

The LLTNPA, Mouldsdale Properties and the unauthorised felling of trees at Tarbet

Description



[NB information at end of post updated 15th May]

A number of developers across Scotland appear to have taken advantage of the Covid-19 lockdown to undertake work without appropriate permissions. An example of this is at Ben Cruach House, in Tarbet, which appears to be owned by multi-millionaire, David Mouldsdale, and which was included in the outline plans presented by Mouldsdale Properties Ltd last year for a major new development at Tarbet ([see here](#)).

Parkswatch understands that the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority was notified about the need for emergency work on this land after a tree had blown over in storms in March. It appears, however, that substantially more work has been undertaken, including:

- significant changes to the access onto the A82, which would normally require approval from the roads authority
- the erection of a new fence, which appears to have been undertaken without planning permission from the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority



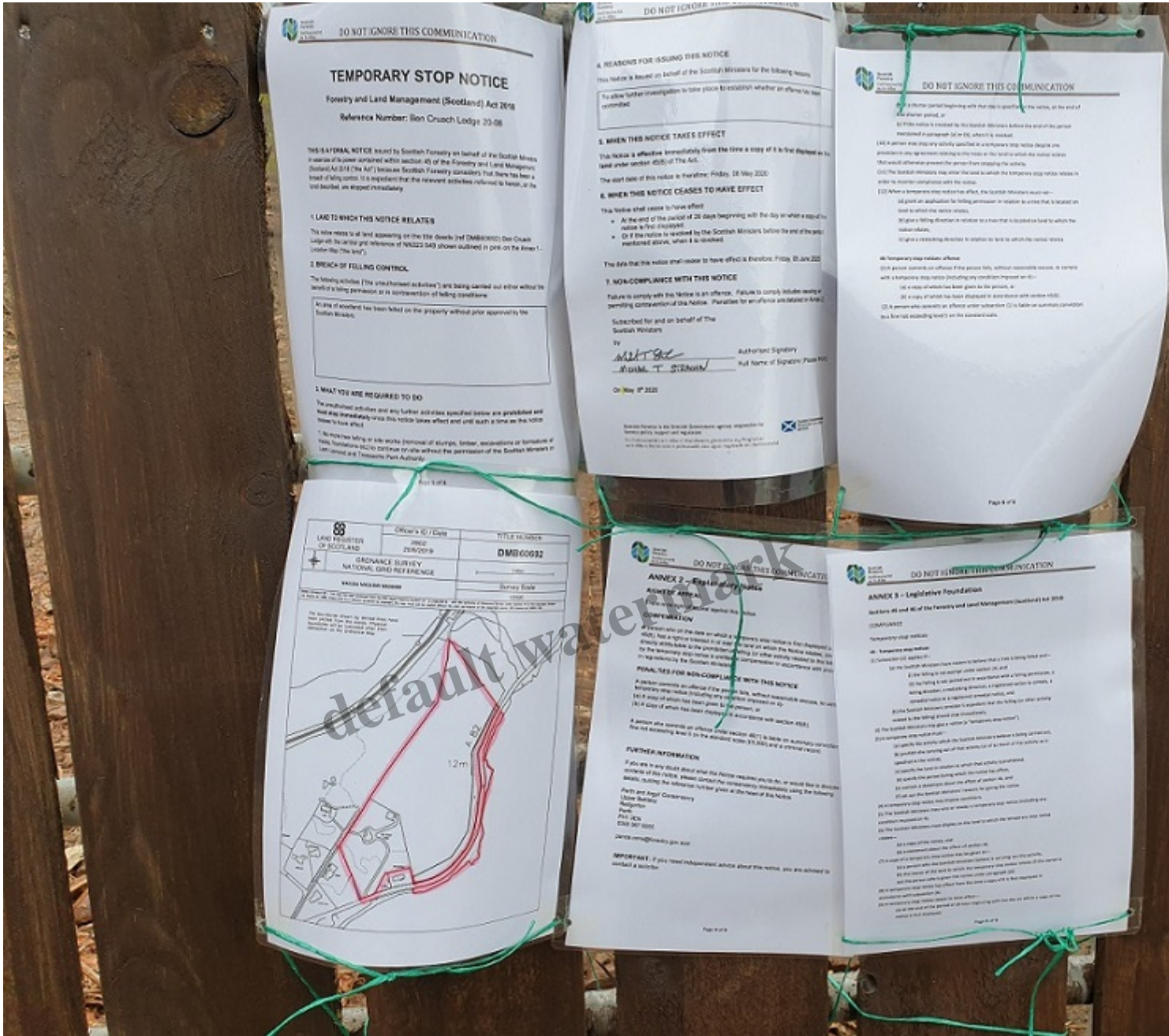
- and the felling of numerous trees, at the entrance adjacent to the neighbouring owner's property, close to the road and further up the hillside and up into the forest, which should have had permission from Forestry Scotland. Clarification is being sought whether any of the work took place in woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory



Photo credit google 2017

This is how the entrance looked BEFORE the work commenced. It will be familiar to many who have driven the A82 heading north out of Tarbet.

Scottish Forestry issued a Stop Notice to Ben Cruach House/Lodge on 8th May which stated “An area of woodland has been felled on the property without prior approval by Scottish Ministers”.



Ross Greer, the Green MSP, notified Forestry Scotland of the tree felling on 7th May and, if that was the first time they had been notified, they acted extremely quickly. All credit to the staff there.

Parkswatch has seen correspondence to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority, dated 20th April, alerting them to the potentially unlawful work. There is no evidence that the LLTNPA then issued any type of stop notice. When the LLTNPA became aware of the unlawful tree felling at Drumkinnon Bay ([see here](#)), they responded immediately issuing by Tree Preservation Orders. That raises the question why they couldn't have taken similar action in this instance?

The area where this apparently unlawful work took place was proposed by Mouldsdale Properties in their consultation last year as a site for luxury lodges. Any full planning application for such a development would normally have to include proposals for upgraded access from the main road and

for felling trees. The recent works appear to have pre-empted any future planning process.

This should be more than a major embarrassment for the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority who raised no objection to the land they own at Tarbet being included in Mouldsdale Properties consultation last year:



The arrow points to the entrance but trees have been felled in the wider area around Ben Cruach House/Lodge. The area in the top right enclosed by the red line was earmarked for luxury lodges adjacent to the A82 which runs along the shore of Loch Lomond

These works should be cause for a fundamental re-think. Besides taking appropriate enforcement action, the LLTNPA should make it quite clear that it will not agree to its land at Tarbet or anywhere else being used to promote the interests of private developers.

[NB FOLLAT have contacted Parkswatch and are checking when they last received sponsorship from Optical Express and it may be that their website needs updating] . What's happened should also cause considerable embarrassment to the Friends of Loch Lomond and Trossachs (I am a member), one of whose major sponsors is David Mouldsdale's Company Optical Express:



It will be interesting to see if the Friends call upon the LLTNPA to take appropriate enforcement action. Scotland needs to find a way of funding its voluntary organisations so they are beholden neither to government nor to business interests.

Category

- 1. Loch Lomond and Trossachs

Tags

- 1. forestry scotland
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