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| <b>Cairngorms National Park Authority</b> |
| Planning Application No. 09/295/CP        |
| <b>REPRESENTATION</b>                     |
| ACKNOWLEDGED 22.03.10                     |



**Forestry Commission**  
Scotland

**Inverness, Ross & Skye Forest  
District**

Tower Road  
Smithton  
Inverness  
IV2 7NL



Forest District Manager  
David Jardine

Mary Grier  
Cairngorms National Park Authority  
Albert Memorial Hall  
Station Square  
Ballater,  
Aberdeenshire  
AB35 5QB

22 March 2010

Dear Ms Grier,

**Planning Application 09/295/CP – Badaguish cycleway / car-park application**

Thank-you for seeking the views of Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) regarding this planning application. This application is largely on the national forest estate managed by FCS, although a small part of the cycleway is situated on the neighbouring ground of Rothiemurchus Estate. No agreement has been reached between the applicant (Speyside Trust) and Forestry Commission Scotland over the construction and management of these proposed facilities.

This proposal is situated within and adjacent to the Glenmore Forest SSSI and the Cairngorms SPA and SAC. In considering its response to this proposal FCS has been provided with a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessments produced by Aquaterra in respect of the cycleway / car-park and also another for a project being considered nearby to build 35 wooden camping huts in an extension to the Badaguish site. An application for the latter project has not yet been submitted.

The EIAs for both of these proposals indicated that most residual impacts will be insignificant; but the following exceptions were noted:



| Proposed activity  | Character of unmitigated impact  | Impact significance without mitigation | Mitigation  | Residual Impact significance  |
|--|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Potential increase in cyclists and walkers on cycleway               | Noise and human disturbance. May affect capercaillie in the adjacent woodland  | Minor adverse impact unlikely/probable | Do not promote use for other than Badaguish residents | Minor adverse impact unlikely |
| Potential increase in Badaguish visitors present in new camping area | Noise and human disturbance. May affect capercaillie in the adjoining woodland | Minor adverse impact probable          | No new tracks into woods to be established            | Minor adverse impact          |

FCS has sought information from the Speyside Trust on changes in the capacity and occupancy at Badaguish as this appears to be key when considering future levels of disturbance. This has recently been provided, but questions remain whether both these proposed developments combined will increase visitor pressure and disturbance in this part of Glenmore forest and the protected area. FCS also note that the café, which has been built at this site, has not yet been opened. Other than a very long established forest walk, FCS does not promote outdoor access in this part of the forest. Overall there are suggestions of increased disturbance, but it appears that taken alone the cycle-way and the car-park may not increase disturbance.

Safety has been presented as the need for both the car-park and the cycleway, and that the need for additional car-parking is not required for any future development at this site. FCS appreciates that reduced traffic within the Badaguish complex has the potential to improve in-site safety.

The plan provided suggests proposed car-park is situated on an existing area of woodland and includes a water-course. FCS notes that:

- the ancient woodland status of part of the car-park site does not appear to have been considered
- there is no detail of how the proposal integrates with the Scottish Government's policy on the control of woodland removal.

The cycleway is adjacent to the existing narrow access road to Badaguish and separation of cyclists and walkers onto a cycleway is likely to improve safety. As it is parallel to the existing road it is unlikely to increase any impact on future forest operations in this area. FCS believe that the impact of the proposed cycleway can be reduced by including the need to plant trees and shrubs of native species adjacent to the new cycleway to help a screen develop between the cycleway users and the adjoining forest. Such habitat structures have been shown to help reduce disturbance in the adjoining woodland and are therefore to be encouraged in areas where mitigation against wildlife disturbance is required.

Yours sincerely,

David Jardine  
Forest District Manager

**Mary Grier**

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**Subject:** FW: Application for 300m. Section of off road route

**Importance:** High

**From:** Johnnie Grant [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 March 2010 15:38  
**To:** Andrew McCracken  
**Cc:** DON MORRISON; Andrew MacKenzie; Bob Grant; Hamish Trench  
**Subject:** Application for 300m. Section of off road route

The Highland Council Planning Service

Dear Mr. McCracken,

Aviemore to Glenmore Off Road Route, 300 metres

I am writing this at the request of Badaguish Outdoor Centre which has applied for planning permission for various works including the above.

This is to confirm that the estate supports the concept of building this last remaining section of the Aviemore to Glenmore Off -Road Route; this has been briefly discussed with an officer of CNPA who is pursuing the matter.

The estate would not/does not object to a planning application to the same design and principles followed by the rest of the route; for example it would be essential to incorporate crossing points for estate timber and other off road vehicles as well as a parking, stacking and turning area for them; the detail of how that would best work would require further survey.

With best wishes

Johnnie

Johnnie Grant of Rothiemurchus

Rothiemurchus Estate Office  
AVIEMORE  
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PH22 1QH

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