



Appendix 1: National Park Place Programme: Partnership Projects Summary update May 2023

Agenda Item 6

National Park Authority Board Meeting 12 June 2023

Paper for information

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1. Introduction

1.1. This appendix provides the planned annual update for May 2023 for the Place Programme Partnership projects summary as presented at Board June 2022.

2. Background

2.1. The Place Programme has been developed with engagement with the public body partners that collectively form the National Park Safe Recovery Action Group (NPSRAG) which was founded in 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 global pandemic and the subsequent increase in visitor pressures post-lockdown.

2.2. The NPSRAG comprises of: Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority – Facilitator, Police Scotland, Transport Scotland, Forestry & Land Scotland, Argyll & Bute Council, Perth & Kinross Council, Stirling Council, and West Dunbartonshire Council.

2.3. All partners also engage with a range of other organisations and individuals who have a stake in visitor management and the associated infrastructure in the National Park; local businesses, third sector bodies, land managers and local community representatives. Whilst these stakeholders are not directly members of the NPSRAG, their collective views and experiences have informed the creation and actions in this strategic approach through wider engagement for example, in areas where they are established, via Visitor Management Groups. These groups have been set up in the areas of the National Park that experience the most intense visitor pressures.

2.4. Set out below is the Place Programme annual update for May 2023, this forms Section 6 and 7 of the original documents.

3. Where we will deliver the Place Programme – Partnership Projects Summary, update May 2023.

3.1. Projects that will deliver on our strategic aim and thematic priorities have been identified through the Strategic Tourism Infrastructure process and engagement with stakeholders. They have been collated in tables according to Visitor Management areas, providing an overall indicative summary of the programme projects by geographic area.

3.2. The Place Programme summary tables list infrastructure interventions that will be prioritised for implementation, during and after the five-year period starting in 2021/22 and ending in 2025/6. The initial focus was on the period to 23/24 and this will inform ongoing discussion on delivery and be reviewed on an annual basis. With this update, May 2023, Years 1, 2 and 3 and 4 are planned and described in more detail based on what we know today, and the intention is that partnership projects summary programme will be regularly reviewed and revised annually to reflect the conditions at the time and plan ahead. Delivery will depend on development, lead-in times and resources. It should be noted that whilst all partners will use their best efforts to prioritise and progress the actions listed in this programme, this is dependent upon sufficient resources and capacity being available.

3.3. Work remains focussed on those areas that experienced the highest level of visitor pressure, particularly in the Covid-19 pandemic: East Loch Lomond, West Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and Callander Area. Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Studies from these areas are completed or in progress, and we have more evidence from these technical reports to inform the programme. Focus out with these areas will be informed by finalisation of the National Park Partnership Plan as the year progresses. For all visitor management group areas outside

East and West Loch Lomond, more detailed tables will be developed over the years as the Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Studies are completed.

- 3.4. The tables are not exhaustive, and the focus is on larger, strategic actions where we are making changes to how the National Park assets are used and experienced, infrastructure development rather than operational running and repair. Strategic projects are highlighted that will bring a significant impact on their own, however smaller projects may also collectively bring great benefits.
- 3.5. Within the tables there are scores for benefits. Positive Impact & sustainability refers to assessment of impact reviewing benefits to visitors, community, enterprise and supporting inclusion; and assessment of sustainability/climate change attributes and benefits focussed on nature, landscape, and climate adaptations, including transport. Complexity includes reviewing issues and barriers to delivery for example land ownership, planning permission(s), significant disruption over extended time in construction.

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS SUMMARY (Year 1 21/22, Year 2 22/23, Year 3 23/24, Year 4 24/25, year 5 25/26) – Year 3 update, May 2023

The tables provide an indicative summary of the Place Programme strategic projects by geographic area, focus on the period to 25/26, and will inform ongoing discussion on delivery and continue to be reviewed annually. The tables do not cover general upkeep and minor works.

REF	Name	Estimated delivery years					Status May 2023	Lead body	Description
		1	2	3	4	5			
Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Studies									
W	West Loch Lomond						Complete	NPA	Promote responsible tourism & quality visitor experience structured around interventions which support visitor management, encourage modal shift, promote sustainable development, and ensure the needs of residents, businesses visitors are addressed in a fully inclusive environment.
E	East Loch Lomond						Complete	NPA	
ST	Strathard and Trossachs						In progress	NPA	
CA	Callander Area						In progress	NPA	
P W	Undertake a final park-wide review and consolidation STID incorporating areas of pressure across the park and at the boundaries; guided by popular places and routes						Pending	NPA	

REF	Project Name	Positive Impact & sustainability ¹	Indicative Cost	Complexity ²	Estimated delivery years					Priority	Status May 2023	Lead body	Description	
					1	2	3	4	5					
West Loch Lomond strategic capital projects and priorities														
	Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Study	■■■■■	£	□□□							High	Complete	NPA	Approach to strategic investment in the area
Study derived costed capital projects														
W1	Tarbet Pier/Picnic/Visitor Site	■■■■■	£ £ £ £ £	□□							High	Design	NPA	Design work complete and planning and RTIF funding application submitted. Subject to planning permission, phase 1 work expected to start in Year 3.
W2	Arrochar (Cobbler) Glen Loin car park	■■■■	£ £ £	□□							High	Design	Argyll & Bute	Draft design plan has been completed, awaiting sign off to move to next stage of funding. Bids will coincide with next RTIF round.
W3	Luss Improvements – streetscape & car park	■■■■	£ £ £ £ £	□□							High	Design	NPA Argyll & Bute	First stage work on Luss Pier furniture in Year 2, delayed to Year 3, autumn.

¹ **Positive Impact & sustainability** refers to assessment of **impact** reviewing benefits (impact to visitors/community/enterprise and supporting inclusion); **sustainability**/climate change attributes and benefits focussed on nature, landscape, and climate adaptations, including transport.

² **Complexity** – reviewing issues and barriers to delivery for example land ownership, planning permission(s), significant disruption over extended time in construction.

W4	Arrochar and Tarbet station links Phase 1	■■■■■	£ £ £ £ £	□□□□							High	Pending, TBC	TBC	Transport Scotland led bridge reconstruction to provide wider footpath and cycleway - funding was not approved. Partnership to revisit delivery.
Further capital projects from the Infrastructure Study for this area identified for the five-year period will be programmed in over a rolling five-year period as partner resources allow and include Duck Bay north and south, Arrochar and Tarbet Station Links Phase 2, Firkin Point, Arrochar Head of Loch, Ross Park Gates, Ardgartan and Inveruglas . In addition, support will be given to advancing improvements to the site in Luss Estates ownership identified a high priority, Arrochar Head of Loch , where community management is involved.														
Additional Partnership Strategic Priorities for the Area														
	Tarbet & Arrochar Motorhome Strategy	■■■	£	□							High	In progress	NPA	Approach to managing motorhomes
	A82 signage	■■■	£	□							High	Pending	Transport Scotland	Tourist signage to facilities and destinations, design Year 3, and delivery Year 4
	Laybys and toilets	■■■	£	□							High	In progress	Argyll & Bute	Temporary provision, funded for Year 3.
Further strategic priorities anticipated include West Loch Lomond Cycle Path Balloch to Tarbet upgrade, A82 north of Tarbet upgrade with cycle way, marine gateway enhancement , investigation of improvements around Ardlui and Tarbet Isle areas.														

REF	Project Name	Positive Impact & sustainability	Indicative Cost	Complexity	Estimated delivery years					Priority	Status May 2023	Lead body	Description	
					1	2	3	4	5					
East Loch Lomond strategic capital projects and priorities														
	Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Study	■■■■■	£	□□□□							High	Complete	NPA	Approach to strategic investment in the area
Study derived costed capital projects														
	Rowardennan seasonal car park	/	£ £	/							High	Complete	FLS	Accelerated project seasonal overflow car park
	Conic Hill Path	/	£ £ £	/							High	In progress	NPA	Phase 1 large scale upgrade to hill path nearing completion, additional phases coming Years 3 to 5
E1	Balmaha Masterplan	■■■■■	£ £ £ £ £	□□□							high	In progress	NPA/ Stirling	RTIF funded Masterplan complete, work in Year 3 to take forward priorities.
E2	Rowardennan main car park and facilities	■■■■■	£ £ £	□□□							high	Design	NPA/FLS	Multi partner site redesign, design works to improve facilities planned in Year 3
E3	Milarrochy Bay car park and facilities	■■■	£	□□							high	On hold	NPA	Site upgrade on hold owing to resourcing constraints.
Further significant strategic capital projects, albeit of medium priority for this area identified for the five-year period will be programmed in over a rolling five-year period as resources allow and include: Sallochy, Drymen, Drymen park and Ride, Garadhban and potential improvement at Milton of Buchanan . In addition, support will be given to Cashel Forest Trust in advancing improvements to their site on East Loch Lomond.														

Additional Partnership Strategic Priorities for the Area						
	Shuttle bus pilot			Pipeline	NPA	Pilot in medium term being explored

REF	Name	Estimated delivery years					Status May 2023	Lead body	Description
		1	2	3	4	5			
Strathard and Trossachs									
	Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Study						In progress	NPA	Approach to strategic investment in the area, delayed, will run into early Year 3.
Accelerated projects									
T1	Trossachs Visitor Management Project						In progress	Third Sector	Additional provision at Trossachs Pier, Ben A'an and Stronachlachar. RTIF via NPA, Slight delay to completion will run into early Year 3. Funder (RTIF) agreed extension.
T2	Trossachs Connectivity Loch Achray Supporting modal shift to public transport						In progress	NPA / FLS	First phase in delivery at Ben Venue, further work on connectivity in the area to review.
T3	Changing Places Aberfoyle						Complete	Stirling	Provision of first Changing Places in the National Park
Additional elements of delivery will be added in future years as the Study to inform work develops.									
Additional Partnership Strategic Priorities for the Area									
	Strathard Framework						Complete	NPA	Shared vision and delivery plan to support a healthier, more climate responsive Strathard
	Shuttle Bus Pilot						Pending	NPA	Pilot in Year 2 could not be delivered, pilot in year 3 being explored.

Callander area									
	Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Study						In progress	NPA	Approach to strategic investment in the area, due to complete early Year 3.
Accelerated projects									
C1	Trossachs Visitor Management Project						In progress	Third Sector	Improved signage and orientation provision to manage visitors through the Trossachs. Slight delay to completion will run into early Year 3. Funder (RTIF) agreed extension.
C2	Bracklinn Falls Bridge Replacement						Complete	NPA FLS	Bridge replaced to enhance the experience and safety of the Falls
Additional elements of delivery will be added in future years as the Study to inform work develops. This is anticipated to include a Pass of Leny Management Plan, Motorhome management, improvements to public realm in Callander along A84, flood alleviation implementation works within Callander, and exploration of visitor routes in via Dunblane and Doune and increasing more sustainable and active travel.									
Additional Partnership Strategic Priorities for the Area									
	Shuttle Bus Pilot – hub for Trossachs route						Pipeline	NPA	Pilot in medium term being explored

Loch Earn, Balquidder & Strathyre									
	Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Study						On hold	NPA	Approach to strategic investment in the area to be incorporated in park wide study
Accelerated projects									
	A85 Laybys						Pending	Transport Scotland	Partnership approach to improve laybys, long term project commencing in year 5
Additional elements of delivery will be added in future years as the Study to inform work develops. This is anticipated to include the Community project at The Broch and further work to St Fillan's Railway Path.									
Additional Partnership Strategic Priorities for the Area									
Additional elements of delivery will be added in future years as the Study to inform work develops.									

Balloch and access to Loch Lomond, and Gartocharn							
Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Study					On hold	NPA	Approach to strategic investment in the area to be incorporated in park wide study
Accelerated projects							
Balloch Castle and Country Park Improvements					Pipeline	West Dunbartonshire	Developing infrastructure enhancements linked to UCI Cycling World Championship
Additional elements of delivery will be added in future years as the Study to inform work develops. This is anticipated to include improvements to arrival on leaving railway station , significant park and ride at Balloch car parks and improvements to Duncan Mills Slipway / Pierhead area .							
Additional Partnership Strategic Priorities for the Area							
Additional elements of delivery will be added in future years as the Study to inform work develops.							
Strathfillan and Glen Dochart							
Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Study					On hold	NPA	Approach to strategic investment in the area to be incorporated in park wide study
Accelerated projects							
Tyndrum Infrastructure improvements					Design	Third Sector	This includes a Changing Places toilet and scoping other improvements.
Falls of Falloch					Design	NPA	Phase 1 Pathways, bridges, and interpretation if possible before A82 works. Delayed into Year 3
Additional elements of delivery will be added in future years as the Study to inform work develops. This is anticipated to include parking improvements to Falls of Falloch , improvements to infrastructure in Killin and camping and motorhome solutions in wider Breadalbane .							
Additional Partnership Strategic Priorities for the Area							
Additional elements of delivery will be added in future years as the Study to inform work develops.							
Cowal							
Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Study					On hold	NPA	Approach to strategic investment in the area to be incorporated in park wide study
Accelerated projects							
Benmore Gardens Visitor Infrastructure Improvements					Design	RBGE	Design work to improve facilities, supported by NPA and RTIF via A&BC
Ardentinny improvements					On Hold	FLS	Ongoing phased improvements to visitor site
Additional elements of delivery will be added in future years as the Study to inform work develops.							
Additional Partnership Strategic Priorities for the Area							
Additional elements of delivery will be added in future years as the Study to inform work develops.							

4. Place Programme Summary at May 2023

4.1. Place Programme Summary at May 2023

	Year 1 2021/22	Year 2 2022/23	Year 3 2023/24	Year 4 2024/25	Year 5 2025/26
Overall Programme	Prepare Place Programme – 5 year visitor infrastructure investment plan	Place Programme Approach Published	Annual review and monitoring of Partnership Projects Summary and programme delivery schedule		Prepare refreshed Place Programme Infrastructure Approach
Evidence base	Develop Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Studies in East and West Loch Lomond	Evidence building through area based strategic studies – ongoing review	Evidence building through area based strategic studies – ongoing review	Evidence building through area based strategic studies – ongoing review	Review and consolidate evidence base
Supporting thematic delivery	Board Futures Group	Design Guide developed	TBC	TBC	TBC
	Partnership approach to Place Programme confirmed	Motorhome strategy pilot focussed on Arrochar and Tarbet	TBC	TBC	TBC
Delivery	Accelerated Delivery projects in East Loch Lomond and in Trossachs	Delivery of Place Programme Projects			

4.2. Monitoring and reviewing the programme will be undertaken on a quarterly basis by the National Park Safe Recovery Action Group partners as a key governance tool in the management of the Place Programme. This, May 2023 is the first annual update and the overall Place programme summary focusing on evidence base building and projects delivery remains as is. The next update is planned is planned to start in October 2023 to produce an update for May 2024. Our approach will be to follow a continual improvement cycle process to identify opportunities, develop strategy, plan the action programme, make change happen on the ground and review progress. At any given time, different thematic priority developments and geographic areas will be at different places in this cycle.