

Overview of meeting with Murdo Fraser on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at Clunie Hall

Purpose: Ask Murdo for advice and actions that we and him can take. Following a Loch of Clunie Preservation Group Poll, the consensus was that we want to stop camping with tents and fires, which we link to antisocial behaviour, damage to trees, fly tipping and wildfire risk. We also wanted to discuss how to protect the loch as an SSSI and double SAC; communication with NatureScot has not been helpful so far.

**Attendees:**

- Murdo Fraser (MSP Scottish Conservative MP for Mid Scotland and Fife)
- Stuart McLuckie (Engagement and Casework Assistant to Murdo Fraser)
- Ian James (Councillor in Strathtay ward 5) (was previously a resident at Kinloch)
- 12 attendees who live locally to Loch of Clunie or who visit on a regular basis
- One representative from Tummel as this is a problem for Scotland as a whole and Tummel is also affected

**Discussed:**

Outdoor Access code :

It is about responsible access, not the right to roam. What is the definition of reasonable access?

Outdated, as it has not been properly reviewed inception in 2003-2004, and we now have things like drones and social media.

<https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/act-and-access-code/land-reform-act/legislation-history>

NatureScot, when asked, advised that change is not required. However nationwide communities and charitable groups experiencing problems disagree.

Small delegation met with interim CEO of NatureScot Nick Halfhide, as a mechanism is needed to stop the damage.

A lot of money and time is spent to clean up after people. There is a problem with human behaviour which is not changing with education.

Landowners can take people to court, however, not easy to convict as evidence is needed. It's also expensive and requires deep knowledge.

The advice to general public and local residents is not to approach people due to the safety risks.

### Byelaws and Loch Status:

The Loch of Clunie Preservation Group have been asked to look at laws but don't have the knowledge. There is expertise globally with people who have also experienced this. There must be solutions.

Council say the establishment of byelaws is expensive and time consuming. We ask "how much is the loch and the community worth"? Asking for long term plans beyond our life spans.

Byelaws are mainly in national parks, and people are displaced to other places. Requires national planning.

NatureScot have powers to implement but say the law is already in place due to SSSI status. This is not the reality as police say it is too vague and cannot be implemented on the ground. Enforcement is key.

Option of a Nature Conservation Order which NatureScot can put in place. To protect the SSSI this would stop camping and fires. Loch of Clunie has fresh water mussels as well as other elements of ecological importance. This can be for a specific time span.

<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-areas/conservation-orders/nature-conservation-order>

The Government, through Nature Scot can show that they are seriously working towards the biodiversity target of 30 % of land and sea by 2030.

<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/30-30-and-nature-networks-2/30-30-explained>

### Parking Restrictions:

Option of "no overnight parking" or restricted parking limited to a number of hours, but this still needs to be enforced. Also, the parking laybys are on private land so require landowners to agree to signage and enforcement.

Scots Law and parking penalties is a grey area.

Previously there was a sign opposite the Craigie Junction which said "no overnight parking or camping" but it was ignored for many years with no consequences as it was not enforced.

The clearway was set up with agreement that there would be parking for 16 cars. Would altering the parking mean the clearway would still be in place? We would want to keep the clearway as it has made a big difference towards road access.

### Fire ban:

Difficulty is enforcement, resources and time at present.

Previously when there was a fire ban at the loch, fires were extinguished but as soon as rangers leave they are relit.

Fire and rescue service as well as rangers have limited authority.

There are a lot of fire pits and clearing them can be relentless. Once cleared more are made and lit.

### Murdo Fraser actions list:

- 1) Speak to the head of NatureScot
- 2) With Ian James look at what Perth and Kinross Council can do, a camping byelaw here or more generally
- 3) Overnight parking ban and enforcement
- 4) Talk to police about responsiveness to anti-social behaviour
- 5) Signage on private land