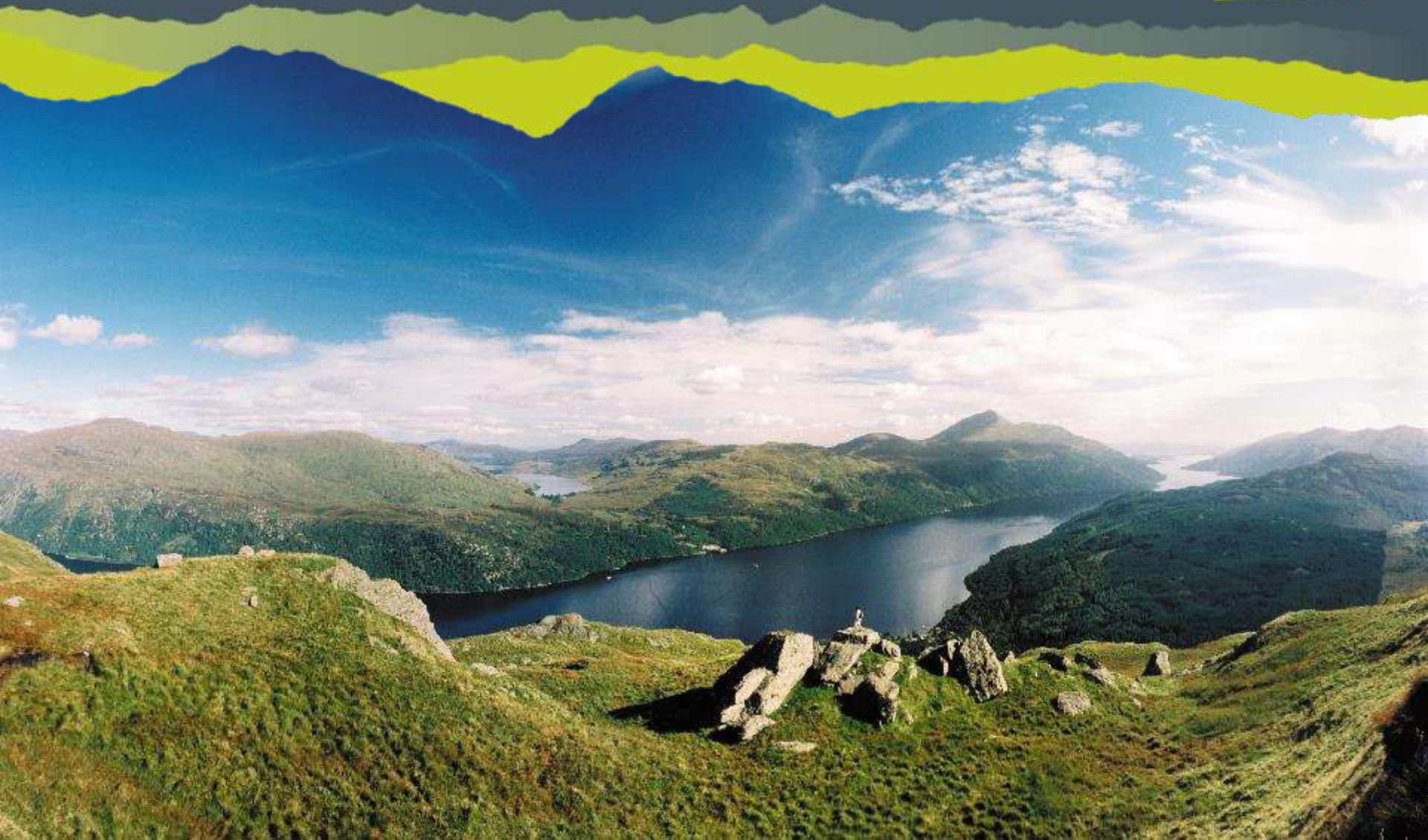


Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park



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



IUCN Protected status



**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



National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000



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

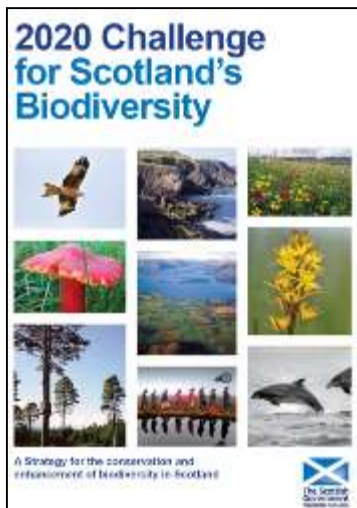


National Park Partnership Plan



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

Policies reflects 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.

Helping to deliver these National Benefits



Sustainable
Economic
Growth



Climate
Change



Valuing
Nature



Natural
Capital



Community
Empowerment



Health &
Wellbeing

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.



Terrain hoppers at Bracklinn Falls

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.

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



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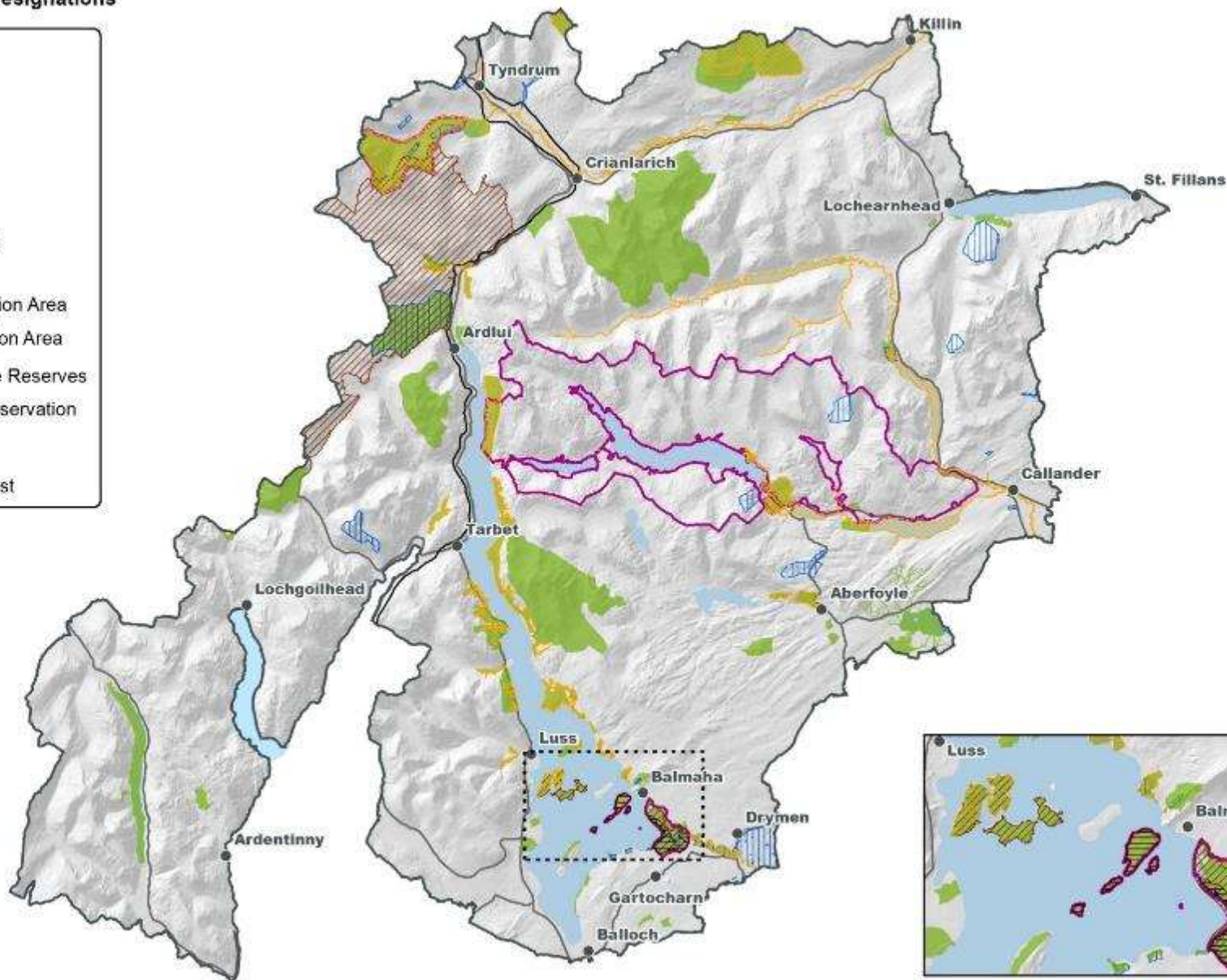


Increase from 2016 STEAM baseline of £340m by 2023

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
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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



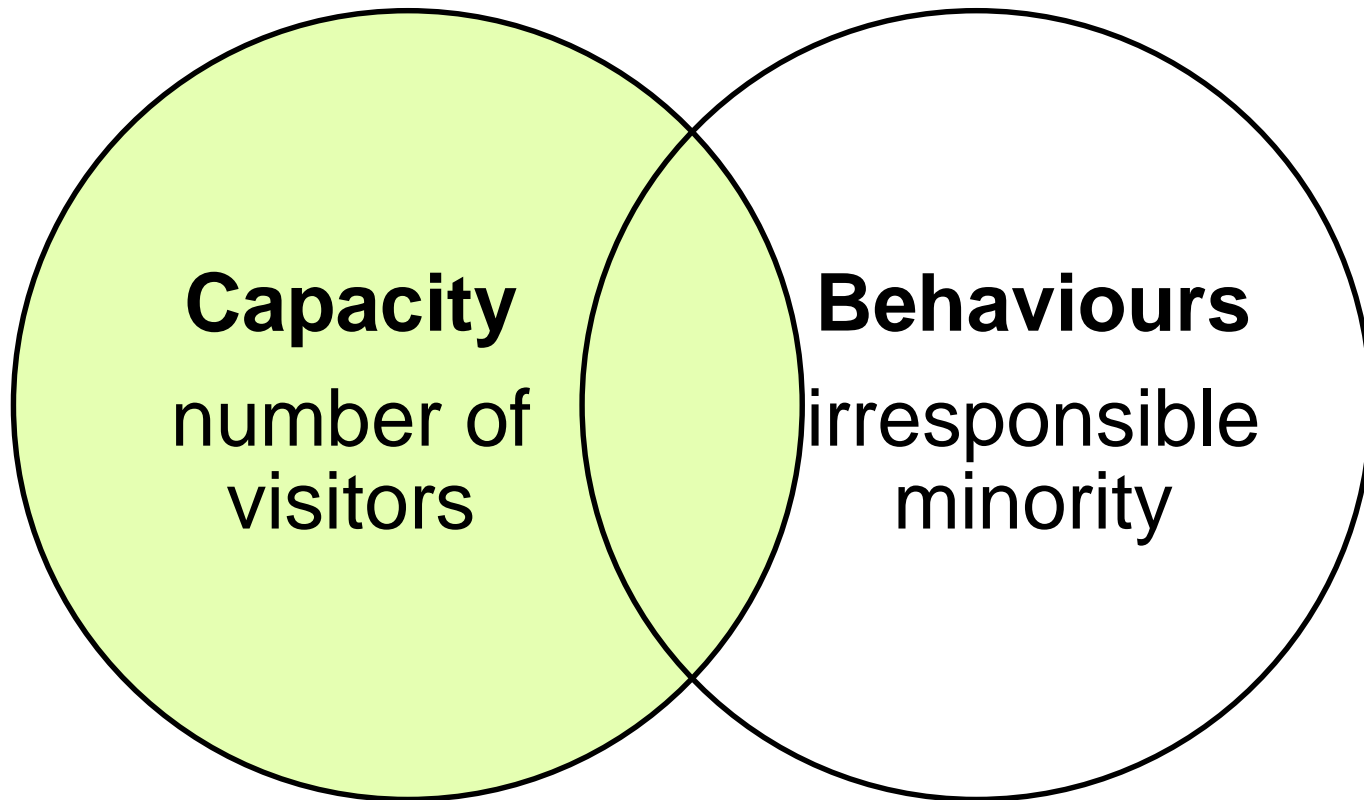


Picture perfect camping

LOCH
LOMOND
& THE TROSSACHS
NATIONAL PARK



Two main pressures



Camping related pressures



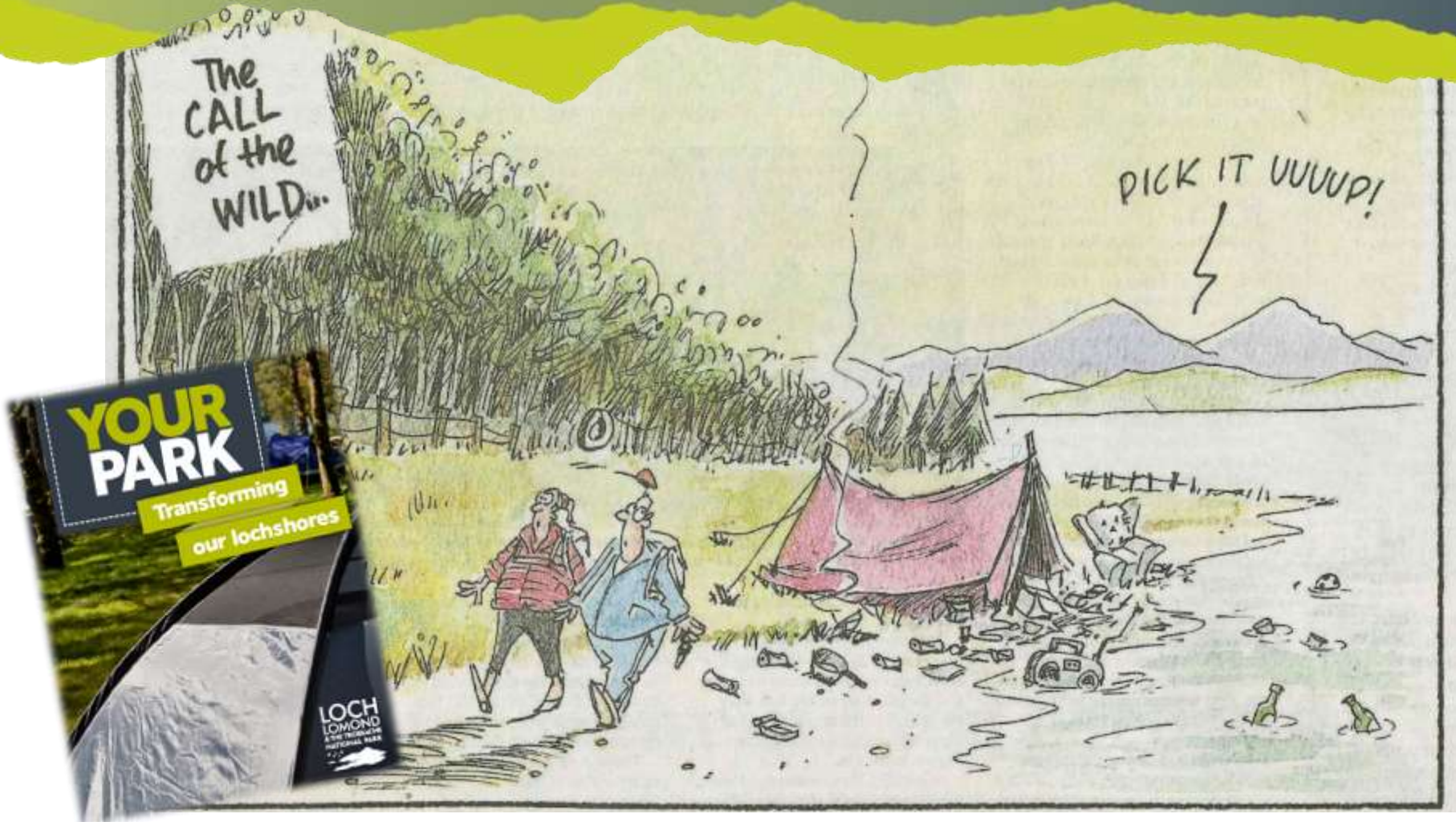
‘Wild camping’ vs ‘car camping’



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



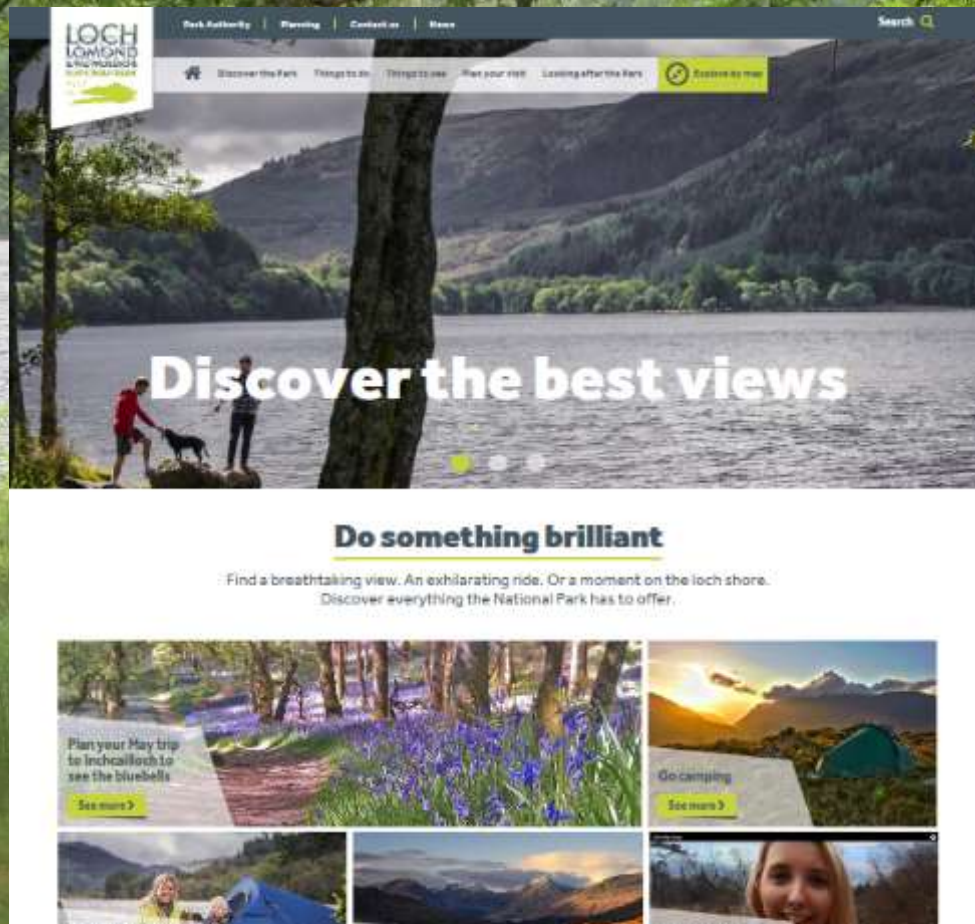
A camping ban?



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



October 2014



**Loch Lomond and The Trossachs
National Park Authority**
**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):
Environmental Report for the Your Park
Programme**



Looking forward.....

**LOCH
LOMOND**
& THE TROSSACHS
NATIONAL PARK



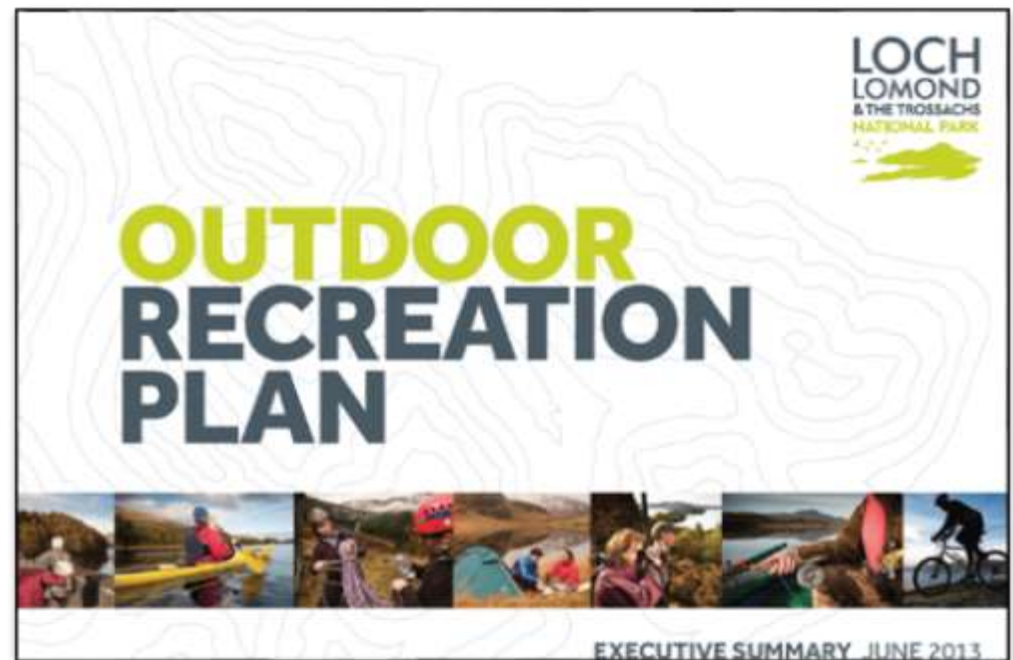
Camping provision

Loch Lomond, Loch Chon, Loch Lubnaig...

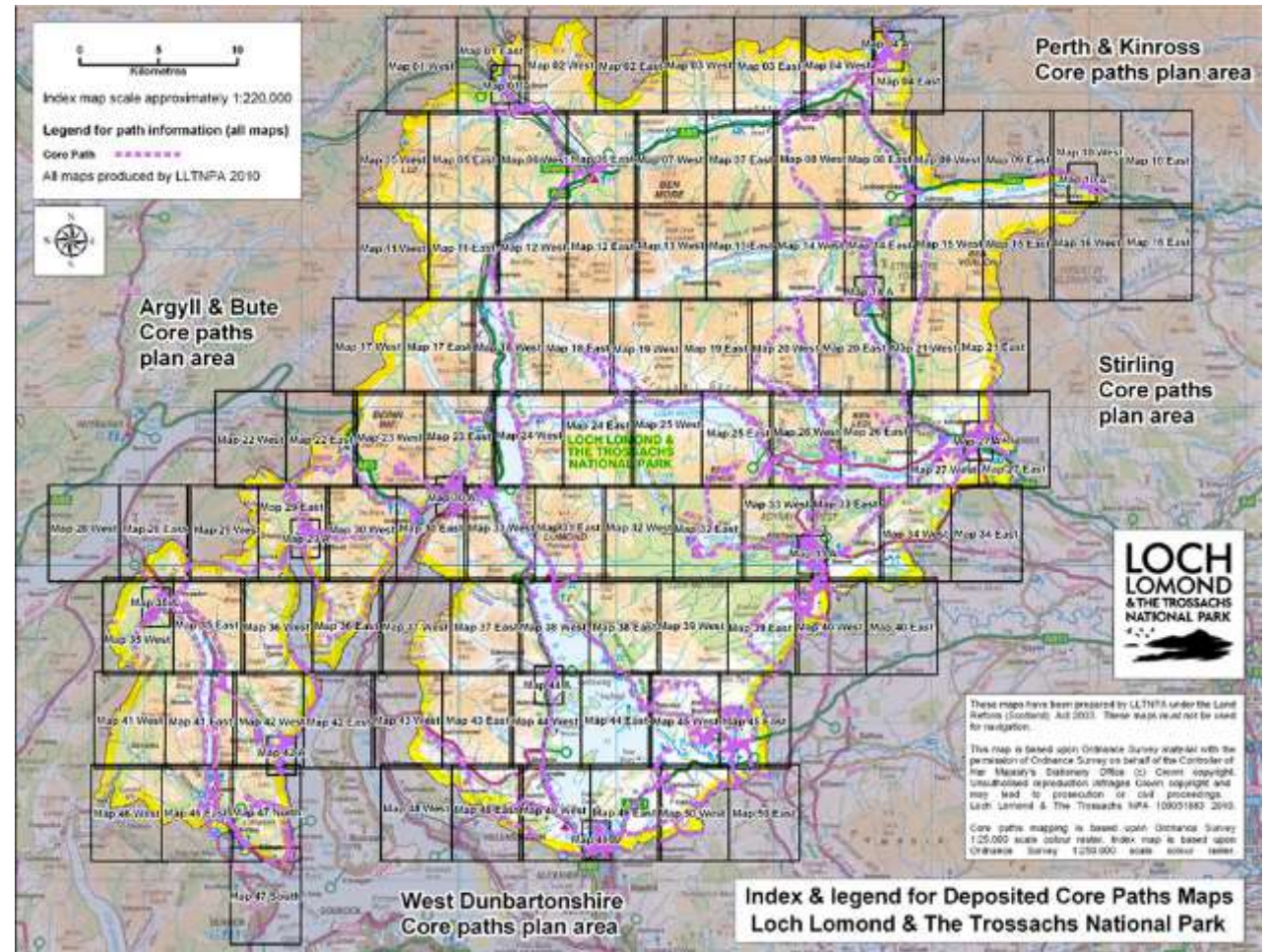


The Your Park proposals are designed to help transform the experience (for everyone) on and around our busiest lochshores

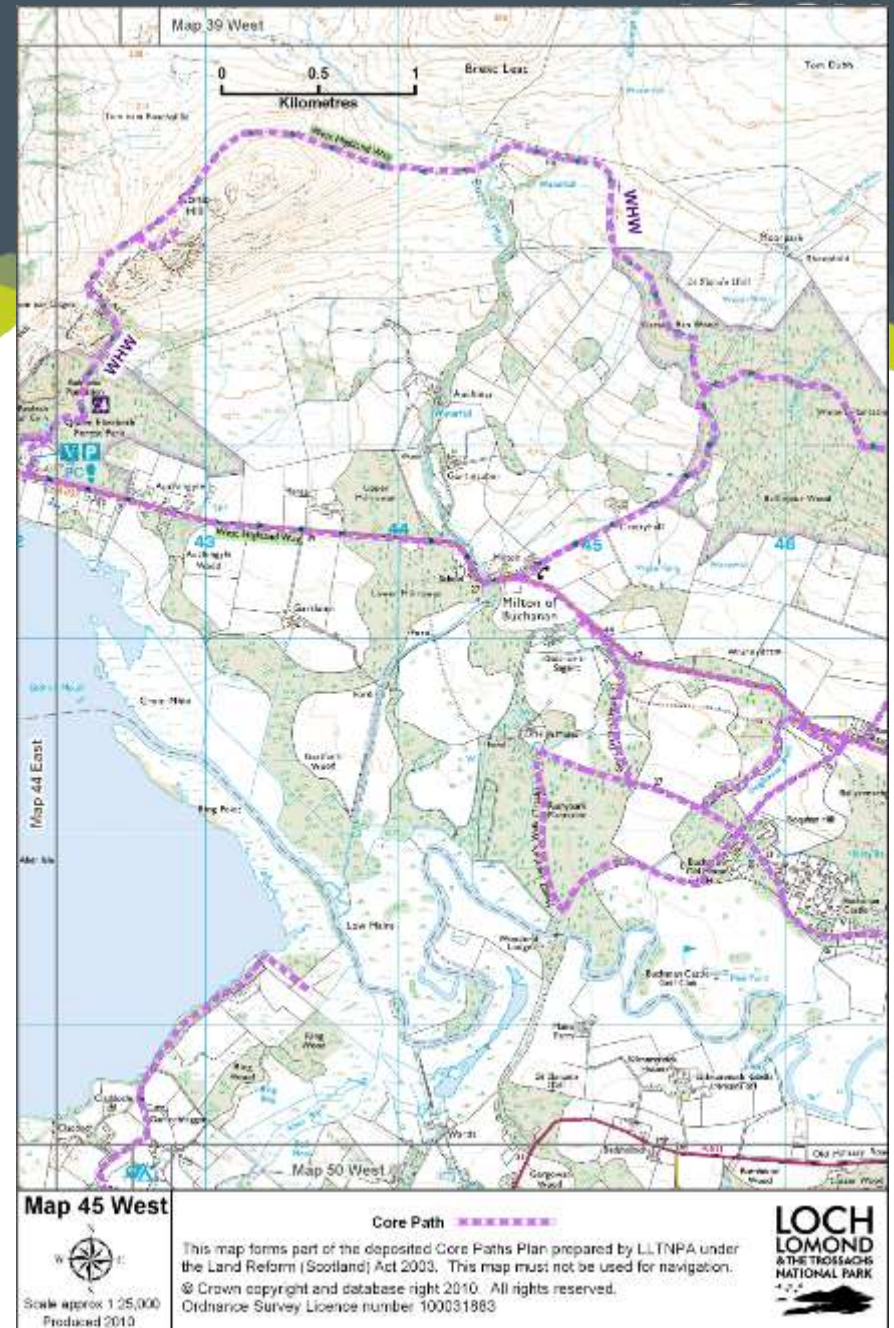
Strategic path development



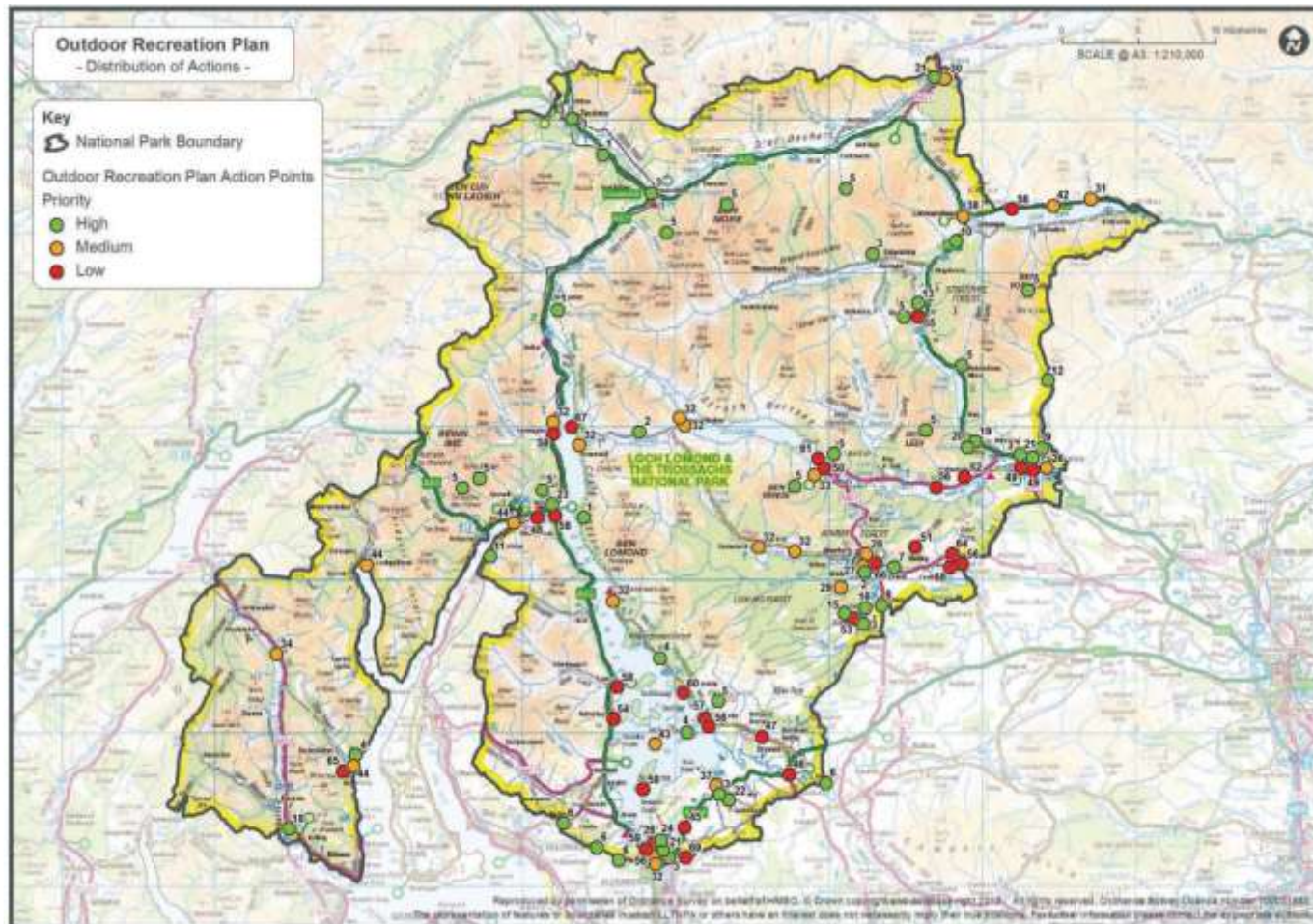
Core path network



Balmaha



Targeted Project development



Design principals / planning

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

The screenshot shows the 'paths for all' website, which is part of the Forth and Clyde Heritage Scotland project. The website has a blue header with navigation links: Home, Get Walking, Active Travel, Support, Training, Volunteering, and Community Paths. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is titled 'Lowland Paths Guide' and features a sidebar with a list of links: Youth Work, Community Paths Grant, Making Tracks Case Studies, Lowland Paths Guide (highlighted), Contents, Path Planning, Path Design, Path Construction, Path Maintenance, Technical Advice & Support, National Path Demonstration Sites, Adopt a Path, Path Benefits Toolkit, Core Paths & Local Path Networks, Training, Multi-use & Accessibility, and Laws and Liability. The main content area includes a sub-header 'Lowland Paths Guide' and a description of the guide as a 'Good Practice Guide to Planning, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Lowland Paths in Scotland'. It mentions that the guide has been fully revised and updated from the original 'Lowland Path Construction - A Guide to Good Practice' published in 2005. The guide covers the full range of path development and management, from planning to design, construction, and maintenance. It provides information to help make lowland path management decisions across Scotland from urban areas to rural places. It also helps in making informed decisions about long-term management of path networks - for example in response to potential climate change. The guide is available in four main versions: Path Planning, Path Design, Path Construction, and Path Maintenance. The guide is aimed at professionals, such as Forest Officers. There is a degree of technical information included but our aim was to produce a guide that can be used with the minimum of technical knowledge. We hope that people from community path groups who have limited experience of lowland path development and management will also find the guide useful. The information has been reviewed to allow easy navigation to the appropriate level of detail. For example, experienced path managers may be looking for information on a particular path design, whereas those new to the topic may benefit from understanding the principles of lowland path management. The guide was produced by Paths for All with support from Scottish Natural Heritage.

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:

	Gradient & duration	Surface materials / Surface condition	Obstacles	Usable Width	Distance limits
 <p>[Easy + meets Countryside For All Access Standards]</p>	<p>See Countryside For All Access Standards - http://www.fieldfare.org.uk/?page_id=48</p>				
	Maximum 12%.	Generally a smooth, firm surface. Well drained and maintained with minimal loose material.	Minimal use of steps. Free of narrow gates or gaps and always itemised in Terrain Description.	Generally 1200 mm. Short sections (<20 m) down to 800 mm.	Total distance of whole route must not exceed 5 miles / 8 km (return route to start point).
	May exceed 12% for infrequent short sections (<200 m) but generally no steeper than 12%.	Earth or stone surface. Sections may be firm under foot. Generally well maintained but sections could be loose or uneven (<50 mm height of roughness) or soft after rain.	Few obstacles. Sections of regular steps, gates and other minor obstacles mentioned in the Terrain Description.	Variable, largely 800 mm but with short (<20 m) narrower sections	Total distance of whole route must not exceed 7 miles / 11 km (return route to start point).
	May have arduous climbs and steep sections. May include long steep sections exceeding 12%.	A distinct surface but could be without major change to the existing ground. Could be rough and rocky and may have large (>100 mm) loose stones. May have muddy sections.	Natural and other obstacles are likely including large or irregular steps, stiles or gates.	Frequently less than 800 mm.	Total distance may be greater than 7 miles / 11 km.

Consistent information

The Path Manager's Guide to Grading

A Six Part System

Examples:

●●● The Beach Path

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.



1 mile /
1.6 kms
Allow
½ hr

●●● The Meadow Route

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.



1 ½ miles /
2.6 km
Allow
¼ hr

●●● Twin Lochans Trail

Discover two secret lochans in this magical Scots pinewood. 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.



3 miles /
4.8 km
Allow
2 hrs

●●● Millstone Hill

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.



3 ½ miles /
5.6 km
Allow
2 ½ hrs

Targeted promotion

www.lochlomond-trossachs.org

River Eachaig & Massan Circuit

Cearcall Abhainn Eachaig is Masain



●●●●● River Eachaig & Massan Circuit

This route takes you from Benmore Botanic Garden along the banks of the Rivers Massan and Eachaig on woodland paths and the old road.

Mostly on even flat ground, but with a short stretch on narrow/ uneven ground.

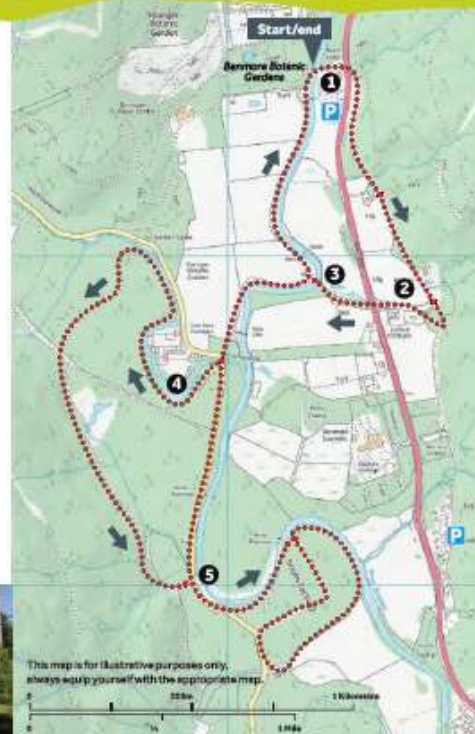
3 miles / 5 km
Allow 1 1/2 - 2 hours

moderate

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 River Eachaig 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 down and along the River Eachaig (join the loop by walking down the Eachaig road to the right for 200 metres, the loop is signposted to the left by Scottish Woodlands, Deargacha Walk). 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.



This map is for illustrative purposes only, always equip yourself with the appropriate map.



KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO
www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Walkers should wear walking boots and suitable clothing and follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

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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

