

Muirburn also causes air pollution

Description



Smoke trapped over Drumochter afternoon 1st March – photo credit Dave Morris

It's the muirburn season (1st October to 15th April). Following my post on muirburn at Mar Lodge ([see here](#)), REVIVE has released film footage of muirburn in the Cairngorms National Park ([see here](#)). This was covered by the Ferret yesterday ([see here](#)).

Parkswatch can add to the concerns about the impact of muirburn on the natural environment with photos taken by Dave Morris as he was heading down the A9 on 1st March. He describes “*coughing and spluttering all the way from Dalwhinnie to Trinafour*” where he spotted the cause of the smoke



The source of the spoke. Photo credit Dave Morris

What happened is that smoke drifted northwards from here and was then trapped by low cloud and so filled the Drumochter.

According to the Muirland Code agreed in 2017:

You MUST NOT:

- Burn between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.
- Burn within 30m of a public road.
- Leave a fire unattended.
- Cause damage to any woodland, neighbours' property or a scheduled monument.
- Create smoke that is a nuisance.
- Endanger anyone's health and/or safety.
- Intentionally or recklessly:
 - Damage the natural features of a SSSI.
 - Harass birds listed in Schedule 1A of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
 - At any time take, damage, destroy or interfere with any nest habitually used by any wild bird included in Schedule A1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Clearly, the advice not to burn within 30m of the road is completely insufficient to prevent a public nuisance in places like Drumochter. Cars create air pollution but muirburn is even worse. What a way to welcome people through the "gateway" to the Cairngorms.

Category

1. Cairngorms

Tags

1. CNPA
2. grouse moors
3. natural environment

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