

Glen Garry: Upper Glen



1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

- The side slopes containing Glen Garry are gently graded, following the combined effects of glacial erosion and subsequent weathering of the bed rock into smooth, rounded, often elongated, forms
- These long smooth slopes and ridges frame a generally wide glen floor, although it narrows into a short section of more steeply sided and wooded pass around Clunes Lodge at its southern end
- The River Garry has worked glacial-fluvial deposits into a narrow floodplain, but abstraction has now reduced the water supply so that its gravelly riverbed is revealed
- Extensive woodland, including large areas of broadleaves and some of it relatively recently planted, extends across the side slopes
- This woodland is supplemented by small shelter woods associated with sparse settlement, naturally regenerating birch along the roadsides, distinctive clumps of remnant birch 'wood pasture' along the glen floor and riparian woodland
- There is evidence of past settlement along the valley floor, which extends back to medieval and post-medieval land use and settlement, but is most evident to day in the visible remains of 18th/19th century farmsteads, walled enclosures and the regular shapes of improved, grazed fields along the glen floor
- Settlement is now largely limited to a few large houses and buildings associated with managing shooting estates, with a series of lodges located on elevated land and set within woodland
- The A9 sits elevated and very close to the break in slope along the northern/eastern side of the glen, in part following the line of the Wade military road
- The railway is sited similarly hugging the bottom of steeper slopes along the western side of the glen

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

- Travelling from the north, there is a marked sense of 'gateway' into Perthshire, as the narrow, enclosed Pass of Drumochter opens up into the wider Glen Garry
- Although they are visible from the A9, the remnant farmsteads and walled enclosures of the 18/19th century reward closer inspection and are an accessible reminder of more extensive historic land use

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This landscape area is relatively self contained, but its relative openness contrasts with the enclosed experience of the Drumochter Pass.

1.1.4 Assessment of distinctiveness

The sense of openness, particularly when contrasted with the enclosure experienced in Drumochter Pass, contributes to the sequence of experience travelling along the A9, most significantly as a 'threshold' to the Perthshire side of the Cairngorms when travelling from the north. The remnants of historic settlement and land use – notably the ruins of farmsteads and the striking 'wood pasture' – are a feature of this glen.



The wide strath, low relief of the soil covered surrounding hills and shallow side valleys reinforce the sense of openness



Linear riparian woodland and wood pasture within unimproved grassland fields on gravelly terraces



Several lodge houses, surrounded by shelter woods, punctuate the glen



Woodland regenerating along the railway line, and planted on side slopes