

Nature Conservation

2.5.9 The Reporter noted that the evidence at the inquiry did not suggest that the presence of badgers and otters in the area amounted to a powerful case against the proposed development. He concluded that steps would have to be taken to mitigate the impact of the development on these species and that nature conservation considerations would clearly be important matters at the environment assessment and master planning stages.

2.6 Badenoch and Strathspey Local Plan 1997

2.6.1 The Highland Council's policy and support for the development of a new community at An Camas Mòr is set out in the adopted Badenoch & Strathspey Local Plan 1997 (See Planning Statement for detail).

2.7 An Camas Mòr Action Group 1999

2.7.1 During 1998 The Highland Council and the Estate discussed how best to progress An Camas Mòr. These discussions lead to the decision to establish an Action Group.

2.7.2 The Cambusmore Action Group first met in 1999 under the Chairmanship of The Highland Council with representatives of Rothiemurchus Estate. Scottish Natural Heritage and Moray, Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise acted in a advisory capacity to the Action Group on issues which affected the natural heritage and local economy.

2.7.3 The Action Group set itself the task of preparing the background for a report which would set out the Vision for Cambusmore (An Camas Mòr), objectives both social, economic and environmental, opportunities and constraints, key components of the development, process and procedures, timescales, costs and risks/uncertainties.

2.7.4 The Action Group met three times. In the process of preparing the draft, meetings were held with The Highland Council, NOSWA, Scottish Homes and Scottish Hydro-Electric (Telecoms and Distribution).

2.8 Background Report

2.8.1 Subsequent to the final meeting of the Action Group in 1999, Rothiemurchus Estate prepared a Background Report to document and complete the work started by the Action Group, to gather together information for comment to ensure its accuracy, to identify any areas of misunderstanding in advance of commencing the formal processes, to provide a background for gauging the level of support for proceeding with the Feasibility Studies and Technical Document and to identify the Partnership necessary to take An Camas Mòr forward.