

Landscape Character Type 029

Summits and Plateaux

Key Characteristics⁶

- An expansive upland plateau with a smooth rolling landform and rounded hill summits. Landform is more complex along the Highland Boundary Fault.
- Foreground to the Cairngorm massif and Cairngorms National Park.
- Backdrop in views from the north from Lower Deeside and the fringes of Aberdeen city.
- Extensive central and western ridges covered with expansive heather and grass moorland.
- Regionally prominent hills.
- Coniferous forested lower hills, particularly extensive in the north-east. Wind farm development also present in this area.
- A patchwork of green pasture extends high into narrow valleys on the fringes of these uplands.
- Unexpected pockets of farmland and isolated farms and estate buildings associated lower ground in part of the core of these uplands.
- Derelict grey stone cottages are occasional features amidst open moorland.
- Numerous old routeways popular with walkers and these, and the B974 Cairn o' Mount road, offer commanding views to the Howe of Mearns and the coast, and to Deeside.
- Wild character experienced in the less modified central and western parts of this landscape.
- Dramatic juxtaposition of the steep scarp slopes of these rugged uplands with the expansive low-lying farmed and settled Howe of the Mearns.

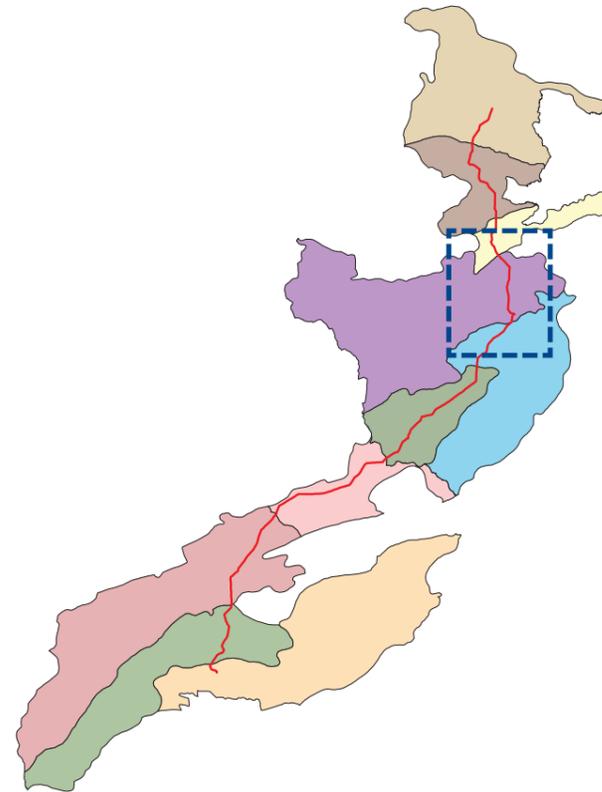
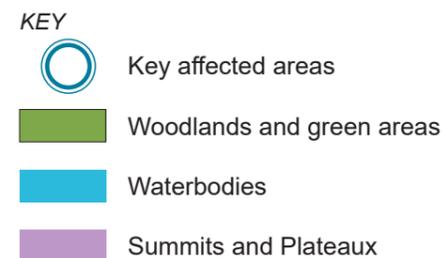


Plate 9.6.19. Location Map- Summits and Plateaux



Description

This LCT covers the section of the Proposed Development between Fetteresso Forest and north of Durriss Forest and largely comprises upland hills associated with the Mounth range and Grampian foothills in the southwest, which form the northern extent of the Highland Boundary Fault. Within the area of the LCT in which the Proposed Development extends through, the landscape comprises large areas of dense commercial forestry and areas of open moorland.

6. NatureScot, 2019. National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 29: Summits and Plateaux. [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT 029 - Summits and Plateaux - Aberdeenshire - Final pdf.pdf>

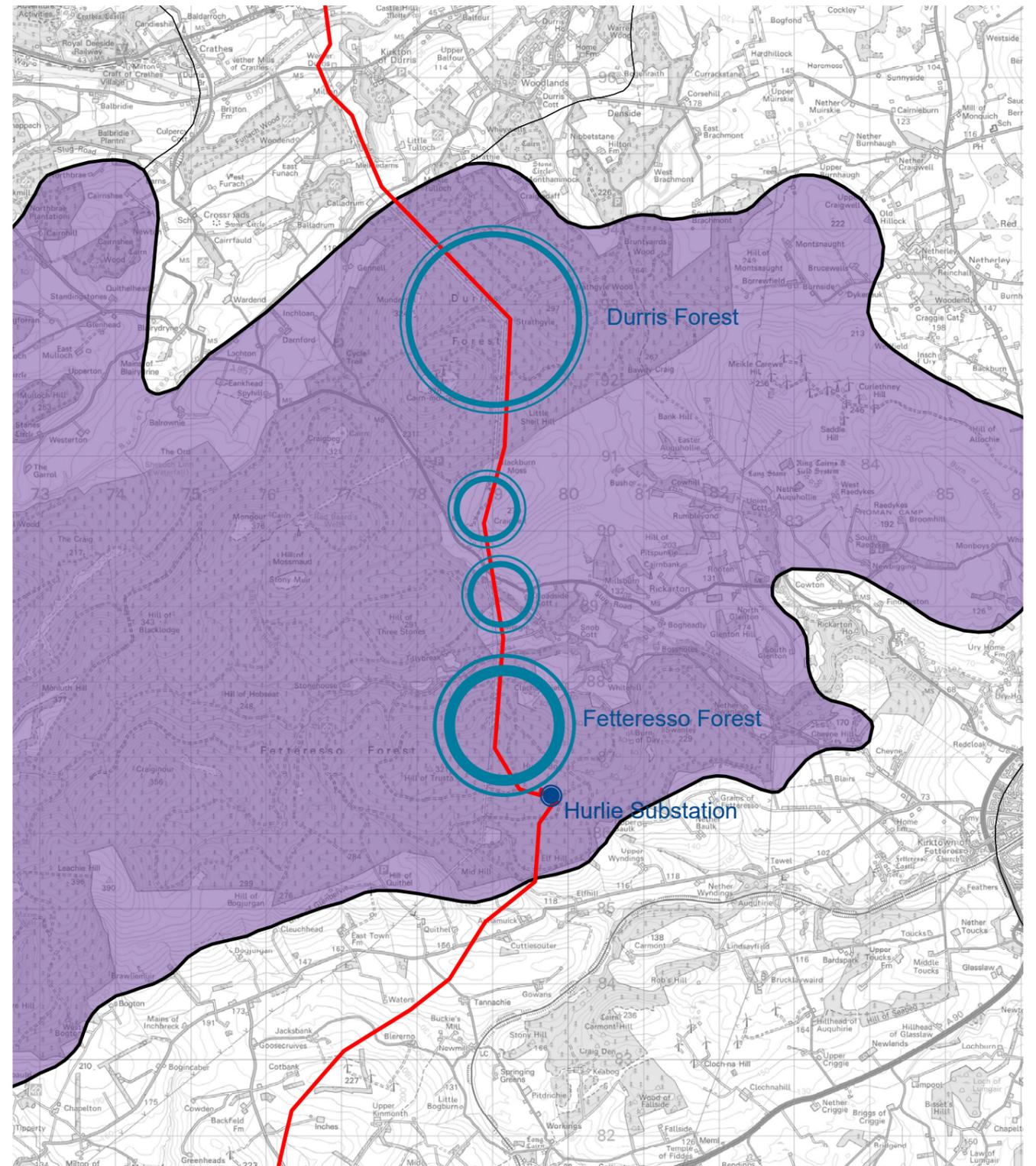


Plate 9.6.20. Key Areas along Proposed Development through Summits and Plateaux Character Area