

Wendy Strangeway

From: Planning
Sent: 09 January 2017 13:48
To: Planning
Subject: Comments on NYM/2016/0817/FL - Case Officer Mrs H Saunders - Received from Mr Andrew Walker at Royal Air Force, 39 Culduthel Mains Court, Culduthel, Inverness, IV2 6RF

I am an Air Traffic Controller at an Air Weapons Range north of Inverness in Scotland. The range covers an area some 3000 acres in size and is on the shores of the Dornoch Firth. Within the range airspace there are also the small airfields of Dornoch and Easter(Fearn) as well as a small strip used by microlights on the boundary of the ground range. The range is in regular use by Typhoon and Tornado fastjets and the small airfields are used regularly by the GA community both local and national. The range is also used on a regular basis by ground troops conducting live firing exercises. The range is open on a daily basis Mon-Fri during both day and night. The range is a Special Area of Conservation established by the Scottish Natural Heritage and supports numerous types of birdlife including both migrant and resident. All types of birdlife thrive on the range regardless of the military and aircraft activity. In addition we have a vast, diverse, range of wildlife activity on the range ranging from roe deer to stoats and wildcats, none of which are affected by the aircraft or military operations. In essence, where an area is managed and operators and local users work together, the benefits to birdlife and wildlife far exceed any negative or detrimental effects. I do not represent the Royal Air Force, rather I am commenting as an individual that has worked on the range at Tain for some 25 years and been involved throughout this period with wildlife and birdlife management with agencies such as Scottish National heritage and the RSPB and it is from this experience and as a supporter of the GA community that I urge the National Parks Association to reconsider their objection to this planning application and instead work with the landowner to establish a positive way ahead that will be advantageous to both parties. I fully support and endorse this planning application and hope to visit the airfield if approval is granted.

Comments made by Mr Andrew Walker of Royal Air Force, 39 Culduthel Mains Court, Culduthel, Inverness, IV2 6RF
Email Preferred Method of Contact is

Comment Type is Comment

