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The particular geology and climate of this remote coastal location have combined to produce a basic resource which doesn't seem so favourable now. In the past the combination of fishing and farming provided a subsistence local economy, but now the harsh climate and thin soils don't provide the growing conditions suitable for modern agriculture. But these poor conditions have been caused partly by agriculture itself. In prehistoric times, farmers cut down the woodland which once covered most of this area, and that combined with the change in climate produced the blanket bog which now encircles the Glen.

This huge tract of land now produces turf, which is the main source of fuel for the area. Harvesting the turf is part of the seasonal pattern of local life: one of the ways in which local society and the environment are linked. The agricultural landscape is an expression of this link. For while environment is certainly a strong influence on agriculture and the landscape looks natural, the explanation of agricultural practice and the forms and patterns in the local landscape lies within the wider social context.

[End of recording]