SHIERGLAS ASPHALT PLANT REPLACEMENT

Landscape and Visual Appraisal

Prepared By Mullin Design Associates Chartered Landscape Architects

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1 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL

1.1 Introduction

This appraisal has been prepared by Mullin Design Associates, Chartered Landscape Architects, to establish potential landscape and visual effects arising from proposed replacement of an existing asphalt plant with a new facility at Shierglas Quarry, Blair Atholl. The following section should be read in conjunction with Figures 1.0 to 1.18 held at Appendix 1.1.

The development includes the erection of a new asphalt processing plant at a location adjoining an existing facility and the decommission of the existing plant. To facilitate the plant ground works will be required to create a suitably level area with backslopes, graded, cultivated and seeded.

(Refer to Figure 1.1 held at Appendix 1.1– Location and Context)

The overall application area is circa 1.6 hectares;

This Landscape and Visual Appraisal has been prepared by Pete Mullin, BA (Hons) CMLI, MILI Chartered Landscape Architect and principal of Mullin Design Associates. Pete has produced over 100 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments during 25 years in the profession and is a recognised specialist within the mineral sector.

1.1.1 Assessment Criteria

The aim of this landscape and visual impact appraisal is to identify, evaluate and predict potential key effects arising from the proposed construction and operation of a new asphalt plant. Restoration of this development would occur at the end of approved extractive operations with the entire quarry complex restored. This assessment focuses on the development phases of the asphalt plant proposal considered most likely to generate negative impact in landscape and visual terms, namely construction and operational phases. Full restoration of this Shierglas site as a whole will have net positive outcomes in landscape and visual terms.

The assessment combines sensitivity with predicted magnitude of change, to establish the significance of residual landscape and visual effects. These are based on pre-defined criteria as set out in Tables 1.1 to 1.5 held at Appendix 1.2.

1.1.2 Baseline Study – Site description

The overall application area is circa 1.6 ha contained within a larger existing processing complex and quarry adjacent to the A9 and 1km South east of Blair Atholl.

The proposed structure would be located on lands to the northeast of the existing quarry and processing complex on lands currently occupied by a joiner's yard timber access track and poor-quality grazing pasture.

1.1.3 Baseline Study - Landscape Character

The landscape character type associated with the subject site has been identified by Natural Scot (Scottish Natural Heritage) as LCT 129 Broad Glen with Estates, with key characteristic described as:

Key Characteristics

- Large glens
- Contained by high, rounded hills.
- Flat, broad strath floors, sometimes constricted into rocky wooded gorges, housing the upper/mid sections of major rivers flowing down from the Cairngorms.
- The rivers are a feature whether meandering in sinuous loops or faster-flowing along boulder-strewn stretches.
- Number of side glens cut by tributary streams/burns.
- Pastures on valley floors, interspersed with policy tree planting and stretches of riparian woodland.
- Policy woodlands that often include areas of parkland trees.
- Extensive woodlands: steeper slopes have conifer forest with some heather moorland on open hills.
- Settlements at bridging points and crossroads.
- Large estate houses and castles with associated lodges, cottages and steadings.
- Diverse landscape character with much visual interest.

A detailed Landscape Character Type description is provided in Appendix 1.3.

1.1.4 Baseline Study – Visual

It would be impossible (indeed unnecessary) to assess potential visibility from every possible angle or potential viewpoint. Therefore, the recognised practice is to identify a selection of viewpoints considered representative of a range of views and viewer types, including residences, transport routes, recreational routes, visitor attractions (including historic monuments), main landscape character types and a variety of distances, aspects, elevations, extents, and sequential routes. These are known as 'key visual receptors' and provide a reliable sample of potential impressions across the study area.

Based on field survey and analysis, Figure 1.2-1.3 illustrate the identified ZTVI created by the proposed development with Table 1.7 below list and Figure 1.4 illustrating the location of key visual receptors and photomontages identified for the study.

Table 1.7 – Key Visual Receptors

Viewpoint	Grid Reference	Туре
VP 1	NN 88232 65080	B8079, Bridge of Tilt - Sequential
VP 2	NN 88705 64752	B8079, Bridge of Tilt - Residential
VP 3	NN 89222 64259	A9, - Sequential
VP 4	NN 87853 64464	A9, - Sequential
VP 5	NN 87592 65065	Blair Atholl Golf Club, - Recreational
VP 6	NN 87815 65102	Golf Course Road, Bridge of Tilt
VP 7	NN 87297 65438	B8079, Bridge of Tilt - Sequential

Photomontage A	NN 88705 64752	B8079, Bridge of Tilt - Residential
Photomontage B	NN 89222 64259	A9, - Sequential
Photomontage C	NN 87853 64464	A9, - Sequential

It should be noted as a basic visual principal, any type of development in the landscape will become less perceptible with distance. This simply equates to a reduction of the significance of potential visual impacts as one moves further away. The following distance categories have been considered appropriate.

Viewpoint Distance 0-2km

It is generally accepted that a development located approximately 2km or less from a viewer would be close enough to allow identification of some detail. Any positions within this range with open uninterrupted views of a development would generally receive the greatest visual impacts.

Viewpoint Distance 2-5km

At this distance, visibility of a development site becomes more general, with viewers in open uninterrupted positions able to identify general form, colour/tone and textural contrast, but losing the more focused detail achievable from closer positions. Effects at this distance are generally less than those found between 0-2km.

Viewpoint Distance 5-15km+

Beyond 5km visual prominence quickly diminishes. Certain circumstances/light conditions etc. have potential to allow certain types of development and material finishes to be perceived. The development increasingly becomes part of the general background/distance views. Upwards of 15km distance and developments quickly become minor features within the landscape and considered imperceptible to the average human eye. The development in effect becomes part of the general background/distance views.

This visibility assessment concentrates primarily on the first distance category (up to 2km), focusing on publicly accessible locations such as roads, access lanes and public rights of way, along with residential properties; and sites of public interest.

Whilst it is accepted that the true extent of visibility perceived on the ground will be less than that shown in the ZTVI, the model suggests that in general the majority of potential views of this development will be from locations in westerly, northerly and easterly directions along the River Garry corridor.

The ZTVI analysis illustrates that the influence generated by the development proposal is contained within that of the existing development. In simple terms the proposals will not add to the extent of visibility associated with the facility.

Whilst the site is not within a designated landscape area, it is located on the boundary of Cairngorms National Park. Therefore, as illustrated by the ZTVI, views of both the existing and proposed operations can and will be experienced from locations within National Park land.

Of the selected key receptors, 5No are located to the North of the development on land within the National Park. The landscape and visual sensitivity have been determined to reflect the importance of this landscape designation.

It is also noted that the B8079 forms part of the national cycle network – Sustrans Cycle Route No 7.

1.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The submitted application drawings provide detail of the proposed structural elevations along with and plan layouts of the development.

The proposed development comprises

- The demolition of the existing Shierglas Steading and clearance of associated joiner's yard.
- The regrading of the site to proposed operational levels as shown in JPB Drawing VG235/PA/F/03. At present site elevations currently range from 164 m AOD in the south of the site to 142 m AOD in the north. Regrading of the site would take place using a dozer to create a flat area for operations to take place, whilst ensuring that the surrounding slopes are at a stable angle. This will result in the operational area at elevations of circa 148/149 m AOD. Soils will be placed on the regraded site batters with any excess overburden materials placed in the quarry landscape mound to the south.
- The erection Asphalt plant with its tallest structure 16.9m high with the base of the plant set as 148/149m AOD The proposed finish and colour will broadly match the existing facilities at the site.
- Restoration will see the complete decommissioning and removal of all plant and reinstated
 of lands associated with the application. It should be noted that these operations will form a
 relatively small part of the restoration for the entire quarry and processing complex.

1.3 Identification of Likely Significant Impacts

1.3.1 Landscape Impacts

Landscape assessment attempts to establish the sensitivity of specific landscape resources and describe the significance of changes to that landscape as a result of a proposed development. They should also identify opportunities during the design process focused on minimising potential landscape and visual impacts (mitigation) through positive iterative design intervention. This can include exerting influence on the development layout and arrangement, determining sympathetic approaches to realising the development proposal, i.e., Suggested operational sequence /phasing, advance screening, planting, finish and colour of structures.

Assessment of potential landscape impacts have been considered in the following phases: -

- 1 Construction Phase
- 2 Operational Phase

1.3.2 Landscape Impacts - Construction

The Assessment Criteria Tables 1.1 - 1.5 within Appendix 1.2 provide definitions of sensitivity and magnitude of change which in turn establish a mechanism to determine potential significance of landscape and visual effects/ impact.

Landscape Sensitivity Criteria – Construction / Establishment Phase

The overall sensitivity of the landscape remains the same whether considering the establishment or operational phases of the development.

With reference to Table 1.1 'Landscape Sensitivity Criteria' it is considered that the definition of **Medium** is most suited to the landscape associated with the subject site.

The assessment will therefore be based on this landscape definition.

<u>Medium</u> - Landscape characteristics or features with moderate capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering their present character.

Landscape designated for its local landscape value or a regional designated landscape where the characteristics and qualities that led to the designation of the area are less apparent or are partially eroded or an undesignated landscape which may be valued locally – for example an important open space.

Landscape sensitivity is combined with the magnitude of change generated by a development to establish the overall impact / effect.

In addition to the definitions outlined within the criteria tables, magnitude of change will also be influenced by the following:

- Potential for mitigation including advanced screening measures
- Development typology,
- Existing precedence of quarrying / processing operations.
- The population numbers impacted.
- Full decommissioning and extent and effectiveness of restoration proposals.

Landscape Magnitude Criteria – Construction / Establishment Phase

Construction phase will include stripping of topsoil and overburden materials to create level area for construction, with backslope areas of disturbance to be grass seeded and reinstated Temporary erection of cranes for tall structures be relocated to form seeded and planted boundary screen earthworks.

During the construction phase the magnitude of change is predicted to the overall landscape character area is predicted to fall within the 'Low' categories as defined in Table 1.3 (extract of definition below): -

<u>Low</u> Minor change, affecting some characteristics and the experience of the landscape to an extent; and,

Introduction of elements that are not uncharacteristic.

Table 1.8 - Assessment of landscape impacts (Construction Phase)

		Sensitivity						
		High	High - Medium	Medium	Medium – Low	Low		
	Very High	Major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Mod-major		
e e	High	Major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Mod-major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Moderate		
Magnitude	Medium	Mod-major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Moderate	←→	Minor		
Σ	Low	Moderate	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Minor	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Negligible		
	Very Low	Minor	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Negligible	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Negligible		

Therefore, with **Medium** landscape sensitivity combined with **Low** magnitude of change it is considered that the proposed development would generate a **Minor** impact on the landscape character conditions during the Construction Phase.

1.3.3 Landscape Impacts - Operational Phase

The Assessment Criteria Tables 1.1 - 1.5 within Appendix 1.2 provide definitions of sensitivity and magnitude of change which in turn establish a mechanism to determine potential significance of landscape and visual effects/ impact.

<u>Landscape Sensitivity Criteria – Operational Phase</u>

As above the Landscape sensitivity remains the same whether considering the construction or operational phases of the development. Table 1.1 'Landscape Sensitivity Criteria' it is considered that the definition of **Medium** is most suited to the landscape associated with the subject site.

<u>Medium</u> - Landscape characteristics or features with moderate capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering their present character.

Landscape designated for its local landscape value or a regional designated landscape where the characteristics and qualities that led to the designation of the area are less apparent or are partially eroded or an undesignated landscape which may be valued locally – for example an important open space.

An example of a landscape or a set of features which is neutral or mixed character.

Landscape sensitivity is combined with the magnitude of change generated by a development to establish the overall impact / effect.

In addition to the definitions outlined within the criteria tables, magnitude of change will also be influenced by the following:

- Potential for mitigation including advanced screening measures
- Development typology,
- Existing precedence of quarrying / processing operations.
- The population numbers impacted.
- Full decommissioning and extent and effectiveness of restoration proposals.

<u>Landscape Magnitude Criteria – Operational Phase</u>

The operational phase of this development involves the standard day to day processing operations associated with an asphalt plant. It is considered that the categories of **Low** to **Very Low** as defined in Table 1.3 'Landscape Magnitude Criteria' are most appropriate: -

<u>Low</u> Minor change, affecting some characteristics and the experience of the landscape to an extent; and Introduction of elements that are not uncharacteristic.

<u>Very Low</u> Little perceptible change.

Table 9.9 - Assessment of landscape impacts (Operational Phase)

		Sensitivity						
		High	High - Medium	Medium	Medium – Low	Low		
	Very High	Major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Mod-major		
e e	High	Major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Mod-major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Moderate		
Magnitude	Medium	Mod-major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Moderate	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Minor		
Σ	Low	Moderate	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Minor	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Negligible		
	Very Low	Minor	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Negligible	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Negligible		

Therefore, with **Medium** landscape sensitivity combined with **Low** magnitude of change it is considered that the proposal development would generate a **Minor** impact on the landscape character area during the operational phase.

None of the potential landscape effects associated with this development during either the construction or operational phases are predicted to fall within the **Significant** range.

1.3.4 Visual Impacts

Assessment of potential visual impacts have been considered from several visual receptors within the ZTVI. Effects are separated into the following phases: -

- 1 Construction Phase
- 2 Operational Phase

1.3.5 Visual Impacts - Construction Phase

Aspects of the construction phase of the development will generally be considered the most disruptive in visual terms as the land moves from its current non-developed condition into development.

Photomontages 1.12 – 1.18 illustrate how proposals will appear before and after construction.

Potential visual effects have been determined through assessment from specific viewpoints refer to Figures 1.7 to 1.11. These figures illustrate key identified visual receptors, with potential visual impact assessed from each position. Note: Further detail is contained within the individual figures. Table 1.11 below provides a summary of predicted visual impacts from each of the selected viewpoints during Construction Phase.

These viewpoints are representative of worst-case scenario views of the proposed development; therefore, it is important to emphasise that as viewers move away from these receptors, the magnitude of change and potential visual effects will generally diminish.

Table 1.11 - Summary of Visual impacts (Construction Phase)

Viewpoint No.	Receptor Type	Visual Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Effect /Impact
Viewpoint 1	Road Sequential (B8079)	High-Medium	Low	Moderate
	(Sustrans Cycle Route 7)			
Viewpoint 2 Residential Direct		High	Low	Moderate
	(Sustrans Cycle Route 7)			
Viewpoint 3	Public Road Sequential (A9)	Medium-Low	Low	Minor
Viewpoint 4	Public Road Sequential (A9)	Medium-Low	Low	Minor
Viewpoint 5	Golf Course	High	Very Low	Minor
Viewpoint 6	Residential Direct	High	Very Low	Minor
Viewpoint 7	Road Sequential (Castle entrance)	High	Very Low	Minor /
	(Sustrans Cycle Route 7)			Negligible / None

Predicted visual effects arising from the proposals at the selected key visual receptors during the construction phase would range from **Moderate** to **Minor**.

None of the key receptors are predicted to fall within the **Significant** effect range during the construction phase.

1.3.6 Visual Impacts - Operational Phase

Visual impacts have been illustrated by assessment from specific viewpoints. Figures 1.4 to 1.11

The figures illustrate key identified visual receptors', with potential visual impacts assessed from each position. Further detail on the visual impacts from each position is provided in each of the figures. Table 1.12 below provides a summary of predicted visual impacts from each of the selected viewpoints during operational phase.

These viewpoints are representative of worst-case scenario views of the proposed development, therefore, as viewers move away from these receptors, the magnitude of change and potential visual effects will generally diminish.

Table 1.12 - Summary of Visual impacts (Operational Phase)

Viewpoint No.	Receptor Type	Visual Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Effect /Impact
Viewpoint 1	Road Sequential (B8079) (Sustrans Cycle Route 7)	High-Medium	Low	Moderate
Viewpoint 2	Residential Direct (Sustrans Cycle Route 7)	High	Low	Moderate
Viewpoint 3	Public Road Sequential (A9)	Medium-Low	Low	Minor
Viewpoint 4	Public Road Sequential (A9)	Medium-Low	Low	Minor
Viewpoint 5	Golf Course	High	Very Low Minor	
Viewpoint 6	Residential Direct	High	Very Low	Minor
Viewpoint 7	Road Sequential (Castle entrance) (Sustrans Cycle Route 7)	High	Very Low	Minor / Negligible / None

Predicted visual effects arising from the proposals at the selected key visual receptors during the operational phases would range from **Moderate to Minor**

None of the potential visual effects during this phase are predicted to fall within the Significant
range.

1.4 Conclusions

The following conclusions have been made based on the above assessment:

- The site is not located within a landscape designation, however, is on the edge of the Cairngorms National Park with the existing and proposed developments visual envelope extending influence from National Park lands.
- The overall application area occupies c. 1.6 Ha.
- The proposed development is within a larger extraction and processing complex occupying some c. 24 Ha

The effect of site establishment and operations have been assessed as follows

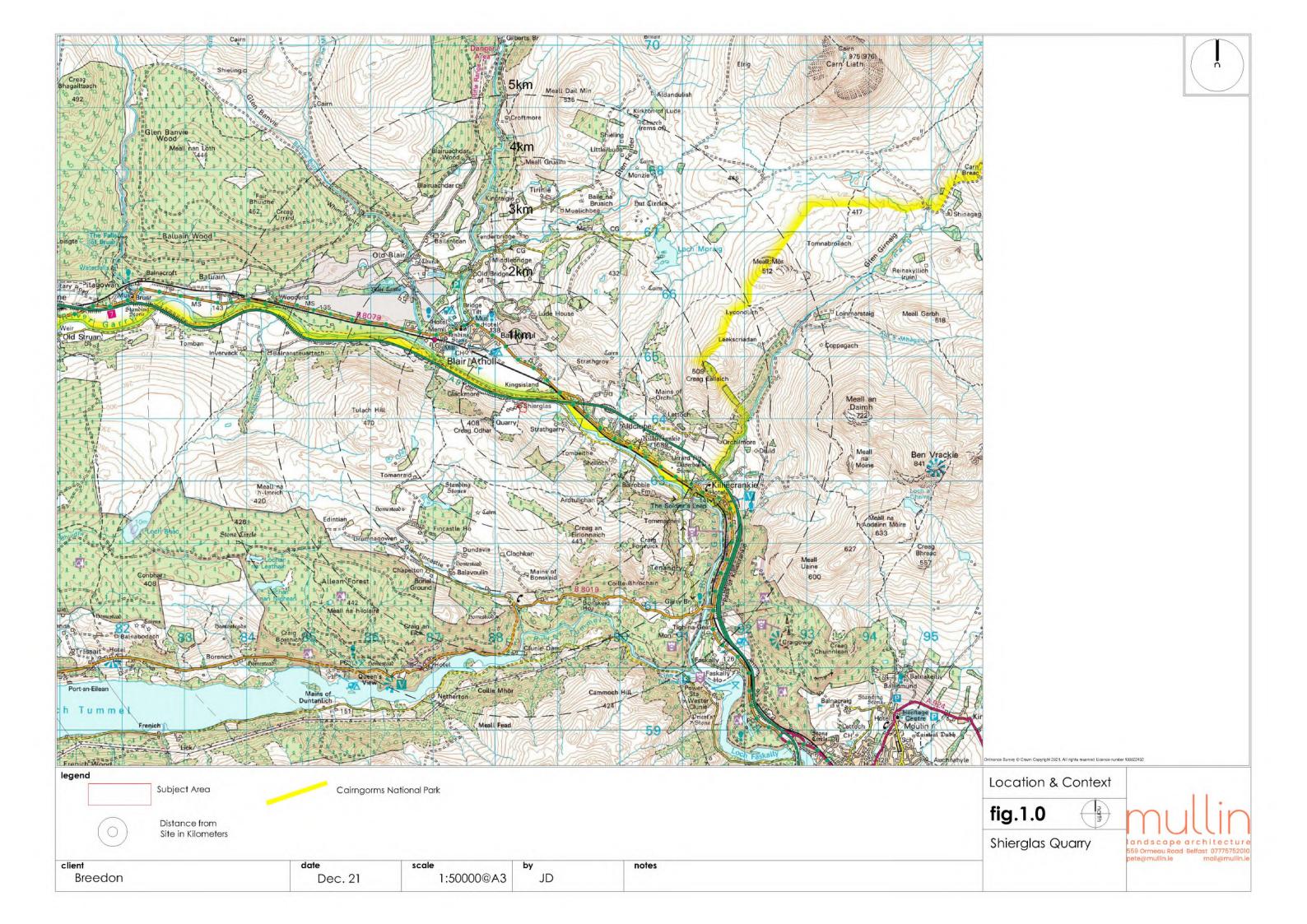
- Landscape sensitivity is considered Medium.
- The magnitude of landscape change is considered Low.
- Landscape Impacts/effects are predicted to be **Minor**.
- No predicted landscape impacts/effects are considered to fall within the **Significant** range.
- Visual sensitivity from selected viewpoints range from High to Medium
- The magnitude of landscape change range from **Low** to **Very Low**.
- Visual Impacts/effects range from Moderate to Minor.
- No predicted visual impacts/effects are considered to fall within the Significant range.

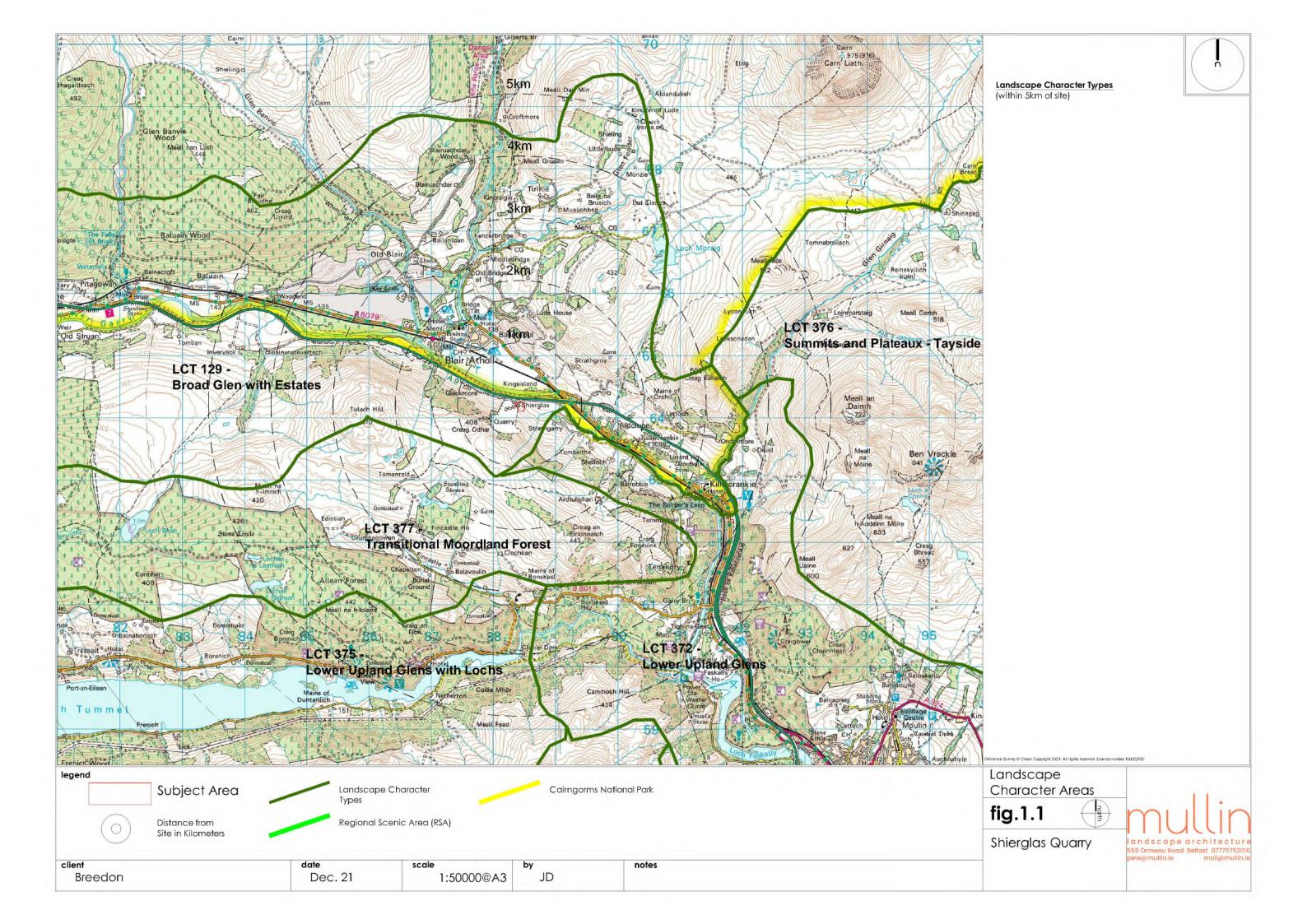
Decommissioning and restoration will occur at the end of operations at this site. Although not assessed here full restoration of the application site and the adjacent Shierglas Quarry is provided for and will have net positive outcomes in landscape and visual terms.

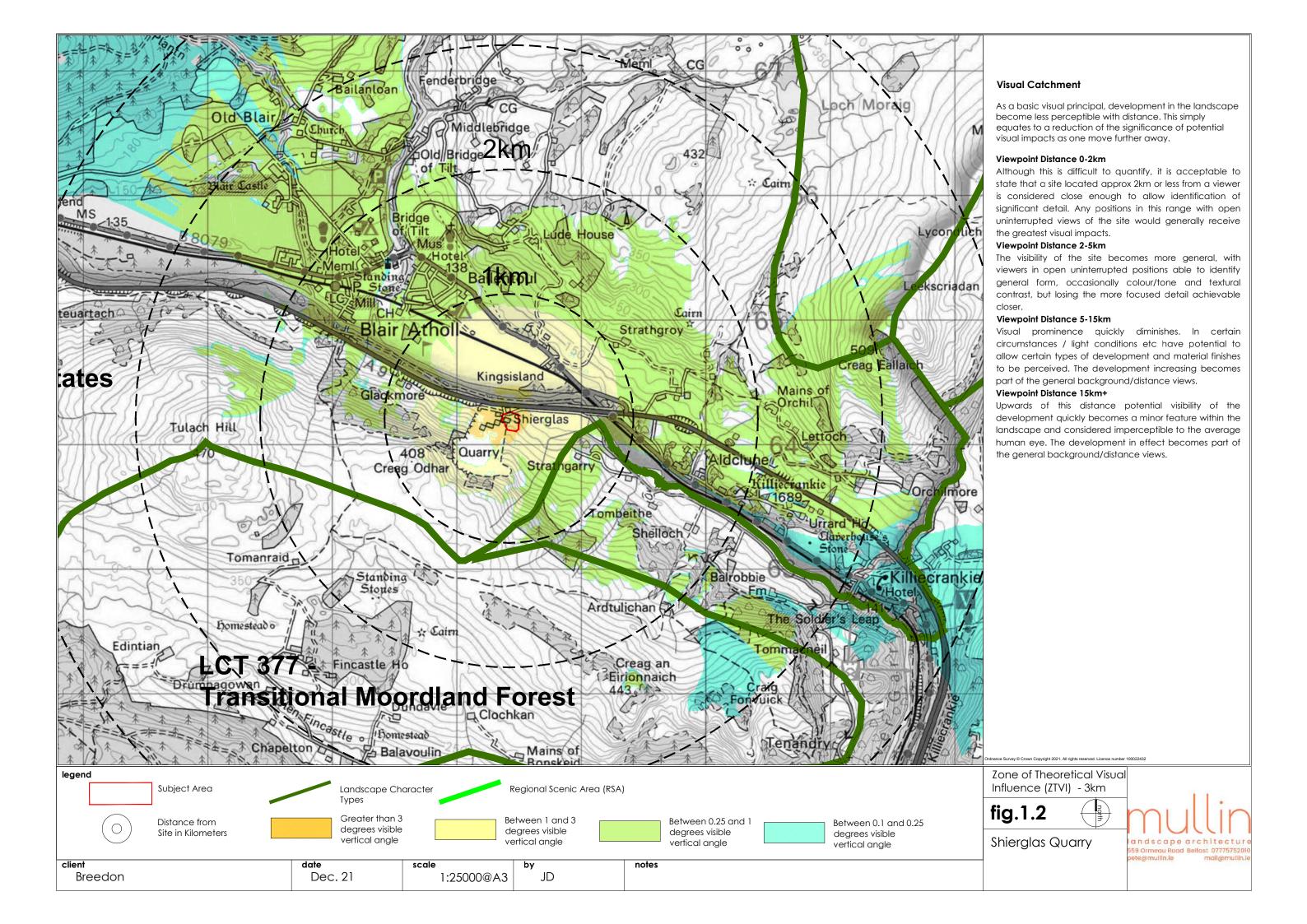
Appendix 1.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Figures

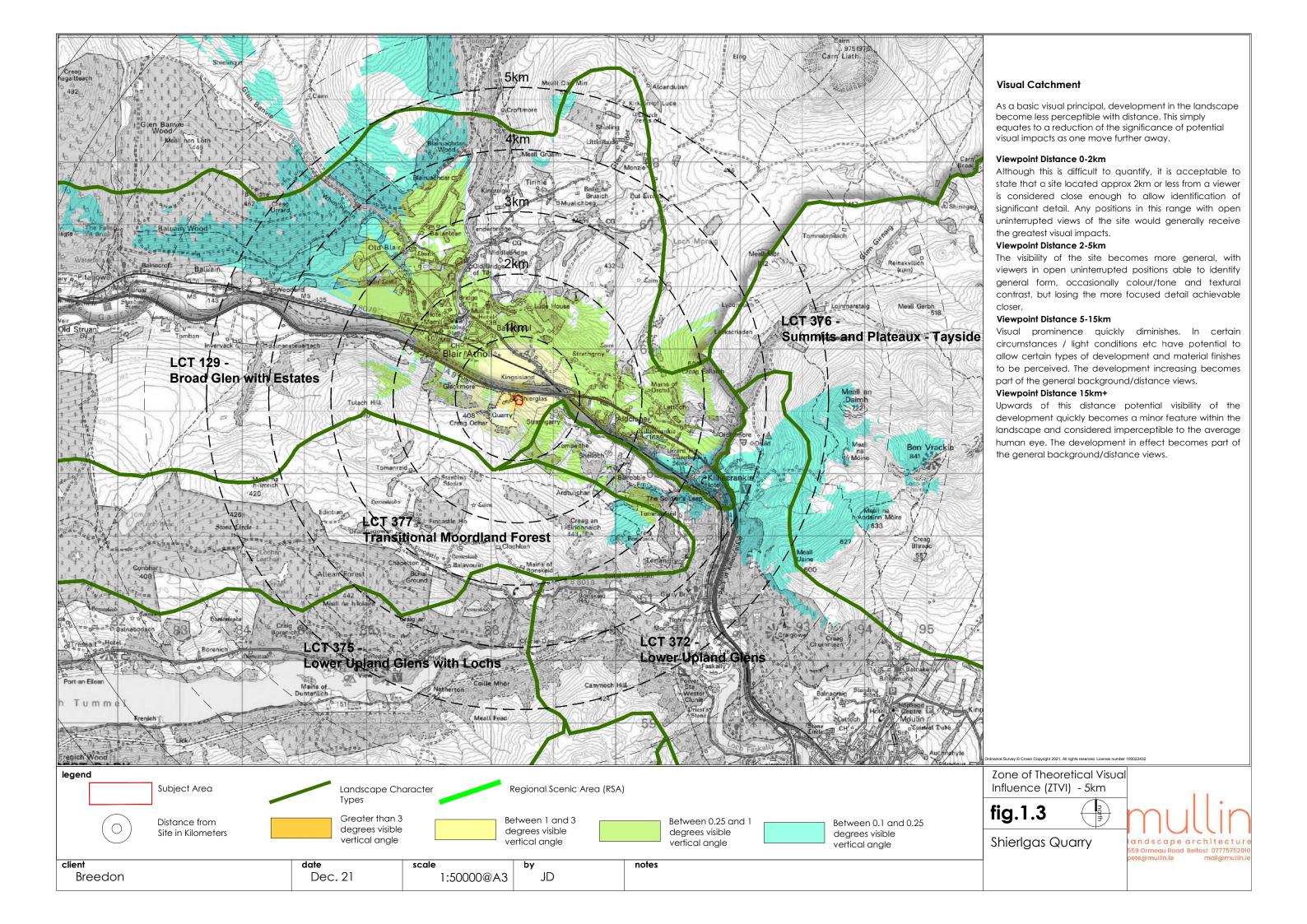
List of Figures

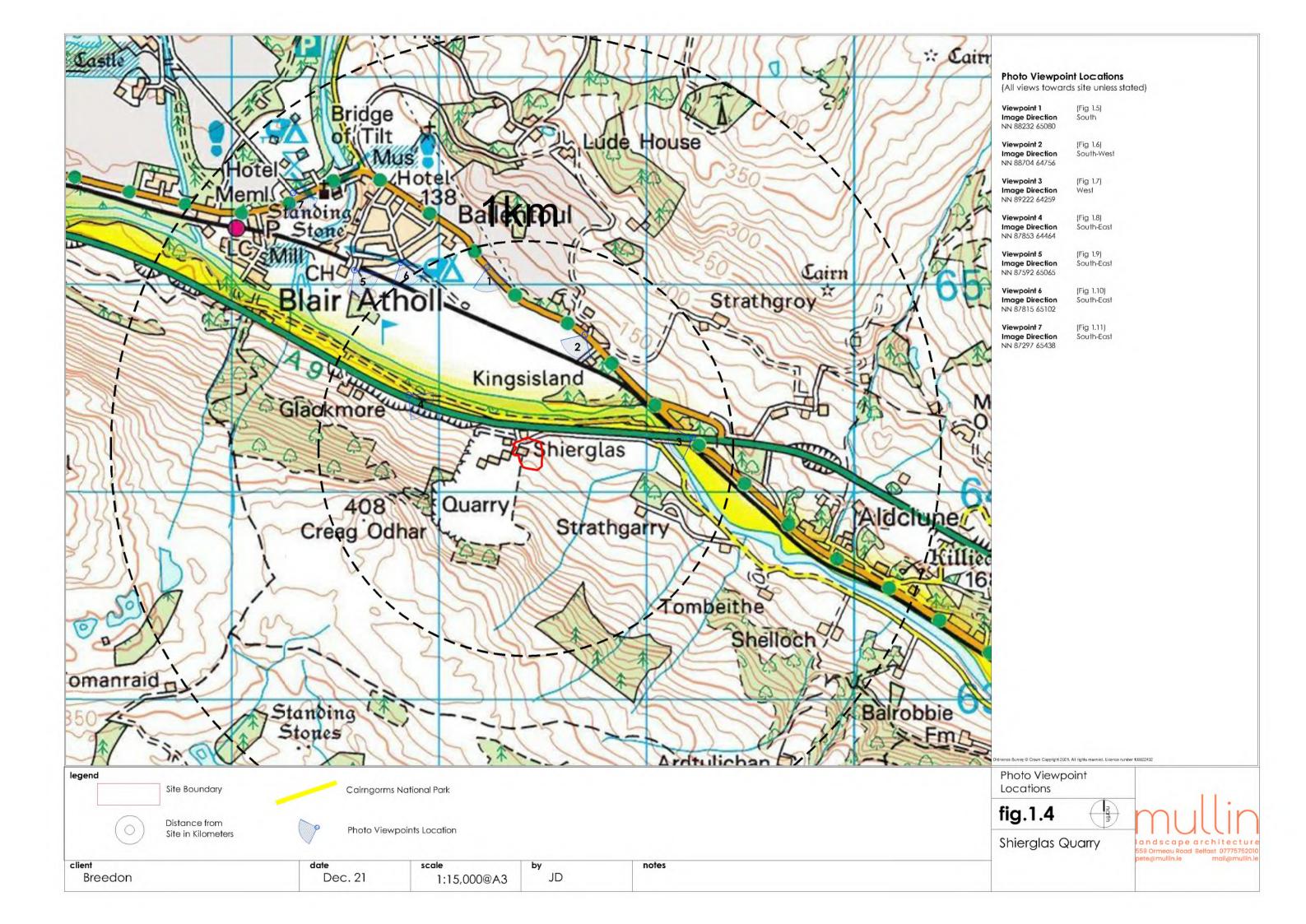
Figure 1.0 Figure 1.1	Location and Context Landscape Analysis	(Landscape Character Types)
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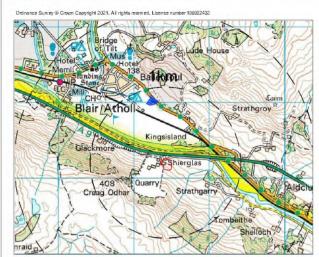






View Southeast from B8079. Photo taken in an southerly direction towards the site from the B8079 (Sustrans Route 7) on the Southern edge of 3 lair Atholl. The existing operations including much of quarry and processing plant are very clearly visible along this stretchof road. The proposed plant would be located to the Northwest side of the development (to the left side of the plant as seen from this position).

Landscape, & Visual Effect from this Viewpoint		Magnitude	Predicted Effect	Magnitude	Predicted Effect	Mitigation	
Viewpoint	Landscape & Visual Sensitivity	(Construction Stage)	(Construction Stage)	(Operational Stage)	(Operational Stage)	Reinstatement of all earthworks disturbed during; construction works. Removal of all redundant structures and plant. Structures colour and finish to match existing.	
1	Medium (Landscape) High-Medium (Visual)	Low Low	Minor Moderate	Low	Minor Moderate		
Breedon		Dec. 21	scale NTS	JD	notes Image represents an eyellevel impression of view at monocular distrance of 30cm		



Location:

Distance to Site Boundary: Horizontal Angle of View: Image Direction Grid Reference

Photo Details

Camera model:
Focal Length:
Camera Eye Height:
Photo Date:
Photo Time:

Viewpoint 1

755m 90 Degrees South NN 88232 65080

Canon Eos 5D Mark II

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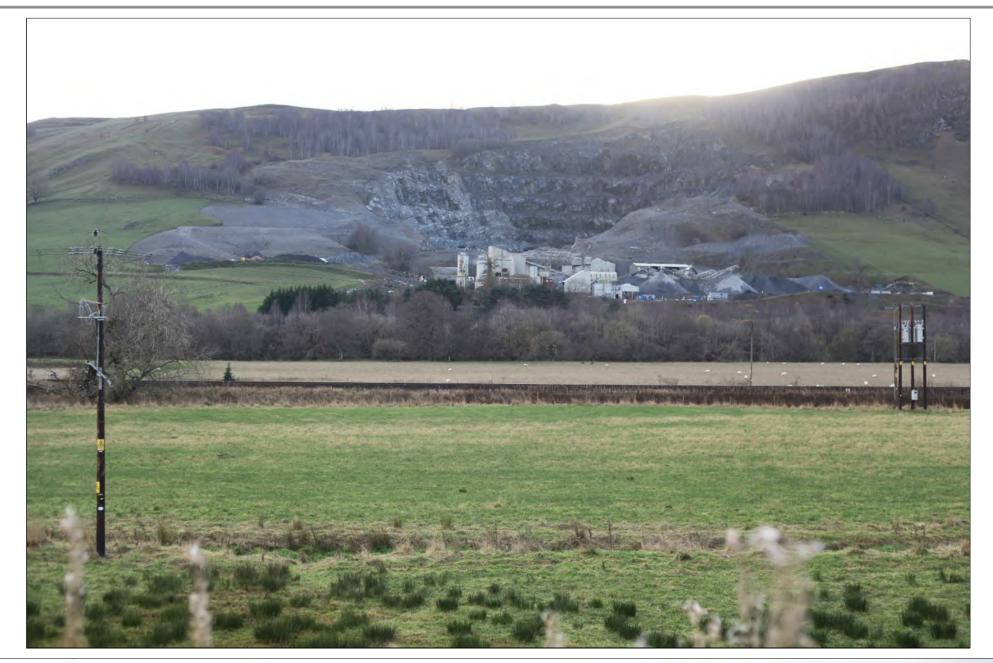


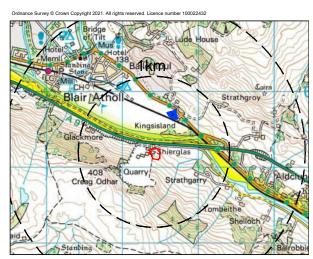
Photo Viewpoint 1

fig.1.5









Location:

Distance to Site Boundary: Horizontal Angle of View: Image Direction Grid Reference

Photo Details

Camera model:
Focal Length:
Camera Eye Height:
Photo Date:
Photo Time:

Viewpoint 2

547m 90 Degrees South-West NN 88704 64756

Canon Eos 5D Mark II

50mm 1.7m 24/11/2021 15:50





Viewpoint 2 View Southwest from B8079. Photo taken in an southerly direction towards the site from the B8079 (Sustrans Route 7) adjacent to a residential property southeast of Blair Atholl. The existing operations including much of quarry and processing plant are very clearly visible along this stretch of road. The proposed plant would be located to the Northwest side of the development (to the left side of the plant as seen from this position).

Landscape, & Visual Effect from this Viewpoint Mitigation **Predicted Effect Predicted Effect** Magnitude Magnitude Viewpoint Landscape & Visual Sensitivity (Construction Stage) (Construction Stage) (Operational Stage) (Operational Stage) Reinstatement of all earthworks disturbed during construction works. Removal of all redundant structures and plant.
Structures colour and finish to match existing. Medium (Landscape) Low Minor Low Minor High (Visual) Moderate Moderate Low Low client date **notes** Image represents an eyelevel impression scale NTS JD Breedon Dec. 21 of view at monocular distance of 30cm

Photo Viewpoint 2

fig.1.6



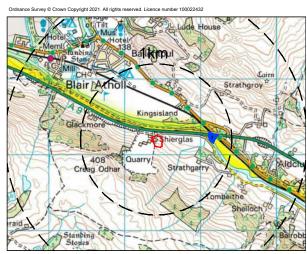






View West from A9. Photo taken in an westerly direction towards the site from the A9 on a bridge over the River Garry. The existing operations including much of quarry and processing plant are visible along this stretch of road although somewhat screened by roadside vegetation. The proposed plant would be located to the Northwest side of the development (in front of the existing plant as seen from this position).

Landscape, & Visual Effect from this Viewpoint Mitigation **Predicted Effect** Magnitude **Predicted Effect** Magnitude Viewpoint Landscape & Visual Sensitivity (Construction Stage) (Construction Stage) (Operational Stage) (Operational Stage) Reinstatement of all earthworks disturbed during construction works. Removal of all redundant structures and plant.
Structures colour and finish to match existing. Medium (Landscape) Low Minor Low Minor Medium-Low (Visual) Minor Minor Low Low client date **notes** Image represents an eyelevel impression scale JD Dec. 21 NTS Breedon of view at monocular distance of 30cm



Location:

Distance to Site Boundary: Horizontal Angle of View: Image Direction

Grid Reference

Photo Details

Camera model: Focal Length: Camera Eye Height: Photo Date:

Photo Time:

Viewpoint 3

815m 90 Degrees West NN 89222 64259

Canon Eos 5D Mark II 50mm 1.7m 24/11/2021 16:06

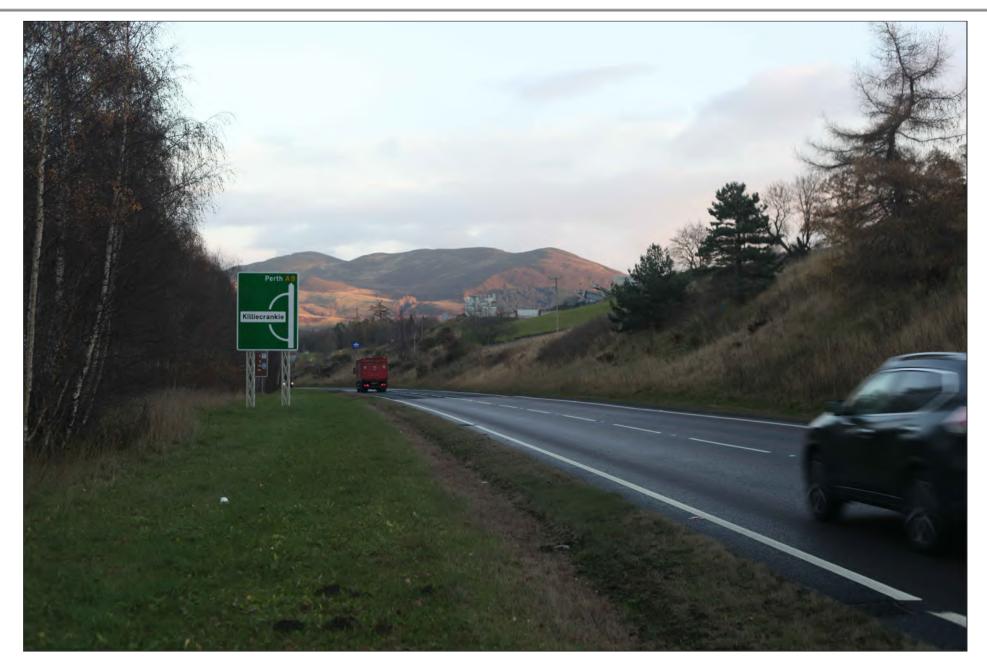


Photo Viewpoint 3

fig.1.7









View East from A9. Photo taken in an easterly direction towards the site from the A9. The upper section of existing plant is visible along this stretch of road although somewhat screened by roadside vegetation. The proposed plant would be located to the Northwest side of the development (left of the existing plant as seen from this position).

Landscape, & Visual Effect from this Viewpoint Mitigation **Predicted Effect Predicted Effect** Magnitude Magnitude Viewpoint Landscape & Visual Sensitivity (Construction Stage) (Construction Stage) (Operational Stage) (Operational Stage) Reinstatement of all earthworks disturbed during construction works. Removal of all redundant structures and plant.
Structures colour and finish to match existing. Medium (Landscape) Low Minor Low Minor Medium-Low (Visual) Minor Minor Low Low client date **notes** Image represents an eyelevel impression scale JD Dec. 21 NTS Breedon of view at monocular distance of 30cm



Location:

Distance to Site Boundary: Horizontal Angle of View: Image Direction Grid Reference

Photo Details

Camera model: Focal Length: Camera Eye Height: Photo Date: Photo Time:

NN 87853 64464

Canon Eos 5D Mark II 50mm 1.7m 24/11/2021 16:22

282m

90 Degrees

South-East



Photo Viewpoint 4

fig.1.8



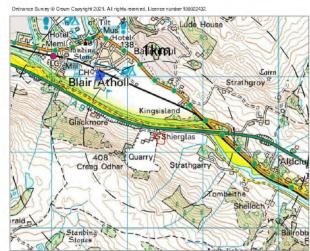






View Southeast from Blair Atholl Golf Club. Photo taken in an southerly direction towards the site from the entrance to Blair Atholl Golf Club. Aspects of the existing operations are visible above the intervening tree cover including those growing within the golf course and along the A9. The proposed plant would be located to the Northwest side of the development (to the left side of the existing plant as seen from this position).

Landscape, 8	& Visual Effect from this Viewpoint	n this Viewpoint Magnitude		Magnitude	Predicted Effect	Mitigation	
Viewpoint 5	Landscape & Visual Sensitivity Medium (Landscape) High (Visual)	(Construction Stage) Low Very Low	Predicted Effect (Construction Stage) Minor Minor	(Operational Stage) Low Very Low	(Operational Stage) Minor Minor	Reinstatement of all earthworks disturbed during construction works. Removal of all redundant structures and plant. Structures colour and finish to match existing.	
Breedon		Dec. 21	scale NTS	JD	Image represents an eyellevel impression of view at monocular distrance of 30cm		



Location:

Distance to Site Boundary: Horizontal Angle of View: Image Direction Grid Reference

Photo Details

Camera model:
Focal Length:
Camera Eye Height:
Photo Date:
Photo Time:

Viewpoint 5

926m 90 Degrees South-East NN 87592 65065

Canon Eos 5D Mark II

50mm 1.7m 24/11/2021 15:04



Photo Viewpoint 5

fig.1.9



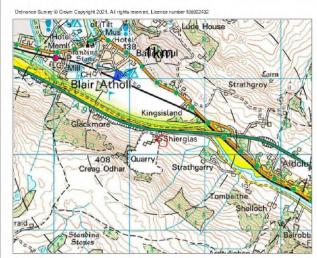






View Southwest from Blair Atholl. Photo taken in an southerly direction towards the site from residential properties on the edge of Blair Atholl. The existing operations including much of quarry and processing plant are very clearly visible from this location. The proposed pant would be located to the Northwest side of the development (to the left side of the existing plant as seeen from this position).

Landscape, & Visual Effect from this Viewpoint Mitigation **Predicted Effect** Magnitude Magnitude **Predicted Effect** Viewpoint Landscape & Visual Sensitivity (Operational Stage) (Construction Stage) (Construction Stage) (Operational Stage) Reinstatement of all earthworks disturbed during; construction works. Removal of all redundant structures and plant. Medium (Landscape) Low Minor Low Minor Structures colour and finish to match existing. Minor High (Visual) Very Low Minor Very Low client date scale Image represents an eyellevel impression Dec. 21 NTS JD Breedon of view at monocular distrance of 30cm



Location:

Distance to Site Boundary: Horizontal Angle of View: Image Direction Grid Reference

Photo Details

Camera model: Focal Length: Camera Eye Height: Photo Date:

Photo Time:

Viewpoint 6

843m 90 Degrees South-East NN 87815 65102

Canon Eos 5D Mark II

50mm 1.7m 24/11/2021 15:20



Photo Viewpoint 6

fig.1.10









View Southwest from entrance to Blair Atholl Castle. Photo taken in an southerly direction towards the site from entrance to Blair Atholl caste. The existing and proposed operations are not visib le from this location due to intervening vegetation.

Landscape, & Visual Effect from this Viewpoint Magnitude **Predicted Effect** Magnitude **Predicted Effect** Viewpoint Landscape & Visual Sensitivity (Construction Stage) (Construction Stage) (Operational Stage) (Operational Stage) Medium (Landscape) Low Low Minor Minor /Negligible/None High (Visual) Very Low Very Low Minor / Negligible / Non e client date scale NTS JD Breedon Dec. 21

Mitigation

Reinstatement of all earthworks disturbed during; construction works. Removal of all redundant structures and plant. Structures colour and finish to match existing.

Image represents an eyellevel impression of view at monocular distrance of 30cm

Location:

Distance to Site Boundary: Horizontal Angle of View: Image Direction Grid Reference

Photo Details

Camera model:
Focal Length:
Camera Eye Height:
Photo Date:
Photo Time:

Viewpoint 7 1399m

90 Degrees South-East NN 87297 65438

Canon Eos 5D Mark II

50mm 1.7m 24/11/2021 14:53

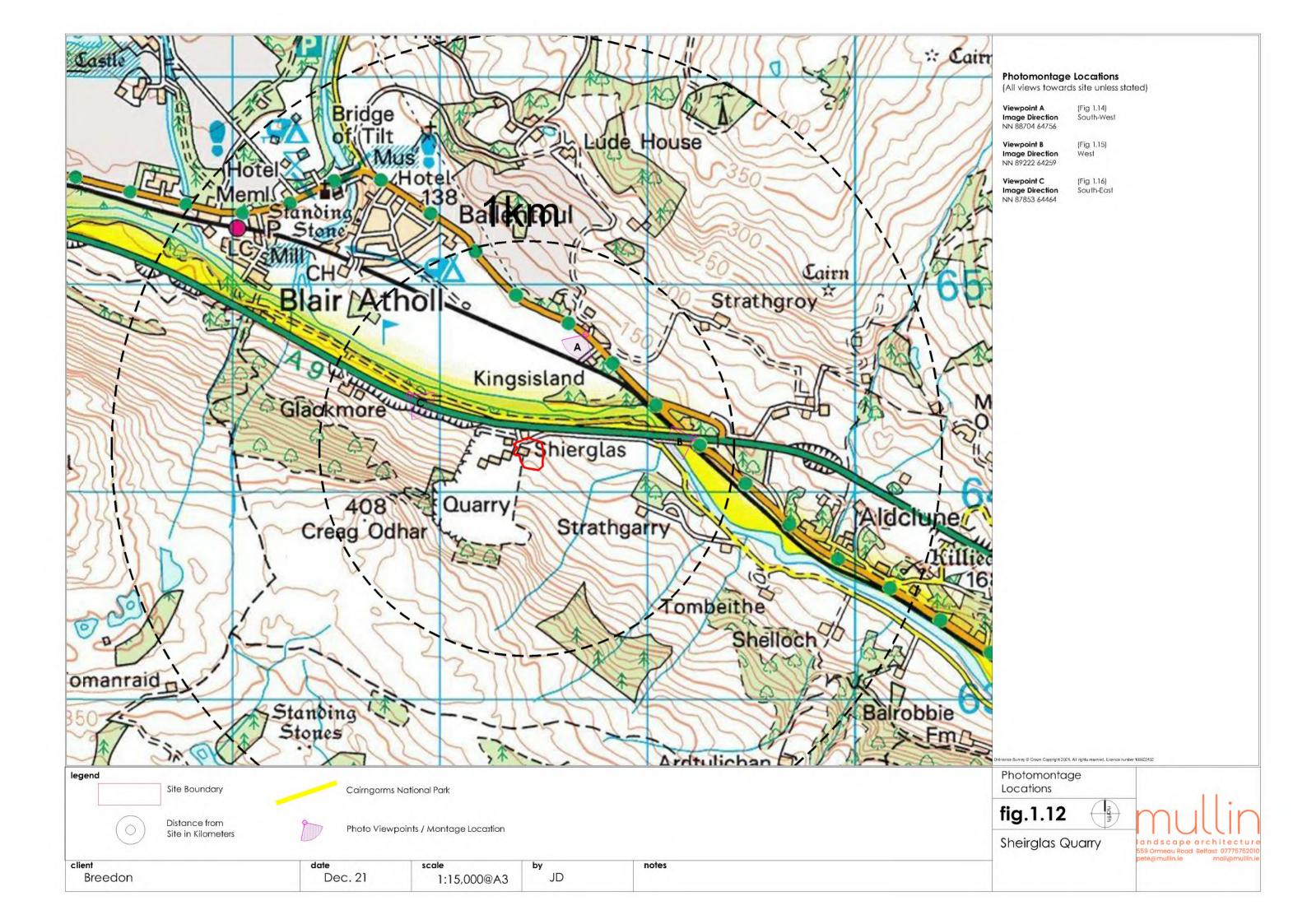


Photo Viewpoint 7

fig.1.11











Preparation of Photomontage

The process of creating the photomontage required was undertaken using the following steps:

- 1. Creation of digital terrain model(s) (DTM) in LSS software with necessary opensource Ordnance Survey LIDAR data for surrounding
- Creation of 3d design model of quarry within LSS and plant equipment layout using Autodesk 3DS Max from a mesh model. Capture of orthographic photographs from key viewpoint positions around the site using Canon Eos 5D MK II.
- Exporting high resolution images of LSS DTM using matching camera parameters to orthographic photo(georeferenced camera position on Ordnance Survey rid and Datum, eye height and bearing to site).
- Exporting high resolution images of plant equipment layout using matching camera parameters to orthographic photo.

 Matching, positioning and verifying the relevant exported model images to the orthographic photo in Adobe Photoshop using
- existing terrain and structural features.
- Masking features of the models where required to fit the existing environmental conditions.

Photomontage A - B8079 Road - Existing View and View with Model Extents

Photomontage A

fig.1.13



Shierglas Quarry



scale notes NTS JD Breedon Feb 22



Merrican 138 Balkimui Strathgrov

Blair Acholl Strathgrov

Kingsistand
Glackmore

Ald Chole

Creag Odhar

Strathgary

Strathgary

Photomontage A

Photomontage A - B8079 Road

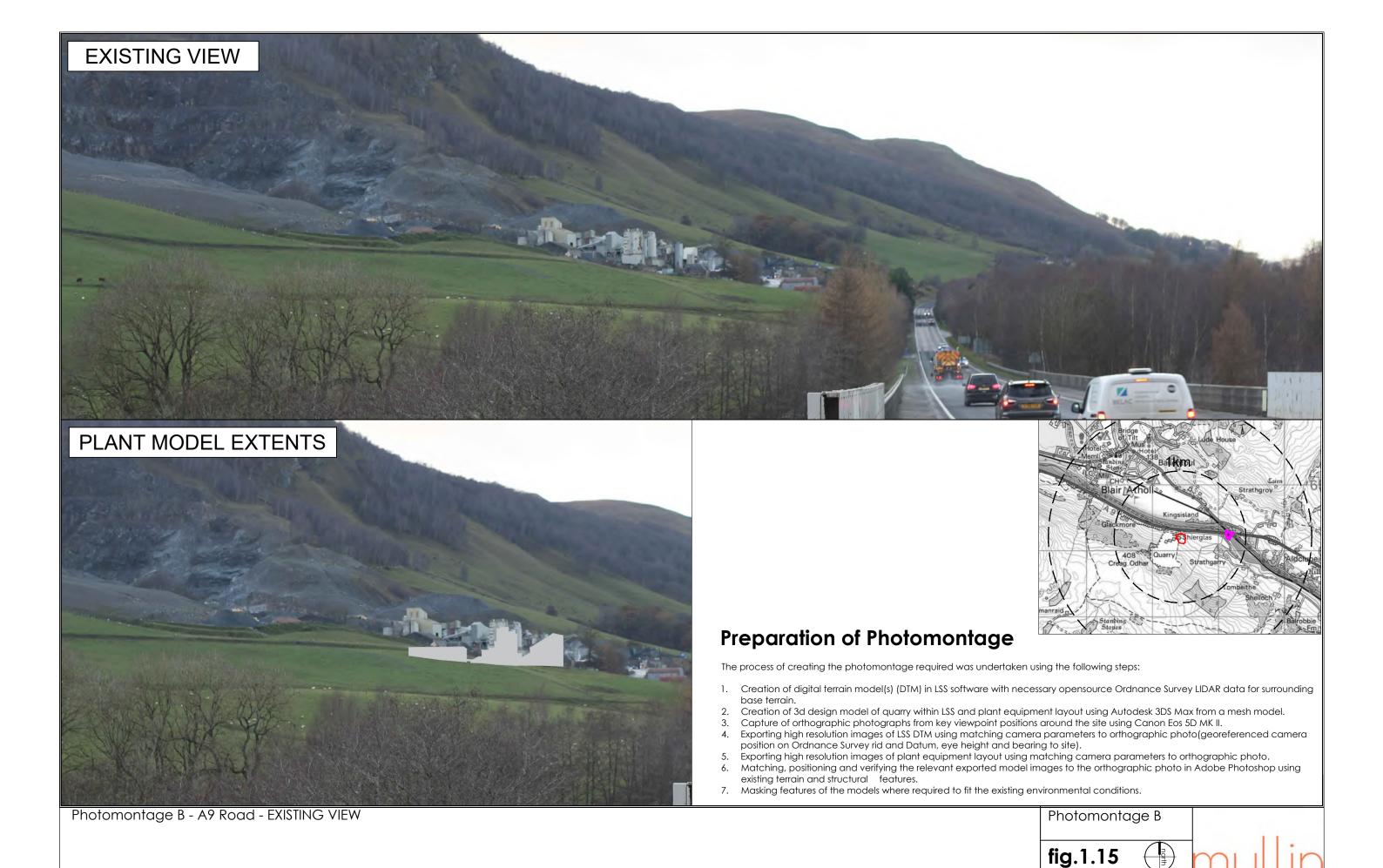
fig.1.14



Shierglas Quarry

m d s c a p e a r c h i t e c t u r e

client	date	scale	by	notes
Breedon	Feb 22	NTS	JD	



Shierglas Quarry

Breedon date scale by notes

Feb 22 NTS JD



PHOTOMONTAGE

Photomontage B - A9 Road

Breedon

Photomontage B

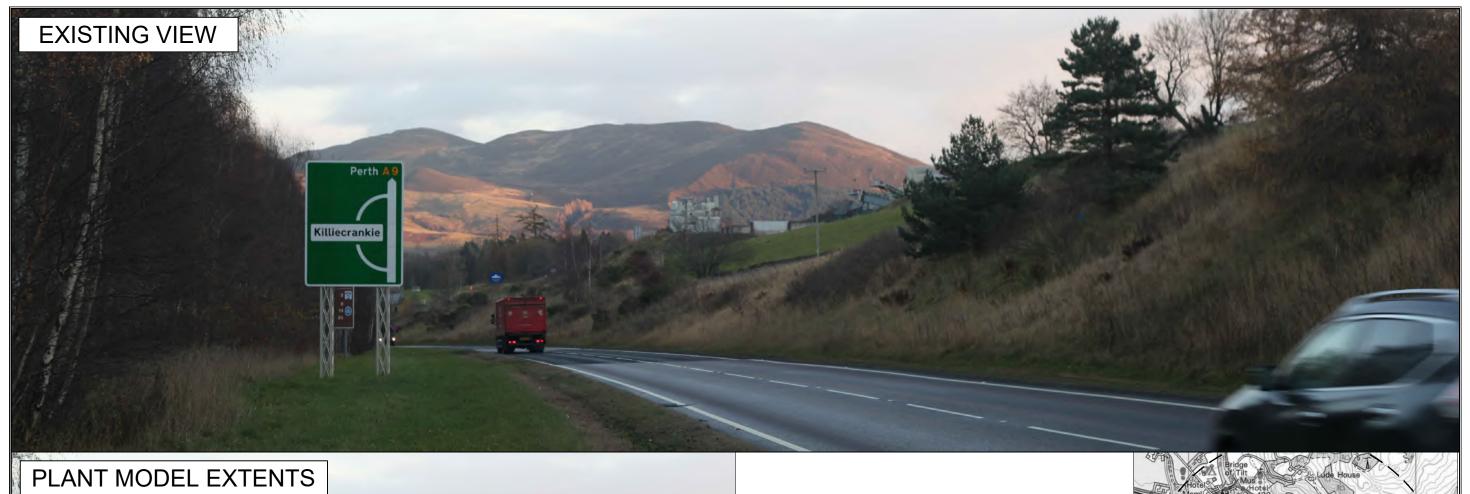
fig.1.16

Shierglas Quarry

date Feb 22 scale notes

NTS

JD







The process of creating the photomontage required was undertaken using the following steps:

- 1. Creation of digital terrain model(s) (DTM) in LSS software with necessary opensource Ordnance Survey LIDAR data for surrounding base terrain.
- 2. Creation of 3d design model of quarry within LSS and plant equipment layout using Autodesk 3DS Max from a mesh model.
- 3. Capture of orthographic photographs from key viewpoint positions around the site using Canon Eos 5D MK II.
- 4. Exporting high resolution images of LSS DTM using matching camera parameters to orthographic photo(georeferenced camera position on Ordnance Survey rid and Datum, eye height and bearing to site).
- 5. Exporting high resolution images of plant equipment layout using matching camera parameters to orthographic photo.
 6. Matching, positioning and verifying the relevant exported model images to the orthographic photo in Adobe Photoshop using
- 6. Matching, positioning and verifying the relevant exported model images to the orthographic photo in Adobe Photoshop using existing terrain and structural features.
- 7. Masking features of the models where required to fit the existing environmental conditions.

Photomontage C - A9 Road - EXISTING VIEW

Photomontage C

fig.1.17



Shierglas Quarry

landscape architectur 559 Ormeau Road Belfast 0777575201 pete@mullin.ie mall@mullin.ie

client	date	scale	by	notes
Breedon	Feb 22	NTS	JD	



notes

PHOTOMONTAGE

Photomontage C - A9 Road

Photomontage C

Shierglas Quarry

fig.1.18

clientdatescalebyBreedonFeb 22NTSJD

Appendix 1.2 Assessment Criteria

Table 1.1 - Landscape Sensitivity Criteria

Class	Criteria					
High	Landscape characteristics or features with little or no capacity to absorb change without					
	fundamentally altering their present character.					
	Landscape designated for its international or national landscape value.					
	Outstanding example in the area of well cared for landscape or set of features.					
High-	Landscape characteristics or features with a low capacity to absorb change without					
Medium	fundamentally altering their present character.					
	Landscape designated for regional or county-wide landscape value where the characteristics					
	or qualities that provided the basis for their designation are apparent. Good example in the					
	area of reasonably well cared for landscape with notable landscape features.					
Medium	Landscape characteristics or features with moderate capacity to absorb change without					
	fundamentally altering their present character.					
	Landscape designated for its local landscape value or a regional designated landscape					
	the characteristics and qualities that led to the designation of the area are less apparent					
	are partially eroded or an undesignated landscape which may be valued locally – for example					
	an important open space.					
	An example of a landscape or a set of features which is neutral or mixed character.					
Medium-	Landscape characteristics or features which are reasonably tolerant of change without					
Low	detriment to their present character.					
	No landscape designation present or of medium to low local value, or an example of a					
	common or un-stimulating landscape or set of features and conditions.					
Low	Landscape characteristics or features which are tolerant of change without detriment to their					
	present character.					
	No designation present or of low local value. An example of monotonous unattractive visually					
	conflicting or degraded landscape or set of features.					

Table 1.2 - Visual Sensitivity Criteria

Class Criteria

High	Users of outdoor recreational facilities, on recognised national cycling or walking routes or in national designated landscapes.				
	Dwellings with views orientated towards the proposed development.				
High-	Users of outdoor recreational facilities, in locally designated landscapes or on local				
Medium	recreational routes that are well publicised in guide books.				
	Road and rail users in nationally designated landscapes or on recognised scenic routes, likely				
	to be travelling to enjoy the view.				
Medium	Users of primary transport road network, orientated towards the Development, likely to be				
	travelling for other purposes than just the view.				
	Dwellings with oblique views of the proposed development.				
Medium-	People engaged in active outdoor sports or recreation and less likely to focus on the view.				
Low	Primary transport road network and rail users likely to be travelling to work with oblique views				
	of the Development or users of minor road network.				
Low	People engaged in work activities indoors, with limited opportunity for views of the				
	Development.				
	Road users on minor access roads travelling for other purposes than just the view.				

Table 1.3 - Landscape Magnitude Criteria

Class	Criteria
Very High	Very extensive, highly noticeable change, affecting most key characteristics and dominating the experience of the landscape; and,
	Introduction of highly incongruous development.
High	Extensive, noticeable change, affecting many key characteristics and the experience of the landscape; and,
	Introduction of many incongruous elements.
Medium	Noticeable change to a significant proportion of the landscape, affecting some key characteristics and the experience of the landscape; and Introduction of some uncharacteristic elements.
Low	Minor change, affecting some characteristics and the experience of the landscape to an extent; and,

	Introduction of elements that are not uncharacteristic.			
Very Low	Little perceptible change.			

Table 1.4 - Visual Magnitude Criteria

Class	Criteria
Very High	The development would dominate the existing view.
High	The development would cause a considerable change to the existing view over a wide area or an intensive change over a limited area.
Medium	The development would cause moderate changes to the existing view over a wide area or noticeable change over a limited area.
Low	The development would cause minor changes to the existing view over a wide area or moderate changes over a limited area.
Very Low	No real change to perception of the view. Weak, not legible, and/ or indiscernible.

Table 1.5 - Categories of Landscape and Visual Significance of Effect

Degree of significance	Description of Landscape Effect	Description of Visual Effect		
significance				
Major	Substantial alteration to	Major/substantial alteration to		
	elements/features of the baseline (pre-	elements/features of the baseline (pre-		
	development) conditions.	development) conditions.		
	Notably affect an area of recognised	Where the proposed development would		
	national landscape quality. cause a very noticeable alteration			
	Substantial alteration to the character,	existing view.		
	scale or pattern of the landscape.	This would typically occur where the proposed		
	development closes an existing view o			
		landscape of regional or national importance		
		and the proposed development would		
		dominate the future view.		
Moderate-	This category is a combination of descriptions of Major listed above and Moderate below.			
Major	These combinations are discussed within the assessment of each landscape or visual			
	receptor when they occur.			

Moderate	Alteration to elements/features of the baseline conditions. Affects an area of recognised regional landscape quality. Alteration to the character, scale or pattern of the local landscape.	Alteration to one or more elements/features of the baseline conditions such that post development character/attributes of the baseline will be materially changed. This would typically occur where the proposed development closes an existing view of a local landscape and the proposed development		
		would be prominent in the future view.		
Moderate- Minor	This category is a combination of descriptions of Moderate listed above and Minor below. These combinations are discussed within the assessment of each landscape or visual receptor when they occur.			
Minor	A minor shift away from baseline conditions. The Development partially changes the character of the site without compromising the overall existing landscape character area.	A minor shift away from baseline conditions. This occurs where change arising from the alteration would be discernible but the underlying character / composition / attributes of the baseline condition will be similar to the pre-development. It would also occur where the proposed development newly appears in the view but not as a point of principal focus or where the proposed development is closely located to the viewpoint but seen at an acute angle and at the extremity of the overall view.		
Negligible	No or very little change from baseline conditions. Change not material, barely distinguishable or indistinguishable.	Where there is no discernible improvement or deterioration in the existing Landscape Character Area or the view.		
No Effect	The Development would not affect the landscape receptor.	The Development would not affect the view.		

The significance of identified landscape and visual effects is established through a simple matrix, which measures the magnitude of change against landscape or visual sensitivity. The resulting impacts are classed Major, Moderate-Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible/None.

Therefore, as the sensitivity of a landscape increases from Low to High, and the Magnitude of Change increases from Very Low to Very High the predicted impacts also increase.

The example matrix table below is used to summarise the findings from the criteria tables. By combining sensitively (along the top) with predicted magnitude of change (along the side) a predicted impact/ effect is reached. This format is applicable to both landscape impacts and visual impacts.

Table 1.6 Matrix Example

Example Matrix		Sensitivity				
(Professional judgement applied at every stage of assessment and matrix only used to check consistency.)		High	High / Medium	Medium	Medium - Low	Low
Magnitude	Very High	Major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Mod-major
	High	Major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Mod-major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Moderate
	Medium	Mod-major	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Moderate	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Minor
	Low	Moderate	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Minor	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Negligible
	Very Low	Minor	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Negligible	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	Negligible / None

Intermediate sensitivity ratings (as per the criteria) would lead to a series of effects that lie between those stated above if a matrix was applied to the assessment. Professional judgement is then used to determine the degree of effect. e.g., high-medium sensitivity combined with medium magnitude would equate to a Moderate+ effect and a decision needs to be made to determine if this effect is Moderate or Moderate-Major. Intermediate magnitude ratings can also be arrived at during the assessment and a similar method is also applied here.

Effects above Moderate are considered Significant (presented in dark grey in the example matrix).

Where intermediate effects are arrived at, particular care should be taken at the upper and lower limits of the significance threshold i.e. between Moderate and Moderate-Major (presented in lighter grey in the example matrix). These effects may require additional explanation as to why the decision was made to judge the effect as either significant or not significant.

In addition to the impacts which sensitivity combined with the magnitude of change generate, there are a number of other factors which are taken into account when preparing the landscape and visual assessment.

Development is often viewed as permanent and/or perceived to have a negative impact, it is therefore important to emphasise that change created by development can result in beneficial outcomes, and may also be temporary, short-term or indeed reversible.

This assessment also considers and identifies both the 'Type' and 'Duration' of the potential impacts. The following terminology has been used were appropriate.

Type of Visual Impacts

- Beneficial: A positive impact which will improve or enhance the landscape character or viewpoint.
- Neutral: A neutral impact which will neither enhance nor detract from the landscape character or viewpoint.
- Adverse: A negative impact which will have an adverse effect on the existing landscape character or viewpoint.

Duration of Impacts

- Temporary: Impacts lasting one year or less.
- Short–term: Impacts lasting one to seven years.
- Medium-term: Impacts lasting seven to twenty years.
- Long-term: Impacts lasting twenty to fifty years.
- **Permanent**: Impacts lasting over fifty years.

Appendix 1.3 Landscape Character Assessment Extract



SNH National Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Type 129

BROAD GLEN WITH ESTATES





Location and Context

The *Broad Glen with Estates* Landscape Character Type is located in 3 locations within the Cairngorms National Park – the upper Deesides, Strathdon and Lower Glen Garry/Blair Atholl.

Key Characteristics

- Large glens
- Contained by high, rounded hills.
- Flat, broad strath floors, sometimes constricted into rocky wooded gorges, housing the upper/mid sections of major rivers flowing down from the Cairngorms.
- The rivers are a feature whether meandering in sinuous loops or faster-flowing along boulder-strewn stretches.
- Number of side glens cut by tributary streams/burns.
- Pastures on valley floors, interspersed with policy tree planting and stretches of riparian woodland.
- Policy woodlands that often include areas of parkland trees.
- Extensive woodlands: steeper slopes have conifer forest with some heather moorland on open hills.
- Settlements at bridging points and crossroads.
- Large estate houses and castles with associated lodges, cottages and steadings.
- Diverse landscape character with much visual interest.

Landscape Character Description

Landform

The *Broad Glen with Estates* Landscape Character Type cuts through high, rounded hills and mountains. They form large valley landforms where glacially-steepened side slopes enclose a predominantly flat, open floodplain across which major rivers – the Dee, Don, and Garry – meander. Strathdon is relatively narrow and sinuous, while Deeside and Atholl are wide, straighter straths on a grander scale. Tributary glens are often deep and gorge-like.

The broad floodplain often has a sharp juxtaposition with the steep side slopes. In places,

glacial-fluvial deposits form hummocks and terraces on the valley floor. On Deeside, occasional small knolls change the river's direction. The rivers themselves are often key features, meandering across the varied widths of the floodplain, or tumbling over boulder-strewn steeper stretches.

Landcover

The glens have varied vegetation cover and are extensively forested. The woodlands consist of conifer woodland and more natural pine woodland, particularly on Deeside. In Strathdon the pattern is predominantly forested hilltops, with occasional open ground on lower slopes. Shelter belts extend from the forested upper slopes to the glen floor, dividing open farmland. On the highest ground there are some heather moorlands or open grassland areas.

The valley floors divided into fields, usually by post-and-wire fences, which are generally improved pasture and occasional arable. Wetland areas are interspersed with the agricultural land use, and lochs are dominant in the Muir of Dinnet area in the east.

Designed landscapes, notably their diverse woodlands and tree planting, are a dominant feature in these glens. In places, open parkland extends across the valley floor, punctuated by trees and tree clumps often on the small knolls and terraces of moraine. Policy planting comprises a variety of native and exotic conifers, planted as shelterbelts and woodlands, as well as avenues and parkland. Fine specimen trees are frequently seen.

Settlement

These glens are well-populated areas, and the range of archaeological features shows this is long-established. Villages are associated with the conjunction of glens and river crossing points. Farm steadings and cottages are located throughout, and a series of large estate houses and castles occurs in all of the glens. The rural buildings are predominantly traditional, and the prevalence of estates has a strong local influence as lodges, bridges, gate piers, walls, and cottages often follow the style of the overall landholding. Occasional follies or monuments can extend estate influence. The Scottish baronial style is common in Deeside and Donside.

There are pre-historic mottes and more recent castles, often on long-established defensive sites. Much more recently, visitor complexes and facilities have been constructed in these glens, mostly near existing settlement.

Main roads follow all of the glens, often hugging the break in slope above the floodplain. In Atholl, the railway line as well as the A9 trunk road, makes use of the valley landform. An extensive network of hill tracks and minor roads links to the major routes, and these glens also therefore act as main access points to the higher hills and mountains.

Perception

This is a diverse landscape with much visual interest which occurs on a grand scale in Deeside and Atholl. It is easily appreciated from the roads that follow the glens. The roads' sinuous alignment, and the high proportion of woodland, provides a sense of intrigue as the landscape is revealed only gradually. The sequence of woodland and open farmland can form a rhythmic pattern as well as having a visual balance.

2

Views are often dramatic, as sight of the mountainous landscape beyond the glen itself adds to the variety of the valley landform and range of woodland and designed landscape features. The sparkle of the rivers also contrasts with the hillsides and dark woodlands. The artifice of the designed landscapes and the mountain setting beyond the glens are very different, providing further contrast.





This is one of 390 Landscape Character Types (LCTs) identified at a scale of 1:50 000 as part of a national programme of Landscape Character Assessment republished in 2019.

More detailed Landscape Character Areas have been identified by the Cairngorms National Park Authority and can be viewed as part of their wider Landscape Toolkit at

http://cairngorms.co.uk/caring-future/cairngorms-landscapes/landscape-areas/

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