

EARBA STORAGE

A GILKES ENERGY COMPANY

Earba Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme EIA Report

Appendix 15.1.1: Photographic Record of Views from the Munro Circular Walk

February 2024



Quality Information

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Revision History

Revision

01

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Details

Issue to ECU

Authorised

Gavin McGill

Appendix 15.2

Photographic Record of Views from the
Munro Circular Walk, Beinn a Chlachair,
Gael Charn and Creag Pitridh

Photographic Record of Views from the Munro Circular Walk, Beinn a Chlachair, Gael Charn and Creag Pitridh

Introduction

This document presents a photographic record of the views seen whilst walking the circuit of the Munros Beinn a Chlachair, Geal Charn and Creag Pitridh. The aim of this is to enable readers to appreciate the views from this walk and to assist with understanding which components of the Proposed Development would be visible and for what durations of the walk.

Scope of Survey

The survey was carried out by Chris Pasteur on Tuesday 5 September 2023. Photos were taken looking in all directions from the majority of 52 locations on the route of the walk, this being that described in the Scottish Mountaineering Club guidebook “The Munros”¹ and the Walkhighland website². The route also follows the most popular lines on the Strava Global Heatmap³.

The weather was fine and all summits were clear. Six other hillwalkers were seen on the day.

Table 1 below records the locations of the points from which photos were taken, the time taken (from Loch Earba onwards only) and the key components of infrastructure comprising the Proposed Development that would be visible from each viewpoint. For the Leamhain dam, this refers to visibility of the dam and / or reservoir.

The survey locations are shown in the attached **Figures 15.6 and 15.7 (locations, locations on Strava Heatmap)**.

Survey Results

The survey established that:

- new access tracks for the Proposed Development would be visible from most of the locations on the walk;
- The Shuas Dam would be visible between locations 9 and 15 (approximately 1 hour if walking, including going and returning), and

¹ “The Munros” – Scottish Mountaineering Press, 2021

² Walkhighlands: <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/>, accessed September 2023

³ Strava Global Heatmap: <https://www.strava.com/heatmap#7.00/-120.90000/38.36000/hot/all>, accessed September 2023

- between locations 19 and 23 (approximately 75 minutes, but walking with your back to the view of the dam);
- The powerhouse area would only be visible from location 15, as earlier views would be obscured by the Shuas Dam once constructed. This would be approximately 5 minutes of visibility, with the view not in the direction of walking;
 - The Shios Dam would be visible from location 15, as earlier views would be obscured by the Shuas Dam once constructed. This would be approximately 5 minutes of visibility, with the view not in the direction of walking. In addition it would be visible location 48, the summit of Creag Pitridh, but not on the approach or descent;
 - The Leamhain Dam and reservoir would be visible from:
 - Location 24, a high point on the Beinn a Chlachair summit ridge for one or 2 minutes;
 - Between locations 29 and 30 on the final section of steep descent from Beinn a Chlachair to the stalkers' path at Bealach Leamhain, for approximately 5 minutes, with the view in the direction of walking;
 - Between locations 33 and 34 on the stalkers' path across the Bealach Leamhain, for approximately 5 minutes, with the view not in the direction of walking; and
 - The surge shafts on the West flank of Creag Pitridh would be visible from location 23, the summit of Beinn a Chlachair and from location 50, close to the surge shafts location. In total, this is expected to be less than 10 minutes walking with visibility of the surge shafts.

Table 1 – Record of Photographs				Visible Permanent Infrastructure					
Location	Grid Reference	Time	Comments	New Access Tracks	Shuas Dam	Powerhouse Area	Shios Dam	Leamhain Dam	Surge Shafts
01	43245 83000		At Moy Bridge	X					
02	43650 82800		By access gate						
03	43725 82700		Next to borrow pit	X					
04	43887 82137		By bend in track	X					
05	44332 82192		Track junction	X					
06	44308 81689		At small bridge over burn	X					
07	44596 81179		On existing estate track	X					
08	45257 80898		On existing estate track at the junction by the reservoir	X					

Table 1 – Record of Photographs					Visible Permanent Infrastructure					
Location	Grid Reference		Time	Comments	New Access Tracks	Shuas Dam	Powerhouse Area	Shios Dam	Leamhain Dam	Surge Shafts
09	45419	80881		By the reservoir, Loch Ardrighe	X	X				
10	45721	81003		On the existing estate track	X	X				
11	45907	81104		On the existing estate track	X	X				
12	46279	81337		From the bridge on the existing estate track	X	X				
13	46369	81074		Parking place on track midway across Loch Earba	X	X				
14	46470	80769	10:51	Stalkers' path by sheep fank	X	X	X	X		
15	46706	80571	10:57	Stalkers' path	X	X				
16	47029	80478	11:02	Stalkers' path	X					
17	47436	80405	11:11	Stalkers' path	X					
18	47751	80238	11:18	Junction with path up Beinn a Chachair N ridge	X					
19	47888	79833	11:30	Beinn a Chachair N ridge	X	X				
20	47890	79492	11:41	Beinn a Chachair N ridge	X	X				
21	47863	79185	11:56	Beinn a Chachair N ridge	X	X				
22	47905	78988	12:05	Beinn a Chachair N ridge	X	X				
23	47124	78153	12:45	Summit of Beinn a Chlachair	X	X				X
24	47922	78395	13:13	Beinn a Chlachair descent towards bealach	X				X	
25	47978	78556	13:18	Beinn a Chlachair descent towards bealach	X					
26	48167	78781	13:23	Beinn a Chlachair descent towards bealach						
27	48676	79019	13:32	Beinn a Chlachair descent towards bealach						
28	48945	79370	13:40	Beinn a Chlachair descent towards bealach	X					
29	49047	79522	13:45	Beinn a Chlachair descent towards bealach	X				X	
30	49046	79592	13:50	Descent towards bealach	X				X	
31	49099	79647	13:56	On stalkers' path	X					

Table 1 – Record of Photographs				Visible Permanent Infrastructure						
Location	Grid Reference		Time	Comments	New Access Tracks	Shuas Dam	Powerhouse Area	Shios Dam	Leamhain Dam	Surge Shafts
32	48936 80043	14:03	At bealach low point on stalkers' path	X						
33	48942 80234	14:08	On stalkers' path	X					X	
34	48954 80262	14:10	On stalkers' path	X					X	
35	48953 80364	14:14	On stalkers' path	X						
36	48979 80432	14:16	On stalkers' path	X						
37	49030 80605	14:27	On stalkers' path	X						
38	49146 80579	14:38	Path up Geal Charn	X						
39	49243 80611	14:42	Path up Geal Charn	X						
40	49337 80660	14:46	Path up Geal Charn	X						
41	49490 80676	14:51	Path up Geal Charn	X						
42	49658 80709	14:56	Path up Geal Charn	X						
43	49728 80732	14:58	Path up Geal Charn	X						
44	49880 80819	15:01	Path up Geal Charn	X						
45	50433 81180	15:16	Summit of Geal Charn							
46	49135 81016	15:47	Stalkers' path at Pitridh branch							
47	48898 81170	15:55	Coire a Mhaigh							
48	48751 81459	16:07	Summit of Creag Pitridh	X				X		
49	48564 81454	16:18	South West flank of Creag Pitridh							
50	48203 81408	16:26	South West flank of Creag Pitridh	X						X
51	47990 81178	16:31	South West flank of Creag Pitridh	X						
52	47575 80724	16:41	South West flank of Creag Pitridh	X						

Location 01 – Moy Bridge



L01 - Entrance to Moy Bridge from the A86



L01 - Moy Channel / River Spean looking East – The new access bridge would be visible approximately 300m upstream. The entrance compound would be behind a bund at the high level (marked by arrow)

Location 02 - just beyond the gate on the access track



L02 -View towards the entrance compound area (at the higher level)

Location 03 – Existing borrow pit



L03 - View looking North towards the entrance compound



L03 - View looking South towards Beinn a Chlachair

Location 04 – Existing Track



L04 - Looking north towards the entrance compound area



L04 – looking North East towards Loch Laggan



L04- looking East towards Binnein Shuas and Creag Pitridh

Location 05 – Track Junction

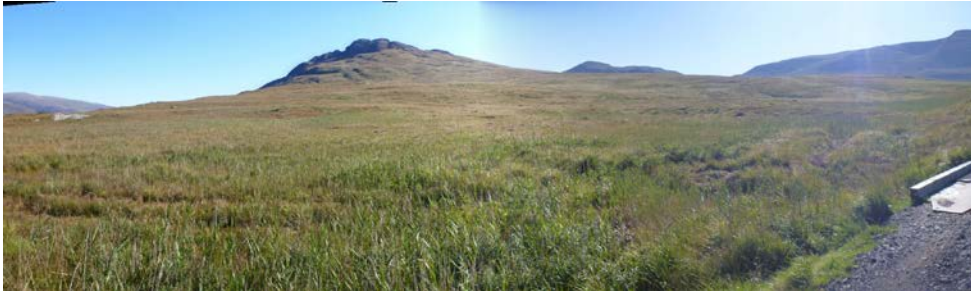


L05 – looking North West towards the entrance compound



L05 – looking South East towards Binnein Shuas and Beinn a Chlachair

Location 06 – Track SW of Binnein Shuas



L06 – Panorama looking towards Binnein Shuas and Creag Pitridh

Location 07 – Track to SW of Binnein Shuas (2)



L07 – view towards Creag Pitridh

Location 08 – at NW corner of Loch Andruighe



L08 – Track towards Lubvan



L08 – Beinn a Chlachair and Loch Andruighe



L08 – looking into Coire Pitridh



L08 – Creag Pitridh on the right, Binnein Shuas on the left

Location 09 – to the North of Loch Ardruighe



L09 – looking South West



L09 – looking South East towards Beinn a Chlachair



L09 – looking towards Coire Pitridh



L09 – looking towards Creag Pitridh



L09 – looking towards Binnein Shuas

Location 10 – Just North East of Loch Ardrighe



L10- looking across peat bog towards Coire Pitridh



L10 - looking towards Creag Pitridh and Loch Earba



L10 – Panorama towards Creag Pitridh and Binnein Shuas

Location 11 – similar to L11 – no photos included

Location 12 – Bridge at SW end of Loch Earba



L12 – looking South West



L12 – panorama over moorland towards Beinn a Chlachair



L12 – panorama towards Loch Earba

L13 – On Existing Track to South West of Loch Earba



L13 – Panorama towards Loch Earba



L13 – Panorama looking South West



L13 – Towards Beinn a Chlachair

L14 – On the stalkers' path by the Ruined Sheep Fank



L14 – looking towards Loch Earba



L14 – Loch Earba to Sheep fank panorama



L14 – Looking up towards Beinn a Chlachair and Coire Pitridh

Location 15 – Stalkers’ Path up Coire Pitridh



L15 – Panorama looking North West towards Binnein Shuas



L15 – Panorama looking up Coire Pitridh

Location 16 – Stalkers’ Path up Coire Pitridh



L16 – Looking towards Loch Ardruighe

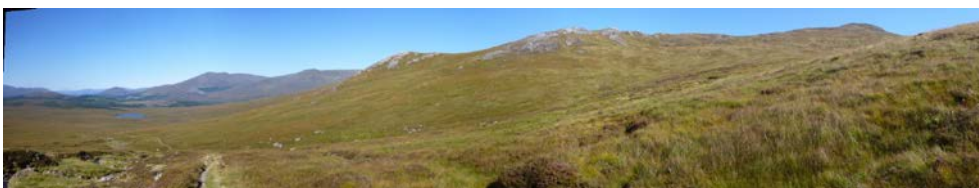


L16 – looking up Coire Pitridh

Between Locations 16 and 17 – Stalkers' Path Crossing the Pitridh burn



Location 17 – Coire Pitridh Stalkers' Path



L17 – Panorama Creag Pitridh to Loch Ardrighe



L17 – panorama looking up Coire Pitridh

Location 18 – Coire Pitridh Stalkers' Path at point path to North ridge of Beinn a Chlachair branches off

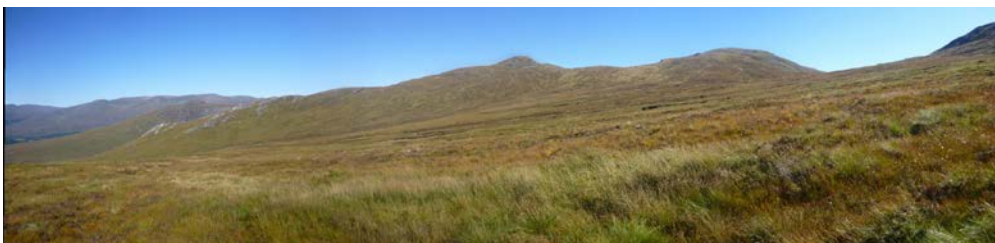


L18 – panorama of the North side of Coire Pitridh



L18 – panorama looking towards Beinn a Chlachair

Location 19 – North Face of Beinn a Chlachair



L19 – panorama looking towards the North side of Coire Pitridh



L19 – view towards Moy Bridge

L20 – North Face of Beinn a Chlachair



L20 – Panorama towards Creag Pitridh and Binnein Shuas



L20 – panorama towards Bealach Leamhain and Creag Pitridh

Location 21 – North Face of Beinn a Chlachair



L21- panorama of Geal Charn to Moy Bridge



L21 – panorama towards Geal Charn and Creag Pitridh

Location 22 – North Face of Beinn a Chlachair



L22 – view towards Binnein Shuas



L22 – view towards Geal Charn

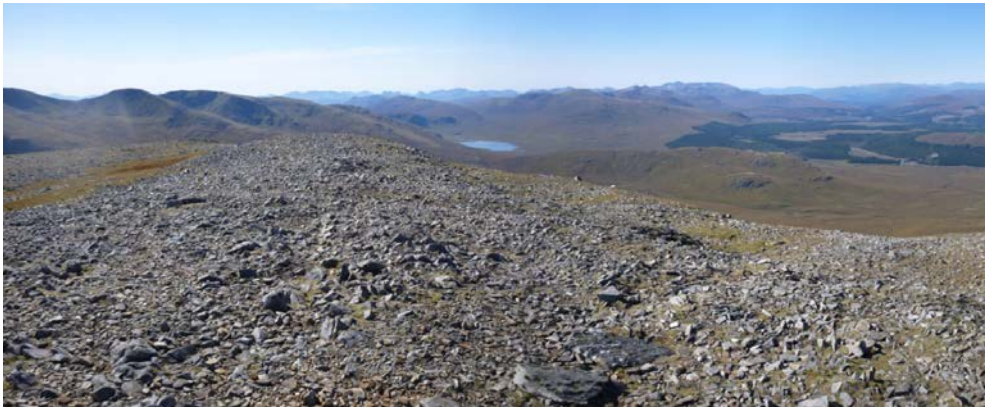


L22 – Creag Pitridh with Stronelarig wind turbines in the background

Location 23 – Summit of Beinn a Chlachair



L23 – panorama looking North



L23 – panorama looking West



L23 – panorama looking South



L23 – panorama looking North of East



L23 – looking towards Moy Bridge and Loch Laggan



L23 – Stronelarig windfarm behind Binnien Shios

Location 24 – Beinn a Chlachair Summit Ridge



L24 – panorama looking North



L24 – panorama looking towards point 977 on Beinn a Chlachair with Geal Charn behind, Lock Pattack to the East and the Eastern end of Loch Leamhain visible



L24 – View of the East end of Loch Leamhain

Location 25 - Beinn a Chlachair Summit Ridge



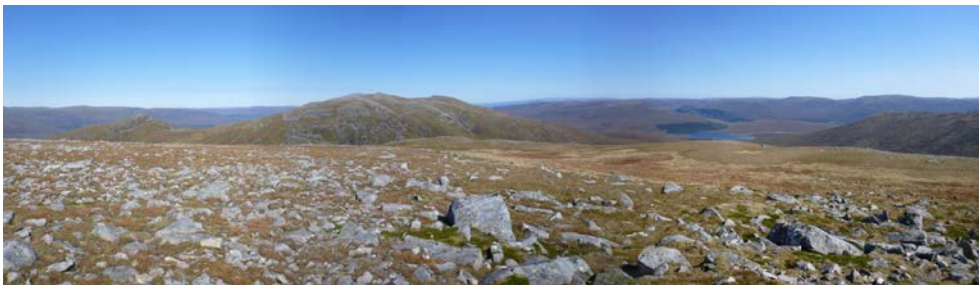
L25 – Loch Leamhain not visible

Location 26 - Beinn a Chlachair Summit Ridge



L26 – panorama looking North East

Location 27 – Point 977 on Beinn a Chlachair Summit Ridge



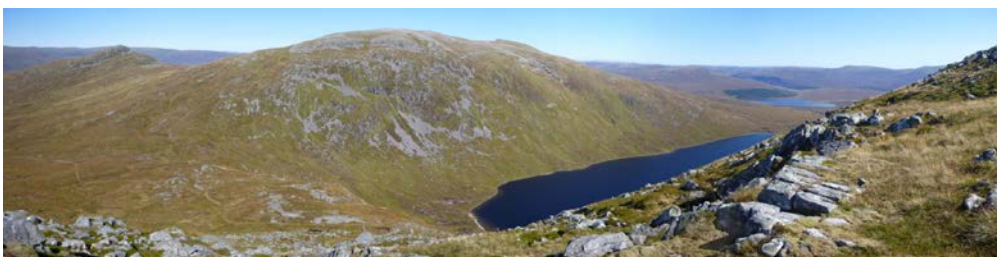
L27 – panorama looking towards Geal Charn

Location 28 – Beinn a Chlachair Summit Ridge



L28 – panorama towards Geal Charn and Creag Pitridh

Location 29 – Beinn a Chlachair Ridge towards Bealach Leamhain



L29 – panorama towards Loch Leamhain, Geal Charn, Creag Pitridh



L29 – panorama towards Creag Pitridh and Binnein Shuas

Location 30 - Beinn a Chlachair Ridge towards Bealach Leamhain



L30 – panorama towards Loch Leamhain, Geal Charn, Creag Pitridh

Location 31 – at junction of Beinn a Chlachair Ridge and stalkers' path at Bealach Leamhain



L31 – panorama looking west from where the Beinn a Chlachair ridge path meets the Bealach Leamhain stalkers' path



L31 – stalkers' path looking South East



L31 – panorama across the Bealach Leamhain towards Geal Charn and Creag Pitridh

Between Locations 31 and 32 – on the stalkers' path across the Bealach Leamhain



Location 32 – on the stalkers' path at its lowest point at Bealach Leamhain



L32 – panorama looking West



L32 – panorama towards Bealach Leamhain and Loch Leamhain

Location 33 – Stalkers Path across Bealach Leamhain



L33 – panorama looking across the Bealach Leamhain towards Loch Leamhain

Location 34 – Stalkers Path across Bealach Leamhain



L34 – panorama looking across the Bealach Leamhain

Location 35 – Stalkers Path across Bealach Leamhain



L35 – panorama looking across the Bealach Leamhain

Location 36 – Stalkers Path across Bealach Leamhain



L36 – panorama looking across Coire Pitridh towards Beinn a Chlachair



L36 – view across the Bealach Leamhain

Location 37 – Stalkers Path across Bealach Leamhain



L37 – panorama across Coire Pitridh



L37 - view across the Bealach Leamhain

Location 38 – Stalkers Path across Bealach Leamhain



L38 - view across the Bealach Leamhain

Location 39 – Path up Geal Charn



L39 - view across the Bealach Leamhain

Location 40 – Path up Geal Charn



L40 - view across the Bealach Leamhain

Location 41 – Path up Geal Charn



L41 - view towards the Bealach Leamhain



L41 – panorama over Coire Pitridh

Location 42 – Path up Geal Charn



L42 – view towards Loch Leamhain

Location 43 – Path up Geal Charn



L43 – view towards Loch Leamhain

Location 44 – Path up Geal Charn



L44 – panorama across Creag Pitridh and Beinn a Chlachair

Location 45 – Summit of Geal Charn



L45 – view towards Creag Pitridh and Binnein Shuas



L45 – view towards Beinn a Chlachair



L45 – view towards Ben Alder



L45 – view towards Loch Ericht



L45 – view towards Kinloch Laggan



L45 – view towards Binnien Shios

Location 46 – At Stalkers’ Path between Geal Charn and Creag Pitridh



L46 – panorama towards Coire Pitridh



L46 – view into Coire a Mhaigh

Location 47 – on the path between Geal Charn and Creag Pitridh



L47 – view into Coire a Mhaigh

Location 48 – Summit of Creag Pitridh



L48 – view towards Binnein Shuas and Creag Meagaidh



L48 – view looking West



L48 – view towards Beinn a Chlachair



L48 - towards Beinn a Chlachair and Bealach Leamhain



L48 – towards the summit of Geal Charn



L48 – towards Loch Earba and Binnein Shios



L48 – towards Earba Lochs and Binnein Shios



L48 – Loch Earba, Loch Laggan, Binnein Shuas, Creag Meagaidh



L48 – Stronelarig wind farm

Location 49 – West flank of Creag Pitridh



L49 – panorama looking West

Location 50 – West flank of Creag Pitridh



L50 – panorama towards Binnein Shuas



L50 – panorama looking over Coire Pitridh

Location 51 – Coire Pitridh



L51 – panorama of the north side of Coire Pitridh



L51 – panorama of upper Coire Pitridh and Beinn a Chlachair

Location 52 – Coire Pitridh



L52 – panorama looking West



L52 – panorama looking South



L52 – panorama looking North East



L52 – panorama looking North West