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## Organised Events in the National Park

Designated in 2002, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs was Scotland's first National Park and is a special place celebrated for its great beauty, natural and cultural heritage. It also provides a wealth of opportunities for challenge and adventure intrinsically linked to the special qualities of the area.

The National Park Authority (NPA) recognises the positive benefits that well organised recreational events can bring to the area, supporting the visitor economy and providing unique visitor experiences. We also have a duty to promote an understanding of the National Park and to support recreational activities that are not detrimental to the area's natural assets, communities and business operations.

### **1. Outdoor Access Code**

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives everyone the right of non-motorised access over most land and inland water in Scotland - as long as they behave responsibly. Detailed guidance on these rights and responsibilities is provided in the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#) (SOAC). SOAC is a **key reference** for event organisers who should read it in full with particular attention to paragraphs 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, 3.60 and 3.61.

The NPA advocates consulting the NatureScot '[Outdoor events in Scotland: guidance for organisers and land managers](#)' for reference. The guidance has been published by NatureScot on behalf of the [National Access Forum](#), which brings together relevant interests to advise on national issues relating to Scottish access rights.

### **2. Organisers**

Event organisers are responsible for undertaking their own risk assessments and obtaining appropriate health and safety advice for their event. To ensure the safe delivery of any event

an Event Safety Plan should be compiled and for events taking place on lochs or other water-bodies, a Water Safety Plan should detail logistics, emergency measures and clear instructions for the delivery team. We would recommend referring to the 'Purple Guide' which provides clear direction to duty holders to effectively manage health and safety planning: <https://www.thepurpleguide.co.uk/>

It is the responsibility of event organisers to remedy any damage or loss caused by the event. The event organiser must ensure that all temporary infrastructure, banners, promotional materials and litter generated through the delivery of the event are removed. A full sweep of the event site / course should be completed to ensure no waste is left after the event and the environment is returned to the expected standard. We would also strongly discourage the use of fireworks, balloons and lanterns which can have a negative environmental impact.

Permission from the landowner / manager should be obtained. This will ensure that they are fully aware of the event and details of its delivery; ensure that they have an opportunity to raise any concerns; and to work constructively to ensure that there is no conflict. In doing so the event can be delivered negating any potentially detrimental impacts on any areas being used. Useful information to share with land owners / managers should include:

- Plans for new or temporary facilities and services (such as car parking, fencing, marquees, signs, litter bins, marked courses or toilets);
- The nature of the event and a clear indication of the number of participants or spectators likely to attend the event;
- How event plans will avoid hindering land management operations, interfere with other people enjoying the outdoors or affect the environment.

### **3. National Park Byelaws**

Events located on Loch Lomond and close to the shore of the loch must comply with local byelaws – for more information on Loch Lomond Byelaws, please see the link [here](#). Other lochs and waterbodies within the National Park are not subject to the byelaw.

Camping Byelaws are also in force at designated locations across the National Park between 1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> September. During this time Camping Management Zones will be in operation, which will require a permit to be booked to camp within these zones, and can

be booked up to four weeks in advance. Further information on the National Park Camping Byelaws can be found [here](#).

In the Camping Management Zones, it is not permitted to have any kind of shelter, including gazebos between 7pm-7am without an exemption being granted by the National Park.

#### 4. **The role of the National Park Authority**

The NPA does not have a direct role in granting permission for outdoor events in the National Park unless the event is within a site owned or managed by the NPA. Any requests for use of NPA sites should be submitted to 'estates@lochlomond-trossachs.org'. We can also assist with identifying land owners or agencies who should be contacted and engaged with during the event planning process.

We would like all recreational events in the area to be enjoyable, non-damaging and sustainable, we can also provide information on the following:

- How events can be delivered more sustainably, reducing their emissions, waste and environmental impacts.
- How to minimise any potential impact on the special qualities of the National Park, communities, businesses or other visitors.

The NPA asks you to contact us if your event:

- Intends to start, finish or pass through any locations in the National Park. This includes the use of any roads and off-roads trail paths, and areas where access rights apply (eg, core paths, footpaths, trails, forest tracks, open moorland, and mountainous areas).
- Is designed to attract large numbers of participants and spectators.
- Includes activities on foot, on bikes, on horseback, with horse-drawn carriages, or involving open water swimming.
- Locations designated (and legally protected) for their conservation value.
- Popular locations (for example, but not limited to Loch Lomond, The West Highland Way, Ben Lomond as popular event locations).

The NPA advocates consulting the NatureScot '[Outdoor events in Scotland: guidance for organisers and land managers](#)' for reference. The guidance has been published by

NatureScot on behalf of the [National Access Forum](#), which brings together relevant interests to advise on national issues relating to Scottish access rights.

## 5. After the Event

There is great value in seeking feedback from participants, and the NPA encourages you to collect and share this information with us – it helps identify the benefits or any issues arising from an event. We would also welcome any feedback that captures the economic impact of the event to the local area (eg, through participants or spectators use of accommodation and other businesses) and to hear if there were any other ways in which future event delivery could be improved, for example, promoting public and active travel to reduce traffic and parking pressures and associated carbon emissions.

## 6. Useful Best Practice Resources

It is important organisers employ best practice to deliver safe and enjoyable outdoor events and the following links are examples of organisations providing information and resources;

- **National Trust for Scotland (NTS)** – Information for events on Ben Lomond:  
<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/ben-lomond>
- **Forestry & Land Scotland (FLS)** – for events taking place on land managed by FLS:  
<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/>
- **NatureScot** - have developed the excellent Sitelink website for important site based information on designated conservation areas: <https://sitelink.nature.scot/home>
- **Local Authorities** – you should contact the relevant Local Authority to advise of the event plans. You may require licensing consent or permissions for elements such as road use / closures, or use of public facilities.
  - [Argyll & Bute Council](#)
  - [Perth & Kinross Council](#)
  - [Stirling Council](#)
  - [West Dunbartonshire Council](#)
- **West Highland Way** - The Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park is the lead body of the West Highland Way (WHW) Management Group, which also consists of East Dunbartonshire, Stirling, Argyll & Bute and Highland Councils. There are various

landowners / land managers where the WHW passes through along the length of the route which we can advise on. For awareness, the WHW management group would request information on any event plans at 'whw@lochlomond-trossachs.org'. Details of events taking place on the WHW can be published to the official [website](#) to alert walkers of any events taking place (<https://www.westhighlandway.org/notices/>), and can be added to WHW social media channels also. This helps walkers ahead of their trip and for the WHW management group to highlight if there are any issues or clashes on particular dates as the WHW is a focus for outdoor events.

The WHW Management Group also ask you to consider factoring in a donation to the West Highland Way in some form – whilst this is optional, it is strongly encouraging to contribute to the maintenance of the 96 miles of path (plus bridges, signage etc) which require funding to upkeep this iconic long distance walking route. It could be just a small amount per entrant or a fixed overall amount as a donation. Use of the official logo can be provided to ensure that your support was acknowledged. Contact details can be found on the link here to notify of event plans: <https://www.westhighlandway.org/contact-us/>

## 7. Safety & Emergency Support

Noted below are some of the emergency and rescue services that operate across the National Park. It is recommended that notice of any events taking place is advised to the relevant area rescue team:

- **Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team** – covers the Arrochar and Cowal areas of the Park including The Cobbler: <https://arrocharmrt.org.uk/>
- **Killin Mountain Rescue Team** - with rescue posts at Killin and Callander covers the northern part of the National Park including mountains such as Ben Lui, Ben More, Stob Binnien, Stuc a Chroin, Ben Ledi: <https://www.killinmountainrescue.scot/>
- **Loch Lomond Rescue Boat** – The voluntary rescue boat operating on Loch Lomond provide a source of information / support for water based events on the loch: <https://www.lochlomondrescueboat.org/>
- **Lomond Mountain Rescue Team** – A good source of information / support for events taking place in the Trossachs: <https://www.lomondmrt.org.uk/>
- **Trossachs Search & Rescue** – provide search and rescue, emergency services and event support in the Strathblane to Callander area: <https://www.trossachs-sar.com/>

## **8. Equalities in Events**

The National Park aims to be a welcoming and inclusive destination, ensuring that no one is denied opportunities or discriminated against through prejudice or exclusion due to factors such as age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. For events of all sizes and types, organisers are encouraged to consider the opportunities to enhance equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) for their audiences, performers, competitors and other participants, and for event organisers, businesses and their workforce.

Event organisers are encouraged to consider undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) which evaluates how the planned event may affect different segments of the population both positively and negatively, and to proactively promote equality throughout the planning and delivery of an event.

Additional information and guidance published by VisitScotland can be found here:

<https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/marketing-materials/accessible-events-guide.pdf>

[Event Sustainability Advice | VisitScotland.org](https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/marketing-materials/accessible-events-guide.pdf)