

Loch of Clunie Preservation Group Poll on byelaws, May 2025

17 people responded to the following questions

1) What is your opinion on a "**no camping, no tents**" bylaw for Clunie Loch?

88.2% said Yes - I'm in favour

11.8% said No - I'm not in favour

Briefly explain your opinion on a "**no camping, no tents**" bylaw.

16 responses:

Camping is the biggest cause of all the problems that occur around Clunie

Support the ability of people to access and enjoy the loch responsibly.

Other measures (increased visibility of rangers, clearer signage, awareness) should be our priority..

If we stop camping then it stops all the damage at source. Its the campers who drink and park on the road and chop down tree, have fires etc. People can still come to paddle board, fish, swim, have a picnic etc

as SSSC the loch cannot cope with such volumes of human waste/depredation

The lochside is not an appropriate area for camping, based on the fact that
a) it is not environmentally suitable / resilient b) there are no adequate facilities for camping c) the well-being of residents close by is reported as being adversely affected d) the essence of "wild camping" is not being upheld, nor does it even apply to a site so close to a road

Because I don't think it's practical and will not be accepted by local And national legislators

I support this to prevent the misuse we have seen. I also support the idea of a designated camping area that can be booked. The portaloos could be relocated there.

The Lochside is an extremely restricted space for camping, and the large family sized tents now becoming commonplace, with wind-breaks, barbecues etc (often needing trailers for transport) severely impinge in

legitimate social use for visitors and local families. This is not what was intended by local access permissions or can be claimed to be 'wild camping'. The resultant damage to the environment, from this excessive activity in an already specially designated area, is surely a good enough reason to request a bylaw be considered.

Kills wild flowers and large groups of tents prevent others visiting areas.

They are causing unnecessary disturbance to wildlife as the site is a SSSI and SAC. Also disturbance to local residents and there are just too many of them, it's not wild camping as it's too close to roads or houses and it's not a campsite with facilities and rules.

helping to provide protection of sssi and sac by reducing load on loch

Help eradicate unsociable behaviour and damage to the habitat.

Too many people have abused the site.

Just to clarify, i would like a stronger bylaw making it illegal to camp or park 'overnight'. We have people in campervans, vans and cars staying overnight at the loch, resulting in fires, drinking and antisocial behaviour. I don't feel a 'no camping, no tents' bylaw would prevent this. I'm against camping, tents because they destroy the vegetation on the foreshore. This is important, not just for local wildlife, but also because it creates a flood risk for surrounding roads and houses. Also, unfortunately, it has encouraged antisocial and intimidating behaviour, which is frightening to locals like me, particularly those close to the loch. We frequently hear shouting and swearing. The loch has become a no-go area for locals and responsible visitors alike, especially at weekends in the summer. Often, you can't get down to the loch at all, because of the high number of tents taking up the limited space around it. It means that locals and day trippers can't come and enjoy the loch, including wild swimmers, kayakers, canoeists, bird watchers, picnickers etc. Also, campers frequently cause blockages to the road surrounding the loch as they frequently park outside designated parking areas and in passing places, meaning locals and farmers can't get by. It also results in littering, dangerous to wildlife and unsightly.

Dealing with drunken, aggressive groups of dirty campers over many years leaving litter and worse is not pleasant or acceptable. They are destroying the beauty they apparently came for. This has a negative impact on locals, visitors but more importantly the wildlife, flora and fauna. Tents and belongings are often abandoned for others to tidy up and deal with. Similarly abandoned fishing rods and tackle are a concern, lochside and on the island.

2) What is your opinion on a "no fires" bylaw for Clunie Loch?

16 responses:

93.8% Yes - I'm in favour

6.3% No - I'm not in favour (one person)

The site is a SSSI and an SAC designation. Currently trees and bushes/dead wood are being cut down/collected for fires.

Support the ability of people to access and enjoy the loch responsibly. Other measures (increased visibility of rangers, clearer signage, awareness) should be our priority..

Fires cause the most damage to surroundings. people chop down trees and burn inappropriate things. There's always a danger a fire will spread. Fires leave ugly pits on the ground.

Pillaging for firewood damages habitat

I think that this should only be applied during times of dry weather. Damage to trees and woodland will already be mitigated to a large extent by the banning of camping, and so any issues as regards fires becomes a second order effect. The primary issue is inappropriate camping with the attendant inappropriate behaviour

Fires cause people to destroy the local trees and fauna , create a fire risk , and cause debris and rubbish to be left in the loch environment

To stop people cutting down trees and manage the wildfire risk.

This is a small and precious remnant of ancient woodland. It should not be risked by thoughtless building of fires and damage to trees and saplings for (in any case ,) unburnable fuel !

Patches on the ground, wildfire risk, trees damaged and removal of dead wood.

It's not a campsite, it's a SSSI and SAC and as such there should be no fires damaging the ground and habitat. Also it's damaging to the environment and completely unnecessary, people have demonstrated time and time again that they can't follow the rules so better to have a blanket ban on fires.

again this is necessary to provide protection of sssi and sac

Damage to habitat and wild fire risk.

It's highly dangerous at times, and people damage trees

We saw fires in the recent dry period despite the fact that there were signs up asking visitors not to make wildfires because of the risk of creating a wildfire conflagration, which would threaten wildlife and nearby houses. A bylaw would give police the right to arrest offenders and may deter more people from setting fires. We have also frequently witnessed people cutting down trees on the foreshore to burn, again a serious threat to wildlife. My biggest fear is that it will also increase the risk of flooding to the road around the loch, and to local houses. We're also aware of one local resident who has had wood stolen. Again, the creation of firepits has destroyed vegetation round the loch, and with it natural habitats for nesting birds and natural flood defences.

The amount of rubbish including nails, screws, etc left after fires is ridiculous. Combined with disposable barbecues left smouldering at the Lochside these present a high wildfire risk, plus a danger to both children and wildlife. With ongoing dry weather there is a high fire risk at present so unattended fires could be catastrophic.

3) What is your opinion on a "no alcohol" bylaw for Clunie Loch?

16 responses:

62.5% Yes I'm in favour

37.5% No I'm not in favour

Briefly explain your opinion on a "no alcohol" bylaw

17 responses

More difficult to manage and probably largely resolved if a camping bylaw comes into force. I would add there should be a ban on motorised boats other than for those with heritable fishing rights (3). The slender nyiad floras being destroyed by motorised boats. This is SAC protected.

Support the ability of people to access and enjoy the loch responsibly. Other measures (increased visibility of rangers, clearer signage, awareness) should be our priority.

If camping is banned, then the troublesome drinking should stop - its the campers that get really drunk as they don't have to drive. It's difficult to police a drinking ban. It would be nice to be able to have a glass of wine with a picnic etc.

Cause of antisocial behaviour

I think this will be Very difficult to enforce and if it cannot be implemented then it will be worthless

As per the fires, I consider this a second order effect. Without camping, then the issue of alcohol consumption will diminish, probably to a negligible amount. I suspect that ultimately a no alcohol ban would actually be unnecessary.

Not practical to police or enforce

To manage the unacceptable behaviour that happens when people drink too much.

It really goes without saying that all these things are linked..(camping , fires,)excessive use of alcohol , (drugs , as seen by the bridge) and general

noise and antisocial behaviour - general lack of respect for the interests of other people. It is a great pity that, as ever, it is the minority of people that create the situations which affect the majority.

Broken bottles and cans rubbish. Party mentality becomes potentially aggressive. Drinking people can't drive home and so excuse to stay put.

Most of the antisocial behaviour around the loch is fueled by alcohol consumption so if they know they can't drink here hopefully they will just stay in their house and get drunk there instead of annoying local residents around Clunie and disturbing wildlife and damaging the local habitat

i am in favour of this iff either a no camping or no fires is NOT enacted or enforced. A no alcohol byelaw would reduce rowdy parties and give the police a tool to remove rowdy or troublemaking visitors (who have typically been drinking).

Unsociable behaviour and violence.

If there's no camping people will be less inclined to drink too much

While alcohol clearly has resulted in antisocial behaviour at the loch, I feel this bylaw would be unnecessary if people were simply not allowed to camp or park overnight. There are current laws in place against drink driving and antisocial behaviour, which should cover this off.

It's a long story but I ended up with a broken toe trying to avoid an aggressive drunken camper who was so inebriated he staggered out then collapsed in front of my husband's car. His partner was heavily pregnant and could not do anything to stop the torrent of verbal abuse he unleashed on her. This is sadly not an isolated incident as many can attest to.