# Sunny weather in Scotland triggers rise in reckless driving and littering at popular beauty spots



The delight that accompanies sunny weather in Scotland often comes with a darker side, as observed by many who relish the opportunity to bask in the sunshine and explore the country's stunning landscapes and beauty spots. As the weather warms, however, this surge in outdoor activity has been met with alarming increases in reckless behaviour on the roads and a disturbing pattern of littering in some of the country’s most cherished natural areas.

In recent weeks, the combination of rising temperatures and blue skies has seen an influx of sun-seekers enthusiastically visiting places like Inchcolm Island and the Arbroath cliffs. While the joy of a sunny day is palpable, it has unfortunately also brought out a concerning trend of reckless driving. Observers have reported an increase in dangerous behaviours on the roads, from speeding to a casual disregard for signalling. This is particularly pronounced in rural areas, where the serenity of the landscapes is shattered by the noise of off-road electric bikes racing through residential streets. It raises the question: do clearer skies bring about a carefree attitude that spills over into hazardous driving behaviours?

The increase in visitors has been linked to troubling incidents of littering and antisocial behaviour, particularly around Loch Clunie in Perthshire. Recent reports highlight a troubling scene with rubbish being left behind so indiscriminately that local residents have had to band together to clean up. Efforts have been documented in The Courier, revealing the stark reality that 354 bags of rubbish were collected in just five weeks, alongside accounts of fires, loud parties, and alarming instances of visitors defecating in gardens. Community members described feeling intimidated in their own neighbourhoods, as the influx of visitors tramples over both environmental and social norms.

The situation at Loch Clunie exemplifies a broader issue affecting many natural attractions across Scotland. Similar trends have emerged after holiday weekends at locations like the River Tay, where local wildlife faces threats from accumulated litter, including bottles and food containers. Community clean-up events, like those that recovered over 200kg of rubbish at Loch Clunie, spotlight the tireless dedication of volunteers who strive to maintain the beauty of these locations, while also serving as a stark reminder of the impact of irresponsible tourism.

Furthermore, law enforcement has begun to respond more aggressively to these challenges. Police Scotland has recently charged individuals with vandalism for cutting down trees for firewood at Clunie Loch, part of a crackdown on escalating issues stemming from irresponsible behaviour among visitors. This includes illegal parking and other forms of antisocial conduct that compromise the integrity of these areas. There is a growing consensus that local authorities and communities need to work together, using clearer signage, greater waste disposal facilities, and perhaps even stricter parking regulations to safeguard both the environment and the enjoyment of all who visit.

This interaction between human behaviour and the natural environment calls for a renewed sense of personal responsibility among visitors to Scotland's beauty spots. Quick fixes like additional bins may not be enough; instilling a culture of respect for nature may be essential to preserving the beauty of these beloved places. As individuals revel in the glorious Scottish sun, it is imperative they remember that enjoying nature should not come at its expense. A collective effort to harmonise excitement and the preservation of the environment is crucial, because after all, nothing diminishes the joy of a sunny day faster than the sight of litter marred landscapes.

In the spirit of community and shared enjoyment, it may be time to reflect on essential lessons: pick up after yourself, keep noise to a minimum, and consider how your actions impact the serene beauty of Scotland. Only then can everyone truly relish those sunny days together, without compromising the sanctity of the very spaces we treasure.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/opinion/5252098/rebecca-baird-perthshire-beauty-spot-trashing/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/perth-kinross/1468187/three-charged-with-vandalism-as-police-scotland-gets-tough-on-wild-campers-in-perthshire/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/opinion/5252098/rebecca-baird-perthshire-beauty-spot-trashing/), [[3]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/just-loch-what-fished-out-15008611), [[4]](https://www.inkl.com/news/river-tay-junk-is-a-risk-to-our-wildlife)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/perth-kinross/1468187/three-charged-with-vandalism-as-police-scotland-gets-tough-on-wild-campers-in-perthshire/), [[5]](https://www.inkl.com/news/clunie-loch-needs-joined-up-thinking-to-tackle-anti-social-behaviour-by-visitors)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clevv7vg7vjo), [[7]](https://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk/news/community-acts-to-clean-up-littered-loch-ussie-169405/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/opinion/5252098/rebecca-baird-perthshire-beauty-spot-trashing/), [[5]](https://www.inkl.com/news/clunie-loch-needs-joined-up-thinking-to-tackle-anti-social-behaviour-by-visitors)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/opinion/5252098/rebecca-baird-perthshire-beauty-spot-trashing/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/perth-kinross/1468187/three-charged-with-vandalism-as-police-scotland-gets-tough-on-wild-campers-in-perthshire/> - This article reports on three men charged with vandalism for cutting down trees for firewood at Clunie Loch, a popular beauty spot in Perthshire. The incident is part of a broader crackdown by Police Scotland on irresponsible visitors, including issues like illegal parking and antisocial behaviour. The local community has expressed concerns over the increasing number of campers and the environmental impact, prompting authorities to implement measures such as traffic orders and increased patrols to address the situation.
3. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/just-loch-what-fished-out-15008611> - Volunteers from various locations, including Perth, Blairgowrie, and Dundee, participated in a 'Litter Free Paddle' event at Loch Clunie, recovering over 200kg of rubbish. The clean-up aimed to protect local wildlife from threats like plastic and food containers. Organiser Piotr Gudan highlighted the importance of community involvement in maintaining the loch's pristine condition and emphasized the need for visitors to take responsibility for their litter.
4. <https://www.inkl.com/news/river-tay-junk-is-a-risk-to-our-wildlife> - Following the Easter weekend, significant amounts of rubbish, including bottles, nappies, and barbecues, were found along the River Tay and Clunie Loch in Perthshire. The litter poses a threat to local wildlife and the environment. Piotr Gudan, founder of Outdoor Explore, noted that such incidents are common after bank holidays and called for greater responsibility among visitors to prevent further pollution.
5. <https://www.inkl.com/news/clunie-loch-needs-joined-up-thinking-to-tackle-anti-social-behaviour-by-visitors> - Local residents and officials are calling for a coordinated response to address antisocial behaviour at Clunie Loch, including littering and overnight camping. Suggestions include increased signage promoting responsible access, restricting parking, and enhancing waste disposal facilities. The aim is to balance public enjoyment with environmental preservation and community well-being.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clevv7vg7vjo> - Over 300 tyres were illegally dumped near Drumnadrochit, close to Loch Ness, leading to a three-day clean-up operation. The incident highlights ongoing issues with fly-tipping in Scotland's natural areas. Authorities are investigating to identify those responsible and prevent future occurrences.
7. <https://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk/news/community-acts-to-clean-up-littered-loch-ussie-169405/> - Volunteers organized a clean-up at Loch Ussie in Ross-shire, addressing the accumulation of rubbish left by visitors. The initiative aimed to restore the loch's natural beauty and raise awareness about the environmental impact of littering. Local residents emphasized the importance of community involvement in preserving natural sites.