DOUNE CASTLE

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Collington winter
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This landscape conservation management plan (LCMP) considers the landscape and woodland setting at Doune Castle, Stirlingshire, which is a property in the care of Scottish Ministers and is held through a 999-years lease between Moray Estates Properties Limited and Scottish Ministers.

The footprint of the castle and the Roman Fort are scheduled monuments and protected by legislation and the wider landscape of the PiC lies within the Doune conservation area.

The popularity of Doune Castle today is illustrated by increasing visitor numbers year on year. The castle has been used as a filming location for Monty Python and the Holy Grail, Game of Thrones and more recently, Outlander.

With the increasing footfall of visitors and increased vehicle movements, there has been a significant deterioration in the fabric of the landscape, which is largely visible upon the ditches and banks of the castle earthworks. Below-ground archaeology is becoming increasingly exposed and potentially deteriorating, threatening this rich archaeological resource.

This LCMP has found that the management of the landscape setting of Doune Castle, including the wider PiC study area, appears largely secondary to the maintenance and conservation of the built fabric of the castle. In places, a neglected character is developing within the landscape, with a largely piecemeal and uncoordinated approach to the use of materials and ground management.

The LCMP sets out a series of management principles and an action plan, with a series of high, medium, long term and ongoing recommendations which will assist with the restoration, management, conservation and future development of the landscape and woodlands within the PiC study area, creating a clear basis for ensuring that the most significant features are recognised, conserved and maintained.

Priority recommendations include the preparation of a Woodland and Tree Management Plan, to provide a comprehensive survey of the arboricultural resource, the development of a Design Guide for Doune Castle, to establish a palette of materials and finishes to establish a 'house style' for all furniture, fencing and surfaces, the preparation of a Grassland Management Plan, to provide a baseline botanical survey and set out the appropriate methods of management to achieve maximum floristic diversity and a programme of planned maintenance and repair for all the wrought iron railing within the PiC area.

The evidence presented in this LCMP will support future management decisions being made, based on a sound understanding of the historic development, significance and current condition of the landscape and woodlands. The document includes recommendations for all character areas.

1.1 The Aims, Scope and Purpose

This Landscape Conservation Management Plan (LCMP) was commissioned by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) in November 2019 and considers the landscape and woodland setting at Doune Castle, Stirlingshire, within the area leased to Scottish Ministers and looked after on their behalf by HES.

The purpose of the plan is to allow HES to have a better understanding of the significance of the landscapes and woodland associated with Doune Castle (cultural, historic and natural) and to identify threats to significance, opportunities for improvement and factors that influence how HES continues to manage the landscape and woodlands within the PiC boundary. The scope of the LCMP is to cover the landscape, open space and woodlands associated with Doune Castle, including all the area within the Property in Care (PiC) boundary and the scheduled monument area that extends further outwith the PiC boundary. This LCMP will enable HES to:

- Plan maintenance, conservation and repair works.
- Improve public access and understanding.
- Implement measures to help adaptation to climate change.
- Adapt the site to meet new or existing changes.
- Write a brief for any new design work that is needed.
- Plan activities to help people engage with their heritage.
- Identify gaps in knowledge and plan further research.

1.2 Doune Castle and Landscape

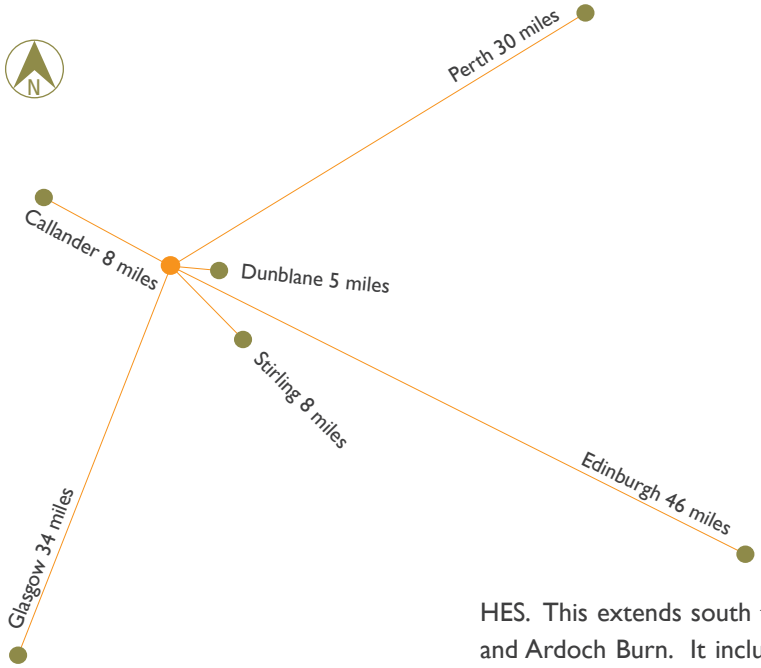


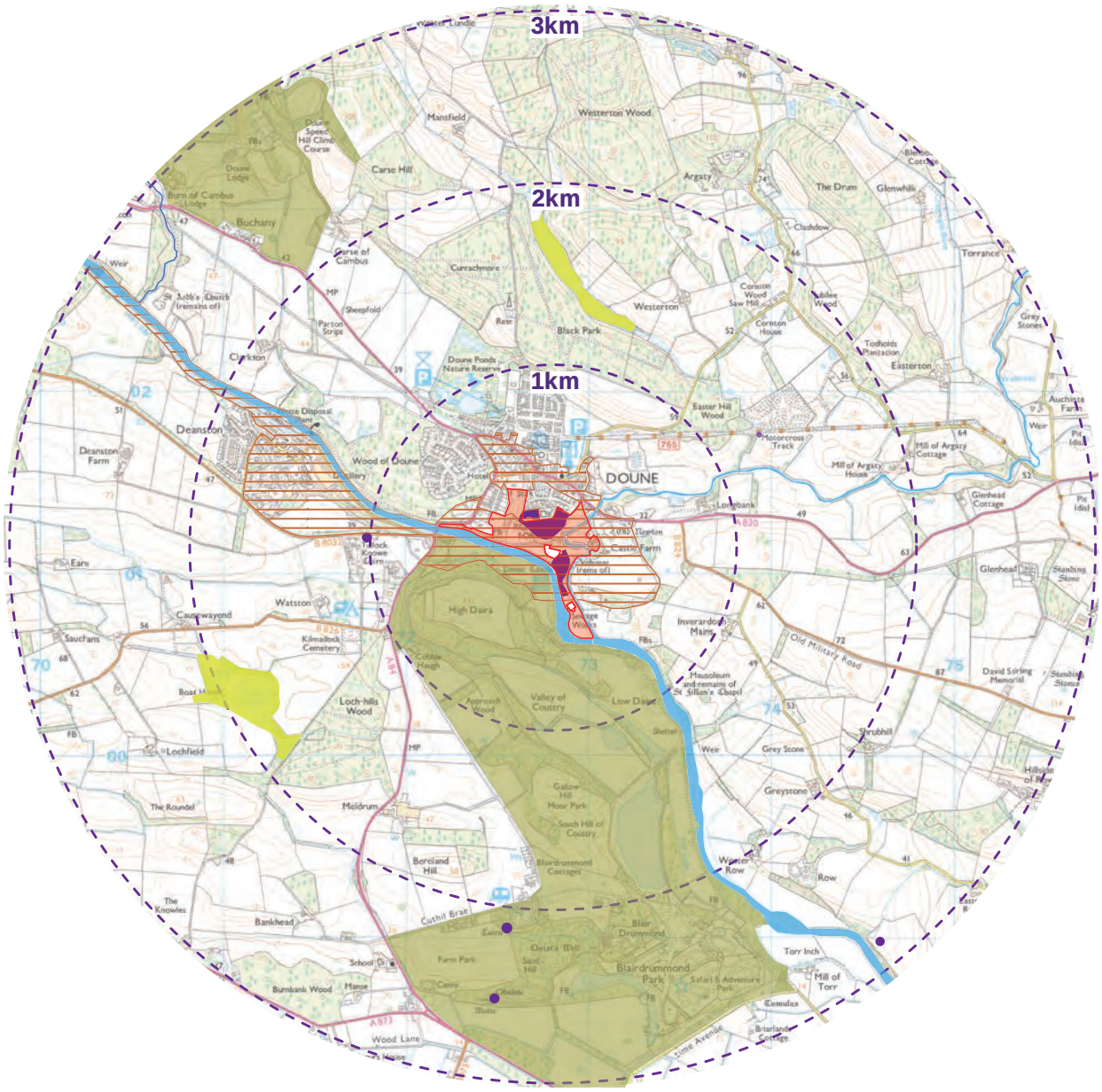
Figure 1.2.1 - Doune Castle Location

Doune Castle is located in Stirlingshire, approximately 8 miles to the north-west of Stirling. The study area is centred on NGR SD 8292 3352 and comprises the HES PiC of Doune Castle and Roman Fort. The study area is situated to the south of the village of Doune, which lies 5miles to the west of Dunblane and 8 miles to the north-west of Stirling. More broadly, the study area lies on the southern edge of the Trossachs, on the River Teith, which flows eastwards to the Firth of Forth. The PiC study area extends beyond Doune Castle and the immediate environs and bleeds over an undulating topography, with meadows and woodlands creating a rich and varied landscape setting.

The study area is defined to the south by the River Teith, which provides a dramatic setting for the castle, which stands on a steep mound at a bend in the river. The study area includes the castle and surrounding land in the care of HES. This extends south to an area known as Castle Green between the River Teith and Ardoch Burn. It includes the former Castle Farm and an associated field to the east of the burn. The area extends west along the northern bank of the River Teith to include several fields and small woods as far as the Bridge of Teith. In the north-west it includes fields in the valley of the Dragon Burn. Also included is the site of a former Roman fort, which lies beneath a sports field and Doune Primary School.

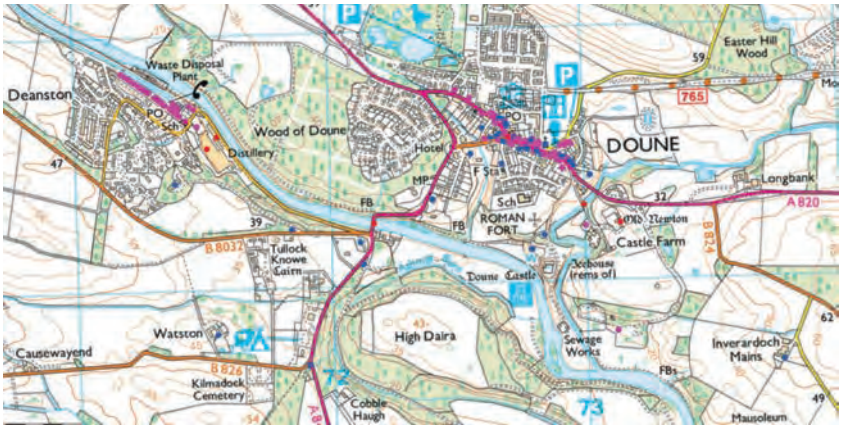
1.3 Topography, Geology & Soils

The study area is set on a promontory created by a bend in the River Teith and at the confluence with Ardoch Burn. The study area has a rolling topography, ranging from 45m AOD at the north adjacent to Doune Primary School, to approximately 20m AOD along the banks of the River Teith.



- Study Area Boundary
- Distance from the Study Area (in km)
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscape

Figure 1.5.1 - Landscape Designations



Category A Category B Category C

Figure 1.5.2 - Listed Buildings (http://historicscotland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer)

The bedrock consists of Teith Sandstone Formation, a sedimentary deposit formed during the Devensian Period in an area formerly dominated by riverine settings (BGS 2020). The overlying sequence of deposits is variable, although it principally consists of glacially derived Quaternary deposits including gravels, sands and silts on the higher ground to the north, surrounded by an arc of Devensian till upon which the castle stands (ibid). The lower lying land occupying the margins of the principal water courses, including the southern end of the peninsula, consists of alluvial deposits of clay silt and sands, also of the Quaternary Period (ibid).

The National Soil Map of Scotland describe soils in the area as brown earth soils with a land capability class for agriculture as 3.2, defined as 'Land capable of average production though high yields of barley, oats and grass can be obtained. Grass leys are common' and forestry of F3, defined as 'land with good flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops'. These soils are predominantly freely draining, with alluvial soils following the margins of the River Teith, the Ardoch Burn and the valley occupied by the Dragon Burn (Scotland's Soils 2017).

1.4 Historic Environment Scotland

Doune Castle was entrusted into state care by Douglas John Stuart, 20th Earl of Moray, in 1984. HES are the lead public body for the historic environment and have subsequently cared for Doune Castle since 1984. HES led on the development of Scotland's historic environment strategy Our Place in Time, The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2014), HES ensures that the historic environment is managed, enhanced and valued, for current and future generations. Our Place in Time sets out a VISION for the historic environment:

> *Scotland's historic environment is understood and valued, cared for and protected, enjoyed and enhanced. It is at the heart of a flourishing and sustainable Scotland and will be passed on with pride to benefit future generations.*

This vision is underpinned by a series of high level aims:

- **Understanding** – *By investigating and recording our historic environment to continually develop our knowledge, understanding and interpretation of our past and how best to conserve, sustain and present it.*
- **Protecting** – *By caring for and protecting the historic environment, ensuring that we can both enjoy and benefit from it and conserve and enhance it for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations.*
- **Valuing** – *By sharing and celebrating the richness and significance of our historic environment, enabling us to enjoy the fascinating and inspirational diversity of our heritage.*

People, Place and Landscape (September 2019) sets out the vision and approach of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and HES for managing change in Scotland's landscapes in response to climate change. **Climate Action Plan** (February 2020) sets out HES's approach as the Scottish Government declared a climate emergency in April 2019. Set out over a five year period, the action plan sets out a programme of work, including how HES will change operations and transforming the way that PiC are protected (See Section 5.3 fur further details).

1.5 Designations

The statutory and non-statutory designations that apply to the landscape and woodlands at Doune Castle, within the wider study area are discussed below. Full details of designations are listed at Appendix A and illustrated at *Figure 1.5.1: Designated Assets.*

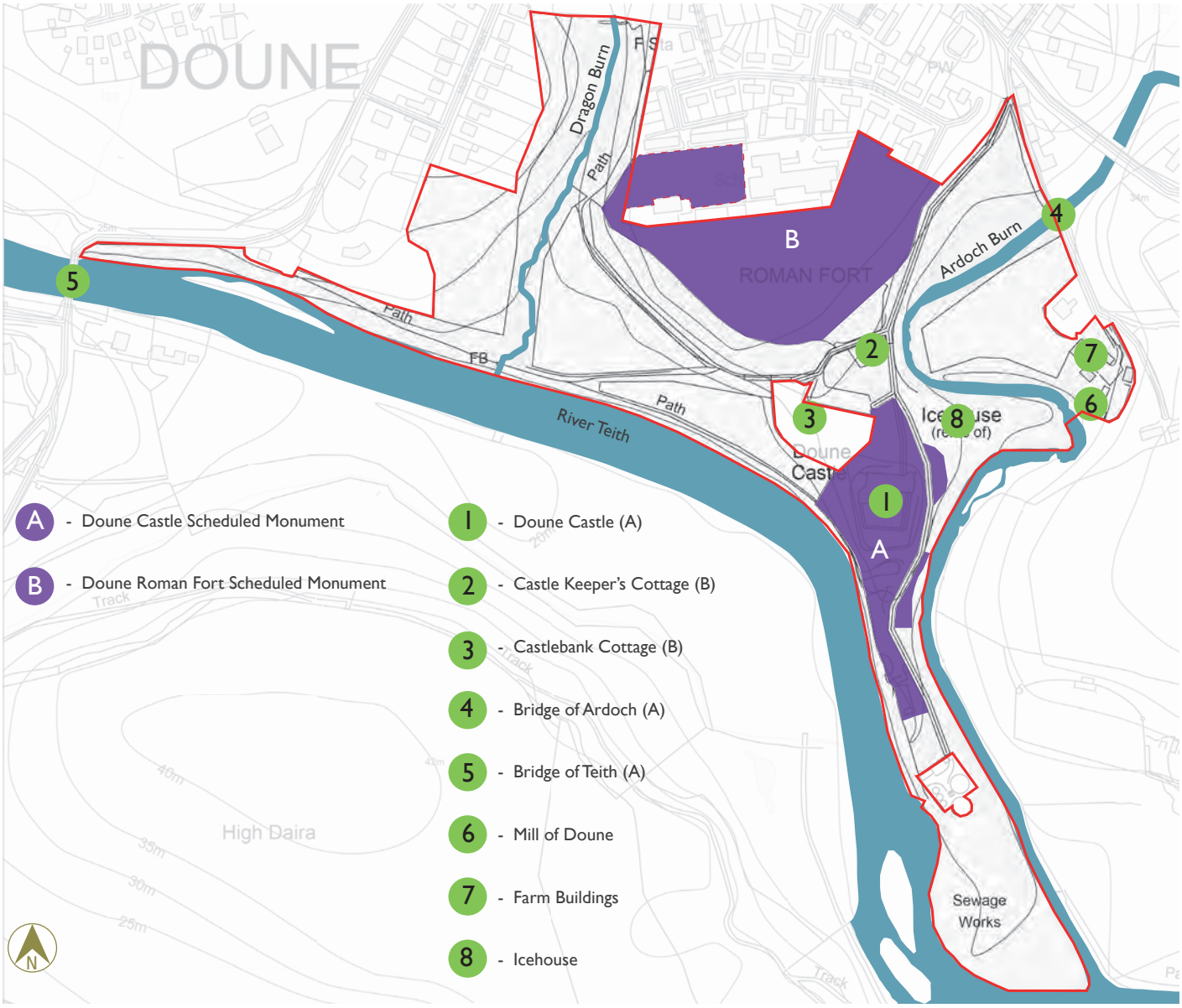


Figure 1.5.2 - The Location of Key Buildings

Figure 1.5.2 illustrates the location of the scheduled monuments and key buildings within the study area.

1.5.1 Scheduled Monuments

Doune Castle and Roman Fort PiC includes two scheduled monuments, one focused on the castle itself (SM12765) and another to the north-west focussed on the Roman fort. There are further scheduled monuments to the south of Doune Castle, within the wider study area, which are illustrated at *Figure 1.5.1*.

These areas, and their landscape settings, are protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Scheduling is restricted to the most important examples of each type of monument, and to those for which this type of designation provides the most appropriate protection (HES 2016, 2018, 2019b). The scheduled areas and PiC are contained within Doune Conservation Area (CA207).

1.5.2 Listed Buildings

The following buildings and structures have been listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997, for their special architectural or historic interest and are considered to be relevant to this study.

	Category
Castle Keeper's Cottage (LB24676)	B
Castlebank Cottage (LB24670)	B

1.5.3 Conservation Areas

Doune Conservation Area was designated in June 2014 and is one of 26 conservation areas within the Stirling Council area. The Deanston Conservation Area lies to the west of the study area. Local authorities have a statutory duty to identify, designate, preserve and enhance conservation areas within their administrative areas under the Section 61(1) (a) of The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. Historic Scotland's Scottish Historic Environment Policy Annex 3 (2009) stipulates that: *"It is the character or historic interest of an area created by individual buildings and open spaces and their relationship one with the other which the legislation covering conservation areas seeks to preserve."*

1.5.4 The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

The Inventory is a list of Scotland's most important gardens and designed landscapes. Inventory is maintained under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The designed landscape at Blair Drummond lies to the south of the study area and was laid out between 1766-1782 to the design of Lord Kames which incorporated the formal landscape laid out after the construction of the original house between 1715-17. Doune Park lies to the north west of the study area and was laid out following the construction of the house in the early 19th century by 10th Earl of Moray after Doune Castle fell into disrepair.

1.5.5 Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) protects one or more special habitats and/or species – terrestrial or marine – listed in the Habitats Directive. The River Teith is designated as a SAC. Sites of Community Importance (SCIs), which are established under the European Union Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) are the pre-requisite step for establishing SACs, once approved by the European Commission. SCIs, SACs and candidate SACs thus aim to create a network of important conservation sites to protect the rare and vulnerable habitats and species (excluding birds) listed on Annex I and II of the Directive.

1.5.6 Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) is a statutory designation made by Scottish Natural Heritage under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. There is a duty, under section 3 of the Act, to notify as SSSIs areas of land that are considered of special interest for flora or fauna, geology or geomorphology. It is an offence for anyone to intentionally or recklessly damage the protected natural features of an SSSI. There are two SSSIs within the wider study area, which are illustrated at *Figure 1.5.1*.

1.6 The Team

Jane Winter, project lead and landscape architect and Christopher Winter, landscape consultant at Collington Winter Environmental, Guy Morrison, arboriculturist at Enviroscope Consulting, Karl Harrison and Steve Heaton, ecologists at Haycock and Jay Associates Ltd and Jamie Quartermaine, Helen Evans, Andy Phelps and Debbie Lewis, archaeologists at Oxford Archaeology North, produced this LCMP.

1.7 Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Sarah Franklin, Landscape Manager at HES for her assistance throughout the review process and especially thank Shona Menzies, Scott McFarlane, Jessica Hunnisett, Nicki Scott and Richard Strachan for their time, valued information and enthusiasm for this project.

2

2.1 The History of the Landscape

Doune Castle lies on a promontory between the River Teith and the Ardoch Burn, on the southern edge of the Trossachs. Agricola built a short-lived fort at Doune c 80 AD during his invasion of northern Britain. Although Doune Castle is widely believed to have been built in the early fifteenth century by Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany, it incorporates elements of an earlier, fourteenth-century fortification. Geophysical survey suggests this was built upon a scarped natural mound; given the castle's location close to the crossing overlooked by the Roman Fort, the medieval masonry and earthworks may seal earlier remains.

Doune Castle represents one of the earliest surviving examples of a planned royal residence, but there are disparities between its size and documentary evidence indicating significant numbers of high-status guests. It seems likely that the remains visible today formed only part of the original castle. Throughout the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the castle served as a royal hunting lodge and dower house to several Scottish queens. In the late sixteenth century, it passed to the Earls of Moray and during the Jacobite Rising of 1745/6 was garrisoned and used as a prison. Thereafter it fell out of use, becoming ruinous and an eighteenth-nineteenth century tourist attraction. Engravings and plans show various farm and other buildings close to the castle, including a second water mill to its south.

The historical context to the study area and archaeological assessment is set out in detail at *Appendix B* and outlines the key periods in the development of the landscape at Doune Castle.

2.2 Landscape Design Evaluation

The following landscape design evaluation should be read in conjunction with Appendix B and the Historic Landscape Survey and Gazetteer at *Appendix C*.

2.2.1 John Adair's c 1650-1722 Map

The two earliest published maps showing Doune in any detail are those by Adair (Mape of the countries about Stirling c 1650-1722), and Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) (*Figures 2.2.1 & 2.2.2*). Although they are not at a scale large enough to illustrate the castle study area in great detail they illustrate some interesting features.

Figure 2.2.1 - Excerpt of John Adair's c 1650-1722 Mape of the countries about Stirling

On Adair's map (*Figure 2.2.1*), Newtoun (not labelled Old Newton at this point) is marked as a substantial residence and Roy's map shows it set within its own parkland.

Roy's map (*Figure 2.2.2*) illustrates that by 1747-55, Doune was a large settlement. Doune Castle is illustrated but not labelled, probably indicating that by this date the fortifications were not viable.

To the north-east of the castle, Roy's map also depicts what appears to be the Mill of

Figure 2.2.2 - Excerpt of Roy Military Survey of Scotland 1747-55

Doune and buildings within woodland to the north-east of the castle; these are more clearly marked on Stobie's 1782 Plan of Doune (*Figure 2.2.3*). The enclosed Wood of Doune is also marked. Both the Adair and Roy maps illustrate, at the south-east corner of the woodland, the Bridge of Doune (later known as the Bridge of Teith).

2.2.3 James Stobie 1782, Plan of Doune, including Cambus, belonging to the Earl of Moray (NRS RHP 14316)

This map covers an area defined to the north by Loch Mahauke and the Braes of Doune and to the south by the peninsula south of Doune Castle. To the west, it is broadly defined by the routes of the River Teith and the Burn of Cambus and, to the east, by Argaty and the route of the Ardoch Burn. For the purposes of this assessment, *Figure 2.2.3*, reproduced by permission of Moray Estates, is an excerpt, defined by the PiC and its immediate environs.

West of the PiC, the Bridge of Teith is marked, but unlabelled with the road on the north bank running parallel with the river before turning northwards towards Doune, its very straight route probably defined by the bounds of the Wood of Doune to its west. In the angle west of the dog-leg in the road is a triangular piece of arable; its western edge may match a boundary marked on the OS map of 1864 which corresponds with a bank and ditch noted by an historic woodland survey (Mills and Quelch 2018, 15-16) and interpreted as a former park boundary. Diverging from the Doune road at the dog-leg a lane runs along the north bank of the Teith, crosses Dragon Burn and joins with that running along the base of the Castle Hill scarp, joining again with the main road north of the Ardoch Burn and east of Doune. This route, interpreted as the possible remains of a Roman road, has been diverted to the north of the Dragon Burn by the nineteenth century.

Castle Hill, unlabelled, is depicted as arable, bounded to the south-west and south by a scarp slope. In Doune village, the northern part of Castle Hill was developed with houses and orchards. South of the Castle Hill scarp is an arable field north of the track to the Bridge of Teith; to its south is an area of bounded woodland and a building is in the same position as Castlebank Cottage.

North of the Ardoch Burn, and south-west of Castle Hill, four buildings (two of which are substantial) are marked in what is presently an area of boggy land but which retains some historic woodland (Mills and Quelch 2018; OA North 2020a). Buildings are shown here on Roy's survey of 1745-55 (Plate 6) but have disappeared (leaving only a well) by the OS map of 1864. Possibly associated with Glen Ardoch House, which is also shown

Figure 2.2.3 - Excerpt from Stobie's Plan of Doune (1782; NRS RHP 14316) reproduced with permission of Moray Estates

on the map, these appear to have been accessed from the embanked roadway (OA North 2020a Site 21) skirting the edge of Castle Hill scarp, which joins with the road from the River Teith and provides the castles' primary access. North-east of the castle is Castle Farm; depicted as a range of buildings, open to the north and surrounding a courtyard. To its north is a smaller building, fronting on the south bank of the Ardoch Burn and separated from the courtyard range by woodland. A line between the range and the building on the burn may denote a path (possibly that associated with the former bridge; OA North 2020a Site 36). To the south (rear) of the courtyard range is another, smaller building, between the farm and the castle.

Doune Mill, the mill-lade and several other buildings are marked to the east of the Ardoch Burn; the mill is clearly served by the main road from Doune village, which bridges the burn which continues to buildings to the south of Old Newton before terminating. Although its surrounds suggest it may have been re-set, a stone set into the bridge's south-western parapet is inscribed "*Built upon the Publick Expense of the Shire AD 1733*" (OA 2020, Site 19). Prior to this, the bridge was apparently a timber structure (Mackay 1953, 14).

On the peninsular to the south of the castle is a second mill, with a patch of arable to its south, on the east bank of the River Teith. This is not marked on later maps and is visible today as earthworks (OA North 2020a, Site 9).

Figure 2.2.4 - John Claude Nattes, Doune Castle, an etching published in 1804 showing Doune Castle Farm, British Museum

The layout of the farm shown on Stobie's 1782 Plan of Doune (Figure 2.2.3) broadly correlates with that shown on Nattes' etching of Doune Castle, published in 1804 (Figure 2.2.4). Its viewpoint appears to be from Doune Mill which is in the foreground left; Ardoch Burn is also in the foreground, beyond which is the building on the west bank, shown on Stobie's plan. This is seemingly stone-constructed, and, incorporating chimneys, may have been a dwelling. What appears to be a higher-status gabled stone building figures in the background to the south-west and appears to represent part of
the courtyard farm. On the opposite side of the river the present-day natural scarp can be seen, and the ruinous castle beyond.

Into the earlier nineteenth century, although at a much smaller scale, James Stobie's c 1775-1804 (published 1805) Map of the counties of Perth and Clackmannan (Figure 2.2.5) does not mark the castle but labels Old Newton and Newton as belonging to Col. Edmonston. Newton, to the south of Old Newton, is on the site of the later Inverardoch House.

John Thomson's (1827) Perthshire and Clackmannan (Figure 2.2.6) depicts the castle, the Newtons, the Wood of Doune and Parktown Farm, within the former parkland. Two mills are also illustrated, by stylised wheels; one is the Mill of Doune, and there is another, to the south of the castle (as illustrated on Stobie's 1782 plan) and the building now represented by earthworks (OA 2020a, Site 9).

Figure 2.2.5 - Excerpt from Stobie's 1805 Map of the counties of Perth and Clackmannan

Figure 2.2.6 - Excerpt from Thomson's 1827 Perthshire and Clackmannan

2.2.4 Ordnance Survey 25" maps

OS map sheets nos CXXV.13 (1864) and CXXXII.1 (1893), both surveyed in 1862-3, border immediately to the north of the castle (*Figure 2.2.7*). The northernmost buildings of Doune Castle Farm appear clipped on the southern map sheet (CXXXII.1) and do not appear on that to the north (CXXV.13). The farm itself is depicted as a range of buildings around a courtyard, the easternmost being long and linear possibly in the form of stabling. There is a larger building, unattached to the courtyard, to the south. There appear to be yards and hardstandings surrounding the buildings. There is no building on the south bank of the Ardoch Burn (as depicted on Stobie's 1782 plan and Nattes' engraving (*Figures 2.2.5 and 2.2.6*) and on the other side of the burn, the Mill of Doune and its immediate surroundings have also been substantially remodelled, with many of the former buildings demolished. A narrow bridge is shown on the 1864 map accessed via a pathway/wall line also shown on Stobie's plan (on which no bridge is apparent).

To the south-west of the farm, the castle and its earthworks are illustrated in more or less their present form. There are no buildings illustrated on the peninsula to the south To the immediate north-west of the castle, an enclosed garden (no buildings) is shown

Figure 2.2.7 - The PiC and its environs on the OS 25-inch maps of 1864

on Stobie's map, in the location of the present car park, and further west, Castlebank and Keeper's Cottage are shown, on the trackway which runs from the castle, between the southern scarp of Castle Hill and the north bank of the Ardoch Burn; here, the buildings shown on Roy's (1747-55) and Stobie's (1782) maps are no longer present, although a well and a footpath remain.

2.2.5 Ordnance Survey 25" maps of 1900

West of Castlebank Cottage are a series of roads and trackways; that marked on Stobie's 1782 plan now runs, discontinuously, to the Bridge of Teith and has apparently been diverted upslope, along the western scarp of Castle Hill, and northwards towards the town.

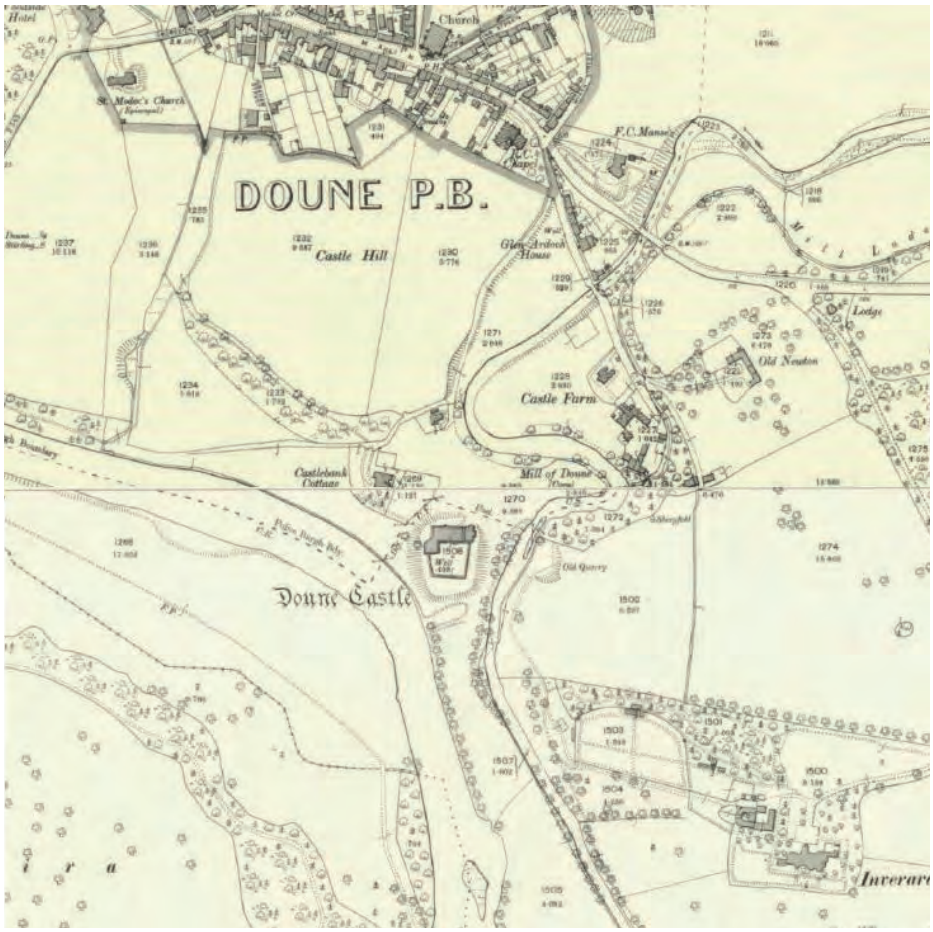


Figure 2.2.8 - The PiC and its environs on the OS 25-inch maps of 1900

Surveyed in 1899, this map was drawn following the refurbishment of the castle ruins and the remodelling of its immediate landscape, which included the complete removal of Castle Farm (OA North 2020a, Site 5) and the construction of the new Castle Farm, to the east of Ardoch Burn (*Figure 2.2.8*).

With a farmhouse to the west, the farm itself is arranged around an open-sided yard incorporating a series of hipped cattle sheds, a barn, and a single storey cottage, the latter incorporating a datestone of 1874 (ibid, Site 16). The 1900 map shows that the bridge between the castle and Doune Mill was also removed. What appears to be a very temporary bridge at this point (basically a plank sat on substantial stone-built bridge foundations (ibid, Site 7) is visible in an early twentieth-century photograph of the Mill of Doune (*Figure 2.2.9*).

The area of the road between the Wood of Doune and Doune town had two new

Figure 2.2.9 - Mill of Doune with waterwheel and timber footbridge, early twentieth century

changes since 1864 one being the building of the Manse to the west of the road and the other being the construction of St Madoc's Church north of the PIC area. There had been no development at the Bridge or the Bridge of Teith Cottage or along the north bank of the river. The north-west alignment of marsh by the canalised Dragon Burn had been drained a little and was less extensive than in 1864.

2.2.6 OS map 1:10,560 1950

Maps from the second half of the twentieth century illustrate the gradual expansion of houses and gardens on the outskirts of Doune and between Doune and Deanstown, and in the environs of Castle Hill. On the OS map of 1950, land around the castle remained largely unchanged from previously, but by 1950 the Mill of Doune was marked 'Disused'. This is the first map to show the sewage works on the peninsula south of the castle, which are not depicted on the OS map of 1923. An access road has also been laid out, on the east side of the peninsula, skirting the east side of the Castle and leading from Castle Keeper's Cottage.

By 1958, nine new houses had been constructed on an estate on the northern edge of Castle Hill, and by 1978 the north-western part of the field to the west of Castle Hill had been developed except for a wide strip south of St Madoc's Church and west of the Dragon Burn. The northern part of Castle Hill had been further developed with addition of another tier of housing to the south. Doune Primary School had also been built and its surroundings landscaped.

2.3 The Context and Character of the Wider Landscape

The following section will consider the character of the wider landscape surrounding the PiC boundary at Doune Castle, providing a context for the understanding of the landscape and woodland.

2.3.1 What is Landscape?

The landscape is a resource in its own right. The European Landscape Convention (ELC), designed to achieve improved approaches to the planning, management and protection of landscapes throughout Europe, defines landscape as:

> *'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'.* (Council of Europe, 2000)

This definition was expanded in 2002 to illustrate how all landscapes are special and valuable, even if they are not recognised with a statutory designation.

> *"Landscape is about the relationship between people and place. It provides the setting for our day-to-day lives. The term does not mean just special or designated landscapes and it does not only apply to the countryside. Landscape can mean a small patch of urban wasteland as much as a mountain range, and an urban park as much as an expanse of lowland plain. It results from the way that different components of our environment – both natural (the influences of geology, soils, climate, flora and fauna) and cultural (the historic and current impact of land use, settlement, enclosure and other human interventions) – interact together and perceived by us. People's perceptions turn land into the concept of landscape."*(Swanwick,C and Land Use Consultants (2002) Landscape Character Assessment Guidance. Countryside Agency & Scottish Natural Heritage).

2.3.2 Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is the process of identifying and describing variation in character of the landscape. LCAs identify and explain the combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinct from one another by mapping and describing landscape character types and areas. They also show how the landscape is perceived, experienced and valued by people. Landscape character seen at different scales, from the regional, down to the county, district and site specific.

2.3.3 SNH National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 152: Lowland River Valleys - Central

Scottish Natural Heritage (now branded as NatureScot) undertook an assessment of landscape character between 1994 and 1998 and published a digital map-based national LCA in 2019 to illustrate the landscape character types. The landscape within which Doune Castle lies is defined as falling within landscape character type *152: Lowland River Valley - Central.* The key characteristics typical of landscape area include:

- *Well-defined river corridors, most with flat valley floor enclosed by often commanding hills.*
- *Strong topographic and visual identity, with varying scale and character.*
- *Glacial terrain and deposits located on valley margins, often subject to mineral extraction.*
- *Relatively high proportion of tree cover, with roadside and hedgerow trees and semi-natural woodland.*
- *Dense areas of coniferous forest cover the slopes surrounding the reservoir in the Upper Carron Valley.*
- *Road corridors often running parallel to river corridor form key linear features.*
- *Settlement often closely linked to the river corridor and parallel road corridors.*
- *Intensive settlement and urban development on margins of valleys south and north of Firth of Forth.*

- *Predominance of traditionally managed estate, policy and designed landscapes.*
- *Nature conservation importance of river and associated habitats.*
- *Frequently enclosed and focussed views along the river valley.*
- *Visibility of remnant derelict land, motorway and road corridors, power lines, wind farms and industrial sites from the urban fringe of Falkirk/Denny.*

2.3.4 Central Region Landscape Character Assessment. Scottish Natural Heritage Review No 123

Central Region Landscape Character Assessment. Scottish Natural Heritage Review No 123 (The ASH Consulting Group 1999) was carried out by Scottish Natural Heritage, in partnership with local authorities and other agencies and provides a detailed assessment of the landscape character of part of the former Central Region. Doune Castle lies within the *River Valley* landscape character type and LCA *20: Teith*. The key characteristics typical of landscape include:

- *A gently meandering river through a predominantly narrow valley, which occasionally opens out into area of flatter ground along the water's edge, and enclosed by higher undulating farmland to the north and south, the river is fed by numerous minor watercourses which originate in the hill mass of Uamh Bheag set some distance to the north. As the river becomes gradually enlarged by the input of these tributaries it swings south-eastwards, cutting a wider route through rolling farmland to reach its confluence with the River Forth.*
- *The policy woodlands of the numerous estates which straddle the river valley are a particularly dominant feature of the area, resulting in a thickly wooded character of great variety. Clumps and drifts of deciduous woodland, including beech, oak, ash and birch, surround dwellings and fringe the river; shelterbelts cap the rounded valley slopes; exotic conifers and majestic parkland trees dot the estate grounds; corridors of beech trees delineate roads, and numerous deciduous trees stud the hedgerows. Coniferous plantations, of which there are several, are relatively small-scale and well integrated by the soft feathered edges of deciduous woodland.*
- *The well-farmed fertile valley is divided into fields of lush pasture and some crops, edged by trim hawthorn or beech hedgerows, stone walls, or post-and-wire fences.*
- *Numerous traditional and modem dwellings and farmsteads are dotted along the valley.*
- *The small town of Doune, centred around its market cross, is the main settlement; nearby lie the 19th century street of mill cottages known as Deanston, and the hamlet of Buchany, a group of stone cottages within the ground of Doune Estate.*
- *Settlement within the valley is further varied by the glimpsed rooflines of several fortified houses, castles and mansions emerging above the treetops.*
- *Linear transport runs parallel to the river for much of its length, including the busy A84 trunk road which leads from Stirling to the Trossachs, and the remains of an old railway line, now a cycle path.*
- *Several sand and gravel pits, some now disused, are evidence of utilisation of the thick deposits of glacial moraine along the valley*
- *A strong sense of activity and movement along the Teith Valley is engendered by the rush of traffic along the A84 and the parallel course of the river. Despite being bounded by hills to the north, these are rarely visible from the valley. However, intermittent long-distance views of the stern profile of the Ochils to the east and the Trossachs to the west are channelled along the valley floor and sides, widening southwards to encompass the Forth Valley and the Gargunnocks.*
- *The valley appears lush, well-tended and long-settled due to the wealth and variety of settlement combined with the strong elements of diverse farm and policy woodlands.*
- *The disruptive effect of the trunk road and sma11 extraction pits is made Jess evident by absorption into the gently rolling landform, assisted by the large quantities of woodland.*

2.3.5 The Stirling Council, Local Development Plan (October 2014) Supplementary Guidance SG28 Landscape Character Assessments

The Stirling Council, Local Development Plan of October 2014, published its *Supplementary Guidance SG28 Landscape Character Assessments* to support the Council's Local Development Plan Policies in respect of maintaining and enhancing landscape character, distinctiveness and diversity. The Lowlands within Stirlingshire have been divided into three landscape types. The lowland river valleys form a major group consisting of three sub-types and 11 character areas, with the wider landscape surrounding Doune Castle falling within sub-type *Rolling Valley Farmland* and LCA L5 - *Teith Valley*. The key characteristics typical of landscape area include:

- *Lush, well-tended and long-settled valley - attractive mix of fertile agricultural land, grazing land and a rich diversity of tree and woodland cover.*
- *Edges of valley more transitional character, merging diverse visual qualities of the Braes of Doune to the north-east and forested higher ground on Lennieston Muir in the west.*
- *Marked presence of estates with associated buildings and features, such as walls and policies and parkland. (Doune Estate and Blair Drummond are nationally important designed landscapes.)*
- *The gently rolling landform and wealth of tree cover helps to absorb and lessen the disruptive effects of gravel extraction operations and busy A84 trunk road.*
- *Generally introverted visual character, with frequent enclosed views.*
- *Important route corridor and a 'gateway' to the national park.*

2.4 Access and Visitors

Doune Castle is an extremely popular visitor attraction, which is easily accessible from the main transport routes through the central belt.

In March 2018, HES published its Visitor Experience Research, which estimated visitor numbers for 2016 to 2017 season to be 92,709. Visitor numbers for the 2019-2020 season were already at 139,232 in January 2020 and the PiC continues to be a popular destination.

2.4.1 Visitor Access

Doune Castle and castle courtyard is open throughout the year, with admissions to the castle, between the 1st April and 30th September open daily between 9.30am and 5.30pm (with the last entry at 5pm) and from the 1st October to the 31st March, open daily between 10am and 4pm (last entry at 3.30pm. There is no car parking charge.

The landscape is open throughout the year, with no admission or car parking charge.

Information for visitors is available on the HES website (https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/doune-castle), including opening times and admission charges, access information, what's on and what to see, a brief history of the castle and links to download further archive information and the statement of significance.

There are limited facilities available for visitors to the castle. The car park is small and an overflow area adjacent to Castle Keeper's Cottage is used at peak times, however capacity is often quickly reached. Mini bus parking adds further pressure onto the site, with no dedicated area available for parking larger vehicles. A temporary car park has been created for mini buses, using ground protection matting, however there has been extensive ground disturbance and deterioration.

2.4.2 Visitor Facilities

The temporary parking is located outwith the scheduled monument designation, but is still significant in terms of its visual impact on the setting of the monument.

There is no large coach parking available on site.

Toilets are available at Castle Keeper's Cottage, with the visitor centre, a self service hot drinks machine and a small shop within the castle. There are no other facilitates in the landscape.

2.4.3 Visitor Activities and Events

A number of events take place throughout the year at Doune Castle, such as the HES Living History event and community groups also use the castle. The Moray Estate hosted a Forth Salmon Fishing Day in early 2020, on the banks of the River Teith.

It is understood that not all of the visitors to Doune Castle go further into the PiC area to explore the landscape. Some visitors are limited by their time at Doune, especially if they visit as part of an organised tour and others appear unaware that there is a wider landscape to explore. It was noted that there are no signs or information boards to encourage visitors to explore the wider PiC area, however the immediate castle environs are heavily used by visitors.

Local village residents use the riverside footpath and path adjacent to the Dragon Burn on a regular basis.

2.5 Landscape Character Areas

The following section provides an overarching description of the landscape and woodlands at Doune Castle and, for ease of understanding, the study area has been divided into character areas. Each character area has a set of unique elements and special qualities, which distinguish that area from its neighbour and when combined, give rise to the landscape and woodlands that we see today. The study area has been divided into six distinct character areas, which are illustrated at *Figure 2.5.1: Character Areas* and described below.

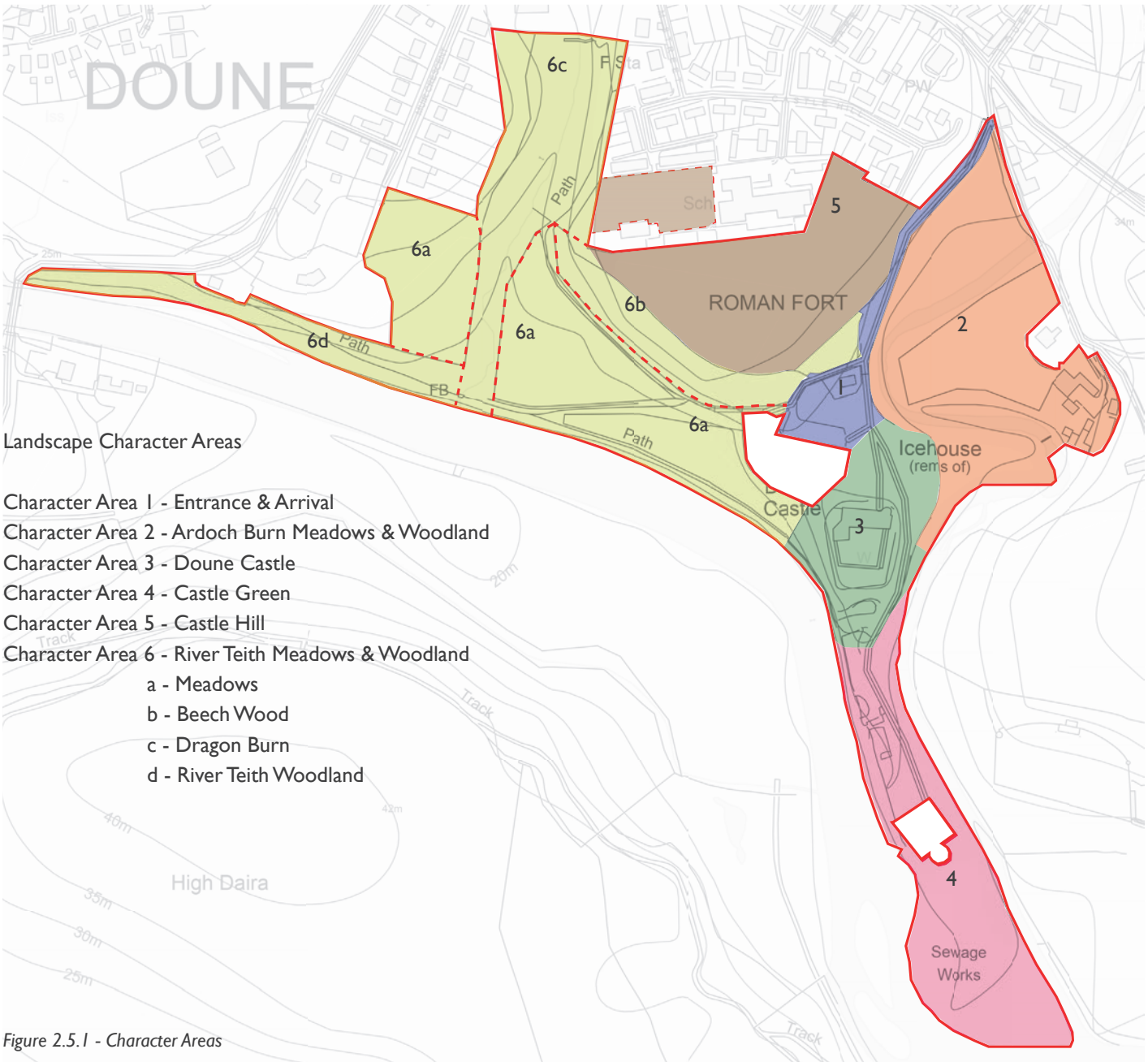
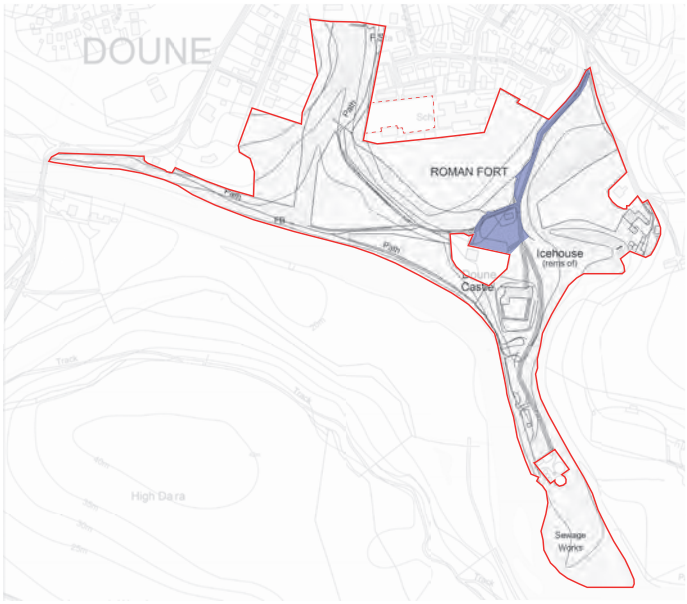


Figure 2.5.1 - Character Areas

There are further divisions within character area 6 which will be described below.

2.5.1 Character Area 1 - Entrance & Arrival



The Entrance & Arrival character area is a predominantly linear area, which offers the first glimpses of Doune Castle to visitors and links the village of Doune, via a narrow lane, which runs off the A820, to the castle. To the south of the character area is a small car park.

The gateway is defined by stone gate piers, however there is no gate. To the right of the gateway is the extant remains of a kissing gate, with a semi-circular stone feature enclosure set into a stone wall, with a further stone gate pier to the side.

A tree lined wooded bank, with scrubby wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), ash, hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and other broadleaves, defines the character area to the west of the drive and an open area of wet grassland included into character area 2, lies at a lower elevation, with a number of mature oaks, to the east.

Figure 2.5.2

Figure 2.5.3

The first, glimpsed views of Doune Castle are afforded from the drive, with the gatehouse tower visible amongst the trees (*Figure 2.5.2*).

Castle Keeper's Cottage lies to the west of the drive, with a second gateway defined by stone gate piers with a decorative iron gate. A second kissing gate, with a decorative iron pedestrian gate, is set within concave stone slabs and conveys the character and quality of the designed landscape setting of the castle and Castle Keeper's Cottage. Extant sections of iron estate railing can be seen within this character area, defining spaces and boundaries (*Figure 2.5.3*).

Castle Keeper's Cottage is used today as a base for the HES Visitor Operations Team and has had a temporary addition of four portable bathrooms to the rear.

The landscape to the south of the character area is dominated by the car park and associated infrastructure, with a large area of lawn to the south of Castle Keeper's Cottage converted to an overflow car park using a reinforced, grasscrete surface (*Figure 2.5.4*). The view of the landscape setting of the castle, from the drive, towards the castle, is cluttered by the car parking area and infrastructure, which extends into character area 3, as an overflow, mini-bus parking area, which has temporary approval,

is located within the view line to the castle.

A small grassed knoll, which contains an attractive group of mature oak trees, stands to the west of the character area and has commanding views towards the castle. The knoll is defined by a short section of estate railing and a wooden fence, to the east and south and to the west and north by a stone retaining wall (*Figure 2.5.5*). The knoll offers visitors a shady space to picnic close to the car park.

A pedestrian footpath to the Roman Fort is located to the north of the character area, however there are no information boards to direct visitors to the location of the path or to the existence of the Roman Fort close by.

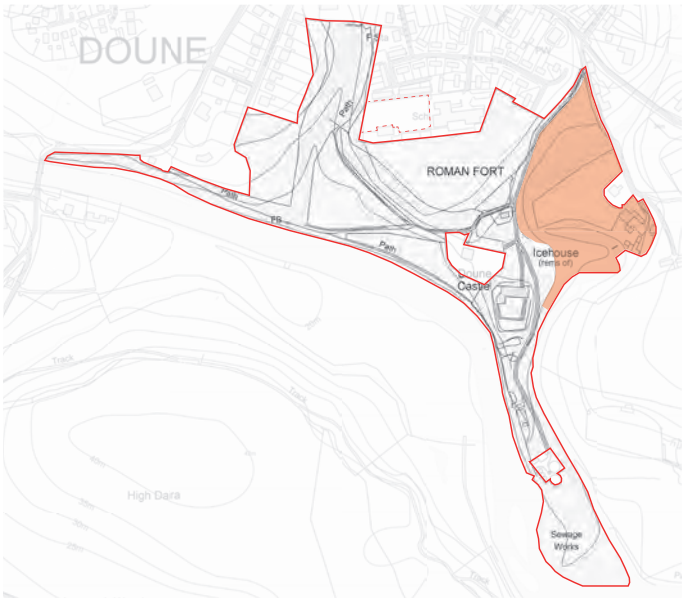
The drive loops around the knoll between stone retaining walls before leaving the character area along the narrow drive towards Doune Village.

Figure 2.5.4

Figure 2.5.5

Figure 2.5.6

2.5.2 Character Area 2 - Ardoch Burn Meadows & Woodland



The Ardoch Burn Meadows & Woodland character area predominantly occupies the eastern bank of the Ardoch Burn, with a small, tree covered area occupying the low level meander bar to the west of the burn, which is the only part of the character area accessible for visitors. The Ardoch Burn flows south from the Braes Of Doune into the River Teith and follows a sinuous route as it meanders through the study area, enclosed by broadleaved, semi-natural woodland. This character area was historically associated with the farm and mill and evidence of previous land-use is still visible along the banks of the burn. The low lying area to the east of the entrance drive contains a collection of mature oaks which appear to grow on a raised platform, three of which (T742 and T744-745) and one dead oak (T743) are noted as important features in the HWA report. All trees have a stem diameter exceeding 1m and possess the features of veteran trees. Two of the trees (T742 and T744) have suffered recent large branch loss, and T742 has a birch 'air tree' growing in its crown.

Two wells are located here, at least one of which is damaged and leaking, hence the area is now a predominantly wet grassland (*Figure 2.5.7*). Groups of semi-mature trees, principally alder, grey alder, silver birch and bird cherry (*Prunus padus*) are found within this meadow area alongside patches willow scrub and young self-set ash trees.

Figure 2.5.7

Both banks of the Ardoch Burn are densely wooded, with a semi-natural woodland of ash, beech, oak, pine, sycamore and alder, plus a diverse understorey of hawthorn, wych elm, holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The western bank is very steep along most of its length and there are several sandstone outcrops above the burn. Small patches in the woodland have been planted in the last 30 years and contain semi-mature beech, ash, oak and grey alder. The ground flora of the burn-side woodland is abundant, with banks of greater woodrush (*Luzula sylvatica*) and ferns, emerging bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), and abundant naturalised snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) at the time of surveys. The woodland contained some invasive plant species. Signs of Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) are present, a single patch of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) was observed on the western bank at the northern end, and invasive shrub snowberry

Figure 2.5.8

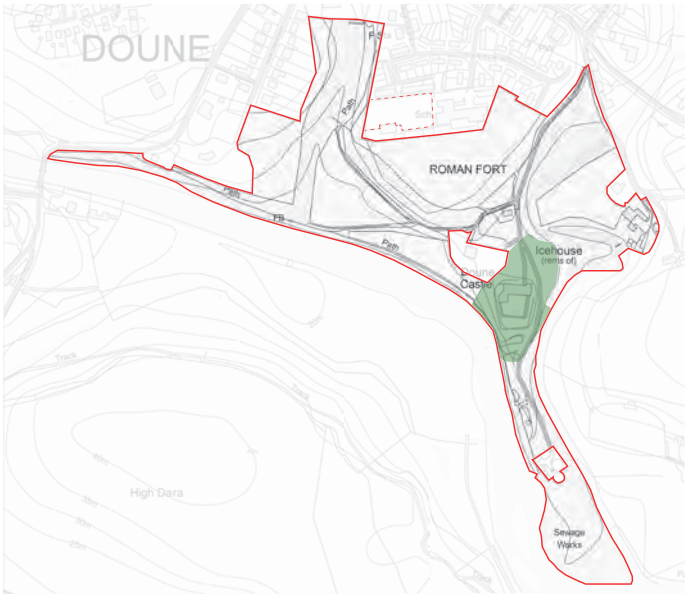
(*Symphoricarpos alb*us) is also present. Three short rows of mature common lime trees (includes T624, T628 and T631) have been planted on a meander bar, formed by a bend in the Ardoch Burn, east of the castle. One is planted on the flat terrace area beside the burn, and another has been planted beside a path down to the river at the top of a sandstone outcrop. The trees have a slender form with numerous epicormics and appear to be of the 'Pallida'-type form. Close to the lower row is a mature holly tree with a distinctive arborglyph which cannot be read but appears to be reasonably old. A large meadow occupies the remaining area to the east of Ardoch Burn and it is understand that this is seasonally grazed by horses (*Figure 2.5.9*).

Buildings and built structures within this area include Doune Mill (the Mill of Doune) which has fallen into disrepair and is currently not accessible for visitors, due to structural instability and the extant farm buildings, which are now used as a base and storage yard for the Monument Conservation Unit (MCU).

Figure 2.5.9

An extant, rough coursed stone revetment wall, which is concealed by dense vegetation, was built to protect the pronounced bend in the Ardoch Burn, to the north of the Mill of Doune and two further sections retaining wall are visible on the opposite bank. There is also the remains of a built stone wall, facing the riverbank on the western side of Ardoch Burn. The position of the wall coincides with the position of a building denoted on Stobie's map of 1783. Further to the south and east of Doune Castle there is a curving path, leading to the river, which is revetted along its northern edge by a stone wall and close by, a set of stone/concrete steps with associated wrought iron hand railing are concealed by vegetation. There is also a small and ruined red brick structure within the meadow to the north of Mill of Doune, which is heavily overgrown with vegetation. It is understood that this structure may be the footings of a greenhouse.

2.5.3 *Character Area 3 - Doune Castle*



This character area provides the immediate landscape setting for Doune Castle and is the most heavily accessed area across the study area, with visitors often only visiting the castle before leaving the site.

The Doune Castle character area lies to the south of the access drive and access to the castle is via a cobbled path (*Figure 2.5.10*). Close mown lawns extend from the car park towards the ditch and bank to the north of the castle, giving rise to a open and spacious character.

A temporary mini-bus parking area has been created to the east of the castle, as visitor numbers continue to rise and parking for mini-buses is difficult due to the small car park. This temporary base is defined to the east by heras fencing and creates a strong negative visual impact upon the scheduled monument and setting of the castle (*Figures 2.5.10 & 2.5.11*).

Figure 2.5.10

Figure 2.5.11

A narrow track runs north-south to the east of the castle, providing access to the River Teith for fishermen and to the sewage works. Adjacent to the castle is a band of tall Leyland cypress (x *Cuprocyparis leylandii*) planted at the top of the bank, below a line of gabions supporting the track edge. These trees, which were presumably planted to visually screen the gabion wall, are becoming incongruous and are out of character with this landscape setting (*Figure 2.5.12*).

Trees on the Doune Castle mound banks are concentrated to the west and south-west where there is an area of woodland on the steep bank down to the River Teith. This contains three mature sycamore (T571-573) that were identified in the HWA report. These all have stem diameters exceeding 1m and pre-date the other trees in the woodland which are predominantly multi-stemmed semi-mature sycamore, wych elm and ash, with alder bordering the river at the base.

The character area includes a short stretch of the woodland on the steep bank to the Ardoch Burn east of the castle. The bank is densely wooded with a semi-natural woodland of ash, beech, oak, pine, sycamore and alder, plus a diverse understorey of hawthorn, wych elm, holly, hazel, rowan and blackthorn. The ground flora of the burn-side woodland continues from the north, with banks of greater woodrush and ferns,

emerging bluebell, and naturalised snowdrops at the time of surveys.

To the south of the castle is a mound with ditch and bank which is showing signs of heavy erosion from visitors. At the time of surveys, this area was fenced to prevent access whilst essential repair work is being carried out on the castle. It was noted that scrub is developing along the banks of the mound, presumably due to a reduction in management and this in turn concentrates the visitors to specific routes across the mound, creating severe erosion scars, which are causing damage to the below ground archaeology. The scrub is also reducing the visibility of the castle, when viewed from the south, reducing the visual dominance of the castle (*Figure 2.5.13*).

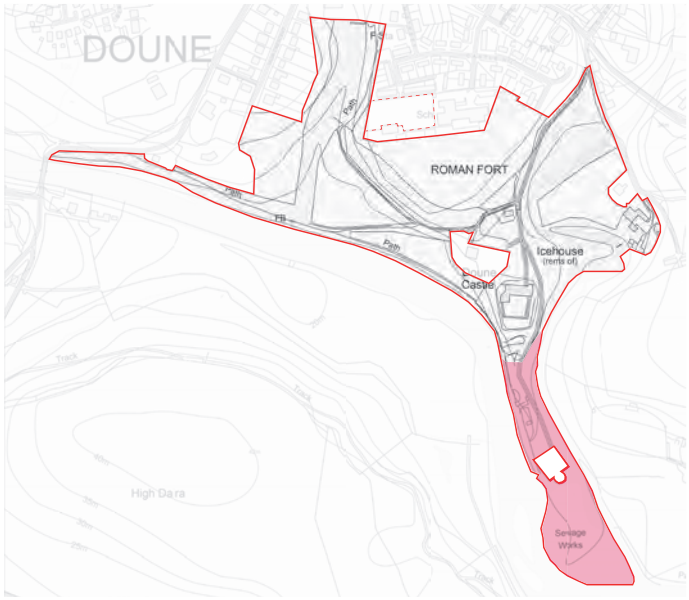
Lawns to the east of the castle have been allowed to grow longer, with rank grassland developing. The Ice House is located to the east of the castle, which is well hidden at the side of a grassy mound (*Figure 2.5.14*).

Figure 2.5.12

Figure 2.5.13

Figure 2.5.14

2.5.4 Character Area 4 - Castle Green



The Castle Green character area occupies a narrow strip of land to the south of Doune Castle and is defined to the west by the River Teith and to the east by the Ardoch Burn.

The character area contains a continuity of the strip of woodland lining the western bank of the Ardoch Burn which is described in character area 2. This is located on a tall steep bank at its northern end and this becomes lower as the burn approaches its confluence with the River Teith (*Figure 2.5.15*).

The area also includes a strip of trees along the eastern bank of the River Teith. These are predominantly alder, but also includes some ash, sycamore, hawthorn, grey willow (*Salix cinerea*) and bird cherry. Some of the ash are approaching maturity and are identified in the HWA report. Many are infected with ash dieback. A single self-set rhododendron bush is present here, which is most likely to be *Rhododendron ponticum*, which is invasive.

Figure 2.5.15

There are some small groups of mixed broadleaved amenity planting on the edges of the Castle Green field. These include ash, alder and mixed willows.

To the south of the character area is an open and flat meadow area, comprising neutral, semi-improved grassland, with a mown path to the edges (*Figure 2.5.15*). There are panoramic views to the River Teith (*Figure 2.5.16*) and glimpsed views of the Ardoch Burn (*Figure 2.5.17*) through the trees. The movement and sound of the river and burn animates the landscape.

A group of planted early-mature beech, Scots pine, horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and red oak (*Quercus rubra*) is present to the north of the sewage works and west of the track (*Figure 2.5.18*). The ground within the plantation appears compacted and it is understood that it is used for parking by fishermen. At the time of the site surveys, a visitor to the study area was seen to be using the undulations beneath the trees as a mountain bike course (*Figure 2.5.19*), which will further compact the soil and cause erosion of the soil surface.

The sewage works are located at the centre of the character area and have been planted with a screen of Leyland cypress and cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) within

a fenced compound, comprising older decorative iron fencing to the east and south and contemporary steel security fencing to the west.. Some of the cypress have partially collapsed and the laurel has been recently cut back. The cypress appears to have been planted to screen the works from the castle. It achieves this but the planting also looks out of character and it also blocks views of the castle from part of the Castle Green field.

The road which links the sewage works with the main access drive is in poor condition, with numerous pot holes appearing in the surface. Large tankers were observed during the site surveys traversing the road, often veering off the route onto the edges of the scheduled monument.

There are two urban style benches positioned within the character area, to take advantage of views of the River Teith, overlooking the northern boundary of the Blair Drummond Estate. The benches are well placed for visitors to sit and rest at the furthest point from the castle. It is understood that this character area is a popular location for families to spend the day during the summer months, with opportunities to swim in the river.

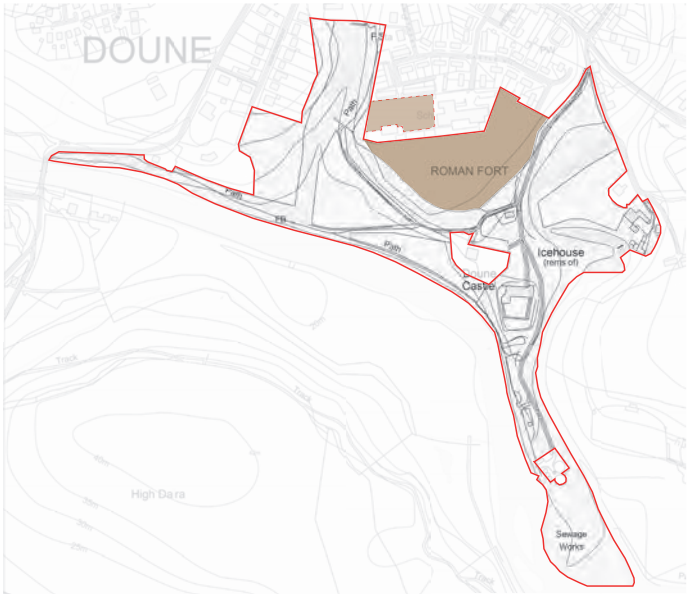
Figure 2.5.16

Figure 2.5.17

Figure 2.5.18

Figure 2.5.19

2.5.5 Character Area 5 - Castle Hill



The Castle Hill character area is located on the site of a former Roman fort north of the castle. There is no visual indication of the location of the fort, on the ground today.

Doune Cricket Club has occupied an area of rough grazing land for a village cricket club at Doune since 1999 through a 25-year Agreement with HES, which will expire in 2024. HES are in negotiations with the Cricket Club to extend the Agreement for a further 10 years from 2024 (**Figure 2.5.20**). There is however a narrow strip of tussocky, neutral, semi-improved grassland along its south-eastern edge. There is a sports pavilion at the north western corner. The area is bordered by plantation in character area 6 to the south and contains no significant trees or woodland itself. The woodland the south visually encloses the character area, creating an intimate space.

Figure 2.5.20

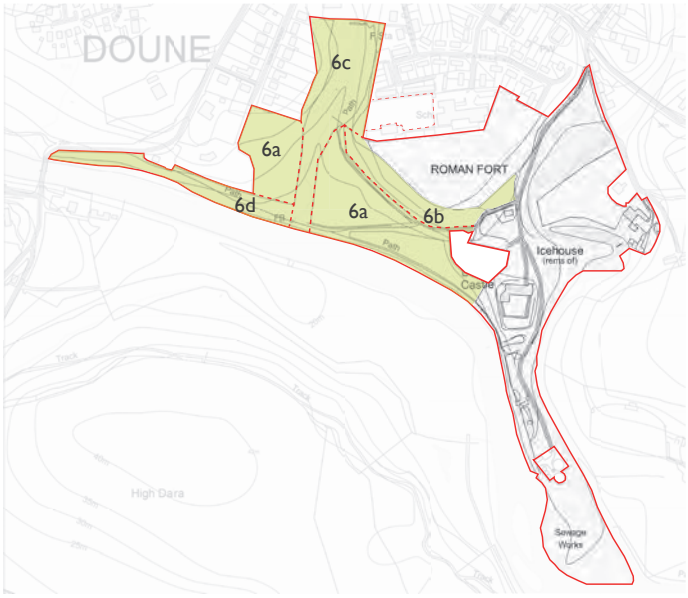
To the north of the character area is an area in the primary school, which contains mixed amenity trees planted on its southern edge, however no access was provided to this area at the time of site surveys.

There is a footpath linking the Roman Fort to Doune Castle and the village of Doune. The footpath didn't appear to be signed from the castle and there are no information boards within the castle environs to direct visitors to the presence of the scheduled monument. The footpath is accessed via the eastern edge of the plantation woodland and across a stile in the post and wire fencing.

Whilst this character area is included within the PiC boundary, it appears isolated from Doune Castle.

An information board is located at the north eastern corner of the character area, adjacent to residential properties, which has been provided by the Kilmadock Development Trust.

2.5.6 Character Area 6 - River Teith Meadows & Woodland



The River Teith Meadows & Woodland character area is the largest of the character areas and occupies the western edge of the study area. This is a pastoral landscape, with a series of meadows and woodland. This character area has been sub-divided into four sub areas, each with a slightly different character, which are described below.

6a: The Meadows - The bankside vegetation described for character area 4 continues along the bank of the River Teith, west of the castle as far as the confluence with the Dragon Burn. Multi-stemmed alder trees are particularly abundant here. This vegetation was identified as native woodland in the NWSS although it is a single line of trees rather than a woodland. A track passes down between two meadows, from the castle car park to the Dragon Burn (*Figure 2.5.21*). The track is lined by mature ash trees (T579-582) that are noted in the HWA report. The largest tree (T680) has a stem diameter exceeding 1m and possesses the features of a veteran tree.

Figure 2.5.21

Figure 2.5.22

Figure 2.5.23

Figure 2.5.24

There are three meadow areas, all defined by post and wire fencing (*Figures 2.5.22 & 2.5.23*). It is understood that the meadows are managed through seasonal grazing by horses. The riverside footpath (*Figure 2.5.24*) is well used by local residents and visitors to the castle and offers panoramic views towards the castle and across the River Teith into the Blair Drummond Estate. The meadow to the west of the sub-area is defined by residential houses and a series of domestic hedgerows beyond the post and wire

fences. 6b: Beech Wood - This is a very distinct woodland area, comprising a mixed plantation on the steeply scarp slope above the River Teith, between Doune Castle and Castle Hill to the north (*Figure 2.5.25*). The majority of the wood has been planted with a mixture of beech and Japanese larch (*Larix kaempferi*), with a small area at the eastern end planted with sycamore, beech and Scots pine. The plantation provides an attractive backdrop to the castle and is appropriate in character (*Figure 2.5.26*). It has not been thinned recently and this is now required, as the trees are growing densely.

A narrow footpath runs north west to south east along the top of the slope through the woodland (*Figure 2.5.27*) and is accessed at the western edge through a new wooden field gate (*Figure 2.5.28*). Access from the east is via a new steel estate gate, which also serves as the access point for the footpath to Castle Hill and Doune Village.

Figure 2.5.25

Figure 2.5.26

Figure 2.5.27

Figure 2.5.28

6c: Dragon Burn - This is an area of wet grassland, with woodland, which occupies the valley sides of the Dragon Burn. This sub-area runs north-south through character area 6 and links the southern edge of the village to the River Teith.

A band of trees extends along most of the length of the Dragon Burn within the study area (*Figure 2.5.29*). At its southern end these include several mature oak trees as well as scrub of grey willow and blackthorn. At its northern end, trees occur as an open scrubby woodland of semi-mature ash with hawthorn, goat willow, birch and elder (*Sambucus nigra*) on the steep eastern slope above the burn.

Where the burn spills out across the grassland, especially as it nears the River Teith, the grassland is marshy in character (*Figure 2.5.30*). On the higher slopes the grassland is neutral, semi-improved (*Figure 2.5.31*).

An informal path leads from the edge of the village into the character area and appear to be well used by local residents (*Figure 2.5.32*).

Figure 2.5.29

Figure 2.5.30

Figure 2.5.31

Figure 2.5.32

6d: River Teith Woodland - A narrow strip of mixed woodland (*Figure 2.5.33*) is present on the northern bank of the River Teith, extending from the Dragon Burn to the Bridge of Teith. The wood contains mature beech, oak, sycamore and Scots pine trees, plus alder adjacent to the river. The wood is predominantly mature but small patches in the woodland have been planted in the last 30 years and contain semi-mature beech, ash, oak and grey alder. The wood contains several distinctive mature trees (*Figure 2.5.34*) identified in the HWA report, including several contorted beech trees developed from an outgrown hedge. The wood was identified as a native wood in the NWSS and is also the only area of identified LEPO (*section 2.6.1*).

This is a historic route through the character area and a well-used footpath passes through the wood today, across a small stone bridge over the Dragon Burn (*Figure 2.5.35*) and on to the busy A84 road. The wood extends beyond the footpath to the Bridge of Teith. The remnants of gate piers, with estate railing can be seen adjacent to the bridge (*Figure 2.5.36*). Red squirrels have been observed in the wood during the site surveys. A small number of self-set rhododendron bushes are present here, especially along the northern boundary with the residential properties which lies to the south of the village.

Figure 2.5.33

Figure 2.5.34

Figure 2.5.35

Figure 2.5.36

2.6 A Review of the Landscape Resource

The landscape resource can be broadly divided into natural and man-made fabric. The natural fabric of the landscape comprises all the living elements such as the trees, woodland, grassland etc, which is supported by the underlying geology and soils. The man-made fabric broadly comprises the built features across the study area, such as the boundary features, walls, furniture and sculpture. The buildings within the study area are included within the man-made fabric and are considered in terms of their relationship and contribution to the landscape setting. The natural and man-made elements combine, to create the unique landscape character for the setting of Doune Castle and the special qualities of place. The following section describes the natural and man-made fabric within the study area.

2.6.1 Natural Fabric National Forest Inventory

All of the woodland on the site is defined as broadleaved woodland on the National Forest Inventory[1].

Native Woodland

The Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (NWSS)[2] identifies a strip of woodland on the bank of the River Teith extending west from the castle to the Bridge of Teith as native woodland. The survey identified the area as containing a mosaic of the following woodland type:

- British *Fraxinus - Acer campestre - Mercurialis perennis* forests (1.53ha)
- Exotic conifer plantations (0.24ha)
- Mixed Atlantic *Quercus* forests with *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (0.12ha)
- Broadleaved deciduous woodland (0.47ha)

The areas of native woodland are illustrated at *Figure 2.6.1*.

Ancient & Long-established Woodland

A strip of woodland on the bank of the River Teith extending from the Dragon Burn to the Bridge of Teith is recognised as long established woodland of plantation origin (LEPO), dating from at least c1860 (OS first edition)(*Figure 2.6.2*). This woodland lies adjacent to the Wood of Doune, which is a large woodland beyond the A84 road to the west of the study area, and which is also recognised as a LEPO with areas dating from at least c1750 (Roy Military Survey map) and c. 1860.

No ancient woodland is recognised on site. Ancient woodland is recognised where woods with a semi-natural stand are shown on maps from c1750 or c1860. The nearest area of ancient woodland is an area of woodland in Blair Drummond on the southern bank of the River Teith, to the south of Castle Green. The areas of long-established woodland on the site and ancient woodland on adjoining land are illustrated at *Figure 2.6.1*.

Ancient & Veteran Trees

Ancient and veteran trees are a rare and scare habitat with unique biodiversity interest. The UK is believed to support the largest proportion of such trees in Northern Europe.

Ancient trees are trees which are ancient in terms of the years they have lived, and include trees which have lived to a great age compared with others of the same species. The age of ancient tree depends on its species and factors such as the site on which the tree grows. Birch trees are considered ancient at a far younger age (around 150 years) than oak trees (at least 400 years), whereas very long lived species such as yew are

1 www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/national-forest-inventor

2 www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/habitats-and-species/habitat-map-of-scotland/

not considered ancient until they are around 800 years old. Ancient trees are typically low, fat and squat in shape, have a broad girth and often have a hollowed or hollowing trunk[3].

Veteran trees are not necessarily ancient trees. Veteran trees instead are defined by the ancient characteristics they display, irrespective of their age. Such characteristics include stag-headed crowns, hollowed trunks and gnarling. These features may come about through natural damage, management or the environment in which the tree grows. No trees in the study area are currently recorded on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory[4]. The inventory is based on surveys by volunteers and absence of records does not indicate that trees of this type are absent from the site.

The nearest recorded veteran trees are three beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) that are recorded offsite with two notable giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) in the Blair Drummond woodland on the southern bank of the River Teith to the south of Castle Green. The Tree register records many champion specimens for Doune Park, beyond the PiC area.

Broad-leaved semi-natural Woodland

Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland occurs in many areas across the site in particular adjacent to the River Teith and Ardoch Burn and the majority of woodland comprises species such as pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with a varied ground flora (*Figure 2.6.3*).

Much of the woodland appears to be of ancient origin, with areas of planting of tree species that are not native to the area including beech, sycamore, and common lime (*Tilia x europaea*).

Scattered Broad-Leaved Trees

There are a number of scattered broad-leaved trees across the study area, including oak, ash and wych elm.

Inventory of Gardens & Designed Landscapes

The landscape within the study area is not in the HES Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. Doune Park[5], centred on Doune Lodge approximately 1.5km north-west of the study area is in the inventory. The Dendrochronicle report speculates that this formed part of the medieval park associated with the castle, but the listing is for the early nineteenth century designed landscape and arboretum. The woodlands and fields located on the southern bank of the River Teith immediately to the south of the study area fall within Blair Drummond[6] which is also listed on the HES inventory. The study area is surrounded by designed landscapes, however, not all are worthy of inclusion on the inventory, which only records those of national importance.

Grassland - Neutral Semi-Improved

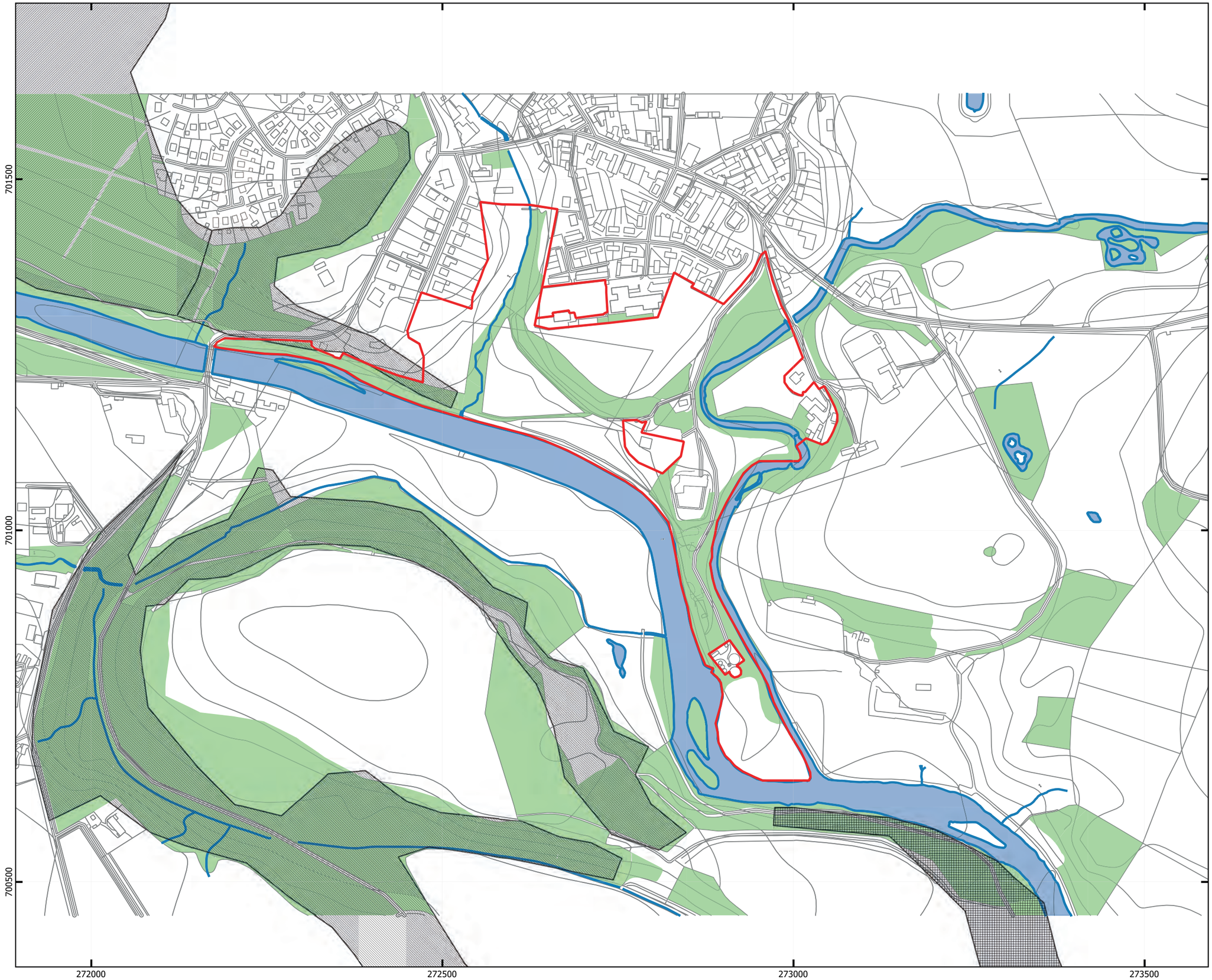
The meadow areas within the study area have been predominantly characterised as neutral semi-improved grassland (*Figure 2.6.4*), due to the range of species observed during the site surveys, which indicate floristic diversity. It is understood that these areas are seasonally grazed by a small number of horses. Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and in the most rank under managed areas, cock's-foot and false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), appeared to be the most common grass species.

3 Ancient Tree Guide 4: What Are Ancient, Veteran and Other Trees of Special Interest? Woodland Trust, 2008.

4 https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/tree-search.

5 http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/GDL00140

6 http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/GDL00060



Key:

- Study area boundary
- Woodland
- Watercourses & bodies
- Ancient Woodland (1750)
- Ancient Woodland (1860)
- Long-established woodlands of plantation origin (1750)
- Long-established woodlands of plantation origin (1860)
- Other woodlands on 'Roy' sites

NB: Draft plan does not show NWSS native woodland

Figure 2.6.1 - Doune Castle Woodland Overview Plan

Enviroscope Consulting Ltd
York Eco Business Centre, Amy Johnson Way,
York, YO30 4AG
Tel: 01904 479094 Email: info@enviroscope.co.uk

Client: Historic Environment Scotland

Project:Doune Castle

Map: Woodland Overview Plan

Sheet: 1 of 1

Scale: 1:5,000 @A3

Date: 07/03/2020

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673

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Within character area 6 are three fields of neutral semi-improved grassland and smaller areas alongside the Dragon Burn. Here greater species richness was found, with notable species including yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), eyebright (*Euphrasia agg.*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and orchid (most likely *Dactylorhiza sp.*).

The meadow area at the southern tip of character area 4 was cut and presumably a hay crop was removed at the end of 2019. Species including common knapweed and pignut (*Conopodium majus*) were observed here during the site surveys. Other species recorded included Yorkshire fog, yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*).

There is also a significant area of semi improved grassland in character area 5, which despite being rank, common knapweed was observed. Species rich grassland within the site is likely to qualify as UK Priority Habitat 'Lowland Meadow'.

Grassland - Marshy

There are two areas of marshy grassland within the study area. An area adjacent to the entrance drive, within character area 2 occurs where a historic well began to flood the area and dominated by soft rush and meadowsweet. The encroachment of willow (*Salix sp.*) scrub and trees from the adjacent woodland suggests a transition towards woodland.

The most significant area of marshy grassland is found adjacent to the Dragon Burn in character area 6 (*Figure 2.6.5*). This is a species rich area and is likely to qualify as the UK Priority Habitat 'Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture'. Abundant species in this habitat include meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and rushes including soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) and jointed rush (*Juncus articulatus*). Other herbs recorded include water mint (*Mentha aquatica*), sedges (*Carex spp.*) and greater bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus)*. Scattered bramble scrub appears however to be encroaching into this grassland.

Grassland - Amenity

Character area 3 has amenity grassland adjacent to the car park, footpaths and within the castle courtyard. This amenity grass is mown on a regular basis, however grass on the banks and ditches of the scheduled monument, which provide the immediate landscape setting of the castle, have been left to grown longer, with a plan to provide a more natural, ecologically rich habitat. Early photographs of the castle illustrate the ditches and banks as being grazed by cattle, which would have given rise to a relatively close cropped and tussocky sward. At the time of site surveys, these areas of unmanaged grass appeared untidy and visually clutter the landscape setting (*Figure 2.6.6*).

Scrub

Across the study area are patches of scrub vegetation, the most visually prominent of which lies to the south of the castle and occupies the banks and ditches of the scheduled monument (*Figure 2.6.7*). This area predominantly comprises broom (*Cytisus scoparium*), bramble, beech saplings and rank grasses including cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) which has changed the character of the banks and ditches and is now obscuring views to the castle from the south.

A small area of dense continuous blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) scrub lies alongside the Ardoch Burn in character area 2 and has a footpath through the centre, creating an unusual, playful landscape feature within an otherwise open landscape.


Figure 2.6.2


Figure 2.6.3


Figure 2.6.4


Figure 2.6.5


Figure 2.6.6


Figure 2.6.7


Figure 2.6.8


Figure 2.6.9

Plants, Lichens & Lower Plants

There is no ornamental horticulture at Doune Castle. Plants, lichens and lower plants are however found within areas of broadleaved, semi-natural woodland. The ground flora is variable and often includes abundant great woodrush (*Luzula sylvatica*) and male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) (*Figure 2.6.8*). A significant area colonised by male-fern with Hart's tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*) occurs within character area 3, where the steep southern slopes of the bank and ditch landscape is covered by ferns.

Other ground flora species recorded include red campion (*Silene dioica*), hard shield-fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*), tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*), raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) and brambles (*Rubus fruticosus agg.*).

Water

The River Teith, a tributary of the River Forth, lies to the south of the castle and is a well known salmon (*Salmo salar*) river. The river is designated as A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) due to the presence of sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*) and river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*).The river is fast flowing and was observed to be in spate during the site surveys. A number of trees growing along the river bank are being undercut by the strong current and there are frequent signs that trees are lost to the flow. The river defines the southern boundaries of the character areas 3,4 and 6 and animates the landscape.

The Ardoch Burn (*Figure 2.6.9*) runs south through the study area from the Braes Of Doune and joins the River Teith at the south eastern point of character area 4. The Ardoch Burn is a narrow, meandering burn, which also had a fast flow at the time of site surveys. Steeply wooded banks define the course of the burn as it passes adjacent to the castle and throughout the study area, the burn is enclosed by broadleaved, semi-natural woodland. Access and visibility to the burn, for visitors to the castle, is limited to a lower lying area to the east of the castle, which occupies a meander bar. Here a pebble beach and exposed bedrock is accessible.

The Dragon Burn lies to the west of the study area, running south from the village to the River Teith, within character area 6. This smaller watercourse has a stone and earth substrate and has adjacent marshy grassland, which is species rich. The burn dissects the character area and flows beneath a small bridge before joining the river Teith.

2.6.2 Species supported by the Habitats at Doune Castle

The habitats within the study area support a diverse range of species, which have been identified both in desk study and from the site survey.

Invertebrates

Two purple hairstreak (*Favonius quercus*) records were located immediately adjacent and within the site.

Amphibians

No ponds were identified within the site, the marshy grassland and watercourse in the north of site may form areas of standing water which may support breeding amphibians, however these are likely to be ephemeral and suboptimal. Habitats within the site provides opportunities for amphibians during their terrestrial phase, notably wet woodland, marshy grassland, dense scrub and grassland. Records of common toad (*Bufo bufo*), palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*) and common frog (*Rana temporaria*) were returned from the desk study, located within or close to the site.

Reptiles

Whilst no records of reptiles were returned during the desk study, habitats within the site provide opportunities for reptiles, notably marshy grassland, semi-improved grassland, scrub and woodland.

Nesting Birds

Habitats within the site provide numerous opportunities for nesting birds, notably woodland, trees, scrub, grassland, running water and buildings. Three Schedule 1 birds species records were cited within the study area, two red kites and a redwing. Records of birds listed on the BoCC amber list within the site include; common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*), dunnock (*Prunella modularis*), house martin (*Delichon urbicum*), lesser black-back gull (*Larus fuscus*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), swift (*Apus apus*) and willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).

Tree creeper (*Certhia familiaris*), goosander (*Mergus merganser*), nuthatch (*Sitta europaeus*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), great tit (*Parus major*) and long-tailed tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*) were observed during the survey.

Roosting Bats

Numerous trees within the site are of an age-class and condition which provide features with suitability for roosting bats. Buildings within the site, notably the castle itself, are suitable for roosting bats, and it is understood that there are known bat roosts within the buildings. In addition, the ice house remains, east of Doune Castle, comprise a subterranean tunnel approximately 3m long with openings at each entrance, they do not lead to a large cavity typical of other ice houses. Small cavities are present in the stonework of the tunnel ceiling. This feature is considered to be suitable for roosting bats. 35 records of roosting bats were returned from the desk study within the last 15 years. 11 records of hibernating bats and one unknown roost type were cited at Doune Castle containing, common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*) and unidentified pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus sp.*). 22 roost records, occurred ~415m north-west of the site in the residential area of Doune, containing 10 – 1001 soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) of a unknown roost type.

Commuting and Foraging Bats

Habitats within and adjacent the site, notably woodland edge, running water, grassland, provide high quality foraging and commuting opportunities for bats. The dark and riparian nature of the site with large areas of woodland edge are noteworthy. 37 records of bats were returned from the desk study of a unknown type, including 27 soprano pipistrelle, four common pipistrelle, two unidentified pipistrelle, one brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*) and one unidentified myotis (*Myotis sp.*). The soprano pipistrelle was recorded in a large grid square which overlapped the site

Badger

Habitats within the site are suitable for badger, although no evidence of badger was observed during the survey.

Beaver

Beaver are known to be present in the Tay river catchment and are assumed to be present in the Teith catchment. No evidence of beaver presence was observed within the site.

Otter

Watercourses within and adjacent the site provide opportunities for foraging otter. Habitats and features adjacent the watercourses may provide opportunities for use as resting sites, however much of the site is subject to disturbance from public access. Less disturbed areas of the site such as north and east of the Ardoch Burn provides suitable shelter. Otter surveys carried out by Wild Surveys Ltd in 2018 found several otter spraints along the Ardoch Burn water course, along with several potential otter hover and holt locations from exposed tree roots and rocky banks within the site. However no otters were confirmed sheltering within the site. Anecdotal evidence of an otter on

the River Teith (pers. comm. Jane Winter) was provided.

Red Squirrel

Woodland habitat was assessed as being suitable to support red squirrel drays during the protected species survey in 2018 and at least three red squirrels were observed in woodland in the west of site during the site survey. Woodland throughout the site provides opportunities for red squirrel.

Water Vole

Watercourses within the site provide opportunities for water vole, however the dense shading from wooded areas provide limited ground cover and are considered to be sub-optimal.

Lamprey

River Teith and Ardoch Burn provide suitable spawning and migratory habitat for Lamprey and two records of up to 100 unidentified Lamprey (*Lampetra* sp.) were record in the River Teith, immediately adjacent to the site, in the south east, during SAC site condition monitoring surveys.

2.6.3 Man-made Fabric Banks & Ditches

Doune Castle sits on a substantial raised, grass covered mound, with ditches and banks to the north and south (*Figure 2.6.10*). This mound provides an uncomplicated landscape setting for the castle, with the castle appearing as the dominant element in the landscape scene. It was noted that vegetation is being allowed to grow unchecked around the castle and specifically upon the banks and ditches, which is, over time, reducing the visual dominance of the castle (*Figure 2.6.11*). Early photographs (*section 4.3*) illustrate how this vegetation is changing the landscape.

The mound is a favourite place for visitors and many wish to circumnavigate the external walls of the castle. Increasing numbers of visitors are having a negative impact upon the mound, banks and ditches, with below ground archaeology now exposed in a number of places (*Figure 2.6.12*).

Buildings & Structures

The buildings and structures within the study area are a key feature of the landscape setting and represent the use, architectural styles and tastes of the successive custodians of Doune Castle. Many of the built elements are listed for their special architectural and historic interest.
Doune Castle dominates the landscape setting, however scrub vegetation is being allowed to grow unchecked on the banks and ditches, which is gradually reducing the visual dominance of the castle, especially in views from the south.

The other buildings and structures in the study area reflect the use of the site, predominantly during the eighteenth century, with Castle Keeper's Cottage (*Figure 2.6.13*) and Castlebank Cottage being built close to the castle and the farm buildings relocated to the east of Ardoch Burn. Castlebank Cottage has a tenant resident and is outwith the study area, although the building forms a visible part of the wider landscape, especially from views from the west of the study area.

The farm buildings and yard to the east of Ardoch Burn are now occupied by the Monument Conservation Unit (MCU) (*Figure 2.6.14*). The ruins of Doune Mill are located within character area 2 and are not accessible to visitors due to poor structural condition (*Figure 2.6.15*). Glimpsed views of the mill are afforded from the western bank of Ardoch Burn, however the building is largely concealed by incongruous vegetation.

These buildings provide focal points and links to the historical development of the


Figure 2.6.10


Figure 2.6.11


Figure 2.6.12


Figure 2.6.13


Figure 2.6.14


Figure 2.6.15


Figure 2.6.16


Figure 2.6.17

landscape over time, they contribute significantly to the character and facilitated historic actives and land-use within the landscape.

Boundaries - Walls

There are a series of stone walls which are an integral part of several areas within the landscape. Predominantly random coursed, these stone walls retain earth banks, define the drive (*Figure 2.6.16*), partially enclose the farm yard and are visible within the landscape as semi-extant features. Within character area 2 there are extant retaining walls, the most substantial is up to 3m in height, and extends for approximately 50m, protecting the pronounced bend in the Ardoch Burn to the north of Doune Mill. Although largely obscured by vegetation, the wall is built of roughly coursed stone.

The wall which defines the southern boundary of the beech wood, within character area 6, is leaning significantly in places and is showing signs of tree roots compromising the structural integrity (*Figure 2.6.17*). These walls not only add to the character of the landscape, they also provide visual links to the historic development of the landscape over time, hinting at former land-uses and areas of enclosure.

Boundaries - Iron Estate Railing

A number of areas are defined using iron estate railing, which provide a physical definition between the more formal areas of the landscape, such as gardens and signalling the change of character between the two areas, whilst allowing intervisibility. Typically these railings define the nineteenth century landscape, with stretches still extant at Castle Keeper's Cottage *(Figure 2.6.18)* and to the east of Castlebank Cottage.

A small section of heavily damaged railing can also be found in character area 6, adjacent to the small bridge which crossed the Dragon Burn. Railing can be seen attached to a former stone gate pier, denoting a gateway between the castle grounds and the wider landscape to the west (*Figure 2.6.19*). In character area 2 there is a series of extant steps which lead down to the riverbank adjacent to Doune Mill, which has iron estate railing and handrail.

Boundaries - Wooden Fencing

A wooden slat fencing, which has a domestic character, has been used in character area 1 to define the garden boundary of Castlebank Cottage (*Figure 2.6.20*) and the southern boundary of the grass knoll.

Boundaries - Post & Wire Fencing

Post and wire fencing is a characteristic feature of the meadow areas within the study area, defining individual fields, presumably for stock control. A section of post and wire fencing has been installed alongside part of the footpath along the River Teith, where the path follows the river bank closely, to define the PiC boundary (*Figure 2.6.21*). The post and wire fencing across the study area appeared to be in good condition and was structurally sound.

Boundaries - Gates

There are a number of gates across the study area, which vary from decorate wrought iron to functional 5 bar wooden farm gates. The vehicular gate at Castle Keeper's Cottage is always open to allow access to the river for fishermen and for Scottish Water to access the sewage works (*Figure 2.6.22*). This is a decorative gate, with an 'M' in the centre and a scroll and latch to the top, which has an arts and crafts character (*Figure 2.6.23*). The gate is an important feature of the late nineteenth to early twentieth century landscape, although it is almost hidden by the trees behind it.

Kissing gates were positioned at key gateways and the only extant gate is at Castle Keeper's Cottage (*Figure 2.6.24*). The use of semi-circular slabs of stone is an interesting


Figure 2.6.18


Figure 2.6.19


Figure 2.6.20


Figure 2.6.21


Figure 2.6.22


Figure 2.6.23


Figure 2.6.24


Figure 2.6.25

feature, enclosing the decorative iron pedestrian gate.

A wooden kissing gate has been installed on the footpath alongside the River Teith in character area 6 (*Figure 2.6.25*).

Bridges

There is one bridge within the study area and one immediately adjacent to the north eastern boundary of character area 2. Bridges facilitate movement through landscape and provide focal points.

In character area 6, a small single-span, stone-built, arched bridge crosses the Dragon Burn and is mostly hidden within the vegetation surrounding the burn. Most of its stone parapet had been removed and its upper portions had been modified. A kissing gate style gateway, with six vertical slabs, secured with iron straps, has been erected in staggered pairs, probably to stop vehicular traffic and allow pedestrian access across the bridge (*Figure 2.6.26*).

The category A Bridge of Ardoch spans the Ardoch Burn, at the north east external boundary of character area 2. Built in rubble stonework, with a single span arch, there is a large rectangular stone with an inscription '*Built upon the Publick Expense of the Shire AD 1733*'.

Roads & Paths

There are two hard surfaced, single track roads through the study area. The main access drive runs through character area 1 and provides access for everyone to Doune Castle and the landscape setting (*Figure 2.6.27*). A second, less formal, grass block road provides access into character area 4 for fishermen and access to the sewage works. The grass block surface extends from the car park to the castle, with an informal gravel & dirt surface on the remained of the road down to the sewage works.

Elsewhere a series of formal and informal paths and visitor made, desire lines enable access into the castle and wider landscape of the study area. The formal cobble path which extends from the car park towards the castle has a worn grass sward at either side, indicating the visitors veer off the hard surface (*Figure 2.6.28*).

The informal path running alongside the River Teith is well used by local residents and visitors to Doune Castle. At the time of site surveys, the surface was wet and muddy.

Artificial Surfaces

There are artificial surfaces within character area 1 (*Figure 2.6.29*).

Furniture & Information

There are two benches located alongside the River Teith in character area 4 (*Figure 2.6.30*). The benches are urban in character and it is understood that they have had to be replaced recently due to vandalism.

There is one information board located at the edge of the car park, which provides important information for visitors about the castle (*Figure 2.6.31*). This board is difficult to see if cars are parked close by and would benefit from re-location to a more visually accessible site, which does not however detract from the character of the castle setting. There were no information boards observed to provide information about the landscape in the study area.

Sculpture

Three small pieces of sculpture were observed during the site surveys, all of which are located within character area 4. A small salmon carved into a low stone is located


Figure 2.6.26


Figure 2.6.27


Figure 2.6.28


Figure 2.6.29


Figure 2.6.30

Figure 2.6.31


Figure 2.6.32


Figure 2.6.33

alongside the Ardoch Burn (*Figure 2.6.32*), positioned to face the burn, making it difficult to see. An otter carved into a stone is also positioned close to the Ardoch Burn, within the tree and is difficult to see within the woodland.

A small bronze sculpture is located to the north of the character area, adjacent to character area 3 and depicts all the wildlife found along the valley of the River Teith and Ardoch Burn, including otter, lamprey, salmon, red squirrel and kingfisher.

Temporary Fabric

A temporary steel scaffold bridge has been erected at the foot of the castle mound alongside the River Teith, where the erosion of the river bank has compromised the structural integrity of the footpath (*Figure 2.6.33*). It is understood that the riverbank is being undercut by the action of the river and there is a need to reinforce the bank.

A temporary mini-bus parking area has been created to the east of the castle, on the scheduled monument, as visitor numbers continue to rise and parking for mini-buses is difficult due to the small car park. This temporary base is defined to the east by heras fencing and creates a strong negative visual impact upon the scheduled monument and setting of the castle (see *section 2.5.3*).

3

3.1 Introduction

Decisions affecting the historic environment should be based on careful consideration of **cultural significance**. This helps to ensure that the historic environment can be appreciated today and passed on with confidence for the future.

> "*Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance can be embodied in a place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.* (Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 2013)".

3.2 Statement of Significance for the Landscape and Woodland

The footprint of the castle and the Roman fort are scheduled monuments and are considered to be of national significance. The wider landscape of the PiC study area lies within the Doune conservation area, giving it regional significance.

Doune Castle lies on a promontory between the River Teith and the Ardoch Burn, on the southern edge of the Trossachs and represents one of the earliest surviving examples of a planned royal residence.

Agricola built a short-lived fort at Doune c 80 AD during his invasion of northern Britain. Although Doune Castle is widely believed to have been built in the early late fourteenth by Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany, it incorporates elements of an earlier, thirteenth century fortification. Geophysical survey suggests this was built upon a scarped natural mound; given the castle's location, close to the crossing overlooked by the Roman Fort, the medieval masonry and earthworks may seal earlier remains.

There are disparities between the size of the castle and documentary evidence indicating significant numbers of high-status guests. It seems likely that the remains visible today formed only part of the original castle. Throughout the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the castle served as a royal hunting lodge and dower house to several Scottish queens. In the late sixteenth century, it passed to the Earls of Moray and during the Jacobite Rising of 1745/6 was garrisoned and used as a prison. Thereafter it fell out of use, becoming ruinous and a tourist attraction.

Sarah Murray, one of the earliest women to write travel guidebooks, mentioned sketching opportunities at Doune Castle in 1799, *"Murray's familiarity with the castles mentioned suggest that visitors to Scotland were already absorbing them into a map of sights to see and scenes to tick off"* (MacLeod A (2018) The Picturesque Castle in Scotland Visual Representations c1770-1870). The Statistical Account by Alexander McGibbon (1798) described Doune Castle in a six page description as "*romantically situated*".

Eighteenth and early nineteenth century engravings and plans show various farm and other buildings close to the castle, including a second water mill to its south. Eighteenth and nineteenth century historic mapping shows that extant farm buildings and possibly domestic dwellings had disappeared by the beginning of the twentieth. These may have built upon or re-used buildings such as the stables and brewery associated with the castle in the Medieval period; equally, the Mill of Doune, which may well be the result of several building phases, is recorded in the Medieval period. The so-called icehouse, itself probably a nineteenth century construction, may well be formed of partially demolished Medieval structures.

Entrusted in to state care by Douglas John Stuart, 20th Earl of Moray, in 1984 the PiC study area is now managed by HES and welcomes increasing numbers of visitors from

around the world, partly due to the popularity of the castle as a filming location.

3.2 Assessment of Values

The range of values that may contribute to the significance of a place can be categorised under the following headings.

- ***Evidential Value***: the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- ***Historical Value:*** the associative or illustrative ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.
- ***Aesthetic Value:*** the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a heritage asset or place, which can be designed or fortuitous.
- ***Communal Value:*** the associated meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. Communal values embrace spatial, social and inspirational values.
- ***Arboricultural & Ecological Value:*** biodiversity (the range of flora and fauna) and the quality of habitats.

Within each of the main categories of heritage value, the following degrees of significance have been adopted:

- ***Outstanding:*** elements of the place that are of key national or international significance, being among the best or only surviving examples of an important type of monument, or being outstanding representatives of important social or cultural phenomena.
- ***Considerable:*** elements that constitute good and representative examples of an important class of monument (or the only example locally), or that have a particular significance through association (although surviving examples may be relatively common on a national scale) or that make major contributions to the overall significance of the monument.
- ***Moderate:*** elements that contribute to the character and understanding of the place, or that provide a historical or cultural context for features of individually greater significance.
- ***Low:*** elements that are of low value in general terms, or have little or no significance in promoting understanding or appreciation of the place, without being actually intrusive.
- ***Uncertain:*** elements that have potential to be significant (e.g. buried archaeological remains) but where it is not possible to be certain on the basis of the evidence currently available.
- ***Intrusive:*** items that detract visually from or that obscure understanding of more significant elements. Recommendations may be made on their removal or on other methods of mitigation.

3.2.1 Evidential Value

Whilst evidence of the outstanding importance and significance of the castle is clear, evidence of the importance of the landscape setting remain uncertain, with small-scale archaeological investigations largely targeted to support building surveys and conservation work. Excavated and geophysical survey evidence for the Roman fort is also considerable leading to enhanced understandings of the Gask Ridge frontier.

Whilst the focus is and has historically been on the extant remains of the Medieval castle, there is moderate although uncertain evidence for the survival of potentially Medieval and Post-medieval archaeological remains in the landscape around the extant building. In addition, there are many uncertainties relating to the Roman and post-

Roman use of the castle mound and the environs of a possible river crossing and harbour-related features. Whilst relatively little of clear significance for understanding the castle's history has been identified by small-scale archaeological excavation and geophysical prospection within the landscape, the results illustrate that the site and its surroundings have considerable archaeological potential.

Geophysical survey to the north and north-east of the castle has been limited in its extents but has revealed considerable albeit uncertain evidence for building remains; the geophysical survey area has not covered, however, much of the site of the former Castle Farm, demolished between the 1860s and 1900. It seems likely that some at least of these buildings were Medieval in origin, extra accommodation and stabling later converted into a demesne farm. Evidence for the multiple phasing or remodelling of these features it uncertain but evidence of moderate significance to understanding the site could be revealed through targeted excavation.

The mill on Ardoch Burn is almost certainly of Medieval derivation and of considerable importance to the historical narrative of the site. Although it is possible that the presently-extant building is later in date it may well incorporate evidence of early building phases or material remains. The earthworks to the south of the castle appear to represent buildings shown on historic mapping to have been a mill in the late eighteenth century. Other possible buildings to the south of the modern sewage works have been identified by geophysical survey. It is possible also that there were earlier buildings on the peninsula to the south of the castle related to its uses during the Roman, post-Roman and Medieval periods. The date and significance of these features remains uncertain but could have considerable significance and could be characterised through targeted excavation.

3.2.2 Historical Value

In its present form, Doune Castle's outstanding significance derives in part from it being understood to have been built as the quasi-royal personal stronghold of Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany, son of King Robert II and Regent of Scotland from 1388 until his death in 1420.

Doune Castle also has considerable significance as a Royal Park, being referred to in 1456, during the reign of James II, and a Royal Park Keeper is recorded there in 1459-60 and 1491-2. There is documentary evidence to suggest that the wider wooded landscape surrounding the castle was used by James II, James III and James IV as they all used the castle as a place to stay for hunting days in the Forests of Glenfinglas and Glenartney. Doune was of moderate importance in the sixteenth century: although documentary sources indicate that Mary Queen of Scots broke up outlying parts of the Doune estate to help pay for its upkeep, James VI was a frequent visitor. He was a keen hunter and spent time away from the court, moving from hunting lodge to hunting lodge; it was reported that 'he loves the chase above all pleasures'. In 1580, the same year he paid for extensive repairs to Doune Castle, including the reparation of the dyke, James VI wrote that he had found the castle and the fields around it 'maist pleasant for our pastyme and verray commodious for our dwelling in the symmer seasoun'.

In general, Medieval castles re-emerged as important cultural features in Britain during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They became important attractions in the grand tours of this period and frequently appeared in romantic poetry and engravings; Doune has moderate importance having being depicted as a romantic ruin in several late eighteenth century drawings and paintings; by Captain Hutton (c 1781), Sir John

Clerk (c 1785), Adam de Cardonnel (1788) and Francis Grose (1790). Scottish castles in particular formed the backdrops in the novels of Sir Walter Scott, Doune being one moderately significant example: Sir Walter Scott's anonymously published novel Waverley (1814), used Doune Castle as one of its many romanticised locations. The novel is set during the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 with the protagonist imprisoned there.

By the end of the eighteenth century, Doune castle had no roof and was allowed to decay, becoming a picturesque ruin within a pastoral and wooded landscape. At this point in its history it has low historical significance although was moderately significant in terms of its aesthetic value as a picturesque ruin. The associated farm buildings were partially demolished and may have been re-modelled to create the icehouse as a romantic folly adjacent to the picturesque ruin. Any formal gardens that may have existed, perhaps from the time the castle was used as a royal dower house, would have been swept away, when the castle was allowed to decay and photographic evidence illustrates that the landscape was maintained by grazing cattle in the picturesque style.

3.2.3 Aesthetic Value

Medieval castles re-emerged as important cultural features in Britain during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They became important attractions in the grand tours of this period and frequently appeared in romantic poetry and engravings; Doune was depicted as a romantic ruin in several late eighteenth century drawings and paintings; by Captain Hutton (c 1781), Sir John Clerk (c 1785), Adam de Cardonnel (1788) and Francis Grose (1790). Scottish castles in particular formed the backdrops in the novels of Sir Walter Scott, Doune being one: Sir Walter Scott's anonymously published novel Waverley (1814), used Doune Castle as one of its many romanticised locations. The novel is set during the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 with the protagonist imprisoned there.

By the end of the eighteenth century, the castle had no roof and was allowed to decay, becoming a picturesque ruin within a pastoral and wooded landscape and would have had considerable significance as such. The associated farm buildings were partially demolished and may have been re-modelled to create the icehouse as a romantic folly adjacent to the picturesque ruin. Any formal gardens that may have existed, perhaps from the time the castle was used as a royal dower house, would have been swept away, when the castle was allowed to decay and photographic evidence illustrates that the landscape was maintained by grazing cattle in the picturesque style.

Over time, the landscape context of the castle has become difficult to interpret and, in some cases, lost due to intrusive encroaching and often incongruous vegetation which largely encloses the PiC area. The increasing footfall of visitors has taken a toll on the castle mound, considerably reducing the aesthetic significance.

As a late eighteenth century-early nineteenth century tourist attraction, it is possible that informal footpaths were maintained within the landscape for the use of visitors to enjoy the pastoral landscape and the presence of decorative elements, at key gateways, such as the iron gates and curved stone pillars which create the kissing gates, indicate that this was still regarded as an important landscape. A kissing gate, to the same style, was added over the deck of the stone bridge at Dragon Burn, possibly to decommission the route to grazing stock, horses and horse drawn vehicles, whilst allowing passage to pedestrians, providing a recreational route along the River Teith and through the woodlands to the Bridge of Teith, where views of the castle could be

enjoyed. These decorative features have considerable significance and contribute to the character of the landscape setting, however many of these features are now in a poor and deteriorating condition and are being replaced in a piecemeal manner with moderate alternative materials.

3.2.4 Communal Value

The communal value of the landscape and woodlands at Doune Castle is significant for the use of the PiC study area as a filming location throughout the twentieth century. Doune Castle has strong associations with Monty Python, as a filming location for the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Game of Thrones and Outlander have all been filmed in and around the castle, which has brought visitors to the castle from far and wide. With visitors keen to explore the castle environs, there is an inevitable tension between the importance and significance of the setting of scheduled monument and visitor access and enjoyment.

Doune Castle and the landscape setting is highly valued by the local community, for education, recreation and sport.

3.2.5 Ecological and Arboricultural Value

The landscape within the PiC study area supports a range of habitats of regionally and nationally significant species.

The semi-improved, neutral grasslands have the potential, with sensitive management, to be of national significance. Species-rich, unimproved neutral grassland is a UKBAP habitat of national significance, as this habitat has undergone a remarkable decline (of up to 97%) in the 20th century, almost entirely due to changing agricultural practice. The River Teith and Ardoch Burn, which adjoin the PiC study area, are both recognised as internationally significant habitats, due to the designation as a special area of conservation for the protection and conservation of lamprey.

Roosts and foraging habitats for bats are likely to be of at least local importance as are nesting bird communities.

In light of the abundance of species and habitats observed during the PEA surveys, it is highly likely that further ecological resources, which have not been identified, are present within the PiC study area.

The arboricultural resource largely dates from the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, when the castle became the picturesque ruin and may have been planted to enhance the landscape in this style. A strip of woodland on the bank of the River Teith extending from the Dragon Burn to the Bridge of Teith is recognised as long established woodland of plantation origin (LEPO), dating from at least c1860 (OS first edition). This woodland lies adjacent to the Wood of Doune, which is a large woodland beyond the A84 road to the west of the study area, and which is also recognised as a LEPO with areas dating from at least c1750 (Roy Military Survey map) and c. 1860.

Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland is regarded as a national priority habitat, however current management of the woodlands currently reduces its significance. There are some mature and veteran trees within the PiC study area, which are considered to be of national importance and may support significant habitats for regionally and nationally significant species such as bats, red squirrel and nesting birds.

4

The following section summarises current management and conservation taking place in the landscape and identifies key management issues.

4.1 Management Context

There are challenges and conflicts for the management of the landscape at Doune Castle which includes the day to day maintenance requirements of the landscape, ensuring that maintenance and conservation work is carried out with due regard to the significance and importance of the historic landscape, ensuring compliance with any protected species legislation and biodiversity guidance, and enhancing the visitor experience. External pressures may also have an influence on the landscape in the future, such as climate change and flooding, neighbours and boundaries and any future adjacent developments, such as windfarms or housing developments.

4.1.1 An Overview of the Current Management of the PiC Study Area

Doune Castle was entrusted into state care by Douglas John Stuart, 20th Earl of Moray, in 1984. The wider landscape is still under the ownership of Moray Estates Properties Limited.

The landscape is managed as a part of the wider PiC holding of HES, in accordance with the conservation principles, as set out in '*Conservation Principles for the Properties in the care of Scottish Ministers*' (September 2015).

The day to day management and conservation of the landscape is carried out by the regional maintenance team rather than by an on site landscape team and without a holistically considered management approach, which is specific to Doune Castle. Maintenance of the landscape setting appears to be largely subsumed in favour of the built environment of the castle.

The 3 fields to the west of Doune Castle were previously let to a member of the local community for grazing horses until it was terminated at their request in 2019. These 3 fields have remained vacant since then.

4.1.2 Trees & Woodlands - Previous Management Report

Tree and woodland management and maintenance is carried out using external consultants and contractors. Two recent arboricultural reports were provided for review within the LCMP.

A Historic Woodland Assessment (HWA) Report for Doune Castle was produced by Dendrochronicle following a survey in January 2018. The report covered the present study area, but extended further west to the Annet Burn and north to the Carse of Cambus north of the A84 road. The report identified a number of veteran and notable trees in the study area. The most notable of these are:

- several short lines of common lime (*Tilia x europaea*) on the bend of the Ardoch Burn to the east of the castle;
- a group of oak (*Quercus sp.*) on a knoll to the north of the castle car park;
- three sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) on the western slope of the castle mound;
- several ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) on the track from the castle to the confluence of the Dragon Burn and River Teith; and
- a strip of mature mixed woodland on the bank of the River Teith between the Dragon Burn and Bridge of Teith.

The report used evidence on the ground, including trees and earthworks, historical maps and documents to draw a speculative boundary for a medieval hunting park

associated with Doune Castle. The park excluded the study area, but is speculated to have extended north-west and north from the Wood of Doune as far as the Annet Burn, land in the vicinity of Doune Lodge and the Carse of Cambus.

4.2 Landscape Change - A Review of Historic Photographs

A good indication of the change in any historic landscape is a comparison between archive images, in this case from the HES Canmore archive and current images taken in late 2019 and early 2020. The following photographs illustrate landscape change at Doune Castle.

Figures 4.2.1 (early 1900s) and *4.2.2* (2019) illustrate the view looking south towards the castle from the car park. The early photograph illustrates land management, with cattle grazing on the earthworks. Despite this being a cropped image, there are relatively few

Figure 4.2.1 (Historic Environment Scotland)

Figure 4.2.2

trees adjacent to the castle whereas in 2019, trees grow within close proximity on the east and west. The earlier photograph also illustrates that the path to the castle from the car park is a relatively recent addition, with no hard surface visible. The management of the sward by grazing cattle results in a simple and uncluttered grassed mound, which is very much subservient to the castle.

Figures 4.2.3 (c1929) and *4.2.4* (2019) illustrate how the southern ditches and banks of the earthworks were open and well defined in c1929, however in 2019, scrub vegetation and trees have largely colonised the earthworks and the ditches and banks are now difficult to interpret.

Figure 4.2.3 (Historic Environment Scotland)

Figure 4.2.4

Figure 4.2.5 (Historic Environment Scotland)


Figure 4.2.6 (Historic Environment Scotland)

Although taken from different camera angles, these images illustrate how changes in landscape management is reflected in the landscape that we see today. *Figures 4.2.5* (possibly early to mid 1900s) and *4.2.6* (2019) illustrate how the additional tree and woodland cover adjacent to the castle created an enclosing effect, reducing both the visual dominance of the castle and legibility of the ditches and banks. To the east of the castle, an open area of grassland continues the simple and uncluttered green sward seen in *Figure 4.2.1*, however in 2019, with a reduced mowing regime both rank grassland and scrub is developing, visually reducing and enclosing the landscape setting. *Figures 4.2.7* (early 1900s) and *4.2.8* (2019) illustrate the pastoral landscape to the west of the castle. This landscape remains similar in character, with the addition of a post and wire fence along the riverbank.

Figure 4.2.7 (Historic Environment Scotland)


Figure 4.2.8

Tree cover adjacent to the castle has increased, however there appears to have been some tree losses in the meadow. There appears to be no fence between the castle and the meadow in *Figure 4.2.7* and it is likely that the landscape was grazed as one meadow, giving rise to a sward with a consistent length and character.

Castle Keeper's Cottage is seen in *Figures 4.2.9* (late 1800s-early 1900s) and *4.2.10* (2019). Originally with a thatched roof, the estate railings still define the garden area, however there is no longer any ornamental horticulture. The woodland to the rear of the cottage now encloses and dominates the cottage, whereas it was originally far more open. An informal drive can be seen to the east of the cottage, which has been replaced by a tarmac surface.

Figure 4.2.9 (Historic Environment Scotland)


Figure 4.2.10


Figure 4.2.11 (Historic Environment Scotland)


Figure 4.2.12

Figures 4.2.11 (c1930) and *4.2.12* (2019) illustrate the view from the castle looking across Castle Keeper's Cottage towards Doune.This view has changed with the addition of the plantation to the southern edge of Castle Hill. In the earlier photograph, Doune Primary School had not been built and there was clear intervisibility between the castle and the village. The tower of the Kilmadock Church can be seen in both photographs.

4.3 Condition, Conservation and Presentation

Doune Castle is an important historic asset and is a popular visitor attraction. High standards are vitally important and should be evident at all times, indicating the status and significance of the PiC, whilst low standards of maintenance can reflect badly on the custodian of the landscape.

Landscapes are in a constant state of evolution, constantly changing and can rapidly deteriorate if not frequently maintained. Condition across the PiC requires regular monitoring – both in terms of the condition of the grassed earthworks, trees, shrubs and woodland, the historic (and often listed) buildings and structures and the archaeological resource. The fabric, appearance and character of these are vulnerable to inappropriate use or change and lack of maintenance. The following observations on the current condition and presentation are made, following a thorough review of the landscape and in its historical context. Issues and vulnerabilities that could have an impact upon the significance of the asset or could affect it in the future are discussed.

4.3.1 Natural Fabric Trees & Woodlands

The landscape has a predominantly wooded character. The number of mature and veteran trees across the PiC study area enhance the character and quality of the landscape setting and provide a historic context for the landscape.

Figure 4.3.1

Figure 4.3.2

Trees and woodlands within the PiC boundary are in good condition, although management appears to be predominantly carried out on a reactive rather than proactive basis. When the need arises, trees are felled or pruned, often on an individual basis and due to their condition, health or where there is a safety risk. It is understood that no strategic tree and woodland work is carried out within the PiC boundary.

As there is a relatively high density of existing trees within the study area, there has been limited recruitment of the next generation of trees and there are limited opportunities for new tree planting.

The site surveys noted that two of the trees growing in the area of wet meadow alongside the entrance drive in character area 2 (T742 and T744) (*Figure 4.3.1*) have suffered recent large branch loss, and T742 has a birch 'air tree' growing in its crown.

In character area 3, to the east of the castle, a line of overgrown Leyland cypress x (*Cuprocyparis leylandii*) have been planted at the top of the bank, below a line of gabions supporting the track edge and now dominate the area, throwing shade across the drive and the grassed mounds of the castle.

Many of the ash in character area 4 have been infected with ash dieback. The sewage works have been planted with a screen of Leyland cypress and cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). Some of the cypress have partially collapsed and the laurel has been recently cut back. The cypress now block views of the castle from the character area and look out of character within the surrounding vegetation (*Figure 4.3.2*).

A mixed plantation, perhaps planted to screen the new primary school development, on a slope between Doune Castle and Castle Hill to the north, provides an attractive backdrop to the castle and is appropriate in character, however it has not been thinned recently and this is now required as the trees are growing densely.

The retention of deadwood across the gardens and pleasure grounds is to be commended and the opportunities for biodiversity are greatly increased.

Simpson. Tree Hazard Management Report Relating to Doune Castle. Informed Tree Services report for HES, March 2

A Tree Hazard Management Report for Doune Castle produced by Informed Tree Services following an inspection in March 2019. This followed a previous survey carried out in September 2016. The survey coverage corresponded with the present study area.

The survey recorded 232 trees individually. Trees are shown on a linked Google Earth layer. Trees were also tagged and the reference numbers for some of the trees are also used in this overview report.

The report observed that the tree population is dominated by beech, ash, pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and sycamore. Eighteen other species are recorded, including common alder (*Alnus glutionosa*), grey alder (*Alnus incana*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) and goat willow (*Salix caprea*). The proportion of age categories recorded were 21% young, 20% middle-aged, 54% mature and 5% late-mature. It was observed that 'Many of the trees are located close to roads, paths, car-parking areas or buildings. As such, should they fail they pose some risk of causing harm to neighbours, visitors and staff, or structural damage'.

The report recommended that 19 trees are removed and 20 trees should have remedial work undertaken, including: crown re-shaping, crown cleaning, removal of epicormic growth, severance of ivy and the breaking down of fallen canopy. It also recommended the moving of a fence from a tree's bole and improved drainage adjacent to one tree. Works were prioritised moderate urgency (works required within six months), low urgency (works required within one year) and very low urgency (non-essential works). The 11 trees with proposal for works of moderate urgency were inspected during the visit in January 2020. It was observed that the works had been carried out to one of the 11 trees. The report recommended that the next professional tree inspection takes place within three years (on or before 18 March 2022) and the trees are subject to six monthly walkover inspections by a staff that need not be an arboriculturist but has training in basic tree inspection and a working knowledge of trees.

Grassland

The grassland across the study area varies in management and consequently in appearance and character.

Figure 4.3.3

Figure 4.3.4

Figure 4.3.5 (Historic Environment Scotland)

The grassed mounds upon which the castle stands are maintained as close mown grass, however areas on the steep banks and to the east of the castle have been allowed to grow long with narrow paths mown through (*Figures 4.3.3, 4.3.4* and *4.3.5*). It was noted that some of these areas of longer grass looked untidy and unmanaged.

Visitors to the castle generally congregate on these grassed mounds, and seek access around the external face of the curtain wall. Heavy footfall around the external curtain wall has resulted in significance damage to the sward and the subsequent exposure of below-ground archaeology (*Figure 4.3.6*).


Figure 4.3.6

Beyond the ditches and banks of the earthworks, mowing regimes are more relaxed. Heavy tree canopies across the study area generally restrict the establishment of herb layers, however in areas of less dense canopy, native flowering plants thrive within the grassland. Low inputs ensure that the biodiversity value is high and, over time, a rich herb layer will develop.

Scrub

Whilst areas of scrub vegetation are beneficial for biodiversity, the colonisation of the southern earthworks ditches and banks by scrub vegetation is of concern.

Not only is the legibility of the scheduled monument compromised, the scrub is directing visitors to use key routes across the earthworks, resulting in the formation of desire lines. These desire lines are heavily used and subsequently the sward has significantly worn away, resulting in the exposure of below-ground archaeology. The unmanaged scrub vegetation also has an unkept and neglected appearance, reducing the quality and character of the landscape setting of the castle.

Invasive Species

The woodland alongside the Ardoch Burn contained some invasive plant species. Signs of Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) are present, a single patch of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) was observed on the western bank at the northern end, and invasive shrub snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) is also present. The is also a patch of Japanese knotweed in character area 4 alongside the Ardoch Burn. *Rhododendron ponticum* and rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) were also noted during the site survey.

4.3.2 Man-made Fabric Banks & Ditches

As previously noted, the condition of the sward on the grassed banks and ditches of the earthworks is deteriorating in places. Visitors to the castle enjoy exploring the external face of the curtain wall, however the impact of high numbers of visitors on the earthworks can be seen as erosion scars. At the time of surveys, there was also an issue with water draining from the castle directly onto the earthworks, which was also noted to be contributing to the erosion. Where scrub vegetation is restricting free access across the earthworks, strong desire lines are forming, which cut into the banks and ditches , exposing below-ground archaeology (*Figure 4.3.7*).


Figure 4.3.7

Beyond the banks and ditches, where the temporary mini-bus parking has been created, vehicles reversing onto the temporary surface have damaged the grass surface of the scheduled monument, which significantly detracts from the quality of the landscape and poses a threat to any below-ground archaeology which may be present at this location.

Stone walls within the PiC study area are in predominantly good condition, however it was noted that the retaining wall which defines the southern edge of the plantation between the castle and Castle Hill is leaning. There are several mature beech trees which stand on top of this wall and should the wall collapse, the health and longevity of the trees may be compromised (*Figure 4.3.8*).

Boundaries - Wrought Iron Estate Railing

Extant sections of estate railing are largely in a deteriorating condition, with many rails broken, affecting the structural integrity of the fence. Damaged fencing reduces the character and quality of the landscape (*Figure 4.3.9*).

Boundaries - Post & Wire Fencing

Post and wire fencing across the PiC study area is predominantly in good and structurally sound condition. Where sections of fencing are not maintained to ensure stock is securely enclosed, the condition is less than optimum (*Figure 4.3.10*).


Figure 4.3.8


Figure 4.3.9


Figure 4.3.10


Figure 4.3.11

Boundaries - Gates

There are a variety of gate styles across the landscape from decorative iron to functional wooden farm gates. These are predominantly in excellent condition, with latches and catches working well.

Stone gate piers, where they support working gates and in good condition, however the gateway to the west of the castle, at the bridge across the Dragon Burn is no longer extant and the piers are now collapsed (*Figure 4.3.11*).

Bridges

The single-span, stone-built, arched bridge which crosses the Dragon Burn is a delightful structure, which is now mostly hidden within the vegetation surrounding the burn. The stone parapet had been largely removed, possible as the bridge was modified to retro-fit the vertical slabs in a kissing gate formation. The slabs lean significantly and may


Figure 4.3.12


Figure 4.3.13

cause significant damage to the bridge, should they collapse. As the bridge lies on a well used footpath, it is worthy of repair and conservation (*Figure 4.3.12*).

Roads & Paths

Roads and path surfaces vary across the landscape. The single-track tarmac entrance drive is in largely good condition, however there had been some vehicle damage of the drive edges where cars have either driven off the hard surface to pass each other or have attempted to park (*Figure 4.3.13*). There is evidence of collapse on the other edges of the asphalt drive, due to excessive loading and use by large vehicles. Painted rocks have been placed along the drive to encourage motorists to stay on the hard surface, however the damaged edges are still visible.

Where mini-buses have driven across the kerb to access the temporary parking area,


Figure 4.3.14


Figure 4.3.15

there has been damage and at the time of site surveys, a number of the kerbs were loose and broken. This area is also accessed by tankers for the sewage works, which contribute to the wear and tear of this hard surface (*Figure 4.3.14*).

The condition of footpaths across the PiC study area varies according to the surface treatment. The cobbled path which runs from the car park to the castle is in excellent condition, however the edges have been eroded as visitors walk off the hard surface and across the earthworks (*Figure 4.3.15*). Informal paths through the wider landscape were observed to be in a wet and muddy condition, however the site surveys were carried out throughout the winter months. A short section of informal, gravel path was installed to the north of the castle, as works to consolidate the castle walls is being carried out, however this path is being eroded by visitors and the surface was observed


Figure 4.3.16


Figure 4.317

to be migrating across the earthworks (*Figure 4.3.16*). The path only allows access to the north western, external corner of the castle and appears to be very well used.

Artificial Surfaces

Grass-crete is used in character area 1 as a reinforced surface for the overflow parking area (*Figure 4.3.17*).This is largely successful, however as the area is shaded by mature trees, the growth of grass the reinforced surface is irregular, creating a patchy appearance. The reinforced surface is also becoming worn in places.

A strip of artificial grass is used to define the path from the car park to Castle Keeper's Cottage. This is an unobtrusive surface solution, however a more natural surface material on the path would be beneficial for the character of the landscape setting.


Figure 4.3.18


Figure 4.3.19

Furniture & Information

Seating opportunities throughout the landscape are poor, however those that do exist appear to be in good condition, however infrequently placed. Benches in character area 4 are located in ideal positions to appreciate a view of the River Teith although the benches themselves have an urban character (*Figure 4.3.18*).There is no design integrity or 'house style' between different pieces of furniture.

Information for visitors to the castle is limited to one board located at the edge of the car park(*Figure 4.3.19*). The landscape is cluttered, with a salt box located behind the information board. This board is difficult to see if cars are parked close by (*Figure 4.3.20*) and would benefit from re-location to the left of the entrance drive. There are no other information boards within the PiC study area.


Figure 4.3.20


Figure 4.3.21


Figure 4.3.22


Figure 4.3.23

Temporary Fabric

A temporary steel scaffold bridge and a temporary mini-bus parking surface have been installed in the landscape. The mini-bus parking area is a short-term solution to accommodate increasing visitor numbers. The footbridge is in place as the riverbank is becoming eroded, however there is an application in planning to reinstate the footpath by reinforcing the river embankment. The choice of reinforcement should be in keeping with the character of the landscape setting and by cognisant of the SAC designation of the Teith and potential changes to river hydraulics.

Both temporary structures are incongruous with the character of the landscape setting and the mini-bus parking area is a visually prominent and significantly detracting feature, especially, as it is located within the most important view of the castle and abuts the scheduled monument.

4.4 Key Issues, Vulnerabilities and Constraints

The following section identifies the key management issues and vulnerabilities for the landscape and constraints for future management. Issues and vulnerabilities have been identified through consideration of the baseline reports provided by HES, a study of the current condition of the elements which combine to create the landscape and from an understanding of current management and conservation principles for the landscape.

Issues affect the landscape as we see it today and vulnerabilities which may occur through a cessation or change of a management practice in the future are also set out below. It should be noted that whilst the appropriate management of these elements may be taking place at this time, the cessation of this practice in the future, may be considered to be a vulnerability for the historic landscape.

Many of the issues and vulnerabilities highlighted below are aesthetic in nature and are a result of landscape management being subsumed in favour of the built fabric of the PiC or in favour of accommodating /managing visitors. Issues and vulnerabilities which could affect the quality and character of the landscape in the future are:

- Any future changes in the ownership, entrusted care boundary or management responsibility, that could lead to a change in the recommended management philosophy, which could have a detrimental effect upon the character of the landscape;
- Visitor access is currently having an impact upon the landscape setting, with erosion of the earthworks and, in places, exposure of below-ground archaeology. The balance of conservation versus visitor needs and expectations is currently compromised, as high numbers of visitors continue to enjoy the PiC. This could, in the future, lead to decisions that affect the management and character of the landscape and sufficient resource must be made available to ensure that the balance remains constant;
- There is an uncoordinated approach to the management of landscape and currently management does not lie under the sole control of one HES department, leading to variations in management according to land-use priorities, such as tenanted grazing, visitor access and conservation of the built fabric. Management of the landscape appears to be largely reactive rather than proactive, responding to issues as they arise rather than planning ahead in a holistic, landscape-led manner.
- Whilst land beyond the PiC boundary is out of management control, it is still very much a part of the landscape and makes an important contribution to the character of the setting of the castle. Any inappropriate management of these areas in the future may have an effect upon the integrity of the historic landscape and could have a negative impact upon important habitats within the park. It is recommended that, once this LCMP is complete, it is shared, including future updates, with key stakeholders;
- A failure to understand and manage the sensitivity and significance of any above and below-ground archaeology, especially the scheduled monument site, will compromise their long term survival and state of preservation.
- Given the significance of the earthworks within the scheduled monument and the potential for further, currently undiscovered archaeology. All works within the scheduled area require scheduled monument consent from Historic Environment Scotland Heritage Directorate.Works should be limited to the minimum necessary for the conservation of the monument, or agreed as part of a programme or archaeological investigation to better understand the monument and its landscape, or enhance the visitor experience, subject to normal Scheduled Monument Consent;
- Maintenance responsibility has implications for resources and long-term programming and economy of scale have cost benefits for any maintenance scheme. It is essential that adequate capital provision is made for appropriate repair and maintenance of all elements which combine to create the landscape at Doune Castle and is planned for repair, enhancement and conservation projects each year;
- Any unsympathetic development within, adjacent to, or within view of the PiC boundary, may affect the territorial integrity of the historic landscape.
- A decline in appropriate tree and woodland management may result in a loss of definition and character of the woodland and may reduce the significance of the landscape;
- A decline in the condition and health of trees, due to a cessation of a management

practice or any decline attributed to pests and diseases, such as Chalara ash dieback. If disease becomes firmly established, it could significantly impact upon the character of the landscape and reduce the significance of the arboricultural and ecological resource;

- A failure to recruit the next generation of trees and maintain a varied age structure, which represents all stages in the life cycle of trees, will result in a decline in the quality and character of the landscape;
- A decline in the condition of the built fabric would have a significant impact upon the character and quality of the landscape setting;
- Repair programmes should follow best practice guidance and be undertaken by appropriately qualified specialists. Inappropriate specification or poor workmanship can damage sensitive historic fabric and accelerate rather than prevent decay;
- Protected species - it is understood that several of the buildings, built features and trees provide habitats for wildlife, bats in particular. The presence of any protected species has the potential to affect the timing or nature of any proposed repair or restoration works;
- Non-native species - invasive plant species were observed during the site surveys. If left unchecked they could possibly spread and dominate the native species which currently thrive within the landscape;
- Use of chemicals – herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers should be carefully controlled and used strictly in accordance with a site specific pesticide and chemical policy. If this is not available, the *Herbicide Handbook. Guidance on the use of Herbicides on Nature Conservation Sites* (2003) English Nature, should be used as a default guidance document. Application of chemicals should always be undertaken by staff or contractors with current certification of competence and with particular care taken close to the streams and any other water features.

4.5 Issues, Vulnerabilities and Conflicts by Character Area

The following issues, constraints and vulnerabilities have been identified for each of the character areas.

Character Area	Issues and Vulnerabilities
1- Entrance & Arrival	• The initial view of Doune Castle, seen from the entrance drive adjacent to Castle Keeper's Cottage is one of visual discord, with the landscape setting cluttered by a variety of hard and temporary surfaces and car parking infrastructure. • Car parking dominates the 'front of house' area. • Iron fencing to the west of Castle Keeper's Cottage is damaged. • Wooden fence has a domestic garden character. • Vehicle damage at the edges of the entrance drive is visible. • Information board is often hidden behind parked cars and information is limited to the castle. There is no information or directions for the wider landscape or the Roman camp. • No secure cycle parking. • The decorative iron gate at Castle Keeper's Cottage is almost hidden as it stands permanently ajar against vegetation.
2 - Ardoch Burn Meadows & Woodland	• No pedestrian access across the Ardoch Burn. • No visitor access to the Mill of Doune, due to its structural instability. • No interpretation of the former farm buildings and structures along the Ardoch Burn.

Character Area	Issues and Vulnerabilities
	• Lower canopy shrubs and ground cover vegetation are largely unmanaged to the west of the Ardoch Burn and scrub is developing. • The invasive species, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam, were both observed on the banks of the Ardoch Burn.
3 - Doune Castle	• The aesthetic character of a picturesque landscape, with the castle at its heart, has been eroded by reduced maintenance regimens, which have allowed scrub and trees to grow on the scheduled monument. • The temporary mini-bus parking area, which is located adjacent to the scheduled monument, has a significant visual impact upon the landscape setting and its use by mini-buses frequently erodes the soft fabric of the landscape as they manoeuvre into position. • Grassland to the east of the castle has been allowed to grow long, with narrow paths mown throughout, reducing the amount of open grass available for visitors to use. • Views of the south facade of the castle from Castle Green and the footpath along the River Teith are now predominantly obscured by trees and scrub vegetation. • Vegetation obscures the ditches and banks of the earthworks to the south of the castle and is now causing visitors to choose key desire lines, leading to erosion scars and the exposure of below-ground archaeology. • Scrub vegetation has an unmanaged appearance, which may result in some visitors experiencing a reduced respect for the scheduled monument. • Mountain bikers observed using the ditches and banks, which will, over time, further erode the landscape. • Erosion of the riverbank is compromising the footpath at the foot of the castle earthworks. • The temporary footbridge is an eye-sore, albeit it necessary in view of the bank erosion. • A grown out line of Leyland cypress x (*Cuprocyparis leylandii*), stands to the east of the castle, above a line of gabion baskets. The trees block views of the landscape to the east of the castle and are incongruous with the character of the landscape and woodland. • No seating opportunities within the character area. • No visible interpretation of the earthworks or wider landscape. • Estate railing to the west of the castle are in a dilapidated condition. • Grass to the edges of the main path to the castle worn and muddy. • Path surface deterioration alongside the River Teith.
4 - Castle Green	• A group trees were planted on the scheduled monument 20 to 30 years ago. • Fishermen fishing in the River Teith often park beneath the canopy of the trees growing on the scheduled monument, leading to compaction of the root-pates and potential damage of undiscovered below-ground archaeology. • Mountain bikers observed cycling beneath the canopy of the trees, leading to compaction of the root-pates and potential damage of undiscovered below-ground archaeology. • Limited seating opportunities. • No visible interpretation of the scheduled monument or wider landscape. • Location of the sewage works is a detracting (and smelly) feature, which may dissuade visitors from walking further into the character area.

Character Area	Issues and Vulnerabilities
	• Track surface damage caused by tankers driving to the sewage works.
5 - Castle Hill	• Character areas is not visible from the castle. • No visual links to the fort on the ground. • No signage to direct visitors to the Roman fort. • Single interpretation board adjacent to Doune Village. • Footpath to and from the Roman fort is difficult to follow.
6 - River Teith Meadows & Woodland	• Stone retaining wall to the south of the plantation is leaning and the potential collapse could have an impact on the health and longevity of the mature beech trees which are growing on top of the wall. • The old post and wire fence to the west of the plantation has lost structural integrity and is in a deteriorating condition. • Erosion of the riverbank has resulted in the loss of mature trees. • Garden species from the adjacent properties are escaping into the character area, which could pose a risk to the native species. • The stone slabs on the stone bridge across the Dragon Burn are leaning. Their potential collapse could have an impact on the structural integrity of the bridge. • The stone gate piers at the Dragon Burn bridge have collapsed into the vegetation. • Views towards the Bridge of Teith are restricted by vegetation. • No seating opportunities or visible interpretation of the landscape.

4.6 Key Opportunities

Character Area	Key Opportunities
1- Entrance & Arrival	• Reinstatement of the entrance gate and kissing gate off Castle Road, possibly using the vehicular gate adjacent to Castle Keeper's Cottage, so that it is displayed to best effect. • Installation of low, natural wooden bollards along the entrance to dissuade parking and encourage visitors to drive on the hard surface of the road only. • Reinstatement of species-rich grass along the edges of the entrance drive and continued management to ensure a narrow mown strip allows the visibility of wooden bollards. • Repair and conservation of the Castle Keeper's Cottage estate railings. • Replace the wooden fencing with estate railings to retain the vernacular of the site. • Reposition the information board, with clear visibility and uncluttered access. • Install secure cycle parking. • Improve wayfinding opportunities into wider landscape. • Consider providing a circular and discreetly waymarked route for pedestrians, which starts and end in the car park, which circumnavigates the entire PiC study area, taking in each of the character area. A walking trail with accompanying leaflet, that leads to and around the castle from the wider area could help reduce the number of cars parking on site. • Consider a Doune Castle 'house style' for all information boards and furniture.
2 - Ardoch Burn Meadows & Woodland	• Manage meadows for species diversity, including a low inputs regime and end of season cutting if limited grazing occurs. Encourage a combination of species

Character Area	Key Opportunities
	grazing, such as cattle, sheep and horses, to achieve a healthy sward. • Consider improved visual access to Doune Mill ruins from the western bank of the Ardoch Burn for visitors and provide sensitively placed interpretation. • Remove all invasive species with immediate effect and ensure that a programme of re-growth management is instigate to control these species.
3 - Doune Castle	• Find a permanent solution for mini-bus parking beyond the PiC area and seek to remove the temporary parking area and the associated infrastructure as soon as practically possible. Repair any ground disturbance and reinstate the grass sward with species to compliment the existing grassland of the earth-works. • Remove the self-set trees from the earthworks under an archaeological and ecological watching brief and consider using conservation grazing techniques to manage the scrub and earthworks sward, so that the character and composition of the sward achieves a simple and uncluttered landscape setting, which is subservient to the castle. Estate railing erected around the outer edge of the scheduled monument, with a series of kissing gates to allow pedestrian access, could be used to secure grazing livestock. • Repair the erosion scars on the earthworks and consider a programme of archaeological investigation to understand the earlier building phases of the castle and any potential Roman occupation of the site. The potential for later formal gardens located on the south terraces should also be investigated. • Explore various visitor management strategies and interventions to prevent erosion • Provide sensitively located interpretation about the earthworks and their historic importance. • Investigate the purpose of the ice house and provide interpretation for the former farm site. • Provide seating opportunities and encourage visitors to explore further into the landscape. • Remove the incongruous Leyland cypress outgrown hedge and screen the gabion baskets using native species of local provenance, developed as a part of the woodland management plan for the character area. • Commission a study into the erosion of the riverbank at the foot of the castle earthworks and seek to find a permanent solution, which responds to the character of the landscape setting, to protect the riverbank. Repair the footpath and remove the temporary bridge. • Remove the grass-crete in front of Castle Keeper's Cottage as alternative parking and access arrangements are put into place. • Reinstate the estate railing between the castle and Castlebank Cottage. • Encourage visitors to explore the wider landscape through improved seating opportunities and wayfinding.
4 - Castle Green	• Consider a programme of investigation to the south of the scheduled monument to understand the earthworks which are believed to be connected to the original mill. • Consider opportunities to better screen the sewage works from view. • Manage the meadow area for species diversity and mow once a year at the end of the season. • Remove all invasive species with immediate effect and ensure that a programme

Character Area	Key Opportunities
	of re-growth management is instigated to control these species.
5 - Castle Hill	• Improve wayfinding opportunities to encourage visitors to explore Castle Hill and visit Doune village.
6 - River Teith Meadows & Woodland	• Repair and conserve the fabric of the Dragon Burn bridge and reinstate the gateway by securing the stone slabs and repairing the bridge deck. • Repair, re-install and conserve the stone gate piers and repair any extant sections of estate railing. • Consider sensitively located, new tree planting adjacent to Dragon Burn, whilst retaining the wet grassland habitat. • Manage meadows for species diversity, including a low inputs regime and end of season cutting if limited grazing occurs. Encourage a combination of species grazing, such as cattle, sheep and horses, to achieve a healthy sward.

5

5.1 Future Management Approach

A series of policies and objectives have emerged, based upon a thorough understanding of the uniquely inherent qualities and characteristics of the elements which combine to create the landscape of PiC at Doune Castle, the assessment of significance and the identification of issues and vulnerabilities, potential conflicts and opportunities which may affect the landscape in the future.

5.2 Vision

With an understanding of the value and significance of the landscape, it is recommended that a vision, which inspired by spirit of place, helps guide the future restoration, management and conservation of the landscape. The vision has the overarching aim of protecting, conserving and enhancing the unique qualities and character of the landscape setting of Doune Castle, so that it may be enjoyed by current and future generations.

Key Aims and Objectives

Taking into consideration the significance of the landscape, and an understanding of the current management and conservation of the landscape, consultation with the teams at HES, it is suggested that the overarching approach to the future protection, restoration, conservation and management is:

To manage and conserve the landscape setting of Doune Castle, based upon a comprehensive understanding of the development and significance of the historic landscape, so that features are revealed, protected, restored and conserved for current and future generations to enjoy;

To conserve and maintain the setting of Doune Castle as a historic landscape, in which the elements such as earthworks, trees and woodland, buildings and structures etc are of particular merit in their own right, as well as combining to form a superb historic landscape;

To protect, and manage the landscape with a philosophy which is appropriate and beneficial to the overall quality and character of such an important historic landscape;

To enhance the visitor experience and engage with visitors about the landscape setting, encouraging wider exploration of the landscape beyond the castle;

To protect, manage and conserve the mature trees and woodlands and to instigate the recruitment of the next generation of trees in specific area, along with the replacement of any lost, significant trees;

Ensure that current and future management teams have an understanding of the significance and importance of the landscape setting of Doune Castle and are aware of the key aims and objectives established to guide current and future management, restoration and conservation; and

To use, wherever possible, environmentally sustainable methods of repair and maintenance and minimising environmental impacts by sourcing local materials. Investigate the use of renewable energy sources.

5.3 Underpinning Management

The following underpinning principles address the aims and objectives for the future management of the PiC landscape and are based upon a thorough understanding of place; of the uniquely inherent qualities and characteristics of the landscape setting of Doune Castle, an assessment of the significance of the heritage asset and the identification of the issues and vulnerabilities which may affect the landscape in the future.

The underpinning principles are presented under five strategic headings, which are then expanded to provide specific and targeted management principles as necessary:

A PROTECT
B CONSERVE
C FABRIC
D PRESENT
E PARTNERSHIP

Conservation Principles

Conservation Principles for the Properties in the care of Scottish Ministers (September 2015) sets out the approach that Historic Environment Scotland will take in conserving properties in care and states that:

> *"These principles should be clearly regarded as a standard for the work that Historic Environment Scotland carries out at its own hand rather than conservation principles for the wider historic environment".*

The Conservation Principles set out a framework for the sustainable management of the properties in care and put conservation at the heart of all operations.

1. *The purpose of conservation is to perpetuate cultural significance.*
2. *The cultural significance and the history of the monument's evolution will be understood before interventions are considered.*
3. *Our approach to dealing with climate change will be pragmatic and informed.*
4. *We will respect context and authenticity and avoid dislocation of historic fabric from its setting.*
5. *Conservation takes precedence.*
6. *We will ensure the availability of the appropriate knowledge, skills and materials to fulfil our conservation purpose.*
7. *Our approach will be respectful of those who have gone before and retain that authenticity.*
8. *Conservation interventions will be recorded and archived to help those who come after us, and we will share our experiences.*

It is with a thorough understanding of the landscape and with the Conservation Principles, providing a 'golden thread', which underpins best practice management, the following underpinning principles have been developed.

People, Place and Landscape
A position statement from Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland

People, Place and Landscape (September 2019) sets out the vision and approach of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and HES for managing change in Scotland's landscapes in response to climate change. The position statement sets out a series of five principles, which represent the approach:

1. ***All landscapes*** *– Every landscape is important because everyone has a right to live in and enjoy the benefits of vibrant surroundings.*
2. ***Shared landscapes*** *– Scotland's landscapes are a common asset and everyone has rights and responsibilities for looking after them.*
3. ***Your landscapes*** *– People and communities should always be involved in decisions that shape their landscapes.*
4. ***Understanding landscapes*** *– Decisions need to be based on understanding and awareness of both the cultural and natural dimensions of our landscapes.*
5. ***Dynamic landscapes*** *– Landscapes will continue to change, but change needs to be informed and managed to ensure they remain resilient.*

The shared vision is:

> *"All Scotland's landscapes are vibrant and resilient. They realise their potential to inspire and benefit everyone. They are positively managed as a vital asset in tackling climate change. They continue to provide a strong sense of place and identity, connecting the past with the present and people with nature, and fostering wellbeing and prosperity".*

With a commitment to update annually, the accompanying two-year Action Plan sets out the main areas of work required to deliver the vision through:

- *Talking about landscape and its range of benefits.*
- *Engaging more local communities and stakeholders to help shape future landscape change.*
- *Strengthening the role of landscape approaches in planning management and design of built development and land uses.*

Climate Action Plan, Historic Environment Scotland

Climate Action Plan (February 2020) sets out HES's approach as the Scottish Government declared a climate emergency in April 2019. Set out over a five year period, the action plan sets out a programme of work, including how HES will change operations and transforming the way that PiC are protected. The plan proposes action across seven themes, identified as key areas for the work on climate change, that span the operations and responsibilities of HES, with work is centred on four core activity strands - Innovation, Partnerships, People and Training, which underpin all seven of the main themes and facilitate delivery.

- *Climate Impacts and Adaptation*
- *Energy and Carbon Management*
- *Circular Economy*
- *Sustainable Tourism*
- *Sustainable Procurement*
- *Biodiversity and Landscape*
- *Sustainable Travel*

With the approach set out in People, Place and Landscape, the Climate Action Plan sets out a series of actions to support and improve biodiversity and landscape, including:

- *Develop Landscape Management Plans for HES Properties in Care*

PROTECTION

5.3.1 The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)

All plans, programmes, polices and strategies prepared for Scotland should be considered through the lens of the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS). This policy sets out a series of principles and policies for the recognition, care and sustainable management of the historic environment, and promotes a greater understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment. It supports the delivery of the vision and aims of Our Place in Time and takes into account principles that the Scottish and UK Governments have agreed to in international conventions on cultural heritage and landscape.

HEP1 Decisions affecting any part of the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of its breadth and cultural significance.

HEP2 Decisions affecting the historic environment should ensure that its understanding and enjoyment as well as its benefits are secured for present and future generations.

HEP3 Plans, programmes, policies and strategies, and the allocation of resources, should be approached in a way that protects and promotes the historic environment. If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place

HEP4 Changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment. Opportunities for enhancement should be identified where appropriate. If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.

HEP5 Decisions affecting the historic environment should contribute to the sustainable development of communities and places.

HEP6 Decisions affecting the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of the potential consequences for people and communities. Decision-making processes should be collaborative, open, transparent and easy to understand.

National planning policy for the management of the historic assets and places is provided by Scottish Planning Policy and the National Planning Framework. These highlight that the planning system should:

- promote the care and protection of the designated and non-designated historic environment (including individual assets, related settings and the wider cultural landscape) and its contribution to sense of place, cultural identity, social well-being, economic growth, civic participation and lifelong learning; and

- enable positive change in the historic environment which is informed by a clear understanding of the importance of the heritage assets affected and ensure their future use. Change should be sensitively managed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the fabric and setting of the asset, and ensure that its special characteristics are protected, conserved or enhanced.

National Planning Policy also identifies various policy objectives for the management of different historic assets and places. Interpretation and application of these policies

is supported by *Managing Change Guidance Notes* published by Historic Environment Scotland.

Planning policy for the historic environment is implemented by Local Development Plans as outlined below.

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 provides the legislative framework for managing heritage assets. Listing is the process that identifies, designates and provides statutory protection for buildings of 'special architectural or historic interest', as set out in the 1997 and listed buildings are managed through the planning system, through listed building consent. The protection of trees in Doune is only offered under Conservations area legislation and there are no specific of group Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) designated on site.

Local Policy

Stirling Council adopted the Stirling Local Development Plan in 2018 as a strategic framework, which sets out a vision to shape the future of the Stirling area over the 20 year plan period. Of relevance to the landscape within the PiC at Doune castle is:

Primary Policy 7: Historic Environment

The historic environment contributes in a unique way to the character of the Stirling area. It is important in forming the identity of places and providing a cultural, educational, social, and economic resource. The historic environment and, where appropriate, the settings of its component features, will therefore be safeguarded, preserved and enhanced. Developments and other proposals that would have a negative impact on these assets will not normally be supported. The historic environment will be managed, and relevant development proposals assessed, in line with statutory requirements, government policy, ...

Policy 7.1: Archaeology and Historic Building Recording (designated and undesignated buildings/sites)

(a) There will be a presumption against development that would have an adverse effect on a scheduled monument or on the integrity of its setting except in exceptional circumstances. The same presumption will also apply to other nationally important monuments.
(b) Where there is the possibility that archaeological remains may exist within a development site, but their extent and significance is unclear, the prospective developer should arrange for an evaluation prior to the determination of any planning application in order to establish the importance of the site, its sensitivity to development and the most appropriate means for preserving or recording surviving archaeological features.
(c) Approval of any proposal directly affecting historic environment features will be conditional upon satisfactory provision being made by the developer for the appropriate level of archaeological and / or standing building investigation and recording, assessment, analysis, publication and archiving..

Policy 7.2: Development within and outwith Conservation Areas

a) Development within a Conservation Area and development outwith that will impact on the conservation area, shall preserve or enhance its character, appearance and setting. All new development should respect the architectural and visual qualities of the area, have regard to the character of the area as identified in the relevant Conservation Area Character Appraisal..

Policy 7.3: Development affecting Listed Buildings

(a) The layout, design, materials, scale, siting and use of any development must preserve the character of the Listed Building and its setting.....
(b) .....
(c) Understanding the architectural and historic significance of a building or structure is an important pre-requisite to making informed decisions about its development.....

Policy 7.7: Energy Efficiency and Micro-Renewables within Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

Alterations and proposals involving the sensitive introduction of energy efficiency measures and/or micro-renewables installations to Listed Buildings and in Conservation Areas will be supported, where the proposals ensure that the character and appearance of the Listed Building, Conservation Area and their settings are preserved or enhanced.

Primary Policy 8: Conservation and Enhancement of Biodiversity

(a) The protection, conservation and enhancement of wildlife, its habitats and other natural features in international and national designated sites will be supported in line with statutory requirements.....

Policy 8.1: Biodiversity Duty

(a) All development proposals will be assessed for their potential impact upon biodiversity. This may be a specific impact on species or habitats at the proposed site, or cumulative impact if the species or habitats have a restricted distribution.
(b) Developments likely to lead to a significant loss of biodiversity (relative to the Stirling Biodiversity Action Plan, the Scottish Biodiversity List and 'Natural Heritage Futures') will only be supported if the Planning Authority is satisfied that adequate provision can be made on or off site to maintain species populations and / or create or enhance comparable habitats such that overall biodiversity is maintained.

5.3.2 Consents

Ensure that statutory consents are obtained prior to any repair, restoration or consolidation works carried out either as part of routine maintenance or specific conservation projects on the buildings, structures and landscape. Repair programmes should follow best practice guidelines, as inappropriate specification or poor workmanship can damage sensitive historic buildings and accelerate rather than prevent decay.

Listed Building Consent

Alterations to listed buildings, carried out during repair, restoration or consolidation work, must be agreed with the relevant authorities and statutory bodies, prior to submitting an application for statutory approval. Listed Building Consent may also be required for alterations to buildings listed by virtue of their curtilage, if they physically attach to or physically impact upon the building.

Felling Licence

Tree felling on non-residential land is controlled by the need to obtain a Felling Licence from Scottish Forestry before felling more than five cubic metres of timber (or two cubic metres if the timber is sold) per three month period, subject to various exemptions. Certain exemptions may exist and checks should be made with Scottish Forestry Central Conservancy..

European Protected Species

Trees and woodland, scrub and some buildings and structures may provide habitat for a wide range of species, some of which are protected. Most nesting birds and their nests are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

All bats and their roosts are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and gain additional protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

Birds listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and all bat species are also protected from disturbance when using nesting or roosting sites. The castle and other buildings are know to support bats.

Prior to repair, restoration or conservation work being carried out where there is a known population of a protected species, a suitably qualified ecological consultant

should be appointed to confirm the presence of the protected species and offer guidance on the precautions which should be taken to minimise any disruption or disturbance. See Appendix B for full details.

5.3.3 Ownership and Boundary

In the event of a change to the ownership/PiC boundary, in whole or part, the suitability of the future owners/managers should be governed by a sympathetic understanding of the importance of the historic assets and the conservation needs of the assets and their settings. Necessary funds for routine maintenance and longer term conservation should be secured.

5.3.4 Security

Review security arrangements and access to the landscape and its built structures on a regular basis and investigate measures to deter unwanted access and engage with the community if anti-social situations arise.

CONSERVE

5.3.5 Historic Landscape and Fabric

The following sections set out the key policies and objectives for the principal elements in the landscape. These key policies and objectives will form an overarching framework for future management and will inform the subsequent practices. Management of the landscape should recognise and be informed by a thorough understanding of the importance and significance of the chronology of its development, its setting, its individual elements which combine to create its character and its landscape context.

Conserve and maintain the PiC study area as a historic landscape, in which the elements which create the natural and man-made fabric are of particular merit in their own right, as well as combining to form a superb landscape.

Conserve and enhance the landscape in order to provide an appropriate setting for the listed and non-listed buildings and structures.

5.3.6 Landscape Character and Land Use

Recognise, celebrate and illustrate the importance and significance of the historic landscape and how it relates to the wider landscape character of Teith Valley.

5.3.7 Archaeological Resource

The overriding policy is to conserve and protect archaeological features insitu.

Management operations and visitor access should respect the importance and sensitivity of the archaeology where visible and buried features occur.

Ensure that the below ground monument is maintained and enhanced through sensitive sward management and to avoid erosion of buried archaeology through restricting visitor access where necessary and managing burrowing animals. Damage can be caused by everyday wear and tear, including foot erosion, agriculture and minor works not requiring planning permission or scheduled monument consent. Erosion scars (including footpaths, burrowing, water runoff) should be regularly monitored, and if necessary, fenced off to allow vegetation to be re-established.

Interventions within the scheduled area require Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) unless subject to Section 17. Good relations should be maintained with all stakeholders, including the local community, to ensure conservation controls are maintained and any chance finds/erosion issues reported.

5.3.8 Ecological Resource

Recommendations for further survey to inform an Ecological Baseline and/or potential management objectives to enhance the ecological resource have been outlined below,

based on the PEA.

Invertebrates

The habitats within the site may support notable invertebrate assemblages, notably mature trees, riparian habitats and species-rich grasslands. Invertebrate species can be very sensitive to management changes, as such it is recommended that invertebrate surveys are considered to inform the impact of management changes and opportunities for enhancement for invertebrates.

Amphibians

Although suitable aquatic habitat for great crested newt is present in the wider area the sites location between a residential area and two fast-flowing watercourses, makes it sub-optimal for supporting great crested newt in their terrestrial phase. Nonetheless their presence cannot be ruled out. Waterlogged areas of the site, notably wet woodland and marshy grassland provide opportunities for other amphibians during their terrestrial phase.

It is recommended that the creation of further aquatic habitat e.g. ponds within the site, notably the fields east of Ardoch Burn, south of the sewage works and/or in the west of site. The creation of ponds should only be undertaken once the extent of species-rich grassland has been determined, and in line with management for this habitat. The arisings of vegetation management, notably timber and brash, should be collected and habitat piles should be formed which will provide refuge for amphibians. Suitable locations for creation of piles include, wet woodland north of Ardoch Burn and woodland in the north adjacent marshy grassland.

Reptiles

Habitats within the site are suitable for reptiles, as such it is recommended that reptile surveys should be undertaken to determine the presence/absence of these species. Reptile surveys should comprise walked transects and/or placing of artificial refugia, and should be undertaken on several occasions during the active period (March to October) during suitable weather conditions (10-20°C, dry and still). If placing artificial refugia these should be located away from areas accessible to the public or livestock.

Nesting Birds

Habitats within the site provide opportunities for a variety of nesting birds. It is recommended that a breeding bird survey comprising a minimum of a dawn chorus transect walked on several occasions at the appropriate time of year (March to June) should be undertaken.

Notably buildings and trees within the site may provide opportunities for nesting birds notably swift, swallows, owls and corvid. As such building restoration and vegetation management should be undertaken with consideration to nesting birds.

A general recommendation for nesting birds is to provide more sheltered areas of dense vegetation with access by the public and dogs restricted.

Bats

The site and local area is known to support a variety of bat species, and habitats provide opportunities for roosting, foraging and commuting bats. It is understood that monitoring of roosting bats is being undertaken at the site. In addition it is recommended that the castle itself is subject to hibernation survey and where hibernation sites are identified swarming surveys should be undertaken. Autumn swarming sites are of high importance and their locations are little studied, with consideration to the historical context of the site, it is possible that well established roosts are present which bats may travel to from great distance due to their importance.

Numerous trees within the site provided features which may support roosting bats, it is recommended that a ground-level roost assessment of trees within the site is undertaken to identify potential features, which should be subject to a climbed inspection and/or nocturnal bat survey. Where any vegetation clearance, notably tree-felling or pruning, is to be undertaken the tree should be subject to a ground-level roost assessment to determine the suitability for supporting roosting bats.

Beaver

Beaver presence in the Teith catchment is assumed and the potential for beaver to be moving through the site should be considered. The habitats within the site are considered to be sub-optimal to support this species, however the re-naturalisation of this species is in its early stages and their potential presence in the area cannot be ruled out.

Otter

Otter are known to be present along the River Teith and Ardoch Burn, as such they are considered likely to be present within the site. Due to the site's level disturbance due to access by the public and dogs, it is considered to be sub-optimal to support breeding otter. Retaining vegetation cover and dense areas of vegetation at the banks of the River Teith and Ardoch Burn will enhance opportunities for otter through provision of resting sites.

Red Squirrel

Red squirrel are known to be present within the site, as such management at the site should be designed with this species in mind. No vegetation clearance, notably tree pruning or felling, should be undertaken without undertaking a survey to determine the presence/absence of red squirrel dreys. Where a drey is identified it should be retained and protected from disturbance.

Lamprey

No works should be undertaken within River Teith or Ardoch Burn without consideration of impact to lamprey.

Invasive Non-Native Plants

It is recommended that the following invasive species are eradicated or controlled where they occur on the site:

- Rhododendron – Present at low density on the bank of the River Teith in Castle Green and the western woodland extending to Bridge of Teith.
- Japanese knotweed – One clump present on the western bank of the Ardoch Burn close to the northern end of the site, and offsite on the eastern bank of the burn. A targeted survey in season may locate more clumps.
- Himalayan balsam – Evidence of presence on Ardoch Burn and Dragon Burn. A targeted survey in season may locate more locations.
- Giant Hogweed - Evidence of presence on Ardoch Burn and River Teith.
- Snowberry – Present in woodland on the western bank of the Ardoch Burn.

"The responsibility for NNS lies with the landowner or land manager. There is no legal requirement for a landowner to control established non-native species but they are expected to take reasonable steps to prevent non-native species from escaping or spreading into the wild" (SEPA - https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/biodiversity/invasive-non-native-species/invasive-non-native-species).

It is recommended that management plan is prepared for the eradication of these species on the site, or control where this is not possible. The plan should include a method statement for chemical control which should include precautions for use of

herbicides near watercourses. The risk of spread of these species further within or beyond the site should be prevented, and is at increased risk due to access by public and dogs.

5.3.9 Standards of Repair, Restoration and Conservation

The PiC contains two scheduled monuments and listed buildings and their landscape settings. As such, all restoration, repair and management work should be of an exemplar standard. High standards for repair, restoration and maintenance are recommended, by which is meant that works should comply with expert advice (where appropriate), use contractors with the necessary experience and skills, follow recognised standards of workmanship and use the most appropriate materials in the correct way.

Ensure that adequate capital provision is allocated to ensure the correct standards of restoration, repair and conservation within the gardens and pleasure grounds.

Repair, restoration, conservation and development work should be carried out in accordance with the most appropriate style and technique, so that the integrity, character and significance of the historic landscape is retained and enhanced. All interventions within the scheduled area require Scheduled Monument Consent. (SMC).

FABRIC

5.3.10 Trees and Woodlands

The site comprises areas of the UK Priority Habitat 'Lowland Mixed Woodland'. Management should seek to retain and enhance this habitat. Management should be informed by a detailed woodland survey, as a minimum woodland National Vegetation Classification (NVC) communities should be mapped and their condition assessed. General management objectives should include gradual removal of non-native regenerating saplings (regen.) such as beech in favour of native regeneration e.g. oak, ash and willows.

Deer are present within the woodland, with roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) being noted during the survey. Periodical (5-10 years) assessment of herbivore grazing impacts on woodland and ground flora would inform decisions about future management plan reviews.

Arboricultural Management

The site contains large mature trees, some of which overhang or stand within falling distance of the road, car park and well-used paths. The trees therefore represent a potential hazard to visitors, and HES have a duty of care to inspect the trees, determine the risk and manage the trees. The risk needs to be balanced against the many benefits that they provide to the setting of the historic site, the wider landscape and biodiversity. It is recommended that a tree risk policy is developed for the site unless HES already has a corporate policy for this. The policy would set out requirements for tree inspection and management, and describe how the tension between tree risk and benefits would be balanced. Advice is present in the National Tree Safety Group document '*Common sense risk management of trees*'.

The Informed Tree Services report recommends that the site is subject to inspection by a professional arboriculturist every three years. In the interim periods it recommends that trees are subject to six monthly walkover inspections by staff that need not be arboriculturists but should have training in basic tree inspection and a working knowledge of trees. This recommendation for tree inspection is considered appropriate. More regular professional inspection may be required following storms or where particular trees are identified for more regular monitoring by the arboriculturist. Courses and certification on basic tree inspection are provided by LANTRA and it is

recommended that staff carrying out non-professional walkover inspections hold this qualification and keep a log of the inspections.

The majority of tree failures occur during storms, although not exclusively so. It is recommended that HES investigate developing a policy to close access to areas of higher risk during periods above a threshold wind speed. Where works are required, it is recommended that they are carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations'.

It is recommended that wherever possible works are carried out between September and February in order to avoid impacting on nesting birds. Advice should be sought from an ecologist before carrying out works to mature trees containing cavities and splits that may support roosting bats.

Woodland Management

The mixed beech-dominated plantation on the slope north and north-west of the castle has not been thinned recently. The trees are growing densely and it is recommended that it is thinned in the next two years to encourage the development of stable and well balanced trees. It is recommended that the stand is thinned with removal of ~20% of the tree stems. This should be followed by a further 20% thinning five years later. The thinning should be marked-up by a forestry consultant and should aim to promote the best trees for long-term retention. A proportion of larch and pine trees should be retained to provide a food source for red squirrels which are present. It is recommended that a Woodland Management Plan is produced to set out a programme of holistic and sustainable management of the woodland resource in each of the character areas.

Management of Trees in Grassland

Manage trees in grassland to enhance the historic landscape and ecological resource, to the highest standards. The protection and management of the trees alongside the requirements of graziers should be carefully balanced to ensure that the sward is maintained and any damage caused to the trees by browsing animals is minimized. It is essential that tree and stock guards are used effectively to protect young trees from soil compaction, browsing damage and bark stripping.

Stock Protection

Protect all new tree planting within grassland areas with stock guards. This provides adequate protection from stock, but should be inspected annually and repaired where necessary so it remains stock proof. Stock protection fencing should remain insitu until trees are mature enough to tolerate stock browsing and trampling, and should not be removed without the advice of an arboriculturist.

Tree Planting

The site was subject to a tree planting programme 20-30 years ago with the planting of numerous small patches of trees, either in open areas such Castle Green and land east of the drive, or in more open areas of woodland along Ardoch Burn and woodland at the western end of the site extending to the Bridge of Teith. The trees have generally been planted as a mixture containing clusters of trees of a single species. Species planted included ash, beech, oak, silver birch, alder, grey alder and bird cherry.

Suitable replacement planting species, for areas of semi ornamental planting, include oak (pedunculate or sessile), beech, Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) and small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*). In area of semi-natural woodland, native species such as oak, silver birch, alder and wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) would be more appropriate.

The slope to the east of Dragon Burn, and west of the primary school and houses on

Castle Crescent, would benefit from new tree planting. The area has an open scrubby vegetation including several ash trees that are likely to deteriorate in condition due to ash dieback disease. Infill planting with a mixture of oak, Scots pine, silver birch, hazel and rowan is recommended. It is recommended that the planting mixture includes some beech for visual integration with the adjacent plantation. Tree planting could be carried out as a community project involving the school and local residents. The damp rush-dominated field on the far side of the burn has not been grazed for several years, but the planting would need fencing at its lower end if grazing was re-started here.

It should not be assumed, however, that tree planting, within the scheduled areas, will be acceptable. Any tree planting proposals would need to be carefully considered, with significant archaeological input, even within areas previously planted within the scheduled areas.

Chalara ash dieback disease

Chalara ash dieback disease is well-established on the site. The disease has only been known to be present in the UK from 2012 and the impacts cannot be accurately predicted, but it is likely to kill or seriously damage a large number of ash trees. Younger trees appear more vulnerable and it is likely that some of the planted semi-mature trees will require removal and replacement in the next ten years. This should be monitored.

Some of these trees with the disease will be at risk of dropping major deadwood as the disease progresses. The progress of *chalara* on the site and its implications for tree health and safety should be monitored as part of the tree inspection programme. Where the disease is present, it is recommended that infected trees are retained (where compatible with public safety and landscape objectives) as there is likely to be genetic variation in disease resistance, and some infected trees may show greater resistance to the disease which will allow them to survive in the long term and produce regeneration with increased resistance to the disease.

Deadwood Strategy

Deadwood should be retained across the PiC study area and it is recommended that a zoning strategy is developed so that deadwood is removed from areas where there is a high visitor footfall to less visually accessible areas.

There are gaps in the understanding of the relationship between Doune Castle and the surrounding treed landscape. In particular, the full extent of the medieval park is unknown, although the HWA report speculates on the location of the boundary banks. Further study of that would be worthwhile, although it lies beyond the study area and hence the scope of the current CMP. There are also gaps in the understanding of the relationship between the castle and the treed landscape within the study area. The majority of the woodland on the site was not shown on the Roy or First Edition OS maps and is not recognised as Ancient or long-established woodland. It would be useful to gain an understanding on when different areas were planted and what the objective of this was. This information may be held by the Moray Estate who owned the site up to 1983.

The age of the trees on the site has not been systematically estimated. The oak trees to the east of the drive are likely to be among the oldest trees on the site and the largest tree (T744) has an estimated age of 274 years. The HWA report recommends dendrochronological work to confirm the age of some of the notable trees on the site, for example the mature sycamore trees on the castle mound. This would be of interest but it is recommended that cores are not taken healthy trees of note as there is a risk of introducing decay.

5.3.11 Grassland

Neutral Semi-improved Grassland

In the absence of a detailed species list, grassland within the site is considered to be Neutral Semi-improved Grassland. Much of the grassland on site may be species-rich and derived from ancient pasture making it, in context of the site, of ecological and historical importance. It is likely that areas of the grassland on site will qualify as the UK Priority habitat 'Lowland Meadow'. As evidence of species-richness was identified it is recommended that a detailed botanical survey is undertaken at the appropriate time of year (May-August) to highlight areas of the site which would benefit from further management. As a minimum all grassland within the site should be subject to a NVC survey at the appropriate time of year. It is recommended that a Grassland Management Plan is produced to provide a holistic approach to the management of grassland areas, according to species type, character area location, sensitivity to above and below ground archaeology and land-use.

Management should seek to retain species-rich areas of grassland and enhance the floristic diversity of less species-rich grassland. Although further botanical survey will identify the opportunities and detailed management, general recommendations for grassland management include:

- A late-summer (August-September) hay cut;
- Followed by either removal of arisings or aftermath grazing (over winter); and,
- Paths should be demarcated by mowing strips through grassland and interpretation boards used, to discourage trampling of grassland.

Where grazed, it is recommended that mixing stock: cattle and sheep has many advantages in the creation of a diverse sward. Cattle and sheep are both ruminants but their physical differences in terms of size and their method of grazing will affect the sward in different ways. Sheep graze pasture that is not normally grazed by cattle and will graze closer to dung pats, ensuring that areas of the sward remain productive and managed, which reduces the need for mechanical topping. Cattle will avoid grazing in close proximity to dung pats, however they are less selective graziers and will take even the low digestible and invasive species such as *molinia*. Through their trampling of bare ground, the strongest grass species are restricted, which enables a variety of seeds to germinate, increasing the floristic diversity in the sward.

Any mechanical cutting of the meadows should be kept to a minimum and only take place if stocking densities fall to a low level. The timing of mechanical cutting should be determined according to the ecological interest. All arisings should be removed after cutting, to ensure that nutrient levels are not increased, however arising should not be cut and removed in a single operation to allow survival of resident invertebrates and grass seed to be shed. If mechanical cutting is necessary, ensure that areas of unmown grass and maintained as refuges for resident or over wintering invertebrates.

Marshy Grassland

The area of marshy grassland in the north-west of site is considered to qualify as UK Priority Habitat 'Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture', as such it is recommended that this habitat is retained and enhanced. Further botanical survey, comprising NVC survey at the appropriate time of year will detail further management recommendations for this habitat.

Further botanical survey will outline opportunities and detailed management, however it is recommended that periodical (5 years) removal of bramble scrub encroaching on this habitat should be undertaken, notably in the south.

The area of marshy grassland in the north-east of site, is transitioning towards wet woodland and it is recommended that this is allowed to continue.

Event Management

Ensure that the repair of damaged grassed area, from visitor footfall or following events, has prompt attention, with soil decompaction techniques and reseeding carried out where necessary. If there is a need to import topsoil, the quality of the topsoil should be in accordance with industry standards and of local provenance. The use of a sterile topsoil should be used in any archaeologically sensitive areas and the importation of topsoil within scheduled area will require SMC.

Where the PiC is used for filming, a comprehensive specification for the repair and reinstatement of the grassland should be provided to the film company prior to commencement of filming operations. Regular inspection and recording of any damage should be carried out and any repair and reinstatement works on the scheduled monument must be carried out under an archaeological watching brief.

5.3.12 Water
River Teith and Ardoch Burn

The River Teith is an internationally important site and Ardoch Burn is its tributary, both also qualify as UK Priority Habitat 'Rivers and Streams'. Management should seek to retain and protect these important habitats.

General recommendations to inform the future management should include:

- Further survey work ie. river survey to the Teith and Ardoch Burn, to identify vulnerable areas of the site subject to erosion and flooding;
- Measures to limit the erosion of the banks through limiting visitor access and retention of bank-supporting vegetation;
- Restricting access to shallow gravel banks for people and dogs should be considered to limit the disturbance of these habitats; and,
- Drainage within the site should consider the potential for pollution, notably run-off from vehicle movements and footfall, filter beds/ponds could be used to intercept.

5.3.13 Built Features

Built features, such as bridges, are an important element of man-made fabric and make a significant contribution to the landscape setting. The policy should be to maintain all built features to the highest standard of physical repair and visual quality, with appropriate uses relating to visitor enjoyment and engagement and management requirements. There should be a presumption against the erection of new, modern buildings, especially to house equipment and the use should always be made of redundant buildings and spaces.

5.3.14 Boundaries and Gates

Programme a formal regime of condition and/or structural inspections, for built features within the landscape and action the recommendations in order of priority.
The presence of boundary walls, estate railings and decorative iron gates defines the quality and character of the landscape and sets the standard for the sense of arrival for visitors. All boundary fences and gates should be maintained to a consistent highest standard, reflecting a positive visual image of care and attention to detail. Routine inspections of the boundary railings and gates should occur on a regular basis and any defects or damage should be repaired as soon as possible, as part of the regular maintenance regime.

Where damage to decorative iron gates or estate railing occurs, repair and restoration work should be undertaken by a suitably qualified craftsman and should be like for

like to preserve the historic character and appearance. Where new gates are installed, consideration should be given to commissioning new and bespoke gates which assimilate with the existing character of on-site ironwork.

Gateway surfaces should be monitored for signs of wear and surface repairs carried out as a part of the regular maintenance regime, to ensure that each gateway is presented to a high standard.

Ensure that all post and wire stock fencing is routinely checked to ensure that its structural integrity is maintained. All damaged fencing should be removed and replaced. Provide good quality stiles or gates within the post and wire fencing where footpaths cross a fence-line.

5.3.15 Roads and Paths

The condition of the path network reflects the quality and character of the landscape. All paths should be maintained to the highest standards of repair to ensure that areas are accessible for everyone throughout the year. Routine maintenance of path surfaces to the highest standards of repair will ensure that visitors are less likely to stray from the paths in order to proceed with a clear footing.

5.3.16 Furniture and Signage

Ensure that sufficient benches and seating opportunities are provided so that opportunities for resting are available, yet visitors feel able to explore further into the landscape. However ensue that key views towards the castle do not become cluttered by benches.

All benches should be to a 'house style' and be consistently maintained to the highest standards of repair so that a positive visual contribution is made to the character of the landscape. Ensure that the surface beneath each bench is well maintained, free from slip and trip hazards.

Ensure that sufficient, yet discreet signage is provided, to facilitate visitor enjoyment, understanding and exploration, without compromising significant elements of landscape. All signage should be to the 'house style'.

PRESENT

5.3.17 Visitor Access and Facilities

The PiC landscape should be welcoming, accessible and safe for all visitors, ensuring that the landscape setting of the castle is maintained to the highest standards, to enhance the character and quality of the setting and sense of arrival for visitors. Visitors should be able to see and appreciate the landscape, as a legible setting for the castle and the grassed earthworks should appear subservient to the castle.

Visitor facilities should be provided where necessary, however they should be sympathetic to and subservient to the character of the historic landscape and its component elements. There should be a general presumption against the introduction of additional built facilities within the landscape, which may compromise the landscape setting or affect the peaceful enjoyment of historic asset.

The importance and significance of the landscape setting of Doune Castle, including information about the arboricultural and ecological resource, should be interpreted to visitors, so that their experience and understanding of the landscape is enhanced.

5.3.18 Interpretation and Engagement

Interpretation should take the form of a variety of methods, appealing to a wide range of audiences and should be designed to engage with visitors as required, rather than

a wholesale installation of signage. Consider the use of low level, age appropriate information, accessible for children. All signage and information should be to a 'house style'. Investigate the use of downloadable, smart phone friendly information for visitors to access both on and off site, opportunities may include the use of digital/social media.

PARTNERSHIP

5.3.19 Skills and Resource

Ensure that there are sufficient team members to rotate throughout the landscape as well as the castle, to disseminate information and engage with visitors. Ensure that all team members have a thorough understanding and appreciation of the importance of the landscape, both in terms of the historic development in association with the castle and the rich arboricultural and ecological resource.

Consider a permanent ranger service at Doune to work with the community with an aim to regularly undertake events in relation to landscape and biodiversity on site and facilitate volunteering opportunities

5.3.20 Funding

Ensure that there is a cyclical budget, with funds dedicated for the routine review and maintenance of the natural and man-made fabric, with adequate funding made available for the inspection, repair and conservation of the estate railing and decorative ironwork.

5.3.21 Accountability, Monitoring and Review

The results of all surveys carried out within the PiC boundary should be analysed and recorded in the PiC archives in digital formats. Any plans for management or restoration works, including method statements, detailed design, plans and condition surveys should also be stored in the archives.

All archaeological and building condition reports should be deposited with the local Historic Environment Record. Original documents and fieldwork reports should also be archived to the appropriate standards.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report carried out as a part of this study, should be seen as the foundation for ecological monitoring for the landscape and should be built upon with further baseline studies. Such baseline information should be used as a basis for future management and should be regularly updated by suitability qualified professionals, to ensure that a full record of the ecological resource is maintained.

It is recommended that a regular programme of review of the proposals contained in the action plan is undertaken, with new management priorities set out and updated on a regular basis. This will be especially important when any new survey is carried out.

5.3.22 Sustainability

Management and maintenance of the landscape should strive to achieve the highest standards of environmentally sustainable management. Consider innovative opportunities for recycling and energy saving initiatives at all times.

All chemicals, such as insecticides, molluscicides, and herbicides should be used in compliance with good horticultural standards and requirements for public health and safety. The use of chemicals should be kept to a minimum.

Sustainable planting and management should be carried out wherever possible. Reuse and recycle all redundant fence posts, tree guards and other hard materials, wherever possible and recycle others than cannot be re-used.

6

6.1 Action Plan

The preceding section set out an overarching framework for the future management of the landscape with a series of underpinning management principles, which should be used to guide day to day operations and inform any long-term projects. The following action plan sets out a series of specific management actions and recommendations.

This study is not 'set in stone' and should be seen as a dynamic and adaptive document, which responds to the evolving qualities and character of the landscape and is updated and revised, with new project priorities, time-scales and community aspirations added where and when necessary. Whenever new survey information is available, it is strongly recommended that the corresponding management principles and actions are reviewed and revised, as necessary, to ensure that the most appropriate management of the landscape is carried out. Where any management principles and actions are not wholly successful, or fail, for any number of reasons, it is recommended that discussions are held promptly with key stakeholders and suitably qualified professionals, so that appropriate steps can be taken to ensure that management prescriptions are adapted and revised, to continue to achieve the desired outcomes.

6.1.1 The Overarching Management Principle

The overarching principle for the landscape within the PiC boundary is to manage and maintain, to the highest standards, so that the elements of the landscape, both as features in their own right and when combined to create the landscape setting of the of Doune Castle and its associated listed buildings, are maintained, repaired, restored, enhanced and conserved, so that they may be enjoyed by current and future generations.

Work priorities are set out as high, medium and low:

Work Priority		Time-scale
H	High	1 - 3 years
M	Medium	4 - 6 years
L	Low	7 - 10 years
O	Ongoing	

Ref	Work Recommendation	Priority		
		H	M	L
Site-wide Recommendations				
Priority Recommendations				
1	Commission a Woodland and Tree Management Plan to provide a comprehensive survey of the arboricultural resource and act upon its findings. The survey will pick up on the recommended work which remains outstanding from Tree Hazard Management Report for Doune Castle produced by Informed Tree Services (March 2019).	H		
2	Develop a Design Guide for Doune Castle to establish a palette of materials and finishes to establish a 'house style' for all furniture, fencing and surfaces.	H		
3	Develop a programme of planned maintenance and repair for all the wrought iron railing within the PiC area and ensure that adequate ongoing capital resource is made available for this.	H		
4	Commission a Grassland Management Plan, to include a botanical survey of the grassland areas within the PiC area and establish a grazing strategy. As evidence of species-richness in the grassland was identified, it is recommended that a detailed botanical survey is undertaken at the appropriate time of year (May-August) to highlight areas of the site which would benefit from further management. As a minimum, all grassland within the site should be subject to a NVC survey at the appropriate time of year. Management should seek to retain species-rich areas of grassland and enhance the floristic diversity of less species-rich grassland.	H		
5	Consider further study to understand the relationship between Doune Castle and the surrounding landscape, both within and outwith the PiC area, across multiple time periods from the pre-Roman period onwards. In particular, the full extent, character and management of the medieval park is unknown, although the HWA report speculates on the location of the boundary banks. The majority of the woodland on the site was not shown on the Roy or First Edition OS maps and is not recognised as Ancient or long-established woodland. It would be useful to gain an understanding on how the historic landscape was used and managed, when different areas were planted with trees and what the objective of this was. This information may be held by the Moray Estate.		M	
Trees & Woodlands				
6	Consider further study to understand the heritage value of the arboricultural resource. The age of the trees on the site has not been systematically estimated. The oak trees to the east of the drive are likely to be among the oldest trees on the site and the largest tree (T744) has an estimated age of 274 years. The HWA report recommends dendrochronological work to confirm the age of some of the notable trees on the site, for example the mature sycamore trees on the castle mound. This would be of interest but it is recommended that cores are not taken healthy trees of note as there is a risk of introducing decay.			L
Archaeology				
7	All sub-surface work actions, outwith the scheduled area, should have archaeological consultation prior to commencement of work and an archaeological watching brief throughout operations.	H		
8	Damage to above and below-ground archaeology can be caused by everyday wear and tear, including foot erosion, agriculture and minor works not requiring planning permission or SMC. Erosion scars (including footpaths, burrowing, water runoff) should be regularly monitored, and if necessary, temporarily fenced off to allow vegetation to be re-established.	H		
9	Develop an Archaeological Activity Plan and maintain good relationships with all stakeholders, including the local community, to ensure conservation controls are maintained and any chance finds/erosion issues reported.	H		
10	Investigate the location, character and significance of historic access routes across the landscape, both within and outwith the PiC area.	H		
11	Tradition asserts that one of the chapels dedicated to St Fillan associated with Doune Castle was located where the Campbell mortuary chapel now stands. Although outwith the PiC, archaeological investigation of this chapel to understand its history and its relationship to the castle could aid knowledge of the wider area and how the inhabitants of the castle and castle toun interacted with that landscape.		M	
12	Consider further study to understand the pre-Medieval landscape of the PiC study area. Given the nature and		M	

Ref	Work Recommendation	Priority		
		H	M	L
	configuration of the landscape and waterways surrounding the Roman Fort and castle there is every indication that the Romanised landscape (and communication routes) extended well beyond the footprint of the fort. It is probable that buildings associated with the Medieval castle survive within the footprint of the present castle and its immediate environs. Routeways to and from the castle used in the Medieval and later periods may well have utilised those established by the Roman army. This investigation could be a part of a wider research project. (ref 5).			
13	Consider further study and investigations to understand the position and extent of the farm buildings and associated domestic dwellings. Into the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, historic mapping shows that extant farm buildings and possibly domestic dwellings had disappeared by the beginning of the twentieth. These may have built upon or re-used buildings such as the stables and brewery associated with the castle in the Medieval period; equally, the Mill of Doune, which may well be the result of several building phases, is recorded in the Medieval period. The so-called icehouse, itself probably a nineteenth century construction, may well be formed of partially demolished Medieval structures. Much of this evidence lies outwith the currently scheduled areas (the footprint of the Roman Fort and the castle and its immediate surroundings), and, although adherence to scheduling legislation should be enough to protect the castle and its environs from damage and inappropriate development, outwith the scheduled area, the HES Cultural Resources Team should to be consulted on any interventions and to arrange any necessary mitigations such as an archaeological watching brief (see ref 1 & 5).		M	
Ecology				
14	Protected Species Survey - At an early stage in any future development proposal or fabric repair works, a survey to establish the potential for the presence of protected species should be carried out and the results of the survey used to inform the nature and timing of the work.	H		
15	Numerous trees and buildings within the site provide features which may support roosting bats. It is recommended that a site wide bat survey is carried out, including a ground-level roost assessment of trees within the site and/or nocturnal bat survey. Where any vegetation clearance, notably tree-felling or pruning, is to be undertaken, the tree should be subject to a ground-level roost assessment to determine the suitability for supporting roosting bats.	H		
16	Habitat Monitoring - The site comprises areas of the UK Priority Habitat 'Lowland Mixed Woodland'. Management should seek to retain and enhance this habitat. Management should be informed by a Woodland and Tree Management Plan (ref 1), as a minimum woodland National Vegetation Classification (NVC) communities should be mapped and their condition assessed. General management objectives should include gradual removal of non-native regenerating saplings (regen.) such as beech in favour of native regen. e.g. oak, ash and willows. Review on a five-yearly basis.		O	
17	Deer are present within the woodland, with roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) being noted during the survey. Periodical (5-10 years) assessment of herbivore grazing impacts on woodland and ground flora would inform decisions about future management plan reviews (see ref 1 & 4).		O	
18	Several mature and veteran specimen trees were noted within the site, it is recommended that management seeks to retain and enhance these trees, through encouragement of deadwood (see ref 1).		O	
19	The arisings of vegetation management, notably timber and brash, should be collected and habitat piles should be formed which will provide refuge for amphibians. Suitable locations for creation of piles include, wet woodland north of Ardoch Burn and woodland in the north adjacent marshy grassland (see ref 1).		O	
20	Red squirrel are known to be present within the site, as such management at the site should be designed with this species in mind. No vegetation clearance, notably tree pruning or felling, should be undertaken without undertaking a survey to determine the presence/absence of red squirrel dreys. Where a drey is identified it should be retained and protected from disturbance.		O	
21	Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed have been identified within the site. It is recommended that the management of these Schedule 9 species is undertaken by a suitably qualified professional, with immediate effect, and seek to eradicate them from the site.		O	

Ref	Work Recommendation	Priority		
		H	M	L
Character Area 1 - Entrance & Arrival				
22	Enhance the arrival experience from the entrance drive by improving the condition of the grass margins of the drive. Replace the random white stones with low bollards, to the 'house style' (ref 2), to restrict car parking and to encourage cars to drive on the hard surface only. Reinstate the grass sward and actively manage a strip alongside the drive to ensure visibility of the wooden bollards.	H		
23	Ensure that the vista from the entrance gateway at Castle Keeper's Cottage, towards Doune Castle is maintained free from visual clutter as far as is practically possible, to enhance the arrival experience for visitors.	H		
24	Provide secure cycle parking for visitors and promote the use of sustainable transport.	H		
25	Maintain the iron railings at Castle Keeper's Cottage and it's landscape setting, to the highest standards, setting a visually high standard of care. Any damage identified should be repaired as soon as practically possible, by a suitably qualified professional. Missing elements should be reinstated and any mismatched elements should be rectified (see ref 3).	H		
26	Remove the grass-crete, temporary parking area and artificial path surface and reinstate the historic character of the landscape setting of Castle Keeper's Cottage.	H		
27	Install a new finger post, in a visually accessible location, to direct visitors to the village of Doune, the wider landscape of the PiC and the Roman Fort.	H		
28	Consider creating two or three small passing places to the east of the drive to ensure vehicles can safely pass each other during the busier periods and protect the surrounding landscape from wear, unless alternative off-site parking provision is made.		M	
29	Find the original decorative gate or commission a new decorative gate to restore the character and appearance of the main estate entrance. The gate can remain in an open position, however the decorative character will be visible to visitors and will enhance the gateway and arrival experience. Commission a new kissing gate to replace the missing gate at this location (see ref 2).		M	
30	Relocate the Doune Castle information board from the current position, which is shaded by trees and often concealed by parked cars. Ensure the board is in a new open and accessible new location, with a firm surface beneath, to ensure that visitor footfall does not wear away the grass surface. Position any other infrastructure, such as parking cones and salt boxes at a distance from the board, so that the board remains the primary focus of attention.		M	
31	Continue the line of estate railing to the west of Castle Keeper's Cottage, with new estate railing, replacing the wooden fence which defines the northern edge of the car park. Install a pedestrian/kissing gate in the new fence to allow visitors access to the grass knoll (see ref 2 & 3).		M	
32	Ensure the continuity of surface treatments and hard materials, with any new surface laid to compliment the existing natural, vernacular material surfaces (see ref 2).		O	
Character Area 2 - Ardoch Burn Meadows & Woodland				
33	Commission a suitably qualified professional to remove all invasive species, with immediate effect and ensure that a programme of re-growth management is instigated to eradicate these species.	H		
34	Consider further study to investigate the potential below-ground remains of the buildings illustrated to the north east of the PiC study area on Stobie's Plan of Doune of 1782, due to the proximity to the access drive. A collection of mature oaks, growing in what appears to be a ring formation, on a raise platform, may indicate the location of a garden associated with the buildings or a paddock area. This investigation could be a part of a wider research project to investigate and understand the age and heritage value of the arboricultural resource (ref 1) and further archaeological study and investigations into the position and extent of the farm buildings and associated domestic dwellings (see ref 13). Understanding the age of the trees can help to understand the age and function of these buildings.	H		
35	Consider further study to understand the Mill of Doune, the lade system and its landscape setting. The mill on Ardoch Burn is almost certainly of Medieval derivation and of great importance to the historical narrative	H		

Ref	Work Recommendation	Priority		
		H	M	L
	of the site. Although it is possible that the presently-extant building is later in date it may well incorporate evidence of early building phases or material remains. The present mill-building (and any remaining evidence for its lade) should be subject to a detailed historic building survey.			
36	Retain and maintain the decorative iron gates and gate furniture throughout the character area to the highest standards. Any damage identified should be repaired as soon as practically possible, by a suitably qualified professional and missing elements should be reinstated (see ref 3).		M	
37	Maintain the stone boundary walls which define the farm buildings which are now used as a MCU depot. Repair any failing sections as soon as practically possible to ensure that the structural integrity and character of the wall is retained.		M	
38	Manage the vegetation (see ref 1) alongside the Ardoch Burn to retain the vista to the Mill of Doune.		M	
39	Consider further study to understand the remains of a possible building which stood to the west of the burn.			L
40	Investigate opportunities to harness the water power of the Ardoch Burn through a survey of historic lades and the hydrological capacity of the burn.			L
Character Area 3 - Doune Castle				
41	Find a permanent solution for mini-bus parking area as soon as practically possible. Repair the ground as necessary and reinstate a grass sward with species to compliment the existing grassland of the earthworks.	H		
42	Remove the self-set trees and scrub vegetation from the earthworks, under an archaeological and ecological watching brief and ensure that further self set trees are not allowed to grow in this area, to retain views to the castle from the south (see ref 1).	H		
43	Consider using conservation grazing to maintain the grassland on the ditches and banks of the castle earthworks, to manage scrub and achieve a sward character which is characteristic of a picturesque landscape, grazed by stock and a landscape setting, which is subservient to the castle. Install estate railing around the outer perimeter of the earthworks to control stock, with gated access to the north and a kissing gate to the south to allow visitors access. Use interpretation boards to share information about the management of the landscape through conservation grazing with visitors, using old photographs of cattle grazing (see ref 4).	H		
44	Repair, with archaeological supervision, the erosion scars on the earthworks, following a programme of investigation and recording and use interpretation boards to share information about the importance of conserving the below-ground archaeology with visitors. This repair work could be a part of a wider research project to understand the pre-Roman and post-Roman use of the castle mound (see ref 47).	H		
45	Following a period of archaeological investigation and recording, consider installing a discrete, bound gravel path around the external curtain walls of the castle, to provide access for all and conserve the sward and below-ground archaeology.	H		
46	Remove the incongruous Leyland cypress outgrown hedge and plant a native hedge, using species of local provenance, to screen the gabion basket wall (see ref 1).	H		
47	Consider further study to understand the Roman and post-Roman use of the castle mound and the environs of a possible river crossing and harbour-related features. Any archaeological interventions of grounds within and around the Medieval castle should include provision for dating of possible pre-Medieval features in order to establish the presence of Roman and post-Roman remains in this area. It is possible that the material forming the defensive earthworks surrounding the castle incorporate material evidence for, or seal occupation evidence dating to earlier periods. The potential for later formal gardens located on the south terraces should also be investigated (see ref 12 & 45).	H		
48	Commission a study into the erosion of the riverbank at the foot of the castle earthworks and to the east of the Ardoch Burn and seek to find a permanent solution, which responds to the character of the landscape setting, to protect the riverbanks. Repair the footpath and remove the temporary bridge from the foot of the castle.	H		
49	Consider further study to understand the old Castle Farm and the icehouse. Geophysical survey to the north and north-east of the castle has been limited in its extents, but has revealed strong evidence for building		M	

Ref	Work Recommendation	Priority		
		H	M	L
	remains; the geophysical survey area has not covered, however, much of the site of the former Castle Farm, demolished between the 1860s and 1900. It seems likely that some at least of these buildings were Medieval in origin, extra accommodation and stabling later converted into a demesne farm. In addition, it seems likely that the so-called icehouse may be the partially demolished remains of former farm buildings re-modelled in the late nineteenth century. Evidence for the multiple phasing or remodelling of these features could be revealed through targeted excavation. Following the investigations, add interpretation to aid visitors interpretation of the feature/s.			
50	Repair the estate railing between the castle and Castlebank Cottage, where extant and replace the missing sections to recreate the character of the picturesque landscape of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century (see ref 3).		M	
Character Area 4 - Castle Green				
51	Encourage the fishermen to park away from the scheduled monument and not park beneath the canopy of trees to improve the heath and longevity of the trees in this character area.	H		
52	Consider further study to understand the earthworks to the south of the castle. A series of earthworks appear to represent buildings shown on historic mapping to have been a mill in the late eighteenth century. Other possible buildings to the south of the modern sewage works have been identified by geophysical survey. It is possible also that there were earlier buildings on the peninsula to the south of the castle related to its uses during the Roman, post-Roman and Medieval periods. The date and significance of these features remains unknown and could be characterised through targeted excavation.		M	
53	Install more seating opportunities, to the 'house style' (see ref 2) within the character area.		M	
54	Screen the sewage works from view using native hedgerow species of local provenance and investigate the potential to enhance the gate to the treatment works, in consultation with Scottish Water, to bring it within the character of the PiC area. Consider installing signage to direct visitors past the treatment works.			L
55	Manage the meadow area for species diversity and mow once a year at the end of the season (see ref 4).		O	
Character Area 5 - Castle Hill				
56	Improve wayfinding opportunities to encourage visitors to explore Castle Hill and visit Doune village.	H		
57	Review grassland management within the character area to enhance species diversity (see ref 4).		M	
Character Area 6 - River Teith Meadows & Woodland				
58	Ensure that views between the Bridge of Teith and the castle are retained. As a part of the Woodland and Tree Management Plan, identify where targeted tree surgery should be used to ensure trees growing in close proximity to the castle do not close this important view-line (see ref 1).	H		
59	The area of marshy grassland in the north-west of site is considered to qualify as UK Priority Habitat 'Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture', as such it is recommended that this habitat is retained and enhanced. As a part of the Grassland Management Plan (ref 4), further botanical survey, comprising NVC survey at the appropriate time of year, will detail further management recommendations for this habitat. The Grassland Management Plan will outline opportunities and detailed management, however it is recommended that periodical (5 years) removal of bramble scrub encroaching on this habitat should be undertaken, notably in the south.	H		
60	Establish a circular footpath route for visitors to enjoy the wider PiC landscape. Use information boards to share historic and land-use and land management information with visitors.	H		
61	Repair and conserve the fabric of the Dragon Burn bridge and reinstate the gateway by securing the stone slabs and repairing the bridge deck. Ensure that the footpath surface to either side of the bridge is improved to provide visitors with a dry surface to walk upon.	H		
62	Repair, re-install and conserve the stone gate piers and repair any extant sections of estate railing to recreate the gateway feature (see ref 3).	H		
63	As a part of the Woodland and Tree Management Plan (ref 1), consider new tree planting opportunities adjacent to Dragon Burn, whilst retaining the wet grassland habitat. Use native species of local provenance to retain the character of the landscape.		M	

Ref	Work Recommendation	Priority		
		H	M	L
64	Install seating opportunities along the riverbank.		M	
65	Manage all the grass paddocks within the character area for optimum species diversity, including a low inputs regime and end of season cutting if limited grazing occurs. Encourage a combination of species grazing, such as cattle, sheep and horses, to achieve a healthy sward wherever practically possible(see ref 4).		O	

NOTE: Any works proposed within the character areas within the scheduled area will require SMC.

7

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