

AGENDA ITEM 5

APPENDIX 2c

2015/0290/DET

RSPB
COMMENTS

Date 5th October 2015

Dear Sir

Application Number: 2015/0290/DET

Your Ref: 15/03242/FUL

Development Proposed: Erection of house and outdoor horse livery - (resubmission of 14/03246/FUL)

Location: Land East Of B970 Opposite Balliemore, Nethybridge, Highland

RSPB Scotland has considered this application and supporting documents but takes no view at present on the merits, or otherwise, of the proposals. However, we note the proximity of the development site to Craigmore Wood, which is an SPA for breeding capercaillie and part of RSPB's Abernethy Reserve.

Owners of horses currently housed on the application site (and perhaps others) make some use of Craigmore Wood for exercising their mounts. It is unclear whether, if this application were to be consented, it might lead to increased usage of Craigmore Wood with potential for increased disturbance to capercaillie, so there is a likely significant effect on the SPA. The proposal is not directly connected with or necessary to site management for nature conservation. It is necessary, therefore, that CNPA as competent authority carry out an appropriate assessment to determine implications for the SPA's conservation objectives. Only if that assessment concludes that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA can planning permission be granted.

I request that RSPB Scotland be consulted on CNPA's assessment of the proposal's implications for the SPA.

Yours faithfully

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