

**NATIONAL
PARK**
PARTNERSHIP
PLAN
2012 - 2017

REVIEW
2013-2014



**LOCH
LOMOND
& THE TROSSACHS
NATIONAL PARK**



Partners

Key public sector partners

The National Park is covered by four local authorities: **Argyll & Bute, Perth & Kinross, Stirling** and **West Dunbartonshire Councils**. Each provides a range of services to their residents including education, environmental services, housing, leisure facilities etc.

The mission of **Forestry Commission Scotland** is to protect and expand Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment.

Historic Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Government and is charged with safeguarding the nation's historic environment and promoting its understanding and enjoyment on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

Police Scotland deliver an effective service to the communities of Scotland, ensuring that they live their lives free from crime, disorder and danger.

Scottish Enterprise's job is identifying and exploiting the opportunities for economic growth by supporting Scottish companies to compete, helping to build globally competitive sectors, attracting new investment and creating a world-class business environment.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency is Scotland's environmental regulator. Its main role is to protect and improve the environment. SEPA is a non-departmental public body, accountable through Scottish Ministers to the Scottish Parliament.

Scottish Natural Heritage's work is about caring for the natural heritage, enabling people to enjoy it, helping people to understand and appreciate it, and supporting those who manage it.

sportscotland is the lead agency for the development of sport in Scotland, investing expertise, time and public money in developing a world-class sporting system at all levels.

Transport Scotland is the national transport agency for Scotland and is responsible for rail and trunk road networks and major public transport projects.

VisitScotland works closely with private businesses, public agencies and local authorities, to ensure that visitors experience the very best of Scotland and that the country makes the most of its outstanding tourism assets.

Key non-public sector partners

Community

National Park Community Partnership, Community Councils, Community Development Trusts

Representative bodies & third sector
Environment Link and specifically land-owning non-government organisations in the Park.

- **RSPB**
- **National Trust for Scotland**
- **Woodland Trust Scotland**

Scottish Land & Estates, National Farmers Union of Scotland, Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust

Private Sector

National Park Destination Development Group, land managers, local destination and trade groups, businesses.



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Foreword

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan sets out how this very special part of Scotland will be enhanced, with the help of a wide range of partners, over this five year period. The annual review highlights this year's successes and our shared challenges in our three focus areas of Conservation, Visitor Experience and Rural Development.

Protecting and enhancing the unique wild nature of the National Park is fundamental to what we do, and earlier this year our Board approved Wild Park 2020 - our ambitious vision and action plan for biodiversity. As we move forward in to the delivery stages, the success of Wild Park 2020 will rely on close collaboration with a wide range of partners.

Positive land management can be hugely beneficial to the National Park and throughout the year we piloted a successful business planning approach for land managers, which aimed to improve their financial and environmental sustainability. This approach was well received and will now be rolled out with resonating support from land managers and the National Farmers Union.

Raising the standard of our visitor sites and facilities remains a core objective of the Partnership Plan, and working in partnership with the local landowner we are delighted with the visitor feedback about the rejuvenated lochshore sites at Loch Lubnaig. Additionally, the successful Operation Ironworks partnership between Police Scotland and the National Park Authority continued into its 6th year ensuring residents and visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience of our countryside.

As part of a National Scenic Routes Initiative, aimed at enhancing some of Scotland's most scenic tourist routes, we were integral in launching a Scottish Government pilot project to install uniquely designed viewpoints at three sites in the National Park. The project was successfully launched in June and it is hoped these new viewpoints will encourage visitors to stop and enjoy the extraordinary beauty of the area. The Scottish Government, Napier University, Scottish Canals, Transport Scotland and the Cairngorms National Park Authority are also part of the project team involved at rolling out this creative project nationally.

Throughout the year we continued to push forward on developing welcome signage for our towns and villages and a plan has been developed to roll

this out over the next five years. Our work with local businesses, particularly the National Park Destination Group, remains crucial to achieving our ambition of providing a visitor experience that compares with the best in the world.

Loch Lomond welcomed the inaugural 'Great Scottish Swim' in August 2013, with over 1900 participants taking the water. Working with West Dunbartonshire Council and Events Scotland this iconic event will continue as an annual feature in the events calendar providing a significant uplift in tourism spend in the local area.

We continued to provide effective consultation and planning advice to individuals, organisations and partners in the private sector, supporting a range of new developments across the National Park, including a new residential and retail development at Balloch riverside. It has also been a year of recognition for our planning service, with our Sustainable Design Guidance commended in the 2013 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning. Our planning team continue to work hard to balance the benefits of rural development with conservation.

The long-term future of our communities and businesses remains a key focus for us and in March 2014

we took the first steps in preparing for our new Local Development Plan, with the Board approving a major consultation on the future development of the National Park. Additionally, we continued working in partnership with community groups, helping them deliver projects on the ground. Most notably, the opening of a new visitor facility at Argyll Mausoleum and the construction of a new bridge in Glen Tarken, linking two of the Park's most rural villages.

Through partnership working we continue to achieve success for the National Park and its vibrant communities. Over the coming months many new opportunities are on offer to build upon our relationships with stakeholders, as we work together to strengthen the local economy and conserve a very special landscape.



Fiona Logan
Chief Executive Officer



Linda McKay
Convener, Loch Lomond
& The Trossachs National
Park Authority

Facal-toisich

Cuiridh Plana Compàirteach Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Laomainn & nan Tròsaichean an cèill mar a bhios am pàirt glè àraid seo de dh'Alba air a chur am meud, le cuideachadh o raon farsaing de luchd-pàirteachais, thar treise seo nan còig bliadhna. Cuiridh an ath-sgrùdadh bliadhnail cuideam air soirbheas na bliadhna-sa cho math ri mar a dhèilig sinn uile a thaobh gach dùbhlán sna trì raointean fòcais againn: Glèidhteachas, Leasachadh Dùthchail agus Luchd-tadhail.

Tha a bhith a' dìon is a' cur ri nàdar fiadhaich air leth na Pàirce Nàiseanta mar bhunait do na nì sinn, agus na bu traithe am-bliadhna chuir ar Bòrd aonta ri Pàirc Fhiadhaich 2020 – ar n-amas mòr 's ar plana-gnìomha a thaobh bith-iomadachd. Agus sinn a' gluasad air adhart gu bhith a' libhrigeadh nan rudan seo, bidh soirbheas Pàirc Fhiadhaich 2020 an urra ri dlùth-obrachadh ri raon farsaing de luchd-compàirteachais.

Faodaidh deagh dhòigh-obrachaidh fearainn a bhith glè bhuanachdail don Phàirc Nàiseanta agus air feadh na bliadhna bha sinn mar chiad-stiùirichean air dòigh shoirbheachail air planadh don fheadhainn a bhios a' stiùireadh gnothaichean fearainn, leis an amas feabhas a chur air an seasmhachd aca a thaobh maoinachais is àrainneachd. Chaidh gabhail gu math ri seo agus

a-nis thèid an rud a chur air dòigh gu fad is farsaing agus taic ann dha o luchd-stiùiridh fearainn agus Aonadh Nàiseanta nan Tuathanach.

Tha a bhith a' togail inbhe is ìre-feabhais ar làraichean luchd-tadhail fhathast mar phrìomh amas nar Plana Compàirteachais, agus ann a bhith ag obair cuide ris an uachdaran fhearainn ionadail, Tònaidh Camshron, tha sinn toilichte cluinntinn o luchd-tadhail a thaobh mar a leasaich sinn na làraichean ùra Loch Lùdnaig. A bharrachd air seo, lean Obair Iarainn – compàirteachas eadar Poileas Alba agus Ùghdarras na Pàirce Nàiseanta – 's e nis air chois fad sia bliadhna, rud a nì cinnteach gum bi luchd-còmhnaidh is luchd-tadhail sàbhailte ann.

Mar phàirt de dh'Iomairt Shlighean Brèagha, a tha ag amas air cur ri cuid de na slighean as àille an Alba, bha sinn mar cheannardan air pròiseact-dearbhadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba gus ionadan-radhairc gu tur sònraichte a chur air chois air trì làraichean sa Phàirc Nàiseanta. Sheòladh am pròiseact gu soirbheachail san Ògmhios agus thathar an dòchas gum broснаich na h-ionadan seo luchd-tadhail gus stad is tlachd a thoirt às àilleachd àraid an àite. Cuideachd, ghabh Claisean-uisge na h-Alba is Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh pàirt mar sgioba-pròiseict ann a bhith a' cur an rud cruthachail seo air chois gu nàiseanta.

Air feadh na bliadhna chum sinn oirnn a thaobh soighnichean-fàilte a leasachadh nar bailtean mòra 's beaga, agus chaidh plana a chur ri chèile gus seo a chur air dòigh thar nan còig bliadhna ri teachd. Tha an obair a nì sinn cuide ri gnìomhachasan ionadaile, gu sònraichte Buidheann Ceann-uidhe na Pàirce Nàiseanta, fhathast glè chudromach a thaobh ar n-amais goireasan luchd-tadhail a chur air dòigh a ghabhas coimeas ris an fheadhainn as fheàrr air an t-saoghal.

B' e Loch Laomainn ionad-fàilte air fosgladh "Snàmh Mòr na h-Alba" san Lùnastail, far an deach còrr is 1900 neach san uisge. Agus sinn ag obair cuide ri Comhairle Dhùn Bhreatainn an Iar agus Tachartasan Alba, leanaidh an tachartas suaicheantach seo gach bliadhna, rud a bheir togail nach beag a thaobh na chosgais luchd-turais gu h-ionadail.

Chum sinn oirnn a' toirt seachad comhairle èifeachdach a thaobh planaidh agus a' cumail taic ri leasachaidhean ùra thar na Pàirce, nam measg ionadan-còmhnaidh is -reice ri taobh na h-aibhne sa Bhealach. Cuideachd, chaidh aitheantas a thoirt dhuinn am-bliadhna air sgàth ar seirbheis-phlanaidh, agus moladh don t-Seirbheis-thrèid a thaobh Dealbhadh Seasmhach againn ann an Duaisean 2013 na h-Alba airson Àrd-ìre Planaidh.

Tha ar sgioba-planaidh fhathast ag obair gu cruaidh air cothromachadh a thoirt a-mach eadar leasachadh dùthchail is glèidhteachas.

Tha soirbheas fad-tearmach ar coimhearsnachdan is ar gnìomhachasan fhathast mar phrìomh fhòcas againn agus sa Ghiblean, thug sinn a' chiad cheum ann a bhith ag ullachadh ar Plana Leasachaidh Ionadail ùr tro bhith a' cur taisbeanadh ioma-mheadhanach comhairleachaidh air bhog air a bheil LIVE Park / Pairc BHEÒ. Cuideachd, chum sinn oirnn ag obair cuide ri compàirtichean coimhearsnachd, gan cuideachadh gus pròiseactan aig bun-ìre a libhrigeadh, gu sònraichte fosgladh ionad-tadhail ùr aig Crùisle Earra-ghàidheal agus togail drochaid ùir ann an Gleann Tarcaid, rud a nì ceangal eadar an dà bhaile as fhaide 'muigh air an dùthaich sa Phàirc.

Tro obair le compàirtichean tha sinn a' leantainn oirnn gu soirbheachail air sgàth na Pàirce Nàiseanta agus nan coimhearsnachdan beòthail ann. Thar nam mìosan ri thighinn bidh tòrr chothroman ann togail is cur ris na compàirtichean a tha ann mu-thrath agus sinn ag obrachadh còmhla gus ar n-eaconamaidh ionadail a neartachadh agus aghaidh-tìre glè shònraichte a ghlèidheadh.

Introduction

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17 was approved by Scottish Ministers in June 2012. It is the second such plan which has been produced since the National Park was designated in 2002.

Each year we review our priorities for action to determine our progress, recognising our achievements and highlighting where more focus is required.

Scottish Ministers have made clear that the plan's main role is as a vehicle for co-ordinated and effective partner working; by Government, national agencies, local authorities, private businesses, charities, land managers and community organisations. This review focuses on how partners are working alongside us to enhance and realise the full benefits of this nationally important area for Scotland.

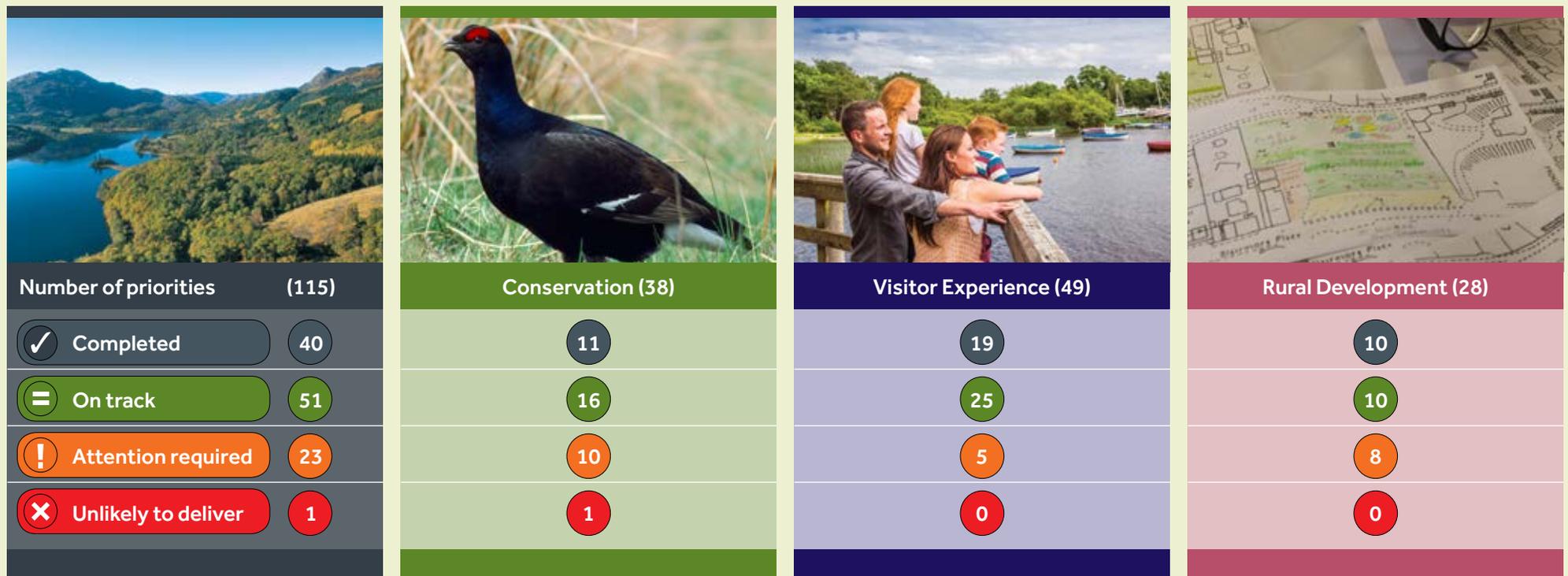
As a heavily visited area, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs has both the challenge of intensive visitor pressure and a huge opportunity to improve the visitor experience in a way that protects and enhances the environment and is a generator for growth in the Scottish economy. A significant focus for the plan has been to increase the quality of visitor infrastructure in the National Park to generate greater business activity to sustain the Park's economy, support the quality of life in our communities and most importantly protect our magnificent environment as the underpinning asset of the area.



Spotlight on our key achievements

The second year of our National Park Partnership Plan has seen some excellent achievements in both delivery of our priorities for action and partnership working. At the same time there are some areas of work where early progress is needed if plan targets set for later in the plan period are to be met. This Annual Review is set out against the three areas of focus around which the Partnership Plan is structured. Priorities for Conservation, Visitor Experience and Rural Development are explained in more detail in the tables that begin on page 27.

The figures below show at a glance the number of priorities we have been working on and what we have achieved to date.



Indicators of success

In 2012 we published our suite of 20 indicators of success. We use these indicators to determine whether our plan is having a positive effect on the National Park.

In the table below we have assessed each indicator below using a set of "traffic lights". These provide an indication of whether the trends are showing clear improvement or deterioration from our baseline statistics published in 2012.

-  Improving
-  Little or no change
-  Deteriorating
-  Data currently unavailable

National Park Indicator	Baseline	Current Status	Trend	Status
% of designated site features in favourable condition	83%	81%	▼ 2%	
Number of whole farm or estate plans	0	2	▲ 2	
% of water bodies achieving high/good status	48%	Data currently unavailable	n/a	
% of land under woodland	27%	30%	▲ 3%	
Number of hectares of peatland (soils and habitats) improved	35 hectares	Little or no overall change	n/a	
Number of buildings on the buildings at risk register	16	24	▲ 8	
% of visitors satisfied with cleanliness of countryside	86%	Data currently unavailable	Survey will be carried out in 2015	
% of residents and visitors that feel safe	93%	Data currently unavailable	Survey will be carried out in 2015	
Numbers of overnight stays	2,003,000	Data currently unavailable	Study will be carried out in 2015	
Hotel capacity	19,851	20,108	Over 200 additional bed spaces	

National Park Indicator	Baseline		Current Status	Trend	Status
Number of people using key paths					
A local path	Bracklinn Falls	52,240	32,160	▼ 20,080	=
A mountain path	The Cobbler	25,180	21,916	▼ 3,264	
A long distance path	Smugglers Cove (WHW)	37,552	36,524	▼ 1,028	
A popular visitors path (*path closed April 2013)	Conic Hill	84,683	79,963*	▼ 4,720	
	Totals	199,655	170,563	▼ 29,092	
Number of groups undertaking outdoor learning	Children/ Young people	2,610	2,551	▼ 59	=
	Adults	470	618	▲ 148	✓
	Disadvantaged groups	12	17	▲ 5 (groups)	✓
Number of volunteer Rangers	25		64	▲ 39	✓
Number of business start-ups	81		73	▼ 8	✗
Number of communities with community action plans revised within past three years	1		8	▲ 7	✓
% of all new housing (constructed in the year) that is affordable	75%		43%	▼%	✗
Megawatts generated from renewable sources	147.1MW		155.5MW	▲ 8.4MW	✓
Timetabled waterbus services	7 routes		9 routes	▲ 2	✓
GDP growth	£155,100,000 Gross Value Added (2010)		£173,200,000 Gross Value Added (2012)	▲ £18,100,000	✓
Inward investment	Totals	£5,964,437	£7,746,050	▲ £1,781,613	✓

Conservation

National Park Partnership Plan Outcome

An internationally renowned landscape where the natural beauty, ecology and the cultural heritage are positively managed and enhanced for future generations.

This year provided an opportunity for creative thinking on delivery due to the absence of accessible funding through the Scotland Rural Development Programme. We continue to deliver conservation outcomes by providing pragmatic and proportionate input to the planning process and by working in partnership with land-based businesses on long-term business plans to improve both their economic and environmental sustainability.



Conservation: Key achievements

In March 2014, our Board approved Wild Park 2020, communicating our vision for nature conservation in the National Park and an innovative and challenging strategy for its delivery. The final strategy benefited greatly from the input and insights contributed through our public consultation process by a wide range of partners with a keen interest in biodiversity and geodiversity in the Park. These included community groups and businesses, such as Callander's Countryside and Glenfalloch Estate, as well as agency and NGO partners including Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), RSPB Scotland and the Strathclyde Geoconservation Group. The exemplary standard of Wild Park 2020 is the fruition of a long period of intensive work for both us and our partners.

We also worked with partners to agree the first five year Management Plan for the RSPB's new Loch Lomond Reserve.

Successful delivery of long-term nature conservation projects for species such as red squirrel, water vole, Greenland white-fronted geese, farmland waders, and invasive non-native species continues through our work with partners such as Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT), FCS, RSPB Scotland and the River Forth Fisheries Trust.

One new project utilising an alternative funding source that has progressed well in this year is the Peatland Project, using funding from Scottish Government's Green Stimulus package. We have now undertaken the ground-work required to identify areas where peatland restoration work may be carried out practically and for optimum benefits for carbon storage and habitat enhancement.

As a means of securing the benefits of positive land management that contribute to our aims, we worked with land managers to pilot a business planning approach to improve their financial and environmental sustainability and form the basis of an on-going, collaborative relationship with us. We will roll-out this approach with strong support from land managers and representative bodies such as the National Farmers' Union of Scotland (NFUS) and Scottish Land & Estates.



Conservation: Looking ahead at our priorities



Concepts such as valuing natural capital align with our aims and we are interested in developing these into practical tools to aid decision-making. We will keep abreast of this rapidly developing thinking via the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy's Natural Capital Group and the Scottish Forum on Natural Capital.

As Wild Park 2020 moves from development to delivery, we will focus on ensuring a strong start for our Wild Challenges, identified by our partners as a priority to deliver a step-change for conservation in the National Park. Successful delivery will necessitate a collaborative approach from multiple partners, particularly land managers within the National Park.

To deliver these and other significant conservation projects, we continue to be reliant on external funding sources. Key among these is the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP), currently in development for 2014 to 2020. We will be working alongside the Cairngorms National Park, Scottish Government and key delivery partners including the Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland to secure the targeting of SRDP funding that will optimise public benefit outcomes in the National Parks.



Forestry Commission Scotland are a key partner in delivering many of the priorities for action in our plan across Conservation, Visitor Experience and Rural Development. In the context of Forestry Commission's own strategies and policies, we need to continue to explore opportunities for strategic collaboration.



Ongoing policy developments also require a closer working relationship between us and SEPA. This will aid clarity of our responsibilities in the River Basin Management Plan process under the Water Framework Directive and as a Responsible Authority under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

Visitor Experience: Tourism

National Park Partnership Plan Outcome

A high quality, authentic experience for visitors, with many opportunities to appreciate and enjoy the natural and cultural heritage, within an internationally renowned landscape that compares to the best on offer around the world.

Visitor Experience is the blend of the work that we do with our partners in both Tourism and Visitor Management.

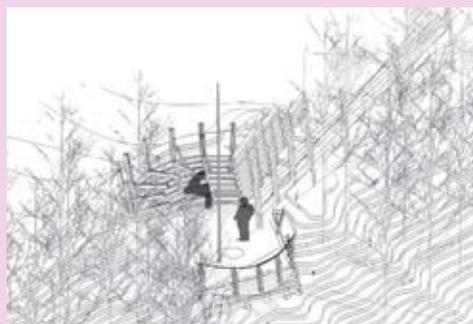
Tourism

We have been working with partners and businesses to deliver the actions within our Tourism Strategy 2012- 2017 which reflects the priority actions within our National Park Partnership Plan. We are working towards our vision of:

"A high quality, authentic experience for visitors with many opportunities to appreciate and enjoy the natural and cultural heritage within an internationally renowned landscape that compares to the best on offer around the world."



Tourism: Key achievements



Alongside The Scottish Government, Scottish Canals, Napier University, Transport Scotland and the Cairngorms National Park, we are part of the National Scenic Routes Initiative which launched a pilot project to install scenic viewpoints at some of our main tourist routes within the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. The National Scenic Routes Initiative seeks to develop a similar model to that of Norway where roadside structures are designed in a way that adds to the attractive scenery whilst encouraging new approaches to architectural design.

Our aim is to significantly improve the experience for locals and visitors by making the most of the spectacular views along these routes. The route round Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park is the first to be launched. The pilot project takes in three viewpoints which were designed by young Scottish architects as part of a nationwide design competition, attracting over 100 entries. A fourth feature is to follow later this year.

Working with the National Park Destination Group, the roll out of the National Park brand and signage continued across the Park with the installation of interpretation panels in Visit Scotland's visitor information centres throughout the Park. The panels will help encourage visitors to explore the area. The first phase of developing welcome signage for our towns and villages began and plans are in place to roll this out in partnership with local communities over the next five years.

We worked with Transport Scotland, Friends of Loch Lomond and BEAR to carry out improvements to Stoneymollan roundabout, which included a decorative flying geese installation together with extensive landscaping. This project completes the original design and now provides an impressive welcome for visitors and residents alike.

Tourism: Key achievements

During the year we continued to work closely with businesses, particularly the National Park Destination Group who provide an industry voice, to improve the visitor experience in the National Park. We held our annual conference for tourism businesses at Carrochan in March 2014 and 100 businesses based within the National Park attended.



Our tourism strategy identifies areas of opportunity to improve our visitor experience and we have been working proactively with businesses, Scottish Enterprise, Visit Scotland and local authority partners to grasp these opportunities.

In preparation for Visit Scotland's Year of Food and Drink 2015 we led the National Park Destination Group, Love Loch Lomond and Scottish Enterprise, to facilitate an industry led strategy and action plan to raise awareness of and improve our food and drink offer.



We commissioned a study to assess our tourism cycling offer and identify opportunities for growing it. Over 120 businesses contributed to the study. The recommendations for improvements which will be implemented over the next year will make it easier for visitors to explore the National Park and gain an enhanced experience.



The new long distance walking route, the John Muir Way, led by Scottish Natural Heritage, was completed. We provided financial support to the first two sections of this 134 mile route from Helensburgh to Dunbar, which runs through the Park. The new route provides another fantastic opportunity to promote cycling and walking in the National Park and its surrounding areas.



Tourism: Key achievements

In partnership with Scottish Enterprise, work began on the installation of a new pontoon in Drumkinnon Bay. This project is part of our strategy to grow waterbus services and aims to stimulate the private sector to develop more services, generating business investment and leading more visitors travelling by water to the destinations around Loch Lomond.



We had a strategic role in the national delivery of the Year of Natural Scotland 2013 and delivered a range of activities and events to maximise the impact of the year. Our "Get Active" event ran throughout National Park's week and was hugely successful, attracting 6,000 people to get out and try something new in the outdoors such as kayaking, rock climbing, biking and archery. We supported arts organisation NVA to produce *Island Drift*, a fine art photographic work that will be presented as an exhibition. We supported an Artist in Residence project with help from Creative Scotland and Steve Messam – the chosen artist from forty five submissions – has developed proposals for an exciting temporary installation.



We successfully brought the Great Scottish Swim to Loch Lomond in August 2013 in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council and Event Scotland. 1,900 people participated and it generated significant economic impact to the local area with more than 50% of participants from out with Scotland.



We worked with Scottish Enterprise on a number of projects to develop Loch Lomond Shores as a gateway destination. These included a new visitor attraction at a site developed with Scottish Enterprise and leased to the Bird of Prey Centre to provide a family friendly attraction in the Park.



Tourism: Looking ahead at our priorities



We will continue to require the support of Scottish Enterprise, Forestry Commission Scotland, Visit Scotland, local authorities and the private sector to develop an enhanced visitor experience and provision of new products and services which meet the expectations of visitors to the National Park.



Our particular focus will be to work strategically with Scottish Enterprise and the local authority to deliver a gateway destination to the National Park at the south end of Loch Lomond, through a number of initiatives which build on the strong foundations now in place at this vital location including a focus on increasing waterbus services on Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine and by taking full advantage of the investment in the pontoon at Loch Lomond Shores.



We will work with businesses to share market intelligence and provide opportunities for business collaboration and sharing of good practice. We will implement the second phase of National Park village signage to grow the National Park brand to support local businesses.

We will implement our cycling tourism and food and drink action plans to offer new cycle provision and to maximise benefits from the Year of Food and Drink in 2015 and develop events and other innovative promotions to reflect the values of the National Park.

We will work in partnership with Argyll & Bute Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, Highland Council, Stirling Council and Scottish Natural Heritage to develop the strategy and management plan for the West Highland Way.

Visitor Experience: Visitor Management

Visitor Management

This year has seen the further development of working partnerships leading to the delivery of a wide range of visitor management actions. Despite a number of challenges surrounding developing lochshore sites and developing a shared understanding and development of pragmatic solutions with Transport Scotland and SEPA, the 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan saw its first priority delivered at Loch Lubnaig with significant changes to the once run down lochside sites.

The Outdoor Recreation Plan was launched and actions started to be delivered. The summer season was a particularly busy time with warm and sunny weather bringing high visitor numbers and some intense use of the National Parks most popular places particularly on Loch Lomond and our other lochshores.



Visitor Management: Key achievements

The healthy walks programme has spread from Callander to Aberfoyle and Balloch with the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust taking on the lead role in getting people active in the Park.

Volunteering activity reached just shy of 5,000 hours contributed to making the Park a better place for visitors and wildlife, with volunteer Rangers out and about last summer meeting and greeting visitors.



This year saw the completion of the two Loch Lubnaig visitor facilities with camping provision, motorhome bays, kiosk and toilets creating an attractive lochshore location for day visitors as well as campers. The further development of 'Faerie hollow' at Lubnaig Beag has added to the sites features with a viewing platform enhancing the lochside location and adding to the National Scenic Routes Initiative.

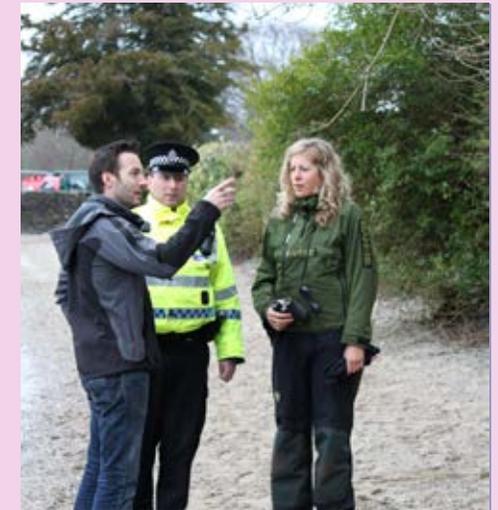


The Tarken bridge was installed linking the communities of St Fillans and Lochearnhead and enabling work to progress on establishing the old railway line as a multi-use route.

Outdoor learning activity has resulted in an increase in levels of participation and engagement with the John Muir Trust helping to get young people involved in learning about the National Park as well as developing their own skills.



Operation Ironworks, the successful partnership with Police Scotland completed its 6th year. This partnership delivers patrolling activity alongside National Park Rangers, helping to make visitors and residents feel safe in the National Park.



Visitor Management: Looking ahead at our priorities



The main focus of activity going forward is on addressing some of the long standing visitor management issues associated with camping and our very popular lochshores, following on from the success of east Loch Lomond.

An engaging consultation process and successful partnership working with Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, Transport Scotland, SEPA, Police Scotland and our communities will be key to delivering solutions that lead to the outcome described in the Park Partnership Plan. "Improved quality of life for residents and enjoyment for visitors".



Our vision is to have a variety of high quality campsites where people from all backgrounds can pitch their tents and enjoy the outdoors without degrading the environment. Motorhomes will have places to stop that provide the right facilities throughout the National Park. Exploring the opportunities for achieving the National Park Partnership Plan's vision and bringing this to fruition will require inspiring and creative solutions involving Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, Transport Scotland, SEPA, Scottish Enterprise, landowners and our communities.

Approaches will be developed to manage the issues of capacity and antisocial behaviour on our lochshores with any proposals also ensuring a balance of opportunity in the form of managed camping provision. This will be complemented by a focus on visitor facilities and outdoor recreation provision and the improvement and development of sites and paths.



The second phase of our 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan priorities will deliver quality day visitor provisions at Loch Venachar and Bracklinn Falls. Whilst path projects are underway linking communities and creating attractive journeys for visitors with funding arrangements already in place for key path links such as St Fillans to Lochearnhead. This will all be supported through a continued promotion of educational activity encouraging the public to respect and enjoy the National Park whether experiencing it as a school visit or as part of our Rangers role to engage with our visitors.

Further development at the Loch Lubnaig site will continue with the delivery of a scenic routes installation, this will feature a viewing platform, enhancing the lochside and adding to the National Scenic Routes Initiative

Rural Development

National Park Partnership Park Plan Outcome

In the National Park businesses and communities thrive and people live and work sustainably in a high quality environment.

Supporting and promoting rural development involves working with a wide range of interests and organisations and this last year has been particularly busy with an increase in new development activity. Despite this, a high standard of planning and development service has continued to be provided which is critical to ensuring that new development contributes to the National Park Partnership Plan's outcomes along with supporting the capacity of our communities to drive forward their own development needs and aspirations.



Rural Development: Key achievements

There has been a range of new developments completed and under construction right across the Park. This includes a mixed use (residential and retail) development at Balloch riverside, 14 dwelling houses at the former Youth Hostel site in Killin, the Bridge of Lochay Hotel site for seven holiday chalets and an ever increasing number of hydro scheme developments.

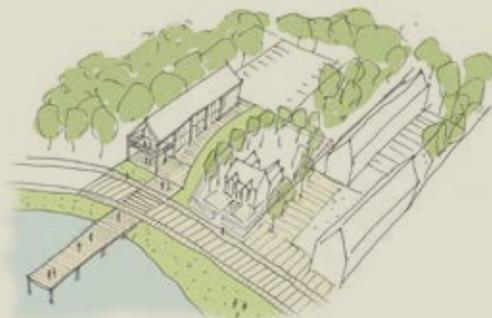


The development at the former garage site in Killin also finished and is now occupied providing 12 affordable housing units. Consents have recently been granted for affordable housing developments in Arrochar (Succoth - 26 units). Small scale run-of-river hydro power continues to be a particular growth area within the Park.



As at the end of March 2014, 15 schemes had received planning permission in a 12 month period - this doubled the total number of schemes with permission in the Park. Five schemes are under construction across the Park and are being monitored to ensure best practice in construction methods and environmental sensitivity. This work involves close collaboration with the landscape and ecology specialists in the Conservation team.

The first step in preparing our new Local Development Plan was the approval of our Main Issues Report by the Park Authority Board in March 2014. Later this year we will launch a major multi-media consultation on our Main Issues Report before preparing the revised and updated version of the current Adopted Local Plan.



Our first Built Heritage Repair Grant Scheme delivered support for a range of works with successful projects located across the Park in Kilmun, Gartmore, Callander, Killin, Glen Dochart, Tarbet and Balquhiddy and included six listed buildings. The £20k Built Heritage Repair Grant fund for 2013/14 delivered projects to a value of £67k.



It has been a successful year of recognition with our high quality Sustainable Design Guidance commended in the 2013 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning. Our Flood Management guidance for Callander was also shortlisted and our Renewable Energy Guidance was shortlisted in the RTP's Awards for Excellence in Planning.



We have seen some notable community projects delivered on the ground, which we supported, including the first improvements to Ancaster Square in Callander in partnership with the Callander Partnership and Transport Scotland, the completion and opening of the new visitor facility at Argyll Mausoleum in partnership with Argyll Mausoleum Ltd, Benmore & Kilmun Community Development Trust and the construction of the Glen Tarkin Bridge in partnership with St Fillans Paths Group a key link in creating an off road path between St Fillans and Lochearnhead.

Rural Development: Looking ahead at our priorities



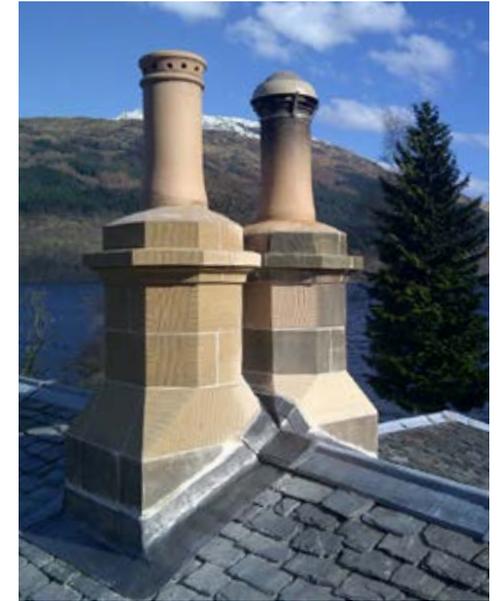
Continuing to provide a responsive and efficient planning application service – including accessible pre-application advice. This is essential to ensure landowners and businesses can build on the rising economic confidence to the benefit of communities and visitors.

Ensuring we move quickly in updating our planning policies and strategy working through the feedback on the Main Issues Report and preparing our Proposed Plan – the next step as we prepare our Local Development Plan. In preparing this, continue to build and develop positive collaboration with our communities to seek consensus on key areas of new development.

There remains the prospect of exciting and significant new development across the National Park. Outline consent is now in place for a new supermarket in Callander with a detailed proposal anticipated. Financial contributions connected to this development will help deliver town centre improvements and affordable housing. The Ben Arthur hotel and resort in Arrochar (indicated to make a start early 2015) also represents significant opportunity for local communities to benefit from jobs and to develop support facilities.



We work closely with partner organisations and funding organisations to secure the efficient administration of ideally increased grant support for the development of our communities. Key to this is the new LEADER programme and the core and project work undertaken by the Community Partnership. Projects such as the Skills Partnership are critical to supporting our young people. After intensive debate and discussions we are confident that with Argyll & Bute Council and Stirling Council support, the new LEADER programme can deliver a more streamlined process and additional benefits for the National Park.



We also continue to support the regeneration of the National Park's towns and villages in a range of projects with support from our Community Grant Scheme and Built Heritage Repair Grant Scheme, Rural Housing Enabler and ongoing support to Community Development Trusts.

A partnership that delivers

Engagement with our partners is an ongoing process. We meet regularly at executive, management and operational levels to discuss and agree our strategic priorities. In addition, we come together at executive and chair level on an annual basis to a meeting chaired by our Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Paul Wheelhouse. The focus of these meetings is to review progress against each of the priority actions and re-confirm commitment for the year ahead. It is also an opportunity to discuss any potential areas for concern.



Key public sector partners

The National Park is covered by four local authorities: **Argyll & Bute, Perth & Kinross, Stirling and West Dunbartonshire Councils**. Each provides a range of services to their residents including education, environmental services, housing, leisure facilities etc.

The mission of **Forestry Commission Scotland** is to protect and expand Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment.

Historic Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Government and is charged with safeguarding the nation's historic environment and promoting its understanding and enjoyment on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

Police Scotland deliver an effective service to the communities of Scotland, ensuring that they live their lives free from crime, disorder and danger.

Scottish Enterprise's job is identifying and exploiting the opportunities for economic growth by supporting Scottish companies to compete, helping to build globally competitive sectors, attracting new investment and creating a world-class business environment.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency is Scotland's environmental regulator. Its main role is to protect and improve the environment. SEPA is a non-departmental public body, accountable through Scottish Ministers to the Scottish Parliament.

Scottish Natural Heritage's work is about caring for the natural heritage, enabling people to enjoy it, helping people to understand and appreciate it, and supporting those who manage it.

sportscotland is the lead agency for the development of sport in Scotland, investing expertise, time and public money in developing a world-class sporting system at all levels.

Transport Scotland is the national transport agency for Scotland and is responsible for rail and trunk road networks and major public transport projects.

VisitScotland works closely with private businesses, public agencies and local authorities, to ensure that visitors experience the very best of Scotland and that the country makes the most of its outstanding tourism assets.

Key non-public sector partners

Community
National Park Community Partnership, Community Councils, Community Development Trusts

Representative bodies & third sector
Environment Link and specifically land-owning non-government organisations in the Park.

- RSPB
- National Trust for Scotland
- Woodland Trust Scotland

Scottish Land & Estates, National Farmers Union of Scotland, Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust

Private Sector
National Park Destination Development Group, land managers, local destination and trade groups, businesses.



Priorities for action:

2013 - 2014 progress

The following pages detail our priorities for actions in tables and what we have achieved in the year 2013 - 2014.

- ✓ Action completed
- = On track
- ! Attention required
- ✗ Unlikely to deliver



CONSERVATION – Priorities for action 2012 - 2017

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Conservation (Sandford) Principle					
Outcome – Long term protection of the National Park					
C1	Asset management	By end 2013 raise awareness of the role that natural assets perform in the economic performance of the National Park.	No progress on this theme since the “Valuing the National Park” report in 2011. This target will be progressed in conjunction with the accompanying C1 target below.		National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage
		By end 2014 develop an approach that takes into account the value of natural resources in all decision making by public bodies in the National Park.	'Ecosystems services' and 'natural capital' concepts have been researched and options developed for their application. However, this is an area of policy developing rapidly at a national level and significant further discussion with partners is required to identify the best methods to progress within the Park.		
C2	Species management	By end 2013 revise the National Park Biodiversity Action Plan and then implement.	Wild Park 2020 (the new biodiversity action plan for the National Park) has been produced, consulted on, approved by our Board and publicly launched by Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Environment & Climate Change, at a high-profile event in Queen Street Station, Glasgow. The implementation phase begins in 2014.		National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage Forestry Commission Scotland/National Forest Estate
		By 2017 wading birds, Greenland white-fronted geese, red squirrel, black grouse, capercaillie, salmon and water vole populations to have increased in numbers or extent on 2011 baseline or for their habitat to have been improved.	<p>Wading birds: The majority of capital works for the Glen Dochart Waders project are complete with maintenance and management on-going. Monitoring in spring 2013 (year 3) found a 95% increase in breeding wader numbers. Further management for waders undertaken at RSPB Loch Lomond Reserve.</p> <p>Greenland white-fronted geese: Improved management of grasslands at RSPB Loch Lomond has resulted in geese grazing fields over winter 2013/14 in which they had not previously been recorded.</p> <p>Red squirrel: Control of grey squirrels continues, and the most recent survey information from Scottish Wildlife Trust shows that red squirrel distribution within the National Park has increased.</p> <p>Black grouse: The Callander Black Grouse Project is in the maintenance and management phase. Some habitat improvement is already evident and there is anecdotal evidence of increasing black grouse in some areas. Black grouse also continue to respond well to habitat management by partners within The Great Trossachs Forest.</p> <p>Capercaillie: A survey of the Loch Lomond Special Protection Area in spring 2014 again found no evidence of breeding birds. As reported last year, the Loch Lomond population is no longer considered to be viable.</p> <p>Salmon: Options for the removal of man-made barriers to migratory fish have been considered but require further investigation.</p> <p>Water vole: The reintroduced Trossachs population continues to thrive. Steps are underway to improve the coordination of mink trapping in adjacent areas and in Glen Dochart where a remnant water vole population remained.</p>		

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
C3	Integrated habitat network	By end 2013 identify key areas of woodland, wetland, grassland and moorland/heathland habitats that need to be protected, enhanced and/or expanded, connecting to the Central Scotland Green Network Integrated Habitat Network.	SNH have completed the Integrated Habitat Network model, FCS have completed the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland data for the Park and the National Park Authority have completed peatland/wet heath data for the Park. Priority for 2014/15 is to use this data to liaise with landowners to achieve targeted habitat improvements. Wetland and grassland habitat networks will not be actively progressed in the interim.		National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage Forestry Commission Scotland/National Forest Estate
		By 2015 pro-actively support applications to the SRDP (or other support mechanisms) that deliver landscape-scale habitat enhancement.	Details of SRDP 2014-2020 yet to be released.		
C4	Invasive non-native species	By end 2012 start management of riparian invasive plants in the Fillan/ Dochart and Earn catchments.	Management continues: during 2013/14 some 50+ sites in over 30 different ownerships have been treated for riparian plants in the upper Tay catchment. Whilst new sites are still being found and treated those that have been treated for two or more cycles are showing significant improvement.		National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage Forestry Commission Scotland/National Forest Estate
		By end 2013 develop Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy for National Park.	The strategy has been produced and approved as an integral part of Wild Park 2020 – see C2 above.		
		By 2015 ensure grey squirrel and American mink populations are reducing.	Grey squirrel: The most recent survey information from SWT shows that grey squirrel distribution within the National Park has reduced. American mink: We implemented mink monitoring in the upper Tay with early results suggesting limited mink activity and mink control on the Loch Lomond Islands with financial support from SNH. River Forth Fisheries Trust implemented mink monitoring and control on the upper Forth in partnership with FCS.		Scottish Environment
		By 2015 put in place management to eradicate Japanese knotweed and other non-native riparian plants from the Teith system in National Park.	We supported the River Forth Fisheries Trust to equip and train volunteers to tackle invasive plants within the upper Forth and Teith catchments as part of a three-year project. Year one resulted in significant numbers of sites being tackled.		
		By 2017 put in place management to eradicate <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> from 50% of National Forest Estate in National Park.	FCS undertook further Rhododendron control at a number of locations including Loch Lomond, Loch Ard and Ardentiny, as well as continuation of work at Stronachlachar. Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust with support from the National Park and FCS surveyed 296ha and held discussions with seven private landowners to develop costed plans for further control work around Stronachlachar and south-west Loch Lomond. Work began on assembling a funding package for carrying out more control work in these areas in 2014/15.		

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Landscapes					
Outcome – Maintain high quality landscapes that deliver multiple environmental benefits and an economic return					
C5	Land of wild land character	By end 2013 develop supplementary planning guidance on relative wildness (and potentially an associated action plan) and ensure policy development for next National Park Local Plan.	Wildness is being incorporated into the new Local Development Plan (LIVE Park) and relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), such as the finalised Renewables SPG, rather than being a subject matter in itself. During 2014, Scottish Government issued National Planning Framework 3 and this included draft national wildness maps. We commented on these and formally responded to the separate SNH consultation on these maps. Meanwhile we have continued to use the map of the National Park which is at a more detailed scale in considering developments within the Park.		National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage
		By end 2014 apply for Dark Sky Reserve status for National Park.	Formal application has been deferred. Measures to reduce light pollution will be promoted through sustainability measures in LIVE Park and measures to promote and celebrate the dark night sky have continued through education and engagement programmes.		
		From 2012 maintain the existing area of core wild land in the National Park as in 2011 relative wildness baseline.	Our wildness maps are referred to in order to understand the impact of development on core wild land within the Park.		
C6	Support schemes	By 2012–14 promote the recognition of the National Park as a priority area within the new SRDP.	This work is on-going and there are discussions with Scottish Government and Cairngorms National Park Authority as to how this will be reflected in the processing of applications to SRDP 2014-2020.		Scottish Government
		By 2014-15 a new scheme in place delivering the National Park Partnership Plan priorities across conservation, visitor experience and rural development.	SRDP 2014-2020 due to be launched January 2015.		
C7	Land management plans	By 2017 25% of all private land in the National Park has a long-term management plan.	Our pilot phase is complete and evaluated. Our revised model will be rolled out later this year. Links have been made with National Farmers Union Scotland and Scottish Land & Estates to promote the scheme.		National Park Authority Forestry Commission Scotland Private Land Managers
C8	Designed landscapes	By 2017 20% of designed landscapes in management agreements.	Our pilot phase is complete and evaluated. Support has been provided at two sites for practical restoration work recommended in our management plans.		National Park Authority Historic Scotland

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Water					
Outcome – Water resources to be protected and enhanced to deliver multiple benefits for local communities, businesses and visitors					
C9	Ecological status of water bodies	By end 2012 contribute to the implementation of measures set out in relevant River Basin Management Plans.	Development of the second round of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) continues. More work is needed to determine clear priorities for action on morphology and diffuse pollution within the National Park.		Scottish Environment Protection Agency
		By 2017 an improvement in the ecological status of water bodies in the National Park.	To be achieved through implementation of RBMP's in timescale determined by SEPA prioritisation – see above. Joint agency working arrangements have been strengthened to help identify diffuse pollution sources.		
C10	Loch Lomond	By end 2012 review the existing navigational byelaws and submit revised Loch Lomond Byelaws to Scottish Government for approval.	Byelaws review completed and approved by Scottish Ministers February 2013 and effective from 1 April 2013.		Loch Lomond: National Park Authority Canal Link: West Dunbartonshire Council British Waterways
		By 2017 limits of acceptable change framework with stakeholders for the future management of environmental and recreation pressures on Loch Lomond in place.	A "Limits of Acceptable Change" study was completed in April 2011 and used to inform the Loch Lomond byelaws review completed in 2012/13. Further development of the framework to follow in 2014/15. Limits of acceptable change on morphology and diffuse pollution need to be defined in conjunction with the second round of RBMPs – see C9 above.		
C11	Sustainable flood management	By end 2014 establish natural flood management options for the Teith area of the Forth catchment as part of the development of Flood Risk Management Plans to reduce flood pressure on Callander and Stirling.	Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) are in production and scheduled for completion in 2015. Input from the Park will emphasise the value of considering natural as well as engineered management options. A desk-study has been undertaken in the Duchray part of the Forth catchment to assess flood risk and flood management options to reduce flood pressure on Aberfoyle. Further work is needed to develop a practical, effective implementation plan.		Scottish Environment Protection Agency National Park Authority Stirling Council Forestry Commission Scotland
		By 2015, work to develop Flood Risk Management Plans, providing opportunities for natural flood management.	Flood Risk Management Plans are in production and scheduled for completion in 2015.		
		By 2015 support applications to SRDP (or alternative sources of funding) for flood management options on the Teith.	Progress is subject to completion of the Flood Risk Management Plans (see above) and further work on developing a viable, effective project. The National Park Peatland Project (see C12 below) is also envisaged to contribute to this target in the longer term.		

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Carbon Storage					
Outcome – Increased carbon storage within the National Park					
C12	Carbon storage	By end 2013 have in place a Local Woodland Strategy that provides a basis for a wider land use action plan by 2014.	No progress during 2013/14 as lessons emerge from the national Land Use Strategy pilots in Aberdeenshire and the Scottish Borders. A pilot approach to developing an integrated Land Use Strategy will be progressed in 2014/15.		Forestry Commission Scotland/National Forest Estate National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage
		By 2017 increase the area of woodland in the National Park in line with historic trends (around 600 hectares a year) using locations and designs that bring landscape and biodiversity benefits, whilst avoiding adverse impacts on landscape special qualities, designated sites and soil carbon stores.	Target met for 2013/14 with FCS approval of large-scale scheme (721ha) of commercial and non-commercial planting and natural regeneration in Cowal, plus smaller field-corner and shelter-belt planting schemes around Gartocharn. In part dependent on SRDP funding from 2015, average rate of 600ha/year may still be reached by 2017.		
		By end 2014 identify and assess the condition and management of peatland in the National Park. Identify areas for restoration and management focussing on the most degraded sites first.	National Park Peatland Project progressing, with desk-based study of peatland extent and condition completed and ground-truthed and priority sites for restoration identified.		

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Cultural Heritage					
Outcome – Enhanced cultural heritage that delivers multiple environmental benefits and an economic return					
C13	Safeguard, manage and promote the National Park's built heritage and archaeology	By August 2012 prepare a revised Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) proposal for submission to Historic Scotland.	Our application to the fifth CARS programme was not successful.		National Park Authority Historic Scotland
		By end 2013 review coverage of conservation areas.	Informal review undertaken as part of preparation of Main Issues Report during 2013. No new areas proposed for designation.		
		By end 2013 complete and promote Shopfront Design Guide for Callander.	Guide complete and has been used as a technical guide for the CARS Shopfront Small Grant Scheme. Intended to incorporate into SPG for the Local Development Plan.		
		By end 2013 commission British Geological Survey to complete stone and slate survey of five conservation areas.	British Geological Survey successfully delivered a stone and slate survey for an extended area of Callander Conservation Area. A review of the use of this data will be undertaken before commissioning further surveys.		
C14	Enhance and promote the National Park's Built Heritage and Archaeology	By end 2013 identify and secure new sources of funding for built heritage projects in the National Park.	A review of funding opportunities identified limited public sector funding sources, however, a Built Heritage Repair Grant Scheme for properties visible from the main roads in the Park was successfully launched in 2013. The £20,000 budget was fully subscribed on a range of projects throughout the Park's communities.		National Park Authority Historic Scotland
		2012-14 deliver community education projects through CARS raising awareness.	Our successfully delivered projects included; Stone mason apprenticeship, traditional skills training with high school children and built heritage education via photography competition.		
		By end 2014 50 projects delivered through CARS (and any new grant funding).	The completed Callander CARS project successfully delivered 55 projects with a total value of £1,189,088.59. Match funding of £733,522 was provided by home and business owners, Stirling Council and the British Geological Survey.		
		By 2017 reduce the number of buildings on the buildings at risk register within the Park.	A re-survey undertaken by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Buildings Scotland in July 2012 found an increase in the number of buildings at risk from 18 to 24. Restoration of south east lodge at the Gates to Rossdhu House has reduced the number to 23. Work is ongoing with owners and Building Preservation Trusts to reduce this number further.		
C15	Cultural traditions and events (cross reference with VE9)	By end 2013 undertake a cultural audit of the National Park.	A audit of cultural events has been completed		Community Partnership National Park Destination Development Group Local Destination Organisations Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs
		By end of 2013 raise awareness of the cultural heritage of the Park by having in place, and promoting, a programme of cultural events and activities.	A programme of cultural activities including <i>Island Drift</i> , an artist in residence and a Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs was put in place for 2013/14.		

VISITOR EXPERIENCE – Priorities for action 2012 - 2017

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Visitor Management					
Outcome – Improved quality of life for residents and enjoyment for visitors					
VE1	A safe place to visit and live in	Increase the % of residents and % of visitors who feel safe in the National Park from 2011 visitor survey baseline and 2012 Operation Ironworks community feedback baseline.	2013 was the sixth year of Operation Ironworks delivery and the first under Police Scotland in 2013. 6,358 hours of policing took place under Operation Ironworks. In addition, National Park Employer Supported Police worked 488 hours.		Central Scotland Strathclyde and Tayside Police National Park Authority
VE2	Review camping management	By end 2013 review East Loch Lomond Camping Byelaws.	Data collection completed for season 2013 on camping, litter and anti-social behaviour, Ranger and police enforcement plans implemented seven individuals charged with contravening the Byelaws. Visitor Surveys undertaken. Three year report on operation off byelaws for Ministers complete		National Park Authority Visitor Management Groups
		By end 2014, if appropriate following review, consult on the management of camping in the National Park based on the experience of the East Loch Lomond camping management byelaws.	By the end of 2013/14 our Board approved a programme of work to develop proposals for managing visitor and camping pressures across the NP area. This will continue in 2014/15.		

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
VE3	Capacity management – high pressure Visitor management zones	By end 2012 have in place a visitor management plan (VMP) for the Five Lochs area (Achray, Venachar, Lubnaig, Voil and Earn).	The 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan was created by the end of 2012. By the end of 2013/14 a review of progress had been undertaken and a redraft has been created.		National Park Authority Visitor Management Groups
		By end 2012 have in place a VMP for Loch Lomond islands in line with revised Loch Lomond Byelaws.	The Loch Lomond islands visitor management has been progressed through a focus on continued patrolling with Rangers and Police utilising the 2013 navigation byelaws to ensure responsible behaviour and to minimise impacts on the islands. At this time the need for a visitor management plan has been superseded by the Park wide review and development of visitor and management proposals.		
		By mid 2013 have in place a VMP for Luss.	Through agreement by our Board, Luss does not currently require an individual visitor management plan. As part of the Park wide visitor management project we will look to ensure operational measures are in place to address any issues arising over the 2014 season, and include Luss within the scope of the Park wide visitor management proposals.		
		From 2012 to 2017 implement VMPs.	5 Lochs and East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Plans have been reviewed and redrafted through liaison with the visitor management groups. A first phase of site improvement works, from the 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan, was implemented during 2013 on two sites at Loch Lubnaig. A second phase of improvement works is being worked up for Loch Venachar for implementation during 2014.		
		By mid 2013 have in place a long-term plan for the development and maintenance of the West Highland Way.	Condition survey and prioritisation of actions completed for NP sections of WHW, leading to A brief for reviewing the management of the West Highland Way and the development of a five year plan has been agreed with partners. The tender for this review is scheduled to be complete in August for reporting by the end of 2014. Route survey work is being undertaken, in tandem with the management options report, in order to provide details of required route remedial works and costs.		
VE4	Capacity management – medium pressure Visitor management zones	Ensure regular monitoring and patrolling of these areas to ensure pressure does not increase in these areas.	Ranger patrol guide reviewed and updated. Patrolling plan implemented during summer 2013 and patrol data gathered on key issues such as camping, parking, litter, vandalism and fires. Patrol plan drawn up for 2014.		National Park Authority

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
VE5	Sustainable traffic management	In 2013 put in place a consultation on traffic management options for: Luss Balmaha to Rowardennan	As part of the east Loch Lomond Visitor Management Plan a review of actions highlighted the need for more parking provision, following the implementation of the clearway extensions by Stirling Council at Rowardennan to combat traffic management issues. A partnership approach is being progressed in Luss looking at traffic management solutions for the village and entrances from the trunk roads. Key partners involved are the Community Council, traders, Police, local authority, Luss Estates and the National Park Authority.		Stirling Council Argyll & Bute Council Perth & Kinross Council National Park Authority Luss Estates Luss Community Council
		In 2014 through the Five Lochs VMP consider traffic management options for: South Loch Earn Balquhidder Glen	A clearway proposal for the A84, A85, South Loch Earn and Balquidder Glen roads was circulated to community councils for comment. This was followed by a proposal to Transport Scotland to consider clearway traffic orders for the trunk roads. A final outcome of this process is awaited.		
		In 2016 put in place a consultation on traffic management options for: Aberfoyle to Inversnaid	Strathard Community Council were consulted on clearway proposals for the 5 Lochs area and confirmed that the Aberfoyle to Inversnaid road was still a community priority for action and possible clearway status.		
VE6	Quality standards	By end 2013 agree and implement litter policy for the National Park across all local authority areas that reflects visitor pressure in high season.	The National Litter Strategy completion has been delayed and has not been made available within the 2013/14 year. However within this year, the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 was enacted which amongst many things amended the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to give the National Park Authority the power to issue fixed penalty notices for litter offences, from 1 April 2015. This will be progressed over the 2014/15 year, alongside ongoing work with partners to deliver national campaign messages.		Stirling Council Argyll & Bute Council West Dunbartonshire Council Perth & Kinross Council SEPA National Park Authority Keep Scotland Beautiful Central Scotland, Strathclyde and Tayside Police

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Tourism					
Outcome – Improved consistency of product encourages greater enjoyment and spend in the National Park					
VE7	Better information and signage for visitors	National Park forum between VisitScotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, local authorities and the Park Authority to look at visitor information and centres to encourage a joined up approach.	Roll out of National Park information in Visit Scotland centres around the Park is now complete. Plans for coordinated information and branding continue with FCS.		National Park Authority Forestry Commission Scotland Visit Scotland – Digital Scotland National Park Destination Development Group
		By end 2013 new threshold signage in place and Destination Interpretive Strategy for the Park in place.	New signage strategy completed.		
		By end 2013 a visitor web portal for the National Park in place linking with other high quality websites in the area.	A programme of linking out from information our website to other sources of helpful visitor information has begun. This is an ongoing project.		
		By 2017 develop consistent brand welcome to villages and towns in the Park.	On track to deliver through development of village welcome signs.		
VE8	Meeting visitor expectations to create more economic benefits	Increase private sector investment in tourism facilities in the Park that are compatible with conservation objectives for designated sites and with the wider landscape of the National Park.	Clear evidence now being obtained of business development and new business start up as a result of partner and National Park investment. This includes business expansion at Lomond Shores, Loch Lubnaig, Callander and east Loch Lomond.		Scottish Enterprise Highland and Island Enterprise Business Gateway National Park Authority
VE9	Maximising the benefits of Year of Natural Scotland 2013 and Year of Homecoming 2014	2013 – Maximise commercial and awareness opportunities of Year of Natural Scotland.	We are represented on the National Steering Group, working with national partners on the Year of Natural Scotland. A range of events and activities included the Great Scottish Swim with 1900 swimmers taking part, Get Active for National Parks week with 6,000 attending and an artist in residence programme with UK wide press.		Scottish Natural Heritage National Park Authority
		2014 – Increase international visitor spend in the National Park in 2014 as part of wider Year of Homecoming.	We are working with Visit Scotland and local destination groups to take advantage of year of homecoming, including plans for National Park promotional experience at Glasgow Airport.		Visit Scotland/ Event Scotland Stirling Council
		In 2014 hold conference to celebrate John Muir's life and the future of National Parks.	We delivered a superbly well received national John Muir conference to explore John Muir's legacy and the management of protected landscapes.		National Park Authority John Muir Trust

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
VE10	Quality and consistency of experience for the visitor	By end 2013 develop a service programme for the National Park.	Service programme successfully completed		Scottish Enterprise National Park Destination Development Group Local Destination Groups
		By end 2014 200 individuals trained.	150 people were trained up to March 2014. An online module is now being developed in partnership with the Community Partnership to enable further take up.		
		By end 2013 300 businesses using the National Park Business in the Park Toolkit.	Over 250 businesses are registered with our Business Toolkit. The toolkit is being redeveloped for relaunch later this year.		
		Undertake a visitor survey in 2013, 2015, 2017,	On track to undertake a year long visitor survey in 2015.		
VE11	Range of sustainable transport opportunities	By end 2014 have in place a suite of self-sustaining waterbus services on Loch Lomond with hubs at Tarbet, Balmaha and Loch Lomond Shores. Link with other forms of public transport and cycling and walking provision.	The number of waterbus routes has grown each year, with nine routes promoted in 2014. All services are self sustaining but we have a management role to promote the brand. Implementation of a new pontoon at Loch Lomond Shores to offer opportunities for further new routes is on track.		National Park Authority Scottish Enterprise Private Businesses
		By 2017 have joined up services between key lochs, such as Loch Long, Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine.	There are now joined up services with a two lochs tour operated between Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine.		
Recreation and Access					
Outcome – Responsible and managed access to the National Park that leads to improved health benefits for West and Central Scotland.					
VE12	Establish a sustainable model for the management of the West Highland Way	By end 2013 establish a long term management arrangement for the WHW.	A brief for reviewing the management of the West Highland Way and the development of a five year plan has been agreed with partners. The tender for this review is scheduled to be complete in August for reporting by the end of 2014. Route survey work is being undertaken, in tandem with the management options report, in order to provide details of required route remedial works and costs.		National Park Authority East Dunbartonshire Council Stirling Council Argyll & Bute Council Highland Council Scottish Natural Heritage

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
VE13	Maintenance and enhancement of recreation provision (i.e. paths, bridges, and access points to water) and improved linkages between exiting routes.	By end 2012 have in place a Countryside Trust for the National Park. Trust to target infrastructure investment and reduce gaps in the network.	Trust established and manager in post. The Trust business plan has prioritised small scale project delivery in its first full year to establish credibility. An initial focus has been on securing funding and delivery of path improvement plans for Killin, healthy walks programme in Callander, Aberfoyle and Balloch as part of the development of Walk in the Park; and conservation projects targeting rhododendron removal, habitat restoration and heritage tree protection.		National Park Authority Forestry Commission Scotland
		By mid 2013 develop National Park Outdoor Recreation Plan and identify key gaps in recreation provision.	Our Outdoor Recreation Plan was approved by the National Park Board in June 2013. Implementation plan for Phase 1 has been developed. Projects delivered in 2013/14 include an update to the "Fishing in the Park" leaflet, installation of a bridge at Glen Tarken on the St Fillans to Lochearnhead railway path, Duncryne Hill path improvements completed and signage and gates were installed on the Wee Wood north link path.		Scottish Natural Heritage
		By 2015 a programme of path works to address erosion management on key upland paths will be in place.	Heritage Lottery Fund bid submitted for mountain paths project under in partnership with Cairngorms National Park Authority, Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust and SNH.		
		By 2015 review Core Paths Plan and consider local path connections around communities.	No progress to date, however access provision included within Outdoor Recreation Plan will help with the Core Path Plan review.		
		By 2017 ensure Balloch is a hub for visitors using long-distance routes, such as West Loch Lomond Cycle Path, John Muir Way etc.	Plans are underway to agree a set of actions to ensure that Balloch benefits as a hub for cycling and walking nearby long distance routes.		
VE14	Promotion of path and water networks	By end 2013 develop a database of routes for different purposes and produce appropriate web-based materials and leaflets where appropriate.	Staffing issues and reprioritisation of work have delayed progress on this. The examination of route information options is ongoing. Our website content is maintained. Our Outdoor Recreation Plan implementation plan identifies land and water actions for delivery. Improvements to website information identified as Outdoor Recreation Plan phase 1 task. Database not complete by end of 2013.		National Park Access Forum
VE15	Preventative spend to improve health benefits	To increase the number of people on healthy walks programme by 10% every year of the National Park Partnership Plan.	The Countryside Trust are now the lead partner in delivering this area of activity with funding from the Park and other partners which ensures the continued development of the healthy walks programme. New walks are now available in Balloch as well as with FCS at The Lodge in Aberfoyle.		

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Education, outreach and volunteering					
Outcome – Increased engagement in the Park through education, outreach and volunteering opportunities leading to greater appreciation and improved behaviour					
VE16	Increased opportunities to deliver Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning	Increased delivery of teacher Continuing Professional Development (CPD) from 2011 baseline.	Many teachers still need support to embed outdoor learning into their practice. We delivered a programme of events in partnership with Education Scotland to support Geography teachers to improve their field skills. We have also developed a 'Teaching in Nature' professional development programme for schools in West Dunbartonshire, to be delivered in the winter 2014. Between April 2013 and March 2014 the National Park delivered six career long professional learning sessions, supporting 123 teachers and senior leaders.		National Park Authority Local Authorities Education Scotland
		National Park educational resources available through websites by 2013.	Our website has been significantly developed over the year, with new resources and information available.		
		By 2017 increase number of schools engaged with by 50% from 2011 baseline.	From April 2013 to March 2014, we supported 118 Outdoor Learning and outreach engagement visits delivering over 850 hours of staff time. 82 schools and 36 groups were supported, including eight Special Education Needs schools and Social Inclusion groups. 2551 young people and 618 adults were supported. These are all significant increases on the engagement from the previous year, however, overall our engagement with schools has decreased 5% since the baseline.		
VE17	Increased support for those experiencing disadvantage	By end 2012 map all existing education, outreach and volunteering provision within the National Park.	By the end of the year all key partners had been engaged with and a summary of provision has been produced. Production of existing mapping will be delivered in 2014/15.		National Park Authority
		By end 2013 have in place an Education, Outreach and Volunteer Engagement Working Group.	Decision taken that there are too many existing forums, and that we would develop an online forum alongside the production of electronic mapping in 2014/15.		
		By 2017 increase number of outreach partners engaged with by 50% from 2011 baseline.	The John Muir partnership is one of our key ways to support outreach groups. The partnership has a target to identify and support 25% of outreach and inclusion groups through the John Muir Award. In addition, our education and outreach delivery has an ongoing focus on west central Scotland. Through identification of travel costs being highlighted as a barrier to engagement, our Travel Grant was a huge success. It was over-subscribed, and through the allocation of £6,000. 98% of groups applying for the grant during this year had not engaged with the National Park before. Over 50% of recipients were outreach groups. Overall our engagement with groups has increased by 9%.		

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
VE18	Volunteer Rangers	By end 2014 have 60 Volunteer Rangers with the Park Authority.	By the end of the year 2013/14 we had 64 registered Volunteer Rangers. Over the coming year we are focussing on ensuring that all Volunteer Rangers are active, which may lead to a further recruitment period.		National Park Authority
		Through expanding the Volunteer Ranger role to partner organisations, by 2017 there will be 150 Volunteer Rangers in the National Park.	The primary focus for this year has been on reaching the National Park target. Next year will see us focus on expanding the volunteer ranger role to our partner organisations.		
VE19	National Park volunteers	By end 2014 develop a programme for National Park volunteers with partners.	Partnership led opportunities continue to develop with Woodland Trust for Scotland, The Great Trossachs Forest and RSPB. Ongoing work with Friends of Loch Lomond has led to the delivery of "Make Difference" days, which engage with business volunteers and National Park volunteers. We have developed a legal agreement to ensure we are working safely and responsibly with partners in the delivery of volunteer projects.		National Park Authority
		By 2017, increase the number of activities offered to National Park Volunteers by 50%.	Practical conservation volunteers have been involved in 181 events; been active on 706 volunteer days and delivered 4889 volunteer hours. In addition the Volunteer Rangers have been involved in 146 events; been active on 610 volunteer days and delivered 3991 volunteer hours. The % increase in activities offered is 56%.		
Scenic Routes					
Outcome – Improved visitor experience, increased safety and designs that complement the landscape					
VE20	National Park scenic routes	In 2013 a design competition for innovative lay-bys is in place.	We are currently working with Transport Scotland on holding a joint workshop during Autumn 2014 to establish design principles for lay-bys and the identification of pilot project sites.		Transport Scotland National Park Authority Local Authorities Friends of the West Highland Line
		By end 2013 a strategic plan is in place for the A82 upgrade.	The strategic approach has been approved, a review of all options undertaken, a preferred corridor identified and design work has commenced for the 17km of road from south of Tarbet to north of Inverarnan, with community consultation and effective joint working between the Park Authority, Transport Scotland and SEPA.		
		By 2015 pulpit rock and Crainlarich bypass on the A82 completed.	Works are progressing on both sites for completion in 2014 with effective joint working between the National Park Authority, Transport Scotland and SEPA.		
		A84 improvements to be considered as part of Five Lochs Management Project and Callander Charrette. Scrub removal from West Highland Line to continue.	Scrub removal and tree thinning has continued along sections of the West Highland Line and the A82 to improve views of the Park from both rail and road.		

RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Priorities for action 2012 - 2017

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Sustaining our population					
Outcome – A Population balanced across age groups					
RD1	Increase access to a range of affordable housing types	By end 2013 reach agreement with housing providers/RSLs and local authorities on a suite of delivery models for affordable housing. This will be produced as a toolkit.	The toolkit for housing delivery is in place through Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance and associated documents.		Local Authorities National Park Authority Rural Housing Service
		By end 2014 20 new housing opportunities delivered through the Rural Housing Enabler project.	Despite numerous discussions on potential opportunities only a handful have moved to feasibility stage although there are advanced discussions concerning sites at Luss, Kilmun and Balmaha. Working with LINK Housing Association and Rural Stirling Housing Association, good momentum is building that provides better prospects over the next three years.		
		In 2015 prepare a housing need and demand assessment for the National Park.	The basis for the housing need and demand assessment was agreed with partners in 2014 which was a collation and update of all available information and up to date data on the housing market. This forms the assessment for the National Park and was issued with the Main Issues Report in April. Scottish Government's review confirmed this was an appropriate approach.		
		Promote and monitor delivery of the Local Plan Housing Land Requirement by 2015.	Included within monitoring statement issued with Main Issues Report in April.		
RD2	Access to employment opportunities	Establish a reduction in out migration of working age groups by 2017.	Review of 2011 Census is complete. This was published with the Main Issues Report in April and highlights a relatively static, but ageing population.		Scottish Enterprise Highland and Islands Enterprise Business Gateway Local Authorities
		By 2017 increase business start ups by 10%.	Baseline data on start ups for the National Park has been collated to provide a basis to monitor.		
RD3	Expand apprenticeship scheme and outreach training opportunities for young people	By end 2014 have in place an apprenticeship scheme that covers tourism and land-based businesses (including food).	Delivery by the Skills Partnership project. Scope broadened and timelines extended accordingly. Shared apprenticeship pilot launched and targeted support provided to businesses and young people. Sector specific pilot projects identified for delivery in 2015.		Community Partnership Forth Valley College Clydebank College Skills Development Scotland West Dunbartonshire Council
		By end 2014 develop an accredited outreach training module.	Delivery by Skills Partnership project. Scope broadened and timelines extended accordingly. Links with local training providers established and skills development pilot projects identified for delivery in 2015.		

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Spatial Development Strategy					
Outcome – Sustainable pattern of new development					
RD4	Direct most new development to existing settlements	Promote and monitor delivery of Local Plan (2010-15).	Monitoring Statement issued in April that along with the Main Issues Report provides a comprehensive review of the Local Plan.		National Park Authority
		By end 2016 prepare and adopt Local Development Plan.	Our Main Issues Report, the first formal step to prepare the Local Development Plan was consulted upon between April and July branded as LIVE Park. This was two months behind schedule due to undertaking additional community engagement and delay in release of the 2011 Census data for the National Park. The updated Development Plan Scheme sets out adoption in early 2017 – this depends on the level of representation, and complexity of issues raised, during the Main Issues Report consultation just completed and the Proposed Plan consultation in 2015. This will be monitored closely to bring forward the adoption if at all possible.		
Rural Economy					
Outcome – Rural economic development to support job creation and retention that safeguards and enhances the Park's special qualities					
RD5	Increase available business and workspace	By end 2015 increase the volume of local workspace based on Local Plan Economic Development proposals and Rural Activity Areas implemented: Callander East, Strathfillan, Drymen South and Strachur South.	Business space survey undertaken in 2014 to improve understanding of market conditions and demand. The positive planning policies have been promoted to partners and new, innovate solutions were included in the Main Issues Report which have been generally supported. With little public subsidy available, it is unlikely to achieve this aspiration.		Stirling Council Argyll & Bute Council National Park Authority
RD6	Support rural businesses in the primary industries	By end 2013 consider whether a Park brand for locally produced food is viable.	A food and drink business led group has been established. This group will assess opportunities for a National Park brand on local produce.		National Farmer's Union Scotland Scottish Land and Estates National Park Destination Group National Park Authority
		By 2017 increase the value of forestry, farming and food produce originating in the National Park from 2011 baseline.	A three year strategy for promotion of use of local produce and increasing the number of local suppliers was developed in 2013/14		
RD7	Rural broadband	Increase rural broadband coverage and speed within the National Park.	This year has seen an increase in engagement with Digital Scotland's Superfast Broadband Programme to support improvements in the Park. Callander has been identified for upgrade. Along with the Cairngorms National Park, an Accord is in the later stages of being finalised with Openreach. The purpose is to enable the proactive roll out of fixed line Next Generation Access (NGA) (fibre broadband) services and other technologies and their associated benefits to communities, in ways that protect and enhance the special qualities of Scotland's finest landscapes.		Scottish Government Scottish Enterprise Highlands and Islands Enterprise

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Climate Change					
Outcome – Climate change mitigation and adaption is integral to all activities and new development.					
RD8	Reduce carbon emissions and promote low carbon development	By end 2014 produce environmental sustainability guidance.	Programmed to be part of draft Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Proposed Plan to be issued for consultation in 2015.		National Park Authority Community Partnership
		By end 2016 promote all new development to exceed 2010 Building (Scotland) Regulations sustainability requirement to achieve a 'silver' rating.	Programmed to be part of draft Supplementary Planning Guidance or within the Proposed Plan to be issued for consultation in 2015. Improved standards promoted through the Local Plan and the Sustainability Checklist.		
		By 2017 energy efficiency projects have been delivered in 10 communities.	Climate Challenge funded projects were delivered in 10 communities by early 2013 (Callander, Killin, Benmore & Kilmun, Gartmore, Strachur, Kilmarnock, Strathfillan, Lochgoil Sandbank and Buchanan). Recognising the role of national energy efficiency schemes, the focus of activity has moved to longer term energy and income generation schemes for National Park communities, with projects being progressed by individual communities and supported by the Community Partnership.		
Renewable Energy					
Outcome – Appropriately scaled and located renewable energy schemes that support community development.					
RD9	Increase renewable energy generation	By end 2014 undertake work to establish cumulative impacts of energy schemes on the landscapes, hydrology, recreation opportunities and ecology.	Initial scoping of work commenced.		National Park Authority Private Businesses Scottish Environment Protection Agency Local Authorities Scottish Natural Heritage
		By 2017 increase in electricity produced through renewable energy from small-scale hydro and increase use of biomass for heat or in combined heat and power systems.	Small scale run-of-river hydro power continues to be a particular growth area within the National Park. The planning team were under significant pressure to determine a number of applications (10) prior to 31 December 2013. This was connected to a deadline imposed upon operators by OFGEM (the national energy regulator) linking the securing of a planning permission by that date to a higher rate of feed in tariff once the scheme becomes operational. At the time of writing five schemes are under construction across the Park with the potential to generate 3MW of hydro-electricity. Of particular note are the community-led hydro schemes, including the Callander scheme launching in 2014 and collaborative schemes being developed by the communities of Arrochar, Luss and Lochgoilhead with partners.		
RD10	Landscape setting of the Park	Ensure that landscape impacts which may affect the special qualities of the National Park are taken into account in the preparation of neighbouring planning authorities' planning policies or guidance for renewable energy.	Comments lodged with all neighbouring planning authority Local Development Plan processes – all include appropriate content.		Local Authorities National Park Authority Scottish Natural Heritage

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
Community Development					
Outcome – Active and empowered communities					
RD11	Community capacity building	Increase the investment leveraged in through community organisations in the National Park.	Four communities supported to produce up to date Community Action Plans (CAPs), offering evidence of a community wide mandate to funders and partners. Fundraising support provided for priority projects identified through the CAPs, with the excellent work of the Community Development Trusts continuing to attract a significant amount of investment by grant-making bodies. The National Park Community Grants Scheme provided investment in community capacity and small-scale projects. National Park specific arrangements have been developed as part of the 2014-20 LEADER programme.		Community Partnership Community Development Trusts Local Authorities
		By 2017 each of the National Park's communities to have independently delivered a community project.	Priority projects identified through Community Action Plans. Community Development Trusts, Community councils and community organisations are active in most of the National Park communities delivering small and medium-scale projects. Large scale projects that are being developed and delivered include access routes (St Fillans, Croftamie and Drymen), built heritage (Benmore & Kilmun), run of the river hydro (Callander, Arrochar and Luss) and asset ownership (Gartmore).		
Built Environment					
Outcome – The built environment is enhanced and is a valued special quality of the Park					
RD12	Place making	By end 2013 establish a National Park annual design award to promote and celebrate good design.	This project has been postponed, however good design is promoted in all discussions on new development and is central within the Main Issues Report issued for consultation.		National Park Authority
		By 2017 increase the number of developments that are recognised through local or national awards for design/planning.	Promoted where opportunities are identified.		
		By 2017 expand Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Guidance to issue area specific guidance, sustainability guidance and best practice advice.	Programmed to be part of the Local Development Plan, to be adopted by 2017.		

	Priority for Action	Target for 2017	Progress Update	Status	Lead Partner
RD13	Callander (Charrette) master plan	By September 2012 support the Callander Partnership's preparation of an action plan for delivery of the charrette's recommendations.	New priorities identified in 2013 include; St Kessogs building re-use, Ancaster Square improvements and car parking management. These still remain key with good progress, although car parking needs attention by Stirling Council. The community has established a temporary lease for St Kessogs with a programme of events over the summer.		Callander Partnership
		By mid 2013 adopt Supplementary Planning Guidance that translates the charrette's recommendations into short-term actions. This will focus on design and public realm.	Supplementary Planning Guidance, based on charette outcomes for better design and public realm completed.		
		Integrate the charrette's long-term recommendations into the preparation of the Local Development Plan.	This was included within the Main Issues Report, issued for consultation between April and July.		



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