



EIR Ref: 2018/038

14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

## REQUEST UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004

We refer to your request for information, received by email on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018. The information you have requested is environmental information, as defined in Regulation 2 of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs). The Park Authority has an obligation to deal with your request under the EIRs and an option to also deal with your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), unless the public interest lies in dealing with your request solely under the EIRs. We consider that the public interest in dealing with your request solely under the EIRs outweighs the public interest in also dealing with your request under FOISA, on the basis that the public interest is not served by duplicating consideration of your request under both regimes. We have therefore applied the exemption in section 39(2) of FOISA and dealt with your request under the EIRs alone.

Your specific requests and the response from the National Park Authority are provided below.

*"I was delighted to see too that campers are now being refunded where permits are unusable. This was something I raised over 18 months ago when I discovered many other permit areas, as advertised by the Park, were unusable at periods. So, I think it would be in the public interest to know how many refunds, apart from those mentioned in the attached, were requested from people who had made bookings of permits or campsites this year, which campsites or permit areas these were for and in which cases were such requests granted and their money repaid."*

A total of 89 refunds were made during camping season 2018, including the 14 refunds for bookings on the nights of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September due to adverse weather conditions.

Booking locations and the reason for the refund are listed in Appendix A. Cases where a refund request was made but not granted have not been recorded. Accordingly we have to advise under Regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs that this information is not held.

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

National Park Headquarters, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch, G83 8EG Long: 4°34'24"W Lat: 56°00'12"N  
t: 01389 722600 f: 01389 722633 e: [info@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:info@lochlomond-trossachs.org) w: [lochlomond-trossachs.org](http://lochlomond-trossachs.org)

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*“It would also be in the public interest to know whether the LLTNPA now includes anything in its internal procedures about when refunds should be paid and if so to make this public too. Please provide this information under FOI if necessary.”*

The cancellations and refunds protocol is included in Appendix A.

*“I also understand that the LLTNPA is developing a revised management plan for Inchcailloch which you lease from SNH. I am unable to find any current management plan on your website at present so please provide that”*

The Park Authority's reserve plan for Inchcailloch, Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve 2009 – 2015 is attached in Appendix B.

*“It would also be helpful if you could confirm that any new plan will be consulted on publicly and when this will happen. if you are not prepared to provide a simple response to that question I would ask for the Park to disclose all information you hold about future management plans for Inchcailloch.*

The Park Authority intends to start work on a new reserve plan for Inchcailloch within the current financial year. The arrangements for any consultation process have not yet been determined.

*“Lastly, at the last Board Meeting, the one paper discussed was the consultation on the new core paths plan. I have been unable to find any announcement about this and there is nothing on the consultation of the LLTNPA website – can you please confirm if a date has been set for the consultation to start?”*

A public consultation on a new Core Paths Plan was launched by the Park Authority on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018. Details can be found on our website at:

<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/get-involved/consultations/core-paths-plan-review/>

Yours sincerely

Governance & Legal Team  
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

### Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with this decision, or the way in which the Authority has dealt with your request, you are entitled to require the Authority to review its decision. Please note that in order for a review to take place you are required to:

- Send your request for review in writing, setting out in full the reasons why you are requesting a review.
- Submit your review request within 40 working days of either the date on which you received a response from the Authority or the date by which you should have received a response under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, whichever is the later.

- address your review request to:

Governance & Legal Team  
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority  
National Park Headquarters  
Carrochan  
Carrochan Road  
Balloch  
G83 8EG  
E-mail: [info@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:info@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

The review will be handled by staff who were not involved in the original decision. You will receive notice of the result of your review within 20 working days.

If you are not satisfied with the response to your request for review, you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner, the independent body which oversees the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, at:

Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS  
Tel: 01334 464610  
Website: [www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info)  
E-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Online appeal portal: [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

EIR 2018/038 Cancellations and refunds

Location	Reason
3LFD F	Permits were not required
3LFD F	Permits were not required
3LFD L	3LFD was closed due to weather
3LFD K	3LFD was closed due to weather
Lochan Maoil Dhuinne	Customer mistake while booking
3LFD O	3LFD was closed due to weather
3LFD O	Unable to come
3LFD E	3LFD was closed due to weather
3LFD E	3LFD was closed due to weather
3LFD B	3LFD was closed due to weather
3LFD L	3LFD was closed due to weather
3LFD G	3LFD was closed due to weather
3LFD G	3LFD was closed due to weather
The Cabin @ Lubnaig	The Cabin campsite was closed upon arrival despite being within the designated time
The Cabin @ Lubnaig	Campers would have arrived after closure of campsite, therefore cancelled and refunded
Culag	Made an error in booking, then corrected it themselves
Loch Chon	Booked fire pit three times, instead of just once
3LFD L	Human faeces on site - no suitable campground
3LFD L	Human faeces on site - no suitable campground
Loch Earn N D	Due to stay in another tent, so permit not required
Loch Chon	Booking error with regards to the date
Inveruglas	Did not stay at site due to campers without permits and antisocial behaviour
Loch Chon	Didn't get the firewood that had been paid for
Loch Lubnaig	Cancelled as can't have fires at Lubnaig
Loch Chon	Customer did not require firewood
Loch Chon	Customer booked wrong campsite

EIR 2018/038 Cancellations and refunds

3LFD L	Customer did not want to visit due to anti-social behaviour experienced on site prior to visit
Loch Voil	Poor experience, customer refunded as goodwill gesture
Firkin Point B	Poor experience, customer refunded as goodwill gesture
Firkin Point B	Poor experience, customer refunded as goodwill gesture
Inveruglas	Couldn't camp with friends therefore bought another permit for somewhere else rather than us able to edit
Loch Chon	Camper booked firewood and fire-pit but it was not in place for them once they arrived on site and so never received
Loch Chon	Camper booked firewood and fire-pit but it was not in place for them once they arrived on site and so never received
Firkin Point B	Unforeseen family circumstance, within T&Cs to cancel and refund
Loch Earn N A	Booking incorrect permit area, then customer rebooked
Loch Lubnaig	Family health issue and unable to rearrange
Loch Lubnaig	Family health issue and unable to rearrange
Suie Field	Human faeces on site - no suitable campground
Firkin Point (m/home)	Customer complaint – goodwill gesture
3LFD E	Booking made in error, camper rebooked
Loch Chon	Unable to come - within cancellation time
Inchcailloch	Family health issue - rearranged
Coilessan	Permit area access restricted
3LFD M	Permit area unsuitable for camping
Firkin Point D	Booked one permit extra
Firkin Point A	Customer error while booking, they then rebooked before we could fix
Firkin Point A	Customer error while booking, they then rebooked before we could fix

EIR 2018/038 Cancellations and refunds

Inchcailloch	Customer changed mind
Inchcailloch	Customer couldn't go
Loch Chon	Firewood purchased but not used
Loch Chon	Doesn't want pitch
Loch Chon	Didn't receive fire-pit or firewood
Loch Chon	Cancelled one night
Loch Chon	Customer error during booking
Firkin Point D	Area not suitable for guest, rebooked another area
Firkin Point D	Area not suitable for guest, rebooked another area
Firkin Point D	Area not suitable for guest, rebooked another area
Lochan Maoil Dhuinne	Medical emergency, they rebooked for following night
Loch Chon	Unable to make the booking/error with dates
3LFD F	Cancelling booking
Loch Chon	Arriving a day later, refunded of first night
Loch Earn N D	Customer complaint – goodwill gesture
Inveruglas	Cancelled due to illness
Suie Field	Cancelled due to illness
Loch Chon	Cancelled due to illness and wasn't rearranged
3LFD P	Visitor made booking error, then rebooked himself onto another area
3LFD P	Visitor made booking error, then rebooked himself onto another area
Loch Chon	Cancelled due to illness
Loch Chon	Unable to make booking
Loch Chon	Refund of firewood
3LFD L	cancelled within t&cs
Loch Chon	cancelled due to family issue
Loch Chon	part cancellation due to illness
3LFD N	bought for caravan, not suitable
Loch Chon	Loch Chon closed - adverse weather
LMD	Permit areas closed - adverse weather
Inveruglas	Permit areas closed - adverse weather
Firkin Point	Permit areas closed - adverse weather

EIR 2018/038 Cancellations and refunds

Loch Chon	Partial refund - Loch Chon closed due to adverse weather
Firkin Point	Permit areas closed - adverse weather
Loch Chon	Partial refunded - Loch Chon closed due to adverse weather
Loch Chon	Partial refunded - Loch Chon closed due to adverse weather
Inchcailloch	Refund due to closure of campsite - adverse weather
LMD	Permit areas closed - adverse weather
LMD	Permit areas closed - adverse weather
3LFD B	Permit areas closed - adverse weather
Firkin Point	Permit areas closed - adverse weather
Suie Field	Permit areas closed - adverse weather
Balquidder Glen	Permit area close - high loch level

## **5. Cancellations & Refunds**

**NOTE: You must check the Terms & Conditions of the permit before proceeding with the steps below**

### **5.1 Cancellations**

To cancel a booking you will find the option on the top bar within the booking summary page.



You will be asked if you want to refund this booking, however, Campmanager will not do this automatically and you should still follow the refund process below, if the customer is to be refunded at all - check the terms and conditions of the customers permit.

The booking will then be cancelled freeing up the pitch or permit for use by someone else.

### **5.2 Refunds**

All refunds must be agreed with the Visitor Ops manager prior to agreement. Once confirmed send the following template to [finance@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:finance@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

Full Name	
Date booking was made	
Address	
Postcode	
Amount to be refunded	
Reason for refund	
Requested by (staff member)	
Approved by (manager)	

Remember to CC Camping Bookings & Visitor Ops manager into the email and place the confirmed response from Finance into the Refunds folder of the Camping Bookings inbox. You must place appropriate notes in Campmanager to marry up with the booking.





## Scotland's National Nature Reserves

*For further information about Inchcailloch, Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve please contact:  
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch G83 8EG  
Tel: 01389 722 600  
Email: [Inchcailloch@lochlomond-trossachs.org.uk](mailto:Inchcailloch@lochlomond-trossachs.org.uk)*

### The Reserve Plan for Inchcailloch, Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve



Scotland's  
National Nature  
Reserves





## The Reserve Plan for Inchcailloch, Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve 2009 – 2015

### Foreword

Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve (NNR) lies in the south east corner of Loch Lomond, within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The Reserve includes some of the woodlands for which Loch Lomond is renowned, including the wooded shores on the mainland and on the islands of Inchcailloch, Clairinsh, Torrinch, Creinch and Aber Isle and the wetlands at the mouth of the River Endrick. People have managed these habitats for a variety of different purposes over the centuries, but today these wonderful woodlands and wetlands are managed primarily for wildlife and for people to enjoy.

At 52 hectares, Inchcailloch is the Reserve's largest island and is cloaked by oak woodland which is particularly important because of its rich flora and distinctive communities of mosses, lichens and birds.

Loch Lomond is one of 57 NNRs in Scotland. NNRs are special places where some of the best examples of Scotland's wildlife are cared for. Nature comes first on NNRs, and people are welcome to discover the rich natural heritage of these places and to contribute to our knowledge and enjoyment of these areas.

Inchcailloch is managed by the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority (NPA), with support from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). We have worked together to produce this Reserve Plan. The Plan sets out how we intend to manage Inchcailloch within the context of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park for the next 6 years. It has sections outlining our plans for management of the natural heritage, management for people and more general property management.

'The Story of Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve' is a companion document which has more information about Loch Lomond NNR and its history. The Story provides the foundation for managing the site and is recommended reading for those wishing to understand more about the management of this very special place.

For further information about Inchcailloch please contact:

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Carrochan, Carrochan Road,  
Balloch G83 8EG

Tel: 01389 722 600

Email: [Inchcailloch@lochlomond-trossachs.org.uk](mailto:Inchcailloch@lochlomond-trossachs.org.uk)

For further information about Loch Lomond NNR please contact:

The Reserve Manager, Scottish Natural Heritage,

The Beta Centre, Innovation Park, Stirling, FK15 0ER

Telephone: 01786 450362

Fax: 01786 451974

The Reserve Story is available from:

<http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/managing.asp>



**Scottish Natural Heritage**

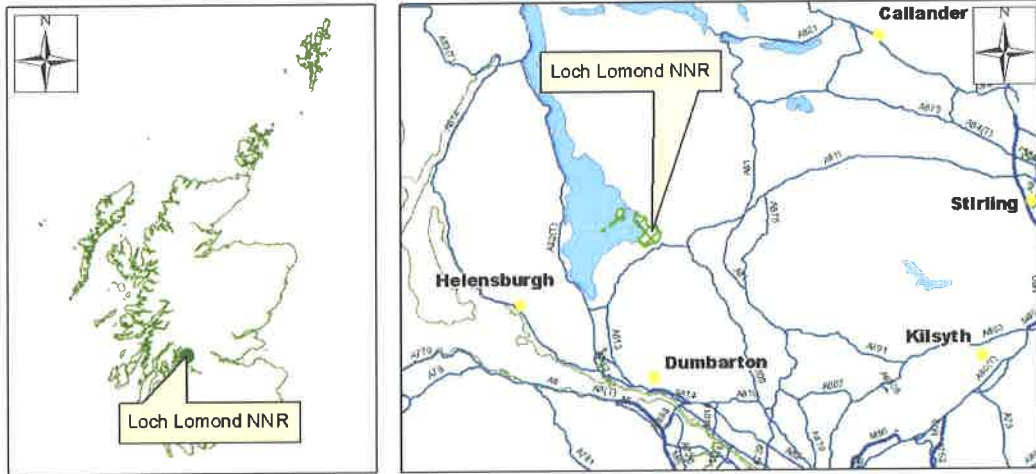
All of nature for all of Scotland

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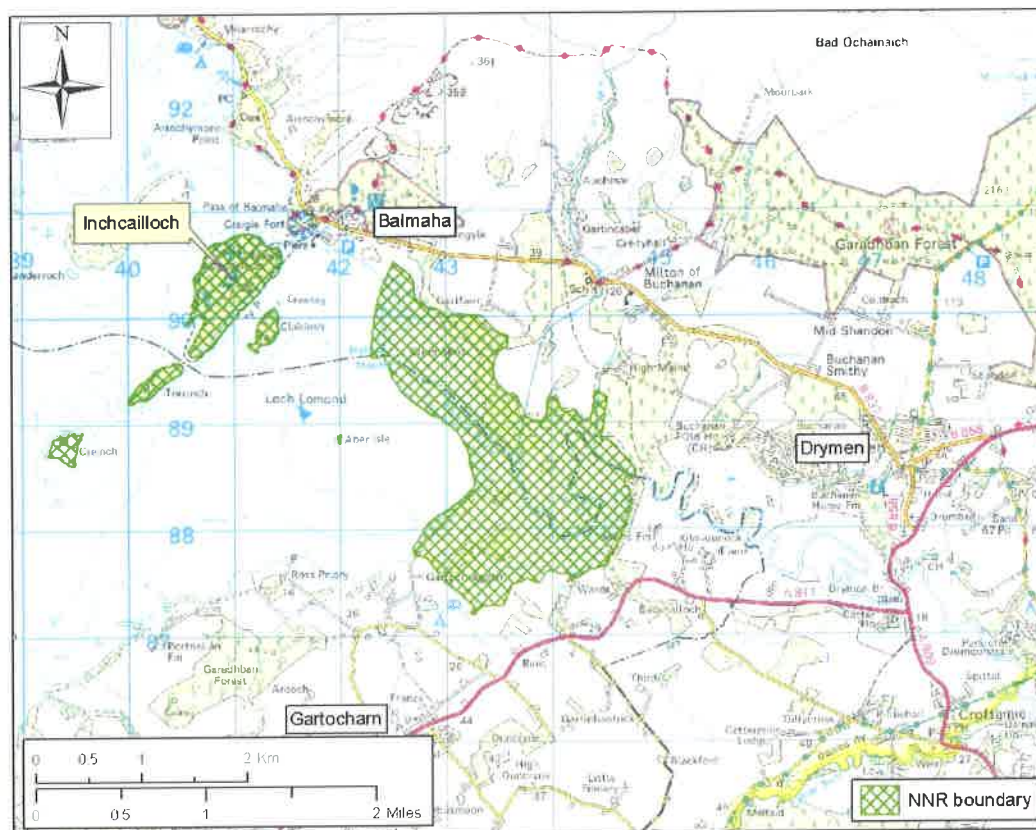
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## Maps of Loch Lomond NNR

### Location maps



### Boundary of Loch Lomond NNR



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## 1 Our vision for Inchcailloch

Inchcailloch is a very special island for its wildlife and visitors. Our vision for the island describes how we would like it to be in 2034. The key projects in this document will help us work towards our vision during the next 6 years.

### Our Vision for Inchcailloch in 2034

The woodland is comprised of trees of an increasing range of ages. It is a dynamic habitat with areas where regeneration is rejuvenating the woodland from its field layer to its canopy. Gradually a wider range of native tree species are being recruited to the canopy. Glades are dotted through the woodland and there is plenty of dead wood.

Inchcailloch is known as one of the best locations in Scotland for people to enjoy and learn about wildlife. The facilities for visitors are as accessible as possible so that the island can be presented to the widest possible range of people with different physical abilities and social backgrounds. The local community takes pride in the island and participates in decision making about its management. The effects of people's use of Inchcailloch on wildlife and on the quality of a visitor's experience are monitored and managed so that it can always remain a place for nature.

SNH developed a policy for all NNRs in 1996 (see Annex 3). Our policy requires all NNRs to be nationally important for nature and to be managed primarily for the nature conservation interest (primacy of nature), following best practice. We also require that reserves are used for one or more of three purposes: raising national awareness, specialised management and research and demonstration. Inchcailloch will be used for all three purposes, although the main purpose will continue to be national awareness.

### Management Objectives

Our objectives for managing Inchcailloch over the next 6 years are:

<b>Management of Natural and Cultural Heritage</b>	1. Determine the factors that are influencing natural regeneration and implement management which leads to natural processes creating the right conditions for
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	<p>woodland development through regeneration.</p> <p>2. Deepen our understanding of the natural heritage interests associated with Inchcailloch’s Atlantic Oakwood.</p>
<b>Management for People</b>	<p>3. Ensure that the visitor experience of Inchcailloch is part of a well planned and holistic approach.</p> <p>4. Promote Inchcailloch as a place where people can come to learn and experience natural heritage.</p> <p>5. Make Inchcailloch easier to get to.</p>
<b>Property Management</b>	<p>6. Provide a high quality infrastructure to ensure all abilities are able to access the island and enjoy the experience as part of ensuring that Inchcailloch is an exemplary NNR visitor destination within the National Park.</p>

## Designations

Inchcailloch became part of the Loch Lomond NNR after its purchase by the Nature Conservancy in 1962. It was originally designated for its nationally important oak woodland and its woodland breeding bird assemblage.

Inchcailloch’s woodland is of international importance and has been designated as part of the much larger Loch Lomond Woods Special Area for Conservation (SAC). This SAC also has otters as a qualifying feature and this charismatic species is known to frequent Inchcailloch.

Inchcailloch lies outside the Loch Lomond Special Protection Area (SPA), a designation which recognises the international significance of the loch’s populations of capercaillie and Greenland white-fronted goose. The island is also within the Loch Lomond Ramsar site, which also relates to the loch’s population of Greenland white-fronted geese. However, the geese do not use Inchcailloch and there are only infrequent records of capercaillie from the island. See appendices for descriptions of designations and maps.



**Table 1 Designations and qualifying features at Loch Lomond NNR**

This table only refers to designations and qualifying features which occur on Inchcailloch.

	Special Area of Conservation	Site of Special Scientific Interest	UKBAP	NPBAP	EPS	W&CA
<b>Habitats</b>						
Upland oak woodland	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Species</b>						
Otter	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Woodland breeding bird assemblage		✓				
<i>Eutheia linearis</i> (woodland beetle)		✓				
Capercaillie			✓	✓		✓

Abbreviations used in table:

EPS - European Protected Species

W&CA - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

UK BAP - UK Biodiversity Action Plan

NP BAP - National Park Biodiversity Action Plan

Whilst managing Inchcailloch we have to take special account of our legal obligations and Government policy to manage the features that are valued as important in a European or international context. Where a management action may affect one or more of the qualifying interests of the SAC or adjacent SPA, we will carry out an 'appropriate assessment'. This includes all actions, whether they are direct habitat management or providing a new visitor facility on the Reserve. We will only proceed with projects that do not adversely affect the interests. Likewise, we will also take account of obligations to manage features that are valued as important in a UK context, as well as features that are locally important.

It is also critical that the management plan for Inchcailloch is viewed in the context of the wider landscape within which the island and, indeed, the Reserve is situated. East Loch Lomond has long been recognised as an area that experiences intense visitor pressure and Inchcailloch forms an integral component of the visitor experience to this area of the National Park.

The National Park Plan (2007) recognises this and highlights the need to manage intense visitor pressure at peak times in order to reduce the impact on the local

community, the resource and the experience. The East Loch Lomond Visitor Management and Destination Framework (2007) has as its vision for East Loch Lomond:

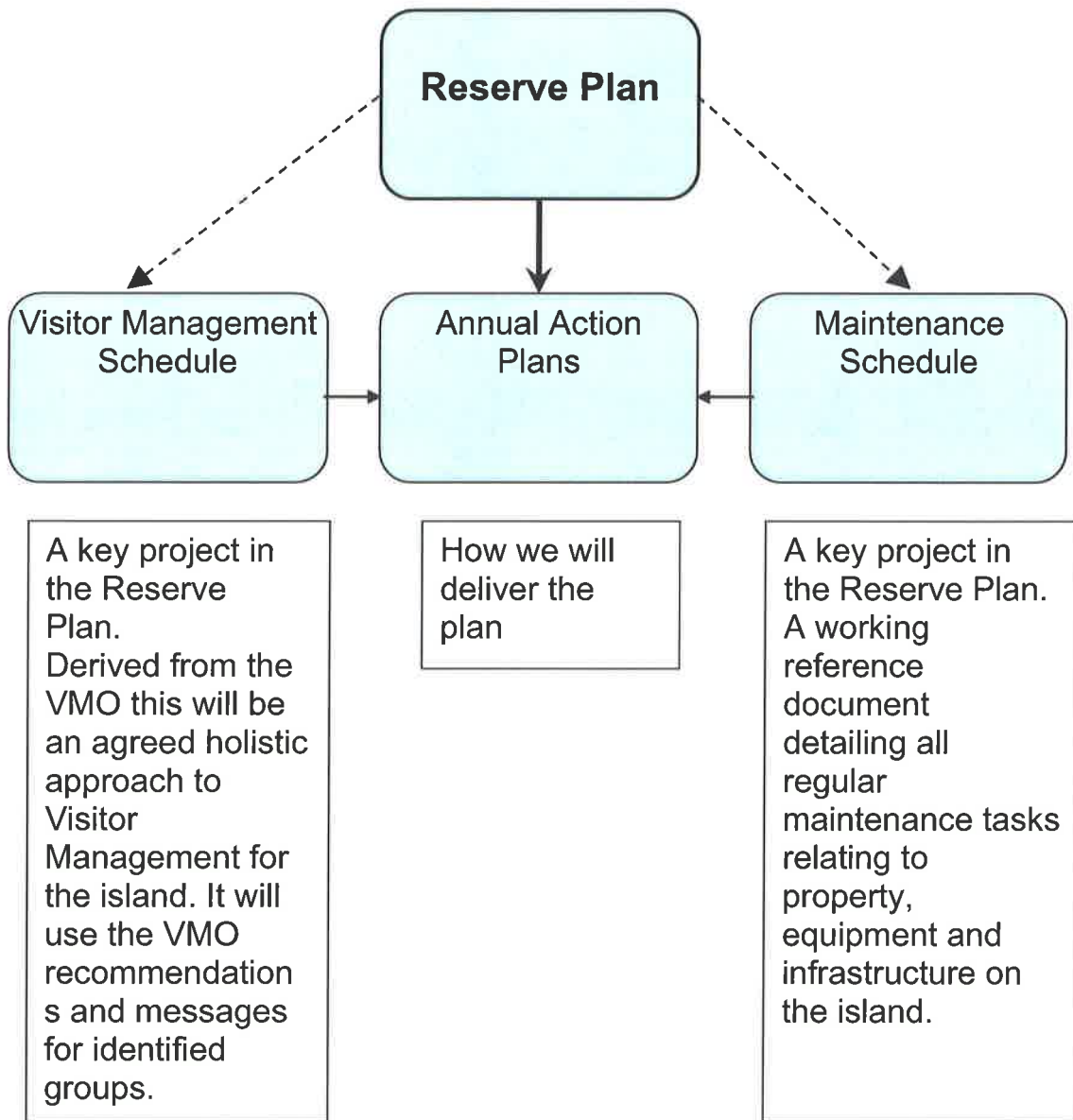
...a haven for the walker, the cyclist, the horse rider, the birdwatcher, the sailor and canoeist – a place to unwind, to enjoy peace and the area's world class natural and cultural heritage.

The Buchanan Community Action Plan (2007 - 2010) lists visitor management as one of five main priorities with the aim of:

Establish(ing) better visitor management agreements and systems that allow people to enjoy the special qualities of the area and which eliminate anti social behaviour and littering.

Accordingly, the management of Inchcailloch will need to be considered as part of a larger East Loch Lomond project that seeks to bring together representatives from various organisations, residents and other community based groups in an effort to develop and implement management objectives that conserve the special qualities of the area.

Plans referred to in this document



## **2 Natural Heritage Management**

### **Woodland**

#### **Objective 1**

Determine the factors that are influencing natural regeneration and implement management that leads to natural processes creating the right conditions for woodland development through regeneration.

#### **Background**

Much of Inchcailloch's oak woodland was established by planting at the end of the 18th century for industries like tanning and charcoal production. These industries were particularly reliant on oak, so woodland management and planting favoured this species. Consequently, the existing woodland is more uniform than woodlands which have not been influenced by man in this way. Many of the trees are 200 year old oaks which have grown since the industrial uses of the woodland ceased in the early 19th century.

Since its purchase, Inchcailloch's woodland has been managed with a 'light touch' allowing it to develop under predominantly natural processes. Most of the non-native and invasive tree and shrub species including rhododendron, sycamore, larch and beech have been removed since the island was purchased, although this is a continual task with new seedlings regularly establishing. The mature larch trees on North Hill have been retained because of their local cultural and landscape significance and the mature beech tree near Port Bawn has been retained because it offers good habitat for a range of wildlife including nesting birds.

The local fallow deer population has been intermittently controlled in an attempt to ensure natural regeneration of the woodland.

Recent monitoring of all the oak woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the Loch Lomond area shows that they are quite variable in terms of their species composition, range of tree age classes, volume of natural regeneration and levels of deer browsing. On Loch Lomond NNR itself, which includes a number of woodlands in addition to Inchcailloch, monitoring in 2008 suggests that the woodlands are in unfavourable declining condition, with particularly heavy browsing noted on the islands.

A further survey in 2008 which looked at the woodland profiles and assessed the current herbivore impacts of all the islands in the Loch Lomond concluded that

Inchcailloch has a healthy range of age classes but that there is limited potential for woodland regeneration because of the intact canopy, bracken cover and deer browsing.

Given that there is already a reasonable resource of woodland habitat with a good range of diversity across the woodlands around Loch Lomond, it is felt that Inchcailloch requires a fairly sensitive approach to nudge its condition back towards becoming favourable.

## **Management**

We favour developing a better understanding of the ecological influences on the island's woodlands before deciding what management, if any, to implement. The advantage of this approach is that it should allow us to identify how we can support ecological processes to develop the quality of the habitat on a natural timescale. Although it will take longer than a more interventionist approach, the chances of successfully realising our vision for the woodlands are greater and the end result is likely to be better.

The key to increasing the diversity and structure of the Inchcailloch woodland is to increase the number and variety of young trees growing on the island. A broad brush picture of the habitat indicates that the number of new trees being recruited on the island is limited. We would like to see this change to the point where natural regeneration is reaching levels that allow young trees to comprise an element of the vegetation throughout the woodland. It is thought that a number of factors are currently preventing natural regeneration from reaching this level, but the individual significance of each of these factors is uncertain.

Significant deer browsing has been recorded on Inchcailloch which could account for the apparent limited of tree regeneration in the last 20 years or so. There has been intermittent deer control over the years. Little is known about how this has affected the deer population on the island, although we know that deer browsing will always be an important dynamic element for the woodland's ecology. Seedlings and young trees are also browsed by voles and grey squirrels and this could also be significant in hampering tree regeneration. Less direct impacts on the survival chances of young trees come from the smothering effects of bracken and woodrush or even from the existing canopy of mature oak, which limits the amount of sunlight reaching the woodland floor.

As the current situation is uncertain, a systematic investigation is required to distinguish what factors may be responsible for the apparent lack of regeneration. Once this has provided a clearer picture of what is happening, a more appropriate and detailed plan can be implemented to ensure that the woodland regenerates.

**The key projects are to:**

- 1.1 continue to control invasive non-native tree and shrub species on Inchcailloch;
- 1.2 with input from Deer Commission Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland as required, design & implement a plan for woodland management to ensure natural regeneration based on results of the browsing impact study that has already been undertaken; and
- 1.3 if necessary, carry out supplementary research into the extent to which the island's ground flora and canopy shading have an influence on regeneration levels.

## **Biodiversity**

### **Objective 2**

Deepen our understanding of the natural heritage interests associated with Inchcailloch's Atlantic Oakwood.

## **Background**

Inchcailloch's oakwood habitat underpins its natural heritage value, but it is important to remember that the woods contain many plants and animals which are also of great value. Some of this wildlife is very rare and it is important that we develop our understanding of these groups to ensure that our management is sensitive to their needs. Inchcailloch's important wildlife includes its assemblage of breeding woodland birds, the unusual insects which live in the dead wood amongst the oaks and the mosses and lichens which specialise in the conditions of light and humidity on the island.

## **Management**

The first priority for us is to collate the information we already hold about these interests so that our management of the woodland habitat is sensitive to the needs of these special features of Inchcailloch. Where there is a need, we will undertake survey work to fill any gaps in our knowledge which are limiting our ability to manage the interests concerned. All of these interests will be acknowledged as being of importance in the National Park Biodiversity Action Plan and our management will seek to contribute to the objectives of that Plan.

Past records suggest that capercaillie bred on Inchcailloch although more recent data suggests that they currently use the island infrequently. Inchcailloch has been surveyed for lekking males for several years without success. In 2005 a capercaillie hen with young was recorded suggesting that the island may be occasionally used to raise young. Although it appears that Inchcailloch is of limited significance for capercaillie, we are keen to do what we can to help the birds which occasionally use the island. However, a recent (2007) visit to the island by RSPB's Capercaillie Project Officer, concluded that the habitat condition was good for capercaillie and that there is no need for specific habitat management.

Although not associated with Inchcailloch's habitats and species, there are a number of significant historic features on the island which are important elements of its heritage. The burial ground and farm remains are the most significant of these.

**The key projects are to:**

- 2.1 collate existing data on breeding birds, dead wood invertebrates and lower plant interests for the islands to identify gaps in knowledge for further surveying and monitoring;
- 2.2 continue to annually monitor the woodland breeding bird assemblage,
- 2.3 management of the island should contribute to actions that are relevant in National Park Biodiversity Action Plan;
- 2.4 NPA to continue to assist capercaillie surveys as part of wider work on capercaillie around Loch Lomond.



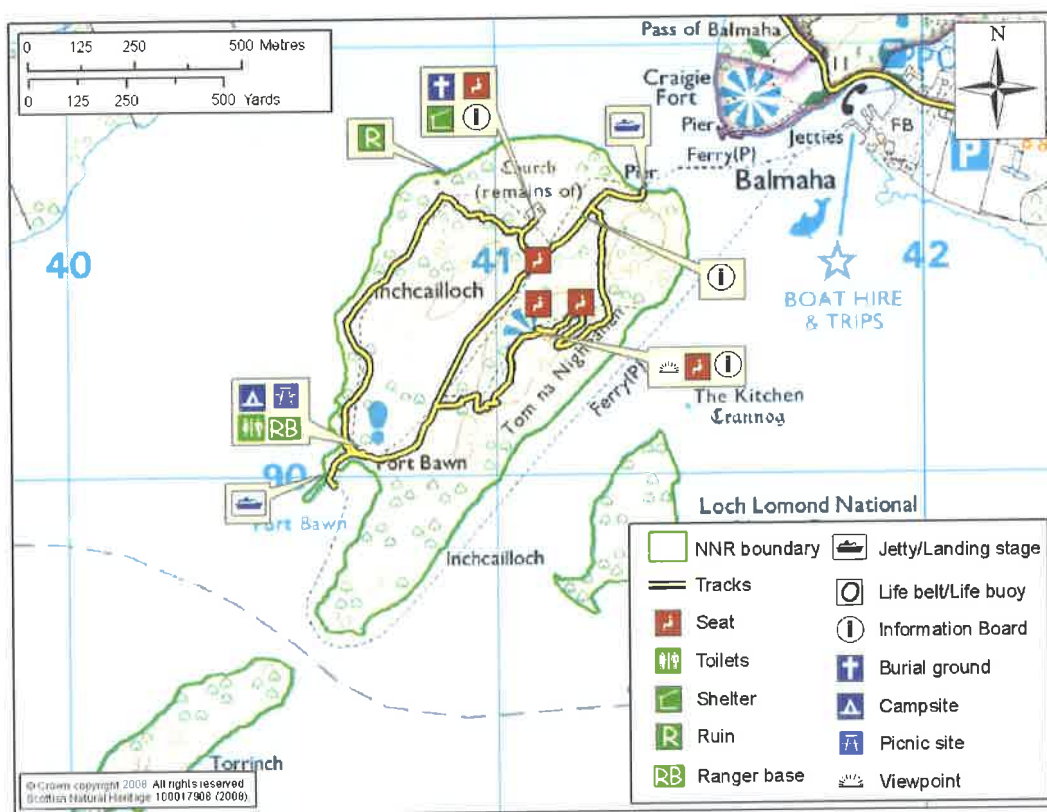
### 3 Management for People

Since its purchase in 1962, visitors have always been encouraged to visit, enjoy, and learn about the natural and cultural heritage of Inchcailloch. The combination of Inchcailloch's geographical position within easy reach of the bulk of Scotland's population and within Scotland's first National Park, along with its natural and cultural qualities, means that it has the potential to be one of Scotland's most high profile natural and cultural visitor destinations. However this aspiration has to be measured against the overriding purpose of NNRs, that of primacy of nature.

The creation of the NPA-SNH partnership agreement in 2004 led to significant investment in the visitor facilities on Inchcailloch. This has improved accessibility, provided novel approaches to interpretation and upgraded the island's infrastructure. Visitors can now experience the island via the new nature trail leaflet, audio or audiovisual interpretive options. The island now has an upgraded path network, a new floating jetty, environmentally friendly composting toilets and a new Ranger base.

In addition, the National Park Ranger Service runs a number of events on Inchcailloch each year and has provided a booking service for the well-used campsite at Port Bawn. People can also get involved in the management of the island by joining the regular Ranger-led volunteer work parties.

Map showing current visitor facilities on Inchcailloch



Inchcailloch receives approximately 15,000 visitors every year with survey and anecdotal feedback suggesting that most of them have a very enjoyable visit. We plan to continue improving the nature reserve visitor experience whilst protecting the important natural and cultural assets of the island. To do this we need to know more about our existing visitors and the potential visitors that we have failed to attract.

The bulk of our visitors come on an informal basis, using either the MacFarlane's ferry service from Balmaha or crossing from the mainland under their own steam. Most of these visitors stay for part of a day, but good numbers make use of the campsite at Port Bawn and stay overnight - 982 people camped on the island in 2007, compared with 974 in 2006. A second, smaller category of visitors come as part of formal education groups.

Primary schools, secondary schools and universities all make use of the island to illustrate elements of their curricula. In 2007, 28 groups comprising 606 people booked visits to the island. These groups were made up of schools and non curriculum based groups. A further 207 people in 13 groups made a visit to island that were not booked but were met by Rangers and provided with an introductory talk.

The NPA have begun working to reach out to parts of society who do not traditionally come to places like Inchcailloch or the National Park as a whole. Projects are underway which aim to build on the contacts already made with organisations like the Tulloch Trust and the Black Environment Network. Part of this work is being undertaken in partnership with the Cairngorms National Park where there are similar issues. This work forms a key strand of our Management for People effort on Inchcailloch.

The completion of the Visitor Management Overview for Inchcailloch in 2009 has examined the potential the island has for four separate visitor groups:

- Informal visits by day-trippers, groups and campers.
- Formal, curriculum-based education (schools, colleges, universities).
- Outreach work to encourage people from a greater range of social backgrounds to visit including those with limited mobility.
- Local community involvement.

The Overview assesses how Inchcailloch may deliver opportunities to each of these groups and makes recommendations as to what actions should be undertaken to address any shortcomings in provision of infrastructure, information or visitor experience for each group.

In addition, the Overview considers how the practicalities of monitoring and managing visitor usage of the island can be addressed. Visitor usage can have impacts on wildlife and on the quality of the visitor's experience, so we need to know that our

Management for People does not affect either the natural heritage of Inchcailloch or the enjoyment people get from coming to visit the island.

The provision of work such as interpretation, education, involvement and promotion will be governed by a Visitor Management Schedule developed from the Visitor Management Overview and targeted to deliver specified visitor management outcomes under a single, integrated approach for the island. This plan will be developed to meet or exceed the same Management for People standards being delivered on other NNRs across Scotland.

The VMO makes 40 recommendations under the following headings;

- Visitor Profiles
- Managing visitors through communication
- Managing visitors through infrastructure
- The Role of Balmaha Visitor Centre

The VMO does not attempt to prioritise the recommendations in any way, this will be done by the NPA & SNH as part of the work required to produce the Visitor Management Schedule.

The VMO also provides priority messages to communicate to each audience and identifies the most appropriate mechanisms for communicating each message.

Appendix 1 lists these recommendations and also which sections of this plan they relate to. Appendix 2 is the priority messages summary for each group.

## Visitor Experience

### Objective 3

Ensure that the visitor experience of Inchcailloch is part of a well planned and holistic approach.

## Background

In the past visitor developments on Inchcailloch have been somewhat disjointed although the National Park Authority Ranger Service has had a structured and rigorous approach to working with groups. In the absence of an overarching plan to guide the process, the opportunity to compose an integrated 'big picture' for visitors has been missed. There is, therefore, a need to plan for Inchcailloch's future visitor provision and ensure that the recent developments work together and can be readily used by visitors.

East Loch Lomond has been identified in the National Park Plan as a place where visitor management focuses on providing for the quiet enjoyment of the outdoors. This provides the context in which we should consider managing for people on Inchcailloch.

Any changes in approach to visitor management on East Loch Lomond, such as the introduction of camping byelaws, may require practices on the island to be reviewed.

## Management

The completion of the VMO will allow a more joined up approach to visitor management on the island to be developed. Of the 40 recommendations a significant number relate to this specific visitor experience objective. These recommendations, along with those relating to objectives 4, 5 and 6 need to be prioritised and developed into a project plan for visitor management for the roles identified. Appendix 1 indicates which of the recommendations relate to this objective.

Some 'early wins' from the VMO recommendations are being adopted as key projects for Visitor Experience along with production of a Visitor Management Schedule for the island which will address interpretation, education, involvement and promotion to deliver specified outcomes under a single integrated approach.

In 2001 Historic Scotland inspected the burial ground and church ruin which are scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Their report made a number of recommendations to preserve the historic site. These recommendations will be taken forward in way that is informed by how people interact with the burial ground so that the preservation work can also benefit those who wish to understand more about the

island's history. The key to this project will be to positively engage Historic Scotland to become an active partner. Work on the burial ground project will be included in the Visitor Management Schedule.

**The key projects are to:**

- 3.1 produce a Visitor Management Schedule for the island detailing what approach will be undertaken to deliver a high quality visitor experience for the groups identified in the VMO
- 3.2 improve the 'sense of arrival' at the National Nature Reserve at North Jetty and Port Bawn. Also ensure that these locations are pleasant and comfortable for departing visitors;
- 3.3 improve the summit viewpoint so that it is in keeping with the location and able to comfortably accommodate a larger number of visitors at any one time;
- 3.4 increase the clarity of signage and the trail layout.

## Promotion

### Objective 4

Promote Inchcailloch as a place where people can come to learn and experience natural heritage.

## Background

Recent dialogue between the NPA and SNH has recognised that the Balmaha National Park Visitor Centre has a very important role to play for the future interpretation of Inchcailloch and the NNR. The VMO looks closely at a number of options for the centre and makes recommendations in relation to future operation and focus. These recommendations can be found in Appendix 1.

The more novel interpretive media options developed by the MoPark project have proved popular with visitors. Therefore, within the context of the Visitor Management Overview the NPA and SNH should investigate developing other alternatives to interpret the island, especially if it is likely to attract potential audiences that are not well catered for at present.

The recent evaluation of the media options (booklet, audio & audiovisual) suggests that they have been well received by visitors. It will be important to maximise the flexibility of these resources for visitors, with careful thought needed for those with special needs.

## Management

The development of the Visitor Management Schedule will provide the long term approach to how the island is promoted as a place where people can come to learn and experience natural heritage, but a number of 'quick win' opportunities have been identified. They focus on making better use of the internet and ensuring that teachers / group leaders are fully aware of the island and its potential and ensuring that the local community hear more about volunteer opportunities on the island through local newspapers and community newsletters.

### The key projects are to:

- 4.1 identify recommendations from VMO relating to learning about and experiencing natural heritage, prioritise and include in Visitor Management Schedule
- 4.2 raise Inchcailloch profile on NPA website and improve content for different user groups identified in VMO, including making teacher resources accessible through the website.

## Access

### Objective 5

Make Inchcailloch easier to get to

## Background

Inchcailloch currently receives approximately 15,000 visitors annually. However, the process of getting onto the island is not always apparent to prospective visitors. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that locals and visitors to the National Park are not often aware of the island, do not find it easy to locate and do not know what it has to offer.

## Management

The Visitor Management Overview and the development of the Visitor Management Schedule is considered the best way to address these issues in the long term, but a number of 'quick win' opportunities have been identified that could help to raise visitors' awareness of how to get to Inchcailloch. They focus on making better use of the internet and ensuring that regular user groups are fully aware of the island's facilities.

There is currently little interpretation or orientation at the Balmaha car park, or signage leading visitors to the ferry departure point. Both the NPA and SNH consider it essential that this is provided as soon as is practicable and are already taking steps to change this.

### The key projects are to:

- 5.1 prioritise recommendations in the VMO relating to access and include in Visitor Management Schedule;
- 5.2 develop and implement a short term plan to provide orientation and interpretive signage at Balmaha Visitor Centre and car park to guide visitors to the ferry departure point.

## **4 Property Management**

In 2004 a partnership between SNH and the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority (NPA) was established to develop Inchcailloch's future role as part of the Scottish National Nature Reserve series, within the context of Scotland's first National Park. The initial trial agreement came to an end in 2007 and was replaced by a Minute of Agreement which outlines the detail of the partnership, responsibilities and the lines of communication.

### **Property**

#### **Objective 6**

Provide a high quality infrastructure to ensure all abilities are able to access the island and enjoy the experience as part of ensuring that Inchcailloch is an exemplary NNR visitor destination within the National Park.

### **Background**

For a relatively small piece of land, Inchcailloch has a substantial amount of infrastructure. This needs to be managed and maintained to function properly and to remain safe for use by everyone who comes to the island. This infrastructure includes two jetties, a ranger base, a composting toilet, farm ruins, church ruins, an historic burial ground, signage and a path network.

### **Management**

During the last few years Inchcailloch has received substantial investment to replace and upgrade much of its visitor infrastructure. In an effort to continue these improvements, there are a number of infrastructure projects planned for the next 6 years. These include improving or replacing the North Bay jetty, minor works to the Port Bawn pontoon, improving the layout of the summit viewpoint, upgrading the Port Bawn visitor node and upgrading the burial ground experience.

Regular checks are carried out to ensure that the property conforms to all relevant health and safety legislation, and repairs and maintenance undertaken as necessary. Inchcailloch was inspected in 2004 to assess how well it complies with the demands of the Disability Discrimination Act and the Land Reform Act. Most of the actions have been implemented, but some remain to be addressed over the next 1 - 2 years.

If the NPA and SNH are to continue actively promoting Inchcailloch to visitors it is essential that the island provides a safe environment. Therefore all health and safety



practices should be exemplary and to best practice standard and based on prevention.

Communication between the NPA and SNH is essential to the ongoing successful management of the island. In addition to the informal dialogue between staff, two management groups will meet on a more formal basis as appropriate. The first of these groups will keep an eye on the practicalities of putting the Inchcailloch Reserve Plan into practice and the second group will take an overview of the progress and make any changes to the Reserve Plan that may be required.

**The key projects are to:**

- 6.1 continue with the Management Group for island consisting of NPA and SNH;
- 6.2 produce a Maintenance Schedule for the island detailing all routine maintenance required for property, infrastructure and equipment;
- 6.3 maintain existing infrastructure in a safe and accessible condition, upgrading facilities where possible;
- 6.4 Port Bawn Jetty: seek expert advice on how the existing structure can be modified to perform better;
- 6.5 North Jetty: carry out engineering inspection in 2010 and develop a schedule for future checks.

## Appendix 1 - VMO Recommendations against Reserve Plan Objectives

No.	Recommendation in VMO	Relevant Visitor Group	Relevant section of Reserve Plan and Objective
*indicates priority recommendation/ early win/ key project			
R1	Produce a risk assessment toolkit for a range of self-led activities on Inchcailloch including general health and safety considerations for a visit to the island	Formal education groups	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
R2	Consideration should be given to involving the local community in occasional management activities on the island rather than looking to form a local management group	Local Communities	Management for People: Promotion Objective 4
R3	Consideration should be given to facilitating volunteer opportunities within or in parallel with the National Park Volunteer programme focussed on flexibility for local residents	Local Communities	Management for People: Promotion Objective 4
R4	Update the camping booking forms to give a clear description of Inchcailloch's special qualities so that visitors understand the 'context' of their visit.	Day visitors & campers	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
R5	Develop a 'framework' for ad hoc face to face interactions with day to day visitors and campers, to outline the desirable messages to be communicated, for example aspects of responsible behaviour that are relevant to Inchcailloch	Day visitors & campers	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
R6	Building on the success of the Inchcailloch Festival in 2008, develop opportunities for innovative events to encourage wider participation in 'formal interactions' with the ranger service	Day visitors & campers	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
*R7	Install low-key interpretation around Port Bawn beach and campsite to explore and explain responsible behaviour	Day visitors & campers	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
*R8	Identify a 'menu' of educational activities and develop resources that can easily be reused and adapted for different groups	Formal education groups	Management for People: Promotion Objective 4
*R9	Improve the teachers pack to provide a clearer link between activities available and learning outcomes from the curriculum	Formal education groups	Management for People: Promotion Objective 4
*R10	Deliver CPD events for teachers from within and beyond the national park	Formal education groups	Management for People: Promotion Objective 4

No.	Recommendation in VMO	Relevant Visitor Group	Relevant section of Reserve Plan and Objective
*indicates priority recommendation/ early win/ key project			
R11	Assuming that the solar boat is being transferred elsewhere within the National Park area, information should be provided on the NPA website to make it clear that this service has been relocated and advising how it can be accessed. It should clearly explain the rationale for removing the service from Inchcailloch and provide information as to what Inchcailloch can still provide.	Outreach & Inclusion Groups	Management for People: Access Objective 5
*R12	Information should be collated to describe the terrain and facilities available on Inchcailloch and the services that can be provided by the NPA and SNH. Information should be collated on potential volunteer opportunities. This information should be made available on the NPA and NNR websites	Outreach & Inclusion Groups	Management for People: Promotion Objective 4
R13	This information should also be provided to umbrella organisations that can pass the information on to a wider range of groups. If resources allow, taster sessions could potentially be organised for group leaders to allow them to experience what the island can offer. They can then cascade this information to other group organisers	Outreach & Inclusion Groups	Management for People: Promotion Objective 4
R14	The Mopark interpretation resources should be more clearly promoted to outreach and inclusion groups. This could be through the website, through taster sessions (as outlined above) and through direct interaction with rangers	Outreach & Inclusion Groups	Management for People: Promotion Objective 4
R15	Information regarding on-going management on the island should be provided to the local community. If resources are sufficient this information should be provided in the form of a newsletter, but, if this can not be supported in the long term information should be provided to local newspapers	Local Communities	
*R16	Install directional signage to guide visitors from the car park/ visitor centre to boatyard pier	All visitor groups	Management for People: Access Objective 5
R17	Provide low-key scene setting information including responsible behaviour messages at the new waiting area	All visitor groups	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3

No.	Recommendation in VMO	Relevant Visitor Group	Relevant section of Reserve Plan and Objective
*indicates priority recommendation/ early win/ key project			
R18	Improve the drainage and surfacing of identified 'soft' path sections and (when resources allow realign the highlighted paths to remove the need for steps)	All visitor groups	Property Management Objective 6
R19	Use alternative non-slip surfaces on boardwalks and when replacing structures consider the use of recycled plastic materials with a longer life span.	All visitor groups	Property Management Objective 6
R20	Review the branding of interpretive materials and remove logos where possible	All visitor groups	Management for People: Promotion Objective 4
*R21	Install informal perches at intervals along the summit path to provide rest places	All visitor groups	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
*R22	Move seating and journey waymarker at the summit viewpoint to the edge of the clearing and provide the opportunity for more than one group to occupy the space (strategically placed benches or perches around the edge of the clearing).	All visitor groups	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
*R23	Consider returning the viewpoint indicator to a less dominant position	All visitor groups	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
R24	Commence investigations into the provision of a service for limited mobility passengers and wheelchair users from Balmaha	All visitor groups	Management for People: Access Objective 5
R25	Build an informal boundary with staked logs around the camping area to define a separation from the beach	All visitor groups	Property Management Objective 6
R26	Alter the positions of the sawdust containers within the toilet cubicles	All visitor groups	Property Management Objective 6
R27	Evaluate the options for providing the most appropriate bbq facilities and consider the provision of locally sourced charcoal, including storage options on the island	All visitor groups	Property Management Objective 6
R28	Provide an 'Inchcailloch' bin at the boatyard with signage to explain the no litter on the island policy and information about the location of recycling facilities	All visitor groups	
R29	Consider the provision of litter bags to visitors using the ferry service	All visitor groups	
R30	The visitor centre should be used to	All visitor groups	Management for

No.	Recommendation in VMO	Relevant Visitor Group	Relevant section of Reserve Plan and Objective
*indicates priority recommendation/ early win/ key project			
	promote information about Inchcailloch as a 'gateway to Inchcailloch' experience, but be more clearly targeted to audience		
R31	The main target audience should be day visitors and campers to Inchcailloch, but dedicated space should be provided within the centre for use by education and outreach groups. This space should be clearly separate and should not be mixed in with the information provided for day visitors.	All visitor groups	People: Promotion Objective 4
R32	Consideration should be given to altering or extending the retail facilities within the centre to encourage visitors to spend more time there, possibly through the provision of a café.	All visitor groups	
R33	The Mopark audio materials should be made available for people to download as required at the centre, and / or thought the website, and the hardware should be promoted for use by the public	All visitor groups	Management for People: Promotion Objective 4
R34	Day visitor numbers should be estimated from figures supplied by Balmaha boatyard and any additional counts should be undertaken within the methodology used on other parts of Loch Lomond to allow comparison of data	All visitor groups	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
R35	The questionnaire piloted in this study (or similar) should be repeated with visitors at 3 yearly intervals, or earlier if there are significant changes to infrastructure	All visitor groups	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
R36	Data on party numbers, activities etc should be requested from operators of boats which bring groups to the island. This will also provide an opportunity to highlight key responsible behaviour messages to some of these groups.	All visitor groups	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
R37	Face to face encounters relating to irresponsible behaviour should be recorded. This will provide a more robust indicator of the extent of some issues on the island	All visitor groups	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3
R38	Each group should be given the opportunity to provide feedback on their experience using a standard evaluation form.	All visitor groups	Management for People: Visitor Experience Objective 3

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No.	Recommendation in VMO	Relevant Visitor Group	Relevant section of Reserve Plan and Objective
*indicates priority recommendation/ early win/ key project			
R39	Routine maintenance should continue to be recorded in the six monthly work reports compiled by the rangers but should also be analysed to assess changes in the extent and frequency of infrastructure wear and tear	All visitor groups	Property Management Objective 6
R40	Additional monitoring should be incorporated within the wider Loch Lomond recreational pressures project, to ensure that the information can be compared with other sites	All visitor groups	

## Appendix 2 - VMO Summary Communication Tables

These tables provide a summary of the priority messages to communicate to each audience and the most appropriate mechanisms for communicating each message.

### Day visitors and campers

Priority Messages	Most appropriate mechanisms
Responsible behaviour	Pre-visit information (leaflet or website)  Arrival information and interpretation (e.g. panels)  On site interpretation (e.g. around Port Bawn)  Face to face - reactive (e.g. responding to an incident)
NNR Status	Pre-visit information (leaflet or website)  Arrival information and interpretation (e.g. panels)
Facilities, infrastructure and activities available	Pre-visit information (leaflet or website)
Interpretation of the natural and cultural heritage	Face to face - ranger lead activities (e.g. guided walk or event)  On site interpretation - e.g. panels or interpretive journeys  Virtual visitors - either at the visitor centre or via website

### Formal education groups

Priority Messages	Most appropriate mechanisms
How to get to Inchcailloch	Pre-visit information (leaflet or website)  Off site visit (e.g. presentation to teachers / group leaders)
How the island can be used to meet curriculum requirements	Pre-visit information (leaflet or website)  Face to face (e.g. CPD training events and 'taster' sessions)

	Off site visit (e.g. presentation to teachers / group leaders)
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### Outreach & Inclusion groups

Priority Messages	Most appropriate mechanisms
How to access the island	Pre-visit information (leaflet or website)
Resources and accessibility on the island, including potential volunteer involvement	Pre-visit information (leaflet or website)
Responsible behaviour	Pre-visit information (leaflet or website) Arrival information and interpretation (e.g. panels) Face to face- positive and proactive (e.g. meet & greet)
Natural and Cultural heritage of the island	Face to face - ranger lead activities (e.g. guided walk or event) On site interpretation - e.g. panels or interpretive journeys (may have specific requirements) Virtual visitors - either at the visitor centre or via website

### Local Communities

Priority Messages	Most appropriate mechanisms
Management of the island for responsible behaviour	Local newspapers / or specific newsletters
Interpretation of the Natural & Cultural heritage (in depth)	Face to face - ranger lead activities (e.g. targeted guided walk or event) On site interpretation - e.g. panels or interpretive journeys Virtual visitors - either at the visitor centre



	or via website (archive materials)
Volunteer opportunities	Local newspapers / or specific newsletters National Park Volunteer programme (via website and / or leaflets)

## Appendix 3 - National Nature Reserves (NNR)

Scotland's NNRs are special places for nature, where many of the best examples of Scotland's natural heritage are protected. Nature comes first on our NNRs, (referred to as primacy of nature). These Reserves, also offer special opportunities for people to enjoy and find out about the richness of our natural heritage. NNRs are declared under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

A new policy for NNRs in Scotland was developed in 1996. This Policy requires NNRs in Scotland to have four attributes, and to be managed for one or more of the three purposes.

The attributes are

- **Primacy of nature.** The needs of nature will be placed at the heart of decisions about land-use and management of our NNRs, and nature conservation will be the overriding land use, although it may not be the sole purpose of management.
- **National importance.** It must be of national importance that the NNR be managed as a nature Reserve, for the protection of geological features, habitats, or species found there.
- **Best practice management.** NNRs must be well managed, not only to safeguard the nature conservation interests, but also to provide for people's enjoyment and understanding.
- **Continuity of management.** Both research and management on NNRs require us to take a long-term view, so it is important that management continuity is assured.

The purposes are

- **National awareness of NNRs** - on these Reserves people can take pride in the natural heritage 'on display' and come to understand it better and enjoy it to the full.
- **Specialised management of NNRs** - the character of the interest requires specialised and pro-active management, which is best, delivered by a nature Reserve.
- **Research-related NNRs** - These NNRs will offer opportunities for research into the natural heritage and its management, which specifically require a nature Reserve location and which are not available elsewhere.

From 2000 - 2003 all of Scotland's NNRs were reviewed against this policy. Because of the review there are now 57 NNRs in Scotland (2010). There are currently a number of NNRs identified during the review which have still to be taken through the de-declaration process. As a result of this a search on many SNH systems will show more than 57 NNRs until this work is completed.

More information can be found at:

Scotland's National Nature Reserves: A policy statement  
<http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/polstat/nnrpolcy.pdf>

National Nature Reserves - General Information  
<http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk>

## **Appendix 4 - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

Special Areas of Conservation are areas designated under the European Community Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC), commonly known as the Habitats Directive. Together with Special Protection Areas, which are designated under the Wild Birds Directive for wild birds and their habitats, SACs form the Natura 2000 network of sites. The Natura 2000 network is designed to conserve natural habitats and species of animals and plants which are rare, endangered or vulnerable in the European Community. Annexes I and II to the Habitats Directive list the habitats and (non-bird) species respectively for which SACs are selected. In Great Britain the Directive was transposed into domestic legislation via the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, which are relevant to Special Protection Areas (SPAs) as well as SACs. Natura sites are generally underpinned by the SSSI mechanism in the terrestrial environment, although there are a few exceptions where other management measures are employed. The Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department Circular No. 6/1995 (Revised June 2000) on the Habitats and Birds Directives gives further details of how the Regulations apply in Scotland.

SNH acts as the advisor to Government in proposing selected sites for ministerial approval as possible SACs. SNH then consults with key parties over the site proposals on behalf of Scottish Ministers. The consultees, who include owners and occupiers of land, local authorities and other interested parties, are sent details of the proposed site boundaries and the habitats and/or species for which they qualify. SNH also negotiates the longer-term management of these sites. Following consultation, SNH forwards all responses to Scottish Ministers who then make a decision about whether to submit the site to the European Commission as a candidate SAC. Once submission of all candidate sites is completed, the Commission, together with Member States, will consider the site series across Europe as a whole. At this stage sites which are adopted by the Commission become Sites of Community Importance (SCIs), after which they can be finally designated as Special Areas of Conservation by national governments.

The following websites provide further information:

Special Areas of Conservation: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-162>

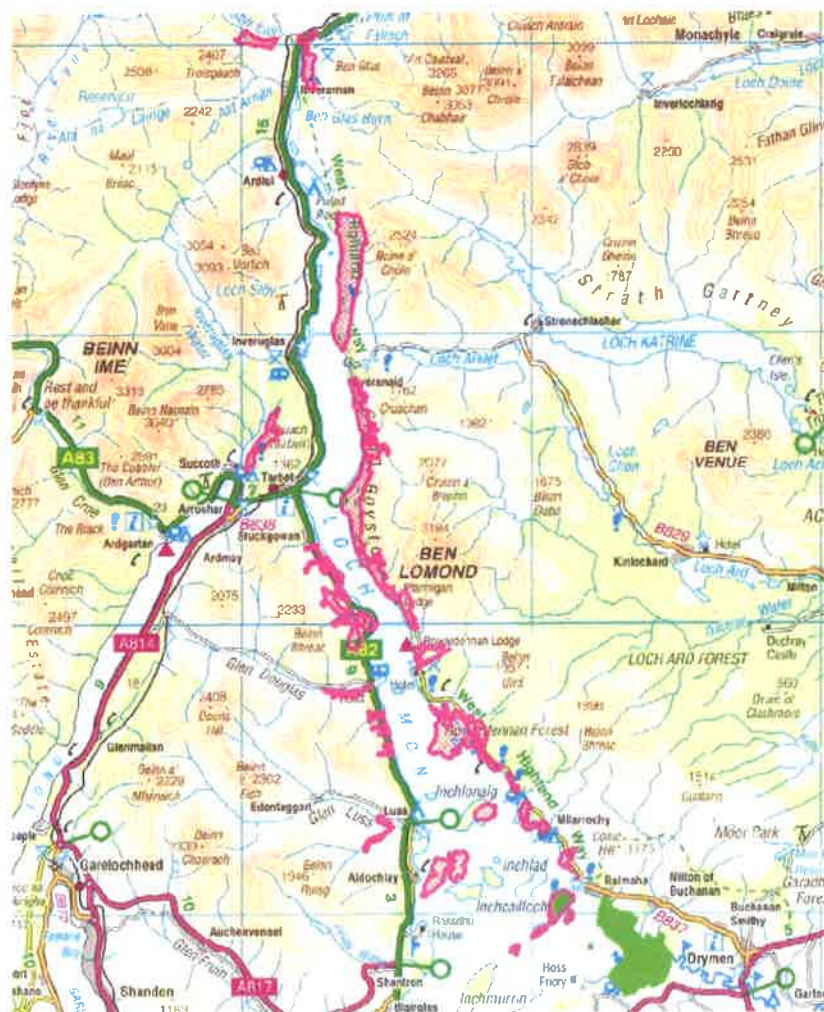
## Loch Lomond Woods SAC

Country	Scotland
Unitary Authority	Argyll and Bute; Stirling; West Dunbartonshire
Grid Ref*	NN338040
Latitude	56 12 00 N
Longitude	04 40 45 W
SAC EU CODE	UK0013573
Web link	<a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.aspx?EUCode=UK0013573">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.aspx?EUCode=UK0013573</a>
* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear, or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.	

SAC Area



NNR Area



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Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

Western acidic oak woodland:

Loch Lomond Woods is one of three sites representing old sessile oak woods in the most bryophyte-rich zone in the UK, the south-west Highlands zone. This extensive block of woodland in western Scotland comprises a mosaic of woodland types, including ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, elm *Ulmus* spp. and alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland, which adds to the ecological variation of the site. Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, rather than sessile oak *Quercus petraea*, is locally abundant, and the oak stands intergrade in places with ash-elm stands, and with alder at flushed sites by the loch. The stands on the islands include areas that have been less subject to grazing than many other examples of this type of woodland.

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:

Not applicable.

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

Not applicable.

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:

Otter *Lutra lutra*

## **Conservation Objectives for Loch Lomond Woods Special Area of Conservation**

### Objectives for Qualifying Habitat

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (Western acidic oak woodland) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and to ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

### Objectives for Qualifying Species

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (otter) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and to ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## **Appendix 5 - Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

Scottish Natural Heritage is the key statutory agency in Scotland for advising Government and for acting as the Government's agent in the delivery of conservation designations in Scotland. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is the main nature conservation designation in Great Britain. These sites are special for their plants or animals or habitats, their rocks or landforms or a combination of these.

The SSSI series has been developed over the last 50 years and since 1981 as the national suite of sites providing statutory protection for the best examples of GB's flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features. Originally notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, many SSSIs were renotified and others newly notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. Further changes in the protective mechanisms were introduced by the 2004 Act.

These sites are also used to underpin other national and international nature conservation designations. Most SSSIs are privately owned or managed; others are owned or managed by public bodies or non-government organisations. There are more than 1400 SSSIs in Scotland.

Web Links:

'The Nature of Scotland – A Policy Statement'

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/environment/nas-00.asp>

'People And Nature: A New Approach To SSSI Designations In Scotland'

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library/documents-w1/pandn-00.htm>

Guidelines For Selection Of Biological SSSIs

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/Publications/ssi/default.htm>

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):

<http://www.snh.org.uk/about/ab-pa01.asp>



## Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI

Country	Scotland
Unitary Authority	Stirling District/Dumbarton District
Grid Ref*	NS 430895
Notified	24 October 1988
Area	451.1 ha.
* This is the approximate central point of the SSSI. In the case of large, linear, or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SSSI.	

SSSI Area  NNR Boundary



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SSSI Citation:

Biological: Habitat: Woodland: Peatland: Open Water  
 Biological: Species: Invertebrates: Birds: Vascular Plants

This site is a large and varied area of woodland, open water and mire communities at the south-east corner of Loch Lomond, partly on the line of the Highland Boundary Fault.

South-west of the River Endrick the woodland is mainly sessile oak and birch, while north of the river the woods range from low-growing alder-willow carr with a very wet ground flora to dry acidophilous oak woodland. Gartfairn Wood supports a good wet woodland flora, including Scottish dock *Rumex aquaticus*, which is confined in the British Isles to Loch Lomond and its environs, summer snowflake *Leucojum aestivum* and elongated sedge *Carex elongata*. It also has a heronry of 10-15 nests.

The woodland on the islands is particularly rich and exhibits a range of oak woodland communities with a varied ground flora. Inchcailloch is mainly oakwood but also has wet areas with alder coppice, and Scots pine on the two summits. Torrinch has more birch, and some aspen. Clairinsh is notable for the wide range of age classes of oak, ranging from 21-165 years. Creinch is characterised by a number of large coppiced wych elms and mature ash, whilst Aber Isle has an abundance of guelder rose and supports the site's only hornbeams. Plants found on the islands include Tonbridge filmy-fern *Hymenophyllum tunbridgense*, hay-scented buckler-fern *Dryopteris aemula* and the western liverworts *Marchesinia mackaii* and *Cololejeunea rossettiana*. The wych elms on Creinch support the parasitic plant toothwort *Lathraea squamaria*. The island woodlands have some of the highest recorded densities of breeding insectivorous birds in Britain. The shore zone of the islands, particularly Creinch and Clairinsh, is rich and supports a good variety of plants including globeflower *Trollius europaeus*, columbine *Aquilegia vulgaris* and goldilocks buttercup *Ranunculus auricomus*.

There is a range of mire communities on the mainland. Inundated mineral marshes, including reedbeds and rough grassland, occur on the north side of the river and include scarce wetland plants such as thread rush *Juncus filiformis*, tufted loosestrife *Lysimachia thyrsoiflora* and further colonies of Scottish dock. On the south side the Ring Bog is a tract of flood-plain mire consisting mainly of eutrophic-mesotrophic swamp communities. There are extensive areas of reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* with patches of sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, bladder sedge *Carex vesicaria*, water sedge *Carex aquatilis* and common sedge *Carex nigra*. The Twenty Acres is managed as a bog hay meadow, and is dominated by sedges, in particular bladder sedge, with the local tufted loosestrife also occurring.

The loch shore and the mouth of the River Endrick, support a good ephemeral flora, which includes the rare eight-stamened waterwort *Elatine hydropiper* and awlwort *Subularia aquatica*. The rare ephemeral moss *Physcomitrium sphaericum*, recorded recently in only nine 10 km squares in the British Isles, has been found on exposed mud at Wards Ponds.

The wetland and open water are noted for breeding and migrant birds. The area is a regionally important wintering refuge for wildfowl, with more than 200 Greenland white-fronted geese and up to 3,000 greylag geese. The Limehill Field and the Pentagonal Fields, both improved pastures, are important grazing areas for geese. In summer the area holds one of the largest inland breeding populations of shelduck in Scotland and a regionally important inland wader breeding population.

The site is rich in invertebrates and supports three Red Data Book species; a rare moth, the bulrush wainscot *Nonagria typhae* in stands of bulrush *Typha latifolia* on the mainland, a beetle endemic to Scotland, *Dropephylla grandiloqua* in dead wood on Inchcailloch, and the endangered beetle *Eutheia linearis* in rotting vegetable material on Inchcailloch. In addition, the slow-moving rivers and lagoons of the mainland are rich in aquatic invertebrates.

#### REMARKS

Area significantly increased.

The woodland component forms part of the Loch Lomond Woods Nature Conservation Review site. The peatland habitats form part of the Aber Bogs and Loch Lomond Marshes Nature Conservation Review site. The marginal strip of the loch lies within the Loch Lomond Nature Conservation Review site, while the river section is part of the River Endrick Nature Conservation Review site.

The islands (except Aber Isle) and the mainland south of the River Endrick were designated a wetland of international importance in 1976 under the Ramsar Convention.

The islands and most of the mainland section (total area: 428 ha) have been declared a National Nature Reserve.

## Appendix 6 - Ramsar

Scottish Natural Heritage is the key statutory agency in Scotland for advising Government and acting as the Government's agent in the delivery of conservation designations in Scotland. Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance. The Convention was adopted in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 and ratified by the UK Government in 1976. There are currently 131 Contracting Parties to the Convention with 1 148 wetland sites designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

The mission of the Convention is "the conservation and wise use of wetlands by national action and international co-operation as a means to achieving sustainable development throughout the world."

### Loch Lomond Ramsar site

Designation date	05/01/1976
Size of Area	237 ha
Co-ordinates	56°04'N 004°30'W



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Location:	The site lies approximately 25 km northwest of Glasgow, in West Dunbartonshire and Stirling (Scotland).
Criteria:	(2b, 3c): 3, 6
Importance:	The site supports several scarce and one British Red Data Book wetland plants, and three rare species of invertebrates. Over winter, the site regularly supports almost 1% of the Greenland/Ireland/UK population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>
Wetland Types:	Ts (66.4%), Tp (2.1%), M (1.3%), other (30.2%)  The site consists of the marshy hinterland around the lower reaches of the River Endrick where it flows into Loch Lomond, and there are five islands in the loch. The marshy loch shore portion of the site comprises low-lying regularly flooded wetlands, woodland fringes and rough pasture. There is also a mesotrophic fen.
Biological/ Ecological Notes:	The site supports several species of nationally scarce plants. The slow-moving river and lagoons are especially rich in aquatic invertebrates, including the national Red List moth species <i>Nonagria typhae</i> . Some areas contain <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> , <i>Juncus acutiflorus</i> and <i>Carex</i> spp. There also are species-rich grasslands cut as hay meadows. The shore zone of the islands supports a wide variety of plants too, including <i>Trollius europaeus</i> , <i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> and <i>Ranunculus auricomus</i> . There is a range of mire communities on the mainland, consisting mainly of eutrophic-mesotrophic swamp communities containing <i>Rumex aquaticus</i> , <i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i> and <i>Elatine hydropiper</i> . The area is noted for its wintering waterbirds, which feed on the rough pastures composing over half of the hinterland. Another bird of national importance occurring in the area is <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> .
Hydrological/ Physical Notes:	The area forms part of a freshwater floodplain consisting of alluvial sediments. It is meso- to eutrophic, and varies from basic to neutral to acidic. The site plays a role in shoreline stabilisation and dissipation of erosive forces.
Human Uses:	The site and its surroundings are almost exclusively privately owned. Inchcailloch, within the site, is owned by Scottish Natural Heritage. Parts of the area, both in and around the site, are being grazed or mowed. There are watering pools. Loch Lomond is also used for industrial and domestic water supply. A barrage controls abstraction of water. The area is also used for sewage treatment/disposal. Outside the site, there is some commercial

forestry and arable agriculture, and there are non-urbanised settlements. However, both at the site and in the surrounding areas nature conservation, tourism and different forms of recreation are the main activities. Inchcailloch is the only part of the site where access for visitors is actively facilitated. There are possibilities for fishing, walking and birdwatching, both on the mainland and on the islands. Waterbird hunting is permitted under a Nature Reserve Agreement. Water-based recreation, including fishing from boats, jet skiing, canoeing and windsurfing, is allowed. Park rangers provide information, occasional guided walks and occasional talks to public groups. There is a general information leaflet for Inchcailloch. Several scientific research projects have been and are being carried out, and monitoring programmes are in place, for example of waterbirds, and of the effects of powerboats on Loch Lomond.

Conservation Measures: The site has been designated as a National Nature Reserve, an EU Special Protection Area and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is also a candidate EU Special Area of Conservation. A management plan has been devised and implemented. The site receives high numbers of visitors but disturbance to the interest is reduced by the control of visitor numbers through the operation of a permit system.

Adverse Factors: No adverse factors currently reported.

Site Management: Scottish Natural Heritage. No address information provided.

Based on the 1999 Ramsar Information Sheet and the 2002 National Report to the Ramsar Convention.

## **Appendix 7 - National Parks**

National Parks in Scotland are designated by Scottish Ministers under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. They are designated to deliver more integrated management of large areas of outstanding natural and cultural heritage. To this end, the aims of National Parks are:

- to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage;
- to promote the sustainable use of the natural resources of the area;
- to promote understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public;
- and to promote sustainable social and economic development of the communities of the area.

A new body called the National Park Authority will be established for each National Park. This body will have the responsibility for drawing up the National Park Plan and ensuring its implementation. The Park Authority will be funded by Government and will report directly to Scottish Ministers. SNH has had a close involvement in the preparation of the proposals for National Parks in Scotland. In 1999 we developed the advice, which led to the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. In 2001, we were asked to act as the statutory reporter to Scottish Ministers on the National Park proposals for Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and for the Cairngorms. SNH also has wider role in respect of National Parks based on its statutory responsibilities under the Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991. These include specific functions for the notification and management of international and national designations, and the promotion of measures to implement the new legislation on access. We also have a general advisory function to Scottish Ministers, local authorities and other bodies including the National Park Authorities.

## **Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park**

The National Park feels worlds apart from the bustle of city life. Yet it's less than an hour from Glasgow and not much more from Edinburgh. A place of contrasts, it covers four distinctly different and special areas:

- Ben Lomond standing guard over Loch Lomond, the largest expanse of freshwater in Great Britain
- The Trossachs, wild glens and sparkling lochs between Callander and Aberfoyle
- Breadalbane, the high country of the north, with some of Scotland's finest Munros, Ben Lui, Ben Challum, Ben More and Ben Vorlich
- The Argyll Forest of the Cowal peninsula watched over by the Arrochar Alps and bordered by sea lochs.

All four aims have equal weight but if it appears there is a conflict between the four Park aims, the National Park Authority must give greater weight to the first aim.

The National Park encompasses around 720 sq miles (1,865 sq km) of some of the finest scenery in Scotland. It is an area of contrasts from rolling lowland landscapes in the south to high mountains in the north, and has many lochs and rivers, forests and woodlands. It is also a living, working landscape which has been influenced by people for generations and is visited and enjoyed by many for its recreational value.

The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park became fully operational on 19 July 2002 and was officially opened by Princess Anne on 24 July 2002.

### Facts and Figures

- The Park is 1,865 sq km (720 sq miles) and has a boundary length of 350km (220miles).
- There are 20 Munros (mountains above 3,000ft) in the Park and the highest is Ben More at 1,174m.
- There are 20 Corbetts (mountains between 2,500ft and 3,000ft).
- There are 22 larger lochs, with numerous smaller lochs and lochans.
- About 50 rivers and large burns.
- 15,600 people live in the National Park (2001 census).
- Two Forest Parks - Queen Elizabeth in the Trossachs and Argyll in Cowal.



## Appendix 8 - National Scenic Area (NSA)

National Scenic Areas are Scotland's only national landscape designation. They are those areas of land considered of national significance on the basis of their outstanding scenic interest, which must be conserved as part of the country's natural heritage. They have been selected for their characteristic features of scenery comprising a mixture of richly diverse landscapes including prominent landforms, coastline, sea and freshwater lochs, rivers, woodlands and moorlands.

There are currently 40 NSAs in Scotland, covering a total area of 1,001,800 ha. At the southern mainland extremity of the Highlands, Loch Lomond is the largest water body in Great Britain. The loch straddles the highland boundary fault, and thus has a variety of scenery stretching from the lowland character of the south shore to the deeply entrenched fjord like northern head of the loch at Ardlui. There is a large



amount of deciduous woodland, nowhere more noticeable than at the wide island-studded section of the loch, where the semi-natural woods of the islands are complemented by the fine policy woodlands on the shore. The east side of the loch also has extensive coniferous plantations which contribute variety to the scene as part of the Forestry Commission's Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. North of Ross Point the loch becomes a ribbon or finger lake, dominated by the towering summit of Ben Lomond (974m). Waterfalls, waterside meadows, and wooded promontories enliven the scene. The changing seasonal colours of bracken and heather, deciduous and coniferous woodlands, and the range of vertical relief, ensure that there is no time of year when the environs of the loch do not live up to their off-sung fame<sup>1</sup>.

NSA Area  NNR Area 

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<sup>1</sup> Extract from Scotland's Scenic Heritage, Countryside Commission for Scotland, 1978.

## **Appendix 9 - Species**

There are a number of laws protecting species in the UK; this is only a brief synopsis.

### The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

This is a key Act, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests (except for species listed in Schedule 2). Special penalties are available for offences related to birds listed on Schedule 1, for which there are additional offences of disturbing these birds at their nests, or their dependent young. The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking birds, restricts the sale and possession of captive bred birds, and sets standards for keeping birds in captivity.

The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed in Schedule 5, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places. The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals. The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to pick, uproot, trade in, or possess (for the purposes of trade) any wild plant listed in Schedule 8, and prohibits the unauthorised intentional uprooting of such plants.

Other Acts protect Wild Mammals, Badgers, Deer, and Seals.

### The Habitats Directive

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora requires Member States to take the requisite measures to establish a system of strict protection for the animal species listed in Annex IV, i.e. animal and plant species of community interest in need of strict protection. There are 13 European Protected Species in Britain.

### The Biodiversity Convention

The Convention on Biodiversity was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992. In the UK the Government launched the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, a national strategy which identified broad activities for conservation work over the next 20 years, and established fundamental principles for future biodiversity conservation. A number of Biodiversity Action Plans (UKBAP) have been produced for selected habitats and species, and some areas have developed local biodiversity action plans (LBAP) too.

## Red Data Book Species

Red Data Books list species that are threatened or endangered. In the past species in Britain were included as Red Data Book species if they occurred in fewer than 15 10km x 10km squares. Britain is moving towards the IUCN (The World Conservation Union) criteria which categories species as Extinct, Extinct in the Wild, Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable.

## Protected Habitats and Species at Loch Lomond NNR

	Wildlife and Countryside & Act 1981	Red Data Book Species	LBAP *	UK BAP**	Birds of concern red list
<b>Habitats</b>					
Upland oakwood			✓	✓	
Rivers and burns			✓		
Lochs, lochans and ponds			✓		
Wet woodland			✓		
<b>Species</b>					
Brown hare			✓	✓	
Otter	✓		✓	✓	
Pine marten	✓				
Pipistrelle bat	✓		✓	✓	
Water vole			✓	✓	
Common lizard	✓				
Common frog	✓				
Common toad	✓				
Palmate newt	✓				
Barn owl			✓		
Bullfinch			✓	✓	✓
Capercaillie			✓	✓	✓
Grasshopper warbler					✓
Linnet				✓	✓
Reed bunting				✓	✓
Skylark			✓	✓	✓
Song thrush			✓	✓	✓
Spotted flycatcher			✓	✓	✓
Tree sparrow			✓	✓	✓
Atlantic salmon			✓		
Lampreys			✓		
Trout			✓		
<b>Plants</b>					
Scottish dock		✓			
Summer snowflake		✓			

\* BAP - Local Biodiversity Action Plan

\*\*UK BAP - UK Biodiversity Action Plan