



## STRATHYRE AND LOCH EARN

SPECIAL QUALITIES OF BREADALBANE

# STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

## Key Features

Small flats strips of farmland around watercourses
Open upland hills
Ben Vorlich and Stuc a'Chroin
Loch Lubnaig and Loch Earn
Pass of Leny
Glen Ogle
Landmark historic buildings and heritage sites including Edinample Castle and Dundurn Pictish Hill Fort

## Summary of Evaluation

### Sense of Place

The visual/sense of place qualities are important. The open upland hills dominate much of this area, with Ben Vorlich and Stuc a' Chroin the highest peaks, creating an open and vast sense of place with diverse features such as rocky outcrops and scree. Although open uplands are characteristic of much of the highland area of the Park they are distinctive in the Breadalbane area as being generally higher and more unbroken with distinct exposed upper slopes. Loch Earn and Loch Lubnaig are the two main lochs in the area and both have quite distinct characters. Loch Lubnaig is enclosed by heavily planted glen sides and rugged craggy hills such as Ben Ledi and the loch shores are largely undeveloped. Loch Earn in contrast is broad in expanse and flanked by steep hills to the north and south. There are areas of residential, recreational and commercial development along areas of the north and south shore.

The flat glen floors are a focus for communication routes and settlement. The flat strips of farmland around the watercourses provide an enclosed landscape which contrasts with the surrounding hills.

### Cultural Heritage

The cultural heritage of the area is of high importance with substantial evidence of continuity of use of the landscape. Detailed survey of Leny Woods identified recessed platforms which may be the remains of prehistoric house stances and prehistoric cup marked stones have been identified at Craggan providing further evidence for the long history of settlement in this area. The Pictish fort of Dundurn lying to the south east of St Fillans and Dunmore Fort to the west of Callander are important defensive sites. Three Roman Forts have been recorded in the Park and the Bochart Roman Fort lies just to the west of Callander. These Roman forts were constructed in the late first century AD and were all positioned at the mouth of highland glens. Medieval sites are often highly visible in the landscape and include the 16th century Edinample Castle and the ruin of St Brides Chapel and burial ground near Loch Lubnaig and St Fillan's burial ground at Dundurn.

The densely forested glens around Loch Lubnaig conceal surviving areas of medieval/post medieval deserted farmsteads, townships and shielings. The oakwoods at Leny Woods also retain widespread evidence for the former use of the woods as a source of charcoal and there is evidence of lime working in the shape of quarries and kilns on the moorland to the north of Callander.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

Settlement occurs along the flat strath floors and loch shores around Loch Earn. Lochearnhead and the nearby deserted settlement of Glen Ogle retain early 19th Century or possibly 18th Century vernacular rubble cottages, with some retention of original thatch. There are 2 unusually good surviving examples of these cruck framed cottages in Lochearnhead. In contrast to Lochearnhead, St Fillans is characterised by a run of gabled Victorian villas, many drawing on Arts and Craft inspiration and including decorative barge boarding and tree trunk porches.

The farmed strath floors are characterised by Improvement Period rectilinear fields. There are also a few country houses and areas of policy and parkland associated with this period such as Leny House and Ardvorlich House. The glen and strath floors were important routes for travel through the area and surviving structures include the mid 18th century Major Caulfield military road and bridges. There are also remains of the now disused Callander to Oban railway including important railway viaducts in Glen Ogle.

### **Biodiversity**

The area is of medium to high importance for biodiversity. Moorland and upland plant communities, moorland birds and mammals including golden eagle, red kite, red grouse, red deer, mountain hare and hen harrier all occur in the upland areas and are a distinctive part of the Park's landscape.

Although much of the glens are forested there are important pockets of broadleaved woodland and ancient woodland sites, particularly along the riparian corridors within the conifers. Significant pockets of semi-natural woodland occur in the wooded upland glens around Loch Earn, including oak wood and alder wood, hazel and ash woodland and passerine bird assemblage. These woodlands are of high importance, particularly in areas designated for their nature conservation value and ancient woodland.

The area also includes important wetland habitats. The Loch Lubnaig marshes are important for their fen, reed swamp and emergent plant communities, rare water beetles and other invertebrates. The River Teith is an important area for salmon and lamprey and the Pass of Leny Flushes SSSI for nutrient rich upland flushes and species such as fragrant orchid. The rushy pastures in the fields along the flat strath floors support wildlife such as waders.

Many of the buildings in the settled areas support bat roosts, especially pipistrelles.

### **Geology**

The area also has some geological sites of high importance including Leny Quarry, designated as a SSSI for Cambrian fossils and their implications for the sedimentary and tectonic history of the area.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### Associations

The area has historic and cultural associations. Strathyre was described by Sir Walter Scott in 'The Lady of the Lake' (1810) and Ardvorlich House and Loch Earn are connected with 'A Legend of Montrose' (1819). The area has religious associations with St Fillan, a different St Fillan from the St Fillan of Strathfillan, particularly the area around Loch Earn and Dundurn where he was said to have preached and a well at the top of the hill is known as St Fillan's well. There are also the remains of St Bride's Chapel near Loch Lubnaig and St Blane's Chapel on the shores of Loch Earn.

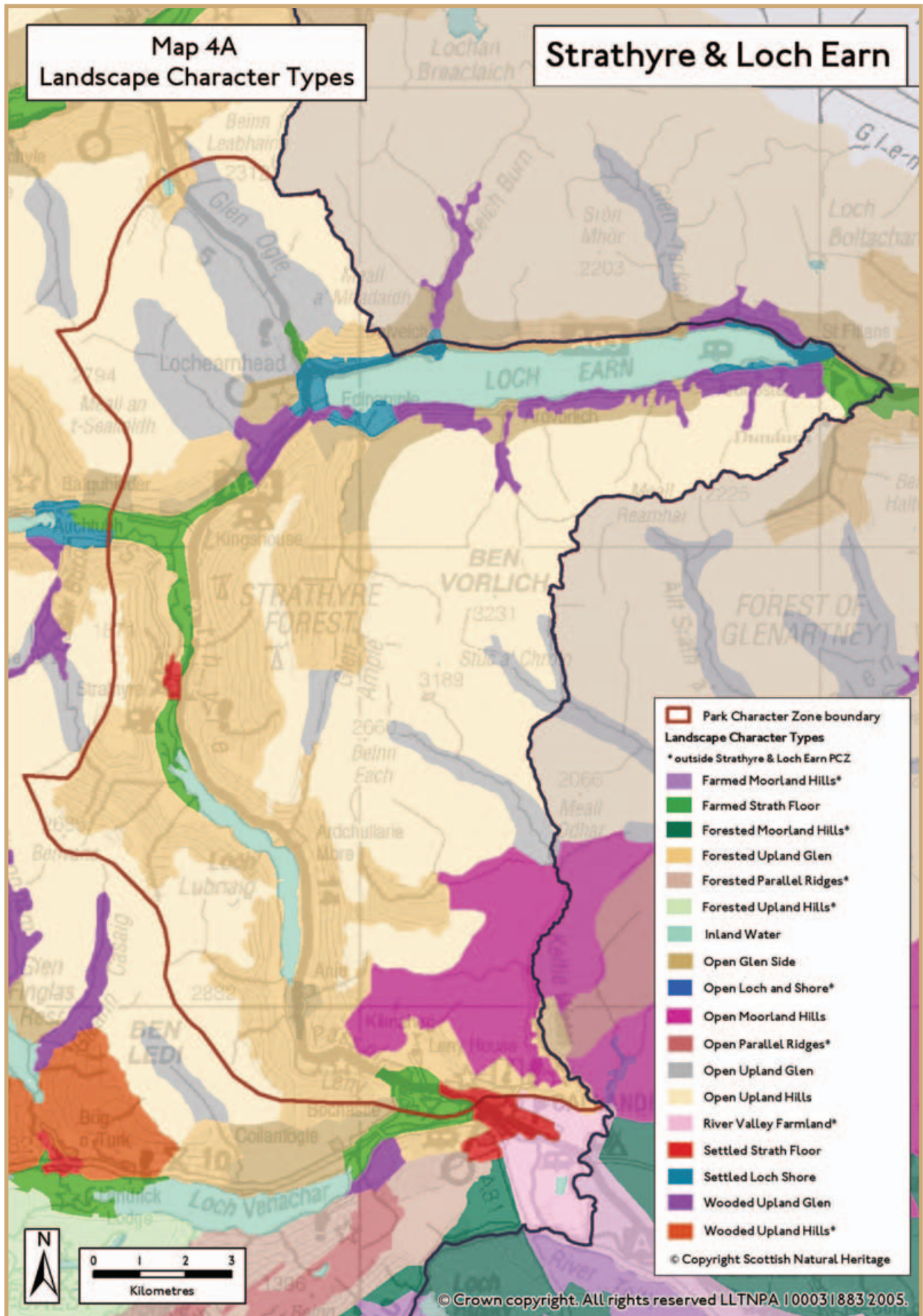
### Qualities valued by local communities

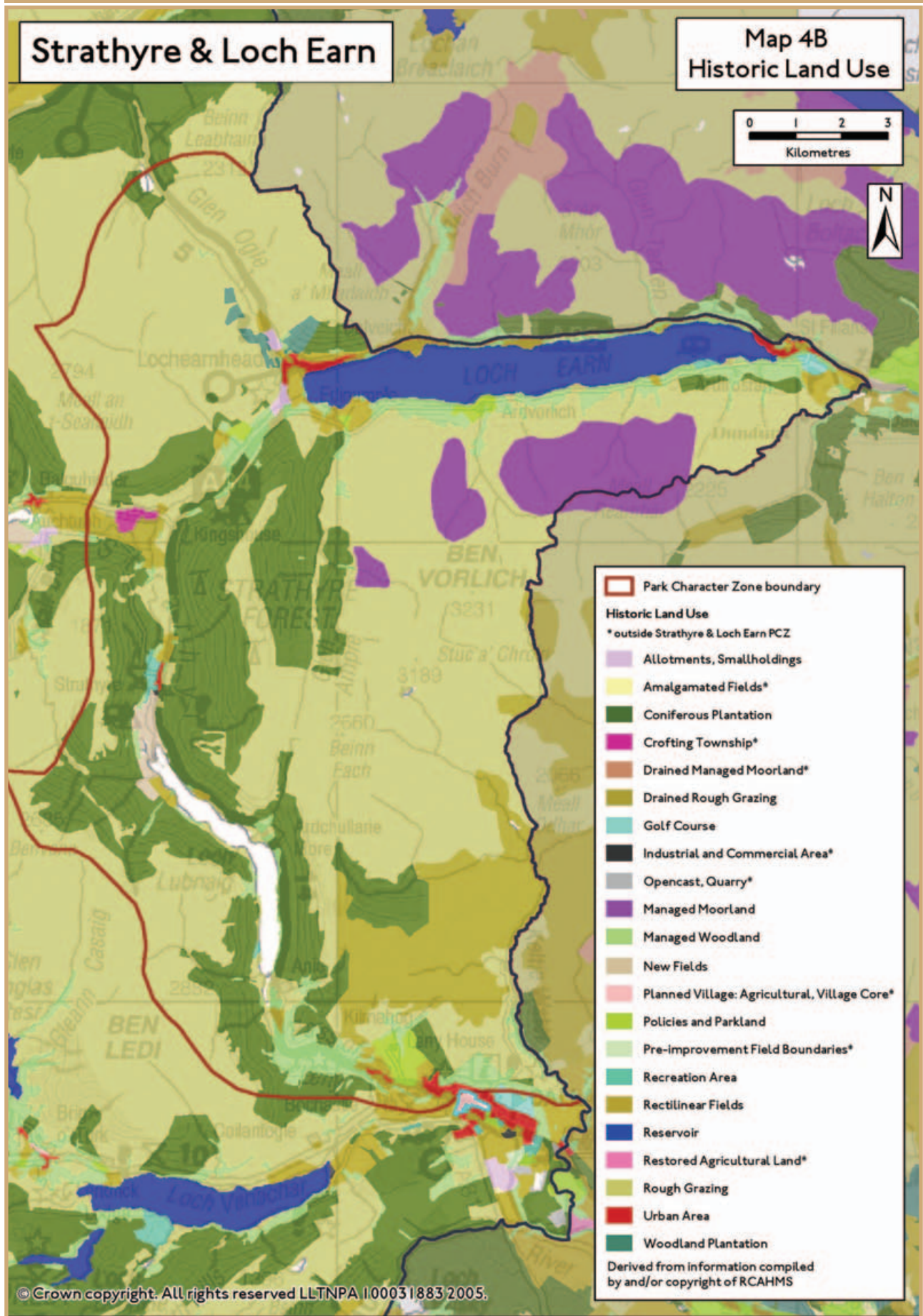
(Source: Community Futures and Park Plan Workshop on Special Qualities, April 2004)

- The fact that some of the lochs and mountains are tranquil while some are more active.
- The River Teith for its pristine water habitat.
- The diversity of wildlife including eagles, sand wasps, pine marten, red squirrel and deer.
- The archaeology, specific mention of early settlement at Leny.
- Gaelic place names
- Clans
- Landscape icons which engender strong emotions.
- St Fillans, Christianity.
- Glen Ogle, specific mention made of the railway
- Dundurn Hill and associations
- Cultural and historic associations are a special part of Breadalbane.
- Munros and the high peaks
- Breadalbane as the 'Highland' part of the Park.
- Loch Earn, quiet and tranquil qualities
- Loch Lubnaig

STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

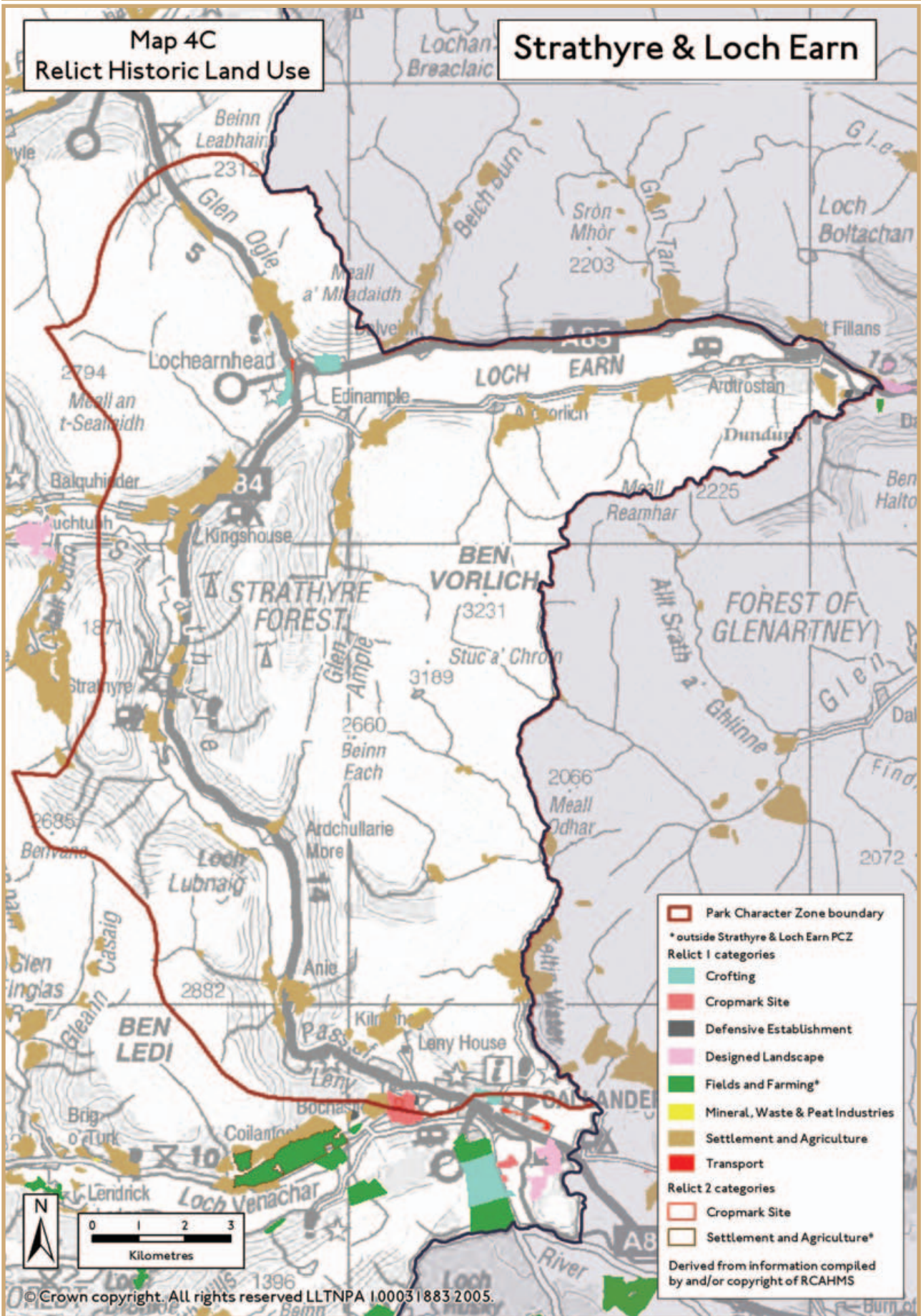
MAP 4A - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES



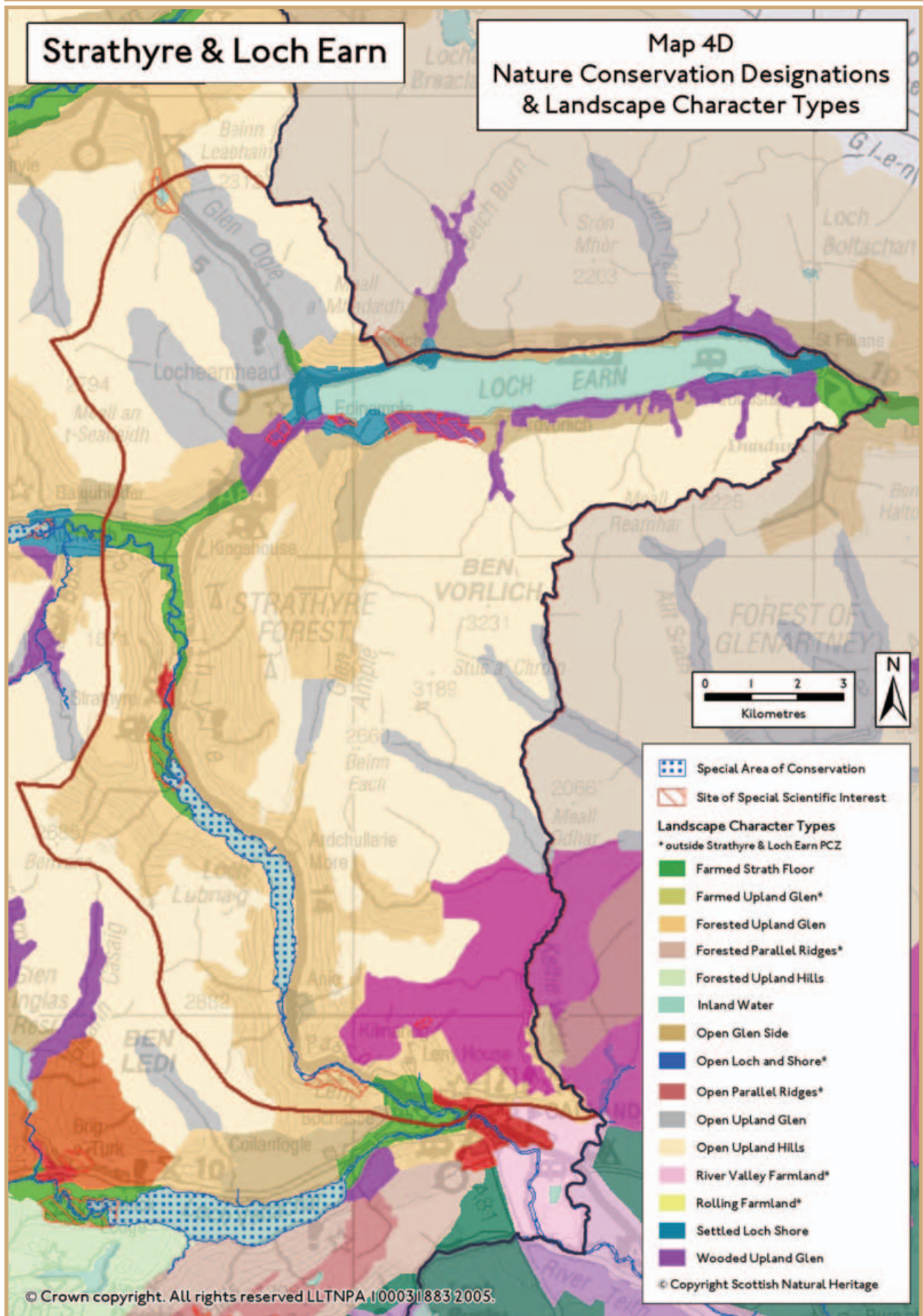


STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

MAP 4C - RELICT HISTORIC LAND USE



MAP 4D - NATURE CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS & LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES





## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: OPEN UPLAND HILLS

A landform of peaks, moorland, rocky outcrops, gullies and screens. The highest peak within the area is Ben Vorlich.

HLA: Prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing with some late 20th century intervention



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	The open upland hills dominate the Strathyre area, creating an open and large scale landscape with diverse features such as rocky outcrops and screens. The individual hills are distinctively shaped, compact corries and spurs of Ben Vorlich and Stuc a Chroin contrasting with the smoother landform of hills to the south.	The upland hills are remote and difficult to access, and whilst important landmarks in the wider landscape these open upland hills are less visually dominant locally to communities. They tend to be screened by or seen across intervening landform, or seen somewhat foreshortened. However Ben Vorlich and Stuc a Chroin do have recognisable silhouettes and form a part of the visual signature of the Highland Line, particularly important in distant views from the south and east. This visual edge of uplands would be particularly vulnerable to development that impacts on its unbroken silhouette. The upland slopes and summits offer panoramic views over the surrounding area, taking in the lowlands and neighbouring highlands, accessible only by foot. These areas are remote and generally unspoilt although there is some evidence of masts, pylons and unsympathetic tracks. Open upland hills are a characteristic of all the highland area of the Park, but are distinctive in the Breadalbane area as being generally higher and more unbroken, with distinct exposed upper slopes which sit beyond the enclosed glens. The open, exposed, remote qualities mean wildness and tranquillity can be experienced.	There are certain pressures on all upland hill areas including pylon, mast and wind farm development. Recreational pressures are also evident on popular upland tracks, which can easily become severely eroded. The high visibility of the uplands and the general absence of structures or developments mean that any intrusion on the scene is likely to be highly visible and detrimental to the unspoilt qualities that underpin the areas opportunity for wildness and tranquillity, as well as introducing scale reference.  Inappropriate development in neighbouring landscapes can also adversely impact on the experience of these uplands.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	There are several well preserved concentrations of shielings on east Glenample.	Important to local people, visitors and specialists.  Shieling groups contribute to landscape character and are appreciated by walkers, both visitors and locals. They may also have specialist value, as many of the groups are likely to have considerable longevity and several phases of development can be seen visually. It may be also possible to identify regional types.  Unfortunately those in Glen Ample although well preserved are cut off both physically and visually from the farmsteads and townships with which they were originally associated as part of the medieval and early post medieval transhumance agriculture which existed at that time over much of the Highlands.	May be at risk in future through reduction.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: OPEN UPLAND HILL (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	There is also a recently reported cup and ring marked stone which lies high on the pass below Ben Ledi.	Although the cup and ring marked rock is not scheduled it is not only an unusual example but lies very high on the route across the hills. Particularly of interest to specialists.	The cup and ring marked rock may be at risk in future through the reduction in grazing and the resultant extension of bracken or natural regeneration.
	Dundurn Hill Fort is situated in the uplands to the south of St Fillans. The ruins of St Fillans chapel lie at the foot of the Hill.	Dundurn Hill Fort is a Pictish fort of high importance. Scheduled Ancient Monument in recognition of its national importance. The chapel and burial ground are listed.  This is a site of great religious significance to both Christians and Picts.	Possible impact of bracken on archaeological remains.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Moorland and upland plant communities, moorland birds and mammals including golden eagle, red grouse, red deer, mountain hare, hen harrier. Possibly water voles.	Important to local people, visitors and specialists  The upland wildlife and habitats are a critical part of the landscape in this area and the park as a whole. They are widespread in several other character areas, and are of significant biodiversity importance.	Overgrazing by sheep and deer may currently reduce the habitat quality in some places.
<b>Associations</b>	Early christianity and St Fillan. The chapel burial ground is the burial place of the Stewarts of Ardvorlich.		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

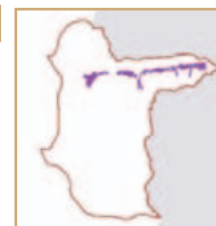
- The open upland areas need to be protected from development to maintain their open and wild character.
- Neighbouring uplands and lowland landscapes should also be protected from inappropriate developments that would adversely impact on the peace and quiet and the view.
- Recreation and access pressures require to be managed to minimise damage.
- Interpretation and improved access to the shieling sites could be promoted.
- Monitor the effect of changes in stock numbers and bracken spread on archaeological remains.
- Overgrazing by sheep and deer may currently reduce the habitat quality in places and could be remedied through changes to management. Restructuring of upper woodland edges may enhance the ecological and landscape transitions from the forested glens.
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced. More ecologically sympathetic management would allow plant communities such as tall herbs, heath, treeline and montane scrub to recover
- Consider management agreement for scheduled Dundurn Hill fort and access and interpretation if appropriate.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: WOODED UPLAND GLENS

The wooded upland glens occur on the south shore of Loch Earn. Semi-natural and riparian woodland, used for grazing, recreation and forestry. Landscape of straths, gullies and burns.

HLA Period: 18th to 20th century woodland and forestry.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	The wooded upland glens have relatively large stands of oak, punctuated by isolated Scots Pine and fringe the southern shore of Loch Earn. Some policy planting exists, particularly at Ardvorlich House.	These more natural woodlands are significant in creating a relatively natural local landscape that contrasts with neighbouring Strathyre, Glen Dochart and Balquhiddier, rather dominated by commercial forestry plantations. They contribute a more natural character and an element of diversity.	Not known
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	This area includes the important medieval St Blane's chapel which is a scheduled ancient monument.  The two disused railway lines cross the area and include two viaducts, one of which is listed and part of the old military road is in this area.  It also includes Edinchip house and its policies and Ardvorlich House and its gardens.	St Blane's is of national importance although its existence is probably not widely known  The railways and the road are part of the important history of lines of communication in the Highlands and may be of wider general interest. The national cycle route also crosses this area	Under no particular pressure although there is general concern over the condition of military roads across the whole Park area.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Significant pockets of semi natural broadleaved woodland and associated flora and fauna, including Edinchip Woods SSSI for ancient semi natural broadleaved woodland including oak wood and alder wood, Coille Chriche SSSI for alder wood, hazel and ash woodland and passerine bird assemblage. Edinample Meadows SSSI for unimproved grassland.	Important to local people, visitors, travellers and specialists.  The biodiversity of the full range of woodland types is of high importance overall, especially in designated areas and ancient woodland.	Not known

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- There is positive potential for the expansion of these woodlands locally and through other glens as an increasing proportion of overall forest and woodland cover, but with care to balance against important open landscapes. The woodland could suffer if not well managed.
- The biodiversity of the native woodlands could be improved in quality or expanded through controlled grazing to facilitate natural regeneration and restructuring of adjacent plantations to improve ecological links. The unimproved grassland needs careful management to maintain.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: OPEN UPLAND GLEN

The open upland glens in the area include Glen Ogle and Glenn Kendrum to the north of Lochearnhead and also Glenn a Chroin and a small upper area of Glen Ample.

Open upland of moorland and heather, with burns and rocky outcrops, drystone dykes.

HLA Period: Prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<p><b>Sense of place</b></p>	<p>U and V shaped narrow glens with steep sides, rocky outcrops and screes, burns and waterfalls.</p>	<p>Glen Ogle is an important transitional glen between Loch Earn and Strath Dochart and the A84 runs through it, as well as the remains of a military road and a now disused railway. Otherwise the glens are remote and undeveloped. The higher upland glens provide framed views to the glen floors and lochs and mountain scenery beyond. However plantations enclose the head of Glen Ample and this is less apparent. The glens contribute to the overall open character of the open uplands and are well represented in the Breadalbane area.</p> <p>Glen Ogle is of particular scenic note, with the combination of the rugged and diverse topography and dramatic railway architecture creating a unique identity, particularly well appreciated from the road by people travelling through the landscape. More recently the development of the long distance cycle route has opened up another fine perspective of this extremely special glen. Whilst adversely affected by the impacts of pylons, hill tracks and some insensitive forest margins at the foot of the glen, the drama of the scenery and experience moving through it ensures that the overall impression remains positive and high quality.</p> <p>The open upland glens are a valuable landscape and ecological resource.</p>	<p>Potential pressures on this landscape include afforestation, new woodlands, hill tracks, and hydro-electric power developments.</p> <p>Glen Ogle has been subject to instability and landslides and may be affected by insensitive road upgrading and engineering measures.</p>

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: OPEN UPLAND GLEN (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>There are areas of relict medieval/post medieval settlement and agriculture in Glen Ogle.</p> <p>The Glen has a long history of communication and various routes survive to the present day. The route of the military road, built by Major William Caulfield in 1749, runs through Glen Ogle. The listed bridges are with one exception all on the present public road and are thought to date to the early 19th Century. The bridges in the lower and further west military road only one is listed and is dated around 1749. The railway viaducts are listed and are of considerable engineering interest.</p>	<p>There are more significant archaeological sites of this type both elsewhere in the Park and elsewhere in Scotland but all examples are important to local people, visitors and specialists.</p> <p>The military roads in the Park are of specialist interest but may also have tourism value. Their significance extends beyond the Park as they were built at the start of the process which occupied the highlands, de-gaelicised Scotland, and contributed to the widespread depopulation of the Highlands.</p>	<p>Potential development pressures on these slopes including energy schemes and forestry.</p> <p>Damage has occurred from flash flooding in Glen Ogle to both military road and its bridges. Some bridges are in danger of collapse from neglect</p> <p>The condition of the military road and associated structures is an issue in the Park.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Red deer and conspicuous birds including skylarks, waders, short eared owl, golden eagle and hen harrier occur. Likely to be a refuge for wolverine colonies</p>	<p>Important to local people, specialists and some categories of visitors such as hill walkers and stalkers. Of medium biodiversity importance.</p>	<p>Generally subject to high grazing pressure from sheep and deer. Limited expansion of tree cover in this LCT, eg. along stream sides would enhance in-stream habitat for trout. This is occurring already in some locations. A reduction in grazing to allow heather, herbs and other plants to expand cover and reduce the dominance of grasses would allow some bird species, eg. grouse, to increase.</p>

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The undeveloped and predominantly open character should be conserved. Retain the open qualities by supporting upland agriculture, but seek enhancements to open habitats through management of grazing regimes.
- Encourage new native woodland along burn sides or in relation to local enclosing slopes or features.
- Investigate bio-engineering and broader landuse solutions to stabilise the slopes and road line.
- Resist any further development or afforestation.
- Parts of the military road are included in the Glen Ogle trail. This route would benefit from enhancement, both physical and interpretive improvements.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: FORESTED UPLAND GLEN

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

HLA: Prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing, largely 20th century forestry and woodland.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	The steep slopes and varied topography of Strathyre provides a rugged setting for predominantly coniferous forestry, with some woodland diversity along water courses and around crags and screes.	<p>The forested upland glens are a dominant characteristic surrounding Strathyre Glen as the steep slopes are seen foreshortened immediate to the roads, but in full view across and up the loch. The forests here are highly visible to people travelling along the A84 and are also a main component of the setting to the rural village of Strathyre and Callander. Plantation forests can have some negative impacts on landscape character and visual quality. However the rugged nature of the topography in this area and the presence of the loch and farmed strath floors, provides a better setting for the commercial plantations, relieving potential monotony and oppressive aspects and creating considerable drama.</p> <p>Commercial plantations in the upland glens (and glen slopes) comprise the prominent type of woodland in the Breadalbane area and within the individual glens, where there is a relatively poor representation of more natural woodlands.</p> <p>Forestry can tend to extend too far up slope, with insensitive margins and artificial abrupt transitions to the open ground and it can be an intrusion within upland glens, such as Glen Ample, where it becomes a dominant feature. The forestry also detracts from hill walks. Other features, such as engineered forest roads, erosion scars and drainage ditches can also cause significant negative visual impact.</p>	At present there is an abundance of forested glen, with felling and replanting likely to be the key forces for change.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	These dense plantations conceal a variety of sites including medieval/post medieval deserted farmsteads, townships and shielings. The oakwoods at Leny Woods retain widespread evidence for the former use of the woods as a source of charcoal while others have bloomery mounds of iron working slag which may date back to the medieval period. Detailed survey has identified well preserved recessed platforms in Leny Woods which may be the remains of prehistoric house stances. A number of limekilns associated with improvements in agriculture in the 18th and 19th centuries also survive.	<p>With the important exception of Leny Woods these sites are no different from many others of the type throughout the Park. In this area 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)</p> <p>(Continued overleaf)</p>	As with any archaeological sites located in forestry there are issues of potential damage by felling and restocking as well as potential damage from wind blow.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: FORESTED UPLAND GLEN (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>Leny House and the surrounding policies and parkland form an important element of this Improvement Period landscape.</p> <p>Sections of Major Caulfield's military road from Stirling to Fort William lies in this area although much of it lies under the present public road and has been therefore been destroyed</p>	<p>(Continued from overleaf)</p> <p>There are likely to be better preserved examples of townships and farmsteads 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. However, these particular examples may be of special value to those whose ancestors came from these settlements, or to local people.</p> <p>Leny Woods contains one of the densest collections of archaeological remains within the Park. This in part reflects the intensive archaeological survey work which has been undertaken in these woods in advance of restructuring but also reflects the importance of this area for past settlement as well as woodland management. It is nationally important but has not yet been officially recognised by the scheduling of any of the sites.</p> <p>The military roads in the Park are of specialist interest but may also have tourism value. Their significance extends beyond the Park as they were built at the start of the process which occupied the highlands, de-gaelicised Scotland, and contributed to the widespread depopulation of the Highlands.</p>	
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>River Teith SAC for salmon and lamprey, Pass of Leny Flushes SSSI for nutrient rich upland flushes and species such as fragrant orchid. Pockets of broadleaved woodland and ancient woodland sites, particularly along riparian corridors within the planted conifers.</p>	<p>Important to local people, visitors, and specialists.</p> <p>Of high biodiversity importance.</p>	<p>River systems and fish populations are impacted by river engineering, eg HEP. Native woodland habitats are fragmented, reducing their ecological health.</p>

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The landscape qualities created by this type of plantation have the potential to be enhanced due to forest restructuring and the promotion of native tree species and networks of open space.
- Interpretation could be provided to explain both the archaeology and good forestry practice exhibited at Leny Woods
- There may be opportunities to identify additional archaeology in forests which have not yet been surveyed.
- The biodiversity benefits could be enhanced through restructuring of the woodlands to restore broad corridors of riparian native broadleaved woodland to benefit the river system and reconnect isolated broadleaf stands.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: OPEN GLEN SIDE

Landscape of steep glens, lochs and burns, scree outcrops, steep waterfalls. The open glen sides occur along the shores of Loch Earn and there is a small area just to the south east of Loch Lubnaig.

HLA Period: Predominantly prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing. There is relict medieval/post medieval settlement and agriculture



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Open glen sides contribute to the diversity of the landscape as they provide a visual contrast with wooded and forested glen sides. Interesting large scale open landscapes with varied features such as waterfalls and screes, which relate to the open upper slopes and summits. In places there appear to be relict landuse patterns, which create great visual diversity and associations with crofting patterns normally found much further north and west in Scotland.	The open glen sides are visible to local people and visitors, highly visible from the A85 along southern Loch Earn, and make a positive contribution to landscape character and visual quality. The open glen sides reveal the diverse topography of glens and provide a setting to the uplands of Ben Vorlich and Stuc a Chroin, which contributes to scenic quality at the local detail scale and in the wider glen context. The open glen sides have good quality views down onto the strath areas, but the glen sides are not greatly accessible due to their topography and lack of many paths. The areas are generally unspoilt with apparently natural woodlands fringing the transition to lower slopes and loch shore. However insensitive forest margins can detract from their quality. This landscape type is not well represented within this area, although found elsewhere in the Park uplands.	These open areas are under pressure from the expansion of commercial forests, the invasion of bracken and rhododendrons and grazing. They should be protected as they contribute to the diversity of the landscape
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	This area includes the Neolithic chambered cairn at Edinchip. Several deserted farmsteads, kilns, and a township are also recorded both to the south of Edinchip and in lower Glen Ample.  The remains of St Bride's Chapel including an 11/13th century cross and gravestones of the McKinlay's ( relatives of the US President of that name) is situated on the south side of Loch Lubnaig.	The cairn is a scheduled ancient monument of national importance and is of interest to locals, specialists, and visitors, including international visitors.  St Bride's Chapel is also scheduled and is of national/international interest.  The remnant townships are of value for genealogical research and they have specialist archaeological value as they may contain evidence of medieval and post-medieval settlement. The townships relate to the former Gaelic speaking area and were typical of land use up until the Clearances. They form part of the commonest relict settlement type in the National Park. The ones in Glen Ample have been badly disrupted by 20th century forestry planting, which has separated settlements, on the lower glen sides and floors and the shielings which lie on open higher ground beyond the trees, but cut off from the settlement.	Damage from enclosing trees may be an issue on the cairn.  Recent flash floods may also have damaged archaeology in Glen Ample having swept away the listed bridge on the public road.
<b>Associations</b>	US President McKinlay		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- To increase areas of open glen sides through commercial forestry restructuring.
- Potential to improve management, interpretation and access to the Neolithic chambered cairn at Edinchip.

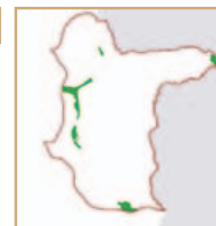


## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: FARMED STRATH FLOOR

Small flat strips of farmland around watercourses. Post and wire fences, hedgerows, degraded dykes and ditches, pylons. The primary farmed strath floor in the area is at Strathyre. There are also small areas to the west of Callander, in Lochearnhead and to the east of St Fillans.

HLA: Mainly 18th to 19th century fields and farming with 19th to 20th century recreation areas and 17th to 19th century designed landscape



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Farmed strath floors are important areas of diversity in the Breadalbane landscape, flat and agriculturally managed, they provide strong visual contrast to the enclosing upland slopes, which are dominated by forestry and woodland through Strathyre, around Callander and St Fillans. Traditionally managed farmed lands, are notably managed with distinct field patterns giving a human dimension to the landscape. They are a component of the rural setting of the settled loch shore. Winter flooding is a feature of the meadows at the foot of Balquhidder Glen.	<p>The strath floors have a distinctive character due to their flat topography and contrast with the surrounding uplands. This landscape type is generally important as an element of diversity in the Park's glen landscapes and specifically contributes to the scenic and distinctive qualities of the Breadalbane glens. The farmed straths form important punctuation, alternating with lochs as people travel up and across the Strathyre and Loch Earn Glens on the A84 and A85, and they tend to provide the setting for the villages. In this area the extent of farmed strath floors is limited to the heads and outflows of lochs. Whilst occupying only a small proportion of the landscape, the straths are visually highly significant, compositionally important within views and in terms of allowing views across and through the glens.</p> <p>The areas have good quality views of the surrounding hills and upland areas and they are more accessible from the small rural roads and tracks that follow 'the quiet side' of the glens. The scenic contribution of river and meadow landscapes can be exceptional, with traditional hay meadow management adding to the summer scene and atmosphere. Significantly this landscape type, as where it occurs elsewhere in the Park, helps to establish a farmed countryside setting to the rural villages of a generally unspoilt and traditional quality.</p>	The farmed strath areas may come under pressure from settlement expansion and for tourist developments in the future. Changes or decline in agricultural practise could lead to the decline of traditional features, such as field boundaries, or the expansion of woodlands through natural regeneration or new planting.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Around Callander there is a concentration of Improvement Period 18th and 19th century rectilinear fields. Leny House and the surrounding policies and parkland form an element of this Improvement Period landscape and lie in the adjacent Forested Glen LCT.	<p>Important to specialists, local people &amp; visitors to the area.</p> <p>The field boundaries date back 200 years, to the agricultural improvements of the 18th and 19th century.</p>	If the fields become disused then the boundaries may be lost. The continued use of the fields is the best way to ensure their survival.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: FARMED STRATH FLOOR (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>Important historic features such as remains of the Roman Fort and the crop marks of the Roman temporary camp and prehistoric settlement west of Callander. There are small areas of smallholdings at Auchtubh and several interesting 18th/19th century cottages still survive on the strath floor in Glen Ogle, including the derelict thatched cottage known as Jock's croft. The areas of relict medieval/post medieval settlement and agriculture in Strathyre are reflected in the survival of a small number of deserted farmsteads. There are also two important chapel sites near Callander, at Kilmahog and Little Leny. The former is also important for its mills, only one of which still survives although in altered form. There are other sites with religious associations in Balquhiddier Glen.</p> <p>The area to the east of St Fillans includes the ruins of the 16th century chapel at Dundurn which lies on the site of an earlier chapel and is adjacent to Dundurn Hill Fort.</p>	<p>The Roman and prehistoric sites at Callander are scheduled as being of national importance. The fort is unique in the Park as still having upstanding visible remains. This makes it important for both locals and visitors, including international interest.</p> <p>Although both graveyards are listed the religious theme is probably not of national importance and there are more interesting sites elsewhere in the Park. The graveyards are also valued for genealogical research.</p>	<p>Continuing plough damage may be an issue on the crop mark areas.</p> <p>Unsympathetic cottage conversion and the design of adjacent new buildings can threaten the character of traditional buildings.</p> <p>The condition of the graveyards is poor and they are suffering from neglect.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>River Teith SAC for lamprey and salmon, Loch Lubnaig Marshes SSSI for fen, reed swamp and emergent plant communities. Rare water beetles and other invertebrates. Boundary features, rushy pastures in fields support wildlife including waders</p>	<p>Important to local people, visitors, and specialists</p> <p>Of high biodiversity importance.</p>	<p>River systems and fish populations are impacted on by river engineering, eg Hydro Electric Power Schemes. Modern farming patterns have tended to diminish the wildlife value, eg through winter cropping &amp; higher livestock densities.</p>
<b>Associations</b>	<p>Strathyre was described by Sir Walter Scott in <i>The Lady of the Lake</i> (1810) and <i>A Legend of Montrose</i> (1819).</p> <p>Balquhiddier Glen has associations with St Angus. Kilmahog with either St Kessog or St Mahog. The chapel at Dundurn lies on the site of an earlier chapel which said to have been erected by St Fillan in the 7th century.</p> <p>Little Leny has associations with the Buchanan clan.</p>		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Farmers should be encouraged to continue low intensity agricultural practices, including the traditional management of hay meadows, which makes a particular contribution to the summer landscape and the maintenance of traditional features such as dry stone dykes.
- Access to these landscapes could be improved with path network development from the villages and also links along the rivers and field boundaries.
- Retain the open character of the farmed strath floors as they contribute to the settlement settings.
- Promote a circular route visiting the various graveyards in the area with on site interpretation.
- Consider management agreements to safeguard the important scheduled remains and secure public access where appropriate.
- Prepare design guidelines for conversion of traditional buildings.
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced through more wildlife friendly farming and measures to improve the habitat value of the riparian corridors and woodlands. Several RSS schemes and a management agreement on part of Loch Lubnaig Marshes are already in place.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: SETTLED STRATH FLOOR

Strathyre is the main settlement on the strath floor

HLA Period: 19th century to present built up area and a 19th century to present recreation area.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Strathyre village is most visibly focused along the A84, set within the dramatic forested Strathyre glen. It extends across the river.	The human scale of the village emphasises the vertical drama of the surrounding slopes, and its predominantly traditional layout and architectural style contribute to the rural character.	Dominance of the A84 road corridor, detracts from the character of the village.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Strathyre was formerly a station on the Callander & Oban Railway. The village was originally built to alleviate overcrowding in the townships. The opening of the railway in 1870 led to further expansion to accommodate holiday makers. Village is linear in form with an almost continuous row of gable to gable housing on the east side	Important to local people and visitors. The village has an attractive streetscape and has some buildings of historic interest.	New development can detract from the traditional character of the village.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	River Teith SAC (part) for lamprey and salmon.	High biodiversity importance.	The river and the aquatic ecology is vulnerable to inadequate sewerage.
<b>Associations</b>	Dugald Buchanan (1716-68) was one of the foremost Gaelic poets of the 18th Century and was born in Strathyre. There is a decorative monument to him on the main road through Strathyre.		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Ensure that any new development contributes positively to the rural character of the village.
- Biodiversity needs ongoing protection through careful development control and sewage treatment.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### 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), within a rural setting that incorporates small meadows and loch shore fringe woodlands. Settled loch shores include Lochearnhead and St Fillans.

HLA: 18th to 20th century built up area and 18th to 19th century fields and farming.

There is a relict area of 18th to 20th century crofting / small holdings at Craggan



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<p><b>Sense of place</b></p>	<p>The settled shore provides a human built element within the open shoreline, often punctuating the edges of the shoreline with dispersed and linear development. Historic and traditional character of rural and estate buildings and the presence of meadow lands, loch shore fringe woodlands and garden grounds enhance the rural character.</p>	<p>The area has high quality views across open water and the settlements themselves are important landmarks in the wider view and very accessible. The area is developed with recreation and tourism developments and housing. There is a mixture of development, some new and some more traditional. The settlements locate at the heads and outflow of Loch Earn and introduce a human dimension to the glen and loch landscape, sitting within farmed strath and relict agricultural landscapes. Occasional loch shore settlement is common in the Breadalbane landscape and occurs elsewhere in the Park. Here it relates to relict landuse patterns that can still be read over the open glen sides to the north east. This is unusual in the Park found only here and in Balquhiddier, although it is a more typical characteristic to the north and west of Scotland.</p>	<p>These areas are under pressure from new tourist developments such as chalets and caravan parks. There are also pressures related to tourism provision for water recreation activities. Inappropriate suburban layouts and house styles have been a recent trend in Lochearnhead.</p>
<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p>	<p>The earliest evidence for settlement in this area is the prehistoric cup marked stones at Craggan. There are a number of farmsteads and associated corn and lime kilns noted here too, some of these forming part of a small area of smallholdings, but their condition is not known. 18th and 19th century rectilinear fields surround the built-up area.</p> <p>The main settlements in the area are Lochearnhead and St Fillans which are quite different in character. Lochearnhead retains some early 19th century (listing records suggest some may be 18th century but hard to date) vernacular rubble cottages, especially in Glen Ogle and on the north shore. There are two important cruck-framed cottages in Lochearnhead, with one, at Briar Cottage having had its thatched roof re-instated.</p> <p>St Fillans is located on the shores of Loch Earn and is characterised by a run of gabled Victorian villas which give the village 'spa town' feel.</p>	<p>The cultural heritage of these areas is important to local people, visitors and specialists.</p> <p>Lochearnhead has a number of important historic buildings but the integrity of the historic character of the settlement has been affected by 20th century residential and tourist related developments. The small vernacular cottages are most prevalent in this area of the Park and were once characteristic of Lochearnhead and its environs as well as more common over the whole area of the Park. They make an important contribution to cultural heritage and landscape character.</p>	<p>The buildings in Glen Ogle are at risk of being lost due to neglect. However, the buildings in the village are still in occupation.</p>

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: SETTLED LOCH SHORE (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>There are also features from the railway era which survive, including railway bridges and viaducts.</p> <p>In addition to the villages there are some large country houses along the loch shores including the restored 16th century Z plan tower house at Edinample (Category A listed) and Ardvorlich House. There is a second castle at Dalveich on the north shore of Loch Earn which is very ruinous.</p>	<p>St Fillans retains much of its historic character. There is a consistent architectural style with the run of large Victorian villas and some important traditional rural dwellings. A number of buildings are listed including the 19th century Drummond Arms Hotel and the small Gothic style church, both designed by Perth architects Heiton Jr and Sr.</p>	<p>Small cottages are subject to pressure from conversion, which can adversely affect their character. There is also pressure for new housing on the former smallholdings at Craggan.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Pockets of emergent vegetation, wet woodland, marshy grassland in fields along the loch shore. Wildfowl and waders may be seen from these locations. Many buildings in this area support bat roosts, especially pipistrelles.</p>	<p>Bats are important to local people, visitors and specialists.</p> <p>Overall the biodiversity in this area is of medium to low importance.</p>	N/A.
<b>Associations</b>	<p>St Fillan - may have been two St Fillans - one associated with Killin and the other this area of Loch Earn. Loch Earn and Ardvorlich House also have association with the writings of Sir Walter Scott in his 'A Legend of Montrose' published in 1819.</p>		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Ensure appropriate planning and careful siting and location of new developments.
- Prepare design guidance, this could take the form of village design statements.
- Any conversions or extension to vernacular cottages should be sensitive to their historic character.
- Outwith this LCT, breeding habitat for some bird species could be improved, e.g. more mature trees for osprey nests, less disturbance at breeding sites for wildfowl.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: INLAND WATER

Loch Earn, Loch Lubnaig

HLA Period: Loch Earn is a 19th century waterbody/reservoir, Loch Lubnaig is natural water



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	<p>The broad expanse of Loch Earn is flanked by steep sided hills to the north and south. The loch is a broad expanse of water with a smooth even shoreline, relatively intact loch shore and lower slope woodlands, and occasional small promontories and larger deltas with meadows.</p> <p>In contrast, Loch Lubnaig is enclosed by heavily planted glen sides and rugged craggy hills such as Ben Ledi and the loch shores are undeveloped. Occasional deltas and meadow features add important diversity to the wider and local scene.</p>	<p>These inland lochs are relatively large scale waterbodies that give a spectacular impression and have distinctive identities. They are accessible from main roads, but offer a quieter side accessed by tracks and single track roads that support local areas of great tranquillity. The lochs allow long dramatic vistas up through the glens, across to opposite glen sides and to upland landscapes with reasonable accessibility to the views, although stopping at the lay-bys can be difficult on the fast main roads.</p>	<p>Motorised water sports on Loch Earn can adversely affect the tranquil qualities of the loch and its surroundings. The shorelines are under pressure from informal camping which has resulted in environmental damage. Future pressures may include further development of tourist facilities, as well as fish farms</p>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>There are a couple of crannogs on Loch Earn and one in Loch Lubnaig, with only the crannog at Edinample visible above water, the others being normally submerged. These prehistoric constructed islands represent one of the earliest elements of the area's cultural heritage and some may have been occupied successively over a long period.</p>	<p>Specialist value, but also interpretative value for visitors</p> <p>Significance is national even though none of these examples is currently scheduled.</p>	<p>There are no significant current pressures, apart from changing water levels causing erosion and periodic drying, and potential damage from boats or other water craft.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>River Teith SAC (part) for lamprey and salmon. Trout. Arctic charr in Loch Lubnaig. Wild fowl and waders, otter.</p>	<p>The salmon and trout within the lochs are important mainly to specialists but salmon angling is important to local people and visitors in the rivers that also comprise the Teith SAC.</p> <p>These biodiversity benefits make an important contribution to the biodiversity of the Park as a whole and are of high importance in the designated sites.</p>	<p>There is a serious decline in many of the fish species. Trends may now be moving in a positive direction, with decreases in conifer forestry and improvements in regulations relating to land and water management, and generally expanding otter populations.</p>
<b>Associations</b>	<p>Connections with the writings of Sir Walter Scott.</p> <p>Long tradition of communication along Loch Earn from prehistoric times to present. Heavy level of use in the late 18th century to early 19th century to transport lime quarried above Locheamhead to the lime kilns in St Fillans. In more recent times the loch has been used for recreation, in the early 20th century by the motor vessel the 'Queen of Loch Earn' and is now popular location for watersports. Loch Earn had the first ever water sports club in Scotland.</p>		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

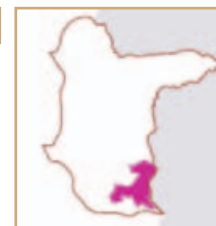
- Opportunities to open up views from the roads where recent alder regeneration has encroached along Loch Lubnaig.
- Opportunities to improve viewpoints and access to the loch shores.
- Enhancement of loch shore environments where loch fringe woodlands have become degraded.
- Restructuring of commercial plantations and an increase in diverse woodlands as a setting to Loch Lubnaig.
- Undertake a survey of crannogs to improve knowledge.
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced via riparian habitat enhancement and removal of artificial barriers to fish migration, prevention of introduction of non-native fish and plants.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

### LCT: OPEN MOORLAND HILLS

Open moorland south of the Highland Boundary Fault, smoothed and undulating hills with rocky outcrops, screes and gullies. Heather, grasses, sedges and mosses. Occurring to the north of Callander.

HLA: Largely prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing with some late 20th century



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	The open moorland hills to the north of Callander have an open, wild and remote character, which is close to the town and accessible from it.	<p>The open moorland hills have a wild and dramatic character and create a feeling of remoteness. They contain only a few remote farms. This is an unusual character type in the Park, but although it is of a relatively large extent locally it is not really apparent to those travelling through the Park due to its relative inaccessibility to cars. Whilst not visible from Callander, they provide an area for quiet recreation, readily accessible by good footpath links and providing a setting to the dramatic uplands beyond.</p> <p>The area has high quality views due to the open nature of the landscape, however these are mostly appreciated by hill walkers. Whilst not visually prominent or distinctive in itself, this area provides an important backdrop and intermediary zone from the lowland landscapes to the south. The area is generally quite unspoilt and wild, although there are masts and pylons, which detract from the overall 'wild' quality of the landscape.</p>	Potential pressures within this landscape include developments such as masts and wind farms, afforestation and water infrastructure.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Areas of relict medieval/post medieval settlement and agriculture and shielings survive. There is also evidence of lime working in the shape of quarries and kilns.	<p>These sites are no different from many others of the type throughout the Park and there are likely to be better preserved examples of both shielings and farmsteads elsewhere in the National Park.</p> <p>It is not known if there are other substantial former lime quarries in the Park but this could be an important example in supplementing the story of the 18th/19th century Agricultural Improvement.</p>	No imminent threat but possible future removal of stock could result in the spread of regenerating trees and scrub and bracken.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Moorland plant communities, moorland birds and mammals including Red kite, red grouse, red deer, mountain hare, hen harrier.	<p>Important to local people, visitors and specialists</p> <p>The moorland wildlife and habitats are a distinctive part of the landscape in this area and the park as a whole. They will occur patchily in several other areas.</p>	Grazing pressure can result in a trend of conversion to grassland.

## STRATHYRE & LOCH EARN

LCT: OPEN MOORLAND HILLS			
BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Geology</b>	Leny Quarry SSSI for Cambrian fossils and their implications for the sedimentary and tectonic history of the area.	High geological importance.	No imminent threats, minimal active management needed.

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The semi-natural moorland should be managed to ensure that it is conserved and protected from development and over grazing.
- The possibility of future tree planting and its impact on heritage sites and their setting needs to be carefully considered in these open areas.
- In places, overgrazing by sheep and deer may currently limit the habitat extent and reduce its quality. This could be remedied through changes to management.
- Restructuring of upper woodland edges may enhance the ecological transition from the forested glens to open moorland.