

23rd September 2016

Lucy Prins
Case Officer
ePlanning Centre
The Highland Council
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Dear Ms Prins

16/00836/FUL New forestry grade maintenance access road from car park base station to plateau, top station of chairlift, White Corries Ski Centre Kingshouse Glencoe Ballachulish PH49 4HZ

Ramblers Scotland is writing to object to the above application on the grounds of its visual intrusion and significant negative impacts on the landscape and the wild land qualities of an area of great value for outdoor recreation. This track would be in an area designated as a National Scenic Area and as such the landscape is recognised to be of national importance. The impact on walkers on the West Highland Way has also been identified as high to medium in the Environmental Statement, and there would also be an impact on those simply driving along the A82.

It is unfortunate that the application for this track is being considered separately from the previously approved new chair lift construction project. Over the previous decades, the ski centre has been a relatively unobtrusive development in this highly sensitive area, but the new track runs a strong risk of permanently changing this situation in an adverse way. In particular, the likelihood of the track holding on to snow long after the snow covering the surrounding area has melted will give it further prominence.

The Environmental Statement makes reference to future development (para 2.2) and the need for a masterplan for a 10-year redevelopment plan. It therefore calls into question the rationale for this particular track application in advance of potential longer-term redevelopment. We recognise the economic value of the ski centre to this location but feel that the plans for this track should be put on hold until there has been a comprehensive public consultation on the future development of the ski centre through a masterplanning process.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further at your convenience.

Yours sincerely

Helen Todd
Campaigns & Policy Manager

Convener: Alison Mitchell
Vice-Convener: Andy Malby
Director: Brendan Paddy