

REPRESENTATION

We understand that a planning application has been submitted for the erection of a communications mast within our ownership on the North Harris Estate, in the vicinity of Tom Ruisg, Bowglass, circa grid reference NB 158 118. The developing company, WHP Telecoms, have conveyed that the site would likely be serviced by an overhead power connection from the existing network parallel to the A859, a distance of almost two miles.

While recognising the benefit of improved telecommunications connectivity, under these circumstances, we would like to outline here our objection to this proposed development on the grounds of public amenity, landscape impact and detriment to wildlife.

The existing built environment is low and unobtrusive, comprising of an ATV access track and deer fencing for the establishment of native woodland. We believe that the overhead mains power connection would have a negative impact on tourism over the longer term as many are drawn to the area for its perceived undeveloped nature. Glenn Bhiogadail in particular is well known for an abundance of golden and white-tailed eagles, and our Ranger Service runs a weekly wildlife walk in the glen over the summer months. Overhead lines have negative impact on eagle behaviour and have even been known to cause electrocutions in the vicinity.

We can confirm that representations of our tenant crofters in the area support our position, and are certain that many in the wider local community would also wish to oppose if the landscape impact of the development was highlighted to them.