

## Glen Affric Hydro Scheme monthly newsletter – July 2016

### Progress continues on Affric hydro schemes

Significant progress is now being made on the two run-of-river hydro schemes being developed in Glen Affric by Green Highland Renewables on land managed or owned by Forest Enterprise Scotland, SSE and part of Wester Guisachan Estate

### Footpath complete

We have seen the completion of the new public footpath at Chisholm Bridge which now creates a low-level circular walk that will tie into a new Forest Enterprise Scotland car park due to be completed next year. This has been created as part of the Abhainn Gleann nam Fiadh (AGNF) scheme. Construction work continues in the area and we would ask all walkers to adhere to the signage at all times.

### Construction progress

The past month has seen plenty of construction activity on both sites which has included:

#### Abhainn Gleann nam Fiadh

The bulk earthworks at the powerhouse have been completed, as well as the rock armour at the outfall location.

Further up the hill, 2000 metres of penstock (pipeline) corridor have been completed, and work has commenced on the corridor above the forest enclosure, which has a much reduced width to reflect the sensitivity of this section. In total 3100 metres of corridor will be required during the construction phase.

*Pictured: penstock corridor above the forest enclosure.*



#### Allt Garbh



Here a temporary laydown area has been created around the site of an existing FCS borrow pit just to the west of powerhouse and all existing access road improvements have been completed, including repairing recent and historical storm damage.

At the powerhouse, the bulk earthworks are 80% complete and the temporary access road to the intake is 30% complete.

*Pictured: penstock corridor almost outside the woodland heading for boundary with Wester Guisachan Estate.*

## June downpour

There was a huge downpour in early June which resulted in many landslips throughout the glen and the public road being washed out. This caused extensive damage to a number of tracks. Our existing silt mitigation worked well, protecting the nearby waterbodies from further silt pollution. Loch Beinn a Mheadhoin had turned brown and GHR worked with SEPA to clarify that the pollution did not come from our sites.

In response to this and to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the pollution control measures all ditches and culverts have now been maintained and strengthened. The existing road on the south side of Loch Beinn a Mheadhoin also had several washouts that are now repaired.

## Van speed

A complaint was received from the public regarding contractors' vans going too fast on the Glen Affric road. 'Tool box talks' have been given to all contractors and dash cams are being fitted to all their vehicles.

## Highland Cross

In midsummer the Highland Cross coast-to-coast duathlon took place and Green Highland Renewables was pleased to help prepare the route and repair the forestry road where required. On the day blue skies meant that all runners and walkers stayed dry, and Green Highland Renewables Project Manager Sam Hesling came in 3rd overall in a time of 3.34. Project Manager Colin Gilmour's daughter Mairi also completed the event for the first time.

## Project background

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).

## 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

