

Plémont Bay Holiday Village – P/2011/1673
Public Inquiry

Witness Statement of Dr Glyn Young
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

1. Introduction

1.1 My name is Dr Glyn Young and my professional address is Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Les Augres Manor, La Profonde Rue, Trinity, Jersey, JE3 5BP.

1.2 My professional experience includes the following:-

1.2.1 I am trained as a Conservation Biologist and for the last twenty-nine years I have been working for Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in that capacity.

1.2.2 My professional experience includes being recognised as a leading authority on avian conservation, with a particular specialisation in wetland birds. I lead the Trusts bird conservation projects located primarily in Madagascar, the Galapagos and at home in Jersey. These include efforts to restore the critically endangered Madagascar pochard and the Floreana mockingbird from the Galapagos.

1.3 The matters stated in this statement are within my personal knowledge, save where I have indicated otherwise. In particular, I will refer to documents that I did not produce and words spoken by others in my presence.

2. History of my Involvement

2.1 Prior to my involvement the Applicant had submitted a planning application in September 2006 for the re-development of Plémont Bay Holiday Village, comprising converting 67% of the site to open natural landscape and building three clusters containing 36 houses. The application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment¹, which incorporated an appraisal of birds in the locality including puffins and seabirds. However in early 2007 the Planning Minister required the Applicant to provide a further specific, more in-depth, study into potential impacts on Puffins and Seabirds.

2.2 After a prolonged search for a suitable consultant with expertise on this subject I am aware the Applicant eventually appointed Cork Ecology to undertake this study. They produced a *Review* of the section about birds in the Environmental Impact Assessment and other available information. However Cork Ecology proved unable to undertake

¹ Environmental Impact Assessment, Michel Hughes Associates, June 2006

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consultations with local ornithologists and the Environment Department considered their *Review* was therefore not adequate to be accepted.

- 2.3 BDK Architects (“BDK”), the Applicant’s Architects, approached me in July 2007 about the possibility of undertaking this specific study into potential impacts on Puffins and Seabirds. They enquired with the Environment Department who recognised my expertise and approved my appointment. In September 2007 the Applicant appointed me, working for Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, to undertake the study into Puffins and Seabirds associated with the area around the site.
- 2.4 In October 2007 I produced a draft report that was widely circulated to local ornithologists and other local interested parties, whom were consulted on their views and knowledge. I finalised this report in January 2008 (the “Durrell Puffin report”) and enclose this as Appendix 1 herein.
- 2.5 Generally my Durrell Puffin report identified these species were threatened by factors unconnected with Plémont Bay Holiday Village, but I provided recommendations for the conservation of puffins in Jersey to mitigate these existing external factors. I found the proposals for the application site were not identified to increase these external impacts. The Environment Department welcomed and accepted my Durrell Puffin report which the Applicant submitted to the Planning Department in support of their pending planning application P/2006/1868. I am aware that the Planning Minister refused this application in early May 2008, although the Planning Department had recommended a revision to 30 houses should be approved.
- 2.6 During the spring of 2009 I am aware the Applicant decided to pursue planning approval for the scheme of 30 houses that the Planning Department had recommended should be approved in their April 2008 report to the Planning Minister on application P/2006/1868 for 36 houses.
- 2.7 While preparing this scheme I am aware that BDK requested the Environment Department provide an EIA Scoping Opinion to inform preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the application. This EIA Scoping Opinion required the Applicant to provide a new ecological baseline survey for species protected (the “Protected

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Species” survey) under the Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 (particularly green lizards, slow worms and heath grasshoppers) but confirmed the Durrell Puffin report could be resubmitted to accompany this new application.

- 2.8 The Applicant subsequently appointed Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust to undertake the Protected Species survey and prepare a specific report, which I co-ordinated. My colleague Dr Tim Wright undertook the grasshopper survey and my colleague Dr Gerardo Garcia undertook the reptile survey, as these come within their spheres of qualifications and expertise. They undertook the site surveys between August and September 2009, following which I prepared the report on Protected Species (the “Durrell Protected Species survey”) dated October 2009. I enclose this as Appendix 2 herein.
- 2.9 I am aware the Applicant submitted their planning application for 30 houses around November 2009, accompanied by the Durrell Puffin report and Durrell Protected Species survey.
- 2.10 Since then BDK Architects have periodically updated me in general terms about what subsequently transpired with the 2009 application (I am aware this application is still pending a decision) and culminating with the Applicant submitting another application in December 2011 registered by the Planning Department with reference P/2011/1673.
- 2.11 I am aware between March and August 2010 the Planning Department required the Applicant to make a series of changes to the 2009 application which, inter alia, slightly increasing width of the proposed open grassland between the North-West and South-East clusters and revised it to 28 houses. None of these changes had any material affect upon the findings in the Durrell Puffin report and Durrell Protected Species survey and I am satisfied the Durrell Puffin report is still relevant to application reference P/2011/1673, which I understand is the subject of this Public Inquiry.
- 2.12 As earlier noted my Durrell Puffin report made a series of recommendations for implementing measures to mitigate the existing impacts (although these are not necessitated by the proposed development of the site) on the Atlantic Puffin in Jersey and promote their future survival. Although the Environment Department have

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introduced a 'Seabird Protection Zone' Code of Practice between March to July each year the other measures still remain unfunded and have not been implemented. I note the Planning Department have recommended a Planning Conditions on any consent for the Applicant to provide funding to implement these conservation measures, which will be an extremely valuable contribution towards ensuring the future survival of this species in Jersey.

3. Protected Species Mitigation

- 3.1 I attended a meeting (convened by BDK) on 8 November 2009 with John Pinel, Environment Division's Head of Countryside Management, and BDK, to review Durrell's Protected Species Survey and agree a mitigation strategy. I enclose BDK's minutes of this meeting and John Pinel's confirmation of agreement (which BDK sent to me) as Appendix 3 herein.
- 5.3 During this meeting John Pinel recommended an area should be found within the donor site for creating a receptor reservation and BDK suggested the most appropriate area was on west side of site, to north of T&TS foul drainage pumping station and to west of the western chalet block. This land of tussocky grass is concentric between where the species individuals had been found.
- 5.4 On 21 May 2012 I also toured the site with John Pinel, Michael Felton and BDK, during which visit John Pinel indicated he needed a current re-survey and count of protected species before being able to confirm the proposed receptor reservation was adequately sized to receive the predicted numbers. BDK requested I arrange for Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust to undertake this survey and count of protected species; but unfortunately we were too heavily committed with other work. BDK have informed me the Applicant has appointed Paul Wagstaffe of Nurture Ecology to undertake this re-survey which is currently being undertaken.
- 5.5 I consider that the protected species currently within the site can be successfully conserved in a reservation during re-development and the creation of the natural landscape across 2/3^{rds} of Plémont Bay Holiday Village will substantially improve the habitats for wildlife at this site.

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This Witness Statement (excluding Headings and Footnotes) contains 1,307 words.

Witness Statement of:-

Dr Glyn Young,
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust,
Les Augres Manor,
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Dated 31 August 2012

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Appendix 1 – Durrell report on Puffins and Seabirds, January 2008

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Appendix 2 – Durrell report on Protected Species, October 2009