



Mr Bernard Darroch
Planning Department
West Dunbartonshire Council
Housing, Environmental and Economic Development
Council Offices, Rosebery Place
Clydebank, G81 1TG

12th June 2012

Reference Number: DC12/028 Land at Merkins Farm Auchincarroch Road Jamestown
Alexandria West Dunbartonshire
Proposal: Erection of ten wind turbines (max hub height 79m and max blade tip
height 120m) with a total installed capacity of around 20mw and
associated works...

Dear Mr. Darroch

The Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs have worked to protect the natural value and scenic beauty of Loch Lomond for all since our foundation in 1978. While the charity has regularly supported the opportunities for valuable renewable energy projects within the National Park, we have consistently worked to protect this special place, valued by so many here and abroad, from major, unnatural and alien visual impacts. As in this case our concern for this special part of Scotland extends to sites close to, though outside the Park boundary that will have major impact for visitors, residents and travelers with the Park. This proposed development, if allowed, would have an enormous and lasting negative visual impact on the National Park, and from large areas of the Park and Loch Lomond itself and we urge you to reject this application.

I am writing to object to this proposal on behalf of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs on the following grounds:

- Visual impacts:
 - Situated in the Kilpatrick Hills and almost right on the boundary of the LL&TNP this development will have a very significant visual impact of 10 wind turbines (10 towers and 30 blades).
 - As seen from the illustrations in the applicant's own submission (zone of theoretical visibility fig 7 1 a, b, etc.) There will be visual impact across the most visited, popular and iconic part of the National Park - all down Loch Lomond and across to Drymen. An example of the particularly damaging impact is the view from the road (A82) coming South just before Tarbet – currently one of the most special views in Scotland. And from here on almost every part of the Loch surface southwards to Balloch, the alien turbine structures will be dominant on the Southern horizon.



- Despite the clear impacts shown, we consider that the visualizations submitted by the applicant are misleading and underestimate the actual visual impacts that would be created.
- There will be visual impact from many of the high places in The Park and from all the Bens in the Loch Lomond area including a very dominant impact on the view from the flanks and summit of Ben Lomond.
- There will be visual impact on views from Balmaha, Inchmurrin, and a long section of the West Highland Way along the Eastern shore of Loch Lomond. Thousands of walkers coming South down the West Highland Way every year will find this development growing before them to dominate the Skyline.
- The 120m high structures will even be visible from high points across The Argyll Forest Park and from high points in the Trossachs.
- We note that from the community of Gartocharn, which would benefit financially from the development and which is where the applicant lives, the visual impact is largely screened by the 'dumpling' hill.
- In terms of community impacts the greatest will be on the Haldane part of Balloch from where the turbines will be highly intrusive and dominant.
- The planning application is contrary to your Council Local Plan 2010 and to the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park's adopted Local Plan 2010 - 2015 - Policy REN5 Renewable Energy Development Adjacent to the National Park Boundary.

We urge you to reject this entirely inappropriate development, set in the worst possible location and, if built, guaranteed to wreck the heart of Scotland's first National Park, destroying the views from waters and shores of Loch Lomond itself.

Yours faithfully

Simon Lewis

Simon Lewis
Director