

A post card to our National Parks – outdoor recreation and litter

Description



Beer can with Meall Glac an Ruighe behind

I am just back from a stravaig from Loch Arkaig around Knoydart and then a two day walk across the

group of Munros north of the road to Ullapool. In six days on the hill we only saw one piece of litter and that only because we had camped on the rough ground between Seana Bhraigh and Eididh nan Clach Geala. I had washed by the time I spotted the can in the lochan and, with a cold wind, resisted the inclination to wade back in to fish it out.

The can looked too new to be a relic from the Tom Patey era, when mountaineers tended to be less careful with their rubbish. A shame because if it had been dropped by the famous Ullapool climbing doctor it might have had some value!

What our experience suggests is that people who enjoy visiting Scotland's wilder areas tend now to be environmentally aware – more so perhaps than previous generations – and to “tread lightly. That is a great thing, should be celebrated and should inform how our public authorities, including our National Parks, approach the management of visitors to wild land. The impact of outdoor recreation in remote areas is very small and requires little if any management.

The same cannot be said for others who use the land and sea. We did see litter in Knoydart but that was down on the beaches at Inverie and Sourlies, and mostly a product of the fishing industry.

Category

1. Cairngorms
2. Loch Lomond and Trossachs

Tags

1. Litter
2. outdoor recreation

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