

Badenoch & Strathspey Conservation Group
STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE
Hearing Session

Provision of the Local Plan

Nethybridge H2 and ED1

Summary of objection(s)

Object to H2 on grounds of excessive scale and conflicts with 1st, 3rd and 4th aims of the Park.

Object to ED1 on grounds of inappropriate site.

The entire site H2 and ED1 falls within woodland on the AWI, and can be considered an irreplaceable asset for future generations. .

The woodland is a European Priority habitat , is very close to 2 Natura sites, and is of high biodiversity and amenity value.

The sites form part of the attractive wooded landscape of Nethybridge, the ‘Forest Village.

The sites are part of the connectivity between Abernethy and Craigmore SPAs for capercaillie.

The sites have an exceptionally high density of red squirrel dreys, and development is not practicable within the wildlife law protecting dreys.

Otter and bats European Protected Species use the sites, and there is recent evidence of a natal holt of otter nearby. Pine marten, is another protected mammal using the site. There has been no bat survey, despite the large numbers of trees with good potential as bat roosts.

Rare pinewood plants on the site include serrated wintergreen and interrupted clubmoss, and abundant creeping lady's tresses.

The site supports the liverwort *Nowellia curvifolia* that is the best indicator of the UK Priority species Green Shield Moss that has not yet been surveyed for.

The UK priority species Juniper is abundant on the sites.

SBL species of invertebrates include Cousin German moth, wood ants, and the mason bee *Osmia uncinata*.

The locally rare coral root orchid grows near the site and could be impacted on by hydrological changes.

Aspen is present at various locations on the site

Birds include crossbill, crested tit, song thrush, bullfinch, ground nesting woodcock, and occasional records of capercaillie. The allocations would increase recreational disturbance pressure on caper, including in the adjacent SPA (Craigmore) through displacement of walkers, and the added numbers of residents in this part of the village.

Recommendation.

Omit H2 and EDI from allocation in LP

Extracts from correspondence with EU Commission regarding a complaint to Europe on capercaillie.

BSCG Report 2009. Red squirrel dreys in School Wood.

BSCG Report to SNH. 2001. New observations on the natural heritage interest of School Wood.

Extracts from submissions to HC planners Ref 01/00010/OUTBS

Extracts from local and national press reports on applications.

SPQ relating to UK Forest Partnership for Action.