

Date:			
Issue:	Policy Omission – Vehicle Tracks		
Objector(s):	Dr A Watson	Objection ref(s):	020m
	DW and IM Duncan		037u

Reporter	
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 in respect of omissions within the plan of a policy relating to vehicle tracks. It supplements the response made to those objections by the Cairngorms National Park Authority in its reports to Committee (CD7.3,4 and 5). It suggests no further change be made to the Plan.

2.0 Provision of the Local Plan

2.1 The Local Plan within Section 4-6 sets out a variety of policies which provide a development framework for the whole plan. These policies are to be considered together (Para 1.20) in the assessment of any development proposal. The Plan does not therefore contain numerous policies dealing with various forms of development, but rather sets a framework against which all eventualities can be assessed.

3.0 Summary of objection(s)

3.1 Two objections raising the same issue have been made in regard to the omission:

- The objection relates to the omission from the plan of any policy specifically relating to vehicle tracks. **(020m)**
- There is no mention within the policies section of hill roads **(037u)**

4.0 Summary of Cairngorms National Park Authority response

- The local plan provides a framework of policies to assess all forms of development rather than listing numerous policies on specific development types. The local plan also takes into consideration the National Park Plan (CD7.1) where there is greater detail on strategic considerations which further the aims of the Park. It is therefore considered that the two documents in tandem provide sufficient support and guidance. **(020m, 037u)**

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 and the areas identified on the proposals maps should therefore be retained.

6.0 Assessment / Scope of Evidence

- 6.1 **020m** object to the lack of particular reference to vehicle tracks within the policies of the Plan. The reference to a section on this contained within the Consultative Draft Plan should be retained within the current plan. (CD6.9)
- 6.2 Response: The purpose of the Local Plan is to provide a development framework for the whole Park, and create a clear and consistent method to guide development proposals and opportunities within the Park (para 1.6). The policies contained within the Plan are intended to provide this clarity without setting out numerous policies on particular types of development. This will instead be considered under all the relevant policies of the Plan (Para 1.20).
- 6.3 **037u** objects to the Plan on the same grounds. The arguments in support of the Plan are therefore as set out.

7.0 Strategic Issues

- 7.1 The National Park Plan (CD7.1) is also a material consideration and the strategic objectives contained within it are considered in the decision making process. The issue of vehicle tracks is highlighted within this Plan, in particular within the objectives for conserving and enhancing the Park (CD7.1, page 38). Vehicle tracks are also highlighted within the action plan for Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Landscapes (CD7.1, page 93, 1c) Together the Local Plan and National Park Plan are therefore considered to give sufficient clarity on the issue of vehicle tracks without the need for repetition. It is not therefore considered necessary to make any change to the Local Plan in this regard.

8.0 List of documents (including Core Documents)

- CD6.9 Cairngorms National Park Local Plan Consultative Draft Oct 2005
- 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