

Mr D Bryden
Cairngorms National Park Authority
14 The Square
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Moray
PH26 3HG

Inveralmond House
200 Dunkeld Road
PERTH
PH1 3AQ

Date: 26 August 2015

Dear Mr Bryden

Restoration and Reinstatement of construction tracks, tower bases and other works of the Beauly to Denny Transmission line through the Cairngorms National Park

Your letter to Alastair Phillips-Davies dated 25 June 2015 has been passed to me in order for me to formally respond to it. As you know, however, in order to understand the specific concerns highlighted in your letter, I, together with members of the Beauly-Denny project team met with Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) representatives Murray Ferguson and Matthew Hawkins on 29 July 2015. Mike Shepherd and Andrew Coupar from Scottish Natural Heritage were also present at the meeting. The meeting was highly productive.

Two main issues were raised during the meeting. These included:

- Concerns in relation to soil separation and storage during access track construction;
- Concerns about achieving appropriate restoration in areas that may prove to be challenging to restore or reinstate.

Having reviewed matters with the project team, there have been isolated issues surrounding the separation and storage of soils. Upon investigation there were various factors which contributed towards us not being able to achieve the separation of soils and storage of vegetation that we would have wanted and contributing factors included the fact that in most instances, there were thin layers or indeed lack of top soils to separate. In addition, in some sites, our contractors were working in confined and geographically challenging working areas.

As you will appreciate, there is always the requirement to adhere to Health and Safety and Operational requirements and balancing that with environmental requirements was sometimes difficult.

I acknowledge that our planning and coordination for approaching areas of concern, in relation to restoration and reinstatement, could be improved through more effective communication with key stakeholders.

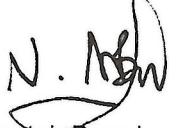
On balance, I believe we have approached the Beauly-Denny with consideration and have been very successful in fulfilling agreed conditions and standards as detailed in the Construction Procedures Handbook. The Beauly-Denny project has been audited continuously by independent environmental consultants over the past four years.

The Beauly-Denny team and I will work closely with the CNPA and associated statutory authorities to close out agreed actions. We are currently reviewing the trial restoration proposals presented in your letter and will work with representatives of CNPA and SNH to identify appropriate techniques and locations for trial. There is a site meeting arranged with the CNPA for 27 August to develop the proposals further.

Finally, I can confirm that we have agreed with the CNPA to meet more regularly to provide an effective forum for addressing areas of concern in the future.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Alastair Brand
Beaully Denny Project Director

Cc:

David Gardner, Director of Transmission
Richard Baldwin, Lead Environmental Project Manager
Murray Ferguson, CNPA
Matthew Hawkins, CNPA
Mike Shepherd, SNH
Andrew Coupar, SNH