

Date:			
Issue:	Policy 14 –Minerals		
Objector(s):	Dr A Watson	Objection ref(s):	020g
	Dunachton Estate		418c
	The Crown Estate		419c
	Alvie and Dalraddy Estate		439I

Reporter	Mr Hugh Begg
Procedure	Written representation

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 This statement sets out the Cairngorms National Park Authority response to the objections raised to the Deposit Local Plan as modified (CD6.12 and 13) in respect of Policy 14: Minerals and Soil/Earth Resources, and supplements the response made to those objections by the Cairngorms National Park Authority in its report to Committee (CD7.3,4 and 5). It suggests no further change be made to the policy.

2.0 Provision of the Local Plan:

- 2.1 Policy 14 within the Deposit Local Plan as modified gives policy guidance on how development proposals relating to soil, peat and minerals will be assessed. During the current transitional arrangements set out in the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 (Development Planning) (Saving, Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Order 2008, the policy is intended to provide an appropriate level of guidance to meet the requirements of SPPI (CD2.2 para 37-38) and Scottish Planning Policy (CD2.1 para 15-18) and ensure that applications for development within the National Park adequately consider the impact that development will have on the special qualities of the Park.
- 2.2 The Policy has been modified in the 1st modifications to the Deposit Local Plan to clarify what is covered through the policy, and to make adequate provision for the needs of building conservation projects within the Park. The supporting text clarifies the importance of soil. The Policy relates to all development proposals affecting minerals and soil/earth resources within the National Park.

3.0 Summary of objection(s)

- 3.1 Four objections raising three issues have been lodged to this policy and wish to have their objections considered by written representation:
- In the background text some wording is incorrect in grammatical terms. **(020g)**
 - The policy should allow for forms of mineral extraction which do not cause significant damage for wider usage. **(418c, 419c)**
 - The policy should support development of mineral extraction and processing where it can enhance the economy. **(439I)**

4.0 Summary of Cairngorms National Park Authority Response

- The grammatical corrections have been included in the 1st modifications and the objection is considered to have been addressed. **(020g)**

- The policy has been drafted to allow for a certain amount of extraction, but in line with the objectives of the National Park Plan. No change is considered necessary. **(418c, 419c)**
- The policy supports development where it meets a need within the Park. Any wider application would be contrary to the National Park Plan (CD7.1). No change is proposed. **(439I)**

5.0 CNPA Commendation to Reporter

5.1 It is commended to the Reporter that all objections are rejected. No issues are raised that could lead the Cairngorms National Park Authority to consider that the policy was deficient. The wording of the policy should therefore be retained.

6.0 Assessment / Scope of Evidence

- 6.1 **020g** objects to the policy on the grounds that some terms used were incorrect.
- 6.2 **Response:** The 1st modifications made changes in line with all the errors highlighted, and the objection is considered to have been addressed.
- 6.3 **418c and 419c** object to the policy as it should allow for extraction which does not cause significant damage for wider usage.
- 6.4 **Response:** The policy has been drafted to support the strategic objectives of the National Park Plan, (CD7.1) and in particular the need to safeguard geodiversity. The internationally importance record of geology within the Park is recognised by the National Park Plan, and the need to encourage its long term conservation has influenced the wording of the policy. Any option to expand extraction to markets across the nation would be contrary to objective d) Safeguard against large scale extraction and removal of mineral resources from the National Park. No change to the policy is therefore proposed.
- 6.5 **439I** objects to the restrictive nature of the policy and considers that it should allow for development that supports the economy. The issue and therefore support for the approach taken is as above.

7.0 Strategic Issues

7.1 The National Park Plan (CD7.1) within its strategic objectives relating to conserving and enhancing the Park recognises geodiversity as an outstanding record of natural processes, in particular glacial (CD7.1 Page 46). The objectives established in relation to geodiversity are intended to safeguard this resource and raise awareness of its importance. Objectives a, c and d are of particular relevance to the development plan with clear guidance instructing the need for conservation.

8.0 List of documents (including Core Documents)

- CD2.1 Scottish Planning Policy 2008 Parts 1 and 2
- CD2.2 SPP1 The Planning System
- CD6.12 Deposit Local Plan 1st modifications
- CD6.13 Deposit Local Plan 2nd modifications
- CD7.1 Cairngorms National Park Plan 2007

- CD7.3 CNPA Committee Report Consultation May 2008
- CD7.4 CNPA Committee Report 1st Modifications October 2008
- CD7.5 CNPA Committee Report 2nd Modifications February 2009