



Appendix 2

Your Park Consultation Report

The background of the entire page is a dark grey topographic map with white contour lines. In the upper right, there is a dark grey rectangular box with a white dashed border.

**LOCH
LOMOND**
& THE TROSSACHS
NATIONAL PARK



**YOUR
PARK**

**CONSULTATION
REPORT**

APRIL 2015

1. Setting the context

1.1 Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, Scotland's first National Park

Scotland's National Parks are national assets. They are internationally recognised as visitor destinations that showcase the very best of Scotland's environment.

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park was formed in 2002 to deliver four aims that are set out in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, these are:

- (a) to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area,
- (b) to promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area,
- (c) to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public, and
- (d) to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

1.2 Making the most of the outdoors

With 50% of Scotland's population living within an hour's drive of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, the area provides an easily-accessible way to get out and make the most of the outdoors. Every year 4.5 million people choose to visit the area, accounting for over 7 million 'visitor days'. This is a National Park, so it is everyone's to enjoy and respect regardless of whether you come to camp, enjoy a picnic, go for a walk, go swimming or kayaking. There are a huge variety of activities on offer.

Sadly, the National Park's most popular and accessible lochshores are suffering from damage caused by a combination of overuse from unsustainable levels of unmanaged camping and the irresponsible behaviour of some.

1.3 Introducing 'Your Park'

The National Park Authority are trusted guardians of this special place. In the National Park Partnership Plan the Park Authority set out its vision which states that there will be:

"...lots of activities for everyone on and around the Park's lochs..."

"...a variety of high quality sites for tents and campervans..."

"...for people from all backgrounds to enjoy..."

"...all at a reasonable cost."

To help deliver that vision, and in light of years of experience of trying to tackle the issues faced on the National Park's busiest lochshores the National Park Authority introduced 'Your Park', a programme which aims to:

- ▶ **Protect and conserve the area's beauty, habitats and wildlife for future generations**
- ▶ **Ensure a variety of visitors can come and enjoy our lochshores**
- ▶ **Reduce the types of behaviour, damage and pollution that ruins other visitors' and residents' enjoyment**
- ▶ **Deliver a wider range of opportunities to camp across the National Park so visitors are provided with a better camping experience with the right type of facilities**
- ▶ **Provide opportunities for local businesses to flourish**
- ▶ **Ensure that people know how to responsibly camp without leaving a trace of their visit.**

These actions will allow other visitors to enjoy these popular beauty spots and help protect the environment for future generations to enjoy.

1.4 Your Park: camping consultation approach

In pursuance of the aims of the National Parks (Scotland) Act, the Act confers a number of powers and functions on the Park Authority. Section 8 of Schedule 2 of the Act sets out the circumstances where National Park authorities may consider the making of byelaws to ensure that National Park aims are achieved. This states:

"A National Park Authority may make byelaws for the National Park for the purposes of:

- (a) Protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the National Park,*
- (b) Preventing damage to the land or anything in, on or under it,*
- (c) Securing the public's enjoyment of, and safety in, the National Park.*

In particular, a National Park Authority may make byelaws:

- (a) To regulate or prohibit the lighting of fires,*
- (b) To prohibit the depositing of rubbish and the leaving of litter,*
- (c) For the prevention or suppression of nuisances,*
- (d) To regulate the use of vehicles,*
- (e) To regulate the exercise of recreational activities."*

Section 9(6) of the Act also states that in exercising its functions a National Park Authority must act to ensure Park aims are collectively achieved, but if in relation to any matter, it appears to the Authority that there is a conflict between any aim and the first (conservation) aim, the Authority must give greater weight to conservation.

Following approval from the Board, in October 2014, the National Park Authority launched the 'Your Park' camping consultation.

This report summarises the responses received from the 12-week public consultation undertaken by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, from the 13th October 2014 to 12th January 2015, with a focus on two areas;

- 1. Investment in camping development proposals and**
- 2. Proposed camping management byelaws in three proposed Management Zones (please see page 6).**

Overview of proposed management zones (Oct 2014)



The proposed camping management byelaws that were consulted on covered:

- ▶ **Responsible behaviour** – encouraging responsible behaviour by making it an offence to cause damage to the area and/or the wildlife within it by littering, fires or irresponsible behaviour
- ▶ **Camping** – regulating when and where you can camp within the zones
- ▶ **Managing laybys** – managing how laybys are used to prevent all-summer encampments

The National Park Authority invited responses from all interested parties, including the general public, agencies and organisations. This included direct mailing Community Councils across the National Park, and a programme of tailored stakeholder briefing meetings with relevant public agencies, non-government organisations, and interest groups.

To promote the consultation in the media, press releases were issued resulting in extensive media coverage in newspapers, on television and radio at a local and national level, and in specialist outdoors media. Public notices were placed in the National Park offices and in specified media, in line with statutory requirements.

A dedicated website **www.thisisyourpark.org.uk** and accompanying social media channels were used throughout the consultation, resulting in wide range of social media coverage. Five drop-in events were also held in venues across the National Park at a range of different times.

Comments were requested on the proposals and five specific questions were asked within the consultation document. The response form was available in electronic downloadable format, online completion or as a paper copy.

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?

Byelaws Q1: Do you agree that these byelaws should be introduced?

Byelaws Q2: Do you agree with the wording of the proposed byelaws?

Byelaws Q3: Do you agree with the proposed zones for the byelaws?

2. Camping byelaws consultation responses

Profile overview

During the consultation the National Park Authority received 336 valid contributions

2.1 Respondee profile

Responses came from:

- ▶ **68 organisations**
- ▶ **268 individuals (including six landowners)**
 - Landowners were classified as 'individuals' for the purpose of analysis of responses

A range of organisations responded, from a variety of sectors, and included:

- ▶ **Government agencies**
- ▶ **Community Councils**
- ▶ **Non-government organisations**
- ▶ **Specialist interest groups**
- ▶ **Local organisations**

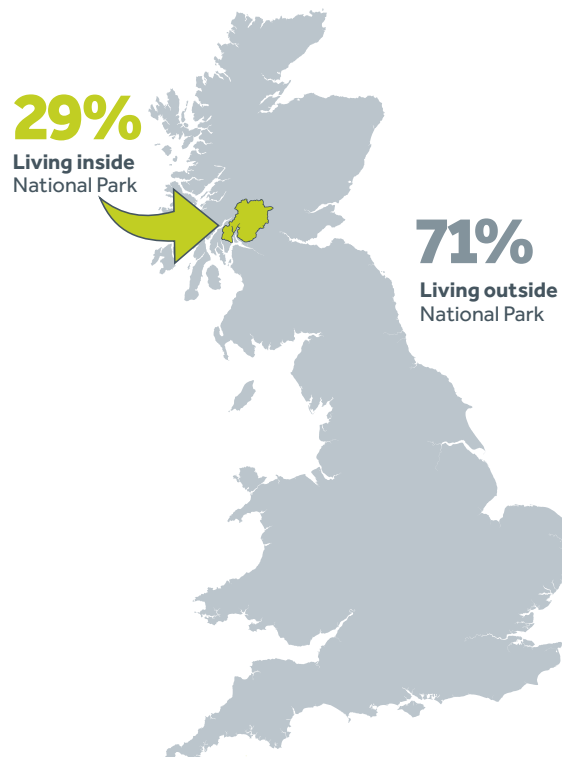


An optional equal opportunities questionnaire was also available to respondents - 66% of the total number of respondents chose to participate. A summary of responses can be found in Appendix A.

2.2 Respondee location

Of the 268 individuals who responded, 29% live within the National Park boundary, 71% outside the National Park.

- ▶ **Inside the park: 78 individuals**
- ▶ **Outside the park: 190 individuals**



2.3 Response method

Contributors responded using two methods, through the online system and via email.



Please note: Where percentages are used in this report to show breakdowns, they have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. Camping byelaws consultation responses

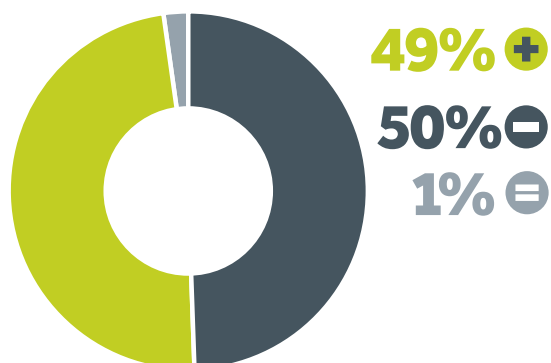
Analysis summary

3.1 Classification of responses

Having considered all the points made in each response to all three questions, an overall assessment was made. Responses were classified as objecting, supportive or neutral.

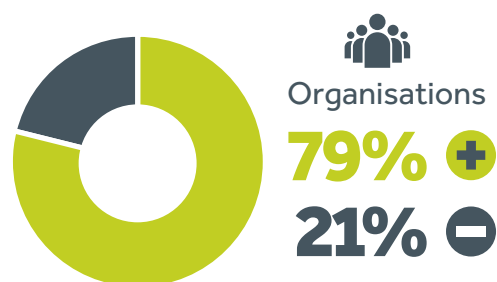
Of the 336 responses:

- ▶ 165 (49%) were classified as supportive
- ▶ 167 (50%) objecting
- ▶ 4 (1%) neutral



3.2 Classification of responses by respondent profile

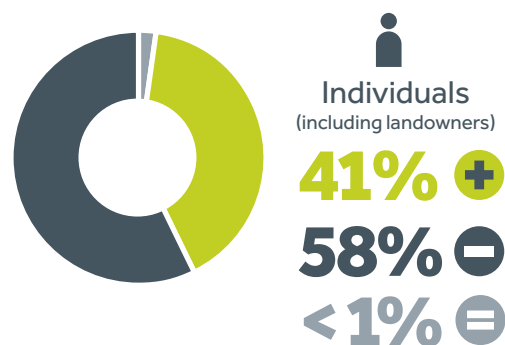
- ▶ The majority of organisations that responded (79%) were supportive of the proposals
 - This included support from public sector organisations Police Scotland, SNH & Forestry Commission Scotland
 - Organisations that objected to the proposals included Ramblers Scotland, Mountaineering Council of Scotland and Sport Scotland



Community Councils are also counted as organisations:

- ▶ All 14 Community Councils that responded were supportive of the proposals
 - This included three Community Councils from outside the National Park boundary

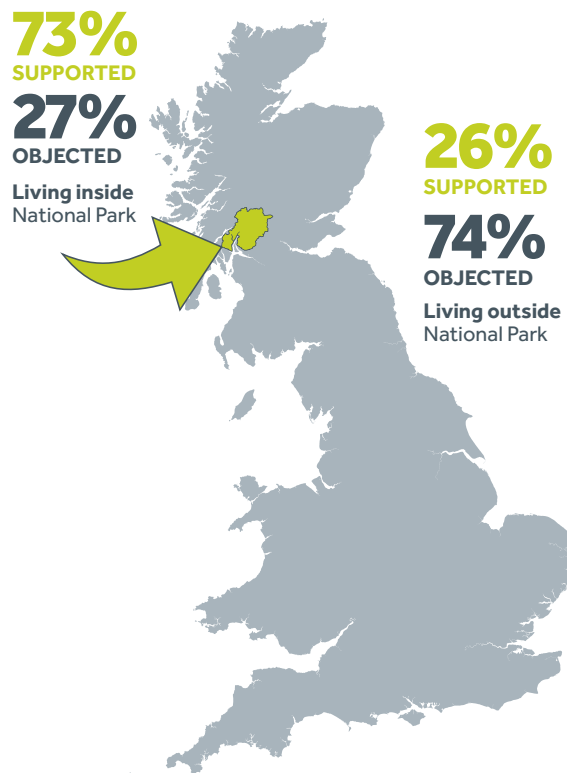
- ▶ Of the 268 individuals who responded to the consultation, more people objected (58%) than were supportive of the proposals (41%), with less than 1% of individual responses being classified as neutral.



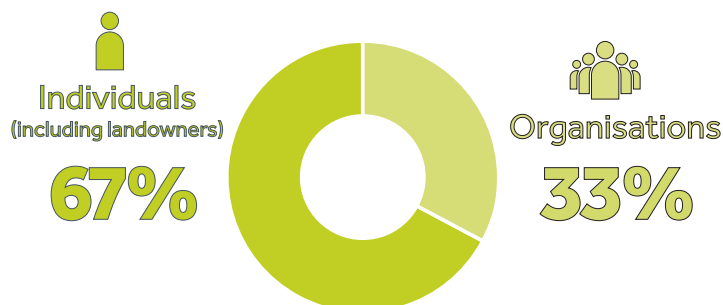
3.3 Individual responses by geographical area

► 268 individuals (including six landowners) responded to the consultation:

- The majority of those individuals from inside the National Park (73%) were supportive of the proposals
- The majority of those individuals from outside the National Park (74%) objected to the proposals, with 2 individuals' responses being classified as neutral.



3.4 Supportive responses summary



The 165 responses classified as supportive came from:




► **111 individuals**
(including six landowners)

The six landowners who responded were in support of the proposals, with some welcoming the opportunity to be involved in the development on new camping facilities.

► **54 organisations**

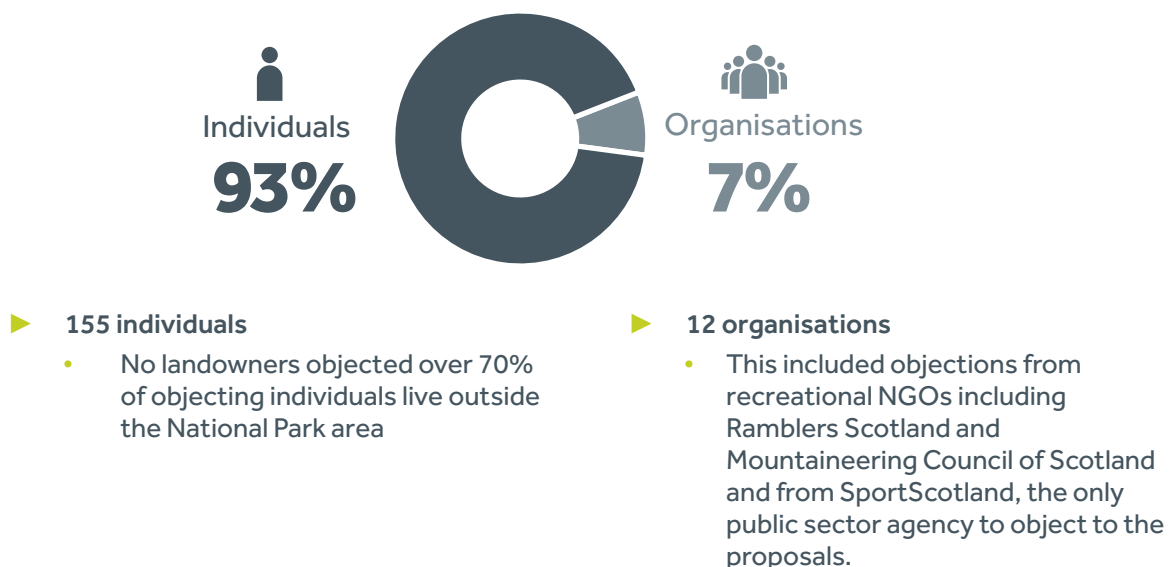
- This included support from public sector partners including Police Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland and SNH
- This also included 14 businesses/ interest groups - including Loch Lomond & the Trossachs Destination Group, Love Loch Lomond, The Friends of Loch Lomond and Scottish Youth Hostel Association

The table below summarises the responses from key delivery partners, and their suggested amendments.

 Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba	 Forestry Commission Scotland Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba	 POLICE SCOTLAND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Camping provision and plan essential ▶ Review nuisance and damage byelaw wording ▶ Minor zone reductions and amendments ▶ Management Plan for Loch Lomond islands ▶ Keen to support further work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Camping provision essential ▶ Additions to zones ▶ Prepare management plan for areas outside zones e.g. Argyll ▶ Need to consider management resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Review nuisance, damage and litter byelaw wording ▶ Query over Forest Drive zone ▶ Police will continue to utilise current laws and support collaborative approaches e.g. Operation Ironworks

3.4 Objecting responses summary

The 167 responses classified as objecting came from:



3.5 Neutral responses summary

A total of 4 responses were classified as being 'neutral'.

4. Camping byelaws consultation responses

Detail by question

The formal consultation on the proposed camping byelaws and Management Zones asked respondents to answer three specific questions:

Byelaws Q1: Do you agree that these byelaws should be introduced?

Byelaws Q2: Do you agree with the wording of the proposed byelaws?

Byelaws Q3: Do you agree with the proposed zones for the byelaws?

Sections 4.1 – 4.3 provide detail on the responses to each of these questions.

4.1 Byelaws Q1 detail

Byelaw Q1 “Do you agree that these byelaws should be introduced?”

Overall 209 individuals and 54 organisations chose to respond to Byelaw Q1.*

4.1.1 Responses in support of byelaws

With respect to this question, a total of 112 responses (individuals and organisations) answered 'yes' they agreed that these byelaws should be introduced. A wide range of associated comments were made in support, many of which referenced experience of the issues first hand, especially from those living within the National Park area. Other reasons in support of the byelaws were put forward can be summarised as follows:

(a) Impacts on the environment

- Regular damage to flora and fauna, particularly the trees and foreshore
- Litter, cutting down of trees for fires and disturbance of wildlife

(b) Need for additional management tools

- Byelaws will provide the National Park Authority with powers, reducing reliance on the Police
- Byelaws should be used in conjunction with new fixed penalty notice powers for littering
- The proximity to the central belt increases the number of visitors

(c) Improving the experience for people living in the area

- Support is needed for the residents of the park, who deal with these issues across the whole summer.
- Those who want to exercise responsible access rights, are able to do so in over 96% of the National Park area.
- Within the management zones the experience for visitors will be enhanced
- Residents and visitor should not be afraid of encountering antisocial behavior when in the National Park.
- The local economy is dependent on the National Park remaining a key tourism destination for visitors.

(d) Improving the visitor experience

- Byelaws will support visitors to have an enjoyable experience when they come to the national park.
- Overseas visitors are currently discouraged from staying longer, due to the condition of our high pressure areas.

** Please note that not all respondents chose to answer all questions*

4.1.2 Responses against byelaws

With respect to Byelaw Q1 a total of 137 responses (individuals and organisations) answered 'no' they did not support the byelaw proposals. The key reasons stated for opposition to the proposed byelaws can be summarised as:

(a) Additional policing and use of existing legislation is what is required

- There are existing pieces of legislation that cover the issues faced
- Police Scotland could increase their presence
- Use an alcohol byelaw

(b) Additional education is what is required

- Education is effective at changing behavior
- Education takes generations to impact on behaviour
- More education is needed for inner city populations that do not have the experience of being in rural areas

(c) This will cause problems elsewhere

- Byelaws may push the issues out into other areas
- Support will need to be provided to neighbouring authorities to minimise risk of displacement

(d) Impacts on recreational activity

- This penalises those who are acting responsibly, and reduces the opportunity to enjoy the National Park
- Any possible charges may impact on the accessibility of these opportunities for all
- A National Park should encourage people to come and visit, not put in place restrictions
- Possible impacts on those who have a fishing permit to fish overnight

In addition to these specific reasons for opposing the proposed byelaws, a key objection was that in principle these proposals were felt to be against the spirit of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Some responses also raised that additional camping infrastructure should be built first.

4.2 Byelaws Q2 detail

Byelaws Q2: Do you agree with the wording of the proposed byelaws?

Overall 129 individuals and 43 organisations chose to respond to Byelaw Q2.*

The following summarises the aspects of the byelaw wording that were suggested for amendment or clarification. The main concerns were with regards to byelaw 6 (sleeping overnight in a vehicle) and byelaws 8 & 9 (use of damage and nuisance). Delivery partners, Scottish Natural Heritage and Police Scotland responded requesting amendments to minimise the breadth of application of byelaws 8 & 9.

Definitions

- ▶ Reword damage and nuisance to be more specific
- ▶ Clarify what is meant by the term 'public road'
- ▶ Reword wildlife to tie in more directly with the definition successfully used in the Loch Lomond Navigation Byelaws

Byelaw 6

- ▶ Rewording suggested to provide more clarity for those staying overnight in a vehicle on a public road
- ▶ Reduce the time period covered

Byelaws 8 & 9

- ▶ Reword these byelaws to be more specific
- ▶ Remove these byelaws
- ▶ These byelaws allow any issues found to be addressed directly

Section 10

- ▶ Remove this byelaw and instead utilise new Fixed Penalty Notice powers for litter

Section 13

- ▶ Needs to be flexible in its implementation to allow for non-planned visits

Section 15

- ▶ Include the power for landowners to regulate camping activity

Additional comments

- ▶ Apply the byelaws all year around
- ▶ Shorten the period of byelaw application to the months of the year which experience the highest pressures

* Please note that not all respondents chose to answer all questions

4.3 Byelaws Q3 detail

Byelaws Q3: Do you agree with the proposed zones for the byelaws?

Overall 130 individuals and 51 organisations chose to respond to Byelaw Q3.*

The following summarises the suggested changes to the proposed Management Zones, and range from more significant expansion or reductions to minor changes in the detail of zone boundary lines.

Reduction in Management Zone areas:

- ▶ **East Loch Lomond:**
 - Reduce the boundary line around National Trust Scotland site at Ben Lomond down to 120m line
- ▶ **Wider Trossachs:**
 - Remove the Aberfoyle settlement from the zone
 - Do not include the Dukes pass

Extension to Management Zone areas:

- ▶ **West Loch Lomond:**
 - Extend the West Loch Lomond corridor south to include Duck Bay
 - Extend the zoned area around Loch Long to include public road and lochshore to Coileasan House and car park
- ▶ **Wider Trossachs:**
 - Extend to include Loch Arklet
 - Extend to include Loch Katrine
 - Extend to include all shorelines of Loch Ard and Loch Chon
 - Extend to cover the whole settlement area of Brig O' Turk

Suggestions outside existing Management Zone areas:

- ▶ **Include Lake of Menteith**
- ▶ **Include the Loch Lomond Islands**
- ▶ **Include Loch Eck**

It should be noted that whilst detailed suggested changes to reduce or expand the Management Zones were relatively low in number, it is recognised that those objecting outright seek the Management Zones to be removed completely.

** Please note that not all respondents chose to answer all questions*

5. Investing in camping provision

Consultation summary

The only 'statutory' consultation undertaken was the element concerned with the proposed camping byelaws and Management Zones (see section 2, 3, 4). In addition, the National Park Authority chose to consult on proposals to invest in camping provision within the proposed '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?

Camping Provision Comments Summary

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.

Other responses suggested that provision was not required, that there was no demand and the counter that it was and should be over the whole of the management zones.

The importance of keeping sites affordable was mentioned, and it was suggested that potential site operators could be from all sectors i.e. public sector, voluntary sector and private sector.

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

5.1 Investment Q1 detail

Investment Q1: Do you agree that that over the next five years the National Park Authority should invest in improving the camping provision within the Management Zones?

The response to the overarching question of support for improving camping provision was 79% in favour.



79% ✓

21% ✗

5.2 Investment Q2 detail

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.



70% ✓

30% ✗

Conclusion

The number of responses received and detail provided through the consultation period clearly demonstrates an interest in how the National Park Authority plan to enhance the camping experience within the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. The consultation responses will be used to inform the next steps of the Your Park proposals.

The National Park Authority has submitted a report outlining a series of recommendations for approval by the National Park Board on the 27 April 2015.

Thank you to all who provided a response to this consultation. We will be using the website **www.thisisyourpark.org.uk** and our social media channels to provide regular updates on progress.

Appendix A

Equal opportunities questionnaire:

Gender

Male	59%
Female	27%
Choosing not to respond	14%

Age

16-24	1%
25-44	25%
45-64	43%
65-74	20%
75+	3%
Choosing not to respond	8%

Ethnic origin

Any mixed or multiple ethnic group	1%
Any other ethnic group	0%
Any other white ethnic group	2%
British	19%
English	7%
Irish	0%
Polish	0%
Scottish	48%
Welsh	0%
White	0%
Choosing not to respond	8%

The groups that show a value of zero % were identified respondents, however as this number was one in every case it does not show as a percentage of the overall figure.

Health or Disability Condition

Do not wish to declare	9%
No	72%
Yes	7%
Choosing not to respond	13%

Discrimination

There were also two questions that asked respondents to consider if they felt that the consultation process had been discriminatory in any way and to provide comments highlighting their reasons.

These valid comments have been considered and the outcome of this process will provide a better understanding and will be applied to any future consultations conducted by the National Park Authority.

Appendix B

The contributors also put forward suggestions of where more camping provision could be located. The first three tables below show the suggestions within the three proposed Management Zone areas and the last table four shows suggestions outwith the Management Zone areas.

Table 1
Plan 1: West Loch Lomond
Suie Field
Firkin
Culag Field
Between Sallochy and Beinglas Farm
Arrochar
Loch Long
East side Loch Long south of Arrochar
West side of Loch Lomond north of Tarbet

Table 2
Plan 2: East Loch Lomond
Balmaha
Rowardennan

Table 3
Plan 3: Wider Trossachs
Inverlochlarig, neighbouring Loch Earn
Loch Earn
Rob Roy Way, walking route
Mary Queen of Scots way, walking route
Loch Katrine
Loch Katrine car park
Brig O' Turk

Table 4
Other suggestions outwith proposed zones
Loch Lubhair
Crianlarich
Killin
North shore Loch Arklet
West bank Loch Goil, Carrick Castle area
West bank Loch Long, Ardgarten
Ardentinny
Cowal peninsula
Popular Loch Lomond islands
Inchmoan
Inchlonaig
Inversnaid

