

# AGENDA ITEM 6

## APPENDIX 2

2021/0207/DET

## HABITATS REGULATIONS APPRAISAL

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<b>Planning reference and proposal information</b>	2021/0207/DET  Formation of parking area, land 150 metres west of Loch Moraig, Blair Atholl, Perthshire
<b>Appraised by</b>	Nina Caudrey, Planning Officer
<b>Date</b>	5 August 2021
<b>Checked by</b>	Rebecca Watts
<b>Date</b>	5 August 2021

INFORMATION
European site details
<b>Name of European site(s) potentially affected</b>
<p><b>1. Tulach Hill and Glen Fender Meadows SAC</b></p> <p><b>2. Cairngorms Massif SPA</b></p> <p>(Beinn a' Ghlo SAC was also considered at the screening stage but as there was no potential for connectivity it was screened out from requiring HRA.)</p>
<b>Qualifying interest(s)</b>
<p><b>1. Tulach Hill and Glen Fender Meadows SAC</b></p> <p>Base rich fens</p> <p>Dry heaths</p> <p>Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone</p> <p>Geyer's whorl snail</p> <p>Limestone pavements</p> <p>Round mouthed whorl snail</p> <p><b>2. Cairngorms Massif SPA</b></p> <p>Golden eagle (breeding)</p>
<b>Conservation objectives for qualifying interests</b>
<p><b>1. Tulach Hill and Glen Fender Meadows SAC</b></p> <p>To avoid deterioration of the <b>qualifying habitats</b> thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Structure and function of the habitat</li> <li>– Processes supporting the habitat</li> <li>– Distribution of typical species of the habitat</li> <li>– Viability of typical species as components of the habitat</li> <li>– No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</li> <li>– Extent of the habitat on site</li> <li>– Distribution of the habitat within site</li> </ul> <p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the <b>qualifying species</b> or significant disturbance to</p>

the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

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

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

## **2. Cairngorms Massif SPA**

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species 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:

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

<b>APPRAISAL</b>
<b>STAGE 1:</b>
<b>What is the plan or project?</b>
<b>Relevant summary details of proposal (including location, timing, methods, etc)</b>
The proposal is to create a formal aggregate based car park, bound by low bunds, for 61 vehicles in a location used for informal parking on grassland to the west of Loch Moraig near Blair Atholl.
<b>STAGE 2:</b>
<b>Is the plan or project directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European site for nature conservation?</b>
No
<b>STAGE 3:</b>
<b>Is the plan or project (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) likely to have a significant effect on the site(s)?</b>
<p><b>1. Tulach Hill and Glen Fender Meadows SAC</b></p> <p>The proposed car park is within the SAC. However advice from NatureScot is that none of the qualifying interest are present in this area. Therefore there will be <b>no likely significant effects</b> on any of the qualifying interest. Therefore the SAC is not considered further.</p> <p><b>2. Cairngorms Massif SPA</b></p> <p>The proposed car park is located approximately 130m to the south west of the closest part of the boundary of the SPA, on ground that is already used for informal car park, in an area that already experiences a significant amount of human recreational activity. The proposed car park will replace informal parking in the same location and along the roadside, so the amount of visitors is not expected to change. Therefore there will be <b>no likely significant effects</b> on golden eagle, either on habitats relied upon by eagle or their prey species or disturbance to breeding golden eagle. Therefore the SPA is not considered further.</p>
<b>STAGE 4:</b>
<b>Undertake an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site(s) in view of the(ir) conservation objectives</b>
<b>STAGE 5:</b>
<b>Can it be ascertained that there will not be an adverse effect on site integrity?</b>