

# Comments for Planning Application 19/00901/PRIORN

## Application Summary

Application Number: 19/00901/PRIORN

Address: Caddam Plantation Glen Clova

Proposal: Prior notification for forestry-related building works (non-residential) - maintenance and upgrading of existing access tracks and formation of new access tracks, turning areas, a borrow pit and water crossings

Case Officer: Walter Wyllie

## Customer Details

Name: Mr George Allan

Address: 7 Bothwell Terrace Pitmedden Ellon AB41 7PT

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I am writing on behalf of the North East Mountain Trust (NEMT), a Scottish Charity (SCIO 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.

NEMT is writing to comment on aspects of this application, not to object to the principle of the track which is for an obvious legitimate purpose. Although NEMT thinks that aspects need to be addressed more fully, it notes that this is a comprehensive application.

NEMT thinks that it is essential that the Cairngorms National Park Authority calls this application in as it has significant implications for protected species.

NEMT's view is that fuller consideration needs to be given to the wildlife implications of the construction of the track, particularly in respect of both otters and wild cats. We are surprised that SNH has not given specific consideration to wild cats. Before any approval, it is important that the distribution of wild cats in the area is better understood, rather than granting approval and then undertaking a survey before work starts (although such a survey is also necessary). A condition should also be that work is only undertaken outwith the breeding season.

With regard to the track itself, more information is needed regarding the gradient in certain sections to reduce the possibility of erosion. In addition, there is ambiguity regarding the width of the track. NEMT commends the applicant for proposing to keep this to 4x4 width but the Application Form describes the width as being variously '2.5m' and '3.5m'. Elsewhere the width is

stated as being 'approximately 2.5m' or 'a minimum of 2.5m'. This needs to be clarified as part of approval. Any ambiguity allows too great leeway for the contractor on site to cut corners for convenience. Finally, NEMT is unclear as to why the loop at the north western end needs to be in open ground, thus making it visible from across the glen. Could this loop be created within the woodland? If not, this section of track should have a central vegetation strip which would reduce the visual impact.