

Comments for Planning Application 19/01146/FUL

Application Summary

Application Number: 19/01146/FUL

Address: Land 2890M NW Of Carn Sgulain Newtonmore

Proposal: Resurfacing of hill track

Case Officer: June Dougherty

Customer Details

Name: Mr George Allan

Address: 7 Bothwell Terrace, Pitmedden, Ellon AB41 7PT

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I am writing on behalf of the North East Mountain Trust (NEMT), a Scottish Charity (9SCIO 008783) based in the Grampian area, which represents the interests of hill-goers and those who enjoy visiting wild land. NEMT membership, comprising twelve hillwalking and climbing clubs along with individual members, totals over 900 people. While NEMT has a particular focus on the wider Grampian area, it acts in the interests of its members in respect of issues affecting hill country, coastal and remoter areas across the whole of Scotland.

NEMT objects to this application.

Firstly, NEMT would like to commend the Cairngorm National Park Authority for requiring that an application be submitted for the work undertaken without consent. The time has come for estates to stop flouting the law regarding hill tracks. Given the Park Planning Committee's move to closer scrutiny of tracks and the history of issues on this estate, NEMT thinks that it is imperative that it calls this application in.

NEMT thinks that two applications should be submitted for what are different issues (i.e. a retrospective application for work already undertaken and a separate application for the proposed upgrade of the other section of track).

With regard to the retrospective aspects, NEMT is not in a position to judge whether the work has been carried out to a required standard and this needs to be checked and conditions for restoration imposed if needed. NEMT also suggests that a condition of any consent be the creation of a central vegetation strip which would significantly reduce the visual impact.

In respect of the upgrading of the other section of track, NEMT thinks that this should be rejected

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as the information provided is wholly inadequate.

The diagrams and the information regarding construction is not site specific. There is no statement that the work will be carried out strictly within the existing track boundary. No information is provided regarding the machinery required.

The purposes of the track are stated as being for sheep and deer but maps show that there are butts adjacent to it so it is reasonable to assume that grouse shooting is a primary purpose and this should be acknowledged.

It is stated that the upgraded track was repaired using 'locally won stone from existing borrow pits' and that the further upgrading will be with material which is 'locally won'. The applicant must give details of exactly where the material will come from and, if it is from existing borrow pits, how these will be restored after extraction.

A central vegetation strip must be included to reduce the visual impact.