

AGENDA ITEM 5

APPENDIX 6

2018/0046/DET

HABITATS REGULATION APPRAISAL

Habitats Regulations Assessment

16/03/2018

2018/0046/DET Erection of 25 dwellings and associated infrastructure, Land 130m South of Meadow View, Crannich Park, Carrbridge

Introduction

This is a record of the assessment under regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) for the planning application 2018/0046/DET made by Tulloch Homes. The development is for the erection of 25 affordable homes in Carrbridge, on a site designated for housing within the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (2015-2020).

Background to the assessment

The proposal is for a mix of 2 and 3 bedroom dwellings. The maximum occupancy possible, based on the numbers of 2 and 3 bed houses proposed, is 103 people. The actual occupancy of the development is likely to be much less than this, as single occupancy is common place and not all of the residents will have children for example.

The proposal is in close proximity and easy access to Carr Plantation and Ellan Wood; two planted Scots pine forests which contain waymarked promoted trails and are well used for recreation. These woods are not designated and are not sensitive for capercaillie. It is predicted that this woodland will be the most popular choice for recreation for residents of the proposal.

Capercaillie avoid woodland immediately surrounding Carrbridge due to existing levels of recreation disturbance in this woodland. The closest capercaillie lek is 3.4km away but is off paths and the area can only be reached via road and parking is an issue. The next nearest Lek site is 4.7km away and the only route is via a road, though this road is not heavily trafficked. This Lek is within commercial forestry which is gated not promoted. The next nearest lek is a 5.7km walk/cycle away and is within private forestry that is not promoted for recreation. Other leks around Carrbridge are similarly in private forestry without promoted trails. There is no easy direct route from the proposal to any of these lek sites.

The principal documents which have been taken into account for this assessment are:

- Bracewell Stirling Consulting – 4289 Design and Access Statement (December 2017)
- SNH consultation response, dated 23rd February 2018
- RSPB letter to the Planning Officer, dated 21st February 2018

Table 1. Stages of Assessment

Stages of Assessment	
Stage 1	Decide whether proposal is subject to HRA

Stage 2	Identify Natura Sites that should be considered and gather information about the Natura Sites
Stage 3	Consultation on the method and scope of the appraisal with SNH and others. Request additional information from applicant if required.
Stage 4	Screening the proposal for likely significant effects on Natura sites including mitigation measures included within the proposal
Stage 5	Screen for “in combination effects” with other plans or projects
Stage 6	Appropriate Assessment to determine effect upon conservation objectives. Preliminary conclusion about adverse effect upon the integrity of any site.
Stage 7	Consultation with SNH (and others if considered appropriate)
Stage 8	Apply additional mitigation measures, if required, via conditions or agreements to ensure that there is no adverse effect on site integrity
Stage 9	Conclusion on Integrity test
Stage 10	Regulation 49 derogation procedures. This only applies if adverse effects remain and Competent Authority still wishes to approve the application

Stage 1: Decide whether the proposal is subject to HRA

The proposed development is not wholly concerned with the necessary management of a European site for nature conservation and requires planning permission and so the plans must be subject to assessment under the terms of Directive 92/43/EEC.

Stages 2: Identification of Natura Sites and gathering their details

The list below is those sites that have been taken forward to screening for Likely Significant Effects. See Appendix I for details on each site and its qualifying features.

Other sites were considered but have not been taken forward. River Spey SAC has been scoped out due to lack of connectivity between the proposal and this Natura Site.

Special Protection Area (SPA):

Kinveachy Forest
Cairngorms
Abernethy Forest
Craigmore Wood
Anagach Woods

Stage 3: Discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal and requests for additional information

Advice has been sought from SNH as to the scope of the appraisal, the Natura Sites and the effects – phone call on 1st March 2018. Personal communication on 7th March 2018,

Stage 4: Screening the proposal for likely significant effects

The effects identified were, in summary, as follows:

- Kinveachy Forest SPA – Likely Significant Effect on capercaillie - indirect
- Cairngorms SPA - Likely Significant Effect on capercaillie - indirect
- Abernethy Forest SPA - Likely Significant Effect on capercaillie - indirect
- Craigmore Wood SPA - Likely Significant Effect on capercaillie - indirect
- Anagach Woods SPA - Likely Significant Effect on capercaillie - indirect

Screening of this application considers these and any additional possible effects that would arise from the granting of planning permission for the proposed development at Carrbridge.

Table 3. Screening for LSE from Carrbridge affordable housing development

Kinveachy Forest SPA					
Qualifying Feature Affected	Possible effect of development	Likely significant effect	Duration	Screening assessment	Screening outcome
Capercaillie	Increased recreation within Kinveachy Forest SPA This is a direct effect.	Increased disturbance to capercaillie	Permanent	Kinveachy Forest SPA is 6.3km walk or cycle from the proposal via Station Road. There are no promoted footpaths directly into Kinveachy Forest SPA from the proposal, direct access on foot or bike being prevented by the mainline railway and A9. Occupancy of 25 additional homes at the proposal is not likely to result in use of Kinveachy Forest SPA that changes current patterns of behaviour, resulting in increased disturbance to capercaillie.	No Effect
Capercaillie	Increased recreation in non-SPA woodland supporting capercaillie in and around Carrbridge. This is an indirect effect.	Increased disturbance to capercaillie	Permanent	The development could increase levels of recreation within the Carrbridge area, resulting in increased disturbance of capercaillie within non-SPA woodland surrounding Carrbridge. Increased disturbance could affect capercaillie ability to breed, resulting in reduced movement of capercaillie from non-SPA woodland into the SPA.	Likely Significant Effect

Scottish crossbill	Increase in recreational activity from residents of new development within the SPA	Disturbance to nesting sites and foraging habitat	Permanent	The proposal is some distance from this site and an increase in residents of Carrbridge through 25 additional dwellings is not likely to cause additional disturbance to Scottish crossbill at this site	No effect
Cairngorms SPA					
Qualifying Feature Affected	Possible effect of development	Likely significant effect	Duration	Screening assessment	Screening outcome
Capercaillie	Increased recreation in woodland supporting capercaillie in and around Carrbridge This is an indirect effect.	Increased recreation in Kinveachy Forest SPA and non-SPA woodland, increased disturbance reducing productivity and subsequent reduction in dispersal rate to this SPA.	Permanent	The development could increase levels of recreation within the Carrbridge area, resulting in increased disturbance of capercaillie within non-SPA woodland surrounding Carrbridge. Increased disturbance could affect capercaillie ability to breed, resulting in reduced movement of capercaillie from non-SPA woodland into the SPA. Likely Significant Effect on Kinveachy Forest SPA above also causes a Likely Significant Effect on this SPA indirectly.	Likely Significant Effect
Capercaillie	Increase in recreation within Cairngorms SPA This is a direct	Increased disturbance to capercaillie	Permanent	This SPA is remote from the proposal and residents from the proposal are not likely to cause additional recreational disturbance to within this site that would adversely affect capercaillie.	No effect

	effect.				
Scottish crossbill	Increase in recreational activity from residents of new development within the SPA	Disturbance to nesting sites and foraging habitat	Permanent	The proposal is remote from this site and residents from the proposal are not likely to cause additional disturbance to Scottish crossbill at this site	No effect
Osprey	Increase in recreational activity from residents of new development within the SPA	Disturbance to nesting sites	Permanent	Nests are well managed and monitored by Rothiemurchus estate. General recreation is managed by FCS and Rothiemurchus to promote paths away from nest sites. The proposal is remote from this site and an increase in residents of Carrbridge through 25 additional dwellings is not likely to cause additional disturbance to Osprey at this site.	No effect
Dotterel	Increase in recreational activity from residents of new development within the SPA	Disturbance to nesting sites	Permanent	Sites are in remote uplands and the number of visits to these areas from the proposal is considered to be negligible.	No effect
Golden eagle	Increase in recreational activity from residents of new development within the SPA	Disturbance to nesting sites	Permanent	Sites are in remote uplands and the number of visits to these areas from the proposal is considered to be negligible.	No effect
Merlin	Increase in recreational activity from residents of new development	Disturbance to nesting sites	Permanent	Sites are in remote uplands and the number of visits to these areas from the proposal is considered to be negligible.	No effect

	within the SPA				
Peregrine	Increase in recreational activity from residents of new development within the SPA	Disturbance to nesting sites	Permanent	Nest sites are usually on inaccessible cliff faces away from footpaths. Tolerance to people varies between individual birds but habituation is significant in other sites near to Aviemore. The number of visits generated by the new development is not likely to have an effect.	No effect
Abernethy Forest SPA					
Qualifying Feature Affected	Possible effect of development	Likely significant effect	Duration	Screening assessment	Screening outcome
Capercaillie	Increased recreation in woodland supporting capercaillie in and around Carrbridge This is an indirect effect	Increased recreation in Kinveachy Forest SPA and non-SPA woodland, increased disturbance reducing productivity and subsequent reduction in dispersal rate to this SPA.	Permanent	The development could increase levels of recreation within the Carrbridge area, resulting in increased disturbance of capercaillie within non-SPA woodland surrounding Carrbridge. Increased disturbance could affect capercaillie ability to breed, resulting in reduced movement of capercaillie from non-SPA woodland into the SPA. Likely Significant Effect on Kinveachy Forest SPA above also causes a Likely Significant Effect on this SPA indirectly.	Likely Significant Effect
Capercaillie	Increase in recreation within Cairngorms SPA This is a direct effect.	Increased disturbance to capercaillie	Permanent	This SPA is remote from the proposal and residents from the proposal are not likely to cause additional recreational disturbance to within this site that would adversely affect capercaillie.	No effect
Scottish crossbill	Increase in recreational	Disturbance to nesting sites	Permanent	The proposal is remote from this site and residents from the proposal are not likely to	No effect

	activity from residents of new development within the SPA	and foraging habitat		cause additional disturbance to Scottish crossbill at this site	
Osprey	Increase in recreational activity from residents of new development within the SPA	Disturbance to nesting sites	Permanent	Nests are well managed and monitored by RSPB. General recreation is managed by RSPB to promote paths away from nest sites. The proposal is remote from this site and an increase in residents of Carrbridge through 25 additional dwellings is not likely to cause additional disturbance to Osprey at this site.	No effect
Craigmore Wood SPA					
Qualifying Feature Affected	Possible effect of development	Likely significant effect	Duration	Screening assessment	Screening outcome
Capercaillie	Increased recreation in woodland supporting capercaillie in and around Carrbridge This is an indirect effect	Increased disturbance to capercaillie	Permanent	The development could increase levels of recreation within the Carrbridge area, resulting in increased disturbance of capercaillie within non-SPA woodland surrounding Carrbridge. Increased disturbance could affect capercaillie ability to breed, resulting in reduced movement of capercaillie from non-SPA woodland into the SPA. Likely Significant Effect on Kinveachy Forest SPA above also causes a Likely Significant Effect on this SPA indirectly.	Likely Significant Effect
Capercaillie	Increase in recreation within Cairngorms SPA This is a direct	Increased disturbance to capercaillie	Permanent	This SPA is remote from the proposal and residents from the proposal are not likely to cause additional recreational disturbance to within this site that would adversely affect capercaillie.	No effect

	effect.				
Anagach Woods SPA					
Qualifying Feature Affected	Possible effect of development	Likely significant effect	Duration	Screening assessment	Screening outcome
Capercaillie	Increased recreation in woodland supporting capercaillie in and around Carrbridge This is an indirect effect	Increased disturbance to capercaillie	Permanent	The development could increase levels of recreation within the Carrbridge area, resulting in increased disturbance of capercaillie within non-SPA woodland surrounding Carrbridge. Increased disturbance could affect capercaillie ability to breed, resulting in reduced movement of capercaillie from non-SPA woodland into the SPA. Likely Significant Effect on Kinveachy Forest SPA above also causes a Likely Significant Effect on this SPA indirectly.	Likely Significant Effect
Capercaillie	Increase in recreation within Cairngorms SPA This is a direct effect.	Increased disturbance to capercaillie	Permanent	This SPA is remote from the proposal and residents from the proposal are not likely to cause additional recreational disturbance to within this site that would adversely affect capercaillie.	No effect

Stage 5: In-combination effects

In carrying out the Appropriate Assessment (Stage 6 below), No Minor Residual Effects (MREs) were found for the proposed development. As such, there can be no in-combination effects from MREs in other plans or projects. No in-combination effect test is required.

Stages 6–10 Assessment and Conclusions

Stage 6: Appropriate Assessment

The proposals have been screened in Stages 4 and 5. It was found that for some Natura sites there were likely significant effects upon the qualifying interests. Consequently the following appropriate assessment is required to ascertain the implications for the conservation objectives for each site. The affected sites identified are:

- Kinveachy Forest SPA – Likely Significant Effect on capercaillie - indirect
- Cairngorms SPA - Likely Significant Effect on capercaillie - indirect
- Abernethy Forest SPA - Likely Significant Effect on capercaillie - indirect
- Craigmore Wood SPA - Likely Significant Effect on capercaillie - indirect
- Anagach Woods SPA - Likely Significant Effect on capercaillie - indirect

Kinveachy Forest SPA

Qualifying species and conservation status

Capercaillie: Favourable, Maintained (2008)

LSE identified through recreation in non-SPA woodland which supports Kinveachy SPA (indirect)

Conservation objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

Will the development adversely affect the site's conservation objectives?

In this assessment, the implications of the planning application for the site's conservation objectives are assessed in order to answer the question: "Can it be ascertained that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site?"

The over-arching conservation objective of SPAs is to avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species, or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the sites is maintained. This over-arching conservation objective can be broken down into the following detailed elements:

To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term for the qualifying species:

- 1) No significant disturbance of the species
- 2) No effect on distribution of the species within the site
- 3) No effect on population of the species as a viable component of the site
- 4) No significant impact on habitats supporting the species (including distribution, structure, function and supporting habitats supporting the species)

In-combination effects

As described at Stage 5 (screening); identification of in-combination effects is required to identify where cumulative and synergistic effects are likely to be significant. No Minor Residual Effects have been identified, therefore an in-combination test is not required.

Assessment against the Conservation Objectives

Capercaillie

1) No significant disturbance of the species

This would be an effect directly on birds within Kinveachy Forest SPA, and this was screened out above. Therefore there is no adverse effect on this conservation objective.

2) No effect on distribution of the species within the site

This would be an effect directly on birds within Kinveachy Forest SPA, and this was screened out above. Therefore there is no adverse effect on this conservation objective.

3) No effect on the population of the species as a viable component of the site

The proposal for 25 additional dwellings = a maximum possible occupancy of 103 residents.

A proportion of residents will recreate in woodland around Carrbridge, including dog walking and cycling.

A small proportion of residents may choose to recreate in Docharn Wood, Deishar woods or in the Sluggan area, where capercaillie are present, and capercaillie using these areas are likely to support the population in Kinveachy Forest SPA. However these areas are more remote from the proposal and the networks of promoted paths and trails in these areas is very limited. Residents of the

proposal are not likely to change existing patterns of recreational use that would result in increased disturbance of capercaillie over and above existing levels.

A small proportion of residents may choose to recreate in Boat of Garten Woods. Capercaillie have been recorded moving between Kinveachy forest and Boat of Garten woods, indicating that Boat of Garten woods is a supporting habitat for the Kinveachy Forest SPA. This woodland is most likely to be reached by car or bicycle. There is already a network of promoted paths in this woodland and the proportion of visits generated from the proposal is not likely to change existing patterns of recreational use that would result in increased disturbance of capercaillie over and above existing levels.

Although there is potential for residents to recreate in non-SPA woodland around Carrbridge that supports capercaillie, the anticipated number of visits is not likely to be at a level that would change existing patterns of recreation and increase disturbance levels to capercaillie. As such there is not likely to be a reduction in the number of birds on non-SPA woodland that would result in reduced movement of birds between non-SPA woodland and Kinveachy Forest SPA, thus effecting the population of capercaillie in Kinveachy Forest SPA.

Most residents are likely to use Carr Plantation and Ellan woods (non-SPA) for general recreation and dog walking as these are adjacent to the proposal and accessible through existing promoted path networks. Capercaillie are not known to use Carr Plantation and Ellan Wood due to existing levels of recreation and close proximity to existing housing. Recreational routes suitable for cycling and activities such as early morning dog walking exist in Carr Plantation and Ellan wood, which are not sensitive for capercaillie.

Therefore there is no adverse effect on this conservation objective.

4) No significant impact on habitats supporting the species (including distribution, structure, function and supporting habitats supporting the species)

The proposal is outside of Kinveachy Forest SPA. Development of the site will not result in the loss of woodland habitat capable of supporting capercaillie. Therefore there is no adverse effect on this conservation objective.

Conclusion

It is concluded that there will be no adverse effect on any of the conservation objectives.

Additional mitigation

No mitigation is required.

Likely insignificant effects

None.

Conclusion on site integrity

There will not be an adverse effect upon the integrity of Kinveachy Forest SPA.

Abernethy Forest SPA, Anagach SPA, Cairngorms SPA, Craigmore Wood SPA

Qualifying species and conservation status

Capercaillie: Favourable, Maintained (Abernethy Forest SPA 2009, Cairngorms SPA 2011).
Capercaillie: Unfavourable, Declining (Craigmore Wood SPA 2015, Anagach Woods SPA 2015)

The capercaillie population within the different SPAs are linked, therefore effects that occur in one SPA can have a knock-on effect on birds in the other SPAs. Additionally, non-SPA woodland is also used by capercaillie and is important for supporting populations within the SPAs.

Two LSEs were identified for these Natura Sites:

- An LSE on the Kinveachy Forest SPA through non-SPA woodland (indirect)
- Through disturbance to capercaillie in non-SPA woodland, which has a knock-on effect on capercaillie within these SPAs (indirect)

Conservation objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

Will the development adversely affect the site's conservation objectives?

In this assessment, the implications of the planning application for the site's conservation objectives are assessed in order to answer the question: "Can it be ascertained that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site?"

The over-arching conservation objective of SPAs is to avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species, or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the sites is maintained. This over-arching conservation objective can be broken down into the following detailed elements:

To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term for the qualifying species:

- 1) No significant disturbance of the species
- 2) No effect on distribution of the species within the site
- 3) No effect on population of the species as a viable component of the site

- 4) No significant impact on habitats supporting the species (including distribution, structure, function and supporting habitats supporting the species)

In-combination effects

As described at Stage 5 (screening); identification of in-combination effects is required to identify where cumulative and synergistic effects are likely to be significant. No Minor Residual Effects have been identified, therefore an in-combination test is not required.

Assessment against the Conservation Objectives

Capercaillie

1) No significant disturbance of capercaillie

This would be a direct effect of disturbance of the birds within these SPAs by the residents of the proposal. This was screened out at Stage 4 above.

2) No effect on distribution of the species within the site

This would be a direct effect of disturbance of the birds within these SPAs by the residents of the proposal. This was screened out at Stage 4 above.

3) No effect on population of the species as a viable component of the site

A Likely Significant Effect on these SPAs was identified via:

- An LSE on the Kinveachy Forest SPA through non-SPA woodland (indirect)
- Through disturbance to capercaillie in non-SPA woodland, which has a knock-on effect on capercaillie within these SPAs (indirect)

The proposal for 25 additional dwellings = a maximum possible occupancy of 103 residents.

A small proportion of residents may choose to recreate in non-SPA woodland surrounding Carrbridge which supports capercaillie: Docharn Wood, Deishar woods, Sluggan area, Boat of Garten woods. Capercaillie using these areas are likely to support capercaillie within these SPAs. However these areas are more remote from the proposal. Paths and trails in these areas is limited to established path networks or limited to forest tracks. The proportion of residents likely to use these areas is not likely to change existing patterns of recreational use that would result in increased disturbance of capercaillie over and above existing levels.

Most residents are likely to use Carr Plantation and Ellan woods (non-SPA) for general recreation and dog walking as these are adjacent to the proposal and accessible through existing promoted path networks. Capercaillie are not known to use Carr Plantation and Ellan Wood due to existing levels of recreation and close proximity to existing housing. Recreational routes suitable for cycling and activities such as early morning dog walking exist in Carr Plantation and Ellan wood, which are not sensitive for capercaillie.

We conclude that there will be no adverse effect upon this conservation objective.

4) No significant impact on habitats supporting the species (including distribution, structure, function and supporting habitats supporting the species)

The proposal will not affect woodland habitats that support capercaillie. Therefore there is no adverse effect on this conservation objective.

Conclusion

It is concluded that there will be no adverse effect on any of the conservation objectives.

Additional mitigation

No mitigation is required.

Likely insignificant effects

None.

Conclusion on site integrity

There will not be an adverse effect upon the integrity of Abernethy Forest SPA, Anagach SPA, Cairngorms SPA and Craigmore Wood SPA.

Stage 7: Consultation

Wider consultation of the report is at the discretion of the competent authority. In this case, the decision is that consultation other than with SNH is not required.

SNH were consulted on the draft report. No changes were required.

Stage 8: Additional mitigation

The Appropriate Assessment found no adverse effect on site integrity for the 5 SPAs assessed, therefore no mitigation is required.

Stage 9: Conclusion on the integrity test

This assessment based upon the best available scientific evidence and advice offered from SNH and others has shown that there is no adverse effect from the proposed development upon the qualifying features or the conservation objectives for the following Natura sites:

- Kinveachy Forest SPA
- Cairngorms SPA
- Abernethy Forest SPA
- Craigmore Wood SPA
- Anagach Woods SPA

We therefore conclude that the proposed development will not adversely affect the integrity of any of these sites.

Stage 10: Section 49 (derogation)

The conclusion that there is no adverse effect upon the integrity of any of the Natura sites covered in this report means that regulation 49 is not relevant.

Summary of residual effects

No Minor Residual Effects have been identified.

References

Habitat Regulations process

Council Directive 92/43/EEC “the Habitats Directive” EEC adopted 1992

Managing Natura 2000 sites – EU communities 2000

Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC - EC 2007

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

Welsh Assembly Government TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning - 2009

Habitat Regulations Appraisal of Plans – Guidance for Plan Making Bodies in Scotland SNH/DTA August 2012 (Version 2.0)

Other sources

Capercaillie Framework caper lek and brood data – updated 2016

Cairngorms National Park Core Paths Plan 2010 – CNAP – 2010

CRAGG Visitor, visitor infrastructure and tourism Audit. Robinson 2013

Cairngorms Outdoor Access Strategy 2007-2012 – CNPA 2007

Scottish Recreation Survey, Annual Summary report 2011. CR No. 535 SNH 2012

Appendix I
Details of Natura 2000 sites within, or adjacent to, the proposed development site

Name of European Site	Cairngorms Special Protection Area
Site Type	
Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:</p> <p>Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within the site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species</p>
Qualifying Species	Capercaillie, Scottish crossbill, Peregrine, Dotterel, Merlin Golden eagle, Osprey.
Site Condition	<p>Capercaillie: Favourable Maintained Peregrine: Favourable Maintained Dotterel: Unfavourable Declining Golden eagle: Favourable Maintained Osprey: Favourable Maintained</p>
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	<p>Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development Relevant settlements: An Camus Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities Wind farms could impact on young golden eagles, given their mobility</p>

Name of European Site	Kinveachy Forest Special Protection Area
Site Type	
Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:</p>

	<p>Population of the species as a viable component of the site</p> <p>Distribution of the species within the site</p> <p>Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</p> <p>Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species</p> <p>No significant disturbance of the species</p>
Qualifying Species	Capercaillie, Scottish crossbill
Site Condition	Capercaillie: Favourable Maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development Relevant settlements: An Camus Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities.

Name of European Site	Abernethy Forest Special Protection Area
Site Type	
Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:</p> <p>Population of the species as a viable component of the site</p> <p>Distribution of the species within the site</p> <p>Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</p> <p>Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species</p> <p>No significant disturbance of the species</p>
Qualifying Species	Capercaillie, Scottish crossbill, Osprey.
Site Condition	<p>Capercaillie: Favourable Maintained</p> <p>Osprey: Favourable Maintained</p>
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development Relevant settlements: An Camus Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities.

Name of European Site	Craigmore Wood Special Protection Area
Site Type	
Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:</p> <p>Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within the site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species</p>
Qualifying Species	Capercaillie
Site Condition	Capercaillie: Unfavourable Declining
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development Relevant settlements: An Camus Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities.

Name of European Site	Anagach Woods Special Protection Area
Site Type	
Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:</p> <p>Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within the site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species</p>
Qualifying Species	Capercaillie
Site Condition	Capercaillie: Unfavourable, Declining

Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development Relevant settlements: An Camus Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities.

Appendix 2

Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Appropriate Assessment (AA)	The part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process that considers the effects of an aspect of a plan upon the conservation objectives for a Natura site.
CNPA	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Competent Authority	The decision making body required under the Habitats Directive to undertake HRA. This includes Scottish Government, National Park Authorities, SNH , SEPA or Local Authorities.
Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)	The whole appraisal process for determining effects upon Natura Sites. It includes Appropriate Assessments. It is a requirement by the Habitats Directive that competent authorities carry out HRAs where a plan or project affects a Natura site.
Likely Significant Effect	An adverse effect of the development upon a qualifying interest or conservation objective that is considered to be potentially severe enough as to threaten the integrity of the Natura site itself.
Minor Residual Effects	Likely insignificant effects that may occur when a Likely Significant Effect is ruled out but there is still a small, residual effect.
Natura Sites	Collective term for Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation
Ramsar sites	Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention 1971. Not technically Natura sites they are however usually also SPAs. They are included within the HRA process by policy.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	An area designated for the protection of habitats and species. Authorised under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (commonly called the “Habitats Directive”). One of three designation to be considered in a HRA
Special Protection Area (SPA)	An area designation for the protection of birds. Authorised by the Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (commonly called the “Birds Directive”). One of three designation to be considered in a HRA