**Map 13** Landscape Character Assessment has several labels and text boxes. This document presents all the text associated with these labels and text boxes.

The map essentially illustrates exactly where a total of four different landscape character types are located across the LTP area and surrounding, wider terrain. The components that comprise these landscape character types are described in full in **Appendix 1** and analysis of their context upon proposed FLS land management is given in section 4.6 of the main Plan document.

The landscape character types (LCTs) are as follows:

**Strath** (LCT 340) – occupying the predominantly flat glen floor through which river Carron flows - fringed with riparian native broadleaved and Caledonian pine dominated woodland, some adjacent agricultural (livestock-grazed) fields, small discrete settlements and interconnecting road and rail corridors.

**Rocky Moorland and Rugged Hills** (LCT 333) – occupying the open, upland ground to the north west and south east of the Plan area.

**Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes** (LCT 330) – occupying the open, upland ground to the north east and to the south east of the Plan area.

**Rugged Mountain Massif** (LCT 328) an expansive area of taller, more rugged summits and open hill ground stretching southwards from the LTP's southern boundary.

The map also has text labels summarising how the visual appearance of FLS' land and vegetation currently contributes, or detracts from, the natural landscape character types and explains how management is proposed to better integrate managed land within this wider and wilder context. The label text – in no particular order of priority or importance - is as follows:

- (general label) *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 the strath contrasts markedly with the exposure gained with altitude.*
- (label relating to the upland and treeline woodland on the northern side of the glen) *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.*
- (label relating to old growth pine woodland at eastern end of Plan area) *Important stand of remnant Caledonian pine forest is visible from the public road forming an appealing edge to the forest area.*
- (label relating to productive timber forests located on the lower and mid-contours of the northern side of the glen) *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.*
- (label relating to afforested ground directly north of Craig settlement and the road and railway there) *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.*
- (label pointing to productive timber forest areas on the northern flank of the glen) *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.*
- (label pointing at final area of productive timber woodland south of the river Carron) *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.*
- (label relating to all forest areas on the southern flank of the glen) *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.*