



# **Habitats Regulations Appraisal**

for the

## **Draft National Park Partnership Plan 2024- 2029**

**April 2023**

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## Section 1 - Introduction

- 1.1 This document represents the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Draft National Park Partnership Plan 2024 -2029.
- 1.2 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994 require that certain plans which are likely to have a significant effect on a European site must be subject to an 'Appropriate Assessment' by the plan-making authority. The process for determining whether an appropriate assessment is required, together with the appropriate assessment itself – is known as the Habitats Regulations Appraisal.
- 1.3 European sites are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the EC Birds Directive to protect wild birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the EC Habitats Directive to protect particular habitats and non-bird species.
- 1.4 Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive requires that any plan (or project) which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an "Appropriate Assessment" of its implications for the European Site in view of the site's conservation objectives. However having considered mitigation measures, if the likelihood of having a significant effect on a European Site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information, then those plans or policies can be screened out. This procedure is applied in Scotland through The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), and is known as the "Habitats Regulations Appraisal" of plans.
- 1.5 Habitats Regulations Appraisal is mandatory and where an appropriate assessment is required, plan-making bodies may not usually adopt the plan, unless the assessment concludes that the plan would not adversely affect the integrity of the site. SNH must be consulted as part of any appropriate assessment.
- 1.6 NatureScot guidance 'Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans, Guidance for Plan-making Bodies in Scotland', provides detailed guidance on the separate stages of carrying out an appraisal, and the considerations that will need to be taken into account. NatureScot will be formally consulted during the consultation process to ensure that they agree with the conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal.

## Section 2 – National Park Partnership Plan - Context

- 3.1 The Draft National Park Partnership Plan is a management plan that sets out how the National Park four statutory aims are to be achieved through the actions of all public sector bodies in Scotland, including the National Park Authority. This Draft National Park Partnership Plan proposes, for public consultation, how the National Park Authority and a wide range of other organisations and interests, can work together over a 5-year period up to 2029, to look after, manage, enhance and restore Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.
- 3.2 It sets out proposed outcomes and suggests objectives and actions/options to deliver different topics. The Plan will supersede the Approved National Park Partnership Plan 2018-2023. The draft plan will be subject to public consultation and the HRA will be updated to take account of any changes resulting from the public consultation. The amended National Park Partnership Plan will be submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval.

### National Park Aims

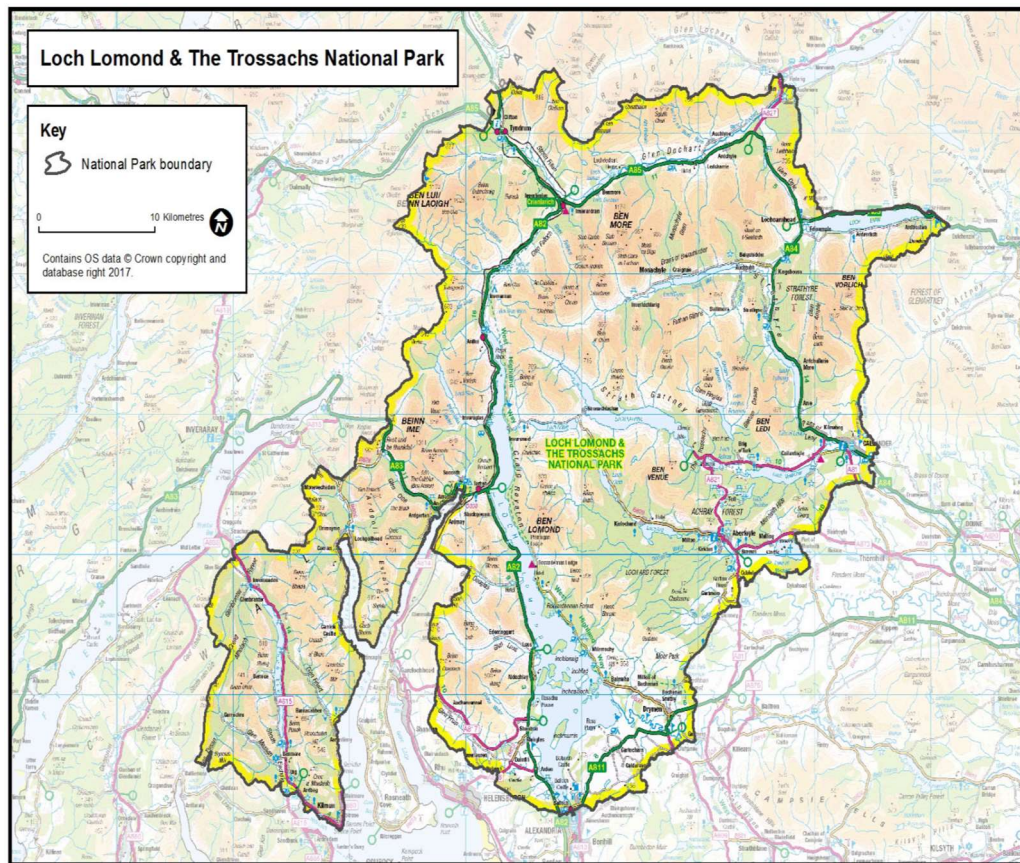
- 3.3 Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park was designated in 2002 as Scotland's first National Park under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 sets out the four statutory aims for National Parks in Scotland and all planning decisions must be consistent with these:
- to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area
  - to promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area
  - to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public, and
  - to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.
- 3.4 The four aims are to be pursued collectively. However, if a conflict arises between the first aim, (the conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage), and any of the other aims, greater weight must be given to the first aim (Section 9(6) of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000). This is referred to as the Sandford Principle.

### Details of the National Park Partnership Plan

<b>Name of Responsible Authority:</b>	Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority
<b>Title of Plan:</b>	Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan 2024- 2029
<b>Requirement for the Plan:</b>	Section 11 of the National Park (Scotland) Act 2000 requires that the National Park Authority prepares a National Park Plan. Once approved, this will replace the current National Park Plan which covers the period 2018-2023.
<b>Subject of the Plan:</b>	Conservation (natural and cultural heritage), Visitor Experience & Management and Sustainable Rural Development

<b>Period covered by the Plan:</b>	2024 - 2029
<b>Frequency of Updates:</b>	At least every five years.
<b>Geographic Area covered by the Plan:</b>	Area designated as The Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. See Map 1
<b>Purpose and/or objectives of the Plan</b>	Management Plan which will set out how the National Park is to be managed in order to achieve its four statutory aims. The Plan coordinates the work of the National Park Authority and other public bodies and office holders so far as affecting the National Park.

**Map 1 Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park**



## **Main Objectives of the National Park Partnership Plan**

### ***Purpose***

- 3.5 The Draft Plan sets out how the National Park is to be managed in order to achieve its statutory aims as specified in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, which are to:-
- a) Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area,
  - b) Promote the sustainable use of the natural resources of the area,
  - c) Promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public, and
  - d) Promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

These aims are to be collectively achieved, unless there is a conflict between the first aim and any of the other aims in which case the first aim must be given greater weight.

- 3.6 The Draft Plan provides the strategic context for coordinating the authority's functions and activities, and importantly also those of other partner bodies operating in the National Park. Its main purpose is to:-
- Set out the vision and overarching strategy for managing the National Park
  - Guide the work of all public bodies and other partners to deliver the aims of the National Park
  - Set out the Regional Spatial Strategy for the National Park including the need for and locations for strategic development and investment
  - Provide the strategic context for the Local Development Plan
  - Show how the National Park will contribute to the Scottish Government's core purpose and national outcomes.

### ***Objectives***

- 3.7 The Draft Plan will be structured around the three key themes of Restoring Nature, A sustainable low carbon destination and Greener living and economy. The new Plan's covers the following topics under each theme each with supporting objectives and actions. In addition some of these topics are supported by a policy position statement.

Restoring Nature –

- For climate
- For Healthy Ecosystems
- Shaping a new land economy

Creating A sustainable low carbon destination –

- Connecting everyone with nature
- Improving popular places and routes
- Low carbon travel for everyone

Enabling a Greener Economy and Sustainable Living –

- Transitioning to a greener rural economy
- Living well locally
- Harnessing Development and infrastructure Investment

## Section 3 - Habitats Regulations Appraisal Methodology

### European Sites considered

- 4.1 The Draft National Park Partnership Plan covers the geographical extent of the National Park. However given the proximity of a number of European sites outside the National Park it was decided that those potentially affected should be included in the initial consideration. A list of the European sites that should be considered in the appraisal was identified (Table 2). The sites are based on those most up to date designations. GIS maps were used to determine the location of sites outside the boundary of the Park and their potential to be affected by development within it. Relevant factors were considered such as the type and scale of management proposed and proximity to the National Park boundary.
- 4.2 There is a Ramsar site within the plan area that overlaps with the Loch Lomond SPA and the Loch Lomond Woods SAC. In accordance with the SNH Guidance (Section 1.12, page 5), all Ramsar interests are safeguarded by assessing the effects on the overlapping SPA and SAC sites.

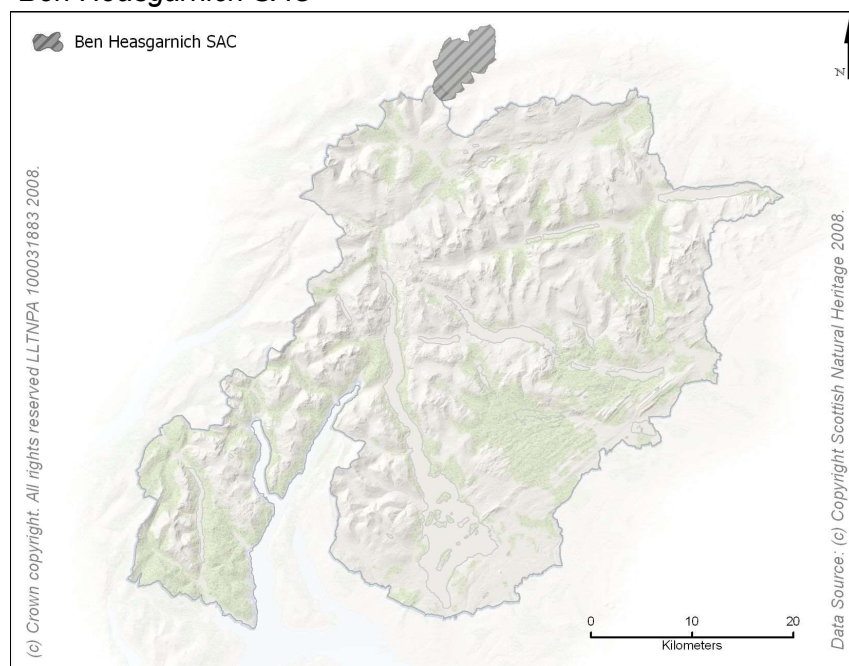
*Table 2: European Sites selected as being potentially affected and reasons for their selection*

<b>European Site</b>	<b>Reason for selection</b>
Ben Heasgarnich SAC	Inside and outside plan area
Loch Lomond Woods SAC	Inside plan area
Endrick Water SAC	Inside and outside plan area
Trossachs Woods SAC	Inside plan area
Ben Lui SAC	Inside plan area
Meall na Samnha SAC	Inside plan area and outside plan area
River Tay SAC	Inside and outside plan area
River Teith SAC	Inside and outside plan area
Loch Lomond SPA	Inside plan area
Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA	Inside and outside plan area
Flanders Mosses SAC	Peatland with hydrological link to land within plan area
Ben Lawers SAC	Outside plan area but near to the boundary at Killin
Inner Clyde SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area
Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area
Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SAC	Estuary downstream of plan area
Firth of Forth SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area
Forth Islands SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area



## Information on European Sites

### Ben Heasgarnich SAC



Name of European Site: Ben Heasgarnich

Site Type: Special Area of Conservation

Qualifying Interests:

- Base-rich fens (Alkaline fens)
- Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands
- High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage\* (Alpine pioneer formations of the *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae*\*)
- Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks (Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)
- Tall herb communities (Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains) and of the montane to alpine levels
- Montane acid grasslands (Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands)
- Plants in crevices on acid rocks (Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)
- Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas (Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)\*)
- Mountain willow scrub (Sub-Arctic *Salix* spp. Scrub)

Conservation Objectives:

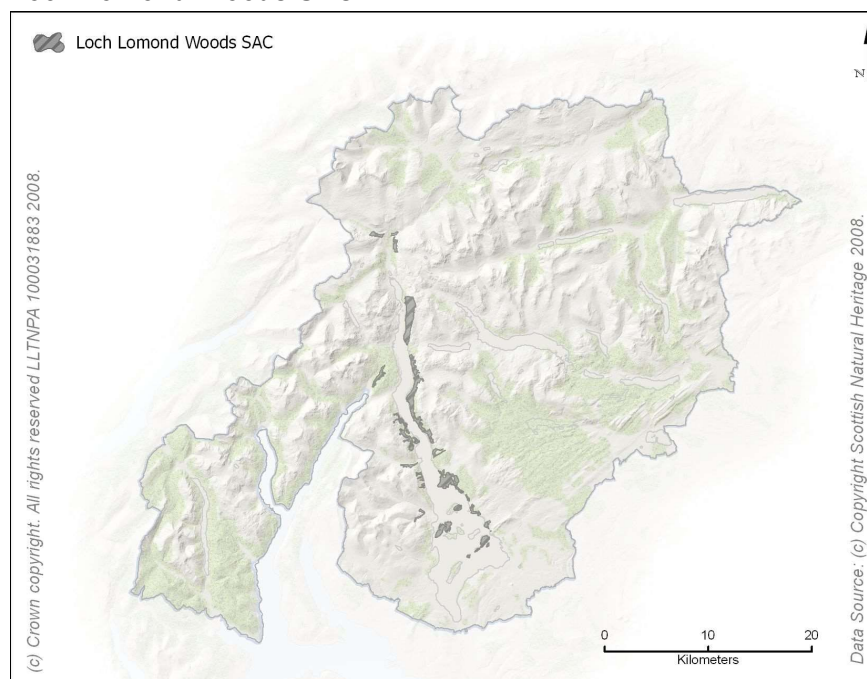
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying **habitats** (listed above) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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

\* Indicates priority habitat

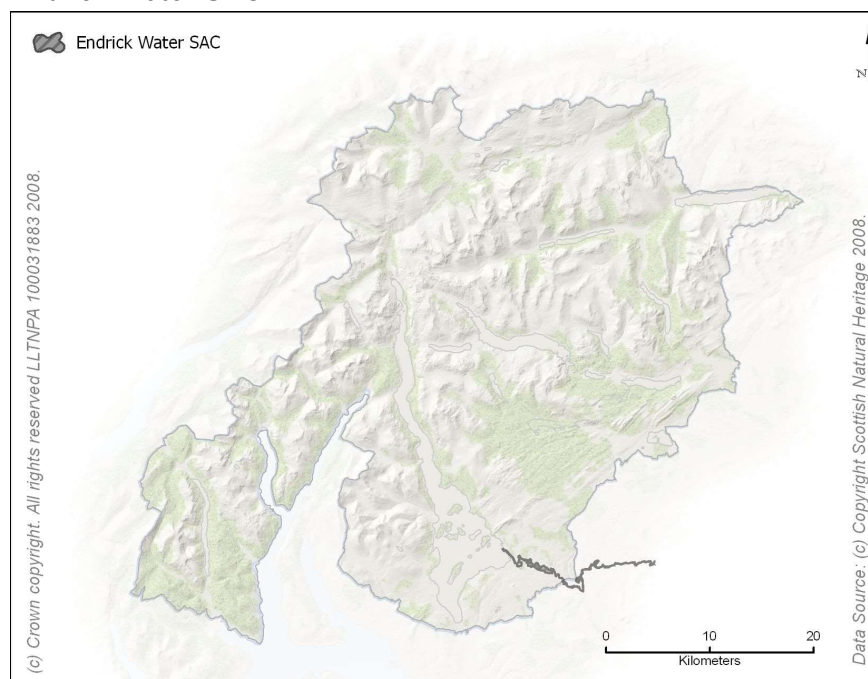
## Loch Lomond Woods SAC



Name of European Site: Loch Lomond Woods
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles)</li> <li>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives: <p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying <b>habitat</b> (listed above) 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</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent of the habitat on site</li> <li>Distribution of the habitat within site</li> <li>Structure and function of the habitat</li> <li>Processes supporting the habitat</li> <li>Distribution of typical species of the habitat</li> <li>Viability of typical species as components of the habitat</li> <li>No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</li> </ul>
<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying <b>species</b> (listed above) 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</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population of the species as a viable component of the site</li> <li>Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>No significant disturbance of the species</li> </ul>

*The site overlaps with Loch Lomond Special Protection Area*

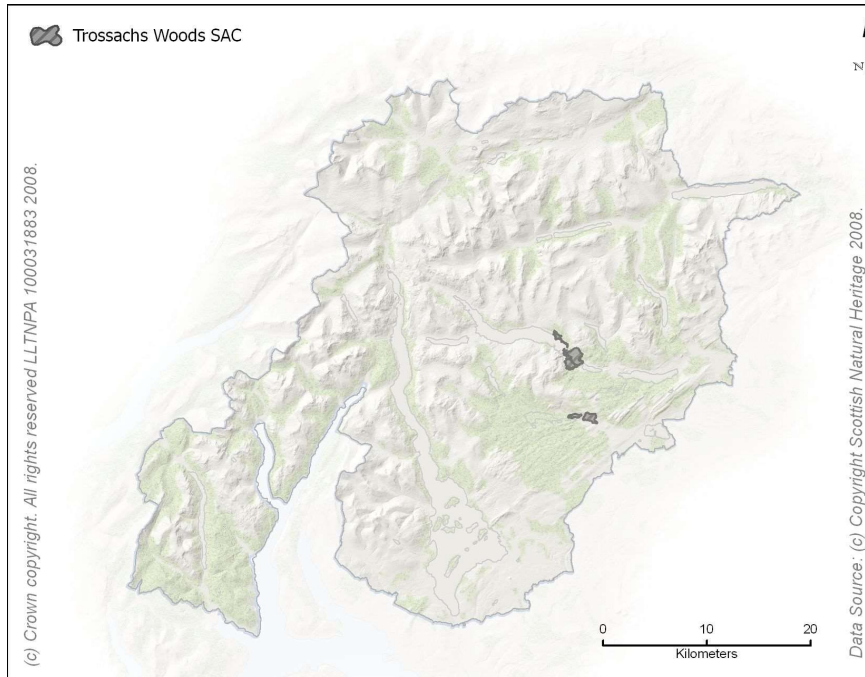
## Endrick Water SAC



Name of European Site: Endrick Water
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)</li> <li>• Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)</li> <li>• Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives:
<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) 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</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species</li> </ul>

*The site overlaps with Loch Lomond Special Protection Area*

## Trossachs Woods SAC



Name of European Site: Trossachs Woods

Site Type: Special Area of Conservation

Qualifying Interest(s):

- Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles)

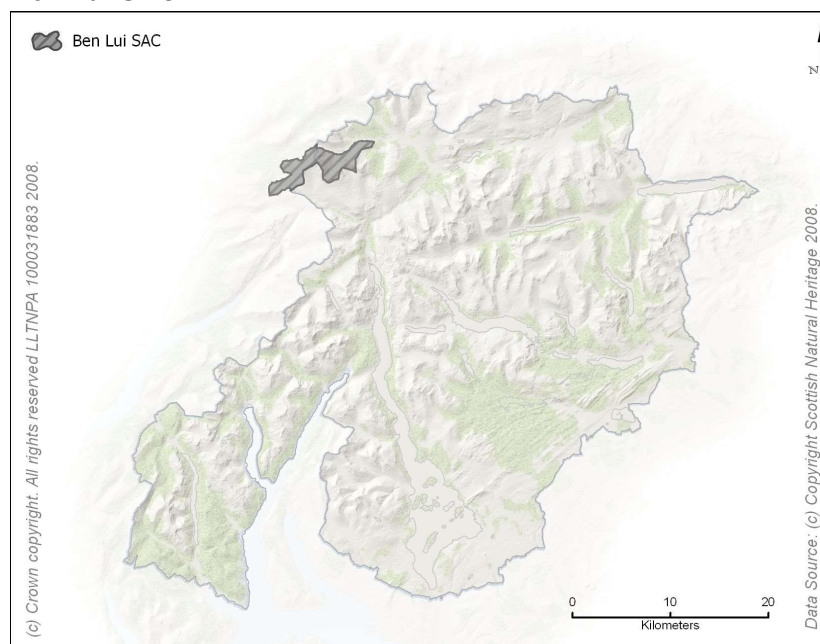
Conservation Objectives:

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed above) 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

## Ben Lui SAC



Name of European Site: Ben Lui

Site Type: Special Area of Conservation

Qualifying Interest(s):

- Base-rich fens (Alkaline fens)
- Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands
- High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage\* (Alpine pioneer formations of the *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae*\*)
- Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks (Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)
- Tall herb communities (Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels)
- Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath (Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*)
- Montane acid grasslands (Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands)
- Plants in crevices on acid rocks (Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)
- Acidic scree (Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*))
- Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas (Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)\*)
- Mountain willow scrub (Sub-Arctic *Salix* spp. Scrub)

Conservation Objectives:

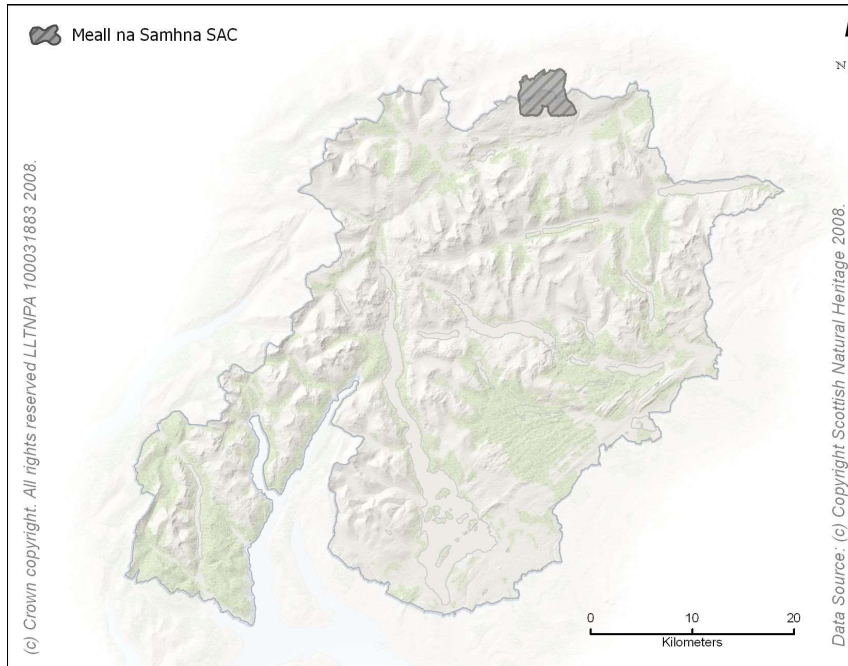
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed above) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and to ensure for the qualifying habitats that the 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



\* Indicates priority habitat

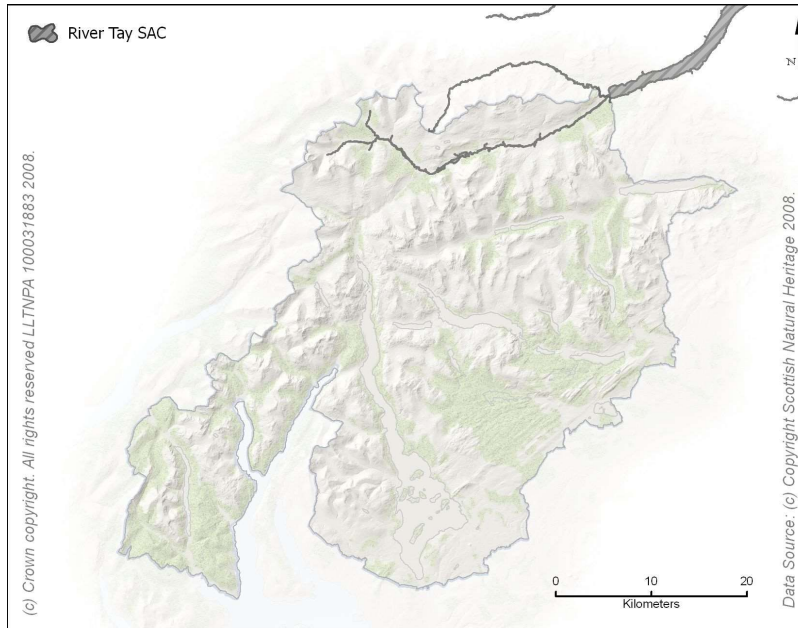
## Meall na Samhna SAC



Name of European Site: Meall na Samhna
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): <b>Habitats:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands</li> <li>• Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks (Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)</li> <li>• Tall herb communities (Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels)</li> <li>• Montane acid grasslands (Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands)</li> <li>• Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas (Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas and submountain areas in continental Europe**)</li> <li>• Mountain willow scrub (Sub-Arctic <i>Salix</i> spp. Scrub)</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives: To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed above) 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 habitats that the following are maintained in the long term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of the habitat on site</li> <li>• Distribution of the habitat within site</li> <li>• Structure and function of the habitat</li> <li>• Processes supporting the habitat</li> <li>• Distribution of typical species of the habitat</li> <li>• Viability of typical species as components of the habitat</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</li> </ul>

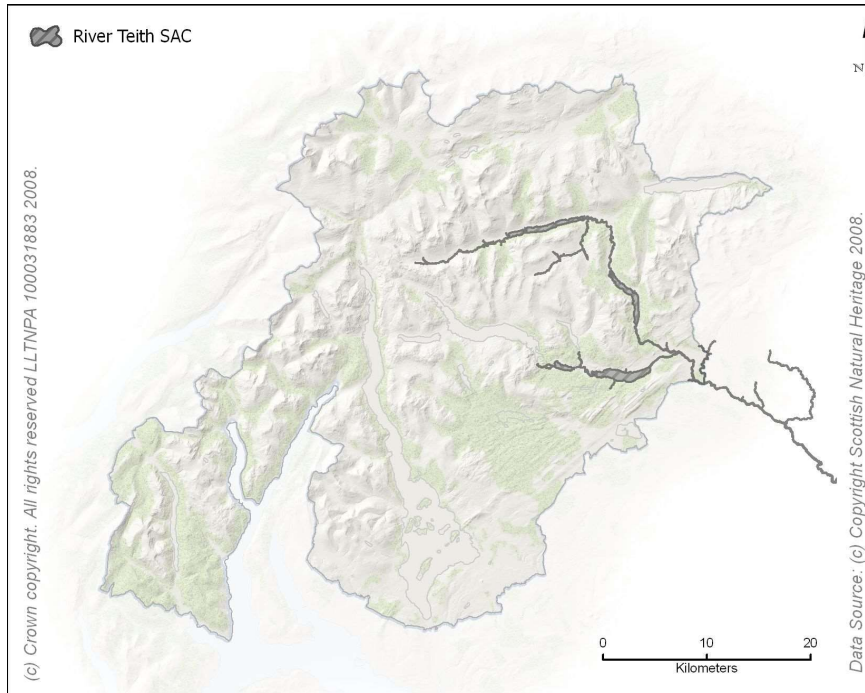
\* Indicates priority habitat

## River Tay SAC



Name of European Site: River Tay
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
<p>Qualifying Interest(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)</li> <li>• Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)</li> <li>• Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)</li> <li>• Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</li> <li>• Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels (Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>)</li> </ul>
<p>Conservation Objectives:</p> <p>Habitat - To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed above) 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of the habitat on site</li> <li>• Distribution of the habitat within site</li> <li>• Structure and function of the habitat</li> <li>• Processes supporting the habitat</li> <li>• Distribution of typical species of the habitat</li> <li>• Viability of typical species as components of the habitat</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</li> </ul>
<p>Species - To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species</li> </ul>

## River Teith SAC



Name of European Site: River Teith

Site Type: Special Area of Conservation

Qualifying Interest(s):

- River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)
- Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)
- Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)
- Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)

Conservation Objectives:

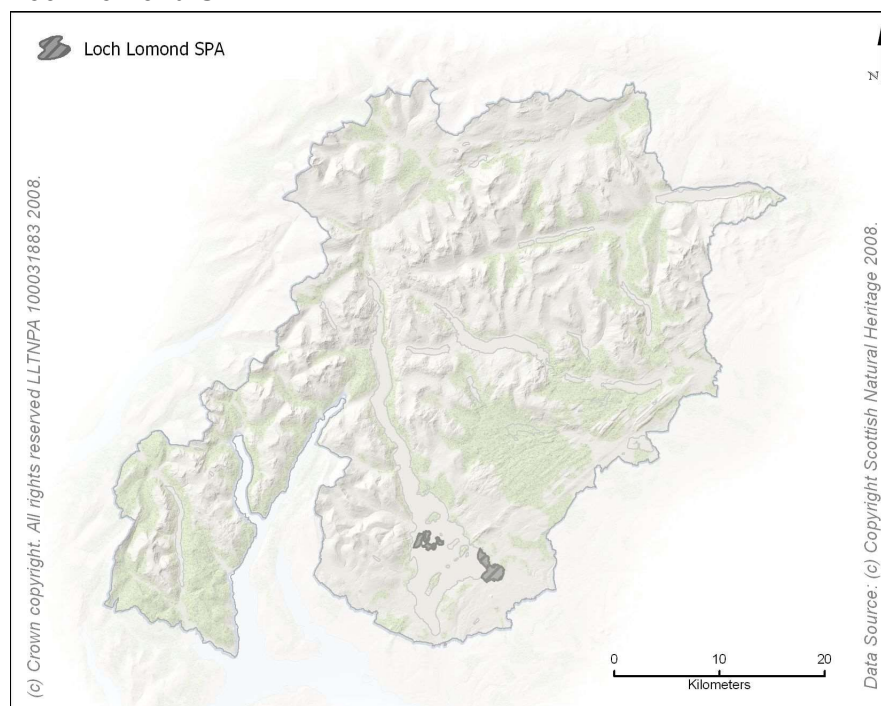
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, 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



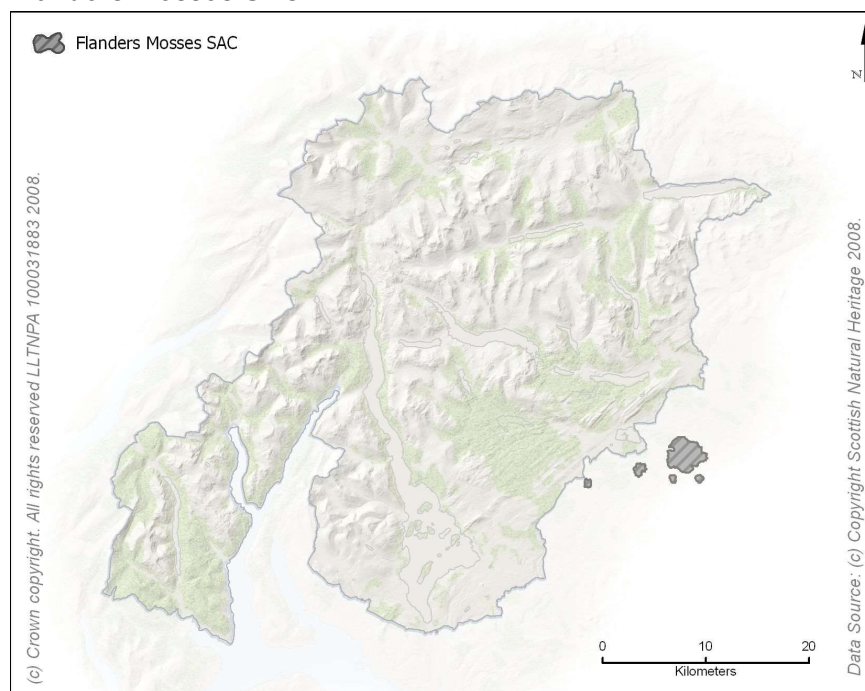
## Loch Lomond SPA



Name of European Site: Loch Lomond
Site Type: Special Protection Area
Qualifying Interest(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>)</li> <li>• Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives:
<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species as a viable component of the site</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species</li> </ul>

*This site overlaps with Endrick Water Special Area of Conservation and Loch Lomond Woods Special Area of Conservation.*

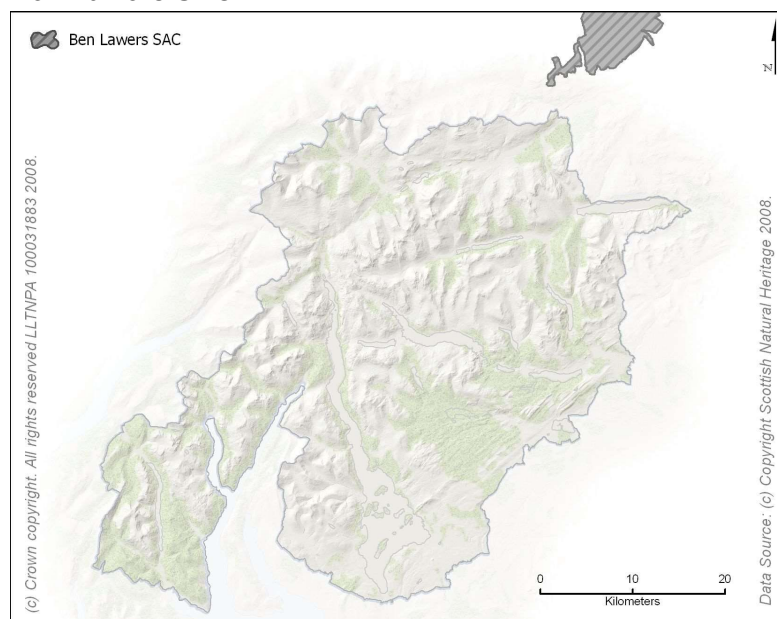
## Flanders Mosses SAC



Name of European Site: Flanders Mosses
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active raised bogs</li> <li>• Degraded raised bog (Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration)</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives: <p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) 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</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of the habitat on site</li> <li>• Distribution of the habitat within site</li> <li>• Structure and function of the habitat</li> <li>• Processes supporting the habitat</li> <li>• Distribution of typical species of the habitat</li> <li>• Viability of typical species as components of the habitat</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</li> </ul>
Qualifying Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active raised bogs*</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs</li> </ul>

\* Indicates priority habitat

## Ben Lawers SAC



Name of European Site: Ben Lawers

Site Type: Special Area of Conservation

Qualifying Interest(s):

- Base-rich fens (Alkaline fens)
- Alpine and subalpine heaths (Alpine and Boreal heaths)
- Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands
- High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage\*(Alpine pioneer formations of the *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae*\*)
- Blanket bog \*
- Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks (Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic plants)
- European Dry heaths
- Tall herb communities (Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels)
- Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels (Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*)
- Montane acid grasslands (Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands)
- Plants in crevices on acid rocks (Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)
- Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas\* (Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)\*)
- Mountain willow scrub (Sub-Arctic *Salix* spp. Scrub)

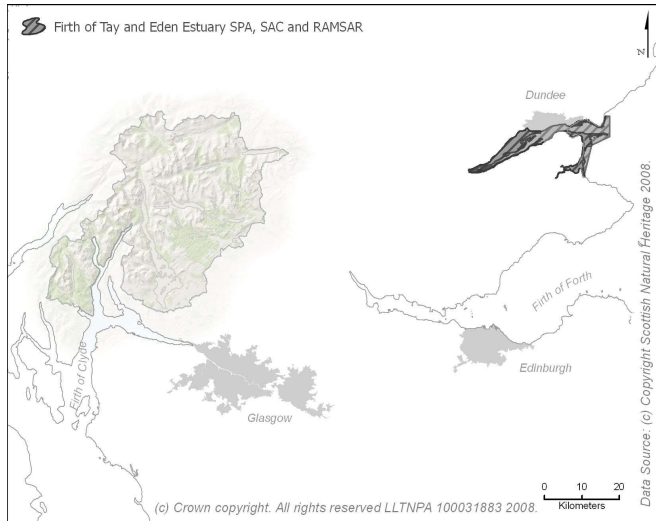
Conservation Objectives:

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed above) 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 habitats 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

\*Indicates priority habitat

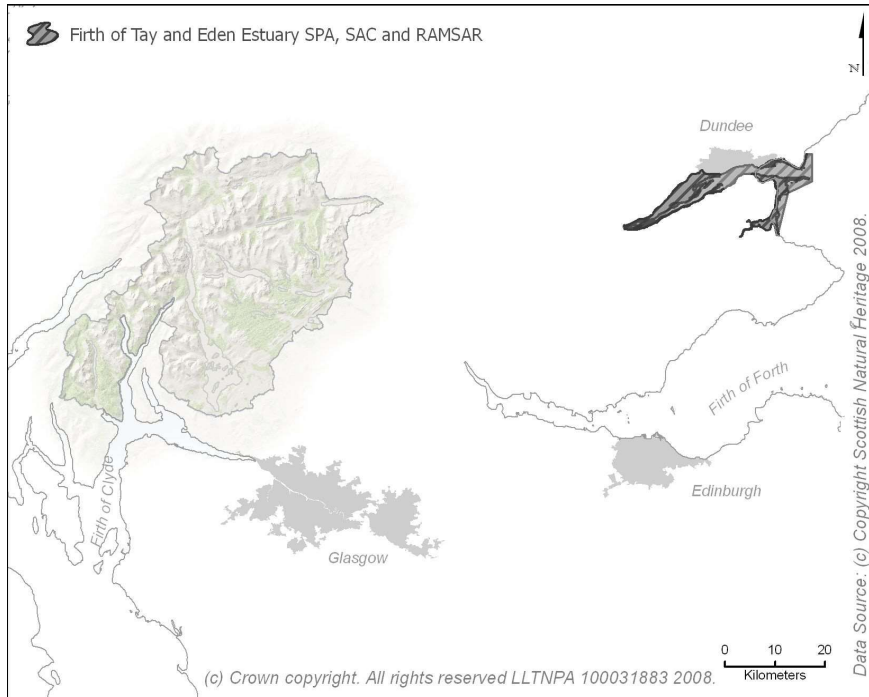
### Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA



<b>Name of European Site: Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary</b>
<b>Site Type: Special Protection Area</b>
<p><b>Site description:</b></p> <p><b>Qualifying interest(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) (internationally important wintering population)</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) (internationally important wintering population)</li> <li>• Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) (Nationally important breeding populations)</li> <li>• Marsh harrier (<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>) (Nationally important breeding populations)</li> </ul> <p><b>Supporting in winter over 20,000 waterfowl including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>)*</li> <li>• Common scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>)*</li> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)*</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>)*</li> <li>• Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)*</li> <li>• Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)*</li> <li>• Goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)*</li> <li>• Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)*</li> <li>• Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)</li> <li>• Long-tailed duck (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>)*</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)*</li> <li>• Pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)</li> <li>• Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)*</li> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)*</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)</li> <li>• Velvet scoter (<i>Melanitta fusca</i>)*</li> <li>• Waterfowl Assemblage</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation Objectives:</b>
<p><b>Habitats -</b> To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and to ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species as a viable component of the site</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species</li> </ul>

\*Indicates assemblage qualifier only

### Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC

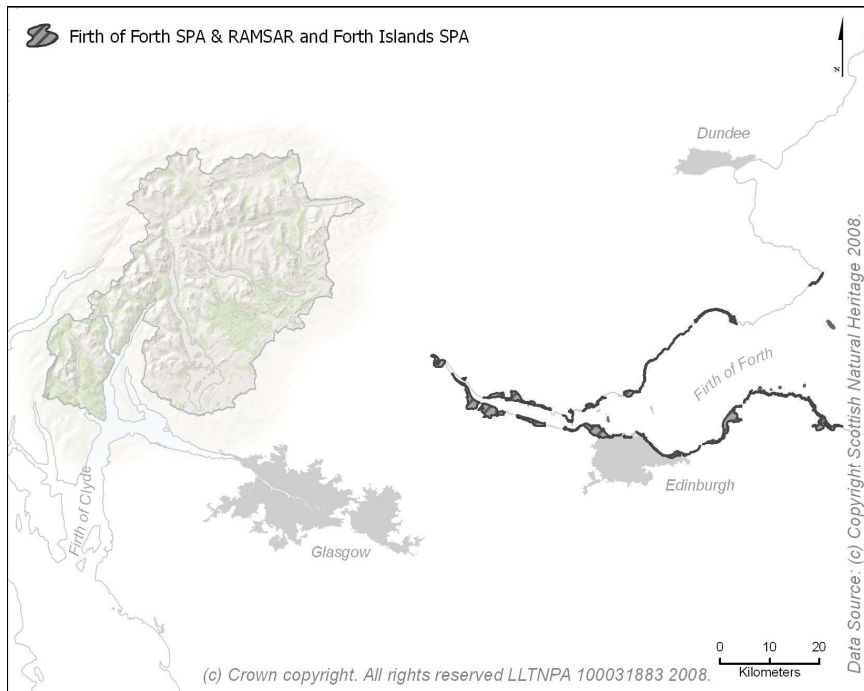


Name of European Site: Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): Habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</li> </ul> Species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives: Habitats - To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed above) 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 habitats that the following are maintained in the long term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of the habitat on site</li> <li>• Distribution of the habitat within site</li> <li>• Structure and function of the habitat</li> <li>• Processes supporting the habitat</li> <li>• Distribution of typical species of the habitat</li> <li>• Viability of typical species as components of the habitat</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</li> </ul> Species - To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species as a viable component of the site</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</li> </ul>

- No significant disturbance of the species

The site overlaps with Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary Special Protection Area.

### Firth of Forth SPA



Name of European Site: Firth of Forth (SPA)

Site Type: Special Protection Area

Site description:

Qualifying interest(s):

- Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) (European Importance)
- Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) (European Importance)
- Red-throated diver (*Gavia stellar*) (European Importance)
- Slavonian grebe (*Podiceps au*) (European Importance)
- Knot (*Calidris canutus*) (Wintering populations)
- Pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (Wintering populations)
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) (Wintering populations)
- Shelduck (*Tadorna tador*) (Wintering populations)
- Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) (Wintering populations)
- Sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) (Post-breeding (passage) population)

Wintering waterfowl assemblage including 15 migratory species:

- Common scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)\*
- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)\*
- Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)\*
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*)\*
- Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)\*
- Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)\*
- Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)\*
- Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)\*
- Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)\*
- Long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)\*
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)\*
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus o*)
- Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*)\*
- Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)\*



- Scaup (*Aythya marila*) \*
- Velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)\*
- Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)\*

Conservation Objectives:

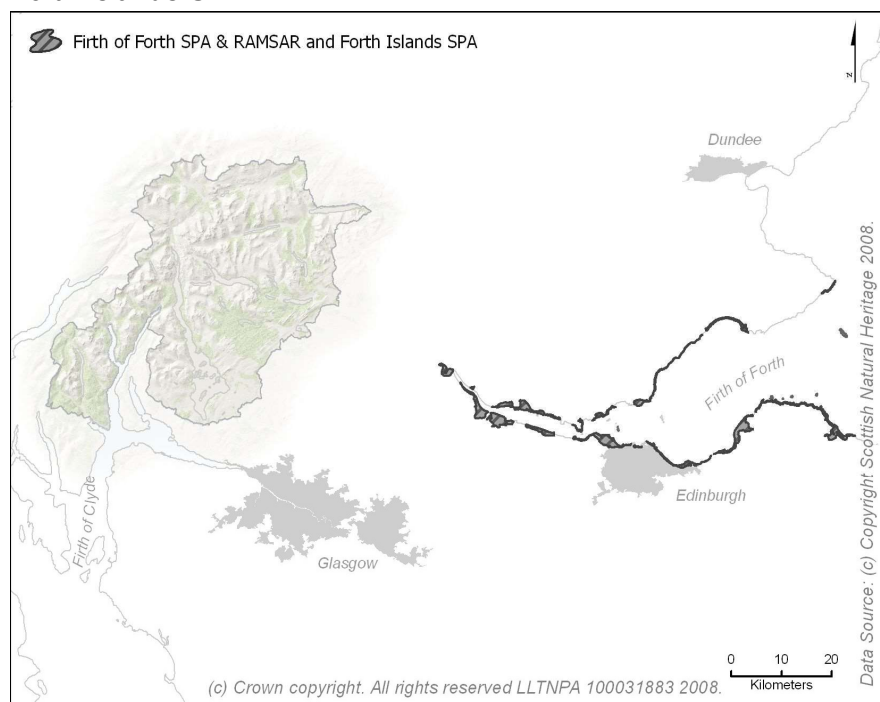
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

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

*\*indicates assemblage qualifier only*

## Forth Islands SPA



Name of European Site: Forth Islands (SPA)

Site Type: Special Protection Areas

### Site Description:

Forth Islands SPA consists of a series of islands supporting the main seabird colonies in the Firth of Forth. The seaward extension extends approximately 2 km into the marine environment to include the seabed, water column and surface.

### Qualifying Interest(s)

- Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)
- Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*)
- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)\*
- Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)
- Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)\*
- Herring gull (*Larus argentatus*)\*
- Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)\*
- Lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*)
- Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)
- Razorbill (*Alca torda*)\* (nationally important populations)
- Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*)
- Sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)
- Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)
- Seabird assemblage

### Conservation Objectives:

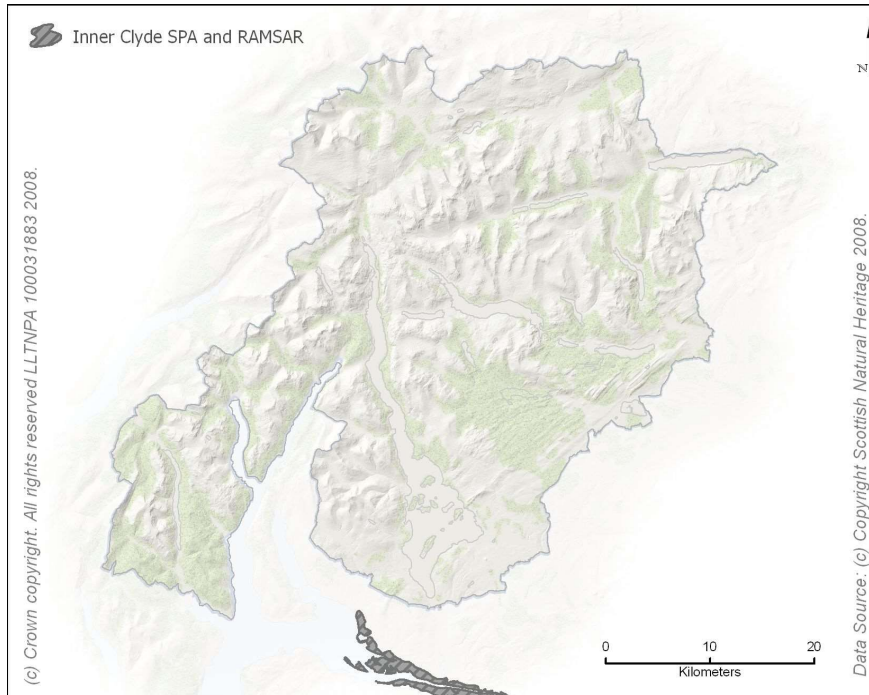
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- 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

\* indicates assemblage qualifier only The site overlaps with Isle of May Special Area of Conservation.



## Inner Clyde SPA



Name of European Site: Inner Clyde

Site Type: Special Protection Area

Site Description:

The Inner Clyde SPA contains extensive intertidal flats which support large numbers of wintering waterfowl.

Qualifying Interest:

- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) (wintering population)

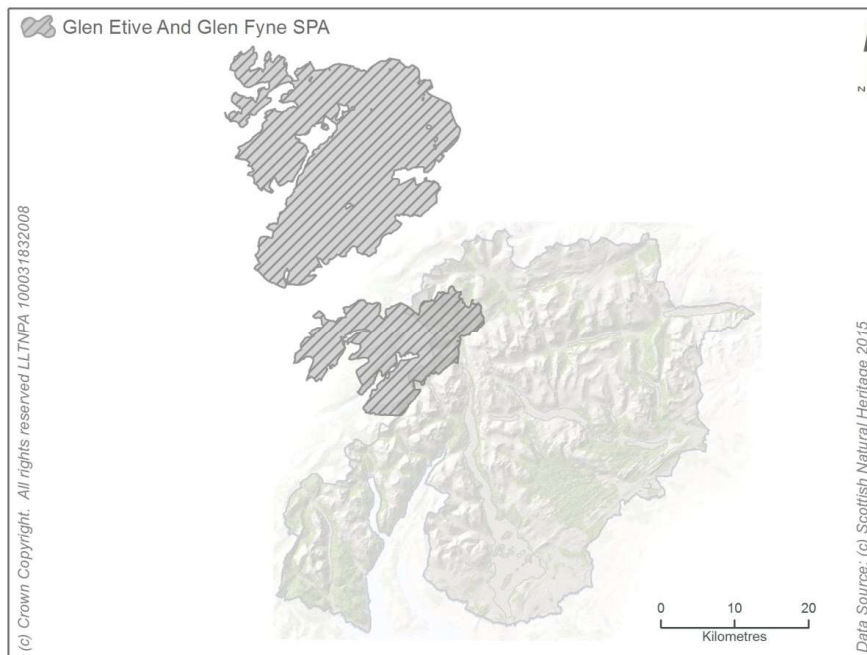
Conservation Objectives:

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; 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

## Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA



<b>Name of European Site:</b> Glen Etive and Glen Fyne
<b>Site Type:</b> Special Protection Area
<p><b>Site Description:</b>            Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protection Area (SPA) is a large, predominantly upland site that rises from sea level to over 1100 m and encompasses a diverse range of habitats including heather moorland, rough grassland, blanket bog, native woodland, montane heaths and exposed rock and scree. There are also numerous freshwater lochs and river systems.</p> <p><b>Qualifying Interest:</b>            Supports a population golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>.</p>
<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b></p> <p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species as a viable component of the site</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats</li> <li>• supporting the species</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species</li> </ul>

*This site overlaps with the following Special Areas of Conservation (SAC): Ben Lui, Glen Coe, Glen Creran Woods, Loch Etive Woods, Loch Lomond Woods, Rannoch Moor, River Tay and Glen Shira & also overlaps with Rannoch Lochs Special Protection Area (SPA).*

## European sites scoped out

- 4.4 Two European sites were scoped out as “No Likely Significant Effect” in relation to all aspects of the Local Development Plan. These were Flanders Mosses SAC and the Forth Islands SPA. Flanders Moss SAC, although hydrologically connected to the National Park, is upstream, by virtue of being ombrotrophic and therefore not subject to any possible influences from water quality. Any possible effects from air quality, e.g. from Class 5 industrial developments, quarries or biomass energy generation, were considered to be de minimis. Forth Islands SPA was considered to be too far downstream and too maritime in its influences to experience any effects from any of the proposals.
- 4.5 For four others, the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA and SAC, the Firth of Forth SPA, and the Inner Clyde SPA the only likely significant effect identified for the plan was the potential for downstream effects on water quality. The subsequent screening for the Local Development plan showed that there was sufficient mitigation in place for the application process to ensure that there would be no adverse effects on these European sites so these have not been screened into the Draft National Park Partnership Plan HRA.
- 4.6 Having reached these conclusions that there is no likelihood that any of the policies or proposals could have a likely significant effect on those six European sites it is proposed that these European sites are not included in the HRA with reasons set out below for each site.

*Table 2: European Sites Scoped Out of the Appraisal*

<b>European Site</b>	<b>Reason for Scoping Out <sup>(1)</sup></b>
<b>Flanders Mosses SAC</b>	Adjacent to plan area but ombrotrophic (rain-fed) peatland so no possibility of downstream effects. The boggy terrain deters many recreation or tourism activities in the site, except in selected locations with sensitively constructed infrastructure, and these are subject to appropriate conservation management.
<b>Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA</b>	Estuary too far downstream of plan area to be affected by any changes in water quality under the National Park Partnership Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale development and management actions. Additionally the River Tay is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality are therefore assessed as part of this HRA.
<b>Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC</b>	Estuary too far downstream of plan area to be affected by any changes in water quality under the National Park Partnership Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale development and management actions. Additionally the River Tay is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality are therefore assessed as part of this HRA.
<b>Firth of Forth SPA</b>	Estuary too far downstream of plan area to be affected by any changes in water quality under the National Park Partnership Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale development and management actions. Additionally, the River Teith is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality are therefore assessed as part of this HRA.

<b>Forth Islands SPA</b>	Islands too far downstream of plan area, and with too strong a maritime influence to be affected by any changes in water quality under the National Park Partnership Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale development and management actions. Additionally, the River Teith is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality are therefore assessed as part of this HRA.
<b>Inner Clyde SPA</b>	Estuary too far downstream of plan area to be affected by any changes in water quality under the National Park Partnership Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by disturbance from any small-scale development and management actions in the National Park.

## Section 4 - Screening the National Park Partnership Plan

5.1 Having gathered information on the European sites potentially affected by the Draft National Park Partnership Plan as set out in Table 3 the National Park Partnership Plan has followed the screening process as set out in the NatureScot guidance as follows:

*Table 3: NatureScot Guidance - Screening Steps*

<b>Step 1</b>	Screening out general policy statements
<b>Step 2</b>	Screening out projects referred to in, but not proposed by the Draft Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- These could be projects that are to be delivered as part of national infrastructure and promoted by national government and where the plan will play no part in its delivery or are subject to consent directly from Scottish Ministers.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 3</b>	Screening out aspects of the Draft Plan that could have no likely significant effect on a site alone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Because they are intended to protect the natural environment</li> <li>b) This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria</li> <li>c) Which make provision for change but could have no conceivable effect on a European site, e.g. because there is no link or path way or any effects would be positive or would not otherwise undermine the conservation objectives of the site;</li> <li>d) Which make a provision for change but which could have no significant effect (and hence a minor residual effect) on a European site because any potential effects would be insignificant, being so restricted or remote from the site that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site.</li> <li>e) For which the effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> </ul>

5.4 **Step 1-3:** The screening process of the Draft NPPP has therefore included a record of actions/options that are not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site. The detailed matrix of the screening process is included in the Appendix.

- 5.6 The appendix tables have screened out all the elements of the plan as not having a significant effect 'alone'.

### **Consideration of likely significant effects in combination**

#### *In-combination with other relevant Plans or Projects*

- 5.5 The 'in combination effects' of the Draft National Park Partnership Plan with other plans and projects which would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site has not been undertaken. Only those elements of other plans or projects which have been assessed to have a minor residual effect should be considered with elements of the Draft National Park Partnership Plan which also have minor residual effects. However as there has been no aspects to the draft NPPP that has been identified as having minor residual effects this has in-combination assessment has not been required.

#### *Conclusion to HRA*

- 5.6 The Habitats Regulations Appraisal process has followed the key stages in the NatureScot Guidance. With the high strategic nature of the Draft National Park Partnership Plan and priorities around the climate emergency and restoring nature it has been straightforward to screen out many of the policies and actions as having no significant effects on any of the European Sites, with many priorities and actions actively seeking to protect the environment and aiming to improve the condition of the European sites.
- 5.7 The Draft National Park Partnership Plan does contain several policies and actions which promote or support areas of change that have the potential to result in likely significant effects. However, NatureScot guidance states that where effects on a given European site cannot be identified because a policy is too general, for example where it lacks any spatial definition, likely significant effects can be screened out. This has been done for many of the draft policies and actions. In addition it has been noted that where locations are mentioned these have already been subject to a detailed HRA assessment as part of the existing Local Development Plan or through other plans and strategies in the National Park and the specific locations will also be further identified in the forthcoming Local Development Plan which will undergo its own HRA.
- 5.8 Therefore, at this stage all of the elements of draft National Park Partnership Plan have been screened out of further assessment with the lower tier plans such as the forthcoming Local Development Plan considered a more appropriate level of plan to undertake this more detailed HRA and ensure that any significant effects on European sites are considered as part of the consideration of allocations and appropriate mitigation is incorporated into the plans and projects. As a consequence, it can be safely concluded that the draft National Park Partnership Plan 2024-2029 will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

**Appendix : Detailed Matrix of Objectives, Actions and Policies and Reasons For Screening Out**

**Restoring Nature**

<p><b>Aim by 2045:</b> Our ecosystems are in good health and helping us to adapt to and mitigate against the climate crisis, supporting the National Park to be an overall net carbon sink for Scotland.</p>		
<b>Objective by 2030</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Reason for screening out</b>
<p>To significantly reduce the area of degraded, high emission peatland and convert this into regenerating carbon capture condition instead.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scaling up of the Peatland ACTION programme, with support from private finance and carbon markets, to repair more degraded peatland areas, reducing emissions and switching them into carbon capture mode.</li> <li>• Reduction in damage to fragile peatland surfaces from wild deer and livestock trampling through active management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For which the effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> <li>• For which the effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> </ul>
<p>To increase the number, species diversity and health of trees across suitable areas of the Park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and support more projects and proposals that deliver healthy and diverse tree and shrub habitats in suitable landscapes in the Park. Including productive forests, native woodlands, hedgerows and scrub, this will be delivered through proactive management of grazing animals and invasive Rhododendron at a strategic, landscape scale allowing successful natural regeneration and alongside planting schemes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For which the effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> </ul>

To increase the quality, naturalness and health of freshwater and marine bodies in the Park, allowing them to provide greater resilience to the impacts of climate change and be nature-rich environments.

- Engage with public and stakeholder organisations, and land managers to trial and pilot restoration projects on water bodies through channel re-alignment, removal of legacy engineering structures, woody dam installation, pond creation and water margin woodland creation.
- Targeted action on wetland Designated Sites in unfavourable condition.
- Review of abstraction, impoundment and discharge permits to promote nature recovery.
- Support the return of the beaver to the Park's water bodies.
- Engage with strategic, regional initiatives that aim to tackle marine litter and pollution for the Clyde area.

- Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.
- Aspect of the Plan that could have no likely significant effect on a site alone because they are intended to protect the natural environment
- Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.
- A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.
- A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.

**Aim by 2045**

the ongoing decline in nature in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park will be reversed by 2030 and there will be widespread restoration and recovery of nature by 2040. A landscape scale Nature Network approach will be taken improving and connective core areas and expanding the links between these core areas across the National Park.

<b>Objective</b> <b>To reverse the decline in nature by 2030 and to reverse it by 2040 we will:</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Reason for screening out</b>
<p><b>Restore Nature at a Landscape Scale</b> 1. Expand and improve priority habitats and enhance connectivity between habitats and eco-systems across the National Park to create functioning nature networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand, connect and strengthen at a large-scale, the major habitat networks of trees, peatlands and wetlands.</li> <li>• Develop and deliver large-scale nature restoration projects and programmes and improve connectivity to create nature networks for the Park. Priority areas include Wild Strathfillan, The Great Trossachs Forest and Loch Lomond Basin</li> <li>• Tackle Invasive Non-Native Species at a strategic, large-scale, with the aim of reducing population levels to a point that they no longer create a threat to native ecosystems.</li> <li>• Increase the use of effective and focused legislative actions on compliance, and if necessary, enforcement to prevent deliberate mismanagement or neglect that leads to an erosion of nature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> <li>• Because they are intended to protect the natural environment</li> <li>• Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> <li>• For which the effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Land Managed Primarily for Nature Restoration</b> 2. Increase the amount of land in the National Park managed primarily to restore nature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a collaborative approach to nature restoration prime purpose on land owned or managed by public bodies, environmental charitable bodies, willing private land managers and for all Designated Sites. Create a Nature Restoration Land Forum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because they are intended to protect the natural environment</li> <li>• Because they are intended to protect the natural environment</li> </ul>



	<p>that coordinates and supports this approach across the Park and contributes to the implementation of Scotland's 30x30 commitment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and deliver opportunities for nature restoration projects on other important habitats and species, such as natural grasslands, flood meadows or parklands.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Reduce Grazing Animal Pressures</b> 3. Reduce grazing and trampling pressures in order to promote recovery of key habitats and sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By developing a Herbivore Strategy and through proactive management measures; drive forward a significant reduction in unwanted impacts from grazing animals across the Park that lead to active recovery of trees, peatlands and wetland habitats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For which the effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improved Monitoring of Changes in Nature</b> 4. Develop improved monitoring and reporting to measure progress in nature restoration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a State of Nature monitoring and reporting system for the National Park that provides accurate data and knowledge on the condition of nature, and where action needs to be strategically focused.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> </ul>

**Aim by 2045**

The National Park is an exemplar of a new form of best practice land use and management, where climate action, nature restoration, local produce and green jobs bring benefits for all.

<b>Objective by 2030</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Reason for screening out</b>
<p><b>Land Use Change</b> To transform over time land use within the Park, to ensure that it delivers much more for climate and nature, as well as local food and high-quality jobs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate a Regional Land Use Partnership in order to prepare a Park-wide Land Use Framework setting out collaborative land use change objectives and priorities across multiple land holdings at a landscape scale.</li> <li>• Promote the integration of land use and development priorities and opportunities within emerging area-based strategies prepared through the new Local Development Plan.</li> <li>• Facilitate strategic joined-up planning for larger land holdings (or multiple neighbouring holdings) incorporating the business and investment opportunities coming from climate and nature restoration land use changes.</li> <li>• Encourage and support land managers to shift more suitable land towards low carbon and regenerative agriculture as a primary purpose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>New Funding Streams</b> To develop funding support opportunities that help deliver wider public benefits from our land, including for climate and nature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in national level land reform policy discussions to advocate for a shift in land use policy support and regulation schemes to deliver a change in the way that land and water is managed, towards a system that does not continue to deplete nature and instead restores it as well as</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or</li> </ul>

	<p>support production and jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage, develop and pilot novel funding streams and projects, such as private green finance and new investment markets (e.g., carbon and biodiversity credits) that bring new, multi-year resources to allow delivery of land-use based climate and nature restoration benefits across the Park.</li> </ul>	<p>where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</p>
<p><b>Engaging Communities in Land Use Decisions</b> To engage communities and other stakeholders more effectively in land use change decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and enable communities to engage with land managers and influence land use decisions affecting their futures and what discuss opportunities there might be to benefit all parties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Green Jobs, Skills and Business Opportunities</b> To support change in the land management sector to better meet and benefit from the opportunities from changing land use priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and deliver training and further education opportunities that meet the anticipated demand from scaling up climate and nature restoration projects as well as and regenerative agriculture and sustainable forestry. Help local communities and land managers to turn these into employment and volunteering opportunities through training and re-training.</li> <li>• Create longer-term confidence for land management contractors and service providers by scaling and packaging up projects more strategically and over multiple years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>



Network approach will be taken improving and connecting core areas and expanding the links between these core areas across the Park.

This will be achieved by:

- a. Strategic landscape scale management to significantly reduce deer and sheep grazing and browsing pressures and to allow the recovery and expansion of our tree cover and reduce trampling of peat soils.
- b. A strategic approach to controlling Invasive Non-Native Species at a catchment scale.
- c. Improving the freshwater and marine environments by restoring rivers and wetlands and increasing water quality by addressing diffuse pollution, discharge and run-off from land uses.
- d. Expanding our connected network of trees with an increased proportion of native tree and shrub species and improving their quality through proactive management, including management of invasive Rhododendron.
- e. Ensuring that peatland restoration programmes deliver multiple benefits including improved biodiversity and water storage.
- f. Fully adopting and delivering the principles of the National Planning Framework 4 and ensuring that new development in the Park takes a net gain approach to protecting and restoring nature on and around development sites.
- g. Improving the condition of existing Designated Sites where possible and delivering actions which protect and expand the special species and habitats found there.

effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected. The policy is also intended to protect the natural environment.

## Restoring Nature through a New Land Economy

We will connect and embed our natural networks across all land uses in the Park by supporting positive land use change and more climate and regenerative land management practices.

This will be achieved by:

- a. Piloting a Regional Land Use Partnership and from it delivering a Regional Land Use Framework to promote a collaborative approach to positive land use change delivering multiple benefits. Ensuring planning policies support rural development which helps sustain land businesses, employment needs and local communities.  
Working with national partners to secure more effective use of grants and subsidies which are tailored to support better outcomes for nature. This includes;
- b. Agriculture – delivering sustainable and regenerative agriculture to continue to support livelihoods, rural communities and food production whilst delivering restoration of our soils, expansion of tree cover and reduced grazing animal pressures on habitats.
- c. Forestry – delivering timber production whilst expanding and improving a resilient and sustainable forest network.
- d. Enabling the creation of new nature-based green jobs and skills by mapping out capacity and skills shortages and supporting opportunities to grow employment and knowledge.
- e. Developing and piloting new funding models which can blend public and private finance to support multi-year large-scale nature restoration projects.

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### **Restoring Nature with Ethical Green Finance**

To achieve ambitious nature restoration and climate targets it is recognised that this cannot be achieved through public funding alone. Ways to secure private green investment to achieve targets will be piloted and developed in collaboration with the Scottish Government and other UK protected landscapes. To ensure such finance is genuinely reducing overall carbon emissions, supporting nature restoration targets and benefiting the wider rural economy we will only facilitate private investment which:

- a. Takes an integrated approach in supporting environmental, social and economic benefits and which responds to local needs and opportunities.
- b. Provides benefits across public, private and community interests and supports a just transition to a greener economy.
- c. Has included local engagement to inform land use decisions where possible by consulting on a land management plan.
- d. Is from organisations that have made a public commitment to reaching Net Zero emissions by 2050 at the latest, with clear demonstrable activities to reduce emissions and signed up to a credible initiative to deliver on this commitment.
- e. Is not finance derived from income associated with environmental damage, the extraction of fossil fuels or any unethical practices.

- This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria

## Creating a Sustainable, Low-Carbon Destination

<b>Aim by 2045</b> The National Park is a place where people of all backgrounds benefit from experiencing nature.		
<b>Objectives by 2030</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>REASON FOR SCREENING OUT</b>
<p><b>Sustainable Visitor Economy</b> The National Park visitor economy is transitioning to offering greater low emission nature-connected offerings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review existing nature-based tourism offerings and identify opportunities with our Destination Group of tourism businesses to support growth in delivery.</li> <li>Work with national agencies and organisations to develop practical toolkits and other approaches to help tourism businesses maximise the market opportunities in low carbon tourism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> <li>This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Inspiring Action for Nature and Climate</b> Outreach and outdoor learning programmes are focused on building understanding of the challenges facing our planet, inspiring action for nature and climate and promoting the wellbeing benefits of enjoying the outdoors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop guiding principles for our work in nature connection and an outreach/outdoor learning programme to promote climate and nature conscious behaviours.</li> <li>Review and realign our educational and outreach resources and programme with Future Nature priorities and key messages.</li> <li>Develop and deliver National Park local schools 'Nature Network' project.</li> <li>Bring together National Park education and volunteering providers to build consensus on objectives and better align delivery to address nature and climate priorities.</li> <li>Continue to support the Walk in the Park programme of wellbeing walks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> <li>This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> <li>This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> <li>This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> <li>This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> </ul>



<p>Diversity and Inclusion Better communicated and designed opportunities to access the National Park and become involved in its work are reaching and engaging previously underrepresented audiences and have enabled improved diversity.</p> <p>Volunteering opportunities across the National Park have been expanded to enable wider opportunities for people from outside the Park to actively participate in nature restoration and climate action, use and develop skills and support our Ranger Service to engage with our visitors and communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop the role and membership of the National Park Youth Committee in providing a youth voice ensuring the priorities of young people are reflected in policies and decisions.</li> <li>• Engage and support the growing sector of charities and voluntary organisations who work with a wide range of ethnic communities to enable more access to the National Park.</li> <li>• Design communication approaches to ensure all opportunities to access or become involved in the work of the National Park are reaching underrepresented groups.</li> <li>• Refresh the National Park volunteering programme to rebuild volunteer numbers following the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, seeking to expand the diversity and including for young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> <li>• This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> <li>• This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> <li>• This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Aim by 2045</b>          People have a high-quality experience visiting the National Park and are able to use great services, facilities and routes with less impact on nature or contributing to climate change. Communities see less impacts of tourism on everyday life. Nature is recovering more rapidly in less visited areas, where priority has been given to non-motorised access and recreation activity.</p>		
<p><b>Objectives by 2030</b></p> <p>A multi-year place programme approach has delivered an initial phase of co-ordinated improvements at strategic visitor sites supporting improvements for nature, climate, people, accessibility and diversity.</p>	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Studies have been completed engaging with local communities partners and stakeholders.</li> <li>• A multi-year Place investment programme is co-ordinating investment with partner public bodies on-key visitor infrastructure reflecting the priorities set out in Key Diagram 2.</li> <li>• Promote investment in digital and sensor technologies to improve visitor data gathering that informs responsive visitor services and real time information.</li> <li>• Ensure investment in visitor sites also enables the development of a growing and reliable EV charging network.</li> </ul>	<p><b>REASON FOR SCREENING OUT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria</li> <li>• Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> <li>• Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> <li>• For which the effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> </ul>

<p>Ensuring investment in visitor hubs at, or linking to, Balloch, Callander and Arrochar/Tarbet will enable more sustainable ways to travel both to and within the National Park including links to improved active travel networks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop better designed place connectivity between rail, bus and water transports service at Balloch which also promotes and enables active travel opportunities.</li> <li>• Working with destination businesses and public bodies at Arrochar and Tarbet to maximise connectivity between road, rail, active travel and water access.</li> <li>• Develop a location in Callander to be the hub for sustainable travel into the wider Trossachs area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For which the effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> <li>• Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> <li>• Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> </ul>
<p>Investment in the National Park's recreational path network will focus on keeping the existing network and statutory core paths in good condition and developing more sustainable models to resource path maintenance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop model for the sustainable management and promotion of the West Highland Way.</li> <li>• Develop a maintenance programme for the most heavily used stretches of the core path network informed by a path</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> <li>• Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented</li> </ul>

	condition monitoring framework supported by volunteers.	or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.
Investment in maintaining and where appropriate expanding facilities for enjoying water recreation and the safe enjoyment of busier Lochs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The existing pier and pontoon infrastructure on Loch Lomond will be invested in to enable leisure journeys and growing water transport services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> </ul>
<p>Aim by 2045          Enjoyment of the most popular places and routes in the National Park is under pinned by holistically managed and resourced services delivery efficiencies and improvements for public service delivery. Ranger presence will help reduce footprint of visitors on climate and nature and promote responsible behaviours.</p>		
Objectives by 2030	Actions	
To ensure a strong partnership approach to co-ordinating all public bodies with a role in supporting the safe and responsible enjoyment of the National Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint visitor management planning with partners will ensure a co-ordinated approach to staff presence on the ground, litter management, visitor information campaigns and operation of publicly managed visitor facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>
National Park Camping and Loch Lomond Byelaws will be kept under review and amended as necessary where a regulatory response is needed to address issues of concern arising from changing recreational demand and behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes to the Loch Lomond Byelaws will be implemented to ensure safe recreational experiences at busy locations, reducing conflicts between power and non-powered activities.</li> <li>The 2015 Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Camping Byelaws will be reviewed to continue a high quality camping experience in the camping management zones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> <li>A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>

<p>A co-ordinated approach will be taken across responsible bodies to ensure the safe enjoyment of publicly managed and other popular visitor sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A consistent approach will be taken to the provision of signage, public rescue equipment, and visitor information campaigns by responsible public bodies to raise awareness of public safety issues and potential hazards in the outdoors, particularly in relation to water safety.</li> <li>• Further develop the volunteer ranger programme to support and supplement the work of the professional Ranger service and engage with our visitors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>
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<b>Aim by 2045</b>		
<p>The National Park has a thriving rural transport sector providing services which have reduced the need for car journeys and transport generated emissions, met the travel needs of both visitors and residents and provided more inclusive access to the outdoors.</p>		
<b>Objectives by 2030</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>REASON FOR SCREENING OUT</b>
<p><b>Whole System Approach</b> A 'whole system approach' has been taken and a range of new public transport services are provided which are targeted at popular outdoor leisure journeys, reducing transport emissions and promoting inclusion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a governance model in collaboration with responsible transport authorities and agencies which enables a National Park wide approach to rural transport planning.</li> <li>• Develop new targeted seasonal transport services that provide a viable and attractive alternative to the private car to access popular National Park destinations.</li> <li>• Gather data which demonstrates the latent demand for rural travel to inform service planning.</li> <li>• Develop and deliver an active travel strategy that links up services and infrastructure as key parts of an integrated, connected multi-modal transport experience of the National Park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> <li>• Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> <li>• Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Incentivising Sustainable Travel Choices</b> Sustainable travel choices have been incentivised and enhanced though responsible public bodies collaborating on-the operation and pricing of transport services, travel hubs and parking facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a strategic approach to setting pricing levels for travel and parking which will incentivise and support low carbon travel choices where alternative transport services are in place.</li> <li>• Develop a network focused on mass transit corridors and journey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>

	<p>demand including journeys to the National Park from nearby urban areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with operators to develop an improved, integrated and affordable Waterbus service network on Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>
<p>Developing a Rural Transport Sector Business and transport providers have collaborated to develop the sector and create commercial opportunities to meet sustainable travel demands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with transport providers to address barriers to delivering integrated rural transport services in particular; delivering seasonal services creating jobs and sourcing staff to operate services. collaborating with destination businesses to promote itineraries and complimentary offerings to grow demand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>

POLICIES FOR CREATING A LOW CARBON DESTINATION	REASON FOR SCREENING OUT
<p><b>Connecting Everyone with Nature Experiences</b></p> <p>In developing a high-quality visitor experience in the National Park we will work to ensure that nature and recreation experiences are accessible to and informed by the needs of all groups in society.</p> <p>Our approach will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Enabling and encouraging more underrepresented and protected groups to enjoy the National Park.</li> <li>b. Ensure improved communication about the National Park into networks used by underrepresented audiences including to improve representation and participation in policy and decision making and to improve diversity generally in the work of the National Park Authority.</li> <li>c. Ensuring that investment and visitor sites and infrastructure takes account of the accessibility needs of all abilities and cultures.</li> <li>d. Encouraging local tourism and recreation businesses to improve accessibility in providing visitor offerings.</li> <li>e. Ensuring that more young people enjoy an outdoor experience in the National Park and are inspired to care more for nature and the climate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected</li> </ul>



### **Investing in Sustainable Visitor Experiences**

The National Park Authority and its partners will take a place-based approach to investing in higher quality visitor facilities across publicly owned sites that reflects a sustainable balance between local needs, environmental sensitivities and visitor demand. There will be a particular focus on ensuring improvements that enable sustainable travel, improved accessibility, visitor safety and responsible tourism.

Our Place programme work will focus on five thematic priorities:

- a. Supporting Sustainable Development - people and place, promoting a high-quality landscape experience through design excellence, for both visitors and communities, to enhance place quality and the landscape qualities of the National Park.
- b. Supporting Sustainable Development – climate and nature, leading a nature-based approach to design which addresses the climate and biodiversity crises using the principles of both Future Nature and Mission Zero, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and capitalising on the benefits of nature and considering sustainability of design, materials, maintenance, and use.
- c. Supporting inclusion and improved accessibility to the National Park by identifying and facilitating actions that support equality and diversity to secure barrier free / inclusive access meeting the needs of all users.
- d. Supporting more sustainable ways of travel both to and within the National Park (Modal Shift) strengthening service support through a network of integrated hubs; walking, cycling, accommodation of electric vehicle EV use, and public and shared transport and the facilities required to increase uptake

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and address private car use increases.

- e. Supporting visitor management and dispersal, creating a flow of people to our more resilient places, and using good design, information and better provision to support more responsible behaviours whilst reducing the need for visitor management operations while continuing a collective approach to ensure effective long-term stewardship of our sites.

## Enabling a Greener Economy and Sustainable Living

<p><b>Aim by 2045</b> The National Park has a greener and more diverse rural economy, with businesses capitalising on the market advantage of restored nature and a net zero place; supporting an increase in working age population and contributing towards, sustainable, thriving communities.</p>		
Objective	Actions	REASON FOR SCREENING OUT
<p><b>Transition to a greener economy</b> The National Park economy is transitioning to a greener, zero-carbon wellbeing economy in ways that are fair and inclusive to everyone and where the benefits arising from this are retained and shared locally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a robust evidence base to identify where there are existing skills or labour shortages along with opportunities and demand for new green skills and jobs growth.</li> <li>• Develop a Green Skills and Just Transition Action Plan for the National Park to ensure the benefits arising from economic transition are shared in a fair and inclusive way.</li> <li>• Support closer working between public sector, land managers, businesses and communities to grow the green economy, including opportunities for new business models, collaborative pilots and community led social enterprise that will help build and retain local economic wealth and grow the local workforce.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Low Carbon businesses</b> Businesses are reducing their carbon emissions from a shift to greener and more local supply chains, renewable energy use, more sustainable waste management, and greener forms of transport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the support needs of existing businesses (including land and tourism) to help them transition to net zero including specialist technical advice and identification of opportunities for collaborative support and action.</li> <li>• Seek the expansion of specialist business support and funding to facilitate carbon reduction.</li> <li>• Continue to support improvements to digital and telecommunications infrastructure to facilitate improvements in business operations and minimise the need for travel where appropriate.</li> <li>• Support collaboration between tourism businesses, communities and public sector partners on improved public transport solutions for employees and visitors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A wellbeing economy</b> National Park communities are fully harnessing the opportunities arising from economic transition, seeing an increase in working age population through take up of new green jobs and experiencing a range of benefits from investment in natural capital within their local landscape.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Through the Park Authority's planning role and working with housing partners ensure new housing more closely corresponds to identified requirements of communities and the local labour force.</li> <li>2. Update a framework of support for communities to fully realise the potential opportunities arising from transition to net zero through increased capacity building support, training and skills development for community anchor organisations.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>

<p><b>Inclusion and learning opportunities</b>  More people within our communities are contributing to supporting a greener rural economy through increased learning, skills and volunteering opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh the National Park Authority led volunteering programme in the Park, particularly to welcome new volunteers from our communities.</li> <li>• Design a whole volunteering pathway, providing opportunities to gain green skills, from youth programmes through to adult volunteering, skills sharing and beyond to employment.</li> <li>• Support young people to see their future in the National Park through development of traineeships, apprenticeships and placements that provide wide-scoping opportunities for green skills development and pathways into green jobs and careers.</li> <li>• Continue to grow the National Park Authority Youth Committee as a platform for young people to engage with the National Park, be involved in decision making and advocate for their sustainable future.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>
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**Aim by 2045**

National Park communities are leading the way on net zero living and working and have successfully adapted to living with the future impacts of climate change. As passionate ambassadors for local places, communities have utilised knowledge, skills and influence to deepen sense of place and their connection with nature, culture and heritage, providing a nature rich, resilient landscape for the next generation.

Objective	Actions	REASON FOR SCREENING OUT
<p><b>Low carbon local living</b> People living within the National Park are reducing their carbon emissions through both individual and community led action to support the transition to net zero and more local living.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the roll out of collaborative initiatives (such as the Scottish Government led Community Climate Action Hub network), support communities to collaborate and led more on climate action.</li> <li>• Support Councils' work on rolling out Local Food Growing strategies and Local Heat and Energy Efficiency strategies.</li> <li>• Support improved opportunities to live more locally through taking a local place-based partnership approach towards service delivery, including supporting the retention of local services and facilities, public transport, alongside innovative new approaches towards rural service provision, including through digital and online opportunities.</li> <li>• Support opportunities to re-purpose and for multi-use of existing facilities including halls, local business hubs and valued heritage assets within communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>

<p><b>Increasing resilience to the changing climate</b> Communities are climate ready, having developed increased awareness and understanding of the impacts of climate change on health, buildings, local infrastructure, businesses and the surrounding natural environment and identified how to adapt and build resilience to living with a changing climate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support communities to identify ways in which they can take action on climate mitigation and adaptation, including consideration of how investment in natural capital and carbon can help support increased local resilience, particularly in relation to flooding, through local resilience plans, Local Place Plans and the new Local Development Plan and proposed Regional Land Use Partnership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Addressing housing needs</b> Housing within the National Park better meets the needs of young and working age people who wish to work and live in the National Park, directly supporting the rural economy and vibrant rural communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the new Local Development Plan, ensure that new housing responds to meeting local housing needs of both communities and the rural economy though a continued focus on affordable housing provision and securing delivery of a broader range of housing types and tenures.</li> <li>• Through the new Local Development Plan, stem the further loss of housing to holiday lets and second homes through consideration of interventions including a new requirement for all new homes to be for permanent occupation only and the merits of applying for Short Term let control areas within certain areas of the National Park.</li> <li>• Support delivery of a minimum of 30 new homes per year. Through the preparation of the new Local Development Plan, consider whether this minimum requirement needs to be increased, informed by Local Place Plans, aligned to investment for nature and climate and where additional housing can support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected.</li> </ul>

	some of the more remote rural communities in the National Park.	
<p><b>Rural transport and active travel</b>  People living and working in the National Park are less reliant on car-based travel through improvements to rural transport provision and active travel links within and between communities in and around the National Park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support communities to identify improvements to rural transport options through collaboration with public/private sector to establish innovative solutions or new social enterprise opportunities.</li> <li>• Support preparation of an Active Travel Strategy for the National Park that improves active travel opportunities within and between communities to help more people meet their everyday needs by walking, cycling or wheeling as well as support health and wellbeing outcomes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community influence and place making</b>  Communities are empowered to exert more influence and control over changes in and around the places where they live, delivering a range of outcomes that support local living and strengthening connections between people, land, nature, culture and heritage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an updated framework from public and third sector organisations to provide increased support to communities to build and maintain capacity within their local organisations and to increase levels of confidence and knowledge to engage in decisions around land and development. This could be through networking, learning and skills development to provision of dedicated development support to assist with project identification, securing funding and delivery.</li> <li>• Support to communities to care for heritage assets, where possible linked to opportunities for re-use, social enterprise and job creation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected.</li> </ul>



**Aim by 2045**

New development and infrastructure is more responsive to the needs of land use and management, directly contributing to a wellbeing economy the benefits people and nature.

Objective	Actions	REASON FOR SCREENING OUT
<p><b>Identifying development needs and opportunities</b>            New development and infrastructure is delivered in an integrated way with investment in nature and carbon, helping to unlock the value of natural capital where possible and respond to locally identified needs and opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a revised development strategy in the new Local Development Plan with a focus on development and infrastructure requirements to support nature, climate, low carbon rural living and community wealth building outcomes.</li> <li>• Through the new Local Development Plan, expand the coverage of area-based land use and development planning investment strategies in partnership with landowners, communities, businesses and public agencies, integrated if possible with the development of a Regional Land Use Framework for the National Park.</li> <li>• Support the delivery of nationally strategic infrastructure development identified by National Planning Framework 4 by ensuring these are designed and delivered in ways that are sensitive to the National Park’s special environmental and landscape qualities and maximise benefits to local communities, businesses and visitors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected.</li> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected.</li> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected.</li> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected. The existing Local Development Plan has undergone HRA as will the forthcoming Local Development Plan where the specific sites will be identified.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the delivery of the strategic development needed at Callander to support sustainable expansion of the town and more local living outcomes, the delivery of strategic development that improves Balloch as a main visitor and transport interchange hub for the National Park as well as continuing place-based partnership working approach at Arrochar and Tarbet to support rural regeneration.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Nature first approach to development</b> New development is helping to create nature rich places and networks, with stronger connections established between places and habitats within and around the National Park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure new development delivers positive outcomes for nature through securing biodiversity net gains on site and investing in local nature networks identified as part of the development of the new Local Development Plan.</li> <li>• Support awareness raising and sharing of good practice on development and nature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected. The existing Local Development Plan has undergone HRA as will the forthcoming Local Development Plan where the specific sites will be identified.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Delivering positive local outcomes</b> Development and Infrastructure investment have directly contributed towards the creation of a wellbeing economy where local communities benefit from local wealth generation and are empowered to shape their own places, including more control and influence over land and assets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support local communities to influence how land and sites are used within and around towns and villages and ensure the benefits arising from this are retained and circulated locally, including greater influence via partnership working with public and private sectors and landowners and/or potentially through more community ownership of land and assets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected. The existing Local Development Plan has undergone HRA as will the forthcoming Local Development Plan where the specific sites will be identified.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the new Local Development Plan set out an approach for inward investment in the tourism sector, recognising the important role of this sector to the rural economy and livelihoods, whilst seeking to balance this with environmental carrying capacity and community views and aspirations on use of land and sites of local community importance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected. The existing Local Development Plan has undergone HRA as will the forthcoming Local Development Plan where the specific sites will be identified.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Making the best use of land and assets</u> Vacant and derelict sites within many of the National Park's communities are being brought back into use and help to meet the needs of local communities and businesses or are restored to provide green infrastructure and support nature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with communities, through Local Place Plans, to identify a list of undeveloped and vacant sites within and around towns and villages and that could be brought into use or restored to improve local places and nature.</li> <li>• Consider and identify the range of interventions required to facilitate bringing these sites back into use, including community right to buy, finance options and potentially Compulsory Purchase Orders where undeveloped sites are causing significant blight within local communities and/or are impacting on achieving net zero, nature restoration and/or sustainable local living outcomes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be affected. The existing Local Development Plan has undergone HRA as will the forthcoming Local Development Plan where the specific sites will be identified.</li> <li>• A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>

POLICIES FOR ENABLING A GREENER ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING	REASON FOR SCREENING OUT
<p><u>Local Place Plans</u></p> <p>The National Park Authority will provide help to communities within the National Park to prepare <a href="#">Local Place Plans</a> and will support implementation of these by focussing on those aspects that contribute to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>communities transition to <a href="#">net zero</a> living and working through actions that increase opportunities for low carbon local living</li> <li>building resilience to the impacts of the changing climate</li> <li>restoring nature on land within, around and between communities</li> <li>increased collaboration between communities and between communities and a range of public, private and <a href="#">third sector</a> partners.</li> </ol> <p><u>Empowering communities</u></p> <p>The National Park Authority and its partners will support communities to grow their influence to shape their local places through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supporting the preparation and implementation of <a href="#">Local Place Plans</a></li> <li>supporting increased opportunities for communities to consider and inform how land and sites are used and developed to help support resilient, <a href="#">sustainable</a>, vibrant and healthy communities.</li> <li>consideration of opportunities to support local wealth building through generation and retention of more wealth by local community organisations and local rural businesses.</li> </ol> <p><u>Meeting Rural Housing needs</u></p> <p>New housing within the National Park will help retain and attract young people and working age population through:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected</li> <li>A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> <li>A general policy statement where are unable to make meaningful assessment</li> </ul>

- a. focussing new housing provision on addressing local housing needs of communities and the rural economy
- b. a continued focus on enabling affordable housing delivery, including a more diverse range of affordable tenures and addressing the challenges of delivering rural housing and
- c. consideration of the interventions required to stop the loss of housing from the existing housing supply.

#### Development and Infrastructure Investment

Development and infrastructure in the National Park will:

- a. Support tackling the climate emergency,
- b. Maximise opportunities to deliver or unlock nature restoration,
- c. Respond to meeting the needs of National Park communities and support more local living and working,
- d. Support a just transition for local businesses towards a greener, low carbon economy.
- e. Support growing a wellbeing economy including through opportunities for local wealth building and greater community-led development and project activity.

Nationally strategic development and infrastructure improvements associated with trunk road improvements, electricity transmission or hydro-electric power generation will be supported by ensuring opportunities to safeguard the environment and landscape qualities are maximised as well as creating enhanced opportunities for people to experience the National Parks special qualities.

Strategic scale development will be supported at Callander, Arrochar, Tarbet and Balloch through:

- a. Delivery of the southern expansion of Callander, needed to facilitate sustainable expansion of the town and to provide mixed uses in support of the development needs of both Callander and surrounding rural communities for which it acts as a service hub. The

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<p>New Local Development Plan will re-consider the requirement for longer term land release beyond the currently identified mixed used development site for which a masterplan has been prepared to guide and support development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>b. The prioritisation of development and infrastructure within Arrochar and Tarbet that helps unlock constrained, vacant and derelict sites, bringing them back into use in ways that support identified community needs, low carbon local living and improves infrastructure for visitors.</li><li>c. The delivery of tourism investment in Balloch as a core strategic tourism gateway location, with opportunities for improved transport interchange as well as job creation and wider economic regeneration with adjoining areas to the National Park.</li><li>d. Large scale wind farms will not be supported within the National Park in accordance with National Planning Framework 4. Wind Farm proposals adjacent to the National Park should be located and designed in ways that do not adversely impact on the special landscape qualities of the National Park</li></ul>	
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