

More anti-access signs, just like Foot and Mouth, at Ledard Farm

Description



Gate at parking area near the start of the main path up Ben Venue from Loch Ard

After my post last week ([see here](#)) on attempts to stop people exercising access rights post-Covid, I was sent these photos from Ledard Farm in Strathard.



The Land Reform Act gave people the right to access fields with livestock and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code states this clearly:

Access rights extend to fields with farm animals, but remember that some animals, particularly cows with calves but also horses, pigs and farmed deer, can react aggressively towards people. Before entering a field, check to see what alternatives there are. If you are in a field of farm animals, keep a safe distance and watch them carefully. If you have a dog with you, see the guidance on dogs.

The Guidance on dogs states:

- *Don't take your dog into fields where there are lambs, calves or other young farm animals*
- *If you go into a field of farm animals, keep your dog(s) on a short lead or close at heel and keep as far as possible from the animals*

The signs are therefore clearly unlawful.

They appear to have been erected by none other than Fergus Wood, farmer and owner of Ledard farm, former Councillor and former Board Member of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority. A few weeks ago I set aside past differences with Mr Wood and praised him for calling publicly on the Call Kaye show ([see here](#)) for farmers to open up their fields to provide additional car parking. While I can appreciate farmers would want payment for doing so, there is absolutely no excuse for him or other farmers trying to stop people from exercising their access rights to enjoy the countryside.

Unfortunately, through saying one thing and doing the opposite, Mr Wood threatens to undermine the credibility of what he was saying on Call Kaye. His proposals there remain sensible, his actions unlawful.

That the LLTNPA's Ranger Service, who pass by these gates on a regular basis while "policing" the camping byelaws in Strathard, have not noticed these signs and taken action, provides further evidence of the National Park's failure to defend access rights.

Category

1. Loch Lomond and Trossachs

Tags

1. access rights
2. LLTNPA

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