

Glen Affric Hydro Scheme monthly newsletter – November 2016

Visible signs of progress

Significant progress can now be seen on the two run-of-river hydro schemes being developed in Glen Affric. The main civils works have focussed on the following activities:

Abhainn Gleann nam Fiadh

The outfall chamber is now complete with the outfall pipe laid and land reinstated. We have now started to lay pipes along the penstock corridor just above the powerhouse heading uphill towards the intake.

There has been no work recently on the intake as we have been waiting on precast concrete weir units which will be delivered to the site in November. At the powerhouse we have been making steady progress on forming the powerhouse floor slab over three different levels.

Pipe deliveries to AGNF have successfully reached the site without mishap, and all trucks are being escorted from Fasnakyle along the narrow Glen Affric road.



Pictured: powerhouse floor taking shape.

Alt Garbh

At Alt Garbh the powerhouse turbine sump has been poured and the outfall chamber has been completed although we have encountered some really hard rock in the deep excavation for the outfall pipe. Work has also begun on excavation for the intake tank.

In the penstock corridor the roadway is now complete to the intake site. Although this was



Pictured: Alt Garbh powerhouse turbine sump cast

finished some weeks ago, very wet weather and poor ground conditions in late September made the track hard to use. Since then we have added rock fill to the roadway. This, allied to dry weather in October, has helped the road stabilise and firm up so that we can now drive on it.

Pipe deliveries have started with artic trucks successfully driving along 8 km of forest roads from Knockfin to the site laydown. Each truck is escorted to and from Tomich.

There is also good news that the public road on the south side of Cannich has re-opened meaning that all project HGVs can now bypass the village of Cannich and avoid the narrow road past the primary school.

High voltage cable laying

Cable has been delivered and plans are now in place to start laying the cables from the point of connection on the side of Loch Benevean to Chisholm Bridge in the road verge. All pre-start environmental surveys have been completed and the cable route has been diverted to avoid any trees with potential bat roosts. It has now been confirmed the transformer will be located at the site beside the Glen Affric road, but on uphill side of existing Fasnakyle House power line.

Health, safety and the environment

There were no health, safety or environmental issues during the last month.

Project background

The two Glen Affric projects, comprising a 2MW scheme on the Abhainn Gleann nam Fiadh 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.

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

Twitter: @AffricHydro

