

## Coire na Ciste car park at Cairngorm cleaned up at long last

### Description



The skips and piles of cable, which had sat on the right for several years, have been removed while some of the graffiti on the former Ciste base station has been painted over

A couple of weeks ago I drafted an article about the disgraceful state of the Coire na Ciste Car Park. I went up there at the weekend to find it had been cleared up. The appointment of Ross Harris as interim Chief Executive of the new ski area operating company, Cairngorm Mountain Scotland Ltd, would appear to have had an immediate impact. At last it appears there is someone in charge of the operation who appreciates it matters how the mountain looks



Until last week this area was covered with old chairlift seats and other debris – see below

We are left to wonder when HIE intend to remove the Ciste base station building which has been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. Planning consent was obtained in December 2013 to demolish the building and construct something suitable around the electric substation that is housed within it. The original planning consent was allowed to lapse and it was revalidated in March 2017. That's 5 years during which HIE/Natural Retreats managed to do precisely nothing. It's assumed that demolition will have to take place during this summer otherwise the planning consent will lapse again [in March 2020]



The base station with graffiti before the recent tidy up and makeover

Meanwhile, the Ciste Base Station building remains as an eyesore on CairnGorm and a reminder about HIE and Natural Retreats historic lack of any care for the mountain environment



Some graffiti remains

While it is understood that the demolition of the building requires to be carefully planned, HIE have had years to organise it and we understood that the cost of demolition and partial rebuild was included in the 267k clean-up cost

### **What's been cleared up**

The abandoned materials around the building, which was testament to many years of mismanagement, have now been cleared up. The area had been in a truly dreadful state and the fact it has been cleared up so quickly begs the question why HIE, Natural Retreats and all those responsible for managing the mountain did not arrange for this years ago?

The answer appears to be there was no one who cared and no-one with the will to do it up to now.



Haul rope sheaves.....dumped on the ground



A Cable Spool with some cable still in it.



A disused and abandoned tyre – not all the rubbish was a legacy of chairlift decommissioning.



The last remaining Chairs. While possibly past salvage, once the lift towers were removed without consultation last year, there was no longer any use for them – so why were they left?





Perished rubber from the Chair seats, strewn around the area.





Abandoned metal stantions



A hessian bag...blown into the pond....and left there

There are still some items of rubbish around the site but its much much better

## **What needs to happen**

CairnGorm Mountain is at the heart of the National Park but instead of being its shining tourist jewel it has long been the opposite.

The clear-up in the Ciste is a good start to reversing the neglect and lack of care It is now to be hoped that Ross Harris uses his underemployed staff team to clear up the rest of the mountain while there is no snow and no uplift – there is rubbish and building debris all over the hill – and that the former Ciste base is demolished this summer (it appears unrecoverable).

Ross Harris should also start engaging with the local community and environmental organisations about how the large parking area at Coire na Ciste could be improved. There are huge opportunities.



The start of the unsignposted boardwalk down to the main path heading from the Coire na Ciste carpark

The views out from the car park are stunning, there are some great walks which are almost unknown and this is one of the best places to see Ring Ouzel in Scotland.

Now the rubbish has gone, its time to make more of it – there is lots that could be done down before and without prejudice to the question of what ski infrastructure should be restored to the Coire.

### **Category**

1. Cairngorms

### **Tags**

1. CNPA
2. HIE
3. Litter
4. natural retreats
5. paths
6. Tourism

### **Date Created**

February 26, 2019

**Author**  
alan-bratney

default watermark