### Key Issues

The key issues for the Gleann Casaig Hydro scheme included the following:

- The scheme’s potential impact on special qualities of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- The interaction of the scheme with the River Teith SAC (designated for Salmon and Lamprey species).
- Innovative end use of the access track to improve public access to the hills developed during the EIA.
- Optimising site layout whilst ensuring Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) and ancient woodland were protected.
- Time pressure to submit scheme to the National Park Authority and to obtain consent to accord with FiT pre-accreditation deadline end 2014.
- Having the right level of design at an early stage to ensure that a through and robust EIA can be carried out.

### Purpose of the project

- MEG Renewables Ltd (wholly-owned subsidiary of M&Co.) was seeking planning permission for a 500kW hydro scheme, the purpose of which is to generate equivalent energy for the retail business.
- To contribute both to Scottish Government carbon reduction targets and to increase MEG’s their hydro power portfolio.

### Description of the project

- The scheme is located in The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, situated located approximately 9kms to the west of Callander and 3kms to the north of Brig O’Turk.
- The scheme comprises 1 main intake, 5 secondary intakes, a power house, a 2.8km buried pipeline, associated access tracks, borrow pit and grid connection.
- The river Teith SAC is 3km away from the scheme.
- The site has GWDTEs and a patch of ancient woodland near the powerhouse.
## Lessons learnt

- It is always beneficial to understand where all the components of the scheme are located, such as the borrow pits, to ensure a thorough and robust EIA submission to the Local Planning Authority and to reduce post submission questions/SEI.
- A sound working relationship and good communication with stakeholders is key; throughout this project Dulas worked well with the National Park Authority, SNH and SEPA to achieve the consent in time for FiT pre-accreditation.
- It is important to ensure that the positive impacts are emphasised, for example the creation of a new circular walk in Glen Casaig through retention of the pipeline access route.

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