semi-improved grasslands
A5	Conversion of grassland to arable
A6	Conversion of permanent pasture to ley grass / rotations
A7	Drainage of agricultural fields
A8	Drainage of semi-natural areas
A9	Flood prevention works
A10	Decline of traditional drainage / irrigation methods
A11	Conversion of coastal habitats to agriculture
A12	Conversion of woodland to agriculture
A13	Abandonment of hill farming / grazing
A14	Changes in type or density of grazing
A15	Changes in practice of muirburn
A16	Loss of heather moorland or heather cover on moorland, improvement of outbye land
A17	Enlargement of field size / pattern
A18	Removal of field boundaries
A19	Neglect of hedgerows
A20	Neglect of stone dykes
A21	Neglect of ditches / drains
A22	Loss of small farm woodlands
A23	Loss of shelterbelts
A24	Loss of hedgerow trees
A25	Neglect of hedgerow trees
A26	Neglect of shelterbelts
A27	Planting new farm woodlands
A28	Planting new shelterbelts
A29	Decline / redundancy / dereliction of farm buildings / steadings
A30	Conversion of steadings
A31	Addition / replacement of (large) new agricultural buildings
A32	Decline of crofting
A33	Disposal of agricultural wastes
A34	New or extended or intensified fish farming installations
A35	Accumulation of shoreline debris and litter from fishing boats etc.
A36	Inappropriate use or poor maintenance of redundancy of post and wire fences
A37	Extensive pig farming, clutter of arcs and changes to fields and surfaces
A38	General intensification of arable cultivation with loss or incremental erosion of semi-natural habitats and vegetation
A39	Overgrazing by rabbits
A40	Affects of set-aside on arable land
A41	Decline of horticulture and orchards
D	<i>Development</i>

- D1 Major urban expansion
- D2 Edge of town development (incremental)
- D3 Housing generally
- D4 Industrial, Business, Retail and Warehousing
- D5 Neglect / decline of countryside around towns
- D6 Village expansion (incremental)
- D7 New settlement(s)
- D8 Airfield new or extended / improved
- D9 Port or harbour or pier new or extended / improved
- D10 Linear developments along roads
- D11 Tourism related developments generally
- D12 Tourism related development along tourist routes and at tourist attractions
- D13 General development pressure related to scenic value
- D14 Caravan and Camping sites
- D15 Golf Courses
- D16 Water sports
- D17 Motorised vehicles off road
- D18 Skiing and related infrastructure
- D19 Leisure or recreational developments generally
- D20 New or extended waste management schemes
- D21 Telecommunication and other masts / towers
- D22 Fish Farming related development onshore
- D23 New or replacement (large) agricultural buildings
- D24 Industrial decline and dereliction
- D25 Redevelopment of derelict / unused vacant land
- D26 Redevelopment of rural buildings (e.g. MoD, Hospitals)
- D27 Redevelopment of airfields or MoD land
- D28 Conversion / redevelopment of farm steadings
- D29 New main road / bridge construction
- D30 New minor road / bridge construction
- D31 Incremental improvement / upgrading of roads
- D32 Increasing urbanisation through roadside clutter
- D33 Increase in redundant telecommunication, navigation or military installations and structures
- D34 Erosion of vegetation owing to recreational pressure
- D35 New single houses in the countryside
- D36 Erosion of road verges and roadside features
- D37 New or extended marinas
- D38 New build development - unspecified
- D39 Coast defence works
- D40 Loss of erosion of landscape character due to inappropriate siting, design or building materials in new development
- D41 Development of the valley floor
- D42 Canal related development
- D43 Reservoir and water supply infrastructure

- F Forestry**
- F1 New large scale coniferous afforestation
- F2 New medium-large scale coniferous afforestation

- F3 New small-medium coniferous afforestation
- F4 New large scale mixed or broadleaved woodland planting
- F5 New small-medium scale mixed or broadleaved woodland planting
- F6 New shelterbelt planting
- F7 New farm woodland planting
- F8 New hedgerow tree planting
- F9 New ornamental tree planting
- F10 Planting of open/wild land
- F11 Planting of moorland
- F12 Planting of marginal hill farmland
- F13 Planting of other semi-natural habitats
- F14 New/extension of native woodlands
- F15 Planting obscuring landform
- F16 Planting obscuring other landscape/historical features
- F17 Planting obscuring views
- F18 Neglect/decline of semi-natural or native woodland
- F19 Neglect/decline of other broadleaved/mixed woodland
- F20 Neglect/decline of farm woodland
- F21 Neglect/decline of policy woodland
- F22 Neglect/decline of shelterbelts
- F23 Neglect/decline of avenues/tree lines/roadside trees/roundels
- F24 Replanting of semi-natural woodland with inappropriate species
- F25 Replanting of other broadleaved/mixed woodland with inappropriate species
- F26 Replanting of policy woodland with inappropriate species
- F27 Replanting of shelterbelts with inappropriate species
- F28 Maturity and potential decline of broadleaved/mixed woodland
- F29 Maturity and potential decline of policy woodland
- F30 Maturity and potential decline of shelterbelts
- F31 Maturity and potential decline of avenues/tree lines/roadside trees
- F32 Changes in forestry management as plantations near/reach commercial
- F33 Changes in extent and character of woodland
- F34 Changes in character of woodland edges
- F35 Fragmentation of woodland
- F36 Severance of woodland by roads/pipelines/overhead wires etc.
- F37 Restoration and replacement of policy woodlands
- F38 Lowland crofting
- F39 Biomass planting for fuel production
- F40 New or improved Forestry tracks
- F41 New woodland planting/afforestation of unspecified scale or type
- F42 Loss of woodland to new built development and changes of use other than agriculture
- F43 Felling of plantations without re-planting

E Energy

- E1 New Power Station
- E2 Redevelopment of power station
- E3 Medium-large scale wind farms
- E4 Small scale wind farms
- E5 Wind farms generally or unspecified

- E6 Single wind turbine generators
- E7 Hydro electric power schemes
- E8 Biomass planting for energy production
- E9 Petro-chemical/Gas installations
- E10 Overhead lines
- E11 Pipelines
- E12 Decommissioning of oil and gas installations

M Minerals

- M1 New or extended Sand and Gravel - below ground extraction
- M2 New or extended Sand and Gravel - extraction from features e.g. kames, eskers etc.
- M3 New or extended Sand and Gravel - extraction from dunes
- M4 New or extended crushed rock aggregates quarries
- M5 New or extended Hard rock quarries
- M6 New or extended vein and rare mineral extraction
- M7 New or extended open cast coal extraction
- M8 New or extended peat extraction (commercial)
- M9 New or extended peat extraction (domestic)
- M10 Decline of mineral extraction and dereliction
- M11 Potential for superquarry developments
- M12 Unspecified mineral extraction
- M13 Aggregate extraction but source/type unspecified
- M14 New or extended gold mines
- M15 Landfill after-use in mineral workings
- M16 Mineral waste disposal

P Other

- P1 Neglect or decline of gardens and designed landscapes
- P2 Loss of gardens and designed landscapes
- P3 Development in gardens and designed landscapes
- P4 Loss or decline of historic/archaeological features
- P5 Loss or neglect of historic buildings/archaeological sites
- P6 New, extended or intensification of military activities
- P7 Overgrazing by/overpopulation of deer
- P8 Natural erosion of coast and coastal habitats
- P9 Reclamation of coastal edge
- P10 River Engineering for fishing