

On The Spot Report – Loch Earn, Rangers thin on the ground

Description

ON THE SPOT REPORT

Destruction of the environment continues unabated at accessible popular locations where Rangers are just not in attendance – how is this able to take place at Loch Earn?



1. Criminal behaviour continues unabated, with byelaws failing to make any difference.

Thank to Mechelle Rafferty for her permission to reproduce her experience as an “On the Spot Report”

Another great example of responsible leave no trace camping at a popular spot on Loch Earn with the now familiar tales of paying visitors having endure the accruing mess left by others and again having to clear up the mess of other non paying litter louts.

Report begins: 3rd June 2017 Loch Earn

They were nice enough, two of them, asked if we had a permit. I said no and that we'd only just seen the signs and no internet signal, which was true. So the other one said “I can help with that” and asked if we would be willing to purchase one. So I said yes. One of them gave me his phone and put me through to register details as they can only take card payment, not cash.



To be fair, they were nice enough and only doing their job, one was taking lots of notes and some pictures of further along the shore, as I said we'd went to one shore to camp just along, and one side had rave music blaring from a tent, and another had loads of guys fishing, shouting and swearing and swigging out of cans so we moved on.

It didn't take long to register details and when I eventually got a signal they email a copy of your permit and advise you screenshot it in case there is no signal.

The following night,(Sunday) we were going to camp elsewhere but decided to go back to Loch Earn, different shore, so I just phoned up for a permit just in case, and again was done in two minutes.



I just wish they never caught me half asleep as I wanted to ask things like, what if we book a permit in future, turn up and it's full of non permit holders, as no one came round on the Friday, Sunday or Monday, or the last time we were there, and what if there's mess left after we leave the place clean, although I told them I always take before, during and after pics and videos anyway, and what about the day trippers, who were leaving rubbish, building fires and just leaving them etc, and chopping down and burning live trees?

So I'll be more aware should they come round again. I don't grudge the £3 per tent, it's the principle of it.

I did ask if anyone had had the £500 fine, but as it's new, not so far although folk refusing to give details or buy a permit and they openly said they don't have the manpower to police it.



Here's some of the mess at all three shores, A, B AND C before we left on Monday, plus we had to tidy up some too. The first two are two of our "leave no trace" pics.



Here's a wee video of our story about the permits and rangers at Loch Earn and our leave no trace at the end. There's a bit music in it that suits the neds so due to copyright might not play on a mobile device. I always take before, during and after pics of every single camp

Report Ends

Thanks Mechelle for that very interesting report it makes a lot of very important points and equally raises many questions that need to be answered.

Additional observations by Ross MacBeath

The threat of criminal charges is ruining the Visitor Experience

Both Mechelle's and the views [expressed in the previous posts](#) demonstrates that visitors feel threatened by the ever present possibility of prosecution for littering and environmental damage they are not responsible for creating, so much so they feel compelled to take "before and after" photographs from their visit as evidence.

Category

1. Loch Lomond and Trossachs

Tags

1. camping
2. Camping bye laws
3. LLTNPA

4. secrecy

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Author

ross-macbeath

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