



The Granary
West Mill Street
Perth PH1 5QP
Tel: 01738 493 942

By email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

FAO: Susan MacMillan

25 July 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application for construction of a run-of-river hydropower scheme, abstract water from the Allt Fhaolain burn and pipe to a turbine, on land 135m west Of Inbhirfhaolain, Glenetive

Planning Reference: 18/02740/FUL

Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 13,000 members and is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers, mountaineers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains, and acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering. Mountaineering Scotland also acts on behalf of the 80,000 members of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) on matters related to landscape and access in Scotland, and provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.

Mountaineering Scotland **objects** to this proposal to construct a run-of-river hydro power dam and abstract water from the Allt Fhaolain on grounds that it would have a significant detrimental impact on the public amenity of the nearby Grampian Club mountaineers' hut known as Inbhirfhaolain. The potential impacts are on: disruption to, and viability of, the Hut's water supply; noise from the power house turbines; and visual impact of the power house, associated facilities and the hard standing.

The Grampian Club is affiliated to Mountaineering Scotland. We are very concerned that the applicant failed to inform, discuss or engage with the Grampian Club over the impact of this development on their hut. We are unable to determine if this is due to either a lack of research or a dismissal of the potential impact of this development on users of the hut. Both are unacceptable given the detail on other potential impacts of the proposal.

We fully support the concerns of The Grampian Club in that the development would put the financial viability of the hut in doubt. Interference with their water supply, noise, and visual intrusion are all relevant concerns but have not been addressed within the planning application, indeed to make the point again that assessment of impacts to the hut has not even been mentioned.

The Scottish Government has set targets for renewable energy generation and we are supportive of developments that may be economically viable and are not detrimental to the general public social and environmental interests. All the work that members of the Grampian Club have put into maintaining and improving the hut and its surrounds is at stake here.

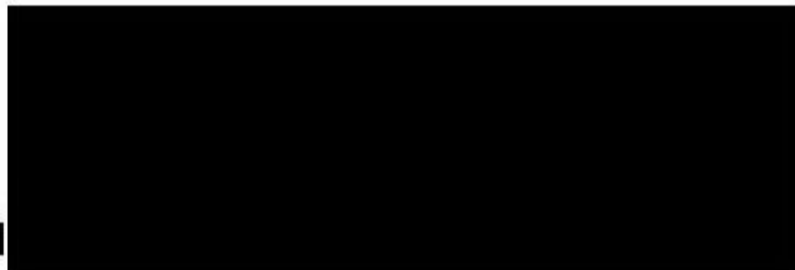
In order to help fulfil the Scottish Government's aspirations for renewable energy generation is not essential that his hydro scheme is built at this particular location. Hydro schemes can be built in other locations where the impact on social and environmental interests is not significant.

In addition, we have concerns about the visual impact of construction and restoration of the penstock and track routes, and of the powerhouse itself. This proposed development lies within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe National Scenic Area. We accept that the proposal is small within the extent of the NSA and the effects are localised as the applicant suggests. We disagree that the impact is negligible as the sensitivity of the receptors, ie hillwalkers and mountaineers, is high as they are there seeking the scenic value and wild land qualities of the Glen Etive area. The localised negative impact has a much higher significance for these people and needs to be taken into account in any assessment.

The construction statements for the powerhouse, penstock and construction track are poor in that they fail to provide sufficient safeguards to protect the visual amenity for hillwalkers and mountaineers and can be rejected on those grounds. SNH identify this as a failing in the proposal.

We trust that The Highland Council will protect the public interest at this location and reject this proposal.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Davie Black
Access & Conservation Officer
Mountaineering Scotland