



Com-pàirteachas Nibheis  
**The Nevis Partnership**

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To: **The Development Plan Officer**  
**Brodies (for Inverloch Castle Ltd)**  
**Bidwells (for Rio Tinto Alcan)**  
**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
**Fort William Community Council**

H.C. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE		
18 DEC 2009		
PASS TO	INITIALS	DATE
RH		
MM		
TS		
FILE REF:		

**West Highland and Islands Local Plan Examination**

Hearing day 4 - 10:00 -13:00 Representation No: 260  
Written Statement from The Nevis Partnership

Dear Mr Archibald,

As requested in your letter of 16/11/09 I hereby set out the Nevis Partnership's response to the subjects identified by the reporter.

1. Subject1 - What are the sites currently allocated for in the adopted Lochaber Local Plan and has planning permission been granted already?

No comment

2. What, if any, provisions of the structure plan are relevant to the consideration of these proposals?

MU 16 lies wholly within the National Scenic Area and we wish to reinforce the fact that the NSA designation is not second tier in the planning procedure and is an importance designation for Glen Nevis. NSAs are recognised by SNH as being no less important than National Parks in terms of their scenic value; it is essential that they should not be regarded as a second tier of designation.

The allocation contradicts National Planning policy and European directives – specifically the relevant Planning Advice Notes, Supplementary Planning Policy Guidance and the housing and environmental references in the National Planning Policy Guidelines.

SNH advises that: like National Parks, NSAs should be considered as a natural heritage designation of the highest national standing, identifying the national interest in the scenic qualities of the area, and they should therefore command many of the same tools for regulating development and land use change and encouraging positive management.

Registered Office: Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EL

The Nevis Partnership is a Company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland No: 235028 Scottish Charity No: SCO33418  
The members of the Partnership are the Highland Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Fort William Community Council, SportsScotland, Glen Nevis Residents Association, Inverloch and Torlundy Community Council, John Muir Trust, Lochaber Mountain Access Group, Mountaineering Council of Scotland, Rio Tinto Alcan and Glen Nevis Estate. Forestry Commission Scotland and Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board are associate members.