



## Finderne Community Council



Application under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for Scottish Ministers' consent to construct and operate the proposed Clash Gour Wind Farm, approximately 9km south of Forres and 17km south west of Elgin, Moray

6<sup>th</sup> February 2019

The Finderne Community Council (FCC) held a public consultation meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019, with the purpose of determining the opinion of the community on new proposed wind farm developments in general, and on the Clash Gour wind farm in particular. The meeting was held in Edinkillie Hall, and around 45 people attended. Feedback forms were collected and have been analysed.

Based on this feedback the position of the FCC is:

A substantial majority of opinions gathered were not in favour of the Clash Gour proposal.

The following were the main reasons cited:

- **Cumulative Impact** – Given the extent of development on the Dava Moor (Berryburn [and Berryburn 2], Tom nan Clach and potentially Cairn Duhie together with adjacent developments at Paul's Hill, Glaschyle and Rothies (A & B) the impact of yet further wind development would be very significant and remove any vestage of the attractive upland landscape in this part of west Moray. There would be no part of this area where more than one windfarm is not visible. This is an unacceptable and excessive degradation of this landscape.
- **Loss of upland habitat and ecology** - The community indicated that they were concerned about the potential extent of the destruction of the wild areas in this area, and the impact on wildlife and the ecology.
- **Impact on tourism and local tourism businesses** - Concerns were raised as to the visual impact of the Clash Gour wind farm , both for local people, and the knock on impact on tourism and local tourism based businesses.
- **Aircraft lighting light pollution** - the local community were very clearly of the view that the erection of turbines over 150m, which would mean the installation of permanent lighting, was not acceptable. The community has suffered from the lighting of turbines previously (Glaschyle) and as a result are fully aware of the visual impact such lighting has on the night sky.
- **Construction disturbance** - The community are concerned about the impact of construction traffic in the Dunphail area, for both equipment and personnel. The impact is not only felt during construction but also the ongoing traffic from maintenance. Such traffic causes delay for those living there, impacts upon the structure of the road and they have found that in bad weather the increased traffic has meant that local residents are having to deal with bad weather management which before the existing turbines was not an issue.
- **Deforestation** - Concern was also raised about the substantial deforestation, in a short period of time, caused by the Clash Gour wind farm and the impact of traffic associated with the extraction of large amounts of timber, on the Dallas to Forres road. Given the amount of timber which it is proposed to extract this will heavily increase the traffic which passes



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through the Rafford area where concern is already expressed about the speed of existing timber traffic and the impact on local roads. Concern was also expressed about the loss of future timber resource and the impact on local timber processing businesses over the long term.

- **Electricity apparatus** - Finally the community were concerned about the visual impact of any new electricity pylons that may be required. It has been indicated that the Clash Gour development would lead to either the substantial increase in the height of existing pylons or the construction of a second electricity line of pylons which has a substantial visual impact on the local community, landscape and tourism.

In the event that Clash Gour wind farm is given permission despite the concerns of the local community we would request that the turbine heights should be restricted to less than 150m tip height, to avoid the requirement for visible lighting.

In terms of the consultation we raised the issue of the Community Benefit and Shared Ownership proposed by the Clash Gour wind farm and the consensus view of the community was that the current proposed area is so wide as to benefit those communities unaffected by the development. Given the impact that the Clash Gour wind farm if permitted will have on the local area both during construction and in the longer term economic impact on homes and businesses the community were of the consensus that any benefit should be more locally focussed.

In summary on behalf of the FINDERNE Community we therefore for the reasons stated hereby object to the Clash Gour wind farm development but in the event that such permission is granted we ask that the turbine heights are limited to below 150m and action is taken to ensure that this community which will be impacted by the wind turbines are able to benefit from any community benefit fund.