

The failure of the camping byelaws should be welcomed

Description



I spotted this abandoned tent from A82 on morning 5th July – it was still there that evening and suspiciously been since the weekend

Remember the main way the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority sold the byelaws as being necessary? Multiple photos of abandoned campsites which on closer examination turned out to be the same few campsites photographed from different angles. I will only post 1 photo of the abandoned tent here but there was other detritus which may or may not have been associated with this tent along the shore. The camping byelaws were meant to have stopped this sort of thing happening and clearly haven't and have therefore, according to their original justification failed.



The more important point is that the byelaws have punished the vast majority of campers who are responsible, with the threat to criminalise them if they come here to enjoy the loch shores, while doing very little to change how irresponsible people behave. They either ignore the rules and get away with it as here or just go elsewhere outside the camping management zones and carry on as they always did.



Whether the rubbish left in this photo was left by the campers or day visitors is not clear. Note the o behind the rubbish bags

Its important to get abandoned tents and litter left by some campers in perspective. It would have taken me 10 minutes to clear the whole lot up. I didn't because I have stopped picking up litter in camping management zones. If the LLTNPA does not respect the rights of people who behave responsibly than I am not going to help them in any way solve a problem which is of their own making. Instead I will criticise them for the fact that their Ranger Service, who is meant to drive past here on patrol every day, has done nothing to clear this mess up. They probably don't have the time – not their fault but that of their senior management. The LLTNPA should have enlisted the support of responsible campers and everyone else who cares about the countryside but instead has alienated them.

Everyone who cares about access rights and the countryside should welcome the evidence that the camping byelaws are not working as this will hasten their collapse. Until then there is no chance of developing an approach to managing visitors in the National Park which works with people rather than

against them.

Category

1. Loch Lomond and Trossachs

Tags

1. access rights
2. camping
3. Camping bye laws
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