

AGENDA ITEM 7

APPENDIX 2

2017/0036/DET

HABITAT REGULATIONS APPRAISAL

Cairngorms National Park Authority

Habitats Regulations Assessment

2017/0036/DET

Speyside Way Extension – Ardgeal to Insh

16/02/2017

Introduction

This is a record of the assessment under regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) for the planning application 2017/0036/DET to extend the Speyside Way from Argeal (Kincraig) to Insh.

The proposal seeks to create an extension to the Speyside Way by creating linking paths from Ardgeal and Insh, via the Uath Lochans. The path is 2.6km along, 730m of which will create new path along the edge of woodland, and the remaining 1.6km upgrading as trod paths to the 2m wide specification. The existing path around the Uath Lochans from the car park to the western side will not need to be upgraded. There is a short link path to be formed between the Uath Lochans trail and an existing FCS track which leads to the B970 just outside Insh village. The path falls within Inshriach Forest, owned and managed by FCS.

Background to the assessment

The principal documents which have been taken into account for this assessment are:

- COAT (2016) Speyside Way Extension Proposal – Inshriach Forest to Insh
- Site Maps 1-4 detailing the route and siting of construction compounds
- Confidential reports and surveys on capercaillie distribution in Rotheimurchus, Inshriach, Abernethy and Craigmore Wood. (T.Poole, FCS and RSPB 2013)*
- FCS brood count and lekk data

A site visit was conducted in April 2016 by SNH, FCS, RSPB Capercaillie Officer and CNPA to discuss the route and make suggestions on the position of the path in the woodland.

* Within this report the details of locations of capercaillie and their Lekking sites is generalised and the surveys above are not within the public domain. This is to protect the birds from possible disturbance that may result from this information being widely distributed. Consultees have been given access to all information.

Table 1. Stages of Assessment

| Stages of Assessment | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Stage 1 | Decide whether proposal is subject to HRA |
| Stage 2 | Identify Natura Sites that should be considered and gather information about the Natura Sites |
| Stage 3 | Consultation on the method and scope of the appraisal with SNH and others. Request additional information from applicant if required. |
| Stage 4 | Screening the proposal for likely significant effects on Natura sites including mitigation measures included within the proposal |
| Stage 5 | Screen for “in combination effects” with other plans or projects |
| Stage 6 | Appropriate Assessment to determine effect upon conservation objectives. Preliminary conclusion about adverse effect upon the integrity of any site. |
| Stage 7 | Consultation with SNH (and others if considered appropriate) |
| Stage 8 | Apply additional mitigation measures, if required, via conditions or agreements to ensure that there is no adverse effect on site integrity |
| Stage 9 | Conclusion on Integrity test |
| Stage 10 | Regulation 49 derogation procedures. This only applies if adverse effects remain and Competent Authority still wishes to approve the application |

Stages 1-5 describing the Natura sites and Screening

The proposed development is not wholly concerned with the necessary management of a European site for nature conservation and requires planning permission and so the plans must be subject to assessment under the terms of Directive 92/43/EEC.

Stages 2: Identification of Natura Sites and gathering their details

The list below is those sites that have been taken forward to screening for likely significant effects. See Appendix 1 for details on each site and its qualifying features.

Other sites were considered but have not been taken forward. For example, the River Spey SAC and Cairngorms SAC. There is no route to an effect for these sites through the construction and operational phase of the proposal and as such they have been ruled out of the assessment.

Special Protection Area (SPA)

Cairngorms SPA
Abernethy SPA
Kinveachy SPA
Craigmore SPA
Anagach SPA

Stage 3: Discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal and requests for additional information

A site visit between SNH, FCS, RSPB Capercaillie officer and CNPA took place in April 2016 to discuss the route and make suggestions on the position of the path in the woodland.

SNH have provided advice on the scope of the HRA.

Stage 4: Screening the proposal for likely significant effects

The effects identified as discussed in Table 3.

Table 3. Screening for LSE from Speyside Way extension, Argeal to Insh

| Cairngorms SPA | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|-----------|---|----------------------------------|
| Qualifying Feature Affected | Possible effect of development | Likely significant effect | Duration | Screening assessment | Screening outcome |
| Capercaillie | Increase in recreation within Non-SPA woodland (Inshriach forest) supporting capercaillie This is an indirect effect. | Reduction in productivity of population reducing the viability of meta-population though decreased migration and in effect increased habitat fragmentation. | Permanent | <p>There is evidence of capercaillie using woodland adjacent to the proposal (droppings, feathers). There is a lek situated approximately 1.6km from the proposal at the closest point. Although the proposal does not provide direct access to this lek, it does link to existing forest tracks which pass through the lek area.</p> <p>There is potential that the proposal could increase use of existing forestry tracks in woodland around Inshriach that support capercaillie.</p> <p>An increase in disturbance to birds using this woodland could affect the viability of the woodland for breeding, reducing its productivity. This would reduce the number of birds spreading out of this area into the neighbouring Cairngorms SPA. This could have a knock-on effect on the production of the Cairngorms SPA.</p> | Likely significant effect |
| Capercaillie | Increase in recreational activity within Cairngorm SPA from users of the new footpath. This is a | Disturbance to lekking, brood rearing and feeding habitats from informal recreational activity. | Permanent | <p>SPA which 2.2km from the site at the closest point but lies on the other side of the River Feshie, and so is not directly accessible from the proposal.</p> <p>There is no clear circular route linking the proposed</p> | No effect |

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| | direct effect. | | <p>route of the path to the Cairngorms SPA.</p> <p>The nearest lek within the SPA is 4.3km away and on a steep slope with no footpaths.</p> <p>Use of the proposed footpath is not likely to cause an increase in the level of recreation in the Cairngorms SPA and therefore not likely to increase the level of disturbance within the Cairngorms SPA.</p> | |
| | Increase in recreation in other SPAs that support capercaillie. This is an indirect effect. | A reduction in productivity in neighbouring SPAs, reducing the viability of the meta population through decreased migration and increased habitat fragmentation. This could have an effect upon the Cairngorms SPA. | Permanent | <p>Distance from the proposal to other SPAs, plus lack of connectivity, is considered too great for there to be increased recreational activity at these locations through the proposal.</p> <p>This includes the following SPAs:</p> <p>Abernethy Forest Anagach Woods Craigmore Wood Kinveachy Forest</p> |
| | Loss of trees within the proposal area | Disruption to woodland connectivity within non-SPA woodland and loss of habitat | Permanent | <p>The proposal will require the loss of 160 trees from Scots pine plantation to create a section of the path which is 460m long. This loss of habitat for capercaillie is not considered to be significant, particularly as this area of the proposal is close to existing tracks/roads and a farm and therefore is suboptimal for capercaillie. An additional 270m of path is proposed to cut through the edge of spruce plantation. This woodland has been subject to significant windthrow and has poor ground cover, and is therefore suboptimal habitat for capercaillie.</p> <p>The path has been re-routed to avoid passing through larger expanses of woodland.</p> |

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| | Construction activity | Disturbance during felling construction of the footpath | Temporary | <p>Tree felling and construction will cause temporary disturbance and therefore temporary loss of woodland during this time.</p> <p>The main area of disturbance is where 730m of the proposed track creates “new” paths by cutting through woodland. This is restricted to edges of woodland and disturbance of core capercaillie habitat will be minimal.</p> <p>Elsewhere the path will upgrade existing as-trod paths which run alongside a road. Minimal construction will be required at Uath Lochans where sufficient tracks are already in place.</p> <p>The path has been re-routed to avoid passing through larger expanses of woodland.</p> | No effect |
| Scottish Crossbill | Increase in recreational activity from users of new footpath visiting the SPA | Disturbance to nesting sites and foraging habitat | Permanent | <p>There is no clear direct or circular route linking the proposed route of the path to the Cairngorms SPA so disturbance due to increased recreation in the Cairngorms SPA as a result of the proposed path is not likely.</p> | No effect |
| Osprey | Increase in recreational activity from users of new footpath visiting the SPA | Disturbance to nesting sites | Permanent | <p>There is no clear direct or circular route linking the proposed route of the path to the Cairngorms SPA so disturbance due to increased recreation in the Cairngorms SPA as a result of the proposed path is not likely.</p> | No effect |
| Dotterel | Increase in recreational activity from users of new footpath visiting the SPA | Increase disturbance to nesting from more visitors to relevant habitats in the SPA | Permanent | <p>There is no clear direct or circular route linking the proposed route of the path to the Cairngorms SPA so disturbance due to increased recreation in the Cairngorms SPA as a result of the proposed path is not likely.</p> | No effect |

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|--------------|---|--|-----------|--|------------------|
| Golden eagle | Increase in recreational activity from users of new footpath visiting the SPA | Increase disturbance to nesting from more visitors to relevant habitats in the SPA | Permanent | There is no clear direct or circular route linking the proposed route of the path to the Cairngorms SPA so disturbance due to increased recreation in the Cairngorms SPA as a result of the proposed path is not likely. | No effect |
| Merlin | Increase in recreational activity from users of new footpath visiting the SPA | Increased disturbance to nesting sites | Permanent | There is no clear direct or circular route linking the proposed route of the path to the Cairngorms SPA so disturbance due to increased recreation in the Cairngorms SPA as a result of the proposed path is not likely. | No effect |
| Peregrine | Increase in recreational activity from users of new footpath visiting the SPA | Increased disturbance to nesting sites | Permanent | There is no clear direct or circular route linking the proposed route of the path to the Cairngorms SPA so disturbance due to increased recreation in the Cairngorms SPA as a result of the proposed path is not likely. | No effect |

| Kinveachy Forest SPA, Abernethy Forest SPA, Craigmore Wood SPA, Anagach Woods SPA | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------------|---|--------------------------|
| Qualifying Feature Affected | Possible effect of development | Likely significant effect | Duration | Screening assessment | Screening outcome |
| Capercaillie (all sites) | Increase in recreation in these SPAs which support capercaillie. This is direct effect on these SPAs. | A reduction in productivity in neighbouring SPAs, reducing the viability of the meta population through decreased migration and increased habitat fragmentation. | Permanent | Distance from the proposal to other SPAs, plus lack of connectivity, is considered too great for there to be increased recreational activity at these locations through the proposal. This includes the following SPAs: Abernethy Forest Anagach Woods | No effect |

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|--|--|--|-----------|--|----------------------------------|
| | | | | Craigmore Wood Kinveachy Forest | |
| Capercaillie (all sites) | Increase in recreation in Cairngorm SPA and non-SPA woodland, increased disturbance reducing productivity and subsequently a reduction in dispersal rate to these SPAs. This is an indirect effect on these SPAs. | A reduced dispersal of birds from Cairngorm SPA into these SPAs, thus reducing the viability and productivity in these SPAs. | Permanent | Above screening for the Cairngorms SPA shows Likely Significant Effect, therefore there could be an indirect effect on these SPAs from the proposal. | Likely Significant effect |
| Scottish crossbill (Kinveachy SPA, Abernethy SPA) | Increase in recreational activity from residents of new development within the SPA | Disturbance to nesting sites and foraging habitat | Permanent | Distance from the proposal, plus lack of connectivity, is considered too great for there to be increased disturbance at this site on this species. | No effect |
| Osprey (Abernethy SPA only) | Increase in recreational activity from residents of new development within the SPA | Disturbance to nesting sites | Permanent | Distance from the proposal, plus lack of connectivity, is considered too great for there to be increased disturbance at this site on this species. | No effect |

Stage 5: In-combination effects

No relevant Likely Insignificant Effects (Minor Residual Effects) identified during screening in the following plans:

- Local Development Plan 2015-2020
- An Camas Mor
- Boat of Garten housing
- A9 dualling

Minor Residual Effects were identified during Appropriate Assessment of the following projects:

- Planning applications 2015/0132/DET and 2015/0133/DET to erect 35 wigwams at the Badaguish Outdoor Centre. This MRE was identified on the conservation objective “No significant disturbance to capercaillie” for the Cairngorms SPA. This occurred both directly, and indirectly, through disturbance in surrounding non-SPA woodland
- The same MRE was identified in the application 2015/0375/DET to retain 10 temporary wigwams at the Badaguish Outdoor Centre
- The same MRA was identified as the application 2017/0008/DET to retain 10 temporary wigwams at the Badaguish Outdoor Centre

No MRE was identified in the proposal being assessed here, therefore there are no In-Combination Effects.

Stages 6–10 Assessment and Conclusions

Stage 6: Appropriate Assessment

The proposals have been screened in Stages 4 and 5. It was found that there were likely significant effects upon the qualifying interests of Nature sites. As such, an Appropriate Assessment was deemed necessary.

Cairngorms SPA

Qualifying species and conservation status

Capercaillie: Favourable Maintained
Peregrine: Favourable Maintained
Dotterel: Unfavourable Declining
Golden eagle: Favourable Maintained
Osprey: Favourable Maintained

From SNH Site Link, 20/05/2015

Conservation objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) 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 the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

Is the operation likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interest?

Capercaillie: Likely Significant Effect
Peregrine: No Effect
Dotterel: No Effect
Golden Eagle: No Effect
Osprey: No Effect

Will the development adversely affect the site's conservation objectives?

In this assessment, the implications of the planning application for the site's conservation objectives are assessed in order to answer the question: "Can it be ascertained that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site?"

The over-arching conservation objective of SPAs is to avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species, or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity

of the sites is maintained. This over-arching conservation objective can be broken down into the following detailed elements:

To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term for the qualifying species:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the sites
 - Distribution of the species within sites
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
 - Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

In-combination effects

As described at Stage 5 (screening); no in-combination effects have been identified.

Assessment against the Conservation Objectives

Capercaillie (direct effects)

The HRA screening above did not find any Likely Significant Effect on the Cairngorms SPA through increased recreation within the Cairngorms SPA, therefore direct effects do not need to be discussed.

Capercaillie (indirect effects)

I. Population of the capercaillie as a viable component of the sites

The Capercaillie within Badenoch and Strathspey exist as a meta-population and birds frequently move from site to site. The non-SPA woodland in Inshriach and that between Feshie Bridge and Loch an Eilein is adjacent to that within the Cairngorms SPA and birds are able to flow freely between these areas.

A Likely Significant Effect has been identified on the non-SPA woodland of Inshriach surrounding the proposal which could have a knock-on effect on the Cairngorms SPA.

Increased recreational disturbance within non-SPA woodland in Inshriach could render this habitat unsuitable for capercaillie. Connectivity between this non-SPA woodland and the Cairngorms SPA may be impaired and the “meta-population” could suffer as a result.

The nearest lek to the proposed path is 1.6km away at the nearest point. To access it, users would need to leave the proposed path and use unmarked, non-promoted forestry tracks.

The proposed path will create some “new” track totalling 730m; this is restricted to edge of a spruce forest and cutting the corner off a Scots pine plantation in order to avoid a farm. In both of these areas the path is on the very edge of much larger woodland. The remaining 1.8km of the track is upgrading as trod paths alongside a road and linking existing forest trails and an FCS track. The use of the track itself is some distance from lek sites and away from core areas of habitat in less visited

woodland further south in Inshriach and north of Feshie Bridge.

The proposed path is designed to link the existing section of the Speyside Way at Kinraig to the village of Insh. The existing trails which are to be upgraded (i.e. along the road between Insh and Uath Lochans and the Uath Lochans) are already well used. Sign posting is in place to keep users on the waymarked trails. The “new” section of track lies on the edge of woodland and is therefore already suboptimal habitat for capercaillie.

It is considered that an increase in use in existing promoted paths and newly created paths through the proposal will not lead to increased disturbance to capercaillie above existing levels. The proposal is not predicted to change existing spatial and temporal recreational patterns in Inshriach forest. Therefore there a knock-on effect on the population of the Cairngorms SPA is not possible.

We have considered the evidence and advice offered by SNH and others and concluded that there will be no significant disturbance to capercaillie in non-SPA woodland outwith the Cairngorms SPA. Consequently there will be no adverse effect indirectly upon this conservation objective.

2. Distribution and extent of habitats supporting capercaillie and structure, function and supporting processes of habitat supporting capercaillie

The proposal will require a small loss of Scots pine and will require cutting through some spruce and Scots pine forestry. The loss of trees is small compared to the scale of available habitat and the path uses a route which stays close to the edge of woodland where there are roads, existing tracks and a farm. This is an amended route that avoids bisecting through a large undisturbed area of forest.

Therefore the extent of habitat loss is not considered significant. The path will not cause fragmentation of optimal habitat for capercaillie and will therefore not significantly affect the extent, structure and function of habitat for capercaillie.

We conclude therefore that there is no adverse effect indirectly on this conservation objective.

3.No significant disturbance of capercaillie

There are several ways in which the proposal could cause increased disturbance to capercaillie:

- An increase in walkers (with and without dogs) recreating in woodland in Inshriach
- An increase in mountain bikers recreating in woodland in Inshriach
- Either of the above using unauthorised trails which could increase the area of disturbance

Disturbance during construction/installation

It was concluded during screening that there is no effect from this source, for the reasons stated above in table 3.

An increase in walkers and mountain bikers and use of unauthorised trails

Although the provision of an additional linking path plus upgraded to the existing path network through the proposal means that an increase in visitors to the site is expected, it is considered that an increase in use in existing promoted paths and newly created paths through the proposal will not lead to increased disturbance to capercaillie above existing levels. The proposal is not predicted to

change existing spatial and temporal recreational patterns in Inshriach forest. This means that the area of disturbance is not predicted to change.

We have considered the evidence and advice offered by SNH and others and concluded that the proposal will not increase disturbance to capercaillie within the Cairngorms SPA. This concludes that there will be no adverse effect directly upon this conservation objective.

Additional mitigation

No further mitigation is required.

Likely insignificant effects

There are none.

Conclusion on site integrity

We have assessed the impact of the development and found there to be no effect on any of the conservation objectives. Therefore we conclude that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cairngorms SPA.

Abernethy SPA, Anagach Woods SPA, Craigmore Woods SPA, Kinveachy SPA

Qualifying species - Is the operation likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interest?

Scottish Crossbill (Abernethy SPA, Kinveachy SPA): No effect

Osprey (Abernethy SPA only): no effect

Capercaillie (all sites): Like Significant Effect (indirect only)

Conservation objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) 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 the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

Will the development adversely affect the site's conservation objectives?

In this assessment, the implications of the planning application for the site's conservation objectives are assessed in order to answer the question: "Can it be ascertained that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site?"

The over-arching conservation objective of SPAs is to avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species, or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the sites is maintained. This over-arching conservation objective can be broken down into the following detailed elements:

To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term for the qualifying species:

1. Population of the species as a viable component of the sites

Distribution of the species within sites

2. Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species

Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species

3. No significant disturbance of the species

In-combination effects

As described at Stage 5 (screening); no in-combination effects have been identified.

Assessment against the Conservation Objectives

A Likely Significant Effect was found during screening on the SPAs above indirectly, via a Likely Significant Effect on the Cairngorms SPA and on capercaillie populations within non designated woodland.

Capercaillie (direct effect)

A direct Likely Significant Effect on the above SPAs was not found during screening.

Capercaillie (indirect effect)

- I. Population of the capercaillie as a viable component of the sites

Capercaillie exist as a meta-population and birds frequently move from site to site. A Likely Significant Effect was identified on the Cairngorms SPA and non-designated woodland at screening (stage 5). However when considered within the appropriate assessment above it was concluded that there was no LSE from either source. Consequently an indirect effect cannot happen.

We conclude that there will be no adverse effect upon this conservation objective for the Abernethy Forest SPA, Anagach Woods SPA, Kinveachy SPA and Craigmore SPA.

2. Distribution and extent of habitats supporting capercaillie and structure, function and supporting processes of habitat supporting capercaillie

The proposal area lies out with the SPAs and the loss of woodland habitat is not significant at a local or Strathspey scale. Therefore there is no loss of supporting habitat through the proposal.

Consequently there will be no adverse effect directly upon this conservation objective for the Abernethy Forest SPA, Anagach Woods SPA, Kinveachy SPA and Craigmore SPA.

3.No significant disturbance of capercaillie

This would be a direct effect of disturbance of the birds within these SPAs by the residents of the proposal. This was screened out at Stage 4 above.

We conclude that there will be no adverse effect upon this conservation objective.

Additional mitigation

No further mitigation is required.

Likely insignificant effects

There are none.

Conclusion on site integrity

We have assessed the impact of the proposal and found there to be no effect on any of the conservation objectives for these SPAs. Therefore we conclude that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Abernethy Forest SPA, Anagach Woods SPA, Kinveachy Forest SPA and Craigmore Woods SPA.

Stage 7: Consultation

Regulation 48(3) requires the authority to consult with the appropriate conservation body and to have regard to their representations. This is in such cases where a LSE is identified and an appropriate assessment is undertaken. In Scotland SNH is the appropriate conservation body. This report and its conclusion was subject to such consultation.

Wider consultation of the draft report is at the discretion of the competent authority. In this case no direct consultation was made because information relating to capercaillie was provided by the RSPB and Forestry Commission as part of the Capercaillie Framework. It was decided that no additional information was needed to make the assessment.

Stage 8: Additional mitigation

The conclusion of the Appropriate Assessment within this report shows that there are no likely significant effects and no in-combination effects, as such no additional mitigation is deemed necessary.

Stage 9: Conclusion on the integrity test

This assessment based upon the best available scientific evidence and advice offered from SNH and has shown that there are no adverse effects from the proposed development upon the qualifying features or the conservation objectives for the following Natura sites:

- Abernethy Forest SPA
- Anagach Woods SPA
- Cairngorms SPA
- Craigmore Wood SPA
- Kinveachy Forest SPA

We therefore conclude that the proposed development will not adversely affect the integrity of any of these sites.

Stage 10: Section 49 (derogation)

The conclusion that there is no adverse effect upon the integrity of any of the Natura sites covered in this report means that regulation 49 is not relevant.

References

Habitat Regulations process

Council Directive 92/43/EEC "the Habitats Directive" EEC adopted 1992

Managing Natura 2000 sites – EU communities 2000

Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC - EC 2007

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

Welsh Assembly Government TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning - 2009

Habitat Regulations Appraisal of Plans – Guidance for Plan Making Bodies in Scotland SNH/DTA August 2012 (Version 2.0)

Other sources

Cairngorms National Park Core Paths Plan2010 – CNAP – 2010

CRAGG Visitor, visitor infrastructure and tourism Audit. Robinson 2013

Cairngorms Outdoor Access Strategy 2007-2012 – CNPA 2007

Scottish Recreation Survey, Annual Summary report 2011. CR No. 535 SNH 2012

Appendix I

Details of Natura 2000 sites within, or adjacent to, the proposed development site

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of European Site | Cairngorms Special Protection Area |
| Site Type | |
| Conservation Objectives | <p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within the site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species |
| Qualifying Species | Capercaillie, Scottish crossbill, Peregrine, Dotterel, Merlin Golden eagle, Osprey. |
| Site Condition | <p>Capercaillie: Favourable Maintained Peregrine: Favourable Maintained Dotterel: Unfavourable Declining Golden eagle: Favourable Maintained Osprey: Favourable Maintained</p> <p>From SNH SiteLink, 20/05/2015</p> |
| Factors currently influencing site | In terms of development, none at present |
| Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan | <p>Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development</p> <p>Relevant settlements: An Camus Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities</p> <p>Wind farms could impact on young golden eagles, given their mobility</p> |

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|---|---|
| Name of European Site | Kinveachy Forest Special Protection Area |
| Site Type | |
| Conservation Objectives | <p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within the site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species |
| Qualifying Species | Capercaillie, Scottish crossbill |
| Site Condition | <p>Capercaillie: Favourable Maintained</p> <p>From SNH SiteLink, 03/06/2015</p> |
| Factors currently influencing site | In terms of development, none at present |
| Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan | <p>Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development</p> <p>Relevant settlements: An Camus Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities.</p> |

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| Name of European Site | Abernethy Forest Special Protection Area |
| Site Type | |
| Conservation Objectives | <p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within the site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting process of habitats |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species</p> |
| Qualifying Species | Capercaillie, Scottish crossbill, Osprey. |
| Site Condition | <p>Capercaillie: Favourable Maintained Osprey: Favourable Maintained</p> <p>From SNH SiteLink, 03/06/2015</p> |
| Factors currently influencing site | In terms of development, none at present |
| Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan | <p>Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development</p> <p>Relevant settlements: An Camus Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities.</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Name of European Site | Craigmore Wood Special Protection Area |
| Site Type | |
| Conservation Objectives | <p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within the site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species |
| Qualifying Species | Capercaillie |
| Site Condition | <p>Capercaillie: Unfavourable No change</p> <p>From SNH SiteLink, 03/06/2015</p> |
| Factors currently influencing site | In terms of development, none at present |
| Vulnerabilities to change/potential | Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| effects of the Plan | Relevant settlements: An Camus Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities. |
|---------------------|---|

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|---|---|
| Name of European Site | Anagach Woods Special Protection Area |
| Site Type | |
| Conservation Objectives | <p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within the site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species |
| Qualifying Species | Capercaillie |
| Site Condition | <p>Capercaillie: Favourable Maintained</p> <p>From SNH SiteLink, 03/06/2015</p> |
| Factors currently influencing site | In terms of development, none at present |
| Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan | <p>Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development</p> <p>Relevant settlements: An Camus Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities.</p> |

Appendix 2

Glossary of terms and abbreviations

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| Appropriate Assessment (AA) | The part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process that considers the effects of an aspect of a plan upon the conservation objectives for a Natura site. |
| CNPA | Cairngorms National Park Authority |
| CNAP | Cairngorms Nature Action Plan |
| Competent Authority | The decision making body required under the Habitats Directive to undertake HRA. This includes Scottish Government, National Park Authorities, SNH , SEPA or Local Authorities. |
| CPP | Core Paths Plan |
| Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) | The whole appraisal process for determining effects upon Natura Sites. It includes Appropriate Assessments. It is a requirement by the Habitats Directive that competent authorities carry out HRAs where a plan or project affects a Natura site. |
| CLDP | Draft Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan |
| Likely Significant Effect | An adverse effect of the development upon a qualifying interest or conservation objective that is considered to be potentially severe enough as to threaten the integrity of the Natura site itself. |
| Natura Sites | Collective term for Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation |
| Ramsar sites | Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention 1971. Not technically Natura sites they are however usually also SPAs. They are included within the HRA process by policy. |
| Special Area of Conservation (SAC) | An area designated for the protection of habitats and species. Authorised under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (commonly called the “Habitats Directive”). One of three designation to be considered in a HRA |
| Special Protection Area (SPA) | An area designation for the protection of birds. Authorised by the Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (commonly called the “Birds Directive”). One of three designation to be considered in a HRA |