

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

**Provision of the Local Plan**

**Aviemore EDI**

**Summary of objection(s)**

Inclusion of the north area that is presently not part of the industrial estate. This allocation conflicts with all 4 aims of the Park. It is a valuable site for biodiversity, habitat and landscape (1<sup>st</sup> aim); it contributes to the important recreational facility of the Speyside Way and is a valuable landscape feature (3rd aim); it contributes positively to recreational facilities (4<sup>th</sup> aim).

This is an area of high quality environment. It is rich grassland (with some regenerating and established birch). It is immediately adjacent to further extremely high quality examples of habitats associated with the burn and surrounding native woodland and woodland on the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

The site work in recent years and subsequent use of the entrance area for parking by walkers (due to the barrier having been removed during site work) has not permanently damaged the area.

Two species of UK red listed vascular plants have been recorded on the site, one classed as endangered the other as vulnerable, and a third may be present on the site (best confirmed in Spring). There would appear to be potential for both species to flourish. There is a significant assemblage of waxcaps (*Hygrocybe* species) with > 6 species being recorded in one visit and including one PERL (Provisional European Red List) species.

There are foodplants for some SBL butterfly species and the site would appear to be rich in invertebrates including bumblebees. In addition to a high density of rabbits (prey for EPS wildcat) there is evidence of use of the site by brown hare. The site provides foraging habitat for bats, and otter signs have been found near the site (associated with the burn).

The site is an important part of an area of very high quality landscape. At present it can be considered as a buffer between the existing industrial site and the superb landscape and habitats the other side of the fence. Such buffers should be encouraged by the CNPA, not destroyed.

There are excellent views of the hills from the site.

Turning an outstanding piece of habitat for wildlife, landscape and recreation into an industrial site conflicts with Park's aims.

Development would impact on the quality of experience for users of the adjacent Speyside Way and would degrade views for passengers on both railway lines.

**Recommendation.**

Omit entire allocation from LP.

Re-zone as Environment.

Recognise as a non-designated site.