

Mr G Moir
Per Mr J Willet
Cairngorms National Park Authority
14 The Square
Grantown on Spey
Moray
PH26 3HG

16 October 2023

Dear Mr Willet

SSSI consent for the release of beaver at [REDACTED] of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), [REDACTED] and River Spey – Insh Marshes SSSI

Thank you for your letter of 8 September 2023, applying for consent to carry out the following operation(s) likely to damage the protected natural feature(s) of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and River Spey – Insh Marshes SSSIs:

- Release of beavers over a number of years (to be determined by NatureScot licence) at agreed locations on these designated sites. A number of beavers to be released (numbers as set out in NatureScot licence).
- No construction or other material change will be carried out on the designated sites.

This letter supersedes the previous letter sent on 6 October 2023.

Scottish Natural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as NatureScot) consents to the above proposal(s) being carried out in the manner, timing and location specified.

In accordance with section 13(6) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, we have the following advice in relation to the consented operation:

- Monitoring of the effects of the beavers should be carried out as set out in the Monitoring Plan.
- Should beavers impact on features of the designated sites, remedial action will be taken in accordance with the Habitats Regulations Appraisal.

In deciding to grant this consent, NatureScot has taken account of its requirement under Regulation 48 of the Habitats Regulations to consider the effect of the proposal on the following overlapping European sites:

- River Spey SAC
- River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA
- Insh Marshes SAC
- Cairngorms SAC
- Cairngorms SPA

Our conclusion is that the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interests of the SAC/SPAs but on the basis of an appropriate assessment carried out by NatureScot, we have determined that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the sites.

This consent only exempts any legal provision, in accordance with section 13(1) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, as described above and does not remove any other legal responsibilities.

Yours sincerely



Operations Officer
NatureScot