

AGENDA ITEM 5

APPENDIX 4a

2016/0442/DET

OBJECTION

Cairngorms Campaign



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Ref: Planning Application 2016/0442/DET Installation of Four Person Chairlift, Glenshee

The Cairngorms Campaign objects to the application for the following two reasons:

There is no method statement included in the application to show how the works will be carried out without detriment to the natural environment, particularly soil erosion and consequent habitat destruction and landscape degradation. As a minimum we would expect to see how all obsolete equipment and structures are to be removed from Glenshee and disposed of, how construction traffic is to access and be controlled and surfaces made good so that soil and surfaces are not permanently damaged by the construction and decommissioning, how pollution is to be prevented, how breeding bird disturbance is to be avoided, how landscaping and drainage will be managed and how training of contractors and monitoring of compliance on site will be ensured.

(An example of such a method statement can be seen with the planning application 2014/0251/DET on Cairngorm Mountain).

Secondly, considering the failure at Cairngorm Mountain of the operator to comply with the Method Statement and the Planning Authorities to ensure compliance, the Planning Authority needs to review its processes for ensuring compliance in such fragile environments. Procedures for live i.e. real time monitoring of the site by the planning authority during construction activities and procedures and powers to immediately halt activities out of compliance need to be put in place before approval.

We ask the CNPA planning group to review the activities and correspondence received during construction approved under 2014 0251 DET and learn lessons from it.

We appreciate the advantages of this planning application for Glenshee and the benefits it will provide for winter sports and our objection is in no way intended to imply the applicants and its supporters mean any detriment to the environment. However it is a challenge to provide such facilities in this environment and recent activities on Cairn Gorm where similar works are being carried out on comparable terrain, indicates that the current situation is failing the first aim of the National Park, which should take priority.

Susan Matthews

On behalf of the Cairngorms Campaign