

## **Public Local Inquiry**

### **Proposed Resort and Golf Development at Menie Estate**

#### **Summary of the precognition by Dave Morris on behalf of Ramblers' Association Scotland**

#### **Introduction**

I am Dave Morris and I am the Director of the Ramblers' Association in Scotland and am giving evidence on their behalf. I have been responsible for the Ramblers operations in Scotland since 1989. Before that I worked for the Nature Conservancy Council, the predecessor of Scottish Natural Heritage, on scientific and policy issues in their Aviemore office, covering a large tract of north east Scotland, and then in Peterborough at their England headquarters, with responsibilities across England as a whole. I also have extensive experience of international conservation and recreation issues, through involvement with the World Conservation Union and the International Mountaineering and Climbing Association.

#### **Main issues**

I describe the value of the proposed development area for outdoor recreation and the importance of the wildlife and landscape resources in contributing to this. I emphasise the unspoilt nature of the sand dune part of the proposed development area and how this will be diminished by golf course development within the dunes and other aspects of the leisure/housing development.

I describe some of the implications of the application of statutory access rights to the development area and especially difficulties that might arise with golf course development within the dunes.

I describe potential conflicts with environmental protection measures that are relevant to this area, along with reference to coastal protection measures in other European countries.

Finally I emphasise that we are not opposed to this type of development at Menie and explain how the proposed development could be modified to meet our objections.

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