

Planning Application to retain the Access track at the Shielling tow and regraded embankment along the lower loop path.

The Retrospective planning application as required by the planners is to retain the track and document the regraded bank profiles as a starting point for future reference.

The works are in a part of the ski area which was heavily disturbed by ski piste and ski lift creation in the early 1960s. Part of the new project involved re-modelling the ground to make a profile better suited to the replacement ski-tow and to modern operational requirements. The track was needed to move materials and components, avoiding further disturbance due to continual tracking during the build. It was created on the line of the previous bulldozed lift track and within the 30m x 300m agreed work site of the original planning approval. It makes operational sense that CML wish to retain the track as it has been an investment which will allow routine maintenance and minimise ground disturbance to the surrounding ski pistes in the future. The opportunity to retain this as a permanent maintenance track will therefor serve this tow and others nearby, thus reducing the long-term need for vehicle access over undisturbed ground in the surrounding area.

The area of embankment that was re profiled is along the Lower loop path / track which was bulldozed in the 60's to create a track and winter ski piste. This area is still used as the primary route for all snow sport customers to return to the base of the mountain on a beginner slope. The base of the lift had to be raised and the material from the bank was used to create the required ground levels. The ground levels across the site and along the regraded bank now have a far more natural contour and this has been achieved by removing bulldozed cuttings and embankments as part of the previous planning approval. The area around the base of the new ski lift was widened creating a safer piste whilst removing the previous snow making ground works and steel pipes from the 60's.

The ground shaping was completed in November 2015 and during the growing season in the summer of 2016 the reinstatement to this ground cover will be completed. Reseeding work has already started and this combined with the successful reinstatement of the stored turf last Autumn is already transforming the site at the new lift. This will use our experience in ground restoration work in the short growing season here at Cairngorm Ski area. This experience is being applied to this project and adjacent areas of ground disturbed in underground cable renewal and ski-tow remediation works next to the site at the car park tow and other lifts as part of a three year ski lift upgrade. Restoration works at these altitudes and ground conditions, take time - certainly 2-3 years - to have full effect. The success of the restoration works undertaken during the funicular project demonstrate how effective these works will be given time.

The methods that are being used to supplement the turf reinstatement include over seeding with grass seed to knit the turf together. Seeding larger bare areas at the verges of the access track using Seed Aide as a mulch, which was used successfully in the Funicular reinstatement. Brush cutting the long leggy heather to create a natural mulch, promoting new growth, dispersing seed and mosses as is the best practice and used successfully in historical areas of bare peat elsewhere in the ski area.

AMENITY MIX (SKI AREA SEED USE)

PERRENNIAL RYE GRASS	20%
HARD FESCUE	20%
SLENDER CREEPING RED FESCUE	25%
STRONG CREEPING RED FESCUE	10%
SHEEPS FESCUE	10%
CREEPING BROWN TOP BENT	5%
BROWN TOP BENT	5%

Image looking down bull dozed shieling track prior to new ski lift installation



Image showing reinstatement of turf on new ground contours prior to lift installation Oct 2015. Track on left of work site retained to move materials and ski lift components avoiding tracking on reinstated vegetation.



Images showing groundworks after completed ski lift installation, ground levels and reinstatement of turf.



Image looking down work site in November 2015



Turf restoration on new ground levels at ski lift line. November 2015.



Image showing Re instatement June 2016.