

By email to: [NationalParkPlan@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:NationalParkPlan@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

13 July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**Draft National Park Partnership Plan 2024-29**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your draft NPPP. This is an important process to deliver on the four statutory aims of the LL&T National Park.

Mountaineering Scotland has the following observations to make on the content and process of the NPPP.

1. Mountaineering Scotland supports initiatives that enable people to walk, climb and ski in the National Park by public transport and/or active travel, in order to enjoy the Special Qualities of the Park: the look and feel of the wild qualities of the landscape, and the diversity and abundance of wildlife in the hills and glens.
2. We would support objectives that enable initiatives that provide readily available information for visitors on opportunities for outdoor recreation throughout the year, allowing people to make informed decisions on where to go and what to do when they are there.
3. We support your objectives on peatland trees and water, and especially the objective on page 43 that addresses herbivore impacts on the qualities of the land. We welcome the regeneration of native woodlands and scrub where the land can naturally support them, and where this can be done without the use of extensive deer fences.
4. We support the proposal for investment in the National Park's recreational path network, stated on page 75. Although there is a "focus on keeping the existing network and statutory core paths in good condition" we are very interested in your intention for "developing more sustainable models to resource path maintenance". We think this is important to address the environmental challenges of erosion on popular paths to viewpoints and summits, many of which are not Core Paths, but are constantly used by visitors to the Park.
5. Regarding the Objectives by 2030 on page 68, we encourage the Park Authority to add to the initiatives listed and help visitors take a progressive approach to more active outdoor recreation, to build up fitness and stamina, and knowledge and experience, as well as confidence –enabling those wishing to take more adventurous active outdoor recreation to equip themselves physically and mentally for increasingly wild walking, climbing and snowsports touring, amongst other activities.
6. The objectives on page 82 of the plan can be interpreted as visitor management policies, but the visitor experience of the Special Qualities of the area is the reason why people come to the Park. The objectives here could highlight the opportunity to link the visitor experience of the Special Qualities of the Park to active travel and carbon saving.
7. We are disappointed that work on the draft Outdoor Recreation Delivery Plan has been discontinued, and we would welcome an opportunity to meet with the Park Authority to discuss


how outdoor recreation objectives fit within the new draft National Park Partnership Plan. We believe that some form of Delivery Plan is essential to facilitate the exercise of statutory access rights and responsibilities as set out in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

8. We note on page 76 the partnership approach to delivering on the aims and suggest amending the process, to highlight the need for more participants to be round the table to assist with developing initiatives and messaging. We offer the following form of words for consideration:

9. "To ensure a strong approach to coordinating all public bodies, in partnership with key private and third sector organisations, with a role in supporting safe, responsible and sustainable enjoyment of the National Park."

10. We look forward to the Park Authority maintaining dialogue with ourselves and other outdoor recreation organisations as the draft Partnership Plan progresses, to ensure that the opportunities identified in previous stakeholder workshops for outdoor recreation are captured in the new Plan.

Yours sincerely



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