



THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

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1/3/10

Jayson.drummond@greenhighland.co.uk

Dear Jayson

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCoFS) is the representative body for hill walkers, climbers and ski tourers. As the only national representative body of the sport of mountaineering in Scotland, we have 10,500 members, and are recognised by the Scottish Government as representing the interests of all mountaineers.

Thanks for requesting comment from MCoFS regarding the proposal for a hydro scheme at Balbeg on Loch Tay. The MCoFSs main interests are access to and conservation of upland ecology and landscapes. This scheme is in a core area for mountaineering in Scotland and surrounded by designated sites, Munros and Corbetts.

The MCoFS welcomes the use of a weir design that removes need for permanent tracks as often tracks are a major impact of run of river type schemes such as this. We also welcome the plan to bury the penstock and to re-instatement the ground disturbed by construction. The technique of re-instatement has not been specified hence it would be expected that the details are agreed with SNH. The powerhouse is closely associated with the road, hence MCoFS does not consider there are any landscape issues with this element. The MCoFS agrees that the impact on views from Meall Greigh does not pose any problems. Another viewpoint that may have been affected is the west ridge route up Beinn Bhreac NN 733 402 en route to the Corbett Creagan na Beinne NN 744 368, but in consideration of the above comments about buried elements and association with the road, we would not consider there would be any important impacts.

The MCoFS anticipates no significant impact from the proposed scheme as described in the consultation document dated February 2010. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely

Hebe Carus
Access & Conservation Officer