
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 October 2017 11:10
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Planned golf course development within Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet Ramsar Site n. 897

[REDACTED]

Let me know if you need any help in responding to this. It is a live planning case so I am not sure if we have a definitive answer to the question yet.

[REDACTED]

Principal Adviser: International Designations
Scottish Natural Heritage
Operations Directorate
Great Glen House, Leachkin Road
Inverness IV3 8NW
Direct Dial [REDACTED]
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From: [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 25 October 2017 09:46
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Planned golf course development within Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet Ramsar Site n. 897

Hi both,

We've received a communication from the Ramsar secretariat concerning the above proposed development. I assume any potential impacts on the Ramsar site (*Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet*) arising from the development would need to be mitigated if the development were to be approved, noting that it's unlikely to meet the IROPI tests and therefore not trigger the need for compensatory habitat.

I'd welcome a line that we can provide to the Secretariat in order to address their concerns. Our standard response to such queries (local planning developments) is along the following lines:

Ramsar sites in England are afforded strict protection through the National Planning Policy Framework. In the event that impacts on the ecological character of the Ramsar site are subsequently envisaged and final planning permission for this development is approved by the competent authority notwithstanding such impacts, we will inform the Secretariat accordingly.

However, such a decision by the competent authority would appear unlikely as this would only occur in the absence of feasible alternatives, for reasons of overriding public interest (and compensatory measures secured). Developments of this scale are unlikely to meet this test.

Thanks

[REDACTED] | **Protected Areas Team | Wildlife Policy** | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Direct line: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk | Address: 2nd Floor, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH.

From: RAMSAR EUROPE [REDACTED]

Subject: Planned golf course development within Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet Ramsar Site n. 897

Dear Holly,

We have heard about a planned golf course development in dune habitats of the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet Ramsar Site, number 897. Please if you could inform us if this development is likely to have a negative impact on the ecological character of the Site and if so, what compensation measures are foreseen.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and in the meantime we are opening a potential Art 3.2 case for this Site.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]



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