

National Park Trees
& Woodland Strategy

Landscape Capacity Study

2019 – 2039

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1. Introduction

Context

- 1.1 As one of Scotland's finest landscapes, the aims¹ of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park designation are:
- a) to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area;
 - b) to promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area;
 - c) to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public; and
 - d) to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.
- 1.2 In delivering these aims, The National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) 2018 – 2023 is the overarching vision to guide how all those with a role in looking after the Park will work together over the next five years. As part of this, the production of a Trees and Woodland Strategy is an action under *Conservation Priority 1.1 Habitats* in the NPPP.

Purpose of this study

- 1.3 This *Landscape Capacity Study for Trees and Woodland* examines the capacity of a variety of landscapes within the National Park to accommodate new woodland and forestry planting. This will support the production of the emerging *National Park Trees and Woodland Strategy* and therefore, help to deliver woodland creation, nature conservation, amenity and timber production aspirations of the NPPP.
- 1.4 In providing a spatial framework for tree and woodland planting opportunities, this study will seek to conserve and enhance the National Park's special landscape qualities and their associated enjoyment from main travel and recreational routes. At a practical level, it will also provide a valuable tool aimed at land managers and determining authorities to help shape the location and design of woodland planting proposals.

Landscape capacity

- 1.5 Topic Paper 6² defines landscape capacity as '*the degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without significant effects on its character, or overall change of landscape character type. Capacity is also likely to vary according to the type and nature of change being proposed*'.

¹ National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000

² Swanick, Carys and Land Use Consultants (2002). *Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity*. Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.

- 1.6 Assessing landscape sensitivity requires professional judgement about the degree to which the landscape in question is robust, in that it is able to accommodate change without adverse impacts on character and qualities. This involves making decisions about whether or not significant characteristic elements of a landscape will be liable to loss or enhancement, and whether important aesthetic aspects of character will be liable to change.
- 1.7 As noted on SNH's website³, the terms "landscape capacity" or "landscape sensitivity" are often used interchangeably to refer to landscape studies that assess a landscape's susceptibility to a particular type of development. Landscape sensitivity depends on the type, nature and magnitude of the proposed change as well as on the landscape's characteristics. High sensitivity indicates a landscape vulnerable to the change and vice versa.
- 1.8 SNH also notes that landscape capacity will depend on landscape sensitivity. This relates to the degree to which landscape character is either vulnerable to change, or robust enough to persist and to bounce back from loss or damage. Capacity is usually expressed in relative terms, as greater levels of a specific change increasingly and cumulatively affect landscape character – ultimately altering it into a different character.



³ www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape-change/landscape-tools-and-techniques/landscape-capacity-study

2. Methodology

Overview of approach

- 2.1 For the purposes of this study (and the associated *Trees and Woodland Strategy*), 10 Landscape Zones have been identified within the National Park to assess landscape capacity. For each Zone, an initial desk study was undertaken to provide an overview of the study area at a broad level, its Special Landscape Qualities (SLQ's) and how the area is used by people. This includes identification of important visitor destinations, key transport and recreational routes, key viewpoints and key views.
- 2.2 Following a pilot study, it was evident that the capacity for new woodland and forestry planting in each Landscape Zone could often vary quite significantly. In providing a more meaningful assessment therefore, it was decided to sub-divide each Landscape Zone into a number of Sub-zones at a scale where the assessment of capacity would be more consistent across a given area.
- 2.3 For each Sub-zone, a baseline assessment was undertaken through desk and field studies to identify the relevant SLQ's, local landscape character and existing coverage of native woodland and productive conifer. In arriving at an overall evaluation of landscape capacity, an assessment of impact and sensitivity to new woodland and forestry planting was then assessed from a selection of key viewpoints, located on main transport and recreational routes that traverse the Sub-zone.
- 2.4 The study was undertaken by a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) and is in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA) 3rd Edition⁴. The approach is also based on evolving guidance and templates for Assessing Effects on Special Landscape Qualities (SNH, in draft).

Woodland types

- 2.5 For the purposes of this study, landscape capacity has been assessed for the following woodland types:
 - 1) native woodland; and
 - 2) productive conifer.

- 2.6 In assessing the likely impact of these types, it is assumed that any proposals would be planned and designed according to best practice guidance⁵. Although the impact assessment is not based on specific thresholds of planting size, the assessment of capacity is generally based on assumptions that planting is likely to be approximately at least a quarter hectare in size although in some instances, it is recognised that some smaller-scale planting could take place, such as small clumps of trees where this would be characteristic to the local landscape.

Definition of Sub-zones

- 2.7 As previously noted, the spatial framework for the assessment of landscape capacity is based on the sub-division of 10 Landscape Zones into 31 constituent Sub-zones (see Figure 1). The boundaries of these have largely been defined by landscape character and/or predominant ridgelines. The definition of Sub-zones is only intended to provide an indicative representation of an area and in many instances, the transition between each zone is often very gradual. The boundaries of the larger-scale Landscape Zones (originally called 'Action Areas' in the 2003 Tree and Woodland Strategy) were defined on the basis of existing and potential forestry, woodland, natural heritage and community characteristics.

Desk study

- 2.8 As part of the desk study, each Sub-zone was assessed to identify a landscape and visual baseline of:
 - landscape character (based on draft landscape types, SNH 2018)
 - Special Landscape Qualities (based on The Special Landscape Qualities of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, SNH 2010)
 - wild land and wildness (based on SNH and LLTNP data)
 - existing woodland and forestry coverage (based on the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan)
 - key transport and recreational routes, and key viewpoints and views (based on in-house knowledge and expertise).

Field study

- 2.9 Approximately 10 days field work was undertaken to verify the findings of the baseline assessment and to undertake a detailed assessment of landscape capacity from several key viewpoints within each Sub-zone.

⁴ Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013. *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* (GLVIA), version 3

⁵Forestry Commission 2014. *Design techniques for forest management planning - Practice Guide*; and <https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/landscape/forest-landscape-design-training-course>

- 2.10 From each viewpoint, an assessment of the nature of likely impacts and associated sensitivity to change was undertaken, based on a structured assessment that accords with the GVLIA⁶ (see Appendix I). In considering sensitivity, aspects of landscape value (as defined in box 5.1 of the GVLIA) such as scenic quality, conservation interests, recreational value and perceptual aspects have been taken into account. Photos and suggested management guidelines were also recorded.

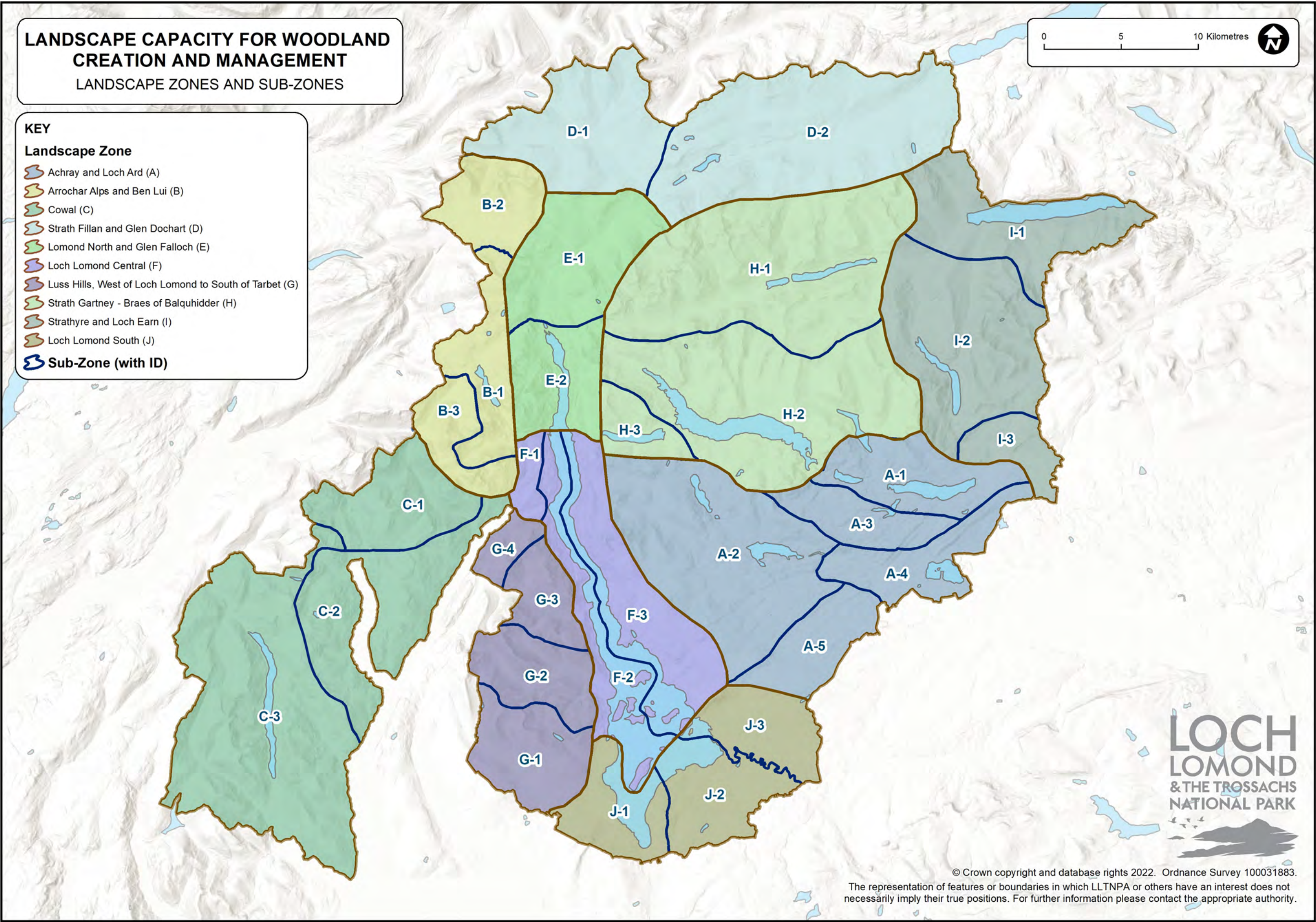
Evaluation criteria

- 2.11 In arriving at an overall judgement of sensitivity and capacity, the following definitions were applied:
- **high capacity** (low sensitivity) - The landscape is generally able to accommodate the type of woodland/forestry without significant landscape change, or in many cases, it might enhance the landscape. In either case, it could potentially relate well to the character and qualities of the area;
 - **medium-high capacity** (low–medium sensitivity) - The landscape is able to accommodate the type of woodland/forestry in some situations without significant landscape change. Many aspects of woodland/forestry could potentially relate to the character and qualities of the area;
 - **medium capacity** (medium sensitivity) - The landscape is quite vulnerable but with some ability to accommodate the type of woodland/forestry in limited situations without significant landscape change and it could potentially relate to some aspects of character and qualities of the area;
 - **low-medium capacity** (medium–high sensitivity) - The landscape is vulnerable and the type of woodland/forestry can only be accommodated in very limited situations without significant landscape change. Woodland/forestry relates to only a few aspects of the landscape and some significant landscape impacts are likely to occur; and
 - **low capacity** (high sensitivity) - The landscape is very vulnerable and is unable to accommodate any woodland/forestry without significant landscape change as a result of the loss of key characteristics and the introduction of uncharacteristic features. Woodland/forestry conflicts with the majority of the key aspects of landscape and widespread significant landscape impacts are very likely to arise.

Limitations of study

- 2.12 In considering the findings of this study, it is important to note the following limitations:
- as a strategic study, it does not replace the need to undertake site-specific assessments of landscape and visual impact for larger-scale woodland proposals and any smaller-scale woodland proposed in more sensitive locations;
 - the field assessment has taken place from a selection of easily accessible key viewpoints located on important recreational and transport routes. Consequently, the assessment of capacity focuses on the approximate view shed from each viewpoint and therefore, does not cover those parts of Sub-zones that are not widely visible from the viewpoints. In practice, most viewpoints are located in lower-lying areas and views from mountain summits and paths have not been considered;
 - where parts of Sub-zones are not covered by the viewpoint assessment, it is possible that landscape capacity for new planting in these areas could vary quite significantly to the findings identified in this study. In any case, an assessment based on the toolkit template (see appendix I) should be undertaken by a Chartered Landscape Architect;
 - in arriving at judgments on capacity, these have only considered landscape and visual criteria. Other practical/technical considerations such as access or ecological constraints have not been taken into account and when developing proposals, it is important that all factors are thoroughly considered;
 - in those situations where opportunities for new planting are limited by the availability of space (i.e. the landscape is already heavily wooded), the assessment sometimes notes where relevant, that although a landscape may have a relatively high landscape capacity for new planting (in landscape terms), opportunities in practice are very limited;
 - the assessment only considers landscape capacity for new planting and in arriving at judgments, the effects of ongoing felling and management have not been taken into account.; and
 - the woodland coverage data used in this study is an amalgamation of Native Woodland Survey Scotland and National Forest Inventory. Although in some instances this does not always provide an entirely up to date and accurate reflection of woodland coverage, it does provide a good understanding of the broad patterns, type and extent of woodland that is characteristic to a landscape.

⁶ Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment 2013. *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* (GLVIA), version 3



Zone A: Achray and Loch Ard

- Sub-zones:
1. Loch Achray and Loch Venachar

2. Loch Ard and Loch Chon

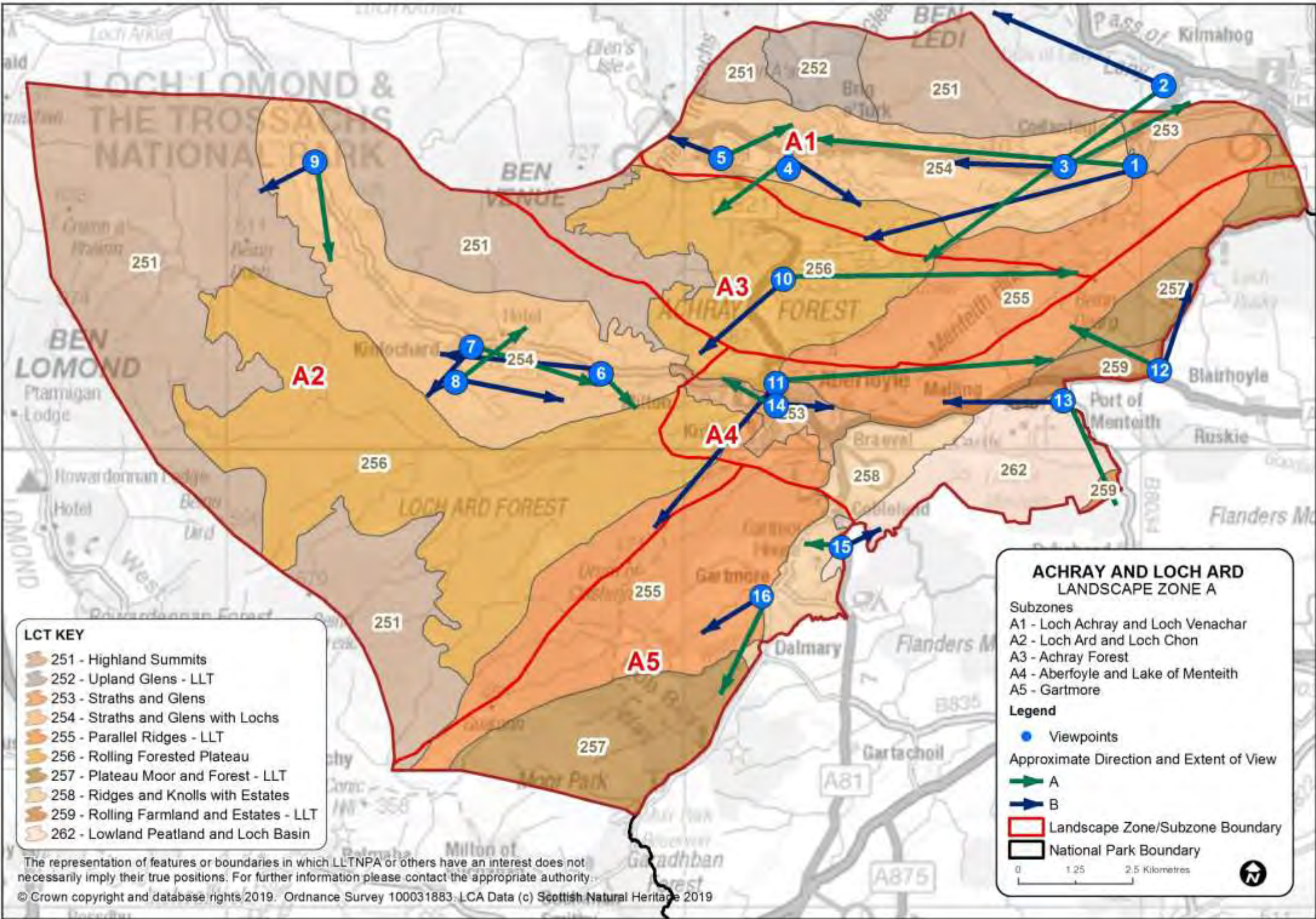
3. Achray Forest

4. Aberfoyle and Lake Menteith

5. Gartmore

Overview of the study area	How the area is used by people	Figure 2: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints
<div>Introduction</div> <p>Zone A is located to the south-east of the National Park and includes several lochs contained within wooded/forested glens, often viewed against a wider backdrop of forested ridges and plateau. Ben Lomond is situated on the western boundary, and Ben Venue and Ben Ledi to the north.</p> <div>Sub-zones</div> <p>Primarily based on an assessment of landscape character and prominent ridgelines, the following Sub-zones (see Figure 2) have been selected to examine the potential for native woodland and productive conifer planting:</p> <div><div>1. Loch Achray and Loch Venachar;</div><div>2. Loch Ard and Loch Chon;</div><div>3. Achray Forest;</div><div>4. Aberfoyle and Lake of Menteith; and</div><div>5. Gartmore.</div></div> <div>Special Landscape Qualities</div> <p>In addition to exhibiting some General Special Landscape Qualities, the landscape and setting of the <i>Achray and Loch Ard</i> Zone represents the following:</p> <div><div><div>Trossachs Landscape Area Special Landscape Qualities</div></div></div>	<div>Key transport and recreational routes</div> <p>Access within the Zone is mostly limited to A roads that lead around some lochs and along adjacent glen floors although in contrast, the winding Duke’s Pass leads over rolling hills to the north of Aberfoyle. The Rob Roy Way also passes between Aberfoyle and Callendar and a network of Core Paths lead through areas of forest and around some loch sides. Most of the Loch Ard Forest to the south-west of the Zone is relatively inaccessible by key transport and recreational routes.</p> <div>Key viewpoints and views</div> <p>As illustrated in Figure 3, the following key viewpoints and associated approximate extent of views have been identified:</p> <div><div>Viewpoint 1: Picnic bench, SE Loch Venachar;</div><div>Viewpoint 2: Bocastle Hill;</div><div>Viewpoint 3: A821;</div><div>Viewpoint 4: A821, Loch Achray north shore;</div><div>Viewpoint 5: A821, Loch Achray south shore;</div><div>Viewpoint 6: Loch Ard, north shore;</div><div>Viewpoint 7: Kinlochard;</div><div>Viewpoint 8: Loch Ard, west shore;</div><div>Viewpoint 9: A821, Loch Chon north-east shore;</div><div>Viewpoint 10: Three Lochs Viewpoint;</div><div>Viewpoint 11: The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre;</div><div>Viewpoint 12: A81/A873;</div><div>Viewpoint 13: Lake of Menteith east shore;</div><div>Viewpoint 14: Aberfoyle, bride over the River Forth;</div><div>Viewpoint 15: A81 Gartmore; and</div><div>Viewpoint 16: West Highland Way, north of Borland Farm.</div></div>	<div><p>The map displays the Achray and Loch Ard Landscape Zone A, which is divided into five sub-zones labeled A1 through A5. A1 and A2 are located in the north-west, A3 in the north-east, A4 in the south-east, and A5 in the south-west. The map uses a color-coded system to represent existing woodland cover: orange for native woodland and yellow for non-native woodland. Blue dots indicate key viewpoints, numbered 1 through 16. The map also shows the National Park Boundary, Core Paths (LLTPN), and the Wildness Area (WMA). A scale bar in the top left indicates distances up to 3 kilometers. A north arrow is also present. The map is titled 'ACHRAY AND LOCH ARD LANDSCAPE ZONE A' and includes a legend for the various features shown.</p></div>

Figure 3: Landscape character, key viewpoints and views



Sub-zone 1: Loch Achray and Loch Venachar

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Trossachs* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Achray and Loch Venachar* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms/A landscape of beautiful lochs;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Tranquillity;
- A harmonious concentration of lochs, woods and hills;
- Rugged Ben Venue, the centrepiece of the Trossachs; and
- The romance of the Trossachs.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 3, the *Loch Achray and Loch Venachar* Sub-zone is characterised by *Straths and Glens/with Lochs, Uplands Glens, Highland Summits, Parallel Ridges* and *Rolling Forested Plateau* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 2, the Sub-zone is already quite heavily wooded/forested. To the north of Loch Venachar, a large area of native woodland extends across the south-western facing slopes of Stuc Odhar, towards the Glen Finglas reservoir, and across the northern glen slopes that contain Loch Achray. To the south of the Sub-zone, small stands of native woodland are scattered amongst extensive areas of productive conifer that provide a heavily wooded/forested setting to the lochs.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 2, the upper slopes and summits towards Ben Ledi are Wild Land and the wooded summit of hills to west of Loch Achray form an area of Core Wildness.

Viewpoint 1: Picnic bench, SE Loch Venachar (NN 59854 06170) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-west over Loch Venachar



View B: Looking south-west over Loch Venachar

Viewpoint 2: Bocastle Hill (NN 60482 07919) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west over Loch Venachar



View B: Looking west over the southern slopes of Ben Ledi

Viewpoint 3: A821 (NN 58302 06146) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking east along the A821



View B: Looking south-west along the A821

Viewpoint 4: A821, Loch Achray north shore (NN 52272 06364) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking west over Loch Achray



View B: Looking south-east over Loch Achray

Viewpoint 5: A821, Loch Achray south shore (NN 50806 06335) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east over Loch Achray



View B: Looking west along the shore of Loch Achray

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although extensive productive conifer exists in many parts, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes and any nearby native woodland.	Medium
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would reinforce the contrast between the wild and rugged character of open summits in the surrounding landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive woodland</u> : Some additional productive conifer planting along lower glen sides would reinforce the contrast between the wild and rugged character of open summits in the surrounding landscape	Low
Water in its many forms/A landscape of beautiful lochs	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some further native woodland planting in the wooded backdrop of the lochs would enhance their setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Further productive conifer planting in the wooded backdrop of the lochs would enhance their setting.	Low
The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting along the glen sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although along some glen sides, it could contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Famous through routes /The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the lochs and of surrounding mountain summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the lochs and of surrounding mountain summits.	Medium
Tranquillity/ The romance of the Trossachs.	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most parts, the planting of some further native woodland along glen sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glens.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most parts, the planting of productive conifer along glen sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glens.	Low
A harmonious concentration of lochs, woods and hills;	<u>Native woodland</u> : Any large areas of planting could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding open hills.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Any large areas of planting could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding open hills.	Medium
Rugged Ben Venue, the centrepiece of the Trossachs	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most places, the planting of some new native woodland along the glen sides is unlikely to adversely affect the landscape setting and rugged character of Ben Venue.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, the planting of some new productive along the glen sides is unlikely to adversely affect the landscape setting and rugged character of Ben Venue.	Low

Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Straths and Glens with Lochs/Upland Glens LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen sides would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Additional productive conifer that relates to exiting stands woodland would conserve the wooded character of the glens in most places.	Low
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits although on lower slopes, it could link with existing planting.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits although on lower slopes, it could link with existing planting.	Medium
Parallel Ridges/Rolling Forested Plateau LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes.	Low

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

On the glen sides that contain Loch Achray and Loch Venachar, additional native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting of the lochs without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the area. In the backdrop to the north however, the *Mountain Summits* LCT, which includes the distinctive summit of Ben Ledi, is largely free of woodland and its open character should be conserved although to the south of the lochs, planting on the *Rolling Forested Plateaux* and *Parallel Ridges* LCTs would enhance the diversity of the extensive forests.

Although most of the glen sides are already heavily wooded and opportunity for additional planting is very limited, there is scope for new planting on the north-eastern glen side of Loch Venachar.

Guidelines

- Promote native woodland on lower glen sides, particularly around parts of Loch Venachar.
- Encourage natural regeneration on upper glen sides.
- Maintain open views towards nearby mountain summits.
- Maintain any open views over Loch Achray and Loch Venachar.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

On the glen sides that contain Loch Achray and Loch Venachar, additional productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting of the lochs without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the area. In the backdrop to the north however, the *Mountain Summits* LCT, including the distinctive summit of Ben Ledi, is largely free of forestry and its open character should be conserved although to the south of the lochs, planting on the *Rolling Forested Plateaux* and *Parallel Ridges* LCTs would enhance the wooded setting.

Although most of the glen sides around Loch Achray are already heavily wooded and opportunity for additional planting is very limited in practice, there is scope for additional woodland on the north-eastern glen side of Loch Venachar.

Guidelines

- Avoid planting on open upper hill slopes and near to distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of hill slopes and adjoining glens.
- Promote diverse productive conifer on lower glen sides, particularly around parts of Loch Venachar.
- Maintain open views towards nearby mountain summits.
- Maintain any open views over Loch Achray and Loch Venachar.

Sub-zone 2: Loch Ard and Loch Chon

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Trossachs* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Ard and Loch Chon* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms/A landscape of beautiful lochs;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Tranquillity;
- A harmonious concentration of lochs, woods and hills;
- Rugged Ben Venue, the centrepiece of the Trossachs; and
- The romance of the Trossachs.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 3, the *Loch Ard and Loch Chon* Sub-zone is characterised by *Straths and Glens/with Lochs, Highland Summits* and *Rolling Forested Plateau* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 2, the Sub-zone is already quite heavily wooded/forested. A pattern of dense native woodlands are concentrated around the lochs and alongside small burns on the glen sides. Stands of native woodland are also scattered amongst extensive areas of productive conifer that extend across much of the Sub-zone and provide a heavily wooded/forested setting to the lochs.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 2, several small areas of Wildness are found on several upper slopes and summits to the north-west of the Sub-zone, including Ben Lomond to the west. There are no areas of Core Wildness in the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 6: Loch Ard, north shore (NN 48184 01625) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east over Loch Ard



View B: Looking south-west over Loch Ard

Viewpoint 7: Kinlochard (NN 45348 02209) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking east over Loch Ard



View B: Looking south-west over Loch Ard

Viewpoint 8: Loch Ard, west shore (NN 45005 01446) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east over Loch Ard



View B: Looking south-east towards forested hills

Viewpoint 9: A821, Loch Chon north-east shore (NN 41926 06252) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking south over Loch Chon



View B: Looking west over Loch Chon

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : New productive planting would generally conserve rural beauty in most places.	Low
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would reinforce the contrast between the wild and rugged character of open summits in the surrounding landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive woodland</u> : Some additional productive conifer planting along lower glen sides would reinforce the contrast between the wild and rugged character of open summits in the surrounding landscape	Low
Water in its many forms/A landscape of beautiful lochs	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some further native woodland planting in the wooded backdrop of the lochs would enhance their setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Further productive conifer planting in the wooded backdrop of the lochs would enhance their setting.	Low
The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting along the glen sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse effects in most places.	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Famous through routes /The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the lochs and of surrounding mountain summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the lochs and of surrounding mountain summits.	Medium
Tranquillity/The romance of the Trossachs.	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along glen sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glens.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most parts, the planting of productive conifer along glen sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glens.	Low
A harmonious concentration of lochs, woods and hills;	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although any large areas of planting could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding open hills, there is no space available for this in practice.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although any large areas of planting could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding open hills, there is no space available for this in practice.	Low
Rugged Ben Venue, the centrepiece of the Trossachs	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most places, the planting of some new native woodland along the glen sides is unlikely to adversely affect the landscape setting and rugged character of Ben Venue.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, the planting of some new productive along the glen sides is unlikely to adversely affect the landscape setting and rugged character of Ben Venue.	Low
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Straths and Glens with Lochs	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen sides would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some further productive conifer that relates to exiting stands woodland would conserve the wooded character of the glens in most places.	Low
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits although on lower slopes, it could link with existing planting.	Medium
	Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits although on lower slopes, it could link with existing planting.	Medium
Rolling Forested Plateau LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes.	Low

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity : High

On the glen sides that contain Loch Ard and Loch Chon, additional native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting of the lochs without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the area. Although parts of the *Mountain Summits* LCT to the north of the lochs are visible from some lower-lying areas, the hill slopes are already partially forested and additional woodland planting is unlikely to compromise their role in providing a backdrop to the lochs. To the south of the lochs, planting of native woodland on the *Rolling Forested Plateaux* LCT would also enhance the diversity of its heavily forested character.

However, the glen sides surrounding the lochs are already heavily wooded with little or no opportunity for additional planting.

Guidelines

- Encourage natural regeneration on upper glen sides.
- Promote the planting of native woodland on lower glen sides.
- Maintain open views towards nearby mountain summits.
- Maintain any open views over Loch Ard and Loch Chon.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: High

On the glen sides that contain Loch Ard and Loch Chon, additional productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting of the lochs without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the area. Although parts of the *Mountain Summits* LCT to the north of the lochs are visible from some lower-lying areas, the hill slopes are already partially forested and further planting is unlikely to compromise their role in providing a backdrop to the lochs. To the south of the lochs, any planting on the *Rolling Forested Plateaux* LCT would enhance the forested character.

However, the glen sides surrounding the lochs are already heavily wooded with little or no opportunity for additional planting.

Guidelines

- Avoid planting on any distinctive skyline landforms and near to distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Promote the planting of some productive conifer on lower glen sides.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of hill slopes and adjoining glens.
- Maintain open views towards nearby mountain summits.
- Maintain any open views over Loch Ard and Loch Chon.

Sub-zone 3: Achray Forest

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Trossachs* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Achray Forest* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms/A landscape of beautiful lochs;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Tranquillity;
- A harmonious concentration of lochs, woods and hills;
- Rugged Ben Venue, the centrepiece of the Trossachs; and
- The romance of the Trossachs.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 3, the *Achray Forest* Sub-zone is characterised by *Rolling Forested Plateau Parallel Ridges* and *Highland Summits* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 2, the Sub-zone is already quite heavily wooded/forested. Extensive areas of productive conifer with scattered native woodlands extend across much of the Sub-zone and provide a heavily wooded/forested setting to the wider landscape. A pattern of dense native woodlands are concentrated in some lower-lying areas, particularly along the lower slopes of the Duke’s Pass, and alongside small burns across the landscape.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 2, two small areas of Wildness are found on the slopes of Ben Venue to the west of the Sub-zone. There are no areas of Core Wildness.

Viewpoint 10: Three Lochs Viewpoint (NN 52162 03691) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking east over extensive rolling forestry and woodland



View A: Looking south-west over extensive rolling forestry and woodland

Viewpoint 11: The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre (NN 52011 01420) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking east over extensive rolling forestry and woodland



View B: Looking south-west over extensive rolling forestry and woodland

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland in most parts would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity although in places, it could result in the loss of semi-natural grassland and moorland.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : New productive planting would generally conserve rural beauty in most parts although in places, it could result in the loss of semi-natural grassland and moorland.	Medium
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : In general, planting across most parts would reinforce the contrast between the wild and rugged character of open summits and the pastoral lowlands in the wider landscape.	Low
	<u>Native woodland</u> : In general, planting across most parts would reinforce the contrast between the wild and rugged character of rugged open summits and the pastoral lowlands in the wider landscape.	Low
Water in its many forms/A landscape of beautiful lochs	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some further native woodland planting in the wooded backdrop of the lochs and alongside small burns would enhance their setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Further productive conifer planting in the wooded backdrop of the lochs would enhance their setting.	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional planting would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse effects in most places.	Low
Famous through routes /The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium
Tranquillity/ The romance of the Trossachs.	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most parts, the planting of productive conifer would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity.	Low
A harmonious concentration of lochs, woods and hills;	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on some open areas of grassland and moorland could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding parts of open hills.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on some open areas of grassland and moorland could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding parts of open hills.	Medium
Rugged Ben Venue, the centrepiece of the Trossachs	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most parts of the landscape, the planting of some new native woodland is unlikely to adversely affect the landscape setting and rugged character of Ben Venue.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most parts of the landscape, the planting of some new native woodland is unlikely to adversely affect the landscape setting and rugged character of Ben Venue.	Low
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Parallel Ridges and Rolling Forested Plateau LCTs	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes although important open areas should be protected.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes although important open areas should be protected.	Low
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on any mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of distinctive summits.	High
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of distinctive summits.	High

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity : Medium-high

Within the Rolling Forested Plateaux LCT that forms much of the Achray Forest, additional native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the diversity of its heavily forested character without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the area. However, patches of semi-natural open moorland and rough pasture provide visual interest amongst the densely wooded landscape and any further planting on these areas could compromise landscape pattern and some views across it.

Guidelines

- Consider the planting of some native woodland where important views across the landscape are not adversely affected.
- Protect the semi-natural character of areas of open moorland and rough pastures.
- Protect long distance views towards surrounding mountain summits.
- Encourage natural regeneration on steeper hill slopes.
- Encourage the planting of some native woodland amongst larger stands of productive conifer
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural rolling landform.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

Within the Rolling Forested Plateaux LCT that forms much of the Achray Forest, additional productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance its heavily forested character without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the area. However, patches of semi-natural open moorland and rough pasture provide visual interest amongst the densely wooded landscape and any further planting on these areas could compromise landscape pattern and some views across it.

Guidelines

- Consider the planting of some diverse productive conifer where important views across the landscape are not adversely affected.
- Protect long distance views towards surrounding mountain summits.
- Protect the semi-natural character of areas of open moorland and rough pastures.
- Encourage planting near to larger stands of productive conifer.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural rolling landform.

Sub-zone 4: **Aberfoyle and Lake of Menteith**

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Trossachs* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Aberfoyle and Lake of Menteith* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop;
- The curious wooded hillocks of Aberfoyle; and
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 3, the *Aberfoyle and Lake of Menteith* Sub-zone is characterised by *Straths and Glens, Ridges and Knolls with Estates, Rolling Farmland and Estates, Lowland Peatland & Loch Basin, Parallel Ridges* and *Plateau Moor & Forest* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 2, parts of the Sub-zone are already quite heavily wooded/forested. Large areas of productive conifer extend across most areas of higher ground where the ridges and moorland plateau provide a distinctive backdrop to the glen floor and nearby basin that holds the Lake of Menteith. In lower-lying parts, areas of native woodland are more characteristic with relatively extensive coverage on the lower hill slopes near to Aberfoyle.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 2, there are no areas of Core Wildness or Wild Land within the sub-zone.

Viewpoint 12: A81/A873 (NN 60392 01696) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking north-west over gently rolling pastoral fields



View B: Looking north-east over gently rolling pastoral fields

Viewpoint 13: Lake of Menteith east shore (NN 58281 01032) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking south over the Lake of Menteith



View B: Looking west over the Lake of Menteith

Viewpoint 14: Bride over the River Forth, Aberfoyle (NN 52012 00928) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking west over the glen floor



View B: Looking east over the glen floor

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most parts, the planting of some new native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance rural beauty. Planting on open parts of the glen floor and rural farmland to the east of the Sub-zone however could compromise character in many places.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : New productive planting on areas of higher ground would generally conserve rural beauty in most parts although in lower-lying areas, the prevailing pattern of broadleaved trees and small woodlands and the associated rural character of open pastures would be adversely affected.	Medium
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting across most areas of higher ground would generally reinforce the contrast between the summits evident to the west of the Sub-zone and the pattern of pastoral fields to the east although with large-scale planting on the glen floor and loch basin, pastoral character would be lost.	Medium
	<u>Productive woodland</u> : Although planting on areas of higher ground would generally reinforce the contrast, planting on lower-lying parts would strongly detract from the distinctive pastoral character.	Medium
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some woodland clumps and riparian trees in the setting to the Lake of Menteith and alongside water courses would enhance their setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Productive conifer planting near to the Lake of Menteith and alongside water courses would detract from their semi-natural character.	High
The rich variety of woodlands/ The curious wooded hillocks of Aberfoyle	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional planting would tend to enhance the existing variety of woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in most lower-lying parts, it would contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Famous through routes /The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium
Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional planting in the immediate backdrop to Aberfoyle would enhance its wider setting of surrounding open summits.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting would conserve the existing forested backdrop although in places, it could detract from nearby native woodland and open summits.	Medium

Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Parallel Ridges and Plateau Moor LCTs	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes.	Low
Straths & Glens, <i>Ridges and Knolls with Estates</i> , , <i>Rolling Farmland and Estates</i> and Lowland Peatland & Loch Basin LCTs	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although woodland clumps and riparian trees on some parts of the glen floor would be characteristic, any large areas of planting could compromise the open character of the glen floor and nearby loch basin.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting would generally detract from nearby native woodlands and/or the open character of these landscapes.	High

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium

On the Menteith Hills that provide an important backdrop to the town of Aberfoyle and the Lake of Menteith, additional native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Across the glen floor and parts of the associated peat basin that contains the Lake of Menteith however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive woodland planting.

Guidelines

- Promote the planting of native woodland on the slopes of the Menteith Hills that provide an important setting to the town and surrounding landscape.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of steep ridges and hill slopes.
- Encourage natural regeneration on steep ridges, away from distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Maintain important open views over the Lake of Menteith.
- Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees on some parts of the glen floor where important open views would not be affected.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Low-medium

On the Menteith Hills that provide an important backdrop to the town of Aberfoyle and the Lake of Menteith, sensitive additional productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Across the glen floor and the associated peat basin that contains the Lake of Menteith however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ would be compromised by extensive planting. In most places, productive conifer would also contrast with the prevailing pattern of broadleaved trees and woodlands found on lower-lying areas and the associated rural character of open pastures.

Guidelines

- Promote the planting of some productive conifer on the slopes of the Menteith Hills that provide an important setting to the town and surrounding landscape.
- Avoid planting near to distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.
- Maintain important open views over the glen floor and the Lake of Menteith.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of steep.

Sub-zone 5: **Gartmore**

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Trossachs* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Gartmore* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands; and
- The easily accessible landscape splendour.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 3, the *Gartmore* Sub-zone is characterised by *Ridges and Knolls with Estates*, *Parallel Ridges* and *Plateau Moor & Forest* and LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 2, parts of the Sub-zone are already quite heavily wooded/forested. Large stands of productive conifer extend across some areas of higher ground of ridges and moorland plateau. In lower-lying parts to the east of the Sub-zone, smaller areas of native woodland are more characteristic, including some with a parkland character.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 2, there are no areas of Core Wildness or Wild Land within the sub-zone.

Viewpoint 15: A81 Gartmore (NS 53431 97831) - moderate number of visitors



Viewpoint A: Looking west over pastoral fields



Viewpoint B: Looking north-west over pastoral fields

Viewpoint 16: West Highland Way, north of Borland Farm (NN 51691 96756) - moderate number of visitors



Viewpoint A: Looking south over forested ridges and moorland



Viewpoint B: Looking south-west over forested ridges and moorland

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most parts, the planting of some new native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance rural beauty. Planting on open parts of the glen floor and rural farmland to the east of the Sub-zone however could compromise character in many places.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : New productive planting on areas of higher ground would generally conserve rural beauty in most parts although in lower-lying areas, the prevailing pattern of broadleaved trees and small woodlands and the associated rural character of open pastures would be adversely affected.	Medium
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some woodland clumps and riparian trees alongside water courses would enhance their setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Productive conifer planting alongside water courses could detract from their semi-natural character.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding rural landscape.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding rural landscape.	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Parallel Ridges and Plateau Moor & Forest LCTs	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes.	Low
<i>Ridges and Knolls with Estates</i> LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although woodland clumps and riparian trees on some parts of the glen floor would be characteristic, any large areas of planting could compromise the open pastoral character of the glen floor and/or parkland landscapes.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting would generally detract from nearby native woodlands and/or the character of pastoral and parkland landscapes.	High

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium</p> <p>On the low-lying ridges and moor to the west and south of Gartmore, additional native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Across parts of the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures and areas with a parkland character could be compromised by extensive woodland planting.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional native woodland on the low-lying hills that provide an important wooded setting to Gartmore and associated glen floor would be favoured.• Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the hills.• Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees on some parts of the glen floor where important open views would not be affected.• Protect the parkland character in the grounds of Gartartan Castle.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium</p> <p>On the low-lying ridges and moor to the west and south of Gartmore, sensitive additional productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Across parts of the glen floor however, pastoral lowlands could be compromised by extensive planting. In some places, productive conifer could also contrast with rural character, the prevailing pattern of broadleaved trees and woodlands found on lower-lying areas and the setting of the parkland landscape of Gartartan Castle.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the hills.• Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.• Maintain important open views over the glen floor.• Protect the parkland character in the grounds of Gartartan Castle.

Zone B: Arrochar Alps and Ben Lui

Sub-zones:

1. Loch Sloy and the Inveruglas Water
2. Ben Lui/Ben Oss/Cobbler
3. Rest And Be Thankful

Overview of the study area

Introduction

Zone B is located to the west of the northern part of Loch Lomond and to its north, Glen Falloch and Strath Fillan. Characterised by the *Highland Summits* and *Upland Glens-LLT* Landscape Character Types (LCTs), the area exhibits a number of prominent summits including The Cobbler, Ben Oss, Ben Vorlich, Ben Lui, Ben Vane and Beinn Ime. These distinctive summits are also intersected by several deeply incised upland glens, including Glen Kinglas, Cononish Glen, and Gleann nan Caorann.

Sub-zones

Primarily based on an assessment of landscape character and prominent ridgelines, the following Sub-zones (see Figure 4) have been selected to examine the potential for native woodland and productive conifer planting:

1. Loch Sloy and the Inveruglas Water;
2. Ben Lui and Ben Oss; and
3. Rest and Be Thankful.

Special Landscape Qualities

In addition to exhibiting some General Special Landscape Qualities, the landscape and setting of the *Arrochar Alps and Ben Lui* Zone represents the following:

- *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area Special Landscape Qualities;
- *Argyll Forest* Special Landscape Qualities; and
- *Breadalbane* Landscape Area Special Landscape Qualities.

How the area is used by people

Visitor destinations

Important visitor destinations in and around the Zone include:

- Rest and Be Thankful;
- Loch Lomond;
- Glen Falloch and Cononish Glen;
- Ben Vorlich, Ben Lui, Ben Vane and Beinn Ime; and
- Loch Sloy.

Key transport and recreational routes

Access within the Zone is mostly limited to hill tracks and a small section of Core Path that leads up the northern and eastern slopes of the Cobbler. The busy A82 that follows the western shore of Loch Lomond and the A83 that leads towards the Rest and Be Thankful are also within close proximity to the Zone.

Key viewpoints and views

As illustrated in Figure 5, the following key viewpoints and associated approximate extent of views have been identified:

- Viewpoint 1: Loch Sloy;
- Viewpoint 2: Path to Ben Vorlich, nr sub-station;
- Viewpoint 3: Inveruglas viewpoint;
- Viewpoint 4: Cononish Glen;
- Viewpoint 5: Cononish Glen – A82;
- Viewpoint 6: Troisgeach mast track;
- Viewpoint 7: Minor road, Gleann Mor;
- Viewpoint 8: Butterbridge; and
- Viewpoint 9: Glen Kinglas

Figure 4: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints

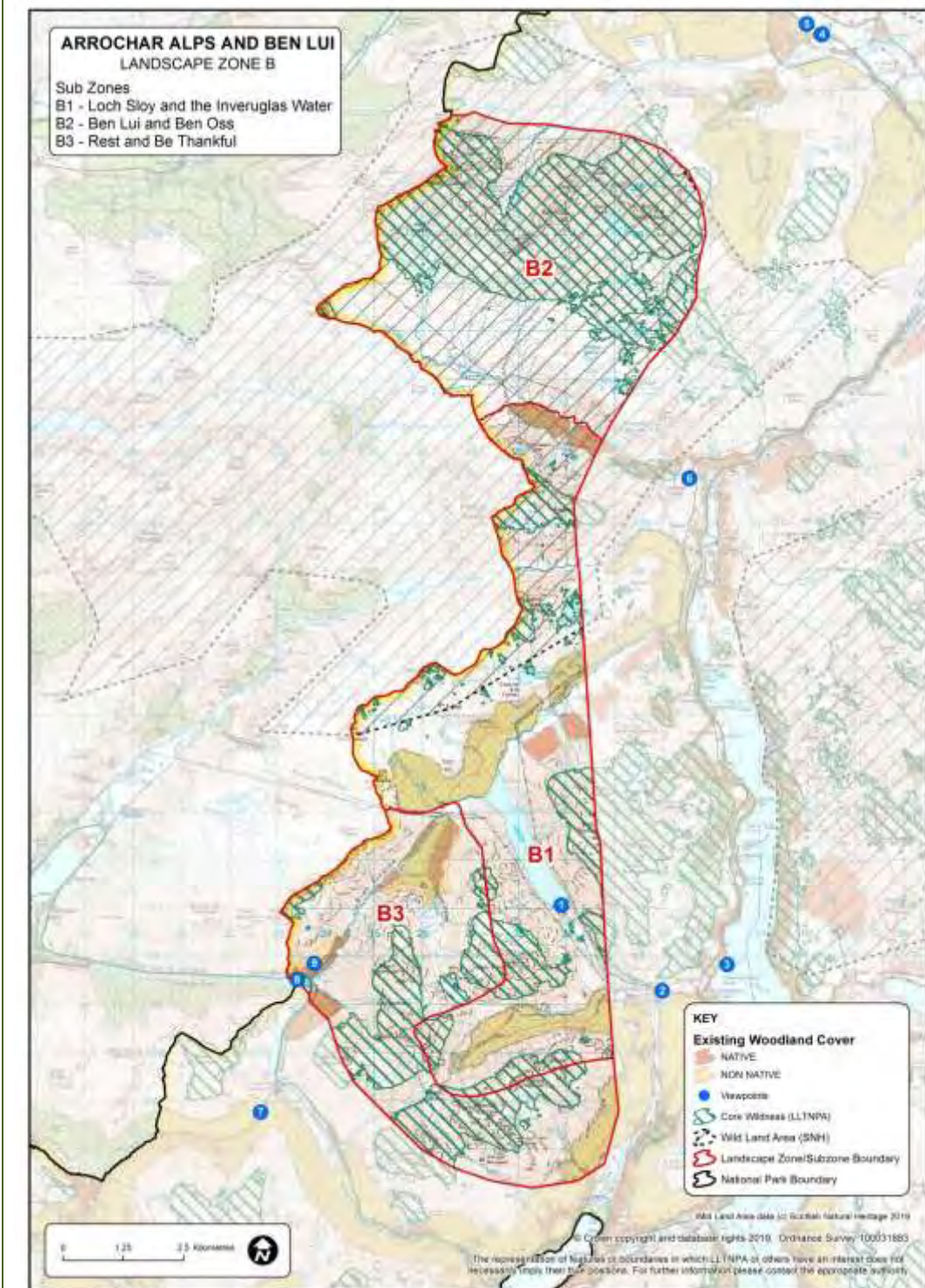
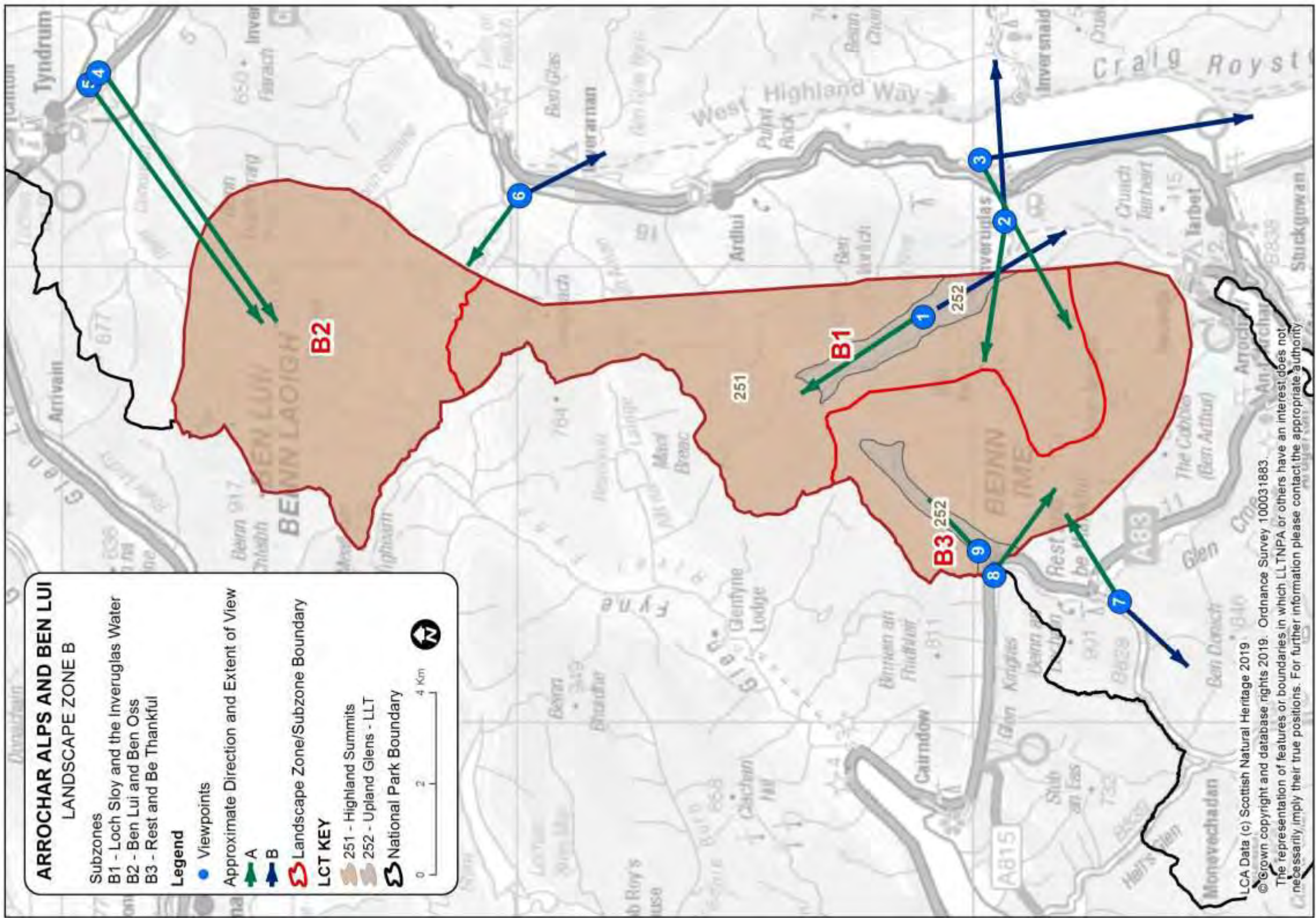


Figure 5: Landscape character, key viewpoints and views



Sub-zone 1: Loch Sloy and the Inveruglas Water

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Sloy and the Inveruglas Water* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Distinctive mountain groups;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- Famous through-routes;
- Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Tranquillity/Peaceful side glens;
- The rich variety of woodlands; and
- The easily accessible landscape splendour.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 5, the *Loch Sloy and the Inveruglas Water* Sub-zone is characterised by the *Highland Summits* and the *Upland Glens - LLT* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

To the east of the glen that leads towards Loch Lomond, a narrow ribbon of native woodland lines the banks of the Inveruglas Water, with occasional riparian trees dotted along the burn further north towards Loch Sloy. A dense coverage of productive conifer woodland extends across the north facing slopes of Dubh Chnoc to the south of Inveruglas Water and to the west, along the slopes that contain the Allt Coriegrogain. A stand of productive conifer also extends the lower slopes of Maol Breac, located at the north-west of Loch Sloy.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

All of the Sub-zone to the north of Strath Dubh Uisge is within an area of Wild Land and its main summits are areas of Core Wildness. To the south of the Sub-zone, all of the more notable highland summits, including Ben Vane and Ben Vorlich, are also are Core Wildness areas.

Viewpoint 1: Loch Sloy (NN 28887 11074) – low number of visitors



Viewpoint A. Looking north-west over Loch Sloy towards Maol Breac



Viewpoint B. Looking south-east along the Inveruglas Water towards Ben Lomond

Viewpoint 2: Path to Ben Vorlich, nr sub-station (NN 30986 09291) – moderate number of visitors



Viewpoint A: Looking west towards Ben Vane (centre of view)



Viewpoint B: Looking east over Loch Lomond

Viewpoint 3: Inveruglas viewpoint (NN 32332 09833) – large number of visitors



Viewpoint A: Looking south-west towards A Chrois



Viewpoint B: Looking south over Loch Lomond

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although productive conifer exists on some glens sides, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes and Loch Lomond.	Medium
Distinctive mountain groups	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides is unlikely to affect views and the landscape setting of nearby mountain summits of Ben Lomond, Ben Vane, A Crois, Ben Ime, Ben Vorlich and Beinn Dubh.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of productive conifer on some slopes could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of, surrounding summits.	Medium
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would reinforce the contrast between the open character of surrounding rugged summits and the pattern of pastures that line the banks of Loch Lomond.	Low
	<u>Productive woodland</u> : Some additional productive conifer planting along lower glen sides would reinforce the contrast between the open character of surrounding rugged summits and the pattern of pastures that line the banks of Loch Lomond.	Low
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some further native woodland planting along the lower hill slopes that contain Loch Sloy would enhance its setting. Planting along the banks of the Inveruglas Water would also conserve and enhance riverine character	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some further planting to the east of the glen is likely to compromise views of Loch Lomond although some planting on the lower slopes around Loch Sloy could be accommodated without detracting from views of the open water.	Medium
Famous through routes	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from the nearby A82, the planting of some woodland along the Inveruglas Water would enhance the wooded appearance to the entrance of the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from the nearby A82, the planting of some woodland along the Inveruglas Water would enhance the wooded appearance to the entrance of the glen.	Low
Tranquillity/Peaceful side glens	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting could enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen although in some instances, it could be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with nearby native woodland.	Medium
Banks of broadleaved woodland/The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although along the glen floor and lower sides, it could contrast with existing broadleaved woodland and riverine trees.	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : Where relatively access to the glen is provided by a tarmacked path that leads to Loch Sloy, the planting of new woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would tend to enhance landscape splendour.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Where relatively access to the glen is provided by a tarmacked path that leads to Loch Sloy, the planting of some new woodland along the glen floor and lower sides could detract from the rugged hill slopes.	Medium
Landscape character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
Upland Glens - LLT LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and glen sides that reflects the existing coverage of riparian woodland would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some further productive conifer woodland that relates to exiting woodland to the south of the glen would enhance the wooded character although in places, it could detract from existing native woodlands and views towards nearby mountain summits.	Medium

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium-high</p> <p>Along the glen floor and lower sides, native woodland planting would reinforce the pattern of existing woodland present along parts of the burn and in general, would enhance the landscape character and quality without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the landscape. Extensive planting on upper hill slopes however would detract from the open character and in some instances, may compromise views to surrounding mountain summits.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional native woodland on the glen floor and on some lower glen sides would be favoured. • Maintain open views towards mountain summits. • Ensure open ground is used to enhance complex riverine landforms and distinctive rocky outcrops. • Encourage natural regeneration on some steep hill slopes.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium</p> <p>Along the lower sides of the glen, productive conifer could relate to adjacent areas of forestry in places although extensive planting could compromise some Special Landscape Qualities such as the setting of distinctive mountain summits and the contrast of wild and rugged highlands with pastoral lowlands. Planting on or near to glen floor could also detract from existing native woodland.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited productive conifer on lower glen sides that link with existing stands of commercial forestry would be favoured. • Avoid planting on open upper hill slopes. • Maintain open views towards mountain summits. • Avoid planting on complex riverine landforms and near to distinctive rocky outcrops. • Avoid planting near to existing native woodland and trees. • Ensure woodland edges follow the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.

Sub-zone 2: Ben Lui and Ben Oss

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Ben Lui and Ben Oss* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Distinctive mountain groups;
- Famous through-routes;
- Tranquillity;
- The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- A landscape of distinctive glens and straths;
- Wide Strath Fillan; and
- Sinuous Glen Falloch.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 5, the *Ben Lui and Ben Oss* Sub-zone is characterised by the *Highland Summits* and the *Upland Glens – LLT* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

The Sub-zone exhibits no native woodland or productive conifer although the adjacent northern slopes of Gleann nan Caorann are covered in native woodland.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

All of the Sub-zone is within an area of Wild Land and the cluster of summits to the north centred on Ben Oss, are areas of Core Wildness.

Viewpoint 4: Cononish Glen - footpath (NN 34239 29168) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south over Cononish Glen from footpath towards Ben Oss

Viewpoint 5: Cononish Glen – A82 (NN 33986 29382) - moderate number of visitors



View B: Looking south over Cononish Glen from A82 towards Ben Oss

Viewpoint 6: Troisgeach mast track (NN 31547 19937) - low number of visitors



View A: Looking north-west towards Creag nan Caorann



View B: Looking south-east over Glen Falloch

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Productive conifer could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes.	Medium
Distinctive mountain groups	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes is unlikely to affect views to, and the landscape setting of, nearby mountain summits of Ben Oss and Ben Lui.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of productive conifer on some slopes could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of, surrounding summits.	Medium
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some native woodland within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes would reinforce the contrast between the open character of the surrounding rugged summits and the pattern of pastures along Glen Falloch and Strath Fillan.	Low
	<u>Productive woodland</u> : Some productive conifer planting within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes would reinforce the contrast between the open character of the surrounding rugged summits and the pattern of pastures along Glen Falloch and Strath Fillan.	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Famous through routes	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from the nearby A82, the planting of some woodland within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes would enhance the wooded setting to Glen Falloch and Strath Fillan.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from the nearby A82, the planting of some woodland within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes would enhance the wooded setting to Glen Falloch and Strath Fillan.	Low
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some native woodland within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes could enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen although in some instances, it could be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with nearby native woodland.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : Where relatively easy footpath access is provided near to the A82, the planting of some new woodland within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes would tend to enhance landscape splendour.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Where relatively easy footpath access is provided near to the A82, the planting of some new woodland within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes could detract from the rugged hill slopes.	Medium
A landscape of distinctive glens and straths/Wide Strath Fillan/Sinuous Glen Falloch	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes would enhance the wooded setting to Glen Falloch and Strath Fillan.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting within upland glens and on some lower hill slopes would enhance the wooded setting to Glen Falloch and Strath Fillan.	Low
Landscape character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Mountains Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
Upland Glens - LLT LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and glen sides that reflects the existing coverage of woodland on the northern slopes of the Gleann nan Caorann (adjacent to Sub-zone) would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some productive conifer woodland that relates to exiting woodland to the south of the glen would enhance the wooded character although in places, it could detract from existing native woodlands and views towards nearby mountain summits.	Medium

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium

Within low-lying parts of Gleann nan Caorann and some surrounding lower hill slopes, native woodland planting would be characteristic to the glen and in general, would enhance landscape character and quality without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the landscape. Extensive planting on upper slopes hill slopes however would detract from the open character and in some instances, may compromise views to surrounding mountain summits and associated wild qualities.

Guidelines

- Some native woodland on glen floors, lower glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.
- Maintain open views towards mountain summits.
- Maintain open views over Glen Falloch and Strath Fillan.
- Ensure open ground is used to enhance complex riverine landforms and distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Encourage natural regeneration on some steep hill slopes.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium-low

Within low-lying parts of Gleann nan Caorann and some surrounding lower hill slopes, productive conifer planting could reflect adjacent areas of woodland in places. Extensive planting could detract from, or compromise, some Special Landscape Qualities such as the setting of distinctive mountain summits and the contrast of wild and rugged highlands with pastoral lowlands. Planting on or near to glen floors could also detract from existing native woodland.

Guidelines

- Limited productive conifer on lower glen sides that link with existing stands of woodland would be favoured.
- Maintain open views towards mountain summits.
- Maintain open views over Glen Falloch and Strath Fillan.
- Avoid planting on open upper hill slopes.
- Avoid planting on complex riverine landforms and near to distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Avoid planting near to existing native woodland and trees.
- Ensure woodland edges follow the natural landform of glens and surrounding hill slopes.

Sub-zone 3: Rest And Be Thankful

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond and Argyll Forest* Landscape Areas that are particularly relevant to the *Rest And Be Thankful* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Distinctive mountain groups/Arrochar’s mountainous and distinctive peaks;
- Water in its many forms;
- Famous through-routes;
- Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Tranquillity/Peaceful side glens/A remote area of high hills and deep glens;
- The rich variety of woodlands; and
- The easily accessible landscape splendour.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 5, the *Rest And Be Thankful* Sub-zone is characterised by the *Highland Summits* and the *Upland Glens* -LLT LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

Overall, coverage is quite limited and existing woodland is mostly restricted to Glen Kinglas where parts of the sides are covered with some native woodland and productive conifer planting. To the south-east of the Sub-zone, the lower hill slopes that contain the head of Loch Long are also covered in dense productive conifer.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

No Wild Land Areas are within the sub-zone although all main summits, including Beinn Ime and Beinn Narnain are areas of Core Wildness.

Viewpoint 7: Minor road, Gleann Mor (NN 22646 06768) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east towards Beinn Luibhean



View B: Looking south-west towards Ben Donich

Viewpoint 8: Butterbridge (NN 23404 09520) – moderate number of visitors	Viewpoint 9: Glen Kinglas (NN 23759 09680) – moderate number of visitors
	
View A: Looking south-east towards Beinn Luibhean and Beinn Ime	View B: Looking north-east along Glen Kinglas

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the floor of Glen Kinglas and surrounding lower hill slopes that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although productive conifer exists on some glens sides, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes.	Medium
Distinctive mountain groups/ Arrochar’s mountainous and distinctive peaks	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides is unlikely to affect views and the landscape setting of nearby mountain summits such as Ben Ime and The Cobbler.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of productive conifer on some slopes could compromise views and the landscape setting of surrounding summits.	Medium
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some further native woodland planting within Glen Kinglas would also conserve and enhance the riverine character of the burn and the setting of the nearby Loch Restil.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of some further productive conifer planting within Glen Kinglas could conserve and enhance the wooded character of the burn.	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Famous through routes	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from the nearby A83, the planting of some woodland along Glen Kinglas and surrounding hills slopes would enhance the wooded appearance of the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from the nearby A83, the planting of some woodland along Glen Kinglas would enhance the wooded appearance of the glen.	Low
Tranquillity/Peaceful side glens/ A remote area of high hills and deep glens	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the experience of remoteness, peace and tranquillity within the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting could enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen although in some instances, it could be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with nearby native woodland.	Medium
Banks of broadleaved woodland/The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although along the glen floor and lower sides, it could contrast with existing broadleaved woodland and riverine trees.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : Where relatively access to the glen is provided by a footpath that leads along it, the planting of new woodland along the glen floor would tend to enhance landscape splendour.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Where relatively access to the glen is provided by a footpath that leads along it, the planting of some new woodland along the glen floor and lower sides could detract from the rugged hill slopes.	Medium
Landscape character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Mountains Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
Uplands Glens - LLT LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and glen sides that reflects the existing coverage of riparian woodland would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some further productive conifer woodland that relates to exiting woodland to the south of the glen would enhance the wooded character although in places, it could detract from existing native woodlands and views towards nearby mountain summits.	Medium

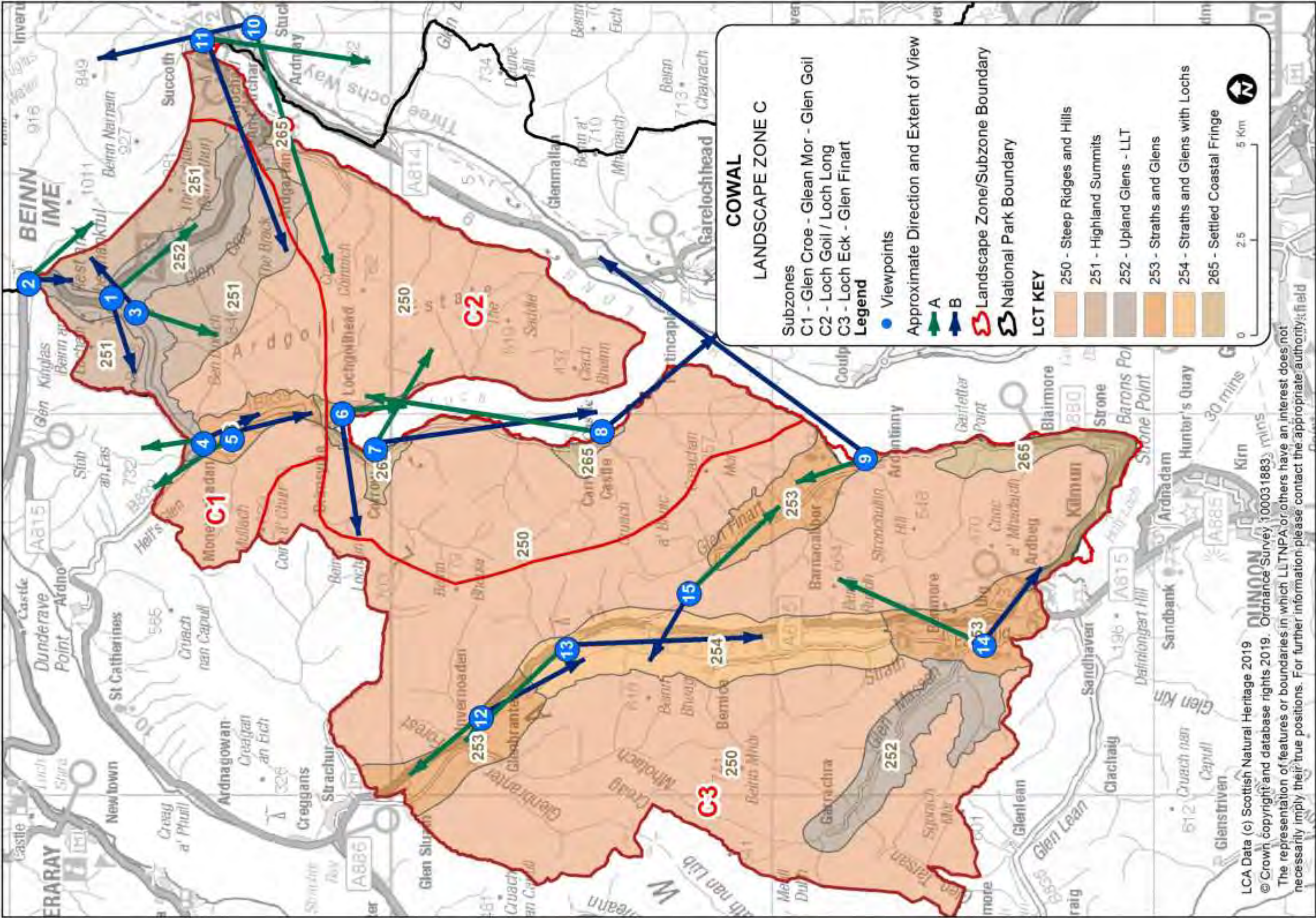
SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium-high</p> <p>Along the glen floor and lower sides, planting would reinforce the pattern of native woodland already present along parts of the burn and in general, it would enhance the landscape character and quality without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the local landscape. Extensive planting on upper slopes hill slopes however would detract from the open character and in some instances, may compromise views to surrounding mountain summits.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional native woodland on the glen floor and on some lower glen sides would be favoured.• Maintain open views towards mountain summits.• Ensure open ground is used to enhance complex riverine landforms and distinctive rocky outcrops.• Encourage natural regeneration on some steep hill slopes.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium</p> <p>Along the glen floor and lower sides, additional productive conifer could reflect adjacent areas of forestry in places although any extensive planting could detract from, or compromise, some Special Landscape Qualities such as views to surrounding distinctive mountain summits and the setting of native woodlands. Planting on upper slopes hill slopes would also detract from the open character.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited productive conifer on lower glen sides that link with existing stands of commercial forestry would be favoured.• Maintain open views towards mountain summits.• Avoid planting on open upper hill slopes.• Avoid planting on complex riverine landforms and near to distinctive rocky outcrops.• Avoid planting near to existing native woodland and trees.• Ensure woodland edges follow the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.

Zone C: Cowal

- Sub-zones:
- 1. Glen Croe/Glean Mor/Glen Goil
 - 2. Loch Goil/Loch Long
 - 3. Lock Eck/Glen Finart

Overview of the study area	How the area is used by people	Figure 6: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints
<p>Introduction</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 1, Zone C is located to the south-west of the National Park and is focused on the Cowal Peninsula, to the west of Loch Long. The area is primarily characterised by the <i>Steep Ridges and Hills</i> Landscape Character Type (LCT), intersected by several deep glens including Glen Goil, Glen Croe and Glen Finart. Loch Eck is also within the area and the sea lochs of Loch Long and Loch Goil form an important setting to it.</p> <p>Sub-zones</p> <p>Primarily based on an assessment of landscape character and prominent ridgelines, the following Sub-zones (see Figure 6) have been selected to examine the potential for native woodland and productive conifer planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Glen Croe/Glean Mor/Glen Goil;2. Loch Goil/Loch Long; and3. Lock Eck/Glen Finart. <p>Special Landscape Qualities</p> <p>In addition to exhibiting some General Special Landscape Qualities, the landscape and setting of the <i>Cowal</i> Zone represents the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Argyll Forest</i> Landscape Area Qualities.	<p>Visitor destinations</p> <p>Important visitor destinations in and around the Zone include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rest and Be Thankful;• Benmore Gardens; and• Loch Eck, Loch Long and Loch Goil Argyll Forest Park. <p>Key transport and recreational routes</p> <p>Access within the Zone is focused on a network of busy main and minor roads that follow glen floors and loch sides. An extensive network of Core Paths also traverse the area, most of which are contained within in areas of forestry on lower glen sides.</p> <p>Key viewpoints and views</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 7, the following key viewpoints and associated approximate extent of views have been identified:</p> <p>Viewpoint 1: A83 viewpoint, Glen Croe;</p> <p>Viewpoint 2: Butterbridge, Glen Kinglas;</p> <p>Viewpoint 3: Minor road, Gleann Mor;</p> <p>Viewpoint 4: Minor road, Glen Goil;</p> <p>Viewpoint 5: Pole Farm, Glen Goil;</p> <p>Viewpoint 6: Lochgoilhead;</p> <p>Viewpoint 7: Corrow;</p> <p>Viewpoint 8: Carrick Castle;</p> <p>Viewpoint 9: Ardentinny;</p> <p>Viewpoint 10: Three Lochs Way, nr. Tighness;</p> <p>Viewpoint 11: Three Lochs Way, head of Loch Long;</p> <p>Viewpoint 12: Invernoaden;</p> <p>Viewpoint 13: Loch Eck;</p> <p>Viewpoint 14: Nr. Benmore Gardens; and</p> <p>Viewpoint 15: Glen Finart.</p>	<p>COWAL LANDSCAPE ZONE C</p> <p>Sub Zones C1 - Glen Croe / Glean Mor / Glen Goil C2 - Loch Goil / Loch Long C3 - Loch Eck / Glen Finart</p> <p>KEY</p> <p>Existing Woodland Cover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">NATIVENON NATIVE <p>Viewpoints</p> <p>Core Wildness (LTNPA)</p> <p>Landscape Zone/Subzone Boundary</p> <p>National Park Boundary</p> <p>© Crown copyright and database rights 2019. Ordnance Survey 100031883. The representation of features or boundaries in which LTNPA or others have an interest does not necessarily imply their true position. For further information please contact the appropriate authority.</p>

Figure 7: Landscape character, key viewpoints and views



Sub-zone 1: Glen Croe/Glean Mor/Glen Goil

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Argyll Forest Landscape Area* that are particularly relevant to the *Glen Croe/Glean Mor/Glen Goil* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- A remote area of high hills and deep glens;
- The variety of glens;
- Famous through-routes;
- The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Arrochar’s mountainous and distinctive peaks;
- Water in its many forms;
- Tranquillity;
- The rich variety of woodlands/A land of forests and trees/ Banks of broadleaved woodland; and
- The dramatic pass of Rest and Be Thankful.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 7, the *Glen Croe/Glean Mor/Glen Goil* Sub-zone is characterised by *Steep Ridges and Hills, Straths and Glens/with Lochs, Upland Glens-LLT, Highland Summits and Settled Coastal Fringe* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

Most of the lower glen sides are covered in near continuous stands of productive conifer with some relatively small areas of native woodland in places.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

There are no Wild Land Areas although the most notable summits, including Ben Donich, The Cobbler and The Brack, are Core Wildness areas.

Viewpoint 1: A83 viewpoint, Glen Croe (NN 23027 07350) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east along Glen Croe



View B: Looking north over Loch Restil

Viewpoint 2: Butterbridge, Glen Kinglas (NN 23404 09520) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east towards Beinn Luibhean and Beinn Ime



View B: Looking south towards Glen Croe

Viewpoint 3: Minor road, Gleann Mor (NN 22646 06768) – moderate number of visitors/users



View A: Looking south-west towards Ben Donich



View B: Looking north-east towards Beinn Luibhean

Viewpoint 4: Minor road, Glen Goil (NN 19212 04876) – moderate number of visitors/users



View A: Looking north towards Hell's Glen and Gleann Mor



View B: Looking south along Glen Goil

Viewpoint 5: Pole Farm, Glen Goil (NN 19321 04186) – moderate number of visitors/users



View A: Looking north-west up Gleann Canachadan



View B: Looking south along Glen Goil

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland within glens and on some lower hill slopes would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although productive conifer exists on within glens and on some lower hill slopes, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hills and pastoral glen floors.	Medium
Arrochar's mountainous and distinctive peaks	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland within glens and on some lower hill slopes could affect views to, and the open landscape setting of, nearby mountain summits such as Ben Ime and The Cobbler.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of productive conifer within glens and on some lower hill slopes could affect views to, and the open landscape setting of, nearby mountain summits such as Ben Ime and The Cobbler.	Medium
A remote area of high hills and deep glens	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland within glens and on some lower hill slopes would reinforce the contrast between the open character of the surrounding rugged summits and the prevailing wooded character of the glens.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some additional productive conifer planting within glens and on some lower hill slopes would reinforce the contrast between the open character of the surrounding rugged summits and the pattern of pastures along Glen Falloch and Strath Fillan.	Low
Famous through routes/The dramatic pass of Rest and Be Thankful	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from the nearby A83 and the Rest And Be Thankful viewpoint, the planting of some additional native woodland within lower parts of Glen Croe would enhance visitor experience without affecting the dramatic landform of the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from the nearby A83 and the Rest And Be Thankful viewpoint, the planting of some additional productive conifer within lower parts of Glen Croe would enhance visitor experience without affecting the dramatic landform of the glen.	Low
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland within glens and on some lower hill slopes would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting within glens and on some lower hill slopes could enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glens although in some instances, it could be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with nearby native woodland.	Medium
The rich variety of woodlands/A land of forests and trees/ Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting within glens and on some lower hill slopes would reinforce the wooded character of the area and enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : Where easy road and footpath access is provided within the glens, the planting of some additional woodland could detract from the landscape splendour of surrounding summits and dramatic glen landforms.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Where relatively easy footpath access is provided near to the A83, the planting of some new woodland within glens and on some lower	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
	hill slopes could detract from the rugged hill slopes.	
The variety of glens	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further native woodland planting within the glens and on some lower hill slopes could result in erosion in their local distinctiveness.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Further planting within the glens and on some lower hill slopes could result in erosion in their local distinctiveness.	Medium
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some native woodland planting near to burns and Loch Restil would conserve and enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to burns and Loch Restil could detract from their semi-natural character.	Medium
Landscape character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits and Steep Ridges and Hills LCTs	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes and ridges would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes and ridges would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
Upland Glens – LLT /Straths and Glens LCTs	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although some additional native woodland planting would reinforce the prevailing wooded character of the glens, planting on glen floors could compromise their open pastoral character.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some additional productive planting would reinforce the prevailing wooded character of the glens, planting on glen floors could compromise their open pastoral character.	Medium

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

Within low-lying parts of glens and some surrounding lower hill slopes, native woodland planting would be characteristic to the glens and in general, would enhance their wooded character without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the landscape. On glen floors however, planting could partially compromise open character, the variety of the glens and views to mountain summits.

In practice, the sides of Glen Goil, Gleann Mor and Hell’s Glen are already heavily wooded with little or no opportunity for additional planting.

Guidelines

- Additional native woodland on lower glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes within Glen Croe would be favoured.
- Promote the planting of woodland clumps around Loch Restil and alongside burns.
- Maintain open views towards mountain summits.
- Maintain open views over Glen Croe and along open glen floors.
- Encourage natural regeneration on some steep hill slopes.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium

Within low-lying parts of glens and some surrounding lower hill slopes, productive conifer planting would be characteristic to the glens and in general, would enhance their wooded character without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the landscape. On glen floors however, planting could partially compromise open character, the variety of the glens and views to mountain summits and in places, would contrast with existing native woodland.

In practice, the sides of Glen Goil, Gleann Mor and Hell’s Glen are already heavily wooded with little or no opportunity for additional planting.

Guidelines

- Limited productive conifer on lower glen sides that link with existing stands of commercial forestry would be favoured.
- Maintain open views towards mountain summits.
- Maintain open views over Glen Croe and along open glen floors.
- Avoid planting near to Loch Restil and alongside burns.
- Avoid planting on open upper hill slopes and near to distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Ensure woodland edges follow the natural landform of glens and surrounding hill slopes.

Sub-zone 2: Loch Goil/Loch Long

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Argyll Forest* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Goil/Loch Long* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Famous through-routes;
- The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Arrochar’s mountainous and distinctive peaks;
- Water in its many forms;
- Tranquillity;
- The rich variety of woodlands/A land of forests and trees/ Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop; and
- The seaside architecture of Kilmun and Blairmore.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 7, the *Loch Goil/Loch Long* Sub-zone is characterised by *Steep Ridges and Hills* and *Settled Coastal Fringe* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

Most of the lower glen sides are covered in near continuous stands of productive conifer with some relatively large areas of native woodland along the lower glen sides of Loch Long.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

There are no Wild Land Areas although some relatively small parts of summits and slopes scattered across the Sub-zone are Core Wildness areas.

Viewpoint 6: Lochgoilhead (NN 19991 01286) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south over Loch Goil



View B: Looking west towards Beinn Tharsuinn

Viewpoint 7: Corrow (NN 19052 00426) – large number of users



View A: Looking south-east over Loch Goil



View B: Looking north-east towards Ben Donich

Viewpoint 8: Carrick Castle (NS 19418 94487) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking north along the western shore of Loch Goil



View B: Looking south-east along the western shore of Loch Goil

Viewpoint 9: Ardentinny (NS 18817 87571) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking north-west towards Glen Finart



View B: Looking north towards Loch Long

Viewpoint 10: Three Lochs Way, nr. Tighness (NN 30120 03604) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west over Loch Long



View B: Looking north towards Glen Loin

Viewpoint 11: Three Lochs Way, head of Loch Long (NN 29787 04969) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south towards Tullich Hill



View B: Looking south-west towards The Brack

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some additional native woodland on the hill slopes would positively contribute to the rural beauty of the lochs and surrounding hills.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although productive conifer exists on some hill slopes, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hills and areas of nearby native woodland.	Medium
Arrochar’s mountainous and distinctive peaks	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most instances, the planting of native woodland on lower hill slopes is unlikely to affect views to, and the open landscape setting of, nearby summits such as Beinn Tharsuinn, Ben Donich, Tullich Hill and the Brack.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most instances, the planting of productive conifer on lower hill slopes is unlikely to affect views to, and the open landscape setting of, nearby summits such as Beinn Tharsuinn, Ben Donich, Tullich Hill and the Brack.	Low
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some native woodland on hill slopes would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting on hill slopes could enhance the experience of tranquillity although in some instances, it could be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with nearby native woodland.	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
The rich variety of woodlands/ A land of forests and trees/ Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on hill slopes would enhance the wooded setting of the lochs.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : Where easy road and footpath access is provided around the lochs, the planting of native woodland is unlikely to detract from the landscape splendour of open water and surrounding summits.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Where easy road and footpath access is provided around the lochs, the planting of productive conifer is unlikely to detract from the landscape splendour of open water and surrounding summits.	Medium
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of further native woodland on hills sides surrounding the lochs would reinforce the wooded setting it provides to the expanse of water.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to burns and Loch Restil could detract from their semi-natural character.	Low
Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop/ The seaside architecture of Kilmun and Blairmore	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting in the backdrop to settlements scattered around the lochs would enhance their wooded setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Further planting in the backdrop to settlements scattered around the lochs would enhance their wooded setting.	Low
Landscape character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Steep Ridges and Hills LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on lower hill slopes would be characteristic although on upper slopes, it would tend to detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on lower hill slopes would be characteristic although on upper slopes, it would tend to detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
Settled Coastal Fringe LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting in the backdrop to settlements scattered around the lochs would enhance their wooded setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Further planting in the backdrop to settlements scattered around the lochs would enhance their wooded setting.	Low

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity: High</p> <p>On most hill slopes that contain Loch Goil and Loch Long, additional native woodland planting would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting of the lochs without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the area.</p> <p>In practice, most of the slopes are already heavily wooded and opportunity for additional planting is therefore limited.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional native woodland on lower hill slopes, particularly in the backdrop to settlements scattered around the lochs would be favoured.• Maintain open views towards mountain summits.• Maintain views over the expanse of open water.• Encourage natural regeneration on upper hill slopes.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium-high</p> <p>On most hill slopes that contain Loch Goil and Loch Long, additional productive conifer planting would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting of the lochs without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the area. In places however, planting could partially compromise rural character and contrast with areas of existing native woodland.</p> <p>In practice, most of the slopes are already heavily wooded and opportunity for additional planting is therefore limited.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional planting on lower hill slopes near to existing stands of commercial forestry would be favoured.• Maintain open views towards mountain summits.• Maintain open views over the expanse of open water.• Avoid planting on open upper hill slopes and near to distinctive rocky outcrops. <p>Ensure woodland edges follow the natural landform of hill slopes and adjoining glens.</p>

Sub-zone 3: Loch Eck/Glen Finart

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Argyll Forest* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Eck/Glen Finart* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Famous through-routes;
- The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Water in its many forms;
- Tranquillity;
- The rich variety of woodlands/A land of forests and trees/Banks of broadleaved woodland; and
- The slender jewel of Loch Eck.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 7, the *Loch Eck/ Glen Finart* Sub Area is characterised by *Steep Ridges and Hills* and *Straths and Glens/ Straths and Glens with Lochs LCTs*.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

Most of the lower glen sides are covered in near continuous stands of productive conifer with some areas of native woodland scattered throughout.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

There are no Wild Land Areas although some relatively small parts of summits and slopes scattered across the Sub-zone are Core Wildness areas.

Viewpoint 12: Invernoaden (NS 11915 97651) – moderate number of visitors



Looking north-west towards Glenbranter



Looking south-east along the River Cur towards Lock Eck

Viewpoint 13: Loch Eck (NS 13811 95396) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-west over Loch Eck



View B: Looking south over Loch Eck

Viewpoint 14: Nr. Benmore Gardens (NS 13919 84456) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east towards Beinn Ruadh



View B: Looking south-east towards Creag Mhor

Viewpoint 15: Glen Finart (NS 15279 92195) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east along Glen Finart



View B: Looking north-west along Glen Finart

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of additional native woodland on glen sides would positively contribute to the rural beauty of the glens, the setting to Lock Eck and surrounding hills.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although productive conifer exists on some glen sides and parts of the glen floor, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hills and areas of nearby native woodland.	Medium
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland on the glen sides would reinforce the contrast between the open character of surrounding rugged summits and the pastoral glen floor.	Low
	<u>Productive woodland</u> : Some additional productive conifer planting on the glen sides would reinforce the contrast between the open character of surrounding rugged summits and the pastoral glen floor.	Low
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland within the glen would enhance the experience of tranquillity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some further productive conifer within the glen would enhance the experience of tranquillity although in some instances, it could be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with nearby native woodland.	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
The rich variety of woodlands/ A land of forests and trees/ Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further woodland planting within the glen would enhance its wooded character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : Where easy road and footpath access is provided along the glen floor, the planting of further native woodland could detract from the landscape splendour of open water and surrounding summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Where easy road and footpath access is provided along the glen floor, the planting of further productive conifer woodland could detract from the landscape splendour of open water and surrounding summits.	Medium
Water in its many forms/The slender jewel of Loch Eck	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of further native woodland on glen sides surrounding Loch Eck would reinforce the wooded setting it provides to the expanse of water.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of further productive conifer planting on glen sides surrounding Loch Eck would reinforce the wooded setting it provides to the expanse of water.	Low
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Steep Ridges and Hills LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on lower hill slopes would be characteristic although on upper slopes, it would tend to detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on lower hill slopes would be characteristic although on upper slopes, it would tend to detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
Straths and Glens/Straths and Glens with Lochs LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on glen sides would be characteristic although planting on the glen floor could compromise the open pastoral character.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on glen sides would be characteristic although planting on glen floor could compromise the open pastoral character.	Medium

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

On most hill slopes that contain Loch Eck and Glen Finart, further planting would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting of the glens without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities of the area. On the glen floors however, planting could partially compromise open character and views to mountain/hill summits and/or over Loch Eck.

In practice however, most parts are already heavily wooded and opportunity for additional planting is therefore limited.

Guidelines

- Additional native woodland on glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.
- Maintain open views towards summits.
- Protect pockets of open pasture along glen floors.
- Maintain open views over Loch Eck and along Glen Finart.
- Encourage natural regeneration on some steep hill slopes and along the burn.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

Productive conifer planting would be characteristic to the glens and in general, would enhance the wooded character and setting to Loch Eck without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. On the glen floors however, planting could partially compromise open character and views to mountain/hill summits and/or over Loch Eck and in places, would contrast with existing native woodland.

In practice however, most parts are already heavily wooded and opportunity for additional planting is therefore limited.

Guidelines

- Additional planting on glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes near to existing stands of commercial forestry would be favoured.
- Maintain open views towards summits.
- Maintain open views over Loch Eck and along Glen Finart.
- Avoid planting on open upper hill slopes and open parts of glen floors.
- Ensure woodland edges follow the natural landform of the glen.

Zone D: Strath Fillan and Glen Dochart

- Sub-zones:
- 1. Strath Fillan
 - 2. Glen Dochart

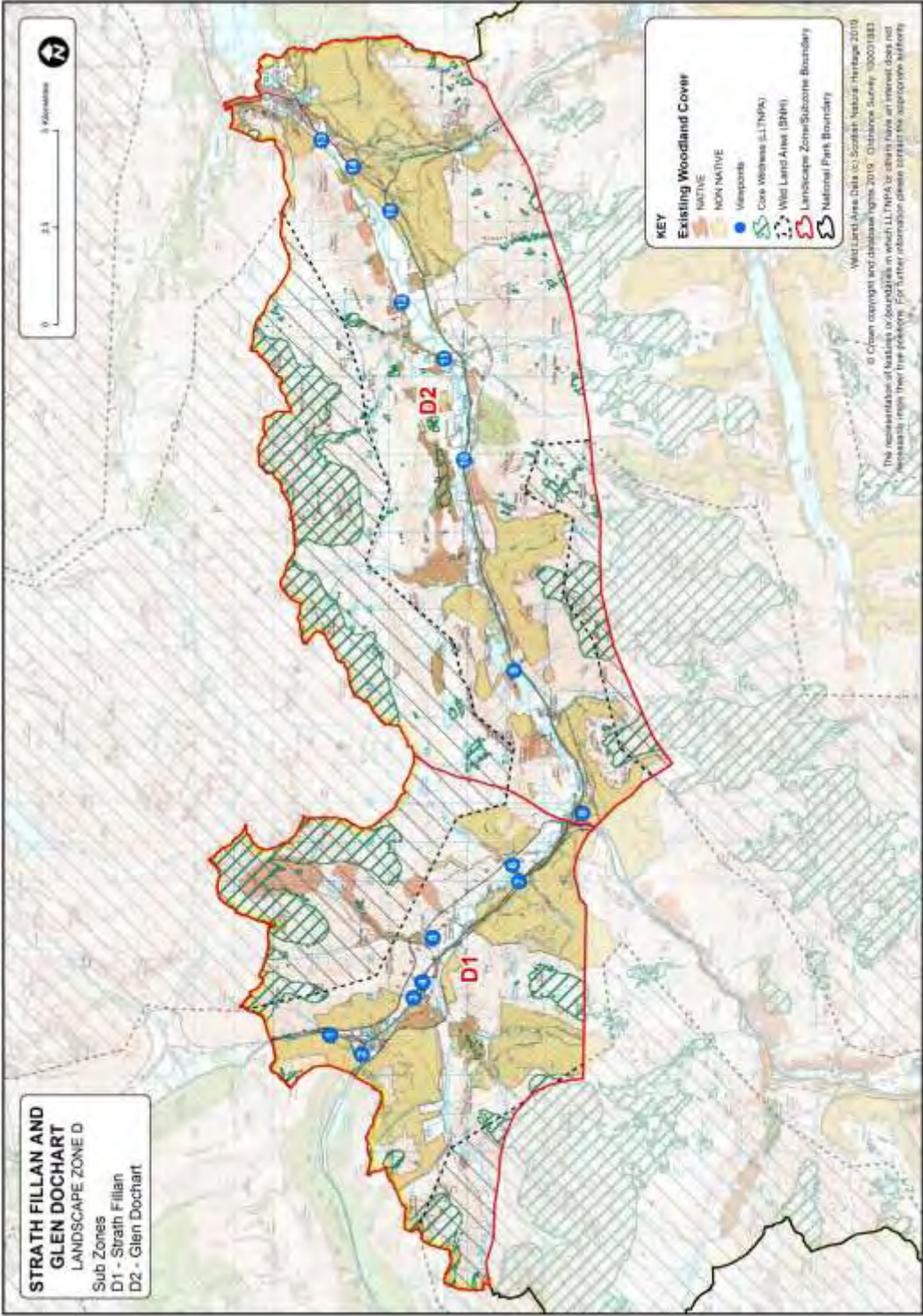
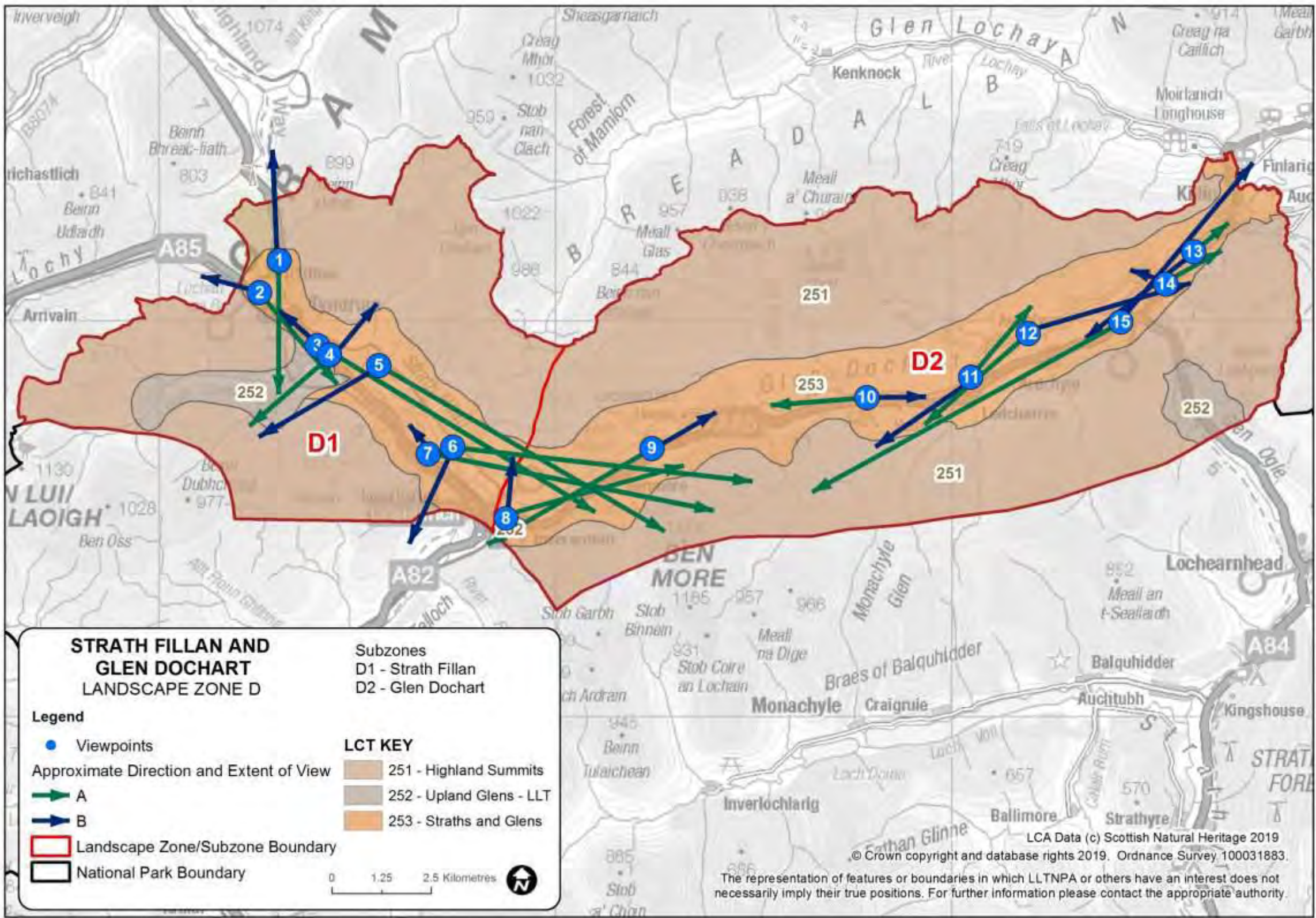
Overview of the study area	How the area is used by people	Figure 8: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints
<p>Introduction</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 1, Zone D is located to north of the National Park and is focused on Strath Fillan and Glen Dochart. Accessible lower-lying areas are characterised by the <i>Straths and Glens</i> Landscape Character Type (LCT) and to north and south of the Zone, the expanse of <i>Highland Summits</i> LCT provide a distinctive contained setting.</p> <p>Sub-zones</p> <p>Primarily based on an assessment of landscape character and prominent ridgelines, the following Sub-zones (see Figure 8) have been selected to examine the potential native woodland and productive conifer planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Strath Fillan: and2. Glen Dochart. <p>Special Landscape Qualities</p> <p>In addition to exhibiting some General Special Landscape Qualities, the landscape and setting of the <i>Strath Fillan and Glen Dochart</i> Zone represents the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Breadalbane</i> Landscape Area Qualities.	<p>Key transport and recreational routes</p> <p>Access within the Zone is focused on the busy A85 and A82 main roads that lead along the strath/glen floors. A section of the West Highland Way leads north from Crianlarich to Tyndrum and to the east of the Zone, a section of the Rob Way leads up Glen Ogle to Killin. Sections of Core Path also lead along parts of glen sides and the West Highland Rail Line passes through Crianlarich and Tyndrum.</p> <p>Key viewpoints and views</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 9, the following key viewpoints and associated approximate extent of views have been identified:</p> <p>Viewpoint 1: A82, north of Tyndrum;</p> <p>Viewpoint 2: A85-A82;</p> <p>Viewpoint 3: A82, east of Tyndrum;</p> <p>Viewpoint 4: Dalrigh;</p> <p>Viewpoint 5: West Highland Way, nr. Auchtertyre;</p> <p>Viewpoint 6: Footpath to Inverhaggernie;</p> <p>Viewpoint 7: Railway, nr. Inverherive;</p> <p>Viewpoint 8: Crianlarich Community Nature Reserve;</p> <p>Viewpoint 9: Loch Lubhair;</p> <p>Viewpoint 10: A85, nr. Luib Viewpoint 11: River Dochart;</p> <p>Viewpoint 12: Minor road, east of Auchlyne;</p> <p>Viewpoint 13: Minor road, west of Killin;</p> <p>Viewpoint 14: A85, west of Easter Lix; and</p> <p>Viewpoint 15: A85, Lix Toll.</p>	
<p>How the area is used by people</p> <p>Visitor destinations</p> <p>Important visitor destinations in and around the Zone include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The settlements of Tyndrum, Crianlarich and Killin;• Falls of Dochart, Loch Dochart and Loch Lubhair;• Cononish Glen and Glen Ogle; and• Mountain summits (e.g. Ben More, Beinn Odhar, Beinn Chuirn and Sgiath Chuil).		

Figure 9: Landscape character, key viewpoints and views



Sub-zone 1: **Strath Fillan**

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Breadalbane* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Strath Fillan* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Tranquillity;
- Steep mountains and long glens;
- A landscape of distinctive glens and straths/Wide Strath Fillan.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 9, the *Strath Fillan* Sub-zone is characterised by *Straths and Glens*, *Highland Summits* and the *Upland Glens* – LLT LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 8, some large areas of productive conifer are found along the side of the strath. Small riparian woodlands line many water courses and some larger areas of native woodland are situated on the strath sides.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 8, areas of Core Wildness to the north of the Sub-zone are located on parts of the upper slopes and summits of Beinn Odhar, Beinn Chaorach, Beinn Challuim and Beinn Bheag. To the south of the strath, the upper slopes and summits of Meall Odhar, Beinn Chuirn, Coire Buidhe and Fiarach are designated as Core Wildness areas. All of the upper slopes and summits along the northern part of the strath are designated Wild Land, and to the south-west of the Subzone, the upper slopes and summits to the south of the River Cononish.

Viewpoint 1: A82, north of Tyndrum (NN 33023 31529) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south towards Tyndrum (out of view)



View B: Looking north along the A82

Viewpoint 2: A85-A82 (NN 32530 30715) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east towards Tyndrum (out of view)



View B: Looking west along the A85

Viewpoint 3: A82, east of Tyndrum (NN 33986 29382) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east towards Ben More (left of view)



View B: Looking north-west towards Tyndrum (out of view)

Viewpoint 4: Dalrigh (NN 34293 29150) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west towards Beinn Chuirn above the Cononish glen



View B: Looking north-east towards Creag Bhan Eigheach

Viewpoint 5: West Highland Way, nr. Auchtertyre (NN 35534 28881) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east towards Ben More (left of view)



View B: Looking south-west towards the Cononish glen

Viewpoint 6: Footpath to Inverhaggernie (NN 37403 26827) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking east towards Glen Dochart



View B: Looking south-west towards Craw Knowe

Viewpoint 7: Railway, nr. Inverherive (NN 36982 26650) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking east towards Ben More



View B: Looking north-west

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the strath floor and lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some large stands of conifer exist within the strath, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes and the setting of nearby native woodland.	Medium
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although some additional native woodland planting could reinforce the contrast of wild and rugged summits with pastoral lowlands, in places it could detract from the open character of pastures found along the strath floor and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some additional productive planting could reinforce the contrast of wild and rugged summits with pastoral lowlands, in places it could detract from the open character of pastures found along the strath floor and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	Medium
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some native woodland planting near to the River Fillan and the River Cononish would conserve and enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to the River Fillan and the River Cononish could detract from their semi-natural character in places.	Medium
The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the strath floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing broadleaved woodland and riverine trees.	Medium
Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting in the backdrop to Tyndrum and Crianlarich would enhance their wooded setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Further planting in the backdrop to Tyndrum and Crianlarich would enhance their wooded setting.	Low
Famous through routes	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A85, the West Highland Way and the West Highland Railway, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the strath that users along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A85, the West Highland Way and the West Highland Railway, the planting of additional productive conifer could detract from the open views of the strath that users along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along the strath floor and lower sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting could enhance the experience of tranquillity within the strath although in places, it could be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with nearby native woodland.	Medium
Steep mountains and long glens	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland on the strath floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of mountain summits that enclose the strath and the appreciation of the long glen/strath landform.	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of productive conifer on the strath floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of mountain summits that enclose the strath and the appreciation of the long glen/strath landform.	Medium
A landscape of distinctive glens and straths/Wide Strath Fillan.	<u>Native woodland</u> : In open parts of the landscape, new planting could detract from the appreciation of the wide landform of the strath and the distinctive adjoining glens.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In open parts of the landscape, new planting could detract from the appreciation of the wide landform of the strath and the distinctive adjoining glens.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
Straths and Glens LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although new planting of native woodland would be characteristic and in some instances could enhance the landscape, in places it could detract from open character and the appreciation of the strath landform and surrounding summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although new planting of productive conifer would be characteristic and in some instances could enhance the landscape, in places it could detract from open character and the appreciation of the strath landform and surrounding summits.	Medium
Upland Glens- LLT LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and glen sides that reflects the existing coverage of riparian woodland would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some productive conifer that relates to existing stands to the north and south of the glen could be accommodated on some parts of higher ground without adverse effects although on lower lying parts, new planting would be uncharacteristic.	Medium

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium

On parts of the strath and the lower containing hill slopes to the north and south of the area, additional native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, could enhance the strath without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities.

Across parts of the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive woodland planting. Planting in open areas could also detract from the experience of the ‘wide Strath Fillan’ quality, and the open views to nearby mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the strath.

Guidelines

- Additional native woodland on parts of the strath sides, adjoining small glens and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the strath and surrounding hill slopes
- Encourage natural regeneration on steeper hill slopes, away from distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Maintain open views towards mountain summits.
- Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees on some parts of the strath floor where important open views along the strath would not be affected.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium

On parts of the strath and the lower containing hill slopes to the north and south of the area, the planting of additional productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, could enhance the strath without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities.

Across parts of the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive planting. Planting in open areas could also detract from the experience of the ‘wide Strath Fillan’ quality, and the open views to nearby mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the strath.

Guidelines

- Diverse productive conifer on parts of the strath sides, adjoining small glens and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the strath and surrounding hill slopes.
- Maintain open views towards mountain summits.
- Avoid planting on upper hills slopes and near to distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.

Sub-zone 2: **Glen Dochart**

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Breadalbane* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Glen Dochart* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms/The narrow Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig ribbon/The Falls of Dochart;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Tranquillity; and
- Steep mountains and long glens/A landscape of distinctive glens and straths/Expansive Glen Dochart.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 9, the *Glen Dochart* Sub-zone is characterised by *Straths and Glens, Highland Summits* and the *Upland Glens-LLT* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 8, some large areas of productive conifer are found along the sides of the glen, particularly on north-facing slopes. Small riparian woodlands line parts of water courses and some larger areas of native woodland are situated on the glen sides, especially on south-facing slopes.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 8, areas of Core Wildness to the north of the Sub-zone are located on parts of the upper slopes and summits of Meall Garbh, Meall Glas, Beinn Cheathaich, Sgiath Chuil and Beinn Breach. To the south of the strath, the upper slopes and summits Stob Coire and Ben More and are designated as Core Wildness areas. All of the upper slopes and summits along the northern part of the strath are designated Wild Land, and to the south-west of the Subzone, the upper slopes and summits of and near to Ben More.

Viewpoint 8: Crianlarich Community Nature Reserve (NN 38748 25023) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east along Glen Dochart



View B: Looking north towards Dun Eigheach

Viewpoint 9: Loch Lubhair (NN 42424 26787) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west over Loch Lubhair



View B: Looking north-east over Loch Lubhair

Viewpoint 10: A85, nr. Luib (NN 47852 28075) – large number of visitors/users



View A: Looking west along Glen Dochart



View B: Looking east along Glen Dochart

Viewpoint 11: River Dochart (NN 50468 28585) – moderate number of visitors/users



View A: Looking north-east towards Ar Riabhach (left of view)



View B: Looking south-west towards Stob Luib

Viewpoint 12: Minor road, east of Auchlyne (NN 51919 29687) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west along Glen Dochart



View B: Looking north-east along Glen Dochart

Viewpoint 13: Minor road, west of Killin (NN 56101 31750) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east towards Killin (out of view)



View B: Looking south-west along Glen Dochart

Viewpoint 14: A85, west of Easter Lix (NN 55403 30935) – high number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east along Glen Dochart



View B: Looking north-west along Glen Dochart

Viewpoint 15: A85, Lix Toll (NN 54264 29975) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west along Glen Dochart



View B: Looking north-east along Glen Dochart

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some large stands of conifer exist within the glen, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes and the setting of nearby native woodland.	Medium
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although some additional native woodland planting could reinforce the contrast of wild and rugged summits with pastoral lowlands, in places it could detract from the open character of pastures found along the glen floor and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some additional productive planting could reinforce the contrast of wild and rugged summits with pastoral lowlands, in places it could detract from the open character of pastures found along the glen floor and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	Medium
Water in its many forms/The narrow Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig ribbon/The Falls of Dochart	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some native woodland planting near to the River Dochart, Loch Lubnaig and The Falls of Dochart would conserve and enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to the River Dochart, Loch Lubnaig and The Falls of Dochart could detract from their semi-natural character in places.	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing broadleaved woodland and riverine trees.	Medium
Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting in the backdrop to Killin and Crianlarich would enhance their wooded setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Further planting in the backdrop to Killin and Crianlarich would enhance their wooded setting.	Low
Famous through routes/ The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A85, the Rob Roy Way and Core Paths, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the glen that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A85 the Rob Roy Way and Core Paths, the planting of additional productive conifer could detract from the open views of the glen that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting could enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen although in places, it could be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with nearby native woodland.	Medium
Steep mountains and long glens/ landscape of distinctive glens and straths/Expansive Glen Dochart	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of mountain summits that enclose the glen and the appreciation of the expansive glen landform.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of productive conifer on the strath floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of mountain summits that enclose the strath and the appreciation of the expansive glen landform.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
Straths and Glens LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although new planting of native woodland would be characteristic and in some instances could enhance the landscape, in places it could detract from open character and the appreciation of the glen landform and surrounding summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although new planting of productive conifer would be characteristic and in some instances could enhance the landscape, in places it could detract from open character and the appreciation of the glen landform and surrounding summits.	Medium
Upland Glens- LLT LCT		

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland within the northern entrance to Glen Ogle would enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some productive conifer that relates to existing stands could be accommodated on most parts of the northern entrance to Glen Ogle without adverse effects.	Low

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium</p> <p>On parts of the glen and the lower containing hill slopes to the north and south of the area, the planting of additional native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, could enhance the glen without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities.</p> <p>On parts of the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive woodland planting. Planting in open areas could also detract from the experience of the ‘expansive Glen Dochart’ quality, and the open views to nearby mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the glen.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional native woodland on parts of the glen sides, adjoining small glens and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.• Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the strath and surrounding hill slopes.• Encourage natural regeneration on steeper hill slopes, away from distinctive rocky outcrops.• Maintain open views towards mountain summits.• Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees on some parts of the glen floor where important open views along the glen would not be affected.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium</p> <p>On parts of the glen and the lower containing hill slopes to the north and south of the area, the planting of additional productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, could enhance the strath without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities.</p> <p>On parts of the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive planting. Planting in other open areas could also detract from the experience of the ‘wide Strath Fillan’ quality, and the open views to nearby mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the strath.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diverse productive conifer on parts of the glen sides, adjoining small glens and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.• Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.• Maintain open views towards mountain summits.• Avoid planting on upper hills slopes and near to distinctive rocky outcrops.• Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.

Zone E: Lomond North & Glen Falloch

- Sub-zones:
- 1. Glen Falloch
 - 2. Loch Lomond North

Overview of the study area	How the area is used by people	Figure 10: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints
<p>Introduction</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 1, Zone E is centred on the northern part of Loch Lomond and to its north, Glen Falloch. A series of mountain summits including Ben Vorlich, Beinn a Choin, Ben Glas and Troisgeach provide a dramatic backdrop to the east and western sides of Glen Falloch and Loch Lomond.</p> <p>Sub-zones</p> <p>Primarily based on an assessment of landscape character and prominent ridgelines, the following Sub-zones (see Figure 10) have been selected to examine the potential for native woodland and productive conifer planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Glen Falloch; and2. Loch Lomond North. <p>Special Landscape Qualities</p> <p>In addition to exhibiting some General Special Landscape Qualities, the landscape and setting of the <i>Lomond North & Glen Falloch</i> Zone represents the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Loch Lomond</i> Landscape Area Qualities.	<p>Visitor destinations</p> <p>Important visitor destinations in and around the Zone include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loch Lomond;• Falls of Falloch and Glen Falloch;• Inveruglas and Ardlui; and• Ben Vorlich and other mountain summits. <p>Key transport and recreational routes</p> <p>Road access within the Area is focused on the busy A82 that follows the western shore of Loch Lomond and further north, along Glen Falloch towards Crianlarich. The West Highland Way provides important recreational access along the eastern shore of Loch Lomond and the lower eastern slopes of Glen Falloch. The West Highland Rail Line also leads along the western shore of Loch Lomond and along the floor of Glen Falloch towards Crianlarich.</p> <p>Key viewpoints and views</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 11, the following key viewpoints and associated approximate extent of views have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Viewpoint 1: A82, south of Crianlarich;Viewpoint 2: West Highland Way, nr. Derrydarroch;Viewpoint 3: Drover’s Inn, Glen Falloch;Viewpoint 4: Troisgeach path, Glen Falloch;Viewpoint 5: Loch Shore, Ardlui;Viewpoint 6: Ben Vorlich path, Ardlui;Viewpoint 7: Footpath to Ceann Mor; andViewpoint 8: Inveruglas viewpoint.	<p>Figure 10: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints</p>

Sub-zone 1: **Glen Falloch**

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Glen Falloch* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Tranquillity; and
- Distinctive mountain groups.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 11, the *Glen Falloch* Sub-zone is characterised by *Highland Summits* and *Upland Glens-LLT* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 8, native woodlands are concentrated on parts of the glen floor and relatively large areas of the lower glen sides, particularly on the west-facing slopes. Large stands of productive conifer are also found at the northern and southern parts of the Sub-zone.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 8, areas of Core Wildness to the east of the Sub-zone are located on parts of the upper slopes and summits of Parlan, Ben Glas, Maell nan Tarmachan, Stob Glas and Grey Height. To the south of the strath, the upper slopes and summits of Meall Odhar, Beinn Chuirn, Coire Buidhe and Fiarach are designated as Core Wildness areas. The summits of Ben Glas, Maell nan Tarmachan, Stob Glas and Grey Height are also designated as Wild Land, as are all of the slopes and summits towards the glen floor at the southern part of the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 1: A82, south of Crianlarich (NN 36883 23882) – large number of users



View A: Looking north-east along Glen Falloch



View B: Looking south-east along Glen Falloch

Viewpoint 2: West Highland Way, nr. Derrydarroch (NN 34918 21597) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east along Glen Falloch



View B: Looking south-west along Glen Falloch

Viewpoint 3: Drover's Inn, Glen Falloch (NN 31816 18456) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north along Glen Falloch



View B: Looking south along Glen Falloch

Viewpoint 4: Troisgeach path, Glen Falloch (NN 31547 19937) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east over Glen Falloch



View B: Looking south over Glen Falloch

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some stands of conifer exist at the northern and southern parts glen, planting in most areas would detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes and the setting of nearby native woodland.	High
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although some additional native woodland planting could reinforce the contrast of wild and rugged summits with pastoral lowlands, in places it could detract from the open character of pastures found along the glen floor and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Considering the absence of existing productive conifer on the glen floor, any new planting would be uncharacteristic and result in the loss of open pastures and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	High
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some native woodland planting near to the River Falloch and its associated tributaries would conserve and enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to River Falloch and its associated tributaries would detract from their semi-natural character.	High

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
The rich variety of woodlands/ Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Considering the absence of existing productive conifer in most parts of the glen, any new planting would tend to be uncharacteristic and would detract from the semi-natural character of any nearby native woodland.	High
Famous through routes/ The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A82, the West Highland Way and rail line, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the glen that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A82, the West Highland Way and rail line, the planting of additional productive conifer could detract from the open views of the glen that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting could enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen although in most places, it would be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with any nearby native woodland.	High
Distinctive mountain groups	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive mountain summits such as Ben Glas, Maell nan Tarmachan and Ben Lomond.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive mountain summits such as Ben Glas, Maell nan Tarmachan and Ben Lomond.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : In tributary side glens, new planting could enhance their semi-natural character although planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits. In tributary side glens, new planting would also detract from the semi-natural character.	High
Upland Glens - LLT LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland within most parts of the glen would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some productive conifer that relates to existing stands could be accommodated in some local areas but in most parts, it would detract from the prevailing semi-natural character of the glen.	Medium

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

On parts of the glen and the lower containing hill slopes to the east and west of the Sub-zone, the planting of additional native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the glen without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities.

On the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive woodland planting. In places, planting in open areas could also detract from open views to nearby mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the glen.

Guidelines

- Additional native woodland on parts of the glen sides, adjoining small glens and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Encourage natural regeneration on steeper hill slopes, away from distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Maintain open views towards mountain summits.
- Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees along on parts of the glen floor where important open views along the glen would not be affected.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Low-medium

On most parts of the glen and the lower containing hill slopes to the east and west of the Sub-zone, the planting of productive conifer would be uncharacteristic and in general, would detract from the coverage of existing native woodlands and the associated rural character of the glen. As there is some existing forestry to the north and south of the glen however, there could be some limited opportunity for further productive conifer in these areas without detriment to Special Landscape Qualities.

On the glen floor, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ would be compromised by extensive planting. Planting in other open areas could also detract from open views to nearby mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the glen.

Guidelines

- Consider the planting of some limited productive conifer on parts of the glen sides near to existing stands of forestry.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Maintain open views towards mountain summits.
- Avoid planting on upper hills slopes and near to distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.

Sub-zone 2: Loch Lomond North

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Lomond North* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Tranquillity;
- Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond;
- Immensity of loch and landscape; and
- A multitude of beautiful islands.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 11, the *Loch Lomond North* Sub-zone is characterised by *Highland Summits* and *Straths and Glens with Lochs* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

Native woodland extends across large areas of the lower glens with very little productive conifer evident in the landscape.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 10, most parts of the lower slopes to the east of the loch are designated as Core Wildness, and to the west of the loch, relatively large areas of slopes and mountain summits centred on Ben Vorlich. All of the slopes and summits to the east of loch are also designated as Wild Land.

Viewpoint 5: Loch Shore, Ardlui (NN 31822 15681) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking north over Loch Lomond north towards Glen Falloch

Viewpoint 6: Ben Vorlich path, Ardlui (NN 31777 15168) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north towards Glen Falloch



View B: Looking south-east towards Ben Lomond

Viewpoint 7: Footpath to Ceann Mor (NN 32624 12196) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking south-east over Loch Lomond

Viewpoint 8: Inveruglas viewpoint (NN 32332 09833) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking south-west towards A Chrois

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some very limited areas of conifer exist at the northern and southern parts glen, planting in most areas would detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes and the setting of nearby native woodland.	High
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although some additional native woodland planting could reinforce the contrast of wild and rugged summits with pastoral lowlands, in places it could detract from the open character of pastures found along the glen floor and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Considering the absence of existing productive conifer on the glen floor, any new planting would be uncharacteristic and result in the loss of open pastures and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	High
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some native woodland planting near to Loch Lomond and Geal Loch would conserve and enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to Loch Lomond and Geal Loch would detract from their semi-natural character.	High

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
The rich variety of woodlands/ Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Considering the absence of existing productive conifer in most parts of the glen, any new planting would tend to be uncharacteristic and would detract from the semi-natural character of any nearby native woodland.	High
Famous through routes/ The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A82, the West Highland Way and rail line, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the glen that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A82, the West Highland Way and rail line, the planting of additional productive conifer could detract from the open views of the glen that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting could enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen although in most places, it would be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with any nearby native woodland.	High
Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive mountain summits such as Ben Glas, Little Hills, Beinn a Choin and Ben Lomond.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive mountain summits such as Ben Glas, Little Hills, Beinn a Choin and Ben Lomond.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : On lower slopes and in tributary side glens, new planting could enhance their semi-natural character although planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits. On lower slopes and in tributary side glens, new planting would also detract from the semi-natural character.	High
Straths and Glens with Lochs LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland within most parts of the glen would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some productive conifer that relates to existing stands could be accommodated in some local areas but in most parts, it would detract from the prevailing semi-natural character of the glen.	High

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

Further planting would be characteristic to the glen and in general, would enhance the wooded character and setting to Loch Lomond without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. On the glen floor however, additional planting could partially compromise open character and views to mountain summits and/or Loch Lomond. Any planting on upper slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the loch.

Guidelines

- Additional native woodland on glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.
- Encourage natural regeneration on steep hill slopes.
- Maintain open views towards summits.
- Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees on some parts of the glen floor where important open views along the glen would not be affected.
- Maintain open views over Loch Lomond.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Low

On most parts of the glen and the lower containing hill slopes to the east and west of the loch, the planting of productive conifer would be uncharacteristic and in general, would detract from the dense coverage of existing native woodlands and the associated rural character of the glen.

On the glen floor, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ would be compromised by extensive planting. Planting in other open areas could also detract from open views to mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the loch. However, as there are some small pockets of existing forestry within the glen, there could be some very limited opportunity for further productive conifer without detriment to Special Landscape Qualities.

Guidelines

- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Maintain open views over Loch Lomond.
- Maintain open views towards mountain summits.
- Avoid planting on upper hills slopes and near to distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.

Zone F: Loch Lomond Central

- Sub-zones:
- 1. Arrochar to Tarbet
 - 2. Loch Lomond West
 - 3. Loch Lomond East

CONTEXT

Overview of the study area

Introduction

As illustrated in Figure 1, Zone F is focused on the central part of Loch Lomond between Tarbet and the island of Inchmurrin. A series of mountain summits including Ben Lomond, Beinn Dubh, Beinn Uird and Beinn Breac provide a dramatic backdrop to the east and western sides of Loch Lomond.

Sub-zones

Primarily based on an assessment of landscape character and prominent ridgelines, the following Sub-zones (see Figure 12) have been selected to examine the potential for native woodland and productive conifer planting:

- 1. Arrochar to Tarbet;
- 2. Loch Lomond West; and
- 3. Loch Lomond East.

Special Landscape Qualities

In addition to exhibiting some General Special Landscape Qualities, the landscape and setting of the *Lomond Central* Zone represents the following:

- *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area Qualities; and
- *Argyll Forest* Landscape Area Qualities.

How the area is used by people

Visitor destinations

Important visitor destinations in and around the Zone include:

- Loch Lomond and islands;
- Inverbeg, Luss and Balmaha; and
- Ben Lomond and other mountain summits.

How the area is used by people

Key transport and recreational routes

Road access within the Zone is focused on the busy A82 that follows the western shore of Loch Lomond. The West Highland Way provides important recreational access along the eastern shore of Loch Lomond and a short section of the Three Lochs Way leads between Arrochar and Tarbet and up Glen Loin. The West Highland Rail Line also leads north along the western shore of Loch Lomond towards Glen Falloch.

Key viewpoints and views

As illustrated in Figure 13, the following key viewpoints and associated approximate extent of views have been identified:

- Viewpoint 1: A83, west of Tarbet
- Viewpoint 2: Three Lochs Way, south of Tarbet
- Viewpoint 3: Three Lochs Way, nr. Tighness
- Viewpoint 4: Inveruglas viewpoint
- Viewpoint 5: Pier on Loch Lomond, nr. Tarbet
- Viewpoint 6: NCR 40, north of Inverbeg
- Viewpoint 7: Firkin Point
- Viewpoint 8: Glen Douglas
- Viewpoint 9: NCR 40, south of Inverbeg
- Viewpoint 10: Luss
- Viewpoint 11: Balmaha
- Viewpoint 12: West Highland Way, nr. Sallochy
- Viewpoint 13: Rowardennan jetty

Figure 12: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints

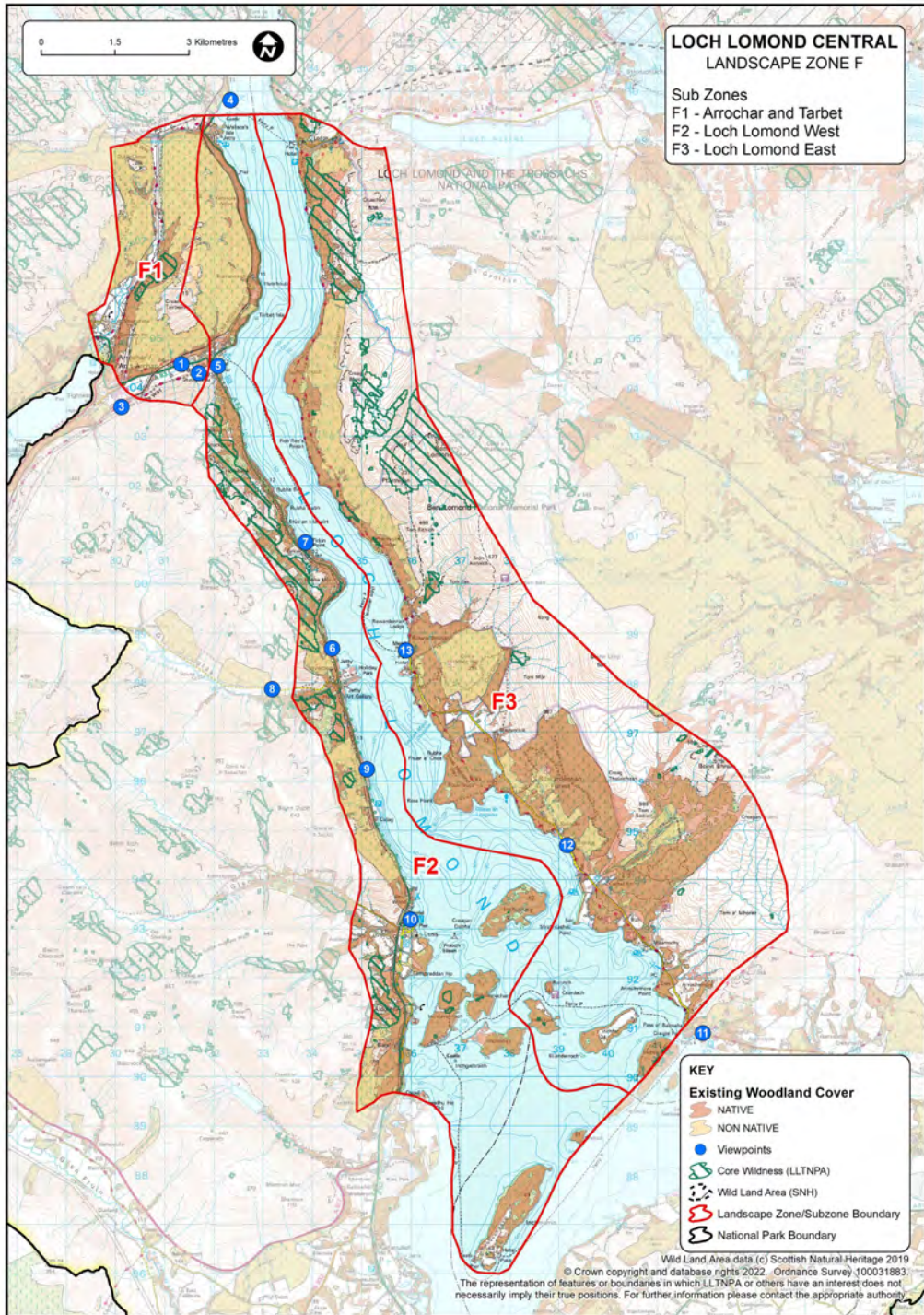
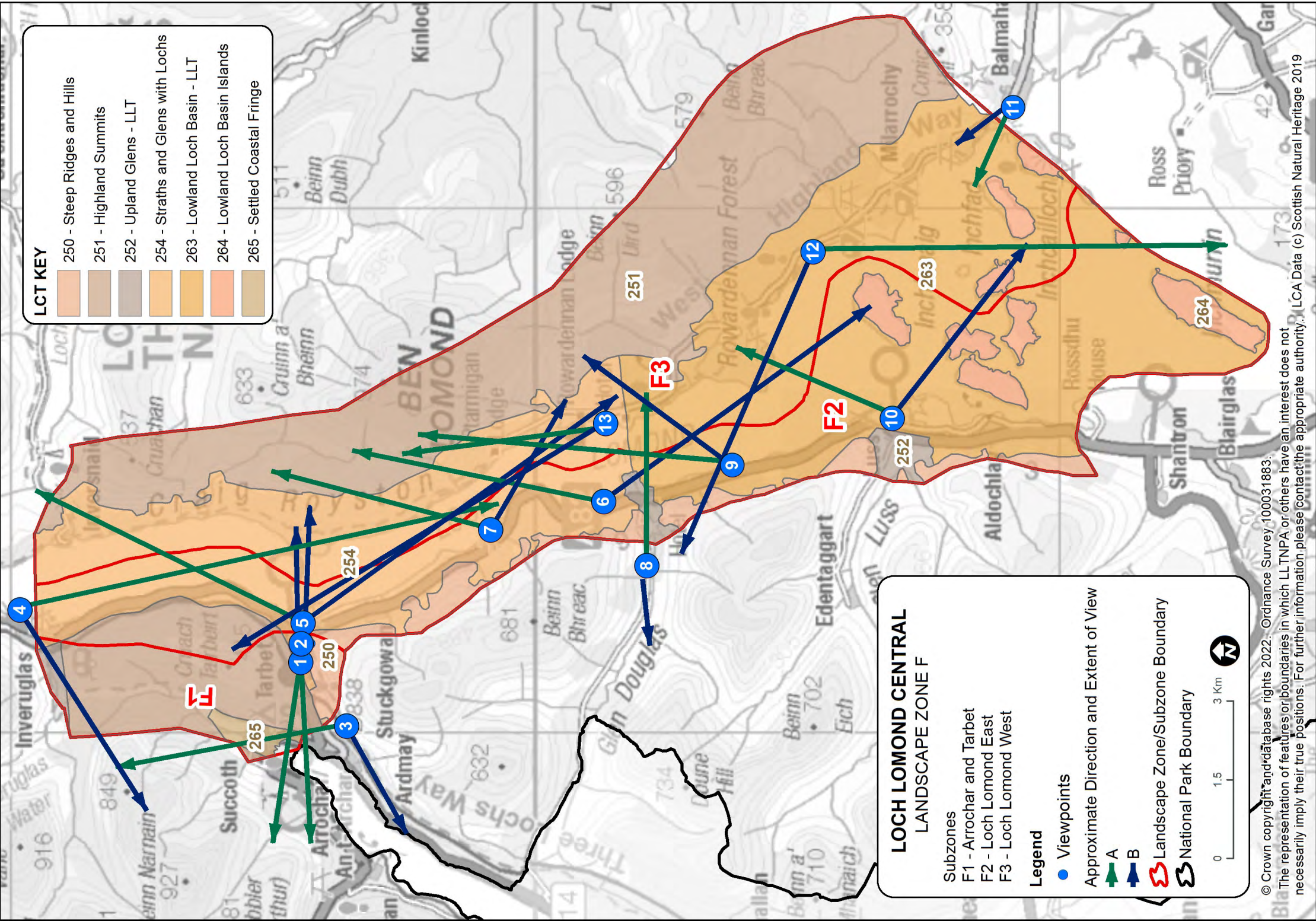


Figure 13: Landscape character, key viewpoints and views



Sub-zone 1: Arrochar to Tarbet

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond and Argyll Forest* Landscape Areas that are particularly relevant to the *Arrochar to Tarbet* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland/A land of forests and trees;
- Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Tranquillity; and
- Distinctive mountain groups/Arrochar’s mountainous and distinctive peaks.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 13, the *Arrochar to Tarbet* Sub-zone is characterised by *Steep Ridges and Hills, Straths and Glens with Lochs, Highland Summits* and *Settled Coastal Fringe* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 12, the Sub-zone is already heavily wooded/forested. Extensive productive conifer is found across much of the area, especially on the slopes of Glen Loin. A relatively large area of native woodland also covers the lower west-facing slopes of the glen.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 12, only a small area along the west facing slopes of Glen Loin is designated as Core Wildness. There are no Wild Land Areas within the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 1: A83, west of Tarbet (NN 31336 04475) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking west towards The Brack



View B: Looking east towards Tarbet

Viewpoint 2: Three Lochs Way, south of Tarbet (NN 31690 04292) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking west towards The Cobbler



View B: Looking east towards Tarbet

Viewpoint 3: Three Lochs Way, nr. Tighness (NN 30120 03604) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north towards Glen Loin



View B: Looking south-west over Loch Long

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floors and lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some large areas of productive conifer exist within the Sub-zone, any further planting would tend to detract from the rural setting of surrounding of the glen floors.	High
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although some additional native woodland planting could reinforce the contrast of wild and rugged summits with pastoral lowlands, in places it could detract from the open character of pastures found along the glen floor and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Considering the absence of existing productive conifer on the glen floor, any new planting in these areas would be uncharacteristic and result in the loss of open pastures and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	High
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some native woodland planting near to the Tarbet Burn and Loin Water would conserve and enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to the Tarbet Burn and Loin Water would detract from their semi-natural character.	High
The rich variety of woodlands/ Banks of broadleaved woodland/A land of forests and trees	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Considering the absence of existing productive conifer along the glen floors, any new planting in the areas would tend to be uncharacteristic and would detract from the semi-natural character of any nearby native woodland.	High
Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting of Native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded setting of Tarbet and Arrochar.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although planting in the backdrop to Arrochar and Tarbet would reflect their wooded setting, any planting near to these settlements would detract from nearby native woodland and trees.	Medium
Famous through routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A83, the West Highland rail line and the network of Core Paths that traverse the Sub-zone, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the glen and surrounding landscape that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A83, the West Highland rail line and the network of Core Paths that traverse the Sub-zone, the planting of additional native woodland would detract from the open views of the glen and surrounding landscape that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	High
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting could enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen although in some places, it would be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with any nearby native woodland.	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Distinctive mountain groups/ Arrochar's mountainous and distinctive peaks.	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill mountain summits such as Cruach Tairbeirt, Ben Ricoh, Ben Lomond and The Cobbler.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In any remaining open parts, the planting of additional productive conifer would compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive mountain summits such as Ben Glas, Little Hills, Beinn a Choin and Ben Lomond.	High
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : On the floor of Glen Loin, new planting could enhance the experience semi-natural character although planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Any further planting on steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits. On the floor of Glen Loin, new planting would also detract from the semi-natural character experienced alongside the burn.	High
Steep Ridges and Hills LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the slopes above the Three Lochs Way and parts of the glen floor would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of productive conifer would detract from the open character of the surrounding landscape.	High
Straths and Glens with Lochs LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the slopes above the Three Lochs Way and parts of the glen floor would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of productive conifer would detract from the open character of the surrounding landscape	High
Setteled Coastal Fringe LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting could enhance the semi-natural character of the burn although any extensive planting would detract from open views up Glen Loin and over Loch Long.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting would be uncharacteristic, detract from the semi-character experienced alongside the burn and compromise open views up Glen Loin and over Loch Long.	High

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium-high</p> <p>On parts of the glen and the lower containing hill slopes to the north and south, the planting of native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the glen without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities. On the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive woodland planting. In places, planting in open areas could also detract from open views to nearby hill and mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the glen.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional native woodland on parts of the glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.• Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.• Encourage natural regeneration on steeper hill slopes, away from distinctive rocky outcrops.• Maintain open views towards mountain summits.• Maintain open views over Loch Lomond and Loch Long.• Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees on some parts of the glen floor where important open views along the glen would not be affected.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Low</p> <p>On the glen floor, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ would be compromised by extensive woodland planting. In places, planting in open areas would also detract from open views to nearby hill and mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the glen, especially those enjoyed from parts of the A83, the West Highland rail line and the network of Core Paths that traverse the Sub-zone.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resist any productive conifer planting within the glen and on surrounding hill slopes.

Sub-zone 2: Loch Lomond West

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Lomond West* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Tranquillity;
- Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond;
- Immensity of loch and landscape/Two lochs in one; and
- A multitude of beautiful islands.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 13, the *Loch Lomond West* Sub-zone is characterised by *Straths and Glen with Lochs, Loch Lomond Islands, Highland Summits* and *Plateau Moor and Forest* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 12, the Sub-zone is already quite heavily wooded/forested. Large stands of productive conifer tend to occupy the upper slopes of the glen that provide an important backdrop to the loch, with native woodlands more characteristic along lower glen sides.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 12, parts of the slopes and/or summits of Cruachan, Creag a Bhocain, Ben Lomond and some very small parts of several other hills to the south are designated as Core Wildness. There are no Wild Land Areas within the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 4: Inveruglas viewpoint (NN 32332 09833) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking south-west towards A Chrois

Viewpoint 5: Pier on Loch Lomond, nr. Tarbet (NN 32082 04436) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking south-east over Loch Lomond

Viewpoint 6: NCR 40, north of Inverbeg (NS 34399 98701) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking north over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking south-east over Loch Lomond

Viewpoint 7: Firkin Point (NS 33858 00853) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking north over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking south-east over Loch Lomond

Viewpoint 8: Glen Douglas (NS 34315 98014) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking east over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking west along Glen Douglas

Viewpoint 9: NCR 40, south of Inverbeg (NS 35099 96244) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking north over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking north-east over Loch Lomond

Viewpoint 10: Luss (NS 35987 93195) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking south-east over Loch Lomond

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the lower glen sides and containing hill slopes that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some large stands of conifer exist on the slopes that contain the loch, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes and the setting of nearby native woodland.	Medium
The rich variety of woodlands/ Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Famous through routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from the lochside, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the loch and associated islands that recreational users currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from the lochside the planting of additional productive conifer could detract from the open views of the loch and associated islands that recreational users currently enjoy.	Medium
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland would enhance the experience of tranquillity across the area.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting could enhance the experience of tranquillity although in some places, it would be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with any nearby native woodland.	Medium
Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill mountain summits such as Ben Lomond and Beinn Bhreac.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill mountain summits such as Ben Lomond and Beinn Bhreac.	Medium
Water in its many forms/Immensity of loch and landscape/Two lochs in one	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some native woodland planting near to Loch Lomond would conserve and enhance its wooded setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to Loch Lomond would conserve and enhance its wooded setting.	Low
A multitude of beautiful islands	<u>Native woodland</u> : As the cluster of islands to the south of the Sub-zone is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : As the cluster of islands to the south of the Sub-zone is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would detract from their semi-natural character although planting in their backdrop would enhance the wooded backdrop setting.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded character of the landscape that provides an important	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Straths and Glen with Lochs LCT	setting to the loch.	
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : New planting would tend to conserve the wooded character of the landscape that provides an important setting to the loch.	Low
Loch Lomond Islands LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would detract from their semi-natural character although planting in their backdrop would enhance the wooded backdrop setting.	Medium
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on any steep mountain slopes it would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on any steep mountain slopes it would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium-high</p> <p>Further planting would be characteristic and in general, would enhance the wooded character and setting to Loch Lomond without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Near to the loch shore however, planting could partially compromise open character and views to mountain summits and/or Loch Lomond. Any planting on upper slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding hill and mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the loch.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional native woodland on glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured. • Encourage natural regeneration on some steep hill slopes. • Maintain open views towards hill and mountain summits. • Maintain open views over Loch Lomond.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium-high</p> <p>On glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes, the planting of productive conifer would be characteristic and in general, would enhance the wooded character and setting to Loch Lomond without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities.</p> <p>Planting near to the loch shore could partially compromise open character and views to mountain summits and/or Loch Lomond and any planting on upper slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding hill and mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the loch.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the planting of productive conifer on parts of the glen/hill sides near to existing stands of forestry. • Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes. • Maintain open views over Loch Lomond. • Maintain open views towards hill and mountain summits. • Avoid planting on upper hills slopes and near to distinctive rocky outcrops. • Protect the parkland character of designed landscapes.

Sub-zone 3: Loch Lomond East

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Lomond East* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Tranquillity;
- Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond;
- Immensity of loch and landscape/Two lochs in one; and
- A multitude of beautiful islands.

Landscape character and quality

As illustrated in Figure 13, the *Loch Lomond East* Sub-zone is characterised by *Straths and Glen with Lochs, Loch Lomond Islands, Highland Summits* and *Plateau Moor and Forest* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 12, the Sub-zone is already quite heavily wooded/forested. Near continues native woodland extends along the lower slopes that provide an important setting to the loch, and on some parts of higher ground, stands of productive conifer.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 12, parts of the slopes and/or summits of Cruachan, Creag a Bhocain, Ben Lomond and some very small parts of several other hills to the south are designated as Core Wildness. There are no Wild Land Areas within the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 11: Balmaha (NS 41919 90887) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking west over Loch Lomond

Viewpoint 12: West Highland Way, nr. Salloch (NS 39170 94704) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking south over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking north-west over Loch Lomond

Viewpoint 13: Rowardennan jetty (NS 35893 98659) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking north over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking north-west over Loch Lomond

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the lower glen sides and containing hill slopes that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some large stands of conifer exist on the slopes that contain the loch, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes and the setting of nearby native woodland.	Medium
The rich variety of woodlands/ Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Famous through routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from the lochside, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the loch and associated islands that recreational users currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from the lochside, the planting of productive conifer would detract from views of the loch and associated islands that recreational users currently enjoy.	High
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland would enhance the experience of tranquillity across the area.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : From most places, productive conifer would be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with any nearby native woodland.	High
Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill mountain summits such as Ben Lomond and Beinn Bhreac.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill mountain summits such as Ben Lomond and Beinn Bhreac.	Medium
Water in its many forms/Immensity of loch and landscape/Two lochs in one	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some native woodland planting near to Loch Lomond would conserve and enhance its wooded setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to Loch Lomond would detract from its semi-natural character.	High
A multitude of beautiful islands	<u>Native woodland</u> : As the cluster of islands to the south of the Sub-zone is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : As the cluster of islands to the south of the Sub-zone is mostly covered in native woodland, = planting would detract from their semi-natural character.	High
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Straths and Glen with Lochs LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded character of the landscape that provides an important setting to the loch.	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : New planting would tend to conserve the wooded character of the landscape that provides an important setting to the loch.	Low
Loch Lomond Islands LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : As the cluster of island and the loch shore is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : As the cluster of island and the loch shore is mostly covered in native woodland, any planting would detract from their semi-natural character.	High
Highland Summits LCTs	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on any steep mountain slopes it would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Any further planting on steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High

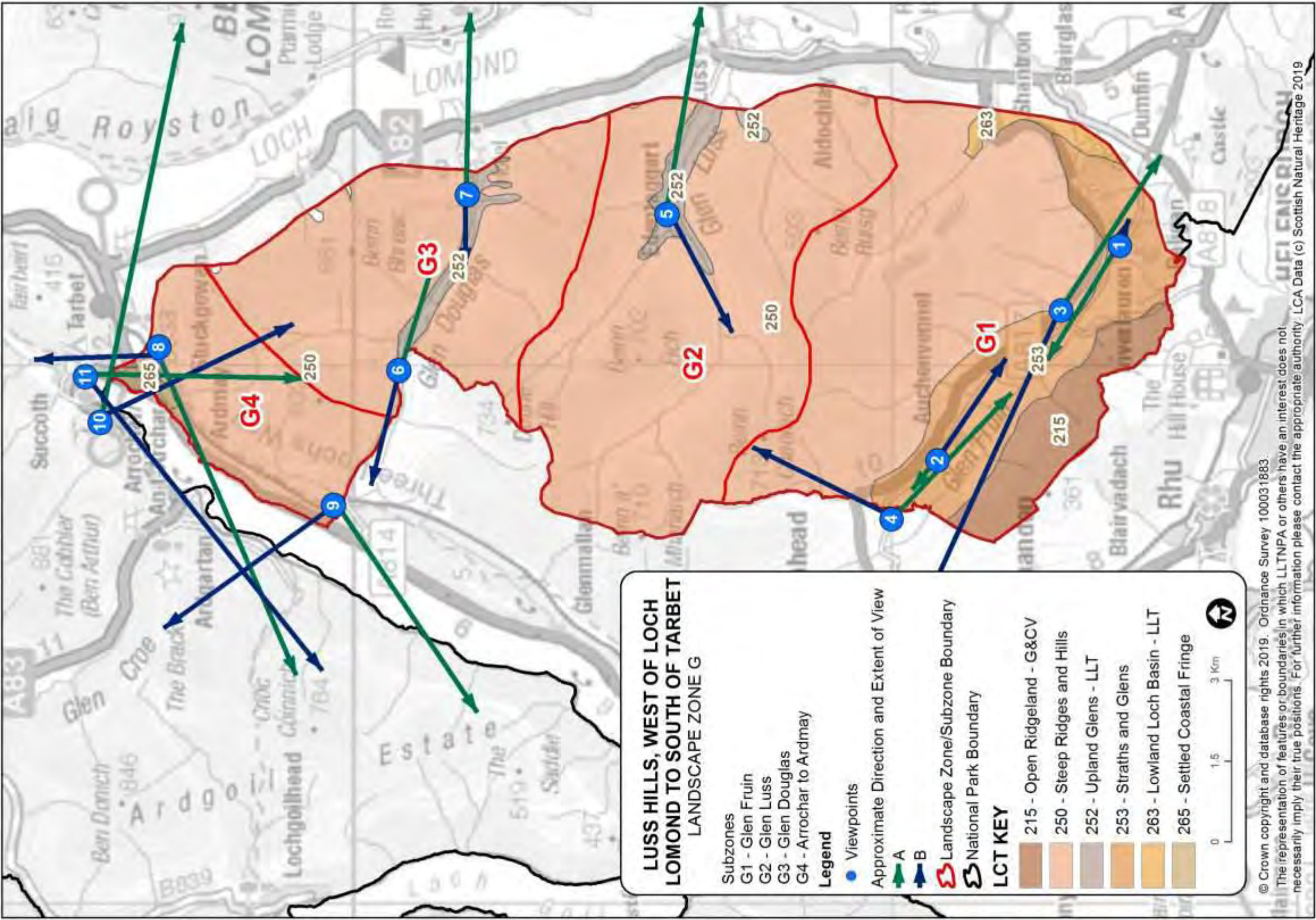
SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium-high</p> <p>Further planting would be characteristic and in general, would enhance the wooded character and setting to Loch Lomond without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Planting near to the loch shore however could partially compromise open character and views to mountain summits and/or Loch Lomond and any planting on upper slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding hill and mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the loch.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the planting of native woodland on glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes. • Encourage natural regeneration on steep hill slopes. • Maintain open views towards hill and mountain summits. • Maintain open views over Loch Lomond. • Consider planting woodland clumps on some parts of the glen floor where important open views over Loch Lomond would not be affected.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Low-medium</p> <p>On lower slopes, productive conifer would contrast with the extensive pattern of native woodlands that provide an important setting to the loch and on the glen floor, planting could partially compromise open character and views to mountain summits and/or Loch Lomond. Any planting on upper slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding hill and mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the loch.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes. • Maintain open views over Loch Lomond. • Maintain open views towards hill and mountain summits. • Avoid planting on upper hills slopes and near to distinctive rocky outcrops. • Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.

Zone G: Luss Hills, west of Loch Lomond to south of Tarbet

- Sub-zones:
- 1. Glen Fruin
 - 2. Glen Luss
 - 3. Glen Douglas
 - 4. Arrochar to Ardmay

Overview of the study area	How the area is used by people	Figure 14: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints
<p>Introduction</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 1, Zone G is located to the west of the southern part of Loch Lomond and to the east of the head of Loch Long. The large majority of the landscape is characterised by large open hills that provide a containing backdrop to a series of upland glens orientated on an east to west alignment. Glen Fruin is located at the southern part of the area, Glen Luss in the central part and further north, Glen Douglas. Further north, the open hills and associated glen sides from Arrochar to Ardmay provide an important setting to the head of Loch Long.</p> <p>Sub-zones</p> <p>Primarily based on an assessment of landscape character and prominent ridgelines, the following Sub-zones (see Figure 14) have been selected to examine the potential for native woodland and productive conifer planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Glen Fruin;2. Glen Luss;3. Glen Douglas; and4. Arrochar to Ardmay. <p>Special Landscape Qualities</p> <p>In addition to exhibiting some General Special Landscape Qualities, the landscape and setting of the <i>Luss Hills, west of Loch Lomond to south of Tarbet</i> Zone represents the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Loch Lomond</i> Landscape Area Qualities; and• <i>Argyll Forest</i> Landscape Area Qualities.	<p>Visitor destinations</p> <p>Important visitor destinations in and around the Area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loch Lomond and Loch Long;• Luss, Tarbet and Arrochar;• Glen Fruin, Glen Luss and Glen Douglas; and• Beinn Breac, Beinn Charoach and Beinn Eich. <p>Key transport and recreational routes</p> <p>The main transport and recreational routes that provide access in and around the Zone include the Three Lochs Way to the north and in Glen Fruin, a section of Core Path and the busy A817. Parts of the Zone are also visible from the nearby A82 and A83.</p> <p>Key viewpoints and views</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 15, the following key viewpoints and associated approximate of extent views have been identified:</p> <p>Viewpoint 1: Local road, Glen Fruin;</p> <p>Viewpoint 2: Local road/Three Lochs Way, Glen Fruin;</p> <p>Viewpoint 3: A817, Glen Fruin;</p> <p>Viewpoint 4: Local road/Three Lochs Way, Glen Fruin;</p> <p>Viewpoint 5: Glen Luss, west;</p> <p>Viewpoint 6: Glen Douglas, Tullich;</p> <p>Viewpoint 7: Glen Douglas, nr. Inverbeg;</p> <p>Viewpoint 8: Three Lochs Way, nr. Tighness;</p> <p>Viewpoint 9: Three Lochs Way, nr. Glen Douglas;</p> <p>Viewpoint 10: Footpath to The Cobbler; and</p> <p>Viewpoint 11: Three Lochs Way, head of Loch Long.</p>	<p>Figure 14: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints</p> <p>The map displays the Luss Hills area, divided into four sub-zones: G1 (Glen Fruin), G2 (Glen Luss), G3 (Glen Douglas), and G4 (Arrochar to Ardmay). It highlights existing woodland cover in native (green) and non-native (yellow) colors. Key viewpoints are marked with blue dots and numbered 1 through 11. The map also shows the Core Wildness (LLTNPA) and the National Park Boundary. A scale bar indicates 0 to 3 Kilometers, and a north arrow is present. A legend in the bottom right corner explains the symbols used.</p>

Figure 15: Landscape character, key viewpoints and views



Sub-zone 1: **Glen Fruin**

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Glen Fruin* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Famous through-routes;
- The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Peaceful side glens; and
- The rich variety of woodlands.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 15, the *Glen Fruin* Sub-zone is characterised by *Straths and Glens, Steep Ridges and Hills* and *Open Ridgeland* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 14, the Zone is quite open although some large stands of conifer exist on parts of the glen sides and some smaller stands towards the glen floor. Riparian trees and occasional small areas of native woodland are also found alongside the Fruin Water and its tributaries.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 14, only two small areas of higher ground in the northern backdrop to the glen are Core Wildness although there are no Wild Land Areas within.

Viewpoint 1: Local road, Glen Fruin (NS 32222 85737) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-west along Glen Fruin



View B: Looking east along Glen Fruin

Viewpoint 2: Local road/Three Lochs Way, Glen Fruin (NS 28232 89123) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-west along Glen Fruin



View B: Looking south-east along Glen Fruin

Viewpoint 3: A817, Glen Fruin (NS 31019 86831) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east over Glen Fruin



View B: Looking north-west over Glen Fruin

Viewpoint 4: Local road/Three Lochs Way, Glen Fruin (NS 27137 89978) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east along Glen Fruin



View B: Looking north-east along the Auchengaich glen

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the lower glen sides and containing hill slopes that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some large stands of conifer exist in the landscape, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes and rural pastures on the glen floor.	Medium
The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Famous through routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from the glen road, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the glen that recreational users currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from the glen road, the planting of additional productive conifer could detract from the open views of the glen that recreational users currently enjoy.	Medium
Peaceful glen sides	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland would enhance the experience of peace within the glen.	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
	<u>Productive conifer</u> The planting of some further productive conifer would conserve the experience of peace within the glen.	Low
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some native woodland near to the Fruin Water and its tributaries would enhance their setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to the Fruin Water and its tributaries could compromise their semi-natural character.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Straths and Glens LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland would tend to enhance the character of the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although planting would be characteristic on glen sides, productive conifer on, or near to, the glen floor could compromise open views.	Medium
Steep Ridges and Hills LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on higher ground, open character would be affected.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on higher ground, open character would be affected.	Medium
Open Ridgeland LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on higher ground, open character would be affected.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on higher ground, open character would be affected.	Medium

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

On parts of the glen and the lower containing hill slopes to the north-east and south-west of the area, the planting of native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the glen without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities.

On the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive woodland planting. In places, planting on upper hill slopes could also detract from open views to nearby hill summits that provide an important backdrop to the glen.

Guidelines

- Additional native woodland on parts of the glen sides, adjoining small glens and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Encourage natural regeneration on steeper hill slopes.
- Maintain open views towards nearby hill summits and more distant summits to the west.
- Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees along on parts of the glen floor where important open views along the glen would not be affected.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

Planting of productive conifer on glen sides would be characteristic and in general, could be accommodated without detriment to Special Landscape Qualities.

In places however, it would detract from the coverage of existing native woodlands and the associated rural character of the glen. In places, planting on upper hill slopes could also detract from open views to nearby hill summits that provide an important backdrop to the glen.

Guidelines

- Consider the planting of productive conifer on parts of the glen sides near to existing stands of forestry.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Maintain open views towards nearby hill summits and more distant summits to the west.
- Avoid planting on upper hills slopes.
- Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.

Sub-zone 2: **Glen Luss**

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Glen Luss* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Tranquillity/Peaceful side glens;
- The easily accessible landscape splendour; and
- Distinctive mountain groups.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 15, the *Glen Luss* Sub-zone is characterised by *Steep Ridges and Hills* and *Upland Glen LLT* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 14, native woodlands are concentrated on parts of the glen floor and relatively large areas of the lower glen sides towards the eastern part of the area. There is no productive conifer in the Sub-zone.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 14, areas of Core Wildness on hill summits and slopes, glens sides and small adjoining glen floors are scattered throughout the Sub-zone. There are no Wild Land Areas within the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 5: Glen Luss, west (NS 32857 94153) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking east towards Loch Lomond



View B: Looking south-west towards Glen Striddle

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting would be uncharacteristic and would notably detract from the strong rural character of the glen and the setting of nearby native woodlands.	High
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although some additional native woodland planting could reinforce the contrast of wild and rugged summits with pastoral lowlands, in places it could detract from the open character of pastures found along the glen floor and views towards the backdrop of hills.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Considering the absence of existing productive, any planting would be uncharacteristic and result in the loss of open pastures and views towards the backdrop of hills.	High
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland planting near to the Luss Water and its tributaries would conserve and enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to Luss Water and its tributaries would detract from their semi-natural character.	High
The rich variety of woodlands/ Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Considering the absence of existing productive conifer in the glen, any new planting would be uncharacteristic and detract from the semi-natural character of any nearby native woodland.	High
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from some sections of the glen road and footpaths within the Sub-zone, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the glen and surrounding hills that people currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from the glen road and footpaths within the Sub-zone, the planting of productive conifer could detract from the open views of the glen and surrounding hills that people currently enjoy.	Medium
Tranquillity/peaceful glen sides	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting might enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen although in most places, it would be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with any nearby native woodland.	High
Distinctive mountain groups	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill/mountain summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill/mountain summits.	Medium

Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Upland Glens LLT LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland would tend to enhance the character of the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Any planting would be uncharacteristic and would notably detract from the strong rural character of the glen and the setting of nearby native woodlands.	High
Steep Ridges and Hills LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although some planting on lower parts would enhance the glen, planting on upper slopes would notably detract from the open character of the hills	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Any planting would be uncharacteristic and would notably detract from the open character of the hills, and the setting of native woodlands in the glen.	High

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

Native woodland planting within the glen and on the lower containing hill slopes to the north and south of the area would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the glen without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities. In places however, planting could detract from open views to nearby mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the glen and framed views over Loch Lomond.

Guidelines

- Additional native woodland on parts of the glen sides, adjoining small glens and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Encourage natural regeneration on steeper hill slopes.
- Maintain open views towards nearby hill summits and framed views over Loch Lomond.
- Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees along on parts of the glen floor where important open views along the glen would not be affected.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Low

The planting of productive conifer would be uncharacteristic and would notably detract from the coverage of existing native woodlands and the associated rural character of the glen. On the glen floor, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ would be compromised by extensive planting and on surrounding hill slopes, it could also detract from views over Loch Lomond and views to nearby mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the glen.

Guidelines

- Resist any productive conifer planting within the glen and on surrounding hill slopes.

Sub-zone 3: Glen Douglas

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Glen Douglas* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands/ Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Tranquillity/Peaceful side glens;
- The easily accessible landscape splendour; and
- Distinctive mountain groups.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 15, the *Glen Douglas* Sub-zone is characterised by *Steep Ridges and Hills* and *Upland Glens* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 14, native woodlands are concentrated on parts of the glen floor and relatively large areas of the lower north-facing glen sides towards the eastern part of the area. Occasional linear native woodlands are also found alongside some tributaries of the Douglas Water. There are also two quite large stands of productive conifer on the lower south-facing slopes of the glen.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 14, areas of Core Wildness on hill summits and slopes, and parts of glens sides are scattered throughout the Sub-zone although there are no Wild Land Areas within.

Viewpoint 6: Glen Douglas, Tullich (NS 29906 99145) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking east along Glen Douglas



View B: Looking west along Glen Douglas

Viewpoint 7: Glen Douglas, nr. Inverbeg (NS 34315 98014) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking east over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking west along Glen Douglas

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the lower glen sides and containing hill slopes that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some large stands of conifer exist in the landscape, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes and rural pastures on the glen floor.	Medium
The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from the glen road, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the glen that recreational users currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from the glen road, the planting of additional productive conifer could detract from the open views of the glen that recreational users currently enjoy.	Medium
Tranquillity/Peaceful glen	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland would enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen.	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
sides	<u>Productive conifer</u> The planting of some further productive conifer would conserve the experience of peace within the glen.	Low
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : The introduction of some native woodland near to the Douglas Water and its tributaries would enhance their setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The introduction of productive conifer planting near to the Douglas Water and its tributaries could compromise their semi-natural character.	Medium
Distinctive mountain groups	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill/mountain summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill/mountain summits.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Upland Glens LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland would tend to enhance the character of the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although planting would be characteristic in places, it could notably detract from the strong rural character of the glen and the setting of nearby native woodlands.	Medium
Steep Ridges and Hills LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on higher ground, open character would be affected.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on higher ground, open character would be affected.	Medium

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

On parts of the glen and the lower containing hill slopes to the north and south of the area, the planting of native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the glen without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities.

On the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive woodland planting. In places, planting on upper hill slopes could also detract from open views to nearby hill summits that provide an important backdrop to the glen.

Guidelines

- Additional native woodland on parts of the glen sides, adjoining small glens and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Encourage natural regeneration on steeper hill slopes.
- Maintain open views towards nearby hill summits and framed views over Loch Lomond.
- Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees along on parts of the glen floor where important open views along the glen would not be affected.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium

Planting of productive conifer on glen sides would be characteristic and in general, could be accommodated without detriment to Special Landscape Qualities.

In places however, it would detract from the coverage of existing native woodlands and the associated rural character of the glen. In places, planting on upper hill slopes could also detract from open views to nearby hill summits that provide an important backdrop to the glen.

Guidelines

- Consider the planting of productive conifer on parts of the glen sides near to existing stands of forestry.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Maintain open views towards nearby hill summits and framed views over Loch Lomond.
- Avoid planting on upper hills slopes.
- Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.

Sub-zone 4: Arrochar to Ardmay

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Argyll Forest* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Arrochar to Ardmay* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands/A land of forests and trees;
- Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour; and
- Arrochar’s mountainous and distinctive peaks.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 15, the *Arrochar to Ardmay* Sub-zone is characterised by *Steep Ridges and Hills* and *Settled Coastal Fringe* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 14, near continuous native woodlands are concentrated below the railway line on the lower glen side that provides an important backdrop to Loch Long. Small stands of productive conifer are also located in the backdrop to Tighness.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 14, small areas of Core Wildness are found the summits of Ben Reoch and Tullich Hill. There are no Wild Land Areas within the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 8: Three Lochs Way, nr. Tighness (NN 30120 03604) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west over Loch Long



View B: Looking north towards Glen Loin

Viewpoint 9: Three Lochs Way, nr. Glen Douglas (NN 27395 00358) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west over Loch Long



View B: Looking north-west over Loch Long

Viewpoint 10: Footpath to The Cobbler (NN 28940 04699) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking east towards Ben Lomond



View B: Looking south-east over Loch Long

Viewpoint 11: Three Lochs Way, head of Loch Long (NN 29787 04969) – large number of visitors



View A: Looking south towards Tullich Hill



View B: Looking south-west towards The Brack

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland on the lower slopes that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : As only small areas of productive conifer exist within the Sub-zone, any further planting could detract from the prevailing rural character.	Medium
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional native woodland planting in the backdrop to Loch Long would enhance its wooded/forested setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Additional native woodland in the backdrop to Loch Long would enhance its wooded/forested setting.	Low
The rich variety of woodlands/ A land of forests and trees	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the lower slopes would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although productive conifer planting would relate to the wider forested character of the hill slope around the loch, it would tend to contrast with the extensive coverage of existing native woodland within the Sub-zone.	Medium
Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting of native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded setting of Tighness and Arrochar.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some productive conifer in the backdrop to Tighness would relate to exiting forestry, any planting around Arrochar would	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
	contrast with existing native woodland.	
Famous through routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A814 and the Three Lochs Way that traverse the Sub-zone, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the loch and surrounding landscape that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from some sections of the A814 and the Three Lochs Way that traverse the Sub-zone, the planting of additional productive conifer could detract from the open views of the loch and surrounding landscape that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
Arrochar's mountainous and distinctive peaks	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill mountain summits such as Ben Donich, Ben Ime and The Cobbler.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of additional productive conifer could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill mountain summits such as Ben Donich, Ben Ime and The Cobbler.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Steep Ridges and Hills LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the lower slopes would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of productive conifer could detract from the open character of the surrounding landscape and the extensive coverage of native woodland.	Medium
Setteled Coastal Fringe LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting of native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded setting of Tighness and Arrochar.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some productive conifer in the backdrop to Tighness would relate to exiting forestry, any planting around Arrochar would contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium-high</p> <p>Native woodland planting would be characteristic and in general, would enhance the wooded character and setting to Loch Long without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Near to the loch shore however, planting could compromise open views to nearby summits and/or Loch Long. Planting on upper hill slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding summits that provide an important backdrop to the loch.</p> <p>In practice however, the lower glen sides are already heavily wooded with little or no opportunity for additional planting.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote the planting of native woodland on lower hill slopes.• Encourage natural regeneration on some steep hill slopes.• Maintain open views towards nearby summits and over Loch Long.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium</p> <p>Although some small stands of productive conifer exist, additional planting could compromise the extensive coverage of native woodland although it would tend to enhance the wooded/forested setting to Loch Long. Near to the loch shore however, planting could compromise open views to nearby summits and/or Loch Long. Planting on upper hill slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding summits that provide an important backdrop to the loch.</p> <p>In practice however, the lower glen sides are already heavily wooded with little or no opportunity for additional planting.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the planting of some productive conifer on parts of the hill slopes near to existing stands of forestry.• Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.• Maintain open views towards nearby summits and over Loch Long.• Avoid planting on upper hills slopes.• Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.

Zone H: Strath Gartney and Breas of Balquhiddier

- Sub-zones:
- 1. Loch Voil
 - 2. Loch Katrine
 - 3. Loch Arklet


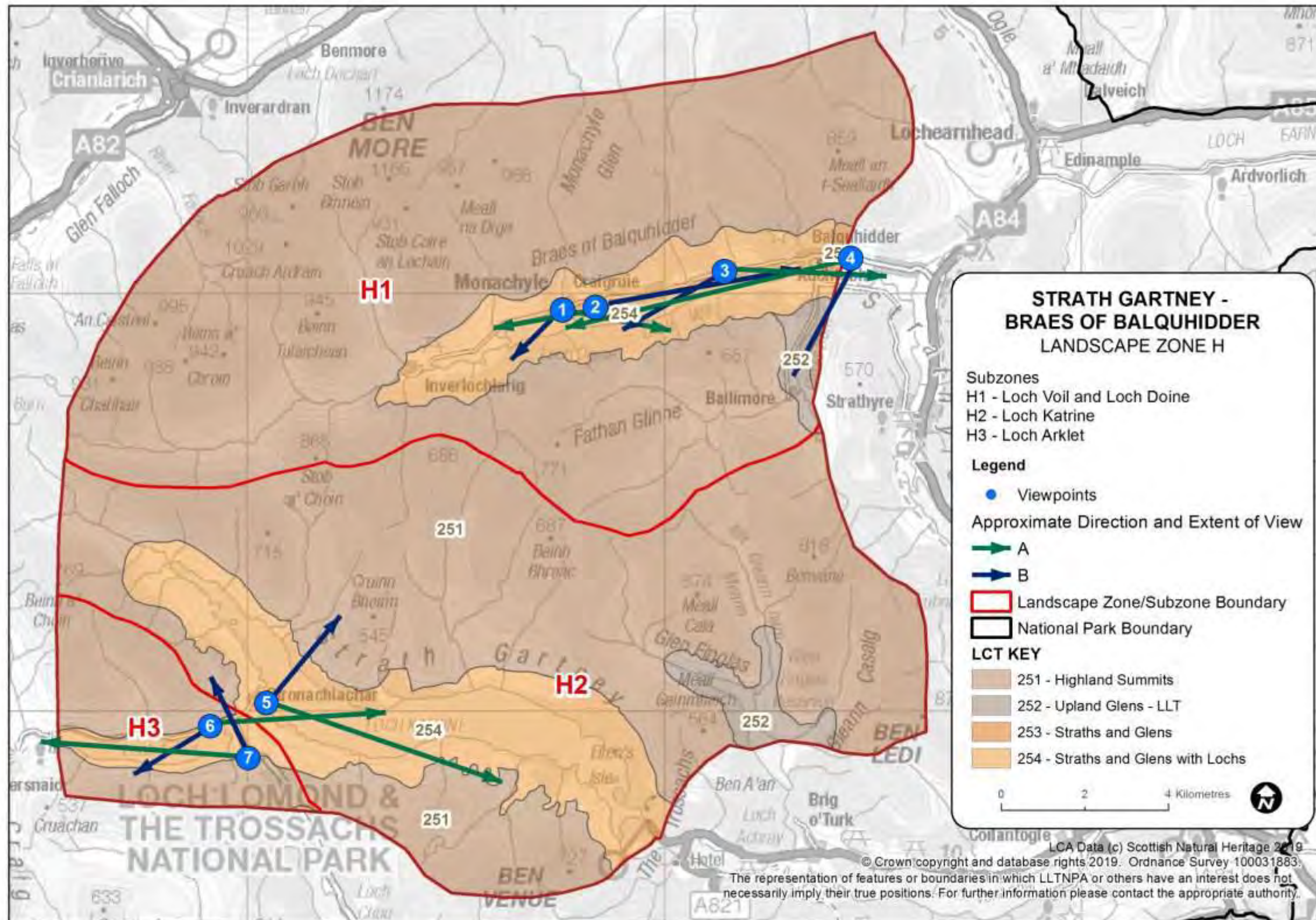
Overview of the study area	How the area is used by people	Figure 16: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints
<p>Introduction</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 1, Zone H is located to north-east of Loch Lomond and to the south of Glen Dochart. A large proportion of the landscape is characterised by mountain summits that provide a containing backdrop to a series of upland glens and lochs. Loch Arklet and Loch Katrine are located to the south of the Zone and to the west of Balquhiddier, Loch Voil and Loch Doine.</p> <p>Sub-zones</p> <p>Primarily based on an assessment of landscape character and prominent ridgelines, the following Sub-zones (see Figure 16) have been selected to examine the potential for native woodland and productive conifer planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Loch Voil;2. Loch Katrine; and3. Loch Arklet. <p>Special Landscape Qualities</p> <p>In addition to exhibiting some General Special Landscape Qualities, the landscape and setting of the <i>Strath Gartney and Breas of Balquhiddier</i> Zone represents the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Trossachs</i> Landscape Area Special Landscape Qualities.; and• <i>Breadalbane</i> Landscape Area Special Landscape Qualities.	<p>Visitor destinations</p> <p>Important visitor destinations in and around the Zone include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loch Katrine, Loch Arklet, Loch Voil and Loch Doine;• Balquhiddier and the Kirkton Glen; and• Ben Venue, Ben More. <p>Key transport and recreational routes</p> <p>Core Path access is relatively extensive and includes a long section of footpath along the northern shore of Loch Katrine and Loch Arklet, a circular route up Glen Finglas and around Meall Cala, and to the north of Balquhiddier, a route up the Kirkton Glen. Road access within the Zone is very limited and is focused on minor roads along the northern shores of Loch Voil and Loch Arklet. Beyond the northern boundary of the area, the busy A85 passes along Glen Dochart and beyond the eastern boundary, the A84 leads along Glen Ogle.</p> <p>Key viewpoints and views</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 17, the following key viewpoints and associated approximate extent of views have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Viewpoint 1: Minor road, nr. Loch Doine;Viewpoint 2: Minor road, Loch Voil;Viewpoint 3: Minor road, nr. Tulloch;Viewpoint 4: Minor road, east of Balquhiddier;Viewpoint 5: Stronachlachar Pier;Viewpoint 6: Loch Arklet north shore; andViewpoint 7: Loch Arklet east shore.	

Figure 17: Landscape character, key viewpoints and views



Sub-zone 1: Loch Voil

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Breadalbane* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Voil* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop;
- Tranquillity;
- The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Steep mountains and long glens;
- A landscape of distinctive glens and straths; and
- Beautiful Balquhiddier.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 17, the *Loch Voil* Sub-zone is characterised by *Highland Summits, Straths and Glens with Lochs* and *Upland Glens LLT* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 16, relatively extensive areas of productive conifer are concentrated on the lower slopes along the southern shore of Loch Voil and Loch Doine, and two small adjoining glens further to the west. To the north of the lochs, Kirkton Glen, Gleann Crotha and Monachyle Glen are also heavily forested. Native woodlands are found along parts of the lower slopes and glens that surround the lochs and to the west of Loch Doine, the lower slopes that contain the River Larig.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 16, relatively large areas of mountain summits to the north and south of Sub-zone are areas of Core Wildness. A large Wild Land Area is located to the north-west and a smaller area to the south-east.

Viewpoint 1: Minor road, nr. Loch Doine (NN 47542 19629) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east towards Loch Voil (out of view)



View B: Looking south-west towards Loch Doine (out of view)

Viewpoint 2: Minor road, Loch Voil (NN 48527 19693) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking west over Loch Voil



View B: Looking east over Loch Voil

Viewpoint 3: Minor road, nr. Tulloch (NN 51432 20558) – moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking east towards Balquhidder



View B: Looking south-west along minor road

Viewpoint 4: Minor road, east of Balquhiddel (NN 54450 20871) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking west towards Balquhiddel



View B: Looking south-west up Glen Buckie

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the lower glen sides and containing hill slopes that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some large stands of conifer exist on the lower slopes and adjoining glens, further planting could detract from the rural setting of surrounding open hill slopes and the setting of nearby native woodland.	Medium
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland within glens and on some lower hill slopes would reinforce the contrast between the open character of surrounding rugged summits and the prevailing wooded/forested character of lower-lying areas.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some additional productive conifer planting within glens and on some lower hill slopes would reinforce the contrast between the open character of surrounding rugged summits and the prevailing wooded/forested character of lower-lying areas.	Low
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional native woodland planting in the backdrop to the lochs would enhance their wooded/forested setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Additional productive conifer in the backdrop to the lochs would enhance their wooded/forested setting	Low
The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop/Beautiful Balquidder	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting of native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded setting of Balquidder.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some productive conifer in the backdrop to Balquidder would relate to exiting forestry, any planting in close proximity would contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from some sections of the loch side Core Path, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the loch and surrounding landscape that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from some sections of the loch side Core Path, the planting of additional productive conifer could detract from the open views of the loch and surrounding landscape that users travelling along these routes currently enjoy.	Medium
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland would enhance the experience of tranquillity across the area.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting could enhance the experience of tranquillity although in some places, it would be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with any nearby native woodland.	Medium
Steep mountains and long glens/A landscape of distinctive glens and straths	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland within glens and on some lower hill slopes would reinforce the contrast between the open character of surrounding rugged summits and the prevailing wooded character of lower-lying areas.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Any productive conifer planting would generally contrast with the distinctive coverage of native woodlands within the glens.	High
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on any steep mountain slopes it would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on any steep mountain slopes it would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
Straths and Glens with Lochs LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting of native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded character of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Additional planting of productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape.	Low
Upland Glens LLT LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting of native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded character of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Additional planting of productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape.	Low

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

Native woodland planting would be characteristic and in general, would enhance the wooded character and setting to Loch Voil and Loch Doine without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Near to the loch shores however, planting could compromise the character of open pastures and views to nearby summits and/or over the lochs. Planting on upper hill slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding summits that provide an important backdrop to the lochs.

However, the lower glen sides are already heavily wooded with little opportunity for additional planting.

Guidelines

- Additional native woodland on glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.
- Encourage natural regeneration on some steep hill slopes.
- Maintain open views towards nearby summits and over the lochs.
- Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees along on parts of the glen floor where important open views along the glen would not be affected.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

The planting of productive conifer would be characteristic and in general, would enhance the wooded character and setting to the lochs without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Near to the loch shores however, planting could compromise the character of open pastures and views to nearby summits and/or over the lochs. Planting on upper hill slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding summits that provide an important backdrop to the lochs.

In practice however, the lower glen sides are already heavily wooded with little opportunity for additional planting.

Guidelines

- Limited additional productive conifer could expand from existing larger scale forests on parts of the glen sides.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Maintain open views towards nearby summits and over the lochs.
- Avoid planting on upper hills slopes.
- Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.

Sub-zone 2: Loch Katrine

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Trossachs* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Katrine* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop;
- Tranquillity;
- The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- A harmonious concentration of lochs, woods and hills;
- Rugged Ben Venue, the centrepiece of the Trossachs;
- Loch Katrine, the ‘Queen of the Trossachs’;
- A landscape of beautiful lochs; and
- The romance of the Trossachs.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 17, the *Loch Katrine* Sub-zone is characterised by *Highland Summits and Straths and Glens with Lochs* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 16, relatively extensive areas of native woodland are concentrated on the lower slopes around Loch Katrine and the Glen Finglas Reservoir. Some smaller stands of productive conifer are also scattered amongst native woodlands along some lower-lying parts of the Sub-zone.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 16, relatively large areas of mountain upper slopes and summits to the north of Sub-zone are areas of Core Wildness and some smaller parts to the south. Most of the landscape to the north of Loch Katrine and the Glen Finglas Reservoir is also a large Wild Land Area.

Viewpoint 5: Stronachlachar Pier (NN 40443 10214) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east over Loch Katrine



View B: Looking north-east over Loch Katrine

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, planting would be uncharacteristic and would notably detract from the strong rural character of the landscape and the setting of nearby native woodlands.	High
Water in its many forms/A landscape of beautiful lochs/ Loch Katrine, the 'Queen of the Trossachs'	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland planting near to the Loch Katrine and its tributaries would conserve and enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, the introduction of productive conifer planting near to the Loch Katrine and its tributaries would detract from their semi-natural character.	High
The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Considering the absence of existing productive conifer in most parts, any new planting would detract from the semi-natural character of any nearby native woodland.	High
Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting of native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded setting of Stronachlachar.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Productive conifer planting in the backdrop to Stronachlachar would contrast with existing native woodland.	High
A harmonious concentration of lochs, woods and hills	<u>Native woodland</u> : Any large areas of planting could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding open hills.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Any large areas of planting could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding open hills.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from some sections of lochside Core Path, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the loch surrounding mountains that people currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from most sections of lochside Core Path, the planting of additional productive would detract from the open views of the loch surrounding mountains that people currently enjoy.	High
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting might enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen although in most places, it would be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with any nearby native woodland.	Medium
Rugged Ben Venue, the centrepiece of the Trossachs	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive Ben Venue and other distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of productive conifer on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
	Ben Venue and other distinctive summits	
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : On lower slopes and in tributary side glens, new planting could enhance their semi-natural character although planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits. On lower slopes and in tributary side glens, new planting would also detract from the semi-natural character.	High
Straths and Glens with Lochs LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland within most parts of the glen would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some productive conifer that relates to existing stands could be accommodated in some local areas but in most parts, it would detract from the prevailing semi-natural character of the glen.	High

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium-high</p> <p>Native woodland planting would be characteristic and in general, would enhance the wooded character and setting to the loch without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Planting near to the loch shore however could partially compromise open character and views to nearby summits and/or over Loch Katrine and any planting on upper slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the loch.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the planting of native woodland on glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes. Encourage natural regeneration on steep hill slopes. Maintain open views towards nearby mountain summits. Maintain open views over Loch Katrine. Consider planting woodland clumps on some parts of the glen floor where important open views over the loch would not be affected.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Low</p> <p>On some glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes, the planting of productive conifer would detract from the extensive coverage of native woodland with detriment to many Special Landscape Qualities. Planting near to the loch shore could partially compromise open character and views to nearby summits and/or over Loch Katrine and any planting on upper slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the loch.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resist any productive conifer planting within the glen and on surrounding hill slopes.

Sub-zone 3: Loch Arklet

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

<p>Special Landscape Qualities</p> <p>The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the <i>Trossachs</i> Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the <i>Loch Arklet</i> Sub-zone are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;• Water in its many forms;• The rich variety of woodlands;• Tranquillity;• The easily accessible landscape splendour;• A harmonious concentration of lochs, woods and hills;• Rugged Ben Venue, the centrepiece of the Trossachs;• A landscape of beautiful lochs; and• The romance of the Trossachs.	<p>Landscape character</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 17, the <i>Loch Arklet</i> Sub-zone is characterised by <i>Highland Summits</i> and <i>Straths and Glens with Lochs</i> LCTs.</p> <p>Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 16, relatively extensive areas of native woodland are concentrated on the lower slopes around Loch Katrine and the Glen Finglas Reservoir. A small stand of productive conifer is also located on the slopes at the south-eastern boundary of the Sub-zone.</p> <p>Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 16, mountain summits and upper slopes to the north and south of Loch Arklet are areas of Core Wildness, and the northern part of the Sub-zone is also a Wild Land Area.</p>
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Viewpoint 6: Loch Arklet north shore (NN 39091 09652) - moderate number of visitors

 <p>View A: Looking east towards Loch Katrine (out of view)</p>	 <p>View B: Looking south-west over Loch Arklet</p>
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Viewpoint 7: Loch Arklet east shore (NN 40013 08893) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking west over Loch Arklet



View B: Looking north over Loch Arklet towards Garradh

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity although open character could be adversely affected in places.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, planting would be uncharacteristic and would notably detract from the strong rural character of the landscape and the setting of nearby native woodlands.	High
Water in its many forms/A landscape of beautiful lochs	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland planting near to the Loch Arklet and its tributaries would conserve and enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, the introduction of productive conifer planting near to the Loch Arklet and its tributaries would detract from their semi-natural character.	High
The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Considering the absence of existing productive conifer in most parts, any new planting would detract from the semi-natural character of any nearby native woodland.	High
A harmonious concentration	<u>Native woodland</u> : Any large areas of planting could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding open hills.	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
of lochs, woods and hills	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Any large areas of planting could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding open hills.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from some sections of lochside Core Path and road, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the loch surrounding mountains that people currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from most sections of lochside Core Path and road, the planting of additional productive would detract from the open views of the loch surrounding mountains that people currently enjoy.	High
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glen.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting might enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen although in most places, it would be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with any nearby native woodland.	Medium
Rugged Ben Venue, the centrepiece of the Trossachs	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive Ben Venue and other distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of productive conifer on the glen floor and lower sides would compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive Ben Venue and other distinctive summits	High
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : On lower slopes and in tributary side glens, new planting could enhance their semi-natural character although planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits. On lower slopes and in tributary side glens, new planting would also detract from the semi-natural character.	High
Straths and Glens with Lochs LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland within most parts of the glen would tend to enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some productive conifer that relates to existing stands could be accommodated in some local areas but in most parts, it would detract from the prevailing semi-natural character of the glen.	High

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity: Medium</p> <p>On glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes, the planting of some native woodland would be characteristic and could enhance the setting to the loch without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Any extensive planting however could compromise the prevailing open character and the appreciation of open views of the distinctive glen landform and backdrop of dramatic summits.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional native woodland on glen sides and surrounding lower hill slopes whilst maintaining the prevailing open character of the landscape would be favoured.• Encourage some natural regeneration on steep hill slopes.• Maintain open views towards nearby mountain summits.• Maintain open views over Loch Arklet.• Consider planting woodland clumps on some parts of the glen floor where important open views over the loch would not be affected.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Low</p> <p>The planting of productive conifer would be uncharacteristic and would notably detract from the prevailing open character and the coverage of existing native woodlands. Planting would also compromise the appreciation of open views of the distinctive glen landform and backdrop of dramatic summits.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resist any productive conifer planting within the glen and on surrounding hill slopes.

Zone I: Strathyre and Loch Earn

- Sub-zones:
- 1. Loch Earn
 - 2. Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig
 - 3. Callander

Overview of the study area

Introduction

As illustrated in Figure 1, Zone I is located to the north-east of the National Park. A large proportion of the landscape is characterised by mountain summits that provide a containing backdrop to a series of upland glens and lochs. Loch Earn is located in the north of the Zone, Loch Lubnaig and associated the Strathyre in the west, and the gateway town of Callander in the southern part.

Sub-zones

Primarily based on an assessment of landscape character and prominent ridgelines, the following Sub-zones (see Figure 18) have been selected to examine the potential for native woodland and productive conifer planting:

- 1. Loch Earn;
- 2. Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig; and
- 3. Callander.

Special Landscape Qualities

In addition to exhibiting some General Special Landscape Qualities, the landscape and setting of the *Strathyre and Loch Earn* Zone represents the following:

- *Breadalbane* Landscape Area Special Landscape Qualities; and
- *The Trossachs* Landscape Area Special Landscape Qualities.

How the area is used by people

Visitor destinations

Important visitor destinations in and around the Zone include:

- Loch Earn and Loch Lubnaig;
- Callendar, St Fillans and Lochearnhead; and
- Ben Vorlich and Ben Ledi.

Key transport and recreational routes

Within the glens, access is relatively extensive. The A85 follows the northern shore of Loch Earn where to the south of Glen Ogle, it joins with the busy A84 that leads along Strathyre towards Callander. The Rob Roy Way also follows the shore of Loch Lubnaig and up Glen Ogle, and other sections of Core Path lead through areas of forestry on the glen sides.

Key viewpoints and views

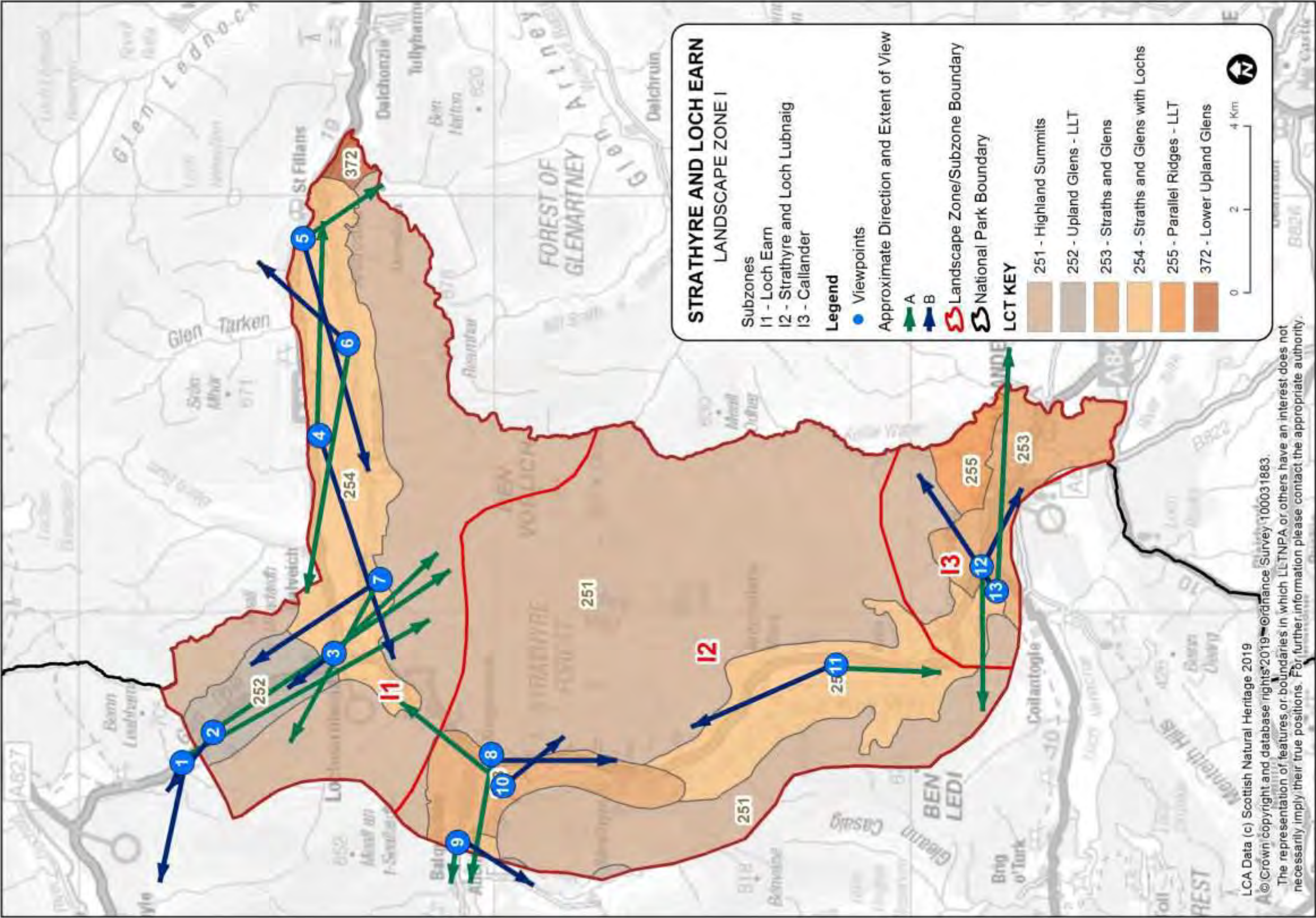
As illustrated in Figure 19, the following key viewpoints and associated approximate extent of views have been identified:

- Viewpoint 1: A85, Glen Ogle south;
- Viewpoint 2: Lochearnhead;
- Viewpoint 3: Loch Earn, north shore;
- Viewpoint 4: A85, Loch Earn west of St Finnans;
- Viewpoint 5: Loch Earn, south shore;
- Viewpoint 6: Loch Earn, minor road south shore;
- Viewpoint 7: Rob Roy Way, south of Kingshouse;
- Viewpoint 8: Minor road, east of Balquhiddy;
- Viewpoint 9: Minor road, Stroneslaney;
- Viewpoint 10: Loch Lubnaig, east shore car park;
- Viewpoint 11: A84, Kilmahog; and
- Viewpoint 12: Bocastle Hill.

Figure 18: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints



Figure 19: Landscape character, key viewpoints and views



Sub-zone 1: Loch Earn

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Breadalbane* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Earn* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop;
- Famous through-routes;
- Tranquillity;
- The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Steep mountains and long glens;
- A landscape of distinctive glens and straths;
- Wide and straight Loch Earn; and
- The rocky pass of Glen Ogle.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 19, the *Loch Earn* Sub-zone is characterised by *Highland Summits, Straths and Glens with Lochs* and *Upland Glens LLT* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 18, relatively extensive areas of native woodland are located on the lower glen slopes around Loch Earn, particularly on the southern slopes. Some native woodland is scattered on the slopes of Glen Ogle with some larger areas located in the backdrop to Lochearnhead. Some small stands of productive conifer are also scattered amongst native woodlands around Loch Earn with some larger stands on the hill slopes in the wider backdrop to Lochearnhead.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 18, there are some small areas of Core Wildness in Glen Ogle and on some slopes and summits to the south of Loch Earn. There are no Wild Land Areas within the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 1: A85, Glen Ogle north (NN 56363 27494) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east over Glen Ogle



View B: Looking west over Glen Ogle

Viewpoint 2: A85, Glen Ogle south (NN 57088 26750) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east over Glen Ogle



View B: Looking north-west over Glen Ogle

Viewpoint 3: Lochearnhead (NN 58994 23846) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east towards Loch Earn



View B: Looking north-west up Glen Ogle

Viewpoint 4: Loch Earn, north shore (NN 64228 24198) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking east over Loch Earn



View B: Looking south-west over Loch Earn

Viewpoint 5: A85, Loch Earn west of St Finnans (NN 68959 24591) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-east over Loch Earn



View B: Looking south-west over Loch Earn

Viewpoint 6: Loch Earn, south shore (NN 66438 23516) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking west over Loch Earn



View B: Looking north-east over Loch Earn

Viewpoint 7: Loch Earn, minor road south shore (NN 60758 22737) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking west towards Lochearnhead



View A: Looking north-west towards Lochearnhead and Glen Ogle

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity although open character could be adversely affected in places.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some additional productive conifer on some lower glen sides that links with exiting stands of conifer could conserve rural beauty although open character and the setting of any nearby native woodlands could be adversely affected in places.	Medium
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although some additional native woodland planting could reinforce the contrast of wild and rugged summits with pastoral lowlands, in places it could detract from the open character of pastures found along the glen floor and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some additional productive conifer planting could reinforce the contrast of wild and rugged summits with pastoral lowlands, in places it could detract from the open character of pastures found along the glen floor and views towards the backdrop of mountains.	Medium
Water in its many forms/ Wide and straight Loch Earn	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland planting near to the Loch Earn and its tributaries would conserve and enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In some places, the introduction of productive conifer planting near to Loch Earn and its tributaries could detract from their semi-natural character.	Medium
The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent stands of conifer could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting of native woodland would tend to enhance the setting of Lochearnhead although on the glen floor, open character would be compromised.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Further planting of productive would tend to enhance the setting of Lochearnhead although on the glen floor, open character would be compromised.	Medium
A harmonious concentration of lochs, woods and hills	<u>Native woodland</u> : Any large areas of planting could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding open hills.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Any large areas of planting could adversely affect the balance between water, woodland and surrounding open hills.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour/ Famous through-routes	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from many sections of main roads and the Rob Roy Way, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of the loch and Glen Ogle that people currently enjoy.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from many sections of main roads and the Rob Roy Way, the planting of additional productive conifer could detract from the open views of the loch and Glen Ogle that people currently enjoy.	Medium
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland along the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the experience of peace and tranquillity within the glens.	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting might enhance the experience of tranquillity within the glen although in some places, it would be experienced as a detractor where it contrasts with any nearby native woodland.	Medium
Steep mountains and long glens/A landscape of distinctive glens and straths/ The rocky pass of Glen Ogle	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive glen and mountain landforms.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of productive conifer on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive glen and mountain landforms.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : On lower slopes and in tributary side glens, new planting could enhance their semi-natural character although planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits. On lower slopes and in tributary side glens, new planting would also detract from the semi-natural character.	High
Straths and Glens with Lochs LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland within some parts of the glen would tend to enhance the character of the landscape although open character could be adversely affected.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some productive conifer that relates to existing stands could be accommodated in some parts although open character could be adversely affected.	Medium
Upland Glens LLT LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland within some parts of the glen would tend to enhance the character of the landscape although open character could be adversely affected.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some productive conifer that relates to existing stands could be accommodated in some parts although open character could be adversely affected.	Medium

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium

On parts of the glen and the lower containing hill slopes to the north and south of the area, the planting of native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, could enhance the glen without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities.

On parts of the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive woodland planting. Planting in other open areas could also detract from the appreciation of the glen landform and the wide open views to mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the glen.

Guidelines

- Additional native woodland on parts of the glen sides, adjoining small glens and surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Encourage natural regeneration on steeper hill slopes, away from distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Maintain open views towards mountain summits.
- Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees on some parts of the glen floor where important open views along the glen would not be affected.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium

On parts of the glen and the lower containing hill slopes to the north and south of the area, the planting of productive would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, could enhance the glen without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities.

On parts of the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive planting. Planting in other open areas could also detract from the appreciation of the glen landform and the wide open views to mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the glen.

Guidelines

- Consider the planting of some productive conifer on parts of the glen sides, adjoining small glens and surrounding lower hill slopes.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Maintain open views towards mountain summits.
- Avoid planting on upper hills slopes.
- Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.

Sub-zone 2: Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Breadalbane* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Famous through-routes;
- Tranquillity;
- The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Steep mountains and long glens;
- A landscape of distinctive glens and straths;
- The narrow Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig ribbon; and
- Beautiful Balquhidder.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 19, the *Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig* Sub-zone is characterised by *Highland Summits* and *Straths and Glens /with Lochs* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 18, near-continuous stands of productive conifer are located on the lower glen sides that contain Loch Lubnaig and to its north, the River Balvag. Small stands of native woodlands are also scattered amongst the extensive forests and alongside some small tributary burns that drain the steep slopes of Strathyre.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 18, a relatively large area of Core Wildness is located on mountain slopes to the east of Loch Lubnaig and to the south of Ben Vorlich. A small area is also located to the south-west of the loch although there are no Wild Land Areas within the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 8: Rob Roy Way, south of Kingshouse (NN 56329 20059) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking west towards Balquhidder (out of view)



View B: Looking south towards Strathyre

Viewpoint 9: Minor road, east of Balquhidder (NN 54450 20871) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking west towards Balquhidder



View B: Looking south-west up Glen Buckie

Viewpoint 10: Minor road, Stronslaney (NN 55806 19781) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking north-west towards Lochearnhead (out of view)



View B: Looking south towards Strathyre

Viewpoint 11: Loch Lubnaig, east shore car park (NN 58710 11777) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south over Loch Lubnaig



View B: Looking north-west over Loch Lubnaig

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some new native woodland along the lower glen sides and containing hill slopes that links with exiting woodland would positively contribute to rural beauty and enhance landscape diversity.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some new productive along the lower glen sides and containing hill slopes that links with exiting woodland would tend to conserve rural beauty.	Low
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some additional native woodland within glens and on some lower hill slopes would reinforce the contrast between the open character of surrounding rugged summits and the prevailing wooded/forested character of lower-lying areas.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some additional productive conifer planting within glens and on some lower hill slopes would reinforce the contrast between the open character of surrounding rugged summits and the prevailing wooded/forested character of lower-lying areas.	Low
Water in its many forms/The narrow Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig ribbon	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional native woodland planting in the backdrop to the Loch Lubnaig and the River Balvag would enhance their wooded/forested setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Additional productive conifer planting in the backdrop to the Loch Lubnaig and the River Balvag would enhance their wooded/forested setting.	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
The rich variety of woodlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on the glen floor and lower sides would enhance the existing variety of broadleaved woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in places, it could contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Beautiful Balquidder	<u>Native woodland</u> : Further planting of native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded setting of Balquidder.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Although some productive conifer in the backdrop to Balquidder would relate to exiting forestry, any planting in close proximity would contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
The easily accessible landscape splendour/Famous through-routes	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from many sections of the A84 and the Rob Roy Way, the planting of additional native woodland could detract from the open views of Loch Lubnaig and the surrounding landscape.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from many sections of the A84 and the Rob Roy Way, the planting of additional productive conifer could detract from the open views of Loch Lubnaig and the surrounding landscape.	Medium
Tranquillity	<u>Native woodland</u> : The planting of some further native woodland would enhance the experience of tranquillity across the area.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of some further productive conifer would enhance the experience of tranquillity across the area.	Low
Steep mountains and long glens/A landscape of distinctive glens and straths	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive glen and mountain landforms.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of productive conifer on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive glen and mountain landforms.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on any steep mountain slopes it would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting on lower slopes could reflect the existing coverage although on any steep mountain slopes it would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	Medium
Straths and Glens/ with Lochs LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional planting of native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded character of the landscape.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Additional planting of productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape.	Low

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

Within the glen and the lower containing hill slopes to the east and west of the area, the planting of native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting to Loch Lubnaig without detriment to its Special Landscape Qualities. On the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive woodland planting. In places, planting in open areas could also detract from views over the loch and to nearby mountain summits that provide a dramatic backdrop to the glen.

In practice however, the glen sides are already heavily wooded with little or no opportunity for additional planting.

Guidelines

- Additional planting of native woodland on the upper treeline would be encouraged.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Encourage natural regeneration on steeper hill slopes, away from distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Maintain open views over the loch and towards nearby mountain summits.
- Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees along on parts of the glen floor where important open views along the glen would not be affected.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

The planting of productive conifer would be characteristic and in general, would enhance the wooded character and setting to Loch Lubnaig without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Near to the loch shore however, planting could compromise open views to nearby summits and/or over the loch. Planting on upper hill slopes would also detract from the rugged character of surrounding summits that provide an important backdrop to the glen.

In practice however, the glen sides are already heavily wooded with little or no opportunity for additional planting.

Guidelines

- Consider the planting of some productive conifer on parts of the glen sides near to existing stands of forestry.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of the glen and surrounding hill slopes.
- Maintain open views over the loch and towards nearby mountain summits.
- Avoid planting on upper hills slopes and near to distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.

Sub-zone 3: Callander

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Breadalbane* and *The Trossachs* Landscape Areas that are particularly relevant to the *Callendar* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands;
- Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Steep mountains and long glens/A landscape of distinctive glens and straths; and
- The gateway town of Callander/A traditional ‘Gateway to the Highlands’.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 19, the *Callendar* Sub-zone is characterised by *Highland Summits, Parallel Ridges* and *Straths and Glens / with Lochs* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 18, the lower slopes of the Falls of Leny are covered in near-continuous native woodland above which, extensive stands of productive conifer occupy the upper slopes. To the north of Callander, the ridges are also heavily wooded/forested with a similar pattern of native woodland on lower slopes and productive conifer on higher ground.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 18, Core Wildness is limited to only a very small part of higher ground to the north of Kilmahog. There are no Wild Land Areas within the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 12: A84, Kilmahog (NN 61076 08281) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking west towards Ben Ledi



View B: Looking east over flood plain

Viewpoint 13: Bocastle Hill (NN 60482 07919) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking east over Callander



View B: Looking north-east towards Callander Craig

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most parts, the planting of some new native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance rural beauty. Planting on open parts of the glen floor and rural farmland to the east of the Sub-zone however could compromise character in many places.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : New productive planting on areas of higher ground would generally conserve rural beauty in most parts although in lower-lying areas, the prevailing pattern of broadleaved trees and small woodlands and the associated rural character of open pastures would be adversely affected.	Medium
Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting across most areas of higher ground would generally reinforce the contrast between the summits evident to the west of the Sub-zone and the pattern of pastoral fields to the east although with large-scale planting on the glen floor and loch basin, pastoral character would be lost.	Medium
	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although planting on areas of higher ground would generally reinforce the contrast, planting on lower-lying parts would strongly detract from the distinctive pastoral character.	Medium
Water in its many forms	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some woodland clumps and riparian trees in the setting to the River Teith and its tributaries would enhance their setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Productive conifer planting near to the River Teith and its tributaries would detract from their semi-natural character.	High
The rich variety of	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional planting would tend to enhance the existing variety of woodlands.	Low

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
woodlands/	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in most lower-lying parts, it would contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Famous through routes /The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium
Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop/ The gateway town of Callendar/A traditional 'Gateway to the Highlands'.	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional planting in the immediate backdrop to Callendar would enhance its wooded/forested setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting would conserve the existing forested backdrop although in places, it could detract from nearby native woodland and open summits.	Medium
A landscape of distinctive glens and straths/Steep mountains and long glens	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting of native woodland on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive glen and mountain landforms.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : The planting of productive conifer on the glen floor and lower sides could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive glen and mountain landforms.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Parallel Ridges LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In most places, planting would conserve the wooded/forested character of these landscapes.	Low
Straths & Glens	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional planting of native woodland would tend to enhance the wooded character of the landscape although open on the glen floor	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Additional planting of productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape.	Medium
Highland Summits LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes and ridges would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting on any steep mountain slopes and ridges would notably detract from the open character, rocky outcrops and views of the distinctive summits.	High

SUMMARY

Native woodland

Overall Capacity: Medium-high

On the ridges and hill slopes that provide an important backdrop to the town of Callander, the planting of native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. On the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ could be compromised by extensive woodland planting.

Guidelines

- Additional native woodland on hill slopes that provide an important setting to the town and surrounding landscape would be favoured.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of steep ridges and hill slopes.
- Encourage natural regeneration on steep ridges, away from distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Consider planting woodland clumps and riparian trees on some parts of the glen floor where important open views would not be affected.

Productive conifer

Overall Capacity: Medium

On the ridges and hill slopes that provide an important backdrop to the town of Callander, the planting of productive conifer would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wooded setting without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities.

Across the glen floor however, the pattern of open pastures that contribute to the quality of the ‘wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands’ would be compromised by extensive planting. In most places, productive conifer would also contrast with the prevailing pattern of broadleaved trees and woodlands found on lower-lying areas and the associated rural character of open pastures.

Guidelines

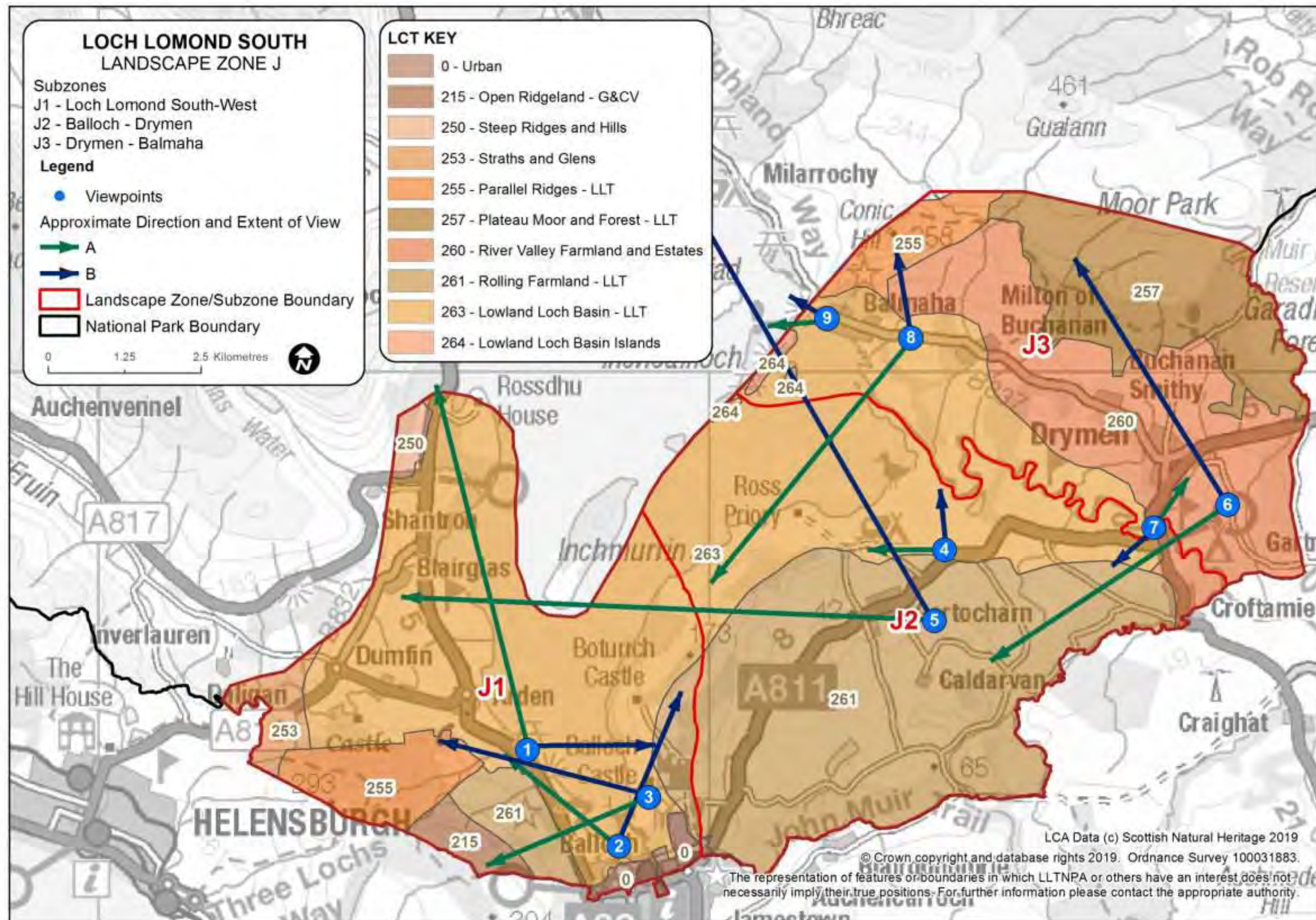
- Additional diverse productive conifer on the hill slopes that provide an important setting to the town and surrounding landscape would be favoured.
- Ensure woodland edges relate to the natural landform of steep ridges and hill slopes.
- Avoid planting near to distinctive rocky outcrops.
- Avoid planting on, or near to, the glen floor.
- Maintain important open views over the glen floor.

Zone J: Loch Lomond South

- Sub-zones:**
- 1. Loch Lomond south-west
 - 2. Balloch-Drymen
 - 3. Drymen-Balmaha

Overview of the study area	How the area is used by people	Figure 18: Existing woodland coverage, Wildness/Wild Land and key viewpoints
<p>Introduction</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 1, Zone J is focused on the southern part of Loch Lomond with the busy gateway town of Balloch situated on its southern most shore. The surrounding landscape exhibits a relatively well-wooded farmed character with a network of busy roads and associated scattered settlement. The villages of Drymen and Balmaha are also within the Sub-zone that overall, is popular with those visiting, and living and working in, the Park.</p> <p>Sub-zones</p> <p>Primarily based on an assessment of landscape character and prominent ridgelines, the following Sub-zones (see Figure 18) have been selected to examine the potential for native woodland and productive conifer planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Loch Lomond south-west;2. Balloch-Drymen; and3. Drymen-Balmaha. <p>Special Landscape Qualities</p> <p>In addition to exhibiting some General Special Landscape Qualities, the landscape and setting of the <i>Lomond Central</i> Zone represents the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Loch Lomond</i> Landscape Area Qualities	<p>Visitor destinations</p> <p>Important visitor destinations in and around the Zone include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loch Lomond and islands;• Balloch, Balmaha and Drymen; and• Conic Hill and other hill summits. <p>Key transport and recreational routes</p> <p>Road access within the Zone is focused on the busy A82 that follows the western shore of Loch Lomond and to the east of Balloch, the A811. A busy network of other minor and local roads also traverses large parts of the Zone. Sections of the West Highland Way and Rob Roy Way provide important recreational access to the north of Balmaha and Drymen and a well-connected network of Core Paths also provide access to much of the landscape.</p> <p>Key viewpoints and views</p> <p>As illustrated in Figure 19, the following key viewpoints and associated approximate extent of views have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Viewpoint 1: Auchendennan;Viewpoint 2: Aquarium roof top, Loch Lomond Shores;Viewpoint 3: Balloch Castle;Viewpoint 4: RSPB Reserve;Viewpoint 5: Duncryne Hill;Viewpoint 6: West Highland Way, Gartness Road;Viewpoint 7: Drymen Bridge;Viewpoint 8: West Highland Way, east of Balmaha; andViewpoint 9: Balmaha shore.	

Figure 19: Landscape character, key viewpoints and views



Sub-zone 1: Loch Lomond South-west

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Lomond South-west* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond;
- Immensity of loch and landscape; and
- A multitude of beautiful islands.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 19, the *Loch Lomond East* Sub-zone is characterised by *Loch Lomond Islands*, *Rolling Farmland & Estates* and *Parallel Ridges* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 18, the Sub-zone is already quite heavily wooded/forested. On lower lying parts, there is a strong pattern of native woodlands scattered throughout the Zone, with some larger stands of productive conifer on areas on higher ground.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 18, there are no Wild Land Areas or areas of Core Wildness within the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 1: Auchendennan (NS 37013 83820) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking north over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking east over Loch Lomond

Viewpoint 2: Aquarium roof top, Loch Lomond Shores (NS 38512 82248) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking north-west over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking north-east over Loch Lomond

Viewpoint 3: Balloch Castle (NS 38999 83046) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking north-west over Loch Lomond

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most parts, the planting of some new native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance rural beauty although planting on open parts of estate farmland however could compromise character in places.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some additional productive planting on areas of higher ground would generally conserve rural beauty in places although in lower-lying areas, the prevailing pattern of broadleaved trees and small woodlands and the associated rural/estate character of open pastures would be adversely affected.	Medium
Water in its many forms/ Immensity of loch and landscape	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some woodland clumps and riparian trees in the setting to Loch Lomond and alongside water courses would enhance their setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Productive conifer planting near to the Loch Lomond and alongside water courses would detract from their semi-natural character.	High
The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional planting would tend to enhance the existing variety of woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in most lower-lying parts, it would contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Famous through routes /The easily accessible landscape splendour	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium
A multitude of beautiful islands	<u>Native woodland</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would detract from their semi-natural character although planting in their backdrop would enhance the wooded backdrop setting.	Medium
Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill and mountain summits such as Ben Lomond and Conic Hill.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill and mountain summits such as Ben Lomond and Conic Hill.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Parallel Ridges LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : On lower-lying parts, planting would conserve the wooded character although on higher ground, open character would be compromised.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : On lower-lying parts, planting would conserve the forested character although on higher ground, open character would be compromised.	Medium
Loch Lomond Islands LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would detract from their semi-natural character although	Medium

	planting in their backdrop would enhance the wooded backdrop setting.	
Rolling Farmland & Estates LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although woodland clumps and riparian trees on some lower lying parts would be characteristic, any large areas of planting could compromise the open estate character in places.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting would generally detract from nearby native woodlands and/or the open estate character.	High

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity : Medium</p> <p>Native woodland planting would be characteristic and in general, would enhance the prevailing wooded setting to Loch Lomond without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Near to the loch shore however, planting could compromise views to hill summits and/or over Loch Lomond and in the wider landscape, planting could detract from the open character of rolling pastoral farmland.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitive additional native woodland around parts of Loch Lomond and on some surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.• Maintain open views over Loch Lomond and towards surrounding hills.• Protect the rolling pastoral farmland and parkland character of designed landscapes.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Low-medium</p> <p>Productive conifer planting would be characteristic and in places, could enhance the prevailing wooded setting to Loch Lomond without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Near to the loch shore and on mid glen side slopes however, planting could compromise open character and views to hill summits and/or over Loch Lomond and detract from the setting of native woodland. On some upper slopes, planting could also detract from the open character of pastoral farmland.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitive limited productive conifer without affecting the setting to and from the loch could be considered.• Maintain open views over Loch Lomond and towards surrounding hills.• Protect the rolling pastoral farmland and parkland character of designed landscapes.• Avoid planting near to the loch shore.

Sub-zone 2: **Balloch-Drymen**

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Balloch-Drymen* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond;
- Immensity of loch and landscape; and
- A multitude of beautiful islands.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 19, the *Loch Balloch-Drymen* Sub-zone is characterised by *Loch Lomond Islands*, and *Rolling Farmland LLT* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 18, the Sub-zone is already quite heavily wooded. On lower lying parts, there is a strong pattern of native woodlands scattered throughout the Zone, with some occasional larger stands of productive conifer on areas on higher ground.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 18, there are no Wild Land Areas or areas of Core Wildness within the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 4: RSPB Reserve (NS 43842 87101) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking west to nearby woodland



View B: Looking north towards mountainous backdrop

Viewpoint 5: Duncryne Hill (NS 43570 85940) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking west over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking north-west over Loch Lomond

Viewpoint 6: West Highland Way, Gartness Road (NS 48478 87836) - moderate number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west over undulating farmland



View B: Looking north-west over undulating farmland

Viewpoint 7: Drymen Bridge (NS 47273 87462) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking north-east over the Endrick Water



View B: Looking south-west over the Endrick Water

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most parts, the planting of some new native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance rural beauty although planting on open parts of estate farmland however could compromise character in places.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some additional productive planting on areas of higher ground would generally conserve rural beauty in places although in lower-lying areas, the prevailing pattern of broadleaved trees and small woodlands and the associated rural/estate character of open pastures would be adversely affected.	Medium
Water in its many forms/ Immensity of loch and landscape	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some woodland clumps and riparian trees in the setting to Loch Lomond and alongside water courses would enhance their setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Productive conifer planting near to the Loch Lomond and alongside water courses would detract from their semi-natural character.	High
The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional planting would tend to enhance the existing variety of woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in most lower-lying parts, it would contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Famous through routes /The easily accessible landscape	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
splendour	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium
A multitude of beautiful islands	<u>Native woodland</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would detract from their semi-natural character although planting in their backdrop would enhance the wooded backdrop setting.	Medium
Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill and mountain summits such as Ben Lomond and Conic Hill.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill and mountain summits such as Ben Lomond and Conic Hill.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Loch Lomond Islands LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would detract from their semi-natural character although planting in their backdrop would enhance the wooded backdrop setting.	Medium
Rolling Farmland LLT LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although woodland clumps and riparian trees on some lower lying parts would be characteristic, any large areas of planting could compromise the open estate character in places.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting would generally detract from nearby native woodlands and/or the open estate character.	High

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity : Medium</p> <p>The planting of native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance the wider setting to Loch Lomond without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Planting on flood plains however would detract from the pattern of open pastures and on higher ground, long distance views over Loch Lomond and the hill beyond could be compromised.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitive additional native woodland around parts of Loch Lomond and on some surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.• Maintain open views over Loch Lomond and towards surrounding hills.• Protect the rolling pastoral farmland and parkland character of designed landscapes.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Low-medium</p> <p>Productive conifer planting would be characteristic and in places, could enhance the wider setting to Loch Lomond without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Planting on flood plains however would detract from the pattern of open pastures and on higher ground, long distance views over Loch Lomond and the hill beyond could be compromised.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitive limited productive conifer without affecting the setting to and from the loch could be considered.• Maintain open views over Loch Lomond and towards surrounding hills.• Protect the rolling pastoral farmland and parkland character of designed landscapes.• Avoid planting near to the loch shore.

Sub-zone 3: Drymen-Balmaha

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities

The General Landscape Qualities and the Special Landscape Qualities of the *Loch Lomond* Landscape Area that are particularly relevant to the *Loch Lomond South-west* Sub-zone are:

- A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty;
- Water in its many forms;
- The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland;
- Famous through-routes/The easily accessible landscape splendour;
- Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond;
- Immensity of loch and landscape; and
- A multitude of beautiful islands.

Landscape character

As illustrated in Figure 19, the *Loch Lomond East* Sub-zone is characterised by *Loch Lomond Islands, River Valley Farmland & Estates, Plateau Moor and Forest* and *Parallel Ridges* LCTs.

Coverage of existing native woodland and productive conifer

As illustrated in Figure 18, the Sub-zone is already quite heavily wooded/forested. On lower lying parts, there is a strong pattern of native woodlands scattered throughout the Zone, with some larger stands of productive conifer on areas on higher ground.

Wild Land Areas and Core Wildness

As illustrated in Figure 18, there are no Wild Land Areas or areas of Core Wildness within the Sub-zone.

Viewpoint 8: West Highland Way, east of Balmaha (NS 43290 90568) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking north towards Conic Hill

Viewpoint 9: Balmaha shore (NS 41919 90887) - large number of visitors



View A: Looking south-west over Loch Lomond



View B: Looking west over Loch Lomond

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty	<u>Native woodland</u> : In most parts, the planting of some new native woodland would be characteristic to the landscape and in general, would enhance rural beauty although planting on open parts of rural farmland however could compromise character in places.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some additional productive planting on areas of higher ground would generally conserve rural beauty in places although in lower-lying areas, the prevailing pattern of broadleaved trees and small woodlands and the associated rural character of open pastures would be adversely affected.	Medium
Water in its many forms/ Immensity of loch and landscape	<u>Native woodland</u> : Some woodland clumps and riparian trees in the setting to Loch Lomond and alongside water courses would enhance their setting.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Productive conifer planting near to the Loch Lomond and alongside water courses would detract from their semi-natural character.	High
The rich variety of woodlands/Banks of broadleaved woodland	<u>Native woodland</u> : Additional planting would tend to enhance the existing variety of woodlands.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Some planting near to adjacent forestry could be accommodated without adverse impacts although in most lower-lying parts, it would contrast with existing native woodland.	Medium
Famous through routes /The easily accessible landscape	<u>Native woodland</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium

IMPACT ASSESSMENT		
splendour	<u>Productive conifer</u> : When viewed from main roads and other key recreational routes, planting in the backdrop could enhance these routes although in places, it could detract from open views over the surrounding landscape.	Medium
A multitude of beautiful islands	<u>Native woodland</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would detract from their semi-natural character although planting in their backdrop would enhance the wooded backdrop setting.	Medium
Distinctive mountain groups/Ben Lomond	<u>Native woodland</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill and mountain summits such as Ben Lomond and Conic Hill.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : In places, the planting of native woodland could compromise views to, and the landscape setting of distinctive hill and mountain summits such as Ben Lomond and Conic Hill.	Medium
Landscape Character	Impacts of new planting	Sensitivity
Parallel Ridges/Plateau Moorland and Forest LCTs	<u>Native woodland</u> : On lower-lying parts, planting would conserve the wooded character although on higher ground, open character would be compromised.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : On lower-lying parts, planting would conserve the forested character although on higher ground, open character would be compromised.	Medium
Loch Lomond Islands LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would enhance their semi-natural character.	Low
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : As the cluster of islands is mostly covered in native woodland, any further planting would detract from their semi-natural character although planting in their backdrop would enhance the wooded backdrop setting.	Medium
River Valley Farmland & Estates LCT	<u>Native woodland</u> : Although woodland clumps and riparian trees on some lower lying parts would be characteristic, any large areas of planting could compromise the open estate character in places.	Medium
	<u>Productive conifer</u> : Planting would generally detract from nearby native woodlands and/or the open estate character.	High

SUMMARY	
Native woodland	
<p>Overall Capacity : Medium</p> <p>Native woodland planting would be characteristic and in general, would enhance the prevailing wooded setting to Loch Lomond without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities. Near to the loch shore however, planting could compromise views to hill summits and/or over Loch Lomond and in the wider landscape, planting could detract from the open character of pastoral farmland.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional woodland around parts of Loch Lomond and on some surrounding lower hill slopes would be favoured.• Maintain open views over Loch Lomond and towards surrounding hills.• Protect parkland character of designed landscapes.
Productive conifer	
<p>Overall Capacity: Low-medium</p> <p>Productive conifer planting would be characteristic and in places, could enhance the prevailing wooded setting to Loch Lomond without detriment to the Special Landscape Qualities.</p> <p>Near to the loch shore however, planting could compromise open character and views to hill summits and/or over Loch Lomond and detract from the setting of native woodland. On some upper slopes, planting could also detract from the open character of pastoral farmland.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitive limited productive conifer without affecting the setting to and from the loch could be considered.• Maintain open views over Loch Lomond and towards surrounding hills.• Protect the rolling pastoral farmland and parkland character of designed landscapes.• Avoid planting near to the loch shore.

Appendix I

Field survey template

Baseline assessment			
1. Landscape Zone:	(insert ref)	2. Sub-zone	(insert ref)
3. Viewpoint name/route:		4. National Grid Reference:	
5. Survey date and time:		6. Weather:	
7. Landscape Character Type:	(in which viewpoint is located)	8. Special Landscape Quality Area:	(in which viewpoint is located)
9. Wild Land Area:	(in which viewpoint is located - y/n)	10. Core Wildness:	(in which viewpoint is located - y/n)
11. Viewpoint context	(Briefly describe location and context of viewpoint, including why people use the viewpoint, approximate numbers of visitors, and the landscape character types, Wild Land Area and Core Wildness visible from the viewpoint.)		
12. Views & visibility	(Describe view distance, elevation, width, depth, orientation and any prominent/notable features etc.)		
13. Woodland	(Describe types, pattern, location and extent of existing woodland and forestry visible from viewpoint)		

Impact assessment		
Special Landscape Qualities	Impacts of native woodland	Impacts of productive conifer
<i>(List all Special Landscape Qualities evident at viewpoint)</i>	<i>(Describe main impacts, either positive or negative, of new native woodland planting against all relevant Special Landscape Qualities)</i>	<i>(Describe main impacts, either positive or negative, of new productive conifer planting against all relevant Special Landscape Qualities)</i>
Key characteristics	Impacts of native woodland	Impacts of productive conifer
<i>(List any other relevant physical, visual and perceptual key characteristics evident at viewpoint)</i>	<i>(Describe main impacts, either positive or negative, of new native woodland planting against all relevant key characteristics)</i>	<i>(Describe main impacts, either positive or negative, of new productive conifer planting against all relevant key characteristics)</i>
Sensitivity	<i>(Evaluate according to criteria on next page)</i>	<i>(Evaluate according to criteria on next page)</i>

Impact assessment		
Capacity and guidelines	<i>(Insert any notes on overall landscape capacity and management guidelines)</i>	<i>(Insert any notes on overall landscape capacity and management guidelines)</i>

In arriving at an overall judgement of sensitivity and capacity, the following definitions should be applied:

- **high capacity** (low sensitivity) - The landscape is generally able to accommodate the type of woodland/forestry without significant landscape change, or in many cases, it might enhance the landscape. In either case, it could potentially relate well to the character and qualities of the area.
- **medium-high capacity** (low–medium sensitivity) - The landscape is able to accommodate the type of woodland/forestry in some situations without significant landscape change. Many aspects of woodland/forestry could potentially relate to the character and qualities of the area.
- **medium capacity** (medium sensitivity) - The landscape is quite vulnerable but with some ability to accommodate the type of woodland/forestry in limited situations without significant landscape change and it could potentially relate to some aspects of character and qualities of the area.
- **low-medium capacity** (medium–high sensitivity) - The landscape is vulnerable and the type of woodland/forestry can only be accommodated in very limited situations without significant landscape change. Woodland/forestry relates to only a few aspects of the landscape and some significant landscape impacts are likely to occur.
- **low capacity** (high sensitivity) - The landscape is very vulnerable and is unable to accommodate any woodland/forestry without significant landscape change as a result of the loss of key characteristics and the introduction of uncharacteristic features. Woodland/forestry conflicts with the majority of the key aspects of landscape and widespread significant landscape impacts are very likely to arise.



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