



## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE TROSSACHS

# ABERFOYLE AND CALLANDER RIDGES

## Key features

Highland Boundary Fault
Parallel ridges – Drum of Clashmore and the Menteith Hills
Remnants of carse landscape
Improvement period farmland characterised by rectilinear fields.
Planned settlements of Gartmore and Callander
Designed landscape at Gartmore House
Prehistoric monuments
Roman Site
Lake of Menteith with historic sites of Inchmahome Priory and Talla Castle
Gateway settlement of Aberfoyle
Romantic Movement

## Summary of Evaluation

### Sense of Place

The visual qualities of this area are of high importance. The area is dominated by the Drum of Clashmore and Menteith Hills, open and wooded parallel ridges with a north east to south west orientation, reflecting the underlying geology of the Highland Boundary Fault. This landscape is unique to this part of the National Park and provides a transition from the lowlands to the highlands. The rolling farmland around the Lake of Menteith, Gartmore and to the south of Callander contrasts with the more dramatic hills. The areas of moss around the Lake of Menteith provide the last remnants of a once much more extensive carse landscape. The Lake of Menteith is a unique feature in the Park, with its shallow and rounded form, and is of high scenic quality. The settlements of Callander and Aberfoyle are important gateways into the National Park and provide a human context within a dramatic 'natural' landscape. Although both settlements are linear in form and have rivers running through them, there is a clear sense of local distinctiveness in the built form of the settlements.

### Cultural Heritage

Like other areas of the Park this area has been profoundly influenced by human activity. The parallel ridges which include the Menteith Hills and Drum of Clashmore have been in use for moorland and rough grazing from prehistoric times to the present day. The most extensive evidence of prehistoric use in the National Park survives in this area and includes cup and ring marked rocks and a significant group of burial cairns at Glenny. The ridges also include evidence of deserted farms of medieval/post medieval date.

The pattern of the lowland farmed landscape in this area was largely established in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as part of land improvements to increase yields and profits from farming. The rectilinear field patterns resulting from the enclosures are still used and maintained today and occur on the lowland farmed area to the south of the Menteith Hills. The improving landlords also designed settlements for their estate workers, Gartmore and Callander are both planned villages, now designated as Conservation Areas reflecting their architectural and historical importance. The landlords further improved their estates by constructing large houses with designed landscapes at Gartmore House, Rednock and the Roman Camp Hotel in Callander.

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There are important medieval secular and religious sites in the area, particularly the area on and around the Lake of Menteith, which includes Inchmahome Augustinian Priory, Inchtalla Castle and Rednock Tower. About half of the known castles in the Park are concentrated in the lowland areas. One of the Park's three Roman fort sites also occurs in this area at Malling on the west shore of the Lake of Menteith.

### **Biodiversity**

The biodiversity qualities of this area are of high importance. Although much of the upland area has been commercially forested and is of low biodiversity value there are areas of semi-natural native woodland within the forestry which are of high importance. These areas of woodland form part of one of the most extensive tracts of semi-natural broadleaved woodland in the UK. There are currently healthy red squirrel populations around Aberfoyle. Outcrops of limestone occur in the area and the unusual plant communities they support are of high importance. The moorland and farmland habitats support important raptors such as short eared owls and protected species including osprey, hen harrier and probably red kites.

There are important wetland and aquatic habitats particularly around the Lake of Menteith, which support mesotrophic aquatic plant communities including nationally rare and scarce species and the only slender naiad population in the Park. Loch Macanrie is important for its peatland, poor fen and remnant blanket bog. The River Teith is of high importance for its salmon and lamprey.

### **Geology**

The geological qualities of this area are also of high importance. The Highland Boundary Fault which runs through the zone is the defining feature of the National Park. There are two geological SSSIs in the area. Lime Craig Quarry, which has fossils that help to date the rock strata of the Fault and show its links with Scandinavia and North America, and Molland SSSI, which is of high importance for its post-glacial pollen record.

### **Associations**

The area has associations with the Earldom of Menteith which is one of the most ancient Scottish titles of nobility. The earldom founded Inchmahome Priory in the 13th century. Robert the Bruce is said to have visited the Priory in the 14th century but it is probably most famous as a refuge for Mary Queen of Scots in the mid-16th century. In more recent centuries the influence of the Graham family in the area has been considerable with the building of Gartmore House and establishment of Gartmore planned village. The whole area has a strong tradition of folklore associated with the surrounding landscape. Probably most well known are the stories of fairies associated with the Reverend Robert Kirk and Doon Hill on the edge of Aberfoyle. The settlements of Callander and Aberfoyle are associated with Sir Walter Scott and the Romantic Movement and numerous poets, writers and artists visited the area in the Victorian period.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

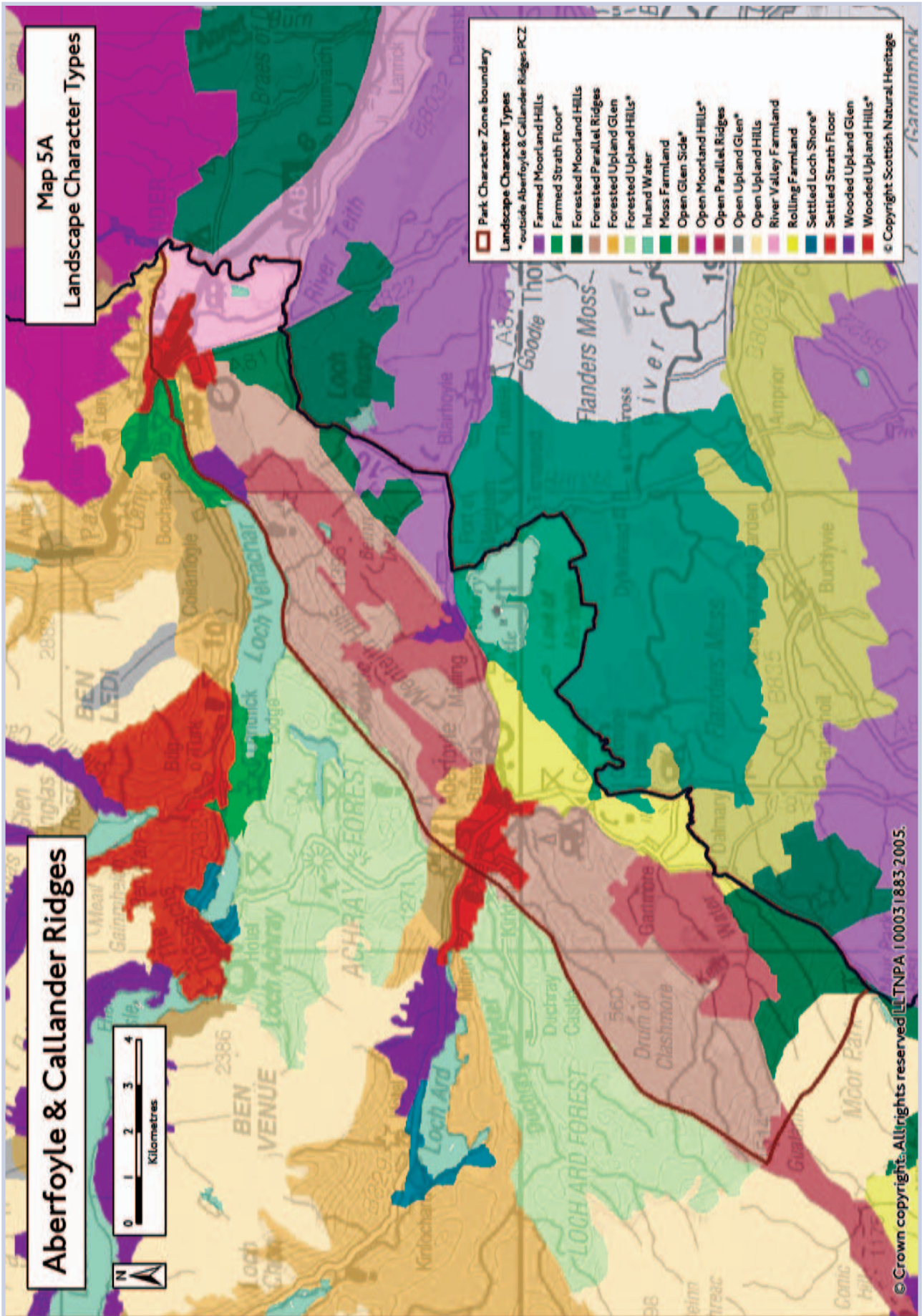
### Qualities valued by local communities

(Source: Community Futures and Park Plan workshop on Special Qualities, April 2004)  
Comments may refer to other Character Zones.

- Diversity of landscapes and landuses
- The sense of arrival, the feeling that you have hit the hills and mountains, particular mention made of the approach from Glasgow and Stirling
- Views of lochs, the different views and vistas around every corner
- Importance of seasons to experience of landscape
- Callander is valued for its built heritage and its landscape setting
- History and cultural associations of the area
- Folklore
- Loch Venachar for recreation, fishing and tranquillity
- Name of the area 'the Trossachs' is very distinctive
- Woodland qualities – Caledonian oak woodland
- Highland Boundary Fault
- Gaelic dialects and link between Gaelic and heritage of the area
- Farming

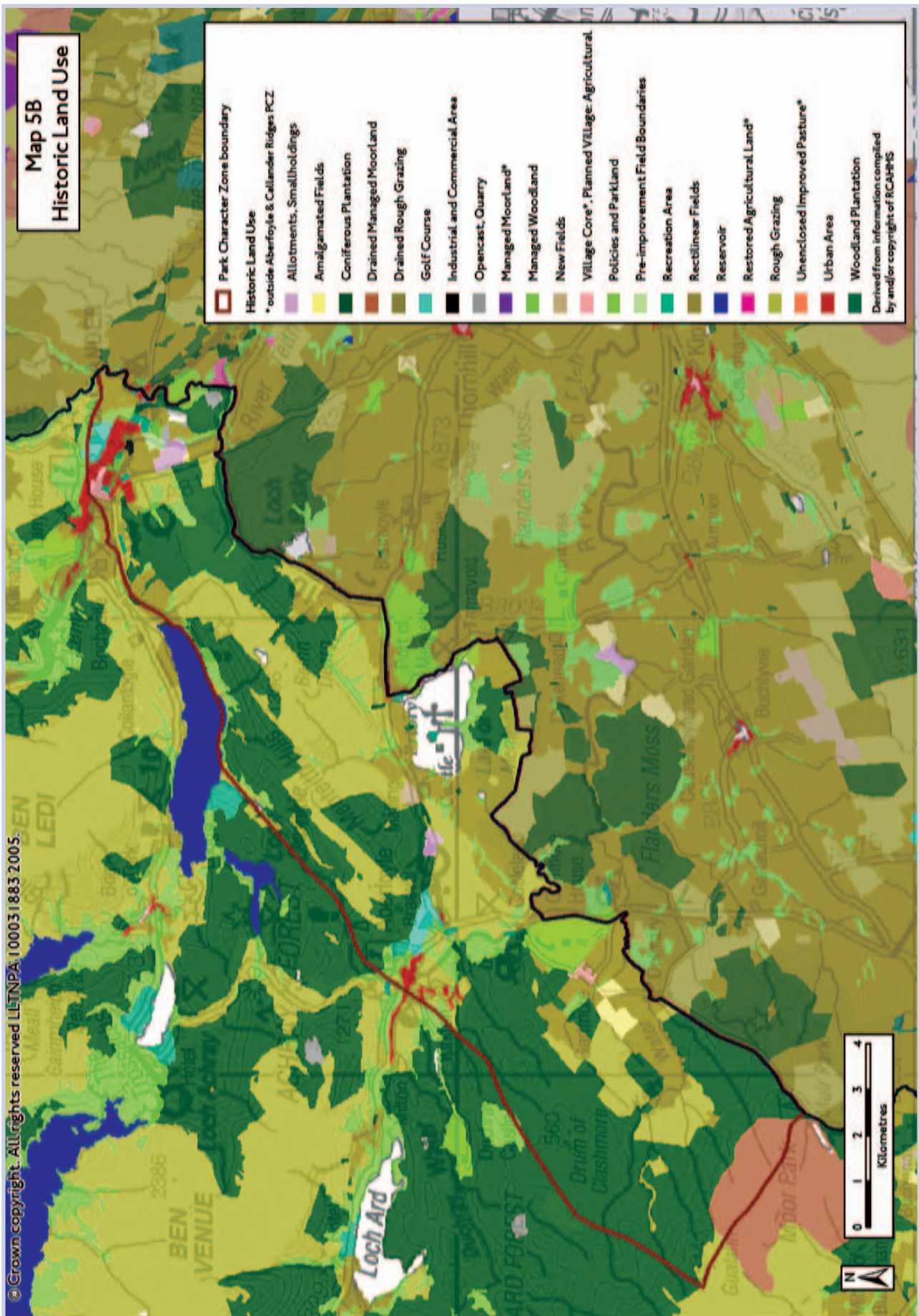
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MAP 5A - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES



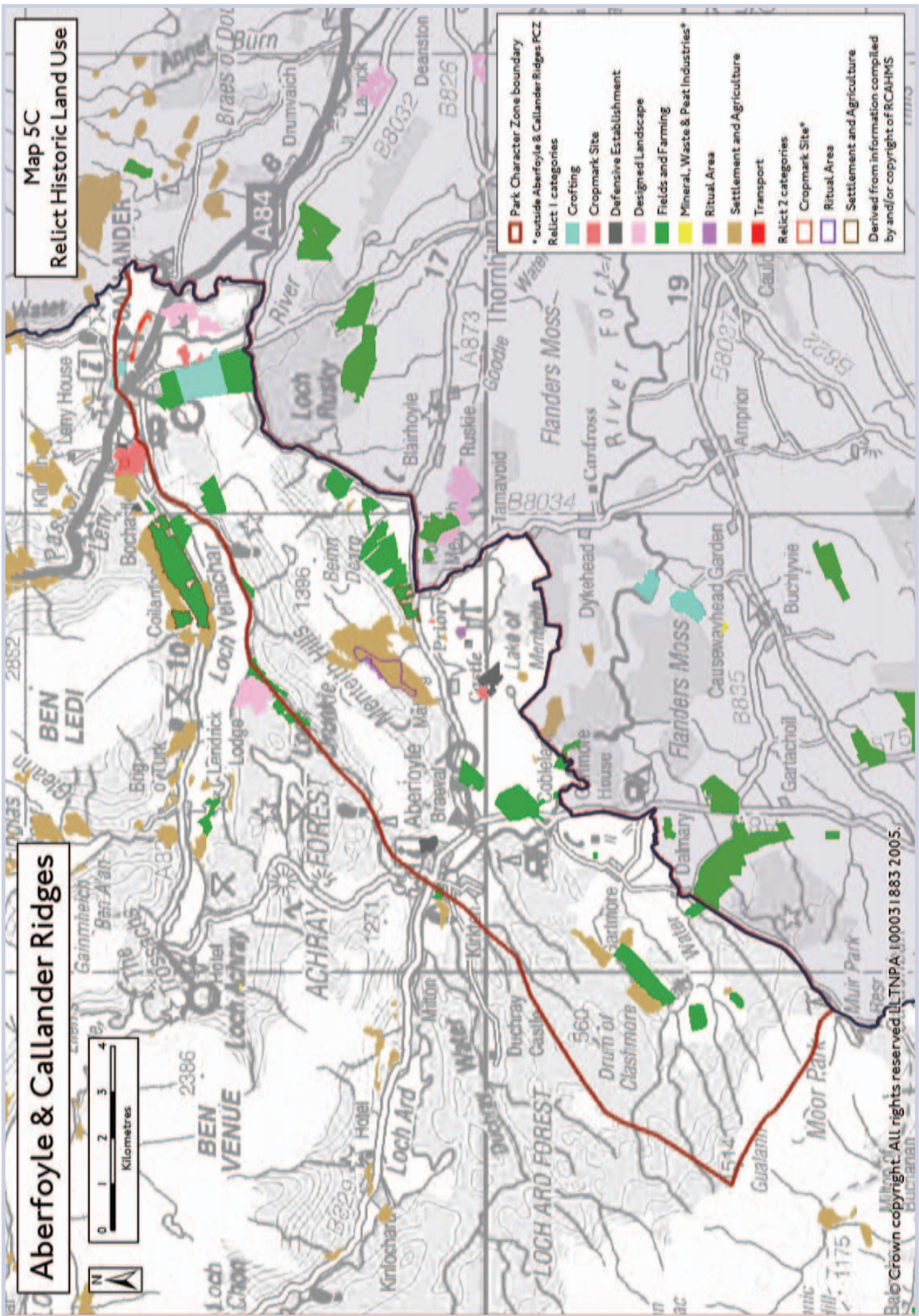
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MAP 5B - HISTORIC LAND USE



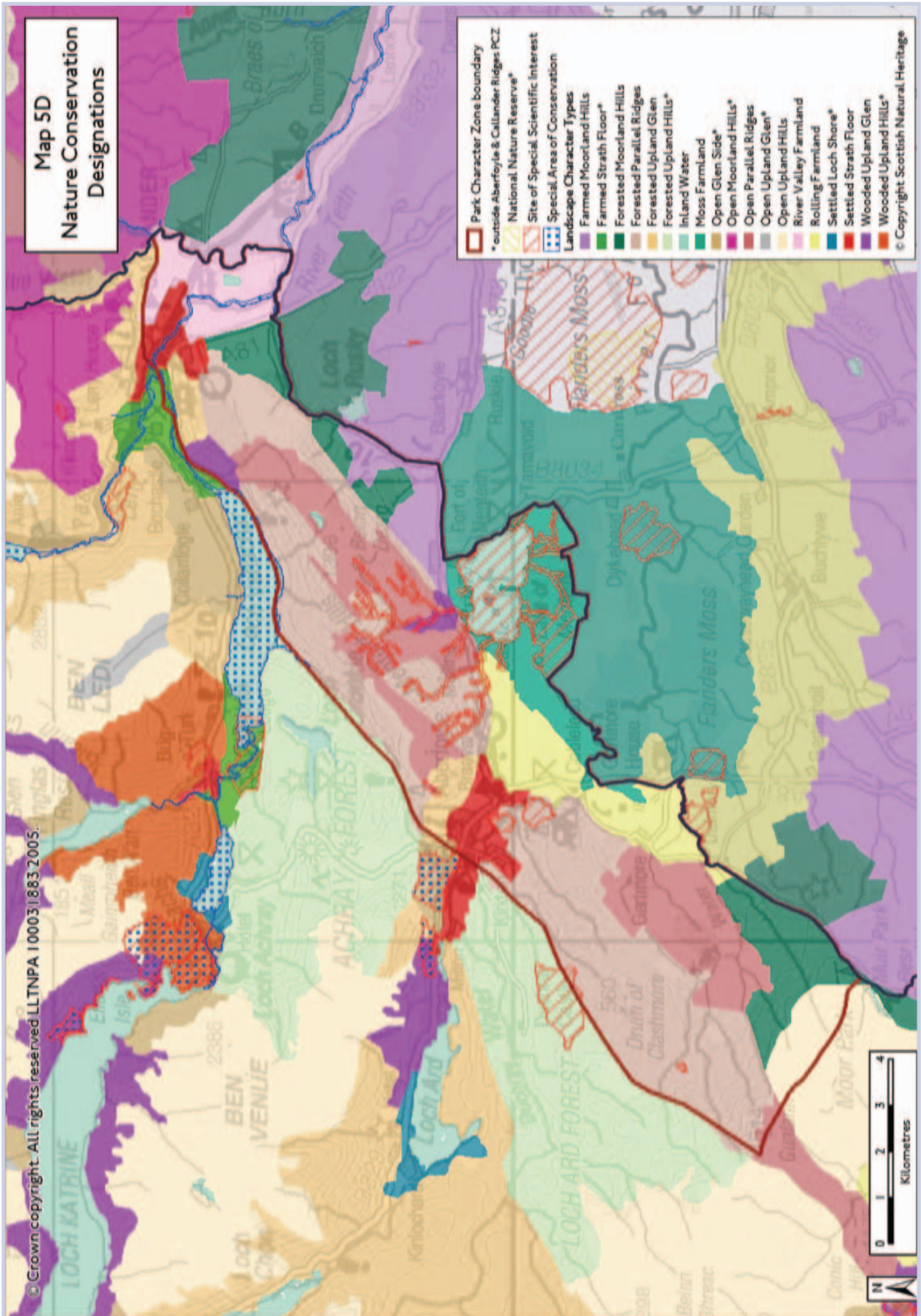
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MAP 5C - RELICT HISTORIC LAND USE



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MAP 5D - NATURE CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS



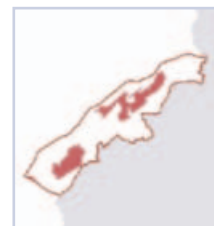


## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: OPEN PARALLEL RIDGES

The open parallel ridges in this area include the Menteith Hills, Ben Gullipen and Beinn Dearg and the hills to the west of Gartmore. Diverse landform of smooth moorland, rocky outcrops, gullies and scree, orientated north-east to south-west direction. Open landscape.

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



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Vast and diverse sense of place, dominating open landscape.	The open parallel ridges make an important contribution to the landscape character and visual quality of the lowland areas of the Park. These are unique features which are only found locally. The ridges are a direct result of geological activity along the Highland Boundary Fault, clearly legible due to the open qualities, with contrasts in the ground vegetation ensuring that the distinctive ridged appearance is particularly marked, especially in winter and spring. This distinctive and unique topographic feature is this landscape types defining characteristic, contributing to the Park's diversity and the imposing presence of the Highland Boundary Fault. The lack of scale reference means that the size of the ridges is difficult to gauge and they can appear grander than they actually are.	These are potentially under pressure from development such as masts, pylons, windfarms and forestry, which may detract from the dominating characteristics of the landform and introduce scale reference.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Extensive evidence of cup and ring marked rocks and prehistoric burial cairns at Glenny. This is the most important group of such features in the Park. It includes a number of sites which are scheduled as being of national importance. Similar prehistoric carvings are recorded elsewhere on these ridges, perhaps identifying these as important routes in prehistoric times. Parts of the area have been the subject of intensive archaeological survey. Survey has also identified a number of deserted farms, field systems and cairns of medieval/post medieval date. There are also areas of 18th/19th century rectilinear fields.	Important to locals, visitors and specialists.  The rock carvings can be difficult to locate and sometimes not hugely impressive to the average visitor, but this group is of national and perhaps international importance.  The deserted farmsteads will be of interest for genealogical research.	The rock art in particular is under threat from natural weathering but also from the thoughtless activities of visitors who remove the turf from the rock outcrops exposing fresh carvings to the elements. The area has in the past experienced woodland expansion. The deserted farmsteads lie close to present areas of settlement and may be under threat from proposals for reinstatement.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Lake of Menteith SSSI (part) for aquatic communities. Moorland flora and fauna, probably including foraging red kites.	Important to local people, visitors and specialists.  Of high importance.	Much of the parallel ridge landscape has been afforested in the last few decades. Forest restructuring gives scope for enhancement of biodiversity.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: OPEN PARALLEL RIDGES

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TREND & PRESSURES
<b>Geology</b>	The Highland Boundary Fault: The defining feature of the National Park, including Lime Craig Quarry geological SSSI for fossils which help to date the rock strata of the Fault and show its links with Scandinavia and North America. Important to specialists, visitors, local people, by defining the physical, landscape, ecological and cultural transition between highland and lowland.	Of the highest geological importance.	Some land management practices may obscure the features from view.

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The open character of the ridges should be protected from new development and commercial forestry planting.
- Better not to encourage visitor access to the important rock art which is sensitive to weathering and also visitor pressure.
- Consider guidance for the re-use of derelict steadings.
- Scope exists to reverse the historical losses by felling the planted conifers and replacing them with new broadleaved woodland and native pinewood, especially on FCS land, more open ground for floristic diversity and to maintain the water quality in Lake of Menteith.
- A selected increase in open ground within the plantations would expose the distinctive geological landform of the area.
- There is potential to increase awareness of geological past.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: FORESTED PARALLEL RIDGES

The landform of parallel ridges is unique to the Highland Boundary Fault and is formed as a result of geological movements. The parallel ridges include the Menteith Hills and the Drum of Clashmore. Areas of the parallel ridges have been planted with dense commercial plantations, semi-natural native woodland is also present within this. Burns and rock outcrops.

HLA: Predominantly 20th century woodland and forestry.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	The forested parallel ridges frame the landscape with their dense plantations providing a context for surrounding farmland.	The area is highly visible, although poor forest design can detract from scenic and unspoilt qualities. The distinctive ridged landform which is evident in open areas is largely obscured by dense forestry planting in these areas. However the scarp slope of the Highland Boundary Fault remains visible and the vertical grain of the forestry contrasts dramatically with the horizontal lowlands.	Past trends of block forestry planting are now viewed as having a negative effect on the surrounding landscape – a situation now being improved in the restructuring of forests to meet new design guidelines.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Only two small areas are identified on the Historic Landuse Assesement as relict medieval and post medieval settlement and agriculture where there is no forestry. The wider forested area also includes a large number of deserted farmsteads, some with associated lime kilns, of medieval/post medieval date. This concentration reflects the south-facing nature of these slopes. Many of the remains are now subsumed within commercial forestry plantations. There is also an important group of prehistoric cup and ring marked rocks included in this zone although most lie on the fringes just outside the areas of forestry plantation with the main area of prehistoric art to be found in the adjoining LCT. There is also an old barytes mine in the area.	This area is important to specialists, visitors and locals. The deserted farmsteads are of interest for genealogical research although there may be better examples elsewhere in the Park. Most of these examples have been enclosed by forestry and as such have been divorced from their original landscape setting.  The cup and ring markings form part of a major group of such rock art in this area and are of particular interest to specialists, including international researchers, even though none of these particular examples are scheduled and they should be considered as a group.	The rock carvings are at risk from turf removal which exposes them to weathering.  Some of the deserted farmsteads have been converted back into residential use or replaced with new dwellings.  Some sites may be at risk from regeneration, wind throw etc.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Lime Hill SSSI and other localised sites for unusual plant communities due to outcrops of limestone geology. Fairy Knowe and Doune Hill SSSI (part) for Oak woods and other areas of native broadleaves. Lake of Menteith SSSI (part) for aquatic communities. Woodland fauna and flora.	This area is of high biodiversity importance to specialists, visitors and locals.  High biodiversity importance with scope to contribute to restoring one of the most extensive tracts of semi natural broadleaved woodland in the UK.	The historical trend has been a catastrophic loss and fragmentation of broadleaved woodland and native pinewood in the UK. This is now being actively reversed in parts of this area.  There are currently healthy populations of red squirrel around Aberfoyle but they are potentially threatened by grey squirrels.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: FORESTED PARALLEL RIDGES (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Geology</b>	The Highland Boundary Fault is the defining geological feature of the National Park	<p>The Highland Boundary Fault defines the physical, landscape, ecological and cultural transition between highland and lowland, and is important to specialists, visitors and local people.</p> <p>The Highland Boundary Fault is of the highest geological importance</p>	Some land management practices may obscure the features from view.

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- There is the potential to enhance the landscape quality of the forested parallel ridges through forestry restructuring and the introduction of more broadleaved species and open ground.
- There is potential to re-establish a setting for some of the cultural heritage sites. Careful removal of trees/restructuring might be useful. Currently, access is difficult and there may be opportunities to promote footpath access to sites.
- Guidelines are recommended for appropriate conversion of deserted and derelict buildings in the Park.
- Scope exists to reverse the historical losses of broadleaved woodland and native pinewood by felling the planted conifers and replacing them with new broadleaved woodland and native pinewood, especially on FCS land, more open ground for floristic diversity and to maintain the water quality in Lake of Menteith.
- A selected increase in open ground within the plantations would expose the distinctive geological landform of the area.
- Interpretation to raise awareness of geological significance/influence on sense of place of the parallel ridges.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: SETTLED STRATH FLOOR

There are small low lying settlements on the strath floors, surrounded by a backdrop of woodland, forests and hills. The character is typical of Scottish Highland towns and are gateway settlements into Loch Lomond and the Trossachs - Callander and Aberfoyle.

HLA: Combination of built up area, 19th to 20th century recreation area, prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing, 18th to 19th century fields and farming and 18th to 20th century forestry and woodland. The built up area has a relict 19th to 20th century railway.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	These settlements provide a human context within a dramatic natural landscape, the buildings themselves give the appearance of being nestled and clustered within this landscape. The settlements are linear in form and provide a setting for the rivers that run through them. There is a sense of local distinctiveness in the built form.	<p>These settlements are 'gateways' into the Park and mark the transition between lowland and highland landscape areas.</p> <p>The settlements have high quality and accessible views and are on busy tourist routes through the Park. The character of each area is distinctive and is mainly created by the built development itself, with tree canopies and the wider wooded settings of great significance.</p>	These settlements are subject to pressure from further built development including tourism and residential development. This has the potential to erode local distinctiveness, if clear design and material principles are not adhered to.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>There is a Conservation Area designated in Callander and a number of buildings are listed. The original settlement clustered around the church and motte, an early form of earthwork castle. The motte is scheduled. There is also an important designed landscape at the Roman Camp Hotel.</p> <p>The town was laid out as a planned village by the Duke of Perth as the 'New Town Callander In Menteith' following a regular plan dated 1739. The plan comprised a single street, straddled roughly at its mid point by a square. Evidence of the traditional, feus system still survives, particularly on Bridgend and Main street. A further planned 'soldiers settlement' was created by the government at the east end of the town to provide housing for discharged soldiers home from the Seven Years War after the conclusion of the Peace of Paris in 1763. The military road from Stirling to Fort William seems to have arrived in Callander in 1748, upgrading an existing cart track as far as Kilmahog. Beyond this the road was completed by 1753. By the end of the 18th century the population exceeded 1,000. First cotton manufacture and then the railway from Stirling and tourism brought about growth.</p>	<p>Important to locals, visitors and specialists.</p> <p>Callander still retains its original street plan and much of its historic character. It has a significant number of buildings of historical and architectural interest, many of them listed. It is a good example of a planned village and this is reflected in its designation as a Conservation Area.</p> <p>The area has a long history of settlement and a number of important historic sites reflect this including the motte, Tom Ma Chisaig, which is scheduled in recognition of its national importance and is one of the few archaeological sites in the Park with interpretation. High importance.</p>	Various development pressures. Modern housing development on the edges of the settlement detract from the traditional character.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: SETTLED STRATH FLOOR

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>At Aberfoyle the early settlement was known as Kirktoon reflecting its site at the old church, the present ruins of which are listed and where there are two unusual iron mort safes (metal covers used to prevent grave robbing) and also a gravestone dedicated to the Reverend Kirk, who was associated with the nearby Doon Hill.</p> <p>Sir Walter Scott brought the area to the attention of 19th century travellers and its location has made it a gateway to the Trossachs ever since. A terrace of four railway cottages survive which are the only remaining buildings associated with Aberfoyle Station. It has some buildings of architectural and historic importance, including the School and New Parish Church, designed by John Honeyman, and Craighughty Terrace and St Mary's Episcopal Church, designed by James Miller.</p> <p>There are areas of relict 18th/19th century rectilinear fields and medieval/post medieval settlement and agriculture immediately north and south of the river at the west end of the village.</p>	<p>Important to locals, visitors and specialists.</p> <p>Aberfoyle was originally a small rural settlement but only the old parish kirk and the old parish school remain. In addition very little remains of the 19th century architecture and character of Aberfoyle. The historic character and integrity of the village has been affected by some poorly designed developments. However, there are some buildings of historic and architectural interest which contribute to the character and attractiveness of the village.</p>	<p>Possible development pressures for new tourism and residential development.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Fairy Knowe and Doon Hill SSSI (part) for oakwood. River Teith SAC for salmon and lamprey. Callander Meadows wildlife site, bat roosts in houses, garden birds and other local wildlife.</p>	<p>Important to local people, visitors, travellers and specialists.</p> <p>Of high biodiversity importance.</p>	<p>River systems and fish populations are impacted by human activities, eg bankside engineering, floodplain development, modern farming practices. Broadleaved woodlands are fragmented but measures are in hand to reconnect many of them.</p>
<b>Geology</b>	<p>Mollands SSSI for post-glacial pollen record.</p>	<p>Important to specialists.</p> <p>High geological importance.</p>	<p>No immediate threats. Minimal ongoing management required.</p>
<b>Associations</b>	<p>Both Aberfoyle and Callander are strongly associated with Sir Walter Scott and the Romantic Movement. The area is rich in folklore. Aberfoyle Kirk and Doon Hill are associated with Reverend Robert Kirk, the pastor at Aberfoyle, who in 1692 wrote the 'Secret Commonwealth' about fairies.</p> <p>Callander has associations with St Kessog.</p>		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Ensuring that local distinctiveness is maintained within any new development through planning processes and design guidance.
- Callander would benefit from a Conservation Area Appraisal to improve understanding of the historic character of the town and inform decision-making. There may also be potential for town enhancement.
- Conserve and enhance the important historic sites and their settings.
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced through more wildlife friendly farming measures to improve the habitat value of the riparian corridors and woodlands, woodland restructuring. Some of these are already underway.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: INLAND WATER

Lake of Menteith

HLA: Water body



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	The Lake provides a distinctive feature, with a sense of openness and tranquillity.	<p>The Lake can be viewed from the road by visitors to, and those travelling through, the area, as well as from local settlements.</p> <p>The lake is a picturesque feature within the view, predominantly unspoilt, although its shores are partly settled with hotels and some historic buildings. The Lake has a distinctive character, with visible historic features and coherent scenic quality. The presence of fishing boats contributes life to the scene, which appears serene and tranquil. The feature is unique in the Park with its rounded form. It is a popular area of great historic interest. High importance.</p>	The Lake is potentially under pressure for further lakeside development, which could erode its sense of tranquillity.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	See Loch Islands evaluation - the Lake has strong cultural heritage associations. There are a number of Iron Age crannogs, a form of lake dwelling, submerged within the loch.	None of the crannogs is scheduled and all are submerged. They are of interest to specialists and locals.	Potential damage from boats and water activity.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Lake of Menteith SSSI (part) for mesotrophic aquatic plant communities, including nationally rare and scarce species and the only slender naiad population in the Park. Overwintering geese and other water birds, a large heronry, foraging ospreys.	<p>Important to local people, visitors, specialists</p> <p>Highly important for the habitat types and species present, especially slender naiad.</p>	The nutrient status of the Lake is vulnerable to change from diffuse pollution from the use of fertilisers in the lake catchment. Measures are in place to prevent it deteriorating.
<b>Geology</b>	Marine and glacial deposits showing the Loch Lomond re-advance.	<p>Important to specialists.</p> <p>High importance</p>	No immediate threats. Minimal ongoing management required.
<b>Associations</b>	<p>See Loch Islands evaluation.</p> <p>The Lake of Menteith is Scotland's only 'Lake'. The Lake of Menteith was also the location for the Bonspiel Curling Tournaments</p>		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Potential for further interpretation and ongoing conservation.
- Seek to protect the submerged crannogs
- Biodiversity could be enhanced. Better control of diffuse pollution under the Water Framework Directive should help to secure the quality of the site.
- No opportunities to enhance the geology but very high protection of geological resource.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: WOODED LOCH ISLAND

The loch islands of the Lake of Menteith include Inch Talla and Inchmahome. The islands are densely wooded with native predominantly deciduous woodland. Knolly and hummocky in form. Secret landscape surrounded by water.

HLA: Inch Talla has 18th to 20th century woodland and forestry and a relict Medieval castle. Inchmahome is 19th century to the present recreation area and has a relict Medieval monastery.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	The loch islands create a specific sense of place as they are a unique and interesting feature within the landscape and create a focal point within the tranquillity and stillness of the Lake.	<p>The islands are important to local people as an important part of the loch setting of surrounding settlements. They are also of high importance to tourists due to their picturesque appeal.</p> <p>There are high quality views from the islands across the Lake. The Lake is accessible by boat. The island of Inchmahome, with its historic priory and ornamental trees, is a key feature of the Lake and visible from the shores and the Menteith Hills. The islands are unspoilt by development but often show erosion due to visitor numbers. The islands have a unique sense of place in the landscape as a result of their isolated and distinctive wooded forms and historic associations. The islands occurring in this area and on South Loch Lomond are important features of the Park, contributing diversity to these accessible lowland landscapes and are relatively rare in the Scottish context.</p>	No particular pressures although impacts of visitors should be monitored.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Ruins of the medieval Priory of Inchmahome and the remains of the Earls of Menteith's Castle on Inch Talla.	The islands and historic sites are of importance to locals, visitors and specialists. Both the castle and priory are scheduled as ancient monuments of national importance. Inchmahome is in the care of Historic Scotland and open to visitors for part of the year.	No particular pressures.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Surrounded by, but outwith, Lake of Menteith SSSI. The islands have no specific value in themselves.	Low biodiversity importance.	No particular pressures
<b>Associations</b>	Inchmahome Priory was founded by Walter Comyn, the 4th Earl of Menteith, in 1238. It was the burial place for the Earls of Menteith. Robert the Bruce is said to have visited the Priory in the early 14th century and it was used as a refuge for Mary Queen of Scots in the mid-16th century. The writer, traveller and first President of the National Party for Scotland R.B. Cunninghame Graham is buried on Inchmahome (1936). The Earl of Menteith's castle was on Inch Talla.		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- There is potential to protect the sense of place benefit through visitor management.
- There could be further opportunities to develop stopping points/view points along the roads.



## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: FORESTED MOORLAND HILLS

Mosaic of commercial forest, deciduous woodland and rough moorland. Open areas between trees are grazed.

HLA: Predominantly 20th century coniferous forestry with some areas of prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing and relict 18th to 19th century rectilinear fields.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Forested moorland hills provide a mosaic landscape of forest, woodland and rough moorland. A transitional area between areas of forest and open moorland.	<p>These areas are not a dominant landscape type. However the area does have accessible views and often viewpoints are available within glades between trees and it provides good views over the flatter surrounding landscape. The area is managed for forestry predominantly and includes unsympathetic forest tracks and drainage ditches. The areas are a transition between forest areas and open moorland.</p> <p>These areas may not be generally valued, in part due to the negative perceptions that can be associated with commercial forestry.</p>	Pressures for development within this landscape may include windfarms and other infrastructure.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	The area includes only limited evidence for medieval/post medieval settlement and agriculture which was confirmed by archaeological survey at Braes of Greenock in advance of planting.	<p>Limited interest.</p> <p>Not significant.</p>	Not aware of any particular issues.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Range of native birds including song birds, black grouse, raptors. Roe and red deer, possibly badger & red squirrel. May be some pockets of ancient woodland & native broadleaf amongst commercial conifers.	<p>Limited importance to local people and visitors.</p> <p>The plantation biodiversity is generally of low importance but some species of medium to high importance may be encountered.</p>	No particular pressures. Restructuring provides opportunities to create areas of broadleaved woodland and more diverse age structure in the plantations.

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Ensure that these areas are managed to create a more natural looking landscape, with the avoidance of large-scale development.
- Extensive ongoing restructuring of mature plantations provides great scope for enhancement of the native woodland. Greater structural diversity of commercial restock will also improve its wildlife value.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: FARMED MOORLAND HILLS

There are small areas of farmed moorland hills just to the north of the Lake of Menteith and the north east of Drymen. Rolling grazed moorland and rushy pastures, divided by a mixture of post and wire fences, low moss covered degraded drystone dykes and degraded hedges are characteristic of these areas.

HLA: 18th and 19th century fields and farming and a small area of 17th to 19th century policy and parkland.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	This forms an edge to the area, contrasting with the higher forested hills. The feature gives the sense of managed open rolling countryside.	<p>This feature is of importance to local people. It would provide context for the wider landscape but little interest for travellers.</p> <p>The area forms a backdrop to surrounding lowlands. It is largely unspoilt and is agriculturally managed. The majority of this landscape type in the Park is found within this area with a small proportion also found within the South Loch Lomond area. The landscape type is therefore relatively rare within the Park.</p>	This feature has been under pressure due to changing farming practices. Degradation of hedgerows and dykes becoming neglected. Future pressures for development and commercial forestry could arise.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	The area comprises mainly 18th/19th century rectilinear fields with a small area of the policies and parklands associated with Rednock House (a Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes Inventory site largely outside the National Park). It also includes the ruins of Rednock Castle, a 16th century tower house which is a scheduled ancient monument. There is an important Iron Age broch at Craigievern and the nearby 18th century laird's house is listed.	Important to specialists and locals. This is the only broch in the Park and of national importance. The scheduling of Rednock Castle confirms its national importance.	Not aware of particular issues.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Species found in this area include moorland birds such as lark, meadow pipit, buzzard, possibly red kites foraging. Small mammals, roe deer, and the occasional red deer.	The biodiversity is of low to medium significance.	Biodiversity has been reduced locally through conversion to conifer plantation. Restructuring of woodlands provides scope for improvements.

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

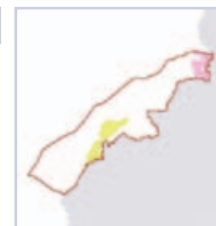
- Ensure agricultural management in order that the landscape features are maintained and degraded features such as dykes, tree clumps and boundary trees enhanced.
- Interpretation of the broch could be linked to the recent broch reconstruction in Strathyre.
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced through restoration of boundary walls and restructuring of woodland.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: ROLLING FARMLAND LCT: RIVER VALLEY FARMLAND

There is an area of rolling farmland to the east of Aberfoyle and river valley farmland along the banks of the River Teith to the east of Callander. Mosaic of farmland, woodland, beech, oak and ash hedges. Rectilinear fields. Characteristic small two storey houses with slate roofs.

HLA: Mainly 18th to 19th century fields and farming, 17th to 19th century designed landscape and prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing. There is an area of 18th to 19th century crofting (allotments) at the Lots of Callander.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Gently undulating landscape, enclosed by trees and beech hedges. Random and varied feel to the landscape with deciduous and plantation trees, improved and semi-improved grassland. Riverside trees along the River Teith are strong features in the valleys.	<p>Highly visible from the main road at the gateway to the Park with beech hedges framing the road sides.</p> <p>The area has high quality views over the adjacent moorland, is relatively unspoilt, with a mixture of both traditionally managed and semi-improved areas. The gently undulating character contrasts with the more dramatic hills in the background. The landscape type is also present in other lowland areas of the Park.</p>	Pressures on this historic landscape include piecemeal development and intensive farming leading to a loss of traditional features.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>Much of the area is identified as 18th/19th century rectilinear fields but there is an important area of policies and parklands associated with Gartmore House, the birthplace of songwriter Robert Graham (1735-97) grandfather of R.B. Cunninghame Graham. The planned Conservation village of Gartmore also lies in this area, with its interesting church and sundial.</p> <p>There is evidence of settlement going back to the medieval period including the moated homestead at Cleggans and Gartartan Castle. A rare survival in the Park is the W.W.II pillbox at Cobleland.</p>	<p>This area is very much an Improvement Period landscape, a combination of rectilinear fields, Gartmore House and its designed landscape and Gartmore village, planned and laid out by improving landlords in the 18th/19th century. Gartmore is a good example of a planned village and is designated a conservation area in recognition of its architectural and historic importance. This cultural landscape is not unique to this area of the Park and also occurs in the South Loch Lomond area. It is of heritage importance.</p> <p>There are a number of important heritage sites within this area including Gartartan Castle and the W.W.II pillbox, a rare survival in the Park, which are both scheduled as sites of national importance.</p>	There is potential damage of archaeological sites from trees on the standing masonry.
	<p>There is a major cluster of prehistoric sites in the river valley farmland area. These include crop marks of a Neolithic timber hall and other settlement such as palisaded homesteads at Clash. Also to be found here is the major Neolithic chambered cairn at Auchenlaich, thought to be the longest prehistoric burial cairn in Britain.</p> <p>The area around Lots of Callander was laid out as smallholdings.</p> <p>There is also an area of both historic and relict policies and parklands around Gart House, much of which now forms part of a caravan site.</p>	<p>These sites are of importance for locals and specialists. Many are not accessible either physically or visually to visitors.</p> <p>Most of the crop mark sites are scheduled as they are of national importance although nothing can be seen of these sites on the ground. The two Neolithic sites are of international importance to specialists.</p>	Continued plough damage to crop mark sites

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Biodiversity</b>	River Teith SAC for salmon and lamprey. Lowland woodland habitat network comprised of small woods, shelterbelts, parkland trees and hedges. Some native woodlands and/or ancient woodlands. Habitat for a range of birds including farmland & game birds, overwintering geese, woodland flora including lichens. Protected species include bats, badger, otter, barn owl.	Important to local people, visitors and specialists, especially anglers. High biodiversity importance.	Wetland ecosystems are generally threatened internationally and in the UK. Agricultural management, diffuse pollution and eutrophication may all have some adverse effects on this feature. Management practices have damaged native fish populations and introduction of invasive fish and plant species also have adverse impacts.
<b>Associations</b>	Enclosures period. Area around Gartmore has associations with the Graham family.		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Encourage conservation and enhancement of traditional features by farmers and land managers.
- Produce a Conservation Area Appraisal for Gartmore and promote high quality design of new buildings, extensions and conversions within the village.
- Seek to conserve and enhance historic landscape features within designed landscapes.
- Consider possible interpretation of the Neolithic chambered cairn at Auchenlaich.
- The biodiversity could be enhanced through landscape management and planning and possible riparian habitat management scheme.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: MOSS FARMLAND

A very gently rolling mosaic of farmland, woodland, commercial plantation and residual moss surround the Lake of Menteith.

HLA: Mosaic of some 18th to 19th century and some 20th century fields and farming, 18th to 20th century forestry and woodland and prehistoric to present, some drained in the 20th century, moorland and rough grazing. The area also includes a small area of 17th to 19th century designed landscape on the lake shore.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Moss areas are an important element of the landscape, creating an open and flat lowland character. The former moss and gently rolling hills have been drained for farmland and forestry planting. The designed landscapes on the lake shore contribute to the landscape character of this area.	<p>The moss farmland is a part of the extensive Carse of Stirling.</p> <p>Whilst modified through drainage and afforestation this landscape is of great interest, both in its contribution to the wider contrast between the lowland and highland landscape areas and in detail as a remnant lowland raised peat bog of unique spatial and visual quality.</p> <p>The area has good scenic qualities due to the proximity to the Lake of Menteith and the presence of designed landscapes on the loch shore.</p> <p>Lowland moss such as this which has been drained and planted with coniferous forestry is not rare within Scotland, though remaining areas of moss provide last remnants of once much more extensive Carse landscape.</p>	There has been a decline in the lowland moss due to agricultural improvement and conifer planting.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>The Peace Stone, is a scheduled monument and an important example of prehistoric rock art. There is also a crannog which has been isolated by the draining of the carse, which is also an important part of this area's history. The area includes major scheduled Roman remains – the fort and temporary camp complex at Malling, comprising both visible and crop mark remains.</p> <p>At Portend, there is a prehistoric palisaded enclosure identified from aerial photographs, which is scheduled. A small area of the designed landscape of Rednock House lies in this area to the south west of Lake of Menteith.</p> <p>The church and churchyard at Port of Menteith are both listed buildings as is the Graham of Gartmore Mausoleum.</p>	<p>The prehistoric and Roman sites are important to specialists and locals. The general visitor does not access these areas. All the scheduled sites are nationally important although being mostly crop mark sites there is little to see on the ground.</p> <p>The Roman sites are part of an important line of 1st century AD forts in the Park. These are of international interest and importance.</p>	<p>Some coniferous planting has obscured/damaged areas of the Roman remains.</p> <p>Previous drying out will already have damaged the crannog.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Loch Macanrie Fens SSSI for peatland and poor fen, including nationally scarce species, remnants of blanket bog. Lake of Menteith SSSI (part). Raptors including short eared owl, and protected species such as osprey and hen harrier.	<p>Important to local people, visitors and specialists.</p> <p>High biodiversity importance.</p>	The peatland and wetland habitats are greatly reduced locally and nationally by agricultural improvement and conifer planting. There is scope for restoration through removal of conifers.

## ABERFOYLE & CALLANDER RIDGES

### LCT: MOSS FARMLAND (CONT)

#### BENEFITS

<b>Associations</b>	Drainage was associated with the era of agricultural improvements. The Graham of Gartmore mausoleum lies in the churchyard at Port of Menteith.
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#### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Moss areas could be restored through blocking of drains and removal of trees. There may be some limited potential for controlled access.
- Removal of trees could enhance the Roman remains which have been obscured/damaged by coniferous planting.
- There are opportunities for interpretation in the Port of Menteith churchyard, linked with the story of Grahams/Gartmore/moss clearance.
- There may be opportunities to enhance biodiversity through deforestation and safeguarding of water quality.