Tourism, recreation and local residents

CAMPING PRESSURES

The National Park is very close to a large number of urban areas and can receive high levels of visitor pressure, which often includes informal camping activity around loch shores. As one of the busiest rural areas in Scotland this specific area needs active management to deal with the visitor pressure.

The East Loch Lomond Camping Byelaws were introduced in 2011 to help tackle problems of mis-use and overuse. The loch shore had been suffering for many years and the National Park Authority introduced byelaws to help get the area back to being a place that both locals and visitors can enjoy, and reduce the impacts of years of visitor pressure and anti-social behaviour.

A number of other measures were also implemented as part of the East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Plan, including car park upgrades, provision of camping facilities and toilets and a programme of signage improvements. At the same time, Stirling Council introduced a ban on drinking Alcohol in the restricted zone.

East Loch Lomond is regularly patrolled by both National Park Rangers and the Police during peak holiday periods and the summer months. Visitors to the area are welcomed, advised of the byelaws and the justifications behind them and encouraged to enjoy the area but at the same time to act responsibly and respect it. National Park Rangers and the Police are authorised to enforce the byelaws and encourage compliance.

Conflicting National Park aims:

As a National Park Authority we regularly have to make difficult decisions over what is the best way to proceed. At the heart of these decisions are two, sometimes conflicting, National Park Aims.

- To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Park
- To promote enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the Park, including enjoyment in the form of recreation
Resolution and role of the National Park Authority

The Park Authority is helping to resolve these conflicts. One of our key initiatives to do this is through our Your Park programme:

‘Your Park’ is a programme to enhance the camping experience in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park and to improve our most cherished lochshores. Unfortunately, our most popular and accessible lochshores are suffering from damaging overuse and the irresponsible behaviour of some. You can access some of these images on our Flickr account.

Through delivery of all elements of the ‘Your Park’ programme, the National Park aims to increase enjoyment of our National Park, through providing opportunities for people to camp on our lochshores in well maintained sites, which have the right facilities and where visitor numbers are managed sustainably. We believe that this will allow visitors to enjoy these popular beauty spots and help protect the environment for future generations to enjoy.

Questions and pupil enquiry

- Why does the National Park have a Respect Your Park campaign?
- Why do the Your Park Byelaws cover zones along loch shores? Read more here
- What other solutions can you suggest to address the anti-social behaviour associated with irresponsible camping?
- What other ways can we promote responsible camping in the National Park?

Further guidance

Online

- Case study of East Loch Lomond
- East Loch Lomond Byelaws
- East Loch Lomond Byelaws Three year report

Video clips

Your Park – Transforming Our Loch Shores

Camping in the National Park

National Park Land Use video

Exploring Loch Lomond & The Trossachs

Responsible Camping

Site visits

- Balmaha on east Loch Lomond is a great location to base a field visit, with the National Park Visitor Centre and Outdoor Classroom available for school groups.
- Other sites suitable for field visits include Luss, Loch Lomond Shores and Loch Lubnaig in the Trossachs.