



Location and Context

The *Lowland Bog and Moor* Landscape Character Type is found on low-lying areas of the island of Islay within Argyll and Bute. It extends across the coastal plain south of Bowmore, the isthmus connecting the east and west parts of the island of Gruinart and wetland around Loch Gorm.

Key Characteristics

- Extensive low-lying bog, with a flat or hummocky landform.
- Large lochs and numerous small, rounded pools in hollows.
- Tidal mud-flats and marsh, with winding creeks.
- Geometric network of straight drainage channels.
- Few straight roads along outer margins of the moor, raised on low embankments.
- Open landscape, with occasional linear woodlands on banks of larger, meandering rivers.
- Internationally significant habitats for nature conservation.
- Very few settlements.

Landscape Character Description

Landform

Areas of *Lowland Bog and Moor* are found on the island of Islay in the Loch Gorm Basin, on the margins of Loch Gruinart and in Laggan Bay. They are underlain by Dalradian rocks of the South Argyll Group and by the sandstones and grits of north-west Islay.

The *Lowland Bog and Moors* are low-lying, very open expansive areas with a simple flat or gently sloping landform. There are many small pools of water and clusters of larger, rounded lochs. The flatter areas of lowland bog and moor are found on the edges of Loch Gorm, an extensive stretch of water in the centre of a shallow basin, and Loch Gruinart, a broad, deep inlet to the north of the island. There is a gradual transition from the mudflats of Loch Gruinart to marsh and extensive lowland bog in the broad lowland to the south of the loch.

Landcover

The fringes of the bog are grazed by sheep and rabbits, and heather is burned to maintain the low, scrubby vegetation. Some parts of the lowland bog and moor are subdivided by a geometric network of straight drainage channels (to create improved pasture) and peat cutting also forms straight, low ridges across the bog in some areas.

This is a very open, expansive landscape with long views to the surrounding upland moors. There are very few trees, although there are narrow bands of deciduous woodland on the banks of some of the larger meandering rivers flowing into Laggan Bay.

Settlement

This Landscape Character Type is only sparsely settled - there are virtually no buildings. Views from the elevated peripheral roads are extensive. Islay's airport is in a low-lying area on the edge of Laggan Bay and a new hotel in this area, with a striking design, is a prominent landmark.

The remains of a 16th – 17th Century castle sit on Eilean Mor in Loch Gorm. At the north end of Laggan Bay the remains of an Iron Age fort, Cnoc Ebric, are situated on a defensible headland west of the mouth of the river Laggan.



This is one of 389 Landscape Character Types identified at a scale of 1:50 000 as part of a national programme of Landscape Character Assessment republished in 2019.

The area covered by this Landscape Character Type was originally included in the Argyll and Firth of Clyde LCA (Environmental Resources Management), published 1996.