



STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE TROSSACHS

STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

Key Features

The Trossachs
Duke's Pass
Queen Elizabeth Forest Park and mix of forested and wooded landscapes
Lochs including Loch Katrine, Loch Arklet, Loch Venachar
Glasgow Corporation Water Supply
The Romantic Movement

Summary of Evaluation

Sense of Place

This area lies just north of the Highland Boundary Fault and falls within the area known as 'the Trossachs'. The Trossachs are a combination of lochs, woodlands and craggy slopes and summits and it is this combination which gives the area its valued sense of place/visual qualities. The inland lochs of Loch Katrine, Loch Arklet, Loch Venachar, Loch Achray, Loch Ard, Loch Drunkie and Loch Chon are important features of the area. Slopes rise directly from the loch shores to the surrounding uplands and peaks. There are areas of open upland including the peaks of Ben Ledi, Ben Vane, Ben Venue and Ben An. Settlements are small and focus on loch shores and strath floors. Part of the area is designated as the Trossachs National Scenic Area in recognition of its nationally important scenic qualities.

Woodland is an important characteristic of the landscape of this area of the Park. The woods to the north of Brig O' Turk are the only wooded upland hills in the Park. Wooded upland glens are an important characteristic of this area of the Park, representing a relatively large area of apparently natural wooded landscape. Duke's Pass is a particularly important scenic drive and visitor destination. The huge commercial plantations of the Loch Ard Forest cover much of the landform of the area.

Cultural Heritage

The area is of high importance for its cultural heritage. In common with the other areas of the Park this area has been profoundly influenced by human activity from prehistoric times to the present day. The open upland hills and the lochs still retain evidence of prehistoric use including a cup and ring marked rock, burnt mounds in Glen Finglas and crannogs on Loch Ard and Loch Venachar. Important defensive sites include the Iron Age hill fort at Dunmore.

The remains of medieval/post medieval farmsteads and townships along with their associated field systems exist although these remains are often subsumed within twentieth century forestry. There are important well-preserved groups at Bruach Caoruinn which retain evidence of cruck construction.

Much of the native woodland dates to the 18th century and there are traditional coppiced oak woodlands. The woodlands around Glen Finglas used to be part of the Royal Hunting Forest and one of the submerged knolls in the reservoir has been suggested as the site of the former hunting lodge.

This area has an important industrial heritage. Loch Katrine, Loch Arklet, Loch Venachar and the Loch Ard Forest have dams, sluice houses, outflows and aqueducts which are all part of the Glasgow Corporation Water Works, constructed between 1856 and 1859, to supply Glasgow with water. The area also contains the Aberfoyle slate quarries, now disused, located just above Aberfoyle, off Duke's Pass.

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Biodiversity

The diversity of mixed forest landscapes is a key characteristic of this area. There is a combination of ancient, semi-natural riparian and traditionally managed woodland, policy plantations from the last century and the twentieth century commercial forestry plantations.

Important areas of broadleaved woodland occur amongst the planted conifers and some have been designated for their particular biodiversity value including Cuilvona and Craigmore Woods SSSI and Ben An and Brenachoile Woods SSSI and Trossachs Woods SAC. The woodlands are highly important for wildlife. Woodland birds include black grouse, capercaillie and goshawk. Red and roe deer, red squirrel and pine marten may all be present in the wooded areas.

The lochs and rivers of the Trossachs are also valued for their biodiversity providing important habitats for a range of species. Areas of the River Teith are designated as an SAC for salmon and lamprey. Brown trout, perch and pike occur in the lochs, although Arctic Char may have disappeared recently from Lochs Venachar and Achray. The lochs are an osprey foraging habitat and otters may be present. Areas of marshland occur on the farmed strath floors to the west and east of Loch Venachar. These areas provide a habitat for wintering and breeding wildfowl and waders.

Associations

The area is of high importance for its associations. The Trossachs has strong associations with the Romantic Movement. Loch Katrine inspired Sir Walter Scott's poem 'The Lady of the Lake' and was the start of romantic and literary pilgrimage to the area. He also wrote 'Rob Roy' about Rob Roy MacGregor who was born at Glengyle on the north side of Loch Katrine. Glen Finglas was the scene of Sir Walter Scott's ballad 'Glenfinlas or Lord Ronald's Coronach'.

Many writers, artists and photographers portrayed the scenery of the area. The scenery in Glen Finglas was also used as the background for the portrait of John Ruskin painted by Millais in 1853. The popularity of the area to visitors in Victorian times has led to a legacy of large Victorian holiday villas along loch shores, attractive cast iron mileposts along shore roads and landmark buildings such as Tigh Mor on the shore of Loch Achray. Famous visitors include Queen Victoria who visited the area in 1869.

Qualities valued by local communities

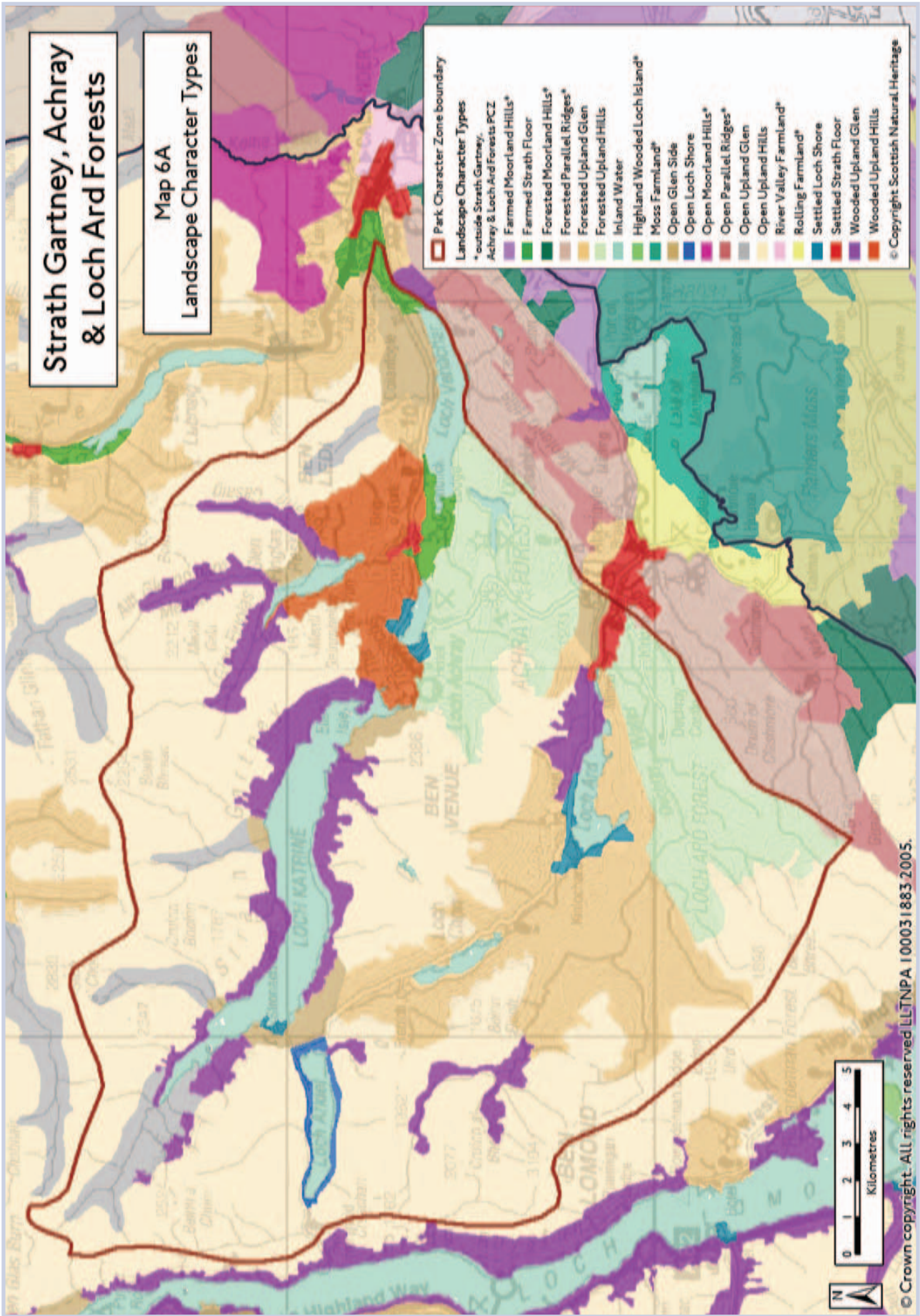
(Source: Community Futures and Park Plan Workshop on Special Qualities, April 2004)

See comments under Aberfoyle and Callander Character Zone

- Loch Katrine and Loch Arklet 'Jewel in the Crown' valued for their unspoilt and pristine water environment, the mix of water and mountains and woodland as a recreational resource.
- MacGregor burial ground at Loch Katrine
- Important heritage of Loch Katrine
- SS Sir Walter Scott Steamer
- Associations with Rob Roy

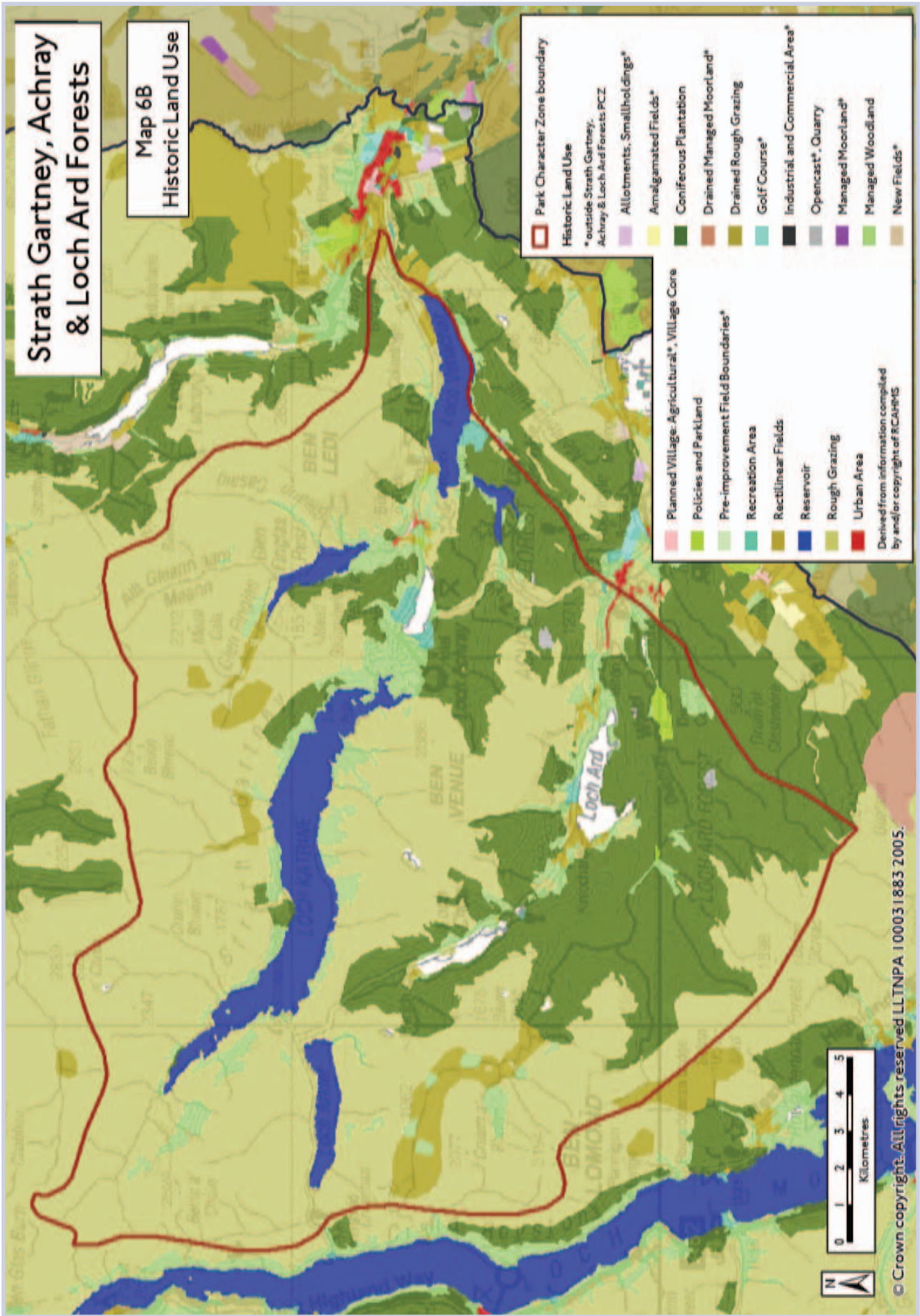
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MAP 6A – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES



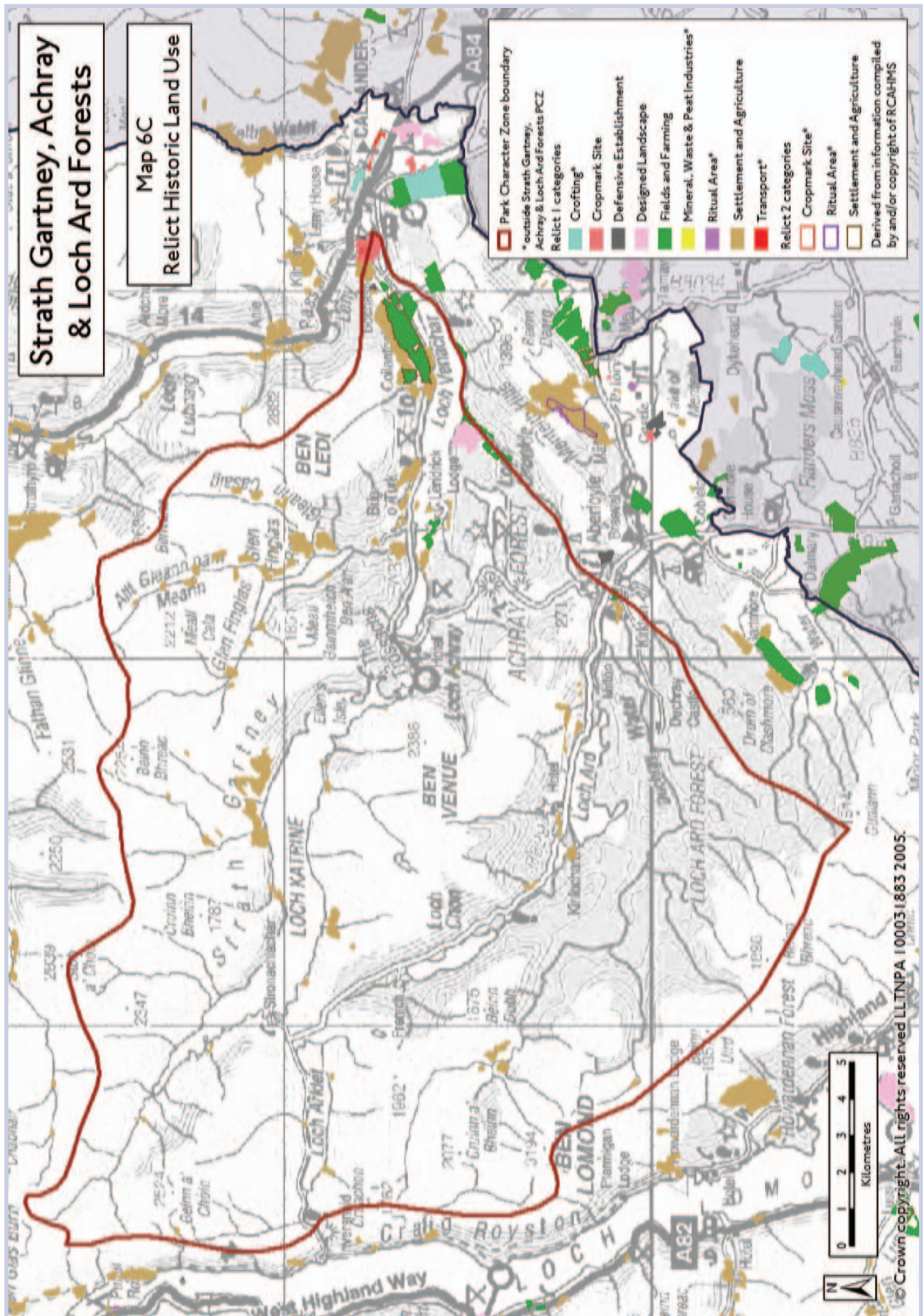
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MAP 6B – HISTORIC LAND USE



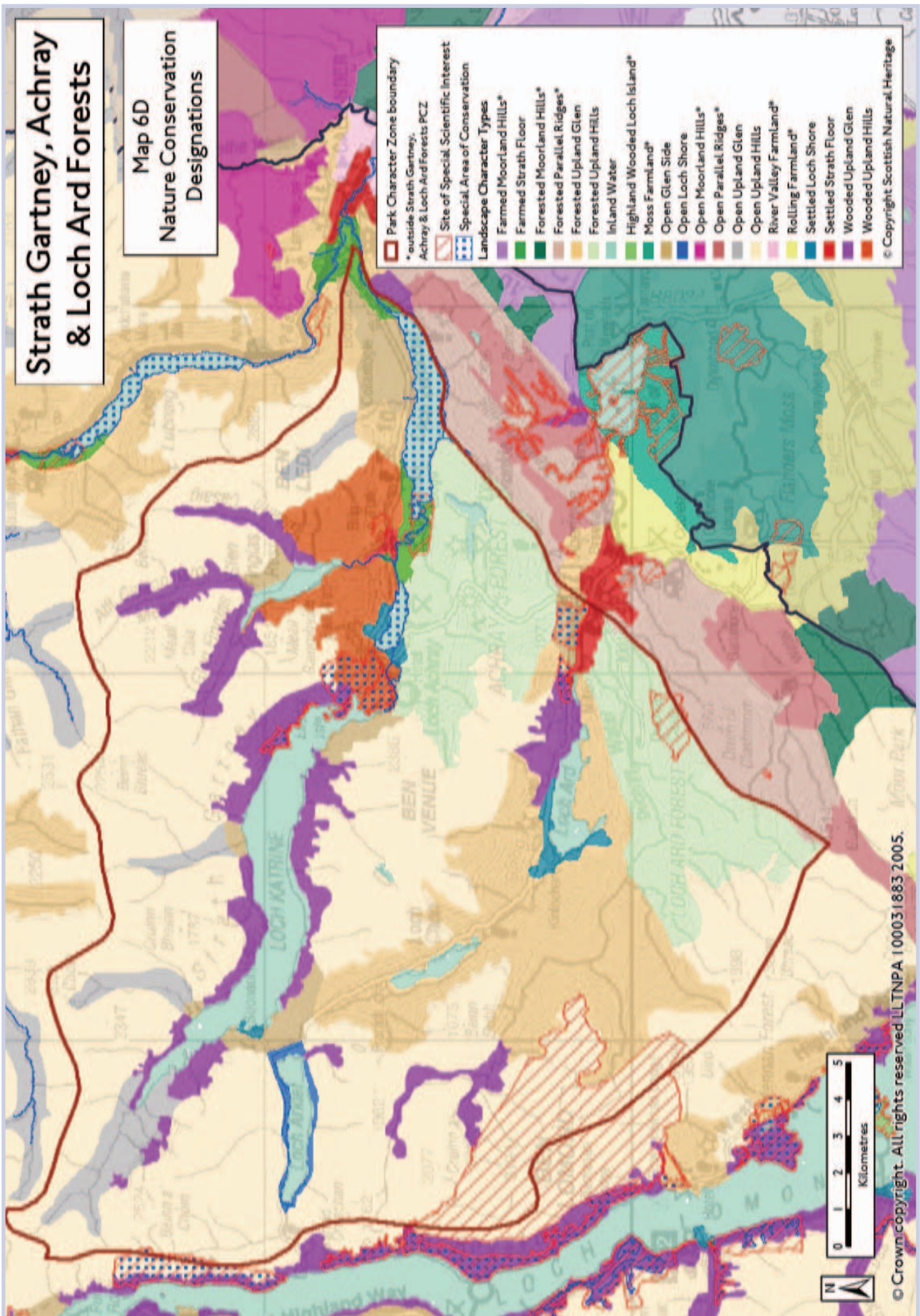
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MAP 6C - RELICT HISTORIC LAND USE



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MAP 6D - NATURE CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS



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LCT: FORESTED UPLAND GLEN

Coniferous forestry is planted and managed in a large part of the area which also has rocky scree and steep hill sides. This includes the area around Loch Ard and Loch Chon.

HLA: 20th century coniferous woodland and forestry with some small areas of prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	The area forms part of the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. Dense commercial plantations with some open spaces and native woodland.	<p>The Queen Elizabeth Forest Park is a popular area for visitors to the Park, with this section being highly visible from the Inversnaid road and settlements, and providing a range of recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Coniferous forestry is the dominant characteristic, with well placed accessible viewpoints providing views over the surrounding uplands. However where forestry is densely planted on both sides of a glen, views are obscured. The area is commercially managed and shows signs of this such as forest tracks and drainage ditches. The commercial forestry can detract from scenic qualities, although recent restructuring to reflect current forest design standards is helping to improve this situation.</p>	There has been increasing coniferous forestry coverage, planted and managed for commercial reasons. More recent targets to replace it with native species will mean that the coverage declines in the future.
Cultural Heritage	<p>20th century forestry has subsumed large numbers of medieval/post medieval farmsteads and townships along with their associated field systems and a number of shielings. A number of the ruins still retain evidence for cruck construction. There are important well-preserved groups at Bruach Caoruinn.</p> <p>There is evidence of early iron working which may date back to the 15th century in the Loch Ard area. Little is known about this early industry.</p>	<p>The remnant townships are of value for genealogical research (sometimes visited), often from beyond Scotland, and they have specialist archaeological value as they may contain evidence of medieval and post-medieval settlement. Little is known about early ironworking, and these sites have specialist value. Some examples are not very accessible as they are enclosed in forestry plantations although it should be noted that one of the Bruach townships has recently been cleared of trees and footpath access has been constructed.</p> <p>The townships in this area have been badly disrupted by 20th century forestry planting, which has cut settlements off from their field systems and from the shieling grounds on the open hills.</p> <p>The townships at Bruach, along with a number of other individual examples, are particularly interesting as they retain evidence of their cruck construction. However even rescuing them from the surrounding dense conifer plantations has been unable to re-instate their relationships with other elements of the pre-improvement agricultural system such as the shielings.</p>	Much of these woodlands are owned and managed by the Forestry Commission and an increasing number of these ruins are re-appearing from the forests as they are thinned and felled.

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LCT: FORESTED UPLAND GLEN (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Cultural Heritage	The Loch Ard Forest contains a number of structures associated with the Glasgow Water Works including aqueducts, a line of towers and shafts on the waterwork conduits and a Basin House. All constructed 1856-59. James Bateman was the Chief Engineer and was also responsible for the Loch Venachar Sluice House, also in this area.	<p>The significance of the structures associated with the Glasgow Waterworks extends beyond the National Park.</p> <p>Structures are unique to the Glasgow Waterworks and represent a particular phase of human activity. Linked with the other structures found in the Loch Katrine area of the Park and associated structures going south to Glasgow. Some of the structures are listed in recognition of their historic importance.</p>	No specific pressures.
Biodiversity	Areas of broadleaved woodland occur amongst the planted conifers, including Cuilvona and Craigmore Woods SSSI (part), Trossachs Woods SAC (part). Woodland birds include black grouse, capercaillie, goshawk. Mammals include red deer, red squirrel.	<p>Important to local people, visitors and specialists.</p> <p>The woodland biodiversity is of medium importance overall and high importance in the SSSI/SAC.</p>	The benefit could be significantly expanded through an increase in extent and quality of the native woodland habitat e.g. via plantation restructuring.

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The landscape character and visual qualities will benefit from forest restructuring to reflect new standards.
- Potential opportunities to promote access and understanding of the structures associated with the Glasgow Corporation Waterworks which lie within the Loch Ard Forest and the Loch Venachar Sluice House.
- Potential to improve access to some of the more interesting archaeological remains and provide interpretation.
- 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.

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LCT: OPEN UPLAND HILLS

A landform of peaks, moorland, rocky outcrops, gullies and screes. The highest peaks are Ben Lomond, Ben Ledi and Ben Venue.

HLA: Prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	Open hill areas contrasting with wooded glens. Important as wild areas, a diverse landform of peaks. Important skyline, landmarks and viewpoints.	<p>The typical highland landscape is of importance to local people, visitors and people living elsewhere in Scotland. The open upland hills are an important Trossachs characteristic, contrasting and complementing the surrounding wooded glens and hills and contributing to the setting of the lochs and lochans. The overall composition is of recognised scenic quality. Distinctive summits and peaks are important local and iconic landmarks.</p> <p>The open upland hills have very high quality dramatic and vast views, largely inaccessible except on foot. They are open and wild in character however there is evidence of some development, such as pylons.</p>	These open upland areas are under pressure from developments such as windfarms and pylons. There are also recreational pressures resulting in erosion of paths.
Cultural Heritage	Numerous shielings lie mainly along the burn sides. Townships are recorded at Culligart, just to the south of Loch Katrine and at Corriearklet beside Loch Arklet.	Important to local people, visitors and specialists including people undertaking genealogical research.	Sheep removal may lead to the widespread regeneration of trees, especially birch and other scrub. The spread of bracken is also an issue. It obscures remains much of the year and damages buried archaeology. There is a lack of baseline survey data to enable effective monitoring of the effect of sheep removal/reduction especially around Loch Katrine.
	The 18th century military road from the Garrison at Inversnaid through Glen Gyle and across to Kirkton Glen in Balquhidder to join with the main route from Stirling to Fort William. The important early 18th century military Garrison at Inversnaid now survives as a ruin.	<p>Important to local people, visitors and specialists.</p> <p>Military roads and the Garrison are important within the Park and nationally as they form part of the bigger story of the Jacobite Rebellions and the ensuing removal of people from the Highlands.</p> <p>High importance</p>	The military road is still partly in use as a farm track, which raises issues of erosion or potential loss of the resource. Proposals for reuse of the old road as a footpath will require sensitivity to avoid damaging the resource.
Biodiversity	A range of largely undisturbed upland habitats including Ben Lomond SSSI (part), for upland and montane plant communities. Upland birds including golden eagle, hen harrier, short eared owl, ptarmigan, red grouse. Red deer, mountain hare, upland invertebrates.	<p>Important to all groups.</p> <p>High biodiversity importance.</p>	The upland habitats, flora and fauna are all somewhat degraded due to very high levels of sheep grazing over the last 200 years, and very high red deer numbers in some locations in the last few decades. Recent management measures have reduced grazing pressures from sheep and deer. Climate change is a threat to the survival of some species.

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The open upland areas should be conserved.
- 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.
- There is potential to reuse all or part of the military road system as a footpath (Aberfoyle Community Futures proposals).
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced. More ecologically sympathetic management would allow plant communities such as heath, treeline and montane scrub to recover
- Overgrazing by sheep and deer may currently reduce habitat quality in places and this could be reduced through changes to management. Restructuring of upper woodland edges may enhance the transition into this character type from the Forested Upland Glens LCT.

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LCT: FORESTED UPLAND HILLS

Enclosed and forested upland hills, rare landscape type most commonly found at Achray Forest (Duke's Pass). Mosaic of coniferous and deciduous commercial forest with some native birch. Open space between trees with viewpoints.

HLA: Prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing, mainly 20th century forestry and woodland, a recreation area. Relict land uses include a 17th to 19th century designed landscape and 19th century to the present mineral waste and peat industries site (quarry).



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	The forested upland areas make a key contribution to the sense of place of The Trossachs. Unlike other areas, the forestry extends to the hill tops in this area. There is a mosaic pattern with coniferous and deciduous commercial tree species.	<p>The Queen Elizabeth Forest Park is a popular visitor area in the Park, with this section of great significance to both local people and to visitors to the Park. The Dukes Pass is a particularly important scenic drive and visitor destination. The forests are the most dominant and well renowned features in the area. These hills have good quality views, with several accessible viewpoints provided looking over the open uplands (especially in Achray Forest). The area is managed for forestry, with visible signs of felling and forest tracks. The upland forests have a coherent character and visual quality. They are only found within this area of the Park.</p> <p>Upland forest areas are rare within the Park, with the majority of forest found in either the glens or strath sides. It is therefore an important area, contributing to the diversity of the Park's landscape.</p>	The area is under pressure from development such as telecommunications masts and windfarms.
Cultural Heritage	Most of the forestry is of 20th century origin. There are also deserted farmsteads surrounded by dense conifer plantation and aqueducts from the Glasgow Water Supply (see comments under Forested Upland Glen LCT). There are areas of policies and parklands at both Invertrossachs House (listed C(S)) and Duchray Castle (listed B).	See comments under Forested Upland Glen LCT.	See comments under Forested Upland Glen LCT.
	The remains of an important slate quarry are evident to the west of the Duke's Pass. One of the earliest records of Aberfoyle slate is in the 1625 accounts of the Master of Works when it was mentioned as the source of roofing slates for Stirling Castle. According to mineral statistics for 1858/59 1.4 Million slates were produced. The quarries finally closed in 1958.	The quarry is of interest to locals and specialists. Access into the quarry is not encouraged at present for safety reasons.	Possible future pressure to reopen the slate quarry due to current shortage of Scottish slate for repairs to historic buildings and works in conservation areas.
Biodiversity	Pockets of semi natural broadleaved and pine woodland amongst the non native conifers including Drumore Woods SSSI for semi natural woodlands including oak woods, other native broadleaves and stands of Scots pine. Notable species include: Capercaillie (have bred here in the recent past), black grouse, red squirrel, wood ants, otter. Some salmonid habitat in lower reaches of the Duchray Water. Important to all groups	Of high biodiversity importance with scope to restore one of the most extensive tracts of semi natural broadleaved woodland in the UK, including riparian woodland with consequent benefits for river ecology.	The historical trend has been a loss and fragmentation of broadleaved woodland and native pinewood in the UK, and declining native fish populations. Woodland restructuring is underway to benefit native woodland, woodland species and riparian corridor.

STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

LCT: FORESTED UPLAND HILLS (CONT)

BENEFITS

Associations	There is a long tradition of timber production. Queen Victoria is associated with the Trossachs and visited the mansion at Invertrossachs on Loch Venachar in 1869, this encouraged more visitors to the area. The mansion was replaced with a new mansion in 1911.
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MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Forestry restructuring provides the opportunity to create more species diverse upland forest areas, with a greater proportion of open ground. Further tourist viewpoints could be installed.
- The Aberfoyle Slate Quarries are still used for 'one off' building projects. There is a possibility of re-opening the quarry for building conservation projects.
- Potential to enhance/interpret and provide access to the Aberfoyle Slate Quarries. The tramway to the quarry has potential for re-use as a footpath.
- 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.

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LCT: WOODED UPLAND GLEN

Wooded upland glens, low density semi-natural woodland of oak, birch, Scots Pine. Main example Glen Finglas and around the shores of Loch Katrine.

HLA: Mix of 20th century and 18th to 20th century woodland and forestry, and prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing. There is some 20th century to the present drained rough grazing, for example, at Glen Finglas.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	<p>Unique and natural landscape with a low density of trees. They are an important component of the landscape, particularly where unaffected by plantation forests. The woods contribute to the overall character of the lochs and glen slope landscapes.</p>	<p>The woods are somewhat secluded and inaccessible, but are of great landscape significance, representing a relatively large and increasing area of apparently natural wooded landscape, with a relatively natural transition to the open uplands. This area comprises a significant proportion of this important historic landscape type which also occurs around the banks of north Loch Lomond and Loch Earn. These areas form part of important views along the glens and from popular summits.</p>	<p>Woodland glens which are not affected by plantation forestry are rare. The woodlands are typically under threat from overgrazing. In the Strathgartney area the extent of native woodlands along with scrub is likely to increase, partly in response to the removal of grazing.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>Considerable numbers of archaeological sites are recorded in those areas which have been the subject of intensive archaeological survey, namely the Loch Katrine and Glen Finglas woodlands. Archaeological features include deserted farmsteads and townships along with evidence of the supporting field systems especially rig cultivation. Numerous groups of shielings as well as individual examples are recorded especially along the burn side in Gleann Casaig, above Glen Finglas Reservoir. The survey in Glen Finglas also recorded several burnt mounds which provide evidence for a prehistoric presence in this area.</p> <p>Although much of the woodlands date back to the 18th century, some areas, especially around Loch Katrine, have been planted more recently and this is reflected in the presence of numerous farmsteads, buildings, dykes etc in these areas which in the mid 19th century had lain in open fields.</p> <p>Part of the Royal Hunting Forest is in Glen Finglas.</p>	<p>The deserted settlements and farmsteads are of interest to local people, visitors searching for their roots and specialists. The shielings are of interest particularly to walkers and cyclists in the Finglas area where they are relatively accessible. Unfortunately the townships with which at least some of these shieling groups were associated now lie under the reservoir.</p> <p>Burnt mounds are particularly rare in the Park. These are the only examples in the eastern area of the Park and are of wider interest.</p> <p>The number of archaeological sites recorded, especially in the Loch Katrine woodlands undoubtedly reflects the recent archaeological survey of the area. This survey was limited to the existing woodlands and areas proposed for woodland extension as part of a proposal to improve/extend woodland cover in this area. The results also confirm the former extent of settlement and agriculture in the medieval/post medieval periods. There may be better/more typical examples elsewhere in the Park.</p>	<p>Woodland expansion has the potential to damage the archaeological resource.</p>

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LCT: WOODED UPLAND GLEN (CONT)			
BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Cultural Heritage	The wooded upland glens of this area have an interesting built heritage. Some artefacts associated with the Glasgow Corporation Waterworks survive near Royal Cottage which was originally the Water Commissioner's cottage but was renamed after Queen Victoria's visit when she came to open the new water supply. Glengyle House, steading and MacGregor of Glengyle burial ground are all clustered in the woods to the north of Loch Katrine and are associated with the MacGregors, and in particular Rob Roy.	Of importance to local people, visitors and specialists. Important historic associations of the built heritage with the MacGregor clan and then in the Victorian period with the Glasgow Corporation Waterworks.	Recent sale of housing could result in pressures for further development or inappropriate conversion.
Biodiversity	Semi natural woodlands: predominantly oak wood but also ash and alder woodland stands. Significant areas of wood pasture in Glen Finglas. Cuilvona and Craigmore Woods SSSI (part), Ben A'n and Brenachoile Woods SSSI (part) and Trossachs Woods SAC (part) for native oak woods. Woodland birds including black grouse, red and roe deer, squirrel, otter, pine marten may all be present.	Important to all groups. Of very high biodiversity importance.	The historical trend has been a loss and fragmentation of broadleaved woodland in the UK. Significant measures are in hand to expand native woodland in parts of this LCT.
Associations	Glen Finglas was the scene of Scott's Ballad 'Glenfinlas or Lord Ronald's Coronach'. The scenery in Glen Finglas was also used as the background for the portrait of Ruskin painted by Millais in 1853. Wooded upland glens are part of the historic landscape - traditional coppiced oakwoods. The area has associations with Rob Roy and the MacGregors of Glengyle.		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- These woodlands require careful management, with management of grazing to ensure that the natural regeneration of trees can occur.
- Potential for interpretation/public access to heritage sites could be investigated.
- Some potential to 'rescue' sites from the forests where damage has been minimal and where the sites lend themselves to interpretation/access. Others may benefit from limited tree clearance and bracken spraying with open areas maintained in the woodlands.
- Care should be taken to safeguard archaeological sites in any proposed woodland expansion schemes
- Scope exists to reverse the historical losses of native woodland by felling the planted conifers and replacing them with new broadleaved woodland, especially on FCS land and through SFGS at Glen Finglas and elsewhere.
- The biodiversity of the native woodlands requires enhancement through appropriate management such as controlled grazing to facilitate natural regeneration and maintenance of wood pasture.
- The biodiversity benefits could be expanded significantly, e.g. via restructuring of commercial plantations and expansion, e.g. along south Loch Arklet to make habitat network links with other areas, e.g. east Loch Lomond woods.

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LCT: WOODED UPLAND HILLS

Wooded hills, with native and naturally regenerating woodland (birch and oak) and some plantation. Smooth hummocky hills, rocky outcrops, gullies and screes and small rivers. Hills above Loch Achray and Brig O' Turk.

HLA: Mix of forestry and woodland on lower hills (Period: mix of 18th to 20th century, and 20th century planting) and prehistoric to present moorland / rough grazing on the upper hills.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	Undulating tree covered landform, patched with varied colours and tree types and areas of open space. Summits ridged with trees.	The wooded hills provide an interesting context to settlements at the foot of the hills (such as at Brig O'Turk). These hills are relatively rare features which provide a unique context to the lochs below (such as Loch Achray). They are also highly visible from the main Trossachs roads. The mixed and apparently natural woodlands are diverse, respond to and complement local topography and provide a good contrast to the plantation forestry which dominates the zone as a whole. They are the only wooded upland hills within the Park and combined with the lochs and surrounding open summits and ridges represent typical highland scenery. The hills make a positive contribution to the scenic quality. The area is apparently unspoilt and settlements are sparse.	The area is owned and managed by the Woodland Trust who manage the woodland for conservation. There are no particular pressures.
Cultural Heritage	A number of individual deserted buildings and a few townships with associated field systems have been noted in this area especially around Brig o' Turk. This reflects recent survey work in advance of woodland expansion /regeneration. The HLA identifies corresponding areas of medieval/post medieval settlement and agriculture.	Important to locals and visitors including those tracing family roots. The use of Glenfinglas as a Royal Hunting Forest has contributed to the present landscape of woodland with veteran trees.	See above.
Biodiversity	Ben An and Brenachoile Woods SSSI (part), Trossachs Woods SAC (part) for oak woods and other broadleaved woodland, Brig O Turk Mires SSSI for valley mire, fens and flushes, grasslands and birchwood, River Teith SAC (part): spawning habitat for salmon & lamprey in the River Turk.	Important to all groups Of very high biodiversity importance with scope to restore one of the most extensive tracts of semi natural broadleaved woodland in the UK, including riparian woodland with consequent benefits for river ecology.	The historical trend has been a loss and fragmentation of broadleaved woodland in the UK, and declining native fish populations. Significant efforts are underway to expand and reconnect native woodlands.
Associations	The area is part of the former Glen Finglas Royal Hunting Forest. The hunting lodge has been submerged beneath the reservoir.		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Native woodland should be conserved and enhanced through management and new planting.
- Development through this apparently natural area should be avoided.
- As much of this area is managed or owned either by the Forestry Commission or the Woodland Trust there is potential for interpretation and enhanced public access to townships and deserted buildings.
- Need to respect the integrity of the township sites and ensure that any new planting schemes retain the relationship between the buildings and their field systems and with the shielings which still survive in the higher wooded glens.
- Scope exists to reverse the historical losses of broad leaved woodland by felling the planted conifers and replacing them with new broadleaved woodland, especially on FCS land and through SFGS at Glen Finglas and elsewhere.

STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

LCT: LOCH ISLAND

Loch Islands are densely wooded with native predominantly deciduous woodland. Knolly and hummocky in form. Small wooded loch islands are found on Loch Achray, Loch Venachar, Loch Katrine (Ellen's Isle) and Loch Ard (Eilean Gorm).

(these are too small to appear on the enclosed maps but are listed above)

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



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	These loch islands are prominent features and create a contrast to the flat and open lochs. They possess a secluded landscape character and can give the feel of 'a secret landscape surrounded by water'.	These loch islands are not significant in size (compared to the loch islands of Loch Lomond) but are likely to be visible from the settlements along the loch sides and to visitors and those travelling through the Park. They are not highly prominent but can be seen from the main roads that pass along the waters edge or, in the case of Ellen's Isle on Loch Katrine from boat trips. The loch islands can often be unique and intriguing features. Eilean Gorm is significant in contributing to the character of the western edge of Loch Ard with its densely wooded form and Ellen's Isle to the character of Loch Katrine. The islands are often densely wooded and the views from the shoreline across the lochs would be of a high quality as the islands are set within often dramatic loch landscapes. The islands are not accessible except by boat. The islands themselves are generally unspoilt, although there may be some evidence of human interference causing erosion.	Loch islands are unique features which can be threatened from visitor pressure and changes in water level as a result of water supply schemes.
Cultural Heritage	Portnellan island in Loch Venachar is an Iron Age crannog which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There are additional submerged islands in Lochs Ard, Venachar and Achray, some of which may be crannogs. Duke Murdoch's Castle is a 16th century stronghold in Loch Achray which is also scheduled. Ellen's Isle on Loch Katrine is a possible 16th century McGregor stronghold. Glen Finglas reservoir contains a number of submerged farmsteads and former knolls have now become isolated islands. These have interesting place name associations and one has been suggested as the site of the royal hunting lodge associated with the use of the area as a royal hunting forest.	The loch islands are important to visitors, local people and specialists. Glen Finglas may be the only water body in the Park with a submerged medieval/post medieval landscape and with associations with a royal hunting forest, that lies mainly in the wooded glen LCT. The crannog and the castle are scheduled as monuments of national importance.	Damage has already been caused to the fragile remains on Duke Murdoch's Castle caused by canoeists launching off the island into deep water.

STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

LCT: LOCH ISLAND (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Biodiversity	The wooded islands in Loch Katrine form a small part of the 'Wooded Upland Glen' LCT. See that section for comments on biodiversity. The other loch islands may have possible bird nesting and otter holts. No detailed information available.	For wooded islands on Loch Katrine see 'Wooded Upland Glen' LCT. No information available for islands on other lochs.	For Wooded islands on Loch Katrine see 'Wooded upland glen' LCT.
Associations	One of Loch Katrine's islands was named 'Ellen' after Sir Walter Scott's poem 'The Lady of the Lake'.		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Ensure protection of these often fragile resources. Loch islands must be protected from development and damage.
- The heritage on the loch islands is a finite resource and increased visitor access should not be encouraged.
- There is potential for interpretation of the cultural resource but increased visitor access to the islands should not be encouraged.
- The Glen Finglas story could be developed in partnership with the Woodland Trust.
- For biodiversity comments on the wooded islands on Loch Katrine see 'Wooded Upland Glen' LCT.

STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

LCT: SETTLED LOCH SHORE & LCT: SETTLED STRATH FLOOR

Settlements in the area are small and located on lochsides and flat strath floors on the approaches to the lochs. There are some prominent buildings within these areas. Settlements and grouping of buildings include Kinlochard, Brig o' Turk, Lendrick and Milton Mill.

HLA: 18th to 19th century fields and farming, 18th to 20th century forestry and woodland and prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing. 19th century to the present recreation area.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	The settlements contribute to the sense of place by adding a human element which complements the essentially natural feel of the area.	The settlements form a main focus for local people, and are also the focus for visitor facilities and contribute to the visitor experience. The rural and traditional character of the settlements contribute to the landscape character and visual qualities of the Trossach's landscape.	Settlements on the loch side are likely to increase only very incrementally. There may be some gradual expansion over coming years to meet ongoing rural community needs, but it is unlikely that any more significant growth would take place.
Cultural Heritage	Very little recorded. The HLA identifies much of the area at Kinlochard as 18th/19th century rectilinear fields with a relict area of medieval/post medieval settlement and agriculture. Graveyard at Brig O' Turk and Trossachs Church, the latter a listed building.	The Graveyard is of interest to local people and visitors, especially those undertaking genealogical research perhaps in conjunction with research into family history on some of the farmsteads and townships in the adjoining areas.	Condition of graveyard is unknown.
	Some of the small settlements and groupings of houses are of historic interest. The substantial villas and hotels highlight the popularity of the Trossachs to visitors, particularly since Victorian times. Many of the larger villas are listed for their architectural and historic interest, particularly those extending from the west of Aberfoyle to Loch Ard, designed by well-known architects such as J J Burnett. Tigh Mor is a landmark building on the loch shore. Visitors to Aberfoyle often travelled on to Stronachlachar and cast iron mileposts are set along the road. There is a small grouping of buildings around the pier at Stronachlachar on the west shore of Loch Katrine. There are also some important vernacular buildings at Milton Mill including Milton Mill and Jean McAlpine's Inn, a reconstruction to its 19th century appearance with a thatched roof. Both buildings are listed.	The settlements and buildings in the area are of interest to local people, visitors and specialists. A number of the buildings are listed for their architectural and historic importance and there is a small conservation area at Milton Mill which includes the former Inn and Mill. The Victorian mansions and hotels along the wooded lochside highlight the importance of the Trossachs area to tourists in Victorian times, as a result of the popularising of the area by Sir Walter Scott and others. The built fabric still retains much of its original historic character. There is local interest in the cast iron mileposts and they contribute to the historic interest and local distinctiveness of the Trossachs area. A number of buildings have association with works of fiction and important historic characters.	The cast iron mileposts are not well maintained, raising concerns for their long term retention.
Biodiversity	Woodland wildlife, especially birds, roe deer and squirrels may be seen in and around the settlements.	Important to local people, visitors and specialists. Of medium biodiversity importance.	See text from Aberfoyle & Callander Ridges settled Strath floor
Associations	Brig o' Turk has associations with the art critic and writer John Ruskin (1819-1900) and J.E. Millais. In 1853 Millais was invited to join the Ruskins on holiday with the intention of painting portraits of Ruskin and his wife Effie. He painted the definitive picture of John Ruskin at Glenfinlas. Some of the 'Glasgow Boys' visited here in 1880. In 1882 George Henry painted 'Brig O'Turk' which illustrates a row of thatched cottages. Also Jean McAlpine's Inn and Aberfoyle have associations with Sir Walter Scott's 'Rob Roy'.		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- There may be scope for some townscape improvements to conserve and enhance settlement character.
- Seek to protect the historic character of the settled loch shores.
- Potential to develop a project to raise awareness and promote maintenance of interesting cast iron mileposts which are distinctive to this area of the Park.
- Biodiversity benefits could be enhanced. Outwith this area, breeding habitat for some bird species could be improved, e.g. more mature trees for osprey nests, less disturbance at breeding sites for wildfowl.

STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

LCT: INLAND WATER AND OPEN LOCH SHORE

Lochs Achray, Venachar, Drunkie, Ard, Chon and Glen Finglas Reservoir.

Loch Katrine and Loch Arklet are natural lochs modified by 19th century reservoir dams. Katrine's water level is near natural.

HLA: Some 19th to 20th century managed lochs, other lochs (natural waterbodies) have no period associated with them.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS, & PRESSURES
Sense of place	The inland lochs give glimpsed views across open water framed by trees and long dramatic vistas towards the hills.	The elevated and eye level views across open water and the long dramatic vistas are a characteristic at Loch Katrine. Inland Lochs such as these are relatively large scale waterbodies that give a spectacular impression to visitors to the Park. These inland water bodies are accessible from a network of small rural roads. Loch Katrine and the steamer is a significant destination in its own right and the small local roads offer a popular touring experience. The lochs are individually distinct, which contributes to the strong local distinctiveness and diversity of the Trossachs landscape, of which they are a defining characteristic. In composition with the wooded hills, these landscapes are valued for their high scenic quality. The lochs are relatively unspoilt by development and some have tranquil qualities.	There is potential for these lochs to experience pressure from tourist related loch shore development or for motorised activity on the water, which would adversely affect the current tranquil qualities
Cultural Heritage	<p>Loch Katrine and Loch Arklet were modified in the nineteenth century to provide a source of drinking water for Glasgow, visible in Victorian structures. The Steamer Sir Walter Scott which sails on Loch Katrine is the only surviving screw-driven steamer in Scotland in regular passenger use and was built by the famous yards of William Denny & Bros Ltd Dumbarton, and launched in 1899.</p> <p>The McGregor graveyard at East Portnellan on Loch Katrine is well visited by tourists. It dates to the 17/18th century.</p> <p>There is at least one definite crannog on Loch Venachar and at least two possible examples in Loch Ard.</p> <p>Glen Finglas contains at least two deserted townships which are now submerged.</p>	<p>Important to specialists, visitors and local people.</p> <p>The Victorian structures associated with the water works are visible throughout this zone and include dams, water outlets, aqueducts etc. The Loch Venachar Sluiceway is a Category A listed building in recognition of its national importance. The structures contribute to the character of the area but the water works and associated structures are significant to the Park as a whole and Scotland. The Sir Walter Scott steamer also contributes to the heritage value of the Loch and is unique in Scotland. High importance for industrial archaeology.</p> <p>Although crannogs are often submerged, Portnellan Island in Loch Venachar is normally visible (see Loch Islands LCT). It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and is therefore of national importance.</p>	<p>Maintenance of water works features will be required as part of continued use as water supply. Modernisation of water infrastructure may have potential impacts on the traditional structures</p> <p>Changes to management of Loch Katrine may have some impact on future of the SS Sir Walter Scott.</p>
	The area surrounding Loch Arklet contains limited evidence of the medieval/post medieval period in the form of deserted farmsteads, including one with evidence of cruck-framed construction, and the remains of rig cultivation.	<p>Cruck constructed buildings are of interest to specialists.</p> <p>There are cruck framed buildings elsewhere in the Park but all surviving examples are an important part of a regional if not national resource. Such architectural details can be lost as abandoned buildings continue to collapse through natural decay. The current condition of these particular examples is not known.</p>	Can be lost due to decay.

STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

LCT: INLAND WATER AND OPEN LOCH SHORE (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Biodiversity	River Teith SAC (part) for salmon and lamprey. Brown trout, perch, pike occur in the lochs. Osprey foraging habitat. Otters may be present.	Important to local people, visitors, travellers and specialists Medium to high biodiversity importance.	Loch systems and fish populations are impacted by river engineering, eg public water supply, fish farming and acid rain. Arctic char may have disappeared recently from Lochs Achray and Venachar. Alien fish species likely to colonise further.
Associations	Association with Sir Walter Scott and Loch Katrine with visits between 1790 and 1809. Famous poem 'The Lady of the Lake' written about Loch Katrine. Associated with Romantic and literary pilgrimage. Fox Talbot, the pioneer English photographer included a view of Loch Katrine in his early albums of the mid 1840s.		

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities to develop interpretation of the cultural heritage of the area, in particular the unique industrial heritage of the Glasgow Corporation Waterworks.
- Promote conservation of Waterwork features.
- Possible underwater survey of lochs
- High protection of the cruck framed buildings is required including the recording of buildings.
- The biodiversity benefits could be enhanced through improving access for migratory fish, measures to reduce acid deposition in the catchments, control of pollution, control on fish farming to prevent escapes of farmed fish.

STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

LCT: OPEN GLEN SIDE

Landscape of steep glens, lochs and burns, scree outcrops, steep waterfalls. Open glen sides occur to the north of Aberfoyle and areas around Loch Katrine, Loch Venachar and Glen Finglas Reservoir

HLA: Prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing. There are relict historic landuses within the moorland including medieval to post medieval settlement and agriculture and some relict 18th to 19th century fields and farming.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURESS
Sense of place	Open glen sides contribute to the diversity of the landscape as they provide a visual contrast with wooded and forested glen sides.	This landscape type is important as an element of diversity in the landscape, contributing to the scenic quality of local areas of the Trossachs landscape. Local cultural and topographic features are visible and can add to landscape character and visual diversity also. Whilst occurring elsewhere in the Park, the significance of these areas of open ground is increasingly important where, as here, woodland predominates.	Open qualities can be threatened from natural regeneration and new native woodlands.
Cultural Heritage	<p>Historic landuse type is predominantly moorland and rough grazing with historic land use period extending from prehistoric to the present. There is some visible evidence of the pre-improvement agricultural system surviving on the open south facing glen sides in the form of deserted farmsteads and townships. Some may date back to the medieval period although many in their present form probably belong to the 18th century. There is also evidence of early ironworking in many glens in the form of bloomery mounds and slag heaps which may date back to the medieval period.</p> <p>An extensive area of rig cultivation and other evidence of pre-improvement agriculture has been identified at Milton, which has been the subject of recent intensive archaeological survey in advance of woodland expansion. Some of this relict pre-improvement landscape is overlain by later relict 18th/19th century rectilinear fields reflecting a long history of agricultural change and periods of abandonment.</p> <p>The major Iron Age hill fort at Dunmore is a scheduled ancient monument. Even earlier settlement in the area is to be found in the burnt mound at Milton.</p>	<p>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. Little is known about early ironworking, and these sites have specialist value.</p> <p>The area of rig at Milton could be one of the largest and best preserved in the Park.</p> <p>The fort is scheduled as being of national importance. It is of interest to locals, visitors and specialists as is the burnt mound.</p>	Woodland expansion schemes can potentially threaten the resource.

STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

LCT: OPEN GLEN SIDE (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Biodiversity	<p>Designated sites include Cuilvona and Craigmore Woods SSSI (part), Trossachs Woods SAC (part), for native oak woods. Woodland birds including black grouse, red and roe deer, squirrel, pine marten may all be present. Peregrine nesting site.</p> <p>The south facing glen sides tend to hold visible red deer populations in the winter months. They also contribute to the habitat used by the range of birds discussed under 'Open Upland Hills' LCT.</p>	<p>Important to all groups</p> <p>High biodiversity importance.</p>	<p>The historical trend has been a loss and fragmentation of broadleaved woodland in the UK. Some management is underway to restore native woodland in places.</p>

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Further restructuring and enhancement of woodland and forestry could enhance the setting and interest of open areas.
- Scope to provide footpath access to and improved parking near Dunmore Fort.
- Scope exists to reverse the historical losses of broadleaved woodland by felling the planted conifers and replacing them with new broadleaved woodland, especially on FCS land and through SFGS at Glen Finglas and elsewhere.

STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

LCT: FARMED STRATH FLOOR

There are areas of farmed strath floors at the west and east end of Loch Venachar.

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



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	Farmed strath floors are important areas of diversity in the Trossachs landscape, providing strong visual contrast to the surrounding wooded hills. Traditionally managed farmed and estate lands, these areas give a human dimension to the landscape and are a component of the rural setting of the settled strath floors.	This landscape type is generally important as an element of diversity in the Park's glen landscapes and specifically contributes to the scenic quality and distinctive qualities of the local Loch Venachar and Callander areas of the Trossachs landscape. 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.	Potential pressures from development and a forestation.
Cultural Heritage	Deserted farmsteads are noted, west of Callander and south of Brig o' Turk. The past discovery of a Bronze Age burial at Lendrick and that area's association with the record of a quantity of bronze weapons may suggest a long history, also reflected in the presence of the burnt mounds in the adjoining areas of Glen Finglas and Milton.	Old farms are of interest to local people and visitors especially those tracing their ancestors. They contribute to the agricultural character of the landscape and are evidence of historic land use of the area.	Possibility of old cottages being replaced by new development or subject to insensitive proposals for re-instatement.
Biodiversity	Black Water Marshes SSSI complex of peatlands, grasslands, open water and seasonally flooded foreshore. Wintering and breeding wildfowl and waders. River Teith SAC (part) for salmon and lamprey.	Important to local people, visitors, travellers and specialists Of high biodiversity importance.	River and wetland systems and fish populations are impacted by river engineering, eg public water supply.

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Seek to protect and enhance farmed and estate land features, as well as viability of traditional meadow land use management.
- Seek to conserve the vernacular cottages and farm steadings.
- The biodiversity benefits could be enhanced through management to maintain the health of the wetland and to restore broad corridors of riparian native broadleaved woodland to benefit the river system.

STRATH GARTNEY, ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD FORESTS

LCT: OPEN UPLAND GLEN

Narrow open upland glens occur along the northern slopes of Loch Katrine and southern slopes of Ben Ledi with fast flowing burns and waterfalls, draining the upland hills

HLA: Prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing with some areas having been drained in the 20th century



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
Sense of place	Views focus up and down the glens, framing the landscapes that lie beyond. These are often captured in photographs. Important for open views.	Open upland glens are significant in particular to hill walkers and are a typical feature of the Park's highland areas, which are a component of the open uplands. The examples in the Trossachs landscape are remote from access, unspoilt by commercial afforestation and contribute to wild land qualities.	This area has been affected in places by insensitive coniferous planting, though this is being addressed over time by restructuring.
Cultural Heritage	Only limited pockets of the former medieval/post medieval pre-improvement agricultural system survive, including shielings and deserted farmsteads, especially in Glen Gyle where there are also bloomeries which give evidence of early iron working.	Local people and visitors, especially those undertaking genealogical research. Also of specialist archaeological interest mainly because of their potential to retain information on the sequent occupancy of these glens. The archaeological remains also give added value to hillwalkers.	May be affected by woodland regeneration schemes and forestry planting and felling.
Biodiversity	A range of largely undisturbed upland habitats, with upland birds as described for Open Upland Hills LCT.	Medium biodiversity importance.	Significant high grazing pressure in recent decades has recently been reversed.

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Access to the cultural heritage could be enhanced through improving the footpath link from Glen Finglas to Balquhidder. This would enhance the visitor experience. Consider extending the network into Upper Glen Buckie. Interpretation and the possibility of stabilisation of the ruins here could be considered.
- Care should be taken to avoid severing links between shielings, farmsteads, field systems and townships when designing schemes for woodland regeneration and from damage to sites when implementing such schemes or felling existing plantations.
- The open setting of the archaeological sites should be maintained.