

2014/0090/DET

APPENDIX 3

Representations

ABHAINN-SITH
THE BOAT CROFT
BOAT OF BALLIEFURTH
GRANTOWN ON SPEY
PH26 3NH

7 April 2014

Sam Wainwright
Planning Department
Cairngorm National Park
The Square
Grantown on Spey

Dear Mr. Wainwright,

Clay Pigeon Shooting in part of the Woodlands at Lower Gaich by Dulnan Bridge

Further to our conversation at your office, I now write on behalf of my wife and myself to confirm our objections to the above planning application lodged with Badenoch and Strathspey Planning Service by Keith Ballam, Craggan Outdoors for Commercial Clay Pigeon shooting as advertised in the Strathspey Herald dated 27 March, 2014.

We understand that Cairngorm National Park Planning Department has called in the application for further determination.

This Commercial Venture, as it now transpires, has been a regular occurrence for more than two years, therefore, the application, though not advertised as such, is in retrospect.

We have tolerated the inconsiderate noise pollution factor created by this clay pigeon shoot under the misconception that it was the owners of the Estate who were perhaps coaching a family member, or having a friendly shoot.

Since the application has been made, albeit retrospectively, peace and quiet have resumed to the area.

When the "shoot" was in progress we could clearly hear not only the sharp reports of the guns but, also distinctly hear the shooters call "pull" for the presentation of a clay pigeon. This will give you some insight into the unacceptable close proximity to our home and to the River Spey and very soon there will be the re-instatement of the Railway to Grantown on Spey.

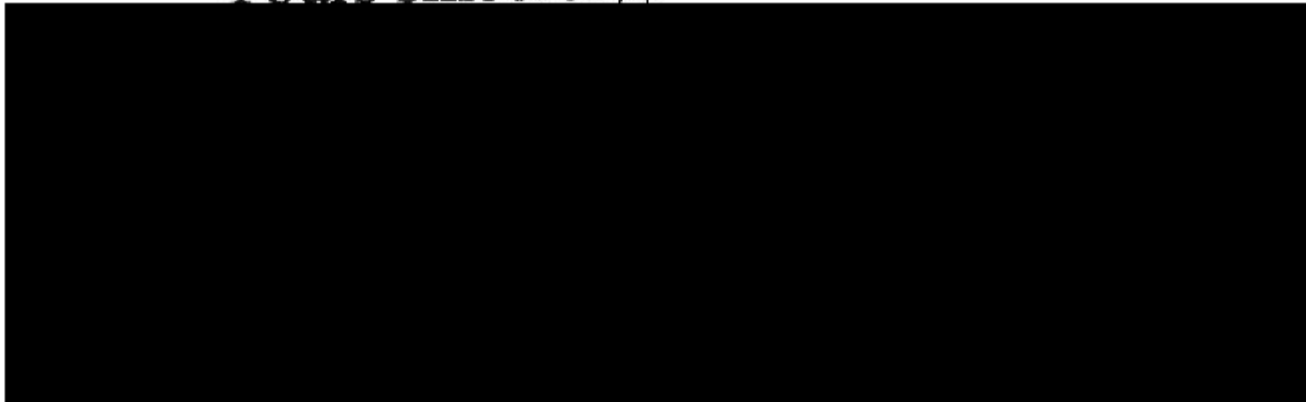
There is a safety aspect to this application. I understand the safe distance for the discharge of a shotgun is two hundred and seventy nine metres. The tree line of Lower Gaich Wood is approximately eighty metres from the bank of the River Spey which is regularly used by walkers, canoeists and fishermen.

Above the banks of the River Spey adjacent to Lower Gaich Wood are Standing Stones and the site of the Gallows tree, mentioned in the book "Under the Shadow of Cairngorm". These sites are of historic interest to walkers and canoeists. I understand that the "Old Figgot Fair" was held on the site of Lower Gaich Wood prior to the building of Grantown on Spey.

Currently, farmers and landowners are being encouraged by the RSPB to support the re-introduction of wading birds (see Strathspey Herald 27 March, 2014). On the Boat Croft, we have noticed the decline in the number of bird e.g swans, heron, lapwings the curlew and especially the golden eye. When the shooting is in progress nothing settles here.

In our opinion there is nowhere on the low ground of Craggan Estate suitable for a Commercial Clay Pigeon Shoot given the close proximity to both the Old and New Cemeteries, the designated Site of Special Scientific Interest the River Spey and to the town of Grantown on Spey.

Yours sincerely,



Ronald and Adelaide MacPherson.

From:Celia Fielder
Sent:5 Apr 2014 11:08:49 +0100
To:Planning
Subject:Clay pigeon shooting - Lower Gaich, Grantown

5 April 2014

The Planning Officer
Cairngorm National Park/Highland Council

Dear Sir

Re: Planning Application Clay Pigeon Shooting Ground at Lower Gaich

I understand that a Planning Application has been submitted for a Clay Pigeon Shooting enterprise at ground at Lower Gaich, near Grantown on Spey. This land is directly opposite my house, Balliefurth Wood Cottage, and I wish to register my strong objection to any such application.

My reasons for objection are:

- i) The land at Lower Gaich is a site of SSSI, designed to protect both the ground, the environment and the bird and wildlife which is specific to this unspoilt area of water meadow.
- ii) Endangered species of birds, in particular the curlew, the plover, skylark and oyster catcher, are already threatened by poachers and developers, and rarely now seen or heard, whereas in my youth in Speyside all these birds were prolific. They will be exterminated and driven away for ever should this application be granted.
- iii) Any such development, with its loud artificial repetitive bangs, will destroy and ruin the quality of life I enjoy, and which was one of the main reasons I bought my cottage at Balliefurth Wood. Furthermore, it will devalue and render unsaleable my property. Clay pigeon shooting at such close range to any residential property, is undesirable and unnecessary, especially when there is another such shooting school within ten miles at Rothiemurchus.
- iv) Walkers and fishermen will be placed in a danger firing zone, should this permission be granted. Walkers are entitled to walk along the river bank as are anglers, who have paid good money, to fish the River Spey in safety, without suddenly being startled by loud explosions and shot fall-out.

I was brought up in Speyside, and encouraged that the area would enjoy a degree of protection from urbanisation with the formation of the Cairngorm National Park, and by the protection which normally an SSSI affords to greedy developers. When I bought my house, no mention was revealed in the Searches of any clay pigeon shooting within the immediate vicinity, and I can only assume that this activity has been taking place without any form of planning consent, or agreement. For a farmer or landowner to teach his son/daughter to use a shotgun for game purposes on his own land, with the aid of a clay pigeon launcher, is understandable. However, this noise nuisance which has increased and become intrusive, including loud shouting □pull, pull□ would indicate that this is already more extensive than a caring parent teaching his child.

I would question whether the safety issues have been examined and the police informed of this activity? A shotgun pellet may not travel as far as a rifle bullet, but its□ range of fire and pellet fallout is wide, especially in inexperienced hands.

The Spey Valley is an area of outstanding peace and unspoiled beauty. I hope reason will prevail and this application will be refused.

Sincerely - Celia Fielder



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 7 Apr 2014 20:12:29 +0100
To: Planning
Subject: Planning Permission Lower Gaich
Importance: Normal

Simon & Lynne Munro
Boat of Balliefurth Cottage
Boat of Balliefurth
Grantown on Spey
Morayshire
PH26 3NH
[REDACTED]

FAO Katharine Donnachie or Fiona Murphy
7th April 2014

Dear Madam

We understand that Craggan Outdoor Centre has applied for retrospective planning permission for a commercial Clay Target Shoot at Lower Gaich.

We have already drawn to the attention of our local planning office our objection to the current level of noise we experience from the shoot, sometimes on a daily basis.

So near are we to the shooting ground that not only can we hear the very loud gun fire but we can also actually hear the shooters call "pull" for their targets. This alone must surely be a gross intrusion of our privacy.

We have lived here by the Spey for twenty-eight years and up until clay shooting started opposite us on the other side of the river, have found our home to be extremely peaceful and relaxing as have visitors to our property.

We feel that the level of shooting at present is already detrimental to the enjoyment of our home and should planning permission be given, and the level of shooting increase, the situation would then become totally intolerable.

Therefore we strongly object to the application for the permission to continue at the current level of usage or for any further commercial development.

Yours faithfully

Simon & Lynne Munro

From: Adelaide And Ronnie
Sent: 10 Apr 2014 09:11:23 +0100
To: Planning
Subject: Fwd: Microsoft Word - Clay Target Shooting Code Jan 2003.doc

Begin forwarded message:

>>

>> http://www.cieh.org/library/Knowledge/Environmental_protection/ClayShootingCoP.pdf

>>

>> Please find above the link to environmental guidance on clay pigeon shooting. Appendix 2.00 and 2.1 are of particular interest.

>> We wish to add this information to our objection to the above planning application.

Ronnie and Adelaide MacPherson

>>

>> Sent from my iPad

>

GLENBEG ESTATE

**CRAGGAN
GRANTOWN ON SPEY
MORAY
PH26 3NT
Tel 01479872120
Fax 01479872325**



22/4/2014

Cairngorms National Park Planning Authority.

To whom it may concern
Craggan outdoor Activity planning application ref 2014/0090/DET

Dear Sir

As the owner of the ground involved in the above application I felt I should answer some of the objections that have been raised.

Ronald and Adelaide Macpherson

While it is correct to say that the river bank is regularly used by the general public the foot path is not in the direction of fire and lies about 30 feet lower at the bottom of a steep bank as well as being at a safe distance from the shooting. Anyone walking to the standing stones would be out with the marked shooting area which is clearly delineated with signs and ropes.

As far as bird life is concerned, while I cannot claim to be any kind of expert I have known and shot this part of the river for many years and would say that there are just as many birds as there always were, I have 5 Golden eye nesting boxes on the Craggan fishery all of which are regularly used and we also have lots of Mallard as well as Tufted ducks, little Grebes, Water hens Etc.

Celia Fielder

Most of Mrs Fielder's main points are covered in the above paragraphs, the only thing I would add is that the River Spey SSSI only applies to the banks of the river and the Clay shooting area is out with this.

If there is any more information I can give you please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Fergus Laing