



**Press Release**

**20 January 2017**

**For immediate release**

## **Hands off Glen Etive**

### **Mountaineers call for ban on phone masts in iconic scenic glen**

Mountaineers have called on Highland Council to reject a bid to site a phone mast right next to the road down Glen Etive, one of Scotland's most famed and beautiful glens.

Telecomms company EE has sought permission to site a 10m-high phone mast and ancillary structures at the roadside in the glen, at a prominent corner near the southern end of Buachaille Etive Mor.

Mountaineering Scotland has objected to the planning application, arguing that the mast – and two others being considered for the glen – would be visually intrusive in a landscape that has featured in tourism publicity and even a James Bond film.

The site is also within the Ben Nevis and Glencoe National Scenic Area.

In its objection, submitted to The Highland Council, Mountaineering Scotland argues that an otherwise largely unspoilt landscape and visitor experience would be compromised.

David Gibson, CEO of Mountaineering Scotland, said: "Glen Etive is an iconic, beautiful glen within a National Scenic Area: one which offers visitors a fantastic experience of the true wild nature of Scotland's mountains.

"The mast and infrastructure would render some views utterly ordinary.

"The proposal is simply unacceptable and is a poor example of a developer seeking an expedient solution. We would expect EE and their parent BT Group to exercise better judgement of the true value of Scotland's landscape, as an asset to be enjoyed by many, not exploited for a quick fix solution. We ask them withdraw the proposal and think again."

In its objection, Mountaineering Scotland points out that it is clear that a number of alternative locations within the glen could be used – as suggested by Scottish Natural Heritage – which would use the backdrop of the hills to make the visual impact less severe.

It states: "As an organisation representing those who enjoy a range of outdoor activities, we recognise the importance of effective mobile telecommunications, especially in the context of safety in the hills. However, we believe that in the case of this proposal, that viable alternatives are available to the developer. We object to the proposal and would urge EE and BT Group to think again.

**Ends**

**Notes for editors:**

**Image:** A view of Glen Etive from Beinn Trilleachan

[http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Glen Etive, by Alex Bryce.JPG](http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Glen_Etive_by_Alex_Bryce.JPG)

[The full Mountaineering Scotland objection can be downloaded here.](#)

**Further information contact:**

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**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 MCofS is a membership organisation with over 13,000 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.
- Mountaineering Scotland is the new name for the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS), which acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.
- Mountaineering Council of Scotland remains the registered company name.

- The MCoS 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