

The CIEEM Scottish Section Committee invites you to an event aimed at providing insight regarding an example of a golf course development that was creatively designed and constructed to succeed in delivering a world-class links golf course that also enhances local biodiversity.

In recent years the image of golf in relation to the environment has suffered, often due to developments occurring in sensitive habitats and receiving widespread criticism. However, it needn't always be this way; the Machrihanish Dunes course in Kintyre was developed entirely within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by a wealthy American businessman. It was the first 18 hole course in the UK to achieve Golf Environment Organisation (GEO) certification. Similarly, in the last few years, a links golf course was created at Castle Stuart, near Inverness. Again, the developers were American, and the location is an ecologically sensitive one. The Castle Stuart Golf Links (www.castlestuartgolf.com) are immediately adjacent to the Inner Moray Firth SSSI/Special Protection Area (SPA) and Moray Firth Special Area of Conservation (SAC). As can be seen from the photographs, by working with (rather than against) the statutory bodies, a links course was successfully created on farmland (the sand-dunes did not exist on the site prior to construction).

Before.....



during.....



and after.....



You are invited to attend a collaborative event between CIEEM and the Castle Stuart Golf Links to find out more about the environmental management of this development project. It is hoped that SNH will provide some input on the day from their perspective, and although not attending in person on the day, the CIEEM Vice President for Scotland, Kathy Dale, will provide pre-prepared context in relation to the development of a links course on the Menie Estate.

The event is planned for the 18th April 2014, which your diary will tell you is Good Friday. This date has been chosen on the basis of both the available dates at Castle Stuart and also the theory that (hopefully) spring will have sprung! The date will (again hopefully) also help with travelling arrangements, as winter should be over. In addition, we intend to organise a CIEEM social event in nearby Inverness that evening. It is hoped that some delegates may even choose make an Easter weekend break of it in the Highlands (with partners, friends or families); perhaps seeing the bottle-nosed dolphins at Chanonry Point, the red kites on the Black Isle or exploring Speyside and the Cairngorms.

Please refer to the CIEEM Scottish Section web page (<http://www.cieem.net/geographic-sections/7/01.-scotland>) for further details and details of how to register. Ecologists, environmental managers, and developers from all sectors, whether CIEEM members or not, are welcome. Spaces are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment! We look forward to seeing you there!