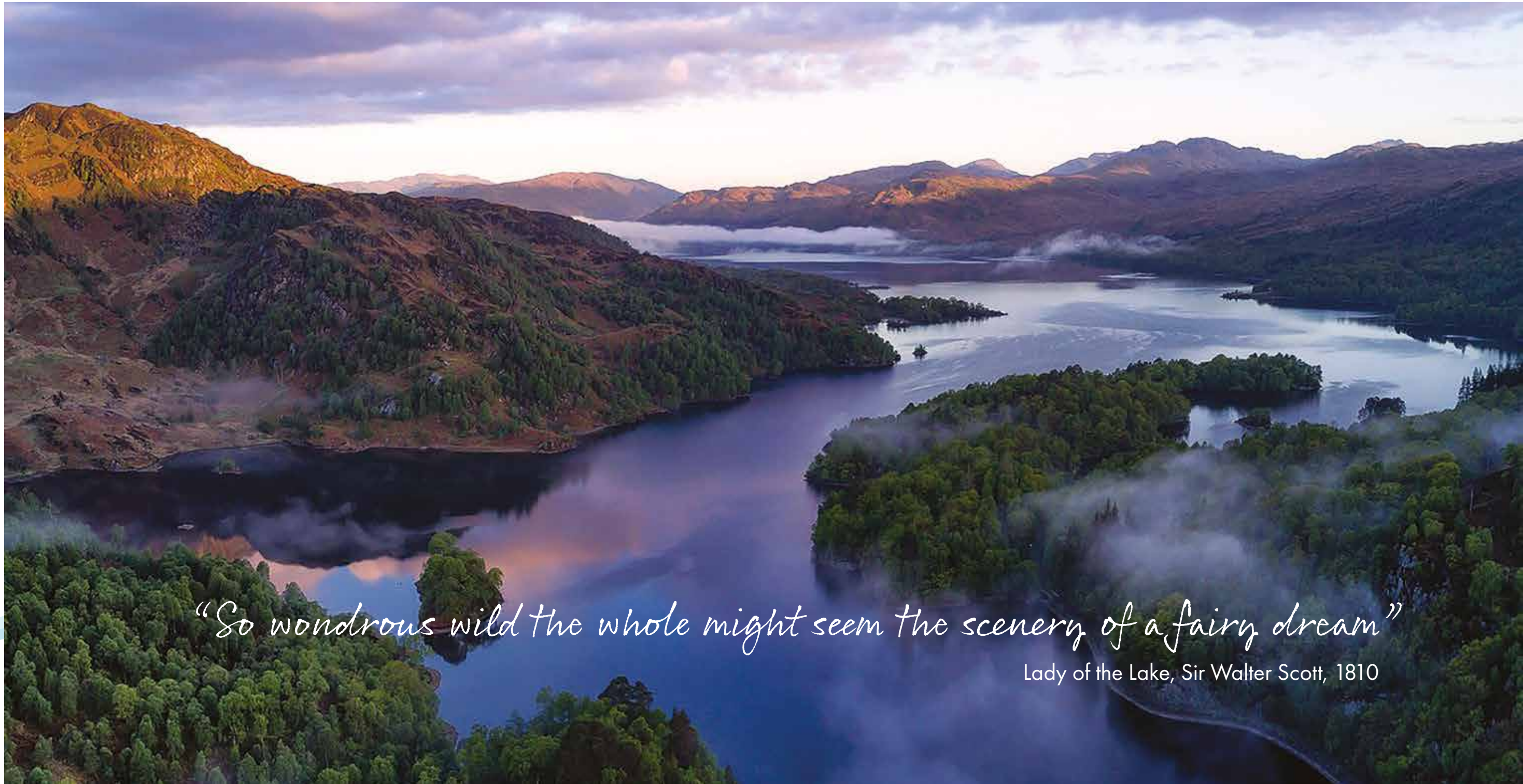


# Trossachs Visitor Management Project



The English poet John Keats found the Trossachs “vexatiously full of visitors” when he visited in 1818.





*“So wondrous wild the whole might seem the scenery of a fairy dream”*

Lady of the Lake, Sir Walter Scott, 1810

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# Background

The Trossachs Visitor Management Project is an ambitious package of visitor infrastructure improvement proposals developed by the Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust in partnership with the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs and Forest and Land Scotland, with the support and involvement of local community groups, and the support of the National Park, Stirling Council and Scottish Water - the landowner of two of the three sites where investment is planned.

The project builds on previous initiatives, including the former award winning Trossachs Trail Tourism Management Programme in the 1990s, and aims to address the urgent need to:

- relieve the chronic problems created by visitor pressures in the heart of the Trossachs and, in particular, traffic congestion caused by excessive road verge parking;
- improve the quality of life for local residents who regularly have problems going about their daily business safely;
- enhance the quality of the visitor experience in the busy Brig o Turk/ Ben A'an/ Loch Katrine visitor corridor; and
- encourage the dispersal of visitors to other parts of the Trossachs area where it is less busy.

The aims of the project will be delivered by investing £586,600 in the first phase of visitor infrastructure improvements primarily at Ben A'an Car Park, below the popular Ben A'an mountain path, and at the Trossachs Pier and Stronachlachar Visitor Hubs, at either end of Loch Katrine which is credited with being 'the Birthplace of Scottish Tourism' due to the writings of Sir Walter Scott and others in the early 1800s that led to the first surge of visitors to the Trossachs. These three sites collectively now consistently have in excess of 200,000 visitors per year and there has been a marked growth in recent years due to the increasing popularity of healthy outdoor recreational activities and campervanning holidays. The planned investment at these locations will be augmented by improved signing and information/orientation points around the long established 40 mile Trossachs Trail.

## Key outputs will include:

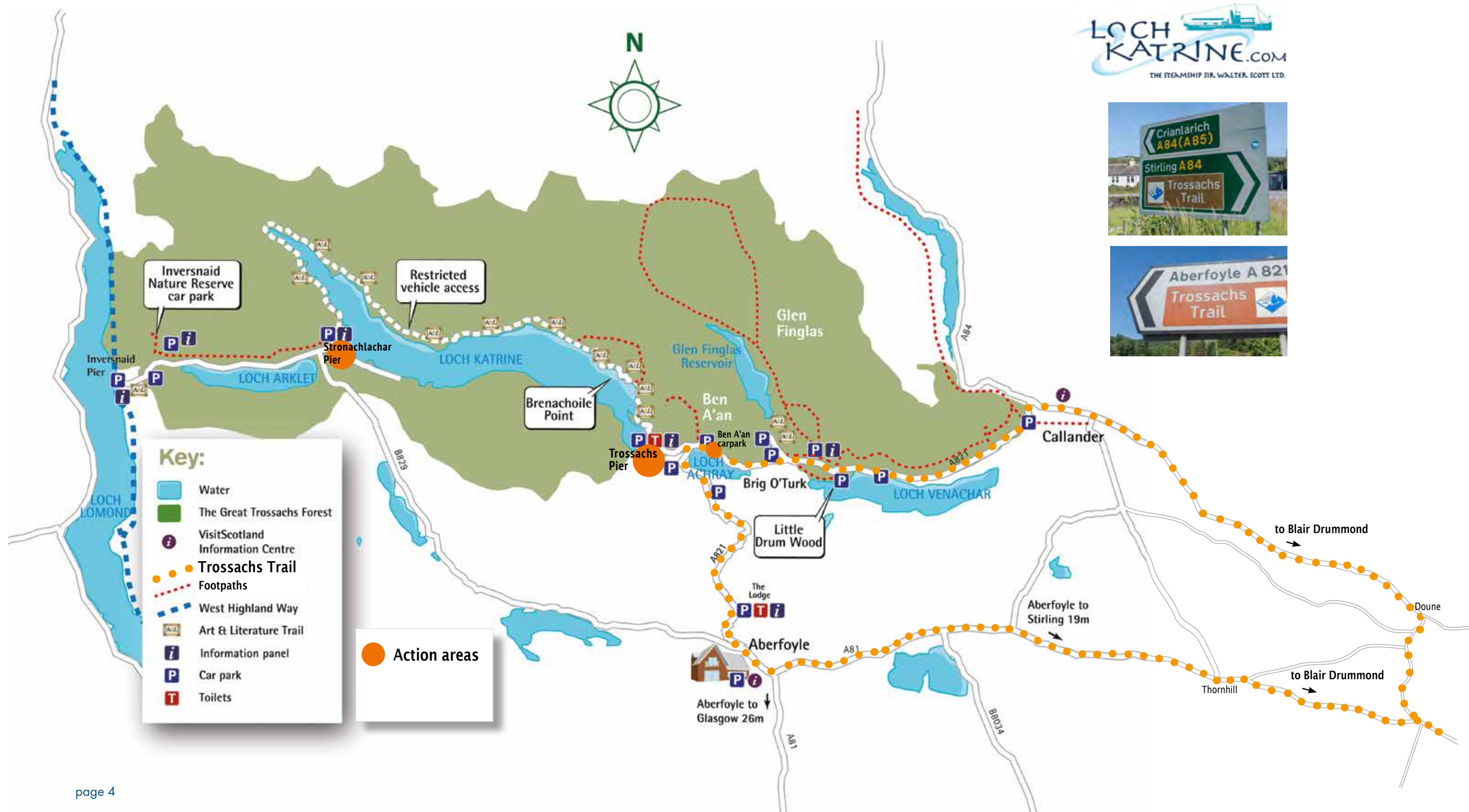
- sensitively designed expanded car parks with 110 additional spaces, improved disabled parking and bus drop off and pick up points across the three sites at Ben A'an, Trossachs Pier and Stronachlachar Pier;
- 12 additional overnight campervan bays with hook up facilities, electric vehicle and bike charging points, public litter recycling points and water refill stations at the Trossachs Pier and Stronachlachar Pier Visitor Hubs;
- a new mobility hub with electric scooters at Trossachs Pier Visitor Hub;
- upgraded and extended public toilets at Trossachs Pier Visitor Hub to provide treble the capacity including 16 Covid-19 adapted cubicles and 2 disabled toilets and wet rooms;
- reinstatement of the 200 metre historic Roderick Dhu Watch Tower path and scenic lookout beside Trossachs Pier Car Park; and
- upgrading signing and 10 information/ orientation points at key 'spoke and hub' locations around the Trossachs Trail.





# Background

## The Great Trossachs Forest NNR and The Trossachs Trail





# Background Loch Katrine

## Welcome to Loch Katrine *Nature's Great Adventure*

### Scotland's Heartland

Loch Katrine is a special place. Once visited, its landscape stays in the hearts and minds of all who have come here. It is the essence of Scotland.

Yet, only a few hundred years ago, this area would have been even more spectacular. Since then a combination of tree felling and sheep grazing has limited woodland growth and threatened wildlife.

It is time to put something back and it is happening now. It's called The Great Trossachs Forest - a huge, 200-year vision.

A new forest of native trees, the size of Glasgow, is being planted. It will increase wildlife and restore habitats. It will demonstrate how people can enjoy, live and work harmoniously with this environment. It will make this special place even better.

#### Walk



Walk in famous footsteps and be inspired by a 2 mile stroll along the Brenachoile Trail. Discover who the famous people were.

More adventurous visitors can explore North Shore Road's 12 miles of scenery-rich walking or the wooded Friepse Hill Trail.

#### Cycle



Pedal along the smooth, but hilly North Shore Road to Stronachlachar.

If that doesn't satisfy your need for exercise, keep going along the rougher Old Military Road to Inversnaid.

#### Sail



Take a historic return cruise to Stronachlachar. You'll see some great scenery and learn lots of amazing information. Or incorporate a one-way cruise into a walking or cycling adventure.

#### Play



Let off some steam in the exciting Nature Play Area. It's just a few hundred metres along the North Shore Road. Alternatively, just admire the fine view or use the grassy picnic area.

Don't get lost  
TROSSACHS PIER 1 mile  
BRENACHOILE POINT 11 miles  
Look out for these!



**Map Labels:** Glengyle, The Dhu, Portnellan, Black Island, Stronachlachar Pier, Factor's Island, Loch Arklet, Inversnaid Pier, Loch Katrine, Royal Cottage, Brenachoile Point, Eilean Molach (Ellen's Isle), Trossachs Pier.

**Trail Codes:**  
 North Shore Road  
 Brenachoile Trail  
 Friepse Hill Trail  
 Old Military Road

**Trail Codes Legend:**  
 Green: Easy  
 Yellow: Moderate  
 Red: Difficult  
 Blue: Water  
 Brown: Land  
 Green: Forest  
 Yellow: Moorland  
 Red: Heath  
 Blue: Loch  
 Brown: Pier  
 Green: Park  
 Yellow: Picnic  
 Red: Café  
 Blue: Toilet  
 Brown: Information

**YOU ARE HERE**  
Trossachs Pier

**Art & Literature**  
Loch Katrine and the surrounding Trossachs have attracted and inspired artists, writers and musicians for hundreds of years.

Explore, experience and learn about this rich legacy on the unique Art and Literature Trail. Part of the trail can be accessed here. The rest can be discovered by using a leaflet available from the ticket kiosk.

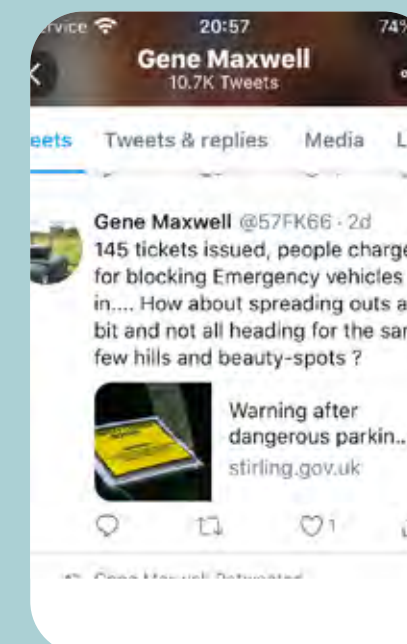
**Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly**  
 1. Enjoy responsibly, be great with others  
 2. Respect the interests of others  
 3. Leave the outdoors as you find it

**SHOW THE COOL WE CAN DO**  
 www.visitScotland.co.uk



# Evidence of Visitor Pressure Ben A'an and Trossachs Pier Approach Roads

Samples of coverage  
of visitor pressures  
on social media





# Evidence of Visitor Pressure Ben A'an and Trossachs Pier Approach Roads

Samples of coverage of visitor pressures in the press



## Trossachs Traffic Chaos

A weekend of traffic chaos in the heart of the Trossachs has sparked a conservation charity to call for urgent steps to be taken. Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs say cars were parked indiscriminately on both roadside verges beside Loch Achray and near the popular Ben A'an footpath, and not for the first time.

Now the charity's chair says something has to be done to avoid another "year of chaos". James Fraser said: "We are only a few weeks into the 2020 and there have already been major problems on at least five days with snakelike lines of cars parked on the verges of the main Trossachs arterial road which has poor sightlines."

"This has led to traffic coming to a standstill with larger vehicles such as coaches and emergency vehicles unable to get through which is of great concern and this requires to be urgently addressed." He added: "It is great to see more people becoming active and hillwalking in the area following the recent investments in hill path improvements, as part of the Mountains and the People project involving several agencies, but unfortunately this was done in isolation of other much needed improvements such as the creation of additional off road parking."

24 January 2020  
source: Daily Record



Crispin Hoult, chair of Trossachs Community Council.

Mr Hoult added: "The Trossachs welcomes tourists and has done for centuries. However, the influx of a large number of people to a small number of 'honeypot' locations has recently brought the area to a standstill. We have such a breadth and depth of places to enjoy, it's safer to spread out and discover new places. And have respect for our residents who need to travel freely on the roads, feel safe in the community and not have to deal with litter and waste after every weekend."



# Evidence of Visitor Pressure

## Ben A'an Car Park

Ben A'an has become increasingly popular and is now one of the most heavily climbed mountains in the National Park. The Ben A'an car park has been designed to accommodate 30 cars but is regularly packed year round with over 45 cars. There is also extensive road verge parking often extending for half a mile to a mile around the the Loch Achray loop road and the spur road to Loch Katrine. This is still a regular occurrence despite the introduction of an emergency traffic Regulation Order (TRO) with extensive no parking signing a few weeks after the easing of COVID 19 lockdown restrictions.

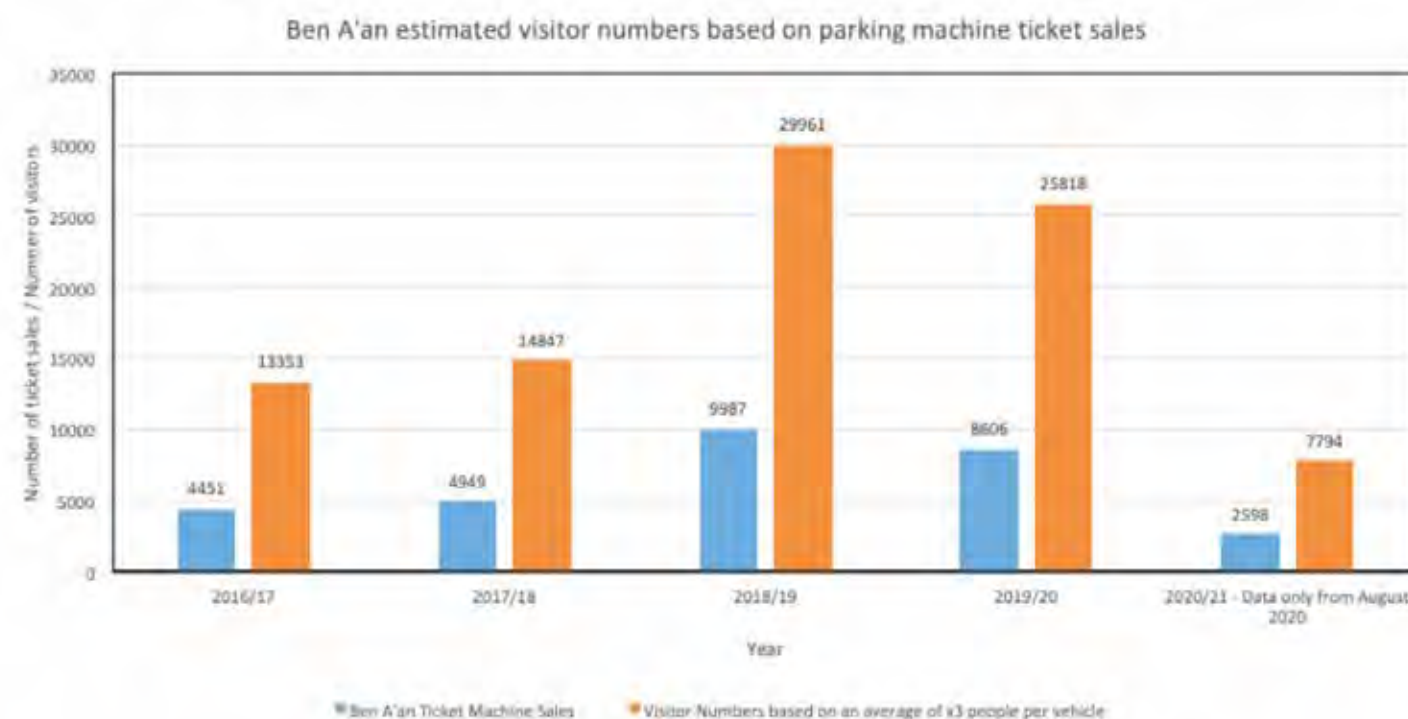
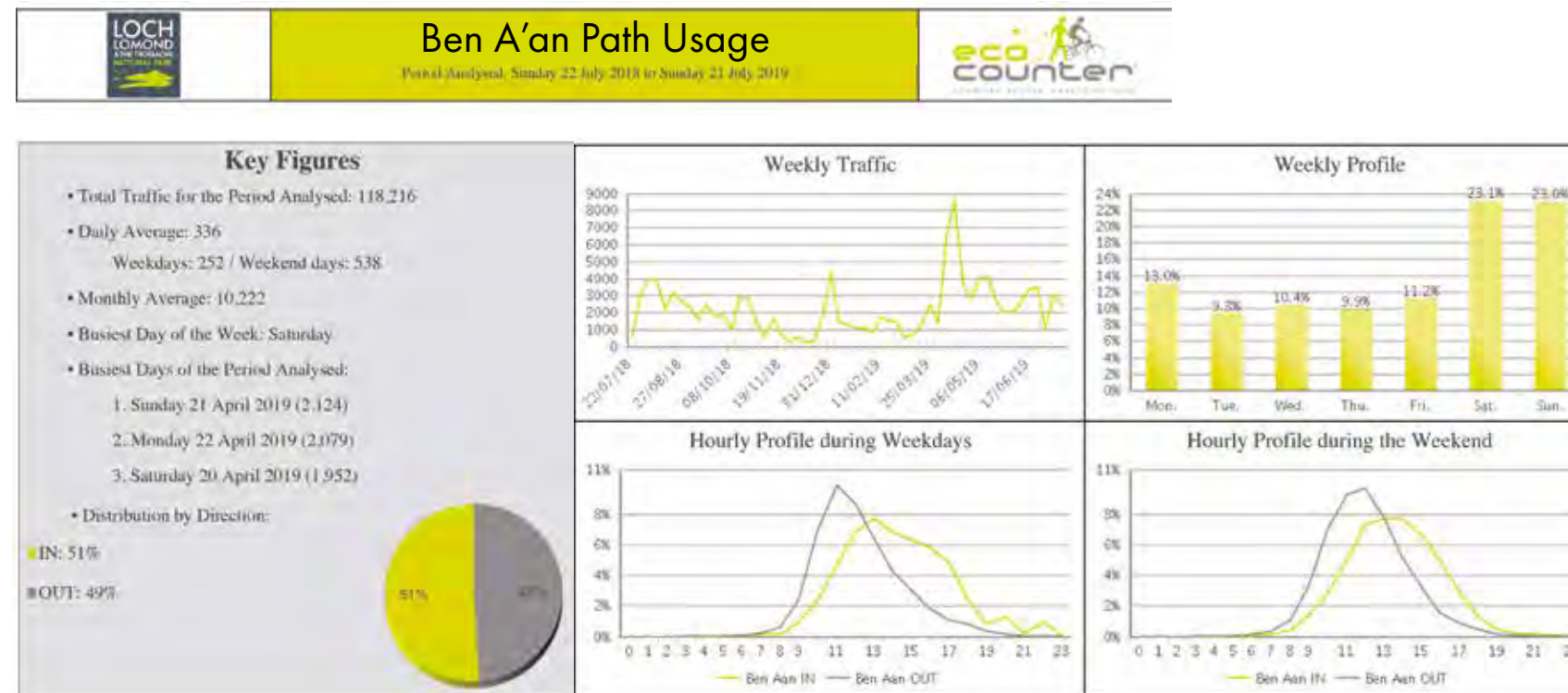




# Evidence of Visitor Pressure

## Ben A'an Car Park and Path Usage Statistics

Ben A'an has become increasingly popular as one of the most heavily used mountain paths in the National Park due to its close proximity to the Central belt and it can be busy year round as the statistics of usage demonstrate. The statistics have been collected from an electronic counter.





# Evidence of Visitor Pressure Trossachs Pier Approach Roads

Road verge parking is a year round feature in the heart of the Trossachs. Three of the photos were taken in mid-January 2020.

Prior to the introduction of a temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in late summer 2020, the approach roads from Aberfoyle and Callander were closed by Police Scotland on a number of occasions due to excessive road verge parking. One busy Saturday 168 cars were counted parking on road verges in the heart of the Trossachs.

After the TRO was introduced with no parking signs, cars were displaced regularly and parked on the verges of the spur road to Loch Katrine. Extra police and Council Parking Warden patrols have been introduced at weekends leading to many parking fines being issued. Additional parking is urgently required as TROs on their own are inadequate to deal with the worsening situation. The option of introducing a shuttle bus service from nearby communities is part of the solution too and provision for a shuttle bus pull-in is part of the plans for the Ben A'an car park extension.





# Evidence of Visitor Pressure

## Trossachs Pier Visitor Hub



The car and coach park at Trossachs Pier is regularly full as it is the most popular gathering point for recreational visitors to the heart of the Trossachs.





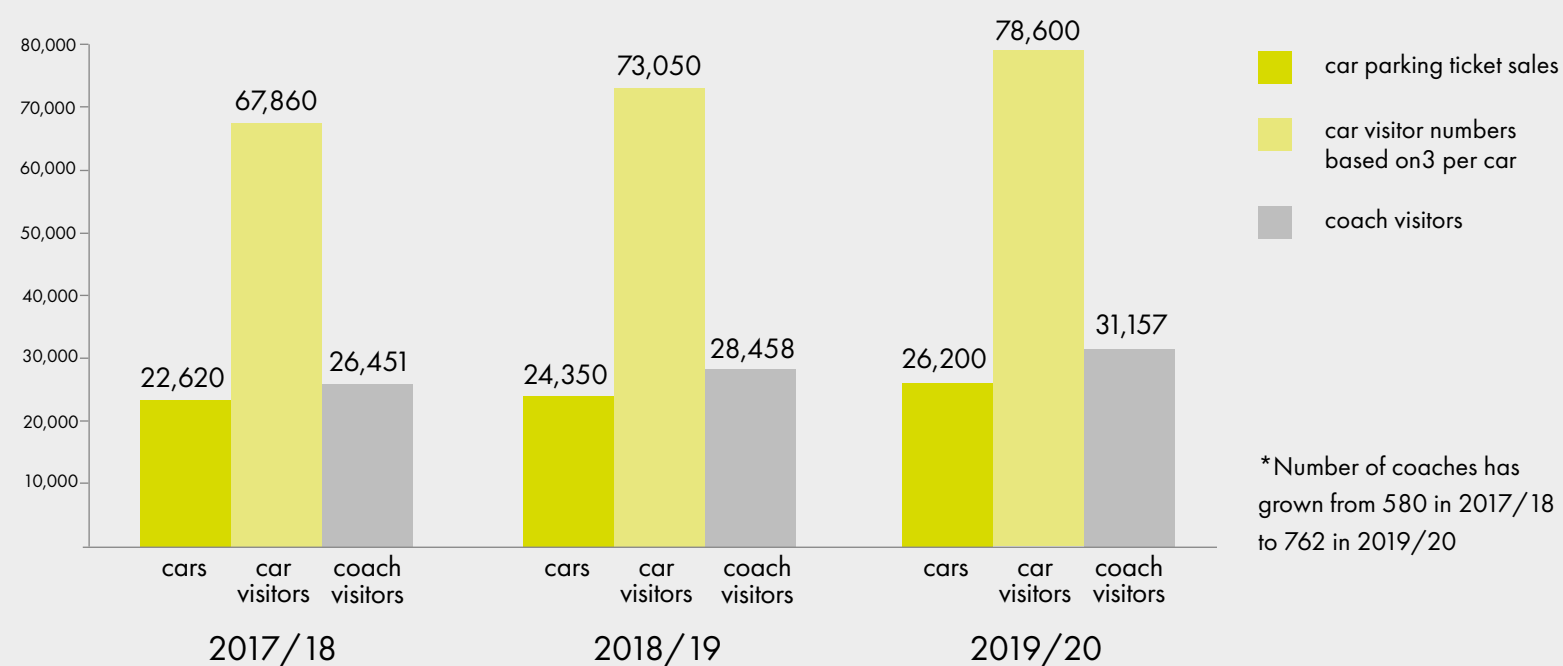
# Evidence of Visitor Pressure

## Trossachs Pier Visitor Hub

The Trossachs Pier Visitor Hub is becoming increasingly popular with walkers, cyclists and campervans. The existing overnight campervan bays with hook ups in the car park are often fully booked at weekends and use of these bays has more than doubled in the last two years as the growth in campervan ownership and rentals has exploded.

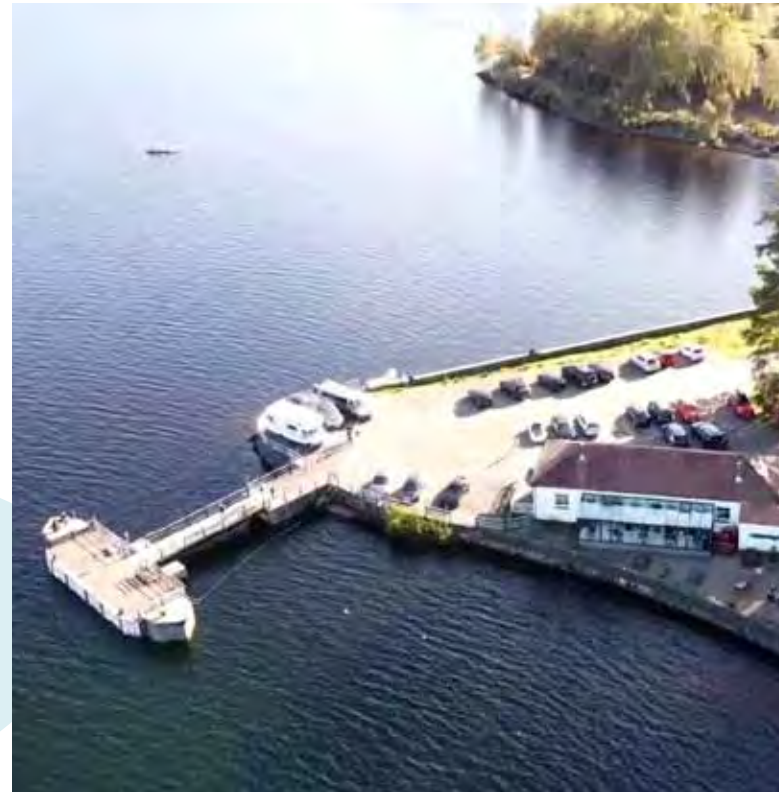


Trossachs Pier estimated visitor numbers based on car parking machine ticket sales and boat coach passenger bookings





# Evidence of Visitor Pressure Stronachlachar Pier Visitor Hub



This remote site at the north end of Loch Katrine is becoming more popular with growth in the number of cyclists, walkers and sightseers. The small car park is struggling to cope with the number of visitors arriving by coach and car. The small car park was used by 160 coaches and 7,500 coach passengers in 2019 - a 25% increase on 2018. It's also used by a further estimated 20,000 visitors arriving by car (6,500 cars) and 4,000 cyclists (most by boat).





# Evidence of Visitor Pressure Stronachlachar Pier Visitor Hub



Plans for Stronachlachar Pier Car Park.

In relation to the proposed extension to add to the current facility at Stronachlachar pier, we would like to add our support to the scheme.

We note that in peak season, and most notably weekends there is a shortage of parking facilities on this site causing congestion, and verge parking which in turn is causing access issues as well as parking in local driveways. Most weekends in September 2020 we have noted on numerous occasions that the access in and out of the facility have been blocked, stopping custom coming to our facility.

Since occupying the building in 2017 we have noted a large scale upturn of motor homes using the car park for over night stays, and coupled with the increased visitor numbers this adds to the increased need for an extension of parking, waste disposal, as well as hook up points for electricity.

Post COVID the pressure has increased further given the location where tourists can get away from towns and cities, without the need for foreign travel.

This will improve visitor experience hugely in this area, as well as satisfy local residents who often find congestion at their properties.

Brian Graham  
Ciaran Devlin





# Ben A'an Car Park Proposals













# Ben A'an Car Park Proposals



View of car park with proposed extension



## KEY

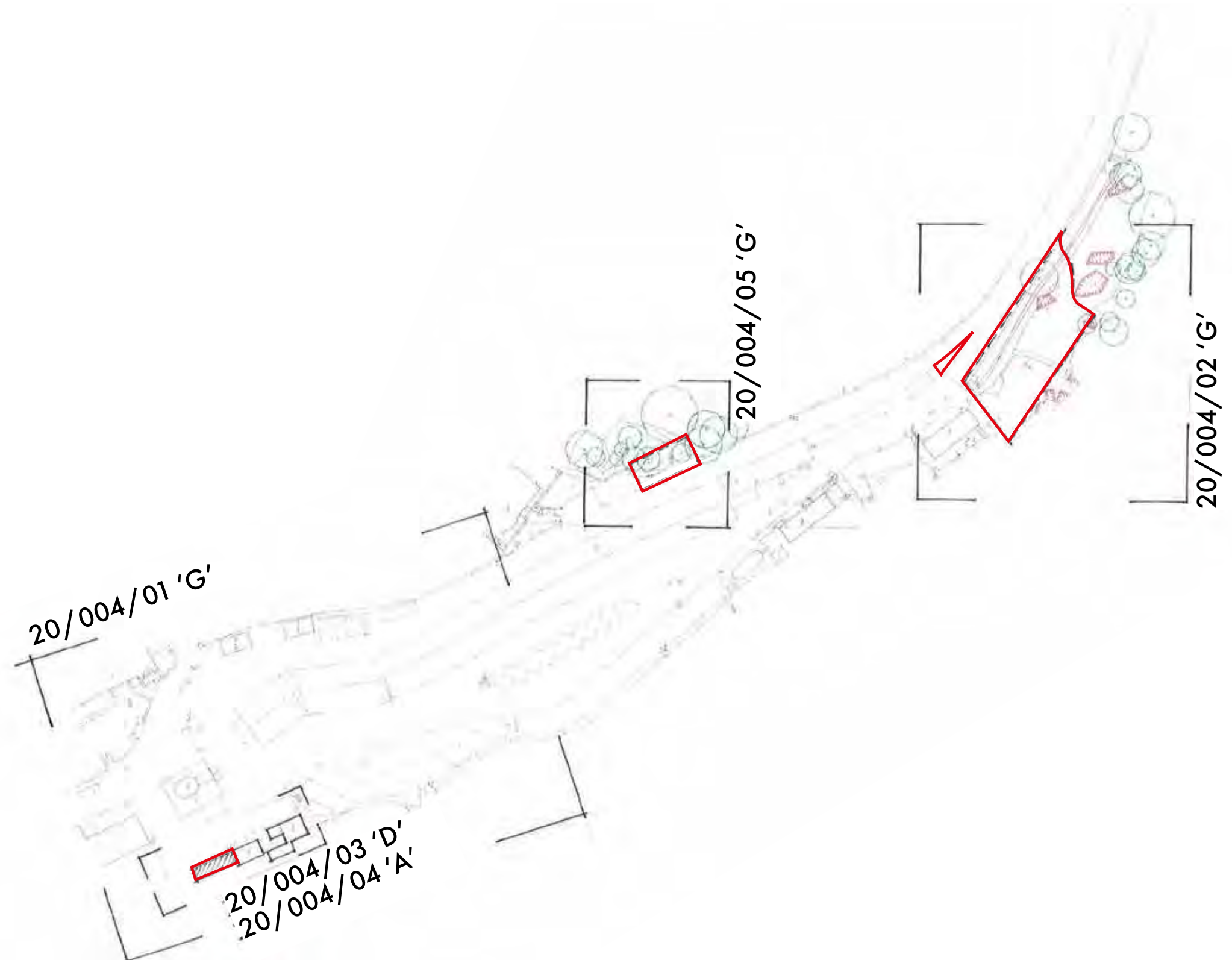
	Existing car park surface		Proposed new car park surface		Filter drain along edge of car park
	Existing natural vegetation		Proposed new meadow & trees		Tarmac bellmouth entrance and bus layby
	Existing native trees (extents only shown in near vicinity of the works)		Proposed boulders and signs		



# Trossachs Pier Proposals

## Masterplan Layout Overview

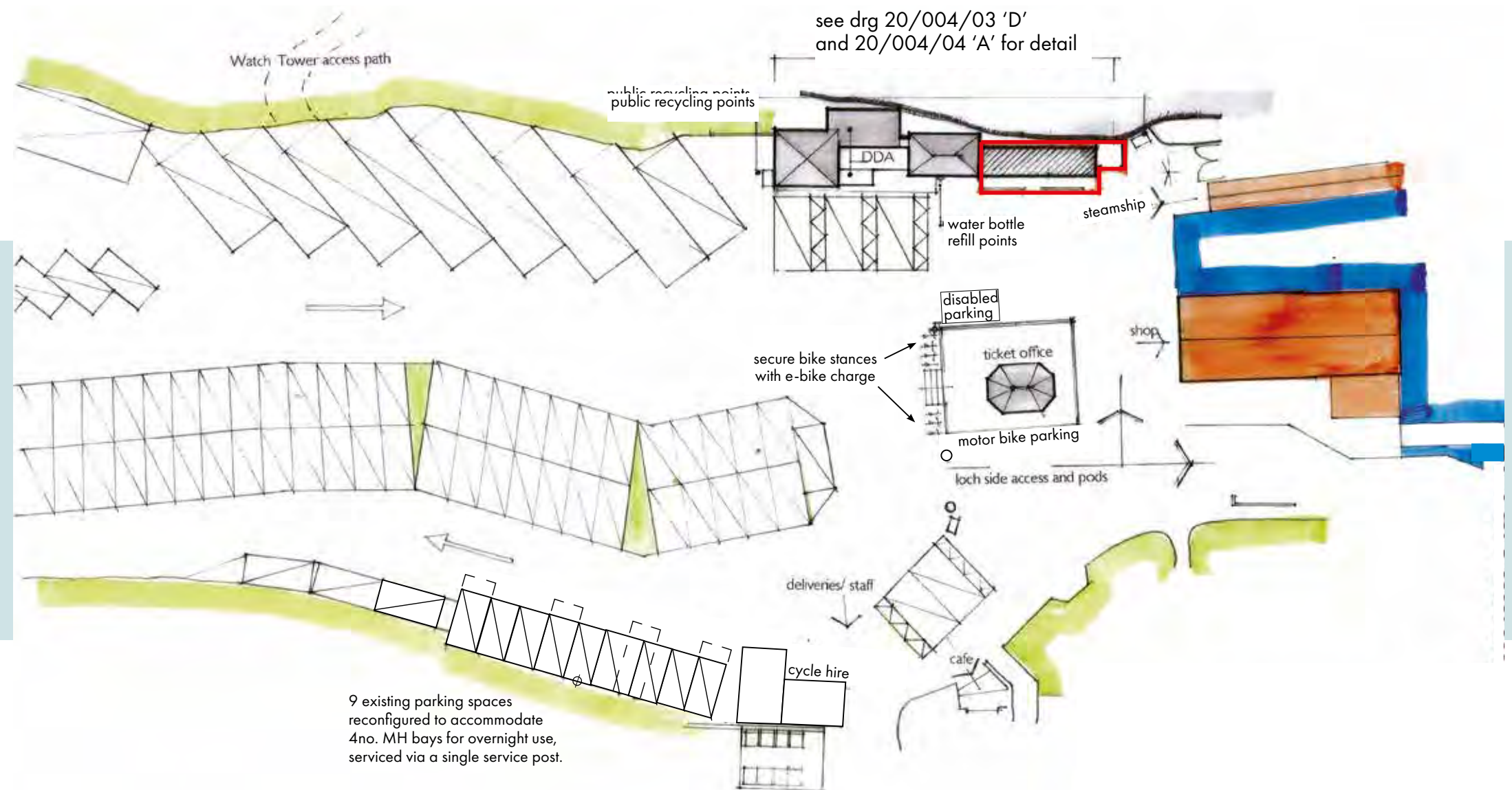
for  
**The Steamship Sir Walter Scott**  
**Trossachs Pier**  
LOCH KATRINE





# Trossachs Pier Proposals

Masterplan  
for  
The Steamship Sir Walter Scott  
Trossachs Pier  
LOCH KATRINE  
20/004/01 rev 'G'



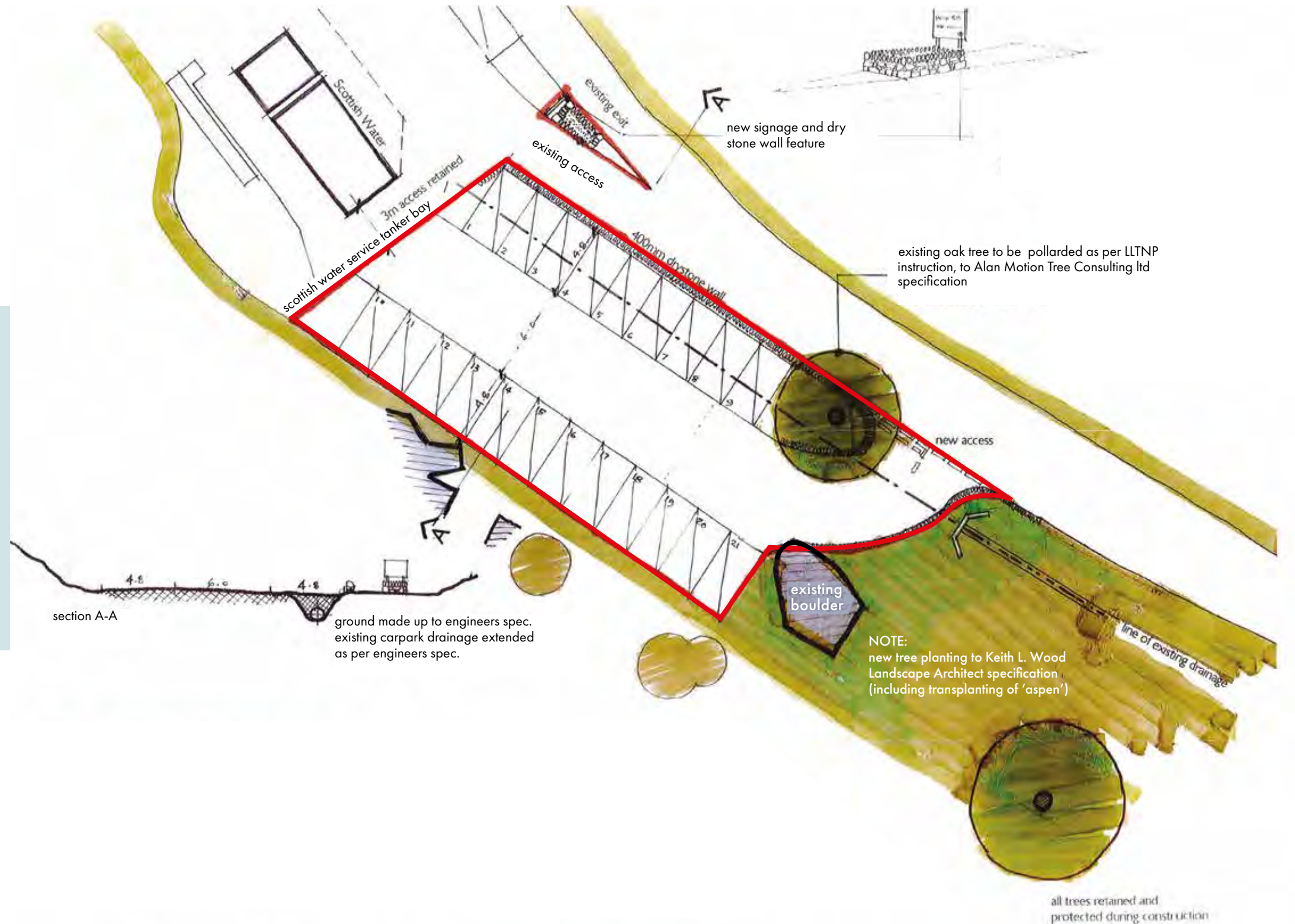


# Trossachs Pier Proposals

## Carpark Extension South

for  
The Steamship Sir Walter Scott  
Trossachs Pier  
LOCH KATRINE

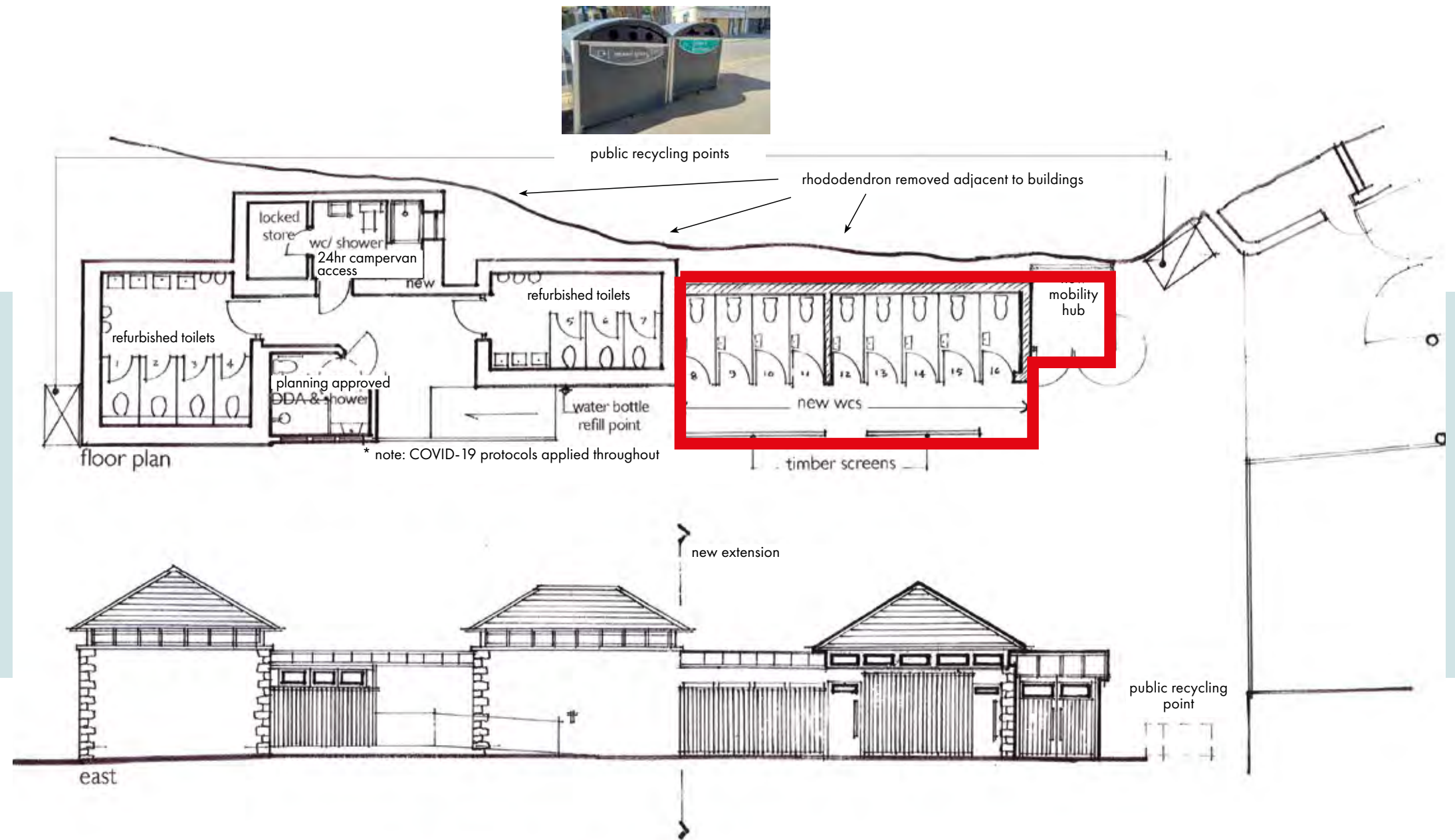
DRG 20/004/02 rev'G'





# Trossachs Pier Proposals

Refurbishment  
and Extended  
Public Toilets  
for  
The Steamship Sir Walter Scott  
Trossachs Pier  
LOCH KATRINE  
DRG 20/004/03 rev 'D'





# Trossachs Pier Proposals

## Carpark Extension North

for  
The Steamship Sir Walter Scott  
Trossachs Pier  
LOCH KATRINE

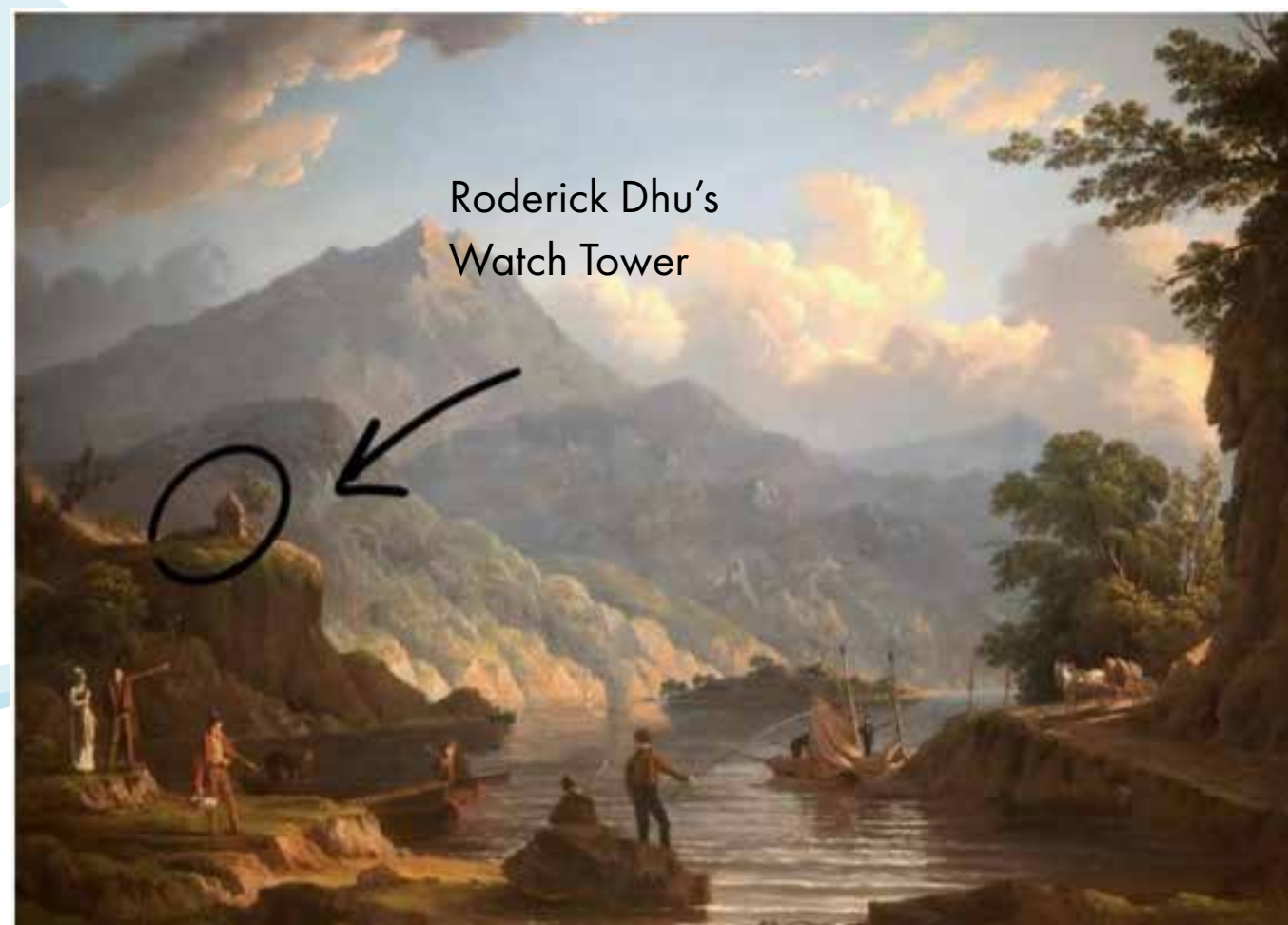
DRG 20/004/05 rev 'G'





# Roderick Dhu's Path and Watch Tower Proposals

Proposals to reinstate and upgrade the historic Roderick Dhu Watch Tower Path, which provided visitors with magnificent views of Loch Katrine and the sites featured in Sir Walter Scott's famous poem Lady of the Lake in 1810. This will include the creation a special scenic lookout feature with low key interpretation in the spirit of the National Scenic Routes initiative that was piloted in the National Park with features at several busy visitor sites.



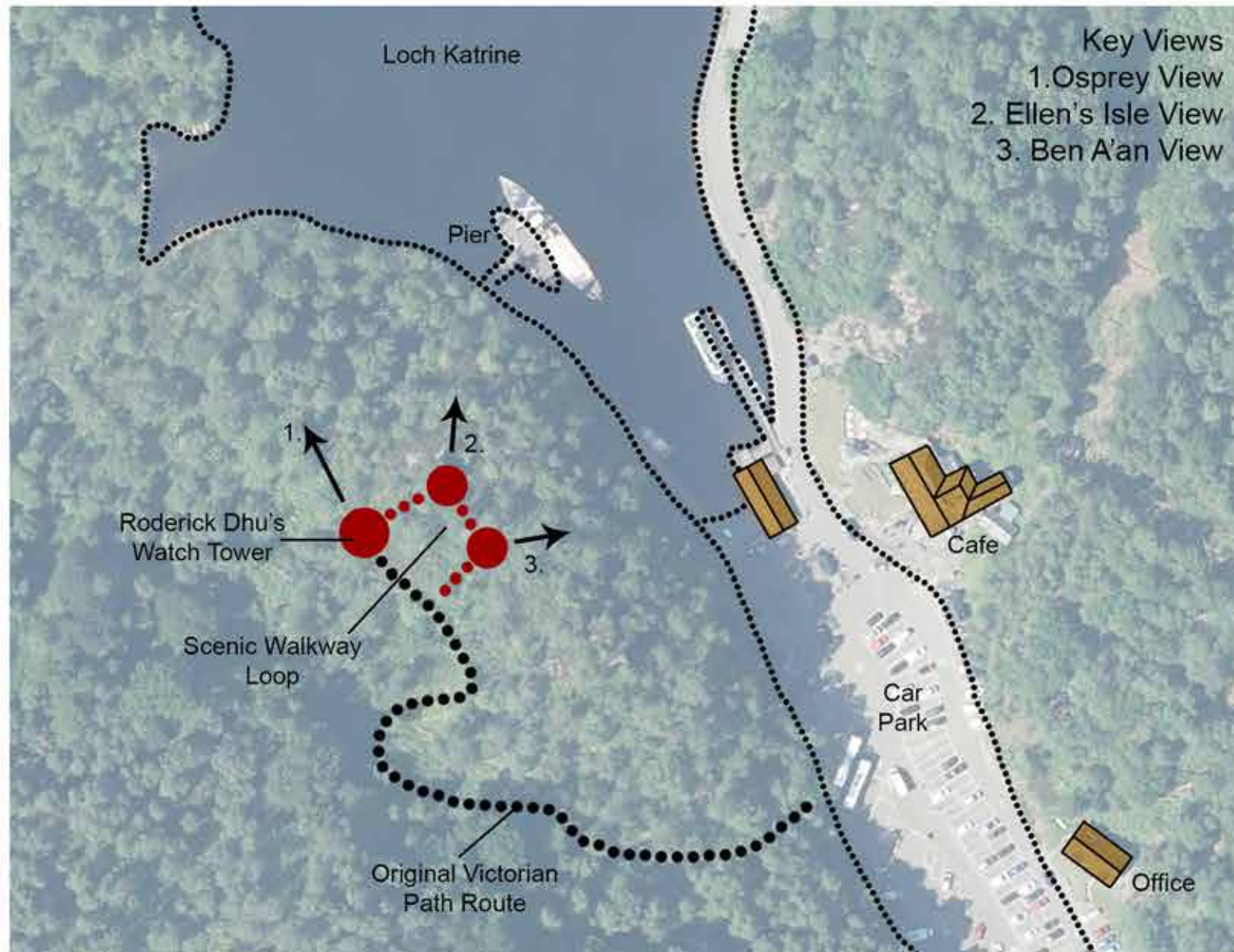
Victorian era painting showing the view down Loch Katrine and Roderick Dhu's Watch Tower



Historical photographs referencing Roderick Dhu's Watch Tower



# Roderick Dhu's Path and Watch Tower Proposals

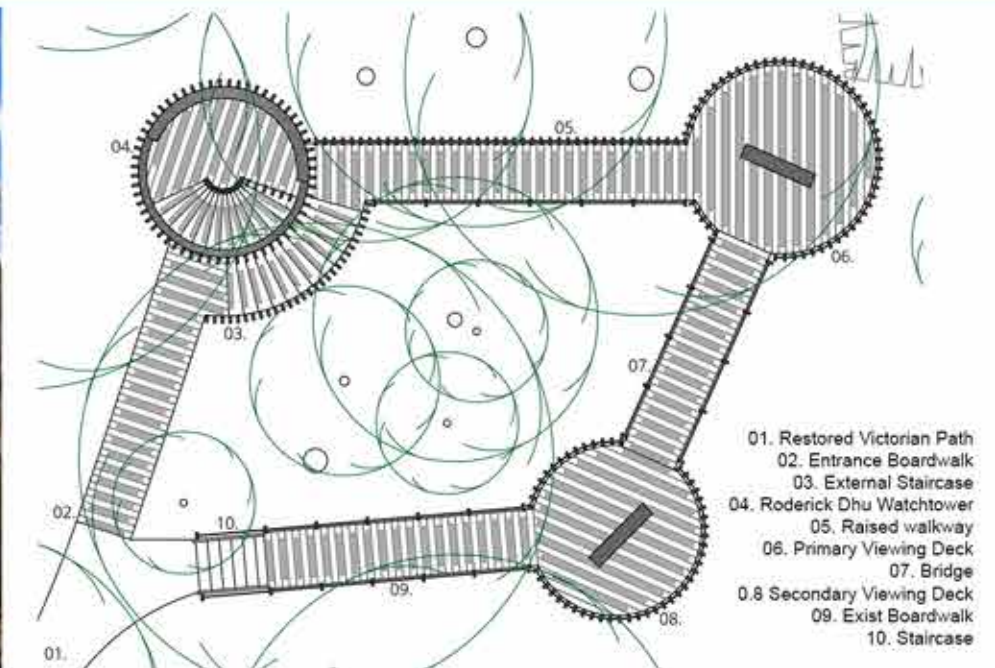


## Precedents





# Roderick Dhu's Path and Watch Tower Proposals



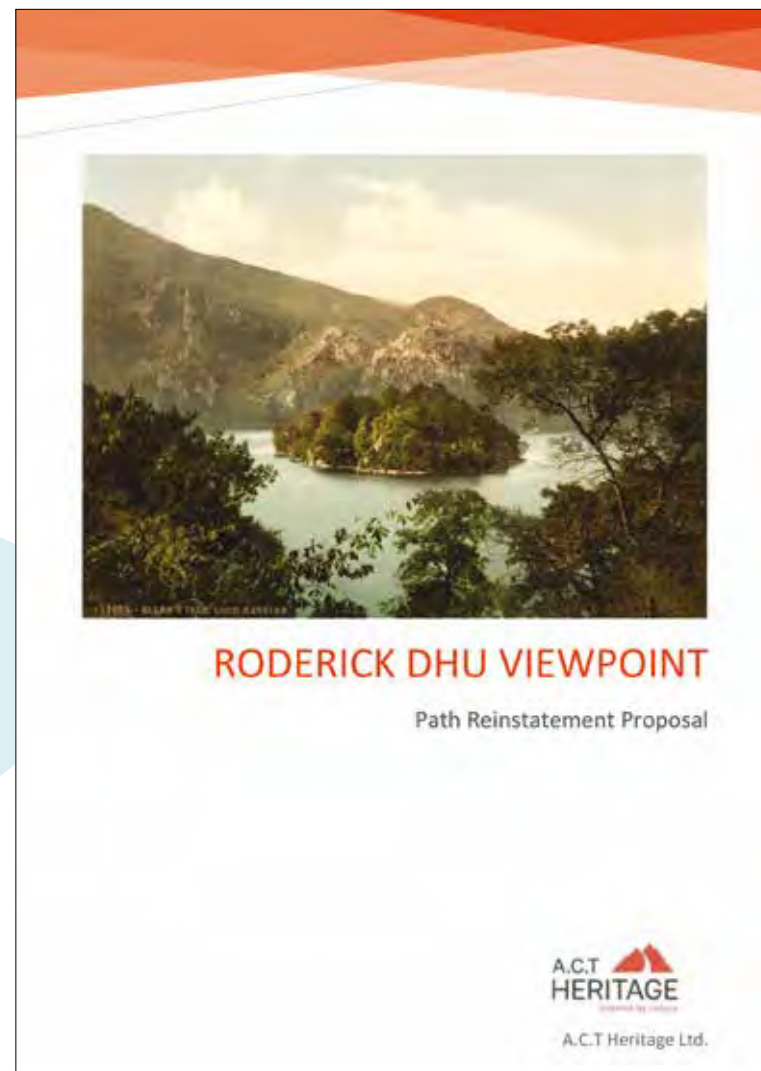


# Roderick Dhu's Path and Watch Tower Proposals





# Roderick Dhu's Path and Watch Tower Proposals





# Stronachlachar Pier Proposals

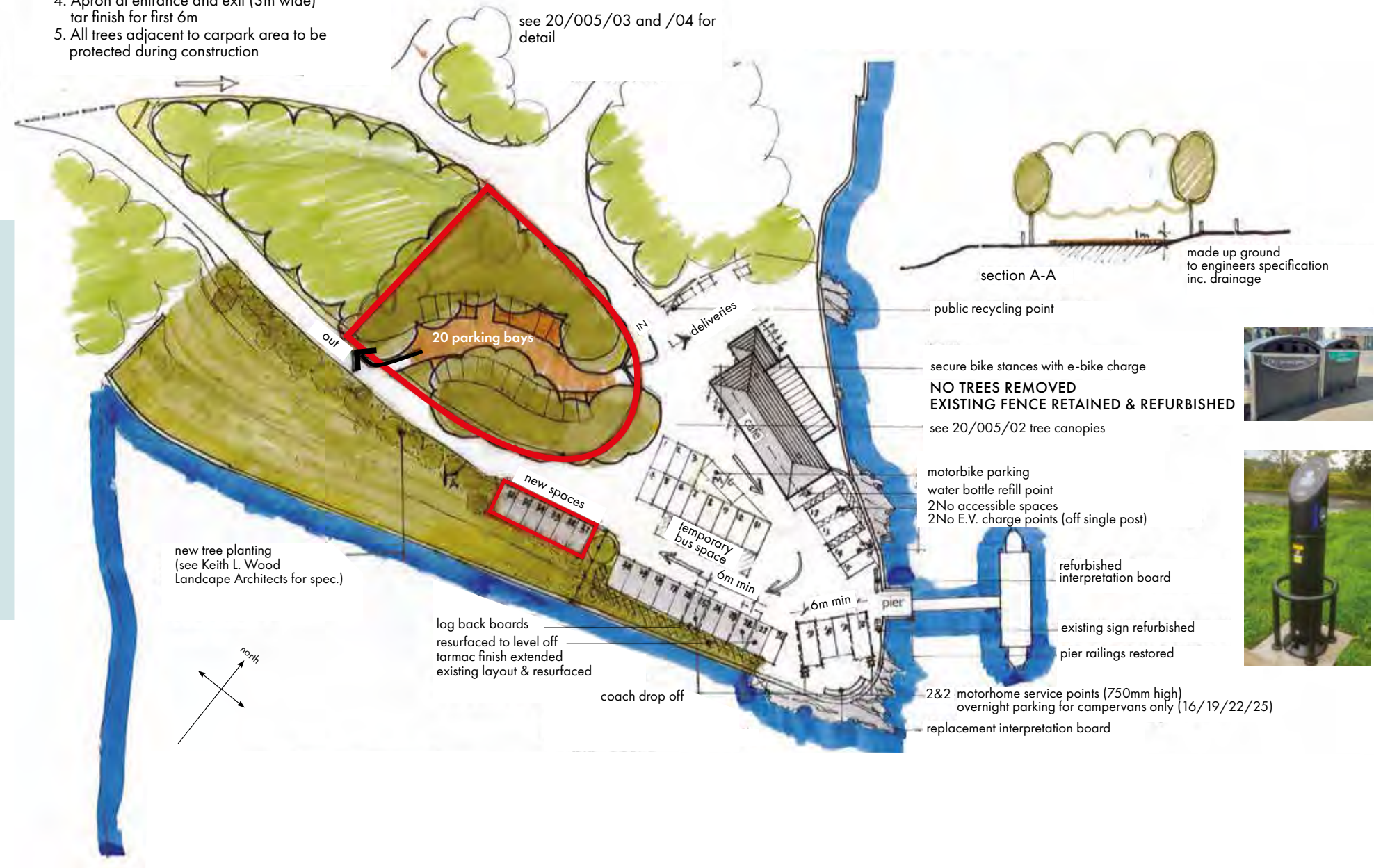


## Masterplan Layout for The Steamship Sir Walter Scott Stronachlachar Pier LOCH KATRINE

DRG 20/005/02 rev 'K'

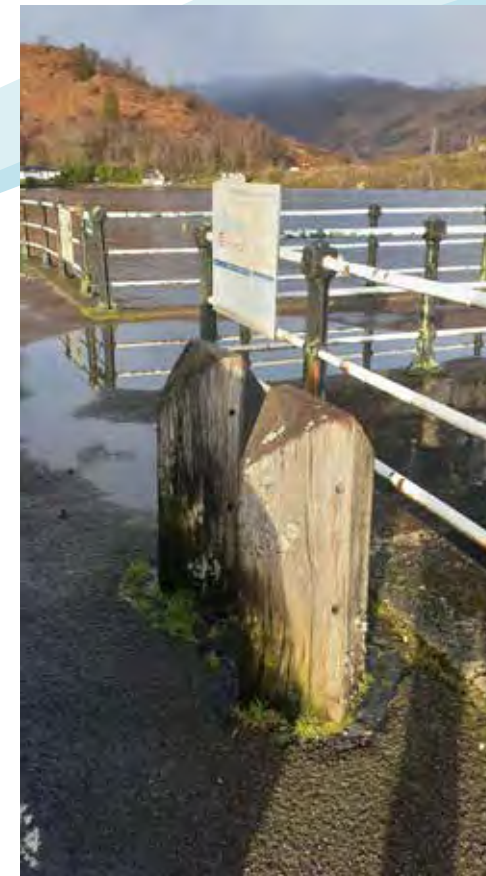
### Woodland parking area

1. Informal layout of 5 x 2.5m bays
2. Bays defined by log back boards
3. Parking area formed on crushed stone, compacted with permeable finish
4. Apron at entrance and exit (3m wide) tar finish for first 6m
5. All trees adjacent to carpark area to be protected during construction





# Stronachlachar Pier Proposals



Proposed site for new informal woodland car park and upgrading of existing car park.



# Trossachs Trail Signing and Orientation Point Improvements





# Trossachs Trail Signing and Orientation Point Improvements

Proposals include upgrading some of the existing Trail directional signing and installing new, or upgrading existing, information and orientation signs at strategic 'hub and spoke' locations. Info signs to highlight active travel opportunities (walking and cycling) in less pressurised areas along with some important visitor management messages.



Examples of existing info/orientation points in need of upgrading/replacing.



Examples of good quality info/orientation signs

