

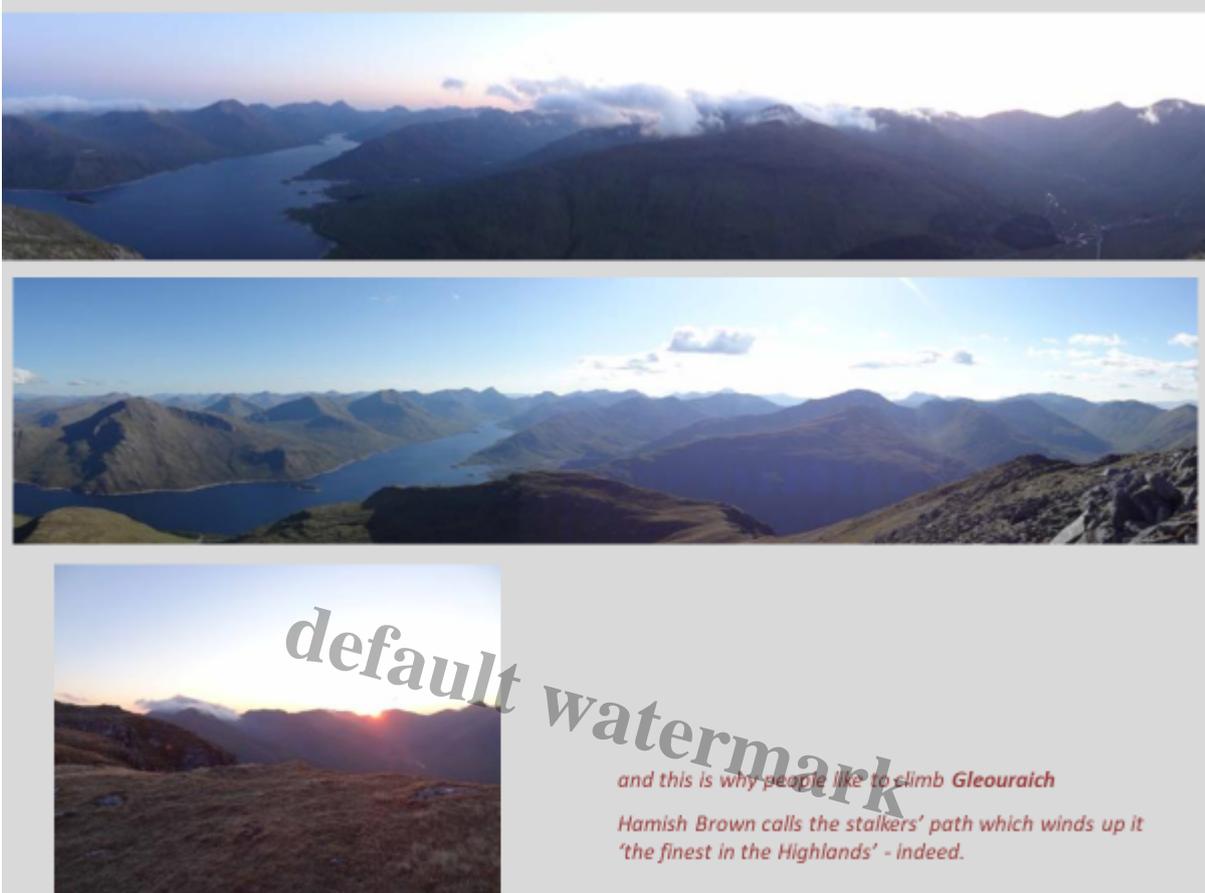
The Allt Mhuic â?? can the impact of run of river hydro schemes be mitigated?

Description



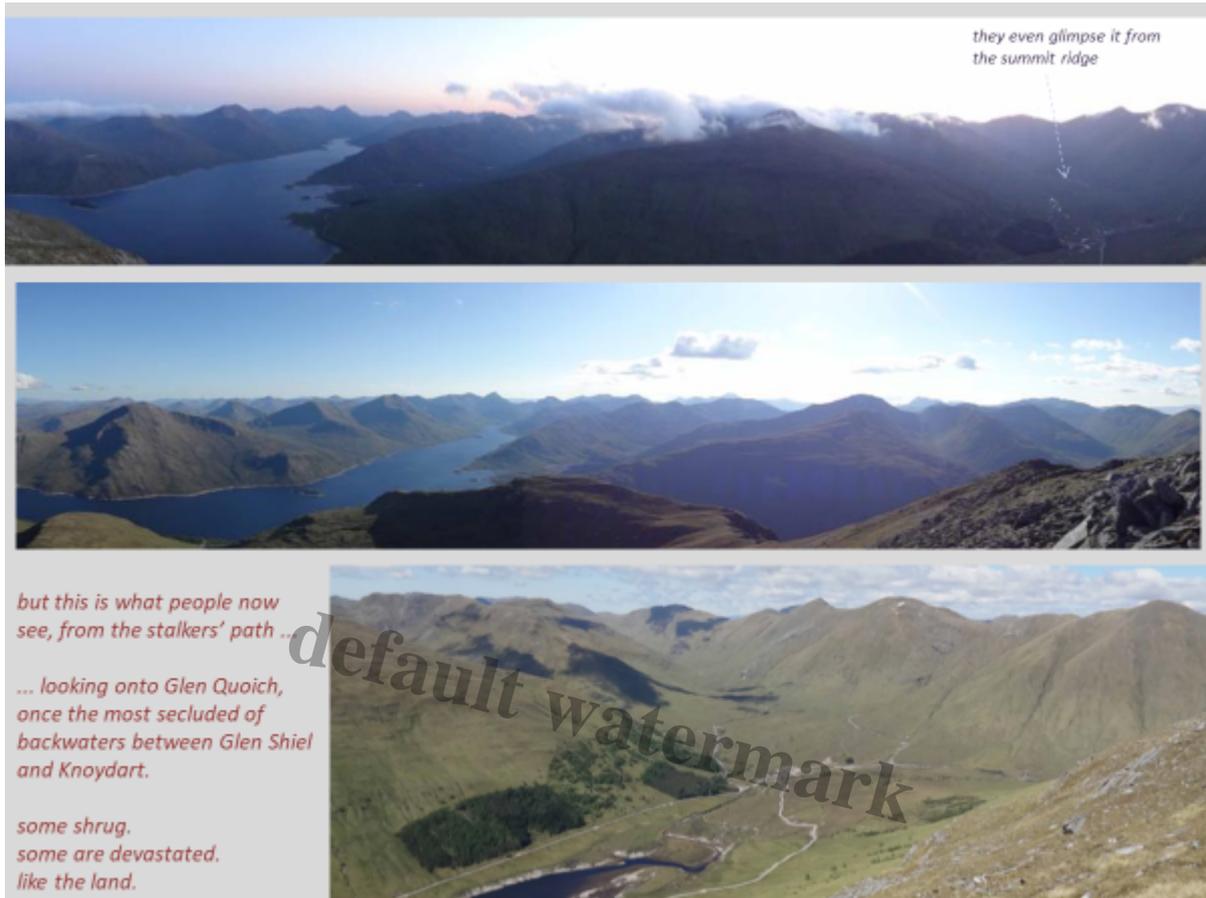
Slide credit David Jarman

Last week the full Highland Council decided to approve the remaining three Glen Etive hydro schemes ([see here](#)). It was clear during the debate that a number of Councillors voted for the proposals because they believed the impacts of construction could be mitigated and the landscape restored to close to its existing state.



Slide Credit David Jarman

While that is occasionally the case, so far across Scotland its been the exception, not the rule. Partly as a result of poorly designed and conceived schemes and partly as a result of lack of enforcement by Planning Authorities, hydro developers have trashed many Highland Glens.



Slide Credit David Jarman

Those Councillors who get out into our hills now appreciate the damage that can be caused â?? and all credit to them. Other Councillors â?? or National Park Board Members â?? seem unaware of what is being done under their aegis.



Slide Credit David Jarman

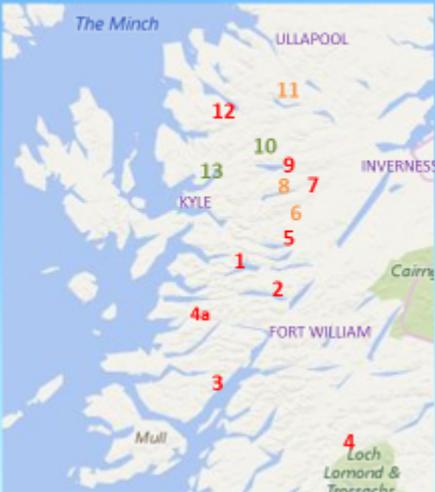
While Parkswatch has documented the extensive damage in our National Parks, it has generally refrained from covering other areas of Scotland – Glen Etive being the main exception. David Jarman, a former planner who has campaigned for Wild Land in Scotland, compiled slides on the impact of 13 schemes, good and bad, for Save Glen Etive.

Run-of-River hydro-electric schemes in the Highlands

slides		
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21 - 24	Auch, Bridge of Orchy	4
25	Loch Eilt, Morar	4a
26 - 29	Ceannacroc, Glen Moriston	5
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35 - 39	Liatrie pinewood, Glen Cannich	7
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65	a summing up	

these schemes just happen to be ones we have come across while going about the Highlands in the last few years - there are many more, and this is not a 'sample survey'.

most of them we consider **very** or **disastrously** intrusive, but **a few show what can be done**, to improve the bad, or if we have to sacrifice any more of our wild Highlands.



6 Gleann nam Fiadh, Affric

Slide Credit David Jarman

You can view the evidence from all David's slides ([here](#)). With David's permission, I thought it worth featuring the slides from the first two schemes on parkswatch.



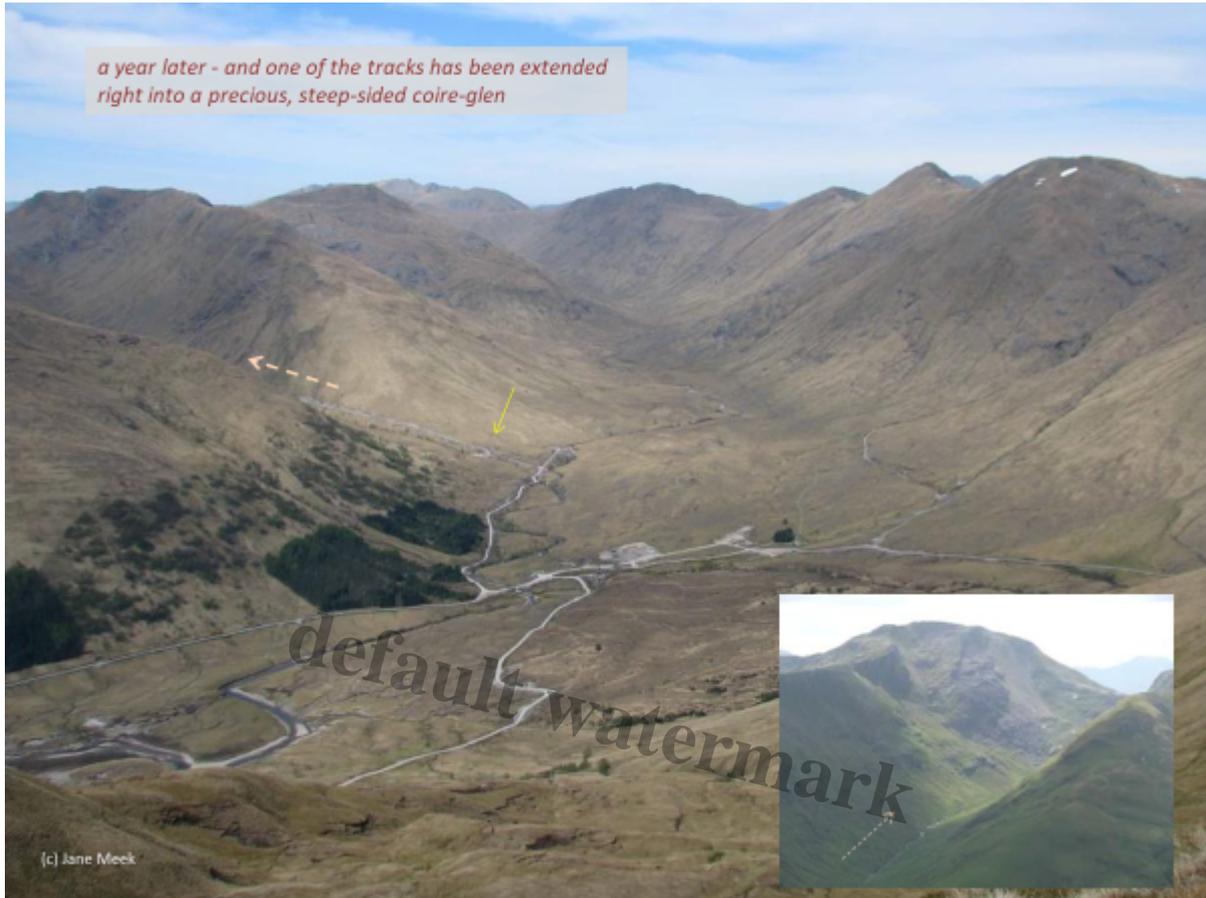
Slide Credit David Jarman

The Glen Quoich and Gleann Cia-aig schemes are, as the crow flies, the two closest to the Allt Mhuic scheme which Highland Council will consider tomorrow ([see here](#)). While the Allt Mhuic is much less well known than Glen Etive, it too flows from an area of Wild Land and the Highland South Planning Committee gave considerable attention to the mitigation proposals before rejecting it ([see here](#)).



Slide Credit David Jarman

The concerns of the Highland South Planning Committee were based on local knowledge of what had happened with other hydro schemes hereabouts, including Gleann Cia-aig (see below). I hope that all councillors and all members of National Parks now make it their business to understand what has been happening across the Highlands.



Slide Credit David Jarman

More often than not, the impact has been disastrous and the attempts at mitigation not worthy of that description. That was why all Councillors at the South Planning Committee which considered the Allt Mhuic were agreed that the proposed mitigation measures needed to be strengthened.



Slide Credit David Jarman

After the Etive decision, there is a risk now that the full Council will adopt a lower standard of mitigation than the South Planning Committee adopted for the Allt Mhuic before rejecting it (improved powerhouse design and tracks narrowed to 1.8m). That would be a disastrous step backwards. I hope Highland Council do the right thing and that, if they decide to approve the Allt Mhuic, they insist on the highest standards possible.

I will leave David Jarman's slides of Gleann Cia-aig, which is almost next door in geographical terms, to speak for themselves.

Gleann Cia-aig hydro scheme



2 **Glenn Cia-aig**

*this side valley provides a main access to the Lochy Munros.
a woodland path used to ascend by the Eas Chia-aig waterfall, and join a forest road.
above the 'beauty spot' falls, it now passes a turbine house and ascends a zigzag access road blasted out of the rock.*

Slide Credit David Jarman



Slide Credit David Jarman



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Category

1. Uncategorized

Tags

1. hill tracks
2. landscape
3. planning
4. renewables
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6. wild land

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