

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Future Nature 2030: *a draft* Route Map

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Presentation outline:

1. Disclaimer & Health Warning
2. The state of Nature in the Park – where are we now?
3. Why things need to change
4. Future Nature *Draft* Route Map – rationale, principles, approach
5. Next steps?
6. Questions & Discussion

1. Disclaimer & Health Warning

- **Disclaimer:**

- Future Nature is still in it's forming stage – road testing in progress...
- We don't have all the data or evidence we need at this time
- It needs scrutiny & realism, but it is deliberately ambitious

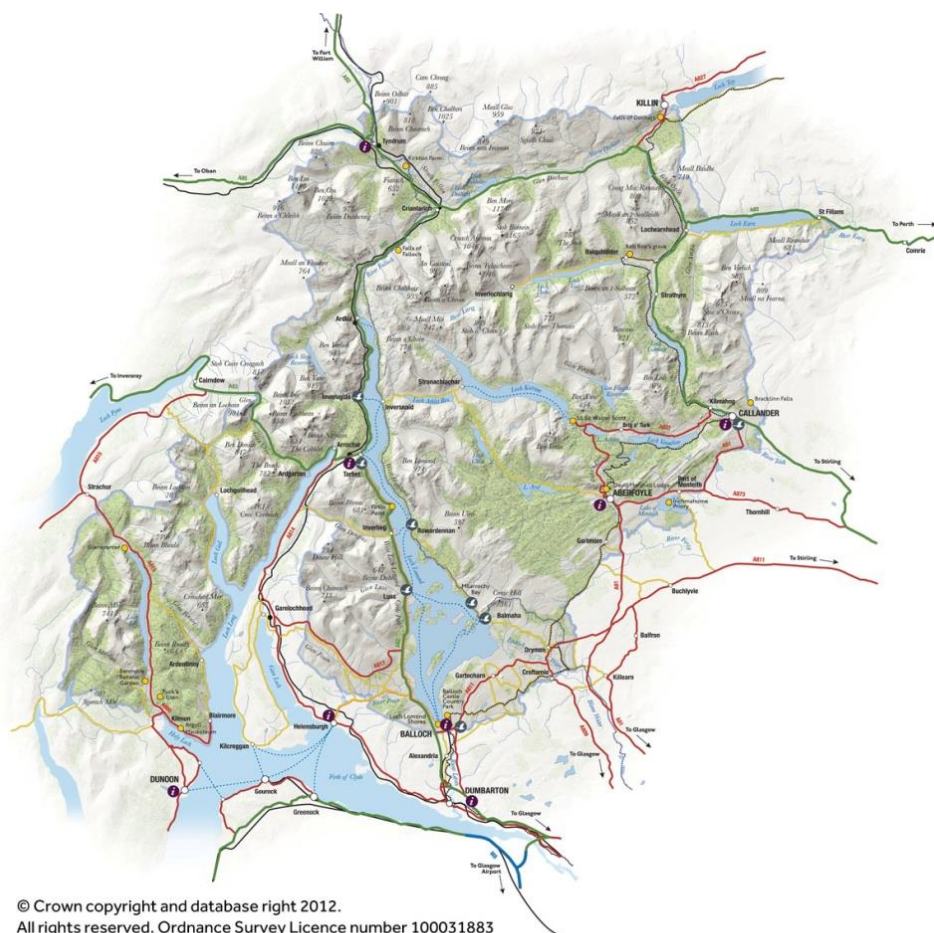
- **Health Warning:**

- Discussions will be open and honest but constructively critical

An aerial photograph of a vast, deep blue lake, likely Windermere in the Lake District, England. The lake is dotted with numerous small, forested islands. In the foreground, there are lush green fields divided by stone walls, with a few small buildings and a farmstead visible. The background features rolling green hills and mountains under a clear blue sky with light, wispy clouds. The text "2. The State of Nature in the National Park" is overlaid in white, bold font across the lower-middle part of the image.

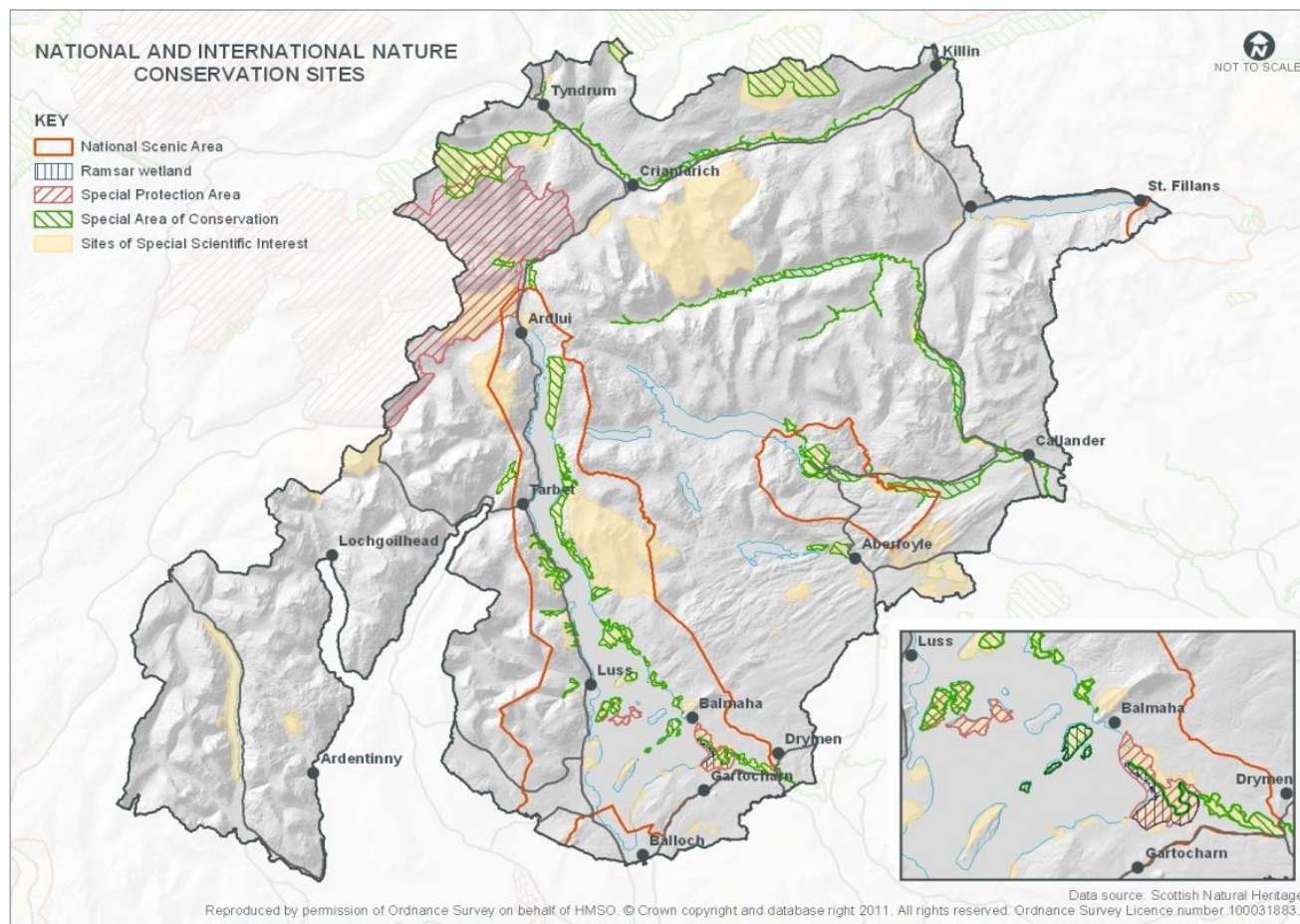
2. The State of Nature in the National Park

Land in the Park



- **Land Ownership:**
57% private
38% public
5% charities/NGO's
- **Land Use:**
66% agriculture
27% woodland & forestry
7% water
- 720 sq/m - 1,865 sq/km
- Trees = c.2M tonnes carbon,
Peatlands = c.20M tonnes
carbon (37% of land)

60+ Designated Sites



30+ National Priority habitats

300+ National Priority Species

Current condition:

Favourable - 77.7%
Recovering - 8.2%
Unfavourable - 14.1%

Target 90% by 2023

National Park Partnership Plan 2018-2023



What we want to achieve

Outcome 1: Natural Capital

The Park's natural resources are enhanced for future generations: important habitats are restored and better connected on a landscape scale.

Outcome 2: Landscape Qualities

The Park's special landscape qualities and sense of place are conserved and enhanced with more opportunities to enjoy and experience them.

Outcome 3: Climate Change

The natural environment of the Park is better managed to help mitigate and address the impacts of climate change.

Outcome 4: Land Partnerships

New landscape-scale partnerships deliver better integrated management of the land and water environment, providing multiple benefits for nature and people.

Conservation & Land Management

Indicators of success

How will we measure success by 2023?

Area of new woodland

 2000 hectares of woodland expansion by 2023

Area and condition of restored peatland

 2000 hectares of restored peatland by 2023

Percentage of designated sites in favourable condition

 Increase from 2017 baseline of 76% of designated site features to 80% by 2023

Percentage of water bodies achieving at least good ecological condition

 Increase from 2016 baseline of 44% to 59% by 2023

State of Nature evidence:

- **Despite our collective best efforts to date:**
 - Native woodlands are currently under-represented
 - Up to 10,000 ha of peatlands may currently be contributing towards climate warming
 - INNS are widespread
 - Approx. 20% of Designated Sites in Unfavourable condition
 - Approx. 50% of water bodies may not be in good ecological condition
- **Why is this?**

Why is Nature still in decline here?

- **Systemic Issues:**

- Land use & ownership pattern
- Support & regulation frameworks – agriculture, forestry, deer & INNS management
- Development & planning regulations that under values nature and natural capital

- **Cultural & Behavioural Issues:**

- Reticence to changing land use and management
- Lack of a coherent vision and coordinated action at a landscape-scale
- ‘Nature Illiteracy’ – lack of clear messages and calls to action



POOR CONDITION OF
LOCHS & RIVERS

Impacts on freshwater and marine water bodies from problems such as pollution from surrounding land uses.



UNSUSTAINABLE
GRAZING IMPACTS

Unsustainable levels of wild and domesticated grazing animals in some upland and woodland areas, leading to reduced tree cover and the erosion of soils, which are important carbon stores.



INVASIVE, NON-
NATIVE SPECIES

The spread of invasive non-native species which displace our rich native wildlife.



CLIMATE CHANGE
PRESSURES

The impacts of climate change leading to warmer, wetter weather patterns and a subsequent increase in flood events, major landslides and rapid shifts in natural ecosystems.

3. Why things need to change:

- Accepting that we are not seeing biodiversity thriving in the Park
- We are all tackling a global crises at a regional level
- The political and policy landscape is shifting fast
- Collectively we know what the (i) key threats to nature and (ii) underlying systemic constraints are that are holding us back from doing more
- We know that protecting nature is not enough – active restoration is required
- We don't have a clear picture of what success for nature looks like
- We need a step change in the scale and scope which we all work across (Evolution or Revolution?)

Observations so far?

4. Future Nature in the National Park

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

Future Nature in the Park

- The NPA signed the **Edinburgh Declaration** in December 2020
- Draft Route Map is ambitious both in terms of scale and scope
- Aims to create (i) a **clear narrative** of why we need to double our efforts for nature, (ii) a **new vision** for nature, (iii) what a future richer in nature **might look like**, and (iv) how we can work towards **making this a reality** for the benefit of biodiversity, climate and people.
- 'Bigger and Better' approach across several 'pathways' including;
 - (i) **Action for Nature: Practical Delivery** focused on nature restoration projects and programmes on the ground, with an emphasis on bigger, better connected scale.
 - (ii) **Nature Friendly Processes & Practises** focused on integrating and mainstreaming nature restoration thinking into planning, development and land use decision making.
 - (iii) **Raising Awareness and Inspiring Action for Nature** focused on engaging and educating key audiences around why nature is so important and how they can take personal and collective action to help nature.

Future Nature - Principles

- **Mainstream** nature restoration thinking in our organisations
- Work in **partnership**
- **Tackle** the key pressures to nature
- Focus on the National Park becoming the **most** nature-rich area in the region
- **Prioritise** the protection, expansion and restoration of Designated Sites
- Expand the use of **Nature Based Solutions**
- Promote better **integration** of land uses
- A **Just Transition** approach, where people and livelihoods are integral
- Be **evidence** led

Future Nature Outline Delivery Plan examples

- See Outline Delivery Plan (Section 10, p.13-16) of [draft Future Nature Route Map](#)
- **Re-building Nature:** woodland expansion, peatland restoration, natural flood management & river restoration, delivering more on public land
- Expand **ecological corridors** between ‘core areas’ (including Designated Sites)
- Financial and advisory **support** for land managers and communities to take practical action
- ‘Nature Friendly Place Making’ **embedded into planning & development**, develop and trial ‘Net Positive for Nature’ and planning gain approaches
- Using **new pilot** Regional Land Use Partnership and Regional Spatial Strategy as vehicles
- Expanding new **skills and ‘Jobs for Nature’** & embracing new **technologies**
- Expanded Nature & Climate **Education** programme – Junior Ranger and John Muir Award
- ‘Natural Legacy and Stewardship’ **campaign** for land managers

6. Future Nature – what next?

- **Road testing the thinking:** engaging with delivery partners and key stakeholders to refine the draft Route Map and discuss outputs, timescales, milestones, targets and levels of support.
- Working for partner, key stakeholder and land manager **buy-in**.
- Future Nature Route Map will be a significant element of the **next National Park Partnership Plan 2024-28**
- Central to thinking within the new Pilot **Regional Land Use Partnership** (& Framework) and next **Local Development Plan**
- **Informing** emerging Scottish Government policy: we have shared our emerging thinking with senior SG colleagues and Ministers, and it has been well received to date
- Hoping to take **finalised** Future Nature Route Map to NPA Board in March 2022

6. Questions & Discussion

