

Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park • bans day visitors from Sallochy on east Loch Lomond

Description



Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
16 April at 18:26 · 🌐

We're happy to announce that from Friday 18th April – 30th September this season, the beautiful Sallochy Campsite, located on the eastern shores of Loch Lomond, will join Loch Chon, Loch Achray, and Inchcailloch as one of the National Park Authority's official campsites.

Previously managed by our partners at [Forestry and Land Scotland](#), visitors can now book a pitch at Sallochy directly through our website.

Set beside a small beach on the West Highland Way, with stunning views across the loch towards the Arrochar Alps - Sallochy is the perfect place to unwind, enjoy the scenery, take a peaceful stroll, and maybe even spot some local wildlife.

The campsite offers a more natural, 'wilder' camping experience, with basic facilities including composting toilets and drinking water. Please note that there are no showers on-site.

We kindly remind all visitors to respect the natural environment, wildlife, and fellow campers. Please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and Byelaws, take your litter home, and help us keep this special place clean, safe, and beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

<http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/.../sallochy-campsite/>

[#Camping](#) [#Campsite](#) [#LochLomond](#)

On 16th April the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA) announced on Facebook (there is nothing on its news pages) that it had taken over the management of the campsite at Sallochy from Forest and Land Scotland which had threatened to close it ([see here](#)). The campsite has played a crucial role in enabling backpackers to walk the West Highland Way following the imposition of the camping byelaws which made informal camping a criminal offence along most of the shore of Loch Lomond between Balmaha and Rowardennan. The LLTNPA has offered no apology for the lack of facilities between the start of the camping byelaw season on 1st March and the 18th April.

The LLTNPA's news piece also failed to mention that they have increased the fees for camping at Sallochy and the other campsites they manage at Loch Chon, Loch Achray and Inchcailloch from £10.00 to £10.80 per an adult. Until three years ago ([see here](#)) it cost £5.00 to camp at Inchailloch and £7 to camp at the other three campsites so fees have risen by 50% or more in three years.

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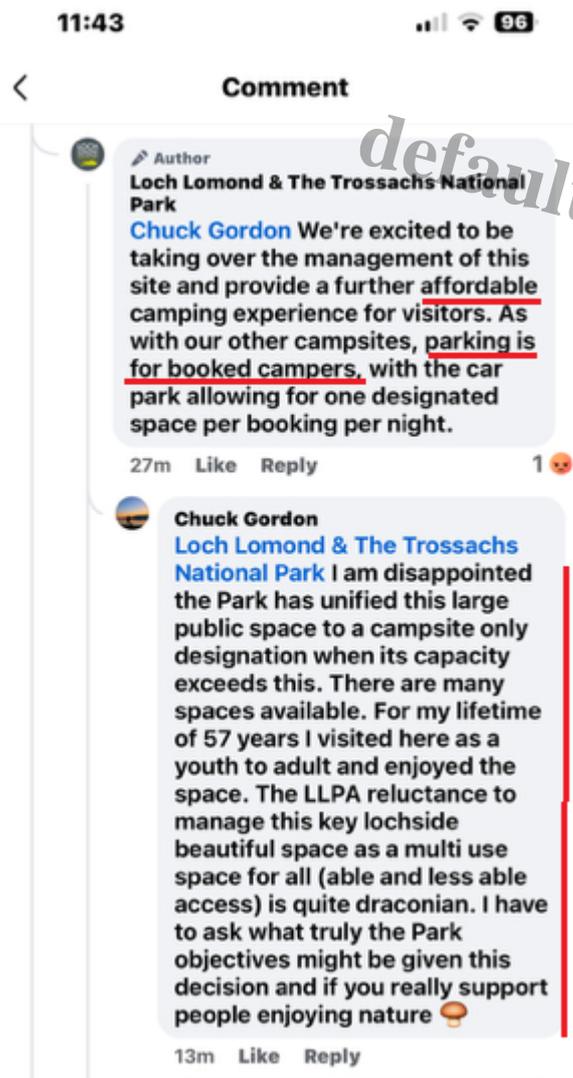
Alannah Maurer

And what about day visitors .. are we going to be allowed back to Salloch (paying to park obviously)?

Just now Like Reply

The LLTNPA's takeover of the FLS campsite offered the

opportunity for them to open up access again to day visitors by removing the locked gates which have prevented access to the car park for the last four years. The LLTNPA responded to this question with the usual parkspeak including reference to "affordable" camping:



In other words, the LLTNPA intends to continue to deny access to day visitors at Salloch. They have made no attempt to justify this except this is how they manage their other informal campsites. Chuck Gordon's response is spot on and the LLTNPA's ban on day visitors parking a Loch Chon which used to be a public car park is equally unjustified.

Judging by the other responses on the LLTNPA's Facebook page lots of people are now disgusted with this apology for a "National Park" (see here):



The ban on day visitors prevents those who are unable to walk far from enjoying Salloch and makes access to the forest trails above Salloch much more difficult. Walk Highland puts it succinctly in their description of that walk (see here):

"Salloch Forestry and Land Scotland car park, east Loch Lomond; this is now closed in summer (1st March - 31st October). There is no public transport, so in summer months you would either need to be staying on the campsite, or using the car parks at either Rowardennan or Balmaha and using the [West Highland Way](#) to reach the start".

How long now until Forest and Land Scotland cease maintaining these forest trails on the grounds that no-one uses them any more?

While the continued ban on parking at Sallochy subverts the access rights of all and makes it much harder to enjoy the shores of east Loch Lomond it is also highly discriminatory, making it almost impossible for those who are old and frail or have a range of disabilities from enjoying a large part of the area. There is now a very strong case for legal action against this "National Park" for actively undermining its statutory duty to promote public enjoyment of the countryside but a mass protest might be easier and cheaper to organise.

The origins of the LLTNPA's attack on the rights of day visitors go back to one of its justifications for the camping byelaws. Informal camping, it was claimed, infringed the rights of day visitors to enjoy the loch shores. The evidence of the visitor data the LLTNPA had collected at the time, which showed significant numbers of day visitors in the most popular places for camping, was completely ignored. Contrary to what the LLTNPA, different types of visitor quite happily share the same space in fact that was the assumption behind access rights, which apply to Sallochy, that people should be able to enjoy the countryside through a wide range of different activities, 24 hours a day.



Across the so-called National Park the statutory authority responsible for access rights closes many of its car parks over night, depriving people of their right to enjoy the countryside for lengthy periods each day. Photo 1st April

The LLTNPA's position has never been compatible with access rights but their false presumption that day visitors and campers should be kept apart at all time explains the locked barriers to day visitors at Loch Chon and Sallochy. It also explains why so many of the camping permit areas are on bits of

land that few people would otherwise ever visit.

The starting point for the LLTNPA's review of the camping byelaws, which is now well behind schedule, should be that if neither they or FLS are able to provide places for people to camp from 1st March, as they promised Scottish Ministers, and if they cannot manage camping permit areas so that these can be shared with other people, they should just be scrapped. That would save a huge amount of time being wasted on consultation and on the LLTNPA cherry picking and manipulating data and information to justify their continued existence.

Category

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Tags

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