

Litter and access on west Loch Lomondside by Nick Halls

Description

On Monday I drove along the A 82 stopping at laybys & sites used for camping along the Loch side. Most of the land is owned by Luss Estates who last year blamed campers for the state of the country-side <http://lussestates.co.uk/news/litter-problem-worsens-wild-campers> Apart from the usual litter thrown from car traffic, which is ubiquitous throughout Scotland, the laybys showed evidence of fly tipping, some of it gross & used as toilet stops.



Litter across the fence from the Auchentullich layby on land that appears owned by Luss Estates



Flytipping Auchentullich layby

Traditional camping sites along the Loch side that will be included in the area covered by the camping byelaws were generally quite litter free, and the litter in evidence could have been picked up in five minutes. I got the impression that by laws are not motivated by environmental concern but sociological considerations, and LL&TNP have been pushed into implementing such an arrangement by residents rather than visitors. I was struck by the fact that fly tipping material looked as if it was local rather than imported, builders waste, refuse that could have been taken to a tip & farm waste tossed over a fence [pretty common throughout rural Scotland].



Flytipping Auchentullich layby



Abandoned farm fence within what appears to be Luss Estates land



Abandoned farm litter – you can see the source over the wall. Again this appears to be Luss Estates land



Fly tipping stank A82

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The visit to the head of Loch Long revealed the usual post winter mess of wind & tide born rubbish [which seems to be being cleared by piling it in a heap half way down the tidal zone.] As this is the only marine salt marsh habitat in the NP it struck me that environmental concerns must be low on the agenda of the LL&TNP Board.



Rubbish Head Loch Long



A half-completed attempt to collect rubbish at Loch Long. When campers bundle up litter the Park calls it irresponsible

From my perspective litter is litter from whatever source it derives, and that left by even the most degenerate of campers is trivial compared with that derived from other

sources. If litter matters then it is hard to understand why so much attention is focused on roadside campers as they are probably the least of the NP problems if the environment matters. A visit to NP facilities at Firkin Point revealed that the toilets are closed until 31 March & the car park at 16.00. This suggests that the NP has very little notion of what offering a service to visitors means. The message I get is that the NP sees its responsibilities as restricting services, limiting access to facilities & addressing any problem through exclusion.



I have visited most of the National & regional Parks in Western Europe the contrast is stark – visitors from abroad must be pretty confused if they arrive at Glasgow Airport then visit the NP & discover it is being operated like a town park, with closed facilities,

restricted opening hours, litter everywhere & park rangers evolving into enforcement officers for bye laws that seem to contradict the very purpose of a NP.

Category

1. Loch Lomond and Trossachs
2. National Parks

Tags

1. Camping bye laws
2. Litter
3. LLTNPA
4. Tourism

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