



*The national park is in yellow. Wild camping bans operate in the dark green, dark blue, orange and magenta areas.*

first signs of hypothermia. The fatalities will hit those less experienced paddlers who will take chances with the conditions rather than risk £500 fines and criminal records. Application of the ban will depend on which side of bed the officials got out in the morning.

There is a suspicion that a hidden agenda is to force wild campers back to paid campsites, which must have lost trade as a result of the 2003 act. The cost of campsites will alter the finances of a trip by a party of young paddlers and restrict their ability to behave safely and to travel at a pace and to places which suit their choice on the day.

Ramblers Scotland say there are not enough campsite pitches. Campers will be required to bring their own firewood, nonsense for hikers and cyclists. RS believe the stated issues could have been addressed with low cost campsites and by enforcing existing laws. They were unhappy that the park was going ahead with the plan. 'It undermines Scottish access rights by providing too few tent pitches to cope with demand and by charging to camp in previously free areas.

'Campers often won't get any toilets, drinking water or bins in return and we fear the hassle, cost and insufficient number of permits may put people off visiting this wonderful area,' said director Brendan Paddy.

Some 300 camping and motoring places will be available compared with the 800 tents which have been recorded on busy weekends. This is being referred to as 'managing pressure'. As VisitScotland tries to encourage tourists to come to the area, the national park tries to drive them away. It also means maps of ban areas now have to be carried and boundaries estimated.

A further ban is on sleeping in vehicles. We are regularly told not

to drive when tired but to stop and rest, at which point one may well fall asleep, much preferable to doing so at the wheel. A typical scenario might be someone driving down the A82 after an active weekend on the west coast. There is a continuous banned sleep area from south of Criarlairich to south of Luss, over 30km, before reaching the run in to Glasgow and the motorway network. The restriction is little shorter



*Wild campers are still welcome on Loch Katrine.*