



THE NEVIS STRATEGY 2020-40

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WELCOME TO THE NEW NEVIS STRATEGY 2020-40

The document, **Evolving the Nevis Strategy**, aims to briefly present the background which helped to set out our proposed direction of travel and priorities for the next 20 years as detailed in this **Nevis Strategy 2020-40** document. The team here at Nevis Landscape Partnership are excited about the role we can play, alongside our partners, the community and stakeholders, to care for the stunning and unique Nevis landscape.

We are always keen to hear the views of those with an interest in the Nevis area. Should you have any comments about this document, or any other questions, please email info@nevispartnership.co.uk.

Both documents can be found on our website: www.nevispartnership.co.uk/library

100 YEAR VISION

The Nevis landscape will be a place of contrasts; not only wild land, but also a land inhabited by those who work, live and visit the area. It will bring together both the local community and visitors whose passion for this beautiful landscape will create an interdependent relationship between the landscape and people that is thoughtful, sustainable and stable.

The Nevis landscape will be a mosaic of habitats complete with established native woodland. It will be a biodiverse area brimming with life; Ben Nevis and Glen Nevis will be iconic not only for the highest peak in Britain, but more importantly, for a healthy wild ecosystem, connected to neighbouring landscapes via wildlife corridors, and capable of mitigating the negative effects of climate change.

By collectively caring for our landscape, we will have learned to reduce our impact on nature and in the process secure not only the future of the area but also our own health and wellbeing.

LÈIRSINN 100 BLIADHNA

Bidh cruth-tìre Nibheis na àite far a bheil eadar-dhealachaidhean mòra ann; chan ann a-mhàin le fearann fiadhaich, ach cuideachd mar sgìre far a bheil gu leòr luchd-obrach, luchd-còmhnaidh agus luchd-tadhail. Bheir e còmhla an dà chuid a' choimhearsnachd ionadail agus luchd-tadhail aig a bheil ùidh mhòr sa chruth-tìre àlainn seo agus dàimh eadar-eisimeileach a chruthachadh eadar an cruth-tìre agus na daoine a bhios smaoinichail, seasmhach agus leantainneach.

Bidh cruth-tìre Nibheis na mhosàig de dh'àrainnean, a' gabhail a-steach coilltean dùthchasach stèidhichte. Bidh e na àite a tha làn bith-iomadachd agus beatha; bidh Beinn Nibheis agus Gleann Nibheis suaicheanta, chan ann a-mhàin airson na beinne as àirde ann am Breatainn, ach nas cudromaiche, airson eag-shiostam fiadhaich fallain, a tha ceangailte ri cruthan-tìre eile faisg air làimh tro thrannsaichean fiadh-bheatha, agus a bhios comasach air droch bhuaidh atharrachadh na gnàth-shìde a lùghdachadh.

Le bhith a' coimhead às dèidh a' chruth-tìre againn còmhla, bidh sinn air ionnsachadh mar a bheir sinn lùghdachadh air a' bhuaidh againn air nàdar agus le bhith a' dèanamh seo, bheir sinn deagh bhuaidh an dà chuid air an sgìre san àm ri teachd, ach cuideachd air ar slàinte is sunnd fhèin.



“This is a landscape of massive proportions, breath-taking grandeur and great variety. It offers the highest altitude and greatest vertical relief in Britain.”

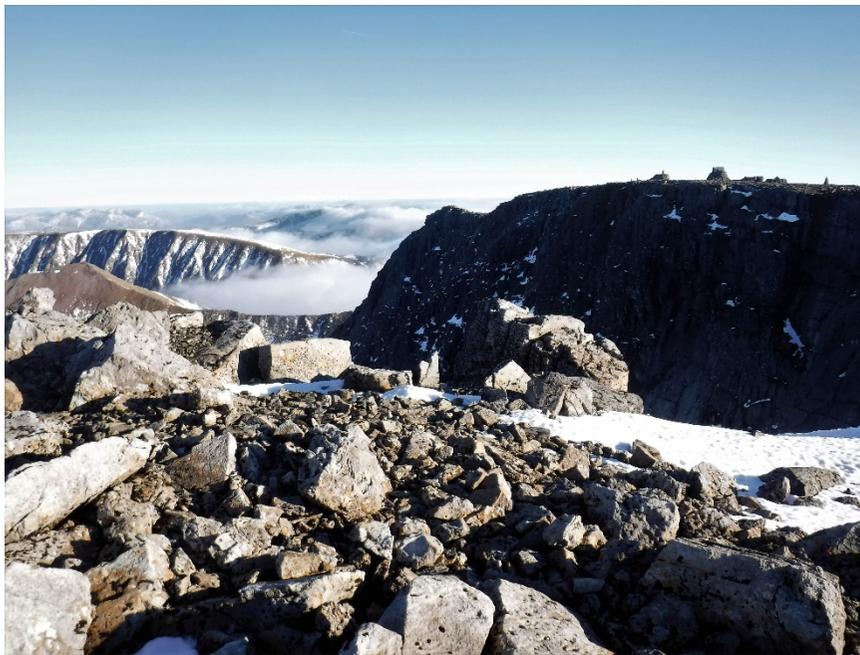
Extract from: Scottish Natural Heritage (2010). The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas. SNH Commissioned Report No.374.

Sunrise over the summit of Ben Nevis ©Alex Farquhar

THE NEVIS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP WILL COLLABORATE TO DELIVER THE 100-YEAR VISION.

A Scottish charity, formed in 2002 to care for the natural and cultural heritage and wild land areas of Ben Nevis and surrounding landscape, The Nevis Landscape Partnership (NLP) promotes thoughtful enjoyment and appreciation of Ben Nevis and Glen Nevis.

We work in partnership and cooperation with a range of local and national organisations, landowners, and stakeholders to maintain and improve the path network and visitor facilities, promote initiatives which maintain a healthy ecosystem for wildlife, and develop immersive and meaningful learning and engagement activities.



OPERATING WITHIN THE NEVIS AREA FOR THE NEVIS AREA

Ben Nevis (1345m) is an international Scottish icon; a landmark recognised beyond our shores. As the highest mountain in the British Isles it has economic and reputational value on a national scale, sitting at the heart of the Outdoor Capital of the United Kingdom. More profoundly, it has deep cultural and environmental significance, with a large part lying within the SSSI.

The encompassing mountain landscape of Glen Nevis constitutes one of Scotland's most accessible and cherished National Scenic Areas (NSA). The high profile and national importance of the area attract more than 350,000 visitors annually and managing the complex tensions between recreation and conservation is critical in securing the future of the Nevis landscape and its wild land areas.

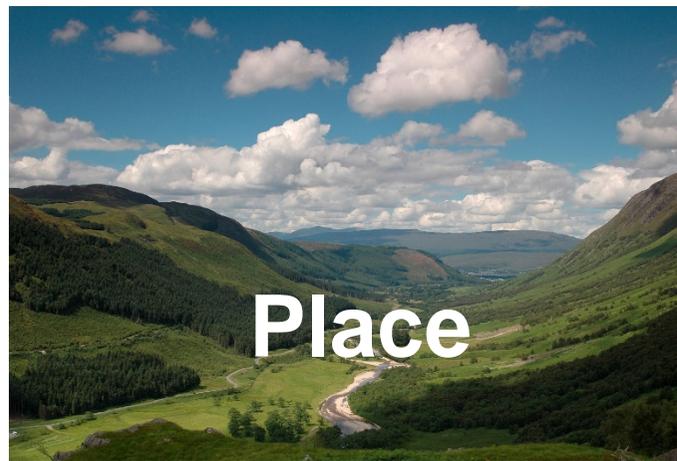
AIMS OF THE NEVIS STRATEGY

To present a long-term vision for the Nevis area and present the strategic framework for considered and holistic action to be taken to care for and promote the enjoyment and understanding of the Nevis landscape; it's wild land, and it's natural and cultural heritage.

The Strategy is grounded in the belief that a landscape's natural and cultural components form a whole, and highlights the importance of helping organisations, the community and stakeholders recognise the value of the landscape, and of working together to take part in decision making.

The strategy is aligned with the Fort William 2040 Development Plan, Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity, The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, and the European Landscape Convention.

As an advisory document, the Strategy does not commit any organisations to specific actions, but seeks to provide an agenda for cooperation, community-led solutions and partnership action, which can be agreed by organisations and individuals with interests in the Nevis Area. In that respect, the strategy seeks to support and develop initiatives within three important themes: People, Place, and Community, with delivery underpinned by five key principles.



People

People will:

- be welcomed and inspired to explore, to get involved, and to learn;
- be provided with the infrastructure and information to promote sustainable and thoughtful access to the Nevis area, allowing everyone to make informed choices and have a positive experience;
- be encouraged to take responsibility and adopt behaviours which result in an *'Impact Positive'* experience for the environment, local community and businesses operating in the area; and
- have the opportunity to participate in activities which promote the health and wellbeing benefits of spending time immersed in nature.



Mindfulness tree planting day in Glen Nevis ©NLP

Place

The strategy will support:

- initiatives which promote a healthy ecosystem, generating a mosaic of habitats with both open and closed canopy and a significant length of woodland edge;
- natural initiatives which mitigate flood risk such as revegetation of the catchment area up-stream and peatland restoration;
- awareness raising campaigns regarding non-native invasive species, working with landowners to eradicate these in Nevis area and provide training and support for communities in other areas dealing with this issue;
- a monitoring programme to facilitate greater understanding of the landscape, its uses, strengths and weaknesses in order to develop environmental projects based on robust evidence and need;
- initiatives which develop knowledge and understanding of the cultural heritage of the area through research, participation and care of existing assets;
- responding to planning applications in Glen Nevis line with the proposals set out in the Nevis Strategy 2001 and as detailed in the *Evolving the Nevis Strategy* document section 6.2.6.



Community

The community will:

- be involved in decision making processes regarding the management of the Nevis landscape and visitor impact.
- become more resilient through the development of a community hub; bringing together the local, visiting and business communities as well as communities of interest to share ideas and knowledge, and allow new partnerships to develop.

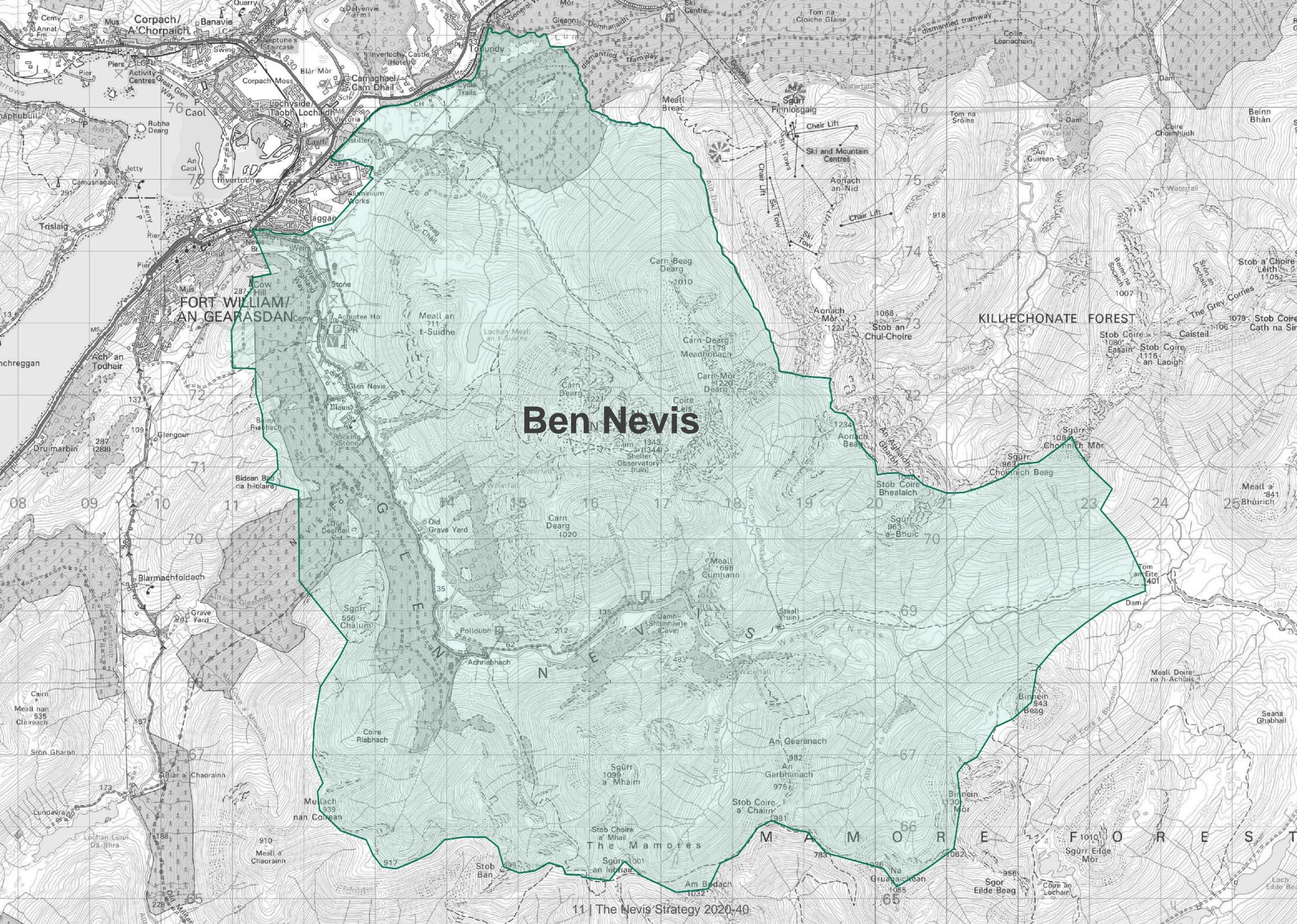


DELIVERING THE NEVIS STRATEGY 2020-40

Funding is a key component, alongside collaboration and coordination however, the NLP is fundamental to the delivery of the strategy. Therefore, aligned with this strategy for the Nevis Area, is the strategy for the NLP to become self-sustaining by 2024 by transitioning into a social enterprise model of operation. This then, would enable us to continue to facilitate and deliver a long-term, collaborative, landscape scale response to caring for the Nevis area.

It is at the core of the Nevis Partnership's mission statement and overarching themes that we should work in partnership to bring meaningful benefits to the area and it remains our key mode of operation. The following principles will underpin and guide the implementation of the Nevis Strategy:

- **People-centred** – we will take a people-centred and forward-looking approach to reconcile management of our cultural and natural heritage with the social and economic challenges of the future and reconnect people with place. We will provide a forum for developing community / stakeholder led solutions.
- **Sustainable** - management which safeguards and, where appropriate, enhances environmental and cultural conditions and qualities of the area, whilst meeting the needs and aspirations of landowners, stakeholders, the community and visitors, without compromising the area's values and future opportunities.
- **Balanced** – It seeks to welcome visitors and the local community into Glen Nevis but understands that managing the complex tensions between recreation and conservation, together with the impacts on residents and businesses within Glen Nevis are critical considerations. The strategy takes the view that all activity taking place in fragile environments must be strategic and holistic so that problems are not simply displaced elsewhere.
- **Action Oriented** – we are committed to action and investment where it is required to provide the heritage management and standards of visitor provision and management, which match the natural qualities and tourism and recreational importance of the Nevis Area.
- **Knowledge** – We will support and encourage all types of participation (e.g. learning, volunteering, wellbeing, behaviour change etc) which promotes a greater understanding, care and appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage.

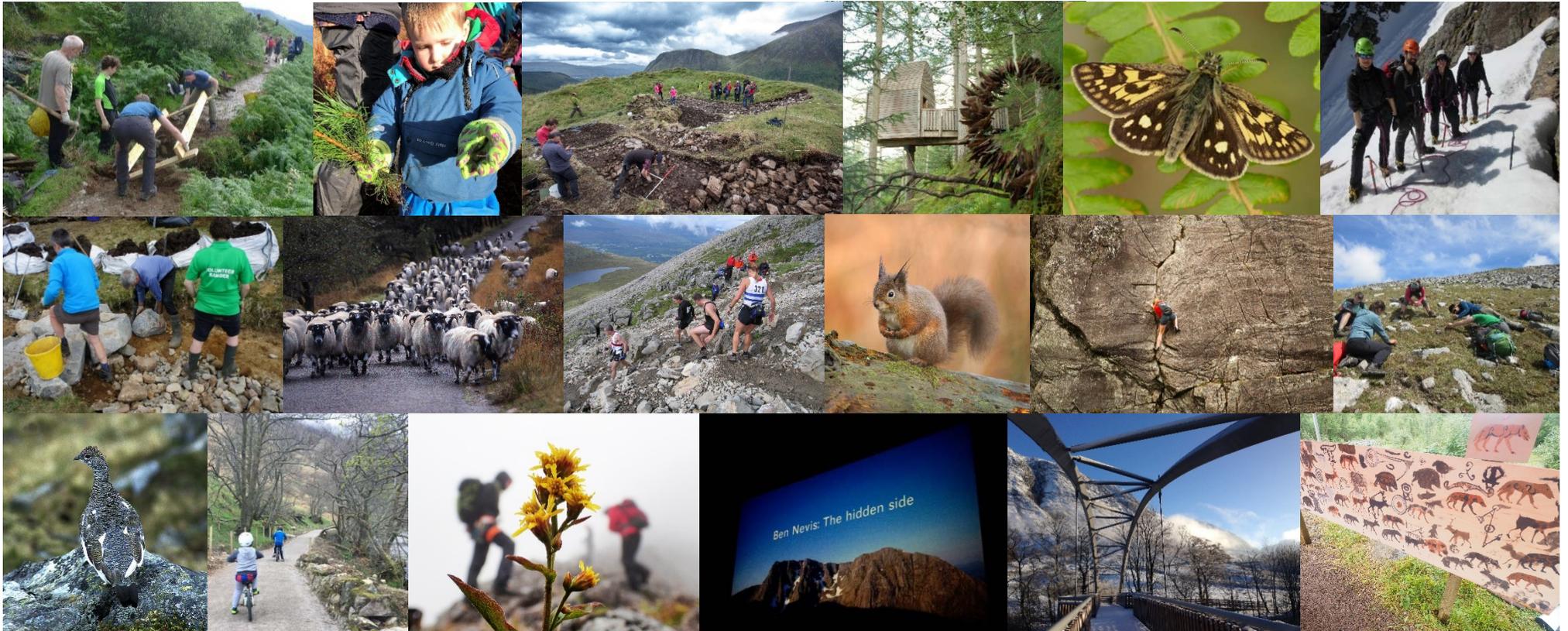


Ben Nevis

THE ACTION PLAN

We understand that managing the complex tensions between recreation and conservation, together with the impacts on residents and businesses within Glen Nevis, are critical considerations. We aim to find community solutions to issues and share the view that all activity taking place in fragile environments must be strategic and holistic so that problems are not simply displaced elsewhere.

This Action Plan provides a cohesive programme made up of a 'menu' of projects, from which individual projects, or groups of projects, may be developed and delivered as resources, funding and consents become available.



PEOPLE



PROGRAMME	OVERVIEW	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Welcome to Nevis!	Develop a 'sense of place' for the Glen Nevis Corridor whilst respecting the branding of the landowners within the Glen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know Before You Go – provide visitor information in a range of formats / platforms to allow informed choices to be made before the visit 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver a holistic waymarking and interpretation project for the Glen Nevis Corridor 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranger Pods to be located key locations, to be manned by seasonal rangers 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with UHI to promote Slow Adventure in and around Nevis 	2
Blazing the Trail	Develop the path network to allow greater choice of activity or route for a wide range of abilities, dispersing people around the area, creating the impression of a quieter, more peaceful area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Glen Nevis Heritage Trail – low level circular route (22km) 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mamores Access project – Repair the paths at the access points to control erosion at these locations. 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meall an t'Suidhe Circular - a mid-level circular route (8km) 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Highlands Way – investigate the possibilities of working with neighbouring estates to link up paths to create a route from Fort William to Strathspey. 	3
Wheels around Glen Nevis	Develop promotional activity and infrastructure to support bike, pram, wheelchair and mobility scooter access in and around Glen Nevis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop route information for the 'Know before You Go' project. 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide bike rental and mobility hub in Glen Nevis 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Bike racks at strategic locations 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an annual family orientated 'Wheels around Glen Nevis' festival 	2
Visitor Amenity	A suite of projects to improve visitor experience through improved facilities at existing hub locations. People will be encouraged to use public transport, bikes or walking to access Glen Nevis rather than private vehicles to ease congestion and pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a hop on/off shuttle bus service for Glen Nevis in partnership with a local provider to reduce private vehicle use in Glen Nevis. 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with The Highland Council to develop motorhome park and ride / waste disposal/ laundry facilities out with Glen Nevis. 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install interpretation, bike racks, picnic areas and toilets at key hub locations. 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install water refill points in Glen Nevis and work with local businesses to reduce the sale of single use water bottles. 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote leave no trace principles and the Outdoor Access Code. 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install and monitor a suite of people and vehicle counters at strategic locations to provide accurate information to inform future projects. 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a traffic management strategy for upper Glen Nevis 	1



PLACE

Glen Nevis looking towards Fort William
©Alex Gillespie

PROGRAMME	OVERVIEW	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Healthy Ecosystem	Engage with landowners to support initiatives which promote a healthy ecosystem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate a mosaic of habitats with both open and closed canopy and a significant length of woodland edge 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish area wide monitoring programmes for natural regeneration, habitat and wildlife 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install cattle grid at lower falls to eliminate sheep grazing in the SSSI 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a tree nursery to support woodland regeneration and provide training opportunities 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat improvement for key species including chequered skipper, black grouse, red squirrel, water voles etc. 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben Nevis Weather Station – sharing the story of weather monitoring on Ben Nevis and increase understanding of climate change and how it threatens our remote and rare wild montane areas. 	3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of projects with neighbours – a concerted collaborative effort to deliver natural heritage improvements over a much wider area with cumulative benefits. 	3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian woodland and scrub development 	3
Natural Flood and pollution Mitigation	Engage with landowners where opportunities exist to mitigate the effects of flooding and pollution in and around Glen Nevis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revegetation of the catchment area through general woodland expansion and targeted riparian woodland development. 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peatland feasibility and restoration in the catchment area 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with landowner to create woodland around the area of the Ben Nevis Industrial Estate. 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waters of Nevis project – a learning and engagement project looking at the whole length of the river, it's habitats, wildlife, characteristics and seasonality. 	2
Deer management	Engage with landowners and local Deer Management Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Herbivore Impact monitoring training 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collate monitoring information to inform future deer management schemes in the area 	1
Invasive species	Looking at non-native and native invasive species?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhododendron Ponticum – awareness raising and providing training in the Lever and Mulch method of removal. 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with landowners to have a Ponticum free Glen Nevis by 2025 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mink monitoring and trapping 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skunk Cabbage – engage with landowners to remove all from Glen Nevis by 2025 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with landowners and tenant farmer to select areas of bracken for a programme of control, to enable species rich grassland to re-establish. 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the spread of Ragwort in compliance with the Scottish Government Guidance on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the area for evidence of feral pigs spreading into Glen Nevis from nearby Leanachan Forest. 	1

Development in Glen Nevis	Caring for the character of the Nevis Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> respond to planning applications in Glen Nevis line with the proposals set out in the Nevis Strategy 2001 and as detailed in the Evolving the Nevis Strategy document section 6.2.6. 	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form a Development and Planning Steering Group to work with the local community, landowners and stakeholders to develop a Local Place Plan for the Nevis area. 	1
It's our History	Engage with landowners to devise a programme to care for the cultural assets in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Cultural Officer post to develop cultural engagement activities, guided walks and devise a care plan for physical cultural assets in Glen Nevis 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral history project – audio and/or visual record of stories from the area 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar to increase Gaelic learning opportunities in Glen Nevis 	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage a cultural volunteer programme carrying out research and maintenance of cultural assets 	2

COMMUNITY



PROGRAMME	OVERVIEW	PROJECTS	PRIORITY
Community Empowerment	Create a Field Centre in Glen Nevis to promote greater understanding of and involvement in the care of our landscapes.	• Create shared office space to facilitate closer partnership working and sharing of resources.	1
		• Create a hub to facilitate exchange of ideas between different groups.	1
		• Provide training facilities and opportunities to attract people who are less well represented in caring for the Nevis area	1
		• Create a hub and tool store for volunteering and community action.	1
		• Develop programme of Citizen Science survey work	
		• Engage communities of interest to develop their involvement in the care of the landscape	1
		• Provide accommodation for visiting volunteer groups and training course participants	1
	Sustain a culture of community engagement and involvement.	• Provide a forum for the community to be involved in decision making, through focus / steering groups	1
	Promote diversity in participation.	• School engagement project with local and national schools	2
		• Develop Rural Skills programme for high school students with UHI	2
• Develop community engagement programme in collaboration with partner organisations and other third sector organisations.			
	• Join with organisations in other areas to review the Outdoor Access Code.	2	
Community Deer Management	Testing new ideas in deer management.	• Involve the community in Herbivore Impact monitoring	2
		• Pilot a community deer management scheme.	2
Nevis Ambassadors	Support and empowerment	• Support and empower individuals and community groups to champion the special qualities of the Nevis area.	1

FURTHER READING

Evolving the Nevis Strategy

This companion to the Nevis Strategy 2019-39 seeks to review the Nevis Strategy 2001, Nevis Strategy 2008, the Landscape Conservation Action Plan 2014 as well as considering changing government priorities, local plans and trends to provide the current context which underpins the Nevis Strategy 2019-2039.

The Nevis Strategy 2020-40 Feedback Survey

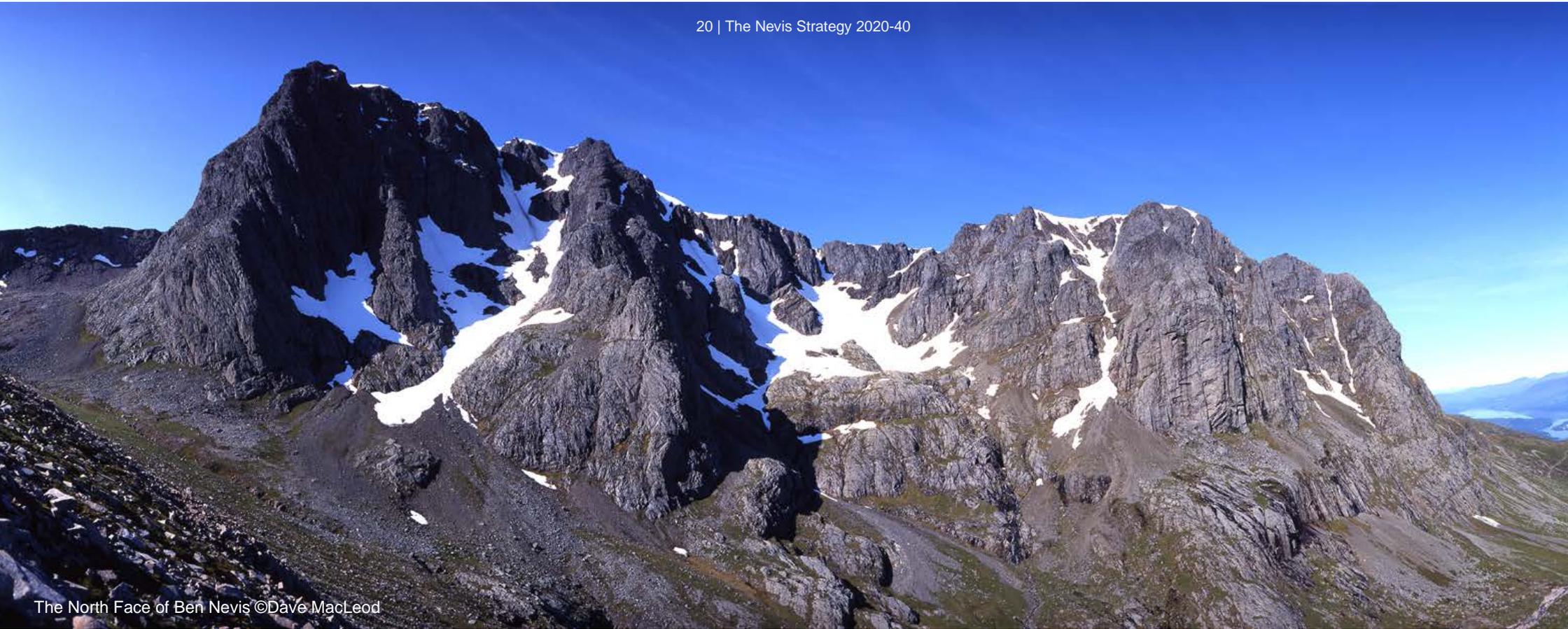
The Landscape Conservation Action Plan 2014

The Nevis Strategy 2008

The Nevis Strategy 2001

(All available on our website www.nevispartnership.co.uk/library)

Future Forest, Scots pine seedlings
©NLP



The North Face of Ben Nevis ©Dave MacLeod

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