

They otter take T in the Park to another venue

Couple call in lawyers over fears for the wildlife on festival's new Strathallan site

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A COUPLE are taking legal action over the new T in the Park site because they fear the festival could harm otters, bats and birds of prey.

Mark Liddiard, 53, and wife Kim, 56, have lived for eight years on the Strathallan Estate in Perthshire – where next year's event will be held.

They say they were not consulted about the move by organisers DFC – run by Geoff Ellis – and they fear 85,000 revellers descending next July could have a “significant effect” on wildlife and spawning salmon.

Kim said: “It was a shock to us. There's real concern the Machany Water is going to get severely damaged.

“We've got nesting

ospreys who would be disturbed by a concert. There are a number of protected animals.”

The couple, who are also worried about traffic on the site, have brought in

lawyers and are prepared to go to the Court of Session for a judicial review.

Scottish Natural Heritage said it is an offence to disturb nesting ospreys.

Sandy Telfer, of law firm DLA Piper Scotland, said: “The last thing our clients want to do is to derail T in the Park.

“The problem is they have no idea how the festival will impact on their lives during the six

to eight weeks it

takes to set the site up and take it down.”

Owners can change the use of their land without planning permission for less than 28 days in a year, unless it has a “significant effect” on the environment.

Perth and Kinross Council said: “Even if planning permission is not required, organisers still have to apply for all the required licences to host the event and go through the standard approval process.”

A T in the Park spokeswoman said: “Building a positive relationship with the community is extremely important to us. We've written to, spoken to and met with as many residents as we can

and this process is ongoing.”



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