



Location and Context

Drumlin Pasture in Moss and Moor Lowland Landscape Character Area extends over an area in the west of Dumfries and Galloway, from Glenluce across to Newton Stewart and then down to just north of Wigtown. The area is characterised by the extensive and repeated pattern of small, rounded, elongated mounds and higher, irregular shaped hills rising out of low-lying areas of flat wetland, moss and flood plain which in places has been forested.

Key Characteristics

- Prominent pasture drumlins, set in flatter moss and moor, bounded by hedges and drystone walls to form medium sized fields.
- Colour contrast between green drumlins and brown moss and moor.
- Scattered antiquities including standing stones and cairns.
- Relatively poor road network connecting isolated houses/farmsteads.
- A few small forests and policy landscapes.
- Intimate scale and complexity of drumlin landscape.

Landscape Character Description

Landform

Drumlin Pasture in Moss and Moor Lowland extends over an area in the west of Dumfries and Galloway, from Glenluce up to Newton Stewart and then down to just north of Wigtown.

The land here generally lies between 50 to 100 metres, although the summits north of the A75 and Kirkcowan rise to over 200 metres. The land is essentially flat or gently undulating, with prominent whale-backed drumlins scattered frequently throughout the area. The drumlins and Bladnoch river valley restrict views here, making this a medium to small scale landscape. The land is covered with an intricate network of river tributaries.

Landcover

The drumlins are covered with smooth lush green pasture grazed by cattle and sheep. Medium sized fields are enclosed with both drystone walls and fences. Between the drumlins are areas of flatter wetland typified by brown moss vegetation or rougher moorland with a scatter of gorse bushes. There are occasional small woods and clumps of trees. The contrasting colours which are created are essential characteristics in this landscape, complementing the coinciding contrast in landform between drumlin and moss. This area has some small plantation woodlands.

The higher hills around Barskeoch (177 metres) and Culvennan Fell (213 metres) are small in scale and extent but offer a more upland character of open grazing fragmented by whin and scrub, while wetland is frequently fragmented by rushy pasture and scrubby willow.

Settlement

Relatively easy to access, this Character Type is both well settled in the drumlin dominated areas, and less settled within the areas associated with more extensive wetlands and higher hills. Lanes and tracks connect isolated houses and farmsteads and the settlement of Spittal. The busy A75 traverses this area, offering intermittent views of the surrounding landscape. Prehistoric monuments are evident in the form of cairns, a stone circle and other standing stones. There is also designed policy landscape around Shennanton, Merton Hall and Craighlaw.

There are a small number of 20-50 metre wind turbines in the western part of this Landscape Character Type, and large turbines on the boundary. This combination exerts a strong influence on local landscape character in this western area and is visible from the A75.

Perception

The drumlin areas have a low profile, intimate scale and complexity, with a diverse mosaic of vegetation pattern. In places there is a semi-natural quality to the landscape.

This is one of 390 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 Dumfries and Galloway LCA (Land Use Consultants), published 1998.