

Badenoch & Strathspey Conservation Group  
**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE**  
**Hearing Session**

**Provision of the Local Plan**

Grantown H1

**Summary of objection(s)**

The allocation conflicts with the aims of the NP.

The site is an important feeding and breeding area for waders (including snipe, oystercatcher, lapwing, redshank and curlew). Strathspey is recognised as of particular importance for waders, of which this site is a component part.

The site supports a rich assemblage of plants. This includes at least 2 red listed vascular plants. It supports an exceptionally large and therefore important population of Field gentian. This is the largest population of this highly attractive flower, which has declined dramatically in the UK in recent years, that we have recorded in the strath.

The site supports an important assemblage of waxcap (*Hygrocybe*) fungi and supports other fungi of interest.

All the above are examples of conflict with the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> aims.

The site contributes extremely positively to the landscape setting of Grantown.

It provides an important public amenity. It provides exceptionally attractive and varied walking and other access opportunities and links in well to other walks promoted in the town.

The above are examples of conflict with the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> aims.

The scale of this proposal is excessive.

Research has demonstrated the health benefits of the sights and sounds of the countryside on patients.

This is a significant aspect of the benefit of the location of the hospital. To urbanise the surroundings of the hospital is to reduce the quality of life for patients. (Conflict with 3<sup>rd</sup> aim).

The site is very unusual within the CNP and the wider area in general, owing to the influence of base-rich rock coupled with the local topography. There are several UK priority species of invertebrates and other rare invertebrates recently recorded using the site. (conflicts with 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> aims)

**Recommendation.**

Omit allocation from LP

We recommend part of the site should be recognised by the CNPA as a 2<sup>nd</sup> tier site.

Northern Newsletter 25, 2009. New Scottish Record for Grantown, and Refuges – answer to caper calamity?  
Scottish Wildlife Trust.