

PROPOSED MSc PROJECT

PLANNING APPLICATION – LARGO BAY – FIFE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A planning application has been submitted for a tourist development adjacent to the Firth of Forth special SPA and further SPAs associated with the Outer Firth and St Andrews Bay. Some information on the project is provided below.

Background

- The proposal covers c. 7 hectares of an open rural field, adjacent to the Firth of Forth Special SPA and the Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA areas.
- Proposal comprises: a wedding venue; a holiday village of 30 lodges; wedding guest accommodation; golf let lodges; and a play park.
- The Site is adjacent to residential uses and a coastal path next to the coast.
- The site is located adjacent to the Firth of Forth SPA and Ramsar Site & outer Firth of Forth SPA.
- The Firth of Forth SPA which is located approximately 20 metres to the south of the site is designated for its wintering bird interests and their supporting intertidal habitats.
- It is also within 200 metres of the Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA which is also designated for its wintering bird interests.
- NatureScot advise that the site is located adjacent to a section of the SPA foreshore that constitutes one of the major bird winter-feeding areas in Fife.
- Increase in noise and lighting levels during the construction and operation could also have a significant impact on the qualifying features of the SPA at this quiet location

Issue

The local Community Council & Largo Communities Together Group – which also has groups working on marine and local ecology, water quality and preservation – are keen to gather evidence to estimate the breadth and depth of any predicted impacts which may have an influence on planning decisions.

MSc Topic

The Group require an EIA to estimate the potential impacts of this proposal on the relevant coastal ecology.

Project Scope – whilst the calculation of an evidence-based estimate of the likely impact of the proposal is the primary request, wider aspects worthy of investigation might also include:

- Determine & quantify the current ecology & environment – including wildlife – in its present state.
- Determine & quantify any relationship between the scale of the proposal and estimated impact to the site – eg is there a direct relationship between the numbers of buildings/footfall & impact – if so, what is it?
- Identification and impact of any other key scientific aspects to the SPA that could be directly impacted by this proposal.

Primary contact for this project – Ross Paterson on email at rpat61@gmail.com