

9th August 2018



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Susan MacMillan
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Reference 18/02742/FUL, 18/02739/FUL, 18/02741/FUL

Allt na Chaoarainn, Allt Ceitlein and Allt Mheuran Hydro Schemes

Sent by email : epc.planning@highland.gov.uk

1. The John Muir Trust wishes to add a supplementary comment to its objection regarding the above hydro schemes with regard to the proposed maintenance access tracks. The **Construction Management Plan, Planning Statement and EIA Report Vol 1:** document says a great deal about the development and the process of construction without really addressing the construction of the tracks and more importantly their reinstatement and screening. The tracks would create the most significant long term visual impact. Given that this is a run of river scheme we would question whether tracks of even 1.5 metres wide are essential after construction is completed in this highly sensitive area. We understand the maintenance needs of the scheme but would suggest that much of the access could be done on foot with necessary tools and equipment stored at the intakes. The need for the tracks must be examined and interrogated; the question of the essential versus the desirable needs to be proven. However if the scheme is approved we ask that conditions be imposed resulting in minimal track size, that it be fully or partly covered and screened by natural vegetation and that full details be given of how the natural vegetation is to be regenerated, so as to ensure that as quickly as possible any 'scarring' and visual impact is minimised.
2. We would like to highlight the application by Green Highland Renewables Ltd to Argyll and Bute Council Reference 18/01258/PP Glen Kinglass Hydros which is also in WLA 9 Loch Etive Mountains. In their EIA Report section 3 Development Description, page 3 – 7 they say "*At the end of construction the penstock and construction area would be fully restored, using turf and soil won from the work site, and with surface boulders replaced in their original orientation. The intake and penstock construction access track would be completely*

removed at the end of construction.” And on page 3 – 14 section 3.4.1 Operational access they state that “Access to the intake would be on foot via the existing walkers’ path which runs up the Coire Hallater from the Glen Kinglass track close to the proposed powerhouse. Generally, maintenance access at the intake involves inspection, and cleaning the intake screen with relatively light hand tools such as stiff brushes, and these can either be taken by the workforce or left secured at the intake in a convenient place. If any heavier tools or equipment are needed at the intake they would be carried by quadbike, which would be kept in the switchroom at Ardmaddy. For nature conservation and landscape reasons, the workforce would be instructed to minimise use of the quadbike.” If a highly experienced company such as Green highland Renewables think this is a viable way forward then we are of the view that this should also be applied to the Dickens Hydro proposals if they are given planning permission.

Yours sincerely

John Low

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John Muir Trust