HOW TO OBJECT†

If you are minded to object, this is how to do that
Read the information below carefully
Not Coul suggests some general points here on what and what not to include
Specific reasons for objecting, the Not Coul stance, is now available on www.notcoul.org
†Information on the RSPB website is adapted for use here, with thanks

NB Comment Deadline: Your objection **must be received** by **7th April 2023*** (Good Friday)
* Unless an extension is granted. Check ePlanning regularly for any change. Do not rely on an extension. Check the
evidence going on to www.notcoul.org for refusing planning permission and if you feel it is correct, **object now**.
N.B. Do not try to submit your application online on 4th April 2023 – Highland Council ePlanning is closed for maintenance

How to Object

Letter or online, or email. Online is free and is easy if you follow advice here. A letter can get
delayed. Remember that deadline. Email should be used if your comment exceeds 5000 characters

Letters: essential content

1. Your name and address, including postcode
2. The application reference: **23/00580/FUL**
3. Somewhere in your text the words '**I object**'

Post your objection to: The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland
Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS, IV3 5NX.

Online

Remember to write your objection in advance using your word processing software. ePlanning has a
5000 character limit and a 10 minute cutoff. Only go online to submit it when you are satisfied it is
complete. Save it over and over on your computer if it takes time. Then, when you are ready, copy
and paste into the form on the Council ePlanning website. See second page below for online detail.

Email

Council guidance: "If your comment exceeds the 5000 character limit or you need to add an
attachment, please email directly to eplanning@highland.gov.uk or post your comment to
ePlanning, eProcessing Centre, Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS, IV3 5NX."

General things to do (letter, online, email):

Be polite and concise: ideally maximum two sides.
Use facts and quote evidence or relevant planning policies.
Include information about important habitats and wildlife that you have found at the site or which
have been reported by reputable people/organisations (e.g. British Lichen Society, British Bryological
Society, RSPB, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Buglife and, yes, Not Coul) or other
matters which you feel are important (e.g. threat to a protected Nature site). This is similar to the
2017 application refused in 2020 following a 4-week Inquiry, so it should be refused again.

Things to avoid (letter, online, email) if you want your concerns to be taken seriously:

Don't include hearsay or information you are unsure about
Don't exaggerate your claims
Don't include unsubstantiated or personal criticism of the Planning Authority or the applicant
Don't include information unrelated to the development or its impacts
Don't refer to the effect of the development on property values

How to submit your comment online

Full Highland Council details at https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/906/eplanning_guidance_notes

The ePlanning system is clunky and <u>has a timeout of 10 minutes</u>, so get your comment done before going online. Do not try to write a 3000 word essay online, you might lose all your work because you go beyond the 5000 character limit or, certainly, the 10 minute limit.

I Prepare your objection in advance
Use your word processor (5000 characters max) – take your time, make it YOUR comment
Copy that to the clipboard, you will paste it in later

2 Register, in order to submit
Go to Registration (highland.gov.uk)
You have to supply your name, telephone number, email address, password and address
The Council will then send you an email with a link to activate your ePlanning account
Click on the link to activate the account

3 Login and then submit your comment
Go to Simple Search (highland.gov.uk)
Click Login (button in top ribbon)
Enter your email address and password
You get a My Profile page – click **Search** – option **Planning** in the top bar
You get a Simple Search page: enter the Coul application number: **23/00580/FUL**
When that page comes up, click **Make a Comment** (in second bar, above Details tab)
Check your details are OK and you have the correct planning application
Then click **Object** stance box
Then paste in your prepared objection
Then click **Submit**

You will receive an acknowledgement of receipt.

Thank you for your comment, all objections – long or short - are really appreciated.
Not Coul
March 2023