

Inveruglas – another example of the National Park’s mismanagement of visitor facilities around Loch Lomond

Description

default watermark



All toilet facilities at Inveruglas will be closed this visitor season to accommodate essential infrastructure upgrades. The nearest alternative facilities can be found at Tarbet visitor site. Apologies for any inconvenience.



👍 😬 🤔 148

197 comments 37 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Most relevant ▼



Alison Moffat Leith

Imagine there were loos that are portable ... like some kind of porta-loo... and you could hire them, so people aren't left stranded when it comes to basic human needs. Oh well. Bushes full of shit, piss, wipes and nappies it is then.

2w Like Reply

181 👍

Had

this appeared three days earlier I might have thought this was an April fool except the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA) doesn't do humour. There were lots of comments like the one above ([see here](#)) on this announcement but such feedback, which shows what the public really think, is never publicly reported by the Park Chief Executive, Gordon Watson, to his board. It would be interesting to know how many LLTNPA board members ever look at the public comments on

its Facebook page – they should be shocked.



Photo of new toilet block next to the visitor facility at Inveruglas which also has toilets inside it. January 2020.

In July 2019 the LLTNPA announced ([see here](#)) that with the help of £500k from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund it was improving visitor facilities, including toilets, on the West Shore of Loch Lomond at: Luss, Tarbet (where the motorhome toilet disposal point has since been moved!); and Inveruglas where improvements were also being made to the car park. The news release stated:

“Modernising facilities at these key sites will help to provide a world class experience that matches the expectations of people coming to Scotland’s first National Park”;

while Mr Watson was quoted as saying:

“While people primarily visit for the scenery and recreation opportunities on offer, things like high quality toilets, parking, campervan facilities and bins can make a huge difference to a visitor’s overall experience”.

The news release also announced that Inveruglas would effectively be closed for most of September and October to enable the work to be done. Given the LLTNPA's record of delivering infrastructure projects I was pleasantly surprised to find the new 24 hour toilets in place and working in January 2020 just before the Covid pandemic.

default watermark



Such is my distrust of the LLTNPA I have learned to document all I see – photo May 2021

So how it that just five years later the LLTNPAis having to close BOTH sets of toilets at Inveruglas for “the visitor season” – in parkspeak that means until 30th September – to accommodate essential infrastructure upgrades”? It seems that the toilets were not as “high quality” as Mr Watson claimed. Is this another example of an infrastructure upgrade that has gone badly wrong([see here](#)) or was it that the LLTNPA failed to maintain the toilets just as they failed to maintain the scenic viewing tower (An Ceann Mor) at Inveruglas ([see here](#)) ? That too is currently closed for repairs.

Each time I have been to Inveruglas in the last couple of years the new toilets have been locked which suggests they may have only worked for a short period. Not value for money – one wonders if the funders, VisitScotland, have ever been informed?

Whatever the explanation for the closure, these apparently essential infrastructure works were NOT reported to the LLTNPA Board meeting at the start of March. The Annual Operational Plan for 2025/6, contains a list of infrastructure upgrades and refers to work at Tarbet and Falls of Falloch on west Loch Lomond but makes no mention of Inveruglas:

Section 2: Creating a Low-Carbon Place (Continued)

AOP Deliverable

Design, progress and deliver high quality visitor recreation sites and facilities as Part of the Place Programme across publicly managed sites at West Loch Lomond (Tarbet Phase 2), Falls of Falloch, East Loch Lomond (Rowardennan) and Balloch Pierhead

The Joint Response Visitor Management Plan for 2025, designed to “*reduce visitor-related pressures on the environment, people who live and work in the National Park and visitors*” doesn’t mention the closure either but basically repeats what is in the AOP:

Design, progress and deliver high quality - visitor recreation sites and facilities as Part of the Place Programme across publicly managed sites at West Loch	NPA	Mar'26
---	-----	--------

Agenda Item 12 Appendix 1 Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park - Joint Response Visitor Management Plan 2025
10 March 2025

Lomond (Tarbet Phase 2), Falls of Falloch, East Loch Lomond (Rowardennan) and Balloch Pierhead. Partnership working in Arrochar and Tarbet to explore and seek to fund design of better solutions for parking at Glen Loin, for toilets in Arrochar and Succoth, and path links between Arrochar, the Station and Tarbet.		
---	--	--

It is not just the toilets at Inveruglas that have been closed but the camping permit area and overnight use of the car park by campervans and motorhomes too (whether or not they have their own internal toilet):

Permit Bookings

Please note: Tarbet Isle and Coileasan will remain closed while work is being carried out on these sites. Inveruglas tent and motorhome permits are closed as work is being carried out

Coupled with the nearby Tarbet Isle camping permit area, which appears to have been closed because Forest and Land Scotland has failed to clear the area of windblown trees ([see here](#)), this represents a significant reduction in camping provision on west Loch Lomond.

Despite this, LLTNPA staff have not even attempted to provide any alternatives. Even if the entire plumbing at Inveruglas has gone down the pan all that would be needed to cater for day visitors and campers would be a couple of mobile toilets and a stand pipe.

Back in 2019 and the first closure for work on the toilets the LLTNPA recognised that: *“closures during the latter half of the summer season are not ideal, but in order to maximise the external funding available for this project, all work requires to be carried out within this timeframe”*. Now, the works are to take a whole season and no temporary facilities have been arranged to fill the gap.

The LLTNPA’s claims five years ago that their work at Inveruglas would provide a “world class experience” now lies in tatters. The sad truth is the LLTNPA is not only totally incompetent but their senior staff don’t care one iota for ordinary visitors – wherever they come from. This won’t change until there is an independent review into the failure of Scotland’s two existing National Parks.

Category

1. Loch Lomond and Trossachs

Tags

1. camping
2. Governance
3. outdoor recreation
4. Tourism
5. visitor infrastructure
6. visitor management

Date Created

April 21, 2025

Author

nickkempe

default watermark