

## Glen Affric Hydro Scheme monthly newsletter – September 2016

### Good progress being made

After steady progress during the wet month of July, August has seen some significant advances with both schemes firmly on schedule. Good progress has been made on the penstock (pipeline) corridors with measures implemented to ensure the continued safety of walkers and other hill users. As always, given the environmental sensitivity of Glen Affric, our contractors are adopting a cautionary approach and will often stand down from activities when there is any potential risk to the environment – for example during heavy rain.

### Abhainn Gleann nam Fiadh

The construction access corridor to the penstock is now complete, despite a delay of one week due to a minor slope failure close to the intake (pictured right).

The slope has been stabilised and the temporary access road/corridor completed. The existing access path for walkers has been diverted past the unstable slope and intake area over a small hillock to the north of the working area.



*Pictured: minor slope failure (right) and walkers diversion (orange fencing) above the intake and unstable slopes on the access road.*



At the powerhouse, blasting has been carried out to remove rock from the turbine sump, and the reinforced concrete outfall chamber is nearing completion. At the intake, blasting has been carried out to fracture rock in the by-pass channel.

Once construction is complete, the track will be reduced to a much narrower track suitable for walkers and small vehicles.

## Allt Garbh

Bulk earthworks have been complete at the outfall and blasting has been carried out to fracture rock on the route of the outfall pipe. Rock armour has been placed on the river bank and reinforcement has been fitted for the base of the outfall box structure.

The temporary penstock access road, with a total length of 2500 metres, is now 80 percent complete.

*Pictured: Penstock corridor nearing completion (right), rock armour in place (below), and blasting complete.*



## Environment

A minor soil slip occurred while the penstock corridor/access track was nearing the Abhainn Gleann nam Fiadh intake site. No silt was discharged into the burn. However, works were stopped until a geotechnical assessment was carried out and the remedial measures agreed with Forestry Commission Scotland and SNH.

An archaeological dig was carried out on an old shieling near the location of the Allt Garbh intake. There were no major finds and the site was mapped and cleared for construction work to proceed in that area. The remaining elements will be fenced off to protect them from future works.

Regular on site update meetings with FCS representatives are held to discuss any new work activities and to agree the outline operational methodology.

## 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.

Web: [www.greenhighland.co.uk/glen-affric-project](http://www.greenhighland.co.uk/glen-affric-project)

Twitter: @AffricHydro

