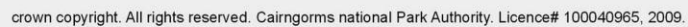


Badenoch: Inshriach Forest/Mouth of Glen Feshie



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

This elevated platform of land extends either side of the mouth of the River Feshie, forming the threshold to the inner Glen Feshie

The undulating landform of this area rises to a low summit at Creag Dhubh and is strongly contained to the east by the sheer, scree slopes of Carn Ban Beag and Creag Mhigeachaidh. The hills to the west of the River Feshie are less high with gentler slopes gradually merging with lower moorland and forest

There are well-drained glacial-fluvial deposits supplemented by extensive outwash from the River Feshie which forms large fans of gravelly deposit

The River Feshie is renowned for its dynamism, evident in its braided form and banks of deposited gravel with no pioneer vegetation.

This is an extensively forested area with largely commercially managed conifers

There are mature pine on the steep western hill slopes of Carn Ban Beag and Creag Mhigeachaidh, with extensive natural regeneration of young native pine and broadleaves across the steep scree slopes. Heather moorland extends beyond this area and across small low-lying flats adjacent to the River Feshie

A sequence of spaces, with small fields of pasture contained by the forest, sits on terraces either side of the River Feshie and its tributary the Allt Fhearnasdail

Small farms, on sites of earlier settlement, are associated with these pastures

Uath Lochan, an interlocking cluster of peat-black pools surrounded by mixed pine, birch and tall Douglas Fir, forms a focus within Inshriach Forest. The shattered cliff face of Creag Far-Leitire, colonised by contorted Scots pine, birch and rowan, provides a backdrop to these pools and contributes to the rich diversity of this area

A loose cluster of low dwellings and an outdoor education centre are situated at the northern end of the open land at the township of Lagganalia and Blackmill and are partially screened by the forest

A larger area of grassland is used by a gliding school at Lagganlia

Public roads extend either side of the Feshie, both ending at small settlements and, on the western side of the valley, the private road of the Feshie Estate continues up the glen

The area is popular for walkers and cyclists with parking at Uath Lochan, which is a focus for recreation, and on the eastern side of the River Feshie, where access to a number of Munro peaks is possible

The Spey Way traverses the area via Uath Lochan and the western bank of the Feshie

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

The constant rushing sound of the River Feshie, which increases when it is in spate, can extend well beyond its immediate setting

The dynamic nature of this flood-prone river, which can often change its course, creates a sense of naturalness and unpredictability

The sheer slopes of Carn Ban Beag and Creag Mhigeachaidh, patterned with scree and extensive native pine and broadleaves, are orientated to capture the evening light and are also highly visible from the A9 and Kingussie

A strong sequence of spaces is experienced when travelling through the lower glen as open pasture around small farm buildings alternates with enclosed forest

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

While this character area is visible from and forms a forested backdrop to character areas along Strathspey, the gently undulating platform that the forest occupies is foreshortened in these views and its scale is not appreciated from afar. This area forms the threshold between Strathspey and the remote inner Glen Feshie and the Cairngorm mountains.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The extensive woodland cover provides localised containment, although the sequence of spaces created by open farmland in the forest are valuable as a contrast to enclosed forested areas and allow views of the River Feshie. The River Feshie forms a focus due to its dynamic, unpredictable and powerful nature.



Scree slopes of Carn Ban Beag and Creag Mhigeachaidh, with an esker in foreground



Regenerating pine over moorland



Pasture, often associated with small farms, here a granite stone building, provides open spaces within this largely wooded area



Uath Lochan, a kettle hole lake which is a focal point within the forest



Open space along the River Feshie



Braided reaches of the River Feshie – riverbank vegetation is sparse as it is washed away by seasonal spates