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Consultation Report on the NNR Management Plan for Loch Leven National Nature Reserve (NNR) 2016 - 2026



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This report provides a summary of all the comments received during the consultation on the Management Plan for Loch Leven NNR. It details SNH's response to the comments and any changes we will make to the plan as a result.

1	Consultation Background	4
1.1	Overview	4
1.2	Main issues for the consultation	4
1.3	The purpose of the consultation	5
2	Consultation process	6
2.1	Consultation timescale	6
2.2	Consultation audience and methods	6
3	Outcomes of consultation	6
3.1	Number of responses and attendance at events/meetings	6
3.2	Summary of the main consultation responses.	6
3.3	SNH response to consultation feedback:	7
	Annex 1: SNH response to comments received	8

1 Consultation Background

1.1 Overview

SNH is preparing the next 10 year management Plan for Loch Leven NNR. During this process we would like to increase people's understanding of the significance of the reserve and the issues that may affect the wildlife but we would also like to hear the views of people with an interest in the future of Loch Leven. There are limitations on what we can change in terms of managing the natural heritage as we are obliged to protect it. However there is scope for us to alter or do things differently in terms of how we manage the reserve for visitors and educational groups and how we engage with its surrounding communities of interest.

1.2 Main issues for the consultation

During the consultation we asked for people's comments on the following projects listed under the broad categories of natural heritage management, management for people and property management.

Natural Heritage Management

Enhancing wetlands for birds

- Continue to focus our management on maximising the available duck and brood habitat.
- Assess potential for partnership working with landowners and communities around the loch to extend wetland habitats and improve ecological connectivity.

Enhancing water quality

- Continue to work with researchers, land managers and policy makers to restore the water quality of the loch.

Enhancing other habitats

- Restore lowland heath at Levenmouth.
- Support Portmoak Peatland Restoration Project.
- Improve habitat condition and biodiversity of Carsehall bog.

Management for People

Improve the provision of information and facilities for visitors.

- We plan to develop and implement large scale and high quality visitor facilities including a shared facility for orientation and information at Kinross Pier.
- We will work with partners to develop short easy access routes and provide more seating around the trails.
- We will review potential for further viewing facilities around the trail.
- We will work closely with RSPB to provide a positive visitor experience and a high quality gateway to the whole NNR.

It's important to us that visitors have a high quality experience on the reserve.

During the consultation we asked people - What would enhance your visit to Loch Leven NNR?

Opportunities for sustainable economic growth

- We will work in partnership to develop a sustainable “Destination Loch Leven”.
- We will work with partners to promote Loch Leven and encourage visitors.

During the consultation we asked - Should we raise the profile of the NNR and do you have any suggestions on the best way to do this?

Opportunities for visitor engagement and learning

- We will focus on delivering family orientated events and supporting non-commercial special interest groups, particularly those related to health and well-being.

Opportunities for first hand learning and skills

- Encourage and improve facilities for more volunteers and students.
- Run a volunteers and youth placement programme that builds skills, employability and enhances health and well-being.
- Continue working with the RSPB to deliver educational projects relating to special features of the reserve.

We would like everyone to be able to enjoy the reserve and want to encourage engagement with and understanding of its wildlife

During the consultation we asked - What do you value about the wildlife here and do you have any suggestions for biodiversity projects?

Opportunities for outdoor recreation and physical activity

- We aim to work with partner organisations to develop activities which promote health and well-being.
- We will work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect between trail users on the reserve.
- We will promote, review and monitor access guidance.

How users interact with each other on the Trail can affect the quality of their experience.

During the consultation we asked - How do we promote mutual respect by different users on the busy heritage trail?

1.3 The purpose of the consultation

The objectives of the consultation were

- To provide opportunities for stakeholders to understand the significance of the reserve and the reasons for the management options being put forward;
- To gather the opinions of the community of interest on SNH’s proposals for management of the reserve;
- To provide a foundation for a productive relationship between reserve staff and the community of interest.
- To gather ideas for new projects and partnerships and awareness of other projects and partnerships relevant to our work

2 Consultation process

2.1 Consultation timescale

Start date: 5th March 2016

End date: 15th April 2016

Events: Public sessions at Better Place to Live Fair and SNH Chairman's reception. Stakeholder engagement workshop, Recreation users meeting, Catchment Management Meeting

2.2 Consultation audience and methods

We consulted with three main groups

- Stakeholders with direct management interest in the reserve
- Key interest group including landowners, neighbours, community councils
- Communities of interest including volunteers, local recreation groups, user groups.

We advertised the consultation in the local area, through local press and news and online.

In addition to writing to individuals or groups representing the three main interest groups we offered one-to-one meetings with our main stakeholders.

We attended a number of local events to reach as wide an audience as possible. We also held three meetings – a stakeholder reception, SNH Chairman's reception and a volunteer reception.

3 Outcomes of consultation

3.1 Number of responses and attendance at events/meetings

Face to face comments to Reserve Staff

Five detailed leaflet responses.

Four written response (letters).

An informal e-mail response

Feedback recorded from Better Place to Live Fair (Stakeholders reception, Chairman's Reception, Volunteers Reception).

3.2 Summary of the main consultation responses.

The majority of consultation responses were positive and in many cases provided helpful advice for taking elements of the plan forward. There was also enthusiasm for being involved in shaping the delivery of the plan and helping to take it forward

As might be expected the majority of responses related to peoples experience of the site and focused on visitor management issues particularly conflicts between different types of access and suggestions for how to deal with this. There were also comments on improving the interpretation and providing or linking with additional access facilities and calls for additional water borne access.

There was broad support for the provision of enhanced facilities in particular at the pier and the opportunities this provides to work in partnership for the benefit of multiple interests.

People were interested in the proposed management of wetlands around the loch and the potential linkages with Portmoak. There were also strong views on management of the level of the loch and work within the catchment.

3.3 SNH response to consultation feedback:

Having considered the comments in detail we have not made any changes to the overall direction of our management. We have included additional tasks to address perceived weaknesses and we will take the comments into consideration as we develop individual projects. We will also take the opportunity while developing the delivery of the plan to add a greater level of detail which will hopefully answer some of the queries raised during the consultation.

While not one of the listed or designated features of the site the fishery is a key cultural and economic interest of the loch and an indicator of the health of the loch and we have included more specific reference to it in the foreword.

A number of responses noted the importance of managing for nature and we have included a task to clarify our input to the delivery of favourable condition.

There were some comments regarding the management of the catchment or water levels in the loch. We have retained the objective and tasks that deal with this and will pass on the comments that are more relevant to other organisations.

We have clarified the tenure of Portmoak and also the way that we intend to manage woodland around the reserve.

There were a large number of comments about shared use and responsible access. We have added tasks to demonstrate good practice both as part of managing the natural heritage and as part of visitor management. We have also noted the many helpful remarks and suggestions people have made to take forward as part of delivering these tasks

We have included our aspiration to work with people from less advantaged backgrounds to improve their appreciation and understanding of nature.

We have strengthened our commitment to working with key partners in the developing our aims in particular with regard to development of visitor facilities and linking paths.

Where we intend to prepare plans to inform our work such as the interpretation plan we have, again, strengthened our commitment to engaging with communities and other interest groups and have clarified our commitment to community empowerment and facilitating engagement.

We have identified the need to access external funds and the important role this could play in delivering our aims.

Annex 1: SNH response to comments received

Objective	Topic	Comments received	Who by	SNH response
Natural Heritage Management				
NH1: <i>To maintain and enhance the loch and surrounds for wintering birds, birds on migration, especially waterfowl and breeding waterfowl.</i>	Wildfowling	Is wildfowling still continuing?	Volunteers meeting	Yes, wildfowling continues on and around the loch. Wildfowling at Loch Leven pre-dates notification as an NNR. Wildfowling is a legal practice which is not considered to affect the special interests of the site. It is a traditional practice which provides direct and indirect income to the local economy. Working with wildfowling and other sporting interests benefits the natural heritage of the loch through prevention of poaching and predator control. Noted
		Again I realise that SNH are constrained by many factors in what can be done. I feel that having two/ three organisations carrying out habitat management/ monitoring at Loch Leven is not ideal and perhaps leaves many people bemused - how do the aims of the RSPB and SNH differ?	Scott Paterson	There are many more than two or three interests carrying out management on the loch each with their own remit. We aim to ensure that SNH's aims are appropriately considered through engagement with these interests. SNH and RSPB work closely through consultation on each other's plans, regular liaison meetings and frequent contact between staff. Noted
NH2: <i>Continue to restore the water quality of the loch and associated plant and animal communities to 1910 condition.</i>	Fisheries	No reference made to the importance of Loch Leven brown trout in the MP.	Jamie Montgomery	While not a notified or listed feature of the loch we recognise the importance of the fishery and its health as an indicator of the overall health and sustainability of the loch. While not explicitly mentioned the fishery forms an important part of many of the objectives and activities of the plan. One of the key areas for this is

				biosecurity.NH2.4 We have amended the foreword to include reference to the fishery Accepted
		Fishing-Loch Leven was, and is once again becoming, renowned for fishing- we see this as a reflection on all the water quality improvement work, monitoring and good management that has taken place over the years. We would like to see SNH work more closely to promote and encouraging the fishery within the context of the LLNNR Management Plan strategy, and to provide increased awareness to fishermen, and all who use the loch to the potential risks re; INNS, fish and aquatic species disease transfer, good practice when fishing and safeguarding and understanding the wider ecological habitat.	Gary Bolton, Woodland Trust, written response	Agreed see response above. The continued improvement of the water quality of the loch is one of our key objectives and we have included an action NH2.4 to address the risk of INNS and disease transfer. We will work with the fishery to achieve this. Noted
	NH 2.1 – water levels/quality	Managing water levels - What are the requirements at different times of the year?	River Leven Trustees - K. Miller- stakeholders meeting	We would hope to discuss management of levels through the catchment management group so that the various interests could identify their aspirations to identify potential benefits.
		Extending of wetlands – what will this entail and what impact will this have on the water level of the loch?		We hope to identify areas where changes in management would result in the creation of areas wetter than at present. Any changes in water levels in the loch would need to be discussed and approved by other stakeholders notably the Trustees. Noted
		Contraindication between SNH aspirations for water quality in the feeder burns, etc. and SEPA operation of the catchment.	Douglas Alexander - stakeholders meeting	This is the NNR management plan. The aspirations identified in it are those we believe are best for the natural heritage of the loch and peoples understanding and enjoyment of it. Where we believe that others could or should do more to help achieve these objectives we will continue to engage to identify the benefits of doing so. Noted

NH3: <i>To maintain, extend and enhance habitats around the loch.</i>		a number of people talked in support of bringing the Woodland Trust bog area into the NNR	Chairmans reception	The plan identifies a task to explore this NH3.5 Noted
	NH 3.5	SNH proposal; extending the NNR to include Portmoak Moss-as mentioned at the consultation meeting at Kinross, I was surprised to read about this proposal in the draft MP. I have had a chat with Tim our Head of Operations Scotland and we would like to arrange a meeting with you to discuss the possibilities-email with proposed dates to follow shortly.	Gary Bolton, Woodland Trust, written response	The task in the plan is to explore the opportunity for extending the NNR to include Portmoak Moss. We have met with Woodland Trust to understand their position Noted
	Objective NH3 Objective Description, first paragraph.	We would like to see a sentence amendment. In regard to ownership and management of Portmoak Moss. For clarification and amendment; Portmoak Moss is owned and managed by Woodland Trust Scotland and works closely with the Portmoak Community Woodland Group regarding management of the site.	Gary Bolton, Woodland Trust, written response	NH3 has been amended to reflect the ownership of the site. Accepted
	NH 3.6	managing woodland around the loch to increase biodiversity. We would like to see an increase, specifically, in new native woodland creation around the loch coupled with this objective. Ideally, new native woodlands would be interconnecting, so as to provide wildlife corridors, which would facilitate movement and potential gradual expansion of associated species. The Woodland Trust Scotland would be willing to co-operate in this task. Are able to provide free expertise and grant advice to interested parties, and under our Morewoods scheme are able to provide assisted funding towards material costs for native woodland creation-subject to the scheme meeting our requirements.	Gary Bolton, Woodland Trust, written response	We welcome the offer of support and co-operation. Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Should Portmoak Moss as part of NNR? •We (Portmoak Community Woodlands) need more information on implication •We need a meeting with SNH during consultation •Will there be benefit for all sides 	Verbal comment Stakeholders meeting - Louise Batchelor & another rep (Portmoak Community woodland)	There is a task NH3.5 to carry this forward. It was anticipated that we would hold discussions with stakeholders to explore the options and to provide advice on the process. Some initial discussions have already happened and we have retained this action. Noted
		More wetland habitats on the non-lochside of the path	Verbal comment Stakeholders meeting	Task 3.4 includes an aspiration to explore opportunities for extending wetlands and complementary areas. Noted
		Link SEPA & RBMP proposals & objectives for water bodies within Loch Leven Catchment	Verbal comment Stakeholders meeting	Objective NH2 to restore water quality is linked to work by SEPA and the RBMP and task NH2.2 identifies that we will work with and support partners. These include SEPA. Noted
		Catchment work needed to protect Loch Leven	Verbal comment Stakeholders meeting	Improving water quality is one of the key objectives of the plan NH2 and we recognise the importance of work in the catchment in achieving this. Noted
		How does SNH intend to feed into a central information hub for all work in Catchment (SEPA, CEH, RSPB, etc.) i.e. SE WEB etc.?	Verbal comment Stakeholders meeting	SNH works with the various stakeholders noted in this comment. The way data is shared depends on the type and purpose of the data. We note that this is an important issue and have Amended Objective PR1 and added a task to reflect this. Accepted
		Updated catchment plan needed expanding the focus beyond the loch to upper catchment, sluices, etc. Landscape scale conservation	Verbal comment Stakeholders meeting	Both Objectives NH2 looking at the water quality and NH3 about habitats recognise the need to expand the focus beyond the loch. However this is a plan for the NNR and therefore while recognising the importance that the NNR engage with landscape scale issues other plans

				and initiatives may lead on these issues. Staff within SNH are engaged in discussions over management of the wider catchment. Noted
NH4: <i>To maintain, extend and enhance notable species on the reserve.</i>		Make species targets in Management Plan	Verbal comment Stakeholders meeting	The species targets for the site come from the need to achieve favourable condition for the designated and listed sites. We have identified priority tasks in NH1 to achieve these. However we have now added a task to at least achieve these. Accepted
NH5: <i>Demonstrate good practice and innovative conservation and visitor management.</i>		The use of herbicides is surely incompatible with a nature reserve and does nothing to encourage biodiversity. If habitats are going to be enhanced then it must be on a fairly large scale e.g. removal of non-native plantations. The tree planting and artificial screening is unsightly and unnecessary and presumably expensive? I would like to see a more natural approach to habitat management.	Scott Paterson	We do not consider the use of approved pesticides to be incompatible with the management of the site. It is often the cheapest method of carrying out management freeing up resources for other work and in some cases is the only practical method of achieving a desired outcome. Rejected There are plans for large scale removal of non-native plantations in NH4.2 The tree planting and screening is part of the visitor management plan which allows the reserve to maintain its natural heritage interest under pressure from visitors who are therefore able to experience and appreciate it Over time as the trees are established the artificial screening will be removed and the plantations managed as a natural barrier through coppicing and hedge laying We have amended task 3.6 to clarify this.. Accepted
		We welcome the proposal in NH5 to share the learning with other sites. It can be used as a	Paths for All	We welcome your support and agree with your comments about sustainable transport.

		<p>valuable case study in demonstrating how access and wildlife can be compatible.</p> <p>It is a great showcase for the public as well and visitors bring economic benefits to the area.</p> <p>Enhancing the path network should enable the capacity for visitors to be enhanced without adverse impacts.</p> <p>Where possible visitors should be encouraged to use public transport or active travel and some work could be done in improving links to nearby population centres.</p>		<p>We have a task under visitor management to look at additional local access routes in particular providing links with communities.</p> <p>VM1.2 Noted</p>
<i>Leaflet Question</i>	<p>What do you value about the wildlife here and do you have any suggestions for biodiversity projects?</p>	<p>Different plantings in differing areas, wild fruit trees, wildflowers - brighten up!!</p>	<p>P. Reeve - leaflet</p>	<p>Noted</p>
		<p>Important to have isolated areas, Vane Farm is good example</p>	<p>John Duncan, Glenrothes Ramblers- leaflet</p>	<p>We have recognised the need for tranquil zones and refer to these in Objective VM1</p> <p>Noted</p>
		<p>Easy access to nature, including aquatic plants, bugs, birds, bats etc. Would benefit from "What to look for at different times of year" information boards.</p>	<p>Linda May - CEH</p>	<p>We have identified a number of tasks particularly under VM2 to provide opportunities for visitor engagement. We will feed your comments into their delivery.</p> <p>Noted</p>
		<p>More extension of wetlands and forest habitat (native) to encourage more species. Incorporate Portmoak Moss into reserve.</p>	<p>Cllr Barnacle</p>	<p>Objective NH3 deals with maintaining extending and enhancing the habitats around the loch. We welcome your support Noted</p>

		withstanding those at the access points) could highlight the wildlife both indigenous and migrants to that area.	Mashford – written response	for the reserve under task VM2.1 we welcome your specific comments. Noted
		More interpretation	Better Place to Live Fair	
	Information	The multiuser sign which Denise put up was seen as very useful and could help some of the frustrations between users.	Chairmans reception	We have identified a task VM5.1 to develop and promote guidance to encourage mutual respect. Noted
		Some of the signage around the loch is out of date and still has a sense of discouragement rather than asking people to behave responsibly	Chairmans reception	We will look at the signage as part of the interpretive plan. We have identified a task VM5.4 to work with stakeholders to promote responsible access. Noted
	Signage	Signage could be improved generally and should cover a wider area around the loch. More information boards are generally required.	Ivor Mashford – written response	We intend to bring forward and interpretive plan for the reserve under task VM2.1 we welcome your specific comments. Noted
		Signs onto Michael Bruce Trail	Better Place to Live Fair	We have identified a task to review the interpretation for the site under VM2.1 The objective description for VM5 includes reference to the need to improve connections and loop routes around the trail. We have identified work under VM1.2 to develop short easy access routes. This task has been amended to recognise the need for links with external routes. Accepted
		More information for disabled	Volunteers meeting	We have identified tasks to update the information VM2.1 and have identified the less abled as one of our priorities for face to face engagement. We have also identified a task to produce a communication strategy. The objective description for VM3 has been amended include our priority audiences. Accepted
		Burleigh – no facilities or information? No impression of being managed, cared for or loved.	Chairmans reception	We intend to bring forward and interpretive plan for the reserve under task VM2.1 we welcome

				your specific comments. Noted
	Car parking	Need to address car parking issues especially at peak times	Chairmans reception	Objective VM1 is to provide a high quality visitor experience. The description states that we will work with other key stakeholders to prepare a masterplan. Car parking is an issue for consideration as part of this. Noted
		Augmentation and improvement of the car parking areas at The Pier, Kirkgate Park, Burleigh Sands, Findatie and Loch Leven Mills, is needed as a priority. All car parking should be free. I have noted on a number of occasions that the car park spaces at Vane Farm are oversubscribed, which is caused by people who are accessing the trail and not the RSPB reserve apart from the shop and café. This is not ideal for RSPB members.	Ivor Mashford – written response	Objective VM1 is to provide a high quality visitor experience. The description states that we will work with other key stakeholders to prepare a masterplan. Car parking is an issue for consideration as part of this. Noted As noted above we recognise that car parking is an issue in delivering a positive visitor experience. We intend to work closely with RSPB VM1.5 to provide a positive visitor experience. Noted
	Access points	Potential for new access points to loch, even if just a path to a viewpoint / wildlife watching hide	Chairmans reception	We intend to review potential for further viewing facilities around the trail VM1.4 Noted
	Publicity	From various conversations with visitors both relatively local and from much further afield, it is clear that substantial attention and publicity has been concentrated on the RSPB visitor centre and reserve at Vane Farm where a café, shop, hides and reserve access are seen as the prime attraction of Loch Leven although there is growing awareness of the wider appeal of the loch area. While the RSPB reserve has done well in past years to bring people to the location and will continue to enjoy increased visitor numbers, the enhanced access requires much more publicity and features on the broader loch area.	Ivor Mashford – written response	The plan includes a number of tasks to address awareness and engagement for visitors around the loch mainly under objective VM2 and the provision of an interpretive plan but also through VM3 to develop Loch Leven as a destination and valued asset Noted
		As a trout angler I do not see any mention in your literature of the world famous Loch Leven trout that were exported throughout the world by our	Brian Cram	While not a notified or listed feature of the loch we recognise the importance of the fishery and its health as an indicator of the overall health

		<p>Victorian forefathers. Can you tell me what plans there are to protect the fish from inland cormorants who will eat out the local fish population, eventually, and move elsewhere? These fish can be protected from fishermen by imposing a catch and release policy, which would allow the economic benefits of the activity of fishing to be retained.</p> <p>I do not have any confidence in this consultation and talk of stakeholders always seems to revolve around the RSPB and never is there any appreciation of fish. I assume that this is because they can't provide an easy and visible display for watchers, and the only people who are interested in them are those of us who fish for them.</p> <p>Do you have any representation from angling interests, and if not why not? Your literature does not mention the fish at all and I find this deeply disturbing.</p>		<p>and sustainability of the loch. While not explicitly mentioned the fishery forms an important part of many of the objectives and activities of the plan. Notably in relation to water quality. One of the key areas for this is biosecurity. NH2.4 Angling interests are represented in a wide variety of stakeholder groups we lead or are involved with. We have amended the foreword to include reference to the fishery Accepted</p> <p>We value the close relationship we have with the fishery and have spent considerable time working with them notably on the issue of piscivorous birds. There is no evidence that they are a threat to the fish population. Rejected</p>
	Visitor Centre	Visitor Centre needed	stakeholder meeting	A visitor centre is one of the options we would anticipate being considered as part of Task VM1.1 to develop large scale and high quality visitor facilities. Noted
	Quiet places/ More seating	Have more quiet places to sit just off the trail	stakeholder meeting	Task VM1.2 includes an aspiration to provide more seating around the trails Noted
	Activity areas	There should be family seating/activity areas.	Ivor Mashford – written response	
	Trail width	Trail too narrow – have more passing places	stakeholder meeting	The specification and design of the trail lie largely with TRACKS and Perth and Kinross Council and is to nationally agreed standards

				We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote mutual respect and if physical changes are required then they could be discussed. Noted
	Hides	Build a Tower hide on south Carsehall (see map)	stakeholder meeting	We intend to review potential for further viewing facilities around the trail VM1.4 Noted
		Build a Bird hide along Cavelstone stretch (see map)	stakeholder meeting	
		Parts of the trail would benefit from shelters both for wildlife viewing and protection in inclement weather. Since the birdlife is an important part of the loch's attraction it should be a priority to provide more viewing areas where there is known to be good bird movement, particularly on the east side. More viewing areas are required – perhaps raised where the trail does not allow good views over the loch.	Ivor Mashford – written response	
	Toilets	Toilet and baby changing facilities must be catered for. Tokens may be a way to ensure considerate use of any toilets provided.	Ivor Mashford – written reponse	We are currently working with stakeholders to provide a short term solution to the provision of toilets at the Pier. We would anticipate that consideration of this issue would be part of the master planning process for facilities and potential large scale project under task VM1.1 Noted
		Lack of toilet facilities around the Trail, particularly for disabled visitors	Volunteer consultation	
	General	People perceive it as an urban area and expect good facilities.	Volunteers meeting	We are keen to retain a variety of visitor experiences as described under objective VM1 but seek to provide high quality visitor facilities under the same objective Noted
		The path changes in different parts of the Trail, some parts feel like 'country park', others stretches more like a 'reserve' – there are different expectations from the public in different places eg more bins/dog bins in more park-like areas.	Volunteers meeting	
		I note (from consultation meeting attended on	Cllr Barnacle	As identified in task VM1.5 we will continue to

		9/3/16) the proposal for a new (disabled friendly) underpass from reserve to Vane Farm.		work closely with RSPB to provide a positive visitor experience Noted
		The closure of the trail for shooting is unacceptable.	Scott Paterson	Closures of the trail are limited to 3 per year and are carried out in full compliance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Rejected
		Heritage Trail - this is a difficult issue and one I'm glad I don't have to worry about - I've been bitten by dogs three times while running on the trail and had words with cyclists several times - it does feel like walking on a cycle track on some days. I would urge the use of leads for dogs - this can be done by local bye-laws/ voluntary code as happens in other parts of the country. The disturbance to wildlife from dogs must be considerable.	Scott Paterson	As identified under VM5.4 we will continue to work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect. The trail is designed to minimise disturbance to wildlife and reduce the potential for disturbance by dogs by limiting accessing to the shoreline. We have carried out monitoring of both the local access guidance and impacts on the wildlife and have not found any significant impacts. Noted
		We welcome the intention in VM1 to develop short easy access routes and more seating. There should be an emphasis on encouraging inactive people to be more active. We would add that in many parts the trail would be more enjoyable if it was less restrictive – this would be achieved by moving or removing fencing. This would help reduce the chance of conflict between users – e.g. walkers and cyclists and dog walkers. Some work on the interaction between users and their expectations would inform what design or management changes might make visits more enjoyable. Research elsewhere looking at walking with dogs may generate useful information in this regard. Paths for All is currently looking at this with a view to encouraging people to be more active with their dogs.	Paths for All	We welcome your comments on our objective VM1. Where fences have been constructed this is principally to avoid impacts on the nationally or internationally important wildlife of the site. We have carried out extensive monitoring of the effectiveness of the Local Access Guidance. We have identified an objective VM5 to promote outdoor recreation and this includes a task VM5.4 to promote responsible access. Noted

		<p>I would like to see continuing improvement and development of the path network. In my opinion this should include work on improving the drainage in areas prone to flooding, as well as the development of further "Gateway" access points. I am aware that many local people take access directly by foot or cycle, but I am also aware that the trail is increasingly accessed by car by those from outside the local area. At peak times the car park at Burleigh Sands is overwhelmed, and I imagine that this will become more busy with time.</p> <p>Discussion at the Chairman's Reception touched on issues to do with user conflict on the trail. The last 10 years has seen increases in walkers and runners using MP3 players and headphones, and cyclists riding at night. Perhaps some discreet signage could be used to kick-start an education programme to reduce potential conflict.</p> <p>I also take access to Loch Leven by canoe and kayak, usually from Burleigh Sands. I am aware of the sometimes sensitive nature of the environment, and of my responsibilities in taking access. I am aware of the signage in place around the Loch, and of the advice that it contains. I take into account current and recent weather conditions, avoid concentrations of birds, and give consideration to groups containing young birds - not to do so would be irresponsible.</p> <p>I do feel that to some extent there are double standards with regard to water access, especially when the areas advised on the signs are</p>	<p>Charlie Leppard</p>	<p>Objective VM1 is to provide a high quality visitor experience. The description states that we will work with other key stakeholders to prepare a masterplan. Car parking is an issue to be considered as part of this. Noted</p> <p>Under our Objective to promote Outdoor Recreation we have identified a task VM5.4 to work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect Noted</p> <p>As noted above we intend to continue to promote responsible access. The guidance for canoes and kayaks was widely consulted on and agreed with stakeholders. We understand your concern regarding the fishing boats. However these predate the protection of the wildfowl and access legislation and the level of disturbance they cause has not changed and is not considered to be damaging to the protected features. The guidance for canoes and kayaks is aimed at preventing additional disturbance. It is</p>
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		<p>concerned. Canoes and kayaks are asked to remain at least 200m from the shore to minimise the risk of disturbance to water birds, whilst this does not appear to apply to outboard powered fishing boats, which are certainly noisier, tend to be greater in number, and also tend to linger in one area, prolonging any disturbance. Indeed, the Historic Scotland boat to Castle Island operates partially during the period of the year when canoes and kayaks are advised against taking access.</p> <p>I believe that canoes and kayaks do have a right of access to Loch Leven at all time, but that that access must be responsible. The current signage can appear to indicate that there is no access permitted, yet the challenge should be to enable users to take responsible access, rather than no access.</p>		<p>also a sad fact that some waterborne users do not behave responsibly. It is possible for some types of craft to operate in shallow water and close into vegetation potentially causing significant disturbance.</p> <p>Our signage is aimed at ensuring that people using the loch for recreation do so without accidentally or recklessly committing an offence. Task NH1.7 identifies the need to promote the Local Access Guidance and review it mid plan.</p> <p>Noted</p>
Leaflet Question	We aim to improve the visitor facilities around the loch - what would enhance your visit to Loch Leven?	<p>Explain what is happening.</p> <p>Get more hides sponsored by local businesses.</p> <p>Let us actually see rangers out and about</p>	P. Reeve - leaflet	<p>Key objectives of the plan VM1 and VM2 are to provide a positive visitor experience and improve their engagement with the special qualities of the reserve Noted</p> <p>One of our Tasks VM1.4 is to review the potential for further viewing facilities around the loch. Noted</p> <p>We welcome this positive comment about reserve staff the description of VM2 identifies</p>

				our preferred approaches to raising awareness including face to face engagement between visitors staff and volunteers Noted
		There is a lack of Public toilets	John Duncan, Glenrothes Ramblers- leaflet	We are currently working with stakeholders to provide a short term solution to the provision of toilets at the Pier. We would anticipate that consideration of this issue would be part of the master planning process for facilities and potential large scale project under task VM1.1 Noted
		Better toilet facilities	Linda May - CEH	Noted
		Visitor centre	Linda May - CEH	We would anticipate that consideration of this issue would be part of the master planning process for facilities and potential large scale project under task VM1.1 Noted
		Information Boards at key points highlighting the main and unusual species and features	Tim Brain	Key objectives of the plan VM1 and VM2 are to provide a positive visitor experience and improve their engagement with the special qualities of the reserve Noted
		Improved boat and taxi/bus service co-ordinated enabling people to view wildlife & walk parts of LLHT. Improved access for canoeists	Cllr Barnacle	<p>We aim to work with the Local Tourism Forum and others to promote Destination Loch Leven to provide local economic benefits. Part of this work could include improving sustainable transport around the loch. While we would support this we are not well placed to deliver it ourselves. Noted</p> <p>An increase in waterborne access through provision of a boat or improved access for canoeists risks causing disturbance, in particular to the wildfowl. Before taking it forward we, or anyone else, would be legally obliged to provide evidence that these activities would not adversely affect the integrity of the internationally important interests. For this</p>

				reason, these things are not a priority for us. Rejected
VM2: <i>To provide opportunities for visitor engagement and learning to improve awareness and understanding of the special qualities of the reserve.</i>	NNR awareness	Increase in percentage of visitors who are aware it's an NNR (though could still be higher) but many still don't know why. Suggest Visitor Centre at boathouse – provide experience about lots of different aspects of L Leven eg history of loch, Culture, Social as well as wildlife. SNH office within Centre so staff present. Change perception from just being a cycle trail to being a trail around a nature reserve.	stakeholder meeting	A key objective for the plan is to provide more understanding of the special qualities of the reserve. VM2 there are a number of ways we propose to do this including working with others to develop shared a facility at Kinross Task VM1.1 In we would envisage that this would address the range of aspects you mention. Noted
		Trail quiz/worksheets and discovery booklets should be available in local shops, cafes and businesses.	Ivor Mashford – written response	We aim to promote the NNR to visitors and local residents through a mix of media VM3.6 Noted
		Engage with local bird club(s) to offer regular birdwatching days in the loch area.	Ivor Mashford – written response	We intend to develop opportunities for citizen science on the reserve VM4.3 Noted
	VM2.3 events	Hold nature activity, interaction and information events at weekends and over holiday periods to attract the interest of both parents and children, possibly on the lines of mini Discovery Days. Have volunteers at key access points to welcome visitors and issue literature, and provide information and advice.	Ivor Mashford – written response	We intend to develop opportunities for citizen science on the reserve VM4.3 Noted We intend to produce and implement a communication strategy Task VM3.2 We also intend to support volunteering objective VM4 and recognise that they are powerful ambassadors for our work However we will be careful to ensure that any tasks match their aspirations for the role. Noted
		Young people would go on cycle events	Better Place to Live Fair	We intend to promote family oriented events including cycle guided safaris around the loch Task VM2.3 Noted
		Link with Stride for Life , Monday afternoon walks, Introduction to the Reserve	Better Place to Live Fair	We will work with partner organisations to develop activities which promote health and wellbeing VM5.3 Noted

		We welcome the intention in VM2 to promote led events – particular health and well-being related. We would be pleased to support this and encourage the health walk projects that we support to become more engaged. We can offer resources, support, training and, in some cases, funding to support this.	Paths for All	We welcome your support. Noted
		You have the age-old balance between conservation and visitor facilities about right as it is. Please keep any substantive changes restricted to the RSPB shop, cafe and main interpretative area, with just maintenance and necessary renewal of hides, paths and wider infrastructure.	Douglas Wynn	We understand your position and we think the site is great. However we are ambitious about Loch Leven and believe there is the scope to do more especially working with others. Any big changes we intend to make will be carefully planned. We will continue to look for ways to balance between improving facilities and protecting the natural heritage interest of the site. Rejected
VM3: <i>To work in partnership to develop "Destination Loch Leven" to ensure this natural asset is valued and provides economic benefit.</i>		Always make it clear this is a site where wildlife comes First and humans are <u>Privileged</u> to be able to enjoy it.	Tim Brain – leaflet general comment	Our vision is that Loch Leven is a place where nature comes first. We will continue to ensure this is our primary message in media about the reserve. Noted
		The investment in the Trail and facilities at RSPB Loch Leven and Loch Leven's Larder have proven to be a great success. However the current facilities on offer at Kinross Pier are not fully integrated and as a result do not reflect the potential for a first-class experience for visitors.	Kinross-shire Civic Trust	We recognise that any project of this kind would be a partnership and would have to reflect the views and requirements of all the stakeholders. We generally agree with these comments and propose working with stakeholders to develop and implement high quality visitor facilities VM1.1 Noted

		<p>The Trust wish to support plans to improve the visitor facilities around Loch Leven.</p> <p>KCT believe in particular that a comprehensive facility to include a custom built visitor centre is an essential component in improving on the current visitor experience and education.</p> <p>Such a facility located at or near the existing Pier facilities could provide an opportunity for the interpretation of the natural environment and also the historic elements such as Loch Leven Castle.</p> <p>An ideally near all-year-round access would contribute greatly to the attraction of and retention of visitors.</p> <p>KCT believe such a facility would result in a great benefit to the visitors to Loch Leven and also result in a sustainable wider economic benefit to Kinross-shire of such visitors.</p> <p>We understand that such a facility might require the co-operation of other key agencies with an interest, who in turn may share both the costs involved and the benefits.</p> <p>To achieve this goal there are wider requirements to improve the current visitor experience.</p> <p>Improved road access via Pier Road to the existing site.</p> <p>Investment in improved parking facilities.</p>		
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		<p>Provision of publicly accessible toilets.</p> <p>The implementation of all these measures would in turn raise the profile of the Loch Leven NNR</p> <p>The Trust would be pleased to take part in any further detailed planning of proposals for the NNR.</p>		
		<p>Acknowledge huge change in the area benefitting from public access arrangements, well used for health and fitness and enjoyment of the lochside paths. Regarded as a great asset by the local community.</p>	<p>Robin Cairncross and Alison Robertson, community councillors Portmoak. Charimans reception</p>	<p>We welcome these comments. Noted</p>
		<p>Need to think more broadly about linkage of the loch as an attraction with other noteworthy assets of the area, join them up, develop schemes to even out the peaks and troughs in visitor numbers with the capacity of the area. What about a festival bringing international experts to talk about the wildfowl or water management issues, or the history of the place?</p>	<p>Portmoak CCllrs Chairmans Reception</p>	<p>We aim to work in partnership to support the promotion of Loch Leven Task VM3.1 and to produce a strategy VM3.2 Noted</p>
		<p>Portmoak Community Council would like to explore whether it is possible for our Council to establish a more formal relationship with SNH or the Group responsible for taking forward the Management Plan. We wonder if we could be recognised as partner?</p>	<p>Portmoak CCllrs Comment to S Pepper at Chairmans reception and written response</p>	<p>There are a large number of stakeholders in the plan with varying degrees and areas of interest. We welcome the request to become more involved in the management of the reserve and anticipate working closely with Portmoak on a number of issues. We have amended the plan to state that we recognise the importance of community empowerment and providing the support to communities of place and of interest to allow</p>

				them to participate in decisions and will engage with them on issues which affect them throughout the period of the plan. We have also included a task PR1.7 Mechanisms will be put in place to facilitate engagement with stakeholders. Accepted
		In Destination management terms need to integrate local communities and businesses with the loch.	Chairmans reception	We aim to work in partnership to support the promotion of Loch Leven Task VM3.1 and to produce a strategy VM3.2 Noted
		Opportunities for occasional transport / minibuses etc to shuttle people who cannot manage the whole lochside trail	Chairmans reception	We aim to work with the Local Tourism Forum and others to promote Destination Loch Leven to provide local economic benefits. Part of this work could include improving sustainable transport around the loch. While we would support this we are not well placed to deliver it ourselves. Noted
		A key part of VM3 to promote “Destination Loch Leven” must be to promote and enable active travel and use of public transport by visitors and locals. Paths for All can also offer input on promoting active travel.	Paths for All	
	Around loch transport	Road taxi / Bike carrier. Improve connectivity. Options to start and stop in different places. ‘Demand Response Initiative’ in Kinross	stakeholder meeting	
		Developing transport – look at other models.	stakeholder meeting	
		Bus/ Minibus which takes bikes, big L Leven branding on the side (similar to Red Kite area?) dedicated to going around the loch.	stakeholder meeting	
		Can we get the round-the-loch bus back into service?	Portmoak Cllrs Chairman reception	
		Want a loch bus from Kirkgate-Findatie and Kirkgate-Carsehall bog	Better Place to Live Fair	
		More publicity should be undertaken to encourage cycle and mobility scooter hire.	Ivor Mashford – written	We are looking to develop interpretation and communication for the loch and the description of VM2 identifies that we will look for

			response	opportunities to engage with the local community to share ideas Noted
	Disabled Access	Castle Island – Disabled access boat, an enhanced jetty and path to provide disabled access onto Castle Island. Sprite 38 disabled access boat.	stakeholders meeting	This is an Issue for Historic Environment Scotland who manage access to the castle. We hold regular meetings with them and will pass on these comments Noted
		Improve disabled access from RSPB to Trail – Sustrans Funding. Tunnel - £400000 project 2017/18	stakeholders meeting	This is a project for RSPB to lead on and we will pass comments to them. We will work with them to support this work being progressed and RSPB have it as a priority for visitor management. Noted
	On loch transport	Water taxi - Electric – bike and scooter friendly. Kinross Partnership proposal. What about existing car taxi service?	stakeholder meeting	An increase in waterborne access through provision of a water taxi risks causing disturbance, in particular to the wildfowl. Before taking it forward we, or anyone else, would be legally obliged to provide evidence that these activities would not adversely affect the integrity of the internationally important interests. For this reason, these things are not a priority for us. Rejected We aim to work with the Local Tourism Forum and others to promote Destination Loch Leven to provide local economic benefits. Part of this work could include improving sustainable transport around the loch. While we would support this we are not well placed to deliver it ourselves. Noted
		Water taxi - First step out to Castle Island, raise with HES when boat due renewal.	stakeholder meeting	This is an Issue for Historic Environment Scotland who manage access to the castle. We hold regular meetings with them and will pass on these comments Noted
	Water	Sailing in Kirkgate Bay	stakeholder	An increase in waterborne access risks causing

	Access		meeting	disturbance, in particular to the wildfowl. Before taking it forward we, or anyone else, would be legally obliged to provide evidence that these activities would not adversely affect the integrity of the internationally important interests. For this reason, these things are not a priority for us. Rejected
	Marketing	Destination marketing officer	stakeholder meeting	It is unlikely that we will be able to resource a dedicated marketing officer. However we are keen to promote destination Loch Leven and intend to work in partnership to promote the area. VM3.1 Noted
		Prepare a Marketing Strategy	stakeholder meeting	We intend to produce a communication and promotion strategy VM3.2 Noted
		More Social media opportunities – already good	stakeholder meeting	We intend to produce a communication and promotion strategy which will include use of social media (VM3.2) Noted
		SNH improve links with Kinross Partnership tourism Forum	stakeholder meeting	We have identified a Task VM3.1 to work in partnership to promote Loch Leven specifically including the local tourism forum Noted
		Portmoak Gliding Club aerial film footage –look into use for marketing	stakeholder meeting	We have identified a task VM3.6 to promote the NNR through a mix of media. Noted
		Sponsorship	stakeholder meeting	Much of the work we intend to do on the reserve will be in partnership and we envisage that some of it will require external funding. All of SNH's NNRs are now participating in MyPark Scotland which allows donations. We believe that projects should not be funding driven. However, where external funds can be accessed this may allow us to carry out projects we would not otherwise be able to deliver. We have amended the plan to recognise this in the description of Objective PR1 We will continue to deliver our activities as efficiently as possible maximising the benefit of public funds. Where appropriate we will seek to

				access external funding directly or through working in partnership to support our programme of work. Accepted
		Brown signs need to be clear	stakeholder meeting	We will continue to work in partnership with the local tourism forum to promote Loch Leven VM3.1 Noted
		Market the areas more widely through the customary countryside visitor attraction facilities.	Ivor Mashford – written response	We intend to produce a communication and promotion strategy VM3.2 Noted
		There should be more promotion of the reserve as there are so many stories to tell eg Landward, Countryfile and wider distribution of a newsletter	Volunteers meeting	
		If there is to be any improvement in the overall appeal of the loch and the trail area, then it should be appropriate to establish dialogue on financial contributions and ancillary support for improved facilities from businesses which have benefitted from the increase in visitors attracted by the Heritage Trail	Ivor Mashford – written response	Local businesses to some extent contribute to the maintenance of the trail through the rates they pay to the local authority. We also work in partnership on some projects and lever contributions in this way. We have amended the plan under PR1 to include We will continue to deliver our activities as efficiently as possible maximising the benefit of public funds. Where appropriate we will seek to access external funding and support for our programme of work. Accepted
		There's no recognition of SNH's involvement.	Volunteers meeting	Branding is one of the issues we anticipate will be considered as part of the VM3.2 to produce a communication and promotion strategy Noted
		Discovery Day - People don't know L Leven is an NNR. Needs to be more interaction between SNH and the public.	Volunteers meeting	
		Should have NNR leaflets near the office.	Volunteers meeting	We intend to produce a communication and promotion strategy VM3.2 Noted
		It's a really fantastic resource for training ie wildlife and history, is there scope for it as a wildlife holiday destination or a weekend spot. University of Highlands and Islands –courses or a	Volunteers meeting	We propose to increase opportunities for learning and skills development under objective VM4 Noted

		weeks activities based at field centre or hotel		
	Visitor Centre	Provide a focal point (near boathouse) with taster for RSPB L Leven, for Mary Queen of Scots and for loch ecology	stakeholder meeting	We propose to work in partnership to develop high quality visitor facilities including a shared facility at Kinross Pier VM1.1 Noted
		National Park taking in Catchment	stakeholder meeting	There are currently no proposals for further national parks in Scotland. Inclusion of the reserve in a national park or the creation of a new one lies out with the scope of the Management Plan. Rejected
Leaflet Question	Should we raise the profile of the NNR and do you have any suggestions on the best way to do this?	Get out and about talks to the 100s of clubs, societies in the area. Advertise in Perth Tourist Centre and places with high tourist turnover eg Glenturret Distillery.	P. Reeve - leaflet	There is a limit to the amount of face to face engagement we can support the description of Objective VM2 identifies our key audiences. We aim to develop an interpretation plan VM2.1 and a communication strategy VM3.2 Noted
		If you have correct infrastructure people will come	John Duncan, Glenrothes Ramblers - leaflet	We aim to provide a positive visitor experience through provision of high quality visitor facilities VM1 Noted
		Yes, but developed sympathetically, respecting the aims of the NNR & RSPB. No theme parks!	Linda May – CEH	Our vision for the NNR is a place where nature comes first and where people of all ages backgrounds and abilities are encouraged to enjoy nature Noted
		Yes, Stress it's designations and quality of water/fishing. Improve road signage on approaches	Cllr Barnacle	We intend to produce a communication and promotion strategy VM3.2 Noted
		Yes. A weekly/fortnightly column in the press. Regular items on TV – Countryfile, Landward, Springwatch etc. Signage on M90	Tim Brain	
		Would rather that you left it basically as it is - it is	Douglas	Our vision for the NNR is a place where nature

		a great resource for the public but it is right that you expect some effort and responsibility on their part. You <i>could</i> , for example, put a family funfair on it - but I trust to your good sense not to do so!	Wynn	comes first and where people of all ages backgrounds and abilities are encouraged to enjoy nature Noted
VM4: <i>To increase opportunities for first hand learning and skills development through volunteering, student placements and citizen science and continued delivery of "Growing up with Loch Leven" and "Teaching in Nature".</i>	Trout in classroom	Been a successful collaboration with Estate promoting awareness of trout, clean water, habitats and angling. Should be continued.	stakeholder meeting	We aim to continue to restore the water quality and associated plants and animals NH2 and as described under VM4 our focus for formal education will continue to be to work with stakeholders to promote and support exciting first hand experiences Noted
		strong support for engagement with local schools, Need to look further than Kinross - if only to Milnathort, but potential also to engage with Glenrothes	Chairmans reception	The description of VM4 outlines our priorities for formal education work. Our main focus will be with local cluster schools. Where possible we will also support requests from schools in SIMD lowest 20% areas. We have amended the plan to reflect this. Accepted
		Why don't we encourage youth clubs to visit.	Chairmans reception	We intend to produce a communication and promotion strategy VM3.2 Noted
		Volunteers should be sought for people engagement, and as sources of information and as advice focal points.	Ivor Mashford – written response	
		Miss the volunteering events, which were very good for family and novice engagement	Volunteers meeting	We aim to encourage more people to volunteer on the reserve and run a volunteer programme VM4.2 Noted
		Make special efforts to enhance both primary and secondary schools' knowledge about the area, and offer escorted tours/workshops to encourage visits to the area under the schools' outings and		The description for VM4 highlights that the focus of our efforts on formal education will be towards primary and secondary level education Noted

		heuristic programmes.		
	Guided Walks	Popular, very important as both educational and promotional	Volunteers meeting	We have identified a task VM2.2 to promote led events. Noted
VM5: <i>To promote outdoor recreation and physical activity opportunities, enhance the experience of nature by recreation users and promote responsible access and mutual respect.</i>	Heritage Trail	More passing places on the trail	stakeholder meeting	The specification and design of the trail lie largely with TRACKS and Perth and Kinross Council and is to nationally agreed standards We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote mutual respect and if physical changes are required then they could be discussed. Noted
		It's very crowded at weekends, walkers feel it's better for cyclists than them.	Chairmans reception	We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote mutual respect Noted
		Are there plans to broaden the pathway	Chairmans reception	The specification and design of the trail lie largely with TRACKS and Perth and Kinross Council and is to nationally agreed standards We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote mutual respect and if physical changes are required then they could be discussed. Noted
		Additional passing places	stakeholders meeting	We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote mutual respect and if physical changes are required then they could be discussed. Noted
		The trail requires widening in a number of areas to allow for less conflict within the shared access, and also remedial action in those locations prone to flooding.	Ivor Mashford – written response	We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote mutual respect. Noted
		Define multi-use Improve signage Set out specific guidelines to users	stakeholder meeting	We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote mutual respect. Noted
		More publicity should be undertaken to encourage cycle and mobility scooter hire.	Ivor Mashford – written response <i>(duplicate also under VM3)</i>	We aim to work with the Local Tourism Forum and others to promote Destination Loch Leven to provide local economic benefits. Part of this work could include improving sustainable transport around the loch. Noted
		We welcome the intention in VM5 to develop activities that promote health and well-being.	Paths for All	We welcome the offer of support for objective VM5 Noted

		Paths for All are the ideal partner in this as we are the main organisation in Scotland promoting health walks. We support a network of projects delivering health walks – including in Perth and Kinross - and can offer resources, support and training. We are also funding partners in the Medal Routes project.		
	Responsible access	Issues of dog fouling and cyclists speed affecting other users - if cannot enforce eg due to lack of money/staff then it's a waste of time.	Volunteers meeting	We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect Noted
		Lots of rubbish at Burleigh sands	Chairmans reception	We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect. We intend to work with other partners to achieve this particularly where we do not control the site Noted
		Litter – path to Loch Levens Larder and Burleigh	Chairmans reception	
		Address irresponsible access and inconsiderate manners with education, training, propaganda. Can be difficult to eradicate antisocial activities without recourse to police or other legal restrictions. Therefore, priority for L Leven to ensure that increased visitor numbers resulting from Heritage Trail is accompanied by usage which will bring enjoyment, discovery, enlightenment, wellbeing and relaxation but allied to respect for the sensitive nature of the NNR.	precis - Ivor Mashford, written response (A1951963)	Part of our vision for the reserve is for a place where nature comes first and where people of all ages backgrounds and abilities are encouraged to enjoy nature. We have identified a task VM 5.4 to promote responsible access and respect Noted
	Courteous access /Bikes	Promote use of bells. Link in with large cycle events to raise awareness eg Family fun cycle and other events	stakeholders meeting	Bikes have to be fitted with bells while in the bike shop, but there is no legal requirement to fit or use them once on the road. The Highway Code merely suggests that cyclists 'should be considerate of other road users, particularly blind and partially sighted pedestrians. Let them know you are there when necessary, for example by ringing your bell.' We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect. Noted
		Problem with cyclists – some don't have bells – could SNH supply them?	Portmoak Community Councillors, Chairmans reception	
		Cyclists should have a bell on bike. Don't train on	Better Place	

		busy days	to Live Fair	
		Not enough respect for walkers by cyclists	Better Place to Live Fair	We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect. Noted
		Liked the Glasgow example of well worded 'Mutual respect' sign , but could use better more appropriate design for this area	Portmoak CCllrs, Chairmans Reception	
		Provision of a speed limit as cyclists going to fast. Put in obstacles to slow down cyclists speed	Volunteers meeting	
		Cyclists too fast	Better place to Live Fair	
		Speeding cyclists	Better Place to Live Fair	
	Dogs	Dog poo affecting peoples enjoyment of visit - More dog bins Employ a dog warden	stakeholder meeting	
		Dog poo affects visitors experience.	Volunteers meeting	
		Dog fouling	Better Place to Live Fair	
		Dogs off lead out of control	stakeholder meeting	We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect. Noted
		Dogs on extending long leads in way of other users	stakeholder meeting	
		Publicise / inform others of the success, or otherwise, of any projects to promote responsible access and mutual respect	Volunteers meeting	We have identified an objective NH5 to demonstrate good practice. We have amended the plan to include a task to promote projects Accepted
	Horse access on trail	Additional passing places	Horse access on trail	The specification and design of the trail lie largely with TRACKS and Perth and Kinross Council and is to nationally agreed standards We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote mutual respect and if physical changes are required then they could be discussed. Noted

		Low level horse use but when turn up can cause damage to the path surface and leave horse dung. Doesn't damage to path and leaving dung constitute irresponsible behaviour? Generally act responsibly by not using trail when busy with other users.	Volunteers meeting	We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect. Noted
	Car parking	Develop and extend Burleigh car park into adjacent field. Motor homes in Burleigh car park cause an issue	stakeholders meeting	Objective VM1 is to provide a high quality visitor experience. The description states that we will work with other key stakeholders to prepare a masterplan. Car parking is an issue to be considered as part of this. Noted
		There needs to be a better layout of the car park at the Pier, both for visitors and for all staff working there.	Volunteers meeting	Objective VM1 is to provide a high quality visitor experience. The description states that we will work with other key stakeholders to prepare a masterplan. Car parking is an issue to be considered as part of this. Noted
	Footpath links	Agree with landowner for path linking Levenmouth with Lochend Farm Shop using existing road. Will also connect Gliding Club, additional access on the other side (see map)	stakeholder meeting	Access off the reserve is not something we can take forward alone we will need to work with other stakeholders. The objective description for VM5 includes reference to the need to improve connections and loop routes around the trail. We have identified work under VM1.2 to develop short easy access routes. This task has been amended to recognise the need for links with external routes. Accepted
		Develop path network connection between Portmoak Moss? and Grahamstone	stakeholder meeting	
		Access from Portmoak Moss to NNR – formal shortcut to Grahamstone track by shortest route	stakeholder meeting	
		Footpath along Queich? Kinross to?? path.(see map) PKC asking for beech trees to be removed due to danger to public – core path – T Preservation. G Paton to close path? / Estate/ Large costs/ improve access at Sunny Park	stakeholder meeting	Access off the reserve is not something we can take forward alone we will need to work with other stakeholders. The objective description for VM5 includes reference to the need to improve connections and loop routes around the trail. We have identified work under VM1.2 to develop short easy access routes. This task has been amended to recognise the need for links with
		need for shorter loop walks	Chairmans reception	

		Spur paths would be nice to escape into tranquillity	Chairmans reception	external routes. Accepted
		Loop paths would be good often tedious for walkers. Nothing to see for large stretches, feel hemmed in.	Chairmans reception	
		Can there be access to the main Trail via Lochend Farm?	Volunteers meeting	
		More loop trails	Better Place to Live Fair	
	Access to Portmoak Moss	How to go about this? Land purchase? NNR designation? Formal access. Proper path to Grahamstone by the shortest route. Improve gate at Grahamstone with spring mechanism? Work with landowner	stakeholder meeting	
		New path up hill behind RSPB (see map)		We have identified a project to work closely with the RSPB to provide a positive visitor experience and a high quality gateway to the whole NNR Noted
	Water access	Sailing boats, rowing boats, boating in Kirkgate Bay/or beyond? Factory Bay. See map. Island Creation – restructuring Scart Island. Compensating with habitat improvement elsewhere	stakeholders meeting	An increase in waterborne access risks causing disturbance, in particular to the wildfowl. Before taking it forward we, or anyone else, would be legally obliged to provide evidence that these activities would not adversely affect the integrity of the internationally important interests. For this reason, these things are not a priority for us. Rejected
		Water taxi to various locations – east / St Serfs. Walk 1/3 or 1/4 of path and get the boat home	stakeholders meeting	
		Strong support for the current allowance of canoes / kayaks on the loch - would not want to lose this but mixed views about sailing even in designated areas and there was also a split re water taxis with worries about cost and sustainability of the operation as well as disturbance of wildlife and other loch users. Others see it as a good opportunity.	Chairmans reception	

		Club for waterborne sports	Better Place to Live Fair	Promotion of a local club for water borne sports is one way we might promote responsible access. Noted
	Wild Camping/Fires	It's not clear what the position is on lighting fires and camping	Volunteers meeting	Wildfires and camping are both covered under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. We have identified a task in the plan VM5.1 to promote responsible access. Noted
Leaflet question	How do we promote mutual respect by different users on the busy heritage trail?	Explain and enforce rules – use hidden cameras to name and shame	P. Reeve - leaflet	We have identified a task in the plan VM5.1 to promote responsible access. Noted
		Problem with mix of bikes and walkers on same path	John Duncan, Glenrothes Ramblers – leaflet	The trail was funded and constructed as a mixed use path. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code would make it difficult to restrict access. We have identified a task in the plan VM5.1 to promote responsible access. Noted
		Cyclists could be provided with a bell for use (with agreed logo at small cost). Dog waste bins and signage at strategic places.	Cllr Barnacle	Bikes have to be fitted with bells while in the bike shop, but there is no legal requirement to fit or use them once on the road. The Highway Code merely suggests that cyclists 'should be considerate of other road users, particularly blind and partially sighted pedestrians. Let them know you are there when necessary, for example by ringing your bell.' We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect. Noted
		Wider path; better signage promoting respect for others; promote take litter home message, esp for	Linda May - CEH	The specification and design of the trail lie largely with TRACKS and Perth and Kinross

		dog dirt in bags!		Council and is to nationally agreed standards We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote mutual respect and if physical changes are required then they could be discussed. Noted
		This applies throughout all countryside. 1) Signage 2) Enforcement by staff and volunteers (where appropriate) 3) Media – needs to be done on a national level.	Tim Brain	We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect. Noted
		A minority will always behave badly - noise, vandalism, dog mess, even fires - the only palliatives will be notices of a 'code of conduct' in the car parks, backed up by occasional patrols by wardens or rangers and (if necessary) bylaws.	Douglas Wynn	We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote responsible access and mutual respect. Noted
Property Management				
PM1: Property Management: To manage the reserve property responsibly following best practice		To some extent the trail infrastructure in the form of benches, hides, viewpoints, information boards, feature boards, entry features, and way-posts which must have absorbed a fair element of the grant and other monies available, provide a rather incongruous contrast to the areas of the trail which are too narrow for sensible shared usage, and even more so when significant areas of the path including entry points have been at times so overgrown that any semblance of a well featured and well maintained thoroughfare is totally negated. There is a clear need for a comprehensive policy on trail maintenance and general oversight of the loch which states the specific responsibilities of the organisations and their contracted duties.	Ivor Mashford – written response	As set out in the description for objective PM1 SNH shares responsibility for property maintenance with Perth and Kinross Council, Kinross Estate Company and the RSPB. There is an agreed policy on which organisation is responsible for each element. Noted

	Path maintenance	The trail requires widening in a number of areas to allow for less conflict within the shared access, and also remedial action in those locations prone to flooding.	Ivor Mashford – written response	The specification and design of the trail lie largely with TRACKS and Perth and Kinross Council and is to nationally agreed standards We have identified a task VM5.4 work with stakeholders to promote mutual respect and if physical changes are required then they could be discussed. Noted
		Screening of the sewage works and reduction of the visual impact of the outlet pipe over the South Queich should be priorities.	Ivor Mashford – written response	Our objective VM1 is to provide a positive visitor experience Noted
		Money was spent on the Trail and then it was left, parts of the Trail badly maintained	Volunteers meeting	As set out in the description for objective PM1 SNH shares responsibility for property maintenance with Perth and Kinross Council, Kinross Estate Company and the RSPB. There is an agreed policy on which organisation is responsible for each element. We have identified a task PM1.1 to maintain the infrastructure if there are problems they could be discussed as part of this project. Noted
		Path not fit for purpose near Levenmouth as floods –should be raised above the sluice outflow.	Volunteers meeting	We have identified a project VM1.3 to seek to work with partners to carry out maintenance of all access facilities to at least easy access Noted
		Damage by flooding and lack of maintenance of the Trail surface is affecting disabled visitors	Volunteers meeting	We have identified a project VM1.3 to seek to work with partners to carry out maintenance of all access facilities to at least easy access and key sections to all abilities standard Noted
		Factory Bay area very overgrown, needs maintenance	Better Place to Live Fair	As set out in the description for objective PM1 SNH shares responsibility for property maintenance with Perth and Kinross Council, Kinross Estate Company and the RSPB. There is an agreed policy on which organisation is responsible for each element. We have identified a task PM1.1 to maintain the

				infrastructure if there are problems they could be discussed as part of this project. Noted
General comment		A great improvement over the last 10 years. Don't stop making incremental improvements	John Duncan, Glenrothes Ramblers	We welcome your comments Noted
		We welcome many of the initiatives and aspirations the SNH have outlined in the draft MP review for the continued good management of Loch Leven NNR. Especially in regard to; promoting health and well-being, increased resilience of the landscape, water quality, natural heritage management, management of INNS, ecological connectivity, grey squirrel control and deer management.	Gary Bolton, Woodland Trust Scotland, written response	We welcome your comments Noted
Other comments		Issues around the flooding/loch levels/ sluices – improving communication with the Trust, issues this year may not have been avoidable given the extreme weather - but can more be done to manage the loch levels and whether this is possible	Chairmans reception	We have identified a task 2.1 to evaluate opportunities for water level management. We would hope to discuss management of levels through the catchment management group so that the various interests could identify their aspirations to identify potential benefits. Any changes in water levels in the loch would need to be discussed and approved by other stakeholders notably the Trustees. Noted
Under VM2/VM3		Institute a Friends of Loch Leven body to raise the profile, introduce and encourage activities, produce publicity material, devise income generation methods and conduct fundraising events.	Ivor Mashford – written response	Much of the work we intend to do on the reserve will be in partnership and we envisage that some of it will require external funding. All of SNH's NNRs are now participating in MyPark Scotland which allows donations. We believe that projects should not be funding driven. However, where external funds can be accessed this may allow us to carry out projects we would not otherwise be able to deliver. We have amended the plan to recognise this in the description of Objective

				<p>PR1 We will continue to deliver our activities as efficiently as possible maximising the benefit of public funds. Where appropriate we will seek to access external funding to support our programme of work.</p> <p>We recognise that there is also a potential engagement benefit to a friends group and we have amended the plan to state that we recognise the importance of community empowerment and providing the support to communities of place and of interest to allow them to participate in decisions and will engage with them on issues which affect them throughout the period of the plan. We have also included a task PR1.7 Mechanisms will be put in place to facilitate engagement with stakeholders. The role, status, governance and whether a Friends group is the most effective way to achieve this could be considered under this task.</p> <p>Accepted</p>
Access		<p>Enforcement</p> <p>Legislation is all very well but if it is not policed it is ineffective.</p> <p>The trail has been introduced to allow access but there is no infrastructure to support responsible use.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the role of SNH no one body is supervising all the activity which goes on around the loch. The question arises, therefore, in relation to who is responsible for ensuring that the trail is maintained, and that dog fouling and</p>	Ivor Mashford – written response	<p>The loch and the trail are managed by a number of stakeholders each with their own role. We have identified that we will work closely with these stakeholders to deliver the outcomes we have identified in the plan. One of our objectives is to promote mutual respect and responsible access and we have identified a number of tasks notably VM5.1 and VM5.4 to help us achieve this. Noted</p>

		<p>irresponsible behaviour are policed and curtailed, and also that the issues of anti-social behaviour, inappropriate access, litter, seats, signage, information, etc. are effectively managed.</p> <p>I have formed the impression that the SNH members of staff at The Pier have enough on their plate with the customary responsibilities of NNR management without having the additional responsibility of dealing with the plethora of issues arising from shared use apart from an element of education, training and propaganda. With the current pressures on finance, resources and the efficient use of manpower it would seem that more staff need to be in place if their remit was to be extended.</p>		
		<p>Quick comments from me on the Draft Plan:</p> <p>You mentioned scope for sponsorship at the start and I wanted to talk more about that at the workshop.</p> <p>It would be great if there was a Friends of Loch Leven Group set up to raise money through donations, local businesses or in relation to events. This could go towards the upkeep of SNH's own infrastructure or for the trail itself.</p>	<p>Dave Stubbs, PKC</p>	<p>Much of the work we intend to do on the reserve will be in partnership and we envisage that some of it will require external funding. All of SNH's NNRs are now participating in MyPark Scotland which allows donations. We believe that projects should not be funding driven. However, where external funds can be accessed this may allow us to carry out projects we would not otherwise be able to deliver. We have amended the plan to recognise this in the description of Objective PR1 We will continue to deliver our activities as efficiently as possible maximising the benefit of public funds. Where appropriate we will seek to access external funding to support our programme of work.</p> <p>We recognise that there is also a potential engagement benefit to a friends group and we have amended the plan to state that we recognise the importance of community</p>

				empowerment and providing the support to communities of place and of interest to allow them to participate in decisions and will engage with them on issues which affect them throughout the period of the plan. We have also included a task PR1.7 Mechanisms will be put in place to facilitate engagement with stakeholders. The role, status, governance and whether a Friends group is the most effective way to achieve this could be considered under this task. Accepted
		The NNR and the Vane Farm RSPB Centre are hugely valued resources - please only make essential changes as the balance of conservation vs access at present is pretty good.	Douglas Wynn	We understand your position and we think the site is great. However we are ambitious for it and believe there is the scope to do more especially working with others. Any big changes we intend to make will be carefully planned. Rejected