

Marie Duncan

02 MAR 2010

06/320/CP

Cairngorm National Park Authority
Planning Application No. 06/320/CP
REPRESENTATION
ACKNOWLEDGED
04.03.10

From: Judy Webb [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 March 2010 10:00
To: Planning
Subject: Objection to proposed development at The Mossie, Grantown on Spey

Dear Cairngorm National Park planners,

Reference number 06/320/CP, Development on Land between Seafield Avenue and Castle Road East, Grantown on Spey

I write in order to register my objection to the proposed housing development on the area known as 'The Mossie' situated in Grantown-on-Spey within the Cairngorm National Park in the location described above.

Upland Calcareous Grassland is a UKBAP Priority Habitat and further losses of this habitat should therefore not be tolerated. I am also concerned at the potential loss of fen and mire communities within the proposed development area. These may also represent fragments of important UKBAP habitats and should be preserved.

My experience is that even if small examples of such habitats are preserved within housing developments, the nearness of housing and the resultant public pressure on the retained open spaces leads inevitably to the destruction of their original wildlife interest. I therefore do not consider that retaining parts of the original wildlife rich areas within such a housing development is acceptable.

The following species of Conservation Concern have all been recorded from the site and their potential loss in this development is not acceptable:

Bee - *Andrena marginata* (Notable A spp and currently is one of only 4 known sites in Scotland for this species)
Butterfly - Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (UK Priority spp)
Groundhopper - Common Groundhopper macropterous form (a very rare form of this groundhopper and only found in Scottish Highlands. 3 individuals seen)
Hoverfly - *Eristalis rupium* (Notable UK spp)
Hoverfly - *Xylota jakatorum* (Notable UK spp)
Moth - Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth (UK Priority species Breeding pair seen)
Sawfly - *Abia candens* (Rare UK species and first record for Scotland according to NBN Gateway. Larva found so breeding possible on site)

Also recorded - In total 34 species of hoverfly, at least 6 species of bees, at least 12 species of Homoptera, 3 species of Grasshopper (only 4 spp found in Scotland)

The list of plants for the site includes:

Field Gentian (*Gentianella campestris*) which is a UKBAP Priority Species
Heath Dog-Violet (*Viola canina*) which is on the National Red Data list as 'Near Threatened'

The Cairngorm National Park has a duty to protect natural heritage and it should therefore not be allowing this development. The four main aims of this authority are stated as:

1. To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area
2. To promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area
3. To promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public
4. To promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

The loss of biodiversity and wildlife habitat which will be occasioned by this development is at odds with these stated aims, particularly No. 1.

The development should therefore be refused planning permission.

Yours,

Judith Webb (Dr)
2 Dorchester Court
Blenheim Road
Kidlington
Oxon OX5 2JT



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06/320/CP

03 MAR 2010
PWR RECEIVED JM

Marie Duncan

From: Kelsey Tainsh
Sent: 03 March 2010 10:09
To: Planning
Subject: 06/320/CP Planning Application for erection of housing: associated road construction, drainage and landscaping at land between Seafield Avenue and Castle Road East Grantown-on-Spey Highland for Muir Homes

Don McKee
CNPA Head of Planning

&

CNPA Board Members

Caingorms National Park Authority	
Planning Application No.	06/320/CP
ADMISSION	04.03.10

Further to your letter dated 25th February 2010 to myself **Mr Kelsey John Tainsh** and your letter also dated 25th February 2010 to my son **Dr Josef Wolfgang Tainsh** we are both delighted to note that the CNPA Head of Planning and the CNPA Planning Department have made the following recommendation:

The recommendation for the application is Refusal.

Additional Comment on Highland Council Public Budget Implications for this Proposed Muir Homes and other CNP Development Proposals

It is becoming ever more apparent on a daily basis that The Highland Council Public Budgets are going to be placed under increasing pressure due to the ongoing financial climate over the next 5 to 10 years.

It concerns my family and I that the full implications of this issue will not become fully apparent until after the next General and Scottish Elections, and/or until such time as the new Governments concerned have had time to implement all of their new policies.

Some of these policies will be very costly indeed, and in order to cater for an increased level of exposure and vulnerability to some of the national security and evolving cyber space threats, which the Cabinet Office has already identified and is planning for in its Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom document (safety, security and resilience in cyber space) dated June 2009.

For example the Government is focusing on the delivery of the following key elements that comprise the critical national infrastructure and essential services, all of which are integral parts of the Highland Council and CNP: energy & power supply, food distribution, water supply & sewage, financial services, broadcasting and communications networks, transportation, health, emergency services, defence and government and public services.

Some of these issues (i.e. cyber space) whilst not on the radar screen of many in the CNP and Highland and Islands communities, will undoubtedly have an adverse impact and bearing upon Scotland and the Highland Council (and quite possibly the CNP Board Members & Budgets). Not least the budgets required for the ongoing maintenance of existing local Services within the CNP, and budgets to meet future basic local Services requirements, and "essential services" development initiatives.

I would therefore appreciate it if those CNPA Board Members making the planning decisions on this proposed Muir Homes development at Grantown-on-Spey on Friday the 5th March 2010 (and future CNP development proposals) could envision and bear in mind the possible full range of future "predictable and unpredictable" budgetary financial implications involved.

The main rational for my following concern's is based on having attended a series of Grantown-on-Spey & Vicinity Community Council and Ward 21 Forum Meetings, and made contributions to the Scottish National Parks Strategic Review, over the past year which indicate that there may well be potential "catastrophic, and for many people, life changing implications" due to:

The perceived loss of Public Sector jobs.

Loss of hope for those who are unemployed and/or underprivileged.

Possible (predictable) increase of the number of people in the CNP and Highlands and Islands living on benefits.

The ongoing requirement for new Affordable Housing initiative.

Parents concerns over school facilities and a potential lack of school places where they live.

Possible cut backs in Care Home budgets, and care for the aged and needy.

The forecasted increasing number of people with Alzheimer's and dementia type problems.

Recommendations to reduce the number of bed's in the Ian Charles Health Centre.


Wide ranging adverse implications for NHS Medical & Dental budgets.

The adverse impact upon the various communities and much needed social budgets.

It is essential that the CNP becomes an "Exemplar National Park", and to achieve this aspiration over the next 10 years will not be easy, especially at a time when "Homeland Resilience and Critical National Infrastructure" is going to be tested to the full, by the present financial crisis.

Yours most sincerely

Kelsey Tainsh MBE
Monzievaird
12B Woodside Avenue
Grantown-on-Spey
PH26 3JR



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06/320/CP

Mary Grier

From: Gus Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 March 2010 10:28
To: Mary Grier
Subject: URGENT MOSSIE

BSCG

Dear Mary

BSCG would like to formally request an opportunity to give a brief PP presentation to the Committee.

One purpose of this would be to share information that begins to illustrate the biodiversity interest that makes this site special in national (Scottish) and local (CNP & Highland) terms that observations in the last few years have brought to light and that it is reasonable to consider would be significantly adversely impacted upon by the proposed development.

In our objection letter of 2,4.08 (to Don Mckee) BSCG listed 15 reasons for objection. Subsequently in May 2009 we objected to the allocation for the Mossie through the local plan process proving oral evidence (with other objectors) at the hearing in May 2009.

BSCG has provided national and local media with comment information and photos about this site (see attached Sunday article) and has at various stages examined detailed background reports related to this submission and met with other parties for example specialists from SEPA and the then ecological adviser to the CNPA (Dr Hetherington) to provide site specific information relating to natural heritage issues.

With assistance from non members and regular walkers on the Mossie, and specialist from the Highland Biological Group, Butterfly Conservation, Buglife, BWARS, the Grampian fungus Group, a local BSBI member and some other specialist we have accumulated a wealth of ecological and biodiversity information on this site which reinforce our concerns over this proposal. We therefore welcome the refusal recommendation

Yours

Gus Jones

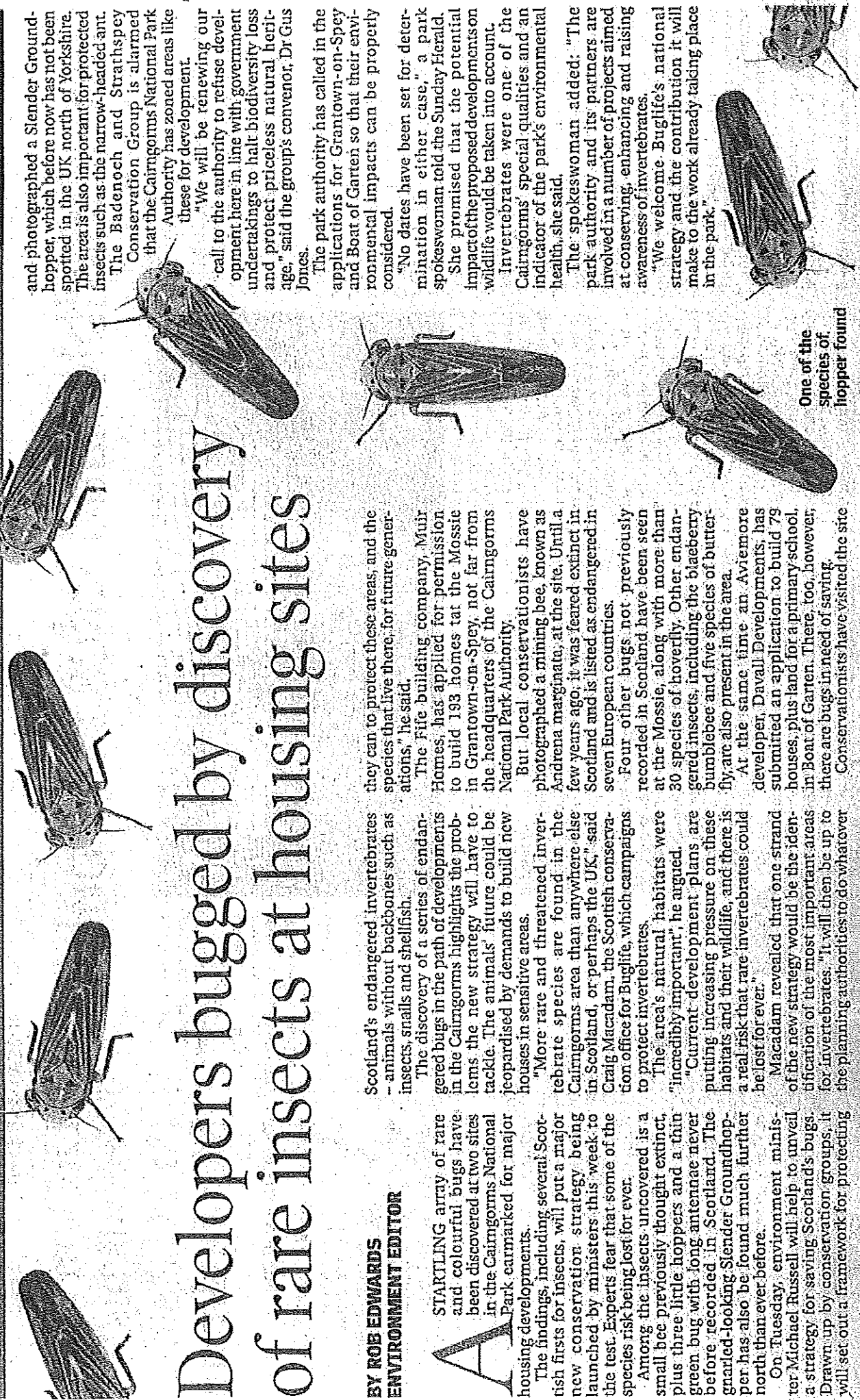
(Convener)

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Developers bugged by discovery of rare insects at housing sites

**BY ROB EDWARDS
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR**

A STARTLING array of rare and colourful bugs have been discovered at two sites in the Cairngorms National Park earmarked for major housing developments.

The findings, including several Scottish firsts for insects, will put a major new conservation strategy being launched by ministers this week to the test. Experts fear that some of the species risk being lost for ever.

Among the insects uncovered is a small bee previously thought extinct, plus three little hoppers and a thin green bug with long antennae never before recorded in Scotland. The gnarled-looking Slender Groundhopper has also been found much further north than ever before.

On Tuesday, environment minister Michael Russell will help to unveil a strategy for saving Scotland's bugs. Drawn up by conservation groups, it will set out a framework for protecting

Scotland's endangered invertebrates - animals without backbones such as insects, snails and shellfish.

The discovery of a series of endangered bugs in the path of developments in the Cairngorms highlights the problems the new strategy will have to tackle. The animals' future could be jeopardised by demands to build new houses in sensitive areas.

"More rare and threatened invertebrate species are found in the Cairngorms area than anywhere else in Scotland, or perhaps the UK," said Craig Macadam, the Scottish conservation office for Buglife, which campaigns to protect invertebrates.

The area's natural habitats were "incredibly important", he argued. "Current development plans are putting increasing pressure on these habitats and their wildlife, and there is a real risk that rare invertebrates could be lost for ever."

Macadam revealed that one strand of the new strategy would be the identification of the most important areas for invertebrates. "It will then be up to the planning authorities to do whatever

they can to protect these areas, and the species that live there, for future generations," he said.

The Fife building company, Muir Homes, has applied for permission to build 193 homes at the Mossie in Grantown-on-Spey, not far from the headquarters of the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

But local conservationists have photographed a mining bee, known as *Andrena marginata*, at the site. Until a few years ago, it was feared extinct in Scotland and is listed as endangered in seven European countries.

Four other bugs, not previously recorded in Scotland have been seen at the Mossie, along with more than 30 species of hoverfly. Other endangered insects, including the blueberry bumblebee and five species of butterfly, are also present in the area.

At the same time an Aviemore developer, Davall Developments, has submitted an application to build 79 houses, plus land for a primary school, in Boat of Garten. There, too, however, there are bugs in need of saving.

Conservationists have visited the site

and photographed a Slender Groundhopper, which before now has not been spotted in the UK north of Yorkshire. The area is also important for protected insects such as the narrow-headed ant. The Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group is alarmed that the Cairngorms National Park Authority has zoned areas like these for development.

"We will be renewing our call to the authority to refuse development here in line with government undertakings to halt biodiversity loss and protect priceless natural heritage," said the group's convenor, Dr Gus Jones.

The park authority has called in the applications for Grantown-on-Spey and Boat of Garten so that their environmental impacts can be properly considered.

"No dates have been set for determination in either case," a park spokeswoman told the Sunday Herald.

She promised that the potential impact of the proposed developments on wildlife would be taken into account.

Invertebrates were one of the Cairngorms' special qualities and an indicator of the parks' environmental health, she said.

The spokeswoman added: "The park authority and its partners are involved in a number of projects aimed at conserving, enhancing and raising awareness of invertebrates."

"We welcome Buglife's national strategy and the contribution it will make to the work already taking place in the park."

One of the species of hopper found

06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: John Kramer
Sent: 02 March 2010 17:51
To: Planning
Subject: Re: The Mossie, Grantown on Spey

02 MAR 2010
PWR JM

Your Ref. 06/320/CP

I am mailing to appeal to you to protect the Mossie, on the grounds of its special ecology, as a heritage site for future generations. Housing development is to politicians as bonuses are to bankers. Please think responsibly of the long term consequences of your actions, in terms of the sustainability of the proposed development, and of the quality of life of your community.

Thank you,

John Kramer
31 Ashtree Road,
Oadby,
Leicester
LE2 5TE

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Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning
06/320/CP
ACKNOWLEDGED 3/3/10

06/320/CP

Julie Millman

From: Benn, Stuart
Sent: 02 March 2010 13:33
To: Planning
Subject: Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie, Grantown on Spey

Dear Ms Grier

I understand that this application will be considered by the Planning Authority at a meeting at Boat of Garten on Friday 5 March and thank you for inviting RSPB Scotland to attend.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to attend in person but I have read the papers relating to the case on the Park website. We fully endorse your recommendation to refuse this application and, in particular, for the reasons relating to the nature conservation interests of the site (Para 111.2) - this area of land does hold an important number of a range of wader species all of which are declining nationally and this application would lead to their loss.

Yours sincerely

Stuart

Stuart Benn
Conservation Officer, South Highland
RSPB, North Scotland Regional Office
Etive House
Beechwood Park
Inverness
IV2 3BW

RSPB Scotland is part of the RSPB that speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling the problems that threaten our environment. Nature is amazing - help us keep it that way. Click here to join today www.rspb.org.uk/join

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Cairngorms National
Park Authority
PWR 02/03/10

Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning Application 06/320/CP
RECOMMENDATION
ACKNOWLEDGED by email 02.03.10.

06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: Andrew Richardson [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 March 2010 12:01
To: Planning
Subject: Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie, Grantown on Spey

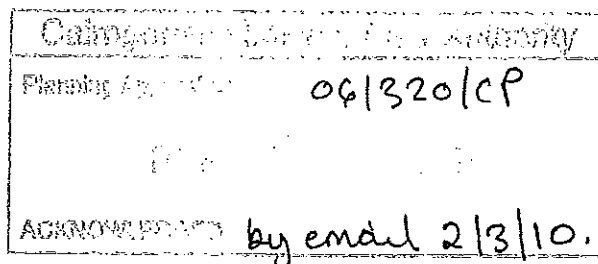
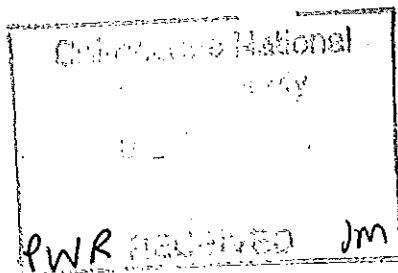
Dear Sir/Madam,

As a former resident of Grantown I would like to object to the proposal to build houses on the area called Mossie in Grantown. I think this large-scale development is both unnecessary and inappropriate.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Richardson (Dr.)

Flat 12, Kings Courtyard, 30-32 Knyveton Road, Bournemouth, BH1 3QR
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06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: Donald Scobbie
Sent: 02 March 2010 20:33
To: Planning
Subject: Muir Homes application 06/320/CP

Dear Mr. McKee, Mary Grier and planning staff,

Please accept my congratulations on recommending refusal of the Muir Homes planning application for Grantown on Spey. I'm sure that you and all the planning staff have made the correct choice practically, ethically and in the best tradition of safeguarding National Park aims and the environment. Certainly you can be assured of the support of the majority of the citizens of Grantown on Spey, as was clearly demonstrated at the public meeting some time ago. I trust the Board Members will give you their full support on Friday.

Yours sincerely,

D. Scobbie

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Cairngorms National Park Authority
02 MAR 2010
PWR jm

Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning 06/320/CP
03.03.10

Marie Duncan

06/320/CP

From: Roger Morris [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 March 2010 20:42
To: Planning
Subject: Planning application 06/320/CP

Dear Sirs

I would like to register my concern about the above proposal that affects one of the few areas of limestone grassland in the Cairngorms and is known to support a variety of rare and threatened invertebrates such as the solitary *bee Andrena marginata* and the narrow-bordered bee hawk moth. These and other species reported from these sites add up to an important assemblage close to the edge of the range for some highly vulnerable invertebrates. The loss of this site would be a serious blow for invertebrate conservation in the Spey Valley, which is itself of particular importance entomologically.

I hope that these issues will take high precedent in your decision-making.

Yours sincerely

Roger Morris BSc., CEnv. FIEEM, FRES, AMICE
Joint organiser UK Hoverfly Recording Scheme
7 Vine Street
Stamford
Lincolnshire PE9 1QE

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Cairngorms National Park Authority
02 MAR 2010
PWR jm

Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning Application No. 06/320/CP
REPRESENTATION
ACKNOWLEDGED 03.03.10

06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: Andrew Amphlett
Sent: 02 March 2010 21:00
To: Planning
Subject: Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie, Grantown on Spey

To: Mary Grier

as a resident of Grantown, I am writing to give my support to the CNPA in their recommendation to refuse the application for new housing (Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie). I agree with the three primary reasons for refusal given in the CNPA paper 1 March 5th 2010 (pp. 38 - 39). In particular, I wish to emphasise the existing natural heritage value of the grassland and wetland on this site. These interests would be lost or significantly compromised by the proposed development.

Yours,

Andy Amphlett
72 Strathspey Drive
Grantown on Spey
PH26 3EY

02 MARCH 2010		Cairngorms National Park Authority
PWR		Planning Dept 06/320/CP
JM		ACKNOWLEDGED 03.03.10

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06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: Roy Turnbull [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 March 2010 19:56
To: Planning
Subject: 06/320/CP Proposed Housing Development, Mossie, Grantown on Spey.

Cairngorms National Park Authority

Planning Department

Dear Ms Grier
2nd march 2010

REFERENCE: 06/320/CP Proposed Housing Development, Mossie, Grantown on Spey.

I write to fully SUPPORT the recommendation for REFUSAL of the above planning application, as detailed in the CNPA Paper 3358.

In particular, I agree with the CNPA appraisal that recognises that this site is "is of high ecological value which is rich in invertebrates and is a productive breeding ground for several species of wading bird". This appears to be largely due to the unusual feature of a supply of base-rich ground water to the vegetation, a feature not appreciated at the time of its allocation within the adopted HC Local Plan.

I also consider that the proposed development would damage the community of Grantown and agree that it "fails to reflect its unique setting on the periphery of a traditional planned Highland village".

Yours sincerely Roy Turnbull

Roy Turnbull
Torniscar
Nethy Bridge
Inverness-shire
Scotland
PH25 3ED

02 MAR 2010
PWR RECALYSED JM

Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning Application 06/320/CP
REFUSAL
ACKNOWLEDGED 03.03.10

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: jane.smith@ Cairngorms National Park Authority
Sent: 02 March 2010 21:36
To: Planning
Subject: Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie, Grantown on Spey

Cairngorms National Park Authority
06/320/CP
03.03.10

Dear Sir/Madam

Please note that I wish to support the CNPA recommendation for refusal of the proposed housing development at the Mossie, Grantown.

The development is totally inappropriate for a wetland site of this nature, and would have a severe impact on its natural heritage value.

yours

Jane Smith
Blairmore
Grantown on Spey

Cairngorms National
02 MAR 2010
RWR (RECEIVED) JM

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Marie Duncan

06/320/CP

From: Tristan Bantock [mailto:tristanb@btinternet.com]
Sent: 02 March 2010 21:49
To: Planning
Subject: Letter of objection to proposed development (06/320/CP)

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to register my objection to the above proposal (06/320/CP) which concerns the construction of a housing development at a site in Grantown-on-Spey within the Cairngorm National Park.

The area in question is primarily damp calcareous grassland, a very scarce habitat type in Scotland and one of very high ecological importance. The site supports a range of scarce invertebrates, two of which are UK priority species: the Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly and the Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth. This development clearly contravenes one of the central objectives of the Cairngorm National Park, namely

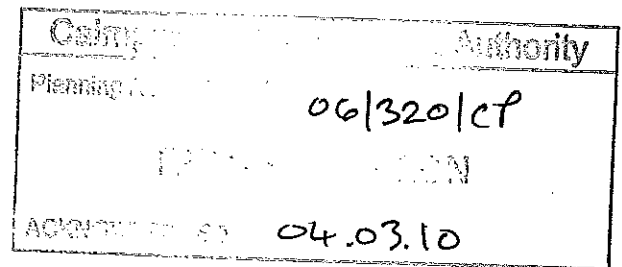
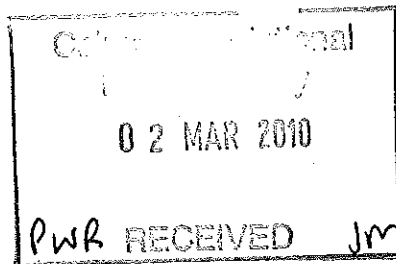
'to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area'.

It frankly beggars belief that the proposal can be regarded as potentially suitable in such an ecologically sensitive area as the Cairngorms National Park.

Yours faithfully

Dr Tristan Bantock

Dr Tristan Bantock
101 Crouch Hill
London
N8 9RD



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Marie Duncan

06/320/CP

From: KATHERINE CARINGTONSMITH [redacted]
Sent: 03 March 2010 09:38
To: Planning
Subject: Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie; Grantown on Spey

Cairngorms National Park Authority	
Planning Application	06/320/CP
	04.03.10
Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie, Grantown on Spey	

Katherine Carington Smith
30 Lynstock Crescent
Nethy Bridge
PH25 3DX

02 MAR 2010
pwb jm

Dear Sirs,

I write in support of your recommendation to refuse the above application. The proposal to build 193 properties on the Mossie is entirely unsuitable for the location and poses a risk to local (protected) wildlife.

I am sure that if developers thought they could get away with it, they would cover this and many other areas in Badenoch and Strathspey with houses which can only be for the second home market. In such applications, the minimal number of so-called 'affordable housing' should not be allowed to sway any planning application which would be so detrimental to the locality.

I note that a large-ish area was to be left 'untouched' in the middle of the site. This would not protect wildlife or plant colonies, indeed, it would be futile to leave such an area as it would become used by children and pets from the houses which would surround it, disrupting the local flora and fauna.

I am delighted that the CNPA planners are recommending refusal of this application and sincerely hope that this will be upheld as the outcome of the meeting to decide the application on Friday 5th March in Boat of Garten Community Centre.

Yours faithfully,

Katherine Carington Smith
30 Lynstock Crescent
Nethy Bridge
PH25 3DX

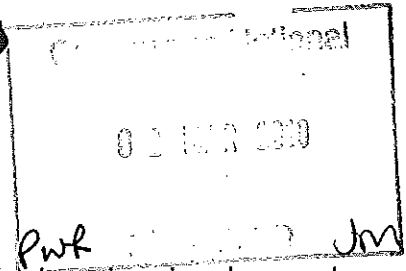
[redacted]
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06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: Stewart Taylor [redacted]
Sent: 02 March 2010 18:15
To: Planning
Subject: Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie, Grantown on Spey



Dear CNPA Planners,

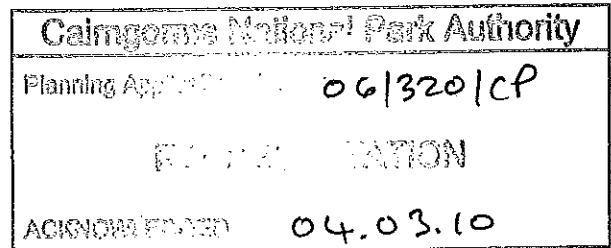
I write to offer my support to your recommendation for refusal of the housing development planning application for area known as The Mossie in Grantown. This area is rich in wildlife, is one of the few area remaining where wading birds breed within a town, and is a brilliant open space within the town for residents and visitors to enjoy. It would be a criminal act to allow its destruction. The reason so many visitor come to this area to spend their holidays in support of the local economy, is because the towns and villages in the area are "different" with open space and with farmland as an integral part of their make up. To allow these developments (this is the first of many planned for the area) will mean that the towns and villages will loose their character and become just like the over-crowded towns that they come to the area to get away from. We also need to start to think seriously about the increasing pressure that these developments are placing on the important local areas of woodland, moor and mountain as more and more folk drive from the sites, like the one in this application, to find areas to walk, bike and worst of all foul paths and tracks by an ever increasing population of dogs.

Please stick to your guns, refuse this application, and ensure the area retains a little of its original character.

Yours sincerely

Stewart & Janet Taylor

Firwood, Nethybridge, PH25 3DE
[redacted]
[redacted]

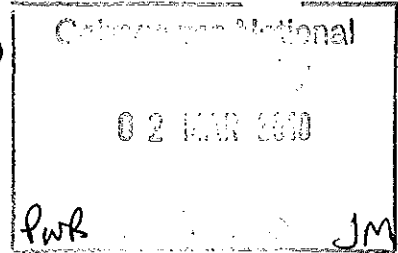


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06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: Craig MacAdam [mailto:Craig.MacAdam@Buglife.org.uk]
Sent: 02 March 2010 20:27
To: Planning
Subject: 06/320/CP



Dear Sir or Madam,

Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust welcomes the recommendation to refuse planning permission for the ‘Erection of housing; associated road construction; drainage and landscaping on land between Seafield Avenue and Castle Road East, Grantown on Spey’.

At the beginning of 2009 the then Minister for Environment Michael Russell MSP launched ‘A strategy for the conservation of Scottish invertebrates’. This strategy sets out the actions needed to conserve invertebrates in Scotland. One of the objectives of this strategy is to identify the important sites for invertebrates in Scotland. The invertebrate fauna of Strathspey is exceptionally rich and possibly represents one of the richest areas in the UK. There are a number of important invertebrate habitats present on the proposed development site. The area of mire and fen is important for beetles and true-flies including the nationally notable hoverflies *Eristalis rufum* and *Xylota jakatorum* which breed there. The surrounding mixed woodland comprising Birch, Aspen and Scot’s Pine is likely to be of considerable interest for saproxylic beetles and flies, and potentially for the Aspen hoverfly (*Hammerschmidtia ferruginea*) – a UKBAP priority species which is found in nearby woodland. The principal interest on the site is the calcareous grassland. This habitat is relatively rare locally and the fauna that it supports is important. A number of nationally notable species have also been recorded there including *Andrena marginata* (currently known from only 4 sites in Scotland); the Narrow-bordered bee hawk-moth (a UKBAP priority species); Small pearl-bordered fritillary (a UKBAP priority species) and the sawfly *Abia candens* (a nationally rare species). The flora of the grassland provides important foraging for a wide range of insects. 34 species of hoverfly; 12 species of planthopper and 3 species of grasshopper have been recorded from the site.

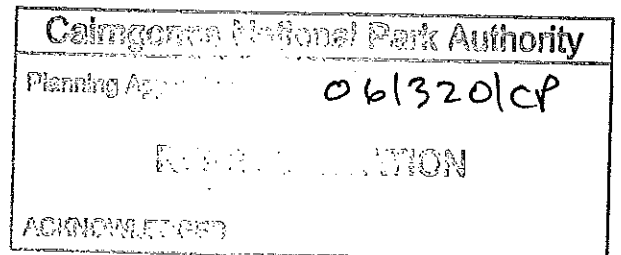
In summary, the habitats present at ‘the Mossie’ support a locally important invertebrate fauna. A number of these species are nationally important or listed as priority species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the Scottish Biodiversity List. The development of this site would destroy valuable habitats for invertebrates and no amount of compensatory off-site mitigation will compensate for their loss.

Yours faithfully,

Craig Macadam

Craig Macadam
Conservation Officer (Scotland)

Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust
Balallan House
24 Allan Park
Stirling
FK8 2QG



Conserving the small things that run the world.

Working in partnership with the initiative for Scottish Invertebrates (ISI). This work is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage.

Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust is a company limited by guarantee, Registered in England at First Floor, 90 Bridge Street, Peterborough, Cambs., PE1 1DY. Company no. 4132695 Charity registered in England and Wales (1092293) and in Scotland (SC040004)

06/320/CP

03 MAR 2010
PWR
JM

Marie Duncan

From: Beth and Andy Wells [mailto:awells@btinternet.com]
 Sent: 03 March 2010 09:51
 To: Planning
 Subject: Land Between Seafield Avenue and Castle Road East Grantown on Spey Highland

Dear Sir/Madam

As a long term resident of Strathspey and the Grantown area I write to raise an objection to the proposed development on the site known as The Mossie in Grantown-on-Spey behind the Ian Charles Hospital (reference number 06/320/CP) on the grounds that it will be detrimental to the natural heritage of the Grantown area and the Cairngorms National Park.

This is a valuable area of calcareous grassland (uncommon in this area) and contains a rich variety of various habitats and notable species including several species of priority concern in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The true biodiversity richness of the site has only recently been recognised and has not been fully considered in the development proposals. The proposed development would result in the net loss of habitat for breeding wading birds and a range of other species.

My reading of the current proposed layout and the extent of site area included in the development proposals, would fail to conserve or enhance the natural heritage of the area and would result in an unacceptable and significant loss of biodiversity. Allowing this development as proposed would in my view be contrary to the statutory aim of the Cairngorms National Park Authority to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area. While off site mitigation proposals have been put forward these do not compensate for the damage that will be done to the valuable natural environment on many parts of the site and the extent of that damage.

I would urge the Cairngorms National Park Board to pay close consideration to the natural heritage value of the site in any determination of this application and to ensure that the environmental impacts of this proposal are fully appreciated when balanced against the development needs of the Grantown area.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Wells

Rowanlea
 Feabuie
 Cromdale
 Grantown on Spey
 PH26 3PF

Cairngorms National Park Authority	
Planning Application No.	06/320/CP
REPRESENTATION	
ACKNOWLEDGED	04.03.10

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06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: ian and margaret lawson
Sent: 03 March 2010 10:25
To: Planning
Subject: Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie Grantown on Spey

I fully support CNPA's recommendation for refusal for the application for a housing development at Mossie Grantown on Spey Ref: 06/320/CP.

Signed Ian Lawson
Easter Califer
Forres
Moray IV36 2RN

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02 MAR 2010
PWR RECEIVED JM

Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning Application 06/320/CP
RECOMMENDATION
AGREED 04.03.10

06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: Tom Prescott [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 March 2010 10:26
To: Planning
Subject: Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie, Grantown on Spey

Dear CNPA

Butterfly Conservation Scotland would like to raise its concern about the proposed development at the Mossie, Grantown-on Spey. A number of key species of Lepidoptera have been recorded from the site including the day-flying Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth and the Northern Brown Argus butterfly. Both are UKBAP Priority species with localised distributions and are declining in the UK.

Both species have only recently been recorded at the Mossie showing the site to be under-recorded. Butterfly Conservation Scotland would therefore urge for a full invertebrate survey to be undertaken and believe that other key species, particularly nocturnal moths, may well be present.

Yours faithfully

Tom

Dr Tom Prescott
Species Conservation Officer
Butterfly Conservation Scotland
Mill House
Mill Road
Kingussie
Inverness-shire
PH21 1LF

03 MARCH 2010
Pwr. JM

Cairngorms National Park Authority
06/320/CP
04.03.10

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Butterfly Conservation is dedicated to saving Butterflies, Moths and their Habitats. If you would like further information please view our website at <http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/>

Butterfly Conservation
Company limited by guarantee, registered in England (2206468)
Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP
Charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268)

The views and comments expressed in this email do not necessarily express the views of Butterfly Conservation.

If you do not wish to receive any further information about the conservation, campaigning and fundraising work of Butterfly Conservation please reply to this message with the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject line

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06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: Moore, Pete [mailto:pete.moore@rspb.org.uk]
Sent: 02 March 2010 22:02
To: Planning
Subject: ref: 06/320/CP Mossie, Grantown on Spey

Dear Mary Grier & fellow Planners,

Concerning the above planning application, I have read your planning report and **fully support your recommendation for refusal.**

My particular interest is of course in the wildlife value of the site. As one of the organisers and surveyors of the Strathspey Wader Survey, I know only too well the importance of the strath for breeding wading birds and also the worrying steep decline in numbers that they are experiencing. The proposed development would undoubtedly contribute to their decline.

Yours,
Pete Moore

RSPB Warden, Insh Marshes National Nature Reserve.

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02 MAR 2010
PWR. RECEIVED JM

Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning application 06/320/CP
RECOMMENDATION
ADMITTED 02.03.10

06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: Derek Young [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 March 2010 19:19
To: Planning
Subject: Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have read the planning report and fully support the recommendation to refuse the application to build on this land.

I regret that I will not be able to attend the meeting on Friday but wish the CNPA success.

Sincerely,

D.G.Young

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Cairngorms National
021 310000
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Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning Application 06/320/CP
RECOMMENDATION
ACKNOWLEDGED 04.03.10

06/320/cf

Marie Duncan

From: Eleanor and Sandy Walker [redacted]
Sent: 02 March 2010 22:41
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Cairngorms National
02 MAR 2010
RWH RECEIVED JM

Dear Sirs

I wish to register my implacable opposition to the proposed HOUSING DEVELOPMENT on the MOSSIE in GRANTOWN-ON-SPEY. My objections may summarised as follows-

BIODIVERSITY-----Because of the DALRADIAN schist-derived rock-controlled slopes to the west of the site, the basin peat and the soils of the associated fluvial sands and gravels have been strongly influenced by the relatively base-rich surface and ground waters flowing downslope. This, coupled with the long-term grazing regime has resulted in the unusual development of a moderately base-rich vegetation that is quite unique amongst the typically highly acidic basin peats throughout STRATHSPEY and BADENOCH.

GROUNDWATER-----The whole area is subjected to a strongly fluctuating ground-water table which is evidenced by the annual development of a winter dubh-lochan up to one metre deep immediately north of the medical centre car-park. The presence of such a ground-water table was responsible for the catastrophic flooding of the nearby Senior Secondary School site when the areas of the boiler-house and swimming pool were being excavated (see MISR report to MORAY COUNTY COUNCIL 1961).

Despite frequent requests for the ground-water data allegedly being recorded by the DEVELOPERS(MUIR HOMES) at the bore-holes installed by them, no such readings have been forthcoming. At a meeting with officials from SEPA in the CAIRNGORM NATIONAL PARK offices in GRANTOWN-ON-SPEY in 2009 we were informed that the problems associated with a fluctuating ground-water table were not within their remit. SNH likewise have declined to provide a response on the situation.

Oviously, the extraction of peat and poorly drained soils within the site will result in much unsuitable soil material and the likelihood of major flooding at each excavated foundation. Nowhere within the depositions by the developers are such problems addressed. No estimates of the volumes of unsuitable materials are provided nor the means whereby any pumping operations are resolved.

OTHER MATTERS-----Apart from the major problems of the educational and medical services being unable to cater for the additional increase in the population arising from such a development, the provision of allegedly 'affordable housing' does not appear to meet the needs of the BURGH. Because much of the local employment is within the 'service industries', many of the people with housing needs are subject to the statutory minimum wage and hence would be incapable of financing such affordable housing. Perhaps the CNPA would be better directed to liaise with HRC and resume the building of rentable council houses.

Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning Appls. Sec 115. 06/320/cf
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ACKNOWLEDGED 04.03.10

Yours faithfully
ALEX D. WALKER

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Marie Duncan - National

Cairngorms National Park Authority

From: tim ransom [redacted]
Sent: 02 MAR 2010 03 March 2010 01:55
To: Planning
Subject: Objection to Application Ref: 06/320/CP

Planning Application No. 06/320/CP
REF: 06/320/CP
ACKNOWLEDGED 03.03.10

PKR RECEIVED JM

I am writing in order to submit my objection to the proposed development ref: 06/320/CP in Grantown-on-Spey by Muir Homes.

The extensive calcareous grassland proposed for development is not only an uncommon habitat in the area but is also rich in wildlife and contains many species of importance. Among these are the rare solitary bee *Andrena marginata* which was considered extinct in Scotland for over 50 years until being recently re-discovered and since then has only been found at 4 sites in Scotland of which 3 are in Strathspey, with this site being only the second place in the whole of Scotland where it was recorded in recent years, and at present it is regarded as very scarce in Strathspey and is a Notable A species within the UK; at least 4 species of butterfly which are UK Priority Species (Large Heath, Small Heath, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Northern Brown Argus); 2 species of hoverfly known to be breeding on this site which are UK Notable species (*Eristalis rupium* and *Xylota jakatorum*); the UK Priority Species moth the Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth which was recorded as a breeding pair in 2009; and the flowering plants Field Gentian (a UK Priority Species) and Heath Dog-violet (a Red-listed near-threatened species).

In addition to these species of note there has also been recorded 34 species of hoverfly many of which rely on this type of grassland and its associated flora and management for their continued presence within the Cairngorm National Park and also there is a locally significant presence of wading birds breeding on the site including Lapwing (a UK Priority Species).

To ignore the presence of these species and their specific requirements for their continued survival would be to fail to uphold the first aim of the National Park namely to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

Invertebrates, for instance, have only recently been finally officially recognised as an integral part of the natural heritage and economy of the Scottish landscape and to allow this site with all its significant and varied species to be destroyed would be to ignore the importance of the recent Scottish Strategy for Invertebrate Conservation and would be a disastrous step backwards in terms of invertebrate conservation.

So, in summary I feel it would be a significant failing on the part of the Cairngorm National Park if this site and its associated wildlife was allowed to be destroyed and if it was it would then raise the serious question as to what extent the National Park values its natural heritage and its duty to protect it.

Yours
Mr Tim Ransom BSc

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06/320/CP

Marie Duncan

From: Joseph Botting
Sent: 02 March 2010 20:01
To: Planning
Subject: 06/320/CP - objection

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my objection to the plans for development of "The Mossie" in Grantown-on-Spey, on the basis of the very rich insect fauna. Over the past few years, I have been assisting in the identification of true bugs, and have seen photographs of a significant number of species. Several of these are classified as uncertain or local, but they are probably declining - for example, Aphrodes bifasciatus and Arthaldeus striifrons. These two are species that I myself have never found, and are certainly not common in the UK. Given that the surveys have not been conducted by specialists in this group, I would be very surprised if even rarer species are also present; it appears to be a very interesting and valuable ecosystem. I also understand that among other insect groups there are a range of Notable species and at least one RDB listed (Abia candens), which may be the only Scottish record.

Although the insect biodiversity of the Highlands is doubtless under-recorded, much of it seems to be relatively homogeneous over large areas. The presence of calcareous grassland with a rich native fauna in this area is of great significance, and should without any doubt be protected. This being the duty of the National Park, I have no doubt that the plans will be rejected. I write this in support of that rejection, and in the belief that a very valuable local ecosystem of national significance would be largely destroyed if the proposal were to go ahead.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Joseph P. Botting

Cairngorms National Park Authority
02 MAR 2010
PWR RECEIVED Jm

Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning Application 06/320/CP
REPL...ECTION
ACKNOWLEDGED 03.03.10

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06/320/CP

Julie Millman

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 March 2010 16:24
To: Planning
Subject: Ref: 06/320/CP Mossie, Grantown on Spey

We have read the planning report and wish to support your recommendation for refusal of this planning application, reference 06/320/CP Mossie Grantown on Spey.

Please resist giving your support to this highly damaging planning application.

Susan and David Peter Jenkins

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Cairngorms National Park Authority
02 MAR 2010
PWR RECEIVED JM

Cairngorms National Park Authority
Planning Application No. 06/320/CP
REFUSAL
ACKNOWLEDGED 03.03.10