



THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

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13/4/11

Jayson Drummond
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Green Highland

Dear Jayson Drummond

Hydro Scheme Screenings - MCoFS Comments

Inverlochlarig

One main issue for mountaineering is continued access during construction; along the road, use of the customary car parking area and along the track towards Beinn Tulaichean which is a Munro. A traverse of the ridge to Cruach Ardrain is also popular, descent being down to the track running along Inverlochlarig Glen. The tailrace and powerhouse are in close association with existing structures, so it is not anticipated that there would be significant additional visual amenity / landscape effect. The MCoFS welcomes the fact that the scheme does not require the installation of any new permanent access tracks. Regarding the existing track along the glen, it is not clear what is meant by access for the scheme, "utilising this as access for construction (where feasible)." If this is unfeasible for a significant length then the use of a parallel track would have a significant impact. Additionally, we do not believe that the addition of a walkers path to the east of the burn, adding to the overall infrastructure in the glen, is necessary or desirable. The length of construction period would be limited and there is likely to be long sight-lines. For these reasons it would be possible, with use of notices and construction driver training, for the existing track to be safe for joint use and negate the need for significant impact on the landscape and visual amenity of the glen by adding a whole new track and/or constructed path. Should it really be felt necessary, then pedestrian passing places on the existing track should further negate any safety concerns.

Benmore

The tailrace and powerhouse are in close association with existing structures, so it is not anticipated that there would be significant additional visual amenity / landscape effect of these elements. Access for walkers and customary car parking must be maintained. Ben More is one of the most popular Munros and a regularly used route is along the existing track up Benmore Glen as well as directly up the hillside towards the summit as it is common to continue along the ridge to Stob Binnien and descend to Benmore Glen from the bealach in between the two summits. There is no description of intention in terms of track use / construction. It should be possible to ensure that the existing track can be shared between construction traffic and pedestrians, as described above. Any new track would have a significant impact on the landscape and visual amenity.

Glenalmond and Auchnafree

The existing tracks in the vicinity of all the elements of this scheme are used regularly by walkers both along the Rob Roy Way and to reach the Corbett summits, particularly Auchnafree Hill which is regularly accessed from the south, north and east along tracks likely to be used for construction

traffic. Continued access without track proliferation would need to be ensured as there is already a high concentration of tracks in the area, new tracks would be highly undesirable. A strategy to ensure safe shared use is described above.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely

Hebe Carus (Ms)
Access & Conservation Officer