

## **OBJECTIONS TO DATE FROM SWLG TO HIGHLAND COUNCIL ON APPLICATIONS FOR TELECOMMUNICATION MASTS IN WILD AREAS as part of the Shared Rural Network**

*as at 1 December 2023*

*James Fenton*

### **Torridon**

The SWLG objects to the planning application 23/04138/FUL in the strongest possible terms. There cannot be a more inappropriate site for new infrastructure anywhere else in Scotland.

The Torridon mountains represent the core of the remaining wild land in Scotland, and if new infrastructure is allowed here, nowhere is sacrosanct. The location is within the National Trust for Scotland properties where the Unna Principles apply (no new infrastructure), as well as been in a National Scenic Area, Wild Land Area and previously a National Park Direction Area. It is distant from any road or track.

Wild Land is a finite national asset and is lost through attrition, particularly the addition of infrastructure in remote areas.

Additionally, the mast is sited within a remote area with an absence of rural businesses or any population at all which might benefit from enhanced telecommunications coverage. If there is need for emergency cover by the rescue services, then are always satellite phones, and, in the future, Starlink.

Together with other organisations promoting the conservation of the Highland landscape, SWLG is a supporter of the 'Position Statement on the development of telecom masts in remote and wild areas'.

### **Objection sent in to the Fannichs mast**

The SWLG objects to the planning application 23/04158/FUL in the Fannich Hills. This is because the location is within a core location within a Wild Land Area and the mast will be to the detriment of the wild land qualities of the area. Wild Land is a finite national asset and is lost through attrition, particularly the addition of infrastructure in remote areas.

Additionally, the mast is sited within a remote area with an absence of rural businesses which might benefit from enhanced telecommunications coverage.

Together with other organisations promoting the conservation of the Highland landscape, SWLG is a supporter of the 'Position Statement on the development of telecom masts in remote and wild areas'.

### **Objections also sent in to the following masts:**

23/04138/FUL: Coirie Mhic Nòbuil, Torridon

23/04158/FUL: Fannichs

23\_04204\_TPNO: above Loch Cluanie on South Cluanie Ridge

23/04722/FUL: above southwest end of Loch Affric

23/04626/FUL: on ridge above east side of Loch Shiel

23/04209/FUL: in the heart of Attadale Forest

23/04108/FUL: high in the hills west of Falls of Glomach

23/04716/FUL: above north shore of Loch Beinn a'Mheadhoin, Glen Affric