# Wild campers face backlash after leaving devastation in Glen Affric



Wild campers in the Glen Affric area of Scotland have faced criticism for their actions after leaving significant devastation at a popular wildlife site. Rangers discovered the campsite abandoned, coupled with evidence of a large campfire, during a period marked by severe wildfire warnings, raising concerns among local authorities about the safety of the area.

Sandra Reid, a Visitor Services Ranger for Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), expressed her dismay upon witnessing the aftermath of the camping activity. Speaking to The Press and Journal (Aberdeen), Reid described the site as resembling a “disaster area.” She detailed the findings, revealing that the group left behind a substantial amount of litter, including 50 glass bottles, many of which were empty alcohol bottles, along with a wide array of camping gear, such as a tarpaulin awning.

Moreover, the situation escalated with reports that six trees were chopped down, presumably to serve as supports for the tarpaulin shelter, and possibly to fuel the campfire. Reid highlighted the gravity of the situation, noting that “it is pure luck that things were not much worse,” given the existing warnings against starting campfires in such conditions.

This incident coincides with an extreme wildfire warning issued by fire chiefs for the weekend, as temperatures in the region are expected to soar to nearly 20 degrees Celsius. Firefighters have been on high alert, having addressed several serious incidents during the week. Notably, on Tuesday, fire crews worked tirelessly through the night to control a large fire in the Glendale area on the Isle of Skye, battling a fierce 150-metre wall of flames for over 16 hours. Similar fires had also sprung up north of Ullapool and near Mallaig.

In light of these events, the actions of the wild campers in Glen Affric have prompted renewed calls for adherence to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and local guidelines. Rangers continue to emphasise the importance of responsible behaviour when enjoying Scotland's natural landscapes, especially in the context of heightened fire risks.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/highlands-islands/6731568/rangers-condemn-vandalism-campers-glen-affric/> - This article supports the claims of wild campers causing destruction and leaving behind litter and camping gear in Glen Affric, despite severe wildfire warnings. It also highlights the response from rangers and the emphasis on adhering to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
* <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/492eca/siteassets/publications/benchbooks/evidence/evidbb.pdf> - This document does not specifically support any claims made about Glen Affric but provides general information on legal discussions surrounding evidence in court cases, which could indirectly relate to legal actions taken against irresponsible campers.
* <https://eatsleepwild.com/glen-affric-munros-wild-camp/> - This article highlights the beauty of Glen Affric as a popular destination for wild camping and hillwalking, which underscores the importance of maintaining the area's natural integrity through responsible camping practices.
* <https://www.dinnerstories.co.uk/2023/07/affric-kintail-way.html> - This guide for the Affric Kintail Way long-distance trail emphasizes the importance of responsible packing and travel in scenic areas like Glen Affric, which indirectly supports the call for adherence to outdoor access codes.
* <https://www.nature.scot/en/landscapes/glen-affric> - Unfortunately, this specific URL is not available in the search results. If you seek information on Glen Affric's natural beauty and environmental guidelines, NatureScot's website could provide additional context.