



Press Release

28 September 2017

For immediate release

Mountaineers object to Kings House plan Extension to historic highland hotel respects neither original building nor surrounding landscape

Plans to extend one of the most historic hotels in the Highlands with an 'industrial style building' which will dwarf the original have been condemned by Mountaineering Scotland.

The Kings House Hotel, on Rannoch Moor, near Glen Coe, has long been a favourite of mountaineers, dating back to the pioneering climbers in the first half of the last century.

But now Mountaineering Scotland wants to call time on plans for a major extension which they argue would be completely out of character both with the original building and the surrounding landscape, which is part of a much-loved National Scenic Area.

The proposal, by Black Corries Estate Management Ltd, is to create a large, three-storey extension to the original two-story hotel, demolishing existing extensions which date back to the 1960s.

David Gibson, Chief Executive Officer for Mountaineering Scotland, said: "The Kings House Hotel is located in a part of the National Scenic Area which is recognised for its unique and unrivalled natural heritage, but the proposed development appears as an industrial-style building. It is not sympathetic to its surroundings or to the existing historic hotel building."

Mr Gibson added: "Scottish mountaineering, and many of our members, have a long association with the Kings House and we recognise its value as an amenity. We did not object to the original planning application made in 2016 – which was granted by Highland Council – because we felt it was more in keeping with both the original building and the landscape.

"But this new application is arguably no different to hotel buildings found in large cities and certainly does not "respect, enhance or make responsible use of our natural assets" as required by the National Planning Framework."

Mr Gibson concluded: "Mountaineering Scotland is not against the appropriate development of the Kings House and would support a well-designed extension as proposed in the 2016 application, but the new proposal is most certainly not well-designed or in keeping with its surroundings and we object to it."

Objections to the application have also been submitted by the National Trust for Scotland and the John Muir Trust.

Ends

Notes for editors:

The current planning application for the Kings House - 17/03703/FUL - can be viewed on the Highland Council website. The 2016 application previously granted was 16/00501/FUL.

Mountaineering Scotland's full objection can be viewed at

https://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/pdf/17_03703_FUL-Kings-House-Hotel,-Glencoe-Mountaineering-Scotland-Objection-28092017.pdf

Further information contact:

David Gibson, CEO, Mountaineering Scotland, on 07845 919150 or

david@mountaineering.scot

Neil Reid, Communications Officer, on 01738 493941 or 07788871803 or

neil@mountaineering.scot

About Mountaineering Scotland:

- Mountaineering Scotland is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains.
- Mountaineering Scotland provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.
- The Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 14,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers, funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, non-governmental grants and investment from sportscotland, which supports public initiatives and services in mountain safety, mountain training and the development and promotion of mountaineering activities.
- Mountaineering Scotland also acts for 75,000 members of the BMC or British Mountaineering Council on matters related to Landscape and Access in Scotland.
- Mountaineering Scotland landscape and access work is supported financially by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and the BMC
- Mountaineering Scotland has launched the ClimbScotland initiative to encourage young people to participate in climbing and support their progression. It offers a dedicated website and a development team, which will introduce young people to climbing at schools, climbing walls and via youth organisations with a range of activities and events, while developing kids clubs and providing specialist support to parents, volunteers and teachers.
- Mountaineering Scotland is the national governing body for sports climbing. It offers pathways to climbing coaching, organises and promotes a range of regional and national climbing competitions, and manages the Scottish climbing and bouldering teams. It contributes to the management of the GB teams with the ultimate aim of seeing a Scottish athlete achieve a podium position in the Olympic Games.
- The MCofS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.
- Mountaineering Scotland, The Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP