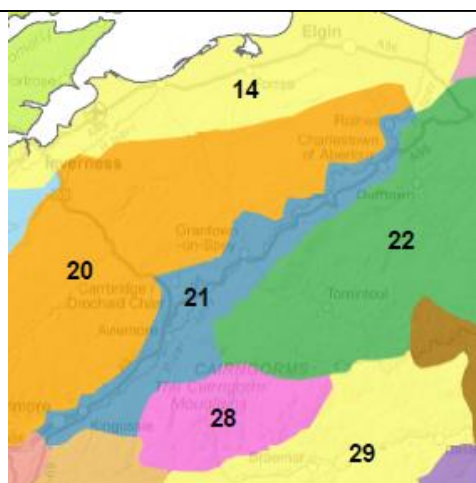


| Descriptions 21 - 30 |                    |    |                             |
|----------------------|--------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 21                   | Speyside           | 22 | Ladder and Cromdale Hills   |
| 23                   | Gordon and Garioch | 24 | Small Isles and Ardamurchan |
| 25                   | Morar and Knoydart | 26 | Laggan and Ben Alder        |
| 27                   | Drumochter         | 28 | Cairngorm Massif            |
| 29                   | Upper Deeside      | 30 | Deeside and Donside         |

## 21 Speyside



### Description

This is a long, wide and varied strath containing wetlands, woodland, farmland, and settlements. Distinctive Caledonian pine and birch woods extend uphill, giving way to open moorland on the higher adjacent hills. The valley forms a major north-south transport corridor: road and rail routes, and busy settlements, contrast with the tranquillity of the river and hills. Prehistoric settlement remains are common, and some military structures such as Ruthven barracks, are still prominent. The architectural character is predominantly mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century, as a result of improvements in agriculture and the opening of the railway from Perth to Aviemore in 1863. Distilleries form frequent landmarks amongst the settlements and steadings.

### Key technical information sources

LCA: Cairngorms (Report No 75)  
[Moray & Nairn small part]

NHF: North East Coast (12)

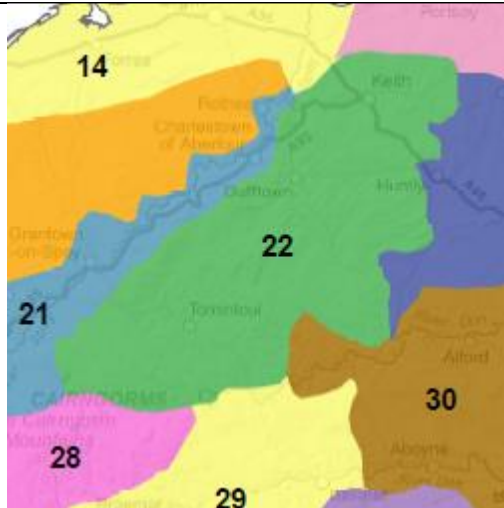
HLA: XX

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191-195

### Selected creative associations

Music  
Haughs of Cromdale (traditional)

## 22 Ladder and Cromdale Hills



### Description

This range of moorland hills forms simple skylines when viewed from the intervening glens. They seem large until compared to the Cairngorm Mountains immediately to the south. The uplands are heather-clad and managed for grouse. Now sparsely populated, the remains of shielings are scattered on the hills, demonstrating the importance of transhumance to past communities. The hills are mostly experienced from the east-west routes that cross them. The busiest roads and larger settlements, such as Keith, lie to the north of the area. Large distilleries and small whisky towns are located in the valleys, often at the confluence of the Spey with subsidiary burns.

### Key technical information sources

LCA: Moray and Nairn  
South and Central Aberdeenshire  
Cairngorms

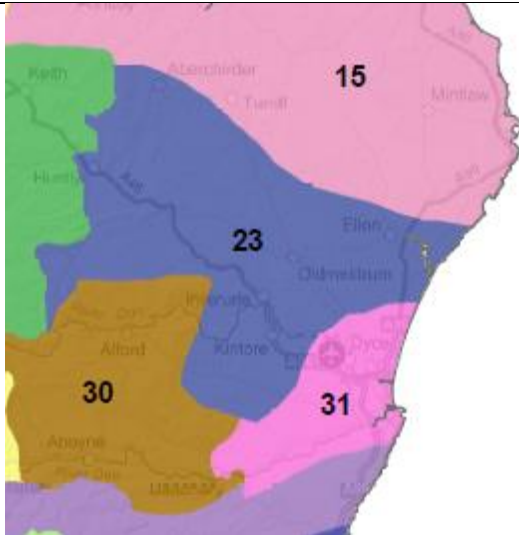
NHF: Cairngorms Massif (11)  
North East Glens (12)

HLA: XX

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191-195

### Selected creative associations

## 23 Gordon and Garioch



### Description

This area of gently undulating farmland extends to meet low moorland hills, amongst which Bennachie is a notable landmark. Rivers meander through the landscape, with small but expanding towns located at their bridging points. Other small settlements are scattered throughout, linked by a network of minor roads. These settlements were formerly the centre of cottage industries, particularly knitting and weaving. Prehistoric remains are particularly visible, with many standing stones and stone circles. There are many castles, several of which, for example Crathes and Craigevar, are very well known. Quarries, including the granite workings at Kemnay, large agricultural marts, and paper mills along the Don provide a contrast to the neat farmland landscape.

### Key technical information sources

LCA: South and Central Aberdeenshire

NHF: North east Coastal Plain (9)  
North East Glens (12)

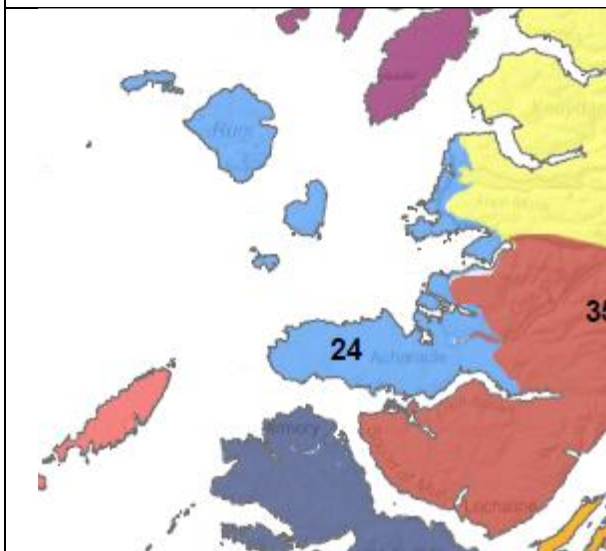
HLA: XX

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*Buildings of the Scottish Countryside* pp 186-188

### Selected creative associations

Poetry  
Harlaw (Sir Walter Scott)

## 24 Small Isles and Ardamurchan



### Description

This is a diverse coastal area of high mountains, sandy beaches, steep rocky cliffs and headlands, characterised by iconic views across the sea. The outlines of the four diverse Small Isles dominate the western skyline. These islands are largely surrounded by the Ardnamurchan peninsula and the Morar coast. Settlement on Ardnamurchan is scattered along the one main road, known as the 'Road to the Isles', which runs southwards from the vibrant fishing and ferry port at Mallaig. Away from the main road there is a feeling of remoteness. Ardnamurchan Point is the most westerly point on the British mainland, while Kilchoan is the most westerly village. The isles are also rich in prehistoric remains with chambered cairns still visible in today's landscape.

### Key technical information sources

LCA: Lochaber  
NHF: Western Seaboard (6)  
[Western Highland (8) small part]

HLA: XX

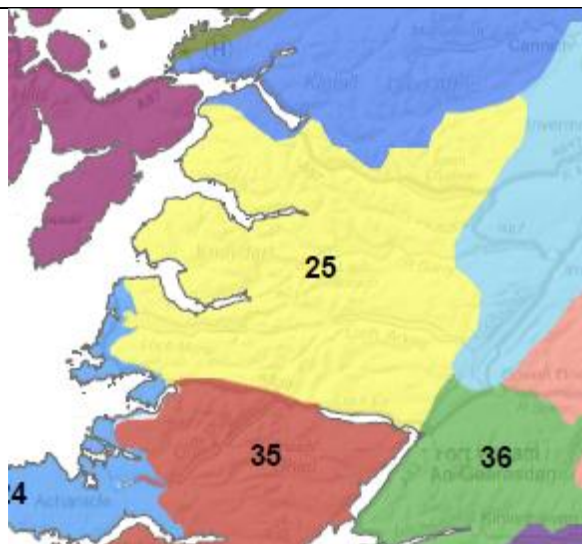
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*Buildings of the Scottish Countryside* pp 191-195,  
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### Selected creative associations

#### Paintings

In Ardamurchan (Sir William Gillies, c 1939 National Gallery of Scotland)

## 25 Morar and Knoydart



### Description

This part of the West Highlands is known evocatively as the 'Rough Bounds'. The high and dramatic mountains of Knoydart are surrounded by sea and extensive moorland. Access to this isolated area is by a 'long walk in' across harsh, rugged terrain or a boat crossing, making this one of Scotland's most remote and wild areas. Settlement is limited to some remote dwellings scattered along the western coast. Signs of former settlement include 18<sup>th</sup> Century military remains, and spectacularly well-preserved Iron-age brochs in Glenelg.

### Key technical information sources

LCA: Lochaber  
Skye and Lochalsh

NHF: Western Highlands (8)  
[Northern Highlands (7) part]

HLA: XX

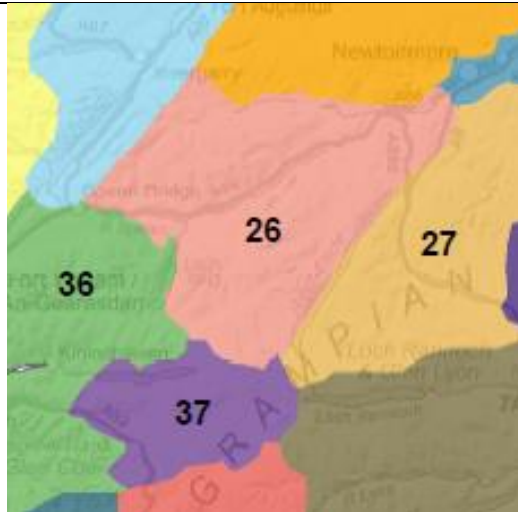
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### Selected creative associations

#### Novels / writings

Ring of Bright Water (Gavin Maxwell)

## 26 Laggan and Ben Alder



### Description

This is an upland area characterised by its varied high hills and the built heritage of sporting estates. Some of the hills have dramatic peaks, while others have smoothly steep slopes or are gouged by corries. The hills are divided by lower ground that often contains long lochs, some artificially deepened by hydro-electric schemes. Birch woodland and wood pasture on the valley floor and lower slopes give way to open moorland above. The few roads follow the break in slope above the valley floor, and there is a well-preserved stretch of 18<sup>th</sup> century military road through the Corrieyairack Pass. Settlement is limited to some dispersed steadings, cottages, and a few castles and lodges in the striking Scots Baronial style. The hydro-electric dam at Laggan echoes this architectural style.

### Key technical information sources

LCA: Inverness, Cairngorms

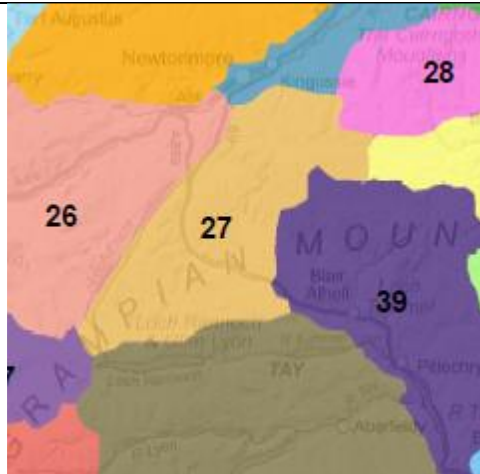
NHF: Central Highlands (10)  
East Lochaber (13)

HLA: XX

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### Selected creative associations

## 27 Drumochter



### Description

This area forms the watershed between the River Spey and the Tay, Tummel and Garry. The surrounding hills tend to be smoothly sloping rather than craggy. The glens, lochs and headwaters between the hills include the Drumochter Pass, which channels major north-south road and rail routes. The predominant land cover is moorland and unimproved grassland, with some small areas of woodland planted near buildings. Settlement is notably sparse and the landscape feels remote. Dalwhinnie, a small village, and its distillery are the main built features. Otherwise, a few cottages and lodges on lower ground are the only buildings, although shielings in the hills indicate a past reliance on transhumance by a larger population.

### Key technical information sources

LCA: Cairngorm, Tayside

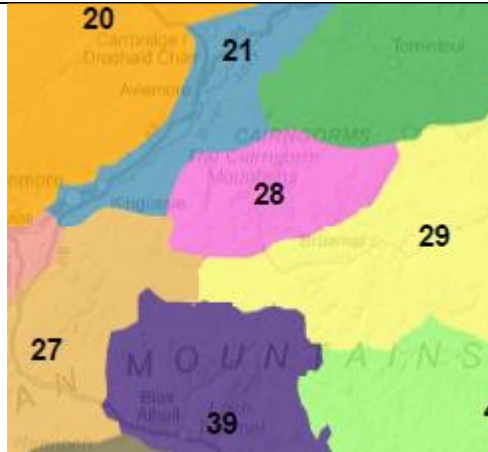
NHF: Cairngorm Massif

HLA: XX

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*Buildings of the Scottish Countryside* pp 191-195

### Selected creative associations

## 28 Cairngorm Massif



### Description

This is a vast mountain plateau of massive granite mountains and extensive moorland. The landform is strikingly sculpted, being deeply dissected by corries and trough-like glens. The sheer size of the mountains, many of which are over 4,000 feet high, can be difficult to appreciate from a distance, but year-round snow patches reveal the height and sub-arctic climate of the area. There is no settlement and, apart from the roads and prominent ski infrastructure and car parks, the many paths, tracks and bothies used by visitors generally make little impact on the landscape. The sense of wildness is pervasive and exhilarating.

### Key technical information sources

LCA: Cairngorms

NHF: Cairngorm Massif (11)

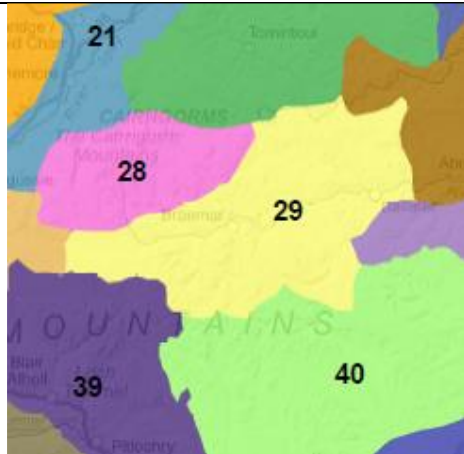
HLA: XX

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191-195

### Selected creative associations



## 29 Upper Deeside



### Description

The wide glen of the River Dee is imposing, even this far upstream. It is ringed by iconic mountains such as Lord Byron's 'dark Lochnagar'. Native Caledonian pine forest is the most distinctive land cover, with areas of heather moorland and some forestry plantations. Main roads follow the river, with occasional hill passes diverging to north and south. Castles, steadings and cottages, dating from the Victorian era, are grouped along the glen. Elegant 18<sup>th</sup> century planned villages, such as Ballater, are located at bridging points across the Dee. Royal Deeside with its regal associations and highland games, such as those at Braemar, contributes to the popularity of this area as a tourist destination.

### Key technical information sources

LCA: Cairngorms

NHF: North East Glens  
Cairngorms Massif

HLA: XX

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### Selected creative associations

Poetry

Lachin Y Gair (George Gordon, Lord Byron)

## 30 Deeside and Donside



### Description

These grand glens and intervening hills link the north-eastern lowlands with the Highlands. The sparkling rivers are lined with estates, and farmland, woodland and forestry intermix to provide varied levels of enclosure and open-ness. Heather moorland on the rolling hills above the glens rises towards the mountains inland. The main transport routes follow the glen floor. Villages are often located where old stone bridges span the rivers. The enclosure of the glen sides frames views along the rivers, enhancing glimpses of the distant Cairngorm Mountains.

### Key technical information sources

LCA: South and Central Aberdeenshire

NHF: North East Glens  
Cairngorms Massif

HLA: XX

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### Selected creative associations