

The MacLeod Course

Trump International Golf Links, Scotland

Environmental Statement

Habitats & Protected Species

Habitats

The aim is to ensure that there is no net loss of biodiversity as a result of the construction of The MacLeod Course. This will include the use of site-specific habitat translocation techniques developed during the construction of the Championship Course.

Menie has a range of dune habitats including four listed in Annex 1 of the EC Habitats Directive, two of which are priority habitats.

Habitat Name (EU Code)	Priority Habitat	Broad Description
White dunes (2010)	No	Young habitats comprising mainly bare sand with dune grasses - sea couch, sea lyme and marram.
Grey dunes (2130)	Yes	Older stable dunes vegetated with flowering plants. Mosses and lichens can give the dunes a "grey" appearance.
Decalcified fixed dunes (2140/2150)	Yes	Remote from the sea with more acidic soils and support heaths. A moorland by the sea with bell heather, ling, and where wet, cross-leaved heath.
Humid dune slacks (2190)	No	Low-lying areas within larger dune systems, often only holding water in winter and early spring. Creeping willow often abundant and rich in plant species.

The design intent has been to avoid and/or reduce damage or loss of these Annex 1 habitats.

Other habitats important to biodiversity e.g. neutral grassland, scrub and wetland, will be retained and benefit from new habitat creation on land currently in agricultural use.

Protected Species

Otter are present on the Menie Estate. Mitigation measures for otter will include an increase of overall area of open water.

A survey will confirm whether badger are present on the Menie Estate. If badger are present, mitigation measures will include the maintenance of movement corridors and the provision of access to land for foraging.



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Breeding Bird Survey

A breeding bird survey was carried out from May to July 2013. Forty-three bird species were recorded on or adjacent to The MacLeod Course.

The target breeding species include:

- Little grebe (1 pair), scarce North-East Scotland resident
- Water rail (1 pair), scarce North-East Scotland resident
- Skylark* (27-40 pairs), very common North-East Scotland resident and migrant visitor
- Song thrush* (status uncertain), very common North-East Scotland resident and migrant visitor
- Sedge warbler (6-15 pairs), common North-East Scotland summer migrant breeder

- Linnets* (4-7 pairs), very common North-East Scotland resident
- Reed bunting (8-10 pairs), common North-East Scotland resident. UK BAP Priority Species
- Yellowhammer* (4-7 pairs), very common North-East Scotland resident

*UK Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern and UK BAP Priority Species.

The MacLeod Course will retain and enlarge the wetland habitat around the Blairton Burn which supports these breeding bird species.



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Public Access

Scottish Outdoor Access Code

This application involves a change of use from private open land to an 18 hole golf course.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code states that access rights do not apply to golf courses. The Code states that the public "can only exercise access rights to cross over a golf course" and in doing so, the public "must keep off golf greens at all times and not interfere with any golf games or damage the playing surface".

Due to the intensive use and management of golf courses, there can be hazards, such as where golfers are playing 'blind' shots. In exercising access rights, members of the public must:

- Allow players to play their shot before crossing a fairway
- Be still when close to a player about to play
- Follow paths where they exist
- Keep any pets, such as dogs, on a short leash
- Obey golf course managers if told to leave the course, for reasons such as the use of fertilisers or pesticides.



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Public Access

Aberdeen Core Paths Link

Aberdeenshire Core Paths provide a basic framework of routes sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area. There is a network of Core Paths on the seaward side of Balmorie, based around the Balmorie Country Park. A Core Path extends north on the inland edge of the Drumside and Blairton Links.

The Balmorie Core Paths connect to the Aberdeenshire Coastal Path which runs along the beach from Aberdeen to Foveran and beyond.

The Aberdeenshire Core Paths will be unaffected by the proposed golf course.

A clearly signed path will be created across The MacLeod Course to link the inland Core Path with the Aberdeenshire Coastal Path. This path will run west to east between the Hole 5 green and the Hole 6 tees, to the south of the Hole 12 tees and to the north of the Hole 11 green.



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Construction

Likely Timetable

Planning Application (Summer - Autumn 2015)

- Pre-application consultation Monday, 27th April 2015
- Lodge application for planning permission with Aberdeenshire Council early Summer 2015
- Determination period – four months



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Next Steps

Opportunity to Comment

We hope that you have taken the opportunity to discuss any issues and to write down your comments on the proposed golf course, so that they will be recorded for inclusion in the Pre-Application Consultation Report which will accompany the planning application.

Please leave the completed form in the Consultation Box

If you need more time, feel free to take the comment form away with you. Please be sure to send the completed form back to us by the 5th May 2015.

The postal address is:
Trump International Golf Links, Scotland
Menie Estate, Balmedie
Aberdeenshire AB23 8YE
Alternatively, you can email your comments to:

admin@trumpgolfscotland.com

Our next step will be to consider your views in finalising the proposals.

Please note that any comments received will not be representations to the planning authority: there will be an opportunity to provide comments to the planning authority on the proposals after the application has been submitted to Aberdeenshire Council.



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