

## Deer, plastic, the Lomond & Trossachs National Park and the Nature of Scotland awards

### Description

Regular readers may or may not be surprised to hear that having helped pay to cover Balquhiddar in plastic in March 2022 ([see here](#)), the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority got itself onto the shortlist for the Nature of Scotland awards on 22nd November:

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**Gordon Watson**  
@LochLomondCEO

Inspiring to see the great work [@Forth\\_Rivers](#) [@ForthRiversT](#) are doing at the River Larig, Balquhiddar and meet the excellent young trainees getting [#greenjobs](#) experience. Delighted [@lomondtrossachs](#) helped fund 5km riparian tree cover connecting habitats +improving fish conditions



Promoting polluting plastic in March 2022



**Gordon Watson**  
@LochLomondCEO



The @lomondtrossachs #NationalPark and @ForthRiversT crew looking good at the #natureofscotland awards tonight good luck all!  
@NatureofScot @RSPBScotland



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They didn't win. These corporate backslapping exercises currently serve to endorse some terrible conservation practice and fool many decent people that they are doing the right thing.

The truth is that trees reproduced for millions of years before tree tubes became standard practice in

the UK, that the plastics industry is an integral part of the oil industry and thus helping to drive climate change and plastic is extremely polluting to the natural environment. The main promoters of the Nature of Scotland awards, NatureScot and the RSPB, should be taking a lead on this but instead gave the Nature and Climate Action Award to One Million Trees who still use plastic tree tubes ([see here](#)).

In future NatureScot and RSPB should make it clear they will not entertain any planting project that uses plastic tree tubes.

Having criticised the Minister responsible for National Parks, Lorna Slater, for posing by a plastic tree tube in 2022 [The green way to plant trees? What hope for our National Parks?](#) it was very good to see that she now appears to understand that deer are the problem:

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**Charles Dundas**  
@cdundas



At [#NatureOfScotland](#) Awards Scotland's Environment Minister Lorna Slater is very clear that our deer numbers need to be managed, and answers her critics who ask why she is picking on deer and not beavers by saying "once we have a million beavers in Scotland we can look at that" 🐾



That speech was not just a one-off, she gave the same message at the recent Revive Conference in Perth.

Perhaps Lorna Slater could ask the CEO's of both the LLTNPA and NatureScot, for which she is also

responsible, what they have done to reduce grazing pressure in Balquhidder and elsewhere in Scotland so riverine woodland can regenerate naturally?

The LLTNPA had also put itself up for the Nature and Climate Action Award with “Mission Zero in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs” ([see here](#)), a reference to its vacuous National Park Partnership Plan. Thankfully they didn’t win that award either but Lorna Slater could do worse than tell them to replace all the meaningless guff in the plan with a commitment to reduce deer numbers to 2 per square kilometre or less. That would be the best thing the LLTNPA could do for both nature and climate and would help make plastic tree tubes history.

### Category

1. Uncategorized

### Tags

1. LLTNPA
2. plastic
3. Scottish Government

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