# Discarded disposable barbecue causes devastating fire in Glen Finglas



Frustration is mounting among conservationists following a devastating fire in the Trossachs, which was ignited by a disposable barbecue left carelessly discarded in the beauty of Glen Finglas. The blaze, which scorched an area equivalent to two rugby pitches, has tragically resulted in the loss of numerous nesting birds and other wildlife. Images shared by the Woodland Trust captured the scene, including a charred burger left atop the barbecue, which laid as a stark reminder of the havoc wreaked by seemingly innocuous actions.

The incident, occurring amidst an extreme wildfire risk due to several days of dry, warm weather, highlights growing concerns regarding the carelessness of visitors in natural environments. Glen Finglas, the largest Woodland Trust site in the UK and part of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, has been particularly vulnerable. Officials from the park have expressed their dismay, emphasising the catastrophic impact such a singular, irresponsible act can have on fragile ecosystems cultivated over decades.

A spokesperson for the park authority described the situation as “very sad,” noting that the loss of precious native woodland represents a significant blow to conservation efforts. “The destruction of such a vital habitat not only undermines our ongoing efforts but poses a direct threat to various species of wildlife,” they explained. With over 720 square miles to safeguard, the park authorities are urging the public to act responsibly and assist in the preservation of these landscapes.

George Anderson of the Woodland Trust Scotland conveyed a particularly poignant reflection on the incident, stating, “Hundreds of nesting birds, along with lizards, slow worms, and voles, have perished because of this carelessness.” He indicated that choosing to bring along a picnic rather than igniting a barbecue might have prevented this disaster. This call for mindfulness echoes broader warnings issued by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, which have reported a troubling escalation in barbecue-related fires in recent years.

In a related incident at Loch Lomond, a bin was set ablaze due to a poorly disposed barbecue, reinforcing the need for rigorous adherence to fire safety protocols. Park authorities have been increasingly vocal about the significance of proper disposal methods for barbecues and have suggested using portable gas stoves as a safer alternative in wilderness areas.

Recent trends indicate a striking increase in outdoor fire incidents, with major retailers like Marks & Spencer and Co-op responding by banning the sale of disposable barbecues in specific regions, including national parks. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, in conjunction with bodies like NatureScot, have repeatedly cautioned against lighted fires during dry spells, illustrating the effectiveness of even small embers in igniting unforeseen wildfires.

The recent surge in wildfire warnings—four in three weeks—has only amplified concerns about the safety of Scotland’s landscapes. With sightings of human carelessness exacerbating the risks, the public is increasingly encouraged to take proactive measures, such as ensuring complete extinguishment of barbecue coals and refraining from lighting open flames during dry conditions.

The overwhelming message from conservation groups is clear: in the face of climate change and increasing fire risks, collective responsibility is paramount. Each individual holds the power to make choices that protect the environment. As Anderson succinctly put it, “A massive fire can begin with just a single spark.” The ongoing threat to wildlife, habitats, and even human communities underscores the urgent need for heightened awareness and vigilance.

The Saturday fire at Glen Finglas serves as a crucial reminder not only of the beauty and fragility of our natural landscapes but also of the potential consequences of human actions. Conservationists, park authorities, and the public must work in unison to protect these invaluable spaces for future generations.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
2. Paragraph 7
3. Paragraph 8
4. Paragraph 9
5. Paragraph 10
6. Paragraph 11
7. Paragraph 12

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/barbecue-sparked-trossachs-blaze-found-35198772> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://news.stv.tv/west-central/national-park-bin-set-ablaze-by-poorly-disposed-of-bbq> - A bin at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park was set ablaze after a visitor disposed of a lit disposable barbecue without ensuring it was fully extinguished. Firefighters responded to the incident at Millarochy Bay on East Loch Lomond. Park authorities emphasized the importance of proper disposal of barbecues to prevent such incidents and urged visitors to use portable stoves instead to minimize wildfire risks. They also advised that disposable barbecues should be placed on heat-proof surfaces and fully cooled before disposal.
3. <https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/scottish-news/firefighters-called-out-more-barbecue-27720651> - The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has responded to numerous barbecue-related fires in recent years, with a significant increase in incidents since 2020. In response, major retailers like Marks & Spencer and Co-op have banned the sale of disposable barbecues in certain areas, including national parks. The SFRS urges the public to exercise caution, avoid leaving barbecues unattended, and ensure ashes are completely cool before disposal to prevent wildfires.
4. <https://www.nature.scot/watch-out-wildfire-risk-easter> - NatureScot, along with Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park and Cairngorms National Park, issued a warning about the risk of wildfires during the Easter period. With dry and warm weather forecasted, visitors were advised to exercise caution with camping stoves, cigarettes, and disposable barbecues. The organizations emphasized that even small embers from a campfire or cigarette butt could easily start a wildfire, urging the public to avoid lighting open fires during prolonged dry periods.
5. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/environment/5679583/wildfires-litter-glencoe-environment-national-trust-scotland/> - National Trust Scotland rangers discovered multiple instances of land damage from fires and litter, including human waste, during patrols in Glencoe. In April, a substantial area in Glen Etive was destroyed by fire, with a disposable barbecue grate found in the charred ground. Rangers also found evidence of campfires in Coire Gabhail, known as the Hidden Valley, including an abandoned tent and branches chopped down for firewood. The Trust urged visitors to respect natural surroundings and avoid lighting fires in these areas.
6. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/wildfires-scotland-national-trust-issues-warning-after-reserve-is-damaged-by-fire-and-human-waste-4125753> - National Trust Scotland reported land damage from multiple fires and litter, including human waste, during patrols in Glencoe. In April, a substantial area in Glen Etive was destroyed by fire, with a disposable barbecue grate found in the charred earth. Rangers also found evidence of campfires in Coire Gabhail, known as the Hidden Valley, including an abandoned tent and branches chopped down for firewood. The Trust urged visitors to respect natural surroundings and avoid lighting fires in these areas.
7. <https://www.northern-scot.co.uk/news/scotland-sees-fourth-wildfire-warning-in-three-weeks-317185/> - Scotland issued its fourth wildfire warning in three weeks, with an elevated risk across the country. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) cautioned the public that even small fires can spread rapidly and cause significant environmental and economic damage. They urged people not to light disposable barbecues or campfires in areas with dry vegetation and to dispose of cigarettes responsibly to prevent wildfires.