

Quick win – Balmoral removes no access sign

Description



After blogging about how this sign breached access rights ten days ago ([see here](#)), I was delighted to be informed by the Cairngorms National Park Authority yesterday that it has now been removed by the Balmoral Estate. The CNPA Access Team have said that they now going to talk further with the estate about a new sign. I trust this will take account of the advice in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code that signs attempting to limit access to forest and woodland for deer stalking purposes “are generally not necessary”.

Since writing the post, I have been contacted by three separate people saying they had seen the signs on occasions going back at least a year. The signs have probably been up a lot longer. Experienced people who know their rights ignore these signs, and rightly so. The issue is that many visitors don't

know their rights and tend to follow “advice” from estates, including the notorious Welcome to the Moor signs ([see here](#)) which imply anyone stepping off a path is damaging wildlife.

This raises the question why more committed outdoor recreationists don’t complain to the access teams in Councils or our two National Park Authorities. I guess part of this is because of the perceived hassle. The Cairngorms National Park Authority, for example, won’t just accept a photo and a grid reference, they require a form to be filled in! It took me a month to fill in the form for the trespass sign at the MacDonald Aviemore Resort ([see here](#)). It’s also perhaps because of a perception that reporting signs that contravene the Scottish Outdoor Access Code makes no difference. The removal of the Balmoral sign in just ten days disproves that.

It will inspire me to have another go at getting the Welcome to the Moor signs amended or removed. The whole point of access rights is that, unlike rights of way, they give you the right to step off the path or indeed wander over the countryside without using any path at all.

Category

1. Cairngorms

Tags

1. access rights
2. CNPA

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