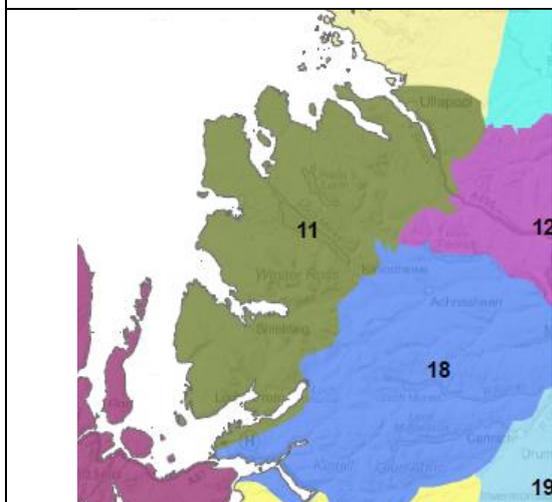


Descriptions 11 - 20			
11	Wester Ross	12	Ross
13	Easter Ross	14	Moray
15	Banff and Buchan	16	Uist and Barra
17	Skye	18	Kintail and Affric
19	Great Glen	20	Monadhliaths

11 Wester Ross



Description

Iconic mountains rise steeply from a patchwork of rocky moorland and indented coastline. The deep lochs of Torridon, Gairloch, Ewe and Maree reflect massive mountains such as Liathach, Beinn Eighe and An Teallach, emphasising their height. The coastal edge is highly varied, with an intricate mix of beaches, sea loch, islands, headlands, inlets, woodlands and crofting settlements of traditional character. The larger coastal settlements include Poolewe and Ullapool which grew up around the fishing industry in the 19th century. The area is rich in early Christian ecclesiastical remains and was an important centre in the late first millennium AD. There are also the remains of early modern industrial activity such as the copper mine at Rassal, though today, this a landscape valued for its wildness and scenic beauty.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Ross and Cromarty

NHF: North West Seaboard (4)

HLA: XX

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Selected creative associations

12 Ross



Description

An extensive inland area of moorland, mountains and wide glens with occasional large forestry plantations. This is a landscape of transition between the relatively sheltered east coast and the more exposed west. The lush, rounded hills in the east become progressively steeper and rockier towards Beinn Dearg and the Fannichs in the west.

The few roads tend to follow the glens and curve alongside the larger lochs and reservoirs that generally run east-west. The sparse road network and lack of visible human influence increases the sense of wildness in the west, but the eastern fringe is more populated. The area has been inhabited from the earliest times and scattered remains of chambered cairns, henges, fort and duns are still visible.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Caithness and Sutherland and Ross and Cromarty

NHF: Northern Highlands (7)

HLA: XX

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Buildings of the Scottish Countryside
pp 188-191, 195-200

Selected creative associations

13 Easter Ross



Description

A coastal area characterised by mixed farmland, woods and scattered crofts which clothe the 'Black Isle' and the low, rounded hills that fringe these sheltered firths. Forestry plantations on higher ground strengthen the wooded character. There is a long history of agricultural settlement here, evident from the many villages and small towns linked by an extensive road network. The twentieth century brought industrial development to Invergordon and Nigg, where the moored oil rigs provide a temporary but prominent feature in the Cromarty Firth. Higher hills to the north and west provide a backdrop for this landscape. The area has been inhabited from the earliest times, with chambered cairns, henges, fort and duns visible in the landscape. There are abundant early ecclesiastical remains, including the Pictish monastic settlement at Portmahomack.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Inner Moray Firth

NHF: Moray Firth (21)

HLA: XX

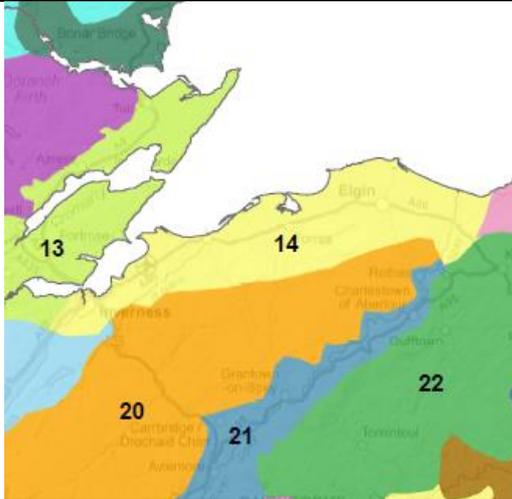
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Selected creative associations

Poetry
Cromarty (Ken Cockburn)

Novels
Another Time Another Place (Jessie Kesson)

14 Moray



Description

A diverse coastline of cliffs, rocky shores, broad sandy bays and long, sheltered inner firths is backed by settled lowlands and farmland. Inland, some large-scale forestry plantations are interspersed with more irregular woodland and contrast with the large, geometric fields. Views across the firth to Ben Wyvis and other mountains beyond, add to the experience of openness, scale and distance. This is a populated landscape: planned towns and villages are found throughout, interspersed with earlier tower houses. The rapidly expanding city of Inverness is at the head of the firth. A major Pictish promontory fort is visible at Burghead and the strategic importance of the area in the past is also evidenced by Fort George, built shortly after the Jacobite Uprising, and by the WWII coastal defences.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Inner Moray Firth and Moray and Nairn

NHF: Moray Firth (21)

HLA: XX

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pp 188-191

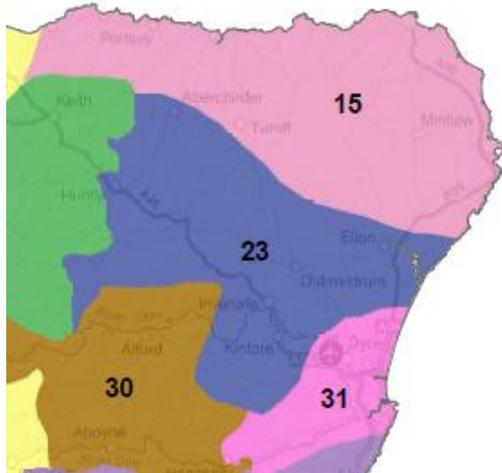
Selected creative associations

Poetry

Castle Gordon (Robert Burns)

Culloden Moor seen in autumn rain (Alice Macdonnel of Keppoch)

15 Banff and Buchan



Description

An area of low-lying and rolling coastline and farmland with a strong sense of exposure and openness to the changing sky. There are wide views to distant hills and mountains. Mormond Hill, with its telecom masts and the White Horse, is an important local landmark. There are few trees, although clusters of mature woodland on small knolls punctuate the open landscape. Drystone dykes edge the fields. Prehistoric settlement and funerary monuments are visible throughout. Small villages are located near rivers, and large farmsteads are widespread. Several fishing villages huddle at the foot of cliffs, the houses set gable ends to the sea. The ports of Peterhead and Fraserburgh are larger and more formal. Remains of the Rattray Line along the coast bear witness to the area's strategic importance during WWII.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Banff and Buchan

NHF: North East Coastal Plain (9)

HLA: XX

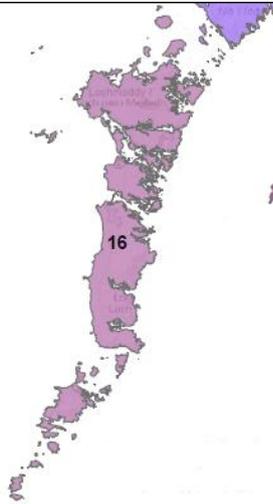
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Selected creative associations

Paintings

Cullen Castle, Banffshire (Robert Adam)

16 Uist and Barra



Description

This narrow and elongated chain of islands is linked by causeways or ferries. A windswept landscape of extensive horizons, it is coloured by machair in bloom, with reflective lochs and lochans. The sea is inescapable, and the weather and light conditions are very dynamic. On the exposed Atlantic coast, long sandy beaches are backed by extensive machair grasslands. Inland, the single road is dotted with crofts and small dispersed settlements, churches and shrines. The interior and east coast are remote, rugged and largely uninhabited, marked by a line of distinct conical mountains. Gaelic traditions are strong, and crofting is the main method of agriculture on the islands. Prehistoric remains are abundant and well-preserved; Atlantic roundhouses (brochs and duns) are common and most of the known wheelhouses are also to be found there.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Western Isles

NHF: Coll, Tiree and the Western Isles

HLA: XX

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Selected creative associations

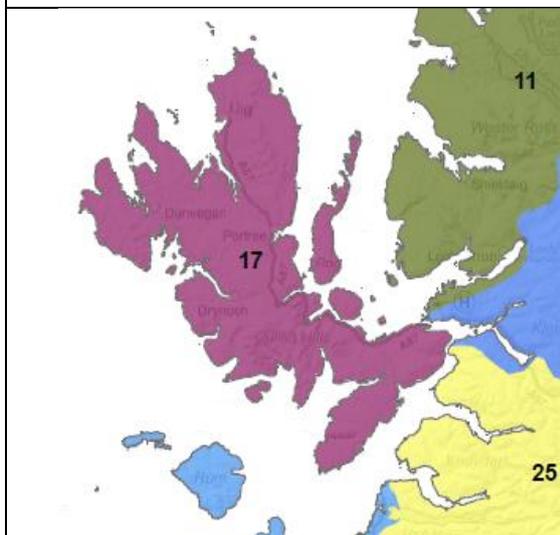
Music

Eriskay Love Lilt (anon, traditional)

Mingulay Boat Song (anon, traditional)

Uist Tramping Song (anon, traditional)

17 Skye



Description

Skye is an island of dramatic mountains and hills, with a core of moorland and isolated peaks to the north, moorland with forestry to the west and the iconic Cuillin mountains further south. The islands of Raasay, Scalpay and Rona stretch off the eastern coast. Views to and from Skye extend across seas busy with ferries and fishing craft. The coastline is extensive and diverse: beaches, peninsulas and bays are interspersed with crofting townships and small woodlands or open moorland. Settlement pattern is rich and varied, with the principal settlement of Portree located in a sheltered bay in the Sound of Raasay. Skye is also rich in prehistoric remains, with the brochs and forts being most visible in the landscape today. The island's mountain scenery and its strong historical and cultural lore combine to draw many visitors to Skye.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Skye and Lochalsh

NHF: Western Seaboard (6)
[Western Highlands (8) part]

HLA: XX

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pp 206-208

Selected creative associations

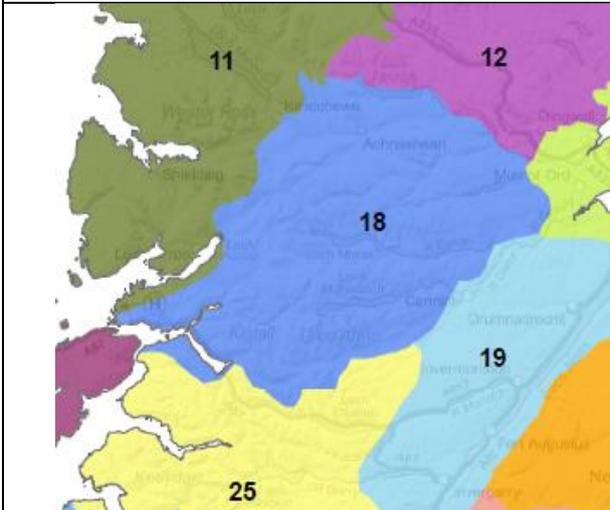
Poetry

Hallaig (Sorley Maclean)
Skye (Alexander Nicolson)
The White Air of March (Ian Crichton Smith)

Paintings

Dunvegan (Alexander Runciman)
Loch Coruisk (Joseph Mallord William Turner)

18 Kintail and Affric



Description

A distinctly remote, dramatic and rugged mountainous area, dissected by long glens and inland lochs. The few roads tend to run east-west, making access to the mountainous interior difficult. Wildness is a key part of the experience of this landscape. The roads are hemmed in by high, narrow, parallel mountain ridges that lend a grand scale to the landscape. There are occasional, remote roadside inns, along with the remains of prehistoric settlements. Glens such as Affric and Strathconon are renowned for their varied woodland and seasonal colour. Lochs and reservoirs often line the valley floors.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Ross and Cromarty,
[Skye and Lochalsh
Inverness]

NHF: Northern Highlands [7]
[Western Highlands (8) part]

HLA: XX

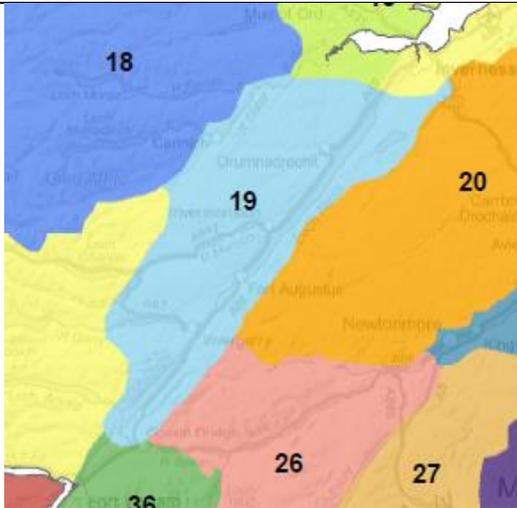
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Selected creative associations

Music

The Palomino Way (Phil Cunningham, folk / traditional)

19 Great Glen



Description

The impressively vast and straight trench of the Great Glen, edged by tree lined slopes and hills, contains a line of elongated, deep lochs. The most well-known of these is Loch Ness, associated with the 'Nessie' stories and related tourist attractions. Subsidiary glens to the west have a similar form and character, albeit on a smaller scale. Roads tend to follow the valley floors, connecting the settlements that occur at the ends of the lochs, or in occasional bays. The remains of the military roads built through the area during the eighteenth century can still be seen. Apart from the villages, there is only a light scatter of houses and steadings on the lower valley sides, although prehistoric settlement remains are common. The distinctive locks and bridges of the Caledonian Canal link the waterbodies.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Inverness
Lochaber

NHF: Northern Highlands (7)

HLA: XX

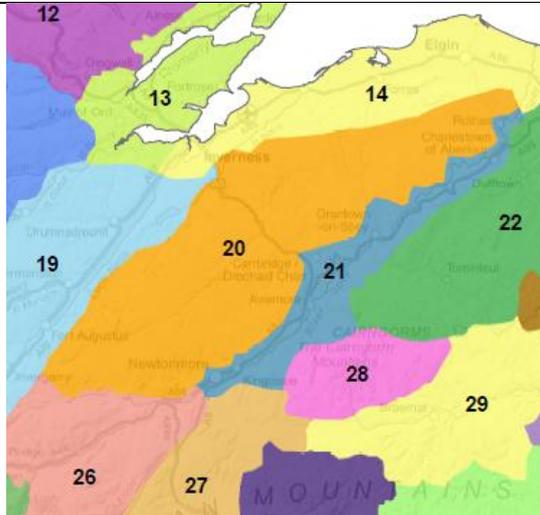
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Selected creative associations

Paintings

Castle Urquhart (Sir David Young Cameron 1929)

20 Monadhliaths



Description

A large expanse of high, rounded hills that stands between two major river valleys. To the north, the hills descend to a broad coastal plain. The land cover is mostly heather moorland and unimproved grassland, with relatively few forestry plantations. As a result, the hills have an exposed and open character. The main transport routes skirt around these bulky hills, which in consequence can feel relatively remote. Hidden glens divide the isolated rolling moors; a few in the north contain sporadic areas of settlement. The remains of prehistoric settlements, deserted townships and eighteenth century military roads can still be seen. Power generation, in the form of both hydro-electric schemes and wind farms, is evident in places.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Inverness
Cairngorms
Moray and Nairn

NHF: Central Highlands (10)

HLA: XX

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Selected creative associations