



CNPA Application Ref. No. & name:

2016/0295/DETRetrospective planning application to retain a ski area access trackCairngorm Mountain, Glenmore, Aviemore

Application description: Retrospective planning application to retain a ski area access track

INTERNAL SPECIALIST RESPONSE

Response date: 12/09/16

Deadline: 16/09/16

Internal Specialist (Name & Job Title): Sally Mackenzie, Ecological Adviser

Interests affected by proposal

(category e.g.- natural heritage, cultural heritage, access issues, economic development, housing)

- The proposal does not fall within any designated areas.
- The proposal is for retrospective planning to retain a track alongside the new Shieling Ski Tow

Potential impacts on interests, including evidence of impacts:

(elaborated at the bottom)

- The track has been created during works associated with the replacement ski tow. The track has been seeded with a Cairngorms Grass Mix at the edges and along the centre (Image 1).
- There is evidence of erosion on the new path which occurred during the late December 2015 storms. There are proposals to install metal water bars within the path to reduce erosion, the grass seeding will also aid this process. To prevent siltation of the Allt Choire Chas burn there are sediment capture ponds at the end of each of the culverted pipes which run underneath the new track and ski tow area. During our site visit a frog was noted using one of the ponds (7/9/16) (Image 2).
- The restoration works associated with the ski tow construction appear to be going well, won heather turves have been replaced on disturbed ground and bare areas seeded. Red Grouse are breeding in this area. (Image 3).
- Re-grading has taken place at the bottom end of the track which has reduced the steepness of the slope, reducing erosion in this area. This slope is re- vegetating well. (Image 4).

Concluding Advice:

- A management plan is required to ensure that the restoration of vegetation progresses well. This should include proposals to reseed with grass seed bare patches on the edges and central section of the track and within the ski tow area if required. It should also include management proposals for the sedimentation ponds, which may require cleaning after a storm event. To further enhance and ensure success of the vegetation restoration in this area there is a good opportunity to plant Dwarf Willow, Birch and Scots Pine on the re-graded bank. A planting proposal and aftercare plan should be provided for this, detailing the number of each species to be planted.

Summary (place an 'X' in the boxes that apply):

☐ Further information is required

x	The development raises no issues in relation to ecology
	The development would have a minor impact on ecology,
	In the event of planning permission being granted, conditions are required
	The development raises issues in relation to landscape/ecology, that are not capable of resolution.

Further detail in support of advice:

Image 1 The new track



Image 2 Sedimentation ponds



Image 3 Vegetation restoration



Image 4 Re-graded bank

