



## STOP GLENDYE WIND FARM

AND EXPANSION OF WIND FARMS ON THE  
CAIRN O'MOUNT AND LOWER DEESIDE

Coriolis Energy and Irish utility firm, ESB, are looking to develop a wind farm project and plan to build 26 wind turbines on the Fasque and Glendye estate, north of the village of Fettercairn and on the approach to the Cairn O'Mount and Clachnaben.

The development partners are offering shared ownership; Community Benefit money; and claim accommodation providers, suppliers and contractors will benefit economically.

To the contrary, local suppliers and contractors would benefit minimally. Wind farms require minimal labour and virtually all major components and materials are manufactured outside Scotland.

Regarding the latter, the Aberdeen **Local Development Plan (LDP)**, Clan Strachan Society, Clan Strachan Charitable Trust, the Save Clachnaben Opposition Group, and numerous mountaineering, hiking, and other organizations confirm the opposite. That is, tourism will no doubt be negatively impacted by an expansion of wind farms in the Lower Deeside, and in particular the Cairn O'Mount and Clachnaben areas.

Although the Glendye Wind Farm developers offer ownership and Community Benefit funds, many believe this is negligible when compared to the significant negative economic impact to the hospitality sector of the local economy.

Contrary to the environmental benefits proposed by the energy development group, the construction of wind turbines, their service roads, and grid connections will result in the irreparable destruction of peat lands that contribute significantly to the reduction of greenhouse gases. According to WindAction.org, "When we build a wind farm on peat land it is self-defeating in terms of the environment."

Moreover, the Glendye Wind Farm is located within the **Clachnaben and Forest of Birse Special Landscape Area (SLA)** established by the Aberdeen LDP.<sup>1</sup>

According to the SLA, "The ecological value of the river (Dee), its tributaries and its surroundings contributes to the landscape character, as well as being recognised as **nationally and internationally important for nature conservation**" (Page 71).

**Management Recommendations** found on page 72 of the SLA endorse the following:

- *The Clachnaben and Forest of Birse SLA is classed as an upland landscape type. **As such emphasis should be on retaining their largely undeveloped and remote character.***
- *This means ensuring that **any developments are located and designed to limit their wider visibility and protect open skylines and rugged summits.***
- *Development must respect the **strong, rolling relief and sense of wildness of the upland landscape.***
- *Development involving hill tracks should be undertaken in line with best practice guidance and should take account of landscape character and qualifying features of the SLA.*
- ***Avoidance of development which impacts upon the appreciations of Clachnaben and Mount Battock and their settings.***

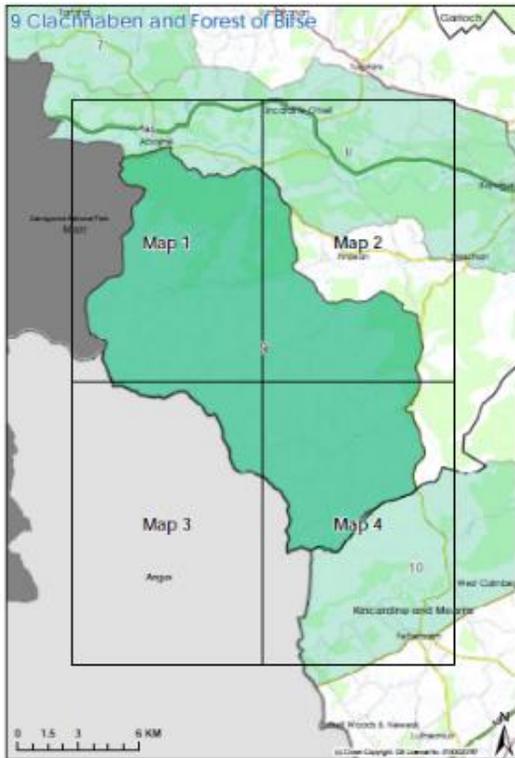
Page 25 of the LDP, Part 1 states, "There is no real opportunity for wind turbines within Marr." <sup>2</sup>

Page 70 of the SLA states, "Clachnaben is a distinctive craggy peak on the north side of Glen Dye, a valley running east-west through the SLA." And, "The Mounth provides opportunities for hill walking, and Clachnaben is a popular summit, with panoramic views including towards Bennachie to the north. The area is visible from the elevated B974 which runs along the eastern

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.clanstrachan.org/9c Special landscape areas Part3.pdf](http://www.clanstrachan.org/9c%20Special%20landscape%20areas%20Part3.pdf)  
page 70-77

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/20616/local-development-plan-2017-part-1.pdf>, page 25

boundary. The area forms the backdrop to the Dee Valley to the north and also to the Howe of the Mearns to the south.”



#### Clachnaben and Forest of Birse Special Landscape Area

The Glendye Wind Farm is not only located within this designated conservation area, which alone should disqualify the site for planning permission, the Glendye Wind Farm will also impact the River Dee Special Conservation Area (SAC), which includes all tributaries leading to the River Dee.<sup>3 4</sup>

A developer’s “newsletter” that was recently mailed to the local community shows the minimal aspect of the wind farm from various road points. However, the SLA is not merely those parts visible from roads – IT COVERS AN ENTIRE AREA!

Developers fail to show how the wind farm will be visible from hills in Finzean (and other areas), and how it will encroach upon the appreciation of Clachnaben and the skyline! Additionally, for those hiking on Clachnaben and in the Cairn O’Mount area, the developer fails again to show the REAL impact of the wind farm.

Developers fail to mention the blades of a turbine cover an area of 18,600 square meters—that’s roughly 2-1/2 football pitches, and spin at a brisk 80 meters per second (180 MPH) at the tips. As one might imagine, twenty-six (26) wind turbines will have a devastating impact on wildlife, especially rare and endangered birds such as nearby nesting Golden Eagles and Red Kites that use the hill’s up-draughts as a soaring aid.

Also, the development group claims the wind turbines will have a minimal effect on the visual landscape. However, the wind turbines stand at a height of 150m (500 feet), or the equivalent of a 28-story office building. Multiply this by 26 wind turbines, and one quickly gets the impression Coriolis and ESB will be building the equivalent of downtown Glasgow on the Cairn O’Mount. Statements made by the developers that Glendye Wind Farm will be good for the environment and will have little to no impact on the visual landscape certainly appear biased and naïve.

Many believe this is just the beginning. Approximately 100 wind turbines are necessary for a wind farm to be economically feasible for a commercial enterprise. A reasonable person can easily conclude that if Glendye Wind Farm is approved, the simple economics will result in an expansion of wind turbines across the Cairn O’Mount potentially an order of magnitude above what is currently being proposed.

Perhaps most importantly, the landscape of the Cairn O’Mount and Lower Deeside is uniquely beautiful, spectacular, and unspoiled; which make it attractive to outdoor types, families, tourists, and of course those fortunate to call this area home. So, what is its value? The simple answer is that the landscape is priceless.

Please, join the Clan Strachan Society (with membership in excess of 1,000 people) in opposing wind development in the Cairn O’Mount by emailing your opposition to [representations@gov.scot](mailto:representations@gov.scot)

Deadline for objections is 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/20620/appendix-8f-settlement-statements-marr.pdf> page 627-627

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/>