

Callander Landscape Partnership Focus Groups Report

Prepared for:

Emma Martin

Callander Landscape Partnership Development Officer

Prepared By:

Nicki Souter Associates

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Introduction

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has provided grant funding to 124 Landscape Partnerships since 2003. Landscape Partnership schemes focus on the conservation of heritage within rural and peri-urban regeneration projects by bringing a range of organisations together to create a balanced approach to the management of landscape heritage.

In 2015, The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park was awarded funding to establish the Callander Landscape Partnership (CLP 'Callander's Pass – Mind the Gap'. The vision for the CLP is:

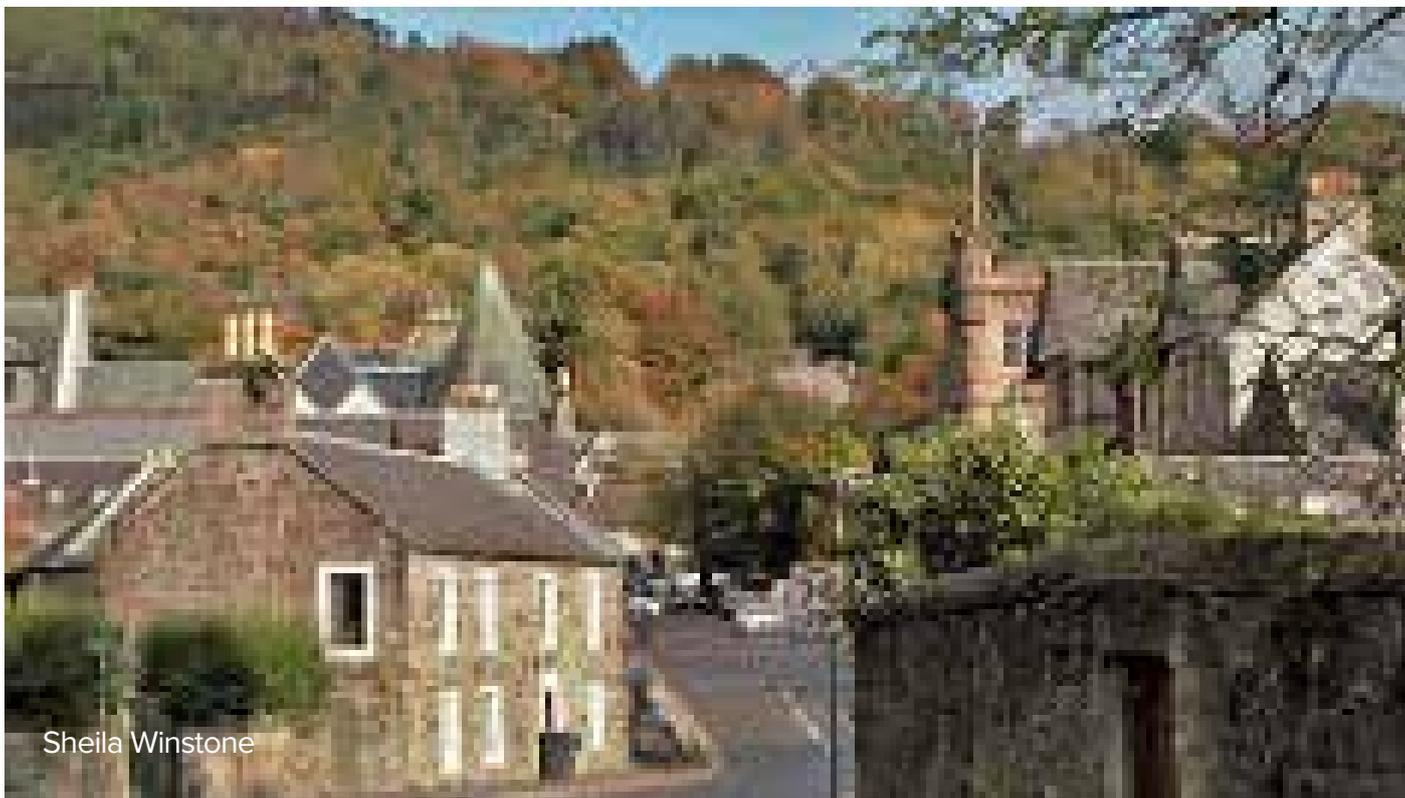
“Through the Callander Landscape Partnership we will change the way our landscape set within both the highlands and the lowlands is managed, understood, celebrated and linked to our town. Local people and visitors of all ages will enjoy and appreciate the important cultural, historical and natural features that surround us. We will leave a legacy that supports the town’s drive to become the outdoor capital of the National Park.”

The CLP has the following aims alongside its vision:

- Improve the setting of Callander through much needed investment in the surrounding landscape; building momentum through a partnership minded to address the issues surrounding Callander’s key heritage.
- Make the most significant contribution to Callander’s outdoor capital aspiration, by recovering and restoring the rich cultural and natural heritage and providing physical and intellectual access to the Callander landscape.
- Engage more people in the landscape and heritage, invigorating the local economy, improving lives and sustaining the community.



Pauline Deas



The CLP intends to meet these aims and vision through the delivery of more than twenty ‘sub-projects’ organised into four principal themes:

- 1. Restore** Focussing on conservation and land-based projects, as well as the largest capital project – the bridge at Leny Falls;
- 2. Explore** Focussing on improved recreational opportunities and healthy activity;
- 3. Research** Focusing on all sub-projects with an archaeological, historical or heritage theme; and
- 4. Engage** Focussing on projects with connections to people such as volunteering and education.

The sub-projects, divided into the four themes, are presented in Appendix 1.

Within the sub-projects, the Volunteering, Education and Engagement project is central to the delivery of the CLP vision and the projects, and aims to ensure that people from a range of backgrounds can access new and engaging activities. This is with the view to deepen and strengthen the individual’s experience of visiting and ‘staying’ within the Callander landscape from initial visits and participation in an engagement or education activity to becoming active up-skilled and trained volunteers across the four themes of Restore, Explore, Research and Engage.

The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority Tourism Survey (2012-17)¹ identified the current visitor profile as:

- Mature Devotees: enjoy visiting Scotland to explore the local area and culture, typically 50 plus, low disposable spend; and prefer to sightsee from car or coach; and
- Affluent Active Devotees: typically 50 plus, high disposable income, enjoy good food and drink, active pursuits and like to stay in boutique hotels.

The Peak District National Park describes a similar visitor profile², with two thirds of visitors to this National Park classified as ‘affluent achievers’ or within a ‘comfortable communities’ category.

1 http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/rr-content/uploads/2016/Our-Plans_Tourism-Strategy2012-2017.pdf

2 http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/538772/visitor-non-visitor-survey-2014.pdf

Scope of Research

The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority commissioned Nicki Souter Associates to run qualitative research using two focus groups with people defined as ‘under-represented’ within the existing Callander visitor profile. ‘Under-represented’ was defined as people under 50 years of age from a deprived community; with the area selected for this study as the Raploch Area in Stirling. This area has a population of 2,954 made up of 4 SIMD 2016 data zones, with all 4 zones categorised within the 15% most deprived in Scotland, and with 2 of these within the 5% most deprived. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2016) divides Scotland into 6,976 small areas of roughly equal population called ‘data zones’ and indicates levels of deprivation in “datazones” within each, ranking each zone across the country from the most deprived to the least deprived.

Raploch has a higher proportion of:

- One person households compared to the average for the Stirling Council area (28% Raploch; 17.6% Stirling Council);
- Single parent families (9.4% Raploch; 4.5% Stirling Council);
- Unemployed (8.9% Raploch, 3.9% Stirling Council);
- Long-term sick or disabled (12.6% Raploch; 4.1% Stirling Council); and
- Residents classed within the DE social grade defined as semi-skilled, unskilled manual; on benefits, unemployed, lowest grade (50% Raploch; 22.9% Stirling Council).

The final research sample consisted of residents from the Raploch Area in two age categories; 18 – 29 year olds and 30 – 49 year olds.

The aim of this research was to help the CLP gain greater insight and understanding of current engagement, the barriers to, and an identification of the facilitators that would encourage and enable representatives from this under-served group to engage with the Callander landscape.

The research also specifically set out to explore the opinions on the suggestion for ‘Woodland Taster’ Days, and the views and willingness to participate in a range of potential volunteering and training opportunities some of which would be directly linked to the John Muir Discovery Award.

‘Woodland Taster’ Days

The ‘Woodland Taster’ Days were described as introductory day sessions taking place within the Callander Landscape. These sessions facilitated by a Callander Landscape Partnership Officer would aim to showcase the range of activities and opportunities that people could engage in, within woodland settings. They would allow people to sample and experience from a range of activities; including but not limited to:

- Natural artwork;
- Installing bat and bird boxes;
- Building ponds;
- Planting native trees;
- Red squirrel conservation activities;
- Path construction; and
- Rhododendron bashing.

These ‘taster’ sessions would include transport to and from Callander, lunch, and the provision of all PPE and other safety equipment as required.



Sheila Winstone

Volunteering Opportunities

It was identified that the Callander Landscape Partnership staff could also use the 'Woodland Taster' Sessions to identify and explore with the individual participants their willingness to get further involved in:

1. Conservation volunteering opportunities - linked to the John Muir Discovery Award. This requires a commitment of 4 days taking part in the following types of activities:
 - Dark skies;
 - River conservation;
 - Hay Meadow conservation;
 - Path building;
 - Woodland management;
 - Dry-stone walling; and
 - Tree planting.
2. Heritage Focussed Activities
 - Archaeological surveys;
 - Adopting key heritage sites;
 - Archive digitisation; and
 - Investigating Gaelic and its connection to the landscape.
3. Countryside and Heritage Training Opportunities
 - Informal learning to boost knowledge of wildlife and wildlife management;
 - Learning wildlife survey techniques;
 - Accredited training in land management and access;
 - Accredited training in outdoor first aid, health and safety and/or power tools such as chainsaw/strimmer;
 - Heritage restoration such as cleaning and preserving stonework and uncovering stone inscriptions; and
 - Archaeological skills such as walkover survey, mapping and excavation.

Methodology

In order to fulfil the research objectives, the following methodology was carried out: A qualitative research approach using two focus groups was selected as the best method to consult with people defined as 'under-represented' within the existing Callander visitor profile.

Recruitment

Two trained NSA officers recruited 12 attendees for each of the two focus groups face to face at doorsteps from the Raploch Area of Stirling over a two- day period. Attendees were recruited using the following sampling profile:

- Group 1: Mixed male and female group: 18 – 29 year olds; and
- Group 2: Mixed male and female group: 30 – 49 year olds.

Each person recruited received a tear off slip detailing the time and location of the group, and were phoned on two occasions to confirm their attendance.

Focus Groups

The focus groups took place in rooms at the Raploch Community Campus on the 18th and 23rd May 2017. In total 10 of the 24 recruited took part in the groups (5 per group). Each group lasted approximately 90 minutes. The groups were facilitated and recorded by the NSA Director and Data Analyst using a pre-approved detailed Topic Guide provided in Appendix 2.

Following completion, a detailed thematic analysis was carried out between, and within each of the groups. This type of analysis is a method for identifying, analysing and reporting patterns of meaning, i.e. it illustrates which themes are important. Commonalities and differences between the age groups were explored and reported.



Key Findings

Current Visiting Behaviour

The majority of attendees in both groups had visited Callander previously, with several people stating they frequently visited the area. Key reasons for visiting were:

- Fishing at Bracklinn Falls and Loch Venachar Falls;
- Visiting family;
- Family days out, this tended to be on an annual basis with Bracklinn Falls and The Meadows being specifically mentioned as locations commonly visited;
- Enjoying the scenery and escapism; and
- Outdoor activities such as walking and camping.

Current Barriers to Visiting

Several of the attendees noted that although they had visited Callander previously, they identified the following barriers both for themselves and other members of the community for more regular visits:

- Cost of public transport;
- No access to private transport;
- Public transport routes were limited to the centre of Callander. It was noted in both groups that if people did not have access to a car visiting certain locations were more difficult, such as the Falls of Leny, or accessing certain walking and cycling routes and trails. It was suggested that a free shuttle bus could operate between the centre of Callander to the key tourist sites – this would enable more people to access some of the harder to reach sites and activities;
- Requirement for, and cost of camping permits;
- Lack of awareness of public amenities such as public toilets, the cost of using cafés and restaurants were cited as a barrier for families;
- Poor signage from the centre of Callander to the key tourist sites;
- Lack of maps and information about the key tourist sites;
- Lack of safe green cycling network from Raploch to Callander ;
- Negative attitude of some residents towards visitors, there was a perception they might not be welcome;
- Young people were noted as being more disengaged with the outdoors; and
- Community issues of deprivation and other social problems .

In terms of the barriers to visiting Callander there were no discernible differences between the two groups recorded.

Key suggestions to improve the visitor experience were:

- Providing a free electric shuttle bus from the centre of Callander to the key tourist sites – this would enable more people to access some of the harder to reach sites such as the Falls of Leny; and
- Improved signage and information boards in the centre of Callander directing to the key sites, and improved interpretation boards and visitor information at the key sites.

Woodland Taster Day Concept

The concept for the Woodland Taster Days when first introduced to the group members was poorly received. The majority of attendees in both groups felt both the concept and the suggested activities were not very engaging, and would not encourage people to participate. Several of the 18 – 29 group members perceived this to be some form of community service or free labour, rather than being of direct benefit to themselves.

Woodland Festival

It was noted by the attendees the Woodland Taster Day concept could be improved to make it more appealing across the community. It was suggested that in the first instance consideration should be given to running a 'Woodland Festival' and to brand and promote the activity in this way. The Woodland Festival could take place at several key locations with a free hop on hop off shuttle bus to allow people to experience a wide range of activities at different locations during the day. Attendees noted there should be a wide range of activities on offer that would appeal to all members of the community and suggestions included:

- Build your own BBQ and then cook lunch with locally sourced food;
- A Treasure Trail which led you to key sites and activities of interest with interpretation boards and talks at each location to further engage and encourage future participation by the community;
- Fly fishing competitions. Attendees at the groups who fished noted that this would be a good way to identify people with this interest and who might be willing to get involved in river conservation and restoration projects;
- Archery competitions and other similar outdoor activities;
- Wood art with chainsaw carving demonstrations; and
- Stalls showcasing the range, types and benefits of getting involved in a range of Conservation volunteering opportunities - linked to the John Muir Discovery Award; Heritage Focussed Activities; or Countryside and Heritage Training Opportunities.

The attendees noted that this type of high profile and engaging event would be more appealing to the whole community, and would encourage uptake. It was noted that free transport and lunch should also be provided as part of the event to optimise community participation.



Keith Wilson

Effective promotion of the Woodland Festival event at the community level would be critical to ensure there was good uptake. The following suggestions were made:

- The Callander Landscape Partnership Officer should carry out a door knocking exercise and distribute information across the community about the proposed Woodland Festival to encourage uptake;
- The Callander Landscape Partnership Officer should contact the following local organisations to inform them of the event and encourage uptake:
 - Raploch Community Campus;
 - Raploch Community Centre;
 - Ochil Outdoor Explorer Group;
 - Cubs, Scouts, Brownies;
 - Cycling Clubs;
 - Fishing Groups;
 - Allotment Groups;
 - Big Noise Music Club;
 - Local Sports Clubs;
- A communication plan for the Woodland Festival should be developed which includes the following communication collateral and approach:
 - Social media including Twitter and Facebook;
 - Posters for distribution in local shops and community spaces and notice boards;
 - Identification of local key spokespeople to help recruit volunteers;
 - Leaflets and other flyers suggested by the 18 – 29 group members but deemed to be ineffective and costly by the 30 – 49 group;
 - As well as adopting a community wide marketing approach the activities could also be promoted to specific audiences; for example, river bank restoration projects could be promoted to the fishing community or archaeological and historical activities to pupils and students at the Raploch Community Campus, local colleges and Stirling University; and
 - The promotion could also focus on the positive community benefits such as a ‘Get to Know Your Neighbours’, or ‘Community Day Out’ themes to support improved community integration and cohesion.

The aim of the Woodland Festival would be to focus on informing, engaging and encouraging the attendees about the wide range of volunteering and training opportunities available in and around the Callander area.

Volunteering and Training

The attendees indicated they, and other members of the Raploch community might be willing to take up volunteering and training opportunities. Critical elements to ensure high community participation were the activities should:

- Be engaging, appealing and relevant; and
- Have direct benefits to the participants.

Unprompted, the 18-29 group members suggested that if some form of reward system was introduced this would incentivise them to volunteer. Ideas included operating a ‘Bonus Outdoor Activity Reward Scheme’ – whereby after a certain number of volunteering days the individual would be rewarded with a voucher for an outdoor activity such as kayaking, climbing or survival skills.

Volunteering Opportunities

Members of the 18 – 29 group indicated they would be willing to take part in the majority of the volunteering activities as long as they were directly linked to improving employability.

Members of the 30 - 49 group indicated they would also be willing to take part in volunteering activities especially if these were directly linked to improving employability for people. This group were more selective in the types of activities they might be willing to do; with key preferences for:

- Rhododendron Bashing;
- River Bank Restoration;
- Litter Picks and Clean Ups;
- Archaeological Surveys and Digs; and
- Dry-stone Walling.

It was suggested that different volunteering opportunities could be provided for younger people and specifically for school pupils. The 30 – 49 group members felt that wildlife focussed activities were of little interest to them but would have greater appeal for school pupils and would help to engage in Outdoor Capital from an early age. This could also help to encourage parental participation through peer power. It was also suggested that activities such as geo-mapping and active digitisation may be attractive for older people, and/or people less able to take part in more physical or strenuous activities.

Training Opportunities

The Conservation Volunteering opportunities - linked to the John Muir Discovery Award and the Countryside and Heritage Training were of particular interest to both groups. The attendees identified that the potential to learn new skills, train and receive accredited certificates could help them to gain employment by highlighting their achievements to potential employers and to widen their awareness of other job and career opportunities. It was suggested this should be directly linked to the Employability Fund³, which supports young people to study and find employment. However, concerns were raised by several of the attendees as to whether any of the welfare benefits they currently received would be adversely affected by volunteering; and noted any negative impact would dissuade them from participating.

The key training areas the attendees expressed an interest in were:

- Power Tool including Chainsaw Training;
- Outdoor and Survival First Aid Training;
- Health & Safety;
- Land Management;
- Archaeological Surveys; and to a lesser extent
- Wildlife Surveying.

All of these were identified as helping to develop new skills, increase confidence and improve employability.

3 <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/our-products/employability-fund/>

Appendix 1

Themed Sub-Projects

Group	Project	Details
Restore	Meadows	Active meadow restoration, monitoring of botanical and invertebrate populations, other habitat management.
Restore	Parklands	Neater and more coherent landscapes surrounding the key access point to Callander from the North.
Restore	Rivers	Access to greater understanding of the Teith and tributaries as a Special Area of Conservation.
Restore	Black Grouse Project	Access to greater understanding of the Black Grouse as key species decline.
Restore	Woodlands	Social forestry experiences, healthy activity with a focus on improved wellbeing, guided walks, John Muir Awards and key species such as red squirrels.
Restore	Dark Skies	Great access to the night sky and a reason to visit Callander in the winter months.
Restore	Heritage Grants	
Restore & Explore	Falls of Leny	Improved access to this well known tourist site. This project is the 'lynch-pin' of the scheme.
Explore	Callander Crag Paths	Improved access to Callander Crag, plus complete connection from town to Bracklinn Falls. Better signposting, interpretation and a greater range of activities available within the Crag (guided walks, informal play area). This would help establish the Crag as a 'Heritage Hub'.
Explore	Leny Woods Path	Circular walk from Leny Woods Car Park to Corriechrombie Bridge, across a newly installed bridge above the Falls of Leny and a restored Victorian Walkway. This would help establish Leny Woods as another 'Heritage Hub'.
Explore	Little Leny Meadow Path	Access from the cycle path and only a short distance from Callander Meadows to a 'heritage hub' with views of the river from the Buchanan Burial Ground and access to a restored meadow.
Explore	Ben Gullipen Paths	Access to a viewpoint showcasing the Highland Boundary Fault with interpretation on geo-diversity.
Explore	Poetry Trail	Water-Line access to Loch Lubnaig to extend the experience from two isolated car parks, joining them together and with interpretation of poetry along the way.
Explore	Kilmahog Path	
Research	Oral History	Listen to recordings of members of the community talking about Callander's recent history.
Research	Archive Digitisation	Instant research opportunities and access to photos, documents and newspapers all within the context of Callander's heritage.
Research	Heritage Audit, Survey & Excavation	Hands-on archaeology activities and 'cleaning-up' key heritage sites.
Research	Gaelic and the Callander Landscape	Greater access to Gaelic through landscape descriptors and typonyms in nature understanding the names given to Callander by Gaelic speaking communities.
Engage	Heritage Apprenticeships	Outdoor adventurous activity provision on an affordable basis and cultural heritage opportunities.
Engage	Volunteering, Education & Engagement	Umbrella project.
Engage	Path Signage	Better access around the Callander landscape.
Engage	Web Development	GIS ESRI enabled story-map to facilitate better intellectual and physical access to Callander's heritage.
Engage	Communication	Umbrella project.
Engage	Events Program	Heritage theme activities such as: Highland Games, Summerfest Heritage Characters, guided walks etc.
Engage	Interpretation	Opportunities to better understand Callander's landscape and the Gaelic language.

Appendix 2

Focus Group Topic Guide

Each of the two focus groups will be facilitated by Dr Nicki Souter, with notes and observations recorded by Hamish Martin with each group lasting approximately 1.5 hours. The format for the Focus Groups will involve using a pre-agreed Topic Guide as detailed below and a visual presentation to support and facilitate the discussion. Findings from the two groups will be analysed and a short summary report will be produced.

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome all group members, record names and explain purpose of discussion. The facilitator will introduce herself and the note taker and will then ask each of the attendees to briefly introduce themselves. The Focus Group rules and anonymity assurances will be provided to the Group members before the discussion starts.

Brief Description of Purpose of Group

We are carrying out a public consultation on behalf of the Callander Landscape Partnership, part of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority. The National Park Authority is looking to change the way Callander and the surrounding landscape is managed, understood and celebrated. The intention being that residents of and visitors to Callander will be able to enjoy and appreciate the cultural, historical and natural features in the local area, whilst moving Callander towards becoming the outdoor capital of the National Park.

This group is to find out about your opinions of Callander and the surrounding landscape and area.

Background for Facilitator Only

Landscape Partnership Schemes are required to deliver against all nine of the HLF outcomes and partnerships are encouraged to develop a series of scheme focused outcomes, connecting HLF's outcomes to the scheme delivery plan. Our Volunteering and Engagement project is concerned with the HLF outcomes:

- *People and particularly young people will have developed a wider range of heritage skills, knowledge and understanding; connections will be made to national accreditation schemes;*
- *More people and a wider range of people will know about heritage;*
- *More people and a wider range of people will have volunteered their time via an engaging and broad range of opportunities;*
- *More people and a wider range of people will visit Callander; with visitor stay encouraged (first part).*

Funding from the HLF will bring a Volunteer and Engagement Officer who will bring new audiences to Callander, matching individuals with opportunities provided through the core CLP scheme.

Part 1: Current Visiting Behaviour

Note and record

Attendees who have visited

So just to start off, can I please ask if anyone here has visited Callander and the surrounding area?

- Explore with each attendee:
 - Reason for visit
 - Types of activities (shopping, walking, cycling, heritage, volunteering)
 - Specific locations within Callander and surrounding area (Falls of Leny and Leny Woods, Callander Crags and Bracklinn Falls, The Meadows, Town Centre, Ben Gullipen, Loch Lubnaig, Woodland, to record – explore views and opinions of each which are mentioned)
 - Frequency of visit
- Explore motivation and behaviour when visiting
- Explore reasons for choosing Callander
- Explore positives and negatives associated with visiting Callander
- Benefits and opportunities to improve visitor experience

Attendees who haven't visited

For those attendees who have not visited Callander and the surrounding area, can I please ask what are the main reasons you have never visited this area before?

- Explore awareness and understanding of the range of opportunities and activities that Callander presents, and the perception associated with this area (positive/negative)
- Explore awareness of area, potentially to include:
 - Town Centre
 - Falls of Leny and Leny Woods;
 - Little Leny Meadows;
 - Callander Crags and Bracklinn Falls;
 - Loch Lubnaig;
 - Woodland;
 - Ben Gullipen;
- Explore barriers such as: transport, cost, motivation, inaccessibility, lack of information and knowledge, negative perception of area.
- What, if anything, would encourage you to visit Callander and the surrounding area?
- How could this be facilitated?

Part 2: Woodland Activity Taster

Background Information for Facilitator

People treasure woodland and because of the relatively sheltered nature of woodland, it is the perfect place to invite people to reconnect with nature. The CLP hopes to use a program of social-forestry or woodland activities to support people who do not have an existing relationship with the Callander landscape, to take a first step towards becoming involved with the Callander Landscape Partnership.

This part of the Focus Group will explore the attendees' opinions, barriers and facilitators and willingness to take part in Woodland Activity Taster sessions at various locations around Callander; for example; at Callander Crags and Leny Woods.

A brief description of what a woodland taster activity would be described to the attendees. 'Typically, a woodland taster activity would last for half a day from 10am – 2pm and could include a combination of the following: natural artwork, practical conservation tasks like installing bat/bird boxes, building a pond, planting native trees, red squirrel conservation, path construction, rhododendron bashing and managing existing woodland. Lunch would be provided in the woodland which gives people a chance to chat, swap stories and share aspirations for future involvement. These activities would be run by a Volunteer and Engagement Officer. Other support provided would include transport to and from Callander, and protective clothing, safety equipment etc.

Facilitator will describe the taster day and explore the attendees' immediate response to this suggestion, noting positive and negative opinion.

- Explore willingness to participate and the barriers and facilitators to this;
- What would encourage and enable you to participate, for example: transport to and from location; if friends and family also participated; more information; etc.
- If the incentives were not included would this prevent you from attending?
- Explore each of the activities suggested and willingness to engage for each of the specific activities:
 - Natural artwork;
 - Installing bat/bird boxes;
 - Building a pond;
 - Planting native trees;
 - Red squirrel conservation;
 - Path construction;
 - Rhododendron bashing;
 - Managing existing woodland
 - Lunch to chat, swap stories and share aspirations for future involvement
- What's the best way of getting in touch with you about these opportunities and activities?
- What would be the best way of getting people in this local area to consider engaging?
- Are there any local community groups/organisations who might be interested in taking up this type of opportunity?

Part 3: Other Opportunities to Get Involved

This part of the Focus Group will explore the attendees' opinions, barriers and facilitators and willingness to get further involved. The facilitator will briefly describe the other types of activities that people could get involved in:

Conservation Volunteering Opportunities – linked to John Muir Discovery Award* where you commit to a minimum of 4 days taking part in the following types of activities.

Explore willingness, facilitators and barriers for each of the following:

- Dark skies i.e. volunteering to monitor 'darkness' and light pollution as we bid to designate a Dark Skies Discovery Site
- River conservation i.e. river bank recovery, water vole/ fish surveys/ invertebrate surveys
- Hay Meadow conservation i.e. invertebrate / botanical surveys, habitat restoration
- Path building
- Woodland management i.e. more of the same as set out above
- Dry-stone walling
- Tree planting

Heritage Focussed Activities

Explore willingness, facilitators and barriers for each of the following:

- Archaeological surveys i.e. walk overs, mapping and potentially excavation
- Adopting key heritage sites e.g. historic burial grounds to restore stone work, clear, maintain and survey
- Archive digitisation i.e. training to be able to scan the Callander archive
- Investigating Gaelic and its connection to the landscape through community learning, mapping of place names and a Gaelic language art project

Countryside and Heritage Training Opportunities

Explore willingness, facilitators and barriers for each of the following:

- Informal learning to boost knowledge of wildlife and wildlife management e.g. red squirrel, pine martin, hay-meadow botanicals, trees, otter, water vole, bats
- Learning wildlife survey techniques
- Accredited training in land management and access e.g. upland path construction
- Accredited training in outdoor first aid, health and safety and/or power tools such as chainsaw/ strimmer
- Heritage restoration such as cleaning and preserving stonework and uncovering stone inscriptions
- Archaeological skills such as walkover survey, mapping and excavation

Background Information for Facilitator

**The CLP hopes to use the John Muir Discovery Award to engage the public with Callander and the surrounding area, providing opportunities to connect with the natural landscape. This award is part of the larger John Muir Award, an environmental award scheme, which:*

- *Focuses on wild places;*
- *Helps people connect with nature;*
- *It's for people of all backgrounds and ages – groups, families, individuals;*
- *Is non-competitive*

The award helps people appreciate the landscape, encourages awareness and responsibility, and promotes personal development. The Discovery Award would mean people participating for a 4 day (or equivalent) minimum time commitment to achieve the award and can then move on through to the Explorer and Conserver Awards.

Thank and Close