

Comments for Planning Application 2013/0330/DET

Application Summary

Application Number: 2013/0330/DET

Address: Drumochter Lodge Dalwhinnie PH19 1AF

Proposal: Application for permanent retention of temporary access track from Dalwhinnie to Drumochter, built for construction of Beauty-Denny overhead power line

Case Officer: Fiona Murphy

Customer Details

Name: Mr George Allan

Address: North East Mountain Trust, c/o 20 Norfolk Road Aberdeen

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I am writing on behalf of the North East Mountain Trust (Scottish Charity- SC008783). NEMT represents hill walkers, climbers and people who visit wild land. Individual and club membership totals around 700 people. NEMT aims to protect wild land in Scotland from inappropriate developments for all who enjoy visiting such places.

NEMT strongly objects to this application.

1] The suggestion in the application that reducing the width of the track somewhat, along with its shielding in places from the A9, means that it would have limited visual intrusion is incorrect. It would leave a very significant scar visible to people walking in the hills on both sides of the glen. Hill walkers and climbers are major users of the Park and bring considerable economic benefits.

2] The only reasons given for the application are convenience and road safety. There is no need for stationary shooting vehicles on the A9 if convoys are not used. Presumably the estate has been ensuring that its staff operate to high road safety standards for many years.

3]. There is a major principle at stake here. The Construction Procedures Handbook [Revision 3/4/12] is binding on SSE and in section 5, p.20 ('Restoration') states that contract requirements include:

-Removal of all temporary access tracks.

This requirement serves to mitigate some of the concerns expressed at the Public Enquiry that Beauty- Denny would be visually detrimental; it also reflects the fact that pylons do not need road access for maintenance. Permission for Beauty-Denny was given because it was considered to be in the national interest. The current application fails completely to meet this test. It is essential that the CNPA uphold this principle by rejecting this application and any others of a similar nature which might be made for other sections of the line within the Park boundary.

Planning Application comments has been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 12:34 AM on 22 Oct 2013 from Mr John P Thomas.

Application Summary

Address: Drumochter Lodge Dalwhinnie PH19 1AF

Proposal: Application for permanent retention of temporary access track from Dalwhinnie to Drumochter, built for construction of Beauly-Denny overhead power line. Please visit <http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/planning/planningapplications/>

Case Officer: Andrew McCracken

Customer Details

Name: Mr John P Thomas

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: Tom Mor Easter Breakachy Laggan

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: - If left the access road would be a permanent scar through Drumochter, damaging the environment and landscape. The landscape impact is not insignificant as the applicant attests, especially when viewed by the many thousands of walkers who visit the area each year bringing valuable economic benefits to the area. - It is a condition of the approval for the construction of the Beauly-Denny line that the temporary access roads be removed. - To deviate from that commitment would be a significant breach of public trust following such a highly contested major public enquiry. - It is in the National Park and the government has already proposed that developments that affect the integrity of the area would not be permitted unless any adverse effects were clearly outweighed by national social, environmental or economic benefits. The proposed retention of the access road through Drumochter fails each of these tests, - The principal grounds for the application are road safety and the convenience of estate staff and clients. The way to address any road safety issues on this stretch of the A9 is not by the retention of a parallel access road for the sole use of the Drumochter estate.