

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Title: CONSULTATION FROM ANGUS COUNCIL

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(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT)**

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:

- (1) **ERECTION OF GAIA TURBINE OF 18 M. HUB HEIGHT AND 23.5 M. TO TIP AT 150 M. NORTH OF SPOTT COTTAGE**
- (2) **BERGEY WIND TURBINE OF 15 M. HUB HEIGHT AND 18.495 M TIP HEIGHT AT 200 M NORTH WEST OF BUCKHOOD COTTAGE AND**
- (3) **BERGEY WIND TURBINE OF 15 M. HUB HEIGHT AND 18.495 M TIP HEIGHT 100 M WEST OF GLENTAIRIE, GLEN PROSEN**

**REFERENCE(S): 13/0898/FULL: 13/0899/FULL AND
13/0890/FUL**

APPLICANT: HECTOR MACLEAN

RECOMMENDATION: NO OBJECTION

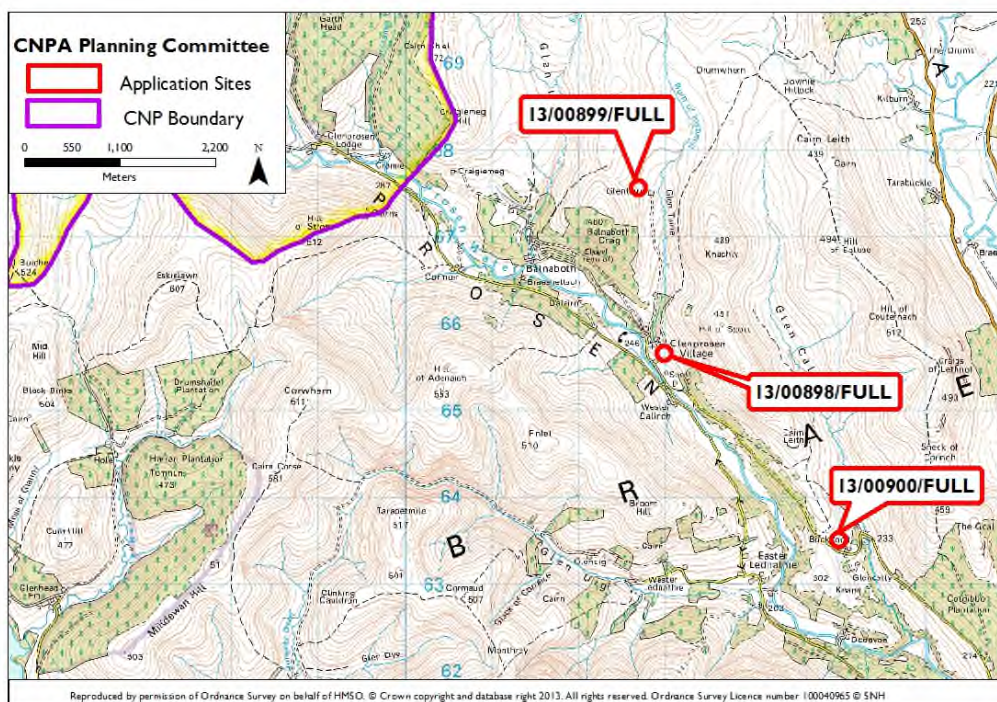


Fig 1.: Location Plan

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a consultation response to Angus Council (who are dealing with these planning applications) on three planning applications for single turbines at the top (west) end of Glen Prosen near Kirriemuir.
2. The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) has been consulted in relation to any impacts upon the National Park as the sites are located fairly close to the boundary with the National Park and Angus Council wishes the Park Authority's comments on the proposals. The planning issues being considered in relation to this consultation are whether there are any impacts upon the qualities of the Park.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND PROPOSAL

The Proposals and Site

3. This proposal is to erect three small scale wind turbines, one of height 23.5 metres to blade tip, the other two of height 18.5 m to tip. Three separate applications have been submitted (one for each turbine) as the sites are not directly adjoining. However as the sites are in reasonably close proximity to each other; raise similar planning issues and are all under the control of the same applicant, it is considered appropriate to report all three applications under this single report.
4. The output of the turbines is 10 kw for the two Bergey type 18.5 m high turbines, and 11 kw for the remaining turbine. A supporting statement has been submitted explaining these are domestic scale turbines intended to enable the properties which they will serve to be zero carbon. No access tracks will be required due to the small scale and monopole construction of the turbines.
5. The sites are located at the top of Glen Prosen on the north east side of the minor public road leading up to Glen Prosen village and Church. This is a secluded, attractive Angus glen which runs north westwards into the National Park.
6. The site at Glentarie is located to the north west of Glenprosen , up a track serving the farm in a relatively secluded location, some 3.5 km south east of the National Park boundary. Further south again is the proposed site at Spott Cottage which is located on a sloping field between this property and Glenprosen village. The final site is at Buckhood further down the glen around 7 km south of the National Park boundary.
7. This is an area of mixed character, with the mountains of the National Park in the distance, wooded areas alongside the road, scattered rural properties and field defined by stone dykes. The glen is split by the Prosen water, with minor roads running on either side of the glen and numerous walking routes throughout the area.

Planning History

8. There are no specific, relevant planning applications on these sites. As members are aware there has been considerable pressure for new large scale wind farms around the edge of the National Park. For example in the general area of the Angus glens an application was considered by the Committee at Nathro for a large scale wind farm to the east. There have also been applications for large scale wind farms in Perth and Kinross at Tullymurdoch to the west.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONTEXT

Strategic Policy - Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017

9. The Cairngorms National Park Plan sets out the vision and overarching strategy for managing the Park and provides focus and priorities at a time of limited financial resources. The Plan also provides a strategic context for the Local Development Plan and shows how the four aims of the National Park can be achieved together. It sets out the strategic direction and priorities for the Park
10. Policy 1.3 of this Plan states that large scale commercial wind turbines (defined as more than 1 turbine, and more than 30m in height) are not compatible with the special qualities of the National Park and are not considered to be appropriate within the National Park or “*where outside the Park they affect its landscape setting.*” Also relevant is Policy 2.3 which seeks to conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities, with a particular focus on conserving and enhancing wildness qualities

National Policy and Guidance

11. Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) sets out Scottish Government’s policy on nationally important land use planning matters, and it sets out the Scottish Government’s commitment to increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources, identifying hydro and wind energy as the main sources of supply. Policy stresses the importance of carefully considering siting to ensure landscape and visual impact is minimised, and sets out the range of issues to be considered. This is reinforced in Planning Advice for onshore wind turbines. Also Scottish Natural Heritage guidance on wind energy, which all provide guidance on assessment of wind energy proposals. The importance of particular landscapes such as National Parks is highlighted with the aims of the National Parks set out in paragraph 128 which explains that the most sensitive landscapes may have little or no capacity to accept new development, noting that areas of wild land character in some of Scotland’s remoter upland, mountain and coastal areas are very sensitive to any form of development.

CONSULTATIONS

12. **The CNPA Landscape Advisor** advises that the turbine at Glentairie, (which is the closest to the National Park, boundaries) is unlikely to be visible from the National Park or from the approaches to the Park and considers it will have no effect on the special landscape qualities. The other two turbines will be visible from the public road approaching the National Park, and will be prominent from this road. However adverse effects as experienced within the National Park would be negligible.

APPRAISAL

13. The proposed wind turbines are located to the south east of the National Park boundary in Glen Prosen, at distances ranging from around 3 km to 7 km from the Park boundary. The key planning issue for consideration is that of the visual and landscape impact upon the setting of the National Park, and views into and out of the Park.
14. The proposed turbines are of a small scale whereby their impact will be localised, and due to the topography and distances involved it is not considered that there will be any particular impacts upon the National Park in terms of either wildness or the special landscape qualities of the Park.
15. Whilst the turbines, in particular those at Spott Cottage and Buckhood, will be clearly visible from the public road leading up Glen Prosen towards the National Park, they are of a scale where they are not considered to have appreciable impact upon the Park or to affect its setting. Indeed the location of the turbines relates to the more settled, agricultural/domestic landscape of the Glen Prosen village rather than to the wilder qualities of the National Park which is physically separated from the proposed development sites by existing wooded hills.
16. Consequently, in this case, given the visual relationship to the Park boundary, local topography, scale and the existing landscape characteristics of the area, it is not considered that there would be any impacts upon the special qualities or setting of the National Park arising from these turbines. The main landscape impacts would be localised, and can be considered by the Planning Authority under the terms of their Local Plan policies.
17. The proposal has been considered with respect to the statutory aims of the National Park and is not considered to conflict with these objectives. Accordingly it is recommended that the CNPA raise no objection to the proposal.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members of the Committee support a recommendation of NO OBJECTION to the (1) Erection of Gaia Turbine of 18 m. hub height and 23.5 m.to tip at 150 m. North of Spott Cottage (2) Bergey Wind Turbine of 15 m. Hub height and 18.495 m tip height at 200 m north west of Buckhood Cottage and (3) Bergey Wind Turbine of 15 m. Hub height and 18.495 m tip height 100 m west of Glentairie, Glen Prosen

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