

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

## **APPENDIX 2B**

**2019/0113/DET**

**GENERAL**

# Comments for Planning Application 2019/0113/DET

## Application Summary

Application Number: 2019/0113/DET

Address: Meall Tionail Access Track Blair Atholl

Proposal: Alterations to hill track (in retrospect)

Case Officer: Edward Swales

## Customer Details

Name: Mr George Allan

Address: 7 Bothwell Terrace Pitmedden Ellon

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I am writing on behalf of the North East Mountain Trust (NEMT), a Scottish Charity (SCIO 008783) based in the Grampian area, which represents the interests of hill-goers and those who enjoy visiting wild land. NEMT membership, comprising twelve hillwalking and climbing clubs along with individual members, totals over 900 people. While NEMT has a particular focus on the wider Grampian area, it acts in the interests of its members in respect of issues affecting hill country, coastal and remoter areas across the whole of Scotland.

NEMT would like to make the following comments on this application:

- 1) It is disappointing that the applicant did not see fit to create a central vegetation strip when undertaking the maintenance work on the track. These significantly reduce the visual intrusion of tracks in the wider landscape.
- 2) Further restoration work is required to reduce the impact of the borrow pits and the Park should make this a formal condition of consent.
- 3) NEMT would like to commend the National Park for requiring the submission of a retrospective application in this case. Doing so clearly signals to estates that for track work, beyond limited routine maintenance such as filling in pot holes and clearing existing drainage, full applications must be made where a track is for sporting purposes or a Prior Notification be submitted if a track genuinely has permitted development status.