

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
PLANNING APPLICATION REPORT
Bute and Cowal Area**

Local Member - Councillor J. R. Walsh
Date of Validity - 14th September 2006
Committee Date - 11th April 2007

28 March 2007

Reference Number: 06/02000/DET
Applicants Name: Argyll Windfarms Ltd.
Application Type: Detailed
Application Description: Erection of a wind farm consisting of 19 wind turbines, associated concrete foundations (maximum hub height 60metres and blade tip 101.5metres), construction of 9.6km of access tracks, upgrading of 6.9km of existing access tracks, two temporary construction compounds, ten borrow pits, on-site switchgear and control room station, hard-standing areas, connecting cabling and one permanent wind monitoring mast.
Location: Black Craig to Blar Buidhe, Glenfyne, Argyll

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT 2

(A) INTRODUCTION

Consideration of this application was continued at the Area Committee on 20 March 2007 to allow the applicant the opportunity to submit outstanding information. A further letter dated 23 March 2007 (text attached) has been received from the applicant's agent, again requesting that consideration of this application be deferred.

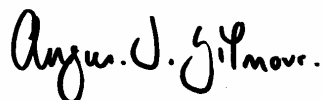
As set out in the applicant's letter, the Scottish Executive replaced NPPG6 with SPP6 on Renewable Energy on 22 March 2007. My report has therefore been amended to take account of that policy change and to clarify the issue regarding protected species.

As advised in my original report, "the department has an obligation to determine applications although additional surveys may alleviate concerns regarding ornithological, ecological or hydrological interests but could not, in the department's view, reduce the high visual impact that the development would have on the surrounding landscape and population." Submission of the promised information by the end of June is likely to require further consultation with statutory consultees etc, making it likely that the application could not then be reported to a Committee until August or September. Furthermore, I am concerned that to delay a decision could potentially require re-assessment of the application alongside a similar proposal nearby which is expected to be formally submitted soon and that in September the Wind Farm Policy (LP REN 1) in the Argyll and Bute Local Plan is due to be considered at the Local Plan Inquiry.

Nonetheless, the submission of the requested information might open the possibility of a competent motion to approve the application and therefore prompt a recommendation to hold a hearing before determining the application. Therefore, to accede to the applicant's request would remove a potential allegation of unreasonable behaviour by the Council.

(B) RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that consideration of the application be continued to allow the submission of further information by the applicant.



Angus J Gilmour, Head of Planning Services

Case Officer:	B. Close	01369-70-8604
Area Team Leader	D. Eaglesham	01369-70-8608

