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Ms A. Knox,  
Planning & Building Standards  
Argyll and Bute Council,  
Kilmory,  
Lochgilphead,  
Argyll,  
PA31 8RT

5 September 2018

Dear Ms Knox

**Construction of run-of-river hydro scheme: Allt Hallater Hydro, Glen Kinglass, Argyll And Bute  
Planning Reference: 18/01258/PP**

Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 13,000 members and is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers, mountaineers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains, and acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering. Mountaineering Scotland also acts on behalf of the 80,000 members of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) on matters related to landscape and access in Scotland, and provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.

**Visual Impact of Construction Access Tracks**

Mountaineering Scotland recognises that development activities will have impacts and accepts and encourages developments that work with the grain of nature and maintain the wild qualities of the landscape.

We have accepted many renewable energy developments in the Scottish hill country but are becoming increasingly concerned by the residual visual impacts of small hydro schemes throughout Scotland. This is generally from the alignment of penstock and construction access tracks and the detail and quality of post construction restoration. We are especially concerned where these proposals lie within areas of high landscape quality and where they are close to popular hillwalking and climbing areas.

This proposal lies within a by a Wild Land Area and Area of Panoramic Quality, with a National Scenic Area within easy walking distance. The Loch Etive area is a very popular destination for hillwalking with a number of Munros, Corbetts and other tops with views readily accessible from the glen floor.

Our concern with this proposal is that it is a major civil engineering project in an area recognised for its wild land qualities. These qualities are very fragile and sensitive to disturbance. The ongoing erosion of wild land qualities is a serious landscape issue we

request that Argyll & Bute Council look closely at how the project will be carried out. The assumption in the Environmental Report is that restoration will leave no trace. We request that the Council consider the implications of failure to achieve this restoration and the means available to the Council to ensure that the wild qualities of the landscape are maintained for future generations to enjoy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and a trailing flourish.

**Davie Black**  
**Access & Conservation Officer**  
**Mountaineering Scotland**