



The Granary
West Mill Street
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By email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

FAO: Susan MacMillan

20 December 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Construction of a run-of-river hydropower scheme, abstract water from the Allt Fhaolain burn and pipe to a turbine, estimated turbine will be sized up to 425kW (Allt Fhaolain) (revised application - previous 18/02740/FUL) | Land North West Of Inbhirfhaolain, Glenetive.

Planning Reference: 18/05439/FUL

Mountaineering Scotland recognises this revision of the hydropower proposal reduces the detrimental impact on the public amenity of the nearby Grampian Club mountaineers' hut known as Inbhirfhaolain. The potential impacts on disruption to, and viability of, the Hut's water supply; noise from the power house turbines; and visual impact of the power house have been looked at and reduced to an acceptable level.

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.

Although the major negative impacts to the Inbhirfhaolain hut of the turbine housing and tailrace appear to have been mitigated, we wish to raise a concern with The Highland Council about the post-construction maintenance access track to the intake weirs.

The concern we have is the proliferation of unnecessary constructed tracks in the uplands. The applicant proposes to reinstate the construction tracks to the intake locations to a width suitable for an ATV. The location plans show that a section of about 200m would be reinstated from an existing forest track. We think that the creation of this constructed track is not needed for routine maintenance visits, and could easily be achieved by a short walk in from the forest track where any vehicle can be left. This is in a National Scenic Area, so any unnecessary construction features may be limited by planning conditions.

We trust that The Highland Council will defend the public interest and maintain the qualities that the National Scenic Area and adjacent Wild Land Area provides.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Black". The letter "D" is large and stylized, followed by a period and the name "Black".

Davie Black
Access & Conservation Officer
Mountaineering Scotland