



## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

SPECIAL QUALITIES OF LOCH LOMOND

# LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

## Key Features

Loch Lomond
Designed Landscapes
Improvement Period agricultural landscape
Estate villages
Oak woodlands
Balloch urban area

## Summary of Evaluation

### Sense of Place

The sense of place qualities of this area are considered to be of high importance. The area has a distinctive sense of place, the lowland predominantly farmed landscape providing a contrast with the upland areas. The mosaic of farmland and woodland with field boundaries, trees and shelterbelts creates a distinctive and intimate landscape that contrast with other parts of the Park.

The historic designed landscapes and country houses, particularly fringing the south end of the loch, make an important contribution to the visual qualities of the area as a result of their landmark trees, parkland, historic houses and estate boundaries. The vernacular of stonebuilt cottages, farmsteads and villages contributes to the settled character of this area of the Park and emphasises the settled lowland character of this area.

Loch Lomond is an iconic landscape, uniquely straddling the highland lowland transition defined by the Highland Boundary Fault. The loch is fringed by oak woodlands and designed landscapes contributing to its scenic quality.

### Cultural heritage

The principal land use is agriculture and the area is dominated by rectilinear field systems which relate to the agricultural improvement of the 18th and 19th Century. This landscape is uncommon in terms of the National Park. The area includes a number of estate buildings and small estate villages, to the west of Loch Lomond built by Sir James Colquhoun in the improvements of the 1850s and 1860s and by the Duke of Montrose to the east. The designed landscapes and country houses, often built by these improving landowners, are a highly visible and important quality of the area. The improving landlords also built estate farms and villages in the area such as Milton of Buchanan.

The area contains a number of historic features of high value such as the medieval Kilmaronock Tower and the ruinous Bannachra Castle. Earlier sites survive including the 12th-14th century Balloch Castle earthwork, these early castles were built of wood and set on earthen mounds known as mottes. These features along with designed landscapes demonstrate the importance of South Loch Lomond to upper echelons of society over a long period.

Prehistoric sites exist in the area both visible above ground and hidden below the ground. There is also an important Roman fort site at Drumquhassle.

This is a very diverse zone reflecting its location on the boundary between highland and lowland, populated and rural.

### **Biodiversity**

Loch Lomond is the largest area of freshwater in Great Britain. The southern basin of the loch in this Character Zone is very wide, much shallower and more nutrient-rich than the deep, cold, nutrient poor waters of the middle and north basins. As a consequence of this combination of loch types, the loch supports the most diverse native fish community of any loch in Scotland and a range of aquatic and wetland plant communities.

The loch holds one of only two natural populations of powan in Scotland. It underpins the Endrick Water SAC for salmon and lampreys, including a unique form of river lamprey that migrate as adults to the loch to feed on powan and other fish. All other adult river lampreys in the UK feed on marine fish in coastal estuaries. There is also a significant otter population round the loch and a diverse range of aquatic plant communities. Seasonally flooded woodlands such as Ross Park Loch Shore Woodland SSSI, the marshes and water meadows in the Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI and the mire complex in Aber Bog, Gartocharn Bog and Bell Moss SSSI hold diverse plant communities with many rare or scarce plants such as the Loch Lomond Dock and a rich invertebrate fauna. These wetland areas are important habitat for breeding wild fowl and a refuge for overwintering birds such as the Greenland white-fronted geese that roost in the Loch Lomond SPA at the Endrick marshes. The sites round the mouth of the Endrick are managed as a part of the Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve.

The mosaic of farmland and woodland with many hedges along field boundaries, hedgerow trees and shelterbelts, pockets of ancient woodland such as Boturich Woods SSSI and grazed parkland in designed landscapes creates a complex mix of man-made and semi natural habitats. Mature specimen trees in locations such as the Ross Park SSSI form very valuable habitat for epiphytic lichens. The farmland supports a wide range of animals and birds including bats, badgers and barn owls, though some species such as brown hare, skylark, lapwing, redshank, and snipe have declined in numbers due to modern agricultural practices such as early cropping of silage fields. By contrast, populations of overwintering geese use the improved grasslands as a rich food source in early spring.

### **Geology**

The distinctive character of this area and its contrast with the upland area to the north is a result of the Highland Boundary Fault. The parallel ridges at Conic Hill are associated with geological movements along the Highland Boundary Fault Zone. The raised shorelines at Portnellan, Ross Priory, Claddochside show late glacial marine transgressions before and after Loch Lomond glacial advance and sediments deposited by the glacier.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### **Associations**

Much of the west side of the Loch has associations with the Colquhouns and the Luss Estate. Loch Lomond lay in the heart of the Earldom of Lennox. The Montrose family had estates which bounded the whole of the eastern shore of Loch Lomond. The Drymen area was the heartland of the Buchanans and they held estates there until the late 17th century. The loch has literary associations and has been portrayed in art and song. The area was strongly associated with Victorian tourism with visitors travelling to Loch Lomond by train and taking pleasure trips on the loch on steamer ships leaving a legacy of piers.

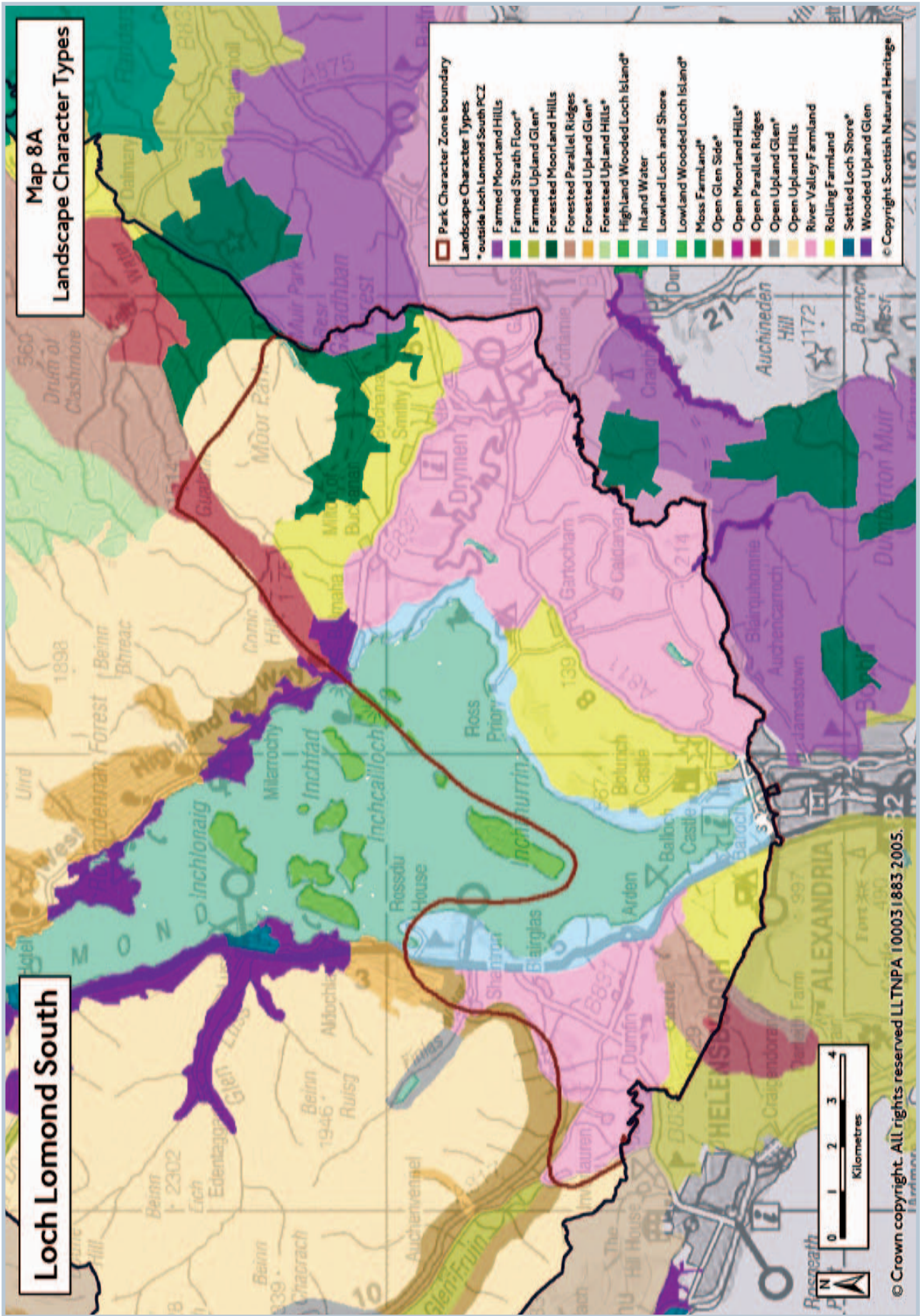
### **Qualities valued by local communities**

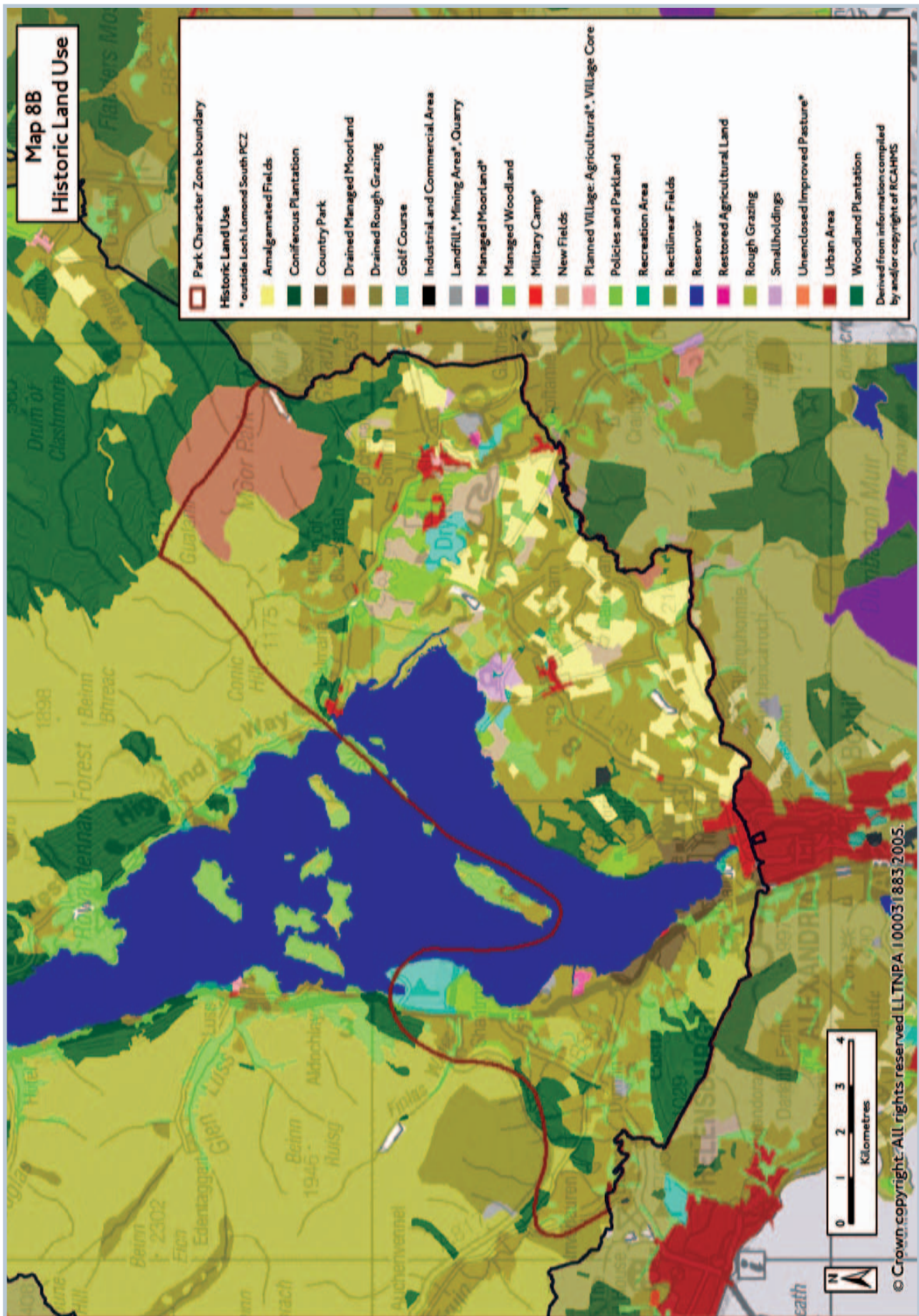
(Source: Community Futures and Park Plan Workshop on Special Qualities, April 2004)

- Loch Lomond Nature Reserve
- Scenic qualities, specific mention of mountains, lochside, island woodland.
- Access to the water
- Loch Lomond, a unique selling point, still retains quietness.
- The Islands of particular importance for archaeology, wildlife and vegetation.
- Ancient oak woodlands, along the loch and within the forest glades, important for nature conservation and the history of tanning.
- Archaeology on the west shore of the loch
- Nature conservation value of gravel pits at Midross
- West shore for its recreational qualities, boating and golfing.
- Buchanan, on the east shore, is seen as the quiet side of the loch.
- Quiet enjoyment of the loch.
- Folklore
- Built heritage
- Balloch valued as gateway to the National Park.
- Balloch bridge and views from the bridge up the loch
- Balloch Castle and Country Park valued as local asset and visitor destination
- Balloch Station House buildings on Station Road and tradition of trains.
- Views of Loch Lomond
- West Highland Way and Cycle Route Network.

LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

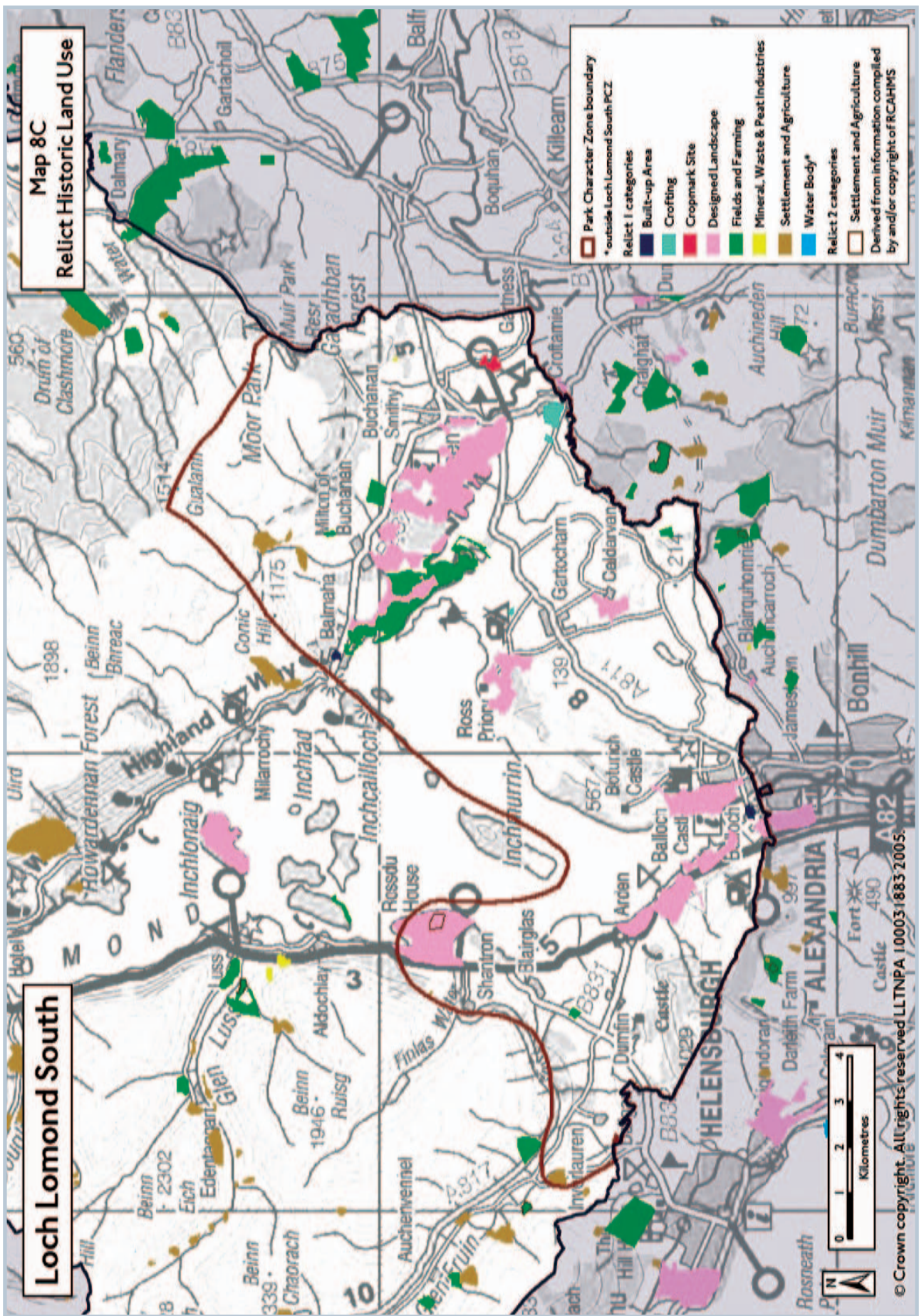
MAP 8A – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES





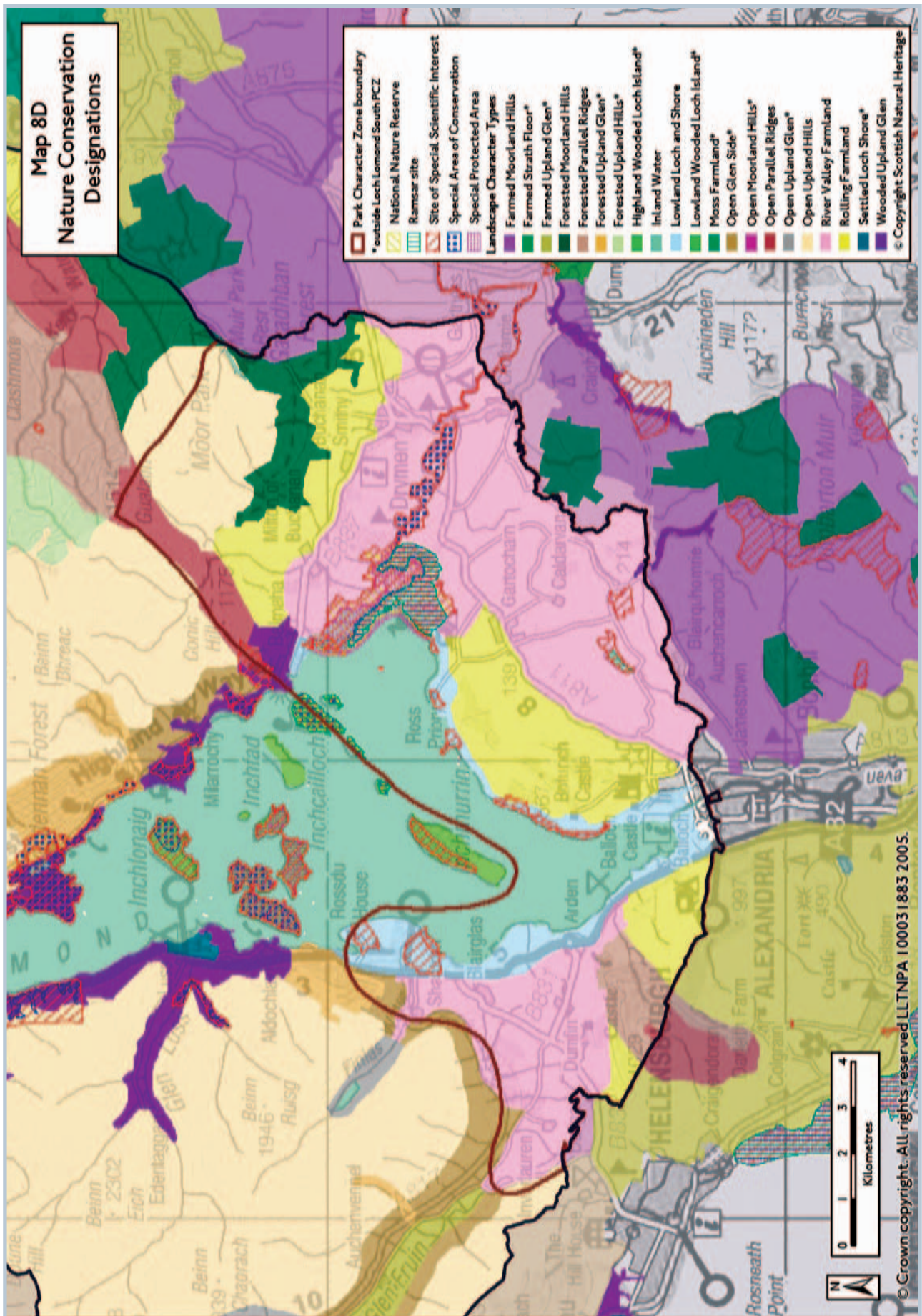
LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

MAP 8C - RELICT HISTORIC LAND USE



LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

MAP 8D - NATURE CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS





## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

LCT: INLAND WATER

KEY FEATURE: LOCH LOMOND AND EXTENSIVE VIEWS ACROSS THE LOCH



HLA: 19th to 20th century waterbody

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	The views over south Loch Lomond are of a particularly extensive nature, where the space afforded by the wide basin allows the visual interest and details of the shores and slopes to be appreciated.	<p>Views over southern Loch Lomond are of a particular quality due to the loch form and extensive open quality of the water, with the eye drawn to the visual foci of the grand houses around the shore and the islands, as well as being led by the surrounding slopes northwards towards the upper loch basin. The loch tends to be viewed in relation to tree cover, with woodlands forming foil and framing elements to the water. Physical access to the loch has been somewhat restricted due to private landownership and exclusive land uses.</p> <p>However there are some areas of public access, notably at Balloch Country Park, Lomond Shores, Duck Bay and Balmaha, where there are good opportunities for views, as well as those afforded from boat tours and activities on the loch itself. There are some glimpsed views from the A82, which is slightly elevated and the loch is seen beyond tree canopies of the intervening landscape and loch shore fringe woodland.</p> <p>Along with the rolling lowland agricultural landscape areas to the south of the Park, the southern loch unusually provides an experience of extensive space and relatively wide skies, where the effects of weather and light can be particularly atmospheric.</p>	Quality and nature of these views could be affected by inappropriate or intrusive activity on the loch itself. Improving access to the loch shore and around surrounding slopes should beneficially increase the opportunities for extensive loch views.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	There are a number of crannogs along the shoreline of the loch. These prehistoric constructed islands represent one of the earliest elements of the area's cultural heritage. The crannogs and some of the islands such as Clairinch may have been occupied successively over a long period.	<p>Specialist value, but also interpretative value for visitors</p> <p>Significance is national or even international as a group, as they are the largest known collection on crannogs in the Park. Crannogs are also found in Ireland and other lochs in Scotland.</p> <p>Highly significant to specialists, less so to visitors/locals perhaps</p>	There are no significant current pressures, apart from changing water levels causing erosion and periodic drying, and potential damage from boats and people landing.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: INLAND WATER

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Supports a varied fish community, including Powan. Underpins Endrick Water SAC for salmon and lamprey, including a unique river lamprey and Loch Lomond Woods SAC for otter. A range of aquatic and emergent plant communities including Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI, Ross Park Lochshore Woodlands SSSI. Protected species include otter, powan, osprey.</p> <p>There is potential to view wildlife e.g. water birds and geese.</p>	<p>Important to local people, others in Scotland, visitors and specialists.</p> <p>High importance in biodiversity terms.</p>	<p>Wetland ecosystems are generally threatened internationally and in the UK. Agricultural management, boat traffic, diffuse pollution and eutrophication may all have some adverse effects on this feature. Mismanagement of fish populations and introduction of invasive fish and plant species also have adverse impacts.</p> <p>The quality and nature of wildlife visible in views could be affected by inappropriate or intrusive activity on the loch itself.</p>
<b>Associations</b>	<p>Iconic loch of Scotland. Views over the loch are well known and reflected in 'bonnie banks', nationally known images and advertising. Also see comments under North Loch Lomond LCT Inland Waters.</p>		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Views could be enhanced by maintaining viewpoints, and views from roads etc.
- To enhance the cultural heritage of the loch by raising awareness of the crannogs and their cultural significance.
- The Loch Lomond Islands Survey demonstrated that the archaeology on islands is suffering erosion. It may require action in terms of water levels, and boat wash.
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced via control of pollution, development, recreation, invasive species

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

LCT: LOWLAND LOCH AND SHORE

KEY FEATURE 1: BEACHES AND ROCKY SHORE



HLA: 19th-20th century Waterbody

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Beaches and shoreline are an essential part of the loch landscape, providing visual interest and variety. Prominent in views over the loch.	The beaches and shoreline are significant features locally, but can be visible in the wider landscape due to the pale colour of shingles and sands. They offer good eye level views over the loch and islands. Whilst largely free of large or inharmonious developments, neighbouring development have in places eroded the predominantly wooded setting of the loch shore, which can compromise the shore line.	Developments such as marinas impact directly on the shore line. Fluctuations in loch levels and erosion by boat wakes do destabilise the shore.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	The shores were locations for settlement over a long period of time. There are important historic sites at various locations on the shoreline. Balloch Castle is an earthwork castle of 12-14th century date, whereas Bannachra Castle is a ruinous towerhouse of 16th century date. They are radically different styles of fortified dwelling from different periods of Scottish history.	Both are nationally important monuments, but Balloch Castle earthwork is the more significant of the two. Balloch Castle earthwork in particular is highly significant to specialists because of its position on the outlet from the loch and because of its association with the Earldom of Lennox. It is also more visible to visitors being within the country park.  The significance of Balloch Castle earthwork extends well beyond the Park's boundaries, but in effect both are nationally important because of their scheduling.  Balloch Castle earthwork is very important for its interpretative value, as well as for its archaeological value.	There are no known pressures other than natural erosion. Bannachra Castle is already very ruinous.
	The shores are the location for piers, winchhouse, boathouses and other structures associated with boating on loch. There is a long tradition of taking boat trips on the loch, particularly for residents of Glasgow. The Maid of the Loch is moored at Balloch in a prominent position.	These are important features/ areas for visitors and locals as they form an interface for interaction between the land and the loch. However, few retain their earlier historic character. One particularly good example, which is Category A listed, is the 1900 winch house at Drumkinnon Bay, Loch Lomond which retains its original machinery and is hoped to be restored as part of a heritage lottery project.  The boating and steamer tradition is of significance within and beyond the Park and links to use of the Clyde and its sea lochs in a similar fashion. Of significance to locals, visitors, and specialists.	The Maid of the Loch has suffered deterioration in the past. Although now partially restored many of its original features have been lost and it cannot presently sail.  The winchhouse at Drumkinnon Bay is currently under restoration as part of a heritage lottery bid.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

LCT: LOWLAND LOCH AND SHORE			
BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS,PRESSURES & TARGETS
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Viewing potential for some wildlife, e.g. water birds, geese. Lichens and emergent plants such as shoreweed able to colonise exposed shores with high wave action are of interest.	Important to all groups Medium biodiversity importance.	The shores are impacted by inappropriate development and attempts at bankside protection.
<b>Geological</b>	Raised shorelines at Portnellan, Ross Priory, Claddochside Geological SSSI show late glacial marine transgressions before and after Loch Lomond glacial advance and sediments deposited by the glacier.	Important to specialists High geological importance for understanding the sequence of glaciation and marine inundation.	Some risk from potential developments.
<b>Associations</b>	Specific association with the Bonnie Banks.		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

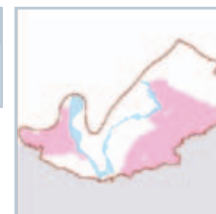
- Areas of damaged or poorly developed shore could be enhanced
- Views could be enhanced by maintaining viewpoints, and views from roads etc.
- Conclude management agreements and improve interpretation of important shoreline heritage sites.
- Interpretation of steamer traditions along with modern boat trips, linking with Loch Katrine and SS Sir Walter Scott.
- Promote the full restoration of the Maid of the Loch
- Ensure that any measures to manage shoreline erosion does not have negative impacts on geological features cultural heritage or biodiversity.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

LCT: RIVER VALLEY FARMLAND WITH ESTATES, LOWLAND LOCH & SHORE

KEY FEATURE: RIVERS AND WETLANDS

HLA: Predominantly 18th to 19th century fields and farming, with 18th - 20th century woodland and forestry



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS, PRESSURES & TARGETS
<b>Sense of place</b>	The River Endrick meanders through the parkland landscape of Buchanan Castle, contributing to the landscape character and visual qualities typically associated with parklands. River Fruin meanders through the broad valley above Arden.	Lowland river landscapes and wetlands tend to be somewhat unusual in the Park and where they occur, as around South Loch Lomond, they are either not readily visible due to limited access, distance, screening features or opportunities restricted to brief intervals on fast roads. The occasions where they are visible are significant in a local context. River landscapes tend to appear natural and unspoilt, although their condition can be deceptively poor and unstable where riparian woodlands and river banks have become eroded.	Some loss of riparian woodlands in the past and erosion of natural river banks through grazing pressure.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	A number of historic stone bridges cross the rivers. Some of the wetland also comprises relict fields and farming.	While the bridges are important features on communication routes, both public and private, and some are listed they are probably not viewed by most people as significant in their own right.  Little is known on the potential of wetland archaeology in these areas.	Bridge widening and strengthening can affect the character of these historic structures. They may also be at risk from flooding.  Wetland archaeology is at risk of drying out from drainage/climatic change etc.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Endrick Water SSSI supports internationally important habitats and species, salmon and lampreys and geomorphological processes. The Fruin is noted for sea trout and the Leven for salmon fishing. Caldarvan Loch SSSI is eutrophic and supports sedge swamp communities and wet birch wood. Notable species include lesser twayblade and cranberry.	Medium importance to local people, visitors and specialists, especially anglers.  The availability of good angling is a vital contribution to the sense of place for a significant minority, both for the local area and the Park as a whole.  High nature conservation importance.	Wetland ecosystems are generally threatened internationally and in the UK. Agricultural management, boat traffic, diffuse pollution and eutrophication may all have some adverse effects on this feature. Mismanagement of fish populations and introduction of invasive fish and plant species also have adverse impacts.
	Endrick Marshes support a wide range of important and protected wetland habitats and species. Part of Loch Lomond SPA for Greylag geese, Loch Lomond Ramsar Site, Endrick Water SAC for salmon & lamprey, Loch Lomond NNR, Aber Bog, Gartocharn Bog and Bell Moss SSSI, Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI, Endrick Water SSSI for a range of wetland & other habitats. Protected species include Otter, Osprey, spotted crane. Other notable species include Heronry, Greenland White fronted geese, waterfowl, waders, Loch Lomond dock & other rare or scarce plants.	Very high biodiversity importance, as reflected in multiple national & international designations. Important to local people, visitors and specialists.	Wetland ecosystems are generally threatened internationally and in the UK. Agricultural management, boat traffic, diffuse pollution and eutrophication may all have some adverse effects on this feature.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: RIVER VALLEY FARMLAND WITH ESTATES, LOWLAND LOCH & SHORE

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Blairbeich Bog SSSI represents an example of lowland raised bog	Important to specialists Of high biodiversity importance given the scarcity of this habitat on a European level	The habitat type has suffered severe losses in the historic past

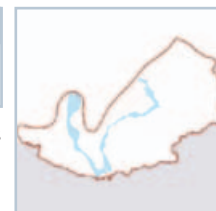
### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The landscape benefit could be enhanced through restoration of riparian woodlands.
- Protection of natural banks from damaging grazing pressure.
- Increased opportunities for stopping places along roads that offer views of rivers and wetlands.
- Increased footpath access.
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced through landscape management and planning and possible riparian habitat management scheme
- The biodiversity of Endrick Marshes could be enhanced. The NNR and natural care programme provide scope for positive management
- Appropriate management of this Blairbeich Bog could help to improve its quality

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

LCT: LOWLAND LOCH AND SHORE

KEY FEATURE: FRINGING WOODLANDS



HLA: Predominantly 18th to 20th century managed woodland and forestry with some 20th century coniferous on the eastern side of the Loch.

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Loch side woodlands make an important contribution to the character of the loch.	<p>The loch shore fringe woodlands occupy a small actual area, but are significant features, in terms of landscape character and visual qualities. The woodlands form a principle setting element to the loch, contributing in places to its apparently natural quality and elsewhere to the policy woodlands of designed landscapes. The woodlands can act as an important setting and/or screen to development that is set back from the loch.</p> <p>The grand houses of designed landscapes tend to be seen in the background to the wooded loch shore, with the woodland acting as a foil or frame. More recently large areas of commercial developments such as chalets and golf courses are concealed to a greater or lesser extent from the loch and opposite shores by the woodland. The woodlands have formed a predominantly intact fringe and contribute to the compositions of views out over the loch. There are some areas that are more open. However the balance still tends towards natural water marginal vegetation such as willow scrub and alder carr.</p> <p>Where development has interrupted this relationship of woodland canopies to the water the scenic qualities tend to have been adversely affected.</p>	The loch shore fringe of woodland has been particularly vulnerable to the development of golf courses, marinas and infrastructure, such as buildings, compounds and car parks associated with jetties and piers. Management of ground flora through excessive mowing regimes can also adversely affect the apparently natural qualities of the woodlands.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Historic patterns of woodland management. The fringing woodlands sometimes form part of designed landscapes.	The woodlands provide evidence for past management and may contain historic features associated with the management of woodlands such as bloomery mounds, charcoal burning platforms. The trees themselves are evidence of past management ie. coppicing, wood pasture. There is often survival of previous landuse patterns and archaeological sites beneath the trees as often these woodlands would have been hand planted and therefore less destructive. In some areas these woodlands may form historic elements of designed landscapes.	May be vulnerable to development of golf courses, marinas and tourist developments on loch shores. May also be vulnerable to inappropriate management.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: LOWLAND LOCH AND SHORE (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Fringing woodlands of importance for nature conservation. Some woodlands are designated as SSSIs: e.g. Ross Park Lochshore Woodlands, Boturich Woods and Endrick Mouth. Others are native or ancient.	Important to all groups. Of high biodiversity importance.	Increasingly, efforts are made to manage the lochshore, interrupting the natural transition from open water, via wet woodland to dry woodland.
<b>Associations</b>	The traditions and activities associated with managed woodland are important ie. iron working, tanning		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

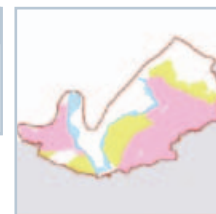
- Improved management to maintain wooded character in key areas.
- Conservation and enhancement of wooded fringe feature through the development control process through tree protection and new planting measures.
- Ensure that management plans reflect the objectives and prescriptions to recognise, conserve and enhance the integrity and landscape character and visual significance of the loch fringe woodlands.
- The biodiversity could be enhanced through control of invasive non native species, control of damaging lochshore engineering and acceptance of lochshore erosion in suitable locations.
- There is potential to raise awareness and understanding of woodland management through interpretation.
- Historic sites associated with woodland management should be retained in woodland setting.



## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

LCT: RIVER VALLEY FARMLAND WITH ESTATES, ROLLING FARMLAND, LOWLAND LOCH & SHORE

KEY FEATURE 2: MOSAIC OF FARMLAND, WOODLAND, BEECH HEDGES AND DRYSTANE FIELD BOUNDARIES AND UNIMPROVED PASTURES. RECTILINEAR FIELD PATTERN.



HLA: Predominantly 18th-19th century fields and farming. There is also 18th to 20th century woodland and forestry and some 20th century forestry.

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	The mosaic of farmland and woodland, with field boundaries, trees and shelterbelts creates a distinctive and intimate lowland landscape that contrasts with other parts of the Park.	This mosaic of farmland and woodland is typical of areas of lowland Scotland and along with the associated designed landscapes is one of the defining characteristics of the lowland areas of the Park to the south of the Highland Boundary Fault line. The small scale field pattern, rich meadows and mixed woodlands contrasts with the typically larger scale, open and wilder uplands of the highlands. The juxtaposition of these two diverse but high quality landscape types contributes greatly to the scenic quality and sequential drama of the landscape. There are occasional exceptional views out over these areas to southern Loch Lomond, the islands and the northern loch trough within its mountain setting, such as from Duncryne Hill and land above Gartocharn, and from the west above Helensburgh.	Historic and potential future changes reflecting changing agricultural economy. Declining traditional landuse, management and maintenance of associated features, such as farmsteads, meadows, woodlands, walls, hedges and hedge trees.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>The area includes 18th/19th century rectilinear field systems and some areas of prehistoric fields.</p> <p>Reflecting both the continuous occupation and the continuing agricultural use of this area a number of archaeological sites now only survive as crop marks e.g. the prehistoric enclosure at Gartfairn and the Roman fort at Drumquhassle. Drumquhassle is one of an important series of Roman sites within the Park around which there also appears to be an intensive area of prehistoric activity complementing an earlier discovery of a Bronze Age burial in the nearby former Drumbeg Quarry.</p> <p>This area may contain the highest potential in the Park for the recovery of sub-surface archaeological remains, dependent on details of soils, topography, and the degree of later intensive land use. It is one of the most fertile and settled parts of the Park and recent excavations at Midross have demonstrated the wealth of below ground archaeology of all periods, but particularly prehistoric, which may exist.</p>	<p>This area is the gateway to Loch Lomond and is usually the first encounter with the Park. Its appearance is crucial to the perceptions of visitors. Unknown quantity in terms of prehistoric archaeology. Existence of known sites suggests an area of high potential for the existence of buried prehistoric archaeology - very important area to specialists as little is known about the prehistory of this area. Potential sub-surface sites may be of national significance as was the case at Midross.</p> <p>Improvement Period rectilinear fields are an uncommon feature in the Park area. They add to the Park's character and are a sharp contrast to the high moorland areas. Some of the known prehistoric sites are not very visible, nor make a substantial contribution to character, nor are they very well known or interpreted. Gartfairn and Drumquhassle are both scheduled as sites of national importance.</p> <p>The uncommonness of the rectilinear field pattern makes it particularly valuable in Park terms. The survival of prehistoric fields is unusual in the Park but the area is visible only as crop marks and has no landscape impact. Highly significant in archaeological specialist terms.</p>	<p>The field pattern has been under threat from golf course development in particular, and possible further recreational development in future.</p> <p>In addition, the sub-surface archaeology is under threat from developments in this most accessible part of the Park.</p>

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: RIVER VALLEY FARMLAND WITH ESTATES, ROLLING FARMLAND, LOWLAND LOCH & SHORE

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Lowland woodland habitat network comprised of small woods, shelterbelts, parkland trees and hedges. Some native woodlands and/or ancient woodlands. Boturich Woodlands SSSI. Habitat for a range of birds including farmland and game birds, overwintering geese, woodland flora including lichens. Protected species include bats, badger, otter, barn owl.	Important to all groups. Low, occasionally medium biodiversity importance, high in SSSI.	Woodland mosaic and wildlife value of fields needs effort to maintain in the face of development pressures, road improvements and trends in agriculture. Management of fields and hedgerows could be more wildlife sympathetic.

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

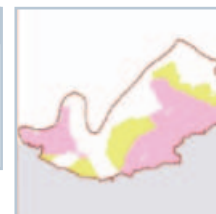
- The cultural heritage and landscape benefit could be recreated by restoration of field boundaries, or design guidance requiring maintenance of boundaries in development applications. The retention of grass cover and existing shelter belts is also important.
- Continue to require extensive prior archaeological evaluation of major development proposals on glacial sands and gravels. Consider preservation in situ of newly discovered sites as a research resource for the future, rather than preservation by record (excavation) in advance of development
- Conclude management agreements for upstanding cairns if needed.
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced. The feature could be expanded or strengthened through woodland management, new planting, agricultural practice. RSS and SFGS provide mechanisms.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: RIVER VALLEY FARMLAND WITH ESTATES, ROLLING FARMLAND

#### KEY FEATURE: SCATTER OF STONEBUILT VILLAGES & SMALLER SETTLEMENTS - VERNACULAR OF SANDSTONE, WHITEWASH, SLATE ROOFS.

The main settlement in this area is Drymen. There are a number of estate villages and farms.



HLA: Predominantly 18th-20th Built Up Areas. However Drymen is a planned settlement with probable medieval origins.

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	The vernacular of stonebuilt cottages, farmsteads and villages contributes to the settled character of this area, in contrast to elsewhere in the Park.	The settlements are significant to local residents and visitors to the Park, serving for overnight stays and services, as well as being attractive features within the wider landscapes. The more settled nature of the lowlands contributes to the lowland / upland contrast within the Park as a whole. The villages have distinctive identities and are quite diverse in terms of architectural and townscape qualities, although they are predominantly traditional, with high usage of local sandstones and slate. Some are locally affected by some incongruous 20th century development and road upgrading, which detracts from their landscape character and visual qualities.	There has been some erosion of the character of these villages through newer developments and road upgrading.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	18th century estate planning is a significant cultural heritage element.  Examples include Buchanan Smithy which was built by the 3rd Duke of Montrose in the early 1800s and the small cottages and mill at Milton of Buchanan also date to the early 1800s. On farmland to the west of Loch Lomond, many of the farms are part of the Luss Estate, built by Sir James Colquhoun as part of improvements of the 1850s and 1860s.  Drymen is one of the main settlements in the area. The village lies on a historic drove route and the 18th century military road running from Stirling to Dumbarton. It is a popular tourist destination and is quite unusual for a Scottish village as it is centred around a green. Historic buildings are grouped around the green including the Clachan Inn and Winnock Hotel. There is an attractive late 18th century parish church.	The built heritage adds character and colour to the area for visitors and is also valued by local people.  The historic estate planning is a very significant contributor to the character of the area at the south west end of the loch. The estate buildings are significant in Park terms, but there are examples in other parts of Scotland. The potential for buried prehistoric archaeology is highly significant to specialists.  Although there has been some 20th century development in Drymen, the core of the village largely retains its historic character and is an attractive village. A number of the buildings are listed and the centre of Drymen is designated as a Conservation Area in recognition of its architectural and historic interest.	Development pressures in and around the settlements
<b>Biodiveristy</b>	Significant bat roosts, esp. brown long eared and big pipistrelle roosts may be present in some buildings. Nests for some birds, e.g. house martins, or swifts on larger buildings may also be present	These are of greatest importance to local people and specialists  Generally low biodiversity importance but significant bat roosts may be important in terms of the Scottish population	Refurbishment of buildings may limit their usefulness to wildlife

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: RIVER VALLEY FARMLAND WITH ESTATES, ROLLING FARMLAND (CONT)

#### BENEFITS

<b>Associations</b>	Drymen has associations with the old droving routes. Luss Estate Farms associated with the Colquhouns. Duke of Montrose with Buchanan Smithy.
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#### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

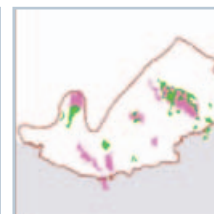
- Design guidance and development briefs for key sites could help ensure the contribution of these settlements to the wider sense of place is maintained.
- Conservation Area Appraisals could increase awareness and understanding of the importance of historic and architectural character and help inform planning decisions.
- Appropriate nesting & roosting boxes may be available to offset any loss of existing niches due to refurbishment of buildings.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: DESIGNED LANDSCAPE AND POLICIES & PARKLAND

#### KEY FEATURES: HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES AND ESTATES WITH PARKLAND, EXOTIC TREE SPECIES, HISTORIC HOUSES, ESTATE WALLS.

There is an almost continuous crescent of large country houses and designed landscapes along the west side of the loch. These include Rossdhu House, Midross, Arden House, Lomond Castle and Cameron House. Loch side houses and designed landscapes along the east shore of the loch include Balloch Castle, Ross Priory, Boturich Castle and Buchanan Castle.



HLA: Predominantly late 20th century recreational area

HLA relict: Designed landscapes, with 17th to 19th century policies and parkland and a relict 'settlement and agriculture' site (near to Rossdhu House)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Historic designed landscapes make an important contribution to landscape character and visual qualities, due to landmark trees, parkland, historic houses and estate boundaries. These integrate with the traditionally farmed lowland landscapes and contrast with the upland areas.	The historic designed landscapes form unusually extensive coverage to the south of Loch Lomond, creating consistent landscape character and visual qualities. These estate landscapes were laid out to deliberate rules of aesthetics, appropriating features of the natural landscape, and themselves artefacts of design. The estates are associated with particular types of feature, which articulate the ideas of their time and remain intact or as remnants. There is some integration with the lowland farmed landscapes. Mature boundary and roadside trees could be associated with agricultural improvements, turnpike roads, or designed landscape features. Estate architecture extends in to the wider landscape, as boundaries, gateways and lodges, or workers cottages. Other features include policy woodlands and parkland. Views in to and out from designed landscapes and the grand houses were a critical consideration. In relation to South Loch Lomond the exceptional views across and up the loch were a clear motivation to siting and design. Balloch Country Park offers rare public access to this landscape experience.	Decline and neglect of traditional estate management and associated features. Introduction of alternative uses, eroding the integrity of designed landscapes, with negative impacts on built setting, structure and design integrity, as well as specimen trees and woodlands.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	There is a significant concentration of designed landscapes in the South Loch Lomond area. These extensive designed landscapes were developed in the 18th and 19th centuries around the houses of the principal landowners. This continued into the late 19th century when rich Glasgow industrialists built houses on the loch.  There are a number of important medieval sites within the designed landscapes. The earliest were built of wood and set on earthen mounds known as mottes and later tower houses were built of stone. Some of these buildings have been incorporated within later houses, others survive as ruins.	The historic buildings and sites are potentially of major importance for understanding the history of the area. Locally they add historic depth to the landscape. This area is the gateway to Loch Lomond and is usually the first encounter with the Park. Its appearance is crucial to the perceptions of visitors.  The historic buildings reflect the time depth in land use and settlement in this part of the Park  Unusual historic depth in wider Park terms. The country houses and mansions associated with the designed landscapes are particular to this area of the National Park. The historic character of most of these buildings has been retained. All are Category A or B listed in recognition of their historic and architectural importance.	The condition and vulnerability of the large historic house varies. Some are in good condition and retain their original use while others like Buchanan Castle and Woodbank House have suffered neglect and are 'at risk'. The designed landscape at Balloch Castle is currently being restored.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### KEY FEATURES: DESIGNED LANDSCAPE AND POLICIES & PARKLAND (CONT)

BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>There is a potentially important historic nuclei at Aber and Kilmarnock (site of chapel and converted mill at former; a 16th century towerhouse, later house and church, which is likely to be on an early Christian church site at latter).</p> <p>Although most of the large houses associated with the designed landscapes are baronial in style, there are a number of classically designed country houses in this area including Rossdhu and Catter House. Additional associated architectural structures still survive within a number of the designed landscapes including lodge houses, walled gardens, doocots, ice-houses etc.</p> <p>Old Place of Ardoch, once a seat of the Findlay family (of Boturich Castle), now a ruin.</p>	<p>A number of the associated designed landscapes are included on the National Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in recognition of their importance.</p> <p>The integrity and character of some of the designed landscapes has suffered loss of key landscape features due to development. Balloch Castle is one of the few unchanged designed landscapes in the Park - of importance therefore.</p> <p>Some of the medieval sites are scheduled as monuments of national importance e.g Catter motte. However, a number of the other sites are also of archaeological importance, some potentially of national importance such as the Boturich Castle site.</p> <p>High importance.</p>	<p>This is probably the area of the Park's landscape which faces most significant development pressures. Pressures include golf course and chalet type developments.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Parkland trees form a distinct habitat for lichens, eg Ross Park SSSI. Elements of designed landscapes contribute to the mosaic of farmland, woodland, field boundaries etc. Protected species present may include bats (Significant roosts of Brown long eared and pipistrelle may be present in some buildings or policy woodland), otter, barn owl. Nests for some birds, e.g. house martins, or swifts on larger buildings, heronries in policy woodlands.</p>	<p>Important to local people, visitors and specialists</p> <p>The conspicuous wildlife is an important part of the character zone but has limited significance in a wider context.</p> <p>Low to medium biodiversity importance, high in SSSI.</p>	<p>Parkland trees and policy woodlands are generally in decline due to limited maintenance of this landscape in recent decades. Refurbishment of buildings may limit their usefulness to wildlife.</p>
<b>Associations</b>	<p>Cameron House is associated with the Telfer Smollett family. Tobias Smollett was an important 18th century Scottish literature figure. Cameron House was the family home from 1763, although it would appear to be Tobias's cousin James who actually lived there.</p> <p>A number of the castles have associations with the Earldom of Lennox and their royal connections. The earlier castle at Boturich is associated with Isabelle, Countess of Lennox, who died c1460.</p>		

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Scope to improve management of surviving designed landscapes (including restoration), and protection of existing features where further changes proposed.
- Consider management contracts with owners to maintain the best extant elements of the designed landscapes.
- Balloch Castle designed landscape subject to HLF bid for restoration.
- The biodiversity benefit could be enhanced. In places the feature could be expanded or strengthened through maintenance work. Mechanisms to do so are patchy. Golf courses, may provide funding for management to maintain key designed landscape features. Appropriate nesting & roosting boxes may be available to offset any loss of existing niches.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: OPEN UPLAND HILLS

An open and exposed landscape of summits and plateaux, with rolling rounded hills. The example within the area is Moor Park.

HLA: Mainly 20th century to present moorland and rough grazing which is drained and managed. Some areas of prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	The area forms a backdrop to surrounding lowlands and a setting for the higher slopes and summits of the Highland Line beyond.	The area is visually significant from the network of small rural roads, including the long distance cycle route, south of the A811 and in the southern approach to the Park over the Queens View and south of Croftamie. From here Drymen is seen in its wider landscape setting, with Garadhban Forest particularly dominant. The upper margin of this forest creates a harsh and landscape scale artificial line that forms an abrupt transition from the farmed fields of the lowlands to the more open moorland, slopes and summits beyond. This detracts from the scenic quality. The area is agriculturally managed.	Past commercial forestry has had a negative impact on the landscape setting of these upland hills.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Very little archaeology is recorded in this area although there is evidence of lime working and St Maha's healing well is to be found here.	The well may be of interest.	None known
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Moorland and upland plant communities, moorland birds and mammals.	Low to medium biodiversity importance	The upland habitats, flora and fauna can be degraded due to sheep grazing and very high red deer numbers in some locations in the last few decades though numbers have been reduced recently in places.

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

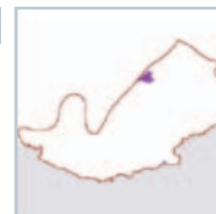
- Opportunities to enhance upper margin forest design through the restructuring of forestry over the southern slopes.
- Ongoing conservation and grazing management should help to maintain the character of the area. Ecologically more sympathetic management would allow plant communities such as heath, treeline and mountain scrub.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: WOODED UPLAND GLEN

There is a small area of wooded upland glen at Balmaha. Wooded slopes, low density semi-natural woodland of Oak, Birch and Scots Pine.

HLA: Wooded glen mainly 20th century woodland and forestry with some 18th – 20th century.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Natural looking landscape with low density of trees scattered over the hillsides. Natural transition area between the loch and shore and open upland hills. The loch Lomond Oak woods are a defining characteristic of the east side of Loch Lomond.	The wooded loch shore reads in the context of the Highland Boundary Fault Line topography. The native woodlands make a positive contribution to the dramatic scenery of this area by emphasising the enclosure and vertical quality of the steep slopes and creating a visual link and context between the indented shoreline and the islands.	Woodland glens which are not affected by plantation forestry are rare. The woodlands are typically under threat from over grazing.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	The LCT includes Balmaha, a hamlet of white cottages around a bay with pier and boats. The village has been a popular tourist destination for many years. The Royal Mail boat and ferries provide links to the islands. No evidence now of the Acid Works where from the early 19th century until 1920 pyroligneous acid for dye was manufactured using products from the oakwoods.	Balmaha has some buildings of architectural and historic interest including the Old Manse and Montrose House. The house has associations with the Montrose Estate.	Some development pressures for residential and leisure developments.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Part of the extensive tracts of ancient native broadleaved woodland along the west shore of Loch Lomond. See North Loch Lomond section.	Medium biodiversity importance	The historical trend has been to a catastrophic loss and fragmentation of this habitat type in the UK.

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- These woodlands require careful management with management of grazing to ensure that the natural regeneration of trees can occur, but there remains a degree of openness.
- There is potential to provide access and interpretation to sites in these woodlands and to provide interpretation of the past woodland history and traditions, especially on sites close to the West Highland Way.
- Scope exists to reverse the historic loss of broadleaved woodland by felling the planted conifers and replacing them with native broadleaved woodland.



## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: OPEN PARALLEL RIDGES

Ridgeline landscape reflecting geological activity along Highland Boundary Faultline. The open parallel ridges to the east of the loch includes Conic and Guallan Hills.

HLA: The open parallel ridges are a mix of prehistoric to present moorland and rough grazing



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Conic Hill and Guallan Hill to the east of the loch are open and the patterns of the ground vegetation mosaics respond closely to and accentuate the distinctive topography.	The open parallel ridges make an important contribution to the landscape character and visual quality of Conic and Guallan Hills. Conic Hill is an important landmark to the lowland areas of the Park and across the south of Loch Lomond. 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. Conic Hill is accessible and offers excellent panoramic views along the Highland line, expressed in the island topography and contrasting prospects between the lowlands and highlands.	No known pressures.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	No archaeology recorded.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Plant communities in ground flora will vary widely to reflect different rock exposures, eg base rich serpentine rock giving rise to Conic Hill SSSI's botanical features: grasslands, groundwater flushes and slope alder woods. Several uncommon woodland birds, one red data book water beetle.	Chiefly of interest to specialists. Medium to high biodiversity importance	Some previous losses due to afforestation
<b>Geology</b>	The parallel ridges are associated with movements along the Highland Boundary Fault zone.	Important to specialists, visitors and local people, by defining the physical, landscape, ecological and cultural transition between highland and lowland.	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.
- There is potential to increase awareness of geological past.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: FORESTED PARALLEL RIDGES

Ridgeline landscape reflecting geological activity along Highland Boundary Faultline. Ben Bowie, to the west of the loch is heavily forested with predominantly coniferous forestry.

HLA: Forested parallel ridges are mainly 20th century woodland and forestry with some 18th – 20th century woodland and forestry and a small amount of 18th –19th century fields and farming.



BENEFITS	CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT?	EVALUATION OF IMPORTANCE	TRENDS & PRESSURES
<b>Sense of place</b>	Ridgeline landform delineating the Highland Boundary Fault zone.  Ben Bowie, to the west of the loch is afforested and forms a wooded backdrop to the valley farmland on the western side of the loch.	The forested parallel ridges provide a frame to the landscape with their dense plantations contributing to the context and backdrop to surrounding farmland. The area is visible, and poor forest design can detract from scenic qualities. The ridged landform is largely obscured by dense forestry planting in this area. Ben Bowie offers an excellent panorama to Ben Lomond, over the south of Loch Lomond and down the Leven Valley. The eye is drawn along the loch islands to Conic Hill along the Highland Boundary Fault, which is clearly expressed in the topography. Unfortunately the access to this view is low profile and somewhat obscured by forestry.	Past patterns of coniferous forestry are now recognised as having a negative landscape impact. The forests are being improved as they are felled and restocked .
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	The plantations are largely 20th century in origin, though some on lower ground date from the 18/19th century.	No archaeology recorded.	Not applicable.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Some of the coniferous forestry is on ancient woodland inventory sites. Protected species may include goshawk, badger and capercaillie.	Of low to medium biodiversity importance	The coniferous commercial forestry is being reduced in extent to incorporate a larger element of native broadleaf woodland.
<b>Geology</b>	The parallel ridges are associated with geological movements along the Highland Boundary Fault Zone.	Important to specialists, visitors, local people, by defining the physical, landscape, ecological and cultural transition between highland and lowland.  Very high geological importance.	Some land management may obscure the features from view.

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The landscape could be enhanced through restructuring with a move towards woodland types that fit into the landscape more comfortably.
- A general reduction of plantation would expose the distinctive geological landform of the area.
- Woodland restructuring such as over Ben Bowie could have great visual benefits by opening out more opportunities for views from the slopes and summits, particularly in relation to the summits path.
- Woodland restructuring and more open space at Ben Bowie is likely to be more sympathetic to plant communities including woodland ground flora, than the existing plantation.
- Woodland restructuring is likely to reduce the commercial plantations, restoring native woodland species to ancient woodland sites. Open areas resulting from restructuring is likely to encourage black grouse and some raptors.



#### Link to National Park Plan

Policies: LS3, LS4, BD15, G1, G5

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH

### LCT: FORESTED MOORLAND HILLS

There is an area of forested moorland hills just to the south of Moor Park. Mosaic of commercial forest, deciduous woodland and rough moorland.

HLA: Woodland and forestry 20th century coniferous plantation.



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.	These areas are not a dominant landscape type. However the area does have accessible views. The area is managed predominantly for forestry.	Pressures for development within this landscape may include windfarms and other infrastructure.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	20th century coniferous plantation. There is no archaeology currently recorded.	Not applicable	Not applicable
<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.	Generally low, occasionally medium biodiversity importance	A benefit could be created through restructuring to create areas of broadleaved woodland and a more diverse age structure in the plantations.

### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Ensure that these areas are managed to create a more natural landscape.
- 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.

## LOCH LOMOND SOUTH