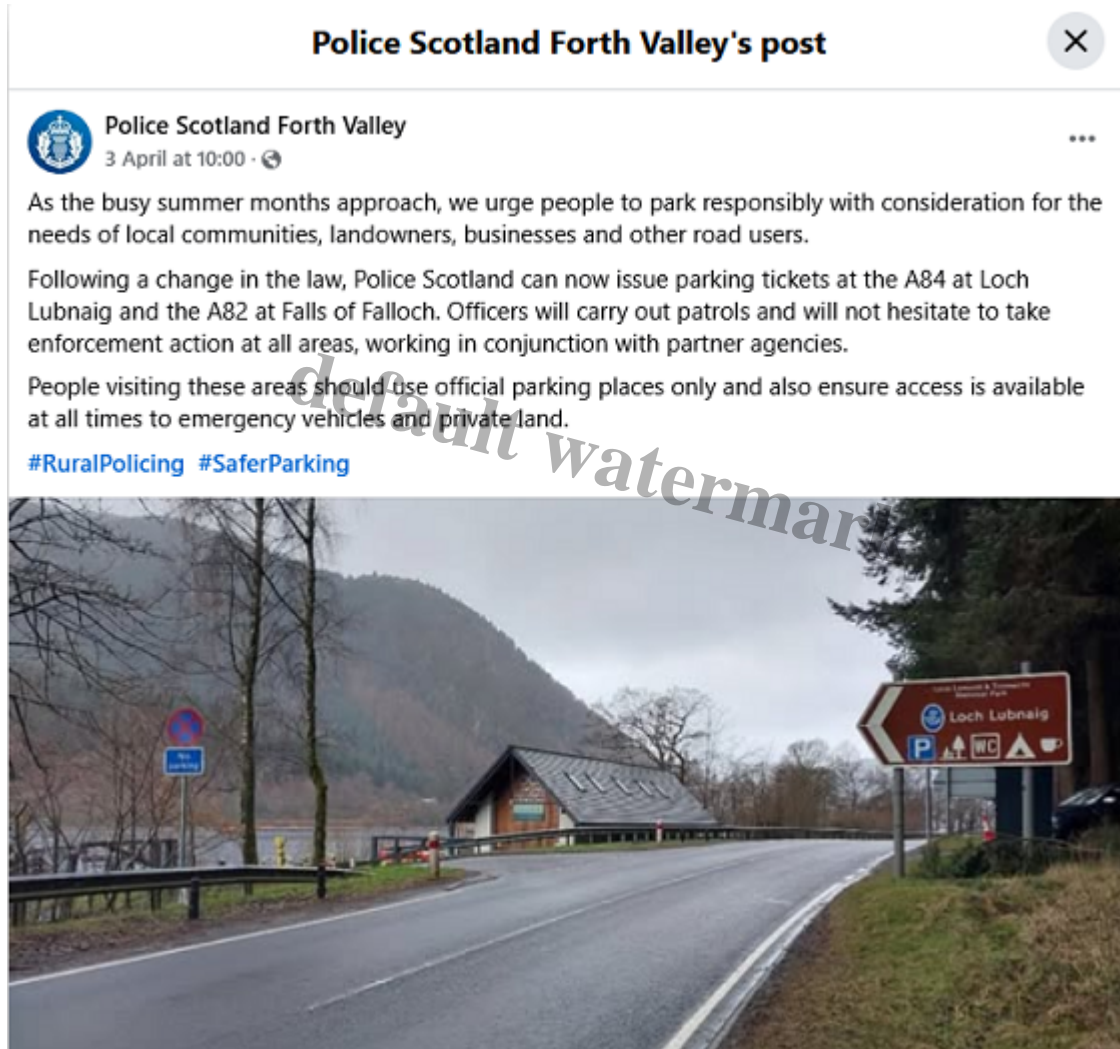


The LLTNPA's war against visitors at Loch Lubnaig and the Falls of Falloch

Description



The cars on the right behind the sign were where we saw cars on Tuesday

On Tuesday I took advantage of the nice day and went for a walk in Glen Lochay past Killin. Driving back along the A84 we passed Loch Lubnaig at about 5.30pm. Both the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA) car parks were locked. Across the A84 from the cafe and main car park a number of vehicles had pulled off into a small space in the woods. I half thought of stopping to take photos of the parked cars and the locked gate but there was nowhere safe to do so. My friends then had to endure a rant about how Scotland's first National Park treats the public. Yesterday a reader sent me this post from Police Scotland about how they are going to start issuing parking fines on this section of the A84 at Loch Lubnaig and on the A82 by the Falls of Falloch.



Photo in Police Scotland post about the Falls of Falloch

Before issuing parking tickets to anyone at Loch Lubnaig Forth Valley Police should check to see if the LLTNPA car parks are open and if not formally request they do so. It would be wrong for the police to punish people when there are two perfectly good car parks, paid for by the public, which are kept locked most of the time.

Our rights of access exist 24 hour a day and for many places there is no choice but to go by car if you wish to enjoy them. In order to support access rights therefore car parks should be open 24 hours a day as they are in most of Scotland. The issue is the LLTNPA has long viewed anglers as a problem and doesn't want anyone to fish overnight - those views were a primary reason why the camping byelaws also include a ban on fishing shelters - and didn't want campers or campervans either. When the LLTNPA realised they could not apply the byelaws to campervans, because vehicles can legally stop off by the side of the road overnight, they started to lock their car parks and persuade local authorities and Transport Scotland to create clearways. Hence what is happening at Loch Lubnaig.

Whatever you think of vehicles being able to stop off overnight, locking the gates at 5.30pm when there are three hours of daylight left means anyone wanting to enjoy Loch Lubnaig after work cannot do so. Instead of issuing parking fines Police Scotland should be tackling the reasons people are forced to park in dangerous places, the LLTNPA.

Last month the LLTNPA announced that the Falls of Falloch car park would be closed from 30th March for approximately 10-12 weeks ([see here](#)). The news release asks people to avoid the site both on foot and by vehicle and to explore alternative nearby locations with parking, including Tarbet, Inveruglas

and the Dalrigh car park in Tyndrum. None of those sites offers anything comparable to the Falls of Falloch, especially since the LLTNPA allowed the scenic viewing tower at Inveruglas to collapse ([see here](#)). The advice reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of one of the primary reasons people come to visit the National Park, spectacular sights. That helps explain why the LLTNPA has failed to suggest much better local alternatives, such as the nearby Eagle Falls or the West Highland Way which passes on the other side of the River Falloch which overlooks several spectacular glacier meltwater channels. With such alternatives, people will still try and stop and view the Falls of Falloch. Hence, it appears, why Police Scotland have been drawn in.

The LLTNPA has, since Covid, produced a Joint Response Visitor Management Plan each year with Police Scotland, Forest and Land Scotland, Transport Scotland and the four local authorities that whose boundaries lie within the National Park. The 2026 Plan was presented to the LLTNPA meeting in March ([see here](#)) and, as usual, is as significant for what it didn't say as for what it does.

Police Scotland will continue to provide support to manage visitor pressures through initiatives such as Operation Ballaton (to reduce anti-social behaviour in Balloch and the West side of Loch Lomond), Days of Action at various key locations across the NP. Saturday 11th of April where all partners and blue light colleagues will be attending at Lomond Shores. This is a joint partnership centered around the vast services available to people in the surrounding areas but has a real focus on water safety at the loch, mountain rescue etc. and the continued work of the National Park Partnership Against Rural Crime.

Police Scotland (NPA, Local Authorities)

April - September 2026

There is no mention anywhere in this of Police Scotland starting to issue parking tickets on the A82 or A84. Nor, in the section on new infrastructure, is there any mention on the ban on motorhomes at the Falls of Falloch car park which was announced in the news release:

When the site reopens, new arrangements will help ensure the area remains carefully managed, protected and enjoyable for everyone. To support this aim, motorhomes, caravans and vehicles over six metres in length will no longer be permitted on site, helping to improve vehicle flow and safeguard the surrounding environment.

The issue here is not that the LLTNPA has decided to stop motorhomes and other vehicles over 6m long from entering the Falls of Falloch car park. It is a very tight space. The issue is that this apology for a National Park is not offering any other alternatives. Working with one of their other Joint Visitor Response partners, Transport Scotland, it shouldn't be difficult to create a layby on the other side of the A82 from the Falls which was reserved for motorhomes and larger vehicles such as coaches. That

would provide access for all.

LLTNPA senior management and board members are, however, more interested in banning whole sections of the population rather than providing infrastructure to cater for a wide range of visitors. As they see it, it makes their job easier. Its not why we employ them. First they came for the anglers. Then they came for the campers. Now its the campervanners and motorhomers. Who will be next?Be warned!

Category

1. Loch Lomond and Trossachs

Tags

1. access rights
2. Camping bye laws
3. LLTNPA
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