

Candidate 5 evidence

Introduction

This assignment is a study into how effective the new camping restrictions set by The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park have been on the shores of Loch Venachur. It is a controversial issue and in my investigation I have found that a lot of people have very strong views on the matter. Many people feel that they contradict the (Scottish) Outdoor Access Code, stating that, in Scotland people have a right to access all land and inland ~~in~~ bodies of water excluding the exceptions stated in the Act and as long as they use are respectful and responsible. But on the other hand there was very clearly a problem and something had to be done. I chose this topic because I use Loch Venachur a lot and I remember what it was like before the restrictions were introduced and I wanted to find out if they had worked. The camping restrictions state that anyone who wants to camp in the specific area shown on the map in my processed data, between the months of March and September, must ~~of~~ first get a permit from the National Park Website.

Research Methods

- My first research method was by survey. I made a ~~question~~ 10 question survey on Survey Monkey.com because ~~then~~ it ~~was~~ is the most effective way of finding out the views of the people ~~that~~ affected. My survey was mostly multiple choice so that I could compare the results and the questions were on the effectiveness of the restrictions in solving specific problems caused by ~~uncontrolled~~ irresponsible use of the camping sites. It was a very effective research method because it allowed me to compare ~~different~~ the views of people with different experiences of the loch. I sent it out by email to a wide variety of people,

including people from the sculling club, just up the shore from the restricted zone on the south side who ~~are~~ sometimes camp by loch using a motor for the week and can no longer do so spontaneously. To the open water swimming club who are directly affected by litter that ends up in the water. To local land owners who live nearby and who often end up cleaning up after ~~the~~ campers have left and to Martin Eurl, the local councillor ~~who~~ who represents the local government and to representatives ~~to the~~ from the national park.

• My other research method was to do a transect of the camping zone and take photographs of popular campsites. This was not as effective because I did it in February which ~~is~~ is out of season and so even with the restrictions, nobody had been camping there for a while.

Analysis

- My survey showed that while most people thought that the camping restrictions had had some effect, they were a long way from solving the problem. In total, 71 people filled out my survey and although not all of them answered all of the questions, around half left a comment in the comment box at the end which shows how much people care about this.

~~The problem~~ It is important to look especially at the opinions of local land owners, ~~because~~ in purple, because they have had the best ~~view~~ insight as they can watch the improvement or lack thereof right in front of them. ~~When I did my transect I found the man who owns the land on the south side that the restrictions apply to. When I spoke to him he was trying to clear out the drainage ditches by hand at the side of the road which ~~gives~~ ~~an~~ ~~idea~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~national~~ ~~park's~~ ~~job.~~ This~~

The trend in the graphs is positive in some coverage in some areas, for example, most people seem to think that the camping restrictions have caused a reduction in antisocial behaviour and the experience of non-camping recreational users. This ~~may be because~~ suggests that the camping laws have reduced the volume of irresponsible campers. People who think ahead and get a permit. This may be because people who think ahead and get a permit are more likely to think about the area around them and be respect full of people and animals nearby. It is also important to ~~assess~~ note that the people who know most about the experience of non-camping recreational users are the recreational users in blue and they seem fairly split on the matter. This is probably because they use the loch in a wide variety of ways and so the way that the camping laws affect them also varies greatly. For example fishermen who ~~no longer see~~ have seen a reduction in entire campsites left on the beach probably like the camping laws whereas campers/kayakers who want to camp wherever they come to when they stop and who know the rules and always camp responsibly find themselves greatly inconvenienced by having to book in advance.

- Most people seem to think that litter ~~is~~ is still a huge problem, & in fact we can see, circled in image C that even in February, there are pieces of tent and camping chair left there. This is ~~probably because~~ what This shows that people are still arriving as they did before the camping laws were ~~put~~ introduced, buying all new camping equipment which is still cheaper than a hotel, getting drunk and in the morning, hungover and swamped with midgies, leaving the entire campsite where it was pitched. This ~~also~~ also suggests that the new camping laws restrictions are not ~~pro~~ & policed ~~is~~ very well by the National park. Probably because they are a government agency and as a result, lack the funding and manpower to do their jobs effectively.

- On average we can see that the national park and local government have been fairly optimistic about the camping laws restrictions but ~~was~~ this may be because they put them in place and are biased as a result.
- Everyone apart from them seems to think that the restrictions have not ~~helped~~ with environmental damage made a huge impact on environmental damage. We can see from picture image D that people are still cutting down live trees to use as firewood. This was illustrated as a problem before, as seen in image B and may be because the city people who came up for the weekend, don't know that wood needs to be dried out before it burns. The ~~stumps~~ stumps that we can see are new enough that they must have been cut last summer and in image E we can see where branches have been discarded because they won't burn.
- Another thing people seem to think there is still a huge problem is road access. People coming in motor homes or huge convoys of cars and parking in passing places, blocks the roads for other users. It is especially important to consider what the landowners think about this because they use the roads most often and they are not happy, ^{25%} ~~1/3~~ ^{1/2} have even said they don't think it has helped at all.
- Landowners ~~do~~ ~~seem~~ have said that the camping laws have improved their own experience as people who live there, probably because there has been ~~a decrease~~ which shows that there has been a reduction in the kind of irresponsible camping that makes life difficult for them. This is ~~not~~ ~~may~~ be because the paperwork scares people off, it takes the ~~spontaneity~~ spontaneity out of wild camping if you have to plan it.

(shown in processed data)

The aim that the National Park of the camping laws, according to the National Park website was to "improve the experience of those coming to camp" and to "relieve pressure on some of our most popular . . . lochsides locations."

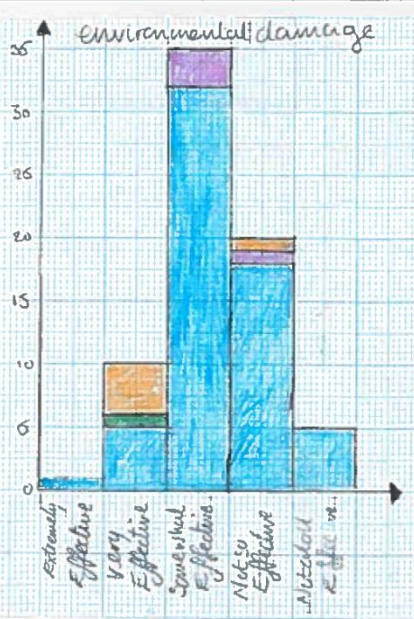
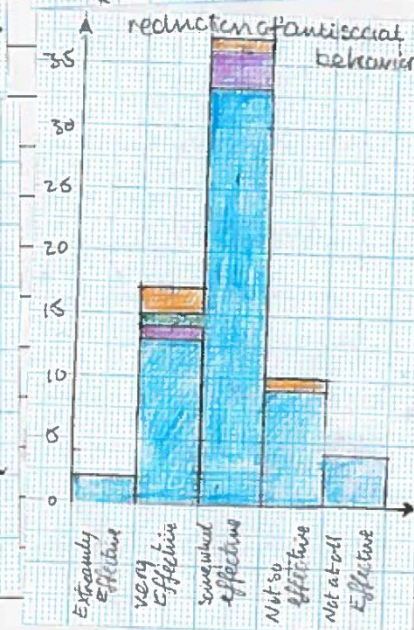
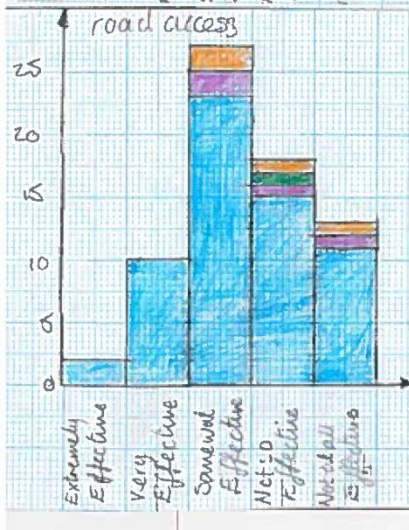
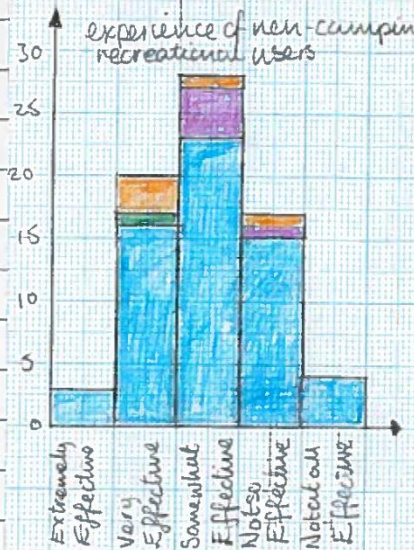
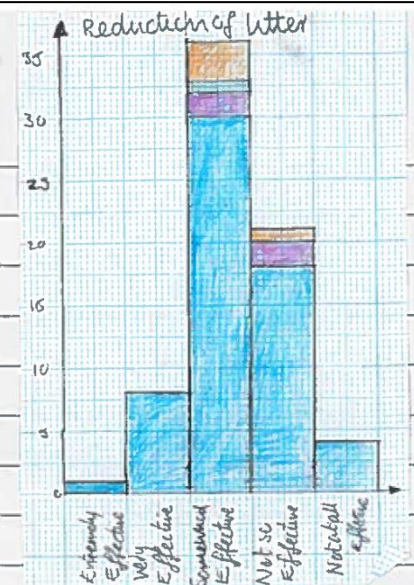
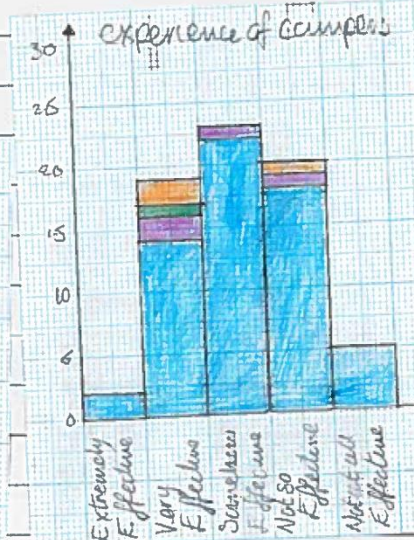
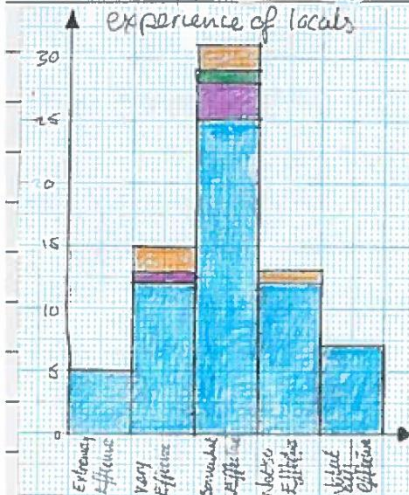
- <https://www.lochsidelemond-trossachs.org/park-authority/how-we-can-help/camping-byelaws/>
- The experience of campers is the thing people ~~seem~~ most divided on. Local residents ~~seem~~ on average (50%) seem to think there has been a large improvement for campers although they may be bitter. And most of the National parks and local government people are fairly happy with it, maybe because they are biased. But only 26/100 people have said that the camping Byelaws have been very effective at improving experience of campers probably because campers can no longer just reek up when they feel like it, and, on average, more recreational users don't think the camping restrictions are good for campers. In fact 5/10 ~~more~~ recreational users feel that the restrictions have had no effect on improving the experience of campers.

Conclusion

- ~~in fact~~ The camping laws have improved the problem of irresponsible campers on the shores of loch venacher although probably because of lack of policing, there is still a very long way to go. They have not achieved their aim of ~~relieving pressure on~~ improving the experience of people camping ~~there~~ there because people still abuse the loch and they have taken away spontaneous camping for people who would respect the loch anyway. They have however ~~so slightly improved~~ the relieved pressure on the loch shore and improved the lives of non-camping loch users.

Effectiveness of Camping Restrictions by type of Loch User On:

- Recreational User
- Local Land Owner
- National Park
- Local Government

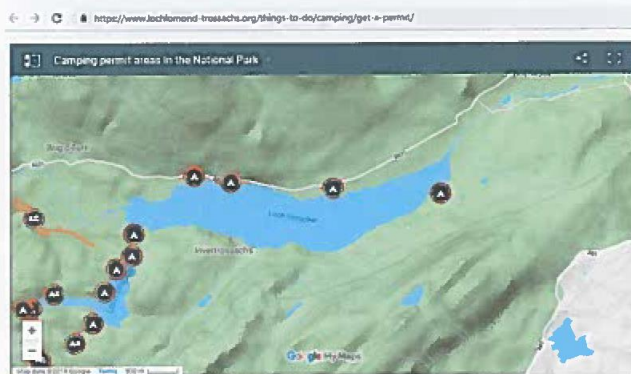


"Aim to improve the experience of those coming to camp in, and relieve pressure on, some of our most popular loch shore locations."

<https://www.lochshorelovers-trossachs.org/part-authority/how-we-can-help/camping-byelaws/>

Water

<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/things-to-do/camping/get-a-permit/>



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/thisisyourpark/19978324570/in/album-72157648323366165/>

Image A

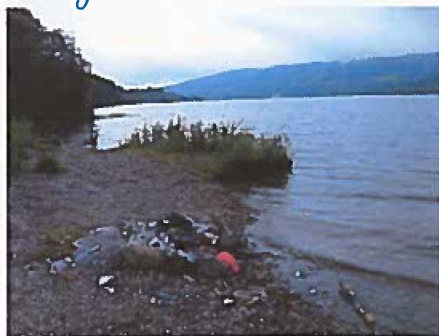


Image B



Pictures taken during the campaign for camping regulations to be put in place

Image C



Image D



Image E



Pictures taken of the camping zone on the South side of Loch Venachar in February 2014.