

Angus Glens: **Mid Glen Clova**



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

The side slopes of the glen are less steep and more irregular than those of the Upper Glen, with more varied gradients including gentle slopes and glacial deposits draped across ledges of erosion-resistant bedrock

The upper slopes, steepened and roughened by glacial activity, rise above screes and boulder fields to a rim of corries and cliffs, especially on the northern side of the glen

The glen floor is characterised by numerous, often interlocking, small hummocks of fluvial-glacial deposits which are interspersed by small stretches of floodplain, creating a complex, small scale topography

The River South Esk meanders across the glen floor, winding between the knolls of deposit and occasionally working them flat, especially near the village of Clova

The well drained hummocks are often topped by birch woodland over grassland, which may be remnant wood pasture

There are a few linear late 18th/19th century improved fields on the level land near to Clova village, but most of the glen floor is more extensively grazed with loosely defined fenced fields

Upland grassland extends up onto the side slopes, although extensive areas of broadleaves and some commercial conifer forest also occupy the lower slopes, particularly on slacker, more accessible gradients

Settlement focuses on the village of Clova, which is clustered around the road junction and river crossing, above the flood plain

There are also farms and houses located at intervals along the edge of the glen floor, where there is a break in slope, adjacent to the road

These edges are also where earlier, pre-improvement farmsteads, with remnant walls of earlier field systems along with occasional ruined buildings have survived above the floodplain

The roads hug the break in slope at both sides of the glen, winding up and over, as well as around, the hummocky terrain along the edge of the valley floor

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The strongly linear alignment of the glen creates focussed views along the glen floor, framed by the side slopes

The small scale of the hummocky terrain provides a contrast in scale with the expanse and height of the mountain ridges

The roads follow the dips and ridges of the landform, allowing the traveller to feel the 'lie of the land'

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This character area is inter-visible with Upper Glen Clova and the sides of the glen frame views north westwards to the twin summits of Craig Mellon and Cairn Broadlands in Glen Doll.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The interlocking low hummocks of well-drained glacial deposit across the glen floor is very apparent and often reinforced by the presence of open birch woodland on the knolls.

There is a clear pattern of dispersed settlement, tucked into the hummocky terrain at the edge of the floor of the glen.



The road follows the ups and downs of the underlying terrain



Possible remnant wood pasture on hummocks of glacial-fluvial deposit



Distinct hummocky, gravelly deposits