Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Key point (1):

• Innovative and proactive approaches to camping management and recreation development
Key point(2):

- The benefits and impacts of Scotland’s progressive public access legislation
Structure:

- Scottish NP context
- Strategies/Policies
- Scottish Access Rights
- Capital investments
- Monitoring systems
- Camping management
- Path development
- Path promotion
International Union for the Conservation of Nature
six distinct categories of Protected Area
Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park is in Category 5
“Protected Landscape/Seascape”
Managed mainly for landscape protection and recreation
4 National Park aims:

1. Conserve and enhance the **natural and cultural** heritage of the area

2. Promote sustainable use of **natural resources** in the area

3. Promote public **understanding** and **enjoyment** (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area

4. **Promote sustainable economic and social development** of the area’s communities
% of Scotland’s population live within an hour’s drive

- Park covers around 1,865 sq km (720 sq miles)
- Around 15,100 people live in the park
National Park Popularity

• Within 1 hours drive of over 50 % of Scotland’s population
• 7 million visitor days per year
• £247 million spent by tourists/year
• Visitors from Scotland (63%), Elsewhere in UK (25%), Overseas (12%)
• Favorite destination of many day-trippers
• Majority of visitors arrive by car

Our scenery, the lochs and mountains, are key motivations for visiting the National Park. The Park is a place where people enjoy the beauty of the area. Our visitor research tells us:

- Sightseeing is the main activity followed by walking.
- A significant proportion of visitors come for active sport.
- Eating out and cultural heritage are areas which require development to become greater attractors
Governance

• Non-departmental Public Body (NDPB)
• National Park Board
  – 5 locally elected members
  – 6 local council appointed
  – 6 government appointed
• Chief Executive Officer
• 134 staff (+ 50 seasonal contracts)
• HQ in Balloch
• Budget £8M
National Park Partnership Plan

The National Park Authority produces a **Park Partnership Plan** to set the vision and priorities for the Park.

Policies reflect relevant Scottish Government priorities.
Outcome 5: Recreation Opportunities

The National Park has a wide variety of well promoted and managed outdoor recreation opportunities providing for a range of abilities and interests.

Why is this important?

There is a wealth of recreation opportunities available within the National Park but we must make sure that these are well promoted and managed so that these can be enjoyed by as wide a range of people as possible. It’s also important that we respond to changes in demand for recreational facilities and the growing popularity of new activities.

Paths network

The National Park Authority and a wide range of partners, including communities, have already invested significantly in improving recreational paths and facilities. This has been guided most recently by the National Park’s Outdoor Recreation Plan and Core Paths Plan.

However, the existing paths network needs to be improved with some additional strategic links being created, improvements to local paths and finding long term solutions to ensure the overall network is maintained and promoted to a high standard.

Sensitive environments

The popularity of the Park’s mountains means they are subject to path erosion and need concerted efforts to protect these sensitive environments and to allow positive and safe visitor experiences.

The Park Authority must lead efforts with partners to tackle these issues and build on the achievements already made under the previous plan to ensure that the range of outdoor recreation opportunities are well promoted and managed for all to enjoy.
### Outcomes & priorities - at a glance

#### Conservation & Land Management

**Outcome 1: Natural Capital**
The Park’s natural resources are enhanced for future generations: important habitats are restored and better connected on a landscape scale.

- **Priority 1.1: Habitats**
- **Priority 1.2: Species**

**Outcome 2: Landscape Qualities**
The Park’s special landscape qualities and sense of place are conserved and enhanced with more opportunities to enjoy and experience them.

- **Priority 2.1: Landscape & Heritage**

**Outcome 3: Climate Change**
The natural environment of the Park is better managed to help mitigate and address the impacts of climate change.

- **Priority 3.1: Climate Change**

**Outcome 4: Land Partnerships**
New landscape-scale partnerships deliver better integrated management of the land and water environment providing multiple benefits for nature and people.

- **Priority 4.1: Integrated Land Management**

#### Visitor Experience

**Outcome 5: Recreation Opportunities**
The National Park has a wide variety of well promoted and managed outdoor recreation opportunities providing for a range of abilities and interests.

- **Priority 5.1: Path Provision**
- **Priority 5.2: Path Maintenance**
- **Priority 5.3: Active Travel**

**Outcome 6: Water Recreation**
There are more opportunities to enjoy water-based recreation and sporting activities across the Park’s lochs, rivers and coasts while maximising safety for all users and protecting the quality of water environments.

- **Priority 6.1: Water Facilities**
- **Priority 6.2: Waterbus Network**
- **Priority 6.3: Water Recreation**

**Outcome 7: Visitor Economy**
The Park’s visitor economy is thriving with more businesses and organisations working together to create a world-class destination.

- **Priority 7.1: Growing Tourism Markets**
- **Priority 7.2: Connectivity**

**Outcome 8: Visitor Management**
The most popular parts of the National Park which experience pressures are managed to ensure that the quality of environment, visitor experience and community life are protected and enhanced.

- **Priority 8.1: Visitor Management**
- **Priority 8.2: Public Transport**

**Outcome 9: Health & Learning**
People from a wider range of backgrounds are enjoying, valuing and helping manage the National Park. It is used more as a place for people to realise the personal health and wellbeing benefits of connecting with nature.

- **Priority 9.1: Health Improvement**
- **Priority 9.2: Engagement & Learning**
## How will we measure success?

Key indicators will be used in order to establish whether the National Park Partnership Plan is delivering what it has set out to achieve and having a positive effect on the National Park. The Park Authority and its partners will track and report on the Indicators of Success. They will provide a regular snapshot of progress and be used to continually refine delivery against our outcomes.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 | Area of new woodland  
   | 2000 hectares of woodland expansion by 2023 |
| 2 | Area and condition of restored peatland  
   | 2000 hectares of restored peatland by 2023 |
| 3 | Percentage of designated sites in favourable condition  
   | Increase from 2017 baseline of 76% of designated site features to 80% by 2023 |
| 4 | Percentage of water bodies achieving at least good ecological condition  
   | Increase from 2016 baseline of 44% to 59% by 2023 |
| 5 | Proportion of people travelling to and around the National Park by public or active transport  
   | Reduce proportion arriving by car from 2015/16 Visitor Survey baseline of 85%  
   | Reduce proportion exploring by car from 2015/16 Visitor Survey baseline of 62%  
   | Increase proportion exploring by foot, water and bike from the 2015/16 Visitor Survey |
| 6 | Proportion of people taking part in active recreation  
   | Increase from 2015/16 Visitor Survey baselines of 24% for active sport and 49% for low-level walking |
| 7 | Overall value of the visitor economy  
   | Increase from 2016 STEAM baseline of £340m by 2023 |
| 8 | Reported public experience of the Park’s settlements and landscapes  
   | Increase in proportion of people reporting a good quality experience |
| 9 | Number of volunteers and volunteer hours  
   | Increase by 20% from the 2017/18 baseline by 2023 |
| 10 | Number of young people having an outdoor learning experience in the National Park  
    | At least 2500 young people per year over the Plan period |
| 11 | Number of new homes built and proportion of affordable homes  
    | 375 homes over the Plan period with a minimum of 25% being affordable |
| 12 | Number of projects delivering well-designed, sustainable places  
    | Delivery in 3 communities per year of the Plan |
| 13 | Number of community-identified projects delivered  
    | Delivery of 3 projects per Community Action Plan by 2023 |
| 14 | Number of new skills development opportunities from projects in the National Park  
    | Increase opportunities in the National Park over the Plan period |
Targets for “success”

3. Percentage of designated sites in favourable condition
   Increase from 2017 baseline of 76% of designated site features to 80% by 2023

4. Percentage of water bodies achieving at least good ecological condition.
   Increase from 2016 baseline of 44% to 59% by 2023

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7. Overall value of the visitor economy
   Increase from 2016 STEAM baseline of £340m by 2023
What we have:

- Conservation

*Natural heritage designations*

**Key**
- Railway
- Main Road
- Loch
- RAMSAR
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Marine Protection Area
- National Nature Reserves
- Geological Conservation Review Site
- Site of Special Scientific Interest

Data Source: SSSI, MPA, NNR, GCR, SAC, SPA & RAMSAR - Scottish Natural Heritage
Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017
Scottish Access Rights principals – rebellious attitudes

- Right to responsible access
- Cultural backdrop
- Respect others
- Respect privacy
- Individual makes the decision
- Positive signage works best
- Shared use principals
- Access Authorities uphold rights
- SNH promote SOAC
- SNH can protect natural and cultural heritage
Picture perfect camping
Two main pressures

Capacity
number of visitors

Behaviours
irresponsible minority
Camping related pressures
‘Wild camping’ vs ‘car camping’
The importance of camping
The need for an intervention
The introduction of byelaws

Unauthorised Camping

(6) It shall be an offence for a person to:

(a) set up, use or occupy a tent, wigwam or bivouac at any time; or
(b) set up, use or occupy overnight any other form of shelter (other than an umbrella)
within a Management Zone unless they have been authorised to do so by the Authority under byelaw 11.

Fires

(8) No person shall without lawful authority:

(a) light or cause a fire within a Management Zone causing damage or likely to cause damage to a Management Zone; or
(b) collect or use wood from within a Management Zone that causes damage or is likely to cause damage to a Management Zone.
Finding a balance
A camping ban?
Information
Use of the website
Education and Enforcement
The permit scheme
Affordable campsites
Public private partnerships
Loch Lubnaig
Public private partnerships
Loch Lubnaig
Monitoring to understand and make effective management decisions
Looking forward.....
The Your Park proposals are designed to help transform the experience (for everyone) on and around our busiest lochshores.
Strategic path development
Core path network
Balmaha
Targeted Project development
Design principals / planning

- Planning permission process
- Shared use principals
- National standards
- National networks
Consistent information

The Path Manager’s Guide to Grading

A Six Part System

3. Grade Symbol

There are basically three main grades: Easy / Moderate / Strenuous.
The Easy paths that also meet the Countryside For All access standards are just a variant of Easy. Grade specifications are set out in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Symbol</th>
<th>Gradient &amp; duration</th>
<th>Surface materials / Surface condition</th>
<th>Obstacles</th>
<th>Usable Width</th>
<th>Distance limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Maximum 12%</td>
<td>Generally a smooth, firm surface. Well drained and maintained with minimal loose material.</td>
<td>Minimal use of steps. Free of narrow gates or gaps and always itemised in Terrain Description.</td>
<td>Generally 1200 mm. Short sections (&lt;20 m) down to 800 mm.</td>
<td>Total distance of whole route must not exceed 5 miles / 8 km (return route to start point).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>May exceed 12% for infrequent short sections (&lt;200 m) but generally no steeper than 12%.</td>
<td>Earth or stone surface. Sections may be firm under foot. Generally well maintained but sections could be loose or uneven (&lt;=50 mm height of roughness) or soft after rain.</td>
<td>Few obstacles. Sections of regular steps, gates and other minor obstacles mentioned in the Terrain Description.</td>
<td>Variable, largely 800 mm but with short (&lt;20 m) narrower sections</td>
<td>Total distance of whole route must not exceed 7 miles / 11 km (return route to start point).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strenuous</td>
<td>May have arduous climbs and steep sections. May include long steep sections exceeding 12%.</td>
<td>A distinct surface but could be without major change to the existing ground. Could be rough and rocky and may have large (&gt;100 mm) loose stones. May have muddy sections.</td>
<td>Natural and other obstacles are likely including large or irregular steps, stiles or gates.</td>
<td>Frequently less than 800 mm.</td>
<td>Total distance may be greater than 7 miles / 11 km.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Countryside For All Access Standards - http://www.fieldfare.org.uk/?page_id=48
## Consistent information

### The Path Manager's Guide to Grading

**Examples:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Path</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Allowance</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Beach Path</strong></td>
<td>The easiest waymarked route, this path meanders through great old pines to the Loch and its golden beach. Wide and flat with a smooth, firm surface. No gates or steps.</td>
<td>1 mile</td>
<td>easy</td>
<td>1 1/2 hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Meadow Route</strong></td>
<td>A great low level walk through varied forest and along the peaceful Black Burn. A summer delight for butterfly lovers but you'll be amazed at what wildlife you'll find at any time of year. Mostly wide, smooth, flat grassy path. Some short uneven sections. One wide gate. Some stretches can be damp after heavy rain.</td>
<td>1 1/2 miles</td>
<td>easy</td>
<td>1 1/2 hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Twin Lochans Trail</strong></td>
<td>Discover two secret lochans in this magical Scots pine wood. Continually interesting and some great views. The longest trail here but sharing its start with the shorter Pine Tree Trail, you can see how you feel when the routes divide. Short, moderate slopes. Mostly a smooth, narrow earthy path with some uneven sections which can be a bit muddy after rain. Includes a bridge with a short flight of steps.</td>
<td>3 miles</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>2 hrs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Millstone Hill</strong></td>
<td>Climb Millstone Hill through the rich pine forest for wonderful views of Bennachie. Long sections of steep climbing with some steps. Narrow kissing gates. Varied surfaces, some narrow, rough and rocky but usually dry.</td>
<td>3 1/2 miles</td>
<td>strenuous</td>
<td>2 1/2 hrs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The route starts from the car park at Benmore Botanic Garden (1). Cross the A815 and follow the old road just past Eckford House (2). Turn to the right, re-cross the main road and follow the track over the RiverEachaig using the iron footbridge (3). Turn left and follow the river as far as the junction with the Glen Massan road. Crossing the road diagonally to the left, cross the road bridge and follow the narrow path up the right bank of the River Massan (4). Some of the path is uneven, but passable. After about 500 metres the path curves away from the river and joins a forest road up Glen Massan.

Turn left and follow the forest road for a few metres and then take the first track to the right. The track passes a gate and through a disused gravel pit, continuing through a small mature forest plantation.

On rejoining the Glen Massan road (5), you have the option of a delightful loop downstream along the River Eachaig (gain the loop by walking down the Eachaig road to the right for 200 metres, the loop is signposted to the left by Scottish Woodlands, Deargach a Walki). Rejoin the Glen Massan road turning right, and after a kilometre cross over the stone bridge over the Massan. Here again turn right and rejoin the track following the River Eachaig. Continue along this river track, passing the old iron bridge (3) and the weir. After a further kilometre you reach a second bridge. Cross it to enter the Benmore Garden car park.
Some conclusions

The consequences of **success** and **excess**

- Maximise benefits: public health and well-being
  understanding and care for nature
  local and national economies
- Minimise impacts on: environment
  others enjoyment
  revenue and capital budgets

*We are learning all the time and adapting to changes*