



E-planning Centre
The Highland Council
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5th August 2015

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Dear Sirs

Planning application 15/02610/FUL (Construction of hill track on Garrogie Estate)

Scottish Environment LINK welcomes the opportunity to comment on the application for this new hill track on Garrogie estate. We are pleased to note that an application has been made but wish to raise a number of concerns at this stage which mainly relate to the lack of sufficient information provided by the developer with regard to the track's construction and the actual purpose of the track:

- Despite reference to the various guidance documents available for track construction, there is a lack of detail supplied on the construction methods to be used over the length of the track, in terms of drainage provision, peat removal, surface material to be used, landscaping requirements, etc.
- We understand that this track lies partly within Wild Land Area 20, and therefore there is a need to ensure that any negative impact of the track is mitigated by appropriate siting and design. We do not believe this has been demonstrated.
- We are not convinced that the main use of this track is agricultural, as outlined in the application. We would query whether the estate has provided evidence that the purpose of the track will be agricultural rather than sporting.
- Without the complete information on the construction outlined above, we believe the case has not been made for the track to be built.

We hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely

Helen Todd
Co-convener, LINK Hill tracks campaign group

LINK members of the hill tracks campaign group are:

Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland
Cairngorms Campaign
North East Mountain Trust
Scottish Campaign for National Parks

Ramblers Scotland
National Trust for Scotland
RSPB Scotland
Scottish Wild Land Group



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