Forestry and Land Scotland | Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

Achnashellach Long Term Plan 2026-2036

ref: 030-518-450

Map 13 Landscape Character Assessment

Author: FLS Landscape Architect

Scale @ A3: 1:25,000

Date: 13/1/2026

Legend

- LTP Areas
- Forest areas
- Wild Land Areas 2014
- National Scenic Areas
- Local Landscape Areas
- Landscape Character Assessment Areas (including LCA code & description)
- Forest Roads

Ordnance Survey contours 10m intervals

Hard straight edges are visually intrusive, cutting across the flow of the landform, flattening the curve of the slope.

Proposed road, design to be developed and permission sought in 2031.

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 km

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PEFC Promoting Sustainable Forest Management www.pefc.org

Achnashellach LTP area spreads across several landscape character types that can be summarised as hill slopes either side of the upper reaches of a glaciated strath. The slopes vary in ruggedness and gradient. The steepest slopes are to the north of the road. Shelter within strath contrast markedly with the exposure gained with altitude.

Removal of plantation from upper slopes followed by peatland restoration will strengthen the sense of naturalness, improving the transition to designated WIld Land areas to the north.

Important stand of remnant Caledonian pine forest is visible from the public road forming an appealing edge to the forest area.

LCT 330: Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes.

LCT 333: Rocky Moorland and Rugged Hills

Straight upper margins of mature forest appear unnatural and draw the eye (visible only from altitude to south).
Their felling and reshaping when restocked is essential to improve landscape fit of the forest.

Road and railway run along the length of the strath forming the key visual receptor for the plan. Views from both are screened for long sections by vegetation.

Achnashellach

LCT 330: Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes.

LCT 340: Strath

Achnashellach

Mature forests on very steep slopes above road and rail routes require felling and removing by skyline which will compromise the aesthetics of the slope until woodland is restocked and establishing.

A new forest road is proposed, with permission to be sought at Plan's mid-term review (2031), to access woodland on slopes above Achnashellach. This draft alignment stays low reducing its potential impact as viewed from the south.

The proposed removal of the blocky unnatural edges around the remaining mature conifer stands around Golden Valley will have a marked positive affect on the natural appearance of slopes to the south west when viewed from the public road and across the strath.

Differing from the near straight sided northern slopes of the strath, the southern side is dominated by five or six distinct sweeping rounded ridges which draw the eye and form the backdrop to the strath.
The slopes beyond and above the forest are open moorland and exposed rock ,of varying ruggedness.

Re-establishment of the forest across areas felled in the past 15 years is underway. The aim is to restore it to native forest to bolster the nearby Caledonian forest remnant . The extent of the forest is determined by environmental conditions and any management intervention. FLS will continue to remove non-native regenerating trees across this area ("cleaning"). The establishment of regular geometric forest edges, for example along a fenceline will be prevented through thinning and removal.

LCT 328: Rugged Mountain Massif

LCT 333: Rocky Moorland and Rugged Hills