

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority

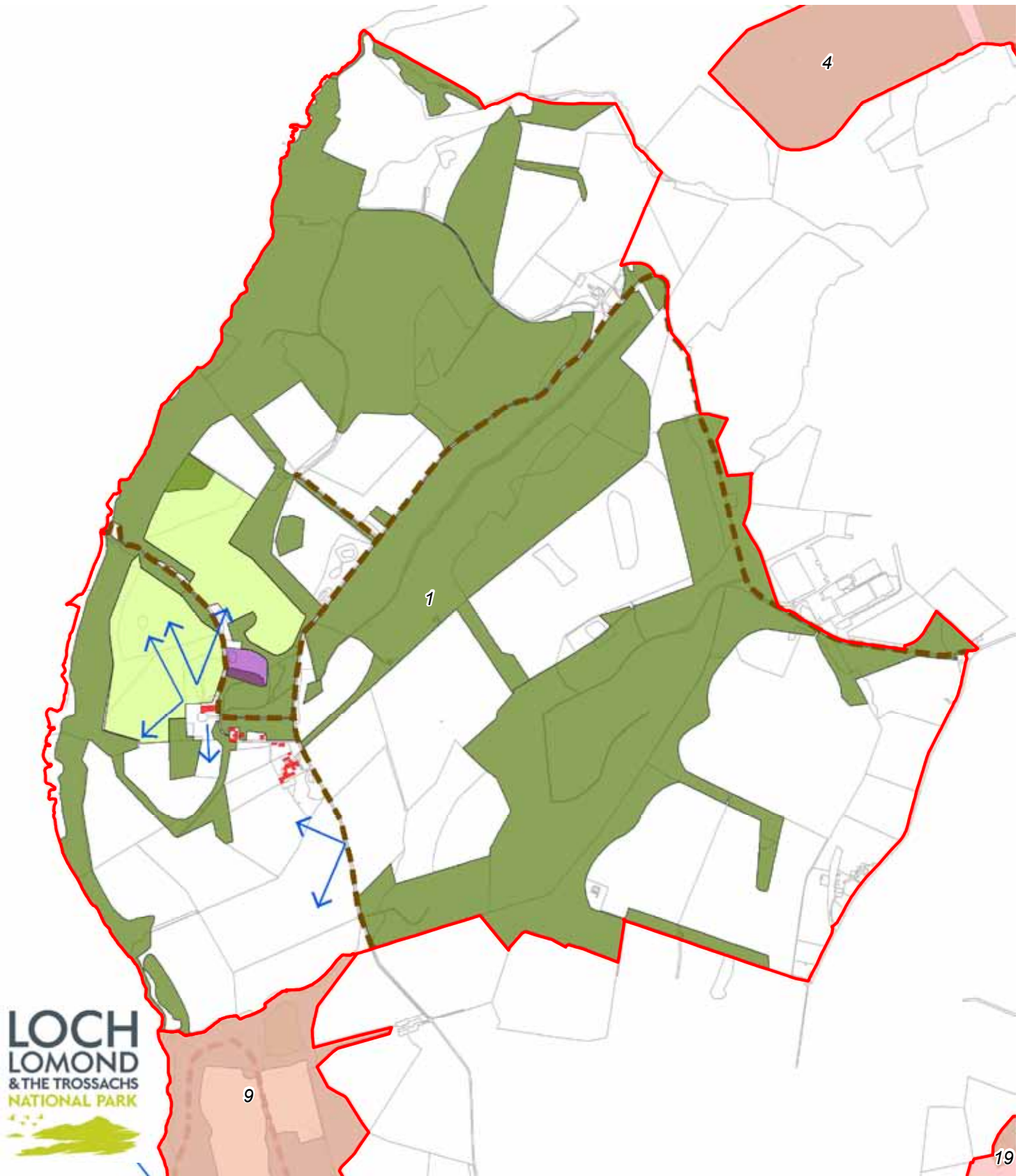
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
Survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

01 Boturich Castle

Consultants

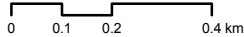
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Legend

- Designed landscape boundary
- Neighbouring sites
- ↔ Notable views
- Main drives
- Principal building
- Scheduled ancient monument
- Gardens
- Former garden
- Walled garden
- Woodland
- Parkland



Site 01

Boturich Castle

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June 2011

01 Boturich Castle

County West Dunbartonshire
Parish Kilmarnock
NGR NS 387 845; OS 1:25,000 Sheet 347

Designations

Listing Boturich Castle with quadrant wall and gatepiers (HB No. 7627):
Category B

Loch Lomond National Scenic Area

Site of Special Scientific Interest (No 248): Boturich Woodlands

Ancient Woodland (part)

Part of woodlands covered by WGS Mark 2, WGS Mark 3 and SFGS agreements

REASON FOR INCLUSION

A large well-wooded designed landscape occupying a prominent position on the east shore near the south end of the loch that contributes in a major way to the landscape character of this part of the loch, together with neighbouring sites.

LOCATION AND EXTENT

An extensive designed landscape located on the eastern shore at the south end of Loch Lomond, approximately 2.5km north of Balloch. The principal approach is from the A811 to the south via Mollanbowie Road, with a second longer approach, also off the A811, from Boturich north lodge, passing Blairlinnans and Lorn. The designed landscape covers land between the A811 and loch shore including three ridges with wooded hilltops running roughly parallel with the shore, with Boturich house situated near the south end of the westerly ridge. Outstanding views are obtained across the loch and northwards to islands and Ben Lomond. The estate ownership is divided among several landowners. The house, in private ownership, is currently advertised as a venue for weddings and corporate events.

Balloch Castle designed landscape (09) adjoins to the south, with Ross Priory (04) lying a short distance to the north-east.

LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

Maps and documentary evidence

The house with associated woodland appears as 'Pitturichs' on Blaeu (1654). Roy (c1750) shows 'Ruins of Botterich Castle' with walled enclosures; nearby is 'Meikle Botterich' in the north-east corner of a separate and much smaller

*Boturich designed landscape
seen from the west shore
of Loch Lomond near
Auchendennan*





enclosure. A scatter of natural woodland runs along on the shore of the loch, with a second narrow strip a little further inland, and planting immediately around the enclosure at 'Meikle Boturich'. A mixture of woodland, fermtoun settlement and cultivation lies to the north of 'Knockourhill,' which is shown as unenclosed and uncultivated land. Ross (1777) depicts 'Badturich' as a castellated tower-house, with only a few trees about it, but with fairly extensive woodland to the north of 'Knockour', and immediately around 'Ballich' to the south. Thomson (1820) marks 'Butruich Cas' with associated woodland, while Ainslie (1821) shows 'Ballurish Cas'.

The pattern of enclosure and much of the woodland seen today was in place by the 1st edition OS (1860) which marks 'Boturich Castle' and 'Meikle Batturich'. This shows an area of parkland to the west of the castle with four small roundels and a scatter of parkland trees. An irregularly shaped walled garden, with a burn running through it, lies to the north of the castle. The same pattern of planting is seen on the OS popular edition (1823), on which additional fields to the north of the house are marked as parkland. Some additional planting is seen on more modern maps, especially on and around Whinney Hill and Ledrishmore Wood, to the east of the core landscape.

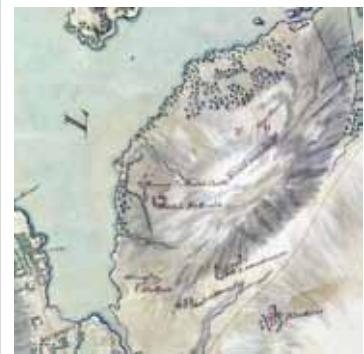
Building history and ownership

The first Boturich Castle is said to have been built by Isabelle, Duchess of Albany and Countess of Lennox (died c1460). On its forfeiture, the estate passed to the Haldanes of Gleneagles by the end of the 15th century. Coventry (2006) mentions the subsequent sacking of the castle by the Macfarlanes of Arrochar, but gives no date for this event. Roy (c1745) notes the castle as 'ruins'. Sources disagree about the precise date of the acquisition of the castle and estate by Glasgow merchant John Buchanan of Ardoch – suggested dates ranging from 1792 to 1811 – after which a new castellated gothic mansion house, raised on the foundations of the old castle, was built c1834 to the design of English architect Robert Lugar, and the Glasgow-based practice of Scott, Stephen & Gale – see also Balloch Castle (Site 09). On the death of John Buchanan in 1839, the estate was acquired by grandson Robert Findlay, whose family continued to occupy the house through much of the 20th century.

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*Ordnance Survey 6" map
1860*



Roy c1750



Ross 1777



Thomson 1823



*Ordnance Survey Popular
edition 1923*

Boturich Castle from the south; service block on right



COMPONENTS OF THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

Architectural features

Boturich Castle

Boturich Castle has a complex group of elements of different styles and ages creating a long asymmetrical south-facing range with a tower house behind. Built principally to the design of Robert Lugar in 1830 and incorporating a 15th century castle and additions by Scott, Stephen and Gale in 1834, with an octagonal entrance tower with crenellated porch at its centre (1850) and late 19th century remodelling. Harled with sandstone margins and dressings; two- to four-storey, asymmetrical, rectangular-plan block.

The house plans, made in 1830, show the extent of the old castle, the walls of which can still be traced to a height of c6m. A sketch, made before 1830 by a Miss Findlay (information from Mrs N Findlay, previous owner of Boturich Castle), shows a ruinous, L-shaped building with crow-stepped gables. The remains of the pre-1830 Boturich Castle consist of walls 4ft thick on the present ground level.

Design plans for a house at Knockour by Robert Adam 1793 in the Soane Museum may be a design for additions to Boturich Castle (not executed).

Service and stable block

Lies on east of main house and linked to it; crowstepped gabled block, ashlar at ground, rubble upper floor; round-arched gate at centre, armorial plaque dated 1380 (perhaps from earlier building). Ashlar link wall, pier pedestal with narrow tall red sandstone gabled bellcote.

North lodge

Red sandstone lodge with extension to rear, stands close to A811 at the junction with the north approach road.



North lodge

Boturich Castle seen from South lawn



Quadrant gateway to north lodge (listed Cat. B): stugged, squared and snecked quadrant wall with ashlar slab coping. Gatepiers with depressed conical cap, ball finial, and cast-iron gates.

Other buildings

Building groups at Meikle Boturich (including Boturich cottage, Oak cottage, the Bothy and the Stables) and Knockour were not seen due to access limitations; none of these buildings are listed.

Family graveyard

Findlay family graveyard, well maintained enclosure with iron railings and low parapet wall, located to the north of the woodland garden. (Mr Findlay, previous owner of castle, now resident at Knockour). Area of yews and Wellingtonias to the north.

Kitchen garden

The kitchen garden and orchard – enclosed by landform banks and hedge on the south, hedges on the east and north, and a low wall on the west – lies north of the house and woodland garden, with a small burn through it leading to a pond. An area of old fruit trees remains in the east of the area, otherwise laid to grass. A battered multi-faceted sundial stands north of the burn. The overgrown hedges have been hard pruned.

Drives and paths

The main approach enters the estate at the Burn of Balloch that forms the boundary between Balloch and Boturich. A simple iron gate marks the entrance. The drive continues northwards as an estate road serving the various properties within the site – Meikle Boturich, Boturich Castle, Knockour and Lorn, all served by short side drives on the west. From the east side of the castle, a drive runs northwards to a boat-house on the loch shore.

A car park for events lies behind the hedge on the west side of South lawn.

Gardens and policy planting

The structure planting of Boturich is dominated by large areas of woodland on the hilltops, a continuous woodland belt along the loch shore (SSSI), and various side belts enclosing parkland and fields, which together form the landscape seen from a distance across the loch.

Gardens

The main garden spaces are the South lawn and Woodland garden. There are no more formally planted gardens, apart from mixed beds at the foot of the castle walls.

South lawn

The South lawn forms a short formal vista aligned on the south elevation of the castle. Large limes and sweet chestnuts stand on either side.

Woodland garden

A squarish area of woodland to the east and north of the castle with paths leading from near the front drive. Mature oaks with some beech dominate the tree cover with rhododendrons – both *R. ponticum* and cultivated species or varieties – the main understorey. Ornamental conifers feature in the north part. Significant work has been undertaken in recent years to reopen paths and views, install timber bridges over burns, clear invasive species and repair drainage channels. A young avenue of Wellingtonias has been planted either side of the Boat-house drive on the west.

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Graveyard



View down to kitchen garden



Kitchen garden and orchard



Steps and hedge south of kitchen garden



Woodland garden



Conifers in north of woodland garden

Inchmurrin island and view to Ben Lomond (obscured by cloud) through parkland trees



Parkland trees



Whinney Hill from west

Parkland

Parkland to the west of the castle lies on west-facing slopes down to the wooded fringe beside the loch shore, allowing framed views across the narrow south end of the loch. Trees species are oak and other broadleaves; all mature or over-mature, including declining and dead trees. The present population appears significantly less than that on the 1st edition OS. From the highest part to the north of the house, open views to Inchmurrin, smaller islands further north and Ben Lomond are obtained. A flat area of lawn in this area is used for event marquees: the castle is promoted as a weddings venue.

Tree belts and woodlands

Woods are both mixed broadleaves, with oak a dominant species, particularly at lower levels, and mixed conifers and broadleaves elsewhere. Whinney Hill on the west is managed by the Woodland Trust and includes some mature oak, beech and ash, with younger mixed conifers and beech. Large areas have been restocked with mixed broadleaves. A Woodland Trust management plan 2003-23 covers the wood. Waymarked paths continue from Balloch Castle Country Park across Boturich drive on to Whinney Hill

Views and vistas

The elevation of the castle in a position where the loch begins to widen gives the castle windows and adjoining parkland outstanding views. Across the narrow loch end the west shore with the designed landscapes of Cameron House (14) and Auchendennan (07) are prominent, together with Lomond Castle (31) and Arden House (06) further north. More outstanding still is the view northwards to Inchmurrin and smaller islands and up the loch to Ben Lomond in the distance, framed by parkland trees. The south vista is curtailed by a tree belt within a short distance, with no view from the low level; the 1st edition OS shows a more open aspect.

Although far less remarkable, the tree belts extending from Whinney Hill on the south-east side of the designed landscape create attractive views from the A811 road.

View west across loch to Cameron House designed landscape from Boturich parkland



Archaeology

Strathclyde Sites and Monuments Record records two roofless structures and an enclosure at Knockour cottages (based on OS 1st edition map); a structure and cultivation remains Meikle Boturich; and 'Black Roundel' once thought to be a burial cairn but the name given to a natural gravel mound on the south-east face of Knockour Hill side; a 'cist' in a previous report is a rock outcrop at the north-west end of the mound. Apart from these features of low significance, some archaeological interest can be associated with the long occupied house site.

Intrusive features

Marquees and more rigid temporary events buildings can be highly visible in the landscape and vigilance is needed to minimise their impact and duration of presence. The structure present at time of visit, for example, could be seen from the west shore of the loch, despite some screening by parkland trees.

Generally the designed landscape has survived free of inappropriate development, although features such as the large water treatment works to the north of the north approach, emphasise the kind of pressures that can occur.

PUBLIC ACCESS

There is a mix of land within and outwith access rights. Formal public access is limited to the paths on Whinney Hill. The number of different owners and private residences limit the opportunities for public access elsewhere.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL

Boturich is an extensive designed landscape and only the core and limited outer areas have been visited for this report. The woodland structure of the designed landscape that helps create the scenery of the south end of the loch survives intact, although it is impossible to comment on the condition of each wood and tree belt. The present owners of the castle are tackling the restoration of the core area and within this zone the restocking of the parkland trees is perhaps the most urgent next priority. Beyond that, the division of ownership between several other landowners and owners of individual houses is a major impediment to coordinated management of the whole designed landscape, if indeed this is necessary. A more detailed assessment of the whole site with the involvement of all stakeholders to assess the need for a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan may be the way forward.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overall

Boturich is a site that contributes as much as any in the National Park to the setting of the loch, particularly important because of its location at the busiest end of the loch where it is seen by more people and the development pressures are highest. Its extensive woods, tree belts, parkland and fields form a distinct and undeveloped corner before the more elaborately planted Balloch Castle country park and the urban areas of Balloch and Alexandria. Internally the core of the landscape is laid out in response to the natural landform to make the most of outstanding views and this visual setting is its most notable feature.

Work of Art

High

Historical

Some

Horticultural / Arboricultural / Sylvicultural

Some



Gate to Whinney Hill wood

Architectural

High

Scenic

Outstanding

Nature Conservation

Outstanding

Archaeological

Some

Recreational

Some

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– NLS Ref. WD3B/28

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J. Ainslie, *Map of the Southern Part of Scotland (1821)* – NLS Ref. Newman 732

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Ordnance Survey, *6" to the Mile : First Edition (1860)* – Dumbartonshire Sheet XIV

Ordnance Survey, *1" to the Mile : Popular Edition – Loch Lomond (1923)*

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Ordnance Survey, *Object Name Book for the Parish of Kilmarnock – Dumbartonshire Book 9, p.40 (1860)*

Rev. A. White in [Old] *Statistical Account for the Parish of Kilmarnock (1794)*

Rev. W.B.S. Paterson in *New Statistical Account of Scotland for the Parish of Kilmarnock (1839)*

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T. Hannan, *Famous Scottish Houses (1928)*

J. Gifford and F.A. Walker, *The Buildings of Scotland : Stirling and Central Scotland (2002)*

F.A. Walker & F.J. Sinclair : *RIAS Illustrated Architectural Guide ; The North Clyde Estuary (1992)*

Historic Scotland, *Listed Building Report 7627 (1971)*

Forestry Commission Scotland, 'GLADE Land Information Search' website

'Vale of Leven' website

'WOSAS' Website – Site Ref. 7055

'Boturich Castle' website

APPENDIX

Historical Notes

Loretta Timperley's *A Directory of Landownership in Scotland c1770* (1976) notes the lands of Meikle and Spittal Baturich, with the lands of Little Baturich and Knochour, as coming within the Barony of Kilmarnoch, in the ownership of the Earl of Dundonald.

The *Old Statistical Account* (1794) notes "several woods in the parish ... the value of which has considerably increased within these few years. The woods on the banks of Lochlomond, belonging to Miss Buchanan of Drumkill and John Buchanan Esq. of Ardoch, abound with woodcock".

The *New Statistical Account* (1839) notes that "the parish is adorned with a great variety of wood, both natural and planted, hedgerow and detached trees, chiefly oak, beech, ash and larch ... Modern buildings are Baturich Castle, belonging to John Buchanan Esq. of Ardoch, which was completed about five years ago. It is built on part of the ruin of the ancient castle of Baturich, on rising ground about half a mile from Loch Lomond ... and from it there is a very fine view of the lake, beautifully studded as it is with its numerous wooded islands".

The *OS Object Name Book* (1860) (Dunbartonshire Book 9 p40) notes the castle as "a superior residence of the castellated style of architecture, having garden, plantations and ornamental ground attached, the property of, and occupied by Robert Findlay. The only part of the original castle of Boturich now in existence is that portion of the southern wall of the present castle between the two turrets".

In *Famous Scottish Houses* (1928) Thomas Hannan talks of "The avenue, which strikes off from a somewhat rough road, is very well wooded, and presents the first view of the castle as we round one of its curves – and that view shows a house which looks about 200 years older than it is, and in perfect harmony with its natural surroundings".
