



National Park

PARTNERSHIP PLAN
2024-2029

**LOCH
LOMOND
& THE TROSSACHS
NATIONAL PARK**





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Foreword

Scotland is globally renowned for its unique environment and culture and perhaps nowhere more so than our National Parks.

Designated and loved by many for their landscapes, habitats, wildlife, history and recreation opportunities, as well as being wonderful places to live and work, they are truly special places.

However, our National Parks are also under threat. Huge generational challenges are facing Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park's nature, climate, economy and communities. Challenges that we must work together to address now.

The National Park is experiencing the devastating impacts of the global nature crisis and climate emergency. In fact, seeing the effects of these global crises in Scotland's first National Park makes the reality all the more stark.

Targeted action for climate and for nature, and in turn supporting the resilience of communities and businesses, is crucial.

These challenges directly affect people, both those who already live, work and manage land in the National Park as well as those who might wish to. The National Park's communities and economy need support to adapt and thrive.

Change is needed therefore to ensure a more positive and sustainable future. That is why this National Park Partnership Plan sets out an ambitious vision for the future, along with the vital steps that need to be taken over the next few years to achieve it.

It provides optimism and inspiration by clearly outlining the opportunities available to act now and improve the future for both the National Park and Scotland as a whole.

By changing the way land is used, developing pathways for green jobs and skills development, providing sustainable travel options and visitor experiences, and empowering communities to adapt and build resilience, the National Park can become a thriving place that is nature positive and carbon negative. This will also support our national route map for Scotland to become a Net Zero Nation by 2045.

This cannot be achieved in isolation; it is only by delivering in partnership, and at scale, that we will have the greatest impact. By leading the way and testing new approaches and solutions here in the National Park, we can also provide crucial learning and examples to follow for other areas too.

By working together to create a better future for the National Park, we are contributing to a better future for Scotland, for all of us.

That is why this National Park Partnership Plan sets out an ambitious vision for the future, along with the vital steps that need to be taken over the next few years to achieve it.



Mairi Gougeon MSP
CABINET SECRETARY FOR RURAL
AFFAIRS, LAND REFORM AND ISLANDS

Ro-ràdh

Tha Alba cliùiteach air feadh na cruinne airson a h-àrainneachd agus a cultar air leth, gu seachd sònraichte a thaobh nam Pàircean Nàiseanta againn.

Air an ainmeachadh, agus mòr-chòrdte, mar thoradh air an cruthan-tìre, àrainnean, fiadh-bheatha, eachdraidh agus cothroman cur-seachad, cho math ri bhith nan àiteachan fìor shònraichte airson a bhith a' fuireach agus ag obair, tha iad nan àiteachan sònraichte dha-rìribh.

Ach, tha na Pàircean Nàiseanta againn ann an cunnart cuideachd. Tha dùbhlain mhòra eadar-ghinealach mu choinneamh nàdar, gnàth-shìde, eaconamaidh agus coimhearsnachdan Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Laomainn is nan Tròisichean. Feumaidh sinn obrachadh còmhla gus dèiligeadh ris na dùbhlain seo a-nis.

Tha èiginn nàdair na cruinne agus na gnàth-shìde a' toirt buaidh air a' Phàirc Nàiseanta. Gu dearbh, tha a bhith a' faicinn buaidh nan èiginn cruinneil seo anns a' chiad Phàirc Nàiseanta ann an Alba a' fàgail gu bheil an suidheachadh nas soilleire buileach. Tha e ro-chudromach mar sin gum bi gnìomhan cuimsichte ann airson na gnàth-shìde agus airson nàdar, agus a bhios cuideachd a' toirt taic do sheasmhachd choimhearsnachdan is ghnìomhachasan.

Bidh na dùbhlain sin a' toirt buaidh dhìreach air daoine, an dà chuid an fheadhainn a tha a' fuireach, ag obair agus a' riaghladh fearann sa

Phàirc Nàiseanta a bharrachd air an fheadhainn a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ag iarraidh a bhith an sàs sa phàirce nàiseanta sna dòighean sin san àm ri teachd. Tha feum aig coimhearsnachdan agus eaconamaidh na Pàirce Nàiseanta air taic gus atharrachadh agus gus soirbheachadh.

Mar sin tha atharrachadh a dhìth gus dèanamh cinnteach gum bi cùisean nas fheàrr agus nas seasmhaiche san àm ri teachd.

Sin as adhbhar gu bheil Plana Com-pàirteachais na Pàirce Nàiseanta a' cur air adhart lèirsinn àrd-amasach airson an àm ri teachd a bharrachd air na ceumannan deatamach a dh'fheumar a ghabhail thairis air na beagan bhliadhnaichean ri teachd gus a coileanadh.

Tha e a' toirt dòchas agus brosnachadh dhuinn le bhith a' mìneachadh nan cothroman a th' ann aig an àm seo gu soilleir gus gnìomhan a ghabhail agus gus piseach a thoirt air an àm ri teachd airson na Pàirce Nàiseanta agus airson Alba gu lèir.

Le bhith ag atharrachadh na dòigh anns a bheilear a' cleachdadh fearann, a' cruthachadh slighean airson obraichean uaine agus a' leasachadh sgilean, a' toirt seachad roghainnean siubhail seasmhach agus

cothroman do luchd-tadhail, agus a' toirt cumhachd do choimhearsnachdan a bhith ag atharrachadh agus a' cur ri ath-leumachd, faodaidh a' Phàirc Nàiseanta a bhith na h-àite soirbheachail a tha a' cur ri nàdar agus a' toirt air falbh carbon. Cumaidh seo taic cuideachd ris a' mhapa-slighe againn a dh'ionnsaigh Alba a bhith na Nàisean le Cothromachadh Carboin ro 2045.

Chan urrainnear seo a choileanadh leis fhèin; 's ann tro bhith a' libhrigeadh ann an com-pàirteachas, agus aig sgèile, a bhios a' bhuaidh as motha againn. Le bhith a' sealltainn na slighe air adhart agus a' dèanamh deuchainn air dòighean-obrach agus fuasglaidhean ùra an seo sa Phàirc Nàiseanta, is urrainn dhuinn ionnsachadh ro-chudromach a dhèanamh agus eisimpleirean a thoirt seachad airson raointean eile cuideachd.

Le bhith ag obair còmhla gus an àm ri teachd nas fheàrr a chruthachadh dhan Phàirc Nàiseanta, tha sinn a' cur ri àm ri teachd nas fheàrr do dh'Alba, dhuinn uile.

Mairi Gougeon BPA

**RÙNAIRE A' CHAIBINEIT AIRSON CHÙISEAN DÙTHCHAIL,
ATH-LEASACHADH FEARAINN AGUS EILEANAN**



INTRODUCTION





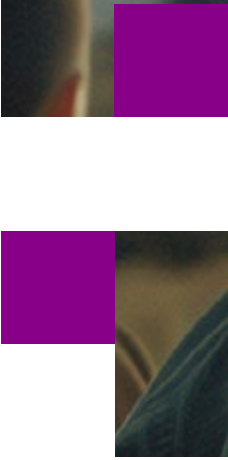
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park is a unique place and a special landscape.

Things are, and should be, done differently here to maximise the benefits that can be provided for nature, climate and people.

Globally, we are facing twin crises of the climate emergency and nature loss. Both crises are happening here and now in the National Park, in fact many of the impacts are being felt even more deeply and obviously here, so it is not enough to simply do what we have always done.

The National Park Authority is making a step change in how it responds to these crises but cannot do it alone. There are many people and organisations who have a role in securing a positive future for the National Park. Some who have been here for generations, some who are the stewards of the land, and those from within and outside the Park who will play a part over the coming years.

Tackling the nature and climate crises is not separate to supporting the rural economy and our communities. In fact, working together to address these will provide a range of wider benefits for the National Park and its people, including more investment, business and employment opportunities.



Alongside this, we must address other challenges facing our economy and communities such as recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and issues around housing, jobs and skills. Together we need to find ways to adapt and prosper in the face of the changes needed in the National Park.

We also know that while the National Park has seen an increase in some people visiting and taking part in outdoor recreation opportunities, this isn't the case for everyone, and we need to tackle inequality of access to the National Park.

This Plan is about transformation in the face of huge challenges. Transforming the way each of us live, work in, visit and look after the National Park to achieve a more positive, sustainable future for us all.

Here. Now. All of us.

Purpose of this Plan

The National Park Partnership Plan guides how all of those with a role to play in looking after the National Park will work together to manage the Park and achieve a shared vision for the area.

A National Park Plan is required under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 to set out a National Park Authority's policy for (a) managing a National Park; and (b) coordinating the exercise of an Authority's functions in relation to a National Park and the functions of other public bodies and office holders to the extent that they affect a National Park, with a view to ensuring that the National Park aims are collectively achieved in a co-ordinated way.

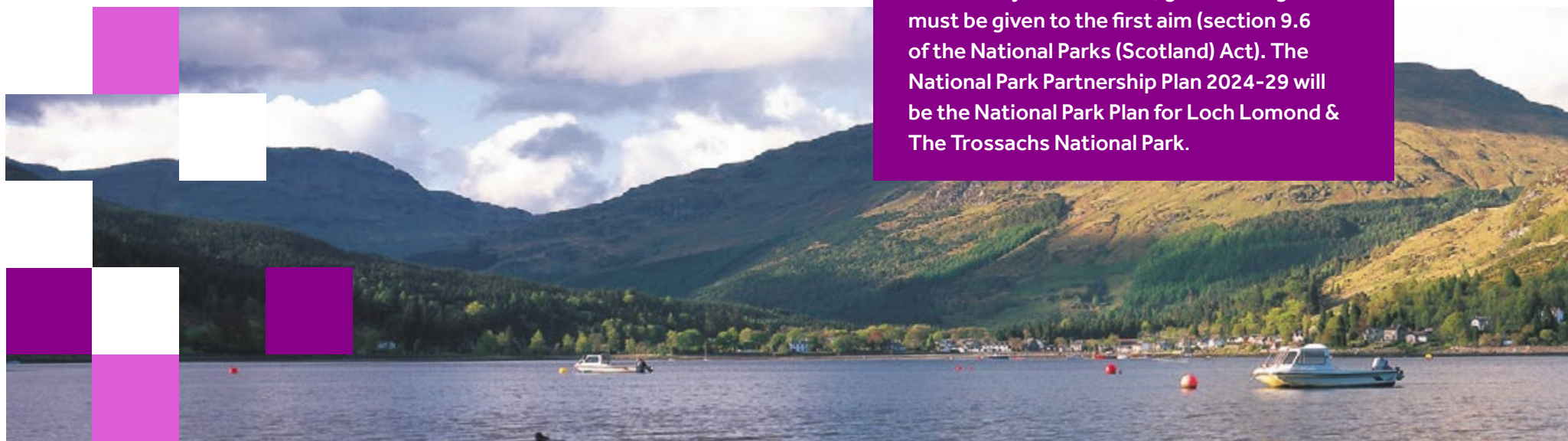
While the National Park Authority is responsible for drafting and consulting on the National Park Plan, the actions within it require collaboration across a wide range of partners. None of this is possible without significant, collective effort. That is why we refer to this National Park Plan as our Partnership Plan.

With that partnership working in mind, throughout this Plan, 'we' refers to all partners and stakeholders who have a part to play in delivering the outcomes set out here. Under each section (see Appendices for Delivery Framework), there is a list of named 'delivery partners' who will be responsible for delivering the priorities for action set out there.

The Aims of National Parks in Scotland (as set out in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000) are:

- » 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
- » To promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities

These aims are to be pursued collectively. However, if there is conflict between the first aim and any of the others, greater weight must be given to the first aim (section 9.6 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act). The National Park Partnership Plan 2024-29 will be the National Park Plan for Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.



The Scottish Government is proposing changes to elements of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, including the composition of the aims and the duties of public bodies in relation to achieving the aims and delivering National Park Plans. These changes are expected to come into force by 2025.

The proposed strengthened emphasis on National Parks playing a leadership role in tackling the twin nature and climate crises is already being reflected by the priorities set out in this Plan.

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduces a new type of plan called a Regional Spatial Strategy which is a long-term spatial strategy for an area for strategic development.

The part of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 that requires Regional Spatial Strategies to be prepared and adopted is not yet in force, however it is intended that this National Park Partnership Plan will also become the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the purposes of public consultation and further procedure.

“None of this is possible without significant, collective effort. That is why we refer to this as our Partnership Plan.”



A photograph of two women, hikers, standing on a train platform. They are both wearing backpacks and outdoor jackets. The woman on the left is wearing a blue puffer jacket and a backpack, and the woman on the right is wearing a red jacket and a backpack. They are both smiling and looking at each other. In the background, a blue ScotRail train is stopped at the platform. The train has a white stripe and the word 'ScotRail' is visible on its side. The platform is made of concrete and has a yellow tactile paving strip. There are trees and a cloudy sky in the background. A decorative graphic of a grid of squares in white and dark blue is in the top right corner.

“Scotland’s National Parks are not only a key part of the nation’s identity and culture but play an important role in delivering benefits for Scotland as a whole.

THIS PLAN'S ROLE IN DELIVERING NATIONAL POLICY

Scotland's National Parks are not only a key part of the nation's identity and culture but play an important role in delivering benefits for Scotland as a whole. As beautiful and special landscapes they are loved and valued by many people underpinning our sense of place, our heritage and our local and national identity. They also have the potential, arguably, a duty, to significantly contribute towards Scotland achieving key policy outcomes, particularly in relation to nature, climate and as exemplars of thriving places.

The Scottish Government declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and has set a target of becoming a Net Zero Nation by 2045. This Plan sets out how Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park will help Scotland to achieve that goal and deliver on national outcomes around nature and climate, as well as supporting our people and economy.

This Plan will support delivery of the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework and the following key national policy documents:

- » Creating Places
- » Cultural Strategy for Scotland
- » Environment Strategy for Scotland
- » Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement
- » National Gaelic Language Plan
- » National Marine Plan
- » National Planning Framework 4 Land Use: Getting the Best from our Land Strategy 2021-2026
- » National Transport Strategy
- » National Walking Strategy
- » Nature Based Jobs and Skills Action Plan
- » Our Past, Our Future: Scotland's National Strategy for the Historic Environment
- » Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan
- » Scotland Outlook 2030: Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future
- » Scotland's Forestry Strategy
- » Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation
- » Scotland's Public Health Priorities
- » Strategic Transport Projects Review 2
- » The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy
- » Volunteering for All: National Framework
- » Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans

THIS PLAN AS THE OVERARCHING PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

As well as guiding the work of partner organisations with responsibilities for areas of the National Park, the Partnership Plan is the overarching plan for the National Park Authority. It sets the priorities for the National Park Authority's work and all other strategic and operational plans as set out in Figure 1.

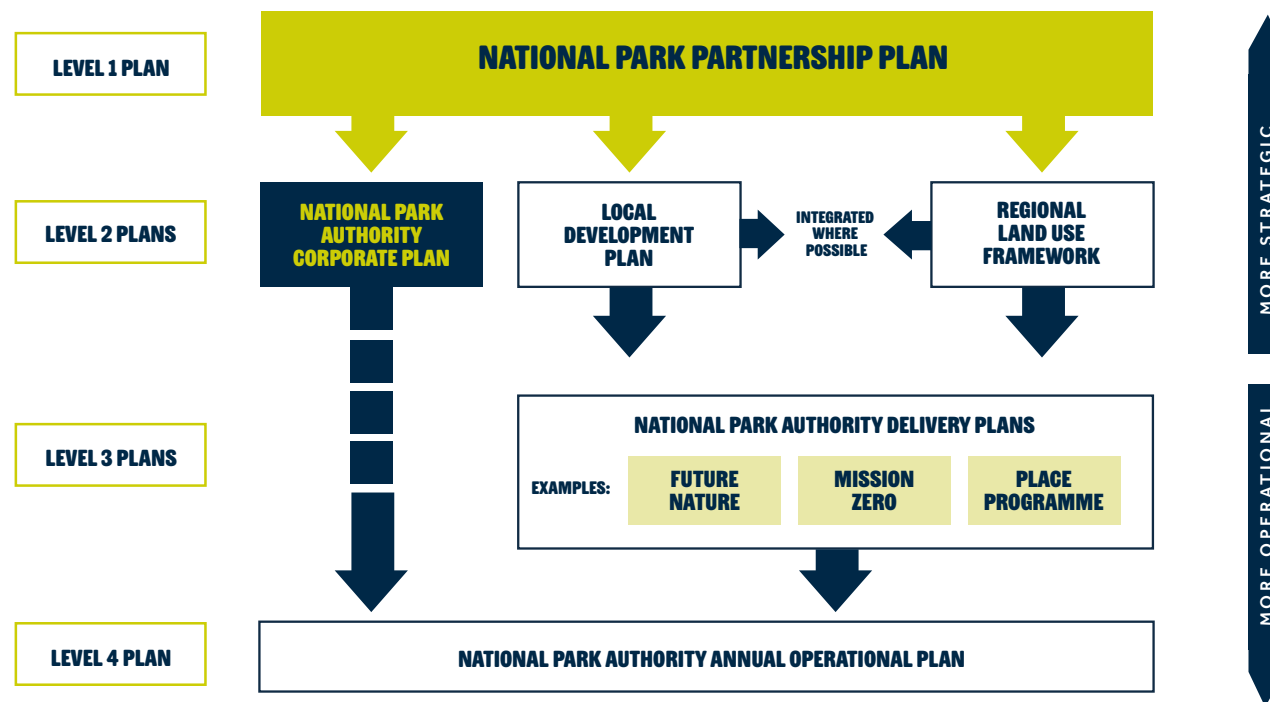


FIGURE 1: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN AND OTHER PLANS



**“It is no longer enough
to do what we have
always done.**

**Transformational
change is needed.**



HOW THIS PLAN IS DIFFERENT

This Plan takes a different approach to previous National Park Plans.

This is because during the period of our previous National Park Partnership Plan 2018-23, the context within which the National Park Authority and our delivery partners work has completely changed - we are recovering from the impacts of a global pandemic, adjusting to the UK leaving the EU, and the need to respond with greater urgency to the twin climate and nature crises has escalated significantly.

The role of National Parks is also changing. Nationally, the role of Scotland's National Parks is being reconsidered and consulted on by Scottish Ministers, with recognition that National Parks can provide leadership for nature recovery and significantly contribute to becoming a Net Zero Nation.

This Plan was developed while a national discussion has been underway on this changing role for National Parks. While this had not been concluded as this Plan was prepared, we know that there is a greater emphasis on delivering for climate and nature for Scotland's National Parks.

This Plan has been written and consulted on with that focus.

It is no longer enough to do what we have always done. Transformational change is needed, with a long-term approach coupled with immediate, urgent action to tackling these challenges.

That's why this Plan goes beyond the usual five-year timescale of previous Partnership Plans, with a vision for the National Park by 2045.

The nine outcomes in this Plan paint a picture of what the National Park will be like by 2045. The 27 Objectives and 76 Actions of the Plan then set out the most important steps to be taken over the next five years to create the momentum needed towards achieving that longer-term vision.



HOW THIS PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

The National Park Partnership Plan was developed following extensive dialogue with a wide range of partners and stakeholders. It involved facing up to some uncomfortable truths and looking at these from a variety of perspectives to find answers together. As well as involving those who have a role to play in delivering the Partnership Plan, the conversation was opened up to all of those who will be impacted by it too, including those who live, work and

visit the National Park and those who face barriers to enjoying the benefits the Park can offer. This broader conversation helped gather a wider range of experiences of the National Park and ideas for its future. A report was prepared for the National Park Authority Board summarising the approach we took and the key points to come out via responses to the consultation and what we heard during that time.

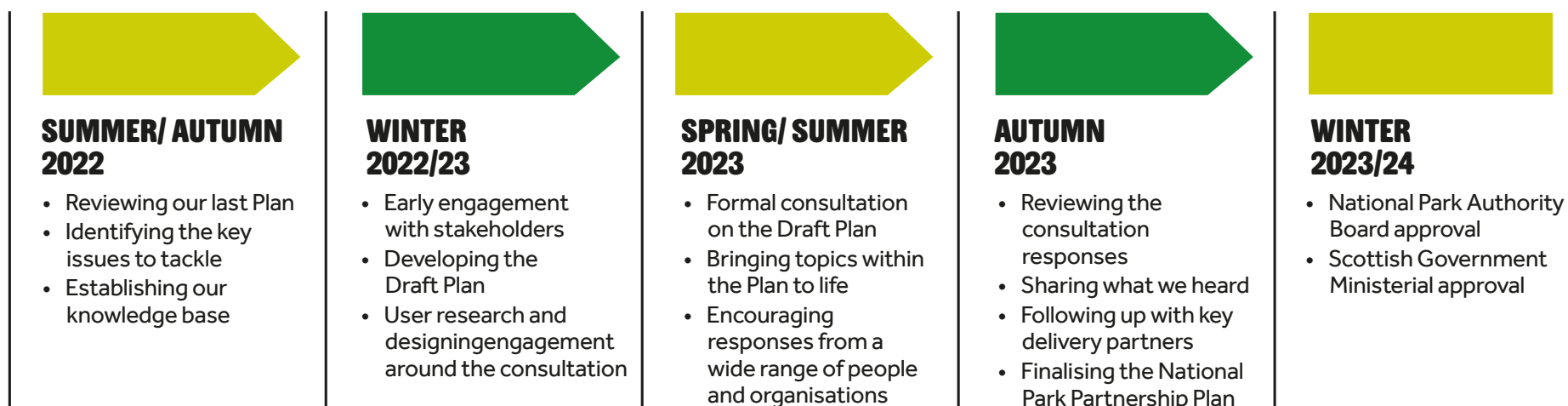


FIGURE 2: THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE PARTNERSHIP PLAN



How to use this Plan

This Plan is for everyone who has a role to play in its delivery or will be impacted by it. It is specifically designed to be used as a guiding reference tool for delivering action to achieve a more positive future for the National Park.

The Plan is divided into two parts:

PART 1 - THE WHY

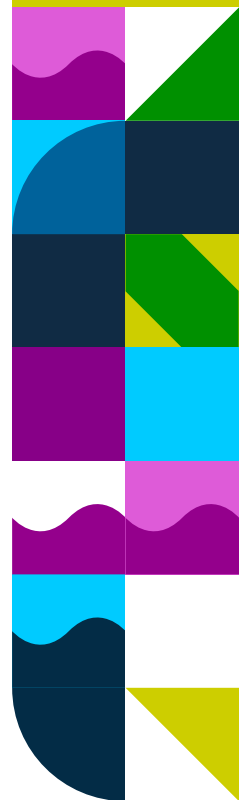
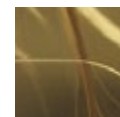
Explaining the context for this Plan, the challenges facing the National Park, Scotland and the world, and the role the Park must play in addressing these.



PART 2 - THE WHAT, WHO, HOW AND WHEN

Setting out a framework for delivery through clear Outcomes, Objectives, Actions, and Measurements.

Everyone is encouraged to read both parts of the Plan in full first. Part Two can then be used as a stand-alone reference tool for delivery over the next five years.





The background image is a landscape photograph. In the foreground, there are dark, jagged rocks and some dry, brownish grass. The middle ground shows a wide, hazy valley with rolling hills and patches of green and brown vegetation. In the background, a large mountain peak rises, its slopes covered in similar vegetation. The sky is a pale, overcast blue. The overall tone is natural and somewhat somber, fitting the theme of the text.

Part 1: The Why

Our National Park matters to all of us, to Scotland and to the planet, but it can't and won't stay the same.

This is a unique moment in time – we have a small window of opportunity to make transformational change in the face of huge challenges.

WHY NOW?

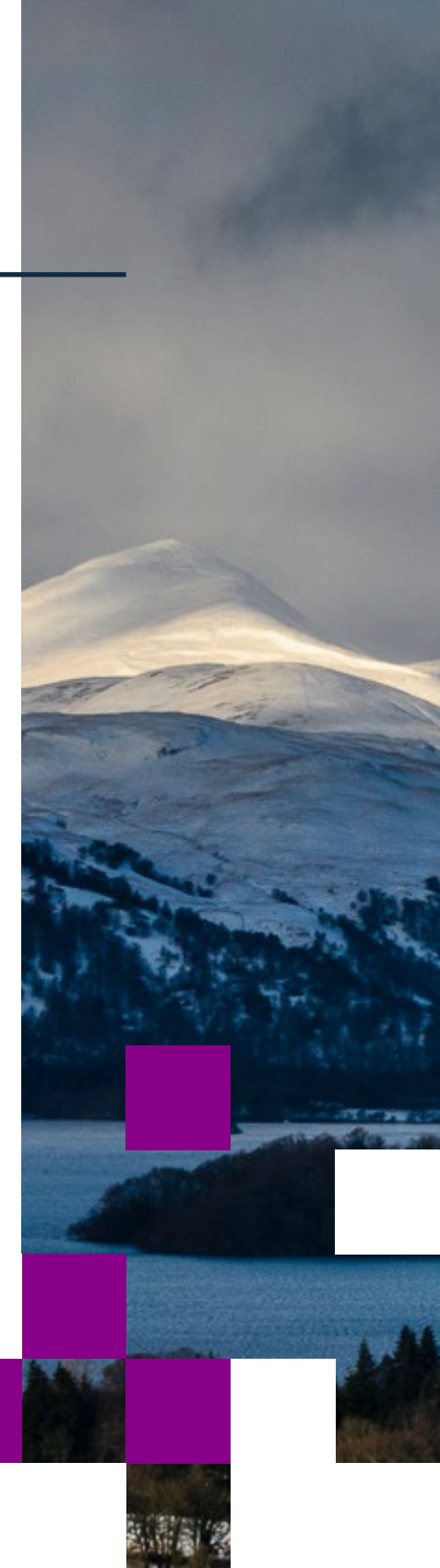
We are facing unprecedented challenges to nature, to climate and to our lives that depend on them.

The Paris Agreement, adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in 2015 set the overarching goal of limiting global warming. Following this, Scotland became one of the first nations to declare a Global Climate Emergency in 2019 and has set a target of becoming a Net Zero Nation by 2045.


Failing to reduce emissions and limit global warming will result in far more severe climate change impacts, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves, storms and rainfall.

We will increasingly experience these extremes in Scotland. It is projected that from 2020-2049 rainfall in Scotland will increase by up to 55% during certain months of the year, while other times of the year are projected to become drier. Our temperatures are projected to see substantial warming of up to 4°C between May and November and approximately 2-3°C in the winter. These differences may not sound significant but their impact on land and nature, and everything that relies on them, will be stark. For example, some upland areas of central Scotland are expected to shift from having a water surplus to being in deficit, having a significant impact on peatlands which are crucial to lock carbon in the ground.

“This Plan is different because change is needed here, now and from all of us.”



“We are facing unprecedented challenges to nature, to climate and to our lives that depend on them.”



“The impacts of the climate emergency are becoming more and more real to those living, working and visiting the National Park.

The impacts of the climate emergency are becoming more and more real to those living, working and visiting the National Park, with more frequent flooding and landslips seriously damaging people's homes, communities, businesses and lifeline transport links.

Our warmer and wetter climate also threatens nature, with some habitats and species struggling to adapt to these quickly escalating changes. More frequent extreme weather events and rising temperatures mean that we will see more of these impacts here.

For example:

- » more blue-green algae blooms in lochs (potentially deadly to dogs and toxic for humans)
- » more tree diseases affecting our forests (bad for nature and bad for the timber industry)
- » challenging conditions for agriculture, such as spread of livestock diseases leading to higher vet costs
- » increasing pressure on infrastructure, such as roads, paths and bridges
- » significant impacts on society from increased flooding, landslides, storms, wildfires and drought.

There are other factors we must address too, such as the way people visit and get around the National Park. The dominance of car travel is a major contributor to carbon emissions here.

As well as reducing emissions, providing more sustainable travel options for visitors and residents will reduce pressures on communities, make it easier for those without a car to access the National Park and get around it, improving the experience for everyone whilst also tackling inequality of access.

Landslips on A83 Rest and Be Thankful highlight the impact of extreme weather events

Globally biodiversity is declining faster than at any other time in human history.

Just as crucially as the Climate Emergency, we also face a Nature Crisis, which is closely linked but is its own distinct challenge. Following the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Report of 2019 which outlined the shocking state of global biodiversity decline, the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy re-emphasised that globally biodiversity is declining faster than at any other time in human history. And despite this being a National Park, even here nature is in real trouble.

Nearly a fifth of even our most special, designated sites for nature are in decline. We are losing nature at a scale never experienced before and failing to achieve the necessary impact in nature restoration that is needed if we are to ensure that a healthy, functioning natural environment continues to work for future generations.

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy includes a commitment to protecting 30% of land and seas for nature by 2030 (referred to as '30 by 30') and ensuring that every local authority area has a Nature Network to improve connectivity between nature-rich areas across Scotland.

Our Future Nature Route Map sets out why by 2030 we must halt nature loss in the National Park and ensure biodiversity begins to increase and thrive.

While facing these twin environmental crises, we are emerging from a global pandemic and adjusting to the UK leaving the European Union, facing challenging economic and public sector funding circumstances.

For the National Park to thrive, together we must adapt to and shape a new, positive, greener future and in doing this make sure that everyone benefits from this.



River Gail nature-based solutions improving resilience to climate change and restoring river ecosystem health.

WHY HERE?


National Parks have a significant role to play in securing a more sustainable future for the planet and for Scotland.

As big, largely undeveloped landscapes, the very nature of our National Parks means they can play a key role in helping Scotland reverse the decline in nature and mitigate climate change, by capturing and storing carbon through repairing degraded peatlands and expanding woodlands.

They can support communities and businesses to adapt and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change; help remove barriers so people of all backgrounds can benefit from access to nature; and inspire and inform the billions of visitors each year to help protect nature and live more sustainably.

As a much-loved place with a high profile and close cultural ties for many generations, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park's location close to urban Scotland offers the potential to influence change beyond its boundaries, amongst its millions of visitors, testing innovative policy with a place-based approach.





“The National Park has the capacity to go from being an emitter, as it currently is, to being a significant source of sequestration, or a ‘carbon sink’

WHY HERE - GOING BEYOND NET ZERO

A Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Assessment carried out for each of the UK's National Parks has provided a detailed carbon footprint and a proposed pathway for each Park to become a Net Zero place.

The GHG assessment for Loch Lomond & The Trossachs shows that the National Park has the capacity to go from being an emitter, as it currently is, to being a significant source of sequestration, or a ‘carbon sink’, helping Scotland achieve its ambition to be a Net Zero Nation by 2045.

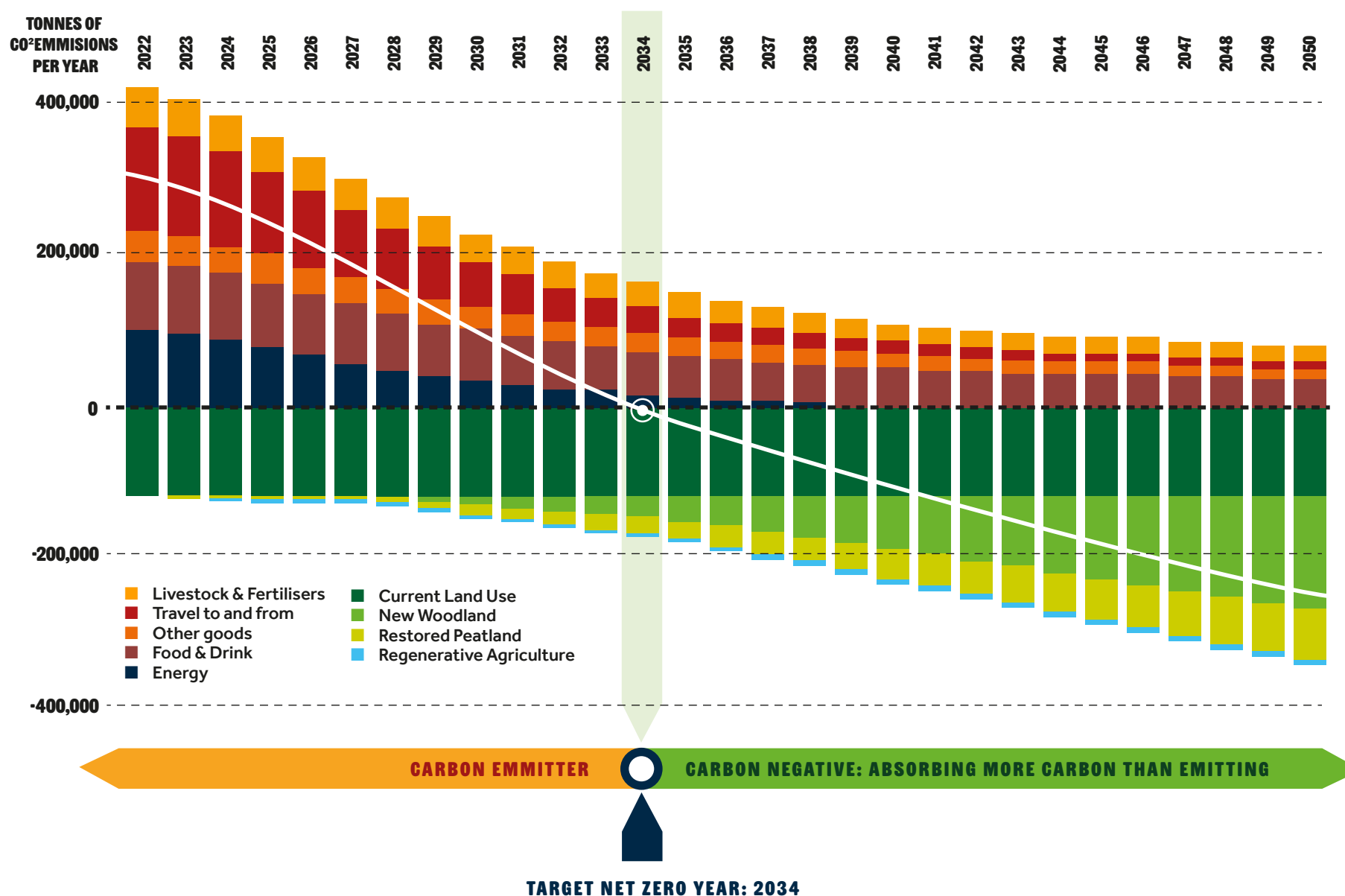
This means that the superpower of this National Park's landscape is that it can transform, going beyond Net Zero and becoming carbon negative, absorbing more carbon than it emits, helping Scotland and the wider world reach its ambitious climate targets.

In order to be aligned with Scotland's national and international commitments on climate change and to keep up with the pace and scale of action needed, we want Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park to be a Net Zero Place as soon as is practically possible. If our combined efforts exceed current targets then this may be as early as 2033, but we need to be Net Zero no later than 2035.

Through the actions in this Plan we want to contribute to achieve Net Zero by 2035 and being a carbon negative place beyond that. As a landscape with huge potential to absorb greenhouse gases, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park can play an important role in helping Scotland achieve its ambitions to become a Net Zero Nation by 2045.

These targets are highly ambitious based on the current pace of change, so require a significant stepping up of ambition and action. However, as the National Park has not only the opportunity but a responsibility to help Scotland become a Net Zero Nation and support the goal of the Paris Agreement, the Vision and Outcomes set out in this Plan match that ambition.

FIGURE 3: 'CLIMATE WITH NATURE' PATHWAY TO NET ZERO AND BEYOND IN THE NATIONAL PARK



WHY HERE - REVERSING NATURE LOSS

We need the same level of ambition for nature. Despite our collective efforts so far, Scotland, including our National Parks, is losing nature at a scale never experienced before and failing to achieve the necessary impact in nature restoration that we need if we are to ensure that a healthy natural environment is left for future generations.

Pressures from over-grazing, pollution, invasive non-native species and a rapidly changing climate mean that many of our iconic habitats and species are in decline and are in danger of becoming increasingly rare and therefore vulnerable.

Despite the decline, the Park still holds nationally important populations of rare habitats such as Atlantic rainforests and is home to over 300 national priority species and over 60 Designated Sites recognised for their special habitats and species. These are the jewels in the crown of the National Park's natural environment, and it is vital that they are in a healthier state if we are to regenerate nature more widely. They provide the key pieces in creating a large-scale jigsaw of greater biodiversity across the landscape.

Despite our collective efforts so far, Scotland, including our National Parks, is losing nature at a scale never experienced before.

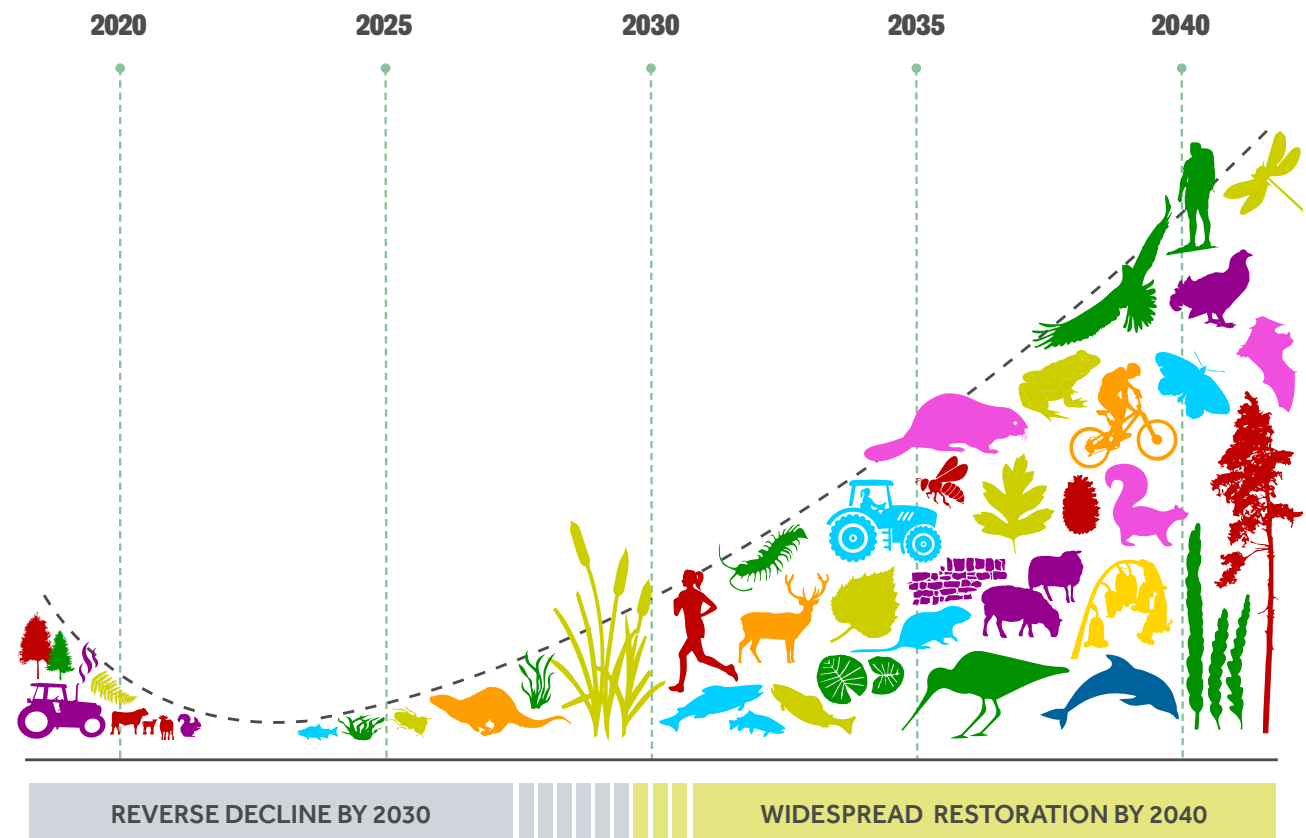


FIGURE 4: PATHWAY TO RESTORING NATURE IN THE NATIONAL PARK

It's no longer enough to just conserve what we have. We need to actively halt the ongoing decline and then reverse the ongoing loss of nature.

This is in our interest, as well as for other species, as nature underpins human existence through the benefits and services it provides, such as food, air, water, materials, health and economic wealth.

A healthy ecosystem is one where each element functions well and in balance to support its full range of habitats and species.

Through this Plan and the Future Nature Route Map we have set a course to meet the Scottish Government's ambition to protect 30% of Scotland's land and see for nature by 2030.

Nature underpins human existence through the benefits and services it provides, such as food, air, water, materials, health and economic wealth.



Rhododendron Ponticum and other non-native invasive species are contributing to the decline of nature in the National Park.

WHY HERE - HELPING COMMUNITIES THRIVE

Many of the National Park's communities have assessed the quality of their places through their Local Place Plans and using the Place Standard tool.

Figure 5 shows the combined results of assessments undertaken at the time of writing this Plan (taken from seven recently completed Local Place Plans from communities across different parts of the National Park. We work with 20 communities in total and will update this when new assessments are undertaken).

Despite geographic differences, the results so far are very similar across communities and common concerns identified are issues around lack of public transport, available housing, jobs and rural services. The consultation on the Draft Partnership Plan also identified these as significant issues. These are essential ingredients to support thriving places and rural communities.

The Place Standard tool assesses 14 themes about a place, the higher scores located closer to the outside of the circle are considered to be strengths for a place, whilst lower scores, closer to the middle of the circle, are themes needing improvement.

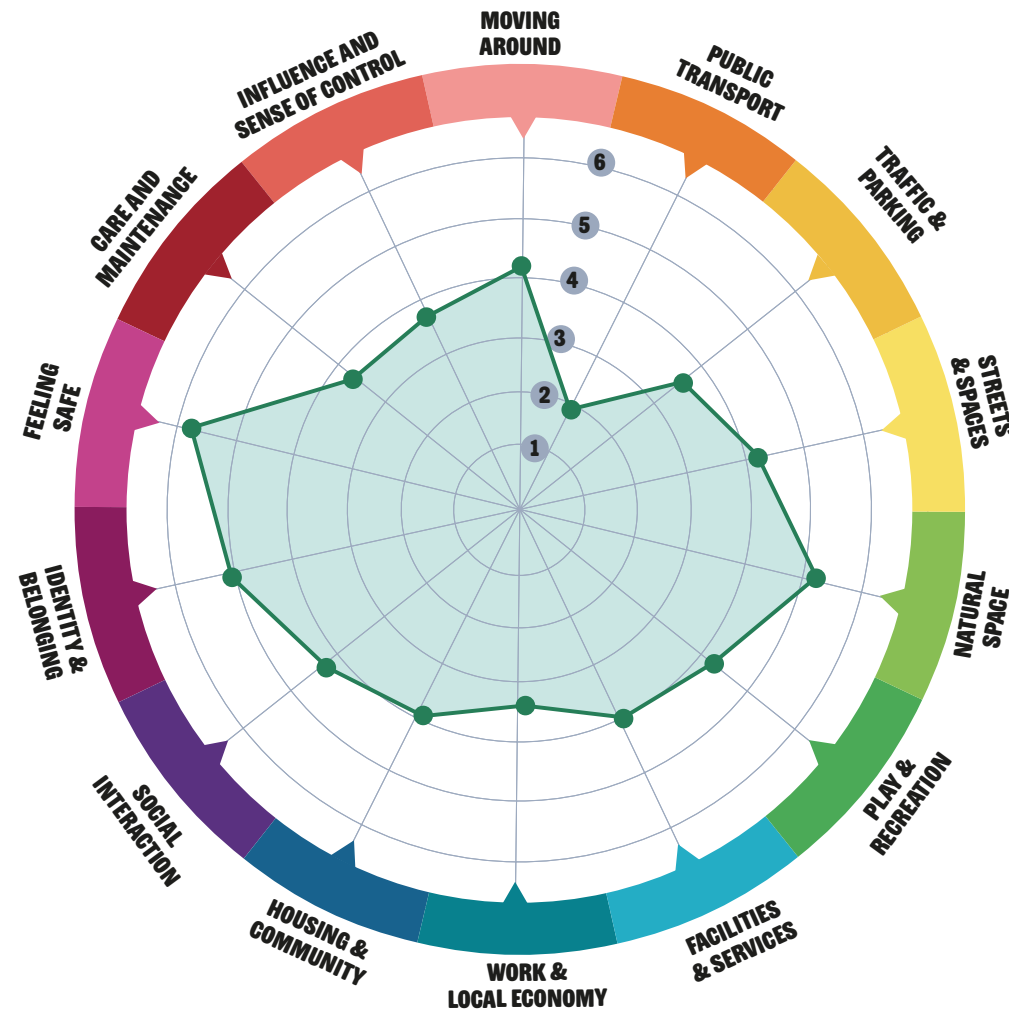


FIGURE 5: INDICATIVE PLACE STANDARD RESULTS (COMPILED FOR NATIONAL PARK LEVEL)

Results are compiled from Place Standard assessments undertaken by the following communities: Balquhidder; Lochearnhead & Strathyre; Callander; Drymen; Lochgoil; Killin & Ardeonaig; Strathfillan and St Fillans.




Artist's impression of sustainably built climate resilient homes surrounded by mixed woodland.

The cost of living and other economic pressures on the public sector and local authorities is presenting challenges for delivering rural services. Post COVID-19 and the UK leaving the EU, many of the National Park's businesses are also experiencing skills shortages and recruitment challenges. On top of this, the National Park's population has a lower proportion of young and working-age people compared to the national average.

This is also one of the most expensive places in Scotland to buy a house with commuting, retirement and an increased desire for rural living and holidays post COVID-19, driving up housing pressures and land values.

We want to support our rural communities to thrive by stemming population loss and providing more opportunities for younger and working-age people to be able to live and work in the National Park in sustainable ways, and in different ways with a lower carbon footprint– living more locally as much as possible.

This is not a choice between creating a place that works for climate and nature OR for people. This Plan is about future-proofing the National Park for people, nature AND climate.



Uncomfortable truths that this Plan aims to tackle

Looking at all of these challenges together may seem overwhelming but through our collective work and the consultation on the Draft Plan, it is clear that the shared ambition and energy to address these is there.

This Plan and the long-term vision it sets out will harness that ambition and energy into clear, measurable action.

1 The National Park's population has a lower proportion of young and working-age people compared to the national average.

National Records of Scotland

4 75% of National Park households cannot afford average house prices and 43% cannot afford lower value house prices.

National Park Housing Market Research 2022

7 Over 50,000 hectares of peatlands may currently be degraded, releasing greenhouse gases, and contributing towards climate warming.

Future Nature Route Map

2 79% of visitors arrive in the National Park by car and 73% explore the area by car according to our 2019/20 Visitor Survey. If there is no intervention, car-based travel is predicted to increase nationally by 40% by 2037.

5 Adaptation Scotland estimates that winter rainfall in Scotland will increase by 8–19% over the coming decades with rainfall events becoming more intense all year round, leading to an increase in flooding.

8 The National Park is one of the most expensive places in Scotland to buy a house.

National Park Housing Market Research 2022

3 Nearly a fifth of even our most special, designated sites for nature are in decline.

Future Nature Route Map

6 Approximately 50% of water bodies may not be in good ecological condition.

Future Nature Route Map

9 Invasive non-native species remain widespread.

Future Nature Route Map



Artist's impression of a sustainably built, climate resilient development within a National Park community



OUR VISION FOR 2045

**By 2045, the National Park is
a thriving place that is nature
positive and carbon negative.**

What does this mean?

THRIVING PLACE

A thriving place is one where our communities and businesses can live and work in sustainable and climate resilient places, and people can meet most of their daily needs as locally as possible, supported by a good range of services, homes, jobs and training opportunities. People living, working and visiting the Park feel connected to it as a valued place, with positive relationships with the area's nature, landscape, culture and heritage, as well as with one another, ensuring strong social networks and supporting health and wellbeing.





NATURE POSITIVE

Nature positive means that nature loss has been halted and reversed so that nature in the National Park is more abundant. Through the work set out in the Future Nature Route Map, we have committed to ensure the decline in nature has been halted by 2030 and that there is widespread restoration of nature across the National Park by 2040.

CARBON NEGATIVE

Carbon negative (or carbon sink) means that the National Park as a place (both through its land and the activities that take place here) is absorbing more carbon than it emits. Our aim is to become a Net Zero National Park by no later than 2035. This target date would mean that the National Park is supporting the level of change needed for the UK to meet its obligations under the Paris Agreement and will help Scotland become a Net Zero Nation by 2045.



Picturing the National Park by 2045 – What will it be like?



By 2045 the National Park has thriving, beautiful landscapes with native wildlife becoming more abundant and habitats such as woodlands, peatlands and waterbodies becoming healthier and more resilient to change.

Invasive non-native species are in decline while our woodlands have become more species-rich and are regenerating naturally. Degraded peatlands have been repaired or are in recovering condition. Together our forests and peatlands are nationally important carbon stores helping to reduce the impacts of the climate emergency.

Natural flood management techniques, such as woody debris dams, are widely used to help mitigate flooding in the National Park, with land managers supported by public and private funding for their regenerative management practices.

There is a more diverse economy with tourism and rural businesses having adapted and diversified so that they are more resilient and prospering.

Land is now recognised for the multiple benefits it provides, including its intrinsic landscape qualities, cultural connections to the past as well as the nature-based services and benefits such as stores of carbon, water and biodiversity richness.

Many landowners have engaged in green finance schemes, which have taken place in several places across the National Park and have secured significant private finance and investment in nature restoration.

There is a more diverse economy with tourism and rural businesses having adapted and diversified so that they are more resilient and prospering across the National Park both in farming and sustainable, nature and culture-based tourism, nature conservation, sporting and forestry.



Their efforts have not only benefited the rural economy and communities but have also helped tackle the nature and climate crises by reducing emissions and restoring nature.

More working age young people and families from a diverse range of backgrounds live in the National Park, taking advantage of new green jobs, skills and other business opportunities as well as an increase in affordable housing.

Visitors and residents travel to, from and around the National Park using a well-connected and affordable system of public transport and active travel services, such as shuttle buses, waterbuses and cycle routes.

More working age young people and families from a diverse range of backgrounds live in the National Park, taking advantage of new green jobs.

Visitors from all backgrounds value and feel connected to nature whilst enjoying great services and facilities in popular places where tourism and hospitality businesses are thriving and providing local jobs.

Communities are active and empowered, with well-established local organisations leading innovative projects that improve their places and contribute to tackling the twin climate and nature crises, working in partnership with land managers, public bodies and the local business community.

The National Park's towns and villages, including the built and historic environment, have become more climate resilient, with new developments planned and located in ways that meet communities needs so that they are built sustainably and protected from the extremes of the changing climate.



The guiding principles of this Plan

1 National Parks have a duty and opportunity to deliver for Scotland and beyond – our decisions will take this into account.

4 We will prioritise actions that bring us closer to our longer-term vision.


2 The scale and urgency of the nature and climate crises will drive our priorities.

5 We can't do this alone. We'll only make a real difference if we all see ourselves as stewards.

3 The change that is needed means we can't and won't shy away from uncomfortable truths or tough decisions.

6 We want to bring everyone who lives and works in the National Park or visits it with us – as part of a just transition towards a fairer, greener future.





Part Two: The What, How, Who and When

This is the delivery framework part of the Partnership Plan. It sets out the key Outcomes, along with the rationale behind them, that we need to achieve by 2045, along with how we will do this.



OVERVIEW

An overview of the Vision, Outcomes and Objectives is provided first in Figure 6 on page 49, 'Partnership Plan on a Page'.

This is followed by a more detailed breakdown for each Outcome, which includes any policies that we will follow to guide how we approach this issue, followed by specific Objectives that will need to be achieved within the next five years to set us on a path towards achieving the longer-term Vision and Outcomes by 2045.

Each Objective has a set of Actions, Measurements and a list of partners that will play a role in delivering them. The Plan also notes the current status of each Objective, to highlight whether work is already in scope or underway in this area, or if this will be a completely new area of work for delivery partners to undertake within the next five years. This part of the Plan will be kept updated throughout the life of the Plan to keep track of the status of each area of work.

OUR VISION FOR 2045

By 2045 Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park is a thriving place that is nature positive and carbon negative										
SECTION	RESTORING NATURE			CREATING A LOW-CARBON PLACE			DESIGNING A GREENER WAY OF LIVING			
	RESTORING NATURE FOR CLIMATE	RESTORING NATURE FOR HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS	RESTORING NATURE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE REGENERATIVE LAND USE	CONNECTING EVERYONE WITH NATURE AND CLIMATE	IMPROVING POPULAR PLACES AND ROUTES	LOW-CARBON TRAVEL FOR EVERYONE	TRANSITIONING TO A GREENER ECONOMY	SUPPORTING THRIVING RURAL COMMUNITIES	DEVELOPING AND INVESTING IN THE NATIONAL PARK	
	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	
	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	OUTCOMES BY 2045	
OBJECTIVES FOR 2024-2029	Reduce peatland emissions	Connecting nature at landscape scale	Support more regenerative land use	Inspire action for nature and climate	Deliver a multi-year Place Programme	Develop a new strategic transport partnership approach	Increase sustainable tourism	Enable more local living and working	Deliver strategic development needs	BY 2029
	Increase tree cover	More land managed for nature	Invest in nature restoration	Support diversity and inclusion	Improve travel infrastructure	Make sustainable travel choices more attractive	Support low-carbon businesses	Meet housing needs	Help adapt to climate change and restore nature	BY 2029
	Restore the water environment	Reduce key pressures on nature	Encourage land use that benefits everyone	Support safe, responsible access	Provide a high-quality recreational path network	Improve travel routes and services	Grow green and nature-based jobs and skills	Build community wealth	Make the best use of land and assets	BY 2029

FIGURE 6: Partnership Plan on a Page





Chapter 1: RESTORING NATURE

Nature underpins human existence through the benefits and services it provides, such as food, air, water, materials, health and economic wealth.

Halting the ongoing decline and then reversing the loss of nature is not just beneficial for wildlife, it is in all of our interest.

Restoring nature is about us supporting our natural environment to bounce back from damage and decline to become healthier, resilient and ultimately more bountiful and productive.



CHALLENGES

The state of our natural environment is largely one that is under pressure from human-generated activities.

CARBON EMISSIONS

Our peatlands and forests hold an estimated 22 mtCO₂e between them yet this is not all secure. In fact, our peatlands are currently a large source of greenhouse gas emissions in the National Park, as exposed and drained peatland soils actively release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

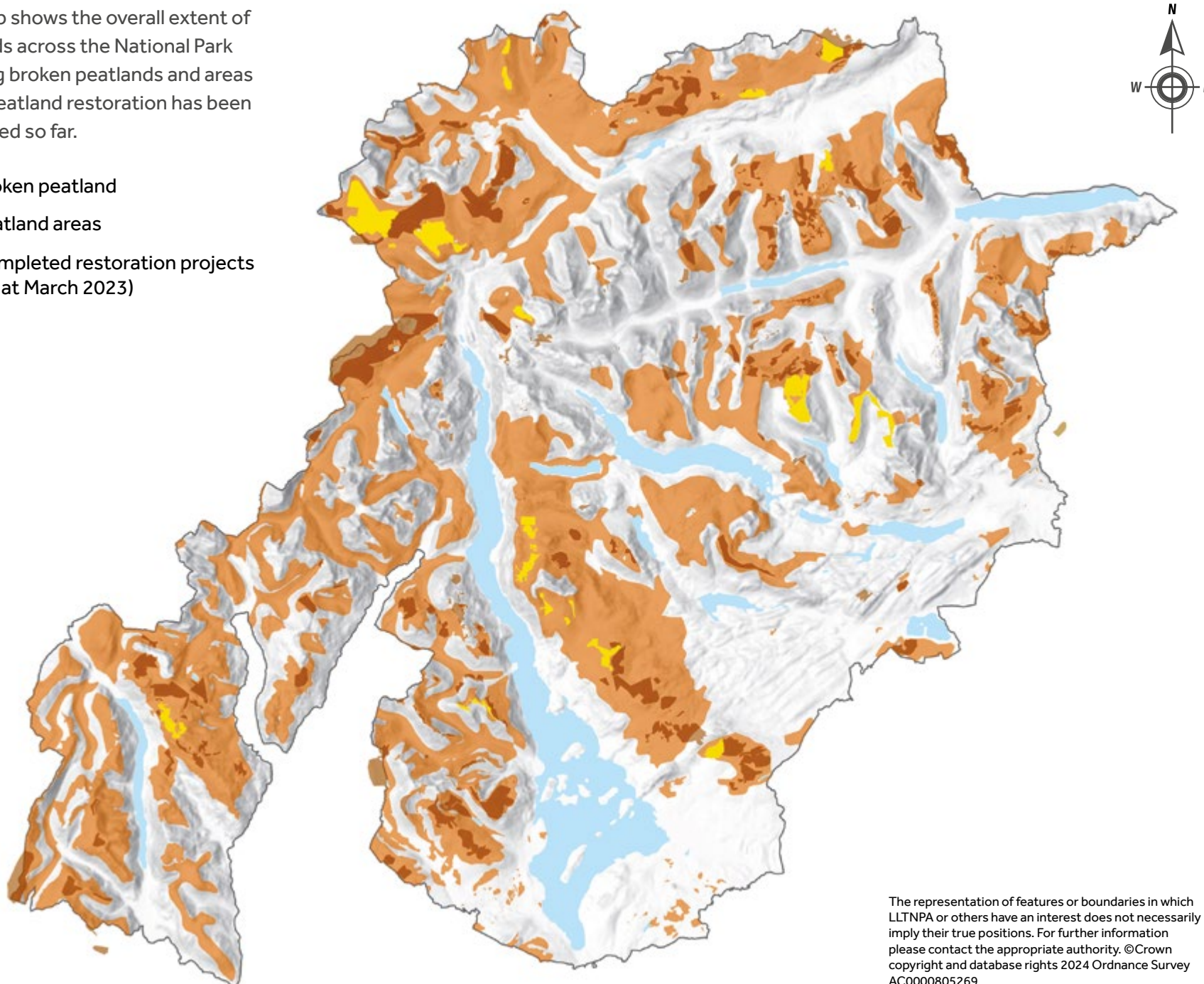
Our forests and woodlands have great potential to store even greater volumes of greenhouse gases and act as a large carbon sink, but to do so they need to expand and regenerate more freely and naturally, less impacted by browsing animals, invasive *Rhododendron* and increasing levels of tree diseases exacerbated by a warming climate.

Degraded peatlands are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Peatland restoration can reduce emissions significantly.

MAP 1: PEATLAND COVER IN THE NATIONAL PARK

This map shows the overall extent of peatlands across the National Park including broken peatlands and areas where peatland restoration has been completed so far.

- Broken peatland
- Peatland areas
- Completed restoration projects (as at March 2023)



The representation of features or boundaries in which LLTNPA or others have an interest does not necessarily imply their true positions. For further information please contact the appropriate authority. ©Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey AC0000805269

NATURE

Many of our freshwater and marine waterbodies are subject to multiple pressures driven by human activities within and beyond the Park. Unnatural levels of nutrients from land use run-off, ageing septic tanks, sewage overflow, marine litter and artificially constrained water courses combined with the climate change impacts of rising water temperatures and increase in flooding events, mean that in places the Park's water environment needs restoration. Sea level change and more frequent storms from climate change also means that our coasts are changing rapidly.

LAND USE

How we use land and water needs to change to address the climate and nature crises as well as continuing to deliver food and timber production, recreational benefits and supporting a fair transition to sustain a viable and greener rural economy that involves and supports sustainable rural communities.

There are also challenges in filling the jobs and growing the skills needed to manage nature and land use, such as contractor capacity and associated specialist infrastructure and mechanisms to deliver peatland restoration, woodland expansion, wild deer and invasive species control at scale, and other nature restoration projects.



Volunteers collecting seeds at Wild Strathfillan – a landscape-scale nature restoration project covering 50,000ha of the National Park.



OPPORTUNITIES

NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

Our natural environment could be our greatest ally in tackling the climate emergency with our peatlands, trees and soils capable of capturing and storing huge amounts of carbon, and healthy forests and water courses helping to lessen the impacts of extreme weather events such as landslides and flooding.

Nature can also help us become more resilient to a changing climate and adapt to it. By allowing freshwater courses to flow more naturally, we will better adapt to the challenges of climate change by slowing down and storing floodwaters. Natural coastal habitats such as saltmarshes can help buffer sea level change and seagrass beds can store 'blue' carbon around some shores.

Expanding and improving the quality of our forests and woodlands through active management, including new planting, re-

stocking, natural regeneration and better management of grazing animals and Invasive Non-Native Species, will increase their health and resilience and expand connected forest corridor networks.




By developing a living Nature Network approach focusing on the three key habitat networks of woodlands and forests, peatlands and water we could expand, re-connect and repair nature across a larger scale in the Park and beyond. This would see our plant, animal and bird species spread and grow, increasing their resilience in the face of climate change.

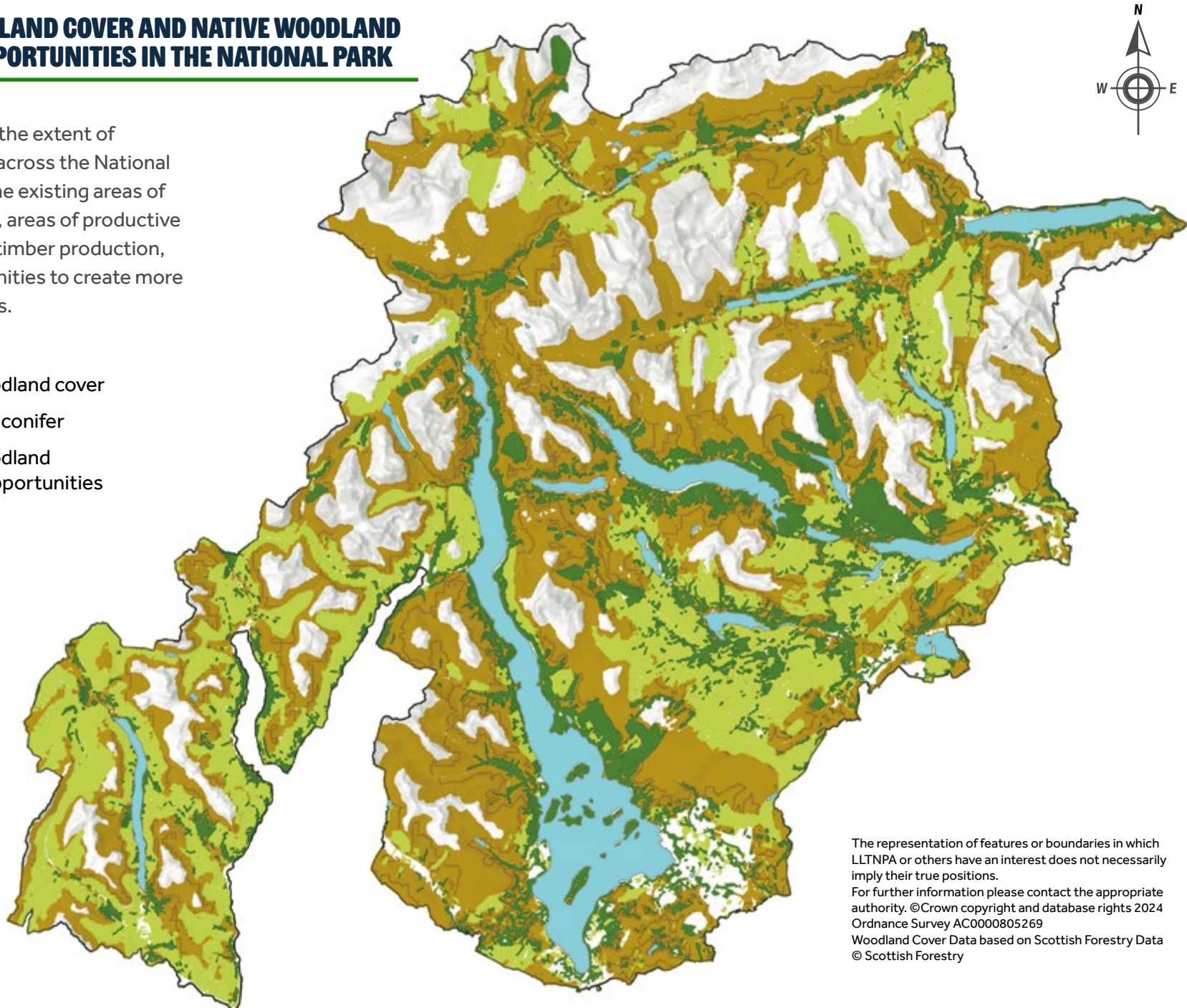
Such actions would also help Scotland deliver on international commitments to reverse biodiversity loss including reaching 30% of land and water managed for nature by 2030.



MAP 2: WOODLAND COVER AND NATIVE WOODLAND CREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NATIONAL PARK

This map shows the extent of woodland cover across the National Park, including the existing areas of native woodland, areas of productive conifer used for timber production, and the opportunities to create more native woodlands.

-  Native woodland cover
-  Productive conifer
-  Native woodland creation opportunities



The representation of features or boundaries in which LLTNPA or others have an interest does not necessarily imply their true positions.

For further information please contact the appropriate authority. ©Crown copyright and database rights 2024
Ordnance Survey AC0000805269

Woodland Cover Data based on Scottish Forestry Data
© Scottish Forestry

NEW APPROACHES TO LAND USE AND FUNDING

To support a shift in land use towards more regenerative, nature friendly systems, national agriculture and forestry support and regulation schemes need to be integrated, becoming more attractive and supportive for land managers at the same time as preventing practices that erode nature. Improving soil health through regenerative farming will also reduce emissions and create benefits to farmers.

The global movement to address climate change has also captured the attention of financial markets and this has been reflected in increasing land values in the Park linked with the potential for carbon credits to bring new income for land managers. Although still a young financial market the expansion of carbon, and potentially biodiversity, credit schemes could bring significant new finance to help deliver nature restoration. If managed well and in an ethical manner this could also bring benefits to local communities.

As well as the emergence of private finance, the future of public funding for agriculture is also changing. The Scottish Government has consulted on an Agriculture Bill, with implementation expected by 2026. Through this process there is a need to consider how some incentives traditionally applied to agriculture should also apply to land uses delivering nature and climate outcomes.





NATURE BASED OPPORTUNITIES

While there are challenges in terms of the jobs and skills needed to manage nature and land use, there is significant potential to create more of these opportunities by establishing a sustainable pipeline of nature restoration projects over the coming years.

For example, publicly or privately funded projects will be needed to build confidence and assets for existing contractors and new businesses for local produce such as venison.

This in turn will support the transition of the National Park's rural economy through a green recovery, provide a wider range of employment opportunities for people to live and work here, and support visitors to enjoy our beautiful landscapes and engage with the true value of nature.

The Scottish Government is keen to see more community engagement and transparency in land management decisions. There has been consultation on further proposed Land Reform measures around this, such as a potential requirement for landholdings over a certain size to prepare compulsory land management plans.

The National Park Partnership Plan will have a key role in guiding such plans, building on examples such as the Strathard Framework. A new framework and partnership with local and national stakeholders, such as a Regional Land Use Partnership could ensure agreement on clearer land use priorities which would guide how future funding is targeted.

Along with the Local Place Planning approach, this could also allow local communities to be better engaged in decisions around land use and ownership.

Developing models for blending ethical private, public investment and new income generation streams in land use change and restoration work could provide opportunities from the growing interest from investors in a way that also benefits our local communities and businesses.

This map illustrates the main priority areas for nature restoration efforts across three key habitat types, as part of a Nature Network approach.

- [illegible]

59

SUCCESSES SO FAR

There are already good examples of land management practices in the National Park that show how land can be managed differently to restore nature and still maintain the production of food and timber.

At Glen Finglas in the Trossachs, Woodland Trust Scotland has protected and expanded the special native woodlands of the area for over 20 years, while maintaining a viable farming operation. At Loch Katrine, Forestry and Land Scotland, working with Scottish Water, has created 3,000 hectares of new woodland and are embarking on a 500 hectare programme of peatland restoration.

Some of our local groups, such as Inverary and Tyndrum Deer Management Group, have been effective at reducing upland deer populations in a joined-up way and use Herbivore Impact Assessment monitoring to support management and control plans.

Over the past seven years, the Peatland ACTION programme has restored more than 1,200 hectares of degraded peatland across the National Park, working with local land managers to improve the condition of uplands which have traditionally been used for livestock and deer grazing.

In Lochgoilhead, the local community and Argyll Fisheries Trust have been working with owners to protect and enhance eroding riverbanks to improve habitats and water quality to benefit fragile fish populations.



The Peatland ACTION programme has restored over 1,850 hectares of degraded peatland across the National Park.

DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

Each Delivery Framework details the following:

- » Outcomes for 2045
- » Measurements of success by 2029
- » Objectives for 2024-2029
- » Actions to deliver those objectives
- » What stage of delivery
- » Delivery partners involved
- » The role of the National Park Authority in delivery
- » Any relevant policies



1.1 Restoring Nature for Climate

2045 OUTCOME

A NATURAL CARBON SINK

Our ecosystems are in good health, helping Scotland adapt to and mitigate against the climate crisis with the National Park being an active, natural carbon sink.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Measurements of Success by 2029 to ensure we are on track to achieving 2045 long term outcome:

- » Track the amount of restored peatland and monitor its condition using standard protocols.
 - More than treble the average annual rate of peatland restoration from 240ha to 840ha, achieving at least 5,900ha by 2030.
- » Track the location, extent, and condition of the National Park's tree cover.
 - Double the average annual rate of woodland expansion from 200ha year to 400ha, focusing on priority areas.

OBJECTIVE 1 REDUCE PEATLAND EMISSIONS

Significantly reduce the amount of degraded, high emission peatland and create the conditions for carbon capture.

ACTIONS

■ IN DELIVERY

- » Scaling up of the Peatland ACTION programme, by securing increased land manager take-up, and additional support from private finance and carbon markets.
- » Reducing damage to fragile peatland surfaces from herbivore trampling through preventative management.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| » NatureScot
(Peatland ACTION) | » Scottish Water |
| » Forestry and
Land Scotland | » Land managers |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Lead

OBJECTIVE 2 INCREASE TREE COVER

Increase the extent, diversity, and health of tree cover across suitable areas of the National Park.

ACTIONS

■ IN DELIVERY

- » Working with public and private partners to support land managers, communities, and businesses to deliver a faster expansion of healthy, diverse woodland and forest habitats in priority areas, through native regeneration, planting, and active management.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| » Scottish Forestry | » Forth Climate Forest |
| » Forestry and Land
Scotland | » Loch Lomond &
The Trossachs
Countryside Trust |
| » Confederation of
Forest Industries | » Land managers |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Enable

OBJECTIVE 3

RESTORE THE WATER ENVIRONMENT

Increase the health and physical condition of freshwater and marine habitats in the National Park to create more resilient, natural ecosystems.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Engaging with partner bodies, local communities, and land managers to trial and pilot nature restoration and climate adaptation projects on water bodies.
- » Delivering programmes of ecological restoration at targeted water bodies.
- » Engaging with emerging policy and legislation agendas that aim to deliver a 'beyond compliance' approach to restorative action for freshwater and marine waterbodies, including further work to deliver the Clyde Regional Marine Plan to benefit our sea lochs.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|---|--|
| » Scottish Environment Protection Agency | » Stirling Council |
| » Scottish Water | » Argyll & Bute Council |
| » Rivers & Fisheries Trusts | » West Dunbartonshire Council |
| » Scottish Land & Estates | » Perth & Kinross Council |
| » NFU Scotland | » Land Managers |
| » Lochgoilhead Community Development Trust | » Scottish Government Marine Directorate |
| » Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust | » Clyde Marine Planning Partnership |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Enable



Photo © Forth Rivers Trust



Green bank restoration and tree planting at River Larig to reduce erosion and increase biodiversity.

POLICY FOR RESTORING NATURE FOR CLIMATE

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park will be a net zero place by 2035 and will continue to work towards being carbon negative beyond that. A key focus to achieve this will be to significantly increase efforts to naturally absorb carbon in the landscape through a nature-based approach.

This will include:

- » Restoring significant areas of peatland and protecting this precious resource by repairing degraded peat soils and ensuring impacts from grazing animals are minimal.
- » Increasing the quantity and quality of tree cover through planting and promoting natural regeneration by significantly reducing grazing animal pressure.
- » Ensuring that efforts to sequester carbon also help restore nature and contribute to establishing new nature networks.
- » Working with land managers and communities to secure new sources of funding that provide new opportunities and help support a nature positive National Park



1.2 Restoring Nature for Healthy Ecosystems

2045 OUTCOME

A RESTORED LANDSCAPE FOR NATURE

The long-term decline in nature in the National Park will be halted by 2030 and there will be widespread restoration by 2040, with an expansion of large-scale, connected habitat networks where land management prioritises nature recovery.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Measurements of Success by 2029 to ensure we are on track to achieving 2045 long term outcome:

- » Track the percentage of land under effective conservation and restoration management. Establish baseline and increase the percentage year on year.
- » Track completion of Herbivore Impact Assessments for all Deer Management Groups and measure average deer densities. Achieve nationally recognised target levels of average deer densities, currently a maximum of 5 deer per km² in woodland and a maximum of 10 deer per km² on the open hill.

OBJECTIVE 1 RESTORE NATURE AT SCALE

Restore nature at a large scale through the expansion, improvement and re-connection of priority habitats and eco-systems across the National Park to create functioning, resilient nature networks.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>» Identifying a new Nature Network across the National Park that connects current Designated Sites and areas managed primarily for nature, with corridors of high nature value habitats and opportunities for large-scale recovery.
<i>(includes landscape-scale restoration projects at Wild Strathfillan, Great Trossachs Forest and Loch Lomond Rainforest)</i></p> | <p>» Creating partnership-led 5-year Delivery Plans for major habitat types (including Trees, Peatlands, Water & Wetlands) that deliver outputs and resources for landscape-scale nature recovery in priority locations.</p> | <p>» Increasing 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 at priority sites.</p> |
|---|--|---|

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>» NatureScot
» Forestry and Land Scotland
» Scottish Forestry</p> | <p>» Land managers, including eNGO land owners
» Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust</p> | <p>» Stirling Council
» Argyll & Bute Council</p> | <p>» West Dunbartonshire Council
» Perth & Kinross Council</p> |
|--|--|---|--|

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Lead

OBJECTIVE 2

PRIORITISE LAND FOR NATURE

More land in the National Park is prioritised for nature restoration, as part of Scotland's 30 by 30 commitment.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Scaling up of the Peatland ACTION programme, by securing increased land manager take-up, and additional support from private finance and carbon markets.
- » Reducing damage to fragile peatland surfaces from herbivore trampling through preventative management.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| » NatureScot | » Woodland Trust Scotland |
| » Scottish Forestry | » Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust |
| » Forestry and Land Scotland | » Cashel Forest Trust |
| » Royal Society for the Protection of Birds | » Private land managers |
| » National Trust for Scotland | |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Lead

OBJECTIVE 3

REDUCE OTHER KEY PRESSURES

Reduce other key pressures driving the decline of Nature in the National Park.

ACTIONS

INITIATION

- » Developing and delivering a Herbivore Management Strategy and associated Action Plans that drive forward a significant reduction in unwanted impacts from wild deer and livestock across the National Park that, by targeted management measures, leads to active recovery of ecosystems, including the natural expansion of tree cover and the protection of peat.
- » Tackling Invasive Non-Native Species at a strategic, large-scale, with the aim of reducing the extent of target populations.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| » NatureScot – lead on deer | » National Farmers Union |
| » Deer Management Groups | » NatureScot |
| » Forestry and Land Scotland | » Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust |
| » Scottish Land and Estates | » Private land managers |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Joint Lead with NatureScot

POLICY FOR RESTORING NATURE FOR HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

The ongoing decline in nature in Loch Lomond & 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 connecting core areas and expanding the links between these core areas across the National Park, contributing to Scotland's 30x30 commitments.

This will be achieved by:

- » Ensuring that peatland restoration programmes are expanded to deliver multiple benefits including carbon sequestration, improved biodiversity and water storage.
- » 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.
- » Strategic landscape-scale management to significantly reduce unsustainable deer and sheep grazing and browsing pressures and to allow the recovery and expansion of tree cover and reduce trampling of fragile peat soils.
- » Taking a strategic approach to controlling Invasive Non-Native Species at a landscape scale.
- » Improving the freshwater and marine environments by restoring rivers and wetlands and increasing water quality by addressing problems of diffuse pollution, sewage discharge, abstraction, impoundment and fertiliser run-off from land uses.
- » Improving the condition of existing Designated Sites and delivering actions that protect, expand and reconnect the special species and habitats found there.
- » Fully adopting and delivering the principles of the National Planning Framework 4 and ensuring that new development in the National Park takes a net gain approach to protecting and restoring nature on and around development sites.



1.3 Restoring Nature through Sustainable, Regenerative Land Use

2045 OUTCOME

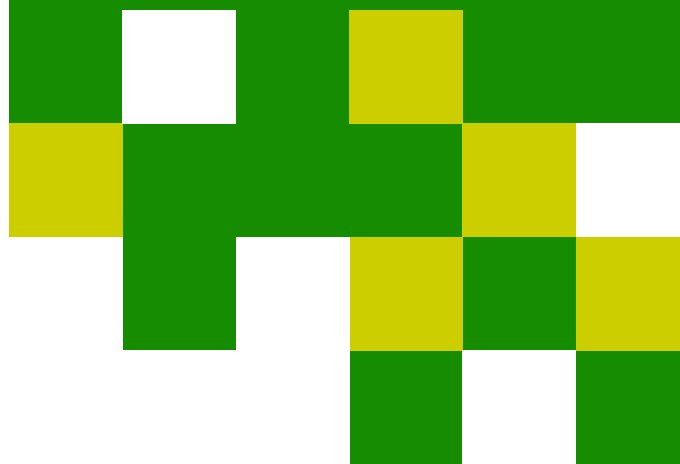
AN EXEMPLAR OF REGENERATIVE LAND USE

The National Park is an exemplar of regenerative land use delivering a wider range of private, public and community benefits.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Measurements of Success by 2029 to ensure we are on track to achieving 2045 long term outcome:

- » Track the number of pilot regenerative farming projects in the National Park and complete pilots on 5 land holdings by 2030.



OBJECTIVE 1

SUPPORT MORE REGENERATIVE LAND USE

To create more sustainable and regenerative land use and management within the National Park, that delivers greater benefits for all.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Facilitating a Regional Land Use Partnership and preparing a Park-wide Land Use Framework setting out collaborative, joined up land use change objectives, priorities, and opportunities across the National Park.
- » Promoting the integration of regenerative land use practises within emerging area-based strategies prepared through the new Local Development Plan.
- » Encouraging and supporting land managers to shift more suitable land towards low-carbon and regenerative agriculture as a higher priority.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| » Private Land Managers | » Scottish Government |
| » NFU Scotland | » Woodland Trust Scotland |
| » Scottish Land and Estates | (Glen Finglas) |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Lead



OBJECTIVE 2

INVEST IN NATURE RESTORATION

Support increased public and ethical green financial investment in land to deliver an increase in land use change for climate and nature restoration.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Working with land managers, local communities, and brokers to investigate and trial emerging ethical private funding and support mechanisms, such as carbon credit, biodiversity markets and donations that deliver public benefits, including for climate and nature.
- » Engaging in national level land reform policy discussions to advocate for a shift towards more sustainable, regenerative public land use support and regulation schemes.
- » Creating longer-term confidence for land managers and contractors by engaging in initiatives that scale and package up priority land use programmes more strategically and over multiple years (e.g., Peatland ACTION programme).

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| » Private Finance | » Loch Lomond & The Trossachs |
| » Scottish Government | Countryside Trust |
| » NatureScot | » Local communities |
| » National Park Partnerships | |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Lead

OBJECTIVE 3

ENCOURAGE LAND USE THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE

Encourage future land use and investment in natural capital that supports wider benefits for local communities.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Supporting and enabling local communities and land managers to engage with each other through Local Place Plans and other mechanisms in order to influence more collective land use decisions and opportunities for mutual benefit.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| » NatureScot – lead on deer | » NatureScot |
| » Deer Management Groups | » Loch Lomond & The |
| » Forestry and Land | Trossachs Countryside |
| Scotland | Trust |
| » Scottish Land and Estates | » Private land managers |
| » National Farmers Union | |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Joint Lead with NatureScot

POLICY FOR RESTORING NATURE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE, REGENERATIVE LAND USE

We will drive forward the recovery of nature by supporting positive land use change and more climate and regenerative land management practices.

This will be achieved by:


- » Piloting a Regional Land Use Partnership through our new Local Development Plan, 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 in a nature and climate-friendly approach.
- » Working with national partners to secure more effective use of grants and subsidies which are tailored to support better outcomes for nature. This includes:
 - Forestry – delivering timber production whilst expanding and improving a resilient and sustainable forest network that delivers more for nature.
 - Agriculture – delivering sustainable and regenerative agriculture to continue to support livelihoods, rural communities and food production whilst delivering restoration of our soils and water, expansion of tree cover and reduced grazing animal pressures on habitats.
 - 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.
 - Developing and piloting new funding models which can blend public and ethical private finance to support multi-year large-scale nature restoration projects.

POLICY FOR ENGAGING 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 ethical private investment which:

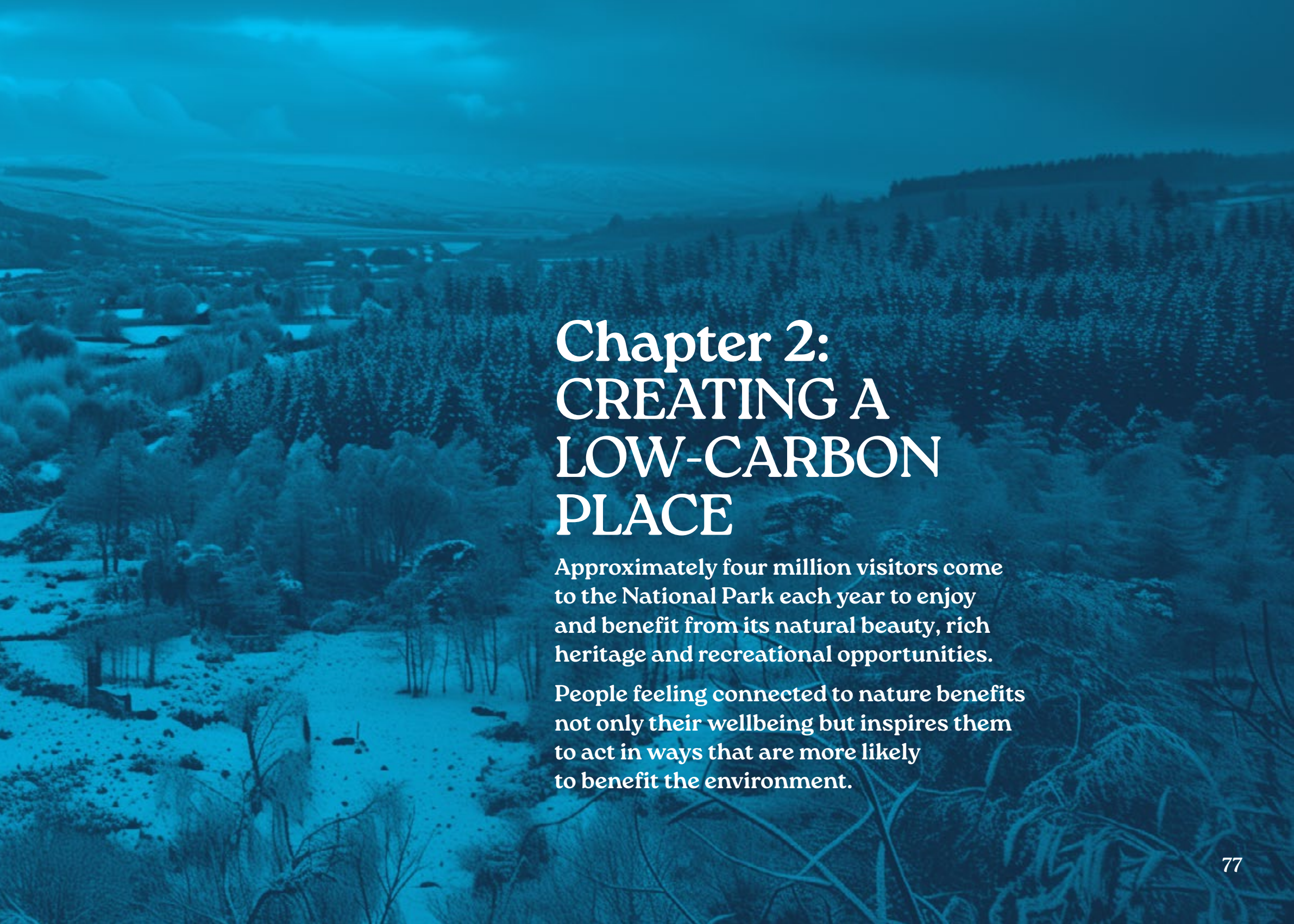
- » Takes an integrated approach in supporting environmental, social and economic benefits and which responds to local needs and opportunities.
- » Provides benefits across public, private and community interests and supports a just transition to a greener economy.
- » Has included local engagement to inform land use decisions where possible by consulting on a proposed land management plan.
- » 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.
- » Is not finance derived from income associated with environmental damage, the extraction of fossil fuels or any unethical practices.





2,830 ha of woodland created since 2007 through planting and natural regeneration in the Great Trossachs Forest.





Chapter 2: CREATING A LOW-CARBON PLACE

Approximately four million visitors come to the National Park each year to enjoy and benefit from its natural beauty, rich heritage and recreational opportunities.

People feeling connected to nature benefits not only their wellbeing but inspires them to act in ways that are more likely to benefit the environment.

That connection can mean different things to different people, from feeling the benefit of taking in a spectacular view, to ensuring they take their litter home after a visit, to taking part in conservation volunteering.

However, we know that the range of people currently visiting the area does not reflect the diversity of our society. The popularity of the National Park also creates pressures and challenges resulting in impacts on our natural environment and behaviours which aren't compatible with the Scottish Government's ambitions to become a Net Zero Nation by 2045.

As we emerge from the pandemic and face the challenges of the climate and nature crises head on, there is a real opportunity to transform the National Park into a more sustainable, low-carbon destination.

We can only do this by creating opportunities for people to connect to landscape and nature sustainably, with the clear rules and incentives in place to influence positive behaviours, and infrastructure and services which facilitate great experiences whilst also protecting climate and nature.

“ Since 2012, there has been a significant increase in the number of adults participating in outdoor recreation, however, increased participation has not been seen across all groups, such as those with a long term illness or disability or among minority ethnic groups.



CHALLENGES

EXPERIENCES

Our 2019/20 Visitor Survey found that the main motivation for visiting the National Park was to enjoy the beautiful scenery, this was mentioned by 60% of all respondents. The Visitor Survey also found that 97% of respondents agreed that being in the National Park improves their mood and sense of wellbeing. The consultation on the Draft National Park Partnership Plan also confirmed that connection to nature is the number one reason people value the National Park.

Post COVID-19, more and more people are enjoying the outdoors, with increases in activities such as hillwalking, paddleboarding and open water swimming. For example, a 2022 NatureScot study stated there had been a 10% increase in non-powered, water-related activities such as swimming, fishing and paddleboarding between 2019 and 2022. So, the potential to encourage even more people to connect with nature and act in ways that help tackle the climate and nature crises is huge. However, while many more people are

enjoying the outdoors, the visitor profile of those enjoying the National Park doesn't fully reflect the diversity of Scotland's population and more must be done to support people of all backgrounds to be able to benefit from the National Park.

For example, only 1 in 10 respondents in our most recent Visitor Survey reported a long-term health condition or a disability. In contrast, 20% of people reported a long-term health condition or disability in the 2011 census.

This challenge is not unique to the National Park, nor is it new. According to recent Scottish Government research:

"Since 2012, there has been a significant increase in the number of adults participating in outdoor recreation on both an annual basis and a weekly basis. However, increased participation has not been seen across all groups, such as those with a long-term illness or disability, or among minority ethnic groups."





INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

The visitor sites and infrastructure in the National Park – car parks, toilets, piers, paths – both those managed by the National Park Authority and other organisations, were all largely established prior to the National Park's designation in 2002. While there have been upgrades and improvements over time, the way people enjoy the National Park has also evolved.

The 'stress test' on rural visitor destinations and recreational facilities across Scotland resulting from increase in visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic brought stakeholders, third sector, businesses and communities closer together to accelerate action to increase visitor facilities, improve real time information and extend ranger patrols.

This was supported by targeted national funding for 'boots on the ground' over the last three years. However, it has also confirmed where long-term change is needed. While there has been investment in upgrades and improvements over the years, until recently there has not been a real joined up strategic approach looking across all publicly owned visitor sites in the National Park.

We also need to consider how resilient our existing infrastructure and routes are to the impacts of climate and how it could better support nature.

For example, increased rainfall damages paths and bridges on popular routes including the West Highland Way. Further developing and investing in services and infrastructure could reduce the impact of both visitor demand and climate change. In particular, a well-maintained path network (both upland and lowland paths) which integrates with transport and facilities is crucial to people's connection to nature and landscape.

While in some places where there isn't the capacity for high volumes of visitors and cars, and which are important for nature, we need to manage volume to protect habitats and quieter visitor experiences.

TRAVEL

The dominance of car travel is a major contributor to the carbon emissions of the National Park, with visitor travel to and from the area being the largest (34%) of the six main categories of emission reduction targets. 79% of visitors arrive in the National Park by car and 73% explore the area by car according to our 2019/20 Visitor Survey.

Tackling this lack of choice in rural public transport is a crucial part of becoming a Net Zero National Park.

Large parts of the National Park can't be reached without a car and long-standing systemic constraints make travel to many areas of the Park exclusive to car users. This results in high and ever-increasing volumes of cars which in turn brings high emissions, congestion, visitor management pressures and inequality of access to recreational opportunities.

Public transport across the country and within the National Park is designed primarily with residents in mind and misses the opportunity to meet demand from visitors that could help support more travel services for all. Many local people, particularly young people, do not feel current services meets their needs.

Tackling this lack of choice in rural public transport is a crucial part of becoming a Net Zero National Park. The National Park Authority is highly dependent on action by partners, including Regional Transport Partnerships, Local Authorities and transportation operators, for this to become a reality.

There is also currently a skills gap and shortage of labour for key roles in the transport sector. This became evident when a lack of bus drivers in rural areas was the key reason transport operators cited for being unable to tender for a funded shuttle bus pilot in the National Park in 2021 and 2022.

Addressing these issues requires a long-term, strategic and 'whole system' approach. It requires the reprioritisation of sustainable modes of transport and the active de-prioritisation of the private car.

Reducing car travel to and around the National Park is central to creating a low-carbon place.



OPPORTUNITIES

EXPERIENCES

There is an important opportunity over the next five years to ensure a broader spectrum of visitors to the National Park. With millions of visitors on our doorstep, it is right that this National Park makes the most of the connection and influence it has with the people who choose to visit every year.

Through the Future Nature Route Map by 2030 we aim to further develop widely available, inventive engagement and education opportunities around nature. This will provide opportunities for all communities, including those groups that may be normally excluded, to learn about and experience nature in the National Park.





INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

A long-term coordinated approach to visitor services and infrastructure, combined with continued partnership working to managing negative behaviours and impacts, would have huge benefits for visitors, communities and businesses as well as supporting climate and nature objectives.

Providing a high-quality experience for visitors in popular places, through improved services and facilities, would reduce impact on the daily lives of our communities.

A Visitor Levy, if well managed and implemented equitably in the National Park, could provide additional funding to invest in the National Park's visitor infrastructure and facilities.

A better designed, organised and managed network of visitor sites could also make it easier to manage visitor pressures and reduce the need for enforcement action.

Meanwhile, in less visited areas, including remote hilltops, forests and glens away from roads and facilities, prioritising non-motorised access and recreation, will allow nature to recover more rapidly.

Infrastructure investment at key visitor hubs, such as at Balloch, Callander and Arrochar/Tarbet can provide more sustainable ways for people to travel to, from and within the National Park through improved and joined up sustainable and active travel options.

TRAVEL

Many of the issues and challenges around travel are not unique to the National Park. However, what is most relevant here is the scale of visitor travel and the opportunity to be an exemplar of a low emission rural transport system that is more inclusive and attractive, meeting the needs of both visitors and residents.

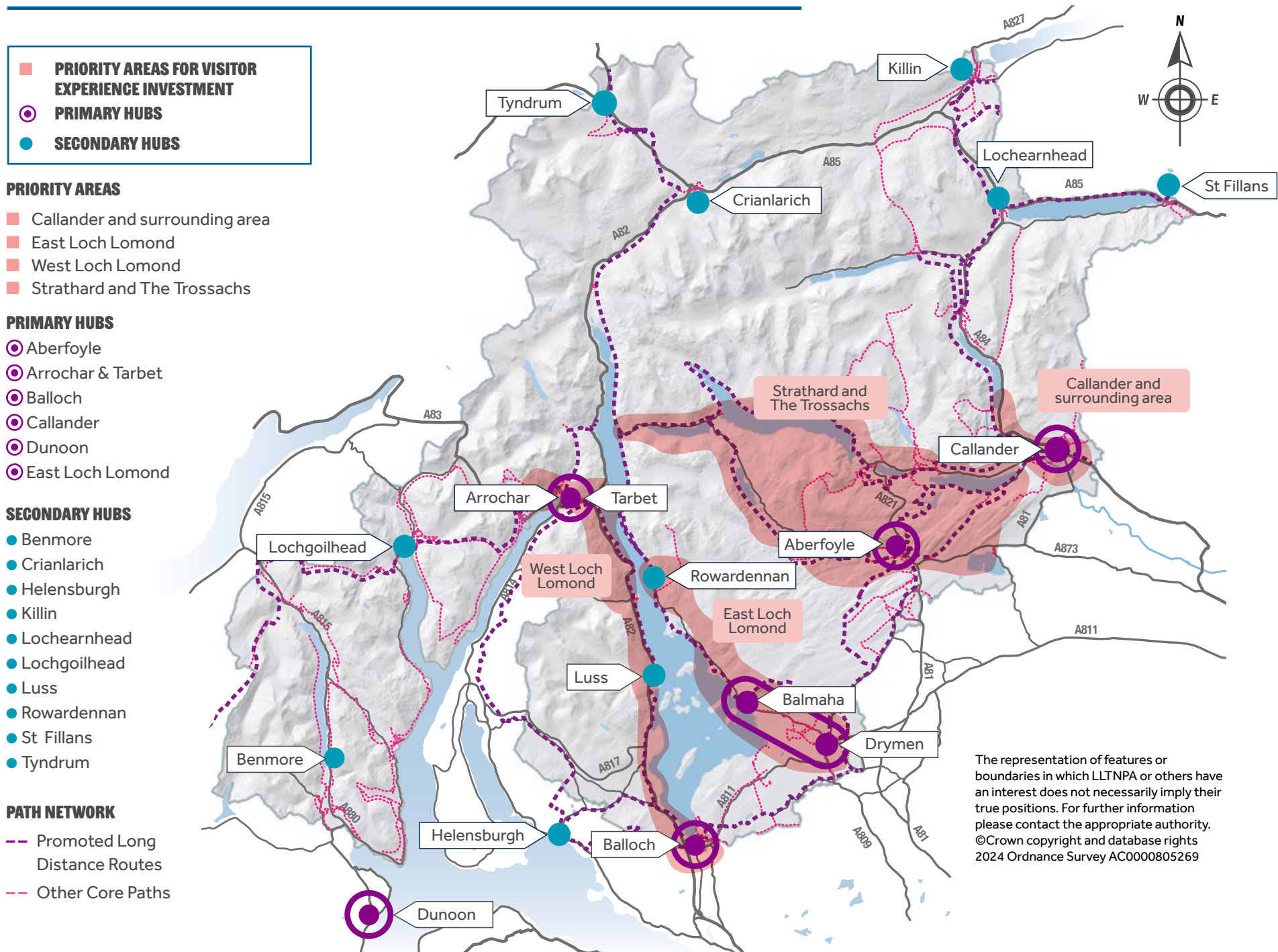
We know this is possible. We can draw on examples of successful sustainable travel initiatives in other National Parks both in the UK, such as Eryri/Snowdonia National Park, and abroad, such as Cap de Creus Natural Park in Catalonia or Banff National Park in Canada, to develop this new integrated system, where buses, trains, ferries and opportunities to cycle, wheel and walk safely are well coordinated.



Sherpa'r Wyddfa bus service in Eryri/Snowdonia National Park helps ease congestion and emissions.

Photo © Trafnidiaeth Cymru/Transport for Wales

MAP 4: INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN THE NATIONAL PARK



SUCCESSES SO FAR

Examples exist from across the Park of where people have engaged with nature and cultural heritage, travelling through natural landscapes and towns and villages in a low-carbon way enjoying a range of recreational pursuits and active travel.

Many kilometres of multi-use paths and activities have been created in both lowland and upland areas to facilitate this recreation and travel including the Lochearn Railway path, the Mountains and The People project and Cycle in the Park.

The successful Walk in the Park scheme managed by the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust has grown from just seven walkers to over 250 participants in a few years, leading organised health walks in six local towns and villages.

Alongside many regular adult volunteers who enjoy working close to nature, hundreds of children planted trees as part of a COP26 legacy project to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss in the Park through the 'Roots for the Future' project, supporting pupils from 11 local schools to work with Park Rangers creating small areas of woodland in their school grounds.



'Roots for the Future' project helped local schools create areas of woodland in their grounds.

DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

Each Delivery Framework details the following:

- » Outcomes for 2045
- » Measurements of success by 2029
- » Objectives for 2024-2029
- » Actions to deliver those objectives
- » What stage of delivery
- » Delivery partners involved
- » The role of the National Park Authority in delivery
- » Any relevant policies



2.1 Connecting Everyone with Nature and Climate

2045 OUTCOME

A PLACE FOR ALL TO ENJOY SAFELY AND RESPONSIBLY

Opportunities for everyone to value and enjoy the special qualities/ benefits of the National Park safely.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Measurements of Success by 2029 to ensure we are on track to achieving 2045 long term outcome:

- » Measure participation in and impact of Volunteering, Outdoor Learning and Youth Action programmes.
- » Measure the number of people visiting the National Park every year. Track how representative our domestic visitors are of Scottish society.

OBJECTIVE 1 INSPIRE ACTION FOR NATURE AND CLIMATE

Inspire and engage more people to take action for nature and climate by promoting understanding of the challenges facing our planet while increasing the wellbeing benefits of enjoying the outdoors.

ACTIONS

 IN DELIVERY

- » Continuing to develop the National Park Authority outdoor learning programme with a stronger focus on understanding climate and nature, whilst responding to national education priorities.
- » Ensuring young people have platforms to advocate and act, embedding their voice in policy and practice by growing membership and skills of the Youth Committee and Junior Rangers.
- » Continuing to develop the National Park volunteering programme to expand opportunities to take action for climate, nature and engaging with visitors; to grow and diversify our volunteer cohort, and to ensure these opportunities also build the skills and wellbeing of our volunteers.
- » Working with local and national organisations to develop our collective delivery of climate and nature focused outdoor learning, outreach and volunteering opportunities.
- » Delivering local, regional and national public engagement initiatives, campaigns and interpretation strategies which embed the valuing of nature and landscape within visits and active experiences including well-being walks.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- » Education and volunteering providers and partners in the National Park
- » Scottish Government outdoor learning group partners
- » VisitScotland
- » NatureScot
- » Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Lead/Enable

OBJECTIVE 2

SUPPORT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Improve diversity and inclusion by creating more opportunities for previously under-represented groups to access and enjoy the National Park.

ACTIONS

 IN DELIVERY

- » Engaging and supporting the growing sector of charities and voluntary organisations who work with a wide range of underrepresented and marginalised groups, to provide targeted outreach initiatives, support and resources for these communities to experience the National Park.

ACTIONS

 SCOPING

- » Agreeing our Mainstreaming and Equalities Outcomes for the National Park for 2025-2029, engaging with organisations for underrepresented or marginalised communities and partners, to ensure that the National Park is an inviting place for people of all backgrounds.
- » Continue to deliver and expand on the work of the 'Park for All' group to engage with organisations for underrepresented or marginalised communities and partners, to ensure that the National Park is an inviting place for people of all backgrounds.
- » Developing communication approaches to ensure all opportunities to access or become involved in the work of the National Park are reaching underrepresented groups.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| » Representative bodies and those with lived experience of the barriers to engaging with the National Park | » Non-Departmental Public Body Equality Forum members |
|--|---|

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Enable/Lead

OBJECTIVE 3

SUPPORT SAFE, RESPONSIBLE ACCESS

A wide range of enjoyable and safe visitor experiences which are managed in a way which is compatible with nature and climate considerations and supporting thriving communities.

ACTIONS

 IN DELIVERY

- » Taking a partnership approach to visitor management to ensure co-ordination of the work of all public bodies with a role in supporting the safe and responsible enjoyment of the National Park.
- » Operating and keeping under review the Loch Lomond and Camping Byelaws to encourage positive behaviour and protect the National Park's sensitive environment.
- » Co-ordinating a multi-agency approach to promoting visitor safety across responsible bodies to ensure the safe enjoyment of publicly managed and other popular visitor sites.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- » National Park Visitor Management Group
 - Police Scotland
 - Transport Scotland
 - Forestry and Land Scotland
 - Argyll & Bute Council
 - Perth & Kinross Council
 - Stirling Council
 - West Dunbartonshire Council
- » Water Safety Scotland

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Lead/Enable

POLICY FOR CONNECTING EVERYONE WITH NATURE & CLIMATE

We will work to ensure that nature and recreation experiences are accessible to and informed by the needs of all groups in society.

Our approach will focus on:

- » Enabling and encouraging more underrepresented and protected groups to enjoy the National Park.
- » Ensuring 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.
- » Ensuring that investment and visitor sites and infrastructure takes account of the accessibility needs of all abilities and cultures.
- » Encouraging local tourism and recreation businesses to improve accessibility in providing visitor offerings.
- » Ensuring that more young people enjoy the outdoor experience in the National Park and are inspired to care more for nature and the climate.





2.2 Improving Popular Places and Routes

2045 OUTCOME

HIGH QUALITY VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

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 fewer 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.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Measurements of Success by 2029 to ensure we are on track to achieving 2045 long term outcome:

- » Track the investment in and completion of priority visitor infrastructure projects as part of our Place Programme and across the recreation path network.

OBJECTIVE 1 DELIVER A MULTI-YEAR PLACE PROGRAMME

Provide higher quality assets across publicly managed sites with improvements striking a balance between local and visitor needs while delivering nature and climate benefits.

ACTIONS

IN DELIVERY

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Coordinating investment plans by partner public bodies, through the Place Programme partnership and its agreed strategic approach on priority visitor infrastructure projects focussing on delivering benefits for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People and Place - Climate and Nature - Inclusion and improved accessibility - Modal shift to sustainable and active travel - Visitor management and localised dispersal. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Completing a Park-Wide Place Programme Delivery Route Map setting out infrastructure priorities for delivery across local destinations. This route map will align with national strategic priorities and multi-year funding streams. » Delivering accelerated projects on East and West Loch Lomond which are already well developed and have funding packages well progressed. » Ensuring all infrastructure programmes integrate digital and sensor tech to ensure infrastructure designs in monitoring and information gathering for ongoing work. |
|--|---|

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » National Park Visitor Management Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police Scotland - Transport Scotland - Forestry and Land Scotland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Argyll & Bute Council - Perth & Kinross Council - Stirling Council - West Dunbartonshire Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » VisitScotland » East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Group » West Loch Lomond Visitor Management Group » Civtech project partners |
|---|---|---|

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Lead/Enable

OBJECTIVE 2

IMPROVE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE

More of the National Park is accessible to people of all backgrounds through improved sustainable and active travel infrastructure that delivers a wider range of travel choices and itineraries.

ACTIONS

IN DELIVERY

- » Delivering Tarbet, Balloch and Callander travel connectivity initiatives to facilitate multi-modal and attractive journeys.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Establishing a strategic approach to public transport and EV infrastructure and EV car sharing opportunities which can enhance the wider mobility network and inclusion.
- » Developing and delivering an active travel infrastructure programme across the National Park which ensures that walking, cycling and wheeling are built into the daily experiences of residents and visitors.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| » Stirling Council | » Transport Scotland/ BEAR |
| » Argyll & Bute Council | » Tactran |
| » West Dunbartonshire Council | » Strathclyde Partnership for Transport |
| » Perth & Kinross Council | » Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust |
| » Transport Scotland | |
| » Hitrans | |
| » Sustrans | |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Enable/Lead

OBJECTIVE 3

PROVIDE A HIGH-QUALITY RECREATIONAL PATH NETWORK

People from a wider range of backgrounds enjoy a high-quality, well-maintained network of paths and routes meeting different needs and abilities.

ACTIONS

IN DELIVERY

- » Managing and promoting the WHW in ways appropriate for a world-renowned experience of this nature
- » Ensuring there is a path maintenance programme (lowland and upland) which ensures these valuable assets and experiences are protected for the longer term.
- » Addressing critical network gaps so that the local, regional and national networks are connected across the National Park and integrated into the wider transport network.
- » Supporting outdoor activity providers to enable the rental of equipment which supports growth in healthy nature connected recreation activity and enables visitors to travel light.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| » NatureScot | » Perth and Kinross Council |
| » East Dunbartonshire Council | » Landowners |
| » Stirling Council | » Sustrans |
| » Forestry and Land Scotland | » Transport Scotland/BEAR |
| » Argyll and Bute Council | » VisitScotland |
| » Highland Council | » National Park Destination Group |
| » West Dunbartonshire Council | |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Enable/Lead

POLICY FOR IMPROVING POPULAR PLACES AND ROUTES

We will ensure that the National Park Authority and its partners take a co-ordinated place-based approach to investing in higher quality visitor facilities across publicly owned sites to ensure 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.

We will focus on achieving five priorities:

- » Promoting a high-quality landscape experience through design excellence, to enhance place and the landscape quality.
- » Supporting inclusion and improved accessibility by identifying and facilitating actions that support equality and diversity to secure barrier free / inclusive access that meets the needs of all users.
- » Delivering for climate and nature by leading a nature-based approach to design using the principles of both Future Nature and Mission Zero, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and capitalising on the benefits of nature, including the sustainability of design, materials, maintenance, and use.
- » 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.
- » Supporting visitor management and dispersal, encouraging people to visit our more resilient places, and using good design, information and better provision to support more responsible behaviours, reducing the need for visitor management operations and measures.

2.3 Low-Carbon Travel for Everyone

2045 OUTCOME

AN INCLUSIVE, LOW-CARBON TRAVEL NETWORK

The National Park has an efficient, inclusive rural transport sector, meeting the travel needs of both visitors and residents alike.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Measurements of Success by 2029
to ensure we are on track to achieving
2045 long term outcome:

- » Monitor rural transport provision.
Reduce transport emissions from travel
to and from the National Park by at least
61% from the 2019 baseline by 2030.

OBJECTIVE 1

DEVELOP A NEW STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Transport and travel services are better planned, integrated and delivered to meet the travel needs of communities and visitors, and to reduce car dependency.

ACTIONS

SCOPING/INITIATION

- » Establishing a new National Park Mobility Partnership and governance model where key partners share resources, assets, skills and revenue to enhance the low-carbon mobility choices for popular and essential journeys into and within the National Park.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Creating a partnership approach to sharing visitor/travel data and insights on unmet journey demand to inform transport service planning.
- » Establish a stakeholder group to support the National Park Mobility Partnership advising on delivery for communities of place and interest, including businesses.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| » Transport Scotland | » Stirling Council | » Scotrail/Scottish Rail Holdings Ltd |
| » Strathclyde Partnership for Transport | » Argyll & Bute Council | » Datalab |
| » Tactran | » West Dunbartonshire Council | » Community Representation |
| » Hitrans | » Perth & Kinross Council | » Business Representation |
| | » VisitScotland | |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Lead/Enable

OBJECTIVE 2

MAKE SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL CHOICES MORE ATTRACTIVE

Sustainable travel choices will be promoted and priced to be more attractive and convenient to use.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Developing a strategic approach to setting pricing levels for travel and parking which will incentivise and support low-carbon travel choices.
- » Delivering an integrated ticketing, marketing and communications package which supports sustainable travel choices and supports modal shift.
- » Developing new targeted transport services (including on water) meeting journey demand and an attractive alternative to the private car for both visitors and residents.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

National Park Mobility Partnership, comprising:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| » Transport Scotland | » Stirling Council |
| » Strathclyde Partnership for Transport | » Argyll & Bute Council |
| » Tactran | » West Dunbartonshire Council |
| » Hitrans | » Perth & Kinross Council |
| | » VisitScotland |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Enable/Lead

OBJECTIVE 3

IMPROVE TRAVEL ROUTES AND SERVICES

Public transport service providers are enabled to establish new routes and timetables to take advantage of currently unmet travel demand and realise economic benefits.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Taking a strategic approach to low-carbon transport service frameworks, contracts and subsidies (including for potential shift towards publicly owned services or network franchising).
- » Delivering a collaborative recruitment drive to address existing vacancies which are hindering rural service development (including community transport initiatives).
- » Developing and delivering a 5 year programme through the Mobility Partnership which adds targeted capacity to the low-carbon travel network through the growth in rail carriage, bus, E-taxi and car sharing fleet volumes.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

National Park Mobility Partnership, comprising:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| » Transport Scotland | » Stirling Council |
| » Strathclyde Partnership for Transport | » Argyll & Bute Council |
| » Tactran | » West Dunbartonshire Council |
| » Hitrans | » Perth & Kinross Council |
| | » VisitScotland |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Enable/Lead

POLICY FOR LOW-CARBON TRAVEL FOR EVERYONE

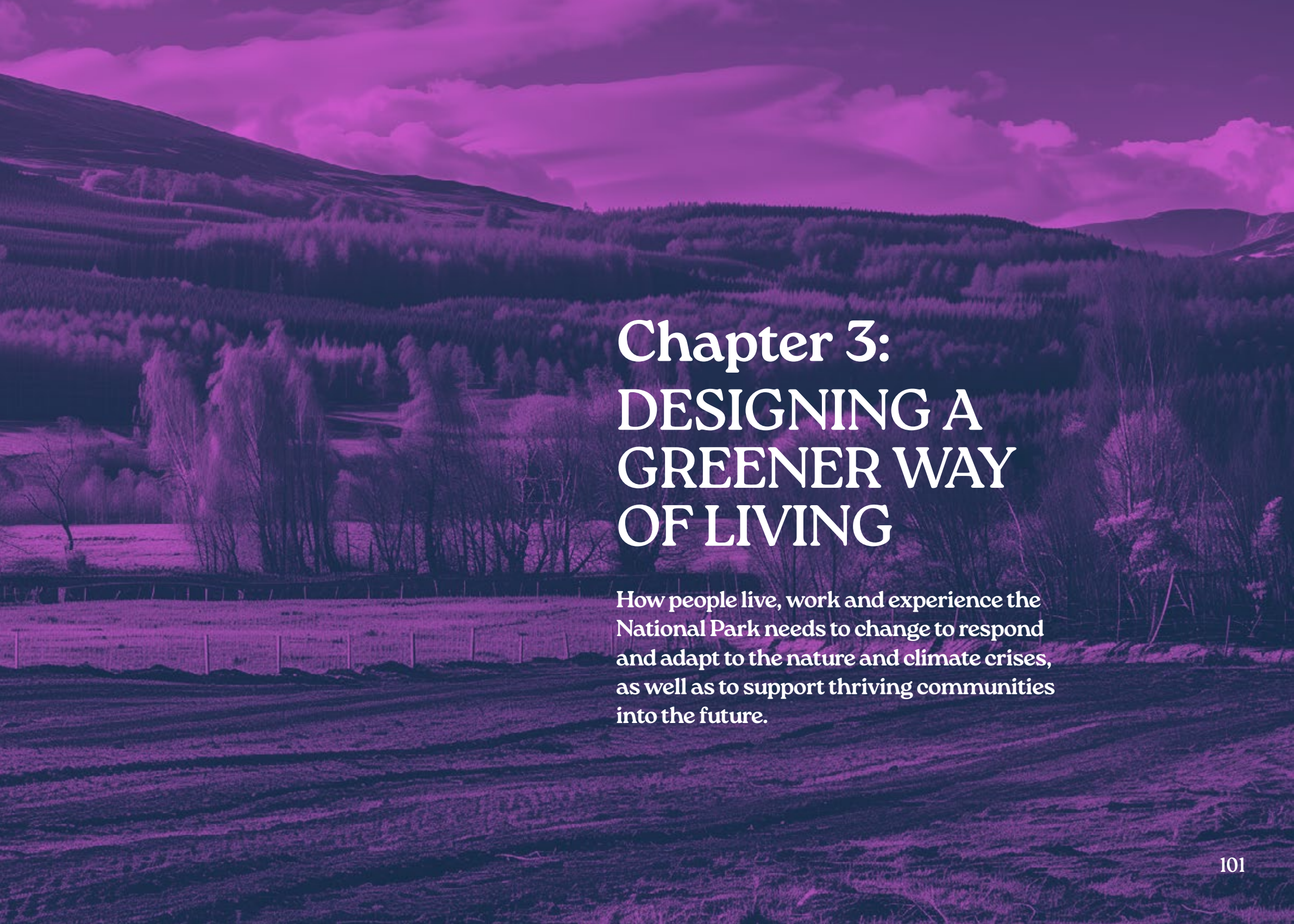
We will work to ensure that the National Park Authority and its partners improve mobility services in the National Park to increase sustainable accessibility for all.

Our approach will focus on:

- » Reducing the level of carbon emissions from travel to and from the National Park, contributing to achieving it being a Net Zero place by 2035
- » Reducing the adverse impacts of traffic and parking on communities and the public's enjoyment of the Park.
- » Increasing the proportion of visitors travelling sustainably by walking, wheeling and cycling and by using public and water transport.
- » Enhancing access for all residents to employment, education, community services and health opportunities and amenities
- » Supporting the capacity of travel service providers to better respond to currently unmet travel demand and seasonality








Chapter 3: DESIGNING A GREENER WAY OF LIVING

How people live, work and experience the National Park needs to change to respond and adapt to the nature and climate crises, as well as to support thriving communities into the future.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a brown knit beanie and a green jacket, is smiling and looking to the side. She has a large blue backpack on her back. The background is a blurred mountain landscape with autumn foliage. In the top right corner, there is a decorative graphic consisting of a grid of squares in white, purple, and grey. The text "Spending on nature-based and wellness tourism is a growing trend." is overlaid in white on the lower left.

**Spending on nature-based
and wellness tourism is a
growing trend.**

The National Park's rural economy must adapt to support this; becoming greener, more diverse and more equitable than it is now, generating and retaining more wealth locally.

For communities to be more sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change, for them to play a part in tackling the nature crisis and to benefit from the transition of our economy, support must be available.

Communities need access to good services, housing and transport that allows people to live and work here for years to come.

This Plan aims to tackle these systemic issues. The way we approach development in the National Park needs to change too, with this having an increasingly important role in helping to address the climate emergency, restore nature and support rural communities.

CHALLENGES

RURAL ECONOMY

The National Park's landscapes, natural environment and cultural heritage are the very reason there is a tourism economy, but the way that people currently visit the National Park is not sustainable or compatible with ambitions to become a Net Zero Nation by 2045. It is impacting on our natural environment and creating pressures on some communities.

How people want to experience the National Park is also changing. Spending on nature-based and wellness tourism is a growing trend, with a 2019 VisitScotland Insight study finding that 42% characterised a wellness holiday as including "experiencing fresh air and being outdoors", while "peace and quiet" came in at 41%.

The tourism sector is responding to new type of tourism with many new business models emerging, despite many businesses experiencing the most difficult operating circumstances in a generation, with escalating operating costs, skills shortages and recruitment challenges.

As the same time the sector needs to reduce its impact on climate and nature with additional green skills and expertise needed across various specialisms, including digital, transport, renewable energy and construction.

It's not only the tourism sector that will need to evolve. With the changing approach to land use to tackle climate change and nature loss, there will need to be significant growth in nature-based green jobs and skills, alongside associated training, skills development and establishing career pathways.

There will need to be significant growth in nature-based green jobs and skills, alongside associated training, skills development and establishing career pathways.

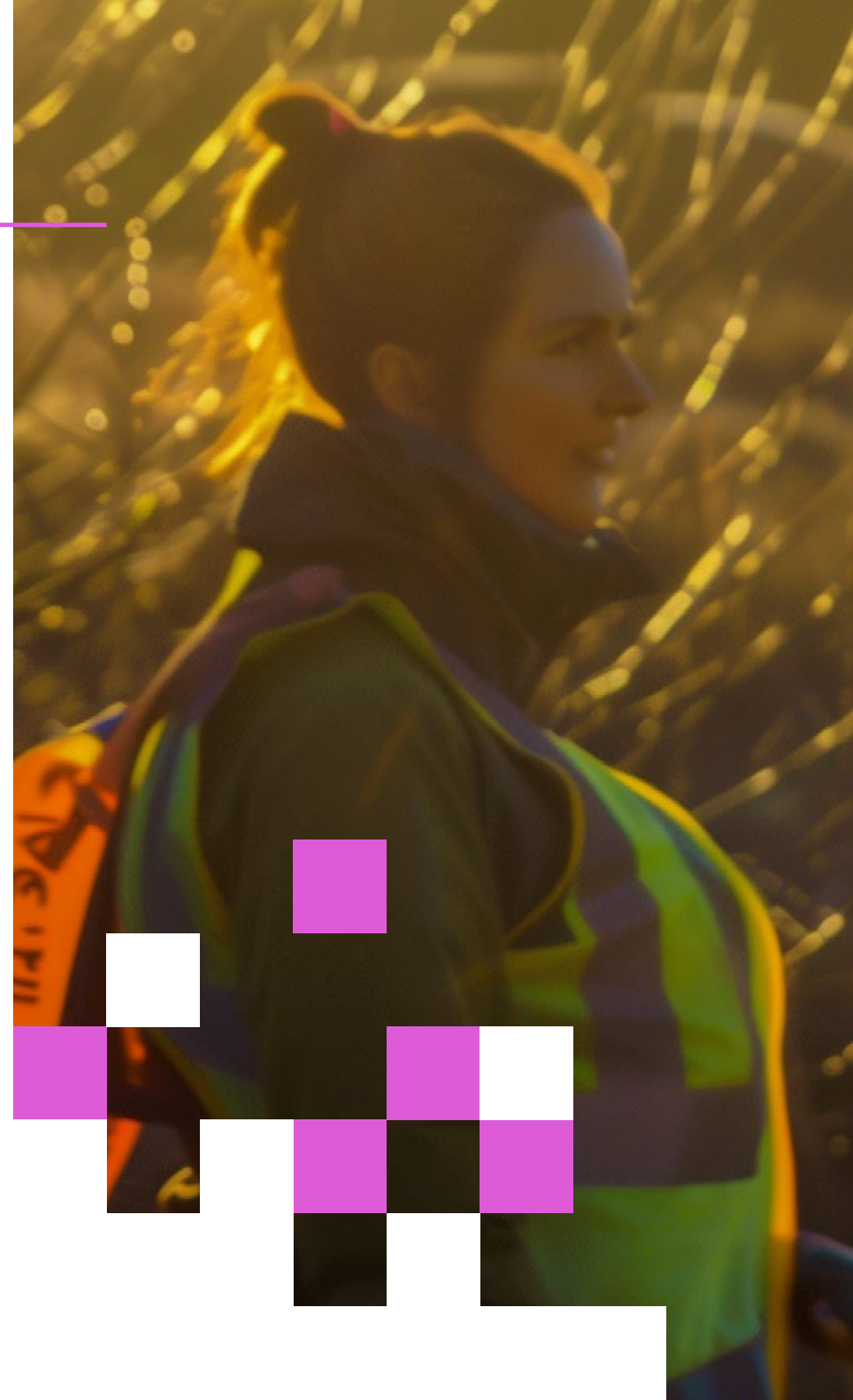
COMMUNITIES

We know that people being able to meet their needs locally is one way in which we can both reduce our emissions and create the conditions for thriving communities. Our communities rely on each other and the towns and villages around the National Park to access shops, health care, education, employment and a range of other services and facilities. Travel between, and in many cases within communities, can be challenging without a car, especially for young people.

Availability of affordable housing and transport are two of the biggest issues creating barriers to more working age and young people being able to find homes and take up jobs in the National Park.

Despite an increase in affordable housing in recent years, commuting, retirement and an increased desire for rural living are key factors driving up housing pressures, alongside increasing numbers of second homes and short-term holiday lets. Whilst these can be beneficial to the visitor economy, some communities are concerned that we have reached a tipping point with too many homes being used as holiday lets, removing them from the local housing system.

While many communities are proactively leading local action to address these issues, community-led action relies on local people with the confidence and skills volunteering their time and expertise. Not all communities are currently in a position to identify and take action. It is important that communities are able to influence and benefit from the changes to the Park's economy and the opportunities this could bring to support community needs and help grow community wealth.







Affordable mixed housing development
Claish Farm, Callander.

DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT

There continues to be considerable development interest in the Park, mainly for housing and tourism-related developments, however some places do not have capacity for more development due to environmental constraints or lack of rural infrastructure. Beyond what has already been identified in the current National Park Local Development Plan and is already in the pipeline for delivery, it is not envisaged that any significant new sites for development will be needed in the period of this Plan.

There is already a legacy of undeveloped vacant and derelict sites in and around towns and villages, for example at Arrochar and Tarbet, with some causing significant blight within communities. If more traditional interventions do not stimulate development on these sites, it is likely that methods such as compulsory purchase, community right-to-buy, or innovative finance options will be needed.

The re-use of brownfield sites (land which has previously been developed) outside towns and villages will require re-consideration for its potential to aid local living, the rural economy, local wealth building and the biodiversity value of the site.

Adaptation is needed to help communities become more climate ready and to manage the impacts of the changing climate on the natural, built and historic environment.

Where new development is needed, challenges that remain include availability of suitable land, development costs remaining extremely high and either limited, or a lack of, existing infrastructure. This is affecting the viability and delivery of much needed development in small rural communities and causing delays to delivery of affordable housing at some locations.

Adaptation is needed to help communities become more climate ready and to manage the impacts of the changing climate on the natural, built and historic environment.

We are increasingly witnessing more heavy, intense periods of rainfall, resulting in increased river, coastal and surface flooding damaging local infrastructure, buildings, the environment and cutting off some communities entirely.

Landslips have blocked strategic road links on both the A83 and A85 Trunk roads as well as minor local roads in the National Park.

Increased temperature fluctuations can damage and disrupt energy supplies and transmission infrastructure, and impact on other 'ecosystem services' in the National Park that we often take for granted – for example water (both quality and availability). Hotter, drier summers increase instances of water scarcity and wildfires. While these weather changes impact the natural environment, they also affect our historic and built environment. For example, impacts on buildings such as overheating or poor weather resistance and material deterioration.

OPPORTUNITIES

RURAL ECONOMY

Tourism businesses in the National Park are well placed to respond to the increasing interest in ‘voluntourism’, sustainable holidays, carbon-aware itineraries, locally sourced produce and eco-friendly accommodation.

Many already work hard to reduce their environmental and climate impact by training their staff in the Park’s nature, collaborating to deliver connections with public transport and communities, and taking action to repair and enhance their local environments.

This sector also has a significant role as ambassadors for the National Park through their interaction with visitors and opportunity to connect with a broad range of people on climate and nature. There is opportunity for businesses to enhance visitors’ experience, build a bond with our landscape and keep important aspects of the Park’s cultural and heritage (like Gaelic language) alive as part of their visit.





Many businesses are already taking steps to reduce their carbon footprint by making changes to their energy usage and waste systems and supporting local supply chains. The opportunity and the need for all businesses to do this cannot be understated.

There is a need to identify requirements for growing the nature-based green jobs and skills sector as we all do more to tackle the twin nature and climate crises. Partners in the National Park will work together to establish key areas of focus on this. NatureScot's Nature Based Jobs and Skills Action Plan for 2023-2024 provides a useful context by illustrating the broad range and scope of jobs required in this sector.

COMMUNITIES

Living well locally means people can meet their daily needs as close as possible to where they live or work, with a good range of rural services and facilities, more local food growing and energy generation along with active travel or public transport options.

Living and working more locally will make residents less dependent on car journeys, cutting carbon emissions and nurturing more vibrant, healthy communities.

Living and working more locally will make residents less dependent on car journeys, cutting carbon emissions and nurturing more vibrant, healthy communities. Home or hybrid working and options to work from local business hubs, like those in Aberfoyle and Drymen and being trialled using local village halls as multipurpose venues, also supports greener, local living and working.

Local Place Plans are already beginning to say more on climate and local living and are an important tool in supporting this transition.

Collaborative initiatives to support communities, such as the Community Climate Action Hub for the Forth Valley region (which includes the National Park area) and the Argyll and Bute Hub, will help to facilitate networking between individual

community groups, identify funding opportunities and develop local plans to progress local led climate action.

The next Local Development Plan can help to ensure new housing meets the needs of communities and the economy by facilitating an increase in affordable housing. Partners will need to work together to provide a wider range of affordable housing including mid-market rent, low cost or shared ownership. The next Local Development Plan can seek to protect housing from not being lost to holiday lets and second homes by considering how Short Term Let Control areas might help some communities.





Small businesses, community organisations and social enterprises could comprise a bigger part of the National Park's economy, helping to create and circulate local wealth more within rural communities. Development and private investment in the National Park's natural resources for sequestration could potentially also help build community wealth and support rural communities. This includes direct community involvement in land or mutual agreements between developers, investors, land managers and communities to identify how benefits can be shared more equitably.

Ensuring communities are supported to maintain and build capacity in their local community organisations, through supporting more local people, including young people, to get involved could result in more social enterprises being established and create local job, training and skills development opportunities.






MAP 5: STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT IN THE NATIONAL PARK

This map highlights the key areas in the Park for strategic development priorities, planned infrastructure improvements and core infrastructure.




NATIONAL STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

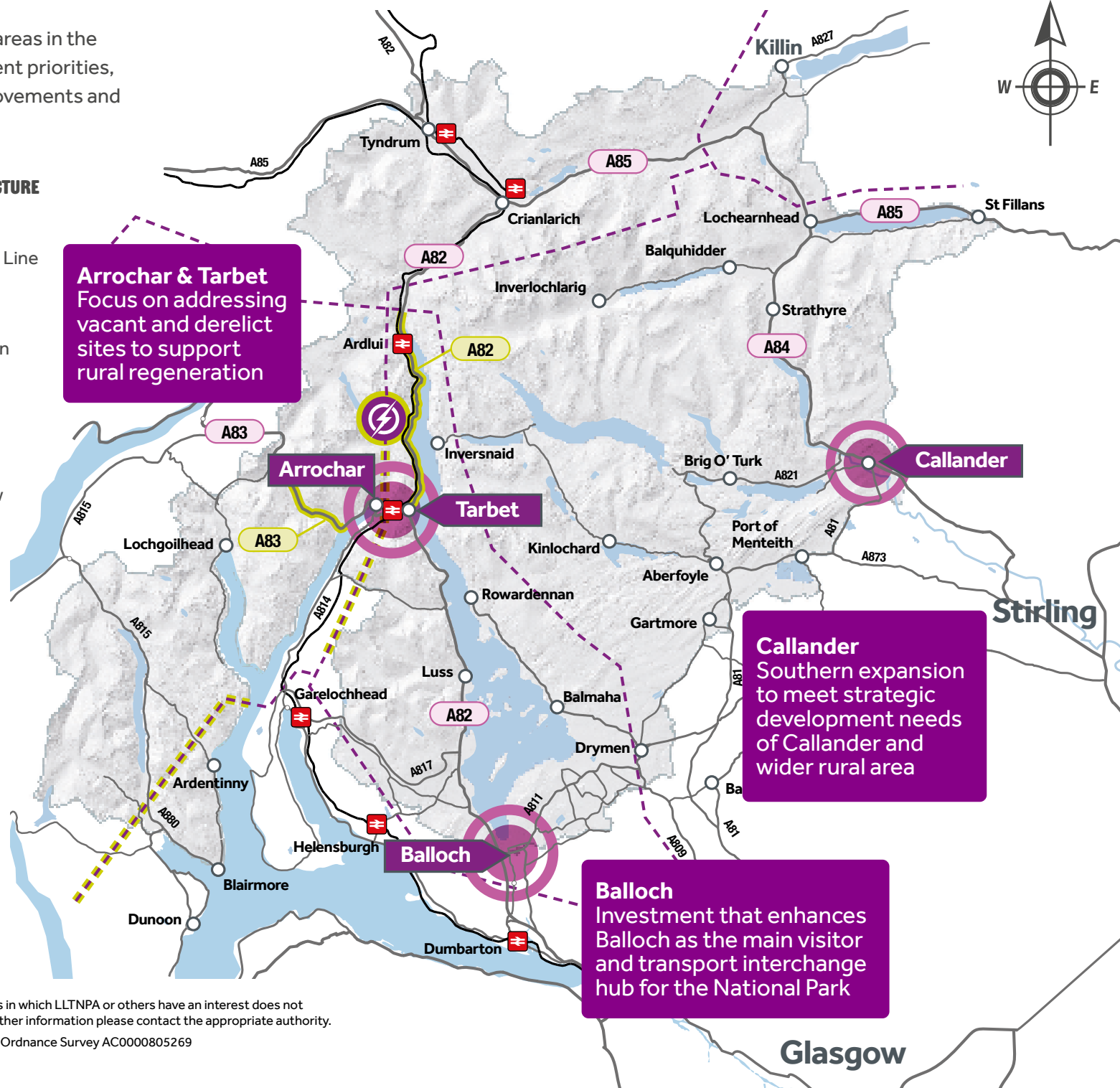
-  Trunk Road Network
-  West Highland Railway Line
-  Sloy Hydro Electric Power Station
-  Electricity transmission lines (indicative)

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

-  Taret to Inverarnan
-  Ardgartan to Cairndow
-  Dunoon to Loch Long
-  Sloy to Garelochhead
-  Sloy Hydro Electric Power Station

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT LOCATIONS

-  Balloch
-  Callander
-  Arrochar & Taret



DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) is clear that to respond to the climate emergency and nature crisis, all investment and development must contribute to making Scotland a more sustainable place. It identifies a large part of the National Park, alongside other areas of central and northern Highlands of Scotland, to become an overall net carbon sink, locking in more carbon than it releases into the atmosphere.

Being a National Park doesn't mean there should be no development, it means we have an enormous opportunity to respond in ways that will help deliver both national outcomes and local benefits.

Through its planning role the National Park Authority can proactively guide new development and infrastructure within the National Park that is more closely aligned to facilitating the land use change required to deliver for climate and nature, while also meeting the needs of those living and working here. Nature recovery can be secured through identifying opportunities for investment in natural capital, strengthening nature networks and enhancing biodiversity on site as part of development delivery.

SUCCESSES SO FAR

Communities in the National Park are already delivering to support local living. For example, community-led action on local energy generation via community-owned run of river hydro schemes; local food growing and distribution; scoping of local community-run transport enterprises; community-based health walks/cycling groups and community run business hubs. We can build on these examples to encourage and empower all communities in the National Park to take action towards living well locally, adapting to the Climate Emergency and delivering for nature.

A pilot project in Drymen explored with the community how people can live more locally, linking with surrounding communities. The findings of this are summarised in 'Drymen and the villages of East Loch Lomond: Living Well Locally Vision and Routemap' and were used by the community to inform their Local Place Plan.

A pilot project integrating land use and planning has been trialled in the Strathard area of the National Park. The 'Strathard Framework' was prepared jointly by the Strathard Community Council, the Strathard Community Development Trust, the National Park Authority and Stirling Council. It identifies the development and infrastructure needs for the area alongside opportunities for investment in natural capital. The focus now is on delivery across all partners. This approach has helped test and consider how similar rural land use and planning frameworks might work in other areas of the National Park.

Affordable homes designed to Passivhaus Standard, making these homes significantly more energy efficient.

DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

Each Delivery Framework details the following:

- » Outcomes for 2045
- » Measurements of success by 2029
- » Objectives for 2024-2029
- » Actions to deliver those objectives
- » What stage of delivery
- » Delivery partners involved
- » The role of the National Park Authority in delivery
- » Any relevant policies



3.1 Transitioning to a Greener Economy

2045 OUTCOME

A GREENER AND MORE DIVERSE RURAL ECONOMY

The National Park has a zero carbon and more diverse rural economy, in which businesses thrive and the local workforce has grown through an increase in nature and climate based green jobs.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Measurements of Success by 2029 to ensure we are on track to achieving 2045 long term outcome:

- » Track new or expanded numbers of the jobs and skills development opportunities necessary to support transition to a nature positive and carbon negative National Park economy, including public transportation, regenerative agriculture, peatland and water restoration, woodland creation and management, and sustainable tourism. Establish baseline and increase year on year.

OBJECTIVE 1

1. INCREASE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

The National Park visitor economy is thriving and transitioning to offer more low emission, nature-connected tourism opportunities and celebrate local culture and heritage

ACTIONS

INITIATION

- » Identifying and taking forward collaborative opportunities to address challenges and develop new tourism experiences, including those more closely connected with nature.
- » Establishing a baseline of green tourism accreditation Park-wide to determine how many businesses participate and to what level they are engaged in order to extend support and measure progress.
- » Increasing practical toolkits, guidance and other approaches to help tourism businesses maximise the market opportunities and benefits in low-carbon tourism and business operations.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| » National Park Destination Group | » Scottish Enterprise |
| » VisitScotland | » Highlands & Islands Enterprise |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Enable



OBJECTIVE 2

SUPPORT LOW-CARBON BUSINESSES

Businesses are reducing their carbon emissions and footprint as part of the transition towards a net zero economy.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Increasing access for businesses to specialist technical advice, support, and opportunities for collaborative action as their sector transitions to net zero.
- » Continuing to support improvements to digital and telecommunications infrastructure to facilitate improvements in business operations

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| » Local businesses | » Perth & Kinross Council | » Highlands and Islands Enterprise |
| » Stirling Council | » Regional Business Groups | » Keep Scotland Beautiful |
| » Argyll & Bute Council | » Scottish Enterprise | » VisitScotland accreditation schemes and other agencies |
| » West Dunbartonshire Council | | |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Support

OBJECTIVE 3

GROW GREEN AND NATURE-BASED JOBS AND SKILLS

The National Park economy is transitioning to become greener and more diverse with an increase in the local workforce supporting green and nature-based jobs and skills

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Establishing a robust evidence base to identify existing skills gaps and labour shortages within the industry sectors that have a lead delivery role in achieving outcomes for climate and nature, focussing principally on nature, land management and transport.
- » Developing a Green and Nature Based Skills Action Plan to identify training needs and new employment opportunities.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| » Scottish Enterprise | » LANTRA |
| » NatureScot | » Scotland's Rural College |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Enable

Drymen Village
sustainable travel hub



3.2 Supporting Thriving Rural Communities

2045 OUTCOME

MORE RESILIENT RURAL COMMUNITIES

National Park communities are leading the way on net zero, nature friendly, living and working, with their needs being met more locally supported by a thriving local rural economy which benefits all.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Measurements of Success by 2029 to ensure we are on track to achieving 2045 long term outcome:

- » Track action by National Park communities to reduce their carbon footprint, restore nature and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change. All communities to have implemented actions by 2029.
- » Track the number of affordable new homes built, homes brought back into use as housing for local people, and numbers of second, holiday and Short Term Lets. Secure higher build rates than the minimum target of 30 new homes per year identified by NPF4, where evidenced as necessary to help address local housing needs and the rural economy.

OBJECTIVE 1 ENABLE MORE LOCAL LIVING AND WORKING

People living and working within the National Park are reducing their carbon emissions through both individual and community-led action.

ACTIONS

INITIATION

- » Increasing community-led climate awareness, networking and action through Community Climate Action Hubs and supporting preparation and delivery of community led Local Place Plans.
- » Increasing the extent of local food growing, sharing and distribution, including the identification of allotments in some communities where demand is established.
- » Increasing community scale energy and heat generation, including opportunities for district heat networks and retrofitting renewables micro-technology to community buildings.
- » Improved Active Travel links within and between communities. (rural transport provision is included in Chapter 2)
- » Supporting the retention of local services and facilities, alongside encouraging innovative new approaches towards rural service provision.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- » Stirling Council
- » Scottish Government
- » Community Councils
- » Argyll & Bute Council
- » Perth & Kinross Council
- » Community Development Trusts
- » West Dunbartonshire Council
- » Forth Environment Link
- » Third Sector Organisations

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Support



OBJECTIVE 2 MEET HOUSING NEEDS

People who need to live and work in the National Park are able to do so by ensuring housing is available to meet identified community housing needs and the needs of the local workforce.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Exploring ways to support an increase in affordable rural housing delivery, including consideration of a new Rural Housing Enabler project to establish a pipeline of projects and unlock delivery constraints.
- » Identifying ways to make better use of existing housing, including ways to stem the loss of this to second and holiday homes and the potential for communities and businesses to acquire and manage housing.
- » Ensuring enough land is identified for new housing within the National Park through the New Local Development Plan informed by Local Place Plans and linked more closely to rural economic needs.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| » Stirling Council | » Registered Social |
| » Argyll & Bute Council | Landlords |
| » West Dunbartonshire | » Landowners |
| Council | » Community Organisations |
| » Perth & Kinross Council | » Scottish Government |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Lead

OBJECTIVE 3 BUILD COMMUNITY WEALTH

National Park communities and local businesses are fully harnessing the opportunities from economic transition and more wealth is being retained and recirculated locally.

ACTIONS

SCOPING

- » Supporting communities to fully realise opportunities arising from transition to net zero through increased capacity building support, training and skills development for community anchor organisations.
- » Supporting closer working between the 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.
- » Supporting communities to understand how they can engage in and inform land use decisions to help address identified local community needs, including more community influence and/or control of land and assets.
- » Establishing a new approach towards Community Wealth Building from new development to maximise benefits from investment to the National Park.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| » Stirling Council | » Development Trust |
| » Argyll & Bute Council | Association Scotland |
| » West Dunbartonshire Council | » Scottish Land Commission |
| » Perth & Kinross Council | » Scottish Land Fund |
| » Third Sector Enterprises | » Community Land Scotland |
| | » Scottish Government |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Enable/Lead

Bracklinn Bridge, an important access feature for visitors and residents of Callander, 'Highly Commended' for design and construction at the Civic Trust Awards 2024.





Housing development
Claish Farm, Callander

3.3 Developing and Investing in The National Park

2045 OUTCOME

A RESPONSIVE APPROACH TO NEW DEVELOPMENT

New development and infrastructure is more responsive to the needs of communities, the rural economy, land use and management, directly benefitting people, climate and nature.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Measurements of Success by 2029
to ensure we are on track to achieving
2045 long term outcome:

- » Measure the nature restoration and net zero outputs secured through delivering new development, including biodiversity net gains on and offsite.

OBJECTIVE 1 DELIVER STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

National and locally identified strategic development needs are being planned and delivered.

ACTIONS

IN DELIVERY

» Ensuring nationally strategic infrastructure development, identified in National Planning Framework 4, is designed and delivered in ways that are cognisant to the National Park's special environmental and landscape qualities and maximise benefits to local communities, businesses and visitors.

» Supporting the delivery of the strategic development needed at:

Callander- to support sustainable expansion of the town and more local living outcomes,

Balloch - to improve Balloch as a main visitor and transport interchange hub for the National Park

Arrochar and Tarbet – to support rural regeneration by focussing on vacant and derelict sites causing blight.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

» Scottish Government	» West Dunbartonshire Council	» Landowners
» Stirling Council		» Transport Scotland
» Argyll & Bute Council	» Perth & Kinross Council	» Scottish Environment Protection Agency
	» Developers	» Scottish Water

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Support



OBJECTIVE 2

ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESTORE NATURE

New development and land use is directly helping to create more climate resilient and nature rich places and networks.

ACTIONS

■ INITIATION

- » Supporting communities to identify ways in which they can increase resilience to the impacts of climate change, particularly in relation to flooding and associated impacts on vulnerable areas, buildings, and local infrastructure.
- » Preparing a revised integrated spatial land use and development strategy, through the new Local Development Plan, to ensure the natural and built environment is better managed for, and protected from, the impacts of climate change.
- » Ensuring new development delivers positive outcomes for nature through securing biodiversity net gains and investing in local nature networks identified as part of the development of the new Local Development Plan.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| » Scottish Government | » Scottish Environment |
| » Stirling Council | Protection Agency |
| » Argyll & Bute Council | » NatureScot |
| » West Dunbartonshire Council | » Historic Environment Scotland |
| » Perth & Kinross Council | |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Support/Lead

OBJECTIVE 3

MAKE THE BEST USE OF LAND AND ASSETS

Vacant and derelict sites are being brought back into use to support local communities and businesses or are restored to provide green infrastructure and support nature restoration.

ACTIONS

■ INITIATION

Working with communities, through Local Place Plans and preparing the new Local Development Plan, to identify 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.

Identifying the range of interventions required to facilitate bringing stalled sites back into use, including community right to buy, finance options and potentially Compulsory Purchase Orders, focussing on sites causing significant blight within local communities and/or are impacting on achieving net zero, nature restoration and/or sustainable local living outcomes.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| » Local Authorities | » Community Councils |
| » Scottish Government | » Community |
| » Landowners | Development Trusts |
| » Developers | |

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ROLE

Lead

POLICY FOR DEVELOPING AND INVESTING IN THE NATIONAL PARK

Development and infrastructure in the National Park will:

- » Support tackling the climate emergency,
- » Maximise opportunities to deliver or enable nature restoration,
- » Respond to meeting the needs of National Park communities and support more local living and working,
- » Support a just transition for local businesses towards a greener, low-carbon economy.
- » 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 that is likely to have an impact on National Park and neighbouring planning authorities will be supported at Callander, Arrochar, Tarbet and Balloch through:

- » 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 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.
- » 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.
- » 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 to the area and travelling through it to Argyll.

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.



MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS BY 2029/30



OUR VISION

By 2045, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

is a
thriving
place...

MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS

Assess the Quality of the National Park as a place every year by reviewing future community led and prepared Place Standard assessments against a baseline year of 2023. Co-develop targets for 2030 with communities.

that is
nature
positive...

MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS

Assess the State of Nature in the National Park every five years against the baseline year of 2023. Halt decline in nature by 2030 and see widespread restoration by 2040.

and
carbon
negative.

MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS

Measure the greenhouse gas footprint of the National Park every five years against the baseline year of 2019. Reach Net Zero GHG emissions by 2035 and become a sink for emissions thereafter.

MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS BY 2029/30

RESTORING NATURE

OUTCOMES BY 2045	MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS BY 2029/30 (To ensure we are on track to achieving 2045 long term outcome)
1.1 A NATURAL CARBON SINK Our ecosystems are in good health helping Scotland adapt to and mitigate against the climate crisis with the National Park being an active, natural carbon sink.	1a. Track the amount of restored peatland and monitor its condition using standard protocols. More than treble the average annual rate of peatland restoration from 240ha to 840ha, achieving at least 5,900ha by 2030. 1b. Track the location, extent, and condition of the National Park's tree cover. Double the average annual rate of woodland expansion from 200ha to 400ha, focusing on priority areas.
1.2 A RESTORED LANDSCAPE FOR NATURE The long-term decline in nature in the National Park will be halted by 2030 and there will be widespread restoration by 2040, with an expansion of large-scale, connected habitat networks where land management prioritises nature recovery.	2a. Track the percentage of land under effective conservation and restoration management. Establish baseline and increase the percentage year on year. 2b. Track completion of Herbivore Impact Assessments for all Deer Management Groups and measure average deer densities. Achieve nationally recognised target levels of average deer densities - currently a maximum of 5 deer per km ² in woodland and a maximum of 10 deer per km ² on the open hill.
1.3. AN EXEMPLAR OF REGENERATIVE LAND USE The National Park is an exemplar of regenerative land use delivering a wider range of private, public and community benefits.	3. Track the number of pilot regenerative farming projects in the National Park and complete pilots on 5 land holdings by 2030.

CREATING A LOW-CARBON PLACE

OUTCOMES BY 2045	MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS BY 2029/30 (To ensure we are on track to achieving 2045 long term outcome)
<p>2.1. A PLACE FOR ALL TO ENJOY SAFELY AND RESPONSIBLY</p> <p>There are opportunities for everyone to value and enjoy the special qualities/ benefits of the National Park safely</p>	<p>1a. Measure participation in and impact of Volunteering, Outdoor Learning and Youth Action programmes.</p> <p>1b. Measure the number of people visiting the National Park every year. Track how representative our domestic visitors are of Scottish society.</p>
<p>2.2. HIGH QUALITY VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES</p> <p>People have a high-quality experience enjoying the National Park and are able to use great services, facilities and routes with less impact on nature or contributing to climate change.</p>	<p>2. Track the investment in and completion of priority visitor infrastructure projects as part of our Place Programme and across the recreation path network.</p>
<p>2.3. AN INCLUSIVE, LOW-CARBON TRAVEL NETWORK</p> <p>The National Park has an efficient, inclusive rural transport sector, meeting the travel needs of both visitors and residents alike.</p>	<p>3. Monitor rural transport provision. Reduce transport emissions from travel to and from the National Park by at least 61% from the 2019 baseline by 2030.</p>

DESIGNING A GREENER WAY OF LIVING

OUTCOMES BY 2045	MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS BY 2029/30 (To ensure we are on track to achieving 2045 long term outcome)
<p>3.1. A GREENER AND MORE DIVERSE RURAL ECONOMY</p> <p>The National Park has a zero carbon and more diverse rural economy, in which businesses thrive and the local workforce has grown through an increase in nature and climate-based jobs.</p>	<p>1. Track new or expanded numbers of the jobs and skills development opportunities necessary to support transition to a nature positive and carbon negative National Park economy, including public transportation, regenerative agriculture, peatland and water restoration, woodland creation and management, and sustainable tourism. Establish baseline and increase year on year.</p>
<p>3.2. MORE RESILIENT RURAL COMMUNITIES</p> <p>National Park communities are leading the way on net zero, nature-friendly, living and working, with their needs being met more locally supported by a thriving local rural economy which benefits all.</p>	<p>2a. Track action by National Park communities to reduce their carbon footprint, restore nature and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change. All communities to have implemented actions by 2029.</p> <p>2b. Track the number of affordable new homes built, homes brought back into use as housing for local people, and numbers of second, holiday and Short Term Lets. Secure higher build rates than the minimum target of 30 new homes per year identified by NPF4, where evidenced as necessary to help address local housing needs and the rural economy.</p>
<p>3.3. A RESPONSIVE APPROACH TO NEW DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>New development and infrastructure is more responsive to the needs of communities, the rural economy, land use and management, directly benefiting people, climate and nature.</p>	<p>3. Measure the nature restoration and net zero outputs secured through delivering new development, including biodiversity net gains on and offsite.</p>



GLOSSARY



Active Travel

Making a journey by non-motorised modes of transport, such as walking, wheeling and cycling, that could otherwise be made by motorised modes such as cars, buses or trains. Such journeys tend to be 'functional', i.e. for getting from A to B, (e.g., travelling to employment, education, community facilities or leisure destinations). Active travel modes can also be used for recreational purposes, but this would be classed as 'active recreation' as opposed to active travel.

Affordable housing

Good quality homes that are affordable for people on lower incomes. This can include social rent, mid-market rented, shared-ownership, shared-equity, housing sold at discount (including plots for self-build), self-build plots and low-cost housing without subsidy.

Biodiversity

The variety of life on earth essential for sustaining the ecosystem that provides us with food, fuel, health, wealth, and other vital services.

Biodiversity credits

A standard for assigning financial value to biodiversity for financial market trading and investment. Biodiversity credits are similar to carbon credits, which allow investment in projects that capture and store carbon.

Brownfield

Land which has previously been developed, including vacant and derelict land, land occupied by redundant or unused buildings and developed land.

Browsing animals

Animals feeding on leaves, soft shoots, or fruits of high-growing, generally woody plants such as trees and shrubs. This is contrasted with grazing, which means animals feeding on grass or other lower vegetations.

Carbon credits

A carbon credit is a tradable certificate or permit representing the right to emit a set amount of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of a different greenhouse gas (tCO₂e).

Carbon negative

Emitting less than zero carbon dioxide and carbon dioxide equity equivalent (CO₂e) greenhouse gasses.

Carbon sequestration

The long-term removal, capture, or storage of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to slow or reverse atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) pollution and to mitigate or reverse climate change.

Carbon markets

A market system where carbon credits are sold and bought.

Carbon sink

Anything natural or otherwise, that accumulates and stores some carbon-containing chemical compound for an indefinite period and thereby removes carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere.

Climate adaptation/climate change adaptation

Responding to the changes in climate that we have seen over the last few decades whilst preparing for the changes we will face as climate continues to change.

Climate mitigation/climate change mitigation

Efforts to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions which have an impact on global temperatures and reducing the current concentration of carbon dioxide by enhancing carbon sinks (for example, increasing the area of forest).

Community climate action hub

A Scottish Government led initiative to support a network of regional community hubs to provide a joined up regional approach to climate change action.

Community wealth building

A people centred approach to local economic development, that redirects wealth back into the local economy and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.

Diffuse pollution

The release of potential pollutants from a range of activities that, individually, may have no effect on the water environment, but, at the scale of a catchment, can have a significant effect.

Designated sites

Areas that are protected for their natural features of special interest and to ensure the features remain in good health for all to enjoy, now and in the future. The designation of sites may be called for by international directives and treaties, domestic legislation and policy, or local needs and interests. Also known as protected areas. For example: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA).

Ecosystem

An area where plants, animals, and other organisms (living parts), as well as non-living parts (air, soil, water, weather) interact as a system.

Green jobs

Green jobs include those in renewable energy, the circular economy and zero waste, and the nature-based sector with wider 'green skills' sitting on a spectrum ranging from highly specific requirements in sectors directly supporting the transition to net zero such as energy, transport, construction, agriculture, and manufacturing, through to more general requirements across all sectors to thrive in a net zero economy.

Herbivore pressures

The negative impacts that grazing and browsing animals, such as wild deer and livestock can have on trees and other vegetation through eating fresh growth, stripping bark and trampling.

Just transition

For the Scottish Government a just transition is both the outcome – a fairer, greener future for all – and the process that must be undertaken in partnership with those impacted by the transition to net zero. It supports a net zero and climate resilient economy in a way that delivers fairness and tackles inequality and injustice.

Land Use Change

Changes to the way land is used, managed or owned to deliver multiple outcomes for climate, nature and people.

Mass transit corridor

The movement of people from urban areas using public transport such as buses and trains.

Montane woodland

Small tree and low shrub species, such as dwarf willow and birch found on higher slopes and rocky outcrops in upland areas.

Natural capital

The world's stock of natural resources. This includes air, water, minerals, and all living things.

Nature-positive

Reversing the current declines in nature, so that species and ecosystems begin to recover.

Natural riparian woodlands

Woodland along rivers and water courses. It serves very important functions in our landscapes, in regulating natural processes and in mitigating extreme events like flooding. Native woodland in the riparian zone is a vital part of the water ecosystem.

Nature networks

A joined-up system of places important for wild plants and animals, on land and in water. It allows plants, animals, seeds, nutrients and water to move from place to place and enables the natural world to adapt to change, providing plants and animals with places to live, feed and breed. Effectively functioning nature networks will connect existing nature rich areas through habitat corridors, habitat 'stepping stones', or habitat restoration areas.

Net Zero

The balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. We reach net zero when the amount we add is no more than the amount taken away.

Net Zero Nation

A nation in which the amount of greenhouse gas emissions put into the atmosphere is balanced by the amount taken out by sequestration - resulting in net zero emissions.

Paris Agreement

The legally binding international treaty on climate change.

Peatland/s

Land defined by peat soil or peaty soil types. This means that 'peat-forming' vegetation is growing and actively forming peat, or it has been grown and has formed peat at some point in the past.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

A type of designated site (see description of designated site on p135). Areas of land and water that are designated as they best represent Scotland's natural heritage.

Special Areas of Conservation

A type of designated site (see description of designated sites on p135). Areas of land and water that are designated to protect one or more special habitats and/or species listed in the Habitats Directive.

Sustainable

Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations.

Third sector

The third sector includes charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups, delivers essential services, helps to improve people's wellbeing and contributes to economic growth. It plays a vital role in supporting communities at local level.

Voluntourism

A form of tourism in which travellers participate in voluntary work, typically for a charity.

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KNOWLEDGE BASE



The National Park Authority has drawn on different types of knowledge for this Plan, including national policy; practitioner knowledge; good practice examples; discussions with partners and stakeholders; publicly available research reports, and research we have commissioned.

You will see direct references where appropriate within the Plan itself. If you would like to read more, some of the key sources of insight for the Plan are listed opposite.

THROUGHOUT THE PLAN

- » Future Nature (National Park Authority)
- » A greenhouse gas emissions assessment and target scenario for Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority (Small World Consulting)
- » Reviews of progress on the Indicators of Success of the 2018-23 National Partnership Plan (National Park Authority)

RESTORING NATURE

- » State of Nature 2023 Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (Ecosoulis)
- » Edinburgh Declaration (National Park Authority as signatories)
- » Interim Principles for Responsible Investment in Natural Capital (Scottish Government)
- » Key drivers for land manager decision making in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and opportunities for addressing constraints to woodland creation (SEFARI Fellowship)
- » Strathard Framework (National Park Authority)
- » Scotland's Climate Week: Letter from National Park Youth Committee
- » Community benefits from investment in natural capital, A Discussion Paper (Scottish Land Commission)

CREATING A LOW-CARBON PLACE

- » Sustainable Travel Options Appraisal & Modal Shift Report (Ansons Consulting)
- » Improving Nature Connectedness in Adults (Open Access Academic Journal)
- » Equalities Mainstreaming Report and Equalities Outcomes 2021-2025 (National Park Authority)
- » Outdoor recreation - understanding the drivers of participation: research (Scottish Government)
- » The Role of Wellness in the Visitor Experience (VisitScotland)
- » Nature Scot professional advice on Sustainable Tourism
- » Place Programme and Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Studies (National Park Authority)
- » 2022 Progress Report to Parliament (UK Climate Change Committee)
- » STPR2 Strategic Transport Projects Review (Transport Scotland)
- » Futures Group (NPA Board committee) discussion paper on sustainable transport
- » Scottish Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (GTS)
- » 2019/20 Visitor Survey (Progressive).

DESIGNING A GREENER WAY OF LIVING

- » National Planning Framework 4 (Scottish Government)
- » Scotland Climate Change Plan Monitoring Report 2022 (Scottish Government)
- » Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation (Scottish Government)
- » Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan 2020-2025 (Skills Development Scotland and Scottish Government)
- » Highlands and Islands Enterprise Reports on Optimising carbon sequestration for community wealth building in Argyll and Bute
- » Nature based jobs and skills Action Plan 2022-2023 (NatureScot)
- » Local Place Plans
- » Operation of Housing System within Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park 2022 (Arneil Johnston).
- » Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Local Development Plan
- » Strathard Framework (National Park Authority)
- » Community Climate Action Hubs (Scottish Government)
- » Short Term Let Control Areas (Scottish Government)
- » Drymen and the villages of East Loch Lomond: Living Well Locally Vision and Routemap (National Park Authority)

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