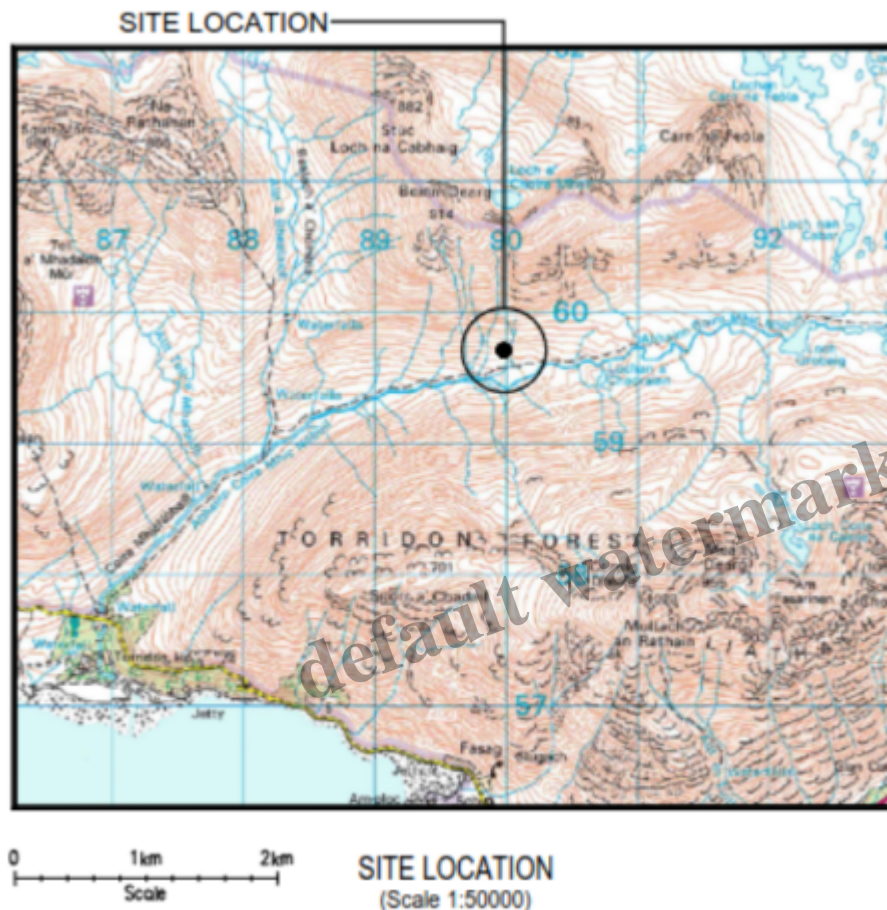


Unacceptable telecommunication masts (1) – in the heart of Torridon

Description



Map credit planning application

Yet another planning application for a telecommunication mast has appeared ([see here](#)), this time in the heart of Torridon on land owned by the National Trust for Scotland. This is a National Scenic Area, a Wild Land Area and the walk through from Glen Torridon to Loch Torridon one of the finest in Scotland.

One could not think of a more inappropriate place for a telecommunications mast. The politicians who take the decisions and have funded this development along with the commercial interests they serve have a complete disregard for the landscape.



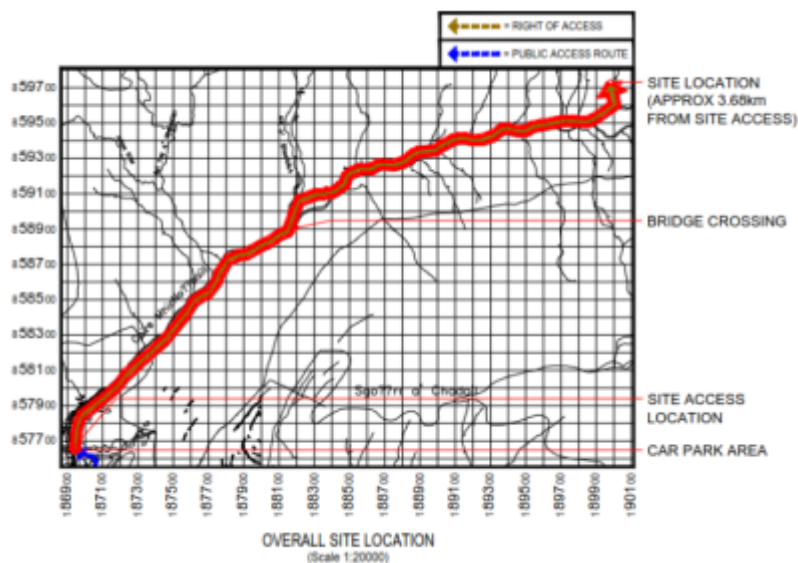
SITE PHOTOGRAPH

Photo from application

There is no visual impact assessment accompanying the application but the site appears to have been chosen to eliminate the telecommunications “total not spot” between the Torridon giants of Liathach, Beinn Eighe, Beinn Dearg and Beinn Alligin as much as is possible. That means the 25m tower will be visible from far and wide, including the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve which NatureScot, the body responsible for Scotland’s National Scenic Areas and Wild Land Areas, owns and manages.

One of the National Trust for Scotland’s managers has posted about this mast but we need some leadership from the very top of both NTS and NatureScot. That means both organisations should lodge objections next week but publicise this through the press and social media, with quotes from their Chairs and Chief Executives, in order to get this application, like the mast at Luibeg in the Cairngorms, withdrawn.

As the application admits, this mast does not serve ANY local community. That should make it easy to reject if the outdoor recreation community, NTS and NatureScot to say we don’t want it. From a recreational perspective an important part of the value of being away from it all in the heart of Torridon is that mobile phones DON’T work and you need to be self-reliant.



The application is short on other detail, for example while it says a helicopter will be used to transport in materials, it also appears that wheeled vehicles will be driven onto the site and there is a reference to importing stone if necessary. However, there is little point in the general public commenting on such matters, to do so would be to suggest the application is acceptable. It's not.

It only take a few minutes to object to the planning application via the comments facility [here](#). I hope people will consider doing so and also contacting NTS and NatureScot and asking them to show some leadership. If you are wanting to find words to describe the amazing landscape qualities of the area that would be affected by this mast NatureScot's statement on the Flowerdale, Shieldaig and Torridon Wild Land Area is very helpful ([see here](#)).

Following a number of posts from George Allan of the North East Mountain Trust and myself about telecommunications masts, e.g. [Telecommunications masts – a landscape disaster for Scotland's hills](#) my most recent post ([see here](#)) argued the coalition of NGOs opposing these masts need to re-think how they campaign because its not been working, I am keen to help raise awareness of what is going on, hence this post, but even better would be if the coalition created a shared forum for doing so, "mast watch" if you like.

Meantime short guest posts would be welcome to highlight new applications (hence why this is numbered 1). The basic information required is a link to the planning application, a map showing the location of the proposed mast and a photo of the site (there is usually one in the application but if you have your own even better) so readers can see where and what the issue is and can object easily.

Category

1. Other parts Scotland

Tags

1. landscape
2. NatureScot
3. outdoor recreation

- 4. planning
- 5. wild land

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