



LOCH LOMOND NORTH

SPECIAL QUALITIES OF LOCH LOMOND

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

Key Features

Highland Boundary Fault
Loch Lomond, the Islands and fringing woodlands
Open Uplands including Ben Vorlich and Ben Lomond
Small areas of settled shore incl. the planned villages of Luss & Tarbet
Historic and cultural associations
Rowardennan Forest
Piers and boats
Sloy Power Station
West Highland Way
West Highland Railway
Inversnaid Garrison and the military roads
Islands with castles and religious sites
Wildlife including capercaillie, otter, salmon, lamprey and osprey

Summary of Evaluation

Sense of Place

The sense of place qualities of this area are of high importance. The landscape is internationally renowned, so its importance extends far beyond the Park boundaries. The North Loch Lomond area is characterised by a vast and open sense of place and long dramatic vistas. The loch narrows north of Inveruglas and has a highland glen character with narrow and uneven sides and huge craggy slopes. The forests and woodlands along the loch shores contrast with surrounding uplands to create a landscape of high scenic value. The Loch Lomond Islands are unique landscape features with a secluded character, they tend to be densely wooded and knolly and hummocky in form.

The upland hills, which include Ben Lomond and Ben Vorlich, surrounding Loch Lomond provide a dramatic backdrop to the loch. The upland hills are largely undeveloped and have an open and wild sense of place. However, there are exceptions, with evidence of pylons and masts on some hills and recreational pressures causing the erosion of footpaths on some of the more popular peaks.

Cultural Heritage

The cultural heritage qualities of the area are of high importance. The loch contains an important collection of crannogs, a prehistoric manmade lake dwelling. The loch islands contain the densest collection of archaeological remains within the Park. This is because the islands were attractive places to settle and easily defended. Remains consist of several castles, as well as many other types of site including an early church site on Inchcailloch.

The woodlands fringing the loch shores have bloomery mounds which are evidence of iron working, reflecting a time when these plantations were oakwood whose bark was used in tannin.

The uplands included numerous small groups of shielings and lime kilns along the burn sides. Boundary markers can be found on the high boundary between Argyll and Stirling and it is possible they could date back to the early historic period but their date is not known.

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The remains of the early 18th century military garrison at Inversnaid still survive above the east shore of the loch. The Garrison was built at the request of the Duke of Montrose to defend his territories against Rob Roy, and for control of the Highlands in general. Its site is now occupied by a farm and the remains incorporated into farm buildings.

The Loch Sloy Power Station is a dramatic landmark building on the shore near Inveruglas and was the first of the large hydro-electric schemes of the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board, built in the 1950s.

Settlement is located on loch shores and Luss is an outstanding planned village.

Biodiversity

The area is of high biodiversity importance for a number of reasons, but primarily because of the high diversity of fish species that the loch supports (including lamprey, powan and salmon), and the large area of Atlantic oak woodland that surrounds much of the loch and covers many of its islands. Most of this woodland is designated as a SAC and supports a rich and varied lower plant community.

Many of the islands are designated as part of the Loch Lomond SPA because they support a population of capercaillie, the most southerly population in Scotland. In addition, many of these islands and the woodlands surrounding the loch support a large diversity of breeding passerine birds including pied flycatchers, wood warblers and capercaillie.

Some of the islands are of historic or curiosity value for supporting populations of non-native mammals such as red-necked wallabies and fallow deer.

The uplands are of high importance for a range of montane and upland plant communities and associated invertebrates. Ben Lomond and Ben Vorlich are designated as SSSIs. Species include black grouse, ptarmigan, upland waders, eagle, pine marten, red deer, mountain hare and water vole.

Geology

The area is of particular importance for its geology. The Highland Boundary Fault defines the physical landscape, ecological and cultural transition between highland and lowland. Garabal Hill is of world importance for its igneous rock exposures and historical and present day research into fractional crystallisation.

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Associations

Loch Lomond is an iconic landscape with important historic and cultural associations. Sir Walter Scott's poem 'The Lady of the Lake' (1810) although written about Loch Katrine refers to a fiery cross made from sacred yew trees growing on the wooded island of Inchcailloch. Inversnaid on Arklet Water is where William Wordsworth met the 'sweet highland girl' he wrote about in song. Inversnaid also inspired Gerard Manley Hopkins's poem Inversnaid. There are many songs and poems written about Loch Lomond, probably most famous 'The Bonnie Banks O' Loch Lomond'.

The islands have associations with a number of clans who built island strongholds. Vikings invaded Loch Lomond in the 13th century and there is an unusual hogbacked tomb at Luss Churchyard. From Victorian times to the present day the loch has attracted tourists who travel around the loch by ferry.

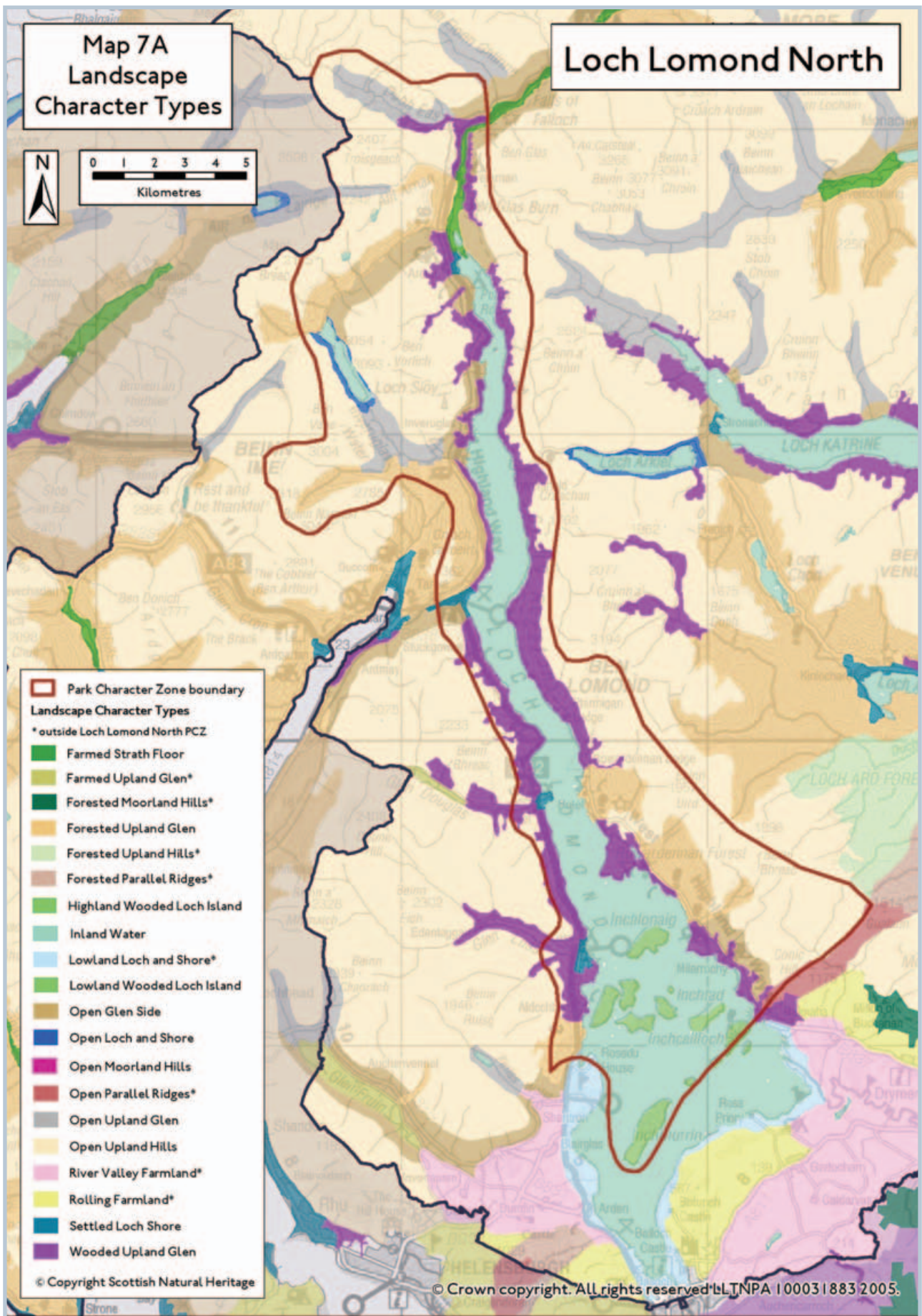
Qualities valued by local communities

(Source: Community Futures and Park Plan Workshop on Special Qualities, April 2004)

- Communities in the Loch Lomond area value the scenic qualities of the area including the lochside, the mountains, the islands, woods and access to the loch.
- It was felt that the Loch still retained its quietness and this was valued. This view came across most strongly from communities situated on the east side of the Loch.
- The area was also valued for its nature conservation qualities including the Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve and the Reserve at Inversnaid. Particular species mentioned include red squirrel, red deer, roe deer and feral goats.
- The Islands were of high importance to local communities for their archaeology, nature conservation and scenic qualities.
- The ancient oak woodlands fringing the loch and within forest glades were valued for their nature conservation and history.
- The heritage and rich folklore of the area was valued.
- The recreational qualities of the area were valued. Particular areas mentioned, include Queen Elizabeth Forest Park, boating and golf on the west of the loch, the West Highland Way and the West Loch Lomond cycle route.

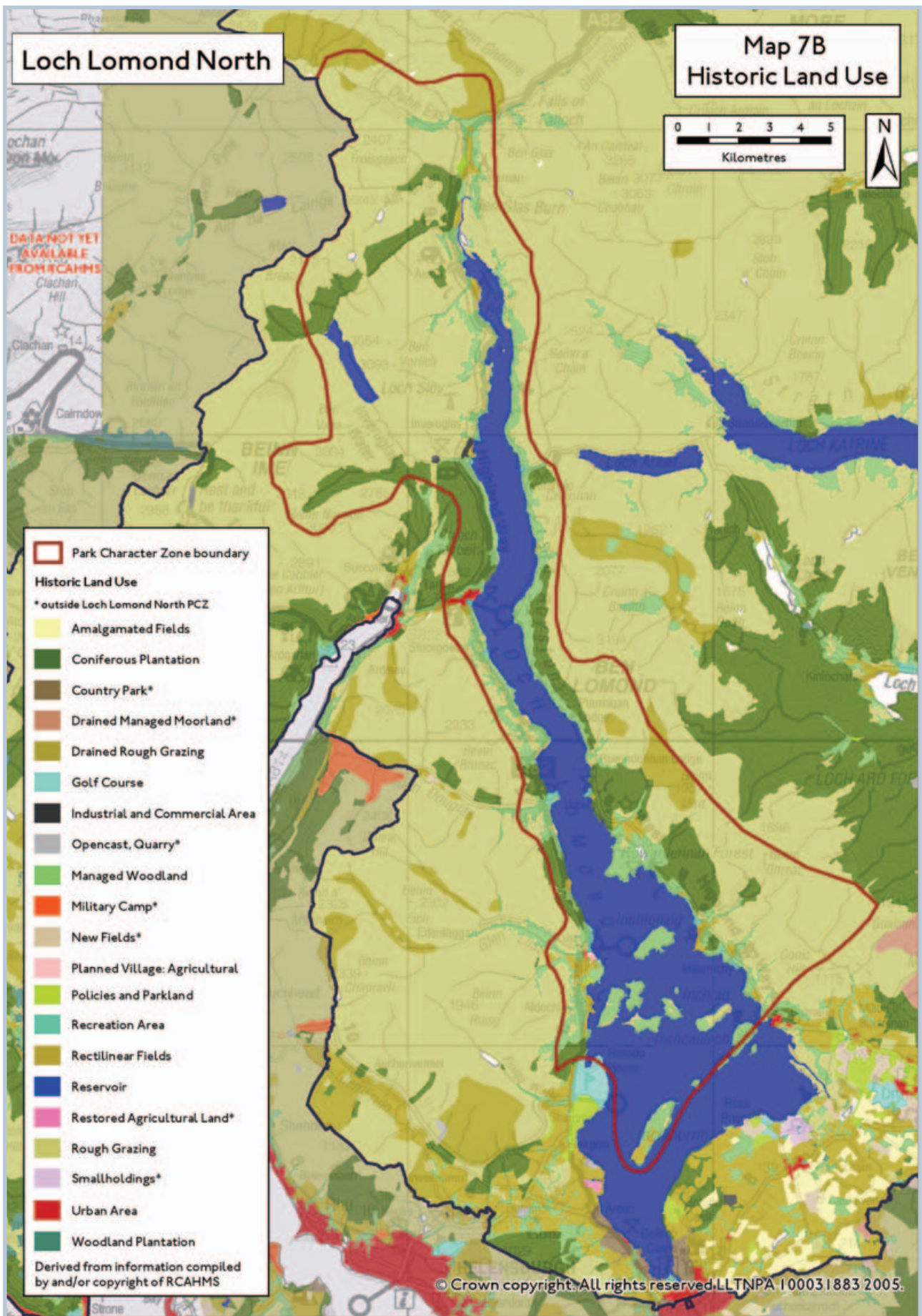
LOCH LOMOND NORTH

MAP 7A – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES



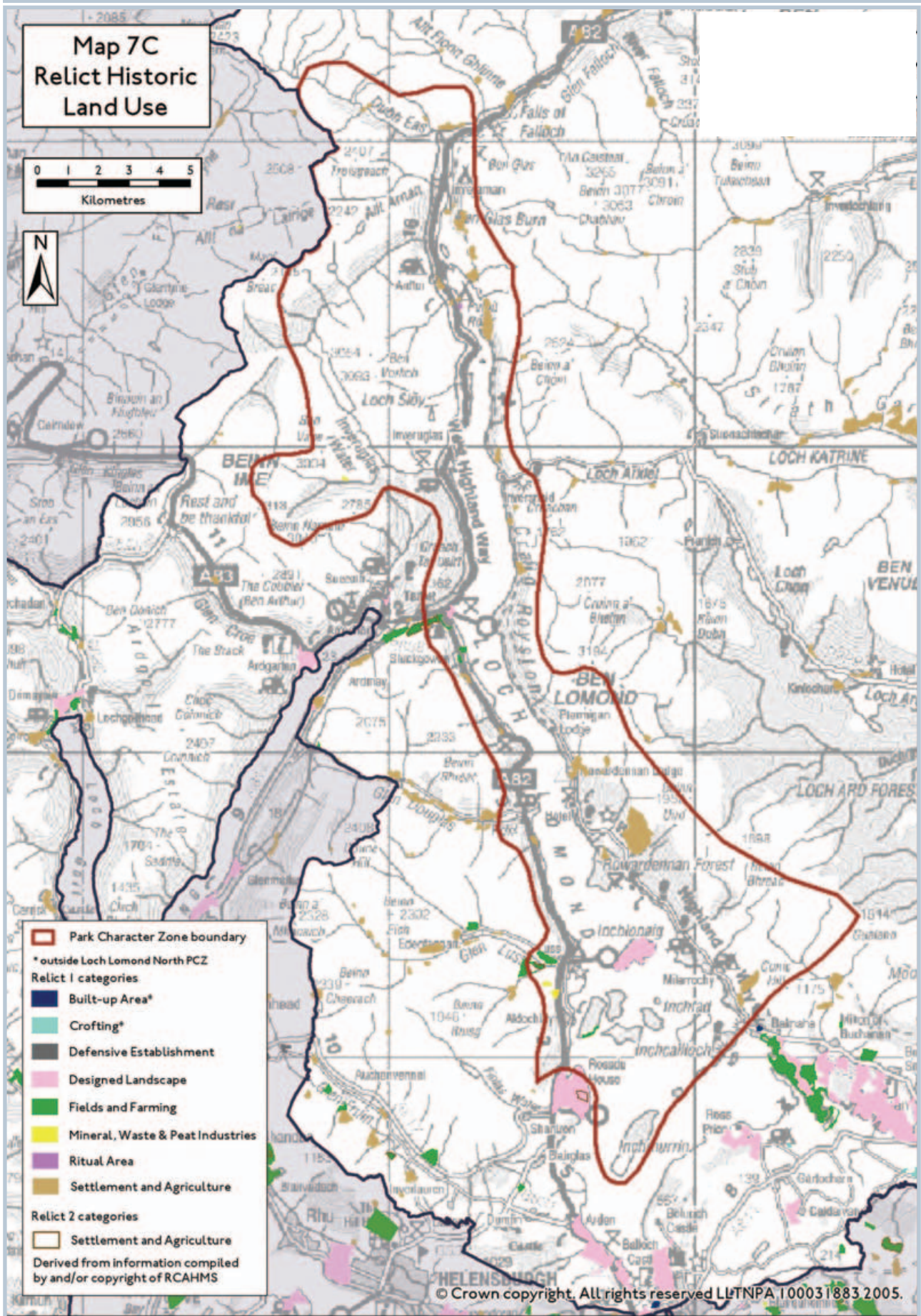
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MAP 7B – HISTORIC LAND USE



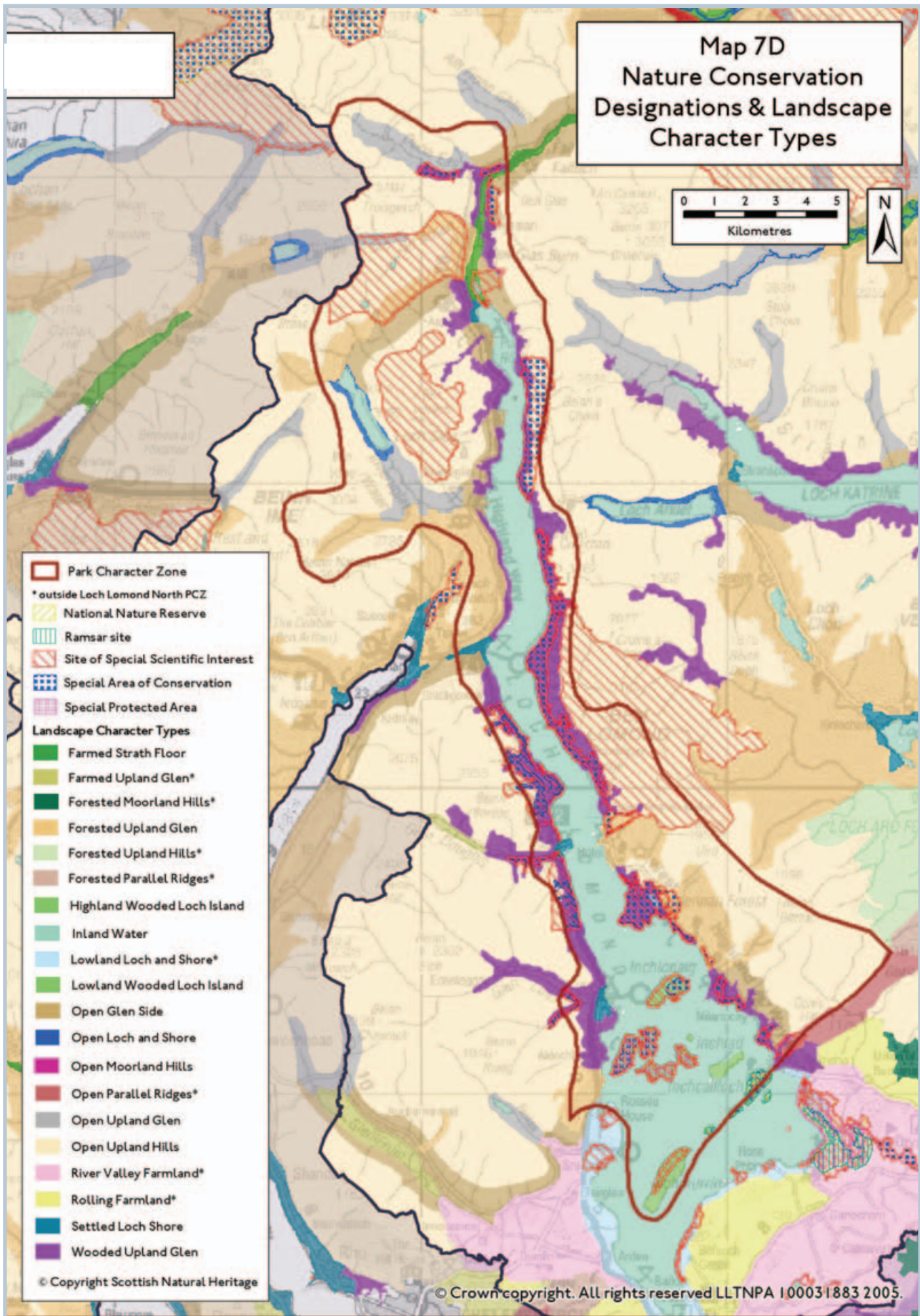
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MAP 7C - RELICT HISTORIC LAND USE



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MAP 7D - NATURE CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS

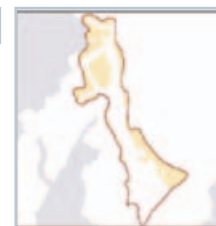


LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: OPEN UPLAND HILLS

A landform of peaks, moorland, rocky outcrops, gullies and screes. The slopes of Ben Lomond on the east side of the loch are included in this area. It also includes the northern area of the Arrochar Alps both Ben Vorlich and Ben Vane.

HLA: Prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	The open upland hills (including the Luss Hills) provide the backdrop for the Loch Lomond setting, adding to the dramatic vistas and helping to frame the lochs and loch side woodland. Ben Lomond is a signature landscape feature for this area and the Park.	<p>The open upland hills are highly visible from the loch side settlements (such as the view of Ben Lomond from Luss). They are of high significance to tourists and those travelling through the Park, important as the skyline and framing backdrop to the Loch Lomond landscapes. Ben Lomond and the loch are the defining landscape characteristics of the Loch Lomond area, a main focus of the Park. Ben Lomond is a landmark summit, the focus to the Loch Lomond area and visible from out with the Park, from as far away as the south of the Clyde, as well as dominating the Leven Valley.</p> <p>The upland hills have high quality views over the loch and whilst the hills do not have much formalised access, there are some footpaths. The hills are largely undeveloped and remote, although there is some evidence of pylons and masts which detract from the overall wild character.</p>	Upland hill areas are under pressure for the development of masts, pylons and windfarms. Recreational pressures causing the erosion of upland paths and disturbance to the upland ecosystem are also present on the more popular peaks.
Cultural Heritage	<p>Includes numerous small scattered groups of shielings and lime kilns along the burn sides, and a number of bloomery mounds. An area of field systems with rig cultivation is highlighted in the HLA under relict medieval/post medieval settlement and agriculture at Blairvockie where it co-exists alongside an area of 18th/19th century rectilinear fields. There is a further small relict area of medieval/post medieval settlement and agriculture at Ardess where it spills over into the Wooded Glen LCT.</p> <p>The shieling groups are associated with the joint tenancy townships which are located on more sheltered lower ground in the bottom of the glens.</p>	<p>Both the shielings and the lime kilns tend to survive well and are less likely to be affected by tree planting, usually because they lie along the burn sides.</p> <p>The shieling groups in particular contribute to landscape character, often appearing as clusters of grey stone surrounded by areas of bright green vegetation reflecting the former presence of cattle. Although they are much appreciated by walkers as evidence of past land use, they also have specialist value, as many of the groups are likely to have considerable longevity and some clearly show several phases of development. The lime kilns too are often associated with differences in surrounding vegetation cover.</p> <p>None of these groups are considered to be nationally significant and there may be better preserved examples elsewhere in the Park.</p> <p>Both Blairvockie and Ardess are in the ownership of the National Trust for Scotland, with the archaeological sites on the latter holding forming part of the Ardess Hidden History Trail.</p>	Affected by natural degradation although regeneration and the spread of bracken may be significant issues. Both can obscure features, especially in summer, and damage archaeological evidence.

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: OPEN UPLAND HILLS (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Cultural Heritage	Boundary markers (upright stones) can be found on the high boundary between Argyll and Stirling. It is possible that these markers could date back to the early historic period.	Hillwalkers and specialists Provides sense of history and continuity Medium importance	No known threats apart from natural degradation
Biodiversity	Ben Lomond SSSI, Ben Vorlich SSSI for a range of montane and upland plant communities and associated invertebrates. The upper edges of native woodlands fall into this LCT including Pollochro Woods SSSI (part), West Loch Lomond Woods SSSI (part), Loch Lomond Woods SAC (part). Species including black grouse, ptarmigan, upland waders, eagle, pine marten, red deer, mountain hare, water vole.	Important to all groups High biodiversity importance	The upland habitats, flora and fauna are all somewhat degraded due to very high levels of sheep grazing over the last 200 years, and very high red deer numbers in some locations in the last few decades though numbers have been reduced recently in places. Climate change is a threat to the survival of some species.
Geology	Garabal Hill SSSI (part), of world importance for its igneous rock exposures and historical and present day research into fractional crystallisation	Important to specialists High geological importance	The forestry on the bottom half of the site is managed to maintain access to key rock exposures.
Associations	Ben Vorlich and Ben Vane form part of the Arrochar Alps taking their name from the village of Arrochar and their dramatic craggy appearance, especially when covered in snow.		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The upland hill areas should be conserved to retain their open and wild character.
- Ongoing conservation and grazing management should help to maintain the character of the area, its archeological and biodiversity benefits.
- The boundary markers should be left alone and conserved as they are.
- Control of bracken and vegetation regeneration advisable to conserve archaeological remains e.g. via agri-environment schemes.
- Seek to retain the open setting of archaeological features where appropriate and avoid obscuring archaeological features.
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced. Ecologically more sympathetic management would allow plant communities such as heath, treeline and montane scrub to recover.

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: OPEN UPLAND GLEN

The higher, upland glens provide open vistas and varied views as a result of their elevation and openness. Key features include burns and steep waterfalls, with scrub moorland and bracken. The glens have few trees and partly intact dykes.

HLA: Prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	Views focus up and down these glens, framing the landscapes that lie beyond, including summits, the loch and glen floor.	Open upland glens are significant in particular to hill walkers and are a typical feature of the Park's highland areas. They are a component of the open uplands. The examples in the Loch Lomond landscape are accessible, with some adverse landscape impacts by commercial afforestation, HEP infrastructure, pylons, pipelines and bulldozed tracks. The glens are of some significance to hill walkers, but are not highly visible from the settled valleys or roads.	The glens would suffer from further development or landuse change.
Cultural Heritage	Shieling groups are typical of the upland glens in an area where there is very little archaeology recorded.	Hillwalkers and specialists Contributors to sense of place Mainly in open areas unaffected by afforestation, should be highly visible but may not be readily understood	Shieling sites can be subject to vegetation overgrown eg. bracken which obscures features.
Biodiversity	A range of largely undisturbed upland habitats, with upland birds as described for Open Upland Hills LCT.	Medium biodiversity importance	The upland habitats, flora and fauna are all somewhat degraded due to very high levels of sheep grazing over the last 200 years, and very high red deer numbers in some locations in the last few decades though numbers have been reduced recently in places. Climate change is a threat to the survival of some species.
Geology	Garabal Hill SSSI (part), of world importance for its igneous rock exposures and historical and present day research into fractional crystallisation.	Important to specialists. High geological importance.	The forestry on the bottom half of the site is managed to maintain access to key rock exposures.

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Encourage grazing and forestry management to retain the open feel of the glens.
- Potential for native woodlands to provide a setting and obscure the existing inappropriate developments.
- Shieling sites can be subject to vegetation overgrowth e.g. bracken which obscures features. Shieling sites should be protected and managed if possible.

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: FORESTED UPLAND GLEN

Steep glens with coniferous woodland and native grassland with heather. Examples include Rowardennan Forest.

HLA: Prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing, 18th to 20th century and 20th century woodland



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	These coniferous plantations are a characteristic locally to the shores and mid slopes above Loch Lomond, providing context and framing to the loch shores. They also occur in more remote areas to the west.	<p>The coniferous forests contribute to the setting for the northern loch. They are highly visible as elements in a wider landscape, across the loch from roads, settlements and upland slopes and summits. This area is significant to visitors, being a destination in its own right, people passing through on the major north south trunk road and railway, and residents. Elsewhere in more remote upland glens they can become a dominant characteristic.</p> <p>The coniferous planting has a coherent character and visual quality, but can detract from the surrounding more apparently natural woodlands.</p>	Forested glens are often under pressure due to demand for recreation activities. Change is also underway in many of the forested areas with the introduction of native tree species. Overall there is an abundance of forested glen.
Cultural Heritage	Due to the nature of this LCT, coniferous woodland, very little archaeology is recorded. Most important of these are several deserted farmsteads and bloomery mounds, the latter evidence of iron working, reflecting a time when these oak woods were used/managed for charcoal production associated with iron working and the bark was also used in tannin.	There are probably more significant archaeological sites of this type elsewhere in the Park and certainly elsewhere in Scotland. These few examples do, however, present an important and fairly accessible resource to interpret both the pre-improvement settlement history and the use of the oak woodlands. Wester Salloch was formerly part of an interpretive trail established by the Forestry Commission but is no longer maintained as such.	Sites can be obscured by both standing and fallen trees and brash as well as damaged by falling trees
Biodiversity	There are significant areas of broadleaf woodland amongst planted conifers including Rowardennan Woodlands SSSI (part), a component of the Loch Lomond Woods SAC for Oakwoods with an assemblage of lower plants and otters, contiguous with broadleaf woodland in the Wooded Upland Glens LCT. Red deer, pine marten, black grouse, otter, capercaillie may be present.	Important to all groups Very high biodiversity importance.	The historical trend has been to a catastrophic loss and fragmentation of this habitat type in the UK.
Geology	Garabal Hill SSSI (part), of world importance for its igneous rock exposures and historical and present day research into fractional crystallisation	Important to specialists High geological importance	Coniferous forestry on the lower parts of the site is managed to maintain access to key rock exposures.

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

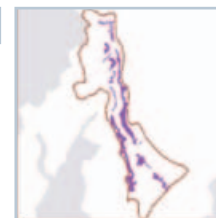
- Forestry restructuring is resulting in the planting of native tree species within the forests and the introduction of open spaces within these wooded areas. These are benefits which will enhance the landscape character.
- Heritage trail at Wester Salloch could be re-established perhaps in association with the project at Easter Salloch.
- There is a small-scale project currently underway at East Salloch attempting to recreate a pre-improvement agricultural holding. This type of project is beneficial for raising awareness of the cultural heritage of the area.
- Forest restructuring may present opportunities for improving the condition/setting of archaeological sites.
- Scope exists to reverse the historical losses of broadleaf woodland by felling the planted conifers and replacing them with new broadleaved woodland, especially on FCS land and though SFGS elsewhere.

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: WOODED UPLAND GLEN

Wooded slopes, low density semi-natural woodland of oak, birch, Scots Pine. Found along the shoreline and slopes of Loch Lomond.

HLA: Some 18th to 20th century forestry and woodland and some later 20th century planting. There are small patches of prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing and 18th to 19th century fields and farming



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	Natural looking landscape with low density of trees scattered over the hill sides. Natural transition area between the loch and shore and open upland hills. The Loch Lomond Oak Woods are a defining characteristic of the east side of Loch Lomond.	This landscape character type is highly significant in establishing the apparently natural landscape qualities associated with Loch Lomond. The woodlands fringe much of its shores and in places extend over the surrounding slopes, thereby forming quite a dominant feature. The woods tend to be of an open character and they reveal the underlying topography, emphasising landscape diversity. They are highly visible from the loch, the loch shore, main roads and settlements, framing the loch and forming a natural appearing transition to the open upper slopes, important to the areas highly valued scenic quality. The woods are important to the setting of villages and to local culture and form the context of much recreational use of the Park, including the West Highland Way, other foot and cycle paths, car and coach touring. They offer framed views out, with the loch and upland setting framed by trunks and canopies, with great interest from the changing seasons and weather.	Woodland glens which are not affected by plantation forestry are rare. The woodlands are typically under threat from overgrazing.
Cultural Heritage	There is not a great deal of recorded archaeology in these areas on the west shore because of the narrowness of the land strip along the loch side and the steepness of the slopes behind. There was a military road (post 1745) on the west side of the loch but most of it is under the route of the modern road and has been destroyed. Despite being narrow and steep, especially in the north of this zone, the east side of the loch was formerly much more densely settled with numerous deserted farmsteads and townships, some now surrounded by woodland. These would have been linked to the shielings which were noted higher up the slopes in the adjoining LCT of Open Upland Hills. The HLA records a number of areas of relict medieval and post medieval settlement around these... (continued)	The remnant townships are of value for genealogical research (sometimes visited), often beyond Scotland, and they have specialist archaeological value as they may contain evidence of medieval and post-medieval settlement. Little is known about early ironworking, and these sites also have specialist value They form part of the commonest relict settlement type in the National Park. In the North Loch Lomond area as in other parts of the National Park, eg in Cowal, they have been badly disrupted by 20th century forestry planting, which has separated settlements (within plantations), from infields (usually under trees), and rough pasture and shielings (usually in open higher ground beyond the trees, but cut off from the settlement)...(continued)	The resource is at risk during harvesting and restocking operations as well as from wind throw, natural regeneration etc.

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: WOODED UPLAND GLEN (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Cultural Heritage	There is also evidence of iron working and charcoal burning, which are thought to be of 17th or 18th century date but may have medieval origins. These reflect the importance of the oak woodland element of these areas. This area also contains two important scheduled Iron Age sites, the dun at Arrochymore and the fort at Strathcashel.	There are likely to be better preserved examples of townships elsewhere in the National Park, e.g. with settlement, fields, and shielings still intact and related to each other and not cut off by forestry, but the examples in North Loch Lomond may be of particular value to those whose ancestors came from these settlements, or to local people as well as to walkers and other visitors as a number lie on or close to the route of the West Highland Way. Little is known about early iron working and these sites also have specialist value. The two scheduled sites are of national importance and are evidence of the area's long history of settlement. Strathcashel is already visited by numerous visitors	
Biodiversity	Extensive tracts of ancient native broadleaved woodland including: West Loch Lomond Woods SSSI, Pollochro Woods SSSI (part), Craigrostan Woods SSSI, Rowardennan Woodlands SSSI, West Loch Lomondside Woodlands SSSI (part), Conic Hill SSSI, for a range of woodland types and associated lower plants. Loch Lomond Woods SAC for oakwoods and otters. Species capercaillie, black grouse, pied fly catcher, redstart, warblers, pine marten, otter, red deer, red squirrel, invertebrates	Important to all groups Very high biodiversity importance.	The historical trend has been to a catastrophic loss and fragmentation of this habitat type in the UK. Extensive work underway to restore native woodland along east Loch Lomond. The woods on the west side of Loch Lomond are threatened by over grazing by sheep.
Geology	The Highland Boundary Fault including key features shown in geological aspects of Conic Hill SSSI.	Specialists, visitors, local people, by defining the physical, landscape, ecological and cultural transition between highland and lowland Of the Highest Importance	None
Associations	Inversnaid, on Arklet Water is where William Wordsworth met the 'sweet highland girl' he wrote about in song. Inversnaid inspired Gerard Manley Hopkins's poem 'Inversnaid'.		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- These woodlands require careful management, with management of grazing to ensure that the natural regeneration of trees can occur, but there remains a degree of openness.
- There is potential to provide access and interpretation to archaeological sites in these woodlands and to provide interpretation of the past woodland history and traditions, especially on sites close to the West Highland Way.
- The archaeological sites could be enhanced. There is potential to clear woodland and avoid further damage especially from unmanaged natural regeneration. Some of the townships could be enhanced by selective felling to open out the settlements remains, creating paths to them, and possibly re-opening connection routes to their shielings.
- The interpretation at Strathcashel could be improved and extended to include information on the nearby crannog.
- Scope exists to reverse the historical losses of broadleaved woodland by felling the planted conifers and replacing them with new broadleaved woodland, especially on FCS land and through SFGS elsewhere
- The geology could be enhanced through sympathetic land management to retain the distinctive geological landform of the area.

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: OPEN GLEN SIDE

Landscape of steep glens, lochs and burns, scree outcrops, steep waterfalls.

HLA: Prehistoric to the present moorland and rough grazing and some 18th to 19th century fields and farming.

HLA Relict Landuse: There are several areas of medieval/post medieval settlement



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	Open glen sides contribute to the diversity of the landscape as they provide a visual contrast with wooded and forested glen sides.	This landscape type is important as an element of diversity in the landscape, contributing to the scenic quality of local areas of the Loch Lomond landscape. Local topographic features are visible and can add to landscape character and visual diversity also. Whilst occurring elsewhere in the Park, the significance of these areas of open ground are important where woodland predominates and on Loch Lomond these areas tend to form more naturalised transitions to the open woodlands.	Open areas tend to be marginal in terms of farming viability and can become obscured by natural regeneration and new planting.
Cultural Heritage	Little recorded on the steep glen sides except the presence of the military road which preceded the modern road. There is a scheduled pulpit rock at Clach nan Tarbh which presumably relates to Scotland's covenanting history. There is some evidence of former agricultural systems as at Arrochymore.	Military way is only of local significance because most of it underlies the modern road. The potential connection to Scotland's covenanting history is nationally significant and of interest to locals and visitors. There are more significant evidence of former agriculture systems elsewhere in the Park although all examples are of potential interest to visitors undertaking genealogical research.	None known
Biodiversity	Geal and Dubh Lochs SSSI (part) for botanically rich, nutrient poor lochs, meadows and flushes.	Important to visitors and specialists Low to medium biodiversity importance, high in SSSI.	The sort of feature represented by the SSSI is generally under pressure from development and drainage for agricultural improvement but this location is safe so far.
Associations	Covenanting history		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

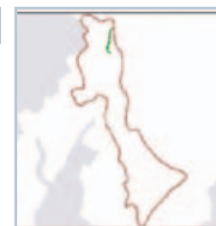
- Conserve and enhance traditional upland farming and associated features.
- There may be some scope for footpath or access development along the military road where it is off the line of the modern road
- There may be scope for interpretation of covenanting connections along with other similar sites in the Park

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: FARMED STRATH FLOOR

Strath valley landscape, flat floodplain areas with knolls, grassland and improved fields, some riparian woodland. The main area of farmed strath floor is at the head of Loch Lomond.

HLA: 18th to 19th century fields and farming, some moorland and rough grazing from prehistoric to present. Some 18th – 20th century woodland and forestry.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	Farmed strath floors are important areas of diversity in the Loch Lomond landscape, providing strong visual contrast to the surrounding uplands. Traditionally managed farmed lands, these areas give a human dimension to the landscape, which has an otherwise grander and wilder character.	This landscape type is generally important as an element of diversity in the Park's glen landscapes and specifically contributes to the scenic quality and distinctive qualities of the north Loch Lomond landscape. Whilst not highly visible, there are glimpsed views across the meadow lands at the top of the loch, with small wooded hillocks, old shielings, lochans and the river, contrasting with the dramatic vertical fjord like surrounding slopes. This is a small scale and individualistic landscape area, secluded in nature and an example of the richness that the Park landscapes offer in places just off the beaten track.	This landscape could easily be overlooked in its importance. It could be subject to changes in landuse and potentially developments tourist related.
Cultural Heritage	Lower part of Glen Falloch almost certainly followed the pattern of settlement history visible in many other glens in the Park – sheep farms superseding joint tenancy townships, some of them surviving as farms into modern times. Little is recorded but similar types of structures of medieval or later date as found in other areas are likely to be present. Not much is known about the settlement history. The Campbell graveyard at Glenfalloch lies in this area. There is also a length of 19th century canal and a canal basin at Inverarnan, associated with steamers on Loch Lomond. The 18th century Drovers' Inn is a prominent building on the A82.	Of significance locally and to visitors. Important to local people, tourists and specialists and for genealogical research although not all are readily accessible.	Possible pressure from tourist related developments because of position at the head of the loch.
Biodiversity	Geal and Dubh Lochs SSSI (part) for botanically rich, nutrient poor lochs, meadows and flushes.	Important to visitors and specialists Low to medium biodiversity importance, high in SSSI.	The sort of feature represented by the SSSI is generally under pressure from development and drainage for agricultural improvement but this location is safe so far.
Associations	Campbells		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Conserve and enhance traditional meadow management and features.
- Resist inappropriate developments.
- There may be some scope for improved ecological management of Geal and Dubh Lochs SSSI.

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: SETTLED LOCH SHORE

Open water shoreline which is enclosed by residential, recreational or commercial development (hotels, piers, jetties, caravan and chalet parks, boat houses). Examples are Luss, Tarbet and Ardlui.

HLA: Complex mosaic of 18th to 19th century fields and farming and an 18th to 19th century planned village, prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing, 18th to 20th century forestry and woodland and a 20th century recreation area.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	The settled shore introduces a built element within the generally wooded and apparently natural shoreline, often delineating the edges of the shoreline with linear development. They possess wide vistas over the loch itself and reflect local traditional built form.	The settled loch shore is significant to local people, the main focus for settlement and reflecting the local built form. These traditional villages are also of great significance to visitors as they are key attractions in themselves strongly reflecting local vernacular, providing access and wide vistas over the loch. They have strong individual identity. Luss is of particular note, representing a pristine estate village, with consistent architectural style and use of local materials, set in wider designed landscape grounds, generally in good condition and upkeep. There are examples of more modern developments, but these do not adversely dominate the character. Main roads either pass through the villages or offer glimpsed views of them in their rural settings. The villages are small scale and this emphasises the grandeur of wider landscape and lochscape contexts.	Pressures on these settlements include new development, particularly related to tourism. New housing extensions to existing houses can also potentially have a detrimental affect on the character and setting of settlements.
Cultural Heritage	Luss Church is on the site of an earlier medieval church, on record in the 13th century. It is likely that as a church site it dates back many centuries before that. Luss is a planned village characterised by unique small single storey cottages. Although much of the current village is 18th century in date, it is assumed to have a medieval core. There is a rare hog-backed gravestone in the churchyard.	Of significance to Park visitors in particular Medieval settlements and churches are not common on the west side of the loch, because of the lack of land suitable for settlement. Luss church and village are of major significance within their character zone. The architectural and historic importance of the village is recognised through its designation as an Outstanding Conservation Area for the architecture of the 18th century planned village. The hog-backed stone has wider national significance. The site of the church is of major archaeological significance. The current appearance of the church is very important within the conservation village of Luss	The church and village of Luss are currently very well maintained, and there has been a recent upgrading of the cemetery around the church. There may be future pressure for development on the edge of the village which could compromise the setting of the Outstanding Conservation Area.

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: SETTLED LOCH SHORE (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Cultural Heritage	<p>Tarbet is a modern settlement. The first edition map depicts only a few scattered houses and the hotel. The hotel lies on a centuries old coaching inn site although the present building is mid 19th century. A few older cottages lie to the north of the hotel. The church and burial ground at Ballyhennan may be of some antiquity, although it was used later as the burial ground for Arrochar after it was disjoined from Luss Parish in the 17th century.</p> <p>Ardlui may have developed because of the presence of the railway and the opportunity to provide a pier. There is a late 19th century former station masters house and station</p>	<p>Local significance only</p> <p>A number of the buildings are listed for their architectural and historic importance.</p>	<p>Development pressures have the potential to affect the setting of the graveyard</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Water birds and osprey may be seen occasionally from these locations</p> <p>Significant bat roosts especially brown long eared and large pipistrelle may be present in some buildings. Nests for some birds eg. house martins or swifts on larger buildings may also be present.</p>	<p>important to local people, visitors</p> <p>Low biodiversity importance.</p> <p>These are of greatest importance to local people and specialists.</p> <p>Generally low biodiversity important but significant bat roosts may be important in terms of the Scottish population.</p>	<p>Refurbishment of buildings may limit their usefulness to wildlife.</p>
Associations	<p>Luss is associated with early Christianity and particularly Saint Kessog.</p> <p>Tarbet was used as the setting for the novel 'Gillespie' (1914) by J Mac Dougall Hay. Luss was the setting for the Scottish television programme 'High Road'.</p>		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- All new developments should reflect the traditional built form and be in keeping with the landscape and existing buildings.
- There are few gaps within Luss Conservation Area and most buildings are in active use. The historic and architectural character of the outstanding Conservation Area should continue to be protected and enhanced.

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: INLAND WATER & LCT: OPEN LOCH AND SHORE

Open water enclosed by woodland or forest or in an open setting. The northern part of Loch Lomond is enclosed by woodland while Loch Sloy is set within an open upland setting.

HLA: 19th to 20th century



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<p>Sense of place</p>	<p>Loch Lomond is the signature landscape of the Park. The loch narrows to the north and divides into component areas, each with individually distinctive character determined by the differing form of the water and diverse settings. The loch tends not to be experienced in its whole but sequentially in these areas.</p> <p>Loch Sloy is more remote and less significant as a landscape benefit.</p>	<p>Loch Lomond is of high significance to local people such as those living in the loch shore settlements and those living on the loch islands, as well as to visitors and those travelling through the Park. It is a well renowned landscape of the Park, of high significance to both historical and geological specialists. The loch and Ben Lomond are the defining landscape characteristics of the Loch Lomond area, a main focus of the Park.</p> <p>The vistas over the loch are of the highest quality, with opportunities for framed and panoramic loch level views and elevated panoramas. The diverse and high scenic quality of the loch is nationally valued and the loch surface is a key characteristic within compositions. The interplay of light and weather on the water surface is ever changing and results in dramatic effects. The northern part of the loch itself is unspoilt however there is some loch side development in places.</p>	<p>Visitor demand on the loch can cause pressures on the landscape such as erosion and litter on the shores. There are water quality issues as a result of recreational activities and run-off from adjacent land.</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Submerged crannogs lie close to the east shoreline.</p>	<p>The crannogs are important to specialists. Underwater resource is not generally accessible to visitors.</p> <p>Two of the crannogs are scheduled as being of national importance. The third scheduled crannog is in the South Loch Lomond area. Loch Lomond has the largest collection of crannogs in the National Park.</p> <p>Not generally visible therefore little impact on the landscape character value.</p>	<p>Concern about damage from boats, engines, and wash.</p>
	<p>Loch Sloy does not have any recorded cultural heritage beyond the recent development of electricity generation in the 1950s. It was the first of the large hydro-electric schemes of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board. The dam was the first buttress-type dam to be built in Scotland. The dam is augmented by a series of tunnels and aqueducts and the Sloy Power Station is on the shore of Loch Lomond just to the south of Inveruglas.</p>	<p>The artefacts of hydro-electricity generation are of specialist interest, particularly earlier features.</p> <p>The structures contribute to landscape character as well as being of considerable historic interest.</p> <p>Medium importance</p>	<p>No particular trends or pressures.</p>

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: INLAND WATER & LCT: OPEN LOCH AND SHORE (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Biodiversity	<p>Loch Lomond supports a varied fish community, including powan and Loch Lomond Woods SAC for otter. A range of aquatic and emergent plant communities. Protected species include otter, powan, osprey.</p> <p>Loch Sloy also holds a powan population introduced to help safeguard the Loch Lomond population. Water birds may be present, particularly some rarer species, e.g. divers, in remoter upland lochs.</p>	<p>Important to all groups</p> <p>Loch Lomond is highly significant to the zone, the Park and the nation, as the largest area of freshwater in Great Britain</p> <p>Of high biodiversity importance.</p>	<p>The loch is under significant pressure from pollution, invasive species and development of the loch shore.</p>
Associations	<p>Loch Lomond is used as part of the Glasgow drinking water supply. There have been many songs and poems written about Loch Lomond, including 'The Bonnie Banks O' Loch Lomond'. Ferries on the loch are used as visitor attractions. Loch Lomond has a long tradition as a place for recreation, particularly for people from nearby Glasgow but also visitors. Early tourists included literary figures such as Dorothy Wordsworth. Steamers operated on the loch from the early 19th century until the 1980s. Originally connections to the steamer service were made by coach and then rail once the trains arrived in the mid 19th century. The 'Maid of the Loch' still survives and is moored at Balloch pier.</p>		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Management of recreational access to the loch to balance its popular use against other benefits, including tranquil qualities.
- Seek to conserve the Loch Lomond crannogs by protecting from potential damage by boats.
- The use of Loch Sloy for electricity generation could be interpreted better, but not perhaps at this location where it is not very accessible.
- There is potential to enhance the biodiversity benefits of Loch Lomond. Pollution and development pressures can be addressed through the Water Framework Directive and better control of activities on and around the loch.

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: HIGHLAND WOODED LOCH ISLAND & LCT: LOWLAND WOODED LOCH ISLAND

Densely wooded islands, knolly and hummocky in form. Examples are Inchcailloch, Inchmurrin, Creinch, Inchlonaig, Inchtavannach, Inchconnachan, Inchmoan, Inchcruin and Inchfad.

HLA Period: Mostly 18th to 20th century forest and woodland with prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing. There is some 18th to 19th century fields and farming.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<p>Sense of place</p>	<p>These islands are unique landscape features, which possess a secluded landscape character. They are prominent features and contrast with the flat and open loch.</p>	<p>The islands are highly visible from the shoreline with some of the islands themselves inhabited. The special secluded landscape character is of high significance to both those local people living on the loch shore and the islands themselves. The islands are of high significance to visitors and those travelling through the Park, highly visible from both the shore and the main road as unique landscape features and of specialist interest due to historical and archaeological evidence.</p> <p>The islands are prominent features contrasting with the flat and open loch and contributing to a particularly scenic Lochscape, a defining aspect of Loch Lomond's local distinctiveness, unique to the Park and rare elsewhere in Scotland.</p> <p>The islands offer high quality views over the loch, but the islands themselves are only accessible by boat (the larger lowland islands are easily reached by ferry). Several of the larger lowland islands have residential development and there is a small Hotel on Inchmurrin, therefore these islands are not unspoilt but still retain a secluded character. Each island has some evidence of human activity either historical or present day however many of the island landscapes are protected through environmental designation. Each island has its distinctive identity, determined by the island's individual forms and natural and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>The main pressures on the islands arise from visitor activities. These can include erosion to shorelines from boats, littering and fires.</p>

LOCH LOMOND NORTH

LCT: HIGHLAND WOODED LOCH ISLAND & LCT: LOWLAND WOODED LOCH ISLAND (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Cultural Heritage	The Loch Lomond islands contain the densest collection of archaeological remains within the Park. This is because the islands were attractive places to settle and were easily defended. Remains consist of several castles, as well as many other types of sites, including an early church site on Inchcailloch. The loch also contains an important collection of crannogs, a kind of prehistoric lake dwelling. Some of these are only visible when the water is low. There has been major survey work to record the island archaeological resources. Inchlonaig is the only island identified in the HLA as relict polices and parklands. There is some limited evidence of past agricultural use on both Inchfad and Inchcruin.	<p>The island archaeology is of importance to a range of people including specialists, visitors and local people</p> <p>The islands archaeology is a major contributor to the Park's character, some sites have significance beyond the Park's boundaries and are nationally important</p> <p>The islands archaeology has much to offer in terms of visitor experience and interpretation.</p>	The islands archaeology is under pressure from natural erosive forces e.g. changes in water levels, vegetation overgrowth and from visitor pressure from informal camping etc. There is no apparent direct threat from development
Biodiversity	Loch Lomond Woods SAC (part) for oak wood, 6 SSSIs: Inchcruin, Inchlonaig, Inchmoan, Inchmurrin, Inchtavannach & Inchconnachan, Endrick Mouth and Islands support oak, yew and alder woodlands with rich lower plant assemblages, raised bog. Loch Lomond SPA for capercaillie. Inchcailloch is part of Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve and Loch Lomond Ramsar site. Species include insectivorous birds recorded in very high densities, capercaillie, otter, pine marten, endemic and endangered beetle species.	<p>Important to all groups</p> <p>Highly significant to the zone, the Park and the nation, as part of the Loch basin's broadleaved woodland and key wildlife.</p> <p>Very high biodiversity importance</p>	The islands are under significant pressure from recreational disturbance and invasive species (rhododendron).
Associations	The islands as a result of their long history occupation have very rich historic and cultural associations. The religious sites on the islands are associated with various early Christian saints and the castles with clans including the MacFarlanes, MacGregors and the Earldom of Lennox. The islands are also represented in art and literature. In Sir Walter Scott's poem 'The Lady of the Lake' (1810) a fiery cross is made from sacred yew trees growing on the wooded island of Inchcailloch.		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The loch islands must be protected from development and visitor pressure should be managed.
- Better display and interpretation of existing visitor facility could be promoted on Inchcailloch.
- Many of the archaeological sites are in urgent need of management
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced. The disturbance and woodland quality can be better managed, through improvements in visitor and recreation management.