

AGENDA ITEM 5

APPENDIX 2

2021/0167/DET

HABITATS REGULATIONS APPRAISAL

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Planning reference and proposal information	2021/0167/DET Extension of existing Dalraddy holiday park - 36 pitches, erection of two amenity blocks, reconfiguration/additional 49 parking spaces and associated access tracks, Dalraddy Caravan Park, Aviemore, PH22 1QB
Appraised by	Nina Caudrey – Planning Officer Alan Atkins – Planning Officer
Date	05/08/2021
Checked by	Kirsty North, NatureScot
Date	24/08/2021

INFORMATION
European site details
Name of European site(s) potentially affected
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. River Spey SAC 2. River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA 3. River Spey – Insh Marshes Ramsar site
Qualifying interest(s)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. River Spey SAC Atlantic salmon, fresh water pearl mussel, sea lamprey and otter 2. River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA Breeding: osprey, spotted crake, wigeon and wood sandpiper; non-breeding: hen harrier, whooper swan 3. River Spey – Insh Marshes Ramsar site Breeding bird assemblage (osprey, spotted crake, wood sandpiper, black headed gull); non-breeding whooper swan; mesotrophic loch, flood plain fen, trophic range river/stream
Conservation objectives for qualifying interests
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. River Spey SAC: Conservation Objective 2. To ensure that the integrity of the River Spey SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b, 2c for each qualifying feature (and 2d for freshwater pearl mussel): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2b. Restore the distribution of freshwater pearl mussel throughout the site 2c. Restore the habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel within the site and availability of food 2d. Restore the distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species and their supporting habitats 2a. Restore the population of freshwater pearl mussel as a viable component of the site 2b. Maintain the distribution of sea lamprey throughout the site 2c. Maintain the habitats supporting sea lamprey within the site and availability of food 2a. Maintain the population of sea lamprey as a viable component of the site 2b. Restore the distribution of Atlantic salmon throughout the site 2c. Restore the habitats supporting Atlantic salmon within the site and availability of food 2a. Restore the population of Atlantic salmon, including range of genetic types, as a viable component of the site

2b. Maintain the distribution of **otter** throughout the site

2c. Maintain the habitats supporting otter within the site and availability of food

2a. Maintain the population of otter as a viable component of the site

Conservation Objective 1. To ensure that the qualifying features of the River Spey SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status

2. River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species 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 site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

3. River Spey – Insh Marshes Ramsar site

There are no conservation objectives for Ramsar sites, however it is considered that by meeting the objectives for the overlapping SPA, then the integrity of the Ramsar site would also be conserved. Therefore the assessment of the SPA is deemed a surrogate for assessment of the Ramsar site.

APPRAISAL
STAGE 1:
What is the plan or project?
Relevant summary details of proposal (including location, timing, methods, etc)
36 pitches, erection of two amenity blocks, reconfiguration/additional 49 parking spaces, and associated access tracks. Waste water will be collected in sealed septic tanks with regular off site disposal.
STAGE 2:
Is the plan or project directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European site for nature conservation?
No.
STAGE 3:
Is the plan or project (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) likely to have a significant effect on the site(s)?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. River Spey SAC 2. River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA 3. River Spey – Insh Marshes Ramsar site <p>The closest part of the River Spey SAC is approximately 500m to the south of the proposed development site boundary, with the eastern boundary of the River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA (and Ramsar site) located to the west approximately a further 500m upstream.</p> <p>There is no direct watercourse connectivity between the proposed development site and the River Spey SAC or the River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA (or the Ramsar site). As sewage and waste water will be collected in septic tanks for disposal off site, there is no indirect connectivity through waste water discharge/nutrient enrichment. Due to the distance, intervening vegetated ground and existing holiday park infrastructure, no sediment released during ground works would reach the SAC.</p> <p>For the same reasons, and because the River Spey - Insh Marshes SPA (and Ramsar site) is upstream of the proposed development site, there would be no likely significant effect on water quality of the SPA (or Ramsar site).</p> <p>Visitors to the holiday park are unlikely not to follow the same patterns of behaviour and activities as existing visitors. Being holidaymakers, visitors to the holiday park are likely to undertake activities at existing hubs of activity in the wider area (such as promoted walking routes, outdoor activity centres and tourist attractions), rather than creating disturbance in areas with low levels of human activity. In addition, they are unlikely to all go to the same place at the same time. Therefore, the additional human activity would not be at a detectable level, and so there would not be a likely significant effect on the qualifying interests of the River Spey SAC or</p>

River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA (or Ramsar site) through disturbance.

In conclusion, there would be no likely significant effects on the River Spey SAC or the River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA (and so no effects on the Ramsar site), and so no further assessment is required.

STAGE 4:

Undertake an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site(s) in view of the(ir) conservation objectives

STAGE 5:

Can it be ascertained that there will not be an adverse effect on site integrity?