



LAST UPDATED 2018

LOCAL NATURE CONSERVATION SITES IN INVERCLYDE

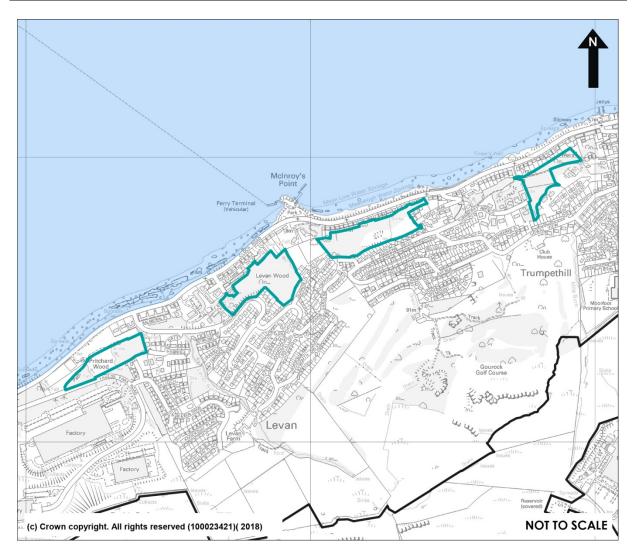
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^{*}IC – Inverciyde Council Reference Number

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Cloch Road Woodlands	Area : 9.34 Ha
Grid Reference : NS 218765, NS213763, NS223767, NS226767	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 1



The area comprises four small blocks of woodland which collectively form a site of local importance.

Levan Wood and Pritchard Wood are both dominated by Sycamore with occasional Birch, Alder, Hazel, Ash, Rhododendron, Rowan and Beech. Generally acidic soil conditions are reflected by a ground flora of Greater Wood-rush, Broad Buckler Fern, Male Fern, Red Campion and Tufted Hair-grass.

The woodland to the north of St Andrew's Drive is dominated by Birch with Willow, Sycamore, Rhododendron and Elder. Bracken and Male Fern are locally common.

Shambala woodland occurs at the site of a former woodland that has become colonised by Ash, Sycamore, Hawthorn and Rowan and a local dominance of Birch. Ground flora recorded at the woodland includes Male fern, Hard Fern, Broad Buckler Fern, Dog's Mercury, Herb Robert, Ivy and Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage.

Fauna recorded at this site includes Roe Deer, Fox and Sparrow Hawk.

Trees at the woodlands receive protection from Tree Preservation Orders.

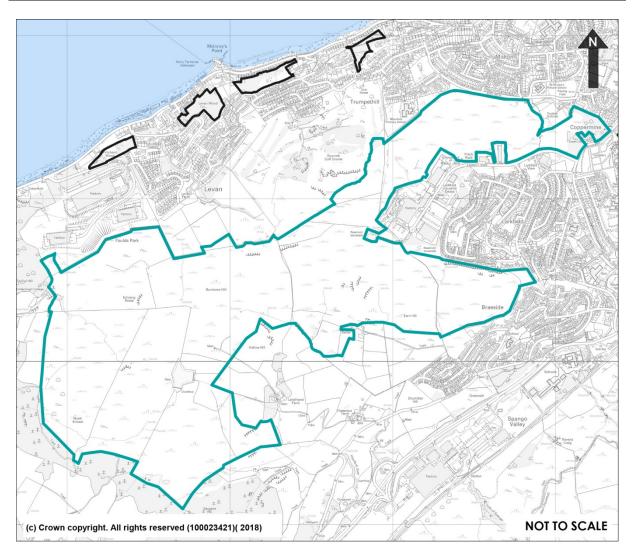
Latest assessment: May 2017

Noted interest: Woodland and wildlife corridor

Notes:

This LNCS is a composite of several woodland areas. While they are individually important, when viewed together they become a significant natural asset particularly in terms of providing a wildlife corridor. It is important for the future to bear this composite significance in mind when assessing planning applications that may affect some of the constituent parts. Several planning applications, mostly on boundaries of woodland or nearby have been resisted with varying degrees of success.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Burneven Hill	Area : 310.2Ha
Grid Reference: NS 220755	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 2



This is a large area of upland comprising habitats that include wet heathland, dry heathland, acid grassland, flushes, marshes, open water, scrub, bog and scattered trees.

Wet heathland communities support Heather, Cross-leaved Heath, Crowberry, Blaeberry, Hare's-tail Cotton-grass, Common Cotton-grass, Purple Moor-grass, Sphagnum Moss, Polytrichum Moss and Deer-grass. Drier areas grade to acid grassland and contain Bell Heather, Cladonia Lichens, Wavy Hair-grass, Mat-grass, Green-ribbed Sedge, Tormential and Sweet Vernal-grass. Wet areas grade to marsh and host Soft Rush, Jointed Rush, Sharp-flowered Rush, Bottle Sedge, Marsh Cinquefoil, Bogbean, Marsh Pennywort, Narrow Buckler Fern and Devil's-bit Scabious.

Boggy areas contain Sphagnum (including Sphagnum Capillifolium and Sphagnum Papillosum) with Bog Asphodel and Cotton-grasses.

At the edge of the heathland in drier zones Gorse scrub or Birch/Willow scrub can be prominent with occasional Rowan and Conifers.

Scattered open water sites support marsh or swamp communities. The Curling Pond at NS 215742 for example has a flora that includes Common Spike-rush, Bottle Sedge, Marsh Cinquefoil, Jointed Rush, Soft Rush and Yellow Iris.

Fauna recorded at the site includes Raven, Meadow Pipit, Snipe and Emperor Moth.

Latest assessment: May 2017

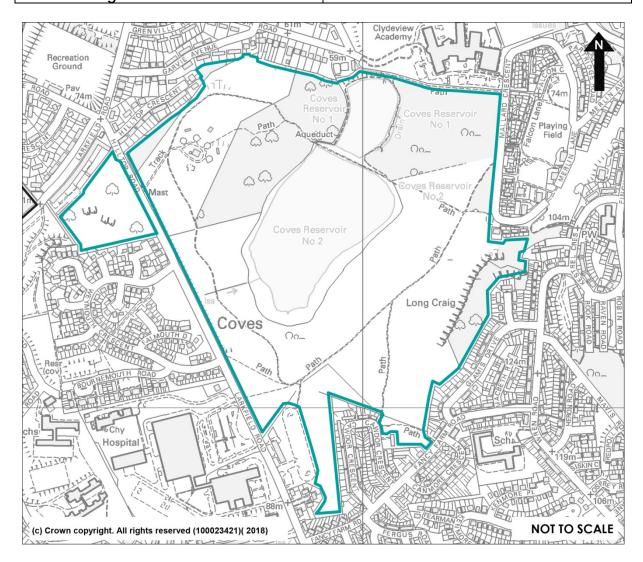
Noted interest: Heathland communities, habitat mosaic with notable woodland pockets

Suggested changes: The boundary should be reassessed with particular reference to the ancient woodland area near Kirn Drive. It may be better to have this particular woodland area as its own LNCS, with a contiguous boundary to the Burneven Hill LNCS. There can be a tendency for development to nibble at the edges of LNCSs with important areas possibly being seen as a small part of a larger site.

Notes:

This is a very large site with a history of planning and forestry applications on the margins of the site. Planning applications include turbines, and a previous woodland proposal by Ardgowan Estate was affected by the subsequent need to avoid planting on flushes and damp area, and hence did not proceed. The woodland area near Kirn Drive has been nominated as a potential housing site under the LDP Call for Sites. The scale of the site means that small changes within the boundary are very likely due to land management activities, however these small changes are unlikely to change the overall value of the site as a whole. It may be beneficial to be aware of any forestry applications that may be proposed at this site, as these are generally driven through a grant system which pays per hectare planted, and thus large tranches of land are often affected. Woodland planting within this LNCS would have a severe and adverse effect on the biodiversity value.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Coves Reservoir	Area : 48.20 Ha
Local Nature Reserve	
Grid Reference: NS 250762	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 3



This is an area of grassland, patchy heathland and birch woodland around two reservoirs that is surrounded by urban development.

A general description of the site is presented in the Lower Clyde Habitat Survey (1992) and further information on floral communities is available from Scottish Natural Heritage.

The site supports some interesting grassland communities and uncommon species that are of importance to nature conservation. Of particular interest is the recording of a population of the nationally scarce Spignel (*Meum athamanticum*). Other uncommon plants recorded include Stag'shorn ClubMoss (*Lycdium clavatum*), Northern Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza purpurella*), Sheep's-bit Scabious (*Jasione montana*) and Whorled Caraway (*Carum verticillatum*). Of additional interest is the occurrence of the locally uncommon Greater Butterfly Orchid and Golden-rod.

Grasslands are mainly neutral in character and dominant grasses include Cocksfoot, False Oat grass, Tufted Hair-grass, Common Bent, Crested Dogstail and Yorkshire Fog. Associated herbs include Lesser Knapweed, Sneezewort, Tufted Vetch, Yarrow, Cuckooflower, Yellow Rattle, Marsh Bedstraw and Michaelmass Daisy. Wetter grassland areas support Purple Moorgrass, Angelica, Soft Rush, Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil, Devil's-bit Scabious, Heath Rush and Lemon Scented Fern.

Rocky outcrops tend to be acidic and support Wood Sage, Sheep's Sorrel, Polytrichum Moss, Red Fescue and English Stonecrop. Associated habitats include Gorse scrub and Bracken.

To the north of the reservoirs Birch woodland is dominant over a heathland ground flora of Heather, Blaeberry, Polytrichum Moss, Tormentil, Purple Moor-grass, Narrow Buckler Fern, Broad Buckler Fern, Hard fern, Bracken and Bramble.

Goat Willow and Birch edge the reservoirs which support limited marginal flora that includes Yellow Iris, Sharp-flowered Rush, Jointed Rush, Marsh Bedstraw, Common Spike-rush, Bottle Sedge, Common Yellow Sedge and Soft Rush.

Fauna recorded at the site includes Common Frog, Tufted Duck, Mallard, Little Grebe and Kestrel.

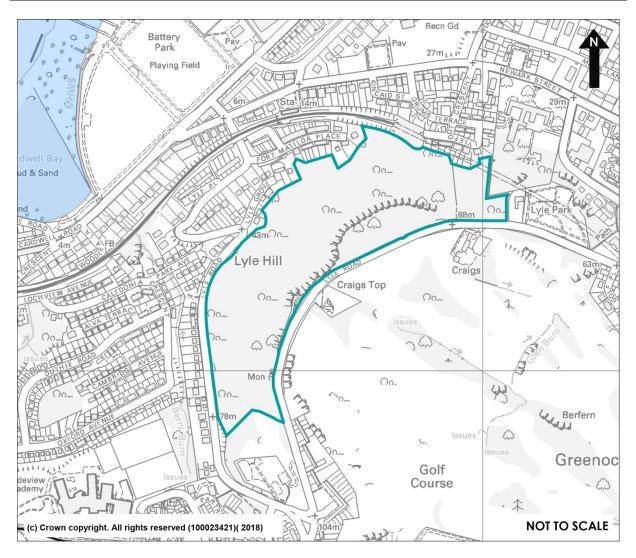
Latest assessment: May 2017

Noted interest: Grassland communities, broadleaved woodland, habitat mosaic, open water, community value

Notes:

There is no need to re-evaluate the site but a more holistic approach to management is much needed. Woodland planted as part of the Millennium Forest campaign is maturing nicely and adding to the biodiversity mosaic on the site. However gradual encroachment of scrub onto the grassland areas, as a result of no grazing or other compensatory grassland management, is seen as a biodiversity loss. A lack of clear management at the site, coupled with a lack of inter-departmental communication, has resulted in some actions being detrimental to biodiversity (for example lowering of water levels during nesting season). This is a designated Local Nature Reserve and has been the venue for several Management Plans and information from TCV activities and butterfly workshops. The Greater Butterfly Orchid has been recorded as recently as 2016.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Lyle Road Escarpment	Area : 14.0 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 257774	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 4



This is a sloping escarpment of grassland, bracken and scrub located to the north of Greenock Golf Course which forms a Local Nature Conservation Site.

The slopes are dominated by Bracken Cocksfoot, Yorkshire Fog and tufted Hair-grass with scattered Gorse, Blacktohorn, Broom, Bramble, Hawthorn, Ash, Elder, Buddleia, Willow, Rowan, Sycamoer and Rose. Broom is locally dominant at NS258772 and tree cover becomes greater towards the east of Lyle Park.

Rocky outcrops are of an acidic character and support Wood Sage and Ivy.

Other recorded flora includes Lesser Knotweed, Lady Fern, Male Fern and Greater Woodrush.

The site, together with Greenock Golf Course and cemetery forms a visually attractive area of landscape value.

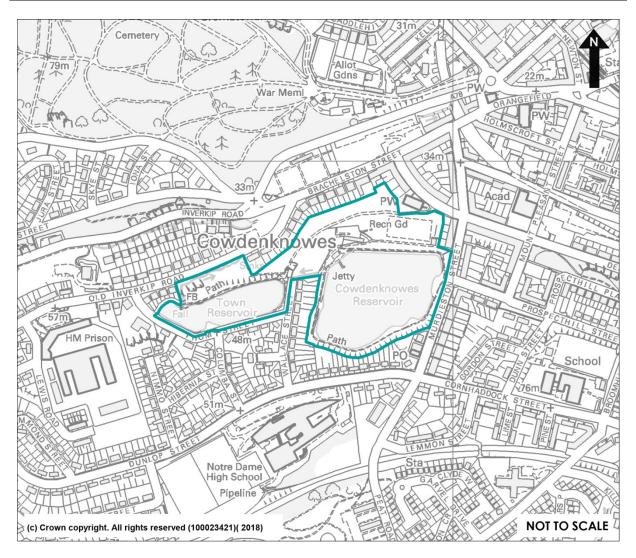
Latest assessment: May 2017

Noted interest: Escarpment habitats, landscape, scrub woodland

Notes:

This steeply sloping site is unaffected by development proposals. It has a highly visible location, being immediately to the north (and below) the viewpoint at Lyle Hill.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Murdieston Dams	Area : 8.0 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 266257	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 5



Cowdenknowes Reservoir and Town Reservoir (known locally as Murdieston Dam are two decommissioned reservoirs that now have an amenity/landscape function.

The reservoirs are surrounded by housing. A footpath is located around each of the reservoirs. Both reservoirs are well-used by the public. Several benches are present. Feeding the ducks is a popular activity and anglers use the site. A model boat club uses Cowdenknowes Reservoir and a series of coloured buoys mark out a course for the boats.

Both reservoirs are a locally important resource for waterfowl.

Cowdenknowes Reservoir is intensively managed with an open visual appearance. The grass banks at the edge of the reservoir are regularly mown and trees have been planted in a formal manner. Patches of Soft Rush, Common Spike-rush, Amphibious Bistort and Iris are present at the reservoir margins. A patch of Japanese Knotweed also occurs at the reservoirs edge. An abundance of Shoreweed is present at the draw down zone. Wild fowl recorded

on 19/9/92 (K Futter) included Coot (10), Tufted Duck (5), Mallard (30), one pair of resident Mute Swans with 3 young, Black-headed Gull (100), Common Gull (10), Herring Gull (5 immatures).

Town Reservoir is less intensely managed and a fringe of vegetation grows by the water's edge. Marinal vegetation includes Meadowsweet, Bramble, Reed Canary-grass, Michaelmass Daisy, Greater Willowherb, Rosebay, Willowherb, Monkey Flower and Iris. At the western corner a small swamp is in its early stages of development. The swamp is of particular interest in its early stages of development. It is of particular interest in being dominated by Lesser Reedmace (*Typha angustifolia*) and uncommon plant in the Clyde Valley. Common Sedge and Soft Rush also occur. Wildfowl recorded on 19/9/92 (K Futter) included Coot (10), Tufted Duck (10), Mallard (50), a resident pair of Mute Swans with 4 young and Black-headed Gulls.

A connecting conduit between the reservoirs supports Watercress and Brooklime.

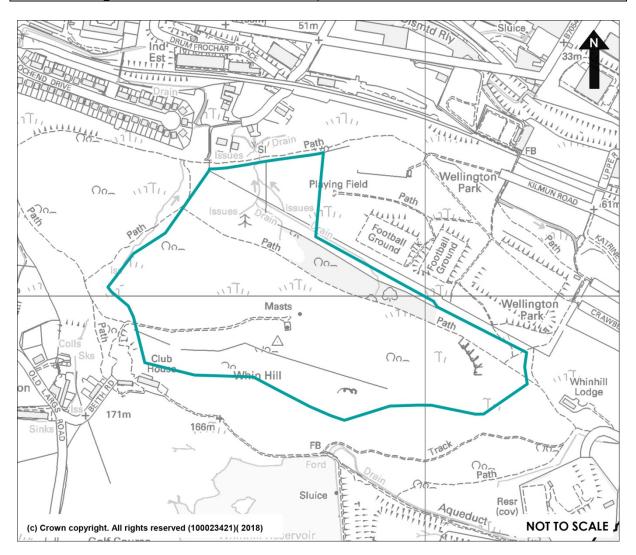
Latest assessment: May 2017

Noted interest: Open water, Lesser Reedmace, swamp community, waterfowl, and community value

Notes:

The reservoirs and immediate surrounds still meet the original criteria and description, although the swamp communities in the lower reservoir are more extensive.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Whin Hill	Area : 19.02 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 279749	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 6



This is a community of wet heathland regenerating on the site of the former conifer plantation. Blaeberry is dominant with Heather, Cross-leaved Heath, Heath Bedstraw, Tormentil, Wavy Hair-grass, Yorkshire Fog, Common Sedge, Soft Rush, Lemon-scented Fern, Devil's-bit Scabious, Red Fescue, Creeping Soft-grass and occasional Rowan. Gorse and Broom occur as local areas of scrub.

Local flushes support Jointed Rush, Heath Spotted Orchid, Bog Asphodel, Deergrass and Sphagnum Moss.

The rocky summit of Whin Hill accommodates a mainly acid grassland community of Wavy Hair-grass, Sheep's Fescue and Common Bent with Tormentil, Blaeberry, English Stonecrop and Polytrichum Moss.

Grassland located to the west of the playing fields supports Greater Butterfly Orchids.

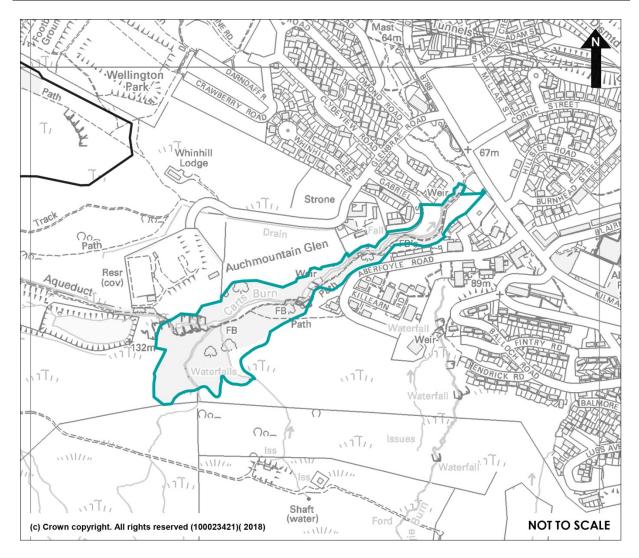
Latest assessment: May 2017

Noted interest: Heathland, grassland, scrub woodland

Notes:

The boundary between this LNCS and the golf course is somewhat fuzzy. Lower slopes are showing progression towards scrub woodland but Greater Butterfly Orchid was still present.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Auchmountain Glen	Area : 4.60Ha
Grid Reference: NS 282745	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 7



A steep sided wooded glen that has been described as ancient woodland but has been partly colonised by exotics such as Beech, Sycamore, Snowberry, Rhododendron and Montbretia.

The upper glen is dominated by Sessile Oak with occasional Birch, Ash, and Elm. Lower sections are dominated by Sycamore and Ash with alder and Birch. The shrub layer is well structured in places and comprises Hazel, Blackthorn, Holly, Broom, young Birch and Rowan, elder and Honeysuckle.

Rocky outcrops are acidic in character and are frequently colonised by Greater Wood-rush and Hard Fern.

Ground floras also reflect acidic conditions and include Male Fern, Lady Fern, Lemonscented Fern, Foxglove, Red Campion, Creeping Soft-grass, Wood Sorrel and Bracken. Wetter areas have mineral flushing and support richer flora which includes Dog's Mercury,

Wood Stitchwort, Wood Avens, Meadowsweet, Woodruff, False Brome, Hairy Brome, Hedge Woundwort, Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, Hard Shied Fern and Herb Robert.

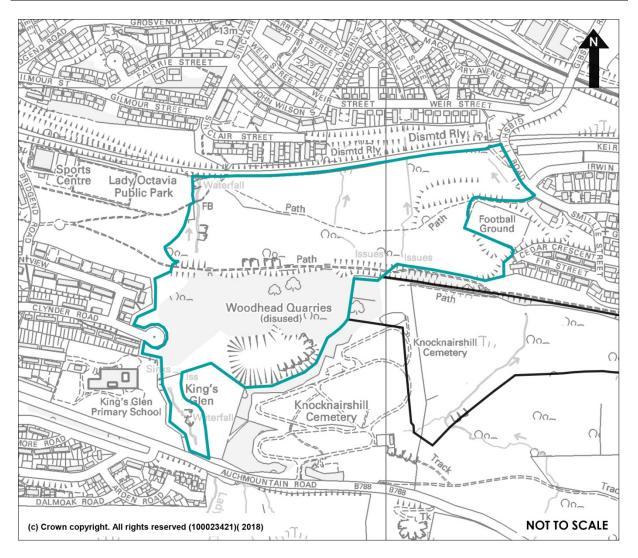
Latest assessment: May 2017

Noted interest: Woodland, community value

Notes:

This is a steep sided riparian woodland blending to an oak and birch woodland. The site shows some signs of a lack of woodland management, and has suffered over the years from anti-social behaviour and littering. A local group is now active in keeping the glen tidy, and are anxious to improve management and access to the area. Advice has previously been given regarding seeking funding and producing a feasibility study. IC have award the group £15,000 towards this feasibility study which may provide some updated survey information. The path through the glen is dangerous and worn in places, with bridges being particularly bad. As a result the route was never included within the Core Path network and any moves towards such inclusion should be resisted unless the path is significantly upgraded and evidence of sustainable access management is given.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Woodhead Quarry	Area : 17.35Ha
Grid Reference: NS 298746	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 8



This is an old quarry that has become colonised by dense Goat Willow with occasional Ash, Elder, Wych Elm, Hawthorn, Rose Blackberry and Rosebay Willowherb.

Local areas of wet ground support a rich ground flora that includes Marsh Horsetail, Field Horsetail, heath Spotted orchid, Eyebright, Sneezewort, Yellow Rattle, Lesser Knapweed and Reed Canary-grass.

A waterfall at the western edge is surrounded by trees of Wych Elm, Ash, Alder, Hazel and Wild Cherry.

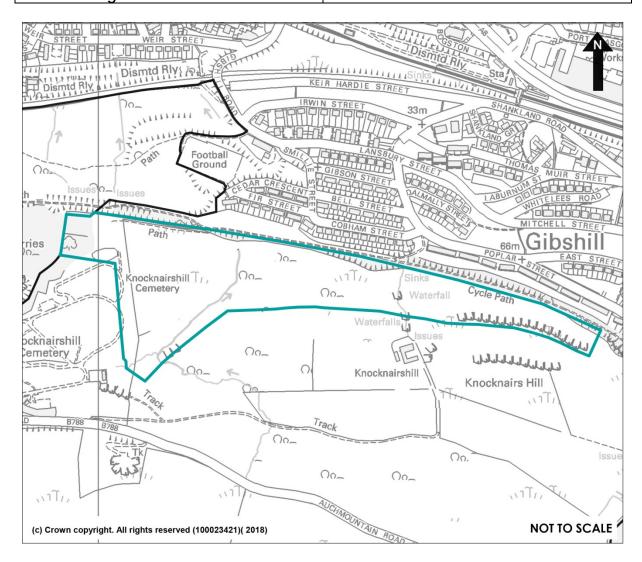
Latest assessment: May 2017

Noted interest: scrub habitat, woodland

Notes:

This site has matured towards woodland, due in no small part to a woodland planting programme in 1996. However as some areas of scrub still exist, this should have a net biodiversity gain due to the increase in habitat niches. Boundaries were unaffected by this planning so further evaluation is unnecessary.

Local Nature Conservation Site		
Site Name: Knocknair's Hill	Area : 10.20 Ha	
(lower slopes)		
Grid Reference: NS 304745		
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 9	



There are communities of neutral grassland, acid grassland and flushed grassland on the lower slopes of Knocknair's Hill which are steep in places. The site supports a local dominance of Gorse, Hawthorn, Broom and Bracken. Occasional trees include Sycamore, Rowan and Ash. The general area is lightly grazed by cattle.

Natural grassland communities comprise Crested Dogstail, Lesser Knapweed, Yorkshire Fog, Common Bent, False Oat Grass, Cocksfoot and Yellow Rattle.

Grassland withan acidic character supports Mat Grass, Sweet Vernal Grass, Heath Spotted Orchid, Devil's-bit Scabious, Tormentil and Blaeberry.

Flushed areas form pockets of marshy grassland which contain Jointed Rush, Tufted Hairgrass, Soft Rush, Yellow Iris, Greater Brdsfoot Trefoil and Lemon-scented Fern.

The upper slopes of Knocknair's Hill have been designated a SSSI.

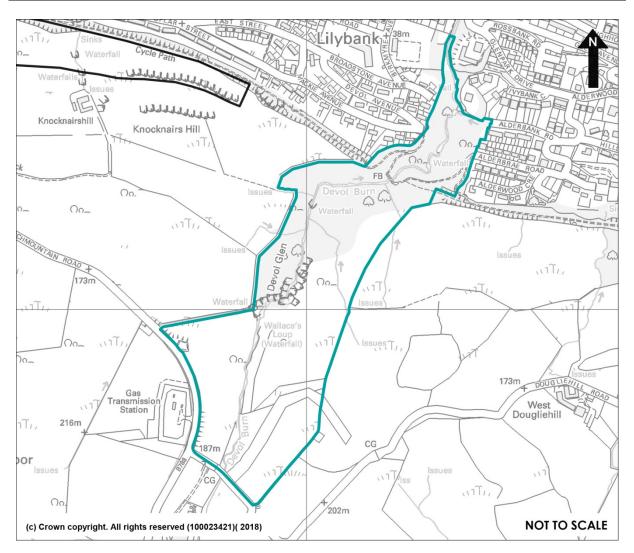
Latest assessment: May 2017

Noted interest: Grassland communities

Notes:

There is much more scrub than identified within the 1992 survey, due probably to a lack of grazing in the last few years. However the site is still very biodiverse and many wet flushes exist.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Devol Glen	Area : 19.15 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 309741	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 10



This is a steep sided glen containing ancient woodland and an impressive waterfall. The steep sides of the glen are unstable in places resulting in several local slippages of rock.

The densely wooded slopes of Ash with Wych Elm, Sycamore, Beech, Hazel, Elder, Rowan, Goat Willow and Hawthorn create a shaded canopy over much of the glen. The tunnel effect caused by the canopy extending over the burn creates humid conditions in the glen which favour bryophytes and ferns. The upper glen supports a canopy of Birch with Rowan, Oak and a local abundance of Bracken and Gorse.

The rock walls of the glen by Wallace's Loop support greater Wood-rush, Hard Fern, Hart's-tongue Fern, Gorse, Blaeberry, Bracken and Ivy.

The ground flora includes Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, Woodruff, Wood Sorrel, Dog's Mercury, Bracken, Greater Wood-rush and a local abundance of Mosses and liverworts.

Grassland communities surround the wooded glen and grade to heathland in places.

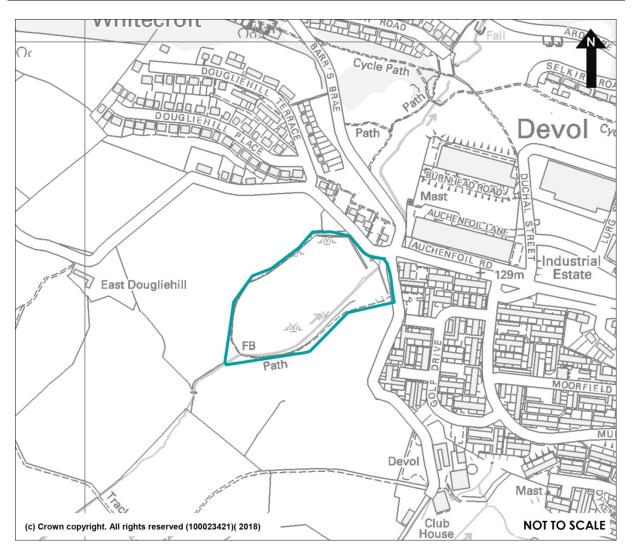
Latest assessment: June 2017

Noted interest: Woodland, grassland

Notes:

There are many orchids on the upper reaches where woodland grades to grassland and heath. Steep sided woodland has suffered from landslips and Japanese knotweed is flourishing. Public access is now blocked for safety issues although it is still used informally.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: East Dougliehill Reservoir	Area : 17.35Ha
Grid Reference: NS 323737	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 11



This site comprises an old reservoir that has become extensively colonised by swamp and marsh vegetation where Reedmace, Reed Canary-grass and Soft Rush are dominants. The margins of the reservoir support Meadowsweet, Alder, Water Mint, Watercress, Rosebay, Willowherb, Jointed Rush, Tufted Hair-grass, Lesser Knapweed, Bramble, Yorkshire Fog and Broom.

Latest assessment: May 2017

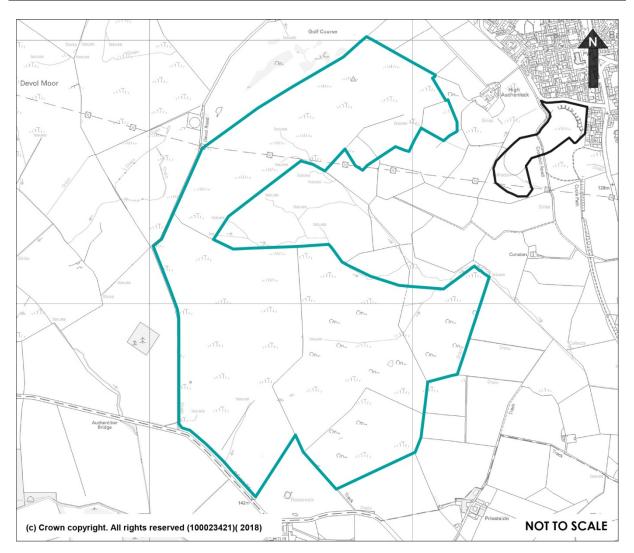
Noted interest: Swamp communities.

Notes:

Interest had previously been shown in establishing a golf driving range of the site, but no formal proposals were forthcoming. The nature of the site as a breached reservoir with swamp vegetation no doubt plays a role in the hydro-dynamics of the area, and this could

perhaps be increased, with compensatory biodiversity management, as part of any wider flooding management plan that may emerge.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Devol Road Upland	Area 1 17 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 323722	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 12



There is a mosaic of wet heathland and acid grassland with local areas of dry heath, bracken and gorse scrub. Grazing (cattle) and drainage have contributed to the variation shown in the heathland communities at the site.

Much of the area is covered by Purple Moor-grass, Heather, Cross-leaved Heath, Wavy Hairgrass, Polytrichum Moss and Sphagnum Moss. Local species include Milkwort, Green-ribbed Sedge, Jointed Rush, Soft Rush, Yorkshire Fog, Deer-grass, Mat Grass, Common Sedge, Bog Asphodel, Common Cotton-grass and Devil's-bit Scabious.

Rocky outcrops and drier areas support Bell Heather. Marshy areas support plants such as Marsh Cinquefoil, Marsh Pennywort, Ragged Robin and Tufted Hair-grass. Local flushes are boggy in character and host a greater abundance of Sphagnum Mosses.

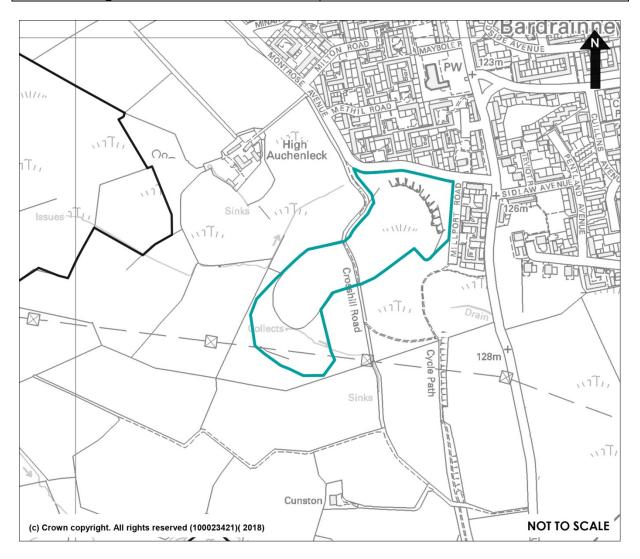
Latest assessment: May 2017

Noted interest: Heathland communities

Notes:

Wind turbines were resisted on the site as part of the planning process, but permission was granted on appeal for the first turbine, and there have been two others installed since in a piecemeal fashion. Routes for access roads were aligned to avoid as much damage as possible to the wet areas, and care was taken where possible to avoid changing drainage regimes, however it is highly unlikely that net biodiversity loss was entirely avoided. The ecological statements provided as part of the planning processes for the turbines are on file and are useful sources of information.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Crosshill Road Heath	Area : 5.42 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 334726	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 13



This is a site of local interest that comprises areas of acid grassland, Bracken, Heathland, rock exposure, Broom scrub and mire vegetation.

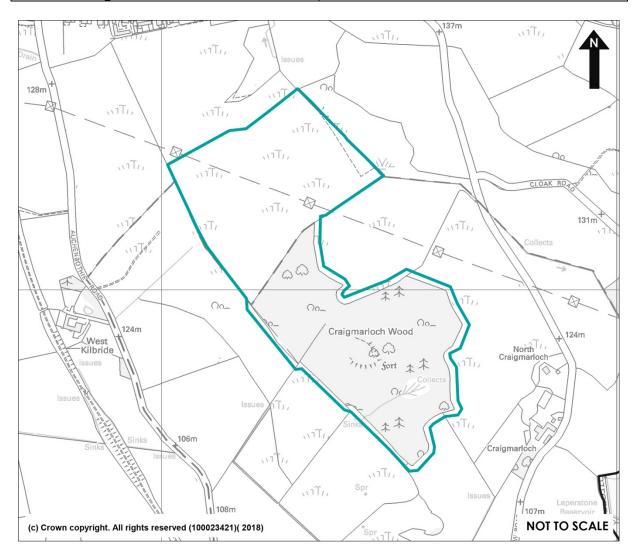
The small area of mire habitat grades to marsh and supports a local abundance of Sphagnum Moss with Common Cotton-grass, Bogbean, Water Horsetail, Soft Rush, Jointed Rush, Lesser Spearwort and Marsh Cinquefoil.

Areas of acid grassland comprise Mat Grass, Ref Fescue, Wavy-hair grass, Devil's-bit Scabious, Harebell, Tormentil and Sweet Vernal Grass. Wetter areas grade to heathland and support Heather, Purple Moor-grass, Blaeberry, Bog Asphodel and Heath Rush, Bell Heather and English Stonecrop occur on rocky outcrops.

Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Heathland communities, Notes: No significant changes.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Craigmarloch Wood	Area : 22.55Ha
Grid Reference: NS 344719	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 14



There is a mature plantation of Sessile Oak and Sycamore with Scot's Pine, Birch, Rowan and Ash. The understorey is dominated by Bracken in several areas but also includes Bluebell, Wood Sage, Foxglove, Yorkshire Fog, Creeping Soft-grass, Heath Bedstraw and Wood Sorrel.

In sections where Scot's Pine has fallen, heathland is regenerating with Birch.

At the northern edge of the wood there is scattered Gorse and relic heathland communities of Heather, Mat Grass, Sweet Vernal Grass, bell Heather, Blaeberry, Purple Moor-grass and Common Cotton-grass. Wetter areas support Round-leaved Sundew, Bog Asphodel, Heath Spotted Orchid, Soft Rush and Common Sedge.

A local area of swamp vegetation is dominated by Bottle Sedge with Water Horsetail, Soft Rush and Jointed Rush. Local areas of marsh host Marsh Cinquefoil and Marsh Pennywort.

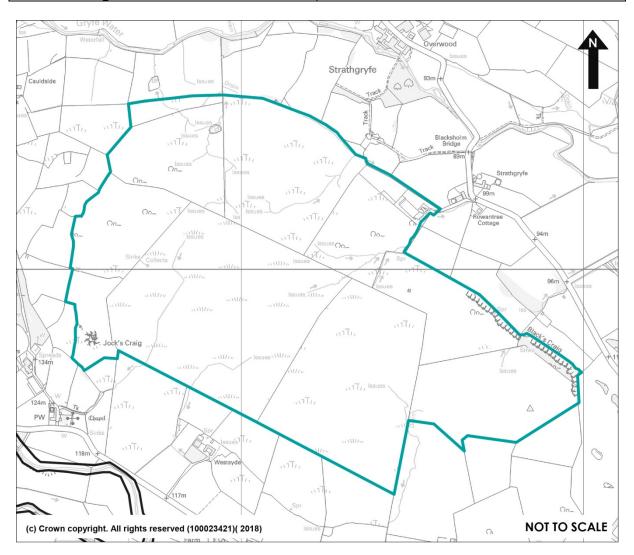
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland/heathland communities

Notes:

A Mr. Finlay had previously shown interest in acquiring the site for the purpose of beneficial management but no evidence of further developments in this respect. Woodland is showing signs of under-grazing due to ineffective stock fencing in some areas.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Jock's Craig to Black's Craig	Area : 110.50 Ha
Grid Reference: NS330700	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 15



This is an upland area partly modified by grazing (cattle and sheep) but retaining a mosaic of wet heathland, dry heathland and acid grassland communities with Bracken, Gorse and rock outcrops.

Wet heathland areas support carpets of Polytrichum Moss and Sphagnum Moss with Heather, Purple Moor-grass, Cross-leaved Heath, Round-leaved Sundew, Bog Asphodel and Common Cotton-grass.

Drier areas of heathland merge with acid grassland communities and include plants such as Wavy-hair grass, Blaeberry, Tormentil, Heather, Bracken, Bell Heather, Harevell, Mat Grass, Green-ribbed Sedge and Gorse.

Occasional flushes of an acidic character support Jointed Rush, Marsh Cinquefoil, Marsh Pennywork, Heth Spotted Orchid, Sphagnum Mosses, Common Sedge, Common Yellow Sedge, Glaucous Sedge and Star Sedge.

Tree coverage at Black's Craig includes Rowan and Downy Birch with Alder, Hawthorn and Ash.

Fauna recorded at the site includes Common Frog and Snipe.

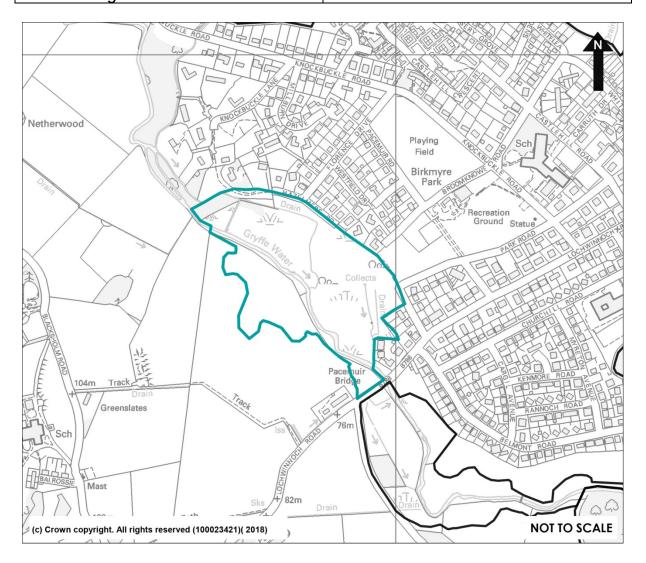
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Wet heathland/acid grassland, wet flushes, rocky outcrops

Notes:

This is a large and complex site still showing great value as a habitat mosaic. Light grazing by hill cattle is a good biodiversity friendly activity.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Mill Dam, Kilmacolm	Area : 6.72 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 349695	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 16



The Mill Dam has been colonised by a swamp community dominated by Reed Canary-grass. Associated vegetation includes Meadowsweet, Common Valerian, Reedmace, and Soft Rush with occasional Alder. Stands of Rosebay Willowherb, Tufted Hair-grass, Stinging Nettle and Yorkshire Fog also occur.

Surrounding the dam are areas of locally species-rich grasslands that include Sweet Vernal Grass, Red Fescue, Yorkshire Fog, Tufted Hair-grass, Yellow rattle, Creeping Buttercup, Lesser Knapweed, Lady's Bedstraw, Harebell, Common Bird's-foot Trefoil, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil, Red Bartsia, Perforate St John's Wort, Sneezewort and Devil's-bit Scabious.

Japanese Knotweed occurs by the mill lade.

Fauna recorded includes Snipe, Mallard, Coot and Pheasant.

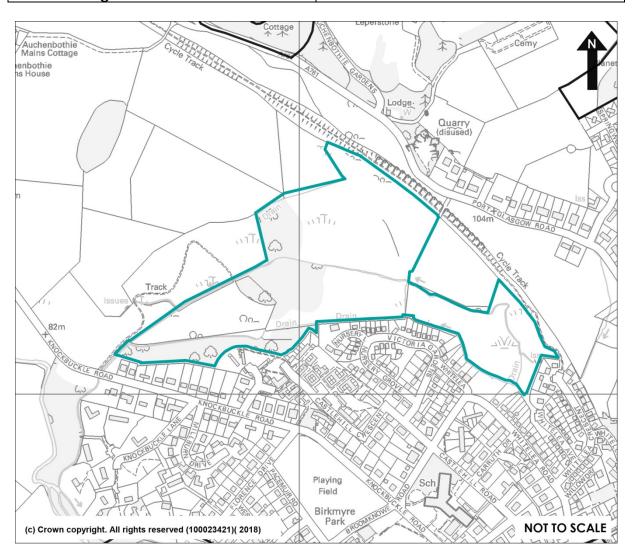
Latest assessment: June 2017

Noted interest: Swamp community/grassland.

Notes:

This is a highly biodiverse site between the Kilmacolm settlement and the Gryffe Water. Proposals for improved drainage on the adjacent park led to a walkover survey of the site to identify a pipeline route of least effect, designed in a way to inhibit any change to the drainage regime of the site.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Knockbuckle Road	Area : 17.34 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 352703	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 17



This is a site of wet grasslands and a relic mire that has become colonised by Birch woodland.

The marshy grasslands are generally dominated by Tufted Hair-grass with Soft Rush but Reed Canary-grass is locally dominant at NS354700. Associated with the dominants are Meadowsweet, Angelica, Valerian, Self-heal and occasional Marsh Pennywort.

A small pond occurs at NS 349 701 and is dominated by Bottle Sedge with Soft Rush, Valerian and Horsetails.

At NS 349702, a former mire supports a Birch and Rowan woodland over a grassy ground flora with mats of Sphagnum Moss and Polytrichum Moss. Tomentil, Blaeberry, Male Fern, Hard Fern and Soft Rush also occur in the ground flora. The woodland is under-grazed by cattle.

The wet grasslands to the south-west of the woodland grade to marsh and support Soft Rush, Jointed Rush, Marsh Cinquefoil, Sphagnum Moss, Lousewort, Common Sedge, Marsh Pennywort, Devil's-bit Scabious and Heath spotted Orchid.

The dismantled railway line at NS 355702 accommodates a grassland community dominated by false Oat-grass. Of interest is a local abundance of pale Toadflex at areas that have been recently disturbed.

Fauna included at the site includes Roe deer.

The habitat survey records a stand of Japanese Knotweed and the presence of a single Giant Hogweed at NS 354 700.

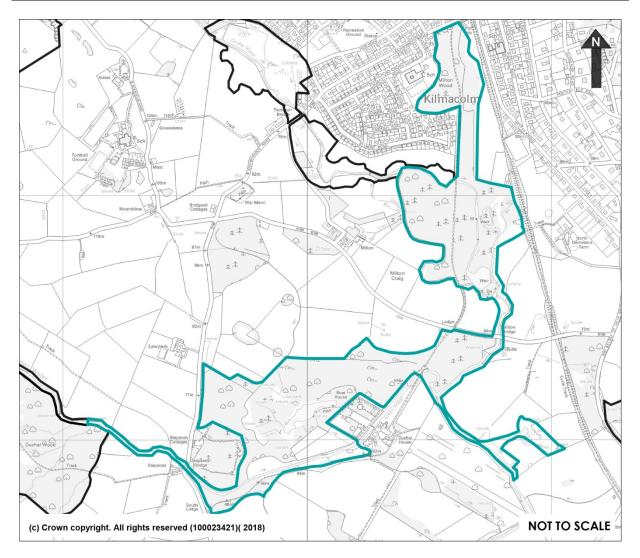
Latest assessment: June 2017

Noted interest: Grassland communities, birch woodland

Notes:

No significant changes from original description.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Duchal Estate	Area : 64.70Ha
Grid Reference: NS 350683	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 18



A large site of several habitat types surrounds Duchal House. The site comprises woodlands, grasslands, open water and swamp habitats.

The woodlands are of variable structure and type and range from young broad-leaved plantations, mature mixed woodlands and scattered trees to riverine woodlands. Few of the woodled areas have mature woodland ground floras and many trees have been planted on former meadows.

Canopy trees include Ash, Beech, Pedunculate Oak, Birch, Wych Elm, Alder, Sycamore, Scot's Pine and Lime. The shrub layer includes Elder, Hazel, Red-berried Elder, Broom and a local dominance of Rhododendron.

Ground floras include Dog's Memory, Herb Robert, Hedge Woundwort, Stinging Nettle, Pink Purslane, Red Campion, Foxglove, Bramble, Broad Buckler Fern, Greater Wood-rush and less

typical species such as Lesser Knapweed, Sweet Vernal Grass, Yorkshire Fog, Cocksfoot, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Tufted Hair-grass, Sorrel and Buttercups.

The wooded areas beside the Green Water support older woodland communities which contain Bird Cherry and hazel in the shrub layer and at NS341682 the locally uncommon Beech Fern.

The site supports three locally important water bodies at NS350680. All three have well established marginal flora.

The lochan by Duchal House at NS 350681 supports a swamp type margin dominated by Bottle Sedge and Bogbean with water Horsetail, Floating Sweet-grass, March Cinquefoil and Yellow Iris. The marshy fringe includes Soft Rush, Marsh Willowherb, Water Forget-me-not and Meadowsweet. Aquatic vegetation includes White Water-lilies.

The pond at NS359680 has a similar flora with Bottle Sedge and Soft Rush dominant with Monkey Flower, Water Forget-me-not, Common Spike-rush, Marsh Willowherb, Marsh Cinquefoil and Lesser Spearwort.

The lochan at NS356686 is less similar in having reed Canary-grass as the dominant marginal with Floating Sweet-grass and Common Water-plantain. Aquatics include Potamogeton pondweeds and Duckweed. The marshy fringe includes Meadowsweet, Valerian and Hemlock.

Of additional interest at the site are areas of grassland receiving minimal improvement. For example, the grassland at NS351 680 is reasonably species-rich with Yellow rattle, Lady's Mantle, Lady's Bedstraw, Lesser Knapweed, Common Bird's-foot Trefoil and in wetter areas Meadowsweet and Common Figwort.

Faunal interest includes Otter, Mink and Salmon in the Green Water and Gryfe Water. Other recorded fauna includes Kingfisher, Woodcock, Snipe, heron, Coot, Kestrel, Buzzard, Fox, Roe deer, Common Blue Damselfly, Blue-tailed Damselfly and Common Hawker Dragonfly.

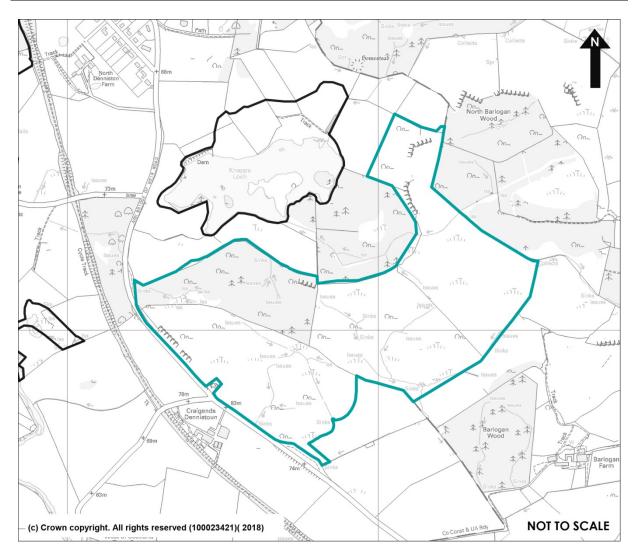
Latest assessment: June 2017

Noted interest: Woodland, water bodies, community value (Milton Wood)

Notes:

Housing proposals and school extension proposals have occurred in the Milton Wood section. Woodland management undertaken by the estate has been well planned and as a result the overall biodiversity interest is still very high. There has been a recent change in ownership.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Knapps Heath	Area : 12.65Ha
Grid Reference: NS 370680	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 19



This site comprises a series of lightly grazed fields containing communities of acid grassland and heathland with rock outcrops, Bracken, Gorse and scattered trees.

Acid grassland communities contain Mat Grass, red fescue, Sweet vernal Grass, Tormentil, HeathBedstraw, Harebell, Purple Moor-grass, Green-ribbed Sedge and Deveil's-bit Scabious.

Pockets of Heathland comprise Heather, Blaeberry, bell Heather, Cross-leaved Heath, Sphagnum Moss, Hair'stail Cotton-grass and Deer-grass.

Flushed areas support Bog Asphodel, Heath Spotted orchid, Carnation Sedge, Star Sedge, Soft Rush, Sneezewort, Tufted Hair-grass and Sphagnum Moss.

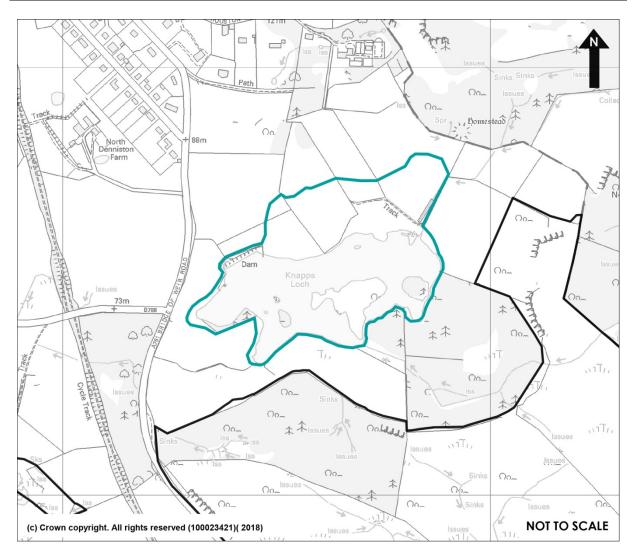
Latest assessment: June 2017

Noted interest: Acid grassland/heathland transition, planted woodland

Notes:

Pockets of woodland planting were undertaken with grant funding from the Forestry Commission. These were largely targeted at the areas of least interest, avoiding wet hollows and flushes, but one result has been increased public access on to the plateau, resulting in numerous desire lines.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Knapps Loch	Area : 58.73Ha
Grid Reference: NS 365685	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 20



This is a large body of open water with a good variety of marginal vegetation. Emergent marginal and fringe vegetation includes Soft Rush, Water Horsetail, Common Spike-rush, Bogbean, Purple Loosestrife, Hemlock, Water Mint, Bottle Sedge, Meadowsweet, Yorkshire Fog, and Tufted Hair-grass.

An area of marsh at the north-eastern corner of the Loch is species-rich and supports Soft Rush, Jointed Rush, Ragged Robin, Lousewort, Marsh Pennywort, Marsh Cinquefoil, Sphagnum Moss, Bogbean, Branched Bur-reed and Marsh Ragwort.

A promontory in the Loch and small islands are dominated by dense scrub of Birch, Broom and Gorse with stands of Rosebay, Willowherb, Meadowsweet and Soft Rush.

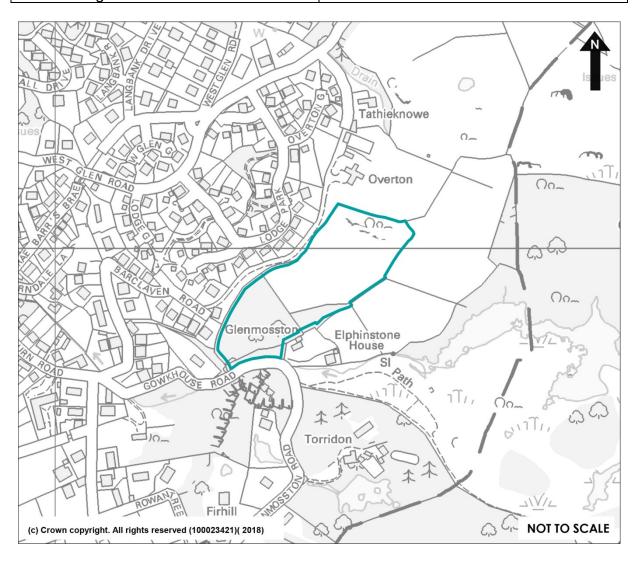
Latest assessment: June 2017

Noted interest: Open water, swamp and marsh habitats, community value

Notes:

There would be value in obtaining ornithological data for this site.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Overton Grassland	Area : 3.18 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 364700	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 21



This is an area of species-rich acid grassland and neutral grassland with heath elements, rock outcrops and encroaching Gorse and Hawthorn scrub.

Plants recorded at the site include Crested Dog'stail, Mat Grass, Purple Moor-grass, Yorkshire Fog, Common Bent, Sweet Vernal Grass, Lesser Knapweed, Sheep's Sorrel, Heath Spotted Orchid, Eyebright, Devil's-bit Scabious, Green-ribbed Sedge, Common Sedge, Harebell, Heather, Bell Heather, Cross-leaved Heath and Crowberry.

Of particular interest is the recording of the locally uncommon Lesser Butterfly Orchid.

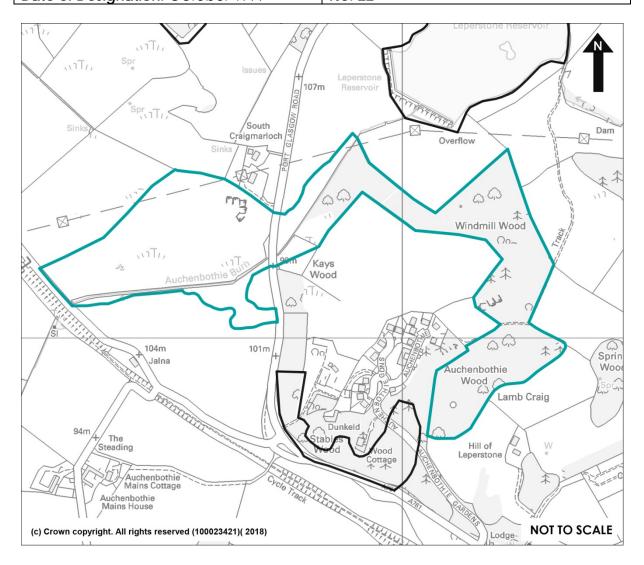
Latest assessment: June 2017

Noted interest: Grassland communities.

Notes:

A very hard-to find site

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Auchenbothie Burn, Windmill	Area : 13.00 Ha
Wood, Auchenbothie Wood	
Grid Reference : NS 345713, NS 352713, NS352709	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 22



Auchenbothie wood and Windmill Wood are two connecting mature semi- natural broad-leaved woodlands that are dominated by Birch (Downy Birch with Silver Birch) with Rowan, Beech, Scot's Pine, Wych Elm, Ash, Sycamore, Sessile Oak and Pedunculate Oak. The ground floras support Bracken, Broad Buckler Fern and Bramble with local regeneration.

The Auchenbothie Burn at the north-west of the site supports a species-rich marsh with the recording of Soft | Rush, Yellow Iris, Meadowsweet, Tufted Hair-grass, Creeping Buttercup, Sneezewort, Ragged Robin, Marsh Bedstraw and amrsh Pennywort. Naturalising woodlands at Auchenbothie House have abundant Rhododendron in the shrub layer which could pose a threat to the woodland communities of Auchenbothie Wood and Windmill Wood.

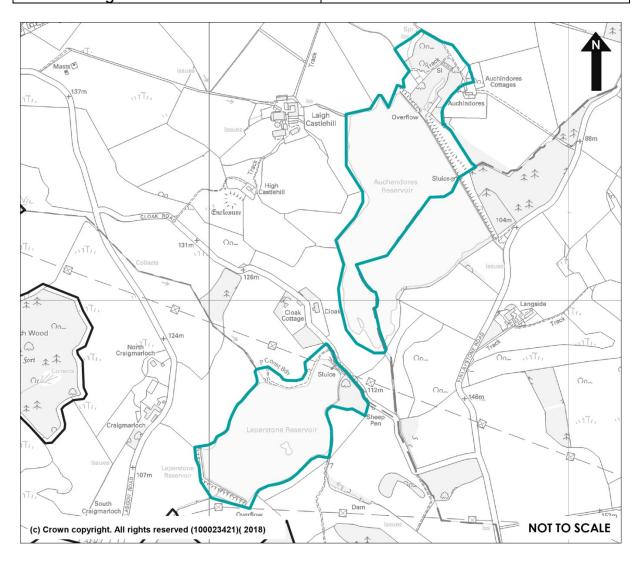
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland, marsh

Notes:

It is proposed to increase the area of this LNCS to encompass the marsh/flooded area alongside Auchenbothie Burn, which is an important local asset for wintering wildfowl, waders and nesting wildfowl.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Leperstone Reservoir and	Area : 33.00 Ha
Auchendores Reservoir	
Grid Reference: NS 351716	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 23



Both reservoirs in combination form a significant body of fresh water.

Generally marginal vegetation is limited but is locally rich at both reservoirs.

Leperstone Reservoir – frequent Willow at the edge with occasional Stinging Nettle, Reed Canary-grass, Meadowsweet, Hawthorn, Tufted Hair-grass, Jointed Rush, Marsh Pennywort, Water Mint and Common Yellow Sedge. A species-rich grassland at the north-east end of the reservoir supports Devil's-bit Scabious, Harebell, Yorkshire Fog, Tufted Hair-grass, Red fescue, Alder, False Oat-grass, Soft Rush, Yellow Rattle, Sneezewort, Jointed Rush, Lesser Spearwort and Wild Angelica.

Auchendores Reservoir – of particular interest is the overflow pond at the north of the reservoir which has surrounding Willow Carr and is being colonised by swamp vegetation.

Plants recorded include Bogbean, Reed Canary-grass, Reed Sweet-grass, Bottle Sedge, Yellow Iris, Soft Rush, Marsh Cinquefoil, and Tufted Hair-grass.

An area of swamp vegetation is also found as a narrow band along the north-west edge and includes Yellow Iris, Bottle Sedge and Water Horsetail.

Fauna recorded at the reservoirs include Greyleg Geese, Canada Geese, Mute Swans and Common Blue Damselflies.

This LNCS (Auchendores Reservir) extends beyond the Inverclyde Boundary into Renfrewshire.

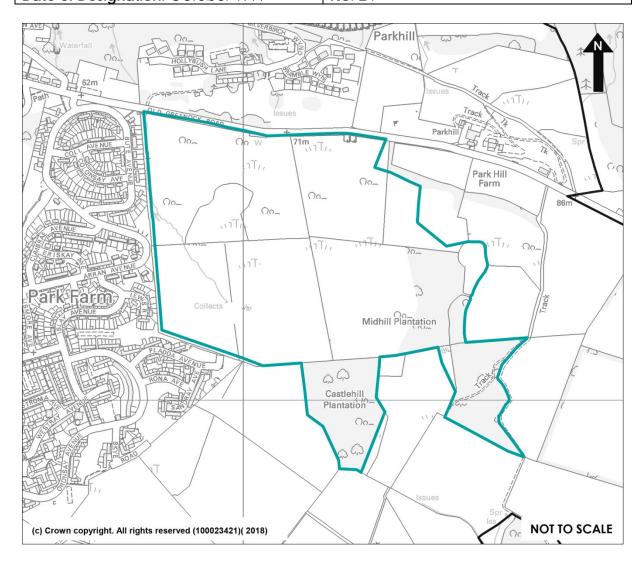
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Open water bodies, swamp vegetation,

Notes:

Since the 1992 survey, Leperstone Reservoir has been breached to take it out of the influence of the Reservoir Act, with its attendant responsibilities. This has resulted in the area of open water being reduced, but the area of swamp vegetation being increased. There has been no loss of biodiversity value as a result of this. An approved Forestry project, started in April 2018, is being carried out on the fields adjacent to Auchendores Reservoir, reducing the available grazing for wintering geese.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Midhill Plantation/ Castlehill	Area : 37.20Ha
Plantation	
Grid Reference: NS 352731	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No. 24



This site comprises a large area of two small plantations and steep slopes of grassland, scrub, Bracken and rock exposures.

Castlehill Plantation is Birch dominated with occasional Rowan over an understorey of Gorse, Broom and Bracken. Cattle have access to the plantation. The adjacent plantation at N\$356731 is similar but with a canopy dominated by Sycamore.

The open grassland to the north of the plantations is becoming colonised by Broom, Gorse and Bramble with occasional Rowan. Grassland plants recorded include Red Fescue, Sweet Vernal Grass, Yorkshire Fog, Common Bent, Soft Rush, Devil's-bit Scabious and Lesser Knapweed. Bracken and Rosebay Willowherb are locally common. Rock exposures support mats of Polytrichum Moss.

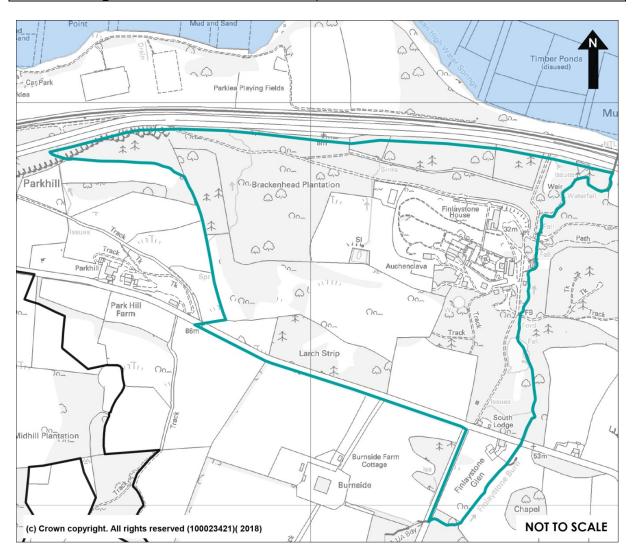
Latest assessment: April 2017

Noted interest: Woodland, scrub and grassland communities,

Notes:

This LNCS requires re-evaluation. This large site is a mosaic of woodland and open ground. Much of the previous open grassland area is now completely dominated by bracken, and is not particularly diverse in terms of wildlife. The woodland areas are still valuable individually and collectively, but should probably be mapped only as woodland LNCS's, with the wider open areas removed. This area is also the focus for unofficial weekend gatherings of youths, which gathers some local media attention.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Finlaystone Estate	Area : 58.00 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 361736	
Date of Designation: October 1999	No . 25



Finlaystone Estate is privately managed in part as a Country park with large numbers of visitors (school children, public) attracted to the gardens, visitor centre and woodland walks.

The site is of particular importance for nature conservation in supporting a medium-sized heronry (50 nests). Other important features include a roost of long-eared bats and seminatural woodland habitats with a good diversity of plant and mature trees.

The site is concisely summarised on page 52 in the General Report of the Lower Clyde Habitat Survey (1992)

Latest assessment: June 2017

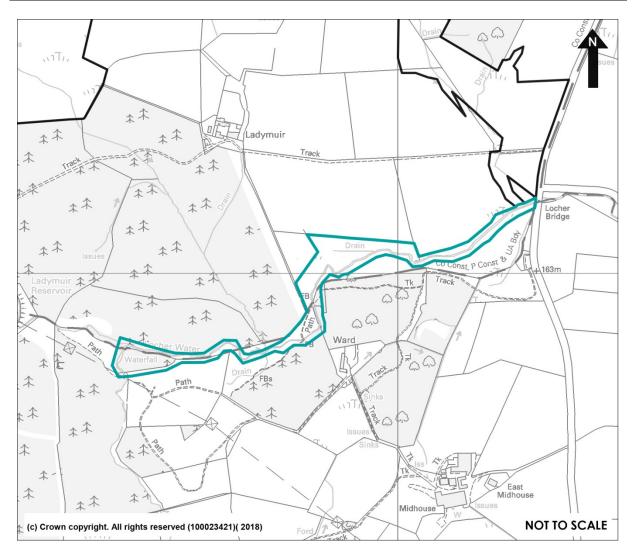
Noted interest: Heronry, woodland, pond habitat

Notes:

Much of the woodland area has been subject to harvesting, along with some compensatory planting of young trees. Although this has somewhat changed the balance of the woodland in terms of broadleaf/conifer mix, as a woodland component of the local green network Finlaystone is still vitally important, with a history of woodland cover going back many years. One recently noticeable change has been the decline of the heronry, once one of the biggest in Scotland. Whether this change was due in part to poorly timed forestry operations is impossible to verify, and there are signs now that the previous drastic decline of nest numbers is starting to reverse.

There had also been a proposal to the landowner to scour out the pond, with the arisings being spread across adjacent wetland, which would have resulted in a loss of biodiversity in the pond itself, while it recovers from the dredging, and also in the wetland due to it being topped with arisings. Although not proceeding due to an unsuccessful funding bid, this showed how vulnerable habitats in private estates can be, in this case in the name of amenity improvements and to secure a water supply for a micro-hydro scheme.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Locher Water	Area: 3.50 Ha
Grid Reference : NS 353641 – NS343637	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 26



This is a short stretch of burn to the southern boundary with grazed and poached sides to the east, with marginal pasture generally well improved (grass dominated) locally with much Tufted Hair-grass or Smooth Rush (not marshy, except to the west where there is some Iris). Further west (upstream) the conifer plantation extends to the margins, but the south side supports some woodland (within Renfrewshire Council area).

The burn should be viewed as part of the more extensive Locher Water habitat corridor, mostly within Renfrewshire.

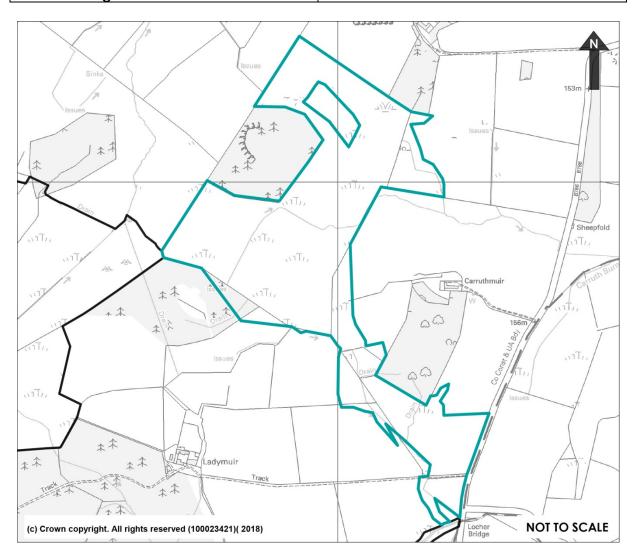
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland corridor.

Notes:

There will be changes in forestry practice on adjacent ground between 2018 and 2023, being undertaken by Tilhill Forestry. This was subject to consultation with Inverclyde Council and the existing woodland and water corridors were maintained as part of this.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Carruthmuir	Area : 15.00Ha
Grid Reference: NS 349648	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 27



This is a complex and somewhat mixed series of habitats with a series of mires connecting large areas of relic acid grassland and wet heath. The western ridge and slopes supports diverse acidic grassland, with various acidic grasses (eg Bent Grass, Sweet Vernal-grass, Sheep's Fescue, Mat Grass, Wavy hair-grass, Common Heathgrass) and herbs include Tormentil, Heath Bedstraw, Field Woodrush, Green-ribbed Sedge, Eyebright, Yarrow, Bird'sfoot Trefoil, Whorled Caraway, Mountain Pansy and Harebell. Locally areas of short-grazed, acidic wet heath occur marked by Purple Moor-grass, Short Heather, Heath Rush, Bilberry, Green-Ribbed Sedge and various Mosses.

The series of mires are mostly dominated by Rush but a few wetter mire zones occur with Sedge. Of interest is a large area of bog vegetation, situated in the east below a felled plantation, although the vegetation is best considered wet heath with typical species including Purple Moor-grass, Deer Grass, Heather, Bilberry, Heath Rush, Velvet Bent, Wavy Hair-grass, Common Cotton-grass, Cross-leaved Heather, Common Sedge, Heath Woodrush, Tormentil, Acute-leaved Peat Moss, Common Haircap Moss and the rare Marsh Penny Wort.

Some wetter zones support mire elements including the rare Bay Willow with Bottle Sedge, Common Cotton-grass, Marsh Cinquefoil, Marsh Lousewort, Bog Asphodel and Bog Moss.

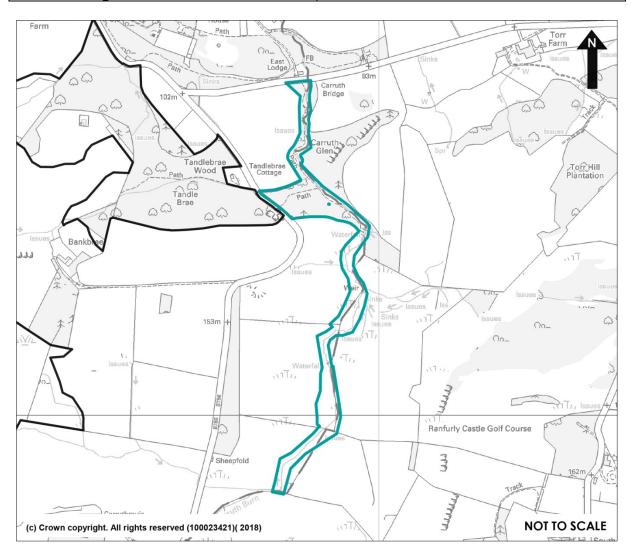
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Acid grassland, wet heath, mires,

Notes:

Little change to noted interest over the years.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Carruth Burn	Area : 3.50 Ha
Grid Reference : NS 358658 – NS357648	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 28



This is a short stretch of narrow burnside habitats, open above to the south, but forming dense woodland at the glen to the north. The open habitats are dense, especially to the east side (or where steeper) with various relic acid grassland, wet heath plus local mire and marshy elements. The burnside marshy elements include Rush, Floating Sweet-grass, Various-leaved Water-starwort, Yellow Flag Iris, Water Ragwort, Meadowsweet, Whorled Mint, Creeping Forget-me-not with wet heath (and mire) indicated by short grazed Purple Moorgrass plus Heather, Bilberry, Heath Rush, Cross-leaved Heather, Lousewort, Tormentil, Heath Spotted Orchid and Mosses (some local Bog Moss, Bog Asphodel, Marsh Violet, Marsh Cinquefoil etc).

The actual woodland of the glen is very diverse, especially along the valley section where steep sided; the area is noted as a site with Renfrewshire and should be considered as part of a larger woodland and water course site (see Renfrewshire survey).

This woodland which covers most of the northern part of this LNCS is listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Ancient (of semi-natural origin).

This LNCS straddles the boundary of Inverclyde and Renfrewshire.

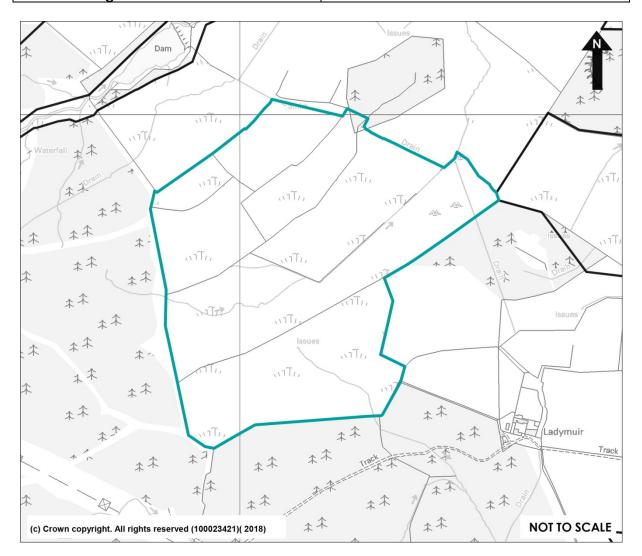
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland with associated mire and marsh habitats.

Notes:

The site description is still valid.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Ladymuir	Area : 24.00 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 341647	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 29



This is an upland area supporting a mosaic of wet heath, mire and acidic grassland representing an extension of the Regional Park moorland although the latter has been planted with conifers. Wet heath vegetation includes Purple Moor-grass, Deer Grass, Heather, Bilberry, Heath Rush, Cross-leaved Heather, Common Sedge, Little Prickly Sedge, Lousewort, Bog Asphodel, Tormentil and Mosses include Acute-leaved Peat Moss plus some Sphagnum Tenellum, Low Sphagnum Moss, Cow Horn Bog-moss, Common Haircap Moss, Horsetail Cypress-leaved Plait-moss and Ribbed Bog Moss. There is a local area to the west with a more boggy vegetation (eg Papillose Bog-moss, Hare's-tail Cotton-grass, Cross-leaved heather, Bog Asphodel, Sundew and Cranberry). Round-leaved Sundew and Cranberry are both relatively rare species and indicate enhanced naturalness of the habitat.

There are several depressions, drains and flushes supporting minerotrophic, usually Rush dominated, marsh (associates include Marsh Cinquefoil, Lesser Spearwort, Bogbean, Marsh Horsetail and Marsh Willowherb). Acidic grassland occurs where the area is more accessible to grazing and this adds to the local diversity.

To the east there is a distinct area of slightly raised boggy heath, but grading locally to mire areas about the west edge and local indentation depressions. Species diversity appears high with Heather, Deer Grass, Purple Moor-grass, Cross-leaved Heather, Bilberry, Heath Rush, Heath Woodrush, Cotton Sedge, Bog Asphodel, Tormentil and bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) appear diverse with Acute-leaved Peat Moss (and other species), Cypress-leaved Plait-moss and Cushion Moss.

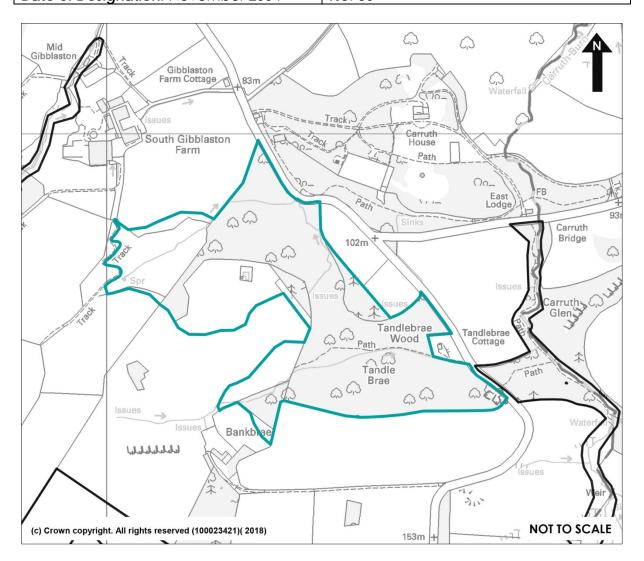
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Heath, mire and acid grassland mosaic.

Notes:

The site description is still valid, however several nearby forestry schemes have changed the local landscape somewhat. Any future proposals for forestry proposals on this site should be resisted, to maintain the locally diverse landscape and habitat mix.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Tandie Brae	Area : 16.00 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 354659	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 30



This is a large area of semi-natural woodland situated on a north-easterly facing embankment. The woodland shows evidence of much past, and some more recent conifer planting, but on the whole provides a semi- natural atmosphere. The canopy is provided by Oak, Sycamore (more marginal) Beech (much to the south and above), Elm, Ash and Rowan. This woodland is listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Long Established (of plantation origin).

The ground flora appears to be quite variable with locally much Tufted Hair-grass (plus Wood-sorrel, Raspberry, Nettle, Male Fern, Herb Robert, Red Campion and Greater Stitchwort) but elsewhere with Creeping Soft-grass, Common Bent, Wood-sorrel, Bluebell and Broad Buckler Fern, local flushes with Reed Canary-grass plus Meadowsweet, Wood Horsetail, Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage add to the diversity.

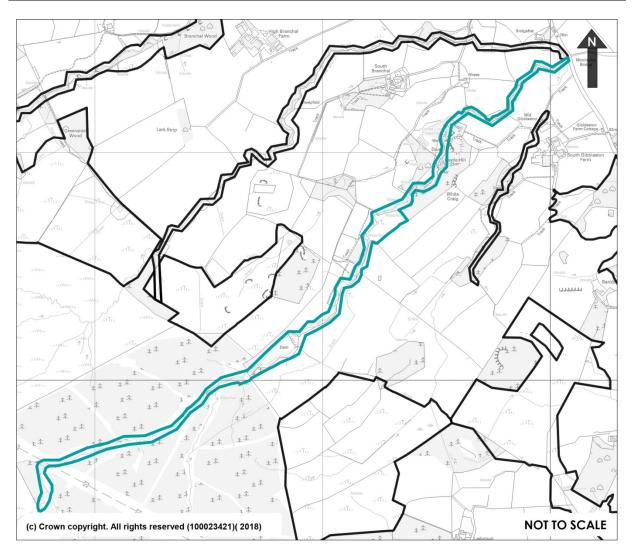
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland

Notes:

No significant changes to the original assessment.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Gotter Water	Area : 12.50 Ha
Grid Reference : NS 350664 – NS346654	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 31



This is a burn supporting diverse woodland to the central and eastern sections where the valley sides are steep. In the central part there is a steep gorge with Rowan, Hazel, Birch, Bird Cherry and Oak over Great Woodrush, Bilberry, Ivy, Ferns and Honeysuckle. Further east below the large waterfall the canopy and ground flora diversity increases with records including Wood-sorrel, Dog's Mercury, Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage, Primrose, Sweet Woodruff, Ramsons, Intermediate Enchanter's Nightshade, Sanicle, Wood Melick and the ferns Hard Shield-fern and Bladderwort.

The Gotter Water has a relatively important local ecological position as a wildlife and habitat corridor.

There are areas of semi- improved grassland, mostly acidic, marsh and scrub habitats at more open margins, especially to the west of the site. The dam on the Gotter Water has substantial areas of Broad-leaved Pondweed and large stands of Marsh Horsetail, Bottle Sedge and Common Spike-rush swamp habitats.

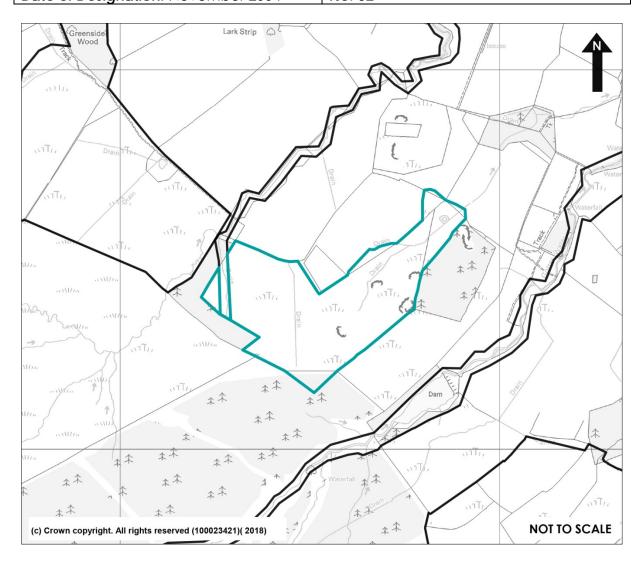
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland and wildlife corridor,

Notes:

There will be changes in forestry practice on adjacent ground between 2018 and 2023, being undertaken by Tilhill Forestry. This was subject to consultation with Inverclyde Council and the existing woodland and water corridors were maintained as part of this.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Burnbrae	Area : 14.00 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 335653	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 32



This is an upper fringe site supporting a mosaic of wet heath and mire with bog affinities, plus acidic grassland. It is wet heath typically with Purple Moor-grass, Deer Grass, Heather, Heath Rush, Cross-leaved Heather, Velvet Bent, Wavy Hair-grass, Tormentil, Common Haircap Moss and Acute-leaved Peat Moss. Wet mire elements occur in local depressions with Bottle Sedge, Marsh Cinquefoil, Common Cotton-sedge, Common Sedge, Bogbean and some Cranberry and Sundew.

Round-leaved Sundew and Cranberry are both relatively rare species and indicate enhanced naturalness of this locally important blanket bog habitat. Higher ridges support acidic grassland (where rock outcrops with English Stonecrop plus various bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) and lichen).

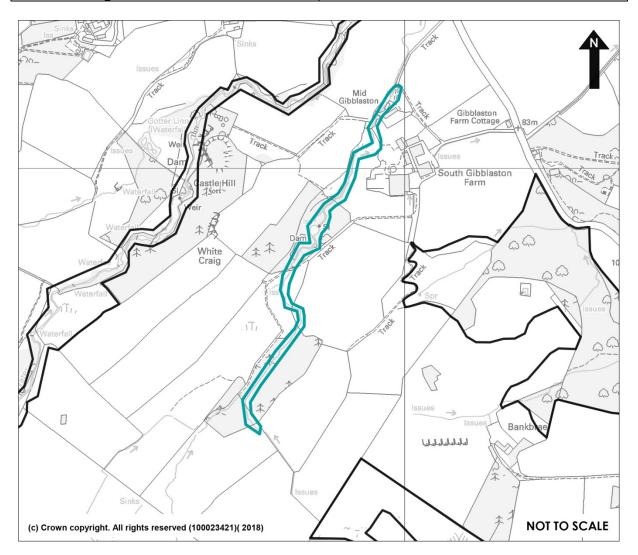
Latest assessment: August 2017

Noted interest: Heath, mire and acid grassland mosaic.

Notes:

There is no need to re-evaluate this site but a more holistic approach to management is much needed. Woodland planted as part of the Millennium Forest campaign is maturing nicely and adding to the biodiversity mosaic on the site. However gradual encroachment of scrub onto the grassland areas, as a result of no grazing or other compensatory grassland management, is seen as a biodiversity loss. A lack of clear management at the site, coupled with a lack of inter-departmental communication, has resulted in some actions being detrimental to biodiversity (for example lowering of water levels during nesting season). This is a designated Local Nature Reserve and has been the venue for several Management Plans and information from TCV activities and butterfly workshops. Greater Butterfly Orchid recorded as recently as 2016.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Gibblaston Burn	Area : 1.00 Ha
Grid Reference : NS 350663 – NS 346654	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 33



This is a burn with a generally narrow fringe of semi-natural habitats but still providing a fairly diverse mosaic. Above, the scrubby woodland includes Eared Willow, Bay Willow, with Hazel, Rowan (and Bracken stands) but below (through the conifer plantation) there is also Oak with Hazel, Rowan, Hawthorn and below Bird Cherry and Alder. Ground flora elements include Wood-sorrel, Bluebell, Common Violet, herb Robert, Golden Saxifrage species, Marsh Hawk's-beard, ferns (including Oak Fern), Honeysuckle and Ivy. Local open areas of grassland, dome flushed or heathy, add to the local species diversity.

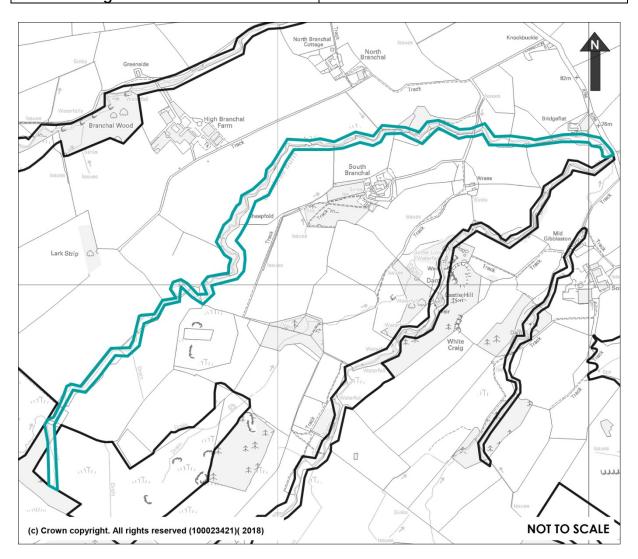
Gibblaston Burn has a relatively important local ecological position as a wildlife and habitat corridor.

Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland mosaic.

Notes: There are no significant changes to original assessment.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Burnbrae Burn	Area : 4.00 Ha
Grid Reference : NS 350664 – NS 322663	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 34



This is a long but mostly narrow stretch of habitat fringing the burn. The upper western stretch is open with limited diversity grass and marsh elements, but further east the burn cuts a steeper valley and supports diverse woodland elements. The canopy includes Ash, Rowan, Birch, Hazel, Bird Cherry and Willow and the diverse ground flora includes many ferns (some Oak Fern, Long Beech Fern, Hard Fern, Common Polypody etc) and mosses plus Great Woodrush, Pink Purslane, Dog's Mercury, Bluebell, Wood-sorrel, Wood Sage, Giant Fescue, Intermediate Enchanter's Nightshade, Honeysuckle, Greater Stitchwort, Water Avens etc.

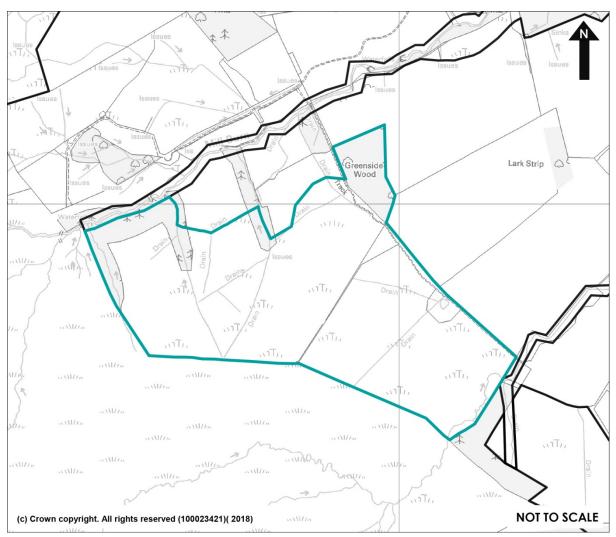
Burnbrae Burn has a relatively important local ecological position as a wildlife and habitat corridor.

Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland mosaic

Notes: There are no significant changes to the original assessment.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: High Branchal	Area : 32.00 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 327657	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 35



This is an upland fringe extending Regional Park habitats but mostly modified (some highly) by drainage, grazing and some enrichment. There is some relic blanket bog (deep peat, but heavily drained) to the west, although this is dominated by tussocky Hare's-tail Cotton-grass with Wavy Hair-grass plus Velvet Bent, Tomentil, Common Sedge, Bilberry, Sheep's Fescue, Common Haircap Moss and Acute-leaved Peat Moss or between tussocks Flat-topped Bogmoss. Very rare areas with relic (or recovering) bog structure eg Papillose Bogmoss, Crossleaved Heather, Common Cotton-grass and Crowberry. Much of the easter part supports short, wet heath (with much Purple Moor-grass with Heather and Deer Grass) or Rush dominated mires. Lower slopes include areas of semi-improved acidic grassland.

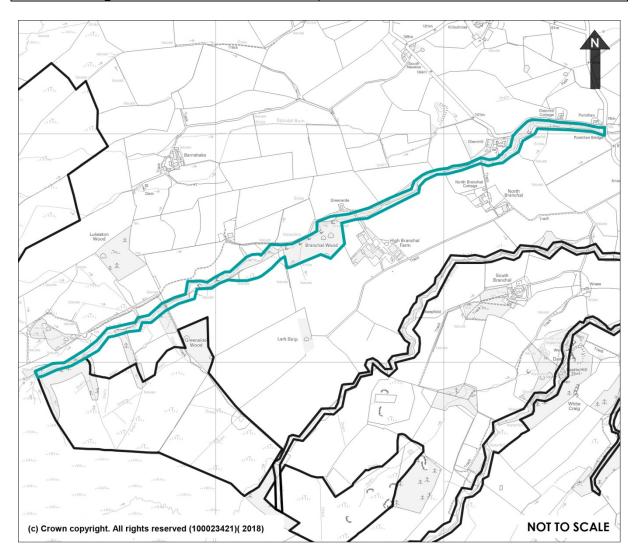
Greenside Wood has marginal relic Beech and Sycamore with a more scrubby centre of Sycamore with Birch, Rowan, Willow (plus Beech and much Sycamore). Ground flora generally with much grass (except where heavy scrub shade) such as Common Bent, Velvet Grass, Cocksfoot, Tufted Hair-grass and frequent Broad Buckler Fern, Bramble, Wood-sorrel, male Fern and Lady Fern.

Latest assessment: August 2017

Noted interest: Upland habitat with relic blanket bog.

Notes: There are no significant changes to the original assessment

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Mill Burn	Area : 13.00 Ha
Grid Reference : NS 347670 – NS322659	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 36



This is a long stretch of burn supporting a rich diversity of woodland, especially to the east, but also areas of grassland, marsh and heath to the centre and west. In the upland west there is limited woodland relics (Willow, Rowan, Birch, and some Ash and Sycamore) with ground flora including Great Woodrush, Wood Sage, Foxglove and ferns including Hard Fern, Oak Fern and Lemon-scented Fern, open embankments support short acidic grassland (with Heather, Mat Grass, Common Heath-grass, Lousewort, Sedge mosses etc.). To the centre is a large area of plantation woodland, but also of interest are relic areas of heath and marsh, plus diverse grassland relics.

The burn in the east is in a broad but very steep sided valley with much Sycamore plus Ash, Hazel, Rowan, Bird Cherry and locally some Oak. Here flora is generally good with much Great Woodrush plus Dog's Mercury, Ferns including Oak Fern, Long Beech Fern and Hard Shield-fern, plus Hairy Brome, Sweet Woodruff, Ramsons, Bluebell and locally much Pick-a-Back Plant. The Pick-a-Back Plant is a non-native aggressive species that could be monitored.

Mill Burn has a relatively important local ecological position as a wildlife and habitat corridor.

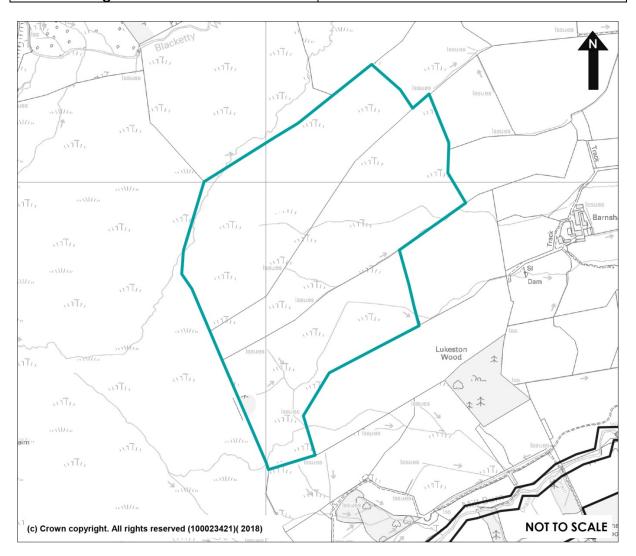
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland and wildlife corridor.

Notes:

There are no significant changes to the original assessment.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Barnshake	Area : 43.00 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 332668	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 37



This site comprises a large area of semi-natural acidic vegetation with a complex mosaic of Wet Heath, Rush Mire and acidic grassland. Wet Heath provides the main habitat although with flushing and grazing, the structure tends to be graminoid with Short Heather and Blaeberry (locally frequent or common though) and usually much Purple Moor-grass plus Deer Grass; associates include Heath Rush, Sheep's Fescue, Mat-grass, Wavy Hair-grass, Brown Bent, Green-ribbed Sedge, Carnation Sedge, Lousewort, Tormentil and local Cross-leaved Heather and Bog Asphodel plus diverse mosses including Common Haircap Moss, Red-stemmed Feather-moss, Cypress-leaved Plait-moss and Acute-leaved Peat Moss (rarely Cushion Moss or Papillose Bog-moss).

Lower lying areas, about drains but often broader flushes, are marked by Sharp Rush generally quite diverse and not strongly acidic (ie limited Sphagnum); associate species include Yorkshire Fog, Bent, Common Sorrel, Marsh Violet, Devil's-bit Scabious, Marsh Willowherb, Large Bird's-foot Trefoil, Water Ragwort and Sneezewort. Areas of wetter mire (to west) are marked by Marsh Cinquefoil, Marsh-marigold, Lesser Spearwort, Marsh Horsetail

and Bogbean. Other species records include Lemon-scented Fern, Narrow Buckler Fern and some Staghorn Clubmoss.

North part of field supports a Short Bent-fescue Turf with much Common Bent, Sheep's Fescue, Sweet Vernal-grass plus Mat-grass, Common Heath-grass with herbs such as Tomentil, Field Woodrush, Yarrow, Heath Bedstraw, Common Cat's-ear and some Harebell and Mountain Pansy. To the east local relic wet heath (Heather, Purple Moor-grass, Deer Grass, Heath Rush) and marshy drains (Sharp Rush).

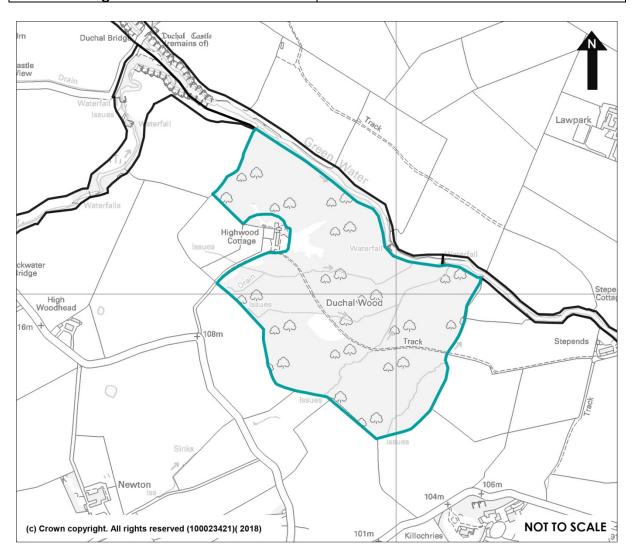
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland and wildlife corridor.

Notes:

There are no significant changes to the original assessment.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Duchal Wood	Area : 21.00 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 338680	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 38



This is a large area of diverse semi-natural woodland extending from the Green Water, generally on low-lying but gently undulating ground. The canopy is broad-leaved, although often immature with typical Birch and Sycamore, although several from old bases; other local trees include Oak (some very old Oak trees present) Alder and Willow. The ground cover is mostly dominated by Creeping Soft-grass with Wood Sorrel, Broad Buckler fern, Bluebell plus more local Male Fern, Greater Stitchwort, Honeysuckle, Tufted-Hair-grass etc; a few rare acidic ridges (eg wit Wavy Hair-grass, Common Bent, Heath Bedstraw, Redstemmed Feather-moss etc). Bracken Glades are frequent to the east along the powerline route. The central area and locally about burns (or old drains) provide additional diversity with species including Dog's Mercury, Red Campion, Herb Robert, Primrose, Nettle, Hedge Woundwort and where wetter Golden-saxifrage, Remote Sedge, Wavy Bitter-cress, Yellow Pimpernel, Hemlock, Water-dropwort, Reed Canary-grass and Yellow Flag Iris.

The vast majority of this LNCS is woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Ancient (of semi-natural origin) and Long Established (of plantation origin).

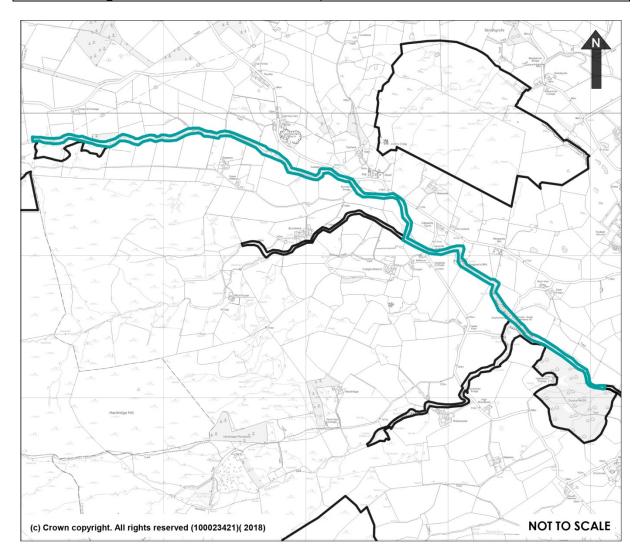
Latest assessment: June 2017

Noted interest: Woodland mosaic.

Notes:

There are no significant changes to the original assessment

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Green Water	Area : 17.00 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 349648	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 39



This is an extensive and important water course corridor forming the survey boundary. The margins, particularly where steeper as in the central stretch, support diverse woodlands, although the sides are open or scrubby for long stretches, particularly to the west. The corridor role of the burn is emphasised by serving as a link between the various feeder tributaries, all supporting similar habitat structures.

Woodland canopy includes Oak, Ash, Sycamore, Birch, Hazel, Bird Cherry, Rowan and the numerous ground flora records include more acidic Birch-oak, woodland types eg Creeping Soft-grass, Wood Sage, Wood Sorrel, Bluebell, Greater Stitchwort, Broad Buckler Fern, Great Woodrush, Wavy Hair-grass, Honeysuckle but also indicators of more base enrichment eg Dog's Mercury, Marsh Hawk's-beard, Primrose, Wood Crane's-bill, Giant Fescue, Wood Melick, Sweet Woodruff and Oak Fern.

Local grassland relics add to the diversity with records including Devil's-bit Scabious, Whorled Caraway, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Common Heathgrass, Eyebright, Heath Speedwell, Slender St John's Wort, Northern Bedstraw Spignel and Bitter Vetch.

The non-native and usually invasive Japanese Knotweed is present around Burnbank Bridge, (NS 322695) and could be monitored.

The sand martin colony situated within the exposed banking along the Green Water around Burnbank Bridge (NS 325694) is an interesting additional feature to the LNCS.

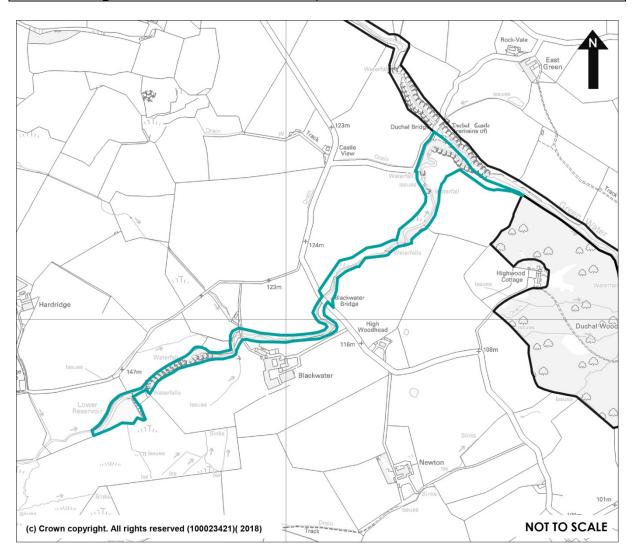
Latest assessment: June 2017

Noted interest: Woodland and wildlife corridor

Notes:

Several bat surveys, requested as part of planning applications, have been submitted from adjacent properties. These would suggest that this waterway has a role as a feeding and commuting resource for bats. This is particularly true where nearby or adjacent woodland provides stepping stones to nearby buildings where roosting opportunities occur. An eroded river banking also provides nesting opportunities for Sand Martins.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Blacketty Water	Area : 5.50 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 334685- 324676	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 40



This is a long but fairly narrow stretch of burn supporting a mostly scrubby woodland habitat, but with additional diversity provided by the local relic grasslands. Woodland canopy includes Ash, Hazel, Oak, Birch, Rowan, Bird Cherry and some Aspen and ground flora records include Great Woodrush, Wood-sorrel, Herb Robert, Greater Stitchwort, wood Sage, Intermediate Enchanter's Nightshade, Primrose, Dog's Mercury, Bluebell and Wood Melick. To the west is a steep gorge notable for ferns which include Hard Shield-fern, Bladderwort, Maidenhair Spleenwort, Oat Fern and Filmy Fern; mosses also appear to be well represented. The small dam to the extreme west is included although with limited aquatic flora evident (marginal Marsh Horsetail stands and some Bottle Sedge) surrounded by scattered scrub (Willow, Aspen and Rowan) and short grazed locally diverse pasture (including the side burn).

Theer are some open areas of Bracken or unimproved grassland to the edge of woodland; steeper areas locally are more acidic with Devil's-bit Scabious, Green-ribbed Sedge, Tormentil, Spignel and Bitter Vetch.

The Blacketty Water has a relatively important local ecological position as a wildlife and habitat corridor.

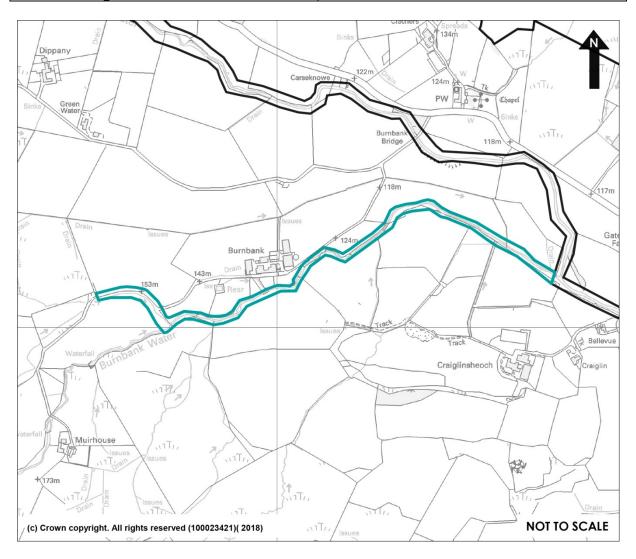
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland and wildlife corridor.

Notes:

This is an important local wildlife corridor. There are no significant changes to original assessment but note should be made of the rich woodland habitat around the site of Duchal Castle.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Burnbank Water	Area : 2.00 Ha
Grid Reference : NS 326691 - 315690	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 41



This is a short stretch of burn (extending to the moorland to the west) with narrow sides, but where locally steep, supporting some relic woodland elements. Woody cover includes older Sycamore, Ash and Rowan but tends to be scrubby with Rowan, Willows, Hawthorn and Broom plus local strands of Bracken. Ground flora is waivable with some woodland elements (eg Wood-sorrel, Wood Sage, Great Woodrush, Dog's Mercury and various ferns. Below, some tall herbs including Meadowsweet, Valerian and Wood Crane's-bill. Local areas of more open margins with various grassland herbs also occur (eg Bir's-foot Trefoil, Harebell, Tormentil, Common Cat's-ear etc).

Burnside, after Gateside Bridge, is initially scrubby with Hazel, Rowan, Ash, Sycamore and Broom and limited associates (eg Great Woodrush, Common Violet, Wood-sorrel, Pink Purslane, Yellow Flag Iris and ferns) but becomes mature woodland to the east with much Beech plus Sycamore, Ash and Pine over poached grassland.

The Burnbank Water has a relatively important local ecological position as a wildlife habitat corridor.

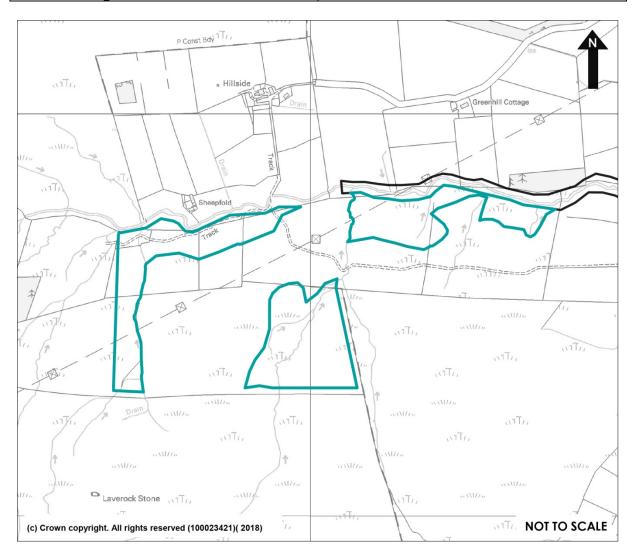
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland and wildlife corridor.

Notes:

There are no significant changes to the original assessment.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Hillside	Area : 18.00 Ha
Grid Reference : NS 306697 - 295693	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 42



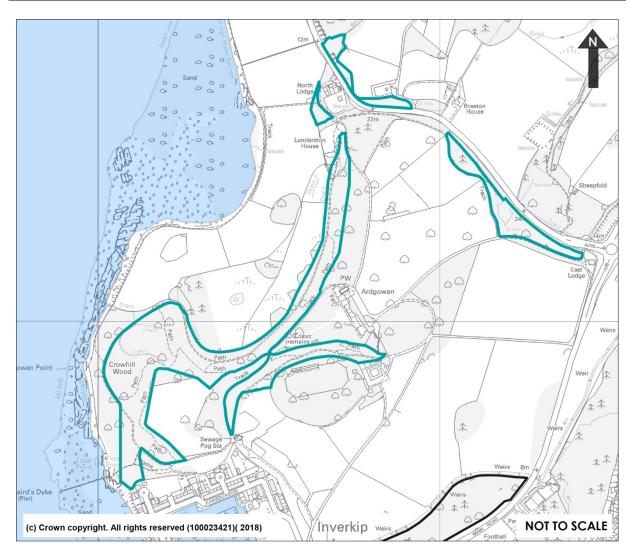
This is a section of hillside forming part of the southside of the Green Water valley, but representing an extension of the moorland habitat occurring over the boundary into the Regional Park. The upper shores, however, differ from the moorland due to the influence of drainage and stock grazing. The site supports areas of acidic grassland (some semi-improved and enriched) but also relic areas of usually short grazed wet heath punctuated by local marshy flushes, creating a generally diverse area. Wet heath and flush species recorded include Purple Moor-grass, Deer Grass, Heather, Bilberry, Heath Rush, Common Cotton-grass, Cross-leaved Heather, Star Sedge, Heath Spotted Orchid, Lousewort, Marsh Cinquefoil, Bog Asphodel, Whorled Caraway plus various bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) including Bog Moss.

Latest assessment: August 2017

Noted interest: Heath, mire and acid grassland mosaic.

Notes: There are no significant changes to the original assessment.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Ardgowan Woods	Area : 16.00 Ha
Grid Reference: NS 203728, NS205728, NS211733, 207733	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 43



This is a complex site focused primarily on the large area of semi-natural woodlands, although the long-established and widespread policy type planting makes boundary drawing somewhat arbitrary. The western fringe includes the coastal cliffs and supports a more natural woodland, although here the canopy includes much Sycamore plus some Ash, Oak, Elm and Beech generally over abundant Great Woodrush with ferns (Wood Ferns, Lady Fern, Hard Fern), Ivy and Moss (where less Woodrush) but locally much Rhododendron invading; below conditions are often poorly draining but quite diverse with locally much Picka-Back Plant, Remote Sedge, Wood Sedge, Pendulous Sedge, Giant Fescue, Wood Dock, Yellow Pimpernel, Creeping Buttercup, Hedge Woundwort etc – and to the south increasing Salmonberry.

Elsewhere the canopy is more influenced by past policy planting (eg Lime, Beech, Sycamore, Holly, Sweet Chestnut, Holm Oak, Cherry, Elm (smooth leaved), Maples, Yew, and various Conifers (some younger Spruce blocks), although often sparse due to the heavy

shade eg Red Campion, Wood-sorrel, Common Violet, Great Woodrush, Bluebell, Enchanter's Nightshade, Bramble, ferns and mosses.

The vast majority of this LNCS is woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Ancient (of semi-natural origin) and Long Established (of plantation origin).

The non-native and invasive species, Pick-a-Back Plant, Rhododendron and Salmonberry within this LNCS could be monitored.

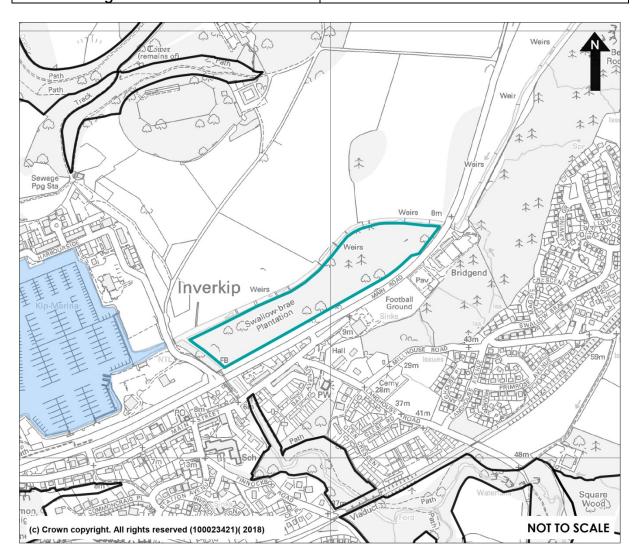
Latest assessment: August 2017

Noted interest: Woodland mosaic

Notes:

There are no significant changes to the original assessment. Planning applications centred around Bankfoot Farm have resulted in ecological studies and bat surveys which are useful resources in terms of monitoring future developments or changes.

Local Natura Conservation Site	
Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Swallow Brae Plantation	Area : 3.00Ha
Grid Reference: NS 209723	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 44



There is scrubby woodland with planted Larch to the east end but with diverse semi-natural woodland appearance (a curious overgrown plaque states planted 1905). The woodland is generally poorly draining with several pool-like depressions and also extending along the road embankment edge to the north. The canopy reflects wet conditions with much Alder and some Willow over a rich ground flora (eg Creeping Buttercup, Water Forget-me-not, Bottle Sedge, Large Bitter-cress, Hemlock Water-dropwort, Wood Dock, Remote Sedge, Ground Ivy etc). Local drier ridges add to the diversity with Ash, Sycamore, Elm, Dog's Mercury, Great Woodrush, ferns etc.

Around half of this LNCS is woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Long Established (of plantation origin).

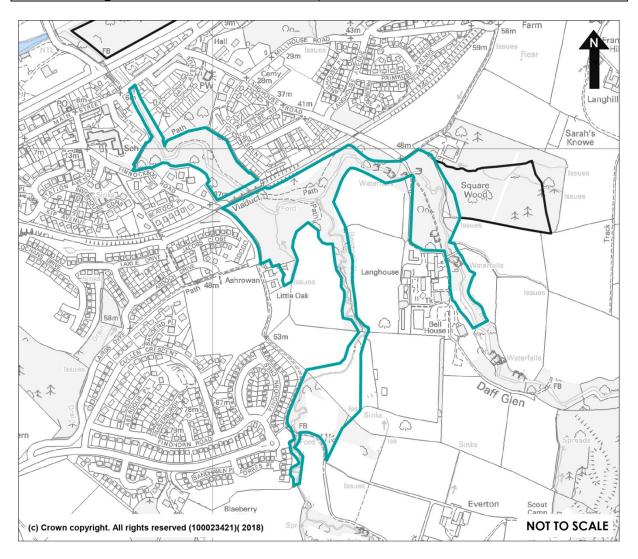
Latest assessment: October 2017

Noted interest: Woodland.

Notes:

There are no significant changes to the original assessment.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Daff and Beattock Burns	Area : 16.50Ha
Grid Reference: NS 209719 and NS 212719	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 45



Daff Burn has a steep valley bisected by the railway line, supporting very diverse semi-natural woodland. The diverse canopy includes Oak, Sycamore, Ash, Elm, Beech, Holly, Hazel and Bird Cherry. The similarly diverse ground flora (not sampled in spring) includes Great woodrush, Dog's Mercury, Wood Sedge, Slender False Brome, Veronica Montana, Common Velvet, Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage, Yellow Pimpernel, Nightshade spp., Primrose, various ferns (including Hart's Tongue Fern and Hard Shield-fern) and bryophyte records (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) include (the mosses, Common Feather-moss and Common Pocket-moss, Common Tamarisk-moss, rare moss, Light Hooderia, Liverwort sp and the leafy liverwort, Bugle).

There is a diverse corridor site on the Beattock Burn which forms a broad tributary valley at the confluence with the Daff Burn, but becomes very narrow above. The burn supports a fairly varied range of woodland canopy and ground flora species (eg Alder and Ash, Hawthorn and Sycamore over Dog's Mercury, Slender False Brome, Sweet Woodruff, Remote Sedge, Foxglove, Water Avens, ferns, Honeysuckle and Blackberry).

A large part of this LNCS is woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Ancient (of semi-natural origin).

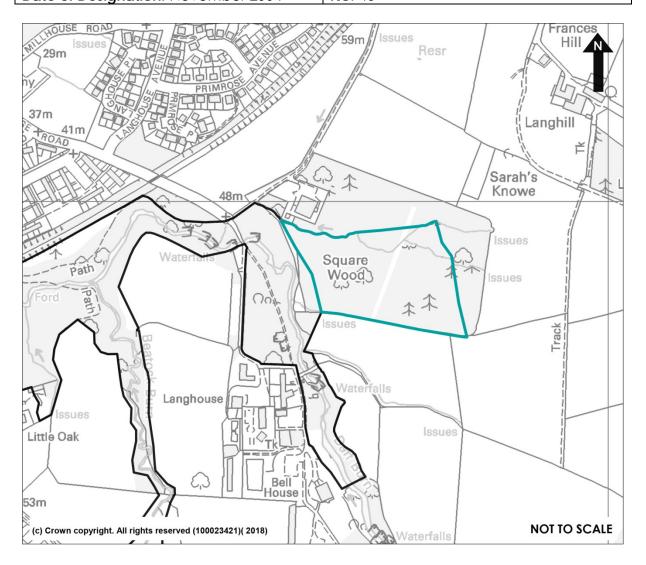
Latest assessment: July 2017

Noted interest: Woodland and wildlife corridor, community interest

Notes:

This site description is still valid. It should be noted however that interest has been expressed in the past for the installation of a micro-hydro generator. The feedback from SNH regarding this is a valuable assessment. Such schemes tend to adversely affect the part of the watercourse between the inflow and outflow where water volumes are reduced and, subsequently, woodland type can change over time.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Square Wood	Area : 3.00Ha
Grid Reference: NS 216718	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 46



Square wood has complex vegetation varying from disturbed open ground and scrub to the old ruins, but Conifer plantation to north and east sides (some wind throw). Most of south area (hard to map) supports an immature scrubby Birch canopy with some Conifers, plus rare Willow and Oak. Ground cover is varied with usually prominent ferns (much Broad Buckler Fern), Wood-sorrel, Creeping Soft-grass, some Great Woodrush and, indicating the numerous flush areas, Tufted Hair-grass plus Marsh Horsetail, Bugle and Herb Robert.

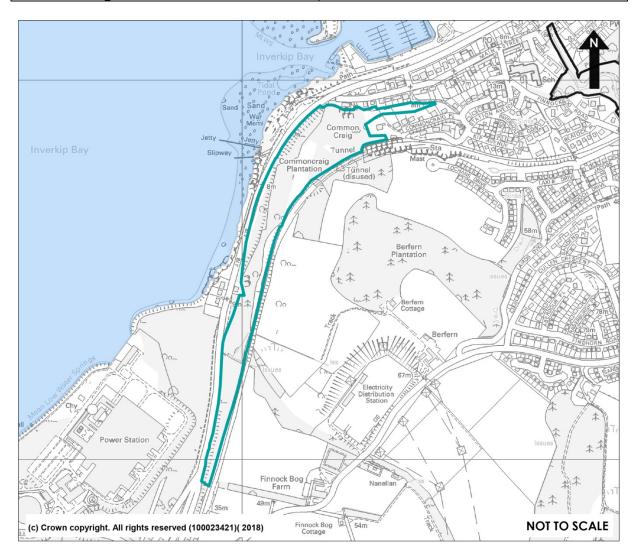
The majority of this LNCS is woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Long Established (of plantation origin).

Latest assessment: September 2017

Noted interest: Open ground, scrub, woodland

Notes: There are no significant changes to the original assessment.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Commoncraig Wood	Area : 6.00Ha
Grid Reference: NS 200715	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 47



This is a narrow strip of woodland which becomes broader to the north and is situated on the steep embankment between the coast road and the railway line. The canopy is dense throughout, although much is regenerative scrub, except to the north, where there is an open, steep rock face with some loose scree, and above Bracken dominates. A number of (mostly) native trees are present creating a semi-natural canopy: Elm, Sycamore, Ash, Hazel, Rowan, Birch, Beech and some Sweet Chestnut. The ground flora appears very diverse with records for Great Woodrush, Dog's Mercury, Wood Sage, Enchanter's Nightshade, Slender False Brome, False Oat-grass, Bluebell, Greater Stitchwort and various ferns (including Bracken).

The majority of this LNCS is woodland listed in the Ancient woodland Inventory as Long Established (of plantation origin).

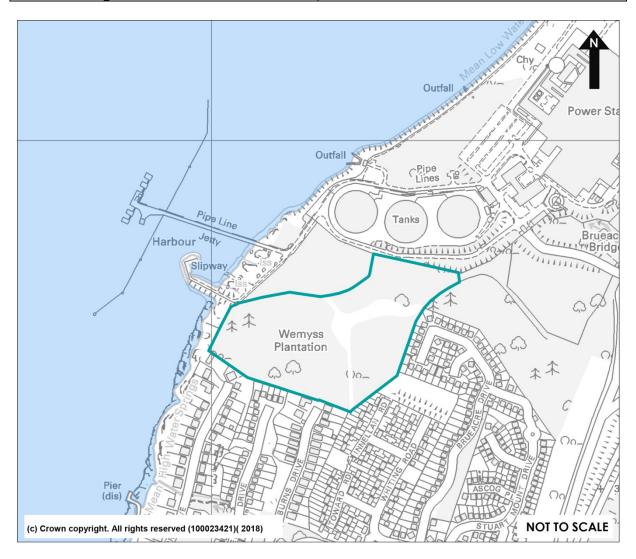
Latest assessment: September 2017

Noted interest: Woodland

Notes:

There has been recent damage due to wind throw, but the integrity of the woodland is maintained.. It may be worth giving consideration to adjusting the boundaries to remove those areas forming parts of domestic gardens.

Local Nature Conservation Site	
Site Name: Wemyss Plantation	Area : 6.00Ha
Grid Reference: NS 191706	
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 48



This is an extensive area of mostly plantation woodland, generally with an immature canopy, but presenting a semi-natural atmosphere (difficult to class as such due to a large percentage of Conifers). Larch is common to centre and west, often with much Sycamore and locally very dense Rhododendron (especially to the inaccessible western embankment). The ground cover typically comprises much Broad Buckler Fern, Wood-sorrel, Velvet Grass spp., Bramble, Tufted Hair-grass and more occasionally Bluebell, Red Campion and Common Velvet (this needs a spring sample to assess). The north edge (towards the power station) supports Pine plus some Oak, Birch, Beech etc over a more distinctly acidic flora (as typical plus Wavy Hair-grass, Honeysuckle, mosses). Birch is abundant to the eastern upper slopes (with Bracken) and local scrubby flushes provide additional diversity. The whole site is generally in need of positive management.

The non-native and invasive species, Rhododendron poniticum within this LNCS could be monitored.

The majority of this LNCS is woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Long Established (of plantation origin).

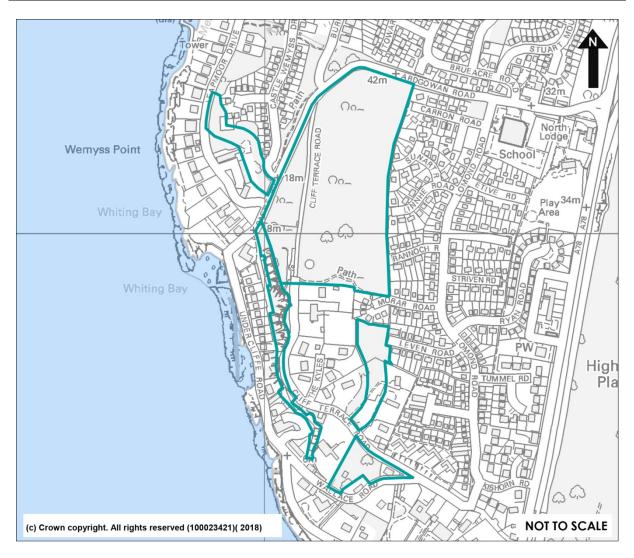
Latest assessment: September 2017

Noted interest: Woodland.

Notes:

This LNCS forms part of the proposed redevelopment of the Inverkip Power Station. Careful monitoring should be adopted to ensure there is no loss of biodiversity as a result of development and indeed, through the planning process, it should be possible to enhance biodiversity through daylighting of watercourses, biodiversity friendly planting and removal of invasive or exotic species.

Local Nature Conservation Site		
Site Name: Wemyss Castle Wood	Area : 9.60Ha	
Grid Reference: NS 191700, NS189703 – NS 190696, 191695, NS191697		
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 49	



This is a large area of mature broad-leaved policy-type woodland on level ground above the cliff slope, The canopy is provided by Oak, Sycamore, Beech with some Birch, Ash and frequent Conifers (more to the west) but also local Rhododendron. The ground cover is variable, seemingly most diverse to the north and to the margins (where there are more aliens and disturbance). Species include Great Woodrush, ferns, including Bracken, Red Campion, Creeping Buttercup, Dog's Mercury, Wood-sorrel, Wood Avens, Wood Sedge etc. Locally more acidic to the south (Oak, Birch, Bracken, Great Woodrush- very rare Purple Moor-grass) and also to the western slope where Pine and Larch form the canopy (with scrubby Sycamore, Birch etc) and Rhododendron becomes abundant.

The relic area of woodland is now virtually isolated by new building encroachment. There are some garden outcasts (Yellow-archangel, Montbretia, Geranium etc).

The non-native and invasive species Rhododendron poniticum, within this LNCS could be monitored.

The majority of this LNCS is woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Long Established (of plantation origin).

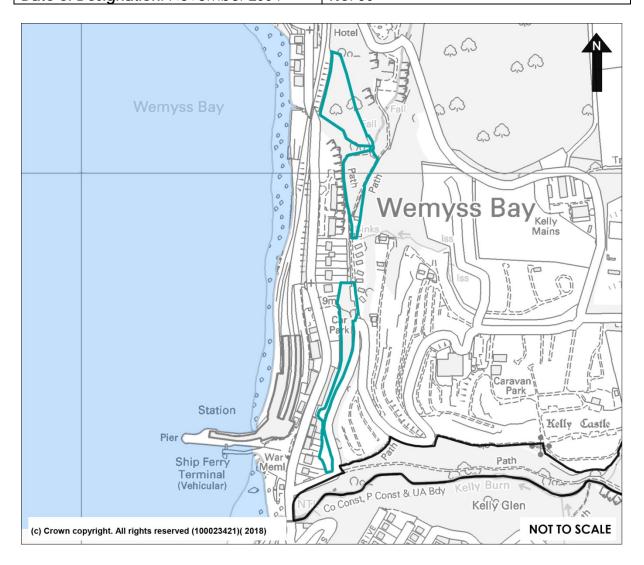
Latest assessment: August 2017

Noted interest: Woodland, community interest.

Notes:

Part of this site is a designated Local Nature Reserve. Previous community led actions have resulted in the removal of a previous infestation of Rhododendron – future positive management may be necessary to limit regrowth. There are frequent pressures to remove trees adjacent to nearby houses. Part of the wider LNCS includes an area of domestic garden which should perhaps be removed.

Local Nature Conservation Site		
Site Name: Cliff Wood	Area : 8.50Ha	
Grid Reference: NS 194690 and NS194686		
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 50	



This is a long and narrow stretch of woodland situated along the precipitous cliffs running from the south of Skelmorlie to Wemyss Bay. The canopy is generally semi-natural, although with exotic broad-leaves and Conifers indicating much past planting. The canopy species include Beech, Pine, Sycamore, Oak, Ash, and Elm often with abundant Rhododendron. Herbaceous elements can be impoverished but local areas support good diversity: species recorded include Slender False Brome, Hairy Brome, Enchanter's Nightshade, Wood Sage, Goldenrod, Great Woodrush, Ivy and various ferns.

The non-native and invasive species Rhododendron poniticum within this LNCS could be monitored.

The vast majority of this LNCS is woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Ancient (of semi-natural origin and Long Established (of plantation origin).

Latest assessment: August 2017

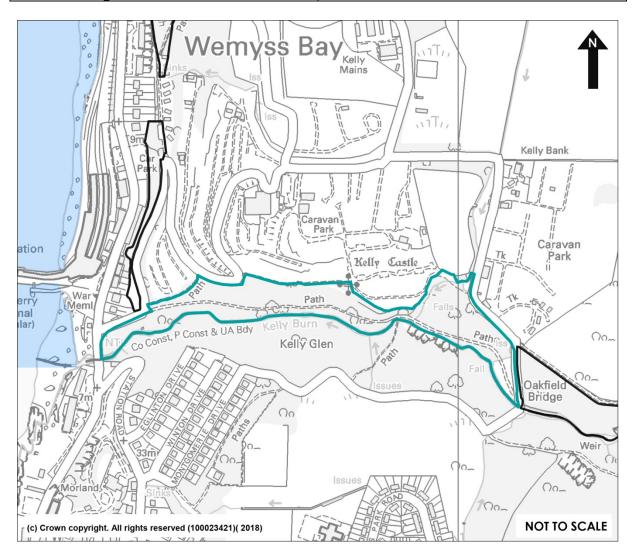
Noted interest:

Woodland.

Notes:

Some works associated with planning applications have been carried out, but targeting mostly Sycamore, which is acceptable in biodiversity terms.

Local Nature Conservation Site		
Site Name: Kelly Glen	Area: 1 3.00Ha	
Grid Reference: NS 197685		
Date of Designation: November 2004	No . 51	



This is a broad and steep valley supporting a rich and diverse semi-natural woodland cover. The diverse canopy includes Oak, Elm, Ash, Hazel, Birch and Sycamore, although a number of exotics occur (policy plantation types), certainly above, to the north side, and there is also much troublesome Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel seemingly throughout the valley, again especially to the north. A good range of typical woodland plants are recorded, including Dog's Mercury, Wood Sedge, Remote Sedge, Sanicle, Sweet Woodruff, Goldenrod, Hairy Brome and ferns include Giant Horsetail, Black Spleenwort and Hard Shield-fern; the bryophyte flora is also of note.

The woodland extends up the slope to the south of the valley with a canopy of Birch, plus some Oak and Rowan, generally over an acidic ground flora with Broad Buckler Fern, Bracken, Great Woodrush, Wavy Hair-grass, Blaeberry, Purple Moor-grass, Bramble, Honeysuckle, Wood Sage and some Goldenrod.

The non-native and invasive species, Rhododendron poniticum within this LNCS could be monitored.

The vast majority of this LNCS is woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Ancient (semi-natural origin).

The LNCS extends beyond the Inverclyde boundary into North Ayrshire.

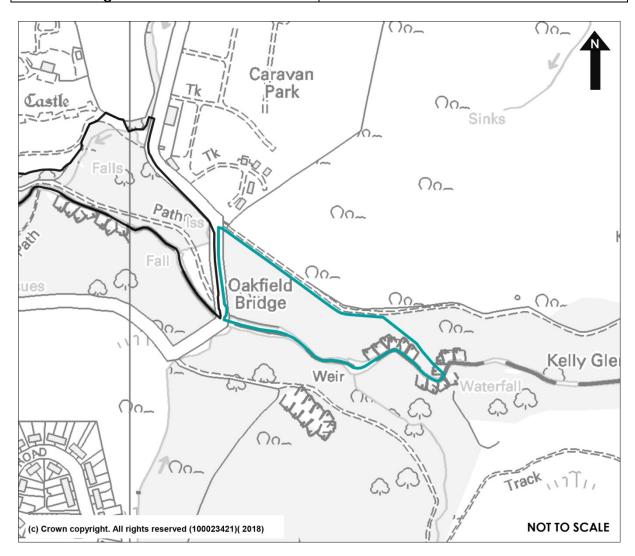
Latest assessment: August 2017

Noted interest: Woodland and wildlife corridor.

Notes:

There are no significant changes to the original assessment.

Local Nature Conservation Site		
Site Name: Oakfield	Area : 18.00Ha	
Grid Reference: NS 202683		
Date of Designation: November 2004	No. 52	



This is a large and diverse area of semi-natural habitats to the northern fringe of Skelmorlie just to the south of, and contiguous with, Kelly Glen. Woodland extensions from the glen, supporting a good range of canopy and ground flora elements, form the western and eastern fringes to the site. The latter is part of the large embankment below the golf course, which also supports Bracken and some acidic grass and heath. The central part of the site supports short acidic grassland or coarser marshy areas with locally much Smooth Rush, Tufted Hair-grass but also prominent Male and Lady Ferns; typical associates include Yorkshire Fog, Bent spp., Common Sorrel, Silverweed, Large Bird's-foot Trefoil, Marsh Hedge Nettle, Common Sedge and Wild Angelica grading to more distinct wetland areas; local areas of Birch and Willow scrub help to compartmentalise the site. The site supports a good species diversity in total including a number of locally uncommon marshy species eg Hemp Agrimony, Great Tussock Sedge and Giant Horsetail.

The non-native and invasive species Rhododendron poniticum within this LNCS could be monitored.

The vast majority of this LNCS is woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Ancient (of semi-natural origin).

This LNCS extends beyond the Inverclyde boundary into North Ayrshire.

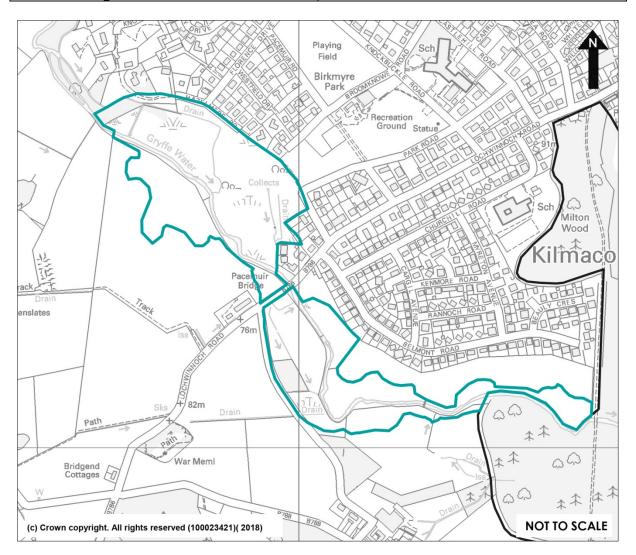
Latest assessment: September 2017

Noted interest: Woodland grading to scrub and acid grassland.

Notes:

There are no significant changes to the original assessment.

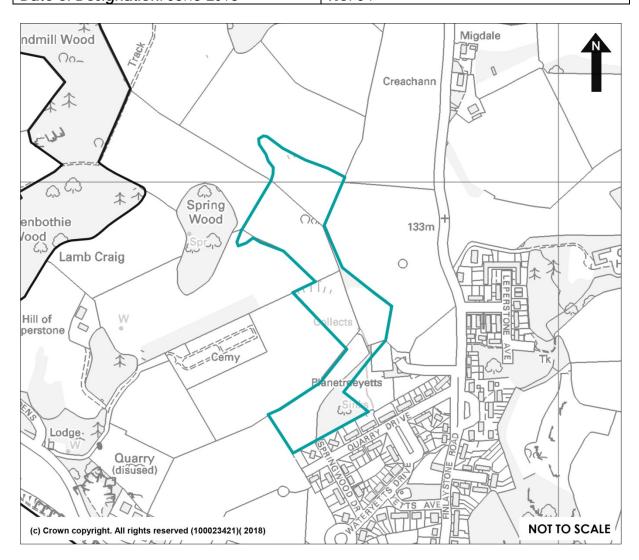
Local Nature Conservation Site			
Site Name: Gryfe Corridor Area: 9.0Ha			
Grid Reference : NS 346697 – NS356691			
Date of Designation: June 2018	No . 53		



The small section in the north supports some wetland interest and a few areas of less improved grassland, which given its proximity to the Gryfe Water (and adjacent LNCS at Mill Dam), provide a strong case for inclusion as part of a Gryfe Water corridor site. It would also make sense to extend this to the south and include the area adjacent to the Gryfe. The high ridge grazed Birch woodland and adjacent relatively unimproved grassland is of interest.

The southern stretch of the site supports a substantial area of well-developed woodland, but also includes a section of the Gryfe Water habitat corridor, producing a combined site of high interest.

Local Nature Conservation Site		
Site Name: Planetreeyetts/ West Quarry Area: 4.6 Ha		
Drive		
Grid Reference : NS 356706 – NS356712		
Date of Designation: June 2018	No. 54	



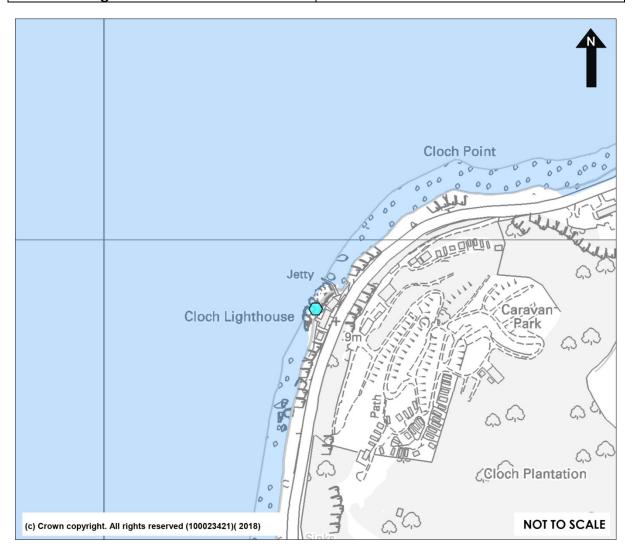
The marsh along the western boundary has considerable interest. This marsh is contiguous with a marshy strip (with some scrub and grassland) forming part of the West Quarry site. The Planetreeyetts and West Quarry sites are closely linked and to some extent complicated by adjacent contiguous land (broad strip field) that is not included within either site boundary (but is target noted), but is integral to assessing the nature conservation interest at both sites.

This mire adjacent to the site ('Spring Mire') is of very high quality, and part of a suite of such mires that are a feature of this part of the old county of Renfrewshire (e.g. Glen Moss, Shovelboard, Lawfield Dam and Dargarvel Glen – most of which are designated as SSSIs). It is a basin mire and when combined with the marshes included in parts of both of the two contiguous survey sites constitutes a site worthy of designation as a LNCS. The marshy strip extends slightly into a 'broad strip field' that is excluded from both surveys. At the western end of this strip field is a flushed slope of high diversity, but it is isolated by improved and

poached pasture in the middle section of the field. It is recommended that the wetland areas have LNCS designation.

The West Quarry Drive site does have some areas of conservation value but they occupy a small area. The relic area of (semi-improved) meadow grassland in the south east has considerable potential for the restoration of a more diverse lowland meadow. Lowland meadow is a UKBAP priority habitat. Several relic lowland meadow species have survived including the nationally rare and endangered Great Butterfly-orchid and Whorled Caraway, a species with a very local distribution in Scotland. The site represents one of high potential for restoration of a flower-rich meadow as it supports a reservoir of old grassland indicator species and the soil ecology will be more amenable to restoration contrasted with other sites used in grassland creation projects. The meadow relics along with the scrub and marshy grassland would be of value for local people who already appreciate the site and use it often.

Local Nature Conservation Site (Geology)			
Site Name: Cloch Point/Black Rock Vent Area:			
Grid Reference: NS 203759			
Date of Designation:	No . 55		



Lower Carboniferous

Clyde Sandstone Formation (CYD)/Clyde Plateau Volcanic Formation (CPV).

Section exposes part of the Lower Carboniferous sequence, with the CYD and its overlying CPV lavas. The CYD consists of floodplain sandstones with cornstone horizons. The junction of the CYD and CPV is seen close to the Cloch Point lighthouse, where sandstones and purple agglomerates are overlain by mugearitic lavas.

The Black Rock vent is exposed in an old quarry above the main road, where a Markle basalt vent cuts a series of CYD sandstones and ashy mudstones. The vent shows excellent columnar structures.

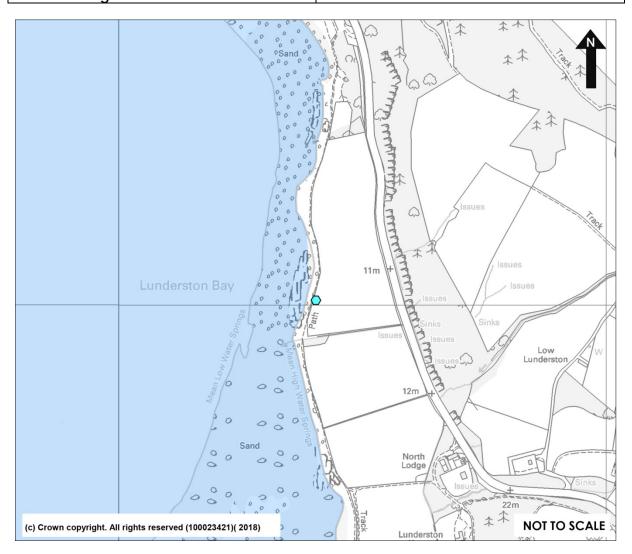
The value this area is that it shows the distal fluvial system, in a subtropical climate, of the CYD and the onset of the widespread vulcanicity both from local vents and more widely.

Access: Good coastal access on both sides of the lighthouse.

Quarry now belongs to Scottish Water and is for the most part off limits, although quarry access road shows vent margin and quarry faces outside the boundary fence are accessible.

Parking places along main road.

Local Nature Conservation Site (Geology)					
Site	Site Name: Lunderston Bay, coastal Area:				
secti	section				
Grid Reference: NS 204740					
Date of Designation:					No . 56



Upper Old Red Sandstone - Kelly Burn Sandstone Formation (KBS). Lower Carboniferous - Ballagan Formation/ Clyde Sandstone Formation (CYD).

Northern and central parts of the bay:

Here, on the coast just south of the Black Rock vent, is a section beginning in the tuffs and agglomerates overlying the CYD. A fault, downthrowing to the north, separates these from a small coastal outcrop of the Ballagan Formation, which is itself faulted down to the north and separated by the fault from the KBS.

The KBS consists of red sheet-flow breccias and sandstones, derived from a source to the north-east, and containing Dalradian slate and psammitic schist clasts.

Southern end of bay:

The KBS continues along the bay and, at its southern end is cut by a north-west - south-east trending dolerite dyke which continues inland across the palaeo-shore platform and into the

palaeo-cliff on the other side of the main road.

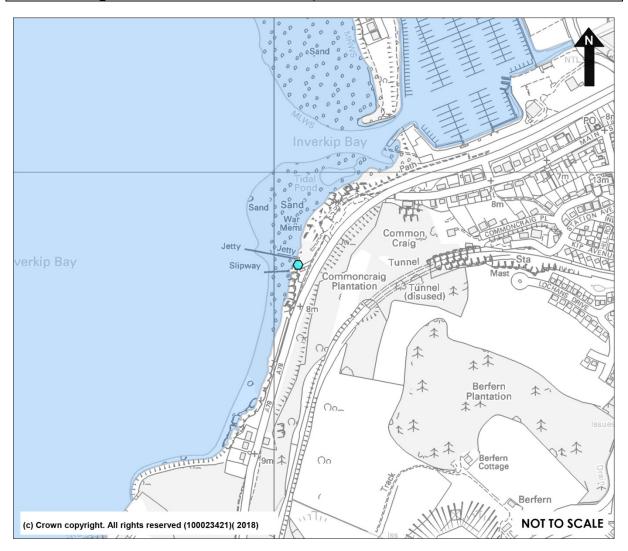
The KBS is high in the Upper Old Red Sandstone sequence and the breccias on the shore are overlain by caliche horizons in the sandstones on the hill behind the garden centre.

This section demonstrates the sedimentary regime in the highest part of the Upper Old Red Sandstone, with sheet-flood deposits in alluvial fans giving way to fluvial deposits in a subtropical environment.

Access: Good to all parts of the shore section.

Parking: Free parking at shore, plus parking/toilets at the garden centre.

Local Nature Conservation Site (Geology)		
Site Name: Inverkip, coastal section Area:		
Grid Reference: NS 200718		
Date of Designation:	No . 57	



Upper Old Red Sandstone - Kelly Burn Sandstone Formation (KBS). Trachyte sill.

The section lies to the south of the village at the southern margin of the Kip Marina, and just below the public car park on the coast road. The section runs from the slipway below the car park north to the marina, and is in the upper part of the KBS. The section is important in that it demonstrates the development of caliche in fluvially deposited sandstones and mudstones, from initial nodules to massive carbonate horizons. Towards the marina small NNW-SSE dykes cut the KBS. North of this minor faults cut the section and the trachyte sill to the east. The section is terminated by the SW-NE Inverkip Fault which forms the marina entrance. The trachyte sill forms the hill above and to the south of the village, and the steep slopes above the coast road.

Parking/toilets: Good at public car park.

Access: good for both shore section and trachyte sill. Shore section is steep and difficult in places.