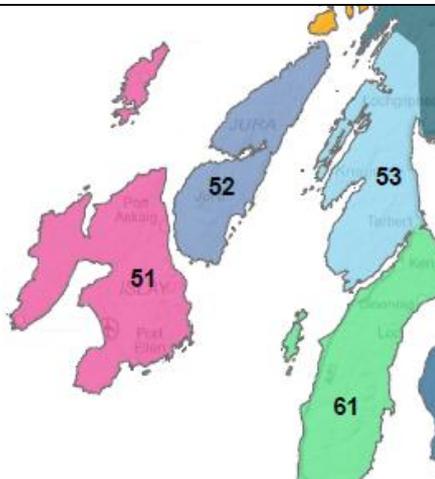


Descriptions 51 - 60			
51	Islay and Colonsay	52	Jura
53	Knapdale and Kilmartin	54	Cowal and Bute
55	Lomond	56	Kinross-shire and Howe of Fife
57	East Fife	58	Lennox Hills
59	Edinburgh and Firth of Forth	60	Lothian and Borders Coast

51 Islay and Colonsay



Description

Islay is low-lying island. It has a varied and indented coast, with open sandy bays contrasting with craggy headlands and skerries. It is renowned for its whisky, having eight distilleries with their distinctive buildings. Tourism and traditional agriculture are the other economic mainstays; many come to Islay to watch the spectacular populations of geese and cliff birds. Away from the distillery buildings, the settlement pattern is mostly agricultural with small crofting settlements near the low-lying coastal areas. Colonsay lies to the north. It is fringed by sandy beaches and is also known for its bird life. Prehistoric and mediaeval monuments, such as Mesolithic mounds and stone crosses, survived relatively well here due to less land-use pressure.

Key technical information sources

LCA: Argyll and Firth of Clyde

NHF: Argyll West and Islands

HLA: XX

Naismith -
Buildings of the Scottish Countryside
pp 208-212

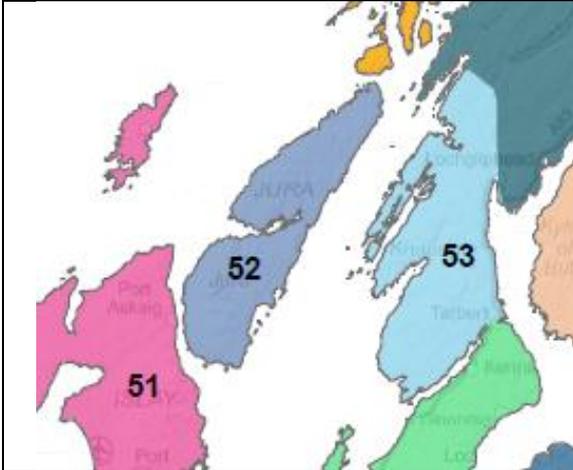
Selected creative associations

Music

The Maid of Islay (William Dunbar)

The Praise of Islay (traditional)

52 Jura



Description

This island with a wild interior is dominated by three steep-sided conical mountains, the Paps of Jura. Large estate landscapes contrast with the small crofting townships and settlements. Access is relatively restricted, with only one main road route, closely following the coastal edge. The interior is reached by tracks which often have to cross wet and boggy peatland. Jura is sparsely inhabited and even the coastal edge remains largely undeveloped. In the past it was well-populated and there is still evidence of crofting townships along with occasional historic remains. Jura also has a literary connection with George Orwell, who spent much of the last years of his life there.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Argyll and Firth of Clyde

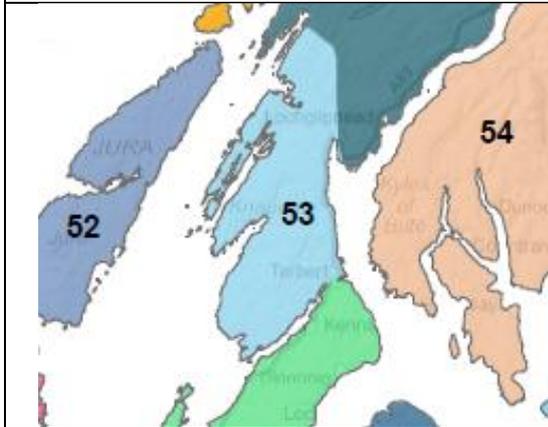
NHF: Argyll West and Islands (14)

HLA: XX

Naismith -
Buildings of the Scottish Countryside
pp 208-212

Selected creative associations

53 Knapdale and Kilmartin



Description

A coastal area of small-scaled wooded knolls and rocky outcrops, of particular importance for its ancient buildings and remains. A series of rippled parallel hill ridges rolls down toward the coastline, and rich woodlands cling to the hills. The indentations of the coastline penetrate deep into the hinterland, forging a strong relationship between land and sea. A defining characteristic is the rich historic legacy that includes a concentration of rock art panels, burial monuments and stone alignments. The impressive Dunadd is just one phase of a long-settled site. Small settlements are scattered along the coastline or cling to the glen sides and single track roads enhance the feeling of relative seclusion. Once a busy strategic waterway, the 18th century Crinan Canal is now predominantly used by recreational craft.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Argyll and Firth of Clyde

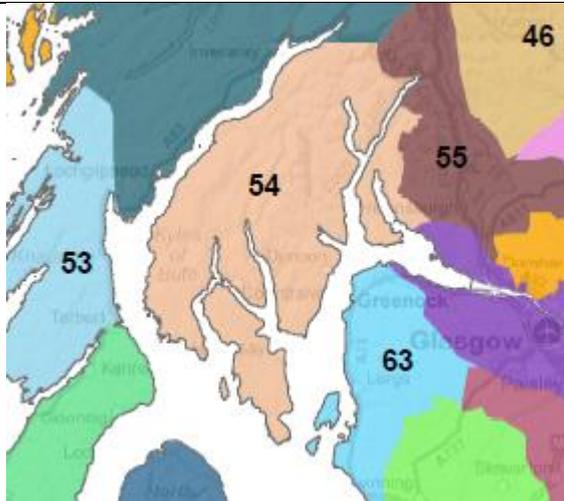
NHF: Argyll West and Islands (14)

HLA: XX

Naismith -
Buildings of the Scottish Countryside
pp 191-195

Selected creative associations

54 Cowal and Bute



Description

A picturesque area of well-wooded, steeply sloping hills and ridges which enclose a series of sea lochs. The long, low island of Bute nestles against the coast at the narrow Kyles of Bute. The interplay of land and sea occurs on an intimate scale, but there are also panoramic views of the Firth of Clyde, Kintyre and Argyll. Roads link the occasional settlements along the coastline and there are some larger estates on the flatter ground. Although only a short distance by ferry, the circuitous nature of landward journeys gives the area a feeling of being remote. It is possible to experience peace and quiet, especially in the area's many castles, gardens and walks, despite the proximity to large populations and the presence of major naval facilities, golf courses and holiday resorts.

Key technical information sources

LCA: Argyll and Firth of Clyde

NHF: Argyll West and Islands (14)
[West Central Belt (17) small part]

HLA: XX

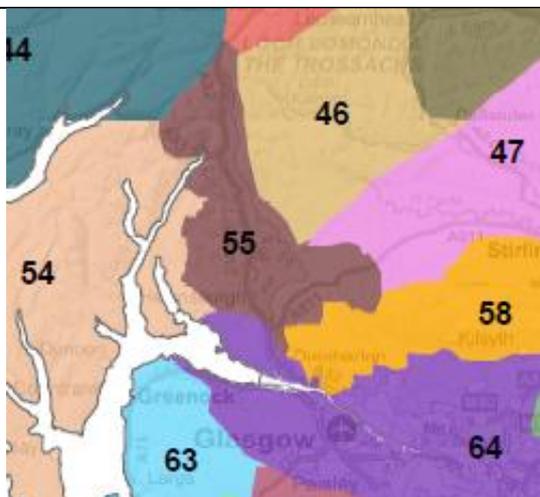
Naismith -
Buildings of the Scottish Countryside
pp 191-195

Selected creative associations

Novels / writings

Personality (Andrew O'Hagan)

55 Lomond



Description

An area of dramatic contrast and great beauty encompassing both lowland and highland Scotland. At its heart lies Loch Lomond and its islands, surrounded by the receding silhouettes of the highland hills. The celebrated loch straddles the clearly defined Highland Boundary Fault. To the north, it is pinched to a narrow defile by enclosing mountains, rising steeply upwards from the water's edge above lochside woodlands. The loch is broader and more open in the south, where it is flecked with islands and flanked by rolling farmland and estates. The lochside is a popular location for golf courses and other recreational uses. A busy trunk road hugs the west bank; in contrast, the east side, where the West Highland Way is the main route, is quiet.

Key technical information sources

LCA: Loch Lomond & Trossachs

NHF: Argyll West and Islands (14)
Loch Lomond, Trossachs and Breadalbane (15)
West Central Belt (17)

HLA: XX

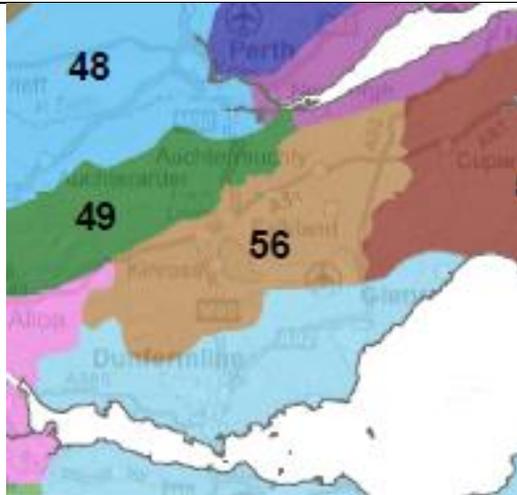
Naismith -
Buildings of the Scottish Countryside
pp 171-176

Selected creative associations

Poetry

Ben Lomond (Thomas Campbell)
The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond (Andrew Lang)

56 Kinross-shire and Howe of Fife



Description

The reflective expanse of Loch Leven sits in a wide, flat basin, surrounded by the steeply dramatic Lomond Hills to the east and the gentler Ochil Hills to the north. The hills contrast with the fertile, gently rolling farmland below and woodland marks the edges of the loch and water courses which are important for wintering geese. Several small villages cling to the base of the hills and the larger towns of Kinross and Milnathort lie next to the M90, which cuts its way noisily through the landscape. The grand buildings of Loch Leven Castle, Falkland Palace, and Kinross House show the importance of the area in the past; as, more subtly, do hilltop forts and cairns.

Key technical information sources

LCA: Tayside, Fife

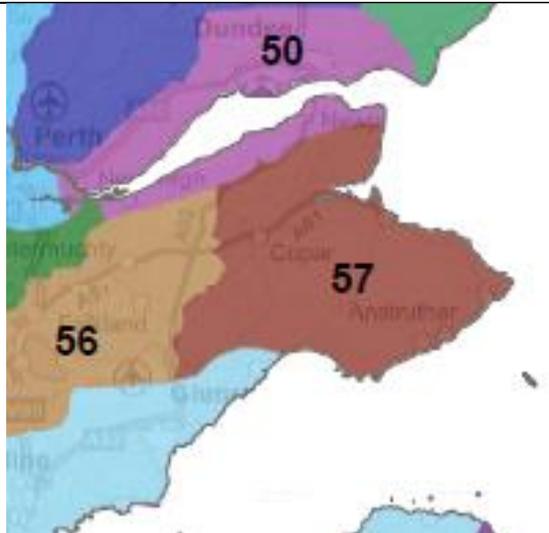
NHF: Eastern Lowlands (16)

HLA: XX

Naismith -
Buildings of the Scottish Countryside
pp 176-182

Selected creative associations

57 East Fife



Description

This is a diverse lowland area, where an agricultural hinterland is edged by a coast of low rocky cliffs, wide beaches, and coastal forests. The rolling, black-earthed farmland is bordered with wind-pruned hedgerows, dotted with trees and traversed by winding rural roads. This part of Fife has a long fishing and seafaring tradition, and the coast is renowned for its distinctive coastal settlement where harled dwellings with clay pantiled roofs cluster around small harbours. In a contrasting style, occasional castles and mansion houses also occur. Inland, where there are also contains remnants of prehistoric peoples attracted by the fertile soils of the area, villages and church spires form prominent landmarks.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Fife

NHF: Eastern Lowlands

HLA: XX

Naismith -
Buildings of the Scottish Countryside
pp 176-182

Selected creative associations

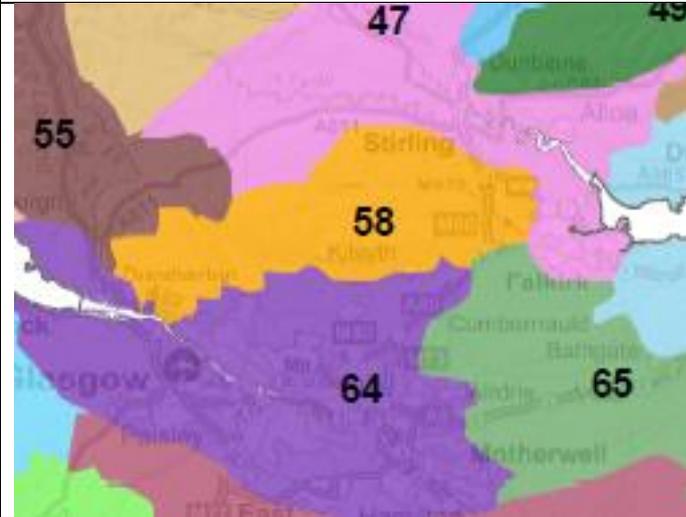
Poetry

Almae Matres (Andrew Lang)

Film / TV

Location in "Chariots of Fire" (Hugh Hudson)

58 Lennox Hills



Description

An upland area comprising a series of craggy, steep-sided moorland hill ranges. The Campsie Fells, and Kilpatrick and Kilsyth Hills form the northern backdrop to much of the Glasgow conurbation, while the Gargunnoch and Touch Hills form the southern edge to Stirling and the Forth Valley. Mainly comprising open moorland, these hills enclose valleys containing forestry plantations and reservoirs, where visitors can feel distant from the nearby urbanised lowlands. The hills' worth in past times for defensive positions is shown by examples of prehistoric defended settlements in the uplands. Commuter towns and villages encircle the foot of the hills, linked by busy roads that follow the main straths. Minor roads and tracks twist through the remoter valleys and lower passes.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Central, Glasgow and Clyde Valley

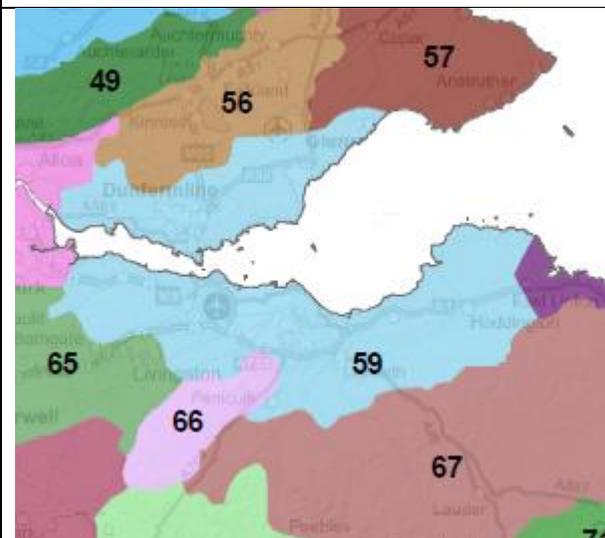
NHF: West Central Belt (17)

HLA: XX

Naismith -
Buildings of the Scottish Countryside
pp 171-176

Selected creative associations

59 Edinburgh and Firth of Forth



Description

A busy urban area, focused on an important seaway that is edged by other towns and cities. Views of the Firth of Forth, juxtaposed against hills, with towns and small villages nestling along the shore, are typical. The coast is one of great variety, from sandy beaches and golf courses, to power stations and petrochemical plants. Skylines are very distinctive, containing dramatic volcanic outcrops adjacent to city roofscapes. The sporadic flare, across the firth at Mossmorran, is visible from the busy streets of the capital and gives a clue to the industrial heritage of the hinterland. Small islands, commercial shipping and tiny yachts are dotted across the water, but the eye is inevitably drawn to the iconic Victorian Forth Rail Bridge alongside the modern road crossing.

Key technical information sources

LCA: Lothians, Fife, Stirling to Grangemouth, Clackmannanshire

NHF: Eastern Lowlands

HLA: XX

Naismith -
Buildings of the Scottish Countryside
pp 155-161, 176-182

Selected creative associations

Novels / writings

Heart of Midlothian (Sir Walter Scott)
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (Muriel Spark)
Trainspotting (Irvine Welsh)

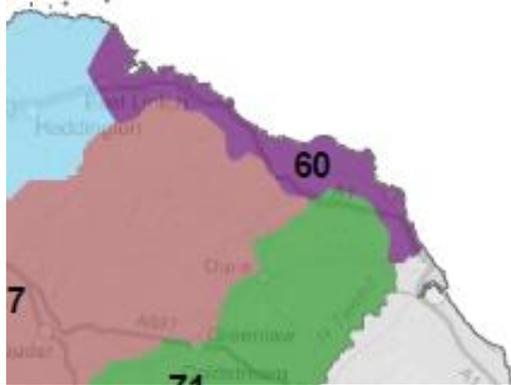
Paintings

Reverend Walker Skating (Sir Henry Raeburn)

Film / TV

Shallow Grave (Danny Boyle)

60 Lothian and Borders Coast



Description

A coastal plain, characterised by a series of volcanic 'laws' which rise dramatically above a patchwork of estates, farmland, small woodlands and remnants of wilder rough pasture. Traprain Law, a seat of power from the bronze age to Roman times, rules over the western plain. These lowlands rise to more remote open moorland within the Lammermuir Hills, flanked by prehistoric forts, inland to the south. The coastline has sandy beaches, rocky shores and cliffs, with classic views to Fife, the Bass Rock and the Isle of May. The coast is dotted with small fishing ports and harbours, promontory forts and castles, Victorian seaside resorts, and golf courses. Inland, most settlements are small in scale, with numerous steadings and large estate houses. Red pantiles and sandstone are common, giving buildings in the area a distinctive 'east coast' vernacular style.

Key technical information sources:

LCA: Lothians, Borders

NHF: Eastern Lowlands (16)

HLA: XX

Naismith -
Buildings of the Scottish Countryside
pp 155-161

Selected creative associations

Paintings

Fast Castle from above (Thomson of Duddingston)