



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

A project for Scottish
Natural Heritage (SNH)

Applying the ecosystem approach to collaborative land use and management in the Pentland Hills Regional Park



Consultative
Forum Site
Management
Planning
Technical
Annex

June 2017



Collingwood Environmental
Planning Limited

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Project title: | Applying the Ecosystem Approach to collaborative land use and management in the Pentland Hills Regional Park |
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| Report details: | <p>Report title: Consultative Forum Site Management Planning Technical Annex</p> <p>Date issued: 16th June 2017</p> <p>Version no.: 3</p> <p>Authors: Peter Phillips, Paula Orr and Philip Mellor</p> |

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Annex 1: References

COAT (2016). Pentland Hills Regional Park Upland Path Audit 2016: Upland Path Audit, Priorities and Indicative Costings. Report to Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust. Aboyne: Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust.

Macdonald, F. (2013). What's wrong with the SNH map of core wild land? Modern lives modern landscapes blog article July 18th 2013 [online]. Available at: <http://www.frasermacdonald.com/why-the-snh-map-of-core-wild-land-is-wrong/> [accessed 30/03/17].

Phillips, P.M., Orr, P., and Mellor P. (2016). [Applying the ecosystem approach to collaborative land use and management in the Pentland Hills Regional Park: Consultative Forum Report](#). Report to SNH. London: Collingwood Environmental Planning.

Schmidt, K., Müller, C., and Walz, A. (2016). Use, appreciation and preferences for future development in the Pentland Hills Regional Park: Results of the user survey 2014. Institute of Earth and Environmental Science, University of Potsdam, Germany.

Scott Wilson (2007). Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan (2007-2017) – Final Plan [online]. Available at: http://www.pentlandhills.org/downloads/file/46/pentland_hills_regional_park_plan_2007_-_2017 [accessed 13/04/17].

SNH (2014). SNH's mapping of Scotland's wildness and wild land: Non-technical description of the methodology [online]. Available at: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A1342460.pdf> [accessed 30/03/17].

Wild About Scotland (2013). Mapping the wild land debate. Wild About Scotland blog article December 8th 2013 [online]. Available at: <https://wildaboutscotland.com/2013/12/08/mapping-the-wild-land-debate/> [accessed 30/03/17].

Annex 2: Consultation responses and how they have been accounted for

The table below lists specific responses to the consultation on the DRAFT Consultative Forum Site Management Planning Report and DRAFT Site Management Planning Technical Annex and how these have been accounted for in revised reports.

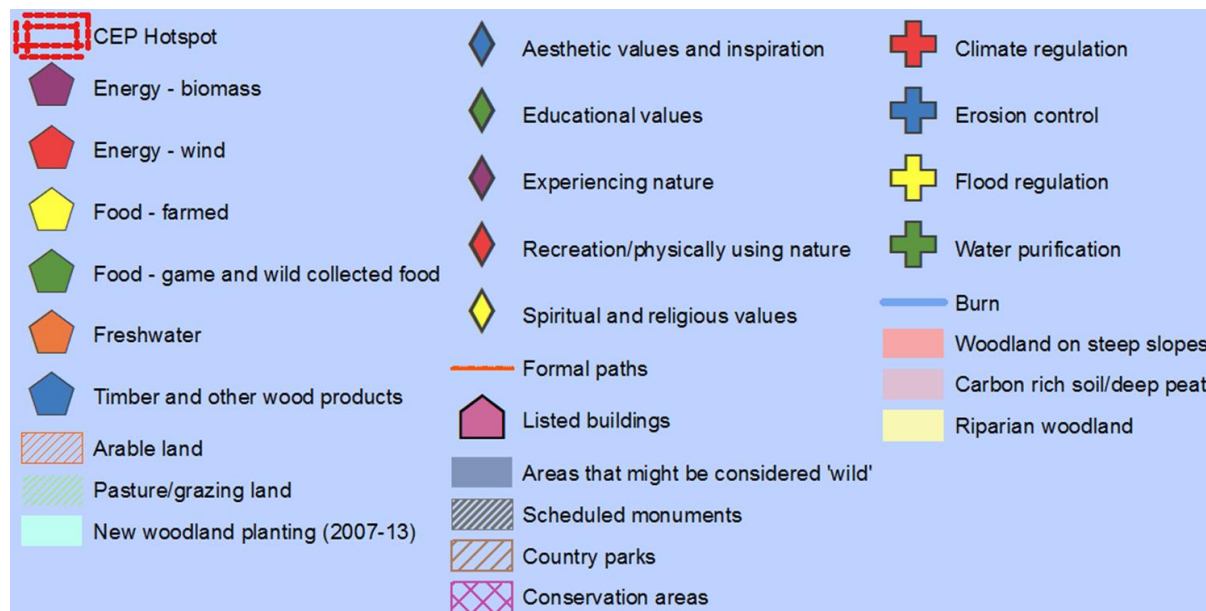
| Page | Comment | How the comment has been addressed |
|---|---|---|
| <i>General comments</i> | | |
| N/A | Thank you for providing copies of the excellent draft reports that you have prepared. In response to the "Consultation questions to consider" document I have the following comments. | Noted. |
| N/A | I shall look forward to reading your final report and learning how the park authorities intend to act on the many issues raised by this valuable study. | Noted. |
| <i>Comments on Part 1: Introduction and methodology</i> | | |
| N/A | N/A | N/A |
| <i>Comments on Part 2: Review and validation of hotspot areas</i> | | |
| pp.8-12 | I think the hotspots and the accompanying issues are, by and large, accurately identified and that the focus should now shift to implementation of management plans. Regarding the outcomes, it is unclear to me how willing the park authorities are to implement / fund any of the findings of this study and it would be regrettable if this good work is not carried on. | Noted. Several key next steps have been proposed in the report (section 6.2) to ensure that momentum is maintained. |
| <i>Comments on Part 3: Review and prioritisation of upland path works</i> | | |
| pp.13-14 | I am surprised that the path on the north side of Threipmuir reservoir is classified as one of the worst as in my view it is one of the better ones (also, you might like to know there is a typo in the table on page 13 where the number grading system is incorrect). | There may be some confusion; the path referred to has been assessed as a "Priority 5" i.e. no intervention required (shown as a yellow route on Figure 3.1 in the main report). |
| pp.13-18 | There seems to be an assumption that the landowners would automatically want path upgrade works if they were offered. I suspect this is not the case, particularly in sensitive areas that are managed for grouse. | Noted. A clarification point on this has been added at section 3.3 and in the conclusions (section 6.1). |
| <i>Comments on Part 4: Management planning for hotspot areas</i> | | |
| pp.19-26 | I consider that most of the issues have been well considered and described. However, I think far more consideration needs to be given to signage. On page 21 there is a comment stating that signs "clutter up the landscape". In my view, there is a clear place for good concise signage, particularly in and around car parks. All of the frustrated lost people who end up in my farmyard tell me that the park signage is inadequate and they are often quite irritated by this and suggest that I should rectify the situation! Further surveys of visitors could easily be done at minimal cost to establish views on signage more scientifically. My view is that having visited hundreds of regional and national parks in numerous countries, Pentlands Regional Park has fewer signs than almost anywhere else. The public need to be managed in the countryside and the cheapest way of doing this effectively is the use of good signage that informs and educates as well as directs. | Additional points added to suggestions to mitigate pressures / impacts at Hotspot No.1 (see section 4.1 p.22). |
| N/A | Other issues not mentioned are the increasing use of camper vans | Additional points added to |

| Page | Comment | How the comment has been addressed |
|---|--|---|
| | for overnight camping in car parks and rural crime in general, including fish poaching, fly tipping, theft of livestock etc. | the antisocial behaviour bullet (see section 4.1 p.21). |
| <i>Additional comments on specific issues</i> | | |
| N/A | <p>DOGS: there are increasing conflicts occurring with dogs and livestock. Every week the farming press carries a headline of multiple fatalities incurred by dog attacks on livestock. This is completely unacceptable from animal welfare and farming business perspectives and the park management should take a very firm zero tolerance approach. The public are also generally ignorant of biosecurity issues associated with visiting dogs on farms (tapeworms, neospora caninum etc). As a minimum, signage needs to be vastly improved and appropriate bylaws should be introduced with enforceable penalties and authorities willing to step up and stamp out these problems. My MP and MSP have both visited our farm and they are fully supportive of the need for these issues to be tackled.</p> | Additional points added to suggestions to mitigate pressures / impacts at Hotspot No.1 (see section 4.1 p.22) and in the conclusions (section 6.1). |
| N/A | <p>WILDLIFE: The wildlife benefit of the park is mentioned frequently in the report. On our farm, we have several endangered wading bird species, which are ground nesting (lapwing, curlew, snipe etc). These are destroyed / killed / harassed by out of control dogs. Without wishing to be glib, we need to consider which we prefer: the protection of endangered species or pandering to the wishes of often uninformed dog owners. According to the WWF, in the last 40 years over half of the species on the planet has become extinct. I think it is important to consider the priorities for the park: is it intended primarily to protect wildlife and the livelihoods of those who live and work there or does the park exist entirely for the enjoyment of the visitors, regardless of the outcome. At present, it feels like the balance is almost entirely in the latter category, perhaps not by reason of any obvious management decision, but more so as a result of apathy and an unwillingness to tackle the problems that are increasing every year.</p> | Additional points added to suggestions to mitigate pressures / impacts at Hotspot No.1 (see section 4.1 p.22) and in the conclusions (section 6.1). |
| N/A | <p>COMMUNICATION: The lack of any effective online communication by park authorities is a major missed opportunity. Twitter / Facebook / Instagram etc feeds that are regularly updated with seasonal issues and advice are how the world now communicates and this has been done with great success in regional and national parks in other parts of the world. Almost no one checks a park website before visiting.</p> | Additional points added to suggestions to mitigate pressures / impacts at Hotspot No.1 (see section 4.1 p.22). |

Annex 3: Detailed maps of hotspot areas

Figures A2.1 – A2.5 below provide detailed maps (with 1:25,000 OS base mapping) of each hotspot area identified in the 2016 work (Phillips *et al.*, 2016). The maps show: (1) the extent of the hotspot area¹; (2) the natural environment benefits mapped by CF participants at the May 2016 workshop; and (3) existing natural and other assets at / in proximity to the hotspot.

The legend for all five maps is shown below:



Note: benefits represented by pentagons are **provisioning services**, those with diamonds are **cultural services** and those with crosses, **regulating services** [see the 2016 Consultative Forum Report and its Technical Annex for definitions of these categories].

¹ Noting that this is entirely arbitrary based on the density of benefits mapped by CF participants at the May 2016 workshop (see Part 2).

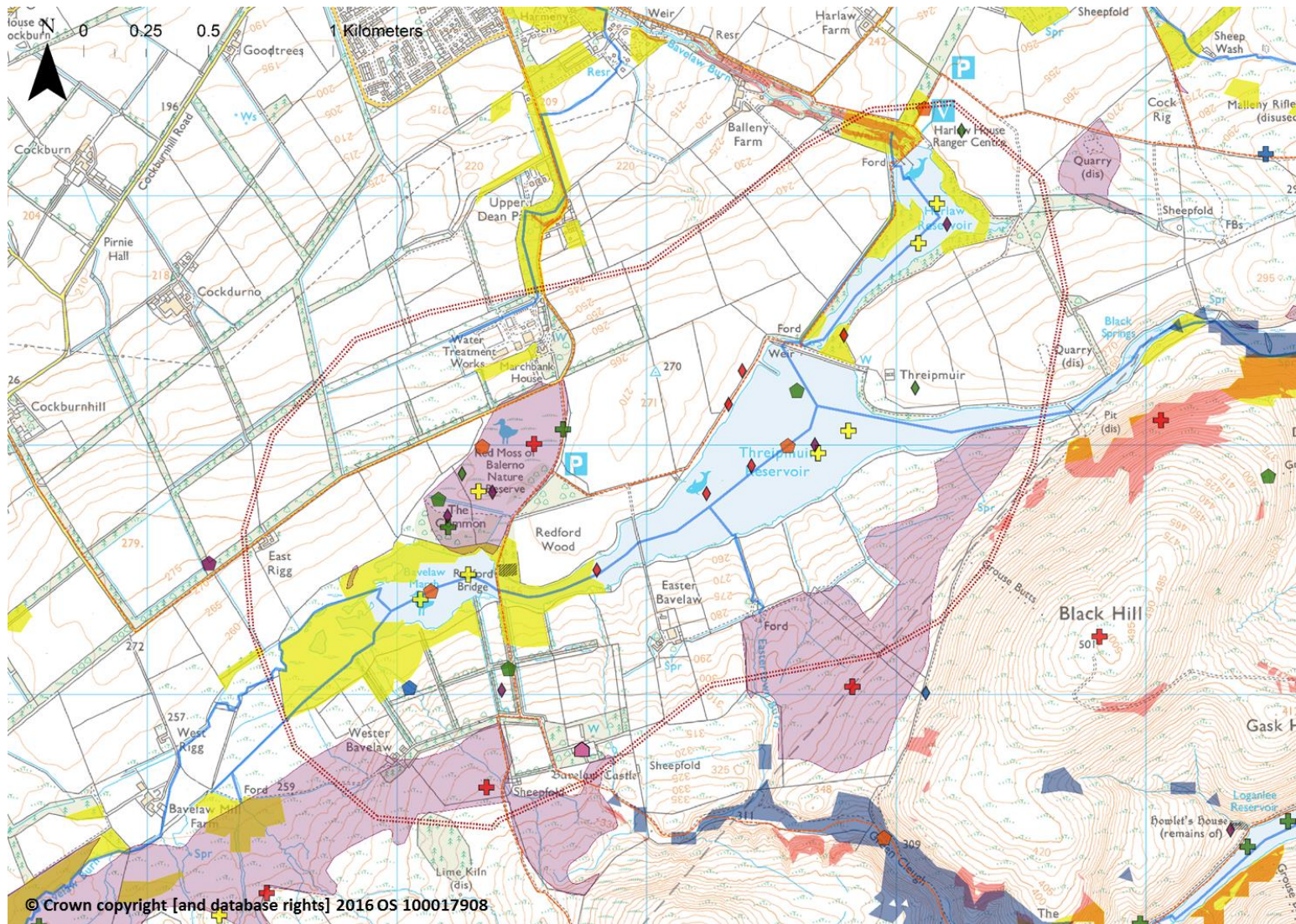


Figure A3-1: Detailed overview of Hotspot No.1 – Threipmuir Reservoir and Red Moss (note: key for this map is provided on page 4 above)

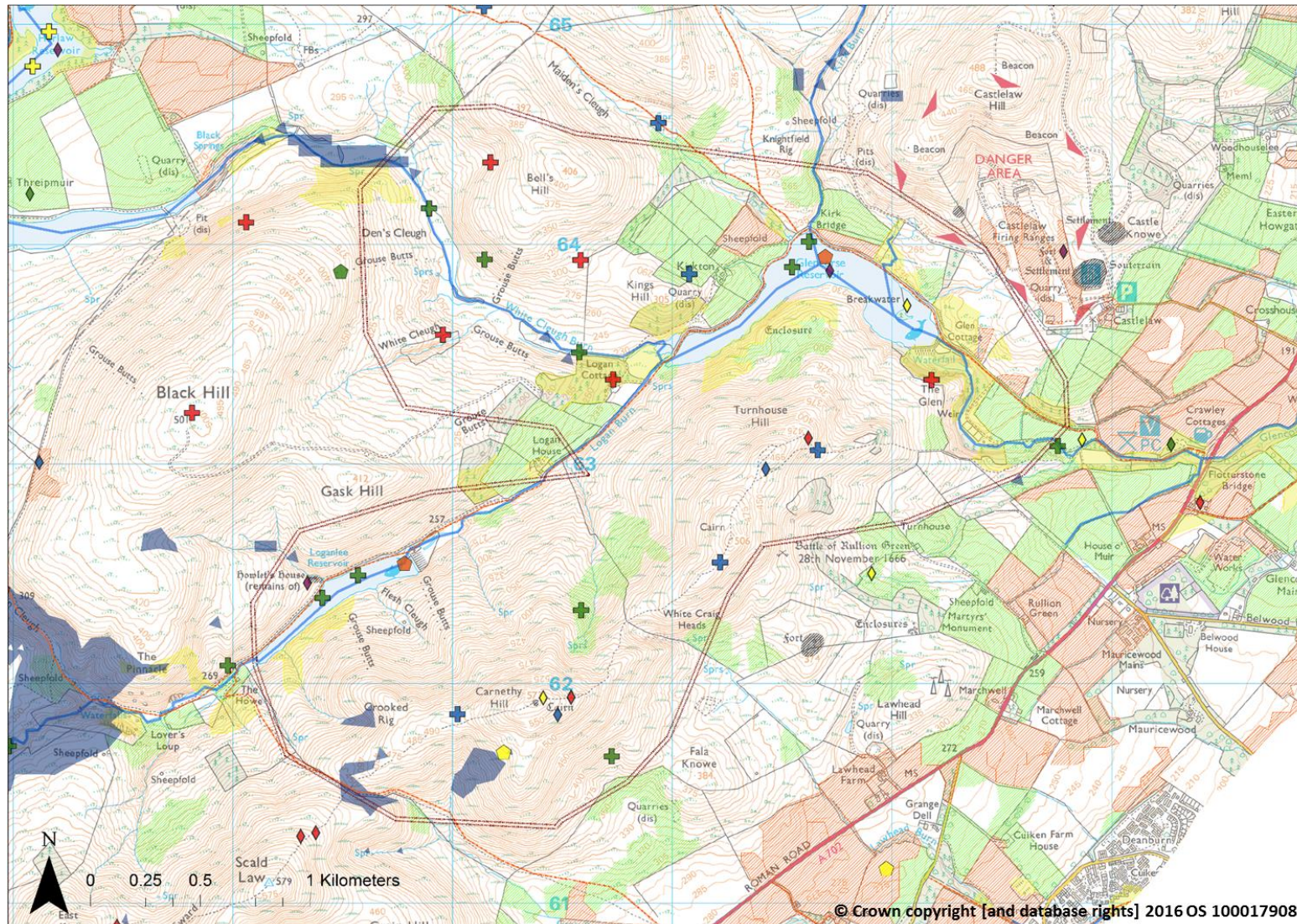


Figure A3-2: Detailed overview of Hotspot No.2 – Glencorse, Bell's Hill and Carnethy Hill (note: key for this map is provided on page 4 above)

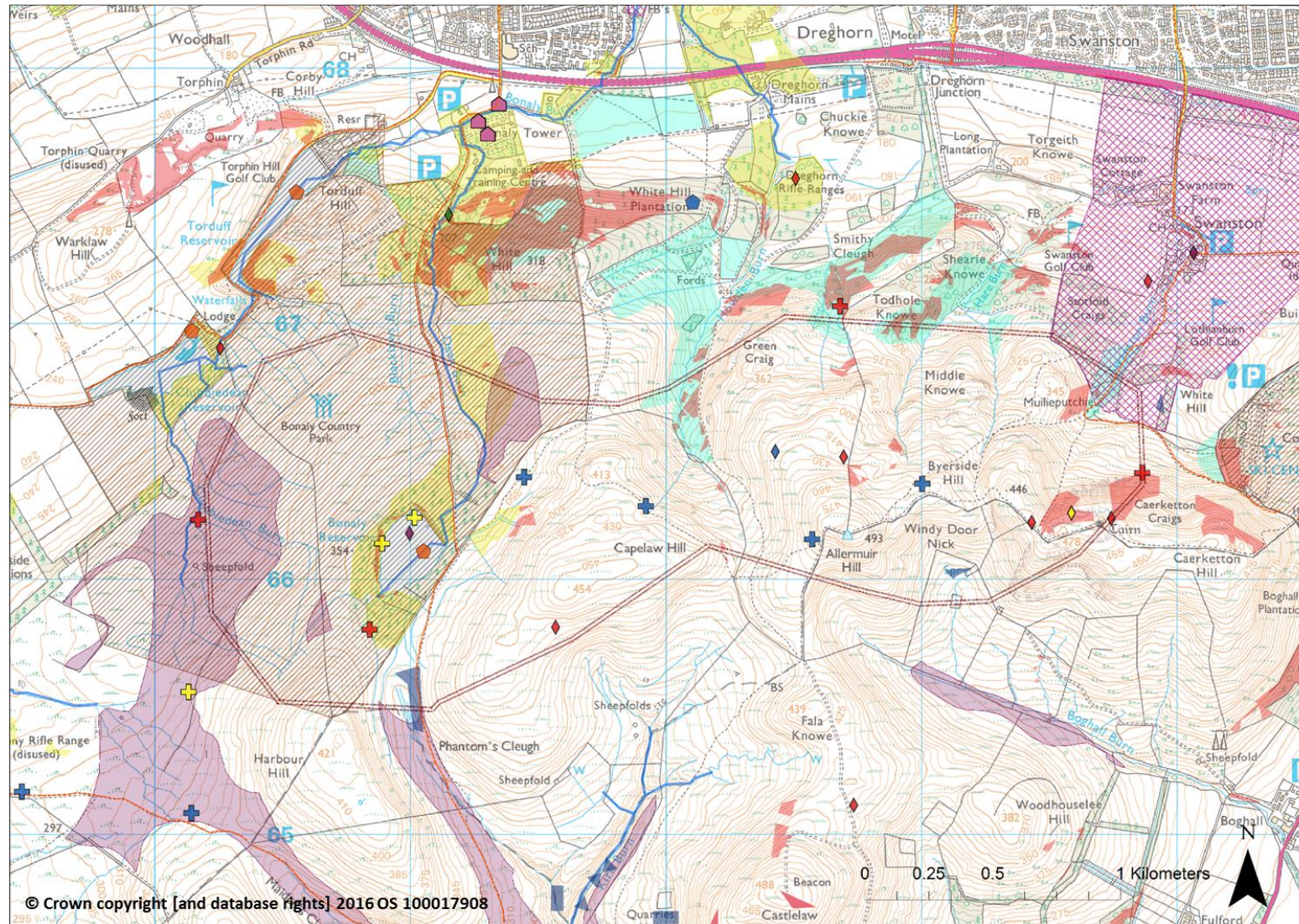


Figure A3-3: Detailed overview of Hotspot No.3 – Capelaw and Caerketton Hill (note: key for this map is provided on page 4 above)

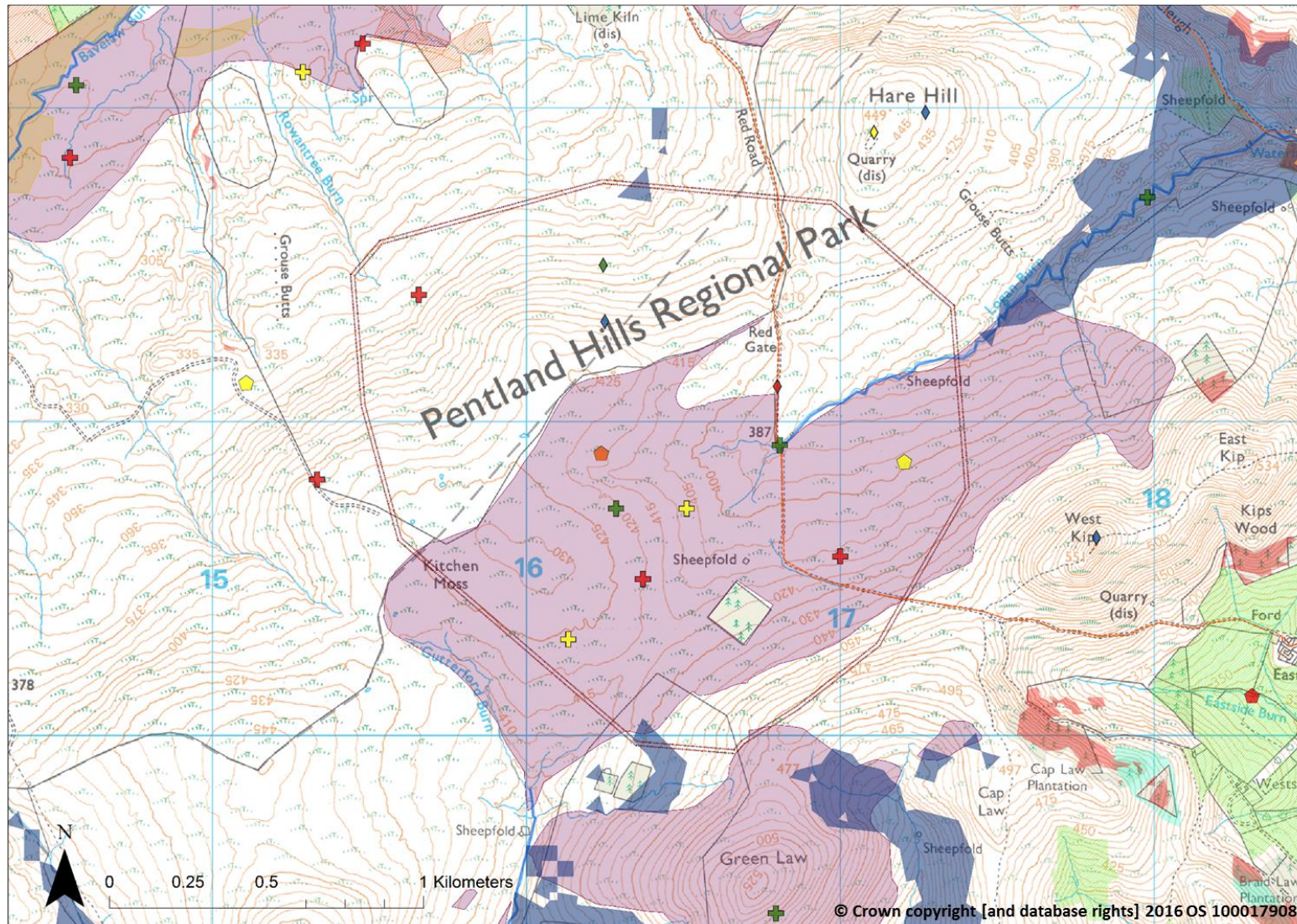


Figure A3-4: Detailed overview of Hotspot No.4 – Kitchen Moss (note: key for this map is provided on page 4 above)

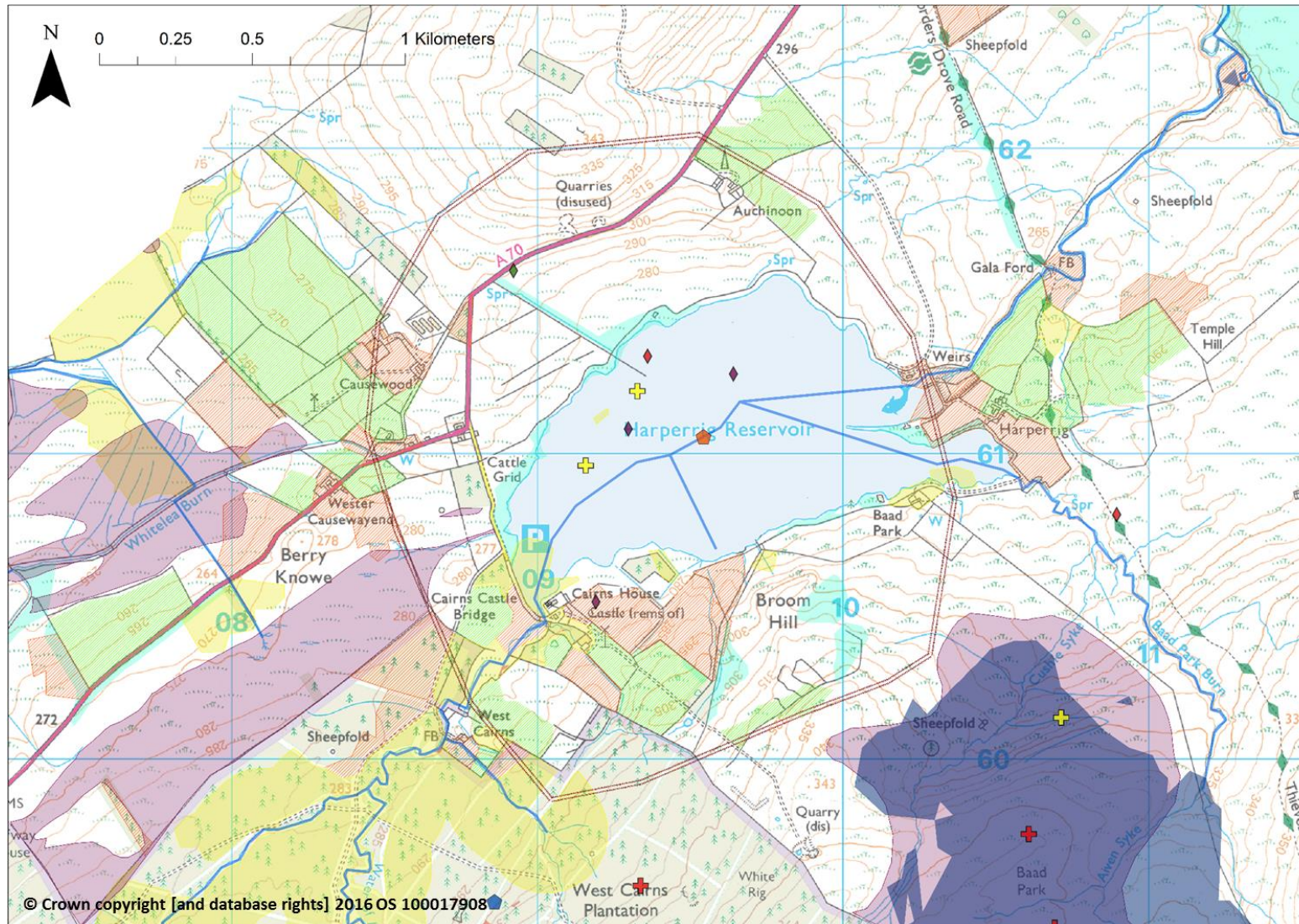


Figure A3-5: Detailed overview of Hotspot No.5 – Harperrig Reservoir (note: key for this map is provided on page 4 above)

Annex 4: Hotspot management planning: spatial issues and proposals

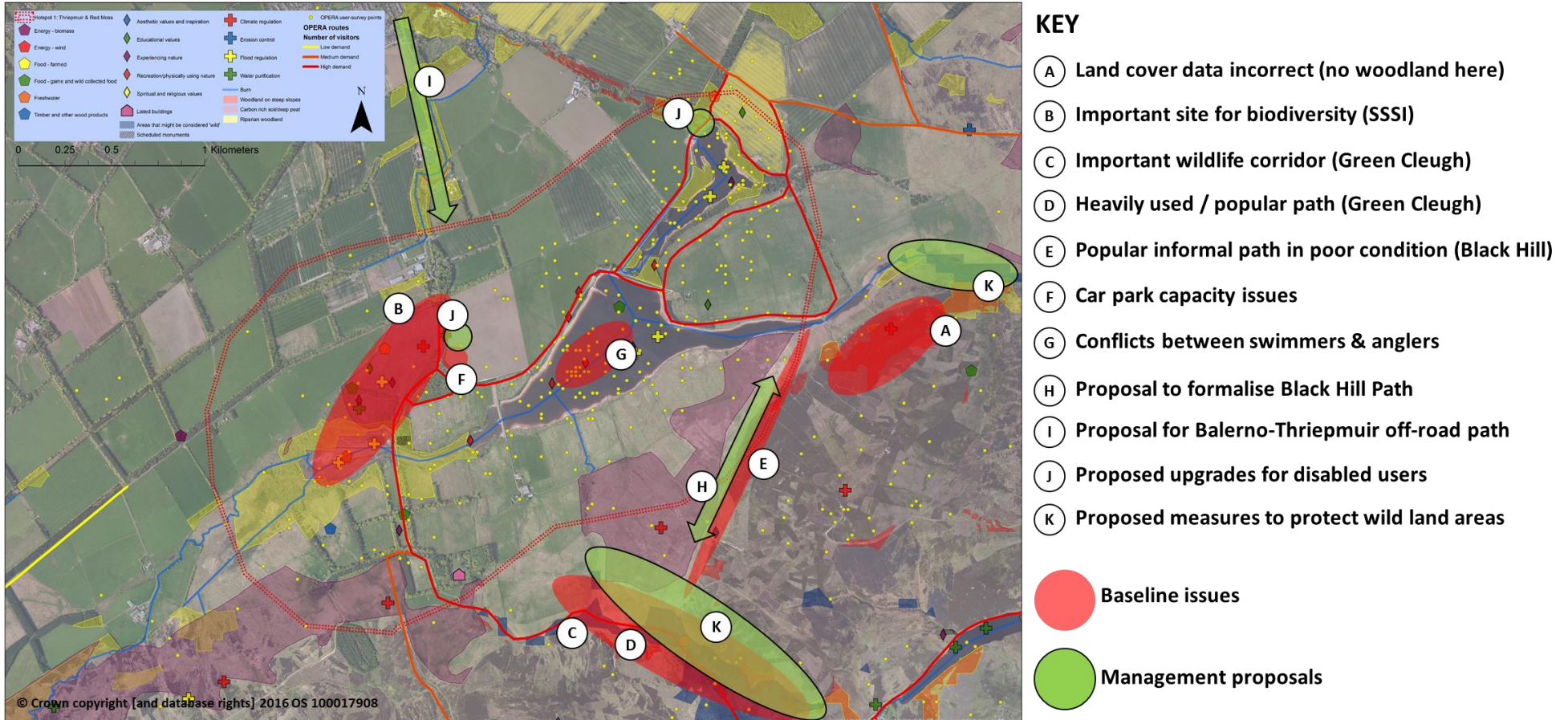


Figure A4-1: Management planning and proposals for Hotspot No.1: Threipmuir Reservoir and Red Moss (note: see section 4.1 in the main report for full details of the management issues and proposals shown on the figure above)

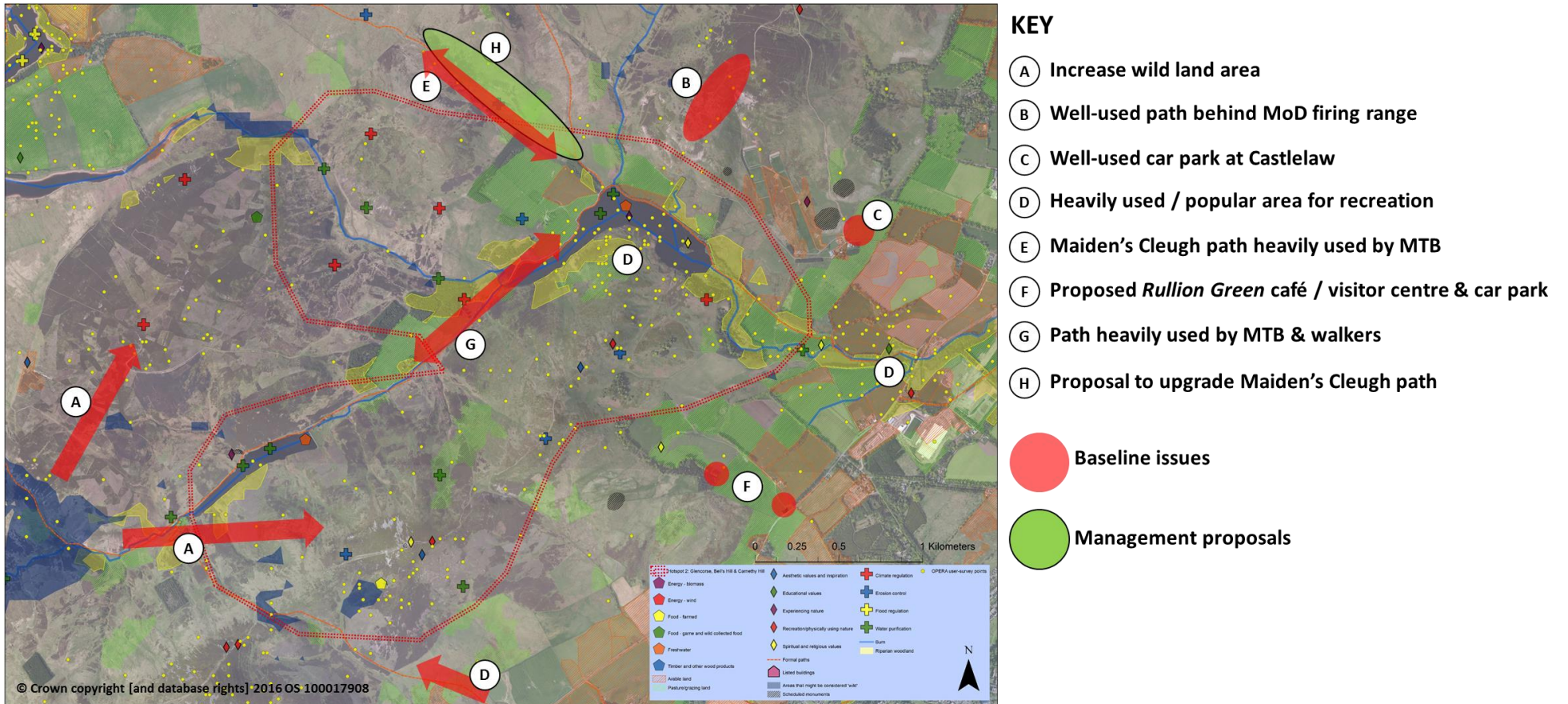


Figure A4-2: Management planning and proposals for Hotspot No.2: Glencorse, Bell's Hill and Carnethy Hill (note: see section 4.2 in the main report for full details of the management issues and proposals shown on the figure above)