

Glen Affric Hydro Scheme monthly newsletter – June 2016

Work on track on Affric hydro schemes

Green Highland Renewables is now working on two run-of-river hydro schemes in Glen Affric on land owned by Forest Enterprise Scotland, SSE and part of Wester Guisachan Estate.

The two projects, comprising a 2MW scheme on the Abhainn Gleann nam Fiadh (AGNF) and 1.5MW on the Allt Garbh, received full consent from The Highland Council in 2013.

The projects are scheduled to finish in summer 2017 and together the schemes will produce enough power to supply approximately 2,750 homes.

The developments are among a number being progressed by energy companies as part of an on-going renewables programme being promoted across land managed by Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES).

May activity

During May the civil works have commenced in earnest with the following areas of activity:

Abhainn Gleann nam Fiadh

- Work is underway on the site setup of the main compound site office and welfare facilities for both schemes, including extending the car park and laydown area. There is now an internet connection, and a BT telephone line is due to be installed in early June.
- Specialist contractors Highland Conservation Ltd have started constructing a new footpath at Chisholm Bridge which will tie into a new Forest Enterprise Scotland car park. This path, which is part of the Abhainn Gleann nam Fiadh project, will provide a new low level circular walk in the area.
- Powerhouse – bulk earthworks complete.
- Outfall – bulk earthworks complete.
- Penstock – 850 metres of penstock corridor complete. (Total length when finished – 3100 metres.)



Penstock corridor good practice - turf storage separate from sub-soil.

Allt Garbh

- Allt Garbh – maintenance works on the forest access road from Dog Falls to Allt



Garbh ongoing.

- Alt Garbh- Cleared laydown near powerhouse and stripped turf at powerhouse.
- Although civil works were late in starting this has not impacted on the overall project programme.

Environment

Throughout the course of the month a small number of environmental constraints and events arose as follows:

- Nesting Merlin have been spotted on the site. A 400m buffer zone has been imposed but this is not impacting works.



Outfall – Bulk earthworks complete.

- A minor silt spill from around the AGNF compound was observed and stopped immediately. SEPA were informed of the incident.

- Improvements to compound area have been carried out to reduce silt discharges in future (minor ditches have been culverted).

- Monitoring of ornithological interests around Allt Garbh is ongoing. No restrictions have been imposed to date.

Further information

To keep everyone up to date on the progress of the schemes we have posted information notes at Dog Falls car park, Allt na h-Imrich car park, River Affric car park and at the foot of each scheme.

We are also providing up to date information to the local and wider community via the Forest Enterprise Scotland web site, Green Highland Renewables web site and a dedicated Twitter feed.



Works ongoing at the new footpath

Web: www.greenhighland.co.uk/glen-affric-project

Twitter: @AffricHydro

