

SOAC Part 12 - Gates, Fences, Dykes, Dams, Bridges etc.

Dams are categorised as structures, and therefore are outwith access rights, although many have access across them by custom. An example is the dam en route to the Munro Gairich. We are not aware of previously accessible dams being closed to access. Ideally any barrier like a fence will have reasonably spaced crossing points, whether or not it crosses a path or track. Locked gates should be reported to the local Access Officer, with a copy sent to the MCoS A&C Officer, as should difficult to cross barriers (especially barbed wire or electric fences) with no crossing points. In cases where you cannot find a crossing point nearby, then you do have the right to climb over the barrier, although this should be avoided if possible. This should be done in a least damaging way – gates at the hinge end, fences at strainer posts and dykes at the most solid point such as using a through stone. Bridges are within your access rights, although do not have their own specific guidance. After pressure from MCoS a few years ago, the locked gate over the bridge over the River Eive en route to Stob Coire ‘an Albannaich was unlocked. Section 2.2 of the main body of SOAC specifically mentions access on, through or over bridges.