

**LOCH  
LOMOND  
& THE TROSSACHS  
NATIONAL PARK**



**YOUR  
PARK**

# **Camping Development Strategy**

**October 2016**

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# 1. Our vision for camping

## 1.1 Our strategic vision

The 'National Park' designation recognises the importance of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs in terms of protecting the environment and wildlife within it and also the multitude of outdoor recreation experiences it offers for those who live, work or come to spend time here.

The National Park is one of Scotland's national assets. Internationally, National Parks are recognised as special places. From an environmental perspective, the designation recognises the inherent value of the Park's natural assets and the need for them to be protected and cherished.

From a recreation perspective, with 50% of Scotland's population living within an hour's drive of the Park, the area offers an accessible way for the people of Scotland to enjoy the benefits of getting out into the outdoors, with a wide range of recreation opportunities catered for across the Park's 720 sq mile area.

From a tourism perspective, National Parks are globally recognised tourism assets where you can expect a truly 'world-class' experience.

Camping in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park is one of many popular outdoor recreation activities that visitors come to the area to experience. With its easy-to-reach lochshores amongst high mountains and along wooded banks, the National Park has some of the best places in Scotland to pitch a tent.

Our vision for camping and enjoying recreation opportunities is set out in the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17. It states:

*"...The National Park is a place for visitors to enjoy.  
[There will be] lots of different activities for everyone on and around the Park's many lochs...  
...There will be a variety of high quality campsites where people from all backgrounds can pitch their tents without degrading the environment.  
...Motorhomes have places to stop that provide the right facilities all across the Park.  
...All are provided at a reasonable cost"*

National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17

This Camping Development Strategy sits as part of a suite of strategic documents which each contribute to the outcomes laid out in the National Park Partnership Plan. The Outdoor Recreation Plan 2012-2017 outlines the commitments, actions and projects that will enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in the National Park. The Park's Tourism Strategy 2012-2017 sets out the strategic tourism aims and the need to improve existing tourism facilities and infrastructure.

The Proposed Local Development Plan and accompanying draft Visitor Experience Planning Guidance form part of the strategic context for this Camping Development Strategy too.

**This Camping Development Strategy concentrates on providing for camping opportunities, at a more sustainable level, within the designated Camping Management Zones. This includes identifying where physical infrastructure improvements are needed to make camping in the Park a better, and truly sustainable experience.**

## 1.2 The current experience of camping in the National Park

The National Park's lochshores provide a picturesque location to camp. Many are easily accessible by road, which brings both benefits and drawbacks.

Unfortunately much of the visitor pressure experienced in the Park occurs on and around the shores of the National Park's most easily accessible lochs. Damage is done to the environment and to other people's experience through a combination of the sheer number of people visiting an area over time, and by a significant minority of people whose irresponsible behaviour has a disproportionately negative impact, affecting many other visitors and local communities.

The current experience in these areas does not reflect the vision for camping and access to recreation opportunities laid out in the National Park Partnership Plan. 'Priority for Action VE2' in the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17 recognises that the impacts associated with high levels of informal camping in the National Park remains an ongoing concern with many lochshore areas facing heavy use.

## 1.3 Our approach to improving the experience

Since Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park was designated in 2002, there has been a focus on improving the experience (for everyone from visitors, to communities, to businesses) to help deliver a safer, more enjoyable and sustainable way for people to enjoy the Park.

We do this in three key ways:

### a) Education - encouraging respect and enjoyment

- ▶ Through our Ranger service and our education and outreach work
- ▶ Via campaigns like 'Respect Your Park' which promotes responsible behaviour and the rights and responsibilities laid out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code

### b) Infrastructure - providing facilities for visitors

- ▶ Investing in infrastructure improvements from paths and viewpoints, parking facilities, information and interpretation signage and improved camping provision

### c) Enforcement - managing the pressures

- ▶ Joint working with Police Scotland to enforce existing legislation
- ▶ Use of the Park Authority's new powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and fly-tipping
- ▶ Introducing byelaws to deal with problem behaviours in specific areas of the National Park



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## **1.4 Understanding the Your Park measures**

In January 2016 the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform approved the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Byelaws 2017, which will operate within four defined Camping Management Zones (see Map 1 on page 5) that together cover less than 4% of the National Park area. These aim to protect the Park's world-class environment by addressing damage caused by overuse and antisocial behaviour around the Park's busiest lochshores.

The Camping Management Zones that have been defined reflect those areas where camping impacts have been most significant and which are easily accessed from public roads. The areas covered take in the land between the road and the lochshore and on the opposite landward side, at a distance of approximately 200m from the public road, or to the nearest visible feature such as field boundaries or tracks. Within these areas, the byelaws restrict camping unless an area has been identified as a campsite or as a permitted area where camping numbers will be managed by the issue of a permit.

The operation of these byelaws will form part of a strategic approach to the management of informal camping activity which includes a commitment to accommodate lochshore camping experiences in a more sustainable and managed way in addition to continuing education and awareness raising work to promote responsible camping.

Wild camping (as defined in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code), in the remaining 96% of the Park's 720 square miles, is unaffected.

## **1.5 Reviewing, adapting and learning from Your Park**

In approving the byelaws, Scottish Ministers asked for an annual update on the implementation of the byelaws and a formal review of their operation no later than three years after implementation.

To deliver against this Ministerial request and in order to learn from the project we will monitor and evaluate the impact of the new camping management measures. This will include reviewing what works and what modifications we have to make to deliver the best outcome for the Park, and the people who live, work and visit here. Our aim is to reduce the instances of environmental damage and irresponsible behaviour, whilst improving the overall camping experience.

A Stakeholder Forum has been set up; its membership includes representation across the key organisations and groups who have an interest in the difference the Your Park measures will make. This Forum will meet twice yearly and will provide an opportunity to keep key partners and stakeholders informed of progress on the planning and implementation of the new camping byelaws, which begin on 1st March 2017. The Forum will also provide an open line of communication between partners, stakeholders and the National Park Authority to ensure that a wide range of perspectives feed into the management and monitoring of the byelaws.

Our plans for ensuring that there is adequate, low cost and sustainable levels of camping within the Camping Management Zones are designed to be adaptable and responsive. Our proposals involve opportunities to test out locations to ensure the investment is going to help deliver against our vision for camping, whilst enhancing the experience of the outdoors and protecting the environment in these busy areas.

## 2. How we will achieve our vision for camping

### 2.1 Existing camping provision

Camping is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Existing campsites, and any future opportunities to provide camping that come forward (whether within a Camping Management Zone, or not) all help deliver the vision of camping set out in the National Park Partnership Plan.

Within the National Park area as a whole there are currently more than 20 camping and caravan sites providing for camping, collectively they offer more than 700 tent pitches.

Sites vary in capacity from small sites with 4 to 10 pitches as part of a bunkhouse/hostel or wigwam provision, to very large multi-use sites with the largest offering more than 110 pitches.

These sites provide a range of associated facilities from the more basic with toilets and a water supply to those with full services including electric hook ups, waste disposal points, toilet/showers/washing facilities and site shop.

Within the four Camping Management Zones there are already 11 campsites that offer camping for tents, providing a total of 504 pitches, broken down as follows:

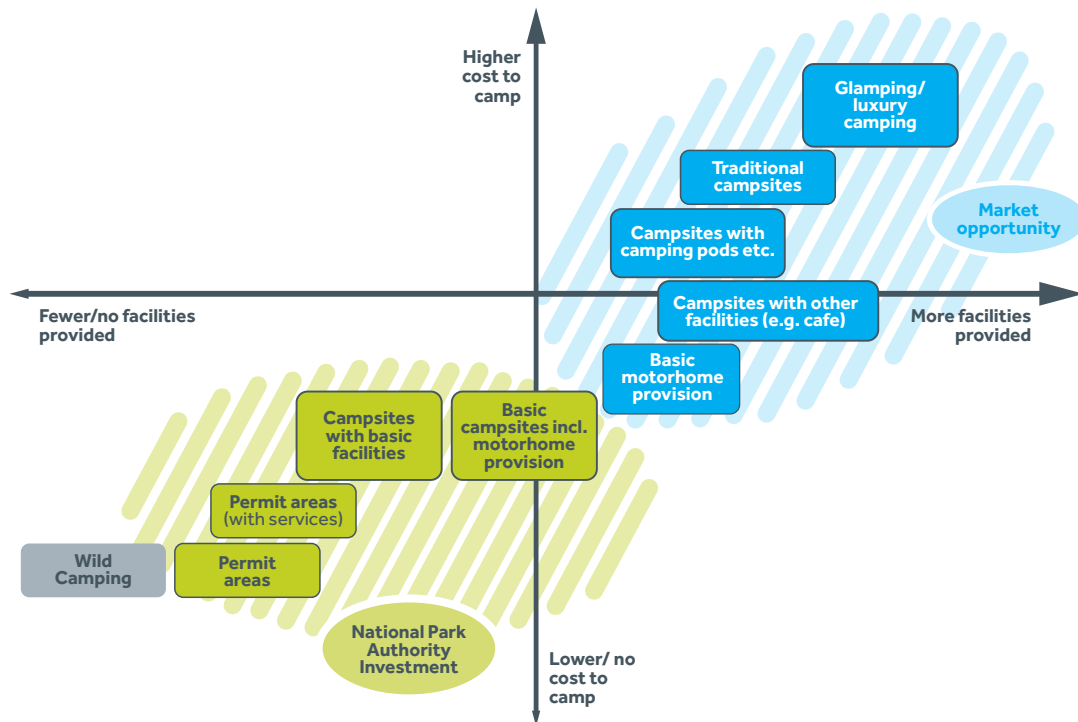
Camping Management Zone	Existing number of tent pitches available
East Loch Lomond	217 (includes 30 pitches at Sallochry Campsite)
West Loch Lomond	208
Trossachs West	0
Trossachs North	79 (includes 9 pitches at Loch Lubnaig)
<b>Total pitches</b>	<b>504</b>

**Table 1: Existing camping provision**

It is clear that some areas within the Camping Management Zones have a greater need for camping provision and that our investment plans should reflect this.

## 2.2 Achieving our vision for camping

To achieve the vision for camping as laid out in the National Park Partnership Plan, the Park Authority will provide low cost, informal opportunities to camp through a mix of informal campsites and by issuing camping permits. Some of these permit areas will have access to basic services like toilets and parking and where possible we want to offer places for motorhomes to stop off too.



This combination of permitted areas for camping, campsites and public investment, coupled with existing camping provision will help deliver our vision for lochshore camping. In addition, there is potential for opportunities to be taken forward in the future by community-led enterprises or the private sector.

Wild camping outside the boundary of the Camping Management Zones remains unaffected and we will continue to prioritise helping people to understand how to wild camp responsibly, in accordance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

This low impact, lightweight camping done in small numbers and only for two or three nights in any one place, remains an important part of experiencing the National Park.



## 2.3 Park Authority investment in camping

Around these popular lochshore areas places to camp will be provided through a mix of:

- ▶ Informal campsites, with basic facilities and allocated parking with each pitch booked
- ▶ A camping permit system to allow a temporary exemption from the byelaw to allow wild camping within defined areas of the management zones
  - ▶ Some permit areas will retain the 'wild' lochshore experience with no facilities on site. These will continue to rely on existing parking areas nearby
  - ▶ In some areas where a larger number of permits is proposed there will be access to basic facilities like toilets or some parking provision available nearby
- ▶ Where possible, motorhomes will be catered for at both campsites or in permit areas

In addition to existing formal camping provision, and opportunities to wild camp outside the Camping Management Zone boundary, this investment aims to provide an improved experience for visitors.

It is a condition of booking either a pitch at a campsite, or buying a camping permit that campers adhere to 'leave no trace' principles, in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Where possible we want to offer more places for motorhomes to stop off as there are areas within the Camping Management Zones that are particularly suited to catering for motorhomes.

The intention is that this investment, coupled with the operation of the camping byelaws to deal with the issues associated with irresponsible and unsustainable levels of camping, will build confidence in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs as a place that is safe and enjoyable to come and camp.

Our aim is that improving the camping experience will increase its popularity overall, and that this will encourage other providers to develop various types of camping and accommodation related to outdoor experiences in the National Park.

## 2.4 Understanding Campsites and Permit Areas

### 2.4.1 Campsites

The Park Authority has already invested in informal camping facilities in the National Park, at the campsite next to The Cabin at Loch Lubnaig, and with Forest Enterprise Scotland at Salloch campsite on East Loch Lomond. Both sites offer informal, low cost camping in picturesque lochside locations.

This type of site provides opportunities for visitors looking for an informal camping experience, with basic facilities like fresh water, toilets and parking available.

Pitches are clearly marked-out and can be pre-booked online, and via local retailers. Each pitch comes with a pre-booked car parking space on-site.

### 2.4.2 Permit areas

Camping in a permit area is ideal for those who prefer to have a 'wild' camping experience. These permit areas will have no formal facilities, offering a way to provide camping at sustainable levels in popular areas within a Camping Management Zone.

These areas will provide the opportunity to enjoy the National Park's popular lochshores as a short stay (i.e. while hiking) or while enjoying a recreational activity (such as fishing). In return for a small administrative fee, the camping permit will provide a temporary exemption from the byelaws allowing wild camping up to a maximum number in defined permit areas within the Camping Management Zones.

Permits can support the following types of camping activity:

- ▶ People traveling by bike, boat, walking
- ▶ Fishing permit holders
- ▶ People arriving by car
- ▶ Outdoor activity providers/businesses
- ▶ Organised groups such as Duke of Edinburgh, youth organisations, canoe clubs who require a group camp area within a managed zone

The Park Authority will monitor effects of levels of camping on the environment, residents' and other visitors' enjoyment, and can adjust levels of permit provision (both upwards and downwards) within the permit area to ensure the sustainability of camping in that area.

In our approach to identifying a sustainable number of camping permits for an area, we have taken into consideration the demand in those areas for day visitors to access the sites and for those using the areas for recreation purposes. In some locations, this will mean that camping density will be lower than at present, allowing a balance of visitors' needs to be met and for the camping experience to be closer to the experience of 'wild camping' described in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, which states that wild camping *"is lightweight, done in small numbers and only for two or three nights in any one place"*.

### 2.4.3 Permit areas with services

In areas where higher numbers of permits are proposed, investment has been prioritised to provide some additional toilet and (where possible) parking facilities to ensure that camping is sustainable and visitors can have some access to basic facilities.

In some locations this also allows the Park Authority to test how the area is being used before considering further investment, including introducing a more formal campsite with bookable pitches in due course.

Some permit areas have also been located where there are already existing toilet and parking facilities close by.

### 2.4.4 Motorhome provision

Certain sites within the Camping Management Zones are particularly suited to providing places for visitors in motorhomes to stop overnight. We have identified both campsite locations and permit areas within the Trossachs North and West Loch Lomond Camping Management Zones, both of which have arterial roads with suitable off-road locations to accommodate motorhomes.

## 2.5 Site selection criteria

When selecting sites that would be suitable for either a campsite or a permit area (either with, or without services) the following criteria were used to determine

**whether a site was suitable, or not:**

- ▶ Site located at traditionally popular areas
- ▶ Suitable topography and landform
- ▶ Safe and easy access from public roads, recreation routes and parking areas
- ▶ Land management activity and land ownership
- ▶ Presence of important habitats and conservation features
- ▶ Proximity of other recreational opportunities
- ▶ Service availability such as water and power supply
- ▶ Ability to support sustainable camping volumes

Having considered which sites were suitable for either a campsite or a permit area, the following criteria influenced our **priorities for investment:**

- ▶ Land ownership - public or supportive private land owner
- ▶ Impacts on communities and potential benefits
- ▶ Ease of providing new/improved facilities within the Camping Management Zones
- ▶ Site constraints and scale of investment requirements
- ▶ No anticipated planning issues
- ▶ Anticipated site popularity
- ▶ Popular camping destination
- ▶ High impact from visitor management issues

## 3. Understanding the Camping Management Zones

### Characteristics and camping provision

The character of each Camping Management Zone varies from location to location. The areas of land popular for camping range from small isolated spots to pitch a tent to extensive long narrow tracts of lochshore land alongside public roads. The recreation opportunities and activities associated with camping can also differ according to location.

Section 4 of this document sets out our proposals for camping provision and investment priorities within each Camping Management Zone. To set the context for that, it is important to understand the character of these areas, and how that has informed our approach to determining the type, location and volume of camping activity that is appropriate in the location.

It is important to remember that the National Park has many areas within it designated as nationally and internationally important conservation areas, such as Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. This includes areas within each of the Camping Management Zones.

#### 3.1 West Loch Lomond Camping Management Zone

##### 3.1.1 Luss – Inverbeg

Access to a number of the lochshore areas is via the improved section of the busy A82 where vehicle speeds are high and turning off the road can be hazardous. Camping and motorhome/ caravan activity is mainly focussed around a series of off-road laybys most of which were formerly part of the original public road before its improvement. There have been significant issues with motorhomes and caravans occupying some laybys for lengthy periods during the summer preventing access by other visitors and creating an unwelcoming environment. Camping by tent is also popular on the lochshore areas nearby these laybys.

There are opportunities to support a small number of camping permits in close proximity to the larger laybys as well as provide for overnight stays by motorhomes.

##### 3.1.2 Firkin Point

This existing visitor site managed by the National Park Authority has formal access from the A82, car parking and toilets. Land adjacent to the car park on the lochshore and at loch side locations along the West Loch Lomond cycle route offer the opportunity for permitted camping with facilities nearby.

##### 3.1.3 Tarbet Isle

North of Tarbet where the A82 becomes a narrower winding road camping has taken place sporadically where vehicles have been parked in off- road clearings and informal hardstandings. Many of these locations are dangerous to access and egress due to poor sightlines on a very busy national trunk road.

The Forest Enterprise Scotland car park at Tarbet Isle offers access to secluded camping areas in a woodland setting with easy and safe access from the A82. While the area does not have direct access to the loch shore it offers spectacular elevated views looking south over Loch Lomond and towards Ben Lomond.

### **3.1.4 Inveruglas**

This existing visitor site managed by the National Park Authority has an existing formal access from the A82, car parking and toilets close to one of the Parks popular Scottish Scenic Routes viewpoints as well as a café. The site offers a mix of woodland and lochshore camping and overnight motorhome parking opportunities at the north of the site with spectacular views towards the north end of Loch Lomond.

### **3.1.5 Loch Long - Coileasan**

The close proximity of the public road to the lochshore and the existing car parks make the head of the loch unsuitable for camping. Coileasan provides a wooded lochshore location with views along the loch in a quiet and secluded area, which is popular for fishing. Existing layby parking can support a small amount of permitted camping on the lochshore below the public road, which can be accessed on foot.

## **3.2 East Loch Lomond Camping Management Zone**

### **3.2.1 Salloch Bay**

The campsite here was introduced as part of the package of measures associated with the East Loch Lomond Camping Byelaws, which came into place in 2011. There are also larger public campsites at Milarrochy Bay and at Cashel.

There are opportunities to provide additional camping opportunities, particularly to meet the needs of visitors walking along the West Highland Way, namely:

### **3.2.2 Lochan Maoil Dhuinne**

This stretch of the West Highland Way offers an opportunity for permitted camping only accessible to walkers and well away from the public road. The site is perfect for walkers looking for an overnight stopping point.

### **3.2.3 Rowardennan**

The grounds of the existing Rowardennan Youth Hostel provide the opportunity for camping adjacent to the West Highland Way and at the end of the public road. The location is popular for climbing Ben Lomond and also can be accessed via the Loch Lomond Waterbus services.

## **3.3 Trossachs West Camping Management Zone**

### **3.3.1 Loch Ard**

The southern shore which is accessible via the forest road is currently popular for camping. There are significant access opportunities through the forest road network for walking and cycling and the loch is popular for kayaking. Stretches of the southern shore present opportunities for permitted camping via non-vehicular access to sites set away from roads in a secluded woodland setting offering both woodland and loch shore camping.

### **3.3.2 Loch Chon**

The existing Forest Enterprise Scotland car parks have been popular locations for camping where some negative impacts and anti-social behaviour have been experienced. Further along the loch, designated passing places have been used for illegal parking to access other lochshore areas for camping.

The existing Forest Enterprise Scotland visitor site offers excellent access and existing internal road and parking areas which can be utilised to support a basic managed camping site in a spectacular wooded lochside location with toilet facilities and water supply. The neighbouring smaller visitor site can continue to offer day visitor parking and use.

## **3.4 Trossachs North Camping Management Zone**

### **3.4.1 Loch Earn north**

The lochside is dominated by the busy A85 trunk road with camping and motorhome/caravan activity mainly focussed around a series of off-road laybys most of which were formerly part of the original public road before its improvement. There have been significant issues with motorhomes and caravans occupying some laybys for lengthy periods during the summer preventing access by other visitors and creating an unwelcoming environment. There is a significant relationship between camping and fishing activity.

These laybys remain appropriate to support more sustainable levels of responsible and shorter-term camping and motorhome use, and provide safe places for vehicles to turn off the road to park and camp.

### **3.4.2 Loch Earn south**

Access is provided by a winding single track road and camping is popular where the public road is closest to the loch. Camping activity has traditionally extended along significant tracts of the lochshore with many campers carrying out fishing activities. Cars are parked in spaces by the roadside where it is possible to pull off and some also illegally park in designated passing places. This takes place mainly between Ardvorlich House and Loch Earn Caravan Park. There are also pockets of camping as the road approaches St Fillans where antisocial behaviour has affected the local community.

The nature of the terrain and the lochshore environment means that there is limited opportunity to introduce a stand-alone campsite. The appropriate approach is to support the existing areas popular for camping and managing numbers to a sustainable level along with introduction of additional off-road parking opportunities and toilet provision where topography allows.

### **3.4.3 Balquhiddie Glen**

A winding single-track road goes along the north shore and terminates at the head of the glen. Camping activity has been spread out mainly along the north shore where visitors are able to park cars in clearings at the side of the road or are illegally parking in passing places.

There are few opportunities to provide camping permit areas along the shore due to the lack of fit-for-purpose parking. Flatter areas of land at the head of the glen towards Inverlochlarig present more appropriate opportunities as a popular area for hillwalkers.

### **3.4.4 Loch Lubnaig and Pass of Leny**

High levels of camping have traditionally taken place on the eastern shore of Loch Lubnaig. This has mainly focussed around the two visitor sites managed by the National Park Authority, lochshore areas next to roadside laybys and other areas where cars have illegally parked on road verges causing dangerous obstructions on the A84. A managed campsite has now been introduced by the National Park Authority and no other provision is proposed in this stretch of the A84.

An existing Forest Enterprise Scotland car park at the Falls of Leny provides a quiet woodland setting for camping by permit and motorhome opportunities within easy access of the A84 into a car park area with woodland paths leading to various camping locations.

### **3.4.5 Loch Venachar north**

Camping has mainly focussed on areas adjacent to the two existing National Park Authority car parks either on the shore or in woodland close to the shore. Some other lochshore areas are accessed from laybys. There are strong links between camping and fishing activities.

There are a number of other lochside areas which are attractive for camping but are severely constrained due to the lack of locations to create safe vehicle access from the winding A821 public road. The existing parking areas are the most appropriate locations to provide for camping by permit. The loch is popular for canoeing and the area nearby for cycling so there is an opportunity to include camping provision for those arriving without a vehicle too.

Lochside locations further west along the road will require further investigation to provide safe and cost-effective access for additional camping activity.

### **3.4.6 Loch Venachar south**

Camping takes place along this single track road on the narrow strips of land along the lochshore with strong links to fishing. Camping also takes place along the beach when loch levels are low. This location is also popular with day visitors. There are short stretches of wooded land along the public road suited to a small number of camping permits supported by parking in the two existing National Park Authority car parks.

### **3.4.7 Loch Achray**

The Loch is almost encircled by the public road on its north, west and southern shores. Open land to the south offers a quiet setting set away from the A821 main road. Limited parking is available in a layby close by with a walk through a field to a loch shore location suitable for a small number of camping permits.

### **3.4.8 Three Lochs Forest Drive**

This is a large secluded area away from the main roads, accessed from the A821 by a forestry track leading to Loch Drunkie and Loch Achray. With its proximity to the Dukes Pass and with the National Cycle Route 7 passing through the Forest Drive, the area is popular with cyclists. The area offers a variety of woodland and lochshore locations with limited facilities along its seven mile stretch. There is car parking capacity at locations throughout the area and existing toilets halfway along the route.

There is ample space along the Forest Drive to accommodate campers arriving by car, on foot or by bike. There is also potential to improve facilities to allow motorhomes to stop overnight at this scenic location.

The area is already popular for camping and fishing but offers significant potential to encourage more use with the introduction of appropriate facilities. The stretch of the Forest Drive adjacent to Loch Achray offers very attractive opportunities for significant numbers of camping permits supported by toilet facilities and the potential for a managed campsite. Reconfiguration of vehicle access in the Forest Drive will be needed to facilitate more direct ease of access from the public road to the Loch Achray camping areas.

## 4. Camping provision

The role of this document is to identify the locations regarded as priorities for investing in facilities at particular sites. Any detailed physical development would be required to go through the normal planning processes with associated consultation.

The indication of a site being a priority for investment does not prejudice the outcome of any planning application process.

During the consultation held on the proposed Your Park Camping Management Byelaws we also consulted on proposals to invest in camping provision within the proposed Camping Management Zones.

The questions asked were:

**Investment Q1:**

Do you agree that over the next five years the National Park Authority should invest in improving camping provision within the three proposed Management Zones.

**Investment Q2:**

Do you agree with the proposed areas of opportunity for additional camping provision?

The comments made on the camping provision questions covered a range of topics. The main points made on the proposals were to ensure that any new provision was well managed and supervised, particularly in areas which currently suffer from issues. Facilities should be designed to include toilets and a water supply and retain a wild feel avoiding over-crowding and the introduction of a permit system to allow wild camping. The response to the overarching question of support for improving camping provision was 79% in favour.

We also consulted on a number of proposed locations we considered to be a priority for camping provision and facilities. The support for the suggested priority areas for improved provision was 70% in favour.

Suggestions for sites came forward from 18 individuals, which included some of the key landowners in the proposed management zones.

**Investment Q2:**

Do you agree with the areas of opportunity for additional camping provision as proposed?

The response to the location of this improved provision was 70% in favour of the proposed locations.

The outcome of this part of the consultation has contributed towards our proposals and priorities for investment.



We will be reviewing the outcomes achieved through the combination of byelaw and improved camping provision after three years of the byelaws operating. At that point we will submit a formal review of their operation to Scottish Ministers. We aim to ensure that by the 2019 season there is a good network of diverse camping opportunities in the Camping Management Zones. In addition to existing campsites, this means a mix of smaller wild camping opportunities (via camping permits) with no formal facilities, larger permit areas with services offering some facilities nearby and small basic campsites offering low-cost bookable pitches, dedicated parking, toilets and other facilities. We will continue to encourage camping facilities in the wider Park area too.

**In the first season of operating the camping byelaws in 2017, we have undertaken to provide at least 300 camping places, and that this will be progressively added to.**

To provide this range of camping opportunities, we will focus investment in those locations where higher numbers of camping opportunities can be provided or where sites lend themselves to providing more managed campsite facilities. The presence of existing managed campsites within the Camping Management Zones also means that we have focused attention on areas where there are gaps in provision and in areas where there is potential to increase camping activity.

The investment of public money in facilities needs to ensure the maximum benefits to delivering the best camping experience for visitors to the Park. For this reason it is proposed to take a phased approach to investing in sites. This means that in locations that may be potentially suited to providing basic managed campsites, a first step of providing a permit area with services allows the popularity and use of the site to be monitored, before making further investment. Any on-site services like toilet blocks will be designed as self contained units which can be transferred to another site if necessary.

Initial investment in permit areas with services can:

- ▶ Allow for vehicle parking
- ▶ Provide toilets
- ▶ Reduce environmental impact of camping
- ▶ Help make larger permit numbers more manageable and sustainable
- ▶ Help assess the potential for full campsite provision based on initial usage

## Overview of camping provision 2017














- Existing campsites**
- Your Park campsites**
- Your Park campsites (suitable for motorhomes)**
- Permit area**
- Permit area (with services)**
- Permit area (suitable for motorhomes)**
- Permit area (motorhomes only)**

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## 4.1 West Loch Lomond Camping Management Zone 2017

Table 2: West Loch Lomond camping provision 2017

Site	Tents	Motorhomes	Tents or Motorhomes	Total
<b>Permit area</b>				
 Coileasan	8			8
  Tarbet Isle	3		2	5
 Suie field	4			4
 Culag (beach)	4			4
  Tarbet		3		3
<b>Permit area with services</b>				
  Inveruglas	5	2		7
  Firkin Point	15	4		19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>
Existing privately operated campsites in the West Loch Lomond Camping Management Zone also provide a total of 208 pitches.				



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#### 4.1.1 Investment Priorities for 2017

##### Inveruglas

For the 2017 season when byelaws are being introduced, the priority for investment in this Camping Management Zone will be at Inveruglas. This site is managed by the National Park Authority and already has a range of public facilities and sites which can support both camping and motorhome areas. This includes:

- ▶ Public facilities including toilets, parking and a café
- ▶ Extensive parking areas with space to accommodate motorhomes
- ▶ Wooded and lochshore areas at north of site suitable for camping
- ▶ An existing site operator present to deal with visitors

The initial investment in this site will focus on preparing areas at the north of the site for camping and motorhome parking. This site could be further improved in subsequent seasons.




##### West Loch Lomond Camping Management Zone Beyond 2017

The main opportunity to provide improved camping facilities will be at Firkin Point which will initially be operated as a permit area with services.

The ability to achieve safe vehicle access from the busy A82 trunk road at economic cost is a significant constraint to opening up other lochshore areas. However, we will continue to work with landowners to identify suitable opportunities.

## 4.2 East Loch Lomond Camping Management Zone 2017

Table3: East Loch Lomond camping provision 2017

Site		Tents	Motorhomes	Tents or Motorhomes	Total
<b>Campsite</b>					
	Sallochty	30*			30
	Rowardennan SYHA	8			8
<b>Permit area</b>					
	Lochan Maol Dhuinne	5			5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>43</b>			<b>43</b>
Existing privately operated campsites in the East Loch Lomond Camping Management Zone also provide a total of 217 pitches (*includes 30 pitches at Sallochty).					





### 4.2.1 Investment Priorities for 2017

The focus for managed camping provision in this area will continue to be the Sallochty Campsite operated by Forest Enterprise Scotland which was introduced with the original East Loch Lomond Camping Byelaws in 2011. A permitted camping area at Lochan Maol Dhuinne, south of Rowardennan, will be provided to allow further opportunities to camp, particularly for West Highland Way walkers. Bookable pitches will be provided at Rowardennan Youth Hostel (in partnership with SYHA).

## 4.3 Trossachs West Camping Management Zone 2017

Table 4: Trossachs West camping provision 2017

Site	Tents	Motorhomes	Tents or Motorhomes	Total
<b>Campsite</b>				
 Loch Chon	26			26
<b>Permit area</b>				
 Loch Ard south west	6			6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>			<b>32</b>
There are no privately operated campsites within the Trossachs Camping Management Zone.				



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### 4.3.1 Investment Priorities for 2017

#### Loch Chon

For the 2017 season when byelaws are being introduced, the priority for investment in this Camping Management Zone will be at Loch Chon which can provide 26 pitches. This site is currently managed by Forest Enterprise Scotland and is already popular for camping. Despite its picturesque lochshore location this area suffers from the negative effects of irresponsible camping.

The site benefits from having an existing vehicle access and hard-standing parking areas which can support a managed campsite and accommodate basic toilet and water facilities. The site is a priority because:










- ▶ It is the best opportunity in an area with no existing campsites
- ▶ Will address significant visitor management issues (antisocial behaviour, litter, environmental damage)
- ▶ It is already a popular camping destination
- ▶ Existing infrastructure on site (access, parking, pathways)
- ▶ Topography is excellent for campsite development

#### Trossachs West Camping Management Zone Beyond 2017

Loch Chon is expected to be the main investment required in this Camping Management Zone. The use of the permitted camping area at Loch Ard will be monitored and kept under review and other opportunities for permitted camping will be considered.

## 4.4 Trossachs North Camping Management Zone 2017

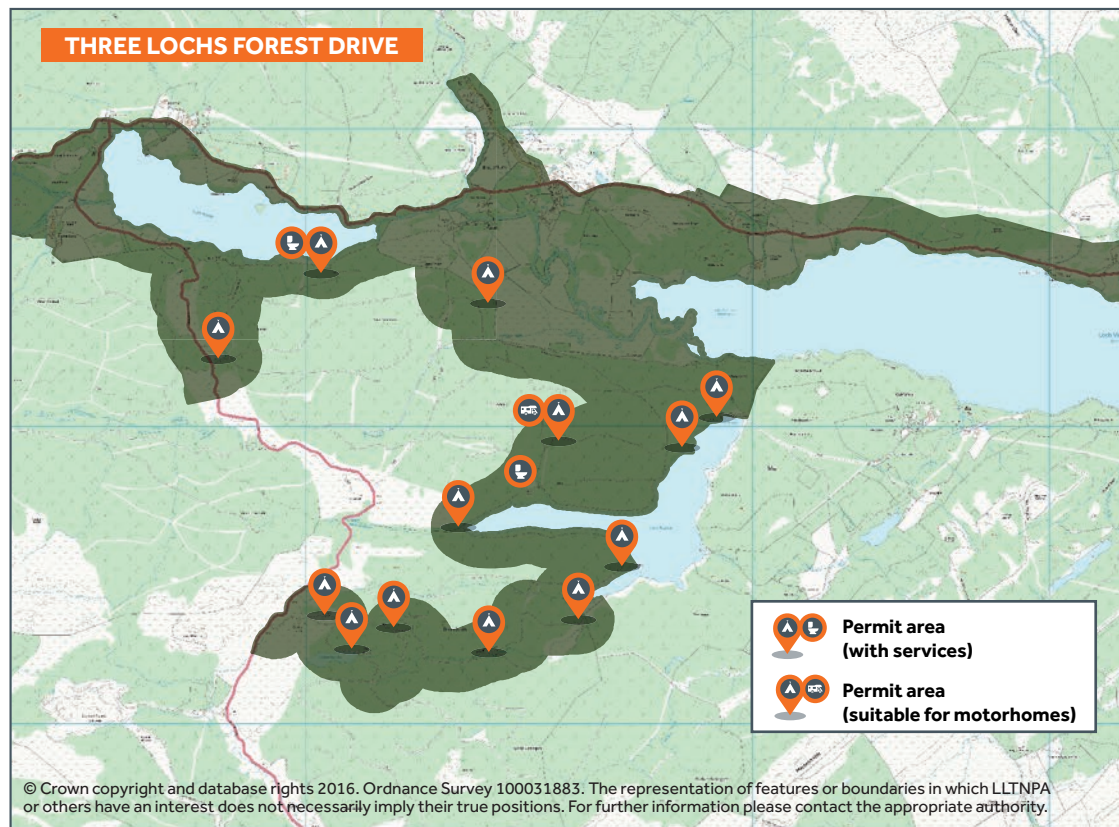
Table 5: Trossachs North camping provision 2017

Site	Tents	Motorhomes	Tents or Motorhomes	Total
<b>Campsite</b>				
 Loch Lubnaig	9*	2		11
<b>Permit area</b>				
 Loch Earn north shore	22		6	28
 Loch Venachar north shore	17	5		22
 Loch Venachar south shore	4			4
 Loch Achray south	4			4
 Falls of Leny	4		2	6
 Balquhiddier Glen	8			8
<b>Permit area with services</b>				
 Loch Earn south shore	38			38
 Three Lochs Forest Drive	72	4		76
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>197</b>
There are five privately operated sites within the Trossachs North Camping Management Zone, three provide for tents. Between them they offer 79 pitches (*includes 9 pitches at Loch Lubnaig).				



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#### 4.4.1 Investment Priorities for 2017

There are two main priorities for investment in this Camping Management Zone for the 2017 season. Both the Three Lochs Forest Drive and South Loch Earn are large extensive permitted camping areas with few or no facilities. By providing centrally located toilet and parking facilities in these areas, larger amounts of camping can be made more sustainable. The introduction of such facilities in these locations can also help assess whether a more formally managed campsite would be an appropriate next step for public investment.

##### Three Lochs Forest Drive

The Three Lochs Forest Drive offers significant potential to provide extensive camping and motorhome opportunities within an outstanding forest and lochshore setting. The area is already popular for camping and fishing, particularly at Loch Drunkie and Loch Achray. The permitted camping area provides for camping opportunities throughout the Forest Drive. There are existing toilets centrally located. There is potential to promote more camping at locations overlooking Loch Achray and a priority is to provide more toilets and parking at this location with the potential for a more managed campsite thereafter. The reasons for this site being a priority can be summarised as:

- ▶ It is the largest permitted camping area
- ▶ The existing public facilities are distant from camping areas
- ▶ The area is a popular camping and fishing destination
- ▶ Good topography
- ▶ Public ownership
- ▶ Good potential for a managed campsite



### **Loch Earn south**

This permitted camping area would extend along the shore between Ardvorlich House and Loch Earn Caravan Park. Additional parking and toilets can be provided within an accessible location in this permit area. The reasons for this site being a priority can be summarised as:

- ▶ It is the second largest permit area
- ▶ The area is a popular camping and fishing destination
- ▶ The area suffers significant visitor management issues
- ▶ The investment will help address antisocial camping/behaviour
- ▶ There are no existing public facilities
- ▶ There is limited vehicle parking
- ▶ There are limited options for camping locations

### **Trossach North Camping Management Zone Beyond 2017**

There are a number of opportunities to provide additional or improved camping facilities following the first operational season in 2017.

The two permit areas with services at South Loch Earn and Three Lochs Forest Drive will be monitored with a view to further investment to upgrade defined areas as managed campsites with bookable pitches, alongside the wider permitted areas. The popularity of the areas will be assessed to ensure the most appropriate investment.

## 4.5 Priorities for Further Investigation

In addition it is recognised that there are other areas where it would be desirable to make provision for camping either as campsites or permitted areas with services. The following areas remain priorities for further investigation.

### Loch Venachar north

The amount of camping permits proposed for Loch Venachar has been limited by the significant constraints to accessing some lochshore locations and the limited capacities for car parking. This area is a priority for further investigation because:

- ▶ It has significant visitor management issues with antisocial camping/behaviour
- ▶ There are no public facilities to support camping
- ▶ There is limited vehicle parking
- ▶ It is a popular fishing and camping destination
- ▶ There is good topography and potential for a good campsite
- ▶ There are limited opportunities for safe vehicular access

Other locations which we will continue to investigate the opportunity to extend provision or invest in facilities will be:

- ▶ Loch Achray west
- ▶ Balquhiddier Glen
- ▶ Loch Long
- ▶ Loch Earn north

By continuing to invest and bring forward camping opportunities over 2017-2019 the aspiration is to achieve the levels of camping opportunities shown below:

Camping Management Zone	Existing number of tent pitches available	Proposed Your Park campsite pitches 2017	Proposed Your Park camping permits 2017	Motor-home provision	Total	Total Your Park 2017
East Loch Lomond	217 pitches*	38*	5	0	230	43
West Loch Lomond	208 pitches	0	41	9	258	50
Trossachs West	0	26	6	0	32	32
Trossachs North	79 pitches*	9*	177	11	267	197
<b>Total pitches</b>	<b>504*</b>	<b>73*</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>322</b>

\* Numbers include 30 pitches at Sallochty Campsite in East Loch Lomond and 9 Pitches at Loch Lubnaig in Trossachs North.

**LOCH  
LOMOND**  
& THE TROSSACHS  
NATIONAL PARK

