



20th September I wrote about the sign above in a post on [Scotland's free trade in land & its consequences](#) Coille Coire Chuilc and Auchreoch. I reported the sign that same evening to the

Access Team at the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA) copying in Ramblers Scotland and the access officer at Mountaineering Scotland:

From Nick Kempe
To accessteam
Cc Brendan.paddy@ramblers.org.uk, Davie Black
Subject **Notification of unlawful access signs on Auchreoch estate**

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the two signs on the Auchreoch estate featured in this post removed <https://parkswatchscotland.co.uk/2025/09/20/scotlands-free-trade-in-land-its-consequences-coille-coire-chuilc-and-auchreoch/>

The post explains why the signs are unlawful and gives their location but I would request you ask the estate to confirm if they have erected any further signs elsewhere on their land and if so, address these too.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this email and notify me when these signs have been removed.

Actually, Davie Black has retired and is no longer access officer but I had forgotten to change the name under which I had saved access@mountaineering.scot

As usual when I send emails to the LLTNPA I received an automated reply almost immediately, not from the access team but another email account:

From infomailbox <infomailbox@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
To Nick Kempe
Subject **Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority**

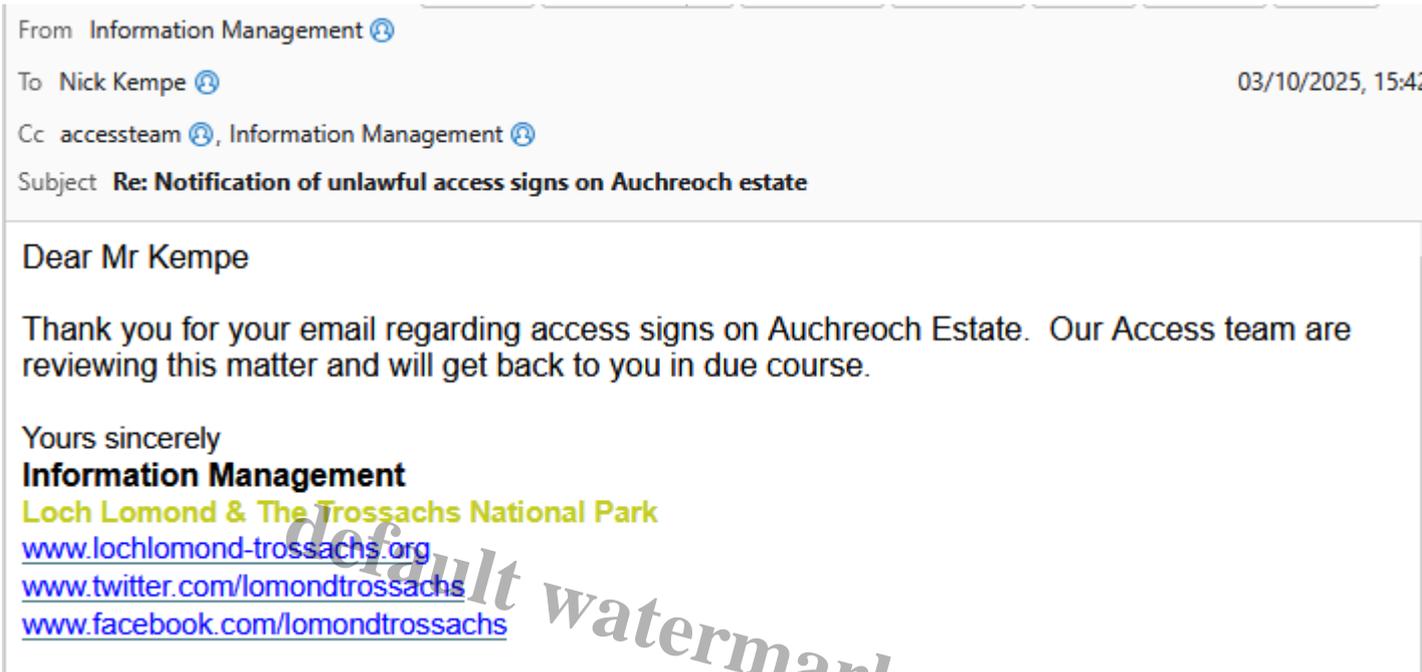
Thank you for contacting Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority. This mailbox is monitored seven days.

Your email will be passed to the appropriate team, and if necessary, a member of staff will contact you.

If your email is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 or the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 we will advise you of this and provide you with the response date for your request.

The explanation for this is that any email I try to send to any member of staff or board member (the few with public email accounts) at the LLTNPA are automatically intercepted and redirected to infomailbox@lomond-trossachs.org. That email account does NOT appear on the LLTNPA contact us webpage (see here) which advises people to contact info@lomond-trossachs.org for general enquiries and, you have guessed it, accessteam@lomond-trossachs.org for access related issues.

It then took almost an anonymous person at Information Management, rather than the Access Team, to acknowledge my reporting of the access signs:



Note how there is no indication of when my email had been passed to the Access Team or any indication of when they would reply – public service at its worst.

What this tells you is that all staff at the LLTNPA have now been banned by their unaccountable Chief Executive, Gordon Watson, from communicating with me. Even more disgracefully, any email I send to the Convener of the LLTNPA, Dr Heather Reid, is also intercepted and read by the Chief Executive or his staff first. I have now sent over 20 emails to Convener@lomond-trossachs.org and Dr Reid has not replied to a single one. Judging from the fact that Sandy Bremner, Convener of the Cairngorms National Park Authority does reply to my emails, it appears Gordon Watson has banned his Convener from speaking to me too. This is further evidence to support my argument that democracy in the LLTNPA has been destroyed ([see here](#)).

Yesterday afternoon I received another email from Information Management saying the Access Team had known about the Auchreoch sign for some time, agreed it was not a legally complaint and had been negotiation with the landowner wording for a new sign:

From Information Management 
To Nick Kempe 
Subject **Issues with Signage on Auchreoch Estate**

14:21

Dear Mr Kempe,

Thank you for your email of 20th September 2025 concerning the above.

The Access Team was alerted to the misleading signs by colleagues earlier this year and has since been liaising with the Estate to agree more appropriate and legally compliant wording. This process has taken longer than we would have liked due to factors beyond our control, but re-wording has now been agreed, and we expect the replacement signs to be in place within a matter of weeks.

I hope this information is of assistance.

Kind regards

Information Management
Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park

The content of this email and any attachments is confidential and is subject to the terms of the National Park Authority's email disclaimer at <https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/disclaimer> and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed.

Effectively this claims that the unlawful Auchreoch sign has been dealt with. If I had been allowed to communicate directly with the Access Team they could have told me this the next day, instead of the three and a half weeks, I would have had follow up questions dealt with there and then and I might have been be one happy campaigning customer. Instead, I am writing a blog post explaining what happens to people who try to raise any concerns about what is going on in what is supposed to be a National Park, such as Mr Watson's role in the proposed Flamingo Land Development ([see here](#)) and ([here](#)).

I will take the opportunity here to also highlight the cost of this Orwellian bureaucracy which, according to the narrative of the "free world", is only supposed to exist in places like Russia. It goes something like this: first pass the email reporting an unlawful access sign to Mr Watson himself or a senior manager to consider; they then pass to the intended recipients to advise on a response; the advised response is then checked by Mr Watson or a senior manager; finally the response is passed to "Information Management" to send.

Note too the ridiculous assertion under the anonymous sign-off "The content of this email and any attachments is confidential". No its not! Its a matter of public interest just like the unanswered questions about Mr Watson's involvement in the Flamingo Land application!

While sometimes I have allowed myself to become frustrated with how the LLTNPA operates, its best to try and carry on as calmly as possible and focus on the issues at stake. Here is my reply to Information Management's response to the Auchreoch sign:

From Nick Kempe 
To Information Management 
Subject **Re: Issues with Signage on Auchreoch Estate**

 Reply  Forward  Archive  Junk  Delete  More

Thank you for this, I appreciate it can take time for a replacement sign to be ordered but please can you confirm whether or not the non-compliant sign has been removed? As per my original email I would also be grateful if you could inform me when the new sign has been erected and provide me with a photo or a copy of the wording.

Regards,

Nick Kempe

If the Access Team really was alerted to the unlawful Auchreoch access sign by colleagues earlier this year, as claimed, that would be a very welcome development. For years the LLTNPA Ranger Service has passed other unlawful access signs, including the no camping signs in places like Balquhiddar, on a daily basis and the LLTNPA has done nothing about them. If you see a sign that appears non-compliant with access rights, say it (all over social media) and report it!

Whatever the issues with trying to agree the wording for a new sign and the time this took, the Access Team should have insisted the existing non-compliant sign was removed immediately. It will be interesting to see the new wording and to report whether there is anything that might discourage people from exercising their access rights to go off-path and to camp. And if the Auchreoch Estate really do have a Pines and Wildlife Research Team (as per photo above) I hope the LLTNPA have insisted they provide a contact phone number on the sign? It's just hope any calls don't get re-directed!

Category

1. Access rights
2. Loch Lomond and Trossachs

Tags

1. access rights
2. Governance
3. landed estates
4. LLTNPA

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