

Working together for community and landscape

Glencoe Community Council and the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) have been working together on a plan to identify the key issues and work on improvements and solutions to the challenges we face in Glencoe and Glen Etive as a result of the popularity of this area with visitors. The aim is to make our community sustainable and resilient for those who live here, and to help those who visit the area enjoy the surroundings in a safe and environmentally friendly way.

It's very clear that the area has faced a growth in visitors over the last few months since lockdown was released – we've welcomed many folk to Scotland who are taking 'staycations' for the first time. To try and address some of the issues of increased visitor numbers (inappropriate parking, damage to our landscape from 'dirty' camping, irresponsible littering behaviours, traffic bottlenecks, lack of facilities in general) we have looked at the whole area from Glencoe village through to Glencoe Mountain Resort with the aim of developing an overarching visitor management action plan which we can use to seek support and funding. We have been working alongside the Highland Council, Transport Scotland, local Councillors and our MSP Kate Forbes, who all seem very supportive of the need for action. To help inform the process, the NTS and Scottish Government's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) have jointly funded a civil engineer to look at options, to complete traffic surveys, and to develop designs and cost estimates for potential improvements, mostly around existing busy parking areas in the glens and in the village.

We have also had a fantastic response to a public survey asking for people to give us their views on how to deal with some of the challenges Glencoe and Glen Etive face. Over 3000 people have so far completed the survey, demonstrating a shared passion for taking action to improve the situation for locals and visitors alike.

Together we are putting in a bid to the RTIF this autumn to address some of the priorities identified. We should hear back on whether we are successful in receiving the funds at some point during December. We will also be applying to the RTIF for further funding next year, and are actively looking for further funding options to complete all of the work.

If you have any questions or would like to get more involved, please get in touch. Thank you!

Glencoe and Glen Etive Visitor Management Group
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	Location	Action	Landowner
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Phase 1 – Rural Tourism Infrastructure Bid 2020/21

Glen Coe	Three Sisters large car park	Improve surfacing Bay marking for safety Minor expansion into layby	NTS Glencoe National Nature Reserve
		All-ability route to promontory viewpoint, separating pedestrians from parking & maximise space for vehicles	NTS Glencoe NNR
	Three Sisters small car park	Improve surfacing Bay marking for safety Minor expansion into layby	NTS Glencoe NNR
	Devil's Staircase	Minor improvements (major project in RTIF Phase 2) Address pot holes / surface issues Widen junction with A82	Black Corries Estate
	Clachaig to Glencoe village orbital path	Refurbish existing path - widen + improve grading + add missing bit on common grazing inc. bridge	Glencoe & Glen Etive Community Company / SCIO
	The Study footpath	Improved access from layby to the Study viewpoint as an alternative to Three Sisters - expand parking area in RTIF Phase 2 if popular	Black Corries Estate
Glen Etive	Passing places	93 signs require replacing or upgrade 26 signs prioritised for replacement this year Surface improvements to some heavily-used parking places	Highland Council
	Vehicle activated sign	Provide visitors with real-time updates on traffic congestion informed by a vehicle counter and request visitors turn back when road has reached a safe vehicle capacity	Highland Council Dalness Estate
	Road end turning area	Forward-turning layby to enable cars to follow requests on sign to come back another day Stacking layby to avoid queuing on road	Dalness Estate
	Ben Starav parking	Formalise and expand parking area for hillwalkers	Black Mount Estate
	Skyfall view layby	Improve surfacing, formalise and expand layby slightly	NTS Glencoe NNR
	Triple Falls parking	Improve surfacing, formalise and expand layby to accommodate canoeist minibuses	NTS Glencoe NNR

	Dalness parking spots x 3	Improve surfacing, formalise and expand to accommodate campervans and motorhome, enabling us to discourage large vehicles heading to loch-side	NTS Glencoe NNR Black Mount Estate
	Loch-side parking	Minor expansion of parking on opposite side of road - focus on cars and discourage motorhomes from reaching this point	Black Mount Estate
Glen-wide improvements	Info and advice signage	"Love Glencoe/Glen Etive" responsible visitor messages - signpost facilities, expected behaviours, etc	All
	Visitor waste hubs: Glencoe village An Torr Glen Etive NTS Coupal Bridge Loch Etive	"Love Glencoe/Glen Etive" responsible visitor messages, well-screened large waste + recycling bins New area created at entrance to An Torr Highland Council to provide regular pick up	All
	Bus stops	Focus on Three Sisters & Devils Staircase in RTIF Phase 1	NTS Glencoe NNR Black Corries Estate Transport Scotland
Phase 1 – In parallel with RTIF bid – 2020/21/22			
Glencoe Village	New car park	Two locations being considered - Kinlochleven Road (site used for forthcoming bridge works) or behind Glencoe Inn Spaces for approx. 30 cars, 4 motorhome/minibus, 2 coaches Bay marking and surfacing Motorhome waste facility Electric charging - possible 100% funding	Glencoe & Glen Etive Community Company / SCIO Highland Council
Phase 2 – Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund Bid and other funding options – 2021/22			
Glen Coe	Devil's Staircase parking	Expand to approx. 50 cars and height barrier Bay marking Surfacing and levels Gate closing off track to prevent parking down to Lagangarbh bridge	Black Corries Estate
	Old Road parking	Need to review challenges and solutions further with residents and businesses	
	Buachaille Etive Mor / Lairig Gartain parking area	Parking capacity is fine but re-surface to address serious pot holes	Black Corries Estate
	The Study parking	Expand parking if required Mark bays	Black Corries Estate

Glen Etive	NTS Coupal Bridge toilet	A possibility - review impact of Phase 1 actions to manage visitor capacity and tackle anti-social behaviour first	NTS Glencoe NNR
Glen Coe Greenway	NTS Glencoe visitor centre to An Torr cycle path	Construct 2.5km all-ability trail to connect with existing paths, providing pedestrian and off-road cycle access into heart of Glencoe for first time	NTS Glencoe NNR Sustrans Transport Scotland
	Glencoe village to NTS visitor centre cycle path	Upgrade existing path 1.5km path to all-ability spec for designation as National Cycle Network route Landowners' agreement required to widen path alongside road	NTS Glencoe NNR Crofters Forestry & Land Scotland Transport Scotland
	Traffic-free cycle route through whole Glen	Aspirational!	NTS Glencoe NNR Black Corries Estate
Park & Ride	Glencoe Mountain Resort park & ride hub	Re-surface Highland Council access road to enable buses to travel to 450 space car park	Glencoe Mountain Highland Council
	Ballachulish Harbour park & ride hub and potential motorhome aire	Minimal additional infrastructure Speak with Ballachulish Community Council to gauge support	Ballachulish Community Council Highland Council
	Bus stops	14 stops along A82 x from Glencoe Mountain Resort to Glencoe village	Hitrans Transport Scotland
	Observation roof electric bus	Discussions with service providers about this	Hitrans Shiel Buses West Coast Motors
	Bike / ski trailer for shuttle bus		Sustrans

Other complementary actions:

Location	Action	Description
Glen Etive	No alcohol in public places byelaw	Raised with Local Councillor Andrew Baxter and MSP Kate Forbes as a way to discourage excessive drinking in the Glens which is often connected to dirty camping and littering – seeking to take this to public consultation stage
	Organised police enforcement visits at busy times	Discussion with Police Scotland and Kate Forbes, commitment to one major operation in 2021 – seeking to make this slightly more frequent

		Additional Ranger patrols at busy times	NTS Rangers have been out on Saturday evenings all summer to engage with visitors and campers and discourage littering or anti-social behaviour. In addition to this, the Community Council will apply to Lottery Fund for money to pay for local Community Wardens to work in Glen Etive and Glen Coe.
		Passing place sign replacement & surface repairs	Highland Council has committed to replace 26 out of 93 missing signs this autumn and the remainder next year
		Introduction of a rural clearway	Looking into options and process for introducing this
Glencoe Village		Traffic Regulation Orders for village Main Street	Highland Council consultation to begin this autumn / winter for new Traffic Regulation Order for Glencoe village which would enable Traffic Enforcement Officer action
		Speed limit reduction extended along A82	Raised with Transport Scotland and Kate Forbes