

**Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority** 

National Park Partnership Plan incorporating the Regional Spatial Strategy 2023-2028

**Strategic Environmental Assessment** 

**Scoping Report** 

# **Executive Summary**

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority is preparing a National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) to show how the Park's four statutory aims are to be achieved over a five year period from 2023-2028. It is our intention that this will incorporate content to allow this plan to also act as the Regional Spatial Strategy for the National Park.

This Scoping Report establishes how the Strategic Environmental Assessment will be undertaken for the National Park Partnership Plan (incorporating the Regional Spatial Strategy), the content to be included in the Environmental Report, and the consultation period for the draft NPPP and the Environmental Report.

Comments on this report should be returned to:

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# 1 The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP)

#### 1.1 Purpose of Scoping Report

The 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.

The National Park Partnership 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
- Provide the strategic context for the Local Development Plan and proposed Regional Land Use Framework?
- Show how the National Park will contribute to the Scottish Government's core purpose and national outcomes.

The purpose of this Scoping Report is to outline the method for undertaking the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) for the Consultation Authorities to form a view on the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report of this assessment.

Following from the Scoping stage, a draft Environmental Report will be prepared and published for consultation alongside the draft Plan for 12 weeks. Following this, the NPPP will be refined as required as a result of consultation. The Environmental Report will also be updated as required. The NPPP will then be submitted to the Scottish Ministers, thereafter there will be a Post Adoption Statement developed and monitoring of Environmental Outcomes.

This Scoping Report includes the following:

- Information about the scope and content of the NPPP
- Information about the environmental baseline of the National Park
- Environmental characteristics and issues for the National Park
- · Information about other relevant plans and policies
- Information about how the SEA will be undertaken

• The proposed consultation period for the Environmental Report and draft Plan.

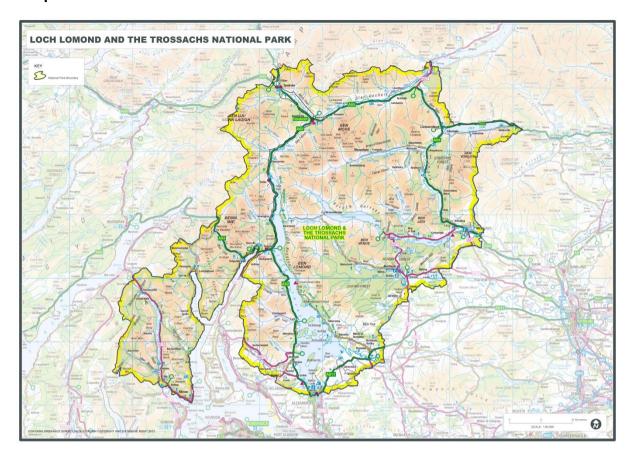
This report has been prepared in accordance with Section 15 (Scoping) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

A Habitats Regulation Assessment will also be undertaken for the NPPP in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended). This will be reported on separately.

# 1.2 Details of the National Park Partnership Plan

Name of Responsible Authority:	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Title of Draft Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS):	Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan 2023- 2028
Requirement for the PPS:	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 2017-2022.
Subject of the PPS:	Climate and Nature restoration, Conservation (cultural and built heritage), Visitor Experience & Management and Rural Development
Period covered by the PPS:	2023-2028
Frequency of Updates:	Review every five years.
Geographic Area covered by the PPS:	Area designated as The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. See Map 1
Purpose and/or objectives of the PPS:	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. The Plan will also act as the National Park Regional Spatial Strategy
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Map 1 Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park



# 1.3 Main Purpose and Objectives of the National Park Partnership Plan

# **Purpose**

The Plan sets out how the National Park is to be managing in order to achieve its statutory aims as specified in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, which are to:-

- Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area,
- Promote the sustainable use of the natural resources of the area,
- Promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public, and
- 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.

The 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

- 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**

The new Plan will address the remaining issues from the existing plan and will have greater emphasis on the National Park role in addressing the twin crisis' of climate and nature, managing visitors in keeping with this including sustainable and active travel.

The current Plan's vision/outcome for each of these themes is:

<u>Conservation & Land Management</u> - Nature, heritage and land are valuable assets, managed and enhanced to provide multiple benefits for all.

<u>Visitor Experience:</u> There is a high quality, authentic experience for people from all backgrounds. There are many opportunities to enjoy recreation activities and appreciate the area's outstanding natural and cultural heritage within an internationally renowned landscape

<u>Rural Development</u>: In the National Park businesses and communities thrive and people live and work sustainably in a high quality environment.

Whilst the new Plan Vision/outcomes will likely be broadly similar there is likely to be a greater focus on the nature crisis and climate emergency throughout the plan and it is anticipated that the visions/outcomes could be strengthened to be more bold with the current nature crisis and climate emergency requiring bold and ambitious actions.

#### **Timescales**

The main milestones of the Plan's development are shown below, with indicative timescales are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: SEA Timeline

Milestone	Indicative Timescale
Phase 1	
Start-up:	June 2022
NPPP- Agree position and approach; establish team and initiate project.  SEA – Prepare Scoping Report for Consultation Authorities, baseline data, environmental issues and define SEA objectives.	
Phase 2 NPPP - Pre Consultation stakeholder engagement and drafting discussion papers SEA – Feedback from Consultation Authorities on Scoping Report.	June-October 2022
Phase3 NPPP - Draft Consultation Document & associated assessments SEA – Undertake assessment and prepare SEA draft environmental report.	October – December 2022
Phase 4 Formal consultation – 12 weeks (NPPP and SEA) Phase 5	May 2023

Finalise National Park Partnership Plan Review and update SEA Draft Environmental Report	September 2023
Phase 6 Submission of finalised National Park Plan to Scottish Ministers, thereafter Post Adoption Statement and Monitoring of Environmental Outcomes.	December 2023

# 1.4 Relationship with other relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies

There is an extensive list of national policies and legislation, as well as European Union Directives, which are of relevance to preparing the NPPP. A review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS) has been undertaken and these are detailed in Appendix A. These will be kept under review, and updated where necessary, during the preparation of the NPPP.

Figure 1 illustrates the main plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) that will influence the preparation of the NPPP.

Figure 1: Relationships with other relevant PPS National Parks Scottish Government National and policy, guidance and (Scotland) Act 2000 international advice e.g. Forestry statutory legislation Strategy, Land Use e.g. Water Strategy, Economic Framework Strategy, National Directive, Habitats Planning Framework 4 Regulations, Forestry EIA etc. Regulations etc. **Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Partnership** Baseline information National strategies Plan 2023-2028 Monitoring Vision, Policies, **Actions, Outcomes** and Targets Influencing Delivery \_ **Partners** Corporate Planning and Statutory and Non-Review Statutory Plans Partner organisations' e.g. WildPark (biodiversity regional and local Corporate Plan strategies affecting Park action plan), YourPark Operating Plan area and surrounds (visitor management plan), LIVEPark (Local

Development Plan) Regional Land Use Framework (RLUF)

#### 2 Context for the SEA

# 2.1 Key Environmental Characteristics of the National Park

In order to fully explore the environmental consequences of the NPPP, the National Park's environmental characteristics have been considered. Schedule 3(6) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 lists the range of environmental topics that should be included in the SEA.

A list of key environmental characteristics was previously developed and refined by staff across the organisation for the SEA of the Local Development Plan, previous National Park Partnership Plan and most recently the Tress and Woodland Strategy. This included expertise in; planning, ecology, landscape, trees and woodlands management, access and environment. This list has been reviewed and updated for the purposes of this SEA. The key environmental characteristics are set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Scoped issues, trends and information sources to be included in National Park Partnership Plan SEA

Resource/topic	Current state of the Environment	Key trends	Implications of National Park Partnership Plan for key trends	Information sources
Biodiversity	<ul> <li>Eight Special Areas of Conservation</li> <li>Two Special Protection Areas</li> <li>Two National Nature Reserves</li> <li>56 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with 136 notified features. Of these 56 SSSIs, 19 are designated for their woodland interest and 8 have at least 1 feature in unfavourable condition.</li> <li>One Ramsar site</li> <li>Large areas managed for conservation e.g. areas owned or managed by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland, National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and the Woodland Trust and parts of the Argyll and Queen Elizabeth National Forest Parks</li> <li>Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) include Rhododendron ponticum, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, North American skunk cabbage,</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Increase in invasive non-native species</li> <li>Decline in some species, such as the powan and capercaillie</li> <li>Population increases in some species such as pine marten and red squirrel.</li> <li>On-going suppression of semi-natural habitats in large parts of the uplands by domestic sheep, wild deer and/or feral goats</li> <li>Herbivore impacts limiting native woodland regeneration and establishment in some areas</li> <li>Restricted species and structural diversity in existing woodlands due to unsustainable herbivore impacts</li> <li>Increase in spate events and flooding</li> <li>Landscape scale ecosystem approach to conservation and restoration (e.g. The Great Trossachs Forest Project).</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ensuring the protection of biodiversity within designated sites and encourage management to improve feature condition</li> <li>Enhancing biodiversity outside of designated sites and improving functional connectivity at a landscape scale</li> <li>Encouraging land managers to work collectively on Integrated Land Management projects, in order to deliver multiple benefits</li> <li>Providing for the expansion of native woodlands and improvement of biodiversity quality of existing native woodlands</li> <li>Providing for the continued protection of peatlands, as important habitats, carbon and groundwater stores</li> <li>Providing for the continued protection of GWDTE</li> <li>Undertake sustainable control of nonnative invasive species</li> <li>Large scale restructuring of forest areas due to decline of ashwoods and Japanese larch areas and planned approach to tracks.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>National Park Biodiversity Audit, 2010, Loch Lomond + the Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA)</li> <li>National Biodiversity Network</li> <li>SNH – information on site condition and qualifying interests and features</li> <li>Wild Park 2020 National Park Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands; 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity)</li> <li>Study of the recreation impacts on Loch Lomond Islands, Walking the Talk, Macaulay Scientific Consulting Ltd and Paul Johnson, July 2010</li> <li>Fishery Management Plans for Loch Lomond, Tay, Forth and Argyll catchments</li> <li>Strategic Deer Management in the LLTNP Issues Report 2002 - LLTNPA Deer Management Forum</li> <li>Native Woodland Survey of Scotland- Loch Lomond &amp; The Trossachs National Park (2014)</li> <li>Association of Deer Management Groups - http://www.deer- management.co.uk/</li> </ul>

Resource/topic	Current state of the Environment	Key trends	Implications of National Park Partnership Plan for key trends	Information sources
	North American mink, Canada goose, grey squirrel and ruffe.  Plant health issues, such as tree diseases affecting ash trees, juniper, pine and larch.  High profile native species include golden eagle, osprey, pine marten, salmon, powan, Scots pine, red squirrel, black grouse, water vole, bryophytes, arctic-alpine plants  Presence of beaver in the north of the park and future European protected species status  Approximately 184 UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species of Conservation Concern, including 37 Priority Species  Upper Fyne and Loch Goil Marine Protected Area.	<ul> <li>Increase in renewable energy development projects such as run of river hydropower schemes in the uplands</li> <li>Increase in plant health issues (in particular tree diseases)</li> <li>Increased restoration of degraded peatland habitats through Peatland Action</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Conservation Sites of Arctic Charr, Loch Lomond Fish and Fisheries Trust, 2011</li> <li>Audit and management recommendations for invasive plants in the Loch Lomond &amp; the Trossachs National Park, Final Report 2007</li> <li>YOUR Park consultation 2015</li> <li>Future Nature 2022</li> </ul>
Population and Human Health	<ul> <li>15,600 resident population in 2001, 15,168 in 2011 and 14,900 in 2016</li> <li>Population density of 0.08 people per hectare, with highest concentrations in Balloch and Callander</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ageing population</li> <li>Trend of younger population moving away from Park</li> <li>Predicted population decline of 7% by 2026</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Support sustainable rural development</li> <li>Support community empowerment and capacity within communities to lead on projects that will improve their sustainability</li> <li>Support rural services and facilities</li> <li>Support a range of housing options</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>2011 Census - General Register Office for Scotland and the National Archives for Scotland www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk</li> <li>Local Development Plan Background Report: Population and Housing, May 2017, LLTNPA</li> </ul>

Resource/topic	Current state of the Environment	Key trends	Implications of National Park Partnership Plan for key trends	Information sources
	<ul> <li>Ageing population, loss of young people</li> <li>Predicted decline in population of 7% between 2016 and 2026</li> </ul>		Support health and wellbeing through enhanced and accessible place based approach	<ul> <li>National Records of Scotland - Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2016-based)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>84.3% of Park's population describe their general health as good/very good</li> <li>82.21% of Scotland's population describe their general health as good/very good</li> <li>Households - 6,515 households in 2001 and 6594 in 2011</li> <li>Transport – the car is the dominant mode of private transport within the park with 1.42 cars per household in 2001 and 1.46 cars per household in 2011</li> <li>Tourism accommodation – 19,000 beds available in 2013</li> <li>Visitor Services produced £205m in value(2011)</li> <li>85% of visitors to the Park travel by car</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Larger percentage of the Park population enjoys a higher standard of general health compared to the national average</li> <li>The National Park has potential to help general health of Scotland as a whole</li> <li>High levels of need for affordable housing</li> <li>Strong external demand for second, retirement and commuter homes</li> <li>Trend of out commuting to higher paid jobs and in commuting to lower paid jobs</li> <li>Limited public transport options within and outwith the Park</li> <li>Continued reliance on private car</li> <li>Change from traditional agricultural activities to more diverse activities including tourism, recreation and renewable energy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Promote range of infrastructure to help people enjoy and partake in outdoor recreation and activity</li> <li>Promoting the National Park as a resource with physical and mental health benefits for Scotland's population</li> <li>Support a housing supply that meets the needs of communities and businesses</li> <li>Support improved and demand responsive transport options</li> <li>Support improved visitor infrastructure and accommodation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>2011 Census - General Register Office for Scotland and the National Archives for Scotland www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk</li> <li>Local Authority Housing Need and Demand Assessments</li> <li>Stirling Business Space Study</li> <li>National Park background work to inform National Park Local Plan</li> <li>National Park Economic Valuation Study</li> <li>Community Action Plans and Community Place Plans, LLTNPA</li> </ul>

Resource/topic	Current state of the Environment	Key trends	Implications of National Park Partnership Plan for key trends	Information sources
		<ul> <li>Demand for tourism accommodation and facilities</li> <li>Increase in number of tourists with 85% travelling to the Park by car</li> </ul>		
Geology, Minerals and Soils	<ul> <li>Highland Boundary Fault</li> <li>Glaciation has had a significant effect in shaping the landform of the area</li> <li>History of slate, limestone and sandstone quarrying; and lead, zinc and gold mine exploration</li> <li>Range of fertile and poor soil types for agriculture and forestry</li> <li>12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest have notified earth science features</li> <li>Other significant earth science sites including Geological Conservation Review sites</li> <li>Significant area of nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Change from agricultural production in some areas to rural diversification</li> <li>Identification of increased number of regionally important geological sites through geodiversity audit and development applications</li> <li>Decreasing land stability in some areas</li> <li>Increased restoration of degraded peatland habitats through Peatland Action</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Protecting key geodiversity sites including earth science Sites of Scientific Interest and Regionally Important Geological Sites</li> <li>Allowing geomorphological processes to continue</li> <li>Protecting carbon rich soils as carbon sinks</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Geodiversity audit, 2007 and 2022, LLTNPA</li> <li>National Soil Inventory of Scotland – Macaulay Institute</li> <li>Report on the current state and threats to Scotland's soil resource 2006 – Commissioned by Scottish Government, W. Towers, I.C. Grieve, G. Hudson, C.D. Campbell, A. Lilly, D.A. Davidson, J.R. Bacon, S.J. Langan and D.W. Hopkins Environmental Research Report 2006/01</li> <li>Carbon and Peatland map 2016, SNH</li> </ul>
Water Environment	22 large lochs and numerous small lochs (Loch Lomond is the	<ul> <li>Good water quality in most water bodies but there are still water</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Maintaining good water quality and working with key partners to help meet the Water Framework Directive</li> </ul>	Current Condition and     Challenges for the Future     report, Scottish Environment

Resource/topic	Current state of the Environment	Key trends	Implications of National Park Partnership Plan for key trends	Information sources
	largest area of freshwater in Britain)  Approximately 50 rivers and large burns and many small burns  Connection of waterways to three main river systems – Tay, Clyde and Forth  The main pressures on water quality in the park are from abstraction, along with morphological pressures and diffuse pollution  Five 'Potentially Vulnerable Areas' are partly or wholly located within the park, which identify the areas at the greatest risk to the cumulative effects of flooding, both now and in the future	bodies falling short of the Water Framework Directive target status of 'Good', including Loch Lomond.  Increase in development and Towns and Villages correlates with increased demand for drinking water, increased pressure on water quality and increased pressure on drainage systems and flooding  Growing demand for hydro electricity generation  Continued use of water bodies for recreation and tourism  Landscape scale projects to reduce flood risk – e.g. Strathard Ecosystems Services Project aims to identify land management solutions that will help to reduce flood risk downstream in and around Aberfoyle	goals for achieving good ecological status for all water bodies by 2027  Reducing diffuse pollution from settlements and rural sources  Ensuring enough freshwater is available to meet future demands for drinking water and hydro electricity generation while still supporting the environmental needs of each water body  Continue to work with Regional Flood Management partnerships to review progress towards achieving agreed actions  Avoiding increases in flood risk (e.g. number of properties at risk) and working with our partners to ensure that wherever possible, flood risk within the park is reduced  Requiring new developments to integrate the water environment (including suds) into their design in a way that manages any risks and enhances the overall design  Raising awareness of the intrinsic value of the water environment within the park and how it, along with other park assets, through adoption and application of an Ecosystem Service Approach.  Encourage appropriate woodland creation and management to reduce flood risk	<ul> <li>Protection Agency (SEPA) 2013</li> <li>SEPA interactive water body map, www.gis.sepa.org.uk/rbmp/</li> <li>SEPA Flood Risk Management Act 2009 information, www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/ Planning Scotland's Seas: 2013 - Possible Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas Consultation, Marine Scotland</li> <li>Valuing the National Park, LLTNPA 2011</li> <li>Limits of Acceptable Change for Loch Lomond, LLTNPA, 2011</li> <li>River Basin Management Plan for Scotland, 2009</li> <li>Clyde, Tay, Forth, Argyll and Lochaber Area Management Plans, 2010</li> <li>A Preliminary Study into the Noise Aspects of Loch Lomond (2005)</li> <li>Review of Ecological impacts of Boating and Associated Activities on Loch Lomond and its shores. Final Report 2005</li> <li>Glasgow University Boat Numbers Survey (SCENE, Collin Adams and Jennifer Dodd) 2010</li> </ul>

Resource/topic	Current state of the Environment	Key trends	Implications of National Park Partnership Plan for key trends	Information sources
Air	<ul> <li>Good air quality – NO<sub>2</sub>         and SO<sub>2</sub> levels monitored         by local authorities found         to be well below risk         levels of national         standards     </li> </ul>	Stable air quality	<ul> <li>Maintaining good air quality by encouraging clean home heating, reducing energy consumption, and encouraging sustainable development</li> <li>Reducing transport emissions</li> </ul>	Scottish Air Quality Database, www.scottishairquality.co.uk     Air Quality Report for Scotland 2000 - SEPA
Climate	<ul> <li>Varying average rainfall from North to South, particularly during winter – between 180mm and 377mm</li> <li>Average temperatures broadly consistent between North and South but vary significantly with altitude</li> <li>Prevailing wind is South-Westerly</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Predicted changes in temperature, precipitation and storm occurrence</li> <li>Predicted sea level rise of 25cm by 2050</li> <li>Increased winter rainfall</li> <li>Increase in winter river flows in River Teith</li> <li>Climate change mitigation and adaptation through restoration of peatland</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Requiring sustainable and integrated flood and land management</li> <li>Encouraging carbon sequestration via planting of woodlands and management of uplands</li> <li>Promoting retention of soils and increasing permeability of soils by planting/management of hedgerows and shelterbelts</li> <li>Encouraging sustainable transport to mitigate effects on climate change</li> <li>Encouraging renewable energy opportunities across the Park</li> <li>Promoting low carbon development</li> <li>Require reduced carbon emissions from new development</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Patterns of Climate Change Across Scotland Handbook 2006 – Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research</li> <li>State of the Environment Report for Scotland – SEPA</li> <li>UK Met Office</li> <li>SEPA Gauging data</li> <li>UK Climate Projections</li> </ul>
Forests and Woodlands	<ul> <li>52,532 hectares of Park area is forests and woodlands (30% of the Park's land area)</li> <li>Native woodland covers 4,226ha, Nearly-native woodland covers 113ha and Other (ancient) woodland (under 40% native species) covers 3,060 ha</li> <li>The main priority habitat types are Upland birchwoods, Wet woodland</li> </ul>	coniferous plantations resulting in an increase in biodiversity, recreation and landscape value • Felling of productive conifer forests is expected to increase over the next 20 years, accompanied by an increase in conversion to native woodlands	<ul> <li>Protection of forestry and woodlands for natural habitat, recreation and tourism opportunities</li> <li>Conserving and managing internationally and nationally important woodland sites</li> <li>Protecting and enhancing functional connectivity</li> <li>Providing a range of formal and informal recreation and visitor facilities</li> <li>Ensuring appropriate infrastructure to support forestry</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Forestry Commission Scotland         <ul> <li>National Woodland Inventory</li> <li>2013</li> </ul> </li> <li>Native Woodland Survey of         Scotland- Loch Lomond &amp; The             <ul></ul></li></ul>

Resource/topic	Current state of the Environment	Key trends	Implications of National Park Partnership Plan for key trends	Information sources
	and Upland oakwoods. These represent 32%, 27% and 18% of the native woodland area respectively  Designated woodlands include the SAC Western Atlantic Oakwoods  Two thirds of the tree cover in the Park area is coniferous ( mainly productive)  67 hectares of ancient  Caledonian pine woods  Wood pasture is a valuable UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitat in the National park (e.g. Glen Finglas)  A number of trees recorded on the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory  Tree health issues including diseases affecting ash trees, pine and larch.	due to decline in grazing pressures  Growing recognition of veteran, heritage and landmark trees and their contribution to the biodiversity and cultural diversity of the National Park  Growing appreciation of the importance of trees and woodland features in and around new developments and built up areas and the contribution they make to the quality of finished developments  Tree health issues affecting ash trees, pine and larch will impact on the landscape	<ul> <li>Considering the potential to develop rarer woodland types to ensure that all woodland types which would naturally occur within the National Park are present and well represented</li> <li>Increasing the amount of woodland under continuous cover management systems</li> <li>Reduce the amount of clear fell and associated problems of soil erosion, landscape impacts</li> </ul>	
Cultural Heritage	<ul> <li>728 listed buildings in the National Park in 2015</li> <li>62 Scheduled Ancient Monuments</li> <li>8 Conservation Areas</li> <li>Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes</li> <li>Undesignated unknown heritage assets such as archaeology, non-</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Encouraging the conversion and reuse of vacant historic buildings</li> <li>Identification of Buildings at risk</li> <li>Securing the sensitive repair and maintenance of traditional properties</li> <li>Growing appreciation of the cultural heritage of the National Park</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ensuring high quality restoration and conversion of historic buildings</li> <li>Managing increased tourism pressure in areas promoted for their cultural history</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Listed buildings database –         Historic Environment Scotland</li> <li>Scheduled Monument Data –         Historic Environment Scotland         www.historic-scotland.gov.uk</li> </ul>

Resource/topic	Current state of the Environment	Key trends	Implications of National Park Partnership Plan for key trends	Information sources
	designated gardens and designed landscapes, locally important non designated historic buildings / structures and non-designated battlefields			
Landscape	<ul> <li>The Special Landscape         Qualities of the National         Park LLTNP</li> <li>Three National Scenic         Areas including Loch         Lomond, The Trossachs         and the River Earn         (Comrie to St Fillans only)</li> <li>Historic Gardens and         Designed Landscapes         (National Inventory)</li> <li>Landscape Character         Assessment (SNH)</li> <li>Registered agricultural         land accounts for         approximately 55% of the         Park area</li> <li>2 Wild Land Areas</li> <li>Relative Wildness         Mapping of Park.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Increased cumulative landscape impacts from development (housing, tourism, renewable energy, minerals, infrastructure) both within and outwith the Park</li> <li>Growing pressure for infrastructure upgrade with increased tourism and visitor numbers</li> <li>Increased value of wild land as part of National Park's special qualities</li> <li>Increased value of dark skies as part of Park's special qualities</li> <li>Decline in traditional land management resulting in effects on landscape character i.e. open agricultural ground and traditional rural features, woodland or other management objectives</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Providing strategic guidance for protecting and enhancing landscape special qualities and wild land, from impacts from developments within and outwith the Park</li> <li>Providing strategic guidance on managing the impacts of road development and improvements</li> <li>Providing information on delivering an ecosystems approach which includes landscape and siting considerations</li> <li>Ensuring high quality in design of forestry and woodlands and associated infrastructure in terms of landscape character, visual amenity and scenic quality</li> <li>Ensuring high quality landscape design for all development; design and placemaking; charettes; masterplans; rural development areas; scenic routes; camping management zones etc.</li> <li>Providing guidance on landscape mitigation and enhancement works for power distribution and transmission networks</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Report No. 376: The special landscape qualities of the LLTNP, 2010, Scottish Natural Heritage</li> <li>LLTTNPA Wild Land Report – wild land institute 2011</li> <li>Dark skies pollution survey, external lighting audit and core mapping 2010/11</li> <li>SNH Wild Land Descriptions work contracted for WL6 - Ben Lui and WL 7 Ben More – Ben Ledi 2016-7.</li> <li>LLTNP Non Inventory Designed Landscape Study 2010</li> </ul>

# 3 The Scoping Process

# 3.1 Scoping SEA Issues

Having set out the objectives of the NPPP, the policy context and the environmental characteristics of the National Park, this section considers the SEA environmental topics that need to be considered within the scope of the SEA (either scoped in or out). Where the Plan is likely to have (or it is presently not known whether it will have) a <u>significant</u> environmental effect (positive or negative) then these are scoped into the assessment.

Table 3, shows that all the SEA environmental topics have been 'scoped in' and explains the reasons why.

Table 3: Scoping In/ Out of SEA Issues

Environmental Parameter / Topic	Scoped In / Out	Justification
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	In	There are a large number of protected sensitive sites and species which may be directly or indirectly affected either positively or negatively as a result of the NPPP.
Population and Human Health	In	Supporting vibrant, sustainable communities is one of the Parks aims. The Plan can generate potentially positive or negative effects on human health.
Soil	In	Changing land management and protection of soils as carbon sinks has potentially significant impacts.
Water	In	Need to protect the high quality of the water environment of the National Park.
Air	In	Generally good air quality throughout the National Park. Need support air quality improvements through measures to minimise emissions and reducing car based travel. Potentially significant effects.
Climatic Factors	In	The NPPP has the potential to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and could result in significant positive/negative impacts.
Material Assets	In	The NPPP will promote the sustainable use of material assets and natural resources and the SEA will help ensure this approach is maximised.
Cultural Heritage	In	There are a large number of historic buildings, monuments and designed landscapes within the National Park
Landscape	In	The National Park is a nationally important landscape designation with a

	range of highly valued landscape
	character types and views.

# 3.2 Proportionality

The scope of the NPPP and the SEA will be broad given the wide range of activities that will be included in the Plan. The Plan must balance aspirations for the National Park to be an international visitor destination with a good range of visitor infrastructure, accommodation and facilities, support economic and social development of the rural economy and the Park communities whilst maintaining and enhancing the integrity of species, habitats and landscapes which, combined, make up the special qualities of the area.

For the topics identified in Table 3 and associated level of assessment, there will be a proportionate level of detail in the Environmental Report. It will focus on those aspects of the Plan that are likely to have a significant environmental effect. For example, the assessment of broad spatial policies will be proportionately assessed whereas any location specific proposals will require a more robust assessment. As part of the assessment the consideration and assessment of reasonable alternatives will also be undertaken

# 4 Methodology for the SEA

#### 4.1 The SEA will involve completing the following eight stage process:

#### (a) Establish the environmental baseline

A fundamental aspect of the SEA is to establish the environmental baseline from which the Plan's future implementation is being assessed. The baseline is determined according to the scope of the assessment and Plan. The purpose of the SEA is to determine how the environmental baseline will be altered as a result of the Plan's implementation. Table 1 above summarises the environmental baseline for the assessment and key information sources they will be updated following the Scoping Report.

#### (b) Develop the SEA objectives

To assist in assessing the impact of the NPPP on the environment, the following proposed SEA objectives and associated questions have been produced. These relate to the specific SEA environmental receptors and issues that were felt to have potential to significantly impact on the environment. Each element of the NPPP will be assessed against the objectives to determine significant positive and negative environmental impacts.

The proposed SEA objectives and questions are fully compliant with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. It is important to note that these SEA objectives and questions are provisional and may be modified as a result of comments from

the Consultation Authorities or as a result of changes in the baseline data when it is fully collected.

# **Table 4: Proposed SEA Objectives and Assessment Questions**

Please note that this table also includes sample questions that will be refined as part of the assessment process. They are included here to give an indication of the type of information that will be derived from the objectives to assess the content of the NPPP.

Proposed SEA Objectives	Draft questions for assessment
Biodiversity	Will the proposed vision, objectives,
	proposals
To protect, enhance, and restore	
biodiversity and encourage habitat	be likely to have a significant effect on
connectivity	international or nationally important
	nature conservation sites?
	enhance and restore biodiversity?
	encourage connectivity between     hebitate and green networks?
Landagana	habitats and green networks?
Landscape	Will the proposed vision, objectives, proposals
To protect, enhance and restore the special	proposais
landscape qualities of the National Park	be consistent with the protection,
	conservation and sustainable
	management of the special qualities of
	the National Park and associated
	National Scenic Areas?
	Maintain and enhance landscape
	character and distinctiveness?
	be consistent with policies to enhance
	promote or maintain people's enjoyment
	and understanding of the landscape?
Air	Will the proposed vision, objectives,
	proposals
To prevent deterioration and, where	
possible, enhance air quality	Minimise need for travel by private car?
	Minimise emissions?
	A 11 / CH 11 C
	Avoid potentially polluting  developments?
Population and human health	developments? Will the proposed vision, objectives,
Population and number nearth	proposals
To protect and improve human health, well	P. Op O O G I O
being, inclusion and sustainable	promote local employment
communities	opportunities?
	Provide for local housing needs?
	<ul><li>encourage healthy lifestyles?</li></ul>

	encourage local communities to become involved in the use and management of land?
	encourage active travel and outdoor leisure?
Geology, minerals and soils	Will the proposed vision, objectives,
	proposals
To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.	be likely to have a significant effect on geodiversity features of national or local importance?
	enhance these features where possible?
	protect and improve areas of peatland?
	<ul> <li>seek to prevent soil degradation and erosion?</li> </ul>
Water environment	Will the proposed vision, objectives, proposals
To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies	seek to contribute to enhancing the ecological status of waterbodies?
	Maintain and improve water quality?
	Reduce risk of water pollution?
	Manage flood risks?
Climate  To help mitigate the causes of climate	Will the proposed vision, objectives, proposals
change and adapt to its short and long term impacts	Reduce energy consumption?
·	Reduce emissions contributing to climate change?
	Encourage more efficient energy use?
	Promote use of renewable energy?
	<ul> <li>Maximise energy efficiency of existing infrastructure and new development?</li> </ul>
Material assets	Will the proposed vision, objectives, proposals
To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources	reduce consumption of fossil fuels?
	<ul> <li>conserve mineral and soil resources?</li> </ul>
	•

	encourage use of local products?
	<ul> <li>Maximise energy efficiency of new development through sustainable material and construction?</li> <li>Promote efficient use of land?</li> </ul>
Cultural heritage	Will the proposed vision, objectives, proposals
To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	protect and, where appropriate, enhance cultural heritage assets (e.g. Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Listed buildings, Locally Important Designed Landscapes and Scheduled Monuments)?

#### (c) Identify and assess alternative options

The initial scoping of the vision and objectives for the Plan will be undertaken via stakeholder engagement conducted via discussion papers, workshops and engagement with National Park Board Members and partner organisations. The outputs of the workshop and stakeholder engagement will inform the development of options and reasonable alternatives where these exist.

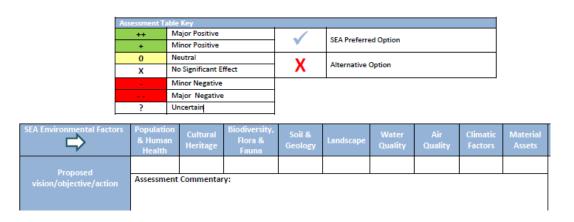
Part 2 Section 14 (20(b) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Environmental Report to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan and reasonable alternatives to the plan, taking into account its objectives and geographical scope. Guidance advises that only reasonable, realistic and relevant alternatives are put forward and that it is helpful if these are sufficiently distinct to enable meaningful comparisons to be made of the environmental implications of each. Where alternatives options do come forward, these will be considered against the SEA objectives using the methodology outlined in this report. It is most likely that the preferred alternative to come out of the environmental assessment will be the one that has the potential to achieve the best balance between environmental, social and economic considerations. This option will then undergo a more detailed assessment and evaluation in the Environmental Report.

#### (d) Assess preferred Plan options

The assessment of the environmental effects and their significance will be based on a consideration of how the policies are likely to affect the environmental baseline and whether any anticipated changes to the environmental baseline will help or hinder the SEA objectives being achieved. As a result of this process the assessment will provide the opportunity to consider how each policy can be refined to help deliver environmental benefits for the National Park.

Expertise from within the National Park Authority will be drawn on to assess the proposed policies including ecology, landscape, recreation, built and cultural heritage due to the broad scope of the issues to be considered. An assessment sheet will be completed for each proposed policy (or relevant aspect of the Plan, e.g. action, outcome) and the results will be summarised as illustrated in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Draft assessment matrix



## (e) Identify and incorporate mitigation

Mitigation will be identified for proposed options where a significant negative environmental effect is identified. In some cases, negative effects may be able to be mitigated though another objective, policy, and accompanying target and outcome. Additional mitigation may be required such as the modification or inclusion of an additional objective, policy, target and outcome, or monitoring indicator. Commencing the SEA process alongside the initial development of the NPPP will help to ensure that modification of the plan can be achieved as the environmental issues are identified.

### (f) Monitor environmental effects

The adopted NPPP will be subject to ongoing monitoring. It is intended to create a set of indicators to measure the impacts that the NPPP may have on the environment during its lifespan. The indicators will be based on the baseline information and the existing environmental issues and problems in the area. These indicators will be developed during the preparation of the NPPP and environmental assessment processes.

Monitoring measures and a review of the NPPP will be discussed in the Environmental Report and will form the Post-Adoption Statement after the NPPP is approved by Scottish Ministers.

#### (g) Consultation process

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Environmental Report to outline how the SEA has been undertaken, and to be published for

an appropriate consultation period. A draft Environmental Report will be released for consultation alongside the draft Plan and will contain the following:

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- SEA methodology
- Baseline and SEA objectives
- Assessment of significant environmental effects
- Consultation period for the Environmental Report and the draft Plan

A Habitats Regulation Appraisal will also be undertaken for the NPPP in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended). This will be reported on separately.

Following a proposed 12 week public consultation process on both the draft NPPP and Environmental Report, the consultation responses received will be collated, considered and incorporated into the development of the final Plan, ready for Scottish Ministers approval. The Environmental Report will be updated as required.

# (h) Post adoption statement

Once the Plan has received approval, a post adoption statement will be prepared outlining how the Plan has been modified as a result of the SEA process.

#### 5. Conclusion

This Scoping Report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan is being submitted to the Consultation Authorities through the SEA Gateway for their consideration.

# Appendix A

# Relevant Legislation Plans Policies and Programmes and Related Environmental Objectives

Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective	Main requirements of PPS	NPPP relationship with PPS
	International	
Biodiversity The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 Nature Conservation - the Ramsar Convention	Protection of habitats and species. Protection of wild birds and their habitats. Promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Protection of Wetland birds	The Plan should protect identified habitats, species and wetland birds. Strategies and policies should not hinder protection, management and control of species and should support the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
<ul> <li>Water</li> <li>Water Framework     Directive 2000/60/EC</li> <li>Nitrate Directive     91/43/EC</li> </ul>	Protect and improve the water environment Ensure that water quality and good ecological status of the Water Framework Directive are maintained Safeguards the sustainable use of water systems; Supports the status of aquatic ecosystems and environments; Addresses groundwater pollution; flooding and droughts; river basin management planning.	The Plan should consider sustainable use of water, support aims to maintain and achieve Good Ecological Status, mitigate the effects of floods and droughts and support river basin management planning.
Climate Change  The UN Convention on Climate Change  The Second European Climate Change Programme	Promotes reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation & adaption to climate change.	The Plan should include measures to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases considering methods of adaptation, diversification and mitigation. In particular, encourage sustainable land use.
Landscape	Promotes the protection,	Plan can provide direction for
The European Landscape Convention 2000	management and planning of all landscapes.	managing the Park's unique landscapes.
National		
Overarching Planning Policy  The Planning (Scotland) Act 2006.  National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (NPF3)	Promotes inclusive and efficient planning system to improve community involvement, support the economy, and help it to grow in a sustainable way.	The Plan should encourage the development of sustainable communities and be developed in a much more inclusive and efficient way, which includes greater

Name of PPS / Environmental protection	Main requirements of PPS	NPPP relationship with PPS
The Scottish Planning Policy	Aims to guide Scotland's development to 2030 and sets out strategic development priorities to support the Government's goal of sustainable economic growth.	community involvement and supports the economy. The Plan should promote the concepts of sustainable development, community regeneration, and other environmental issues.
Air & Climate Change	Sets out high level measures required to meet Scotland's statutory climate change targets, to 2020 and in the long term.  A national land-use strategy has been prepared under the Act. This identifies key principles for the sustainable use of land, including: encouraging land uses which deliver multiple benefits; land highly suitable for primary uses should be recognised in decision-making; and examining options for restoring derelict or vacant land should be a priority. The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland sets objectives for Particulate Matter (PM), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and ozone (O3) amongst others.	The Plan should include measures to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases considering methods of adaptation, diversification and mitigation. In particular, encourage sustainable land use and sustainable travel. Implementation of the strategy should not result in a deterioration of air quality. The strategy must contribute to the promotion of development which helps to reduce Scotland's carbon footprint and help meet carbon saving, the strategy should contribute to the delivery of the targets set in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2006.
Cultural Heritage Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP)	The three key outcomes presented in the Policy are that the historic environment is cared for, protected and enhanced for the benefit of our own and future generations; greater economic benefits from the historic environment; and that the people of Scotland and visitors to our country value, understand and enjoy the historic environment.	The Plan should support the framework to conserve and restore the historic environment.
Soil The Scottish Soil Framework	To promote the sustainable management and protection of soils consistent with the	The Plan should promote the sustainable management and protection of soils.

Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective	Main requirements of PPS	NPPP relationship with PPS
	economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland, achieved through targeted activities including reducing soil erosion; greenhouse gas emissions from soil contamination.	
Population and Human Health  Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015  Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Seeks to empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services.  Establishes the statutory rights of access to land and inland water for outdoor recreation.	The Plan should promote community empowerment and seek to engage communities in their environment. The strategy should take account of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)     The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004     Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands. A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland (2004)     2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity 2013     UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1994     The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)	Gives protection to wildlife and countryside from disturbance, injury intentional destruction or sale.  Duties are placed on public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity and sets out measures to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland. Protects individual sites and promotes conservation on a broader scale.  Aims to halt loss and reverse decline of species and habitats.  Includes measures for designated sites, habitats and species.	The Plan should avoid disturbance to wildlife and the countryside. The Plan should restore, maintain, conserve, promote and protect biodiversity, habitats and species.
Forestry and Woodlands  UK Forestry Standard (UKFS)  Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal  Rationale for Woodland Expansion  Right Tree, Right Place  Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006	The UKFS is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. Provides policy direction for decisions on woodland removal in Scotland. Explains the rationale for the expansion of woodland coverage in Scotland	The Plan should aim to assist with the target of increasing forest cover and prevention of removal of woodland.  The Plan should complement and aim to inform the suite of forestry sector plans that together aim to increase woodland coverage and

Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective	Main requirements of PPS	NPPP relationship with PPS
New consultation draft Scottish Forestry Strategy (in preparation)     Woodlands and the Historic Environment   •	A planning document for the planting of trees and woodland in Scotland including the development of forest and woodland strategies Protect and expand Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment.	deliver a range of benefits through sustainable planting and land management. The strategy should aim to assist in the delivery of multiple benefits for society, environment and economy from forests and woodlands.
Water Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act (WEWS) 2003 The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 River Basin Management Plan for Scotland (2009) SEPA Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland v3: Environmental Policy 19 (2009) SEPA Indicative Flood Map Local Flood Risk Management Strategies/Plans	Integrates the control of pollution, abstractions, dams and engineering activities to protect the water environment.  Ensures that all human activity that can have a harmful impact on water is controlled.  Creates a framework in which organisations involve in flood risk managed can coordinate actions to delivery sustainable and modern approaches to flood risk management.  Details the strategy for River Basin Management Planning in Scotland.  Aims to provide a sustainable future for Scotland's groundwater resources by protecting legitimate uses of groundwater.  Provides maps indicating potential flood extents  SEPA has produced a Flood Risk Management Strategy for each Local Plan District in conjunction with others.  These describe the agreed ambition for managing flooding and the priority of actions to be taken forward to deliver this. Local Flood Risk Management Plans are prepared by local authorities	The strategy should consider sustainable use of water, support aims to maintain and achieve Good Ecological Status, mitigate the effects of floods and droughts and support river basin management planning. The strategy should not promote land use change that would have adverse impacts on the water environment or risk failure of water bodies not achieving at least good ecological status by 2027. The strategy should not create flood risks and should actively promote sustainable flood risk management without conflicting with river basin management plans/Local Flood Risk Management Plans.

Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective	Main requirements of PPS	NPPP relationship with PPS
Objective	and these provide additional detail on the local responsibility, funding and coordination of actions.	
	Local	
Overarching policy  National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000  Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) 2018 to 2023.	The conservation and enhancement of the environment is central to National Parks achieving their purpose. It underpins delivery of all four aims and is integral to the sustainable development needed to support communities and businesses to protect and enhance these areas for future generations. The National Park Partnership Plan is the overarching vision to guide how all those with a role in looking after the National Park will work together over the next five years to ensure a successful, sustainable future for this iconic place	The strategy should be consistent with the four aims detailed in the Act and contribute to the delivery of the NPPP.
Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Local Biodiversity Action Plan (Wild Park 2020)   Landscape	Conserve species and habitats throughout the Park that are considered vulnerable or threatened on a local or national basis, and in turn contribute to the conservation of our global biodiversity; promote awareness of local natural resources; promote community engagement in, and ownership of, the practical conservation of natural resources; and promote the sustainable and wise use of resources.  To promote the protection	The strategy should protect and enhance biodiversity seeking to restore nature in the National Park  The strategy must protect
<ul> <li>Loch Lomond &amp; the Trossachs National Park Special Qualities.</li> </ul>	and enhancement of the Special Qualities of the National Park.	and, where appropriate, restore the Special Qualities of the National Park.
Climate Change	Sets out how the National Park Authority will mitigate against the causes of climate	The strategy should promote activities and land use change as a means of

Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective	Main requirements of PPS	NPPP relationship with PPS
National Park Authority Climate Change Action Plan.	change and adapt to the likely impacts.	reducing and capturing greenhouse gases and ensure that proposals avoid areas of peatland and encourage peatland restoration.
Population and human health  Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Core Paths Plan (2011)  Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP) ( 2013)	The Core Paths Plan provides a system of paths in the National Park which, as a whole, gives the public reasonable access throughout area.  The action plan outlines commitments and intention by all stakeholders which will enhance outdoor recreation opportunities	The strategy should support core paths, and ensure that NPPP does not adversely affect the core path network.  The strategy should support ORP actions, and ensure that NPPP does not adversely affect these actions