

2014/0090/DET

APPENDIX 2

Community Council Responses

dulnain  
bridge

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From:dulnain bridge

Sent:7 Apr 2014 09:38:34 +0100

To:Planning

Cc:Ewan Cameron;Colin Hill

Subject:2014/0090/DET commercial Clay Pigeon Shooting

Dear Sirs,

We note the application from Craggan Outdoors regarding the proposed establishment of a Clay Pigeon shoot and would wish to express some concerns. Whilst we have no objections, in principle, to the activity we do have some strong reservations as to the suitability of the proposed site, which are as follows,

- 1) Whilst there are not many properties in close proximity to the site there will be some residents who will be adversely affected by noise pollution which could be fairly constant.
- 2) We are aware that rough shooting has always taken place in this area but this proposal will be much more intrusive.
- 3) The site is adjacent to the Standing Stones, these are clearly marked on maps and are popular with visitors and there appears to be no intention of securing the site to prevent people inadvertently walking into "danger" Whilst we have no information as to the demographics of the visitors, it is not unreasonable to assume that a large proportion of them will be family groups, including children, potentially increasing the risk.
- 4) The path running between and alongside the river and the site is well used by both fishermen, walkers and visitors, particularly in the Summer, and we understand that "foot traffic" often cuts across the land away from the path as this can be a more direct route. Apart from this this is the only safe footpath running between Dulnain Bridge and Grantown

## Nethy Bridge and Vicinity Community Council

'Inchtomach',  
Nethy Bridge,  
Inverness-shire,  
PH25 3EB



5th June 2014

Planning Department,  
Cairngorms National Park,  
The Square,  
Grantown-on-Spey.

Planning Reference 14/0090/Det

Dear Sirs,

We first became aware of this application having been contacted this week by objectors who live within the Nethy Bridge and Vicinity Community Council area. We are aware that our response is outwith the designated time but would ask that our concerns are made aware to the board as part of the planning process.

We would like to object most strongly to the retrospective application for a clay pigeon shooting range on the west side of the River Spey at Lower Gaich Wood, which is part of the Dulnain Bridge Community Council area.

The objectors who all live in the Boat of Balliefurth area have had several years of regular disturbance from this facility with the regular blasts from shotguns. There is a national standard we believe which stipulates that these facilities should be no closer than km1.5 from residential properties. In this case it is between 300 and 500 metres from houses. The noise pollution is considerably above what people should have to endure and at times they have to get away from their homes and property for peace

The shot from these guns is falling into the River Spey and on to the objectors land on the east side of the river. Figures from cartridge manufacturers (Elley Hawk Ltd.) show that shot can travel as far as 214 metres and allowing for a safety buffer of 20% this comes to almost 260 metres. This is well on to the objectors property which is a major safety issue. If any person was to fire a shotgun across somebody else's land and without permission they could be arrested and charged with careless and dangerous discharge of a firearm, this can involve a prison sentence and also the banning go this person from holding a firearms certificate. However, here we have an applicant proposing to do just that.

The objectors are also concerned on the affect this is having on the local wildlife, the Spey itself has many scientific designations designed to protect its status. Over the years the local population of Golden Eye Ducks, Otters, Oystercatchers and lapwing have all disappeared due to the constant noise from this unlicensed facility. The spent pellets landing in the water are also a source of pollution and cannot be good for aquatic life. This cannot be in keeping with any of the aims of the National Park.

The river is regularly used by both fishermen and canoeists paddling down the river. Their safety must also be in question as the pellets are landing on and across the water.

The applicant makes the case of economic benefit to the area, there are some facilities which should not be considered in this way and are just not suited to the area, regardless of any perceived or alleged economic benefit.

We would therefore like to object and ask that the application is rejected on the above grounds to this development and also ask that it is stopped immediately until the planning process is complete.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Sandy McCook.

Sandy McCook,  
Chairman,  
Nethy Bridge and Vicinity Community Council