

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

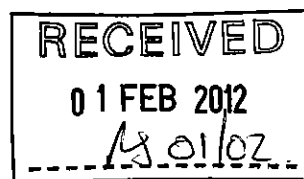
From: Allen R (Ruth)
Sent: 01 February 2012 11:44
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: FW: OBJECTION TO EOWDC
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Ruth Allen
Communications Manager
Marine Scotland
Scottish Government
1 A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com]
Sent: 31 January 2012 20:24
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO EOWDC

From :- [REDACTED]



OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is wrong and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-East of Scotland.

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01/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 February 2012 08:53
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

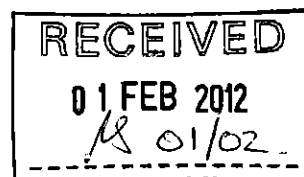
I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline and my quality of life. The siting of this wind-farm is wrong and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism in the North -east of Scotland.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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01/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 February 2012 09:17
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Wind Farms
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline and my quality of life. The siting of this wind-farm is wrong and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism in the North –east of Scotland.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

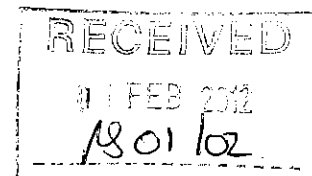
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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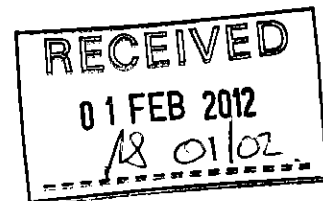
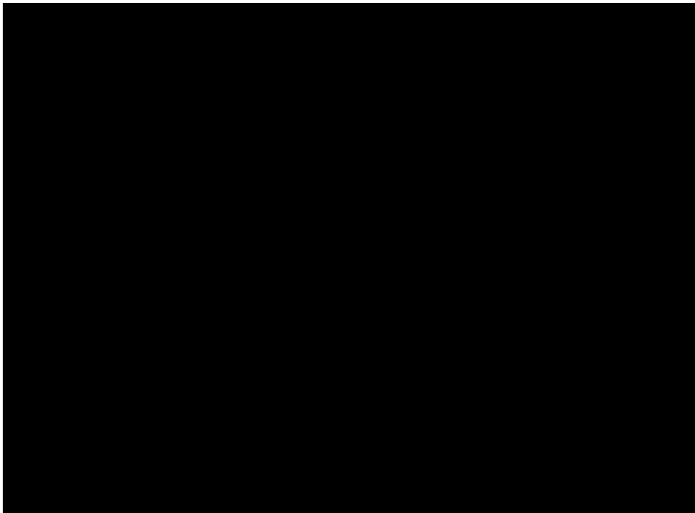


01/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 February 2012 09:28
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Offshore Turbines Aberdeen
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

I strongly object to the location (position) of the turbines just of Balmedie Aberdeen on 2 points one is tourism and the others is wildlife for the birds not only on the beach there but on the migration to the estuary at Ellon.



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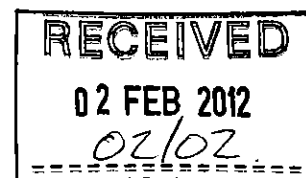
01/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

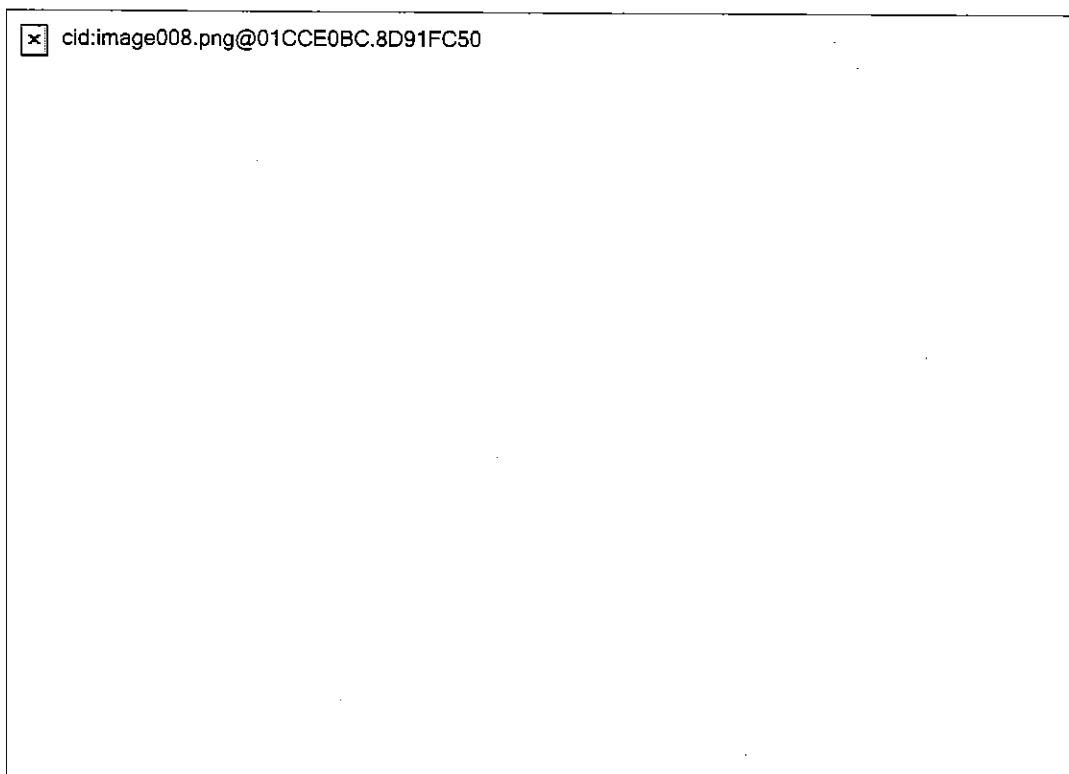
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 February 2012 14:58
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Reject the EOWDC proposal
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline and my quality of life. The siting of this wind-farm is wrong and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism in the North-east of Scotland.

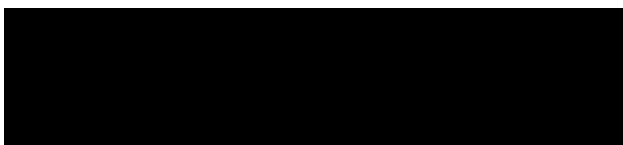
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07/02/2012

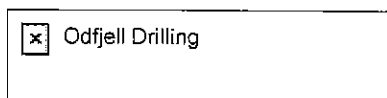


Best Regards



Peak Performance Ltd on behalf of

Odfjell Drilling (UK) Ltd
Bergen House • Crawpeel Road
Altens, Aberdeen AB12 3LG • United Kingdom
www.odfjelldrilling.com



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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 February 2012 19:25
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: EOWDC ABERDEEN
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

[REDACTED]

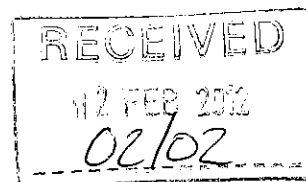
I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on the Aberdeen coastline and my quality of life. The sighting of this wind farm is wrong and will have detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the north-east of Scotland. There must be a place elsewhere on the coast apart from opposite the beach front of Aberdeen beach.

REGARDS [REDACTED]

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07/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 February 2012 18:59
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Aberdeen offshore windfarm
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From

[REDACTED]
AB21 ORR

Dear sirs,

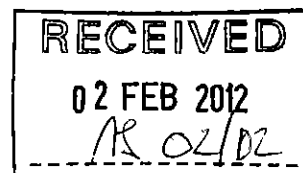
I would like to strongly object to the proposed offshore windfarm in Aberdeen bay. The tourism industry is on the up in this area and will be halted in its tracks by these monstrosities. I suggest they try to put them offshore on the Eden estuary at St Andrews. It would be vetoed immediately. After the oil runs out, we have a real chance to have the prosperity enjoyed by St Andrews as our coastline is even more beautiful. Don't throw our heritage away.

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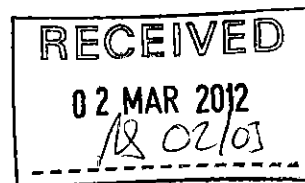


07/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 March 2012 20:49
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection to European offshore wind deployment centre, balmedie
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

From: [REDACTED] balmedie
Date: 27 feb 2012



Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

I'm also concerned on the potential adverse effects to marine and sea life

Yours sincerely,

Sent from my iPad

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07/03/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 October 2012 08:51
To: Sutherland AI (Andrew)
Subject: Proposed EOWDC - Objections
Attachments: Project 687 (Menie) EOWDC - TIGL Objection - Supplementary Note.pdf; Project 687 (Menie) TIGL Supplementary MSC Report.pdf

Andrew,

Further to our earlier emails I now enclose the supplementary objections on behalf of our clients the Trump Organisation. These are in response to the FOI material that you made available.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt.

[REDACTED] has raised a number of points with you. From the perspective of the technical team I am very interested to know exactly what the decision making processes, metrics and tests are that Marine Scotland will apply in assessing the application and the objections and in assessing the need for a PLI. We are all well aware of the integrated role of the Electricity Act tests and the Development Plan (including SPG and SG) in the assessment of major on shore wind farms. Ministers have made it clear, in letters enclosed with guidance, that for s.36 cases they will be guided by the Development Plan. In other words we have an assessment that complies, broadly, with the Plan led system that we all know and understand. However, there is no such clearly established system for off shore wind farms, especially off shore wind farms that are, in effect, on shore given the distribution of many of the significant environmental effects. Therefore, can you please set out for me exactly how you will move ahead with the assessment of this application and advise me as to what documents and Plans that I need to refer to so as to be able to understand, follow and assess the process that you have underway.

Thanks and regards,



**+ Graham
+ Sibbald**

Graham+Sibbald - thecompleteproperty service | 3 Charlotte Street | Perth | PH1 5LW | [mailhttp://www.g-s.co.uk](http://www.g-s.co.uk)
 tel: 01738 445 733 | fax: 0141 332 5914 | mob: 0788 760 5561

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GS/687/TK

Marine Scotland Act 2010

Electricity Act 1989

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

PROPOSED EOWDC WIND FARM

OBJECTION – SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS - PLANNING

On behalf of

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL GOLF LINKS SCOTLAND (TIGLS)

Submitted: October 2012



Graham and Sibbald, Perth

Email



Background

1. This supplementary comments document follows on from and should be considered alongside the objection lodged in September 2012. That objection and these supplementary comments relate to the proposed European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre – EOWDC. These objections have been prepared and submitted on behalf of the Trump International Golf Links Limited Scotland (TIGLS), the owners and operators of the Menie Estate golf and resort complex at Balmedie, Aberdeenshire.
2. At the time of lodging the original objection a considerable amount of requested and material information, including the independent review of the original Environmental Statement (ES) and key consultee responses, had only just been made available by Marine Scotland (supplied in the afternoon of 17th September). The information, running to around 130 pages, was clearly going to take some time to assess and, on that basis, the objectors proposed to submit additional and/or supplementary objections as soon as possible following the consideration of this material.
3. This document and the accompanying report by [REDACTED] for the supplementary comments.
4. This document addresses the two key items supplied by Marine Scotland – the consultation responses and the Halcrow ES Review as well as commenting on a covering letter sent with the material that was supplied.

The Covering Letter

5. As noted by MSC the position with the scoping of the ES Addendum, as set out in the covering letter from Marine Scotland (MS) is not quite correct, at least as far as the LVIA issues are concerned. Indeed, as a general point that has been noted in relation to onshore wind farms as well, it is unclear as to who is actually in control of this whole assessment and consenting process including the “gateway” review of applications and the related ES material. The consequence is that concerned objectors end up having to undertake work at several stages, and all at additional costs, rather

than being able to have a single review of a project, and its ES, once it is in the form to be considered by Ministers.

6. It is submitted that the statutory response times for objectors should not be set until the application, and the supporting documentation, is in its final form.

The Consultation Responses

7. Some comments are offered below on some of the detail set out in the range of consultation responses helpfully supplied by MS. In general the focus is on the topic areas that have already been raised in the earlier objection.
8. In terms of the response by the **Northern Lighthouse Board** it is noted that requirements are set out for yellow painting up to the height of 15m above the highest tide level and for extensive navigation lighting. The significant visual impact of these requirements was addressed by MSC in the objection submission.
9. In terms of the response from Aberdeen City Council it is noted that there is significant criticism of the LVIA as submitted in the ES. It is not considered that the Addendum addresses all of the points raised by the Council.
10. In terms of the response from **SEPA** and with reference to paragraph 5.1 of that response, it is considered that the likely effects on coastal processes and thus on coastal morphology could be significant. Therefore, as this would have effects on third parties including TIGLS, it is submitted that this aspect should be fully assessed now rather than being the subject of a suspensive condition as suggested by SEPA.
11. The consultation response from SNH raises a number of important issues as below:
 - a. It is noted that the current position of SNH is one of objection on the grounds of natural heritage issues of international importance (various SPAs). Considerable work will be needed to address SNH's concerns
 - b. It is noted that SNH phrase part of their conclusion as follows: *"If the further analysesdemonstrate that the proposed deployment centre would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of these SPA's, and Marine Scotland are*

mind to grant a Marine Licence, our objection could be removed subject to the imposition of conditions". It is submitted that the final position of SNH on the effects on the SPAs should not be affected in any way at all by whether or not MS are minded to grant the licence and consent. The decision itself has no separate environmental implications

- c. It is noted that SNH is disappointed with the overall quality of the data presented in the ES, its analysis and its interpretation. Data gaps, omissions, errors and inconsistencies are identified. This is a serious criticism of what is meant to be an EU funded demonstration project
- d. In terms of the planning policy position on LVIA as set out in the submitted objection, it is noted that SNH state *"The proposal would set a new precedent of development of this type inshore rather than on land. It would necessitate cumulative impacts with onshore developments being considered in future"*. This vindicates the objection submission made by TIGLS
- e. In terms of cumulative impacts it is noted that SNH state *"No regard has been given to onshore developments with which this proposal may contribute to cumulative impacts"*. This comment also vindicates the submitted objection

12. In terms of the consultation response by Aberdeenshire Council, it is difficult to reconcile the very serious issues raised can then be equated with a position of non objection – the comment that the Council "has not take (sic) a position in favour of or opposed to" is meaningless in terms of the effects of consultation responses from the statutory Planning Authority with respect to ensuring a PLI. The particular comments are:

- a. *There is concern about whether or not this is the best site for the development given the potential impacts on the environment* – this is considered to be a fundamental and quite devastating criticism
- b. *The location of the turbine siting was questioned in terms of the possible impact to the Menie Golf Course – exactly!*

13. The matters raised in the above consultation comments have not all been dealt with in the Addendum. Does this mean that objectors have to face up to yet another consultation, review and objection cycle?

The ES Review by Halcrow

14. As a general point it is noted that the ES Review, although limited in scope, is quite critical of many aspect of the submitted ES. Many questions, especially on the key approaches, are answered by “no” or “in part”.
15. In paragraph 2.3 there is a significant criticism of the failure to account for alternatives, particularly in the context of not taking account of the environmental effects of options. It is stated that the ES would have benefitted from a chapter that focussed on the main alternatives studied. The value of a comparison with the “do nothing scenario is set out. This is a highly significant criticism that was not addressed in the Addendum and which was a key part of the submitted TIGLS objection. It is also a highly significant criticism having regard to paragraph 21 below, that this criticism appears in a document prepared for Marine Scotland (part of the Scottish Government) and subsequently distributed by Marine Scotland. Therefore, it is assumed that the Scottish Government accepts this position on the consideration of alternatives. That position then, in turn, provides significant support for the submitted objection.
16. In 2.5 it is pointed out that the ES would benefit from an assessment of the socio-economic impact of the scheme and the impacts on tourism. TIGLS have already set out their significant concerns about these impacts.
17. In paragraph 2.7 it is noted that there is a criticism in terms of the ES not considering the interaction between the aspects being assessment.
18. It is noted that paragraph 2.8 points out that the significance of effects is assessed but there is no attribution of positive or negative effects. The general approach, as recommended by the Landscape Institute, and as referenced in the objection, is to regard these types of changes to the landscape resource as being negative.

19. Importantly paragraph 2.9 describes mitigation as omitted or vague. Again a serious criticism of a demonstration project.
20. Paragraph 3.1.2 points out that the main sensitive receptors and their locations are not clearly identified. Again a serious omission referred to in the submitted objection.
21. In paragraph 3.2.2 it is stated “*it is not clear why Aberdeen Bay has been selected over other alternative locations which have not been described*”. Again, a serious omission on an EU demonstration project.
22. It is noted that various other topic specific criticism are set out that are not, in turn, fully resolved in the Addendum.

Conclusion

23. It is considered that the additional material that has been supplied sets out a series of fundamental and profound concerns about the proposed development and the ES. Many of these fundamental and profound concerns have not been resolved in the Addendum process. The various points raised also fully substantiate and justify the objections submitted on behalf of TIGLS.
24. As indicated, this paper and the attached paper by MCS should be considered as part of the TIGLS objection.

[END]

**European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre Windfarm
Objection**

Marine Scotland Freedom of Information Response

BA DipLD CMLI

1.0 Marine Scotland Response to FoI

1.1 Marine Scotland Covering letter

- 1.1.1 There was no scope agreed for the Addendum as the covering letter confirms that 'Marine Scotland does not hold any information on the need for the addendum which was driven by the applicant who submitted their application to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team ahead of the completion of the full survey effort.' This may be the case for the bird and marine mammal surveys but it is not the case for the SLVIA.

1.2 Halcrow Technical Review

- 1.2.1 The technical nature of the Review means that the main focus relates to 'form' rather than 'substance'. Nevertheless there are some salient observations.
- 1.2.2 With reference to the baseline, Review paragraph 13.1.1 poses the question: 'Does the ES describe the condition of those aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly affected by the development?' and concludes that 'Most aspects are covered adequately. However visibility from individual residential properties are not assessed as part of the baseline.'
- 1.2.3 With reference to the assessment of effects on residential properties, Review paragraph 13.2.1 highlights inconsistencies in the ES and concludes that 'Given the potentially contentious nature of the development, it would be appropriate to have a clear statement on the potential impact on residential properties and the distance at which the visual effect can be considered significant.'

It may also be appropriate to set out the extent to which the view from residential properties will be affected by the development – we would normally expect a detailed schedule of affected individual properties within a defined radius from the development to be included within the ES.'

Given the unequivocal nature of this criticism of the ES, it is surprising that Marine Scotland has not requested this information (or indeed the applicant has not offered to provide it).

Similar concerns regarding the absence of an assessment of effects on residents were raised in the MSC Topic Paper 1 paragraphs 3.1.2 and 3.2.3

- 1.2.4 With reference to the assessment of magnitude of effects, Review paragraph 13.2.2 concludes that *'The assessment of visual effects at night is a little perfunctory.'*

Lighting is addressed in MSC Topic Paper 2 paragraphs 3.2.2 to 3.2.4 and 3.2.2.

1.3 Scottish Natural Heritage

- 1.3.1 The main focus of the SNH consultation response (2nd November 2011) relates to the various SPAs and SACs rather than landscape and visual impacts.

Nevertheless, SNH response Annex A 'Other Interests' poses a question: *'Would the EOWDC result in changes to the character of Aberdeen Bay and cause adverse visual impacts?'*

However even though the answer to this question acknowledges that 'a complex large feature' would be introduced into a sensitive location, it is simply concluded that the development '*...would be dominant in views from north and east Aberdeenshire, and the city.*'

- 1.3.2 SNH response Annex A states that '*The proposal would set a new precedent of development of this type inshore rather than on land.*'

The description of the scheme as '**inshore**' is an important acknowledgement of the distinction with 'offshore' schemes (as discussed in the MSC Topic Paper 2 paragraph 6.3:10).

- 1.3.3 SNH response Annex A also states that '*The uncertain nature of it being a "deployment centre" rather than a fully designed windfarm raises particular issues: it may not necessarily follow good design practice (at its most basic in having the same turbine type, size, rotation speed and so on; or an evenly spaced 'readable' layout).*'

It then recommends that '*The conditions attached to any consent should require a design statement to include guiding principles for the deployment of turbines.*' This has been specifically addressed in the ES Addendum and commented upon in the MSC Topic Paper 2 paragraphs 6.6.1 to 6.6.4.

- 1.3.4 The SNH response covering letter concludes that '*Our advice is that this proposed development will have adverse impacts on the coastal character and visual amenity from within Aberdeen City as well as locations in Aberdeenshire, particularly coastal areas. We advise that*

conditions may be used to reduce these impacts and to promote visual cohesiveness; nonetheless, these will not make a significant difference to the impacts.'

The first sentence confirms that there will be adverse landscape and visual impacts and the second sentence acknowledges that conditions are unlikely to make a significant difference to these adverse effects.

2.0 Conclusion

- 2.0.1 The information provided by Marine Scotland identifies a number of issues highlighted in the MSC Topic Papers. It is of particular concern that the ES Addendum did not include an assessment of effects on residential properties despite the clear and unequivocal advice in the Halcrow Technical Review.

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 13:45
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: objection

I strongly objection to this project
Please consider placing elsewhere

[REDACTED]
Core Laboratories (U.K.) Ltd

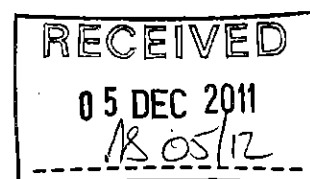
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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

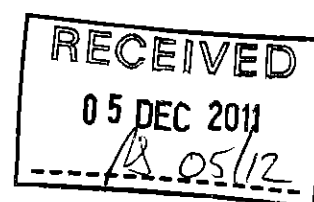
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 07:40
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: TURBINE
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Please dont put these wind turbines where they are proposed.
Why should they be allowed to ruin our beautiful view

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 09:05
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

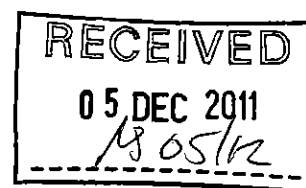
The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

AB24 5BS

[REDACTED]
Thorpe Molloy Recruitment Ltd
38 Albyn Place Aberdeen AB10 1YN
T +44 (0)1224 658 865
DL +44 (0)1224 327 014
www.thorpemolloy.com



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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 09:14
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen

5/12/2011

[REDACTED]
Thorpe Molloy Recruitment Ltd
38 Albyn Place Aberdeen AB10 1YN
T +44 (0)1224 658 865
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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 09:59
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Object To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)


I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

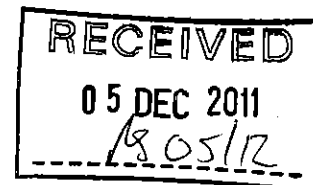
Regards

[REDACTED]

 cid:image001.png@01C98B8

Howe Moss Drive, Dyce, Aberdeen, AB21 0GL
Switchboard: +44 (0) 1224 724229
Fax: +44 (0) 1224 722084
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

 facebook_logc



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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 17:20
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

Dear Sir or Madam

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Speaking as a representative of the golf industry, I have the pleasure with my career visiting some very spectacular Scottish destinations and the Aberdeen coastline is very rugged and beautiful and this is the way it should remain. The oil industry brings with it prosperity and enhances the Aberdeen and surrounding area's economy, but also a very busy coastline with vessels waiting to enter and leave the harbour which at times can prove to be unsightly.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

taylormade-adidas golf Jays Close, Viabes business park, basingstoke rg22 4bs

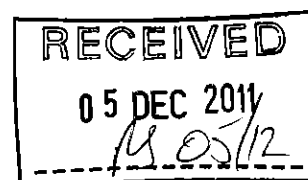
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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 17:45
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre

[REDACTED]
AB23 8YB

5th December 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

We wish to formally object the EOWDC proposals on the grounds of the siting of the turbines. This coastline is a huge tourist attraction and the Balmedie Country Park along with the future golf development at Menie Estate must be protected. The oil industry will not always be here and we must protect these sites along with other areas of importance in the Aberdeen and surrounding area for future generations.

Yours sincerely,

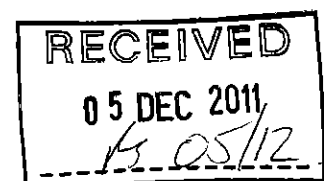
[REDACTED]
Apache North Sea Limited

[REDACTED]
☒ Descriptive

Apache North Sea Limited

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 16:09
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Object To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre - Found word(s) farm in the Text body

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

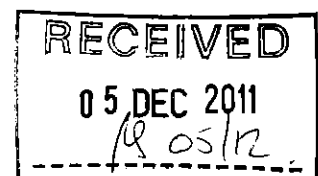
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05/12/2011



Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 15:08
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Hi,

Can I have this e-mail noted about my objection to the The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre. This is an ugly looking wind development and I am concerned about the detrimental affect to golf course which has been built at Mennie estate. This golf course will bring in a large amount of revenue to the north east corner which is needed for the economy. It is also going to spoil our beautiful coastline along the north east coast.

Regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

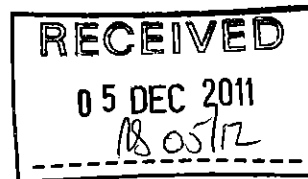
[REDACTED]

Peterhead

[REDACTED]

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www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 15:48
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

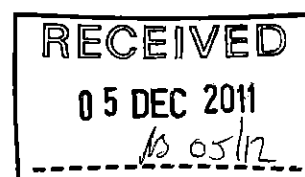
[REDACTED]
Ellon
Aberdeenshire

5th December 2011

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 14:07
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Object To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre

From: [REDACTED] AB42 3GR
Date: 5th December 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

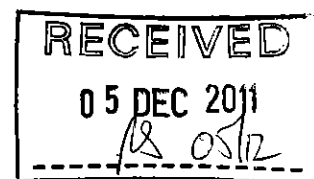
[REDACTED]

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 14:22
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox; [REDACTED] MS Marine Licensing
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

[REDACTED]
Ab39 3pf

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

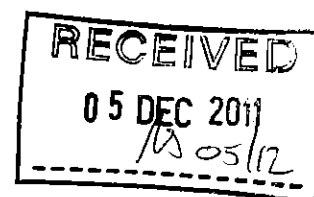
[REDACTED] Tyco Fire & Integrated Solutions
[REDACTED]

Glover Pavilion, Science & Technology Park, Balgownie Drive, Aberdeen AB22 8GW
F: 01224 706498 W: www.tycofis.co.uk

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 14:28
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to wind farm

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] 05 Dec 2011.

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 13:41
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

From: [REDACTED] Aberdeen
Date: 5th December 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

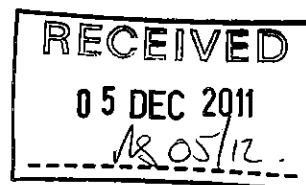
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 12:54
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
AB51 0PJ

Date: 5th December 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

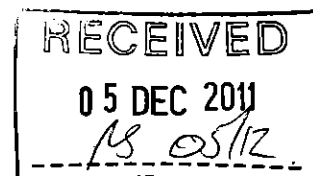
OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 12:23
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox; MS Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NO WIND FARM
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 05/12/11

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

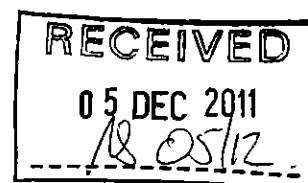
[REDACTED]
Centrica Energy Upstream | IQ Building | 15 Justice Mill Lane | Aberdeen AB11 6EQ

[REDACTED] (Direct Dial)

Tel: +44 (0)1224 415000 (Switchboard)

Email: [REDACTED]

Website: www.centrica.com



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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 11:43
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Object To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre

From [REDACTED] Dyce 05/12/11

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

UK Fluids Group
Core Laboratories (U.K.) Limited

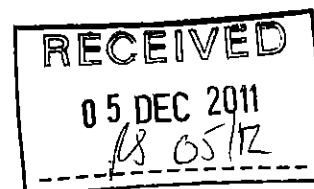
Tele. N'o. ; [REDACTED]
Fax. No. ; +44 1224 421003
E-mail ; [REDACTED]

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 11:28
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 05.12.11

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

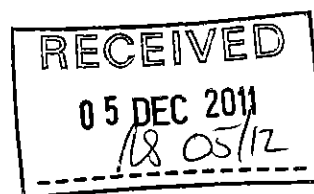
I stongly object to the European offshore Wind Deploment Centre in particular off the coast of great golf course like Royal Aberdeen, Murcar Links and the soon to open Trump Links at Menie.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 11:11
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

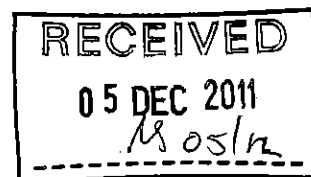
[REDACTED]
5th December 2011

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 10:54
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: EOSDC Objection
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

[REDACTED]
Inverness
IV2 3DU

to:
Marine Scotland
Edinburgh

5 December 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

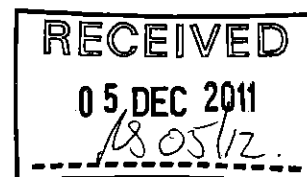
The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Copies to
[REDACTED]

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 December 2011 20:25
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

I wish to object to the siting of the EOWDC proposal on the grounds that is far too close to the the coastline. In light of the WAUBRA Foundation's health research it should be at least 10 kilometres away from human habitation.

It is also **extremely** intrusive visually, and will have a detrimental effect on not just the folk of Aberdeenshire, but general tourist visitors as well. It is also likely to affect leisure boaters and windsurfers.

I do support renewables that are reliable, predictable, constant and that actually deliver - tidal, wave, solar. This research facility to be at all meaningful should be further offshore to test turbines in more extreme situations anyway. If we are having turbines forced upon us let's have them over the horizon!

Why are our extortionate electricity bills being used to subsidise multinationals to trash our finest scenery?

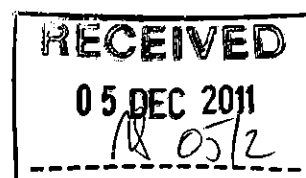
Yours, trying to preserve the Highlands

[REDACTED] Moray IV30 8LD

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 December 2011 19:51
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir/Madam,

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeens coastline. The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North East of Scotland.

Yours Sincerely

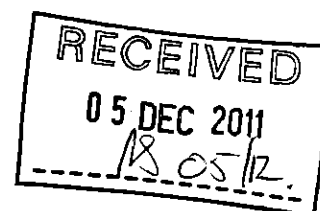
[REDACTED]
PETERHEAD,
AB42 1ZJ.

2nd December 2011

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 December 2011 20:34
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox; [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Date Dear Sir or Madam **OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)** I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline. The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

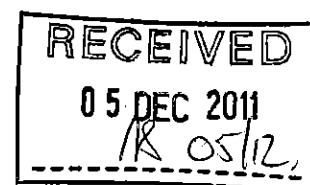
Balmedie
AB23 8SY

Sent from my iPad

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 December 2011 21:36
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: marinescotland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam

**OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE
(EOWDC)**

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

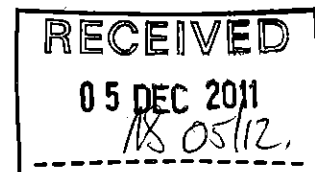
[REDACTED]

Aberdeen

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 December 2011 10:39
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: "Trumps" Windfarm
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

In the present political climate any investment in this offshore windfarm is likely to be extremely risky, relying as it does on subsidies paid almost exclusively by English consumers. An Independent Scotland could not afford to maintain these subsidies and with public opinion now swinging against all windfarm developments it is unlikely they would want to. There is also the risk of a change of Scottish Government resulting in a long overdue dawning of financial reality. Bankers are not the only ones seen to be making obscene profits.

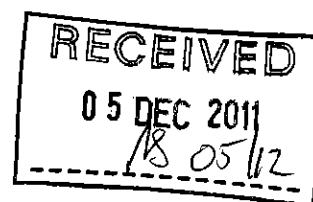
[REDACTED]

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 December 2011 11:52
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: Marine Scotland Mailbox; [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Object To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/12/2011

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

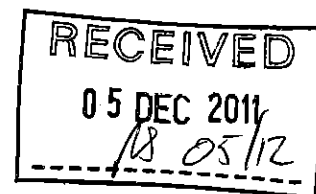
The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 December 2011 19:27
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

[REDACTED]
Aberdeen

03/12/11

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland. To jeopardise this stretch of coast is both irresponsible and careless considering the minimal energy the wind farm will provide. It is our duty to preserve this natural beauty by objecting the travesty that is proposed.

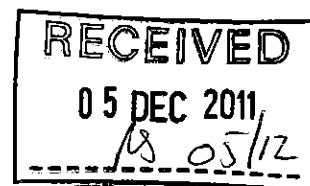
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2011 17:53
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Offshore Wind Farm Objection
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

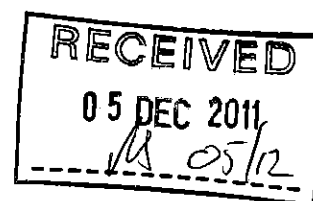
[REDACTED]
Leith, EH6 6QR

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 08:49
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Object To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

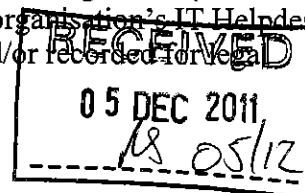
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Dril-Quip (Europe) Ltd
Stoneywood Park, Dyce
Aberdeen
AB21 7DZ

[REDACTED]
Web: www.dril-quip.com

Registered in Scotland No: 81748

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 09:11
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox; [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue
Attachments: Scottish Golf Trails HQ.vcf

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

The Royal Deeside Golf Trail
The Carnoustie and Aberdeen Links Golf Trail

[REDACTED]

Scottish Golf Trails - the best places to play golf!

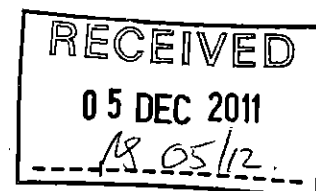
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05/12/2011



Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 09:52
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From: [REDACTED] Aberdeen

Date: 5th Dec 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

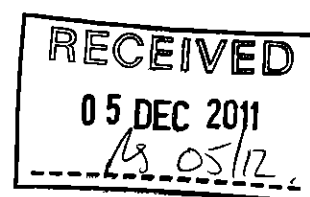
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 December 2011 10:03

To: MS Marine Licensing

Cc: Marine Scotland Mailbox; [REDACTED]

Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

2.11.11

[REDACTED]
Edinburgh
EH4 5HJ

Dear Sir/Madam,

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

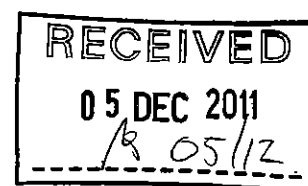
The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

I was born and bred in the North East, and visit every month. I seem to me energy companies/concepts will do anything they can to make money over nature or human wellbeing.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

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05/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 September 2011 11:32
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT OFFSHORE ABERDEEN



There will be many thousands of sad faces in Aberdeen if the proposed 11 wind turbine development goes ahead as it will create the biggest man-made blot on the horizon permanently scarring the view of the sea from Aberdeen.

Having seen the development presentation at the Hilton hotel in highly complementary and flattering but jaundiced views together with the superb glossy brochures the four main objections to this development are as follows :

1. Danger to shipping both commercial and pleasure with the illogical diamond configuration.
2. Danger to seabirds on migration trail will act as a large scale bird slicing m/c
reducing the numbers of some threatened species.
3. Ineffective and expensive form of energy production that will produce zero power in conditions of calm often experienced in the winter period.
4. It is the wrong energy development in the wrong place

Please acknowledge this objection to the proposed wind turbine development.



Abedeen



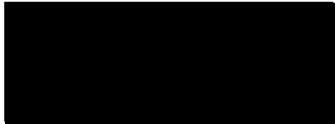
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06/09/2011

The Scottish Government
Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team
Marine Laboratory
PO Box 101
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB



Aberdeen
AB23 8BE

2nd September 2012

ABERDEEN OFFSHORE WIND FARM

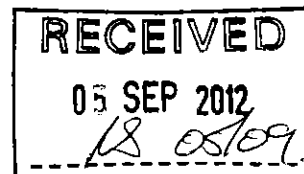
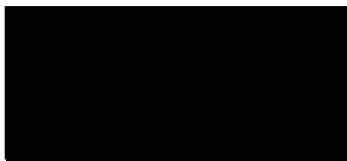
I wish to object to the installation of eleven wind turbines off the Aberdeen coast.

Widespread media and newspaper articles are reporting health effects on people living in proximity to these wind turbines. People are suffering adverse effects from noise and vibrations damaging health with conditions such as insomnia, stress, headaches and high blood pressure. The "flicker effect" caused by the sun behind the turbine blades can affect people suffering from autism, epilepsy and migraine.

In Australia the Waubra Foundation research has stated that no turbines should be built within a 10 KM distance from communities. The Japanese government has started a four year programme into the effects of illness caused by wind turbines.

In a push for green energy wind turbine power is being forced through regardless of effects on communities, wildlife and the destruction of some of the most beautiful country in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,



Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 20:04
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Object To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

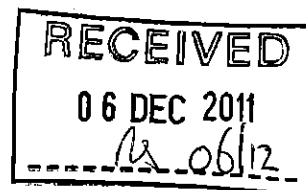
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Ellon
Aberdeenshire

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06/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 21:40
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to the EOWDC project
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

[REDACTED] Aberdeen, AB15 7XA

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

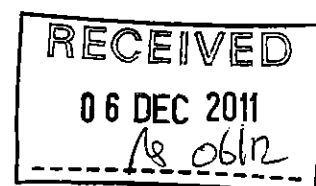
The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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06/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2011 23:47
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection to offshore windturbine site off Balmedie
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Sir,

I wish to lodge a strong objection to the above project. My reasons are as follows.

The project is likely to put the successful development of the Trump golf course in jeopardy. For the first time in its history Northern Aberdeenshire has secured a world class attraction, whereas until now tourists who have ventured north to Aberdeen have sped off to Royal Deeside or to Inverness along the A96. Now we have the distinct possibility that people will venture north of Aberdeen, not only the world travelers who will use the course but the ordinary tourist who will want to see our beautiful district because of the publicity this attraction has generated. This district has much to offer, from the unique quality of the local food, meat and fish, to the unspoilt coastal scenery which is much underused. A failure of the course will destroy a unique opportunity to lessen the areas dependence on the oil industry and over the years the higher profile the district achieves can only be good for the local fishing and farming producers as well as the main towns of Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Ellon.

The visual impact caused by the development of this wind farm on the course cannot be accurately assessed as it is increasingly recognized that there are limitations to fully conveying the true presence of this type of development on the area no matter how accurately visualisations are prepared. One thing is certain, the proximity to the course and the Area of Landscape significance and Undeveloped Coast will cause its impact to be significantly detrimental. These structures are gigantic and the fact that each of them is topped by a huge ever revolving blade assembly must surely continually draw the eye towards them and destroy concentration which must be considered serious in relation to a top class golf course. It has also been established that even when the blade assembly is not entirely seen the effect of part of the blades appearing beyond the dunes will have an significant visual effect on people in the area whether they be walkers or golfers. I feel that the Trump organisation has well founded fears as to the success of their project if this development is given permission to go ahead and I would urge for the good of the area that it is rejected

[REDACTED]
 Peterhead
 AB42 3DF

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06/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2011 07:23
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Wind Farm Off Aberdeenshire Coast Line
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Sir/madam

Can you please note my objection to the proposed wind farm off the Aberdeenshire coast line at the proposed site.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Stonehaven

Ps

As an inabootcomer to the area can you please get a move on with the bypass as driving and getting about Aberdeen City is an absolute disgrace.

This email contains confidential information. The contents must not be disclosed to anyone else except with the authority of the sender. Unauthorised recipients are requested to maintain this confidentiality and immediately advise the sender of any error or misdirection in transmission.

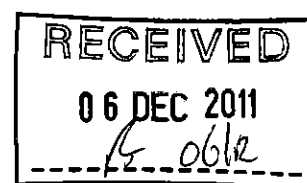
The following notice applies to emails originating in the UK.
E-mails sent on behalf of AMEC are sent on behalf of the relevant AMEC company below. These are registered in England and Wales with registered office at Booths Park, Chelford Road, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8QZ and number as shown: AMEC plc 01675285, AMEC Group Limited 04612748, AMEC Capital Projects Limited 02804109, AMEC Earth and Environmental UK Limited 04987981, AMEC Nuclear Holdings Limited 03725076, AMEC Nuclear M & O Limited 05664844, AMEC Nuclear UK Limited 01120437, AMEC Nuclear International Limited 03260477, AMEC Nuclear Projects Limited 05664962 and National Nuclear Corporation Limited 02290928

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06/12/2011

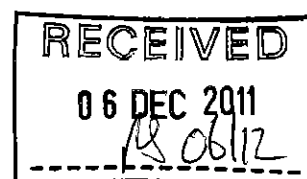
Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2011 09:00
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN WIND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue
Attachments: Blank.pdf; ATT669881.txt



Blank.pdf (21 KB) ATT669881.txt (72 B)

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Denmark

December, 6, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

**OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE
(EOWDC)**

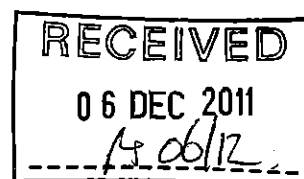
I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The coastline and the open views of the North Sea are of paramount importance in attracting visitors (like myself) and should be considered and treated as a treasure for the future of Aberdeen.

If Aberdeen is serious about alternative energy it should be developing marine energy utilising the energy of the water rather than the wind.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,



Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2011 11:25
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: Marine Scotland Mailbox; [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam


OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

 Description: safetynet.jpg

Web: www.safetynetscotland.co.uk

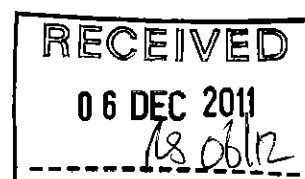


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06/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2011 14:25
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 6/12/2011

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

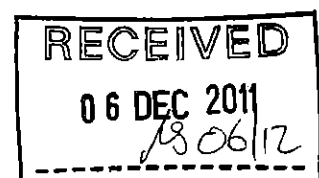
The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Newburgh,
Aberdeenshire,
AB41 6BY.

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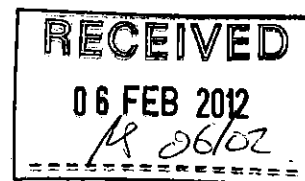
Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: Allen R (Ruth)
Sent: 06 February 2012 09:01
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: FW: Objection to the European Offshore Wind Deployment
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Ruth Allen
Communications Manager
Marine Scotland
Scottish Government
1 A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 February 2012 11:08
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Objection to the European Offshore Wind Deployment



I [REDACTED] Peterhead AB42 2FR
Respectfully Request that you reject the EOWDC on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the Turbines will have on Aberdeen and Shires Coastline As it would be detrimental effect on on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in The North East of Scotland.

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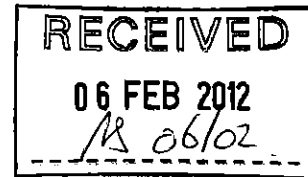
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07/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 February 2012 12:33
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: EOWDC
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue



I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline and my quality of life. The siting of this wind-farm is wrong and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism in the North-east of Scotland. Furthermore, wind turbines do not represent value for money for the hardpressed taxpayers of this country!

Regards

[REDACTED]

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2011 15:48
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From [REDACTED] Aberdeen

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

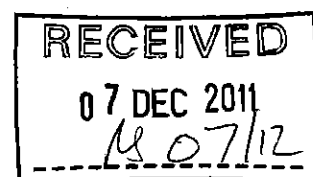
[REDACTED]

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07/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2011 09:40
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From: [REDACTED]
Aberdeen
AB12 5QX
Date: 07/12/2011

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

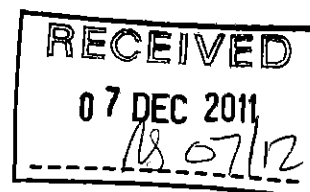
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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07/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2011 20:07
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECT TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

[REDACTED]
AB15 4BB

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

Having just seen the EOWDC proposal I sincerely hope that this development will not get much consideration. I feel we are on the eve of adding another string to our bow in Aberdeen, by putting it on the world map as a world class golfing location, with the Trump International and the historic Royal Aberdeen Golf club. Adding these amenities to the already natural amenities we have directly onshore from this EOWDC proposal this is a great opportunity for Aberdeen, and a worthy and valuable asset to leave all our children. Let's hope we do not have a repeat of the high rise developments, of previous generations, we live with today as eye sores.

Therefore I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

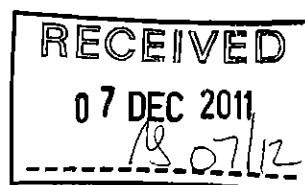
If this development is absolutely necessary I am sure they can find another less sensitive location on the Scottish coastline.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
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07/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2011 21:46
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

[REDACTED]

Aberdeen

AB22 8DL

6 December 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours faithfully,

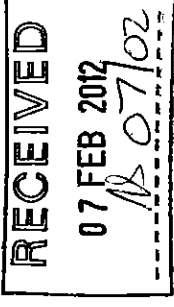


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07/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 February 2012 14:18
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: objection
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue



from

[REDACTED]
pe
ab42 1lq

I wish to object to the EOWDC wind farm proposal. This would have a profound negative effect on the local environment.
It will be detrimental to both locals and visitors and will irrevocably destroy the beautiful coastal views.

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07/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 December 2011 16:38
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE IN ABERDEEN

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly object to the current plan to build an offshore wind farm off your wonderful shores in Aberdeen. I have vacationed twice in Aberdeen and have fond memories of your beautiful coastline. These wind farm turbines will destroy what is perhaps your best asset - your coastline. Assets should be enhanced, not ruined.

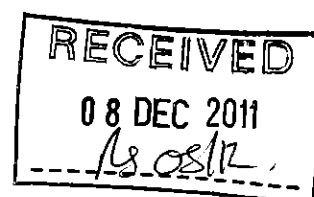
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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08/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 December 2011 16:27
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

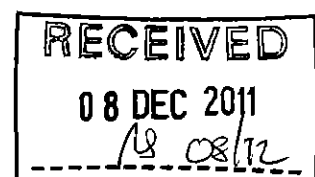
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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08/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 December 2011 16:24
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam,

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

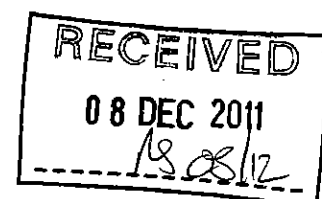
The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
08 December 2011

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08/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 December 2011 14:34
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Objection to EOWDC in Aberdeen
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Marine Scotland

I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed EOWDC. The scheme is very badly sited and has not been fully considered.

The extremely negative visual impact of the turbines and their detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland has not been taken into account. Their close proximity to the shortline is not appropriate and an alternative location further out to sea should be found.

Yours faithfully,

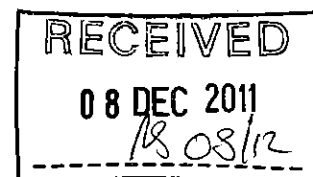
[REDACTED]

Ellon
AB41 7TH

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08/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 December 2011 14:23
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From: [REDACTED]
Aberdeenshire
AB41 9EW

Date: 8/12/11

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

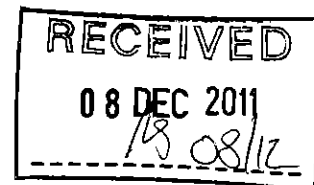
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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08/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 December 2011 16:09
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Object To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue
Attachments: Trump Objection.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Ellon
Aberdeenshire
AB41 8AA

[REDACTED]

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08/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 February 2012 21:02
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Offshore Wind Farm
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From:

[REDACTED]
Aberdeenshire
AB41 9HD

Date: 8th February 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

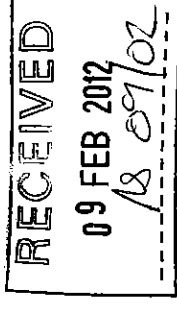
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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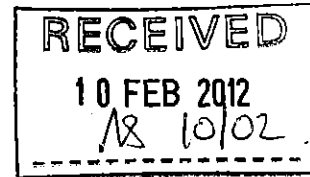
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09/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 February 2012 10:05
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Ridicuous windfarms
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue



Dear Sir / Madam

As Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council a'rent interested in representing the people of aberdeen and the shire let me please inform you that the general public are totally against this crazy windfarm on our beautiful coast line. I live in Balmedie and the residents can't believe that we have a party in power that are ignorant enough not to consult the people about this monstrosity of windmills that will ruin the view of the coastline. They are not financially viable as everyone knows, they will disrupt marine life, obsruct shipping lanes but most importantly anger the people of aberdeen that we may lose out on having Mr Trumps wonderful golf resort on our doorstep. This is a fellow that is spending a lot time, money and resources to create something special in his golf resort, only to be ruined by the onlooking view of these awful windmills.

yours sincerely [REDACTED]

Balmedie.

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17/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

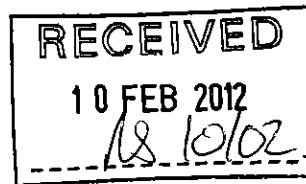
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 February 2012 10:29
To: Sutherland AI (Andrew)
Subject: EOWDC Representation

Attachments: S20120003341.PDF

Hi Andrew,

Please find attached a further representation for the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre.

Best wishes,



-----Original Message-----

From: MACCS [mailto:maccs@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 26 January 2012 14:29
To: Harris A (Alison)
Subject: MACCS: New case 2012/0003341 allocated.

Ministerial and Corporate Correspondence System:

Please see case 20120003341 which has been allocated to you. The current target date for this case is 23/02/2012.

<http://s0125a/MACCS/CaseDetail.aspx?c=20120003341>



S20120003341.PDF
(9 KB)

Please do not reply to this email.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 January 2012 13:08:48
To: CorrespondenceUnit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Fwd: To Forward to Alex Salmonds Team Through TUT

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 August 2011 21:58
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Wind Turbines off the North East Coast

RECEIVED

10 FEB 2012

18/02/02

Dear Malcolm Bruce MP,

Dear Sir,

I became aware of the proposal to erect wind turbines off the coast of Newburgh Beach and Balmedie a few days ago. This saddens me a lot as I have three horses on Raymond Davidsons land named Tahuna and am totally against this going ahead in this part of the coast for many reasons. They are as follows:

The ambiance and serenity of the coastline would be destroyed #There would be nowhere in the vicinity for the ships to wait to get into the Aberdeen harbour #The wild life off the coast, marine, land and air would not be able to adapt to the different environment very quickly and so this would perhaps lead to extinction #and from a personal view point, haven't the population of farmers and inhabitants been through enough of this type of insurmountable adjustments to their lives and environment #one of my herd of horses is an Irish Sports Horse, her Grand Sire being the wellknown Cloverhill. She is one of 44 in the world and I love her to bits and would imagine that she would take it badly of such a plan were to go ahead.

I do have an alternative proposal and shall state it to you here. Why not put the wind turbines off the coast along the Aberdeen to Perth road beside the cliffs as there is no beach there for people to walk on and enjoy?

I know that I am a lonely voice but please at least ponder on the above at your convenience. I know that you are a busy man but this involves my life and many friends as well and I realise that alternative forms of energy have to be made available to serve the public.

Kindest Regards,

[REDACTED]
Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Newburgh
AB41 6DZ

Begin forwarded message:

From: <CorrespondenceUnit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
Date: 26 January 2012 11:53:02 GMT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: To Forward to Alex Salmonds Team Through TUT

[REDACTED]
I would not be able to ask for this attachment from a third party on your behalf.

Therefore, I am unable to forward your query addressed to the Scottish Ministers.

Thomas Hastie
Scottish Government
Ministerial Correspondence Unit
2WR
ST ANDREWS HOUSE, REGENT ROAD, EDINBURGH, EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131 244 2771
e-mail: [REDACTED]

Save Paper - Do you really need to print this e-mail?

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 January 2012 17:34
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Subject: Fwd: To Forward to Alex Salmonds Team Through TUT

Dear Mr Hastie,
I have put the mime attachment in a safe place but if you wish to get a copy, can I please refer you to The RT Honourable Sir Malcolm Bruce MP's case worker to whom I also sent an e-mail.

Sorry for the inconvenience, And thank you for all your help in the matter.

Best Regards,
[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: <CorrespondenceUnit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
Date: 25 January 2012 16:34:34 GMT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: To Forward to Alex Salmonds Team Through TUT

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail.

Was there meant to be an attachment with the e-mail?

Thanks

Thomas Hastie
Scottish Government
Ministerial Correspondence Unit
2WR
ST ANDREWS HOUSE, REGENT ROAD, EDINBURGH, EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131 244 2771
e-mail: Thomas.Hastie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Save Paper - Do you really need to print this e-mail?

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 January 2012 16:31
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: To Forward to Alex Salmonds Team Through TUT

Dear Sir,

Please find a copy of my reservations about the Wind Farm off the coast of Balmedie.

Dear Sir,

Please find below, as a Mime Attachment, for the Ipad, a layout of contradiction and suggestions for the Wind Turbine Saga, Off the coast of Aberdeen Bay.

Please forward to whoever is thought to be interested.

Also, if this attachment cannot be opened, please give me a call on [REDACTED] or e-mail me at the above e-mail address. I thank you for considering my views.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: "MILSOM, Robert" <<mailto:MILSOMR@parliament.uk>
MILSOMR@parliament.uk>
Date: 18 January 2012 13:47:37 GMT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: correspondence on Aberdeen Bay wind farm

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to our telephone conversation, please find attached a copy of your original email to Malcolm Bruce MP regarding Aberdeen Bay wind farm.

I hope that this is helpful. If you have any problems opening this attachment, please do let me know and I will try and send it by an alternative method.

With kind regards,

Rob

Robert Milsom | Senior Caseworker to Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP

T. 01467 623413 | F. 01467 624994 | E. <<mailto:milsomr@parliament.uk>>
<<mailto:milsomr@parliament.uk>> milsomr@parliament.uk

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

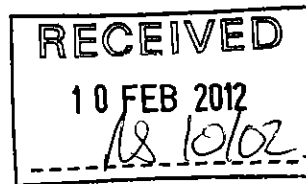
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Best wishes,



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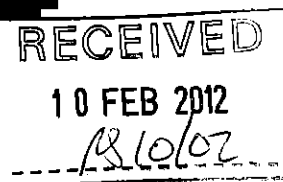
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[REDACTED]
Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Newburgh
AB41 6DZ

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Scottish Government
Ministerial Correspondence Unit
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Tel: 0131 244 2771
e-mail: [REDACTED]

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Rob

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T. 01467 623413 | F. 01467 624994 | E. <<mailto:milsomr@parliament.uk>>
<<mailto:milsomr@parliament.uk>> milsomr@parliament.uk

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 December 2011 22:16
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Re: Object To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

.....
MAKE YOUR OBJECTION TO MARINE SCOTLAND TODAY

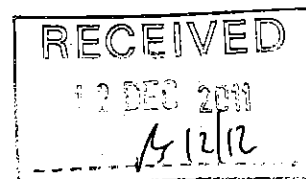
Send your objection to: ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk and
marinescotland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Copy to:

Council)

From: Your name and address

Date: Date



Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

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14/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 December 2011 01:03
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox; MS Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: EOWDC OBJECTION
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

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AFTER WHAT TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HAS ACHIEVED, ITS MAKES SCOTLAND LOOK LIKE ITS CLOSED FOR BUSINESS. WHAT OTHER DEVELOPER WOULD INVEST AFTER SEEING HOW THEY HAVE BEEN TREATED?

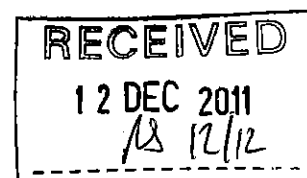
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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14/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 December 2011 19:01
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: Marine Scotland Mailbox; [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

December 8, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

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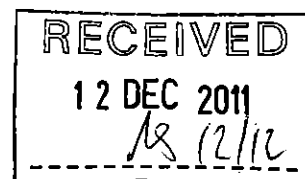
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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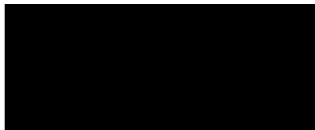
Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 December 2011 16:22
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: MS Marine Licensing; [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue
Attachments: Marine Scotland - objection of windfarm.pdf

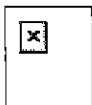
Dear Sir/Madam

Find attached a letter of objection to the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre. I would appreciate if you could forward an acknowledgement of receipt.

Regards



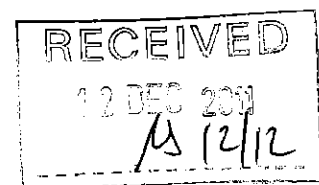
Murcar Links Golf Club



Tel: +44 (0) 1224 704354

Fax: +44 (0) 1224 704354

www.murcarlinks.com



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14/12/2011



MURCAR LINKS GOLF CLUB

Bridge of Don
ABERDEEN
Scotland
AB23 8BD

Tele/Fax: +44 (0) 1224 704354
Email: golf@murcarlinks.com
Web: www.murcarlinks.com

8 December 2011

Marine Scotland Ltd

Dear Sir/Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

On behalf of the Council of the Club, I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on the Aberdeen coastline.

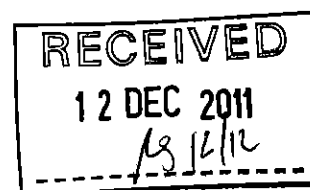
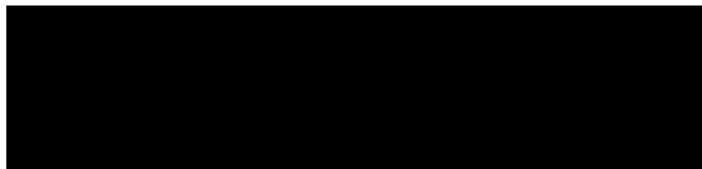
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Yours faithfully



cc.

ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

12/8/2011

[REDACTED] NY 10510

Dear Sir or Madam –

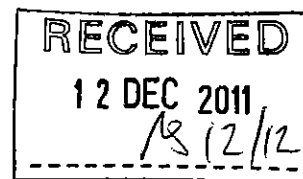
OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Trump National Golf Club – Westchester, NY
100 Shadow Tree Lane
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
O-(914)944-0900
F-(914)944-4567
www.TRUMPGOLF.com
www.TRUMP.com



<http://www.linkedin.com/in/trumpgolf>

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14/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 December 2011 15:24
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox; MS Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

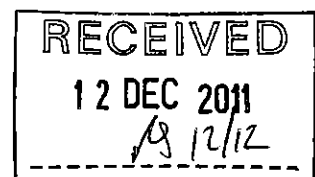
I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Malmaison Aberdeen
49-53 Queens Road
Aberdeen
AB15 4YP

[REDACTED]
T: 01224 327 370
F: 01224 327371
[REDACTED]



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14/12/2011

MARINE SCOTLAND LICENSING
OPERATIONS TEAM,
P.O BOX 101,
375 VICTORIA ROAD,
ABERDEEN,
AB11 9DB



ABERDEEN
AB24 1WH

DATE 6th SEPTEMBER 2011

DEAR SIR

WE ARE OPPOSING THE PROPOSED WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT
BETWEEN BALMEDIE AND BRIDGE OF DON,

(1) THE VISUAL IMPACT WOULD SPOIL THE VIEWS ACROSS ABERDEEN
BAY, FROM OUR 12th FLOOR FLAT WE LOOK OVER THIS BEAUTIFUL BAY,
WITH THE BOATS BOBBING ABOUT ON THE WATER WAITING TO MOOR AT
ABERDEEN HARBOUR, WE DON'T WANT THESE VIEWS SPOILED BY A WIND
FARM,

THIS WIND FARM WOULD BE CLEARLY SEEN ONLY 1.5 MILES FROM SHORE,
BECAUSE WE FLEW FROM ABERDEEN TO LUTON TWO WEEKS AGO AND AT
36,000 FEET THESE WIND FARMS COULD BE SEEN CLEARLY FROM THE AIR,
I COUNTED ABOUT 200 TURBINES JUST IN THIS ONE FLIGHT PATH,

(2) THE DANGER FOR AN ACCIDENT TO HAPPEN IN THIS BUSY SHIPPING
LANE AND HELICOPTER FLIGHT PATH TO THE NORTHSEA OIL RIGS,

WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS DEVELOPMENT,



RECEIVED

12 SEP 2011

12/09

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: May R (Roger)(MARLAB)
Sent: 12 September 2011 11:11
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: FW: Proposed Wind Farm in Aberdeen Bay

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 September 2011 08:26
To: McQuarrie A (Alison); May R (Roger)(MARLAB)
Subject: Proposed Wind Farm in Aberdeen Bay

Hi,

Please see e-mail below that was sent to the Marine Scotland mailbox. Could you let me know if this should be passed onto anyone else.

Thanks,

Lauren

Lauren Reid
Policy Officer
Marine Scotland- Marine Planning and Policy

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 September 2011 11:53
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Proposed Wind Farm in Aberdeen Bay

FAO Marine Scotland Operations Team.

Sirs, I wish to register my objections to the proposed wind farm in Aberdeen bay on the grounds that such structures would distract from our lovely views over this unique and fine bay which stretches from Girdle Ness in the south to Boddam in the north. At present, from Aberdeen beach, we enjoy an ever changing picture in the bay with ships of all types and sizes coming and going from Aberdeen Harbour. The proposed wind farm in its static form would distract from this ever changing picture and ruin forever this enjoyable asset beloved by generations of Aberdonians.

May I suggest to the planners that they consider the area of sea between Greg Ness and Souter Head, south of Aberdeen, all of which lies off an industrial complex and would therefore present little distraction to the workforce.

I have no problem with wind farms in general, only that the siting needs careful considerations, since larger and no doubt ever larger structures will be designed and constructed and will begin to blight the countryside and our seas just offshore

Regards

[REDACTED]
Aberdeen
AB22 8RN
[REDACTED]

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 April 2012 21:30
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sirs

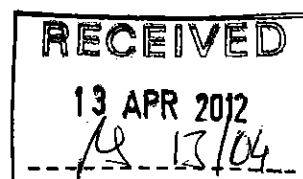
Please acknowledge receipt of this e-mail as an objection to the proposal to site an offshore wind farm close to the coast of Aberdeen.

- May I firstly record my position that I am wholly supportive of the principle of renewable energy – however, it must be sustainable in financial terms – the provision of subsidy implies failure from a medium/long term perspective.
- The informed data from those with knowledge of offshore wind turbine developments is that the cost of installation is grossly understated but that this imbalance is eclipsed several times over by the running expense.
- Whilst laudable from so many perspectives the fact that substantial subsidy is required undermines the entire credibility of normal business testing.
- From a visual perspective I am generally not against towers on land but we must bear in mind the impact on Royal Aberdeen Golf Course (member) Murcar Golf Course adjoining – former recently benefitted from a very successful Walker Cup and recent speculation that the Scottish Open may be held there in 2014 is very exciting and would introduce an added dimension to the North East of Scotland offer.

Please acknowledge receipt of this communication.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Aberdeen
AB15 8FQ
[REDACTED]



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13/04/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 December 2011 10:29
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

FROM:

[REDACTED]
North Deeside Road
Aberdeen, AB15 9YA

DATE:
13th January, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

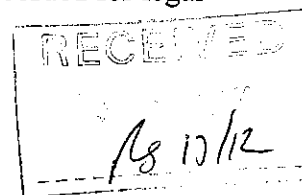
[REDACTED]

I'm totally in favour of the wind farm, but only if it moves North towards Peterhead, not off my beloved Cruden Bay Golf Club

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14/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 December 2011 21:27
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

December 12, 2012

Dear Sir or Madam,

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

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13 DEC 2012

13/12

14/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 December 2011 21:13
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Offshore Windfarm near Balmedie
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir/Madam

I agree with Prince Phillip's recent attack on the controversy regarding wind farms on the coast when he declared them as "absolutely useless" and a "disgrace"

I also agree with the most recent Sunday Times editorial headed quote: "wind farms will end up as expensive follies"

and when it also stated at the end of the article "for reasons of cost and AESTHETICS, we must avoid falling into that trap"

Clearly the proposed project falls into the above category and as such should not proceed.

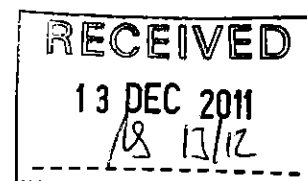
[REDACTED]
Aberdeenersions

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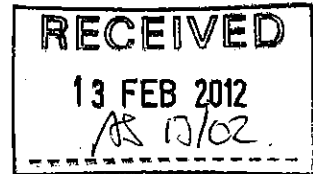
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14/12/2011

MACCS: 2012/0001917 (OR)
DEADLINE: WED 15 FEB.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 January 2012 11:27:08
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Cc: Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism
Subject: FW: Windfarm Monstrosity



Please place on MACCS,

thanks

Kevin West
Correspondence Secretary
Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism
0131 348 5582

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 January 2012 10:30
To: Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism
Subject: Windfarm Monstrosity

Dear Mr. Ewing,
I write to express my horror to what your Government is proposing as to the ruining of our unique countryside and seascapes, by the erection of these foreign manufactured turbines.
Placing these horrid things out of sight is bad enough but to actually contemplate ruining the aspect of what would have been a world renown golf course is unforgivable and shameful.

No doubt you are aware of the anti D.Trump gang in Aberdeen that have and still are orchestrating and spoiling campaign the same ilk that has stopped our essential Bypass being built for so many years.

For God's sake do something that the vast majority of the people want not the politically motivated, and stand up for us the VAST MAJORITY.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

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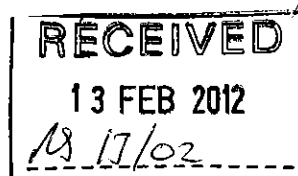
Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 February 2012 11:50
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Objection to the European Offshore Wind Development Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From

[REDACTED]

PETERHEAD,
AB421ZJ
Aberdeenshire.



Dear Sirs,

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC on the grounds of extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeens coastline and my quality of life. The siting of this windfarm is wrong as is the use of an outdated style of renewable energy and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism in the North East of Scotland.

Regards

[REDACTED]

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17/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: McQuarrie A (Alison)
Sent: 13 February 2012 17:08
To: Sutherland AI (Andrew)
Subject: Aberdeen representation

Attachments: S20120005884.PDF

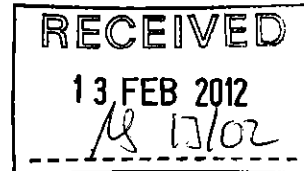


S20120005884.PDF
(17 KB)

Hi Andrew

Another EOWDC email - the contact email is on this one.

Cheers,
Alison



Hastie TW (Thomas)

SCAN

From: Birrell M (Michael) on behalf of First Minister
Sent: 13 February 2012 10:34
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Subject: FW: sa

Attachments: scotland.gif



scotland.gif (92 KB)

For OR please...

Michael Birrell

Information and Office Manager

Office of the First Minister

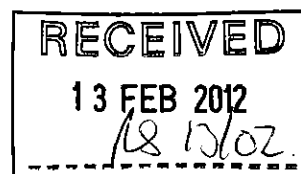
0131 244 5213

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Sent: 12 February 2012 22:13
To: First Minister
Subject: Fw: sa



Sir

I have been watching with interest the ongoing debate regarding the proposed Wind Farm Project in the Aberdeen Bay. may I suggest a relocation of said project to the South of Aberdeen which would allow the Golf Course to be completed to the benefit of Aberdeen and surrounding area Commerce, also would make for the safe passage of the North Sea Oil and Gas Supply and Support Vessels to and from the Aberdeen Port. this I believe would be a win win situation and the Scottish Government could concentrate on Scotlands Independance

Yours Faithfully

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2012 13:53
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

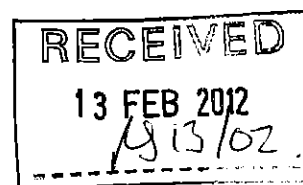
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

We have been working successfully for more than 15 years promoting travel and golf travel also to Scotland from especially the German market which offers (as you are no doubt aware) a large potential of regular travellers. The planned wind-farm will definitely have a detrimental effect on the tourism and golf industry in the region as well as on all the efforts that have so far been undertaken to promote the region, not only in this market.

Yours sincerely,



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Creative Solutions for Tourism, Lifestyle & Golf
Nussbaumstrasse 44
65719 Hofheim (Germany)

13/02/2012

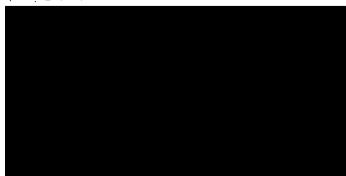


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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 September 2012 21:38
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection to Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From:



AB33 8QR

We object to the proposed development known as Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm. Like all residents of Scotland we are already under siege from onshore developments that have significant, unmitigated, health impacts for those within proximity of the developments (up to 10 km based on current medical research). It is intolerable that our seascapes should now suffer the same desecration as our landscapes. Review of the Interactive Marine Planning Map indicates that the East Coast of Scotland will have almost continuous offshore wind developments from the border through to just short of the North Coast with only minor breaks in coverage. The West Coast evidences only marginally less development indicating that with the exception of the Western Isles and the East Coast of Orkney, Scotland will be entirely surrounded by wind turbines!

In particular this development is inappropriate because of the potential impact on the RAMSARs, Marine SPAs and Marine SACs in the vicinity; or, more specifically, on the fish (such as salmon, trout, sandeel, herring and sprats), mammals, other marine wildlife including seabirds and migratory birds such as geese, and aquaculture associated with them.

Whilst skeins of geese are known to be capable of navigating individual turbines, this does not appear to be the case where significant cumulative impact and turbine density exists and thus a development on this scale will undoubtedly have severe welfare consequences for species in the vicinity of the proposed development.

There will also be an adverse impact on tourism not only effecting the individual businesses who currently depend upon the income from visitors but also the associated onshore local economy in terms of tourist number decreases due to the industrialization of a previously idyllic rural land and seascape. This has the potential to seriously and detrimentally impact the economy of the region. The Trump Organisation also considers that an offshore windfarm will significantly and detrimentally affect the amenity of tourists and thus negatively impact the Menie Estate development. This is further supported by objectors to many other local proposed turbine developments from all over the world indicating that tourists would be less likely to visit Scotland if the industrialisation of the landscape / seascape is allowed to continue and proliferate.

It is unclear the extent to which the fishing industry will be impacted by the proposed development, both in terms of exclusion zones and habitat changes adversely affecting stocks in the direct vicinity and at a wider range both inshore and for species that migrate across the area of the development.

Whilst claims are made in relation to the reduction in both CO2 and SO2 as a result of this development, it is not specified in the available documentation whether lifecycle carbon

accounting rules have been applied, or if these claimed savings relate exclusively to the operational phase of the development and thus exclude between 80% and 95% of the environmental harm and natural capital depletion associated with everything from the rare earth metals mining, through manufacture (of turbines and foundation bases), construction and decommissioning / recycling.

There are also no commitments that the turbines will deliver the estimated power during their lifecycle and, as wind power is notoriously unreliable, and therefore requires traditional backup energy sources, there is also a knock on effect for electricity consumers who are essentially paying twice for generating capacity.

Continuing to promote a technology that has repeatedly failed in multiple locations around the world is folly beyond belief, and raises serious questions over the governance of the elected representatives. It also undermines trust in the elected representatives, processes, policies and controls in place to protect the electorate from inappropriate development and poor governance.

Given that the recent UN Economic Commission for Europe finding that the EU is in breach of the Aarhus Convention in relation to its renewable energy programme which is currently therefore proceeding "without proper authority" leaving the way open for citizens to seek that damages be made good under long established legal precedents, it can surely only be a matter of time before those in fuel poverty who are subsidising a technology that is not only unproven, but has been repeatedly demonstrated to be counter-productive and which the country cannot afford, will seek redress through the courts. Add to this the claims from those whose tourist based or fisheries related businesses are impacted, and Scotland is storing up the next "financial crisis" which is likely to see the country in the same situation as Greece currently finds itself.

It is time for those in positions of governance to take off the blinkers, see through the propaganda, and start investing in a truly sustainable future, where the technology is based on proven science and lifecycle carbon accounting principles rather than spurious claims that do not withstand even the most cursory of reviews.

Yours, etc

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 September 2012 21:39
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection to Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From:
 [REDACTED]

AB33 8ED

We object to the proposed development known as Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm. Like all residents of Scotland we are already under siege from onshore developments that have significant, unmitigated, health impacts for those within proximity of the developments (up to 10 km based on current medical research). It is intolerable that our seascapes should now suffer the same desecration as our landscapes. Review of the Interactive Marine Planning Map indicates that the East Coast of Scotland will have almost continuous offshore wind developments from the border through to just short of the North Coast with only minor breaks in coverage. The West Coast evidences only marginally less development indicating that with the exception of the Western Isles and the East Coast of Orkney, Scotland will be entirely surrounded by wind turbines!

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accounting rules have been applied, or if these claimed savings relate exclusively to the operational phase of the development and thus exclude between 80% and 95% of the environmental harm and natural capital depletion associated with everything from the rare earth metals mining, through manufacture (of turbines and foundation bases), construction and decommissioning / recycling.

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Yours, etc

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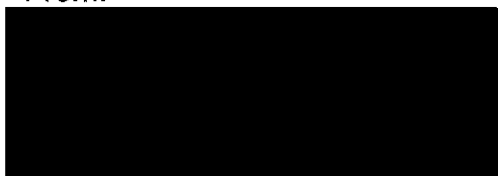
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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 September 2012 21:39
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection to Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From:



AB22 8SS

We object to the proposed development known as Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm. Like all residents of Scotland we are already under siege from onshore developments that have significant, unmitigated, health impacts for those within proximity of the developments (up to 10 km based on current medical research). It is intolerable that our seascapes should now suffer the same desecration as our landscapes. Review of the Interactive Marine Planning Map indicates that the East Coast of Scotland will have almost continuous offshore wind developments from the border through to just short of the North Coast with only minor breaks in coverage. The West Coast evidences only marginally less development indicating that with the exception of the Western Isles and the East Coast of Orkney, Scotland will be entirely surrounded by wind turbines!

In particular this development is inappropriate because of the potential impact on the RAMSARs, Marine SPAs and Marine SACs in the vicinity; or, more specifically, on the fish (such as salmon, trout, sandeel, herring and sprats), mammals, other marine wildlife including seabirds and migratory birds such as geese, and aquaculture associated with them.

Whilst skeins of geese are known to be capable of navigating individual turbines, this does not appear to be the case where significant cumulative impact and turbine density exists and thus a development on this scale will undoubtedly have severe welfare consequences for species in the vicinity of the proposed development.

There will also be an adverse impact on tourism not only effecting the individual businesses who currently depend upon the income from visitors but also the associated onshore local economy in terms of tourist number decreases due to the industrialization of a previously idyllic rural land and seascape. This has the potential to seriously and detrimentally impact the economy of the region. The Trump Organisation also considers that an offshore windfarm will significantly and detrimentally affect the amenity of tourists and thus negatively impact the Menie Estate development. This is further supported by objectors to many other local proposed turbine developments from all over the world indicating that tourists would be less likely to visit Scotland if the industrialisation of the landscape / seascape is allowed to continue and proliferate.

It is unclear the extent to which the fishing industry will be impacted by the proposed development, both in terms of exclusion zones and habitat changes adversely affecting stocks in the direct vicinity and at a wider range both inshore and for species that migrate across the area of the development.

Whilst claims are made in relation to the reduction in both CO2 and SO2 as a result of this development, it is not specified in the available documentation whether lifecycle carbon

accounting rules have been applied, or if these claimed savings relate exclusively to the operational phase of the development and thus exclude between 80% and 95% of the environmental harm and natural capital depletion associated with everything from the rare earth metals mining, through manufacture (of turbines and foundation bases), construction and decommissioning / recycling.

There are also no commitments that the turbines will deliver the estimated power during their lifecycle and, as wind power is notoriously unreliable, and therefore requires traditional backup energy sources, there is also a knock on effect for electricity consumers who are essentially paying twice for generating capacity.

Continuing to promote a technology that has repeatedly failed in multiple locations around the world is folly beyond belief, and raises serious questions over the governance of the elected representatives. It also undermines trust in the elected representatives, processes, policies and controls in place to protect the electorate from inappropriate development and poor governance.

Given that the recent UN Economic Commission for Europe finding that the EU is in breach of the Aarhus Convention in relation to its renewable energy programme which is currently therefore proceeding "without proper authority" leaving the way open for citizens to seek that damages be made good under long established legal precedents, it can surely only be a matter of time before those in fuel poverty who are subsidising a technology that is not only unproven, but has been repeatedly demonstrated to be counter-productive and which the country cannot afford, will seek redress through the courts. Add to this the claims from those whose tourist based or fisheries related businesses are impacted, and Scotland is storing up the next "financial crisis" which is likely to see the country in the same situation as Greece currently finds itself.

It is time for those in positions of governance to take off the blinkers, see through the propaganda, and start investing in a truly sustainable future, where the technology is based on proven science and lifecycle carbon accounting principles rather than spurious claims that do not withstand even the most cursory of reviews.

Yours, etc

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 September 2012 21:38
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection to Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From:
 [REDACTED]

AUSTRALIA
 2530

As natives of Aberdeenshire, we are appalled at the scale of the proposed development in Aberdeen Bay known as Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm. Members of our family still living in Scotland tell us that they are already under siege from onshore developments that have significant, unmitigated, health impacts for those within proximity of the developments (up to 10 km based on current medical research). It is intolerable that the Scottish seascapes should now suffer the same desecration as the unique landscapes of Scotland. We have reviewed the Interactive Marine Planning Map which indicates that the East Coast of Scotland will have almost continuous offshore wind developments from the border through to just short of the North Coast with only minor breaks in coverage. The West Coast evidences only marginally less development indicating that with the exception of the Western Isles and the East Coast of Orkney, Scotland will be entirely surrounded by wind turbines!

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To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection to Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From:



AB33 8NN

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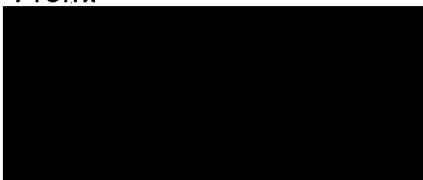
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From: [REDACTED]
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Subject: Objection to Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From:



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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

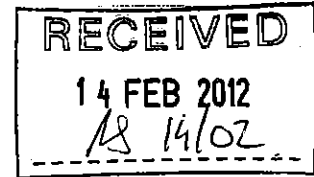
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 February 2012 09:02
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Re Windfarm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir

I object to the proposed wind-farm to be sited off Aberdeen beach,

[REDACTED]
Peterhead
AB42 1QS



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www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 September 2011 16:05
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Attachments: Trump Objection.pdf

I attach a copy of an objection on behalf of The Trump Organization to the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) Consent Application.

I confirm a hard copy of the attached will be delivered to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

T R U M P

THE TRUMP ORGANIZATION

[REDACTED] – International Development
and Assistant General Counsel
725 Fifth Avenue | New York, NY | 10022
p. 212.836.3204 | f. 212.980.3821
gsorial@trumporg.com | trump.com

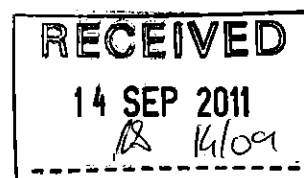
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15/09/2011

September 14, 2011

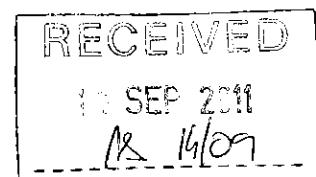
Dear First Minister Salmond:

I object in the strongest possible terms to the current location of the wind turbines as proposed by Vattenfall, which are only 2 km from my championship golf course and directly opposite Royal Aberdeen Golf Club. Its adverse visual impact on my development and the beautiful Aberdeen coastline will be disastrous and environmentally irresponsible.

Despite the economic downturn, I have continued to move forward with my project because of what it means to me personally and because I want to create a wonderful legacy in Scotland. I will have soon invested approximately £60,000,000 of my own money (which is not a public subsidy, unlike the funding for Vattenfall's turbines) to create a world class golf resort under my global brand. After enduring the expense and many years of complex planning procedures, the championship course is nearing completion, well ahead of schedule. Unfortunately, instead of celebrating the start of something valuable and beautiful for Scotland, this ugly cloud is hanging over the future of the great Scottish coastline.

My objection to the wind farm should come as no surprise to anyone because I have consistently warned of the adverse consequences it would have on my development and on Aberdeen. As I stated five years ago, I would not have gone forward with wind turbines off our coastline and was repeatedly promised, as an incentive for us to proceed with my project, that wind turbines would not be destroying and distorting Aberdeen's magnificent coastline. Despite repeated assurances from Vattenfall and others that the turbines would not be visible from my site, the current application indicates otherwise.

Many places that actually respect their coastline, such as Cape Cod, Massachusetts (and numerous others) have totally rejected these wind farms entirely because they are unsightly and noisy. No matter how far out they are sited, their terrible screeching sounds are audible to both people and wildlife. Just recently a major story appeared that highly protected and prized bald eagles are being killed by a wind turbine in California. What's even worse, energy experts have proven that wind farms are a major disappointment and yield only a fraction of their intended capacity. After totally decimating the local bird population, Aberdeen will be left with a useless eyesore obstructing everyone's beautiful view of the North Sea --- no one will know what to do with them.



In short, this wind farm should not be built, or alternatively, be relocated. If not, you should ask yourself if any other international developer would ever risk investing in Scotland after my experience and all the promises that were made to me!

Yours sincerely,



The Trump Organization

PS: Would you put a wind farm opposite St. Andrews - - - I don't think so!

THE TRUMP ORGANIZATION
MENIE ESTATE GOLF RESORT
OBJECTION TO THE 'EOWDC' OFF SHORE WIND FARM
SUPPORTING INFORMATION TO OBJECTION

Background:

1. In December 2008, the Scottish Ministers granted outline planning permission for a golf course and resort development at the Menie Estate. Work on the championship golf course started on 19 November 2009 with marram grass planting. Course construction works started on 1 July 2010 with an anticipated completion date of 1 July 2012.
2. From the outset, Mr Trump has clearly stated his intention to develop a world class championship golf course with world class facilities, including the resort hotel.
3. Mr Trump has also consistently warned of the adverse consequences of this wind farm.¹
4. On 14 December 2010, a letter outlining our concerns was submitted to Vattenfall AB.²
5. There has been no effective consultation or engagement with our team on this wind farm. We now see that what we were shown was inaccurate and misleading.
6. We attach a photomontage which accurately shows the adverse visual impact of the wind farm on our development.³

Grounds of objection:

7. Our grounds of objection are:
 - a. Adverse impact on tourism;
 - b. Adverse visual impact;
 - c. Incompatibility of neighbouring uses; and
 - d. Economic impact on Aberdeenshire and Scotland.

¹ See Press Cuttings - Appendix 1

² Appendix 2

³ Appendix 3

Adverse Impact on Tourism:

8. Vattenfall's Tourism Report⁴ is fundamentally flawed because it concludes that:

*"the impact of the proposed development on **Tourism** is considered to be of negligible significance."*⁵

9. First of all, it is based on a Marine Scotland economic impact assessment⁶ in relation to off shore wind farms in the broad areas of Scotland⁷, including the "North East focusing on Beatrice." Beatrice is located more than 22 km off shore on the Continental Shelf in sharp contrast to this site, which is only 2 - 4km off shore. We question the relevance of reliance on this assessment.

10. The Report then states:

"The views of consultees supported this view, though the close proximity of the Trump Development at Menie Estate has been noted. Construction of new golf courses is well underway at Menie and the EOWDC lies to the south east of the estate."

11. That is the *only* consideration of impact on our resort. It is inaccurate, superficial and without any evidential base. It does not provide a sound, prudent or reasonable basis for their conclusion.

12. The reality is that this wind farm will significantly impact on our resort to the extent that the remaining parts will be at risk.

13. They have written off the possibility of impact on our resort on the basis of one sentence:

"Construction of new golf courses is well underway at Menie and the EOWDC lies to the south east of the estate."

14. The first part of that sentence is incorrect. Construction is only underway in relation to the championship golf course. The second golf course is not "well underway". Nor are the commercial elements of the development, including, in particular, the resort hotel.

15. Without asking us, they have assumed that, since work has started, the whole development will be completed! Their assumption is wrong, unjustified and arrogant. It ignores the commercial risks facing all projects in this economic climate, as well as the specific commercial risks for our resort if our beautiful seascape is blighted by an industrial development.

16. The meaning of the second part of their sentence is obscure. What is the relevance of the fact that it lies to the south east of the Menie Estate?

⁴ ES: Appendix 23.2: Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism EIA Technical Report dated July 2011

⁵ Paragraph 1.7 of the Tourism Report

⁶ Marine Scotland: Economic Assessment of Short Term Options for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters: Costs and Benefits to Other Marine Users and Interests 2011

⁷ Specified in Draft Offshore Wind Energy

17. They have simply dismissed the possibility of any adverse impact on either the championship golf course or the resort just because the championship golf course is under construction.
18. We are aware of studies/surveys on the impact of on shore wind farms on tourism.⁸ Although they generally conclude that there should be minimal impact on the tourism, this case can clearly be distinguished from the generality. This case involves the location of an off shore wind farm in the direct sight line of our proposed world class golf resort.
19. One report⁹ said: *"Most people appear to believe that, from the hotel bedroom, it is better to face an open hillside, rather than a wind farm."* This also applies to the outstandingly beautiful seaward views from both the championship golf course and the resort hotel.

Gleneagles Comparison:

20. The Gleneagles Hotel objected to a wind farm¹⁰ within 2.4km of The Queen's Course stating:

"It is a fundamental concern to Gleneagles Hotel that the compatibility of both the hotel resort and the wind farm could exist without there being a detrimental economic impact on the future success of Gleneagles, as a major international tourism, leisure and business operation."

"Resorts are recognised, at both national and regional level, as key economic assets in achieving stated aims but importantly in fostering sustainable economic growth."

This wind farm was rejected partly due to the potential negative economic impact on the Gleneagles Hotel complex.

Macrahanish Comparison:

21. Earlier this year SSE abandoned plans for a wind farm off shore from the Macrahanish dunes in Kintyre. Critics successfully argued that the wind farm would damage tourism and destroy the beautiful seascape.
22. An off shore wind farm is incompatible with a world class golf resort, including a championship golf course. We are unaware of any UK precedent for siting an off shore wind farm within 2-4 kilometres of a championship links golf course.
23. Their conclusion on tourism impact should be **Very High and Major**¹¹, not of negligible significance.

⁸ For instance, the Scottish Government commissioned Glasgow Caledonian University to assess whether Government priorities for wind farms in Scotland are likely to have an economic impact – either positive or negative – on Scottish tourism

⁹ The Glasgow Caledonian University study

¹⁰ The proposed on shore wind farm at Standingfauld

¹¹ Table 2.2 of the Report

Adverse Visual Impact:

24. In December 2010 Vattenfall provided Trump International with wire frame diagrams showing the expected visual impact, at that time, of the proposed wind turbines from various points across the championship golf course and the hotel site. A letter was sent to Vattenfall in response setting out our position that "these impacts are completely unacceptable".¹²
25. The ES submitted by Vattenfall does not include the championship golf course or the hotel site as a viewpoint. We therefore attach a photomontage which clearly shows the adverse visual impact on the Menie Estate.¹³ The photomontage shows the visual impact from the 4th hole of the championship golf course. The impact shown is not dissimilar to the impact shown to us by the Applicant from the hotel site in December. It is also not dissimilar to the impact shown in the ES on Balmedie Beach. The ES concludes that the impact on Balmedie Beach is **major**.
26. The Vattenfall ES refers to a 'long process' starting in 2002 to select a suitable location for the wind farm. In selecting this location, they claim to have had discussions with key environmental and other stakeholders. But not with us. Why not?
27. Also, in justifying their changes to positions and number of turbines¹⁴, there is no mention of assessing visual impact. The reasons given relate to MOD firing range, shipping and helicopter routes. There is no evidence of any proper consideration of visual impact on shore.
28. This application also lacks substantive detail. The layout in indicative plans could vary significantly from what they have shown. Given the research status of this windfarm, they need flexibility in turbine size and layout. It would be far more appropriate to locate this wind farm in an industrial or low value area where its external appearance would be unlikely to be seen other than in an industrial context.
29. They could not risk discussing on shore visual impact with us because they knew that it would not be possible either to design out or mitigate the visual impact on our resort – so they kept their heads down, no doubt in the hope that by the time we realised what was happening it would be too late. They add insult to injury by dismissing impact on our resort simply because work had started on the championship course.

Incompatibility of neighbouring uses:

30. An off shore research wind farm, especially one with unusual design characteristics, such as varying turbine sizes, is not compatible with a world class links golf course.

¹² Appendix 2

¹³ Appendix 3

¹⁴ ES Table 2.1

31. There is no way that any international hotel operator will commit to developing a world class hotel overlooking what will be an off shore industrial facility.
32. There is no UK precedent for locating a wind farm just off shore from championship links golf course.
33. The location of the Trump Golf Resort is fixed, so the location of the wind farm should be moved.

Economic impact on Aberdeenshire and Scotland:

34. We know that this wind farm is a commercial undertaking which benefits from public funding having secured a grant of up to 40 million Euros. The European Commission website notes the project is "realising an offshore wind testing facility off Aberdeen."
35. But the intention cannot have been to spend public money on a project which would directly impact on a £1 billion inward investment project. With such a significant grant, it must be feasible to locate the wind farm "off Aberdeen" without risking our resort.
36. In an extremely difficult market, Mr Trump has continued to invest in Aberdeenshire and in Scotland. This significant investment, which does not benefit from public subsidy, has been ongoing since 2005 and has funded one of the most complex consenting processes in Scottish planning history. Mr Trump has a legitimate expectation that no decision will now be taken to undermine the commercial viability of his project – simply because it is easier to move the wind farm away from other uses.
37. The opportunity cost of approving the wind farm in this location will be the economic benefits of the Trump Golf Resort, as reported to the Scottish Ministers in 2008.¹⁵

Conclusion:

38. The Scottish Ministers, local authorities, other decision makers and supporters should be working to secure delivery of both developments in the interests of sustainable economic and social growth.

¹⁵ The Fraser of Allander Institute report on The Economic Impact of the Menie Estate Development on the Scottish and local economy

APPENDIX 1

**PRESS CUTTINGS
FROM 2006 - PRESENT**

Sunday Herald (Glasgow, UK)

3 April 2006

Section: News

Anger over Trump's threat to pull-out of golf development TOURISM: NEW ROW £300m investment under threat over windfarms

By Jenifer Johnston

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have slammed Donald Trump's threats to withdraw from building a prestigious golf resort in the northeast unless a windfarm development is halted.

The American billionaire warned on Friday that he would abandon a planned pounds-300 million world-class Aberdeenshire golf investment unless proposals for a nearby windfarm were scrapped.

Trump, who is of Scottish descent, claimed he chose the location – an 800acre stretch of sand dunes on the Menie Estate, near Balmedie – over 211 other sites around the world. But the businessman fears that a windfarm would spoil the "ocean views" from the links.

Aberdeen City Council is currently carrying out a feasibility study into an offshore windfarm development in Aberdeen Bay. Last night politicians and renewable energy campaigners called for the council and the Scottish Executive not to bow to pressure from the entrepreneur. Green MSP Robin Harper, who is chair of the parliament's cross party Renewable Energy group, warned against capitulating to Trump.

He said: "We need to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of how much we will gain from the Trump investment – how much of the profit will stay here and how much will go overseas? Windfarm campaigners have been trying to get projects moved offshore but if it becomes a precedent that these are then classed as 'ugly' then we won't get anywhere. What else would he like to ban – would he stop boats and tankers as well?" Trump's plans are seen as a major tourism opportunity for the northeast.

The entrepreneur revealed that the First Minister, Jack McConnell, personally telephoned him to persuade him to choose Scotland over rival locations.

But Duncan McLaren, chief executive of Friends of the Earth Scotland, said reducing carbon emissions should be a higher priority for the Executive than backing a new golf course. He added:

"Instead of attacking climate-friendly wind power, Mr Trump should be embracing it.

Renewables, such as wind power, may be the only thing that will stop top golf courses from being literally being washed away by climate change." Trump aims to submit a planning application for the resort to Aberdeenshire Council in May, but the feasibility study into the windfarm project being carried out by Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) – a consortium of businesses and the council – may not be finished for some months.

It has also emerged that Scottish Enterprise is involved with both the golf deal and the windfarm. An arm of the quango, Scottish Direct Investment, has been in the US helping to facilitate the Trump Organisation in their plans, but the Scottish Enterprise Energy Group is part of the AREG consortium.

A spokesman for Scottish Enterprise said yesterday: "Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development International are duty bound to pursue economic development opportunities but we always make it clear that any proposal is subject to the statutory planning process.

Any decision on Mr Trump's proposals or the plans for the wind farm is entirely a matter for the local authorities." It is understood that if Trump fails to gain planning permission in Aberdeenshire a site in Ireland would be second choice, but he has stressed his desire to invest here.

P & J

4 April 2006

Windfarm and trump's golf resort compatible - 'greens'

Tom Kirk

Innovative plans for a £100million windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen should prove compatible with Donald Trump's scheme for a huge new golf resort, environmentalists claimed yesterday.

The property tycoon, who plans to create "the greatest golf course in the world" at Menie Links, near Balmedie, has threatened to pull out unless the other project is scrapped.

Green campaigners have reacted angrily to Mr Trump's statement that he will go elsewhere if the turbines end up spoiling the "ocean views" from his 800-acre stretch of dunes at Menie Links.

But it is understood that the renewable energy scheme, developed jointly by the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and the engineering giant Amec, may not clash directly with his plans.

About 20 turbines could be built stretching roughly from Bridge of Don to Blackdog, starting about three-quarters of a mile out to sea. Such a development is likely to fall about three-and-a-half miles short of the southernmost tip of Donald Trump's earmarked site.

Areg's chairman Jeremy Cresswell indicated yesterday that the scheme was an "evolving" one, the layout of which is being refined in line with consultations.

Mr Trump has so far made no effort to speak to Areg about the matter, however.

Mr Cresswell said such a move might be "helpful" at this stage. "Areg with Amec are going through a very detailed consultation process at the moment," he said.

"We would welcome an approach from the Trump Organisation.

"We believe the two projects are mutually compatible."

VisitScotland, which gave the unveiling of Mr Trump's proposals a rapturous welcome last week, said tourist ventures should be compatible with renewable energy schemes wherever possible.

A spokeswoman said: "We want to reiterate what a coup it is that Donald Trump wants to invest here.

"It is great news for tourism, but we are also fully behind drives towards sustainable and renewable energy sources.

"We hope that the two, in general terms, can be compatible with one another."

Audrey Findlay, chairwoman of Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum, said she also hoped some sort of compromise could be reached.

Neither the Trump Organisation nor Areg has yet formally submitted a planning application. Mr Trump is expected to present his proposals to Aberdeenshire Council in May, and has said he will only tolerate quick progress thereafter, with a view to starting work as soon as September.

But the strenuous consultation carried out by Areg about its own scheme suggests the deadline could prove ambitious. Since outlining its plans in 2003, the organisation has consulted both the public and a wide range of interest groups, while also assessing the potential impact on shipping, bird life and marine ecology.

Mr Trump's own project, as well as having to pass through a complicated council planning procedure, will have to meet with the approval of Scottish Natural Heritage.

SNH has already expressed concerns because the resort would cover about a third of Foveran Links, deemed an environmentally important site of special scientific interest.

P & J

4 April 2006

Windfarm And Trump's Golf Resort Compatible, Say Environmentalists

Tom Kirk

Innovative plans for a £100million windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen should prove compatible with Donald Trump's scheme for a huge new golf resort, environmentalists claimed yesterday.

The property tycoon, who plans to create "the greatest golf course in the world" at Menie Links, near Balmedie, has threatened to pull out unless the other project is scrapped.

Green campaigners have reacted angrily to Mr Trump's statement that he will go elsewhere if the turbines end up spoiling the "ocean views" from his 800-acre stretch of dunes at Menie Links.

But it is understood that the renewable energy scheme, developed jointly by the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and the engineering giant Amec, may not clash directly with his plans.

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Mr Trump has so far made no effort to speak to Areg about the matter, however.

Mr Cresswell said such a move might be "helpful" at this stage, adding: "Areg with Amec are going through a very detailed consultation process at the moment. We would welcome an approach from the Trump Organisation.

"We believe the two projects are mutually compatible."

VisitScotland, which gave the unveiling of Mr Trump's proposals a rapturous welcome last week, said tourist ventures should be compatible with renewable energy schemes wherever possible.

A spokeswoman said: "We want to reiterate what a coup it is that Donald Trump wants to invest here.

"It is great news for tourism, but we are also fully behind drives towards sustainable and renewable energy sources.

"We hope that the two, in general terms, can be compatible with one another."

Audrey Findlay, chairwoman of Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum, said she also hoped some sort of compromise could be reached. Neither the Trump Organisation nor Areg has yet formally submitted a planning application.

Mr Trump is expected to present his proposals to Aberdeenshire Council in May, and has said he will only tolerate quick progress thereafter, with a view to starting work as soon as September. But the strenuous consultation carried out by Areg about its own scheme suggests the deadline could prove ambitious.

Since outlining its plans in 2003, the organisation has consulted both the public and a wide range of interest groups, while also assessing the potential impact on shipping, bird life and marine ecology.

Mr Trump's own project, as well as having to pass through a complicated council planning procedure, will have to meet with the approval of Scottish Natural Heritage.

SNH has already expressed concerns because the resort would cover about a third of Foveran Links, deemed an environmentally important site of special scientific interest.

The local councillor, Debra Storr, said yesterday the Trump Organisation would have to understand in detail what made the environment unique if its plans were to come to fruition.

"They've got to consider the total environmental package, not least because it is precisely that aspect that's attracting them to the area in the first place," she said.

Scottish Enterprise, which has worked closely with the Trump Organisation, said both developments would have to go through a fair and balanced planning process.

A spokesman added: "We are duty-bound to pursue economic management opportunities wherever they arise, but we always make it clear to investors that their proposals are subject to statutory planning procedures.

"Any decisions on Mr Trump's proposals or plans to build a windfarm are entirely a matter for the local planning authority and the Scottish Executive."

Aberdeen Evening Express

4 April 2006

'Windfarm won't Trump Donald's golfing dream'

Lynn Kernan

Environmental experts today rubbish fears a wind farm could scupper plans for a multi-million pound golf course.

Millionaire Donald Trump has threatened to ditch proposals for the Balmedie resort.

The businessman and star of hit US show *The Apprentice* reportedly fears an offshore windfarm will ruin the £300 million development.

Flamboyant American property developer Trump is due to submit a planning application for two courses, a luxury hotel and around 400 holiday homes.

But he said he would abandon his dream of creating the world's greatest golf course if the coast is blighted by a windfarm.

He said: "I would have no interest in proceeding.

"If they were to ruin Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen with that, then I would walk away. We would sell the site and go elsewhere."

But today environmentalists insisted the planned £100 million wind farm would not clash with Trump's development.

Green campaigners said the innovative scheme, being developed by the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and the engineering giant Amec, would see 20 turbines built offshore stretching from Bridge of Don to Blackdog.

It is likely to fall about three-and-a-half miles short of the southern tip of the site earmarked for the golf resort.

Areg chairman Jeremy Cresswell said: "Areg with Amec are going through a very detailed consultation process at the moment. We would welcome an approach from the Trump organisation.

"We believe the two projects are mutually compatible."

And tourism representatives also hope the two schemes can work together for the benefit of the city.

A spokeswoman for VisitScotland said: "We want to reiterate what a coup it is that Donald Trump wants to invest here.

"It is great news for tourism, but we are also fully behind drives towards sustainable and renewable energy sources."

Offshore Aberdeen wind turbines could start spinning in the next two or three years - the same timescale for the building of the Trump golf resort.

Mr Trump is expected to present his proposals to Aberdeenshire Council in May with a view to starting work as soon as September.

5 April 2006

Sir Sean tees up to join Trump's new course

Scots actor Sir Sean Connery has become the first celebrity name to sign up for membership at Donald Trump's planned £300 million golf course in Balmedie.

Wearing a kilt, the former James Bond, 75, was at an event celebrating New York's annual Tartan Week.

He told of his plans to sign up to play at the course Trump wants to build in Aberdeenshire. Planning permission for the site could be submitted within months, but Trump has said he could pull out of the venture if plans for a £100 million wind farm go ahead.

Advisors for Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group have responded by inviting the American millionaire to join discussions for the site.

Spokesman Iain Todd said: "From day one we have put a great deal of emphasis on a thorough consultation process.

We would encourage the Trump Organisation to join this."

The innovative scheme would see 20 turbines built offshore, stretching from Bridge of Don to Blackdog.

It is likely to fall three-and-a-half miles short of the southern tip of the site earmarked for the golf resort.

Plans are due to be submitted plans for a two courses, a luxury hotel and around 400 holiday homes.

But Mr Trump has said he would "sell the site and go elsewhere" if the coast is blighted by the windfarm.

Areg hopes the two schemes will be able to work together to find a solution.

Aberdeen Evening Express

6 April 2006

Trump card in having brighter outlook for all

At Last Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire could live up to that new logo - "A Brighter Outlook". Donald Trump's plan to create a £300 million world-class golf course gives this area a golden opportunity to rise above being the poor cousin to Edinburgh, Glasgow and even Dundee.

It's a dream come true for Aberdeen - unless the powers-that-be blow it.

The general public and Mr Trump have one factor in common - they don't want windfarms at the beach.

Let's hope the authorities listen, because if they don't the proposed plans could well go to Ireland.

To give Donald Trump the freedom to set up at Balmedie will have a ripple effect beyond our wildest dreams.

Perhaps when he sees the gridlock on our roads he might consider financing, in part, an underground tunnel bypass. Other possibilities are a private air strip and helipad.

After all Aberdeen Airport is a long way short of providing "jet set" facilities and standards.

If this opportunity is missed, then the Lord Provost can lock the gates of the city after the mass exodus of businesses looking for a brighter outlook elsewhere.

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire have a golden opportunity.

They must start welcoming the millionaires.

Kay Bremner City Centre Aberdeen

11 April 2006

Provost calms tycoon's concern over windfarm

Fiona McWhirter

Aberdeen's Lord Provost today revealed tycoon Donald Trump's concerns about a windfarm ruining his North-east golf dream have been overcome.

John Reynolds met the tycoon during New York's Tartan Week and he is confident any worries Mr Trump had over a wind farm programme near his proposed golf course at Balmedie were erased with a face-to-face meeting.

The Lord Provost met Mr Trump in his penthouse office on the 26th floor of Trump Towers.

Mr Reynolds said: "He was very positive about Scotland and he is very committed to Scotland, hence wanting to build a golf course over here.

"The one thing he did bring up was the wind farm. He had been looking at the original plans for the wind farm which is for a single line of windmills. But it went to consultation and is now to be a double line."

He said the new lay-out would keep the windmills closer to Aberdeen making them far less of an eyesore near his site.

The proposed £300 million links project will feature two championship golf courses, a five-star hotel, golf academy, a turf grass research centre and a mixed residential development.

Having celebrated Tartan Week in the Big Apple, the Lord Provost said he returned the invitation to Mr Trump.

"I invited him to our Tartan Day, on August 5," he said.

"He didn't have his diary on him but hopefully he will come."

P & J

16 April 2006

Trump will jet in to see £300m dune site

Tom Kirk

Donald Trump is to visit the site of his planned £300million north-east golfing resort at the end of the month.

The billionaire business tycoon will fly into Aberdeen by private jet on April 28 and spend the weekend at the Menie Estate, heading back to New York on April 30.

It will be Mr Trump's first visit to Scotland since he announced his plans to develop Trump International Golf Links, Scotland, on the stretch of dunes near Balmedie, north of Aberdeen.

As exclusively revealed in the Press and Journal, he intends to spend nearly £300million building two championship golf courses, a five-star 400-bedroom hotel, a golf academy, holiday homes and other facilities.

In a brief statement yesterday, a spokeswoman for the Trump Organisation said: "He will be arriving first thing on the Friday morning on his 727 from New York, which is custom-fitted to suit all his personal needs.

"He will spend the weekend on the stunning Menie Estate and then leave on Sunday evening from Aberdeen."

Mr Trump's plans have already met with an enthusiastic response from the local tourist industry, politicians and various economic bodies.

Assuming it goes ahead, the development is expected to contribute £157million to the local economy over 10 years and create up to 400 jobs.

Mr Trump, whose mother was from Lewis, has described the project as a chance to "come home" to his Scottish roots and plans on bringing the Open championship to Aberdeenshire.

But with the property magnate adamant that the resort will open in 2008, some potential sticking points remain.

He has already threatened to pull out altogether if a planned offshore windfarm, developed jointly by the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and the engineering giant Amec, spoils the view from the estate.

Areg claims that the adventurous scheme need not clash with Mr Trump's own development, but so far the matter is unresolved.

Scottish Natural Heritage has meanwhile also expressed concerns about the stretch of coastline, which is a protected area, designated a site of special scientific interest.

It has, however, said that it wants to work closely with the Trump Organisation to "find a way forward", and the American firm has likewise insisted it will respect the local environment in its design.

It is expected the company will formally submit its planning application to Aberdeenshire Council in May.

21 April 2006

New windfarm plans to be unveiled

A New lay-out for Aberdeen's windfarm will be unveiled at next month's renewable energy conference in the city.

City council leader Kate Dean said she hoped the plan would not deter American billionaire Donald Trump from bring a £300 million golf development to the North-east.

The property tycoon wants to build two courses, a luxury hotel and around 400 holiday homes at Balmedie.

But he has said he would abandon his dream of creating the world's greatest golf course if the coast is blighted by a windfarm.

Councillor Dean told the council's policy and strategy committee Mr Trump's organisation had been looking at "historical plans" for the windfarm and said a new layout would be unveiled.

She said: "The Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group has invited Mr Trump's people to engage in dialogue."

The £100 million windfarm, being developed by the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and the engineering giant Amec, would see around 20 turbines built just offshore, stretching from Bridge of Don to Blackdog.

It is likely to fall about three-and-a-half miles short of the southern tip of the site earmarked for the golf resort.

Mrs Dean pointed out the windfarm plans were being continually refined.

Offshore Aberdeen wind turbines could start spinning in the next two or three years - the same timescale for the building of the Trump golf resort.

Mr Trump is expected to present his proposals to Aberdeenshire Council in May with a view to starting work as soon as September. He will be flying into the region on April 28.

P & J

28 April 2006

Trump's visit likely to go a fairway to clearing up doubts

Tom Kirk

Donald Trump is expected to receive a warm welcome when he arrives in the north-east tomorrow, despite ongoing doubts and concerns over his planned luxury golf resort.

The billionaire businessman is due to touch down at Aberdeen airport by private jet tomorrow morning, before spending the weekend at the Menie Estate, the site of the proposed £300million development.

The tycoon's visit will take place less than a month after his plans for the 800-acre stretch of dunes near Balmedie were revealed. Its official purpose is to give him a chance to view the site in detail, but it is also likely to help consolidate the rapturous reception his plans were given by tourism and business leaders as well as politicians.

Mr Trump intends to build two championship golf courses, a five-star 400-bedroom hotel, a golf academy, holiday homes and other facilities. It is expected to contribute £157million to the local economy over 10 years and create up to 400 jobs.

But the climate in which he arrives will be subtly different from that in which the plans were announced a month ago.

Despite ongoing, widespread support for Mr Trump's scheme, doubts and concerns have also been raised during the intervening weeks. As recently as Monday the plans made headlines when First Minister Jack McConnell, was accused of breaching ministerial guidelines by backing the project.

Mr McConnell has denied that he broke the ministerial code of conduct by meeting Mr Trump or expressing his pleasure when the project was announced. Councillors and some MSPs believe he has come close to prejudicing a forthcoming decision on the matter.

A planned offshore windfarm, a joint development by the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and the engineering giant Amec, is the foremost of various environmental concerns connected with the site. Areg has said the two projects are compatible, but Mr Trump has threatened to pull out unless it is scrapped, because it might spoil the "ocean views" from the estate.

Questions also remain as to how far Mr Trump has appreciated or is prepared to tolerate a potentially long-winded planning process once the plans are submitted in May.

The billionaire says he wants the resort to open in 2008, but Aberdeenshire Council officials have suggested the deadline is ambitious given the number of steps the scheme will have to pass through before it is thrown out or approved.

P & J

29 April 2006

End in sight over trump stand-off

Tom Kirk

There was growing optimism last night that a stand-off between the Trump Organisation and the developers of an offshore windfarm might be resolved, as the two sides met ahead of Donald Trump's own arrival in Scotland today.

The Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) said it was increasingly confident its plans to build more than 20 turbines off the north-east coast could prove compatible with the business tycoon's own proposals for a £300million golf resort.

Representatives from both Areg and the engineering company Amec, who are behind the windfarm plans, met staff from the Trump Organisation yesterday.

Mr Trump had previously threatened to withdraw his proposals and any economic benefits they might bring if the turbines threatened to spoil the "ocean views" from the Menie Estate, near Balmedie.

But the line from the Trump Organisation last night was that they had held an "informative" first meeting about the two projects.

There was no repeat of the threat to pull out.

Areg described the discussions as a positive first step to resolving the issue and proving the two schemes can work alongside one another.

Although no resolution has yet been reached, further meetings are expected, while the positive mood will pave the way for Mr Trump's arrival at Aberdeen Airport this morning. He will make his first official visit to Menie Links this weekend.

Ian Todd, senior adviser to Areg, said: "We found the meeting very open, constructive and informative and we discussed the benefits of both projects.

"I think it is now obvious that the nearest turbine is some miles from their golf course and that was really at the centre of our discussions. My line all along has been that I hope we end up as good neighbours. Hopefully the meeting has begun that process."

Areg, a private and public sector partnership, says the Trump Organisation's original statement was made in response to a previous windfarm design that has since been revised.

The group's current plan is to build about 23 turbines offshore from the Bridge of Don to Blackdog, the northernmost of which would be almost four miles from the dunes.

Some of the turbines would still be visible to golfers but Areg insists that they will be far enough away not to dominate the view.

In a brief statement yesterday, a spokeswoman for the Trump Organisation said: "The objective of the meeting was to discuss the respective proposed projects for Aberdeenshire."

She said it would be "one of many meetings The Trump Organisation will be having with representatives from a variety of businesses in the area".

No date has been set for further meetings between the three organisations.

Aberdeen Evening Express

29 April 2006

Back me or I'm off

Karen Grant

Property tycoon Donald Trump today pledged to make his North-east golf course the best in the world.

The American billionaire touched down in Aberdeen today to discuss his plans for a course and hotel complex at the Menie Estate, near Balmedie.

But he warned if he did not get local backing, he would pull the plug on the £300 million project.

And the businessman raised concerns about offshore wind farms.

Mr Trump's first words as he stepped off his private jet onto the windswept tarmac of Dyce Airport, were: "I'm here to build the greatest golf course in the world.

"It is going to be very good, and economically good for Aberdeen. We are creating a legend here."

And he said he wanted Scottish actor Sir Sean Connery to be the first to tee off.

There have been concerns that Mr Trump might pull out of the project if an offshore windfarm is built nearby.

Today, he said: "I don't think we want to ruin the beauty and majesty of the land with wind farms. They are not the most pretty things. I think wave power is the way to go."

And he stated clearly that if he didn't get backing for his project, he would take his money somewhere else.

"If the community groups, the community, the local representatives or local politicians for any reason think we are not doing them right then we will go somewhere else," he said.

"There are a few other sites I think this could be achieved but I want it to be in Scotland."

Giving hints at what the clubhouse might look like, Mr Trump, who hopes to lodge an application with Aberdeenshire Council as early as next month, said it would be a Victorian-style design with verandas.

"It will be one of the most spectacular in the world," he said.

The site will also host a five-star, 500-bedroom hotel.

Some residents in the area have been approached by Trump's team, which is interested in buying up property.

Mr Trump was accompanied today by architect Tom Fazio and vice president of the Trump Golf Organisation, Ashley Cooper, at the press conference.

He said he was looking forward to an "intense weekend" speaking to residents and officials. Smiling as questions were fired at him, Mr Trump appeared to be enjoying himself.

And he shared a laugh with our reporter when we presented him with a set of Evening Express golf balls.

When asked about the haar and windy weather at Balmedie, Mr Trump said: "This is the home of golf and part of it is because of the weather."

He said he would like to stage the British Open at the Menie resort.

Mr Trump said he counted Nick Faldo among his friends and he would like to see the golf champion and Colin Montgomerie play on his course.

Mr Trump hit back at critics of Scotland's First Minister, Jack McConnell who has been accused of breaching guide lines by backing the project.

He said: "Jack McConnell has been amazing as the representative for Scotland.

"He's done an amazing job in trying to get us to come and spend our money in Scotland."

Stewart Spence, vice-chairman of the Scottish Enterprise Grampian, said Mr Trump's scheme had the potential to make the biggest single impact on the North-east economy since the discovery of oil.

But a North-east Green MSP said her party was concerned about the siting of the project. Shiona Baird said: "We have serious concerns about the environmental damage that will be involved in building a golf course and hotel complex in such an undeveloped area.

29 April 2006

Golf plan obstacles can be overcome

Several obstacles could bunker Donald Trump's golf dream or pull it off course.

The first hazard he must negotiate is Scotland's planning process, which can be lengthy. Mr Trump says he wants the resort to open in 2008, but Aberdeenshire Council officials have suggested the deadline is ambitious.

However, Geoff Runcie, chief executive of the Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, reckons he will have weighed up the risks.

He said: "Any major developer who's got a global development strategy makes himself aware of what the planning regimes will be where those projects are envisaged."

Hazard number two could take the unlikely form of an offshore windfarm.

But city council leaders are confident a compromise can be reached.

Independent (UK)

29 April 2006

Section: News

Keep your hair on! Trump blows into town with attack on windfarms

By Paul Kelbie

Scotland's potential as a world leader in wind power was not lost on Donald Trump's legendary comb over as it flapped violently in what passes for a light breeze in Aberdeen yesterday.

But for the tycoon himself, the prospect of placing wind turbines next to his planned pounds 300m golf complex was too much to bear.

"When I stand on the 18th hole of Trump International Golf Links, Scotland, I want to see the ocean. I do not want to see windmills," he said bluntly.

Mr Trump said he had been in discussions with energy companies who planned an offshore wind farm close to Menie Estate where his 800-acre course is planned. "The world thinks of Scotland as some of the most beautiful land anywhere," he said. "I do not think Scotland, for the sake of some electricity, wants to ruin the beauty or majesty of your country. When I saw this piece of land, I was overwhelmed by the imposing dunes and rugged Aberdeenshire coastline," he said. "I knew that this was the perfect site for Trump International, Scotland."

The dream to build a new complex in his mother's native country, however, has yet to be granted planning permission. But that did not stop him receiving the red carpet treatment from local dignitaries. The man who fought back from bankruptcy to a pounds 2.7bn fortune, was serenaded by a lone piper playing Highland Laddie as he stepped from his jet. He was met by council and business officials, all eager to welcome what some claim will be the biggest thing to hit Aberdeen since the discovery of North Sea oil.

As the son of a Scot, the 59-year-old international property developer has claimed that, in looking throughout Europe for an ideal spot, Scotland had always been his first choice. "This is where my mother was born and I should almost kiss the earth," he said. "We are looking to build the greatest golf course in the world and it is going to be great," he added with typical modesty. "It is estimated that the project will bring up to pounds 150m into the country's economy over the next decade and create up to 400 jobs. "The new development will take us on to a whole new level of tourism-related activity, raising our international profile," gushed Ian Dunlop, Visit Scotland's area director.

Mr Trump is expected to meet with local business leaders and officials to discuss details of a planning application for the resort which is expected to be submitted next month, even though work is already scheduled to begin in September, with a course expected to open in spring 2008.

A survey by the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum released yesterday claimed his development could have the single biggest positive impact on the local economy since the discovery of oil. "A project of this scale could change the economic landscape of the region," said Jennifer Craw, chief executive of Scottish Enterprise Grampian.

However as the estate is home to several areas of Special Scientific Interest there are concerns that any development will have to be handled carefully.

Mr Trump added that if there was any suggestion from residents that his plan was not welcome he would go somewhere else. "I am doing this to a large extent in honour of my mother," he said. "But if people do not want this I will go elsewhere."

Express (UK)

29 April 2006

Golf tycoon Trump tilting at windmills

By Sarah Bruce

AMERICAN billionaire Donald Trump gave "beautiful" Scotland and its people the thumbs up yesterday – but warned windfarms could ruin our country.

The US tycoon said Sean Connery was one of his best friends and Jack McConnell did a good job, but also said alternative energy was ruining a good view.

He touched down in Aberdeen for the weekend to view the site of what he says will be "the best golf course in the world".

But he condemned plans for an offshore windfarm next to the site at Menie Estate, south of the city. The businessman said:

"Jack McConnell has done an amazing job trying to get us to spend hundreds of millions in Scotland – we want to thank him.

"But I'm not thrilled about the windfarm.

When I look out into the ocean I want to see the ocean, not some windmills.

"For the sake of some electricity, I don't think you want to ruin the beauty and majesty of your country." The US star of *The Apprentice* also revealed that Sir Sean Connery was the only man automatically on the members' list for the new course.

He added: "Sean is a great man and highly respected – maybe he's a good choice to open the new course.

"Nick Faldo has seen the plans for the course and I love your Colin Montgomerie, he's a terrific guy too." The tycoon's mother was brought up in Lewis. The £300million resort will feature two courses as well as a hotel, golf academy and holiday flats.

Yesterday, the tycoon and his course designer Tom Fazio II flew into Aberdeen on the Trump jet.

They revealed artists' impressions of a Victorian-style clubhouse and hotel that would rival the views from courses like St Andrews.

Daily Record (Glasgow, Scotland)

29 April 2006

Section: News

YOU'RE FIRED UP, DONALD
US billionaire's warning to Scotland TRUMP FLIES IN TO SEE pounds 300m GOLF RESORT

By Louise Hosie

US property tycoon Donald Trump thundered into Scotland yesterday to push through plans for a pounds 300million golf resort.

The billionaire businessman became a household name in the cut-throat TV business series *The Apprentice*, where his catch-phrase was: "You're fired!"

And yesterday, he warned that if there is any opposition to his plans, Scotland can forget them and he'll take the project elsewhere.

He even poured scorn on plans for a windfarm close to the proposed site of Trump International Golf Links Scotland near Balmedie, Aberdeenshire.

During his stay, Trump will brief his planning team and meet householders whose property lies US billionaire's near the 800-acre site.

At Aberdeen Airport, he said: "If, for any reason, the community groups, the community, the local representatives, the politicians, feel that we are not doing the right thing, it they let us know, we will go someplace else.

"We are not looking to have any arguments - we are looking to take a great piece of land and build the greatest golf course in the world.

"There are a few other sites where this could be achieved. But I really wanted to come to Scotland. We hope the planning process can go quickly.

"If, for some reason, in the wisdom of the officials and people of Aberdeen and shire, they feel they don't want this, I will not be insulted at all. I will go elsewhere."

The resort would boast two championship golf courses, a five-star hotel and a golf academy. But the 800 acres of land earmarked for the resort include a site of special scientific interest, as it's home to important land-forms and wildlife. Scottish Natural Heritage say they will co-operate with Trump but the area's heritage must be protected.

Trump also expressed concerns about plans for a pounds 100million offshore windfarm close to his site.

His team met the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Forum for talks - but Trump, 59, was "not thrilled" with the windfarm idea.

He said: "I am a big fan of all forms of all electricity, but I don't think you want to ruin the beauty or the majesty of your country.

"When I look out on to the ocean from the 18th hole of Trump International Golf Links, I don't want to see windmills.

"I warn Scotland, you can't do this to yourselves."

First Minister Jack McConnell has faced claims he broke planning neutrality rules through his association with Trump, who he met twice in the States.

But yesterday, Trump said: "Jack McConnell has been amazing as a representative for Scotland. He has not discussed the specifics of our site, all he wanted to do is make sure that we came to Scotland.

"I want to thank Jack, but also the people of Scotland owe him thanks."

Trump - who also visited the Old Course at St Andrews - revealed the resort has the backing of British golf legend Nick Faldo and that if it is approved, Sean Connery could officially open the course.

He said: "Maybe Sean is a good choice. He'd be certainly right up there with me."

Daily Mail (UK)

29 April 2006

Trump warning over Pounds 300m golf project

DONALD TRUMP said he wanted to kiss the ground after arriving in Scotland yesterday then told locals they can kiss goodbye to Pounds 300million if they don't back his plans for a new golf resort.

The American tycoon flew in on his private 737 jet to spell out his vision to create the 'best golf course in the world' at Menie, north of Aberdeen.

But he immediately claimed that plans for an offshore wind farm could still force him to look elsewhere.

And he insisted he would walk away if locals tried to block his proposals to build two championship courses, a hotel, golf academy, driving range and residential holiday apartments at an estimated cost of Pounds 287million.

Mr Trump said: 'If, for some reason, community groups feel we're not doing the right thing windfarm. When I look out into the ocean, I want to see the ocean I do not want to see some windmills.' 'The world thinks of Scotland as having some of the most beautiful scenery. You don't want to ruin that for the sake of some electricity.' A new report claimed the project could contribute Pounds 157million to the local economy over the next ten years and create up to 400 jobs.

Mr Trump said he chose Scotland in honour of his mother, Mary Macleod, who was born in Stornoway, Lewis.

Fittingly, on his arrival at Aberdeen Airport he was piped off his plane by Andrew Macleod, 30, from Stornoway.

'I could kiss the ground,' Mr Trump said as he set foot on Scottish soil.

He then revealed that Sir Sean Connery would be his choice to open the new course, adding: 'Sean is a great man. And I love your Colin Montgomerie he's a terrific guy, too.' A planning application for the resort will be submitted to Aberdeen City Council next month. If permission is granted, work will start in September, with the first golfers teeing off in 2008.

Aberdeen Evening Express

30 April 2006

Tell us more about trump's golf resort

Karen Grant

Residents today called on billionaire Donald Trump to reveal concrete plans for 'the world's best golf course.'

The property tycoon touched down at Aberdeen Airport in his private jet yesterday to speak about his plans for the £300 million golf resort at Menie Estate, Balmedie.

Business leaders believe his visit could spark the biggest economic boost since oil was discovered.

But some local residents today said they wanted the world-renowned businessman to give more "concrete plans".

Mr Trump is staying at Menie Estate this weekend and will meet residents and officials. Yesterday he said he wanted to create a legendary course but - without public backing - would pull out.

However, Balmedie councillor Debra Storr said: "The sooner we get concrete plans for people to look at, the better.

"At the moment, it's all if, buts and maybes."

She said some people were in favour due to the economic impact, while others were worried for the environment.

But Ms Storr echoed Mr Trump's views against windfarms.

Mr Trump said he believed that wave power was the way forward for renewable energy.

He said: "I don't think we want to ruin the beauty and majesty of the land with windfarms."

And he added: "If community groups, local representatives or local politicians for any reason think we are not doing them right then we will go somewhere else."

But David Milne, who lives in the old coastguard station at Balmedie, said: "That's a very good opening line and it's a good frightener but no one goes to the lengths he has gone with the intention of walking away.

"We should get past the superficial fluff and see the meat of the project."

A spokeswoman for Trump International Golf Links said: "Planning will be submitted in May and therefore the plans will be made available."

But she was unable to say if details would be revealed prior to the application being submitted.

No one from the Menie Estate was available for comment.

P & J

13 May 2006

Rooms plea for delegates at all-energy

Keith Findlay

This year's All-Energy exhibition and conference will be the largest and best yet, the organisers of Aberdeen's annual renewable-energy event said yesterday.

Last year's All-Energy gathering attracted more than 2,100 people and the 2006 showcase for the renewables sector, at Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre on May 24 and 25, is expected to beat that total.

Such is the growing reputation of the event that project director Judith Patten made a plea yesterday for Aberdeen hoteliers to release more rooms.

She added: "We are certainly not putting up signs telling people not to come, but we know the city's hotels are already getting full. If any of them are keeping rooms back, then we urge them to release them."

Rita Stephen, development manager for the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum, said All-Energy'06 would give the area a huge economic boost.

She added: "It just gets bigger and bigger every year and the increasing international element to it is an ideal opportunity for local companies to expand their connections."

Aberdeen City Council is the event's principal sponsor and council leader Kate Dean was anticipating a further boost to the Granite City's claim to be the energy capital of Europe.

"The importance of green energy solutions has never been greater and it is really pleasing to see how this exhibition has grown over the years," she said.

A new logo has been launched for All-Energy'06, which will see more than 200 exhibitors showcasing their renewables projects and products.

More details of the £100million offshore windfarm proposed jointly by Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and engineering giant AMEC are due to be unveiled during the event.

US billionaire Donald Trump warned during a visit to the north-east last month that it could scupper his own plans for a £300million golf resort at Menie Links, near Balmedie.

All-Energy'06 will also feature an update on the Beatrice windfarm demonstrator project, which could be a forerunner to a proposed 200-turbine scheme linked by undersea cables to a platform in the Beatrice oil field - about 20 miles east of Helmsdale, in the Highlands.

Two wind turbines are being installed this summer in a mammoth operation that involves them being assembled onshore and then taken to sea.

The project is spearheaded by oil and gas firm Talisman Energy (UK) and power group Scottish and Southern Energy.

Brian Redden, director of funding consultant Nautilus Associates, said the turbine installation would be explained at All-Energy'06, adding: "Next year we will come back and tell the world how it went."

Other highlights of this year's free-to-attend event include the first exhibitor from Japan, a strong turnout of companies from Norway and a technical tour of Aberdeenshire's first windfarm at Glens of Foudland.

P & J

23 May 2006

Windfarm cut to size as trump pitches in

Tom Kirk

Controversial plans for an offshore windfarm have been watered down after American billionaire Donald Trump threatened to pull out of a deal to build a major golf course in Aberdeenshire.

But last night the developers behind the windfarm proposals insisted the changes were not made as a result of the tycoon's attacks on the project.

Under the original proposals, 33 wind turbines were planned for an area stretching from Aberdeen to Newburgh, less than a mile from the coast.

Mr Trump threatened to abandon his planned £300million luxury resort at Menie Links, near Balmedie, if the turbines spoiled the view.

Plans to be unveiled later this week, however, will show that the size of the windfarm has been cut by a third.

Now developers Aberdeen Renewable Energy group (Areg) want to build just 23 turbines. And instead of stretching as far north as Newburgh, the project will stop at Bridge of Don, ensuring Mr Trump can largely retain an unspoilt view of the North Sea.

Last night Areg denied the changes had been made as a result of Mr Trump's comments on the plans for the £100million development.

But last month the Trump Organisation was in talks with Areg and engineering giant Amec who are jointly behind the project. Both sides say they want the projects to be compatible.

Artist's impressions, showing the 490ft structures to be barely visible from the Trump clubhouse, are understood to have been submitted to the tycoon.

A spokeswoman said that Mr Trump had not seen the plans, adding that it was therefore impossible to discuss them in detail at the moment but it is understood that his representatives are "happy" with the new version.

"Mr Trump has always made it clear that he does not wish to see wind turbines from the resort," she added.

The revised layout will be unveiled at the All Energy Show, the largest all-renewable energy show yet held in the UK, which is taking place at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre this week.

Areg chairman Jeremy Cresswell yesterday insisted the changes pre-dated Mr Trump's golf scheme, and had been made after careful consultation on other matters, such as the impact on wildlife and aviation.

He added that the project had been "evolving" since it was first unveiled in September 2003. "This layout has been achieved through extensive and ongoing consultation not least with wildlife, aviation, maritime and local community interests," Mr Cresswell said.

"Further, we will shortly be starting a second round of consultations with those communities whose views we greatly value."

Kate Dean, a director of Areg and Aberdeen City Council's representative on the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum, which has welcomed Mr Trump's plans, also insisted the revision had nothing to do with the golf scheme.

"The potential layout of the windfarm has evolved over many months of consultation with interested parties," she said.

"Mr Trump originally saw a very outdated version of the layout and my understanding is that his people are now happy with the most up-to-date version.

"There should now be no reason whatsoever that the two projects should not prove compatible."

Robin Harper, co-leader of the Scottish Green Party, said it would be "absolutely appalling" if the reduction in the number of turbines was as a direct result of pressure from Mr Trump as it would mean renewable energy prospects in the area were not being exploited to the full.

But he added: "I would hope very strongly that this decision has been made in the absence of any direct lobbying from Mr Trump and is purely a commercial assessment on the basis of what the site has to offer.

"It would be completely unacceptable if they bowed to pressure from Mr Trump."
Visiting the north-east last month, Mr Trump warned the people of Scotland not to ruin its natural "beauty and majesty" with windfarms.

"Windfarms aren't the most beautiful things in the world and I have seen many," he said.
"When I look across the ocean from the 18th hole, what I want to see is the ocean. I don't want to see windmills".

The comments have outraged some green campaigners. Mr Trump claims he is a "big fan" of renewable energy, but says wave power is more viable.

His plans for a golf complex have been applauded by a host of business, tourist and economic organisations.

It is expected to contribute an estimated £157million to the economy over the next 10 years and create up to 400 jobs.

Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum said it could be as important as the discovery of oil and gas in the north-east.

Developers behind the windfarm say it could play a key role in maintaining Aberdeen's energy-capital status once the oil and gas run out, as well as helping Scotland meet its renewable energy targets.

P & J

25 May 2006

Trump to glimpse windfarm changes as plans go public

Tom Kirk

A Wary Donald Trump can now scrutinise detailed plans for a giant offshore windfarm north of Aberdeen as they are revealed for the first time today.

The plans - being launched at an energy conference in Aberdeen - show a revised location for the 23 turbines.

Images also show that the turbines would be visible on the skyline from Balmedie beach, just south of the Menie Estate, where the American billionaire hopes to build a £300million golf resort.

Mr Trump has repeatedly threatened to pull out of the project if the turbines spoil the view, but the nearest turbine would now be about three-and-a-half miles away.

The plans, which have been revised from those originally published three years ago, show the turbines would stretch from the city to Blackdog - not to Newburgh, as originally proposed. No one at the Trump Organisation would comment on the revised plans last night until Mr Trump had scrutinised them himself.

However, there were fresh warnings that the windfarm and golf resort together had the potential to hit local wildlife hard.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in Scotland says the turbines could threaten tens of thousands of birds, including some internationally important species.

The new design will be revealed today at the All Energy Conference by its co-developers, the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and project management services firm Amec.

They will now launch a fresh batch of consultations before submitting plans next year.

The developers claim the objections by the RSPB are based on the old design.

And they have vigorously denied claims that unsympathetic comments by Mr Trump have had any impact on their plans.

The Trump Organisation reiterated earlier this week that Mr Trump "does not wish to see wind turbines from the resort". A spokeswoman said yesterday that this position had not changed.

Green campaigners welcomed the new layout as a means of providing the north-east with thousands of sustainable jobs.

The windfarm would stretch about two-and-a-half miles, from the Bridge of Don to Blackdog.

Areg spokesman Iain Todd said the project was at "an exciting stage".

"The latest layout reflects the progress that has been made in discussions and leaves a framework for us to work towards a final design," he said.

"The key drivers behind the latest changes are environmental issues surrounding the Ythan estuary and operational issues faced by local helicopter pilots. We believe this new layout addresses many of the issues raised so far."

P & J

25 May 2006

Trump will eye skyline for signs of windfarm

Tom Kirk

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The Trump Organisation reiterated earlier this week that Mr Trump "does not wish to see wind turbines from the resort". A spokeswoman said yesterday that position had not changed.

Green campaigners welcomed the new layout as a means of providing the north-east with thousands of sustainable jobs.

Drastic changes have been made since the project was announced in September 2003. Then 33 turbines were planned, running in two rows from Aberdeen to Newburgh.

After intensive consultations the number has been cut to 23, arranged in a grid.

The windfarm would stretch about two-and-a-half miles, from the Bridge of Don to Blackdog, and start less than a mile out to sea.

Areg spokesman Iain Todd said the project was at "an exciting stage".

"The latest layout reflects the progress that has been made in discussions and leaves a framework for us to work towards a final design," he said.

"The key drivers behind the latest changes are environmental issues surrounding the Ythan estuary and operational issues faced by local helicopter pilots.

"We believe this new layout addresses many of the issues raised so far, but it is still very much a work in progress."

Other concerns, including access to Aberdeen harbour, were also taken into account, he said. David Hodgkinson, managing director of Amec's wind-energy business, stressed that the changes had nothing to do with Mr Trump's comments.

But both schemes came under fire from RSPB Scotland which said the two together could "decimate" wildlife.

Mr Trump's resort would cover about a third of Foveran Links, deemed an environmentally important site of special scientific interest, while the RSPB claims the windfarm would sit in the direct flight path of migrating birds.

Martin Auld, the RSPB's director for east Scotland, said: "These developments are being talked about as if consent has already been given but there is a lot at stake.

"We have voiced our concerns about the potential impact of a windfarm to the developers and are waiting to see what they are proposing."

The Aberdeenshire coast is home to hundreds of thousands of seabirds, ducks and divers. The RSPB is concerned not only because the birds could collide with the wind turbines but also because of the chosen site.

In summer many of the birds live on the water while they moult. They choose the area because it is safe and there are plenty of fish.

Thousands more breeding birds live on the links, where Mr Trump plans his golf course. Mr Todd said he hoped the RSPB would take a more supportive stance on the project once it had time to assess the design changes.

A Trump Organisation spokeswoman stressed its commitment to the environment. "Mr Trump has won awards of recognition for his environmental work in past developments," she said.

The windfarm developers claim the turbines could power the equivalent of about a third of the homes in Aberdeen and create thousands of jobs.

A further round of public consultation exhibitions will take place in June.

Last night the Green Party described the windfarm as "an enormous opportunity". A spokesman said it was confident the RSPB and developers would reach an agreement.

The spokesman added: "It is clear that renewable energy can provide thousands of sustainable jobs for the north-east and for Scotland as a whole.

"The Trump development has many environmental, social and economic issues that need to be considered, but it is the jobs and economic benefits of all forms of renewable energy that we need to prioritise."

PA News

24 May 2006

'TRUMP GOLF COURSE, PLUS WINDFARM, WILL DECIMATE WILDLIFE'

By Matt Dickinson, Scottish Press Association

Donald Trump's proposed £300 million Scottish golf complex and a nearby windfarm could "decimate" wildlife in the area, experts warned today.

The billionaire American property developer is hoping to build a championship course and luxury hotel on the Menie Estate in Aberdeenshire.

It would see the transformation of 800-acres of coastline - some of which is under special environmental protection rules.

In a separate development, the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) wants to build a £100 million development out in Aberdeen Bay, made up of 23 turbines between two and three miles off the coast.

But the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has warned that both projects could spell disaster for hundreds of thousands of birds on the shore and out at sea.

Dr Martin Auld, RSPB director for East Scotland, said the coastal strip is like a "motorway" for birds such as guillemots, kittiwakes and eiders flying between nesting areas and feeding grounds - and that the neighbouring projects have the potential to decimate the wildlife.

Urging all the parties to consider the implications before proceeding, he said: "These developments are being talked about as if consent has already been given, but there is a lot at stake.

"We have voiced our concerns about the potential impacts of a windfarm in Aberdeen Bay to the developers and are waiting to see what they are now proposing.

"The environmental impacts need to be looked at very carefully."

Last month Mr Trump, 59, visited the site of his proposed development - part of which is a site of special scientific interest.

His plans include two golf courses, a six-storey, 500-bed hotel in Victorian style and a golf academy.

During his visit he said that if officials decided they did not want the development, he would go elsewhere.

Following the RSPB warning, the Trump Organisation said in a statement: "Mr Trump has stated on many occasions that he is very keen to work with environmental bodies and to follow all correct procedures when developing his golf course as he always does.

"The Trump Organization is currently working on the planning application and is in consultation with all relevant environmental bodies, specialists and consultants to ensure a full, responsible and accurate planning application is submitted as we very much respect the planning process and the procedures involved."

AREG director and Aberdeen City councillor Katharine Dean said the RSPB's concerns had been worked into plans for the windfarm.

She said: "I assume we will never take away their fears unless the whole project is abandoned. "But I hope that we can continue to be in contact with them and that eventually we can come to some agreement."

The windfarm location will be unveiled at a conference in Aberdeen today that will examine alternative energy sources.

Deputy First Minister Nicol Stephen will be among hundreds of delegates expected at All-Energy 2006.

Aberdeen Evening Express

25 May 2006

Windfarm plan cuts turbine numbers

David Ewen

Revised plans for Aberdeen's offshore windfarm have been unveiled.

The number of turbines has been reduced - and they will be positioned further from the beach.

The group behind the plan say they have taken on board the views of the community, environmentalists and businesses.

But it also said no special changes had been made to accommodate American tycoon Donald Trump's plans for a golf course at Balmedie.

Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Ltd is a joint venture between Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and AMEC, an international project management services company.

The managing director of AMEC's wind energy business, David Hodgkinson, said: "While confirming that we have had constructive discussions with Mr Trump's representatives, I can state that they have not resulted in any further modifications to the layout beyond those incorporated previously to address concerns raised by other project stakeholders."

The initial layout consisted of 33 turbines running in a double row from Aberdeen almost as far as Newburgh, about a mile offshore.

The new layout consists of 23 turbines placed in a grid formation about two miles away.

The group responded to a request from the Harbour Board that there should be no turbines within two miles of the harbour mouth.

Iain Todd of AREG said more work was needed for the final design which they hope to send with their planning application to the Executive early next year.

He said key reasons for the changes were environmental concerns and operational issues for helicopter firms.

A new series of public consultation exhibitions are due next month.

In Aberdeen today, Deputy First Minister Nicol Stephen announced £20 million for green energy projects.

The cash will develop biomass, marine, offshore wind, fuel cell and hydrogen technology. The money will be spent over the next two years, the Aberdeen South MSP said.

P & J

27 May 2006

Shipping in danger from windfarm, warn chiefs

Keith Findlay

New plans for a giant windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen pose a danger to shipping, two of the north-east's most prominent business figures warned yesterday.

The co-developers behind the, windfarm Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and project management services firm Amec, unveiled their latest plans yesterday.

Details of the 23-turbine scheme show that it reduces the impact on views from the Menie Estate, near Balmedie, where US billionaire Donald Trump aims to build a £300million golf resort.

He has threatened not to go ahead with the project if turbines spoil the view from Menie Links but those behind the windfarm insist his comments have had no bearing on the decision to modify the plans.

However, fresh concerns about the scheme, which has no turbines north of Blackdog, emerged during a business breakfast as All-Energy 2006 got under way yesterday.

Douglas Craig, managing director of Aberdeen's Craig Group, said the changes would appease helicopter operators and Mr Trump but create a serious hazard for ships.

He also said they would have a negative impact on views from the Royal Aberdeen Golf Course, where he is a member. Speaking after the breakfast, Mr Craig said: "I am concerned as a ship owner and harbour user. The windfarm's (new) location favours Donald Trump and avoids helicopter flight paths but it does not take into consideration that Aberdeen is the busiest port in Europe in terms of oil supply vessel movements.

"Hundreds of ships will come close to these turbines. I am all in favour of a windfarm but not on our doorstep and where it will be an eyesore and an extreme danger to shipping."

His concerns about the impact on shipping were later echoed by Aberdeen Harbour Board chief executive Colin Parker.

He said: "We welcome the removal of turbines from within the port area and the developers' commitment to discuss fully the maritime industry's remaining serious concerns."

But Mr Parker added: "The (new) layout would cause potentially dangerous congestion in the port approaches. Windfarms closer than 1.5 nautical miles can interfere with ships' radar."

Mr Parker said Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) guidelines had a requirement for windfarms to be at least two nautical miles from shipping routes.

This would not be the case in Aberdeen, which has around 17,000 shipping movements each year, he added. "These concerns will be raised by Aberdeen Harbour Board through our contact with the windfarm developers," said Mr Parker.

The harbour authority supported the principle of a windfarm that did not create a hazard for ships, he added. He also said the board was to carry out a study of the possible impact of the proposed windfarm on shipping.

Iain Todd, Areg's "renewables champion", said he recognised the new layout could have implications for maritime safety but these would be fully investigated, with Areg's full co-operation, by the MCA.

Aberdeen Evening Express

1 June 2006

Trump misses target for golf dream

Karen Grant

Donald Trump has missed his May goal to submit a planning application for his multi-million North-east golf resort.

But the property tycoon's development has not suffered any setbacks.

His team want to ensure they go over every detail with a fine-toothed comb before lodging the £300 million plans for Menie Estate, near Balmedie.

Project director Neil Hobday said: "I wouldn't say it is delayed. It is progressing rapidly. "We want to make sure that certain issues are addressed."

The news comes a week after detailed plans for a giant offshore windfarm - near to Mr Trump's proposed golf resort - were revealed for the first time.

The American billionaire has repeatedly threatened to pull out of his project if the huge turbines spoil the view.

However, the windfarm plans included a revised location for the 23 turbines which would now be about three-and-a-half miles away.

Mr Hobday said he was unable to comment on the latest windfarm plans.

Last month, Mr Trump visited the North-east to discuss his plans to build the greatest golf course in the world.

He wants to create two 18-hole championship courses, a five-star hotel and a state-of-the-art golf academy - as well as additional amenities on the 800-acre site.

Mr Trump had said that he hoped to lodge his plans with Aberdeenshire Council this month.

But a Trump Organisation spokeswoman today said the plans were still under scrutiny.

She said: "It is in consultation with all relevant environmental bodies, specialists and consultants to ensure a full, responsible and accurate planning application is submitted, as we very much respect the planning process and the procedures involved.

"We will be submitting the application as soon as we have the detailed information finalised."

Aberdeen Evening Express

21 June 2006

Windfarm moved from Trump site

Revamped plans for a huge offshore windfarm, which threatened to scupper the development of Donald Trump's dream golf resort, have gone on show.

The team behind the project is seeking public support before the application is scrutinised by Aberdeenshire Council officials.

Developers the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and project management services firm Amec took their original plans on tour in October and November last year.

But since then the plans have been altered.

Originally 33 turbines were planned, running in two rows from Aberdeen to Newburgh. Now, after intensive consultations, the number has been cut to 23 - arranged in a grid.

The windfarm would stretch about two-and-a-half miles, from the Bridge of Don to Blackdog, and start less than a mile out to sea.

American billionaire Mr Trump has yet to comment on the revised application.

He has repeatedly threatened to pull the plug on his £300million golf resort plan if the turbines spoil the view.

But the nearest turbine would now be about three-and-a-half miles away from the proposed course, just south of the Menie Estate.

People in Peterhead were given the first chance to view the revised plans. They will now go to Cruden Bay, Newburgh, Collieston, Balmedie, the AECC, Tullos Primary and Aberdeen's Patio Hotel.

P & J

23 June 2006

Public puzzled over offshore turbines site off city beach

Claire Elliot

A Windfarm off the north-east coast should be built behind the high cliffs at Cove and out of sight from the recreational beaches at Aberdeen, Balmedie and Newburgh, it was claimed yesterday.

US tycoon Donald Trump has still to comment on revised plans for the offshore windfarm, which will now be about three-and-a-half miles from his proposed £300million golf resort at Menie Estate, near Balmedie. There was mixed reaction from residents when the changes went on display in Newburgh.

Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and management services firm Amec took their original plans on tour in October and November last year. Since then the number of wind turbines has been reduced from 33, which would have been in two rows from Aberdeen to Newburgh, to 23, set out in a grid.

One local, who did not want to be named, said he was completely opposed to the scheme and did not see the need for wind energy in the area.

"They are installing a new power station at Boddam and that could easily supply this electricity," he said.

He also believes the turbines would spoil the view from the beach at Aberdeen, and added: "I would back what Donald Trump is saying, that people coming to play on golf courses do not want to see windmills."

Colin Reid cycled from Aberdeen to Newburgh to view the plans, which he had mixed feelings about. He said: "I think quite a lot of people will come to Aberdeen to see it."

He questioned why it was being proposed in front of the recreational beaches at Aberdeen, Balmedie and Newburgh.

Mr Reid believes the windfarm would be better "round the corner" towards Cove where he said the visual impact would not be as intrusive as the turbines would be behind the high cliffs on that part of the coast.

Sandy Anderson, a retired ecologist from Newburgh, said: "We have seen windfarms in New Zealand and elsewhere and I find them impressive.

"Whether I would like to live next door to one swooshing away is another matter."

He also said his main concern was how the windfarm would affect the flight path of hundreds of migratory birds.

Amec development manager Tom Thorogood said they were in the process of carrying out a bird survey using ornithologists and radars. He said so far the "indications are very positive" as the study had shown that the birds move well below the blades or in areas away from the site of the windfarm.

Last year about 400 people attended the exhibitions and mostly welcomed the scheme, which will be decided by the Scottish Executive.

Residents are urged to take the opportunity to join fully in the consultation process, which continues at the Kirk Centre in Ellon today and at Collieston Community Centre tomorrow.

Next week the exhibition will call at the Whitehorse Inn, Balmedie, the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre, Tullos Primary School and finally at the Patio Hotel, Aberdeen.

Aberdeen Evening Express

23 June 2006

Turbines should be 'out of sight'

A Planned offshore windfarm should be built near Cove and "out of sight" of leisure beaches, it was claimed.

The comments came as a display about the controversial project was held at Newburgh.

It was part of a roadshow by Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and management services firm Amec who are behind the proposal, which has been reduced from 33 wind turbines to 23.

Colin Reid, who cycled from Aberdeen to Newburgh to view the plans, questioned why it was being proposed in front of the beaches at Aberdeen, Balmedie and Newburgh.

He believes the windfarm would be better towards Cove where the visual impact would not be as intrusive as the turbines would be behind high cliffs.

Donald Trump has still to comment on revised plans for the windfarm, which will now be about three-and-a-half miles from his proposed £300million golf resort near Balmedie.

The consultation was due to continue today at the Kirk Centre in Ellon today and at Collieston Community Centre tomorrow, with other events to be held at various venues next week.

Aberdeen Evening Express

1 July 2006

Windfarm plans go on show to visitors

A Steady stream of visitors have looked at plans for an offshore windfarm near Aberdeen. A series of exhibitions showing the plans have been held at various centres during a 10-day consultation process.

Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and management services firm Amec said that several hundred people had attended.

The revised plans now feature 23 turbines, arranged in a grid.

When the project was first announced, in 2003, it was proposed to put up 33 turbines between Aberdeen and Newburgh.

US billionaire Donald Trump threatened to ditch plans for a £300 million golf course development at the Menie Estate in Balmedie if the original project went ahead.

He has not commented on the revised plans.

Ian Todd of Aberdeen Renewables said: "We've been consulting and listening to what people have to say. We've already changed the plans due to the visual impact.

"This is part of the drive to make Aberdeen not just an oil and gas city but one that is at the forefront of renewables technology."

5 October 2006

Harbour board says windfarm would be danger to shipping

Aberdeen Harbour Board yesterday vowed to oppose the current plans for an offshore windfarm near the Granite City.

Chief executive Colin Parker said the proposed development posed a danger to shipping entering and leaving the port.

He also warned that shopping and housing developments in the heart of Aberdeen would inhibit future growth and hamper the city's potential generally.

Mr Parker said the harbour board was not opposed to the idea of a windfarm, but the current plans for 23 turbines offshore meant they would interfere with vital shipping radar.

The port boss was speaking as the harbour board celebrated the opening of its GBP4.5million marine operations centre at Footdee.

Originally, 33 wind turbines were planned, running in two rows from Aberdeen to Newburgh, when the project was announced in September 2003.

The revised scheme took the turbines further away from US tycoon Donald Trump's proposed GBP300million golf resort at Menie Estate, near Balmedie.

Mr Trump had threatened to scrap his project if turbines spoiled the view for golfers.

But the new site for the windfarm, while now outside the port limit, has raised concerns among harbour users on operational and safety grounds.

Mr Parker said: "It is a serious concern to the safe navigation of vessels and we will resist and fight the application." The developers of the windfarm, Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and project management services firm Amec aim to hold another public consultation before submitting a planning application to Scottish ministers next year.

Mr Parker also criticised the decision to scrap a rail yard to make way for 1,700 parking spaces for the new Union Square shopping development.

He warned that new rail-freight facilities being created at Craiginches and at Raith's Farm, Dyce, could result in more heavy lorries on the road.

The existing yard would have been the ideal site for an integrated transport hub, he said, adding: "Closing the yard is a lost opportunity for the city." Luxury flat developments in the harbour area were another concern for the port bosses.

Mr Parker said: "People will move into these new flats and then complain when they are woken at 2am by noisy ships." Despite the "unhelpful" developments, the 72ft new marine operations centre coincides with a period of increasing business activity at the harbour.

Last year saw records smashed, with 8,300 vessels bringing in 4.85million tonnes of cargo and 140,000 passengers. This year is predicted to be an even busier one for the port.

The new operations centre - designed by SMC Parr Architects and constructed by Sir Robert McAlpine - houses the latest vessel traffic services systems for monitoring and directing ships, an upgraded bridge-training simulator, training room, emergency response room and other facilities.

It replaces the navigation centre known locally as the Roundhouse, which has been in use for more than two centuries.

Mr Parker said: "By employing state-of-the-art technology and integrating various aspects of operations at a single location, the centre brings further important improvements to the management of the port and provides capacity for future growth in traffic." The new centre is one of three major projects in a GBP44million five-year redevelopment of the port, including the completion in March of a GBP4.75million reconstruction of Albert Quay West.

At Point Law Peninsula, more than 215,000sq ft of surfaced area is being created to support a wide range of operations.

The harbour board is also looking at deepening and widening the port entrance to allow larger vessels to come in.

AREG renewables champion Iain Todd said the windfarm developers were investigating the scheme's impact on shipping and the risks would be fully assessed through consultation with the Maritime Coastguard Agency.

"Maritime safety is an extremely important issue for our project," he said.

5 October 2006

Aberdeen harbour boss plans to fight windfarm amid safety fears

Aberdeen Harbour Board yesterday vowed to oppose the current plans for an offshore windfarm near the Granite City.

Chief executive Colin Parker said the proposed development posed a danger to shipping entering and leaving the port.

He also warned that shopping and housing developments in the heart of Aberdeen would inhibit future growth and hamper the city's potential generally.

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Express (UK)

28 November 2006

Trump tees off his 1bn course plan

By Billy Youngson

AMERICAN tycoon Donald Trump yesterday revealed his 1billion plan to give Scotland the world's best golf resort.

Golfers could be just over two years away from teeing off at the course, on the Menie Estate near Aberdeen.

Ashley Cooper, Mr Trump's executive vice president of acquisitions and development, said: "We are not here by accident. We considered dozens of sites when we started out on this project four years ago.

"But Donald wants to make it happen here. It is perfect for the vision that he has."

Yesterday, Mr Trump's team officially submitted an application to Aberdeenshire Council to transform the 1,400-acre site.

The flamboyant businessman, whose mother was born in Stornoway, is planning a 450room five-star hotel, 950 holiday homes and 36 luxury golf lodges for the resort, which would also have a conference centre, tennis courts, a state-of-the-art golf academy and a spa.

Two 18-hole courses could be ready for use by 2009 and the whole resort finished by 2012.

Locals had feared that a large number of private houses could be built around the resort, but Mr Cooper added: "Mr Trump is here because he wants to build the best course in the world.

The houses are a by-product of that.

"When there is so much investment going out, we have to find some balance.

"We would not come here solely to build houses - we would go to Asia or China for that because they are screaming out for the Trump brand there."

The Trump team say the course will generate millions in tourist income for years to come. Mr Cooper said: "Donald is very excited about influencing a regional economy.

"It is very rare for anyone, even him, to get the opportunity to do that.

"He wants to build something that will stand well beyond all our lifetimes.

"The support we have had from this area since we bought the land back in March has been phenomenal. People are very excited by this." Mr Trump had previously objected to a proposed offshore windfarm, which he says would spoil the view from the luxury resort, and his team yesterday said their opinion on the renewable energy project still stood.

Mr Cooper said: "Mr Trump said guests won't want to look out to sea and see turbines. That still stands.

"They are a business, like we are a business, and we are just one voice."

28 November 2006

Trump triples the cost and doubles size of resort plan

Donald Trump yesterday unveiled his long-awaited and spectacular GBP1billion vision to transform part of the north-east coastline into a world-leading golf resort.

The massive project - which received widespread support last night from business leaders and politicians - has doubled in size to around 1,400 acres and rocketed from its earlier GBP330million price tag.

But it also includes substantial areas earmarked for future residential development which look likely to cause controversy.

The US-based Trump Organisation yesterday began a series of public meetings to outline what it calls the "world's best golf resort" at Balmedie, near Aberdeen.

Last night more than 200 locals welcomed the mega-development on their doorstep.

The fanfare was timed to coincide with the submission of an outline planning application to Aberdeenshire Council.

The plans include two championship golf courses - one is expected to host The Open - a 450-room, five-star hotel, a 10,000sq ft conference centre, 950 holiday homes, 36 guest villas and a number of residential homes "to be determined".

A 25,000sq ft clubhouse, a golfing academy and an accommodation block for 400 employees are also detailed.

But the vast swathes of untouched land earmarked for housing at the Menie Estate could be a stumbling block with local authority planners whose policies prevent building new homes in the countryside.

The organisation's executive vice-president, Ashley Cooper, Mr Trump's man in Scotland, would not say how many were planned but stressed they were essential to finance the overall scheme.

He also warned that proposals for a North Sea windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen and potentially in sight of Balmedie could still jeopardise the resort. He told local residents, business people and politicians how the resort - called Trump International Golf Links - would create at least 400 jobs and put the north-east firmly on the world map for golf tourism.

Mr Cooper said: "There is a natural gap in this area for a five-star golf resort. People coming to Scotland already go to established resorts like St Andrews, the home of golf, but then miss the north-east.

"This will bring huge numbers of tourists and make the best of the stunning landscape here in Aberdeenshire." The New Jersey-based businessman was joined by a panel of experts on the project team to field questions at the tiny Forsyth Hall, at Belhelvie, just a couple of miles from the proposed resort.

Politicians from all parties joined community councillors to quiz the panel on the possible impact to transport, economy and the environment.

Mr Cooper assured the audience that a thorough study of the fragile dune system would be completed before work could begin and said the beach and main dune barrier would be left untouched.

He also played up the local benefits adding: "This will be very much a public resort with a small private membership." "There will remain access to the beach and the hotel doors will be swung open to guests. It will bring a big change to the local economy.

"We were having dinner at the local pub last night and a cab driver was telling me how he will be bringing more people here. They will use local facilities." He added: "The plans will eventually take into account impact to schools, hospitals, roads, but it is still too early to go into that in detail." The timetable to open the golf course and clubhouse in spring 2009 hinges on road improvements already underway on the A90 Aberdeen-Elton trunk road.

Future plans could include helicopter links bringing wealthy visitors from Aberdeen Airport and beyond directly to the golf course.

The resort is planned to be opened in phases starting with the golf course, clubhouse, the 36 guest homes then teaching and practice facilities. Phase two could include holiday homes, the hotel - then the controversial residential homes.

Mr Cooper said: "This is not an all-or-nothing application. We have not filed for one single house yet. It's all about give or take." But he added: "We have found five sites that were suitable for the kind of vision we have. A lot of places have welcomed us with open arms.

"There will be detractors. If this becomes insurmountable, then we will maybe have problems." Gordon Liberal Democrat MP Malcolm Bruce, who was at the lunchtime meeting, was among those to offer support for the plans.

He said: "Everyone should recognise that this is a major investment and a potential draw to this part of Scotland." North-east SNP list MSP Maureen Watt welcomed the presentation and pushed for local businesses to be involved in the construction.

North-east Labour list MSP Richard Baker said it was too early to discuss the plans but welcomed the opportunity to listen to the project team.

North-east Green MSP Shiona Baird was one of just a few to criticise the project.

She said: "A more sound investment for Mr Trump may be in the north-east's renewables industry, but he seems to still be opposed to the offshore windfarm, planned nearby, if it is visible from the hotel. This does not inspire confidence." The planning application will be available for public viewing after it has been formally registered by Aberdeenshire Council planning officials.

The local authority's chief executive, Alan Campbell, said he "warmly welcomed" the Trump Organisation's interest and added: "Such an investment could have the potential to deliver huge benefits to Aberdeen city and shire." Councillors who will debate the application stayed away from yesterday's meetings following advice from the authority's top lawyer. They can no longer comment publicly on the live application.

But a spokesman for the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum called it "one of the most eagerly-awaited planning applications in the region's history".

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

20 May 2010

Proposals for offshore windfarm take step forward

ian.forsyth

Plans for a GBP150million offshore windfarm near Aberdeen took a major step forward yesterday after harbour bosses and helicopter firms dropped their safety objections.

Industry body Oil & Gas UK and Aberdeen Harbour Board said they were satisfied the scheme would not pose a risk after the company behind it agreed to site the 11 turbines away from the city's port towards an area off Blackdog.

The latest boost for the project was announced at a breakfast to mark the start of the All-Energy show in Aberdeen by Iain Todd, renewables champion for the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG), which is spearheading the scheme with Swedish utility firm Vattenfall.

The project was originally scaled down from 33 turbines after Donald Trump threatened to drop his plans to create a GBP1billion golf resort at the Menie Estate. A subsequent proposal was put forward for up to 23 turbines in a grid formation between one and three miles out to sea, stretching from Bridge of Don to Blackdog.

A year ago the project was scaled down further, to 11 turbines, to help allay fears about shipping safety and helicopter operations.

The project leaders would not say yesterday where exactly the 11 turbines would be located off Blackdog, though they are still in the original agreed 'footprint' area.

Last night, Mr Trump's team said it would need to see the revised plan before commenting. The windfarm, to be known as the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre, now faces two main hurdles if it is to be operational by 2012.

The scheme still needs to secure final European approval for GBP36million of funding and consent from the Scottish Government.

The plans include testing facilities that will be used to assess the next generation of offshore wind turbines, as well as hunt for new ways to create energy from wind.

The proposal could create hundreds of jobs.

Robert Paterson, health and safety director with industry body Oil & Gas UK, said: 'Following a meeting with AREG last Friday, Oil & Gas UK is satisfied that the new location of the proposed windfarm is not likely to pose a risk to helicopter safety.'

'We are pleased that AREG has taken the aviation and oil and gas industry's concerns into account in moving the location of the proposed windfarm.'

Aberdeen Harbour Board's chief executive Colin Parker said shipping firms had discussed concerns with the developer about the impact on navigational safety.

'We are satisfied that, as a result of these discussions, the footprint of the test facility has been amended, which will lessen any impact the development has on this important area for anchorage and the busy shipping lanes.'

The Press and Journal reported last December that the European Union had pledged GBP36million to the Aberdeen windfarm.

The funding was part of more than GBP1.3billion of grants from Brussels.

(UK)

8 December 2010

Section: Editorial

Turbines in wrong place

DONALD Trump is quite right to do his best to stop the offshore wind farm if he believes it will detract from his golf course. Whatever people think of Mr Trump, or his plans for Menie, Aberdeenshire, he has been given the go-ahead for his resort - yet now he is faced with having an unsightly windfarm as the view.

If the wind turbines are needed, why cannot they be placed somewhere else? On the one hand Scotland - and Mr Trump - wants to attract tourists, golfers and their cash to the north-east coast. On the other hand, there now appears to be a concerted effort to negate one of the main attractions of his resort. Where is the logic? If these wind turbines are so necessary, why did the authorities reduce their number from 33 to 11? If they were quick enough to cut 22 turbines from the project, it is clear that they could do without any, or at least erect them in a more appropriate place.

Express (UK)

8 December 2010

Section: News

Trump says windfarm will spoil his sea view

Judith Duffy

TYCOON Donald Trump yesterday vowed to fight plans for a massive offshore windfarm overlooking his controversial £750million golf resort. Proposals have been unveiled to build 11 turbines up to 195 metres tall off the coast of Aberdeen.

But the American billionaire said he will "vehemently" oppose the development amid fears it will ruin the view from his golf course in Menie, Aberdeenshire. Mr Trump said: "Every component of our project is based upon sea views.

"We cannot allow the construction of what is tantamount to 11 65-storey structures off our beautiful coastline.

"These turbines, if ever built, will in one fell swoop destroy Scotland's magnificent heritage."

The proposed £150million European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre, has already been scaled down from 33 turbines after complaints from Trump, the oil and gas industry and the harbour board.

But opponents of his golf resort plans yesterday accused him of being a "hypocrite".

David Milne, who is refusing to sell his property on the Menie Estate to Mr Trump, said: "He is an arrogant idiot.

"Trump is desecrating a protected site of specific scientific interest for his own personal profit. For him to say this is a bit like the pot calling the kettle black.

"Wind farms are for future generations and the good of the public. What he's doing is considerably worse."

A detailed planning application will be submitted to Marine Scotland next year.

The proposal states: "The layout reflects the careful consideration of technical, environmental and economic considerations."

Daily Record (Glasgow, Scotland)

8 December 2010

Section: News

SEVEN IRONY

Tycoon claims windfarm will spoil view from his controversial pounds 750m coastal golf course

Kris Gilmartin

TYCOON Donald Trump has declared war on a proposed windfarm, claiming it would "destroy" Scotland's natural heritage.

Trump said yesterday that the giant structures would spoil the view from his pounds 750million golf complex.

But opponents, who say the golf complex at the Menie Estate in Aberdeenshire is itself harming the environment, last night labelled the billionaire American a hypocrite.

The pounds 150million windfarm's turbines would be up to 394ft (120m) high and would be in full view of the course.

Trump said last night he would "vehemently oppose" the application when it goes before Marine Scotland next year.

He said: "Every component of our project is based upon sea views. We cannot allow the construction of what is tantamount to 65-storey structures off our coastline. These turbines, if ever built, will in one fell swoop destroy Scotland's magnificent natural heritage. They are noisy and unsightly and we will oppose the siting of this vehemently."

But Martin Ford, the Aberdeenshire councillor whose casting vote saw Trump's plans initially rejected, said the tycoon was a "hypocrite".

He said: "If Mr Trump is so concerned about the natural beauty of Scotland's coast, he should stop destroying it himself."

"Unlike his own construction project, the proposed turbines will not harm any designated nature conservation site. They will not 'destroy Scotland's magnificent natural heritage' - though Mr Trump has done exactly that at Menie."

Trump's course is expected to open in 2012 and the resort, which includes a 450-bedroom hotel, 950 holiday homes and 500 houses, could create more than 1000 jobs.

Vattenfall, Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group are behind the windfarm proposal, which has received EU backing.

Vattenfall's David Hodgkinson said: "We spoke to local residents, businesses and community representatives and received broadly positive support."

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

8 December 2010

Trump in fresh row with developers

ryan.crichton

DONALD Trump has again clashed with rival developers over plans to build a windfarm off the stretch of north-east coastline where he is creating a GBP750million golf resort.

The American billionaire has already started work on what he believes will be the greatest golf course in the world at the Menie Estate, near Balmedie.

Each of the 18 holes at the championship course has been designed to offer dramatic views of the North Sea as players weave through the site's sand dunes.

However, plans to site 11 turbines about three miles off the coast of nearby Blackdog have once again cast a shadow over his proposals.

Those behind the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) are promising a potentially major economic spin-off.

But last night Mr Trump said he will fight to block the structures, which will stand at between 328ft and 394ft above sea level at low tide.

Mr Trump has criticised the plans in the past, before the turbines were sited farther towards Aberdeen.

However, fresh designs -- which went out to public consultation last month -- have the turbines just over two and a half miles away.

'Scotland is one the most beautiful places on earth with a coastline that is recognised around the world as being the best,' Mr Trump said.

'These turbines, if ever built, will in one fell swoop destroy Scotland's magnificent natural heritage. They are noisy, unsightly and we will oppose the siting of this windfarm vehemently.

'Every component of our project is based upon sea views and we cannot allow the construction of what is tantamount to 11 65-storey structures off our beautiful coastline.'

The EOWDC, which is being taken forward by Vattenfall, Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group, would not only generate power for half the homes in Aberdeen but also act as a test centre for new technology.

It is hoped the windfarm -- earmarked for GBP36million of European Union funding -- will be operational by 2012.

Last night the EOWDC said the project was 'potentially of huge importance to Scotland, the wider UK and Europe'.

A spokesman said: 'The project partners recently held five public information days in the north-east regarding the proposed development.

'The views expressed at these events and those of a range of other stakeholders will be taken into account when submitting a planning application to Marine Scotland early next year.'

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

16 December 2010

Offshore windfarm wins GBP34m EU grant

ross.davidson

AN OFFSHORE windfarm planned for the north-east has received more than GBP30million in European funding.

Proposals for 11 turbines and a test centre three miles off the coast have been backed by the European Union with a grant of 40million euros (GBP34million).

The organisations behind the European offshore wind deployment centre (EOWDC) will now turn their attention to preparing an application to Marine Scotland for planning consent, expected to be submitted early next year.

It is hoped the windfarm, to be sited three miles off the coast at Blackdog, north of Aberdeen, will be operational by 2012.

The EOWDC, which is being taken forward by Vattenfall, Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg), would generate power for half the homes in Aberdeen and act as a test centre for new technology.

Yesterday, David Hodgkinson, director and head of development of Vattenfall Wind Power in the UK, said the project will create jobs and generate investment in the north-east's renewable energy industry.

He said: 'We very much welcome the news from the European Union which confirms the considerable financial support being awarded and underlines the strategic importance of the EOWDC and a move towards a vibrant UK offshore wind industry.'

Aberdeen North MSP Brian Adam welcomed the funding and described the project as 'possibly game-changing' for Aberdeen. 'Aberdeen has a big role to play in developing the renewable energy sector, putting our current expertise in the offshore environment into these new and developing technologies,' he said.

'It is with projects like this we should be able to harness our potential.'

Last week American Donald Trump spoke out against the windfarm proposal because it would be close to where he is creating a GBP750million golf resort.

The billionaire said the turbines would 'destroy Scotland's magnificent natural heritage', and added he would 'vehemently' oppose the Blackdog siting of the windfarm.

Mr Trump has criticised the plans in the past.

The windfarm has been scaled back several times from the original scheme for 33 turbines after he threatened to drop his golf resort plans.

In addition Oil & Gas UK and Aberdeen Harbour Board voiced concerns about safety for helicopters and shipping lanes.

Herald (Glasgow, Scotland)

5 August 2011

Section: HS – News

NO HEADLINE

DONALD Trump's organisation has vowed to fight a proposed windfarm "on every possible front".

Plans for the £150 million offshore windfarm have taken a step forward with the submission of a formal planning application.

The 11-wind turbine European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre would be situated off Aberdeen Bay and is a joint venture by utility company Vattenfall, engineering firm Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group.

In a statement issued last night The Trump Organisation said: "We are opposed to the siting of this windfarm and we will fight the proposal on every possible front."

UK country manager of Vattenfall David Hodgkinson said: "We believe we have made a good case for the development, which places Aberdeen at the heart of the development of new technologies to serve the growing European offshore wind sector.

"We would build the project with the same attention to detail in respect of environmental and community considerations as we have for our previous developments".

Dates will be released shortly for a series of consultation events.

3 August 2011

Plans in for energy venture off Aberdeenshire coast

calum.ross

PLANS have been tabled for a GBP200million windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen which could help turn the north-east into a global leader in the renewable energy industry.

After six years on the drawing board, the application for the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) has been lodged with the Scottish Government agency Marine Scotland.

US billionaire Donald Trump once threatened to pull out of his golf resort plans for the Menie Estate because the proposed location of the turbines was so close to his development.

George Sorial, managing director at the Trump Organisation, vowed last night to object to the application and fight it 'using any available legal means in any jurisdiction'.

Under the proposals, 11 offshore turbines would be erected -- capable of producing enough electricity to power more than half of the homes in Aberdeen.

The highest point of the biggest turbines could be 640ft above the sea -- taller than the London Eye and more than double the height of Big Ben. The test centre site lies about one-and-a-half miles off the coast between Balmedie and the outskirts of Bridge of Don, and work could get under way in 2013 if the application is approved.

Energy industry companies, governments and academics from across Europe would closely monitor the progress of a scheme which aims to prove offshore wind technology is ready for full-scale commercial deployment.

In the north-east, the development is seen by many as crucial to ensure the region becomes a key player in marine energy as it looks towards a post-oil future.

The project is a joint venture between Vattenfall, Europe's sixth largest generator of electricity, subsea engineering firm Technip, and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg).

Morag McCorkindale, chief operating officer at Areg, said: 'The region has an offshore oil and gas supply chain unrivalled outside of Houston and therefore has the highest concentration of energy expertise, experience, skills and technology.

'This industrial-scale know-how is crucial to the development of marine renewables, and in the short-term particularly, offshore wind.'

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

5 August 2011

Project points to our renewable future

tom.forsyth

THE sight of 11 wind turbines sprouting one and a half miles off the coast north of Aberdeen could change how we view the city in more ways than one.

We have been prepared for it for some time, of course, as the original plan, before it was scaled back, was for 33 turbines, to drive an offshore windfarm and test centre for the renewable-energy industry.

The scaling back followed objections on aesthetic and safety grounds from Donald Trump, whose new golf centre is on the same stretch of coast, and Oil and Gas UK and Aberdeen Harbour Board. Safety concerns for shipping and helicopters in a congested sea area have also brought a compromise.

There will still be keen debate about the aesthetic nature of the project, its environmental impact and the value of the energy it produces. These are arguments which already swirl around land-based windfarms, which have mushroomed rapidly across Scotland.

Very few modern industrial issues have divided people so much. They create an alien landscape in the eyes of many people who find wind turbines intrusive. It is a fledgling industry, so they will look strange for a time before we become fully accustomed to their presence. Oil platforms might also have looked environmentally intrusive at one time, but it did not matter because they were so far out to sea that no one could see them.

If Aberdeen wants to maintain its status as European energy capital, and ensure there is life after oil and gas, it must diversify while exploiting the expertise it has built up. There are many rivals vying to take away its crown, but this major project could ensure the north-east remains the industry leader.

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

5 August 2011

Trump vows to fight plans for massive windfarm

calum.ross

PLANS have been tabled for a GBP200million windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen which could help turn the north-east into a global leader in the renewable energy industry.

After six years on the drawing board, the application for the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) has been lodged with the Scottish Government agency Marine Scotland.

US billionaire Donald Trump once threatened to pull out of his golf resort plans for the Menie Estate because the proposed location of the turbines was so close to his development.

George Sorial, managing director at the Trump Organisation, vowed last night to object to the application and fight it 'using any available legal means in any jurisdiction'.

Under the proposals, 11 offshore turbines would be erected -- capable of producing enough electricity to power more than half of the homes in Aberdeen.

The highest point of the biggest turbines could be 640ft above the sea -- taller than the London Eye and more than double the height of Big Ben.

The test centre site lies about one-and-a-half miles off the coast between Balmedie and the outskirts of Bridge of Don, and work could get under way in 2013 if the application is approved.

Energy industry companies, governments and academics from across Europe would closely monitor the progress of a scheme which aims to prove offshore wind technology is ready for full-scale commercial deployment.

In the north-east, the development is seen by many as crucial to ensure the region becomes a key player in marine energy as it looks towards a post-oil future.

The project is a joint venture between Vattenfall, Europe's sixth largest generator of electricity, subsea engineering firm Technip, and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg).

Morag McCorkindale, chief operating officer at Areg, said: 'The region has an offshore oil and gas supply chain unrivalled outside of Houston and therefore has the highest concentration of energy expertise, experience, skills and technology.

'This industrial-scale know-how is crucial to the development of marine renewables, and in the short-term particularly, offshore wind.

'The EOWDC is a key project to assist in the diversification of its economy.'

Mr Sorial said the Trump Organisation would object to the application, and suggested the firm could even pursue legal action in the US, because the turbine development would spoil the views from the GBP750million Balmedie resort.

'We are all for anything that will help the region and create jobs,' he said.

'On that regard our interests are aligned, but you don't do that by compromising one asset.

'We have invested significant resources in this project and we have become part of the fabric of the north-east. We are here to stay and I don't think it's a good idea to interfere with our investment.

'We are not going to support a project that compromises what we have done. We will use any available legal means in any jurisdiction.'

The plans for the north-east were previously scaled back from the original proposal for 33 turbines after Mr Trump threatened to walk away, and Oil & Gas UK and the Aberdeen Harbour Board raised concerns about safety for helicopters and shipping lanes.

David Hodgkinson, Vattenfall's UK manager, said: 'We believe we have made a good case for the development, which places Aberdeen at the heart of the development of new technologies to serve the growing European offshore wind sector.'

Ron Cookson, senior vice-president of Technip Offshore Wind, said: 'It is our belief that this project could, with considerable EU support, be the catalyst which 'kick starts' the region's rapid emergence as an industry-leading player in marine renewables.'

Offshore wind is said to have the potential to deliver more than 28,000 direct jobs in Scotland by 2020 and inject up to GBP7.1 billion of investment into the economy.

In August last year, The Crown Estate awarded the EOWDC an exclusivity agreement as an offshore wind demonstration site, and in December it was given a 40 million euro (GBP35 million) grant from the EU.

The turbines could be between four and 10mw, which, based on a capacity of 100mw, would produce more than 300,000mw hours every year, the equivalent of the domestic needs of more than 65,000 homes. The 4mw turbines would have a maximum height of 328ft above low tide, while the 10mw structures would be up to 394ft, and the rotor blades would be between 196ft to 246ft, giving a maximum height of 640ft.

Consultation will be held before a decision is made by the Holyrood government, with the environmental impact assessment to go on display at a series of public meetings.

Bob Collier, chief executive of Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, said: 'There is fierce competition, not just in Scotland but across the rest of Europe to gain recognition as a leader in the field and this project will provide an extremely valuable testing site for manufacturers to demonstrate their products and to gather vital data on performance.'

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

6 August 2011

Windfarm and course 'vital'

calum.ross

BUSINESS leaders have said plans for a GBP200million windfarm off the Aberdeen coast and Donald Trump's golf resort are 'equally important' for the future of the north-east.

The announcement this week that an application has been lodged for 11 giant offshore turbines met strong opposition from the Trump Organisation.

The structures would measure up to 640ft -- twice the height of Big Ben -- and are to be positioned one and a half miles from the coast between Balmedie and Bridge of Don.

Mr Trump has criticised the proposed location because of its proximity to his GBP750million golf development at the Menie Estate -- and senior members of his team this week vowed to fight the plans using 'any available legal means in any jurisdiction'.

Many people who have spoken in support of the economic benefits of the Trump development also view the plans for the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) as key to the region becoming a global player in the renewable energy industry and securing its post-oil economic future.

Tom Smith, chairman of Aberdeen City and Shire and Economic Future (Acsef), said the EOWDC was crucial to anchor the energy industry in the Energetica corridor between Aberdeen and Peterhead.

'Both the Trump development and the EOWDC are of strategic importance for our economy and integral parts of Energetica, which is a unique energy destination, based on low carbon principles, that will attract new businesses and people to the region,' he said.

'The EOWDC will be the catalyst to securing new investment in renewable energy technologies and services.

'However, to attract those businesses and their employees, the environment, both natural and built, along with world-class leisure facilities are equally important and our aim is to strike the right balance - which the new layout and location of the EOWDC achieves.'

The offshore windfarm and test centre plans have been lodged with Scottish Government agency Marine Scotland by Vattenfall, Europe's sixth-largest electricity generator, subsea engineering firm Technip, and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group.

North-east Labour MSP Lewis Macdonald said: 'There were many people keen to support Donald Trump's golf development, on the basis of the jobs and business it promised to bring.

'If it's good enough for golf, it's good enough for green electricity. I call on all concerned to back these plans.'

PA News

10 August 2011

TRUMP SLAMS WINDFARM APPLICATION

Kate Shannon Press Association Scotland

US billionaire Donald Trump has criticised a plan to build an offshore windfarm near his luxury golf resort.

A planning application for an 11-turbine wind farm off Aberdeen Bay was submitted on Friday.

The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre is a £150 million joint venture by utility company Vattenfall, engineering firm Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group.

In a statement, Mr Trump said: "I am very disappointed that Scotland may allow the development of a wind power plant directly off Aberdeen's beautiful coastline.

"When I first became involved with our billion-pound development - golf course construction is weeks away from completion with a planned opening before July 1 2012 - I was repeatedly promised, as an incentive for us to go forward and proceed with this project, that wind turbines would not be destroying and distorting the magnificent coastline.

"Unfortunately, despite these prior assurances that the wind project would not proceed, I am now learning that this issue has again raised its ugly head.

"Many places, such as Cape Cod, Massachusetts and numerous others, have totally rejected these so-called wind farms entirely because they are unsightly and noisy. No matter how far out they are sited, their terrible screeching sounds are audible to both people and wildlife.

"Scotland is one of the most beautiful countries on earth, with its greatest asset being its magnificent coastline, a coastline known for its great beauty throughout the entire world.

"Speaking both selfishly and as somebody who loves Scotland, the birthplace of my mother, I hope that the mistake of building these massive and visually destructive power plants is avoided. Don't be misled. Your coastline will be forever ruined. Your wildlife will be devastated. And your valuable tax revenues wasted."

The windfarm planning application seeks permission for work to start on its construction and operation.

Mr Trump's under-construction golf course is on the Menie Estate near Aberdeen on the North Sea coast, parts of which are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

David Rodger, spokesman for the windfarm project, said: "We have been in regular contact with the Trump Organisation and acknowledge the concern raised.

"We have made a strong case for the environmental and economic benefits of the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre as a centre of global research and development for offshore wind and as such it is of strategic importance to Aberdeen and Scotland's renewable energy ambitions.

"The project is now subject to a formal consultation and decision-making process."

Independent (UK)

11 August 2011

Section: News

Trump opposes plan for windfarm

News

Kate Shannon

THE US billionaire Donald Trump has criticised a plan to build an offshore windfarm near his luxury golf resort in Scotland.

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"We have made a strong case for the environmental and economic benefits of the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre as a centre of global research and development for offshore wind, and as such it is of strategic importance to Aberdeen and Scotland's renewable energy ambitions.

"The project is now subject to a formal consultation and decision-making process."

Daily Record (Glasgow, Scotland)

11 August 2011

Section: News

TRUMP BLOWS UP OVER PLAN FOR WINDFARM

Fury at turbines near his golf resort

John Ferguson

DONALD Trump has accused the Scottish government of allowing the "destruction" of the coastline with plans for an offshore windfarm near his pounds 1billion golf resort.

The American tycoon claims the scheme would spoil the view from his controversial Menie course near Aberdeen.

In a statement yesterday, the billionaire said: "When I first became involved with our development, I was repeatedly promised, as an incentive for us to go forward and proceed with this project, that wind turbines would not be destroying and distorting the magnificent coastline. Despite these prior assurances, I am now learning that this issue has again raised its ugly head.

"No matter how far out they are sited, their terrible screeching sounds are audible to people and wildlife."

He also claimed turbines are "extremely inefficient".

A planning application for the pounds 150million windfarm went in last week. Eleven turbines would go up in Aberdeen Bay in a joint venture by Vattenfall, engineering firm Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group.

Technip Offshore Wind senior vice president Ron Cookson said: "It is our belief this project could, with considerable EU support, be the catalyst which kickstarts the region's rapid emergence as an industry-leading player in marine renewables."

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

11 August 2011

Donald Trump tilts at 'turbine threat which will forever ruin coastline'

ryan.crighton

Billionaire Donald Trump claimed last night that Scotland's coastline will be 'forever ruined' if a GBP200million windfarm is built next to his north-east golf resort.

He has attacked the plans for giant turbines to be built off the coast of Aberdeen because of the visual impact they will have on his Menie Estate links course.

The 11 structures -- which would make up the European Offshore Wind Development Centre (EOWDC) -- would measure up to 640ft high, twice the height of Big Ben.

They would be erected one-and-a-half miles from the coast between Balmedie and Bridge of Don.

But the Trump Organisation has vowed to use any available legal means to make sure the project does not go ahead.

Mr Trump said: 'I am very disappointed that Scotland may allow the development of a wind power plant directly off Aberdeen's beautiful coastline.'

He also released his own artist's impression of what the scheme would look like from his championship golf course, which is nearing completion.

'When I first became involved with our billion-pound development, I was repeatedly promised, as an incentive for us to go forward and proceed with this project, that wind turbines would not be destroying and distorting the magnificent coastline,' he said.

'Unfortunately, despite these prior assurances that the wind project would not proceed, I am now learning that this issue has again raised its ugly head.'

Mr Trump previously threatened to walk away from his golf development when original proposals for the windfarm cited 33 turbines.

That number, however, was eventually scaled back.

Building work for the project -- a partnership between Vattenfall, Technip, and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) -- could start as early as 2013.

But Mr Trump still fears the scheme could compromise his plans. He added: 'Scotland is one of the most beautiful countries on earth, with its greatest asset being its coastline -- a coastline known for its great beauty throughout the entire world.'

'Speaking both selfishly and as somebody who loves Scotland, the birthplace of my mother, I hope that the mistake of building these massive and visually destructive power plants is avoided.'

And he warned Scottish residents: 'Don't be misled -- your coastline will be forever ruined, your wildlife will be devastated and your valuable tax revenues wasted.'

David Rodger, project spokesman for the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre, said: 'We have been in regular contact with the Trump Organisation and acknowledge the concern raised.'

Meanwhile, an engineering expert has questioned the drawing that the Trump Organisation released yesterday to justify its concerns.

Alan Owen, of the School of Engineering at the Robert Gordon University, said: 'The Trump picture shows the wind turbines too close to shore and incorrectly distributed, both relative to the shore and to one another.'

Mr Owen, a member of the Areg board, added: 'The area is already an industrial landscape with large boats congregating frequently, and the applicant's picture is far more accurate.'

Last night, the Scottish Government dismissed Mr Trump's claims and said each offshore application would be assessed by Scottish ministers.

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

11 August 2011

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Last night, the Scottish Government dismissed Mr Trump's claims and said each offshore application would be assessed by Scottish ministers.

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

16 August 2011

Massive offshore turbines plan going before the public

catriona.webster

PLANS for a controversial GBP200million windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen will come under public scrutiny later this month.

A series of consultation events are to be held on the proposed European Offshore Wind Development Centre.

If approved it would include 11 giant turbines measuring up to 640ft high, twice the height of Big Ben.

The structures would be positioned one-and-a-half miles from the coast between Balmedie and Bridge of Don.

Earlier this month an application was lodged with Scottish Government agency Marine Scotland by Vattenfall, Europe's sixth-largest electricity generator, subsea engineering firm Technip, and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group.

Detailed plans for the project will go on show at venues across the north-east for public to have their say.

Vattenfall UK country manager David Hodgkinson said: 'The public information events are an important part of the formal consultation and decision-making process.

'We believe we have made a strong case for the environmental and economic benefits of the centre. I would like to encourage people to make their own judgment after viewing the information that we will present at the events and speaking to members of the project team.'

The application has met strong opposition from the Trump Organisation.

Billionaire Donald Trump has criticised the proposed location because of its proximity to his GBP750million golf development at the Menie Estate.

Last week, senior members of his team vowed to fight the plans using 'any available legal means'.

Consultation events will be held at the Palace Hotel, Peterhead, on August 29; Udney Arms, Newburgh, August 30; and the Kirk Centre, Ellon, on August 31.

Events will also be held at the Whitehorse Inn, Balmedie on September 1 and the Doubletree Hilton, Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen, on September 2.

The plans will be open to view from 2pm to 8pm at each location, with the formal consultation process due to end on September 16.

Any representations on the application should be made to the Scottish Government's Marine licensing operations team by September 16.

APPENDIX 2

**LETTER TO VATTENFALL
ON BEHALF OF TRUMP INTERNATIONAL
DATED 14 DECEMBER 2010**

Our ref AF/TRU047.0007

Øystein Løseth
Chief Executive Officer
Vattenfall AB
SE-162 87
Stockholm

Direct Line: +44 (0)131 200 7452

14 December 2010

Dear Øystein

Trump International Golf Links, Scotland

We act for the Trump Organisation in relation to their ongoing development of a world class golf resort at the Menie Estate in Aberdeenshire.

The Trump Organisation fully supports efforts being made by the Scottish Government and the Scottish renewable energy industry to achieve ambitious national targets to meet 20% of Scotland's energy demand from renewable sources by 2020. Our clients support proposals for appropriately located wind farms and ultimately wish your projects every success.

The Menie site was chosen by Mr Trump because of the outstanding coastal landscape and expansive views to the sea. The development was approved by the Scottish Ministers in 2008 following a public inquiry. The national economic importance of the Trump Golf Resort was endorsed by the Aberdeenshire Council and the Scottish Ministers. Our clients have relied upon that planning permission in carrying out masterplanning and detailed design. In July 2010, work started on the championship golf course as the first phase of the development.

There has been extensive world wide media coverage of our clients' project in recent years so your project team must have been fully aware of Mr Trump's interest in the Menie Estate when planning their stakeholder and community engagement. Indeed we understand that your team carried out detailed pre-application consultation with other leading stakeholders, who were given the opportunity to comment on the proposed location of your development to avoid compromising other important services and developments in the region. Yet no attempt was made to engage properly with one of the most high profile and nationally important developments in Scotland in recent history. When my clients made attempts to question your team on the location, scale and visual impact of the proposed wind farm, the answers were evasive and lacking in substance. This led our clients to believe that the proposed wind farm would have no adverse impact on the golf resort so they were alarmed to receive diagrams on 3 December which illustrate a significantly adverse visual impact on a tourist development of national importance.

You will be well aware that landscape and seascape impacts are crucial determining factors in the assessment of the acceptability or otherwise of wind farms. The importance of the individual and cumulative visual impact of wind farm developments is enshrined in national

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Dundas & Wilson CS LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in Scotland with registered number SC144142
and registered office at Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EN

All other members of Dundas & Wilson CS LLPs (as used to interpret the reserved titles) are located in London, Edinburgh and Glasgow

DUNDAS & WILSON

and local planning policy. The adverse visual impact of your proposals to develop an offshore wind deployment centre is therefore of the utmost concern to our clients.

We have now reviewed your wire frame diagrams showing the expected visual impact of the proposed wind turbines from various points across the championship golf course and the hotel site. These impacts are completely unacceptable to our clients.

During your public consultation exercise in 2006, our clients made it very clear to your project team that Mr Trump regarded this adverse visual impact as a deal breaker for the golf resort. Since then Mr Trump's vision has been endorsed by the Scottish Government and is supported by the local planning authorities, national and local enterprise companies and local businesses.

As a significant and well known stakeholder, your project team could and should have made greater efforts to engage with our clients. It is particularly surprising and disappointing that they did not include our clients as a consultee in your EIA Scoping Opinion request in August 2010.

Although our clients support the principle of your development, they oppose, in the strongest possible terms, the proposed siting of the wind turbines and will take all necessary steps, including legal proceedings in the UK and elsewhere, to protect their continuing investment in their development, which is of national economic importance.

Yours sincerely



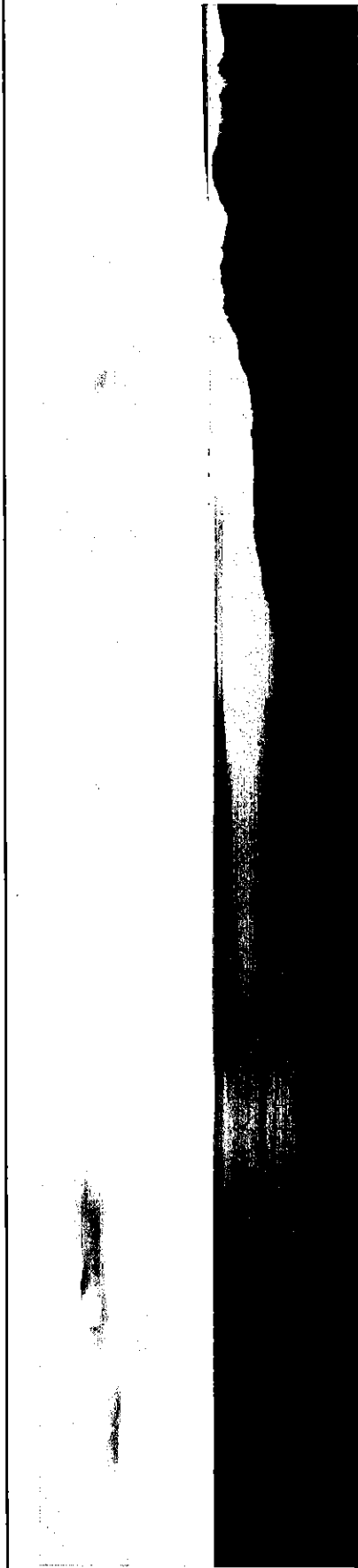
Partner, For and on behalf of Dundas & Wilson CS LLP

cc

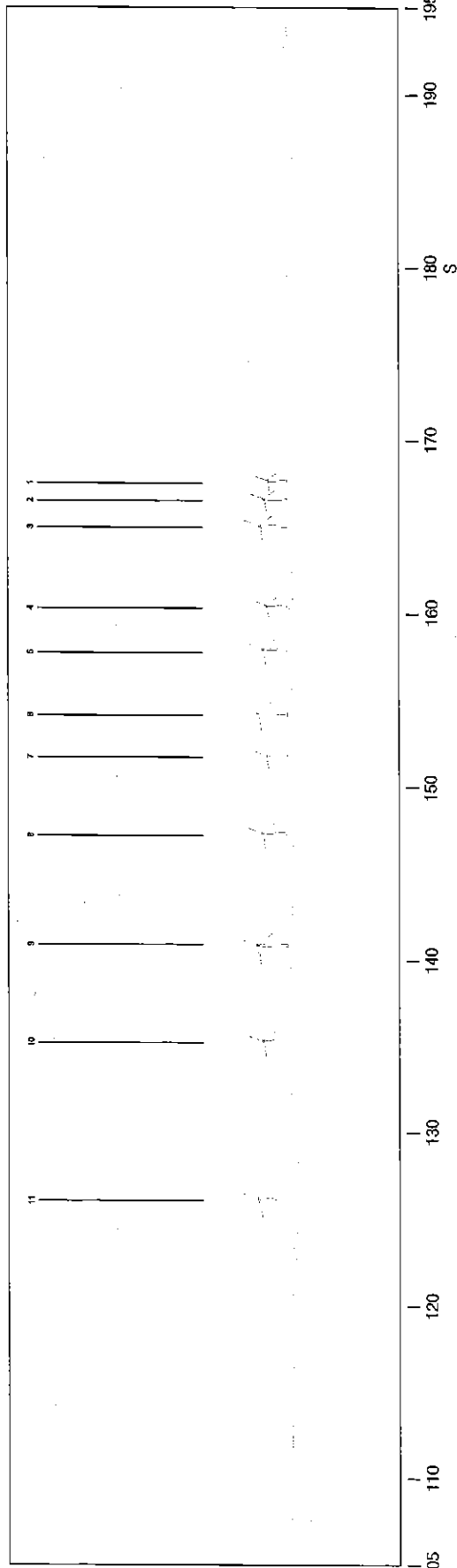


APPENDIX 3

PHOTOMONTAGE SHOWING ADVERSE VISUAL IMPACT FROM 4TH HOLE OF CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE



EXISTING VIEW



WIREFRAME VIEW

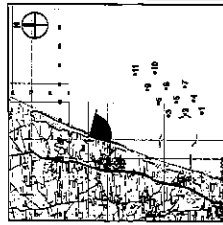
Viewpoint Information

Grid Reference 392009E 018973N
Viewer Height 2m
Included Angle 60°
Viewing Distance 300m
Images digitally altered to the equivalent of
35mm camera with 50mm lens.

Layout Information

Based on Layout LAYOUT 27.04.2011
Blade Length 75m
Hub Height 126m
Number of Blades 3
Nearest Turbine 3.9km
Number of Tips Visible 11°
Number of Tip and Hub Visible 11°
Turbine Visibility 125° to 180°

*The information provided ignores the screening effect of
other wind turbines in the vicinity.



Client		Trump International	
Project		Proposed Championship Golf Course, Balmuccia.	
Site		VIEWPOINT 1 VIEW FROM ADJACENT TO FOURTH GREEN	
Drawn By	11/05/2011	Scale	1:500
Check		Scale	1:500



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Marine Scotland
Licensing Operations Team
PO Box 101
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Our Ref: RM/2979/MLB

September 9th 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write on behalf of my constituent [REDACTED] Ellon,
Aberdeenshire, AB41 6DZ.

[REDACTED] is concerned at plans to erect wind turbines off the Newburgh Coast as part of the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre. She opposes the proposed development for the following reasons.

Firstly, [REDACTED] feels that the proposed development would destroy the ambience and serenity of the coastline. She has kept several horses on [REDACTED] land, near the coastline, for some years. [REDACTED] feels that her horses would be negatively affected by the change in the character of the area.

Secondly, [REDACTED] notes that if the plan goes ahead, there will be nowhere in the area for vessels to wait to enter Aberdeen Harbour.

Thirdly, [REDACTED] fears that the wild life off the coast (land and air) would not have time to adapt to the proposed changes. She fears extinctions could result.

Finally, [REDACTED] feels that the people of the area have already had more than their fair share of this type of development. She feels that there is a strong case for relocating the proposed wind farm off the coast south of Aberdeen, where there are no beaches.

I enclose [REDACTED] email to me, which explains her concerns in full.

I hope that the Scottish Government will take Mrs MacLure's concerns into account when it makes its decision.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP

etc.



Liberal Democrat MP for Gordon

Diary Secretary:
Telephone: 013398 89120
Facsimile: 013398 82656

Constituency Office
71 High Street, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, AB51 3QJ
Telephone: 01467 623413 Facsimile: 01467 624994

Email: brucem@parliament.uk Website: www.malcolmbBruce.org.uk

House of Commons:
Telephone: 020 7219 6233
Facsimile: 020 7219 2334

MILSOM, Robert

From: HERNANDEZ, Alexandra
Sent: 30 August 2011 11:14
To: MILSOM, Robert
Subject: FW: Wind Turbines off the North East Coast

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 August 2011 21:58
To: HERNANDEZ, Alexandra
Subject: Wind Turbines off the North East Coast

Dear Malcolm Bruce MP,

Dear Sir,

I became aware of the proposal to erect wind turbines off the coast of Newburgh Beach and Balmedie a few days ago. This saddens me a lot as I have three horses on Raymond Davidsons land named Tahuna and am totally against this going ahead in this part of the coast for many reasons. They are as follows:
The ambience and serenity of the coastline would be destroyed #There would be nowhere in the vicinity for the ships to wait to get into the Aberdeen harbour #The wild life off the coast, marine, land and air would not be able to adapt to the different environment very quickly and so this would perhaps lead to extinction #and from a personal view point, haven't the population of farmers and inhabitants been through enough of this type of insurmountable adjustments to their lives and environment #one of my herd of horses is an Irish Sports Horse, her Grand Sire being the wellknown Cloverhill. She is one of 44 in the world and I love her to bits and would imagine that she would take it badly of such a plan were to go ahead.

I do have an alternative proposal and shall state it to you here. Why not put the wind turbines off the coast along the Aberdeen to Perth road beside the cliffs as there is no beach there for people to walk on and enjoy ?

I know that I am a lonely voice but please at least ponder on the above at your convenience. I know that you are a busy man but this involves my life and many friends as well and I realise that alternative forms of energy have to be made available to serve the public.

Kindest Regards,

[REDACTED]
Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

AB41 6DZ

RECEIVED

14 SEP 2011

18/14/09



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Marine Scotland
Licensing Operations Team
PO Box 101
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Our Ref: GM/2979/MLB2

November 7th 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write on behalf of my constituent: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB41 6DZ.

Further to my letter, dated 9th September 2011, I am still yet to receive a reply regarding the issues raised in the attached letter. Please see enclosed.

I look forward to your swift response.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP

Liberal Democrat MP for Gordon



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Marine Scotland
Licensing Operations Team
PO Box 101
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Our Ref: RM/2979/MLB

September 9th 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write on behalf of my constituent: [REDACTED] Ellon,
Aberdeenshire, AB41 6DZ.

[REDACTED] is concerned at plans to erect wind turbines off the Newburgh Coast as part of the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre. She opposes the proposed development for the following reasons.

Firstly, [REDACTED] feels that the proposed development would destroy the ambiance and serenity of the coastline. She has kept several horses on Raymond Davidson's land, near the coastline, for some years. [REDACTED] feels that her horses would be negatively affected by the change in the character of the area.

Secondly, [REDACTED] notes that if the plan goes ahead, there will be nowhere in the area for vessels to wait to enter Aberdeen Harbour.

Thirdly, [REDACTED] fears that the wild life off the coast (land and air) would not have time to adapt to the proposed changes. She fears extinctions could result.

Finally, [REDACTED] feels that the people of the area have already had more than their fair share of this type of development. She feels that there is a strong case for relocating the proposed wind farm off the coast south of Aberdeen, where there are no beaches.

I enclose [REDACTED] email to me, which explains her concerns in full.

I hope that the Scottish Government will take [REDACTED] concerns into account when it makes its decision.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP

etc

Liberal Democrat MP for Gordon

[REDACTED]
Ellon AB41 6DZ.
[REDACTED]

Marine Scotland
Licensing Operations Team
PO BOX 101
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB.

12th September 2011.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Balmedie Offshore Wind Farm

I write to register serious objection to the proposed Balmedie Offshore Wind Farm.

No one should doubt that the development of renewable energy is the most sensible long term manner in which energy production should proceed.

But wind farms, whether off- or on- shore, are not at all sensible for many reasons including:-


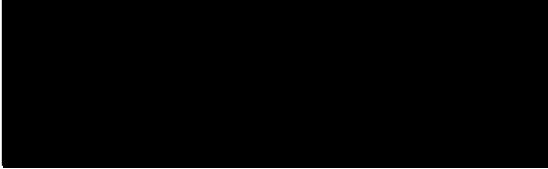
- they are hopelessly inefficient and unreliable
- they are not at all environmentally friendly in their construction
- they look hideous and despoil the view

I agree entirely that renewable energy should be developed, but with a source of power more efficient and reliable than the wind. With successful development and use of hydro sources behind us, the current subsidies being used to build wind farms would be much more sensibly and logically used to develop energy using tidal power devices.

Please record my serious objection to any wind farm development.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]




Ellon AB41 6DZ.


Marine Scotland
Licensing Operations Team
PO BOX 101
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB.

12th September 2011.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Balmedie Offshore Wind Farm

I write to register serious objection to the proposed Balmedie Offshore Wind Farm.

No one should doubt that the development of renewable energy is the most sensible long term manner in which energy production should proceed.

But wind farms, whether off- or on- shore, are not at all sensible for many reasons including:-

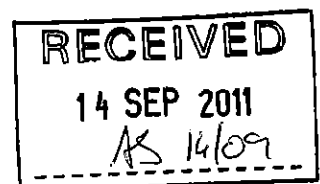
- they are hopelessly inefficient and unreliable
- they are not at all environmentally friendly in their construction
- they look hideous and despoil the view

I agree entirely that renewable energy should be developed, but with a source of power more efficient and reliable than the wind. With successful development and use of hydro sources behind us, the current subsidies being used to build wind farms would be much more sensibly and logically used to develop energy using tidal power devices.

Please record my serious objection to any wind farm development.

Yours faithfully,





Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 December 2011 11:10
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECT TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam,

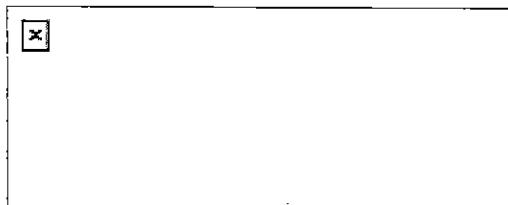
OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

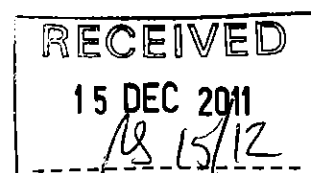
The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Aberdeen
Scotland, United Kingdom
AB15 5XZ
[REDACTED]



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has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.



15/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 December 2011 18:25
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECT to the turbines!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

December 15, 2011

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to STRONGLY OBJECT to your proposed wind farm off the coast of Aberdeen. There must be many other sites that are more appropriate where you will not disturb the beauty of the coastline and RUIN the experience of golfers and tourists, many of whom make an extraordinary effort to come to this part of the world.

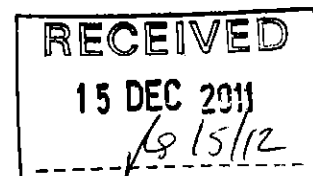
I respectfully request that you please reject the EOWDC proposal.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

USA

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 December 2011 08:20
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to Wind Turbine Development off the coast of Aberdeenshire!
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sirs,

It has been brought to my attention that Vattenfall are considering the development of a European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre and I wish to object in the strongest possible way to granting permission for such a development.

As a Golf Tour Operator planning to send thousands of golf visitors from around the world to the new Trump Scotland course, destined to be ranked in the World's Top 100 Courses, such a development would be a complete eyesore on the coastal landscape and would seriously detract from the golfing experience that any visiting golfer would have to this beautiful part of Aberdeenshire. A similar development off the east coast of Wicklow in Ireland has created a negative eyesore for golfers visiting The European Club, another course ranked in the World's Top 100 Courses. Since the erection of these wind turbines, The European Club has fallen over 20 places in the World rankings and is in danger of falling out of the rankings altogether. With the overall "landscape" of a course a factor in such rankings, I believe the wind turbine development is a cause of its decline and I would imagine will have a similar **negative** effect on the new Trump Scotland development, which should greatly increase golf tourism to that part of the Scotland.

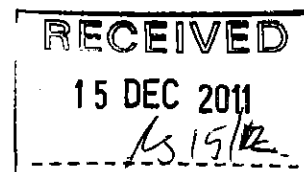
I urge you therefore to reject the planning for the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Keep in touch.

Warmest regards,
Kevin.

[REDACTED]
The International Golfing Experience Register,
Long Cove Lodge,
11 Holland Drive,
Liscannor,
Co. Clare,
Ireland.



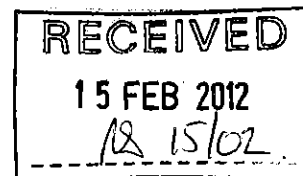
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15/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2012 16:48
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: FW: Object To The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue



From: [REDACTED]

Date: 15/ 02/ 12

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

We respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

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17/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: Allen R (Ruth)
Sent: 15 February 2012 09:04
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: FW: THE EOWDC TURBINES
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Ruth Allen
Communications Manager
Marine Scotland
Scottish Government
1 A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 February 2012 22:28
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: THE EOWDC TURBINES

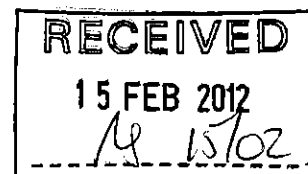
Dear Sirs, We respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeenshire's coastline and my quality of life. The siting of this wind farm is wrong and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely [REDACTED] Peterhead AB42 2WS
[REDACTED] Peterhead AB42

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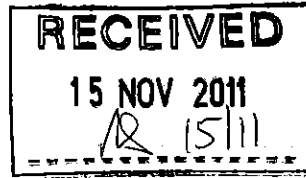
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17/02/2012

File number	
Date received	14/11/2011
Forwarded to	ID
Date returned	



Aberdeen
Scotland
AB24 1TB

To Whom It May Concern

Well I am against all the Planning and the Structure of Wind Turbines being put up at the Balmedie Bay you are Destroying the Beautiful sight that is given when you look out to the Bay I was at sea in my young days Trawl Fisherman and you could not get a finer view when you came near Balmedie Bay it was clear and a very nice view of the Bay and still is but now your people are going to Destroy that view as you are going to invade the view with an Eye Sore of Wind Turbines and that is a Fact if you want to put up wind Turbines put them out about 20 miles of the Balmedie Bay and I say again do not Spoil the View also the Splendor of the Bay with those Wind Turbines I was Born and Bred along the Sea Front and you cannot get a Better View from Footdee on the Bay at Balnagash looking along the Balmedie Coast Line and that is a Fact so please do not Spoil the View for every Body to see young and old.

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 September 2011 16:00
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm

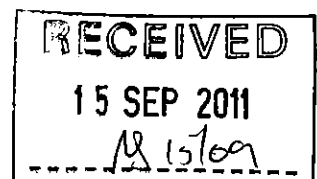
My husband and I attended the presentation at the White Horse Inn, Balmedie. It was intimated that most people were in favour of the development, but we do not think this is the case. We have found it very difficult to get facts to form an educated opinion on the problem. Both sides can make statements to support their claims, but when we read in the newspapers that "wind power generation is negligible particularly in cold weather" and that "turbines had to be shut down because of the strength of the wind and the costs involved with this" also that it is developers, landowners turbine-hardware manufacturers who are making money from subsidies, increased costs to the tax payers and increased electricity bills it makes us wonder who is benefitting from this. Aberdeen bay with its beach and harbour is one of our top tourist attractions, apart from Donald Trumps golf development there are existing golf courses on the N.E.coast which would suffer with the installation of these wind turbines. We therefor wish as Aberdeen citizens to register our OBJECTION to the development.

[REDACTED]

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16/09/2011

Sutherland Al (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 December 2011 21:51
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: Marine Scotland Mailbox; [REDACTED]
Subject: European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

From ; [REDACTED] Aberdeen, AB15 8BT
15th December 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC)

I write to register my objection to the proposal to build wind turbines off the coast of Aberdeen. I believe that these turbines will have a detrimental effect on the leisure and tourism industry in the North East of Scotland.

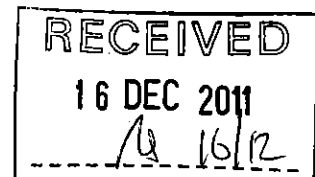
Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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16/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 December 2011 14:08
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam:

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

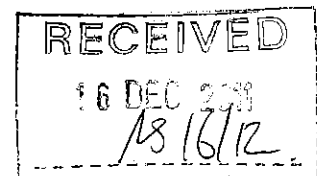
I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The proposed site of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a serious detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Absolutely Golf
Chairman, the North American Golf Tour Operators Alliance (NAGTOA)
Five Miller Road
Darien, CT 06820

[REDACTED]
(877) 545-GOLF (4653) toll free
(203) 323-4653 outside US
www.agtgolftours.com



Member:
Founder & Chairman, North American Golf Tour Operators Alliance (NAGTOA)
International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO)
Appointed representative for the USA & Canada, Failte Ireland/Tourism Ireland Golf Industry Board

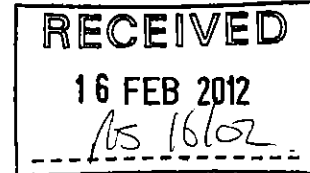
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16/12/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 February 2012 13:01
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Wind Turbines
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue



From

[REDACTED]
 Peterhead
 AB42 1ZF

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline and my quality of life. The siting of this wind-farm is wrong and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland, we need this to sustain our economy, not to mention the carnage of sea birds or the incessant noise. I also have concerns for the safety of ships entering and leaving Aberdeen and also helicopters as my family are involved in both these methods of travel.

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17/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 March 2012 07:20
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection to the European Offshore Wind Development Centre

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

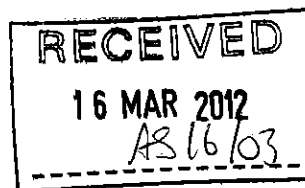
Dear Sir/Madam,

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the NE of Scotland. Apart from the aesthetics the cost benefits of wind farms are highly questionably and as such should not attract subsidies from the tax payer!

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 March 2012 20:34
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Wind turbines

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

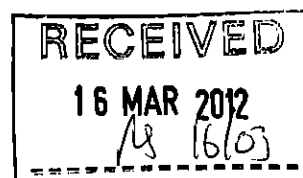
Dear sir/ madam,

I am writing to object about the wind farms being sited off royal Aberdeen golf course. Firstly I think it would totally spoil the beautiful view that visitors and members enjoy. Secondly as I live next to the area in question I don't particularly want to be looking at these unsightly structures.

I think as people have suggested these turbines could be placed further up the coast in a more industrial site instead of spoiling another part of our beautiful coastline.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: Allen R (Ruth)
Sent: 15 March 2012 18:17
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: FW: Objection to the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Ruth Allen
Communications Manager
Marine Scotland
Scottish Government
1 A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

[REDACTED]

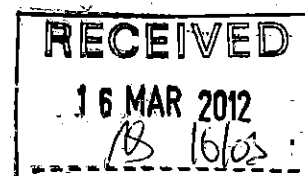
www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 March 2012 18:05
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Objection to the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre

To whom it may concern

As a member of Aberdeen Ladies' Golf Club I would like to object to the proposed European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre. I have been a member since 1996 but my family ties with Royal Aberdeen Golf Club go back to the 1960's. I cherish the scenery of the Balgownie Links and in particular the horizon looking out to the North Sea. No words can express fully the special views from this stunning links course but they are magical especially when the sun shines on a calm day and the water glints. I believe in renewable energy but never thought that a beautiful coastline such as Aberdeen, Balgownie, Balmedie and further north would be ruined. I object wholeheartedly and do not want this project to be located off the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire coast.

[REDACTED]



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16/03/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: Allen R (Ruth)
Sent: 15 March 2012 17:30
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: FW: WIND FARM OFF ABERDEEN
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

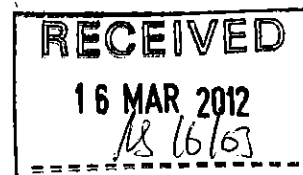
Ruth Allen
Communications Manager
Marine Scotland
Scottish Government
1 A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ


www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland

From: 
Sent: 15 March 2012 16:50
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: WIND FARM OFF ABERDEEN

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline. The wind farm is in an inappropriate site and will have a negative effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North East of Scotland.

 Aberdeen AB15 7RY



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16/03/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 March 2012 17:02
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir/madam

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industries in the North-east of Scotland.

In talking to people in the city there seems incredulity at the proposed siting with many feeling that the area would still benefit if it was further north of the city and not in such prominent view of major tourist attractions. Peterhead is an area of industry and would surely welcome the location there.

It is concerning that there seems to be politics at play rather than good common sense.

Kindest regards



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16/03/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 March 2012 16:02
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: objection
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland'.



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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: Central Enquiry Unit
Sent: 18 April 2012 08:33
To: Sutherland AI (Andrew)
Subject: EED - General enquiry - Trump Turbines - [REDACTED]

The attached email was received at the Central Enquiry Unit today.

I would be grateful if you would deal with this or forward it to the appropriate person / area of business.

You may wish to acknowledge receipt of this email to the enquirer.

Thank you

Alison S
[REDACTED]

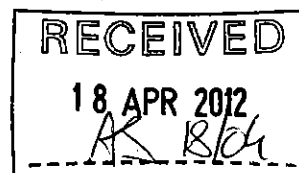
Central Enquiry Unit

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All FOI requests received must be registered on the FOI Tracker. Please click [here](#) to access the [FOI tracker](#).

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2012 17:11
To: Central Enquiry Unit
Subject: General enquiry



Wind Turbines.

Trump is right, They are ugly, They do blight the countryside and they are horrible monstrosities to look at. Half the time they don't even work because there is no wind, So what is the point? Then again they are okay if you don't have to look at them everyday or live anywhere near them. Horrible, Ugly and half the time they don't work, What more do i need to say.

[REDACTED]
Fife

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01/05/2012

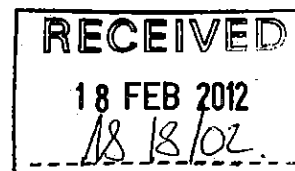
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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2012 11:34
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Wind Development Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue



Objections from :

[REDACTED] Peterhead
[REDACTED] Peterhead

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 September 2012 08:31
To: ms.marine.licensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed EOWDC - Objection
Attachments: Project 687 (Menie) EOWDC - TIGLS Objection - Issue.pdf; Project 687 (Menie) EOWDC MSC TP 1 - SLVIA Methodology Final.pdf; Project 687 (Menie) EOWDC MSC TP 2 - SLVIA Final.pdf; Project 687 (Menie) MSC TPs Appendix Final.pdf

Proposed EOWDC Wind Farm – Objection – Trump International Golf Links Scotland

Dear Sir,

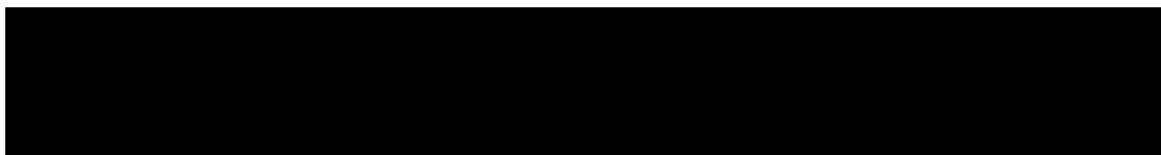
I enclose our client's objection and submission in respect of the above proposed wind farm. This comprises three reports and a maps/photographs appendix. Please acknowledge receipt of this objection.

Also, please note the caveat in the objection. As substantial additional information was only supplied yesterday afternoon we will make a supplementary submission once we have had the opportunity to evaluate that additional material.

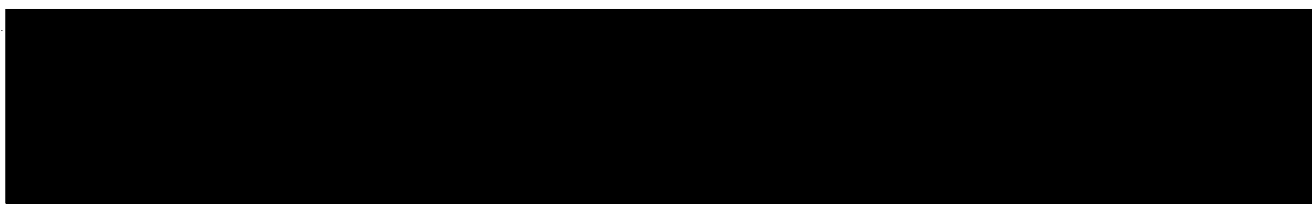
Regards,



**+ Graham
+ Sibbald**



Residential | Commercial | Specialist | Construction



Should you have a complaint about our service please contact the sender of this email in the first instance. Graham+Sibbald is a member of the Surveyor Ombudsman Service which may be able to help you with your complaint if we are unable to.

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22/11/2012

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GS/687/IK

Marine Scotland Act 2010

Electricity Act 1989

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

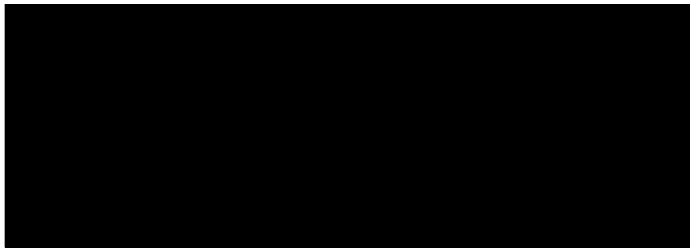
PROPOSED EOWDC WIND FARM

OBJECTION

On behalf of

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL GOLF LINKS SCOTLAND (TIGLS)

Submitted: 24th September 2012



Caveat

1. At the time of lodging this submission a considerable amount of requested and material information, including the independent review of the original Environmental Statement (ES) and key consultee responses, had only just been made available by Marine Scotland (supplied in the afternoon of 17th September). The information, running to around 130 pages, will take some time to assess and, on that basis, the objectors will submit additional and/or supplementary objections as soon as possible following toe consideration of this material.
2. It should be noted by way of contrast and comparison, that for every planning application and for every planning appeal in Scotland all of this type of information is automatically and timeously published on the respective Council and/or DPEA web site and is fully available to the public. There is no reasonable excuse for similar processes not being applied in respect of proposed marine developments.

Background

3. This objection to the proposed European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre – EOWDC – wind farm has been prepared and submitted on behalf of the Trump International Golf Links Limited Scotland (TIGLS), the owners and operators of the Menie Estate golf and resort complex at Balmedie, Aberdeenshire.
4. The nature of the interest of TIGLS is best understood by way of reference to the project history statement attached as an appendix to this objection submission. In short, the proposed wind farm development would fundamentally and fatally compromise the whole design philosophy of the Menie complex including the golf course and the proposed hotel.
5. The assessment of the latest information on the EOWDC project and this resultant objection has been prepared by [REDACTED] Graham and Sibbald), a chartered town planner with thirty five years' experience in the public and private sectors, mainly in Scotland but also involving work south of the Border, and in Europe, mainly in Scandinavia. He has worked on more than a dozen wind farm cases at various stages in the s36 consent/deemed planning permission process. He has also

assessed a similar number of wind farm planning applications and has recent experience in assessing small scale renewable energy proposals. The objection has been informed by detailed landscape and visual impact Topic Papers (and Appendix) prepared by [REDACTED]. Full copies of the Topic Papers and Appendix are lodged with this objection and they should be considered as part of the objection submission. All of the submitted material has been reviewed by senior Counsel. The instructions in this case have been issued by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The Trump Organisation.

6. This objection supplements the original objection lodged in September 2011. The terms of that earlier objection are held to still stand and they should be treated as having been incorporated into this objection. However, for the sake of brevity and precision, the detailed terms of the September 2011 objection are not repeated and, in turn, this objection mainly focusses on the 2012 ES Addendum submitted by Vattenfall.
7. TIGLS are of the view that both the Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeenshire Council should object to the application and trigger a Public Inquiry (having regard to the terms of the Electricity Act). However, in the event that the neither Council objects, Marine Scotland is requested to have careful regard to:
 - a. The terms of this objection (and the earlier objection)
 - b. The significant and adverse landscape and visual effects on receptors including golf course and resort users
 - c. The likely position of key consultees, and
 - d. The complexity and novelty of the decision making frameworks that apply in this case (as set out later)
8. These factors should lead Marine Scotland to recommend to Scottish Ministers that they should either refuse the application now, or if they believe that this is not within their powers, that they should call a Public Local Inquiry (PLI). As the Scottish Ministers will realise from the recent experience of the Dunbeath, Wester Dod, Druim

Ba and Harelaw onshore wind farms, it is only at a PLI that the fullest possible assessment of these major wind farm applications can take place.

The Statutory Tests

9. The text set out below needs to be read in the context of the Dorenell Court of Session case (*Wm. Grant & Son v The Scottish Ministers and Another*) where one of the grounds for seeking the reduction of the relevant decision was that the Reporter erred in law by not applying the s.25 test. That case is considered at the end of this section.
10. The statutory tests are complex when addressing off shore wind farms. They are even more complex in cases such as this where the key significant effects are onshore effects and, thus, the Development Plan is brought into play. The end result is that there are three aspects of statutory tests to be addressed:
 - a. Consent under the Marine Scotland Act 2010
 - b. S.36 consent (and deemed planning permission) in terms of the 1989 Electricity Act
 - c. Consideration of the Development Plan having regard to the above
11. In terms of the Marine Scotland Act 2010 it appears that the tests are that Scottish Ministers, in determining whether or not to grant a marine licence, must have regard to:
 - a. The need to protect the environment
 - b. The need to protect human health
 - c. The need to protect interference with legitimate uses of the sea, and
 - d. Such other matters as the Ministers consider relevant
12. These aspects in the decision making process have not yet been tested in any off shore wind farm decision or at any relevant PLI in Scotland. However, s.28 of the 2010 Act does contain a general provision for Ministers to cause a PLI to be held in connection with their determination of any application for a marine licence.

13. In addition, consent is needed under the terms of s.36 of the Electricity Act in the same way as applies to onshore wind farms of over 50 MW installed capacity. In terms of the application of the relevant policy in the determination of s.36 consent cases, to date, it is clear that there has been something of a polarisation of opinions. On the one hand there are those who are effectively saying that the primary decision is one to be taken against the Schedule 9 tests only (in the Act), and that the deemed planning permission should then automatically follow on from a s.36 consent. In that latter regard the Development Plan is demoted to the status of a mere material consideration of very little weight that can be easily “outweighed” by energy policy considerations.
14. Then there are others, who with clear regard to the overarching principles set out in the 2006 Planning (Scotland) Act and the consolidated SPP (Scottish Planning Policy), as well as the generality and inadequacy of the Schedule 9 tests, take the view that there are two decisions to be taken and that, for the deemed planning permission decision, ss. 25 (which applies to any determination under the Planning Acts) and 37 of the Planning Act should apply, and that a proposal must meet the normal compliance with the Development Plan tests which apply right across the board. It would seem very odd if the very largest form of development which is changing the face of the entire rural and sea areas of the United Kingdom were to be excused from rigorous scrutiny under the Development Plan, simply because of its current interest to politicians.
15. This EOWDC application is one that will be, or has been, considered by the two Councils (Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City) as Planning Authorities following a consultation by the Scottish Government. Under the s.36 procedures an objection from either Council will trigger a Public Inquiry, as a matter of law. The Electricity Act was passed in 1989 to reorganise the Electricity industry and to govern the connection of large thermal power stations to the National Grid. Given its date, it was not of course designed to deal with the detailed assessment of onshore or offshore wind farms.

16. As indicated above, in addition to the marine licence aspects, it is considered that this form of application gives rise to a further two sets of tests as follows.
17. Paragraph 3 of Schedule 9 of the 1989 Act provides a specific requirement on the Scottish Ministers (who are the nominated decision makers under the 1989 Act) to have regard to:
- a. *The desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeology interest: and*
 - b. *The extent to which the developer has complied with its duty to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or any such flora, fauna, features, sites buildings or objects.*
18. Whilst views can vary on the matters set out above, the precise language used means that it is almost impossible not to comply with these so-called tests. Indeed there is nothing in them that would actually prohibit or prevent the destruction of key natural assets as a developer or Ministers could “*have regard to the desirability of preserving*” and then not preserve. As with the provisions in the Marine Scotland Act, these requirements do not give a specific set of criteria or thresholds against which to assess a project, but at their simplest, they do clearly indicate that there is a balance to be struck between the claimed policy and technical justification for any project and the directly associated environmental and other impacts (whether capable of mitigation or not).
19. However, given the deemed planning permission aspect of the process, it is well established in practice for on shore wind farms that a s.25 Planning Act test should also be carried out in order to consider whether the proposed development complies with the Development Plan. As a minimum, the 1997 Act planning criteria are an important material consideration in any s.36 or similar case decision. That will, in turn, necessitate a consideration of whether, and to what extent there are any other

material considerations which change the presumption that flows from a Development Plan assessment.

20. Those material considerations will include Government renewable energy and climate change policies (to the extent that they have any additional effect beyond the positive, supportive and up to date Marine Plan, Development Plan, SPG and SPP policies). However, the generalised policy making on these topics does not, in any way, overrule the Development Plan, or call for the Development Plan to be set aside in the determination of an application such as this one.
21. In this case the Development Plan, for both Councils, is very up to date indeed and the Plans do contain specific and detailed Policy in relation to renewable energy projects and the effects of such projects. There are also clear landscape protection policies. **There is, therefore, a full and up to date planning policy basis for assessing the application for the proposed EOWDC wind farm.**
22. However, it is now also necessary to have regard to the outcome of the *Wm Grant & Sons* case – where Lord Malcolm described the s36 procedure as a “self contained code” and rejected the primacy of s.25. At the same time it is also necessary to consider the recent Spittal wind farm Ministerial decision letter – disagreeing with the Reporter on s.25, ruling that the schedule 9 duties/tests had been met, but still refusing consent (and deemed planning permission) *inter alia* on the basis of damage to residential amenity.
23. The former consideration raises the immediate question that, if this is the case, then why has Scottish Government planning policy guidance since that time, 1989, not made the position abundantly clear? That, combined with the Spittal decision, where the Minister has not invoked a “self contained code” approach, really leaves it utterly unclear if there is any structured decision making framework at all that links energy policy, targets, democratically endorsed planning policy and consents/refusals.
24. **In order to make some sense of this situation this objection proceeds on the basis that the EOWDC application requires to be tested against the Marine Act tests, the Electricity Act tests and the Development Plan, with the bulk of the**

assessment being in respect of the Development Plan (and related material considerations). The EOWDC should be rejected unless it passes all three sets of tests.

National Climate Change and Energy Policy

25. Clearly it is not appropriate to challenge Government Policy per se in an objection to this proposed wind farm application. However, it is certainly appropriate to consider how such Government Policy translates through to the land use and inshore planning system including assessing the outcome of policy.
26. The Scottish Government's renewables policy, which sits within UK National Energy Policy, is now well known. Ministers are fully committed to promoting the increased use of renewable energy sources where it is environmentally appropriate, and so long as impacts can be satisfactorily addressed. According to Ministers, this commitment recognises renewables' potential to tackle the causes of climate change and harmful pollution, as well as their potential to support economic growth. Scottish Ministers have set clear targets for renewable electricity, announcing a series of increasing targets. The current target is for 100% of consumption to be met by renewables by 2020. However, this political aspiration was not accompanied by any Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) until the recent publication of a draft SEA addressing the "Routemap 2020" statement of renewables policy.
27. The draft SEA that has been produced is a document that fundamentally fails the test of actually being an SEA, and is nothing more than a generalist attempt, based on opinions and hopes, and without actual evidence, to retrospectively justify a predetermined policy irrespective of its impacts and irrespective of the relative impacts of available reasonable alternatives.
28. Therefore, it can be concluded that the published SG SEA simply does not address the requirements of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment in that it does not:
 - a. Identify the environmental effects – objectives, benefits and adverse effects – that have arisen from the policy/programme over the last 20 years

- b.* Identify precisely the projected environmental objectives and benefits of this programme, in particular the projected greenhouse gas emissions and fuel savings along with the associated effects on climate change indicators (the SEA predicts that greenhouse gas emissions will **increase** until 2025)
- c.* Identify and assess the externalities that arise
- d.* Objectively consider realistic alternative means, including nuclear power, by which the above benefits could be achieved with or without different environmental effects, instead concentrating on fostering variations of the “targets” as being alternatives – which they are not
- e.* Provide an adequate, evidence based description of the current state of the environment (including identifying the effects of the programme to date on that baseline environment) and of the likely evolution of that environment without the implementation of the current plan or programme
- f.* Provide an adequate, evidence based justification for the assumptions made in relation to the effects of mitigation on predicted impacts

29. Perhaps this is understandable, to an extent, in that as renewables casework experience has shown, neither in Scottish Planning Policy (SPP February 2010) nor in any other relevant Scottish Government policy guidance document is there, associated with renewables policy, any actual specific, measurable and verifiable:

- a.* Calculation of past and prediction of future emissions savings
- b.* Calculation of past and prediction of future variation in climate change indicators
- c.* Precise description of the past and prediction of the future overall effects on Scotland’s environment

30. However, with the undertaking now of formal SEA the legal position is different and the lack of verifiable objectivity and the lack of an evidence based approach to all aspects of this SEA is simply unacceptable and possibly *ultra vires*. Without such an

objective, evidence based approach there cannot be the necessary degree of public confidence in the decision making process for renewable energy projects. Individual project decisions, such as any eventual decision to consent the EOWDC scheme, themselves will become liable to challenge as a direct result of the fundamentally flawed SEA should they be approved on the basis of assumed but actually non-existent “benefit”. In short, the Scottish Government cannot produce any evidence of any actual environmental benefit of renewable energy installations.

31. Therefore, at this point in time, it cannot be said that the politically driven target equates to a properly defined plan or framework for subsequent permissions or consents on individual projects. Rather, the target is one of a number of key considerations for Planning Authorities when updating their Development Plans and when preparing SPG, for Marine Scotland in preparing the Marine Plan, and for Ministers when considering these documents. But a target by itself does not presume that s.36 consents and/or planning permissions must follow for any particular site. The existence of a target does not define the outcome of an application such as this.
32. The Planning and consents system has already played its full part in ensuring that the 2010 interim target was met. There is very considerable consented or approved capacity that has not yet been built or commissioned, meaning that there is already significant progress towards the 2020 target.
33. At the time of writing, there is no indication of any change to current national planning policy as set out in SPP, which is that only technically suitable and environmentally appropriate sites should be consented. The Scottish Government’s policy direction generally favours both onshore and offshore wind farm developments on appropriate sites, but it does not do so unquestioningly. Indeed policy throughout the UK is clear that wind farms are not to be permitted at any cost. They are only to be permitted where they can be satisfactorily accommodated and where the identifiable and measurable benefits of any scheme outweigh any adverse impacts. That is clearly the overall thrust of the guidance in the consolidated SPP, and it is also the tone of the caveats which appear throughout energy policy.

34. Therefore, only environmentally acceptable (as well as operationally effective) schemes should be approved. There is nothing in the weight of Government climate change or energy policy to justify approving projects that are unacceptable in terms of adverse environmental and other impacts and that are contrary to Development Plan policy. There is nothing in any of the Government's Renewable Energy Policy that explicitly, or by implication, changes the law or the operation of the planning system in Scotland.

The Proposal

35. The full details of the proposed development are as set out in the submitted Environmental Statement (ES) and in the Addendum. The [REDACTED] Topic Papers address the detail of this. In simple terms it is proposed to construct 11 turbines that will be up to 198m high to blade tip. The actual dimensions will vary depending on the turbines that are selected and the dimensions could vary over time if different turbines are "assessed".
36. The ES Addendum does not appear to mention micro-siting. On a site such as this it is considered that the normally requested micro-siting of the order of 50m (100m is often also sought) could give rise to different sets of significant environmental effects that really should be properly assessed. Therefore, should consent be granted despite these objections, there should be no permitted changes to location other than by a full consenting process.
37. There is a **significant procedural issue** for the statutory tests, as set out above. It is clear from a detailed assessment of the applicant's references to the "Rochdale Envelope" concept that is mentioned in the ES and Addendum (and from the background to what is meant by that phrase which relates to an outline planning application case), that the Addendum Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (SLVIA) are based on the assumption that this EOWDC wind farm application is, in effect, an **outline application** rather than a detailed application. This, in turn, clearly explains the scant information on design in the earlier ES, the very defensive tone of much of this part of the Addendum, and the repeated references to "Rochdale".

38. The question comes to be whether it is right that such a high impact development should be presented in outline or whether, as a matter of procedural principle, the proposals should be in detail. In this regard it is noted that the Marine Scotland Act 2010 does not include any power to issue a licence *in outline*.

The Submitted ES and Addendum

39. The applicants have prepared and submitted an ES (with various accompanying reports) and an Addendum. The ES and the earlier material were subject to some criticism in the original objection. This supplementary objection comments on various aspects of the development and its impacts. However, the fact that a particular aspect is not mentioned does not mean that TIGLS have accepted the findings of the ES or the Addendum. It simply means that either a final view cannot be formed on that impact until further information is seen or it has been concluded that the issue is not of primary importance to the objection.
40. In this case there appears to have been no real consideration of **alternatives**. It is accepted that there is no legal requirement to consider alternatives but, where they have been considered, the choice must be explained. It is not. In the case of a project of this scale in such a sensitive location, it is reasonable to at least raise the question as to whether the project, particularly given that it is a “European and offshore” demonstration and testing project, could not have been located in a less sensitive and more offshore location. The project is an initiative that has developed from a combination of EU programmes which aim to stimulate renewable energy technology developments and aim to provide a number of demonstration projects for next generation turbines. That means that the promoters of the project had the whole of the EU sea area in which to choose a location for the wind farm. This is not like a standard wind farm proposal where a key site selection criterion is often simply the availability of land owned by a willing landowner.
41. “Alternatives” are addressed in section 2.1, Site Selection, in the ES. In paragraph 1, reference is made to a “long process”. However, paragraph 2 immediately jumps to the Aberdeen Bay location. The rest of the section consists of design iterations. Therefore, it appears that there has been no proper consideration of alternative

locations at all, even in terms of the likely operational effectiveness of what is claimed to be a research and testing facility.

42. The only conclusion that can be reached, based on the ES and Addendum, is that there is no proper, detailed and comparative justification for locating the EOWDC at this site within Aberdeen Bay. Given the resultant significant environmental impacts this failure to justify the location is, in itself, a strong reason for rejecting this proposal.
43. Beyond the generation of electricity and the undertaking of some research and development functions, the range of claimed **benefits** of the proposal is limited. The environmental benefits are basically the assumed greenhouse gas emissions savings that are already built into the favourable policy framework.
44. It is considered vital to be specific about what the claimed benefits of a wind farm development actually are. This is because some decision makers, including Scottish Ministers, sometimes proceed on the basis of making sweeping claims, not directly correlated to evidence in any precise way, that clearly identified actual impacts and precisely specified environmental objections to a wind farm are outweighed by the assumed, but unspecified, benefits that the proposal will bring. Whether the adverse effects are just outweighed and no more, or are overwhelmingly outweighed, or whether there is a tipping point somewhere in between, is not made clear.
45. In this case the benefits of the scheme are simply the limited economic benefits as described and the environmental benefits (by and large the greenhouse gas emissions reductions and climate change benefits), that are **assumed** by policy and are already factored into the favourable policy environment. There are no other significant claimed scheme specific economic or environmental benefits. These limited economic benefits should not carry great weight and the assumed environmental benefits should, therefore, not be double counted in the planning balancing exercise.

The Position of SNH

46. As indicated earlier the most up to date assessment by SNH (along with other key information) has not yet been made available. A further objection assessment will therefore be made at a later date.

47. However, one important aspect that has become clear from the SG draft SEA addressed earlier, is that Marine Scotland does not currently have what might be called a comprehensive and robust baseline understanding of the existing marine environment, the current processes that operate in that environment, and the likely range of significant effects that would arise from the undertaking of extensive construction projects within that environment. In that regard it must be remembered that the likely range and nature of effects are materially different from those arising from a single structure (like an oil rig) that is anchored to the sea bed. Whilst various research contracts have been let there is simply not the independent, non project specific, evidence base available, at this time, to enable effects to be understood and assessed.
48. Given the environmental, social and economic importance of the marine environment the Scottish Government should be operating the precautionary principle and decline to even consider consenting any offshore wind farms until there is a much higher level of understanding of the marine environment and the likely significant effects.

Additional Evidence affecting the Planning Policy Assessment and Objection

49. This objection has taken into account the earlier objection. It has also particularly taken into account the LVIA assessments by MSC. The assessments are reported as two Topic Papers and an Appendix. All three assessments are lodged with this objection and should be referred to for their full detail. In order to lead into the planning policy assessment the [REDACTED] findings are summarised below.
50. The [REDACTED] Topic Paper 1 Topic Paper relates to the Environmental Statement (ES) Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) methodology and its application. It also addresses relevant guidance and provides a critique of the ES SLVIA methodology having regard to that guidance.
51. The Topic Paper concludes that there is ample justification to conclude that the methodology used in the ES SLVIA does not fully accord with guidance and, as a result, may understate the significance of effects.

52. The [REDACTED] Topic Paper 2 tests the veracity of the ES Addendum SLVIA conclusions and tests these by undertaking an independent assessment.
53. In terms of design the Topic Paper concludes that there has been no consideration of visual effects and that the SLVIA assessment is for a predetermined geometric turbine layout. In terms of the baseline assessment the Topic Paper concludes that that there are various errors, including that the assessment should be based upon an assumption of clear visibility as that is the correct worst case scenario. In terms of seascape and landscape effects it is concluded that there will be significant effects on landscape receptors and that the EOWDC will contribute to cumulative effects. In terms of visual effects the Topic Paper finds significant effects including significant sequential cumulative effects. In terms of the Addendum, the Topic Paper concludes that the Addendum seeks to retrospectively address landscape and visual design issues, calls into question the purpose and relevance of the “golf courses study”, and concludes that the ES and Addendum fail to identify the significance of effects from the proposed EOWDC wind farm development.
54. Overall, Topic Paper 2 demonstrates that the ES (and Addendum) omits the study of impacts on key receptors and that the ES LVIA methodology has resulted in understatement of the sensitivity of some receptors and the consequential significance of effects. The [REDACTED] LVIA prepared as part of Topic Paper 2 shows a greater number of significant visual effects. Furthermore, the design objectives cited in the ES Addendum are ineffectual, whilst the entirely desk based golf course study (sic) is an unsuccessful attempt to justify the omission of key receptors from the ES Assessment.
55. The [REDACTED] Appendix clearly illustrates the various points made above by reference to plans, diagrams and photographs.
56. In terms of this overall objection submission it can be concluded that the assessment by [REDACTED] has identified material omissions in the ES such that any decision to consent the scheme would be unsafe.

Consideration in terms of the Development Plan

57. In terms of the Development Plan consideration needs to be given to the Structure Plan, the emerging Strategic Development Plan, the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan and the Aberdeen City Local Development Plan.
58. The Aberdeen City and Shire **Structure Plan** (2009) has as one of its aims “to protect and improve ournatural environment.” The adverse effects identified above lead to a conclusion that the proposal is not protecting and enhancing the natural environment and, therefore, the proposed EOWDC wind farm is contrary to the Structure Plan. Beyond that the Structure Plan does not have any specific policies or proposals that are relevant to this proposed wind farm.
59. The emerging **Strategic Development Plan** is at the main issues report (MIR) stage. The proposed plan will be published in late 2012. The MIR did not contain any suggested policy approaches for assessing wind farms such as this.
60. The **Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan** (2012) consists of a short Plan document (LDP) alongside extensive Supplementary Guidance (SG). In terms of the LDP vision and aims, the Council seeks to encourage the sensitive development of renewable energy resources. The assessed adverse effects of the EOWDC wind farm mean that it is not a sensitive development in accordance with the LDP vision and aims. Another aspect of the vision and aims is to protect and improve assets and resources (including designated sites and sites of environmental importance). The range of assessed adverse effects of the EOWDC are in breach of this aspect of the vision and aims.
61. Policy 3 addresses Development in the Countryside and is linked to two SG documents – SG Rural Development 2: Wind Farms and Medium to Large Turbines and SG Rural Development 3: Other Renewable Energy Developments.
62. SG Rural Development 2 requires wind energy applicants to demonstrate compliance with a number of criteria (including air traffic, MOD and radar issues that are being addressed by other objectors). In terms of the TIGLS objection it is clear from all of the material set out earlier that the applicant’s proposals will have a significant

adverse effect on tourism and recreation interests. In addition the applicants have not properly considered and assessed the cumulative landscape and visual impacts. The reasoned justification for this SG refers to demonstrating the capacity of sites through design and layout that is appropriate to the landscape character. The [REDACTED] assessment shows that there has been no landscape/seascape driven design input for this proposal. Finally, the reasoned justification also states that the Council has been unable to find any areas which could accommodate wind farms of over 20MW. That being the case there should be no planning policy support for this size of scheme (well in excess of the threshold) in a location that is effectively onshore.

63. SG Rural Development 3 does not specifically describe what “other” renewable energy developments that the policy is to be applied to. However, it must be assumed that it is directed mainly at individual turbines and, therefore, need not be part of the detailed assessment in this case.
64. Having regard to the above it can be concluded that the proposed EOWDC wind farm is in breach of LDP policy 3 and the related SG on account of its assessed adverse impacts.
65. LDP Policy 12 addresses Landscape Conservation and is linked to two SG documents – SG Landscape 1: Landscape Character and SG Landscape 2: Valued Views.
66. The aim of Policy 12 is to maintain and improve the overall quality of the landscape. The significant adverse landscape effects of the EOWDC are not in accordance with this aim. The Policy defines the landscape assets of Aberdeenshire as “valuable assets and vulnerable resources which are facing various pressures of change”. It is considered that the EOWDC had not adopted an approach that recognises this situation.
67. In terms of SG Landscape 1 the scale, location and design of the EOWDC are not appropriate to the landscape character of the area. In addition the proposal will have adverse effects on the natural landscape character, adverse effects on the composition and quality of the landscape character, and adverse cumulative impacts. The proposal is, therefore, not in accordance with SG1.

68. SG Landscape 1 defines a number of Landscape Character Areas. The TIGLS and adjoining land is within area 12 – Formartine Links and Dunes. This was previously an Area of Landscape Significance, which demonstrates its sensitivity to adverse landscape (and visual) effects. Further planning advice is to be prepared to assess and control impacts in such areas but that guidance is not yet available.
69. SG Landscape 2 sets out to protect valued views. The appendix lists the valued views that are subject to the policy protection. The most directly relevant is viewpoint number 16 – Balmedie Beach. However, there are also potential effects in relation to viewpoints 8, 10, 15, and 17. However, in terms of the TIGLS objection to the proposed EOWDC it is sufficient to consider valued viewpoint 16. In terms of the policy guidance and having regard to the assessments set out earlier the proposal, by virtue of its scale, location and design, the proposed EOWDC will have an adverse impact on the viewpoint and an adverse impact on the characteristics (the view out to sea) for which the view itself is valued.
70. Having regard to the above it can be concluded that the proposed EOWDC wind farm is in breach of LDP policy 12 and the related SG on account of its adverse impacts.
71. It can therefore be concluded that the EOWDC is contrary to the relevant provisions of the Aberdeenshire LDP and the associated SG all as set out above.
72. In terms of the **Aberdeen City Local Development Plan (2012)** there are no policies that directly related to major wind farms given that the LDP relates to a built up City area. However, Policy NE 7 – Coastal Planning is relevant. The introduction to the policy mentions new marine spatial powers under the Marine Scotland Act and proposals for Integrated Coastal Zone Management. However, neither of these new planning guidance provisions has yet been brought forward and, therefore, it is only necessary to simply address the policy as set out in the LDP.
73. Policy NE 7 provides that, for undeveloped coastal areas, development must demonstrate compliance with three criteria. In that regard, and taking account of all of the material set out earlier, it is considered that the proposed EOWDC wind farm has not demonstrated that there are no other suitable sites, does not respect the character

of the environment or the recreational value in the surrounding area, and has not demonstrated an overriding environmental benefit. The proposal is, therefore, in breach of LDP Policy NE 7.

74. Therefore, it can be concluded that the proposal is not in accord with the relevant provisions of the Aberdeen City LDP.
75. Based on the detail of this objection and the associated appendix and Topic papers **the overall planning policy conclusion** is that the proposed EOWDC wind farm is in breach of the relevant aims and policies in the Structure Plan, the Aberdeenshire LDP and the Aberdeen City LDP. The presumption, in law, should therefore be for a refusal of deemed planning permission for the proposed EOWDC wind farm.
76. There are no balancing considerations, such as economic or environmental benefit, in the actual policies considered above and, therefore, these necessary balancing considerations are assessed under material considerations and are included in the overall conclusions.

Material Considerations

77. **National climate change and energy policy** is often cited as a key consideration of some weight in the determination of wind farm proposals. It is accepted that it is an important factor. However, this Government policy “green card” cannot simply override all other considerations.
78. Rather, the Government’s political policy should be delivered through the proper operation of an up to date Plan led system, and decisions should be transparently taken within the operational processes of the Planning Acts which were designed to properly, openly and fully assess the *acceptability* of proposed developments. National climate change and energy policy do not call for the Planning system to be set aside. All renewables policy, at every level, while stressing the policy importance of renewable generation, is subject to the express caveat that generating plant, including wind power stations, should only be approved in appropriate and environmentally acceptable locations. It is the Planning system that forms the basis of

deciding whether or not a site is environmentally acceptable and whether significant impacts have been satisfactorily addressed.

79. In terms of the **benefits** of the proposal, the potential economic benefits, which are limited, require to be considered having regard to what has been set out earlier.
80. In the absence of any patented offshore wind turbine technologies being held locally and with the current limited turbine manufacturing, fabrication and assembly capability in Scotland, the local and regional economic benefits of the proposal will be relatively minor. They may be concentrated on any local fabrication and assembly works, on the marine civil engineering works at the construction stage, and on the conceptual research and development proposals. These benefits will be limited. It must also be taken into account that no balanced, overall economic impact assessment is presented by the applicants – for example the income transfer effects of the ROCs system and the pricing of environmental externalities are not factored into the assessment.
81. Therefore, overall, the scheme specific economic benefits, beyond the production of electricity, are likely to be very limited indeed. It follows that the potential limited economic benefits of the scheme should be given little weight.
82. That leaves the environmental benefits to be addressed, again picking up on the earlier review under the ES section of this objection.
83. The potential greenhouse gas savings and the associated climate change impacts are often the principal claimed environmental benefits of wind farm proposals and that is the case for this proposal. However, these assumed generic benefits are already built into a favourable policy environment. Therefore, are **no** additional, scheme specific and verifiable environmental benefits claimed for the EOWDC wind farm.
84. **The National Planning Framework NPF2, 2009** sets out the key planning issues and high level spatial planning guidance for Scotland. The north east of Scotland is seen as a key driver of the Scottish economy. However, that is not an unqualified position. Section/paragraph 99 stresses the importance of landscape and visual impacts in decision making. This aspect has been taken into account in this objection.

85. There is nothing in the reminder of the new NPF which changes the approach in this objection, for what is in effect an onshore wind farm application, of a balanced assessment of benefits and disbenefits in the light of the Development Plan policy.
86. The consolidated **Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)** provides planning policy guidance, indeed it is the only such Scottish Government policy guidance, on wind farms in its paragraphs 187 to 191. The key guidance is that planning authorities should support the development of wind farms in locations where the technology can operate efficiently and environmental and cumulative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed. Landscape and visual impact and cumulative impact are listed as criteria that Development Plans should refer to. In this case the landscape and visual impacts, including cumulative impacts, are not satisfactorily addressed by the scheme which has been assessed as having significant adverse effects. There is nothing else in the SPP section on wind farms that would lead to a view that the Development Plan assessment conclusions, or the conventional approach to such assessments, should be set aside.
87. Key sections of this part of the SPP are directed at the development of a positive policy framework, including SPG/SG, by Planning Authorities. That is exactly what we have in this case and, therefore, both Development Plans, containing policies that are based directly on the guidance in SPP should be given considerable weight.
88. Landscape is considered in paragraphs 125 to 141 of the SPP. These paragraphs set out the importance that is attached to all landscapes and not just designated landscapes. Paragraph 128 confirms that the most sensitive landscapes may have little or no capacity to absorb (the impacts of) new development. Paragraph 131 confirms that landscapes are sensitive to (the effects of) inappropriate development and that planning authorities should ensure that potential effects, including cumulative effects, are considered in planning decision making. Whilst the role of planning and design is recognised, it is also stated that there will be occasions where the sensitivity of the site or the nature or scale of the proposed development is such that the development should not be permitted. Having regard to both paragraphs, that “should not be

permitted” scenario is the situation that we have with the proposed EOWDC wind farm.

89. It is difficult to argue that there is an overarching empirical evidence based case for the causal relationships between wind farms and tourism in Scotland. However, the proposed EOWDC wind farm development has the potential for adverse effects, during both the construction and the operational phases, on the **operational activities of TIGLS**. Those effects, which are clearly set out in both the original objection and in the statement appended to this objection, are not addressed in the ES or Addendum.
90. Attempting to calculate the precise level of harm to TIGLS's business interests from a proposed wind farm development such as the EOWDC facility, and including cumulative and secondary effects, is difficult to do in terms of exact quantification. However, there can be no doubt that the whole experience for TIGLS clients will inevitably be devalued if this intrusive wind farm is developed. Holes 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13 (oblique view), 16, 17 and 18 all play in a southerly direction that will have a clear view of the wind farm. The proposed hotel site would have a clear view out to the wind farm. These are all adverse effects that in turn will significantly impact upon the attractiveness and demand for the sporting offer and the accommodation, reducing the income, and, in time, reducing the associated benefit to the local economy. The prospective remaining elements of the development would be placed at significant risk. This negative impact of the proposed development on the core of the local tourism economy should be weighed against the very limited generic economic benefits associated with the proposed development.
91. In that regard it is noted that the latest Visit Scotland Survey reports that, for Scotland, 17% of residents stated that the presence of a wind farm would affect their choices of where to visit/stay, nearly 20% agreed that wind farms spoil the look of the Scottish countryside, and 17% agreed that they would tend to avoid an area of countryside with wind farms. Even without picking up on the high net worth international tourists who were **not** part of this latest survey, these figures show that there is, at least, a wider basis for the concerns of TIGLS.

92. There are no other material considerations that are relevant to the objection being made on behalf of TIGLS.
93. In summary, the material considerations assessed above, including the planning balance considerations of the claimed benefits of the proposal, do not change the conclusions arising from the Development Plan assessment that this EOWDC wind farm application should be refused a marine licence, refused a s.36 consent and refused deemed planning permission on account of failure to meet the Marine Scotland Act tests, the Electricity Act tests and on account of non compliance with the Development Plan, all as drawn together in the concluding section below.

Overall Planning Policy Assessment and Conclusions

94. This objection submission is also of relevance to the consideration of the Addendum by the two Councils and it will be copied to them. Whilst Ministers have the ability to call an Inquiry if they see fit, it is only an objection by one or both of the Councils that will automatically trigger a full Public Inquiry. Experience to date has shown that it is only at a full Public Inquiry that all aspects of proposed major wind farms are fully assessed. The Councils will consider the consultation on the application as Planning Authorities. In that respect the application is clearly contrary to the very up to date Development Plans. Therefore, TIGLS fully expect that the Councils will properly apply their own policy framework and object to this proposal.
95. In reaching the overall conclusions in this objection, the approach has been to consider both the benefits of the scheme and the likely adverse impacts, or disbenefits of the scheme. For the reasons set out in above, it is considered that the material benefits of the scheme are only the limited economic benefits and those generic, assumed environmental benefits associated with wind energy generation. These generic benefits (which are now known to be only assumed benefits) are already factored into the favourable policy environment for this type of development and should not be counted twice.

96. Whilst the substantive means for the detailed assessment of the EOWDC proposal is the assessment against the Development Plan, the Marine Scotland Act and the Electricity Act must also be considered. These aspects are summed up below.
97. In terms of the Marine Scotland Act the application has not properly addressed the need to protect the environment nor, in terms of other matters, has it properly assessed the impacts on land based receptors including users of the golf courses. Therefore, the tests are not met.
98. In relation to the tests in the Electricity Act, it is not considered that these provide any valid basis for the *detailed* assessment of the acceptability of the scheme. However, they must be considered and they do point to the need to balance benefits with adverse effects. Given the significant adverse landscape and visual impacts, including cumulative impacts and given the uncertainties over effects on the marine environment, it is concluded that the developer has neither preserved natural beauty and flora, nor secured reasonable mitigation. These adverse effects are not offset by the claimed benefits. The tests are not therefore met.
99. In terms of the deemed planning permission aspects the proposals have been assessed against the Development Plans, having regard to the material set out in this objection, and taking into account the matters set out in the ES and Addendum (and related documents). In doing so the overall assessment has always sought to balance the identifiable scheme specific benefits in the equation.
100. Based on the above it is concluded that the proposed EOWDC wind farm development is contrary to the Development Plans on account of its significant adverse landscape and visual impacts, including cumulative landscape and visual impacts, and on account of the adverse effects on the local recreational and tourism resource. There are potential adverse significant effects on the marine environment. This range of significant adverse effects is not offset by the assumed generic benefits of the scheme.
101. Therefore, the overall conclusion of this objection is that the proposal is not in accordance with the Development Plans and that, therefore, the presumption, in law,

is for the refusal of deemed planning permission for this EOWDC wind farm application.

102. As set out in this objection a range of material considerations have been taken into account. The conclusions on all of these matters are set out above. In summary, it is concluded that there are no material considerations that would change the conclusion that arises from the Development Plan assessments.

103. The question has been raised earlier as to whether it is right that such a high impact development should be presented in outline or whether, as a matter of procedural principle, the proposals should be in detail. In this regard it is noted that the Marine Scotland Act does not include any power to issue a licence *in outline*.

Ministers are respectfully asked to consider the implications of this.

104. In conclusion it is respectfully requested that Scottish Ministers should conclude that the EOWDC wind farm application should be refused a Marine Licence as the Marine Scotland Act 2010 tests are not met, should be refused a s.36 consent as the Electricity Act tests are not met and that, in terms of the deemed planning permission aspect, that should be refused on the grounds that the proposal is not in accordance with the Development Plans.

[END]

APPENDIX

TIGLS "STATEMENT

"Development of a World Class Golf Resort at Menie, Aberdeenshire

The business of developing a significant tourism opportunity does not come about by accident. In looking at the effects of the Vattenfall project, called the EOWDC, it may be helpful to consider a little how the decision to locate the Trump Organisation's (TO) project at Menie came about.

The TO is a world class tourism leader operating in a high class luxury market. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a real estate investor. He began in 2005 to look around the world for a location for land on which to build a significant golf course which would equal the best in the world. Top glass golf is a very significant segment of the tourism market and the people who travel around the world playing top class golf course tend to be wealthy and very demanding. What is not so well known is that they are very numerous.

The TO looked at more than 200 properties across the world. We wanted a coastal site – golf began in Scotland on the coastal links. The TO made its interest known and we were literally assailed from all quarters with expressions of interest. A team was appointed by the Chairman to coordinate the search. There is no need to detail the effort, which stretched over a number of years. When Menie was presented – 1400 acres – it was obvious from the start that it should come very high up the shortlist.

Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City have unique assets which they may not immediately appreciate. History tends to suggest that they are not, since tourism development and encouragement has been fairly sporadic. However, from Royal Aberdeen in the south to Cruden Bay in the north, there is one of the world's great golfing shorelines, with at least 4 golf courses of a quality and character which cannot be found elsewhere. Royal Aberdeen, Murcar, the Menie course, Newburgh and Cruden Bay all line up and compete in this short distance. These courses, alongside a major airport, a large city with all its amenities, hotels, a harbour and commercial prosperity are, if all taken together, a remarkable collection of assets.

It is not necessary to recount the entire history of the planning process, but a brief outline will suffice. We bought the Menie site and carried out very extensive studies. We were able to see the potential for a hotel, housing and at least one golf course, perhaps two. We applied for planning permission, which was granted by 7 votes to 4 at the Formartine Area Committee. At Aberdeenshire's Infrastructure Services Committee, the votes were tied, and the Chairman's casting vote was against the proposal, despite the positive recommendation. We were surprised, and after due consideration we decided not to appeal. Part of the secret of the TO's success is knowing when to walk away, and sometimes you have to do that. When that was announced, we were subjected to immense pressure by the Scottish Government to appeal, but we declined. The FM called the Chairman personally and was insistent that we should appeal. We took instructions and told him that we would not be doing so. The FM spoke to the Chief Planner. Before the refusal notice had been issued, the application was called in by Scottish Ministers. We learned of this from the BBC.

None of this much matters now. On reflection, we decided that we should participate in the call in process. Menie had been a shoreline shooting estate. It was a useful land bank, at worst. We had faith in the property. The 5 week inquiry cost us more than \$5million. We took on every environmental challenge that came our way – and there were many – with expert after expert, high calibre lawyers and so on. There were 39 environmental questions, issues or problems to overcome. We got consent – that is on record – but after we worked through the pre start conditions, we felt that Aberdeenshire was really working us hard and putting us through the mill in planning terms before the sign-off of the various conditions. We all know that planners have discretion. On this occasion we seemed to be forced to do more than normal. It was if they were frightened to treat us generously. Some of the hurdles we had to cross were simply unprecedented.

But the result is that we have built the course. In planning terms, a great golf course, with endless economic potential, has been constructed from the native dunes. They are a special place, but a different special place from what they were before. It has been a long journey, sometimes with immense difficulty. We have spent tens of millions doing it, consciously striving for quality and excellence, in a world market which is very demanding and super-critical. If we had built a "good enough" course, nobody would be so enthusiastic about it, but as it is, it has been rated in the top 10 in the world without even being played, and now

that it has begun to bed in, the quality of the design and craftsmanship is really showing through. The golf world has “raters”; people who travel the world “rating” new courses. They are the hardbitten critics of golf, really hard to impress. We will not take up space dealing here with the reviews, but they have been very impressive. And this is a very hard golf course to play.

In planning terms, the permission came from the Inquiry. The permission is an unequivocal vote of confidence in us and our ideas, where we felt we were being told – “you have challenged our status quo, but we believe in what you are offering, and give our consent.” It is a reasonable and legitimate expectation that, since that has happened, what we have been given – what we have won, against some very well organised opposition – will not be taken away. A consent for the proposed Vattenfall project would do that.

What brings golfers to a venue of this kind is the combination of histories – golf was invented on the links, and golfers like to think that they are walking through history as they play by the sea. The links courses are the best in the world; the Open Championship, played by rotation on 7 or 8 courses, is always played on links courses – Lytham, Royal St George, Sandwich, Muirfield, St Andrews, Turnberry, Carnoustie etc.

Then there is the test - this is a tough course. Golfers love that – there is something in the human spirit which does not like to be beaten. The weather, not noticeably warm in Aberdeenshire, doesn't matter at all. It's just part of the test. Since we opened we have sold 11,000 quite expensive rounds of golf, which will take us to the end of the season. And we have done that without really trying. So the signs are that in the first year, the idea has caught on, and is working. The planning permission which we have is coming to yield our expectations.

There is more to that permission. The hotel is consented, and will sit on the escarpment. The residential component will sit on land which broadly slopes towards the sea in shallow terraces. Each of these components reveals the sea as its essential key feature. Without exaggerating the qualities of the land, the planning permission has enabled us, as developers, to unlock its potential for maximum enjoyment by as many people as possible.

We are convinced that as this dune terrain comes to be better understood, the way in which people relate to it and the sea will become more intertwined. That too is the product of the enlightened planning permission which has been granted.

The TO doesn't do cheap. None of this should be tacky or populist. We own a number of clubs back in the US, and have an astonishingly loyal following; for example, someone owning a Trump Tower apartment on Fifth Avenue may also own a villa in the Trump Club on Hawaii, and divide their time between the two. We have multiple owners, and to bring us back to where we started, this stretch of coastline, with its beach and great golf really has the potential to become a destination of some considerable significance. Where one hotel is built, others follow; where some houses are built – and Aberdeenshire is short of houses, others follow.

None of this will happen if the proposed wind farm is built just offshore, within the arms of Aberdeen Bay. Really, the proposal is not an offshore wind farm at all – it is an onshore wind farm, just in the water, in relative terms. The visual effect on the club, beginning as one travels to the second where the sea is revealed, to the 3rd, where the player is asked to play directly towards the sea, and the long fourth where the sea on one side and the burn on the other create an atmosphere of tension from which it is difficult to escape. The planning permission, in other words, has drawn on the natural consequences of building this course by the sea, and exploited them to the fullest possible extent. It is unarguable that the wind farm will completely alter that designed and deliberate experience. However powerful the argument for renewables, testing grounds, or whatever, it cannot be right that what is given with one hand is taken away with the other. The wind farm is so close that it will dominate each shot, and turn the experience of the course from a world beater to a world hater – it will be a major disappointment to feel as if you are playing next to an industrial park. Weighing one thing with another, and setting the mood of astonished insult to one side for the moment, the unique combination of sea, sun sky and water seen from so many of the holes are what makes this course. What the setting it will do for the hotel will be even greater.

The downside of all this is that if the wind farm receives consent, not only will it be a reneging on the permission, but it makes Menie unsuitable as a TO resort. It is simply preposterous to suggest that they could co-exist. Put it as simply as possible – why would we

build a hotel with an uninterrupted view of what is, in effect, an industrial park. I think what we would do is to treat the golf course as a form of land bank, and we would work out a way of disposing of what we have – which is not without value. The TO would go somewhere else with the large scale investments.

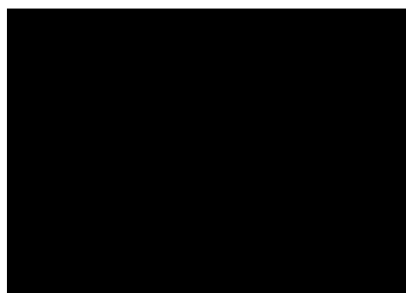
It should be made clear that we have made our own expectations clear from the outset – nobody can have been in the slightest doubt that we would oppose the wind farm if it came forward. We have already rehearsed in public what was said and promised by successive First Ministers, but this is not the place for that argument. If we build a hotel and the wind farm is there, our core clientele, who are beginning to come regularly, and to ask questions about Menie, simply will not come. We know these people – they have full lives, are almost all self made, and they simply will go somewhere else, with a shrug. Their expectations are high, and if we don't meet them, they go to Ritz Carlton, Four Seasons, Fairmont or one of the other operators – it's a crowded field, but we are at the top of it. We want to stay there and, in this case, that means opposing this proposed wind farm."

European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre Windfarm Objection

On behalf of Trump International Golf Links

Seascape, Landscape & Visual Impact -Topic Paper 1

Seascape, Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment Methodology



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Appointment and Experience

1.1.1 [REDACTED] was appointed by the Trump International Golf Links in July 2012, to undertake a review of the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) section of Environmental Statement (ES) submitted in support of the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) application.

1.1.2 This paper has been prepared by [REDACTED] a fully qualified landscape architect and a member of the Landscape Institute. He has over thirty years' experience of landscape design and planning in Scotland, England, Australia and Hong Kong. Since establishing MSC he has reviewed over forty onshore windfarm LVIA's prepared by a broad range of landscape practices and has given evidence at numerous windfarm public inquiries.

1.2 Scope

1.2.1 The [REDACTED] review is presented as two Topic Papers and an Appendix Document:

- Topic Paper 1 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology; and
- Topic Paper 2 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and ES Addendum.

1.2.2 This Topic Paper relates to the Environmental Statement (ES) Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) methodology and its

application. It also addresses relevant guidance and provides a critique of the ES SLVIA methodology having regard to that guidance.

1.2.3 A range of different methodologies are used in SLVIAs and it is essential to understand the basis of the assessment in order to determine the validity of the conclusions that are reached. Therefore the differences between the methodology used by LDA Design in the ES and that used by MSC are identified.

1.2.4 This Topic Paper does not address the planning policy context for the development, as this is covered in the overall objection statement prepared by [REDACTED]

1.3 Structure

1.3.1 ES Chapter 19 '*Seascape, Landscape and Visual*' summarises the ES SLVIA whilst the detailed assessments are set out in Technical Appendices 19.1 '*Seascape, Landscape and Visual Baseline*' and 19.2 '*Seascape, Landscape and Visual EIA*'. In addition a '*Golf Course and Windfarm Study*' has been submitted as an ES Addendum.

The ES SLVIA methodology is set out in ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2. For ease of reference this Topic Paper will follow a similar structure to ES chapter 19 and ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2. The remaining documents will be addressed in MSC Topic Paper 2. However in accordance with the general principles of good practice set out in GLVIA paragraph 2.35 this Topic Paper will also seek to organise and structure the critique so as to '*... focus upon the key issues of relevance to decision making*'.

2.0 Consultation and Guidance

2.1 Consultation

- 2.1.1 ES Chapter 19 paragraph 3 states that 'Consultation to agree upon the assessment methodology and a number of other important parameters regarding the scope of the SLVIA took place with Scottish Natural Heritage, Aberdeen City Council, and Aberdeenshire Council. The Baseline Report (Appendix 19.1) provides a summary of the key stages of consultation and also provides a detailed record of all consultation which took place on the SLVIA throughout the project.'

The SNH, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council consultation responses will clarify whether the ES SLVIA methodology and scope follows that agreed during consultation. However, the need for the retrospective preparation of a 'Golf Course and Windfarm Study' (key potential receptors of visual impact) at this late stage in the development of the project design and assessment suggests that the consultation exercise was not comprehensive.

2.2 Guidance

- 2.2.1 ES Chapter 19 paragraph 4 sets out the key guidance documents that have informed the SLVIA:
- 'Maritime Ireland/Wales Interreg 1994 – 1999 Guidance 'Guide to Best Practice in Seascape Assessment' (GSA), published in March 2001
 - 'An assessment of the sensitivity and capacity of the Scottish Seascape in relation to wind farms', (SNH commissioned Report 103, 2005)

- 'Guidance on the Assessment of Effect of Offshore Wind Farms: Seascape and Visual Effect Report' (DTI – November 2005)
- 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Effect Assessment' (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and the Landscape Institute's (LI), second edition 2002)
- 'Visual Representation of Windfarms Best Practice Guidance' (SNH 2006, albeit published in 2007)
- 'Cumulative Effects of Windfarms' (SNH, 2005)
- 'Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape' (SNH, December 2009)

These documents are also used by MSC. However 'Cumulative Effects of Windfarms' (SNH, 2005) has been superseded by 'Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments (SNH, 2012). This new document specifically refers to 'Onshore Wind Energy Developments'. However SNH have not published an 'offshore' equivalent. Therefore (as with 'Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape') the principles set out in this earlier document may be applied to the 'onshore' impacts of the proposed development.

2.2.2 ES Chapter 19 paragraph 5 lists the main survey information used in the ES assessment:

- 'SNH (1977) Beaches of Northeast Scotland
- SNH (1994) Banff and Buchan Landscape Assessment
- SNH (1996) Landscape Character Assessment of Aberdeen
- SNH (1998) South and Central Aberdeenshire Landscape Character Assessment'

Whilst these documents are an appropriate starting point, they should nevertheless be treated with caution due to their relative age and strategic nature.

3.0 ES SLVIA Methodology

3.1 Viewpoints and Visual Receptors

- 3.1.1 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 '**Viewpoints and Visual Receptors**' confirms that 'The range of visual receptors will include pedestrians, and recreational users of the surrounding landscape such as walkers, cyclists and those otherwise engaged in the pursuit of leisure activities within the visual envelope of the site, local residents, motorists, those working outdoors and other workers.'

The 'four main receptor groups' are then considered in more detail.

- 3.1.2 With reference to 'residents' it is stated that '...the most important views are those from their homes, although they will also be sensitive to other views such as those experienced when travelling to work or other local destinations. However, it is these latter views, from public areas nearby houses that are of relevance to the main body of the visual impact assessment...'

ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 '**Residential Amenity**' goes on to state that 'Views from private property are not a material consideration in determining planning applications unless the proposed change is sufficiently unpleasant or intrusive to cause unacceptable harm to residential amenity. For this reason, bearing in mind the distance from the coastline of offshore wind farm developments, the effects upon individual residential properties is not assessed.'

These statements subsume two related but separate issues. Significance of visual effects on residents must be assessed as this will form a potentially key element within the planning balance (particularly where a large number of residents are affected). However, residential amenity and recreational amenity are separate issues related to visual effects, shadow flicker and noise and *'unacceptable harm to residential amenity'* (even for a single property) may be a determining issue within the planning balance when it is applied to an onshore wind turbine renewable energy project.

- 3.1.3 With reference to *'workers'*, ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 ***'Viewpoints and Visual Receptors'*** states that *'Workers are generally less sensitive to effects as they are focused on the tasks they are carrying out. Indoor workers generally have a Low sensitivity, and outdoor workers, such as farmers, fishermen and those offering outdoor pursuits are considered to have a Low to Medium sensitivity.'*

This generally accords with the MSC methodology. However coastal farmers and inshore fishermen (who live and work within sight of the development) may be of higher sensitivity.

- 3.1.4 With reference to *'the travelling public'*, ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 ***'Viewpoints and Visual Receptors'*** states that travellers *'...will vary in their level of sensitivity to the proposed development depending primarily upon the purpose for which they are travelling. For example, local residents and those on business will be more preoccupied with achieving their destination than in enjoying the scenery and the views available along their route. In contrast, day trippers and longer term*

visitors to the area are likely to be more concerned with the views they enjoy as they travel, but the speed and direction of travel and the fact that they are in a vehicle or ferry will reduce their sensitivity compared to, for example, walkers or scenic boat trips'.

For this reasoning the [REDACTED] methodology applies a full range of sensitivities to travellers (high to low) rather than the narrow levels of sensitivity used in the ES (motorists – low and ferry passengers – low to medium).

3.1.5 With reference to 'visitors', ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 **'Viewpoints and Visual Receptors'** identifies the following levels of sensitivity:

- 'Those whose main preoccupation is the enjoyment of scenery (High sensitivity)
- Recreational walkers and equestrians (High sensitivity)
- Those visitors engaged in cultural pursuits (High-Medium sensitivity)
- Cyclists (High-Medium sensitivity)

It is unclear why cultural visitors and cyclists are given a lower level of sensitivity in the ES, and therefore [REDACTED] apply a high level of sensitivity to all outdoor visitors.

3.1.6 The users of golf courses should be described as 'recreational users' however they are not included in the 'four main visual receptor groups' that are discussed in more detail in ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 **'Viewpoints and Visual Receptors'**. ES Addendum 'Golf Course and Offshore Wind Farm Study' paragraph 1.6 seeks to justify the lack of representative viewpoints from the golf courses on the basis that '...golfers are not given special treatment in the ESs of offshore wind farms and are

only considered where they are likely to be receptors, and/or perhaps where it is agreed through consultation that there is a need for a viewpoint from a golf course receptor. This reflects a central tenet of LVIA methodology that assessment is proportionate to the project and its likely effects. For this reason, specific user groups (e.g. golfers, equestrians or windsurfers) are only considered as required by a specific landscape context.'

To be properly assessed as a receptor of visual impact is not being 'given special treatment' and the consultation process mentioned earlier was clearly deficient if such self evident receptors were not identified. Therefore, with the failure to assess golf course users, the ES fails in 'a central tenet of LVIA methodology', as the viewpoints do not fully represent the projects 'likely effects'. The reference to 'context' in the final sentence is ironic given the omission of the 'context of the viewpoint' from the ES definition of sensitivity.

3.1.7 Furthermore it is incumbent upon the assessor to identify potential receptors (which GLVIA paragraph 6.29 confirms are identified during site visits) regardless of whether they have been highlighted by a consultee. It should be noted that 'users of recreational landscapes' heads the list of examples of visual receptors in GLVIA Table 6.2. Therefore, site visits by the assessors should have certainly identified the potential receptors in the form of golf course users.

3.1.8 ES Addendum 'Golf Course and Offshore Wind Farm Study' paragraph 1.6 also states that 'LVIAs tend to focus on views from publicly accessible areas. Golf courses tend to be private (accepting that there is a right to roam in Scotland) and are generally only accessed by their members or

paying guests.’ However the GLVIA paragraph 6.29 states that ‘Public viewpoints are clearly important, but private viewpoints may also be relevant and should be considered on site’ and in any case the golf courses are adjacent to a publicly accessible beach and admit paying members of the public. MSC Appendix Document Figure 2 illustrates six of the seven golf courses (and associated public access) in close proximity to the proposed windfarm (in addition Nigg Bay Golf Course is located on Girdle Ness):

- Newburgh on Ythan Golf Course;
- Trump International Golf Links;
- Murcar Links Golf Links;
- Royal Aberdeen Golf Course;
- Kings Links Golf Centre; and
- Nigg Bay Golf Course.

3.1.9 ‘Visual Representation of Windfarms’ paragraph 93 states that ‘Viewpoints are initially selected as being those places from where a proposed development is likely to be visible and would result in significant effects on the view and the people who see it’. The ES failed to identify, represent and assess key receptors in close proximity to the proposed windfarm that are likely to be subject to the highest level of significant effects. This fundamental omission undermines the credibility of the ES SLVIA.

3.2 Sensitivity

3.2.1 ES Chapter 19 paragraph 8 states that ‘Sensitivity is assessed for each receptor type on the following scale

- high – material effects are likely to arise from a development of this nature
- medium – material effects may arise from a development of this nature

- *low - material effects are unlikely to arise from a development of this nature'*

A more comprehensive definition of sensitivity is set out in the ES Baseline Technical Report (ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2) which describes the full LDA Design SLVIA methodology. Unfortunately ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 has neither paragraph nor page numbers, therefore this Topic Paper will refer to text sub-headings.

3.2.2 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 '**Sensitivity of Regional Seascape Unit/Landscape Character Area**' identifies the following scale:

- *'High - Important components or zones of particularly distinctive character susceptible to relatively small change.*
- *Medium - A seascape or landscape of moderately valued characteristics reasonably tolerant of change.*
- *Low - A relatively unimportant seascape or landscape, potentially tolerant of substantial change.'*

'An assessment of the sensitivity and capacity of the Scottish seascape in relation to wind farms' Table 3 'Criteria for seascape sensitivity to offshore windfarms' and Table 4 'Definitions of seascape sensitivity ratings' provide more comprehensive assessment criteria.

3.2.3 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 '**Sensitivity of Representative Visual Receptors**' identifies the following scale:

- *'High - Viewers which are highly attuned to their surroundings, with proprietary interest and prolonged viewing opportunities*
- *Medium - Viewers with a moderate awareness of their surroundings*

- Low - Viewers with a passing awareness of their surroundings'

These criteria rely on an understanding of the relative levels of 'awareness' of potential receptors. GLVIA confirms that the most sensitive receptors may include:

- 'Users of all outdoor recreation facilities including public rights of way, whose attention or interest may be focused on the landscape;
- Communities where the development results in changes in the landscape setting or valued views enjoyed by the community;
- Occupiers of residential properties with views affected by the development.'

It is uncertain what is the origin of the reference to 'proprietary interest', however, it is clear that a receptor does not need to be an owner in order to be of high sensitivity. Nevertheless the owners and 'users of' the Trump International golf Links (as well as the Murcar Links and the Kings Links) are of high sensitivity. This is acknowledged in the 'Golf Course and Offshore Wind Farm Study' paragraph 1.6.

- 3.2.4 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 also states that visual sensitivity '*...is primarily a function of the expectations and occupation or activity of the receptor and the importance of the view.*' This statement is drawn from GLVIA paragraph 7.31 but omits to also include the words '*the location and context of the viewpoint*'. Location and context are of particular relevance to the golf courses which are located on the coast (as would be expected for links courses) where sea views are a key component of the recreational experience.

3.3 Magnitude of Effect

3.3.1 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 '**Magnitude of Effect**' identifies the following scale:

- *High* – Total or major alteration to key elements, features or characteristics, such that post development the baseline situation will be fundamentally changed.
- *Medium* – Partial alteration to key elements, features or characteristics, such that post development the baseline situation will be noticeably changed.
- *Low* – Minor alteration to key elements, features or characteristics, such that post development the baseline situation will be largely unchanged despite discernible differences.
- *Negligible* – Very minor alteration to key elements, features or characteristics, such that post development the baseline situation will be fundamentally unchanged with barely perceptible differences.

The ES scale is based upon the criteria set out in GLVIA Appendix 11-A Table 11-A.8 (below):

Magnitude	Typical Criteria
High	Total loss of or major alteration to key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline i.e. predevelopment landscape or view and/or introduction of elements considered to be totally uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape.
Medium	Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline i.e. predevelopment landscape or view and/or introduction of elements that may be prominent but may not necessarily be considered to be substantially uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape.
Low	Minor loss of or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline i.e. pre-development landscape or view and/or introduction of elements that may not be uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape.
Negligible	Very minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline i.e. pre-development landscape or view and/or introduction of elements that are uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape – approximating the 'no change' situation.

The main difference is that the GLVIA example assesses whether the development is characteristic of the receiving landscape (or seascape).

- 3.3.2 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 '**Landscape Character**' explains that *'At its most basic level, the magnitude of effect can best be understood by considering how one might perceive a particular place post-construction; i.e. If the baseline perception is "I am in a field.", then this may change to: "I am in, or at, a wind farm" (High magnitude); "I am in a field near a wind farm" (Medium); "I am in a field and I can see a wind farm over there" (Low); or remain as "I am in a field" (Negligible).'*

This very simplistic explanation of magnitude of effect is misleading. It is implied that a high magnitude of landscape effect can only occur where the observer is in or immediately adjacent to the windfarm. This is clearly not the case, as the magnitude of landscape effect will relate to the size of the turbines, the extent of the windfarm, its context and the characteristics of the receiving landscape. The use of terms such as 'near' and 'over there' is also unhelpful and is in any event not in accordance with guidance.

3.4 Significance of Effect

- 3.4.1 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 '**Significance of Effect**' states that *'Significant effects (in terms of the EIA regulations) are those that are Major-Moderate or Major. As stated within the EIA regulations, if an effect is not significant, it should not be considered as material to the decision making process.*

However the EIA regulations do not set a significance threshold. In the experience of [REDACTED] some LVIA's set the threshold at Major-Moderate whilst others set it at the Moderate level. Both options are inflexible and unsatisfactory. Therefore the MSC methodology sets the threshold of significance centrally within the moderate level of effect, with informed

judgement (based on the guidance set out in GLVIA paragraphs 7.43 to 7.51) used to determine and justify significance.

- 3.4.2 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 '**Significance of Effect**' continues *'It should also be noted that whilst an effect may be significant, and therefore material in coming to a decision, that does not necessarily mean that such an impact would be unacceptable.'*

Acceptability does not form part of the LVIA, as that is determined by the decision maker with reference to planning policy and the planning balance between benefits and harm.

- 3.4.3 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 '**Significance of Effect**' states that *'The process of forming a judgment of significance of effect is based upon the assessments of magnitude of effects and sensitivity of the receptor...'* and this is illustrated in a matrix. However the matrix is incoherent, as one axis is in descending order whilst the other is in ascending order. It has been restructured below in a more coherent form:

	High Sensitivity	Medium Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity
High Magnitude	Major	Moderate	Moderate
Medium Magnitude	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/Minor
Low Magnitude	Moderate	Moderate/Slight	Minor
Negligible Magnitude	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Red – Significant Green – Not Significant

The methodology also illustrates the assessment of significance in the form of a matrix. However, it should be noted that the matrix is not a

prescriptive tool, but provides a structure within which judgements can be made and set out.

	High Sensitivity	Medium Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity	Negligible Sensitivity
High Magnitude	Major	Moderate/Major	Moderate	Moderate/Minor
Medium Magnitude	Moderate/Major	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor
Low Magnitude	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor	Minor/Negligible
Negligible Magnitude	Moderate/Minor	Minor	Minor/Negligible	Negligible

Red – Significant Yellow – Potentially Significant Green – Not Significant

3.4.4 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 '**Landscape Character**' states that 'Based on recent appeal decisions in relation to onshore wind farm developments, there is a general consensus that significant effects on landscape character arising from wind farms are generally confined to the immediate vicinity, being of High magnitude within up to 1km of turbines (where the turbines may become the dominant characteristic of the landscape), reducing to Medium within up to 4km (where the turbines may become one of the key characteristics of the landscape) and decreasing further thereafter.'

Based on extensive experience of wind farm decisions this is simply untrue and not the case, as there is no consensus that 'significant effects on landscape character arising from wind farms are generally confined to the immediate vicinity'. Whilst appeal decisions may give some insights into matters of principle (generally relating to methodology) they do not set a precedent, as each appeal is assessed and determined on its individual merits. The adoption of a generic approach to the assessment of significance (that disregards the scale and context of the development) is misleading as it may lead to a prejudgment of

significance. Ironically this paragraph goes on to state that *'significant landscape effects are unlikely beyond 10km'*, which implies, in the opinion of the assessor, that they may occur up to 10km.

- 3.4.5 However, ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 **'Landscape Designations and Value'** states that *'Allowing for their lower sensitivity, significant effects on local landscape designations are unlikely to occur beyond 10km from the turbines.'* This implies that significant landscape effects on national designations may occur at over 10km. Furthermore, with reference to general principles for good practice, GLVIA paragraph 2.35 advises that the assessor should *'avoid generalisations about designated landscapes and their ability to accommodate change'*.

3.5 Limitations

- 3.5.1 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 **'Limitations'** argues that it is inappropriate to make positive/adverse judgments for effects. However, GLVIA paragraph 2.14 states that *'The description and analysis of effects on a landscape resource relies on the adoption of certain basic principles about the positive (or beneficial) and negative (or adverse) effects of change in the landscape.'*

It is usual for windfarm LVIA's to quote various public opinion surveys that report a wide range of responses. However it is not general perceptions of wind farms that are being assessed by the LVIA but the specific effects of the proposed development. Therefore it is indeed incumbent upon the assessor to determine whether effects are adverse or beneficial. In the experience of MSC windfarm ES LVIA's that do make this assessment acknowledge that effects are adverse.

3.6 Cumulative Effects

- 3.6.1 ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 **'Limitations'** correctly quotes from GLVIA paragraph 7.12: *'Cumulative landscape and visual effects result from additional changes to the landscape or visual amenity caused by the proposed development in conjunction with other developments (associated with or separate to it), or actions that occurred in the past, present or are likely to occur in the foreseeable future.'*

Therefore it is acknowledged that cumulative effects arise from 'additional changes' to the baseline. This point is repeated in 'Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind energy Developments' paragraph 42 which confirms that *'The purpose of a Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA), which will normally form part of an Environmental Statement, is to describe, visually represent and assess the ways in which a proposed windfarm would have additional impacts when considered together with other existing or proposed windfarms'.*

'Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind energy Developments' paragraph 38 reiterates the point when it states that cumulative effects will vary in degree with *'...the relative effect of each individual wind farm with regard to visual amenity'.*

- 3.6.2 However ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 **'Limitations'** goes on to state that *'The cumulative assessment does not address the magnitude or significance of the effects arising from the individual developments themselves included within the cumulative assessment, but looks at the seascape and visual effects arising from the combination of turbines at proposed offshore wind farm with one or more other wind farm developments within the parameters identified.'*

The ES methodology confuses the type of cumulative visual effect ('combined' and 'sequential' cumulative effects are discussed in ES Technical Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2 '**Cumulative Visual Effects**') with the individual contribution made to cumulative landscape and visual effects. Therefore the ES SLVIA cumulative assessment methodology is both confused and contrary to GLVIA and current SNH guidance.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Topic Paper 1 Summary

4.1.1 [REDACTED] Topic Paper 1 identifies the following salient points relating to the ES SLVIA methodology:

- the need for the retrospective preparation of a 'Golf Course and Windfarm Study' suggests that the consultation exercise was not comprehensive;
- significance of visual effects on residents must be assessed as this will form a potentially key element within the planning balance;
- residential amenity is a separate issue related to visual effects, shadow flicker and noise and '*unacceptable harm to residential amenity*' may be a determining issue within the planning balance;
- coastal farmers and inshore fishermen (who live and work within sight of the development) may be of higher sensitivity than assessed by the ES;
- the [REDACTED] methodology applies a full range of sensitivities to travellers (high to low) rather than the narrow levels of sensitivity used in the ES;

- it is unclear why 'cultural visitors' and cyclists are given a lower level of sensitivity in the ES, therefore [REDACTED] apply a high level of sensitivity to all outdoor visitors;
- the users of golf courses are not assessed in the ES assessment;
- the ES fails in '*a central tenet of LVIA methodology*' as it failed to identify, represent and assess key receptors in close proximity to the proposed windfarm that are likely to be subject to the highest level of significant effects. This fundamental omission undermines the credibility of the ES SLVIA;
- the ES assessment of visual sensitivity omits '*the location and context of the viewpoint*'. This is of particular relevance to the golf courses which are located on the coast where sea views are a key component of the recreational experience;
- the ES assessment of magnitude of effect does not assess whether the development is characteristic of the receiving landscape;
- the simplistic ES explanation of magnitude of effect is misleading;
- the ES significance matrix is incoherent;
- there is no consensus that '*significant effects on landscape character arising from wind farms are generally confined to the immediate vicinity*';
- whilst appeal decisions may give some insights into matters of principle they do not set a precedent, as each appeal is assessed and determined on its individual merits;
- the adoption of a generic approach is misleading, as it may lead to a prejudgment of significance;
- it is incumbent upon the assessor to determine whether effects are adverse or beneficial. In the experience of [REDACTED] windfarm ES LVIA's that do make this assessment acknowledge that effects are adverse; and

- the ES methodology confuses the type of cumulative visual effect ('combined' or 'sequential') with the individual contribution made to cumulative landscape and visual effects. Therefore, the ES SLVIA cumulative assessment methodology is both confused and contrary to GLVIA and current SNH guidance.

4.2 Topic Paper 1 Conclusion

4.2.1 There is ample justification to conclude that the methodology used in the ES LVIA does not fully accord with guidance and, as a result, may understate the significance of effects. Therefore [REDACTED] Topic Paper 2 will summarise the ES findings alongside an initial [REDACTED] LVIA based upon a more balanced methodology (that is compliant with GLVIA and SNH guidance).

[REDACTED]

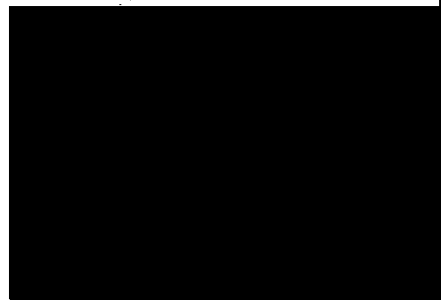
September 2012

European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre Windfarm Objection

On behalf of Trump International Golf Links

Seascape, Landscape & Visual Impact – Topic Paper 2

Seascape, Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment and ES Addendum



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Appointment and Experience

1.1.1 Refer to [REDACTED] Topic Paper 1.

1.2 Scope

1.2.1 The [REDACTED] review is presented as two Topic Papers and an Appendix Document:

- Topic Paper 1 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology; and
- Topic Paper 2 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and ES Addendum;

1.2.2 This Topic Paper relates to the submitted Environmental Statement (ES) Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA). It summarises the ES SLVIA (and ES Addendum) conclusions and tests the veracity of the ES LVIA by undertaking an independent assessment.

2.0 The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC)

2.1 Location

2.1.1 The proposed development is located within Aberdeen Bay with turbines between approximately 2km and 4.5km from the shore ([REDACTED] Appendix Document Figure 1).

2.2 Proposed Development

2.2.1 ES Chapter 3 Table 3.3 confirms that the proposed development will comprise 11 wind turbines with a hub height between 100m and 120m, a rotor diameter between 120m and 150m and a maximum blade tip height between 160m and 195m. The Non Technical Summary describes it as a 'small' windfarm. However ES Chapter 1 paragraph 35 confirms 'a maximum output for the wind farm of up to 100MW'.

2.2.2 The ES Addendum revises these dimensions to a maximum of 198.5m to blade tip and increases the rotor diameter from 150m to a maximum of 172m. Whilst the overall height difference is marginal the difference in the 'swept vertical airspace' occupied by the turbines is more evident (Appendix Document Figure 1).

2.2.3 Additional onshore and offshore facilities may include a deployment centre with a research and development centre. However this will be the subject of a separate planning application. Therefore the ES only relates to the effects of the 'commercial' windfarm element of the EOWDC.

3.0 Design

3.1 Design Iterations

3.1.1 ES Chapter 2 Table 2.1 describes the site layout iterations. It should be noted that all the iterations were a response to maximising the number of turbines within technical constraints and whilst ES Chapter 2 paragraph 7 refers to 'proximity to designated site' there would appear to have been no consideration of visual effects in the design process.

3.1.2 The ES Appendix 19.1 Appendix 2 'Design' section acknowledges that 'The degree of 'design fix' for offshore schemes coming forward for assessment can vary' and goes on to confirm that 'For some sites, the turbine layout may already be fixed, in which case input to the design may be limited to advising on mitigation or an indication that adjustments to particular turbine arrangements would be desirable.' It would appear that in this case for the EOWDC proposal and the SLVIA assessment is for a predetermined geometric turbine layout.

3.1.3 Landscape and visual design principals are not addressed in the ES but do form part of the ES Addendum (which is discussed in Section 6 of this Topic Paper).

3.2 Turbine Colour and Lighting

3.2.1 ES chapter 3 paragraph 34 confirms that the turbine tower, nacelle and blades are '*...likely to be light grey RAL 7035, white RAL 9010 or equivalent*' and ES Chapter 3 paragraph 55 confirms that '*wind turbines foundations and towers would be painted yellow from highest astronomical tide (HAT) to 12 m above Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT)*'. This colour scheme is illustrated in ES Chapter 3 Plate 3.1. It is self evident that yellow is required to maximise visual prominence.

3.2.2 ES chapter 3 paragraph 53 confirms that '*For aviation purposes, wind turbines would be marked with aviation lighting in line with the following:*

- *each wind turbine located at the corner would be fitted with aviation lighting*
- *in addition, aviation lighting would be installed along perimeter wind turbines...*

Aviation lighting (ES Figure 3.6) will increase the visual prominence of the development, particularly at night.

- 3.2.3 With reference to navigational lighting, ES chapter 3 paragraph 55 confirms that *'the wind turbines in the periphery of the wind farm would be marked with yellow flashing lights and potential fog horns as shown in Figure 3.6'*.

Navigational lighting is already present within the vessel anchorage area (ES Figure 3.4) however the extent and visual prominence of the lighting would be significantly increased.

- 3.2.4 ES Appendix 19.2 paragraph 4.5 confirms that *'The turbine lighting has a visible range of 5 nautical miles (NM) (approximately 9km). As a result the coastal areas from Newburgh to Girdle Ness will potentially have additional visual glare or night glow where views of the EOWDC are available.'*

Paragraph 4.5 concludes that *'The significance of visual effects of the EOWDC at night is therefore considered not to exceed what has already been assessed for the daytime.'* Therefore unlike an onshore windfarm the EOWDC will cause significant onshore effects both day and night.

- 3.2.5 The ES Addendum retrospectively addresses some aspects of design. This is addressed in section 6 of this Topic Paper.

4.0 Baseline Assessment

4.1 Baseline Assessment

4.1.1 The Appendix 19.1: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Baseline Technical Report comprises the following sections:

- Introduction;
- Landscape and Seascape Policy Context;
- Baseline Description;
- Meteorological Context;
- Baseline Visual environment;
- Summary; and
- Appendices.

4.1.2 The methodology outlined in the introduction is addressed in [REDACTED] Topic Paper 1 (as is the SLVIA methodology in Appendix 19.1: Appendix 2).

4.1.3 The landscape and seascape policy context is addressed in the overall objection prepared by [REDACTED]

However it should be noted that Appendix 19.1 paragraph 2.3 quotes from the Aberdeenshire Local Plan (2006):

'Policy Env 5B states that 'Development within or adjacent to an Area of Landscape Significance will not be permitted where its scale, location or design will detract from the quality or character of the landscape, either in part or as a whole.'

The closest Area of Landscape Significance (ALS) to the proposed development is on the coast, extending from Balmedie to south of Peterhead, and extending from Peterhead along the north coast.'

The ALS is illustrated in ES Figure 19.2 and Appendix 19.1 paragraph 2.5 confirms that this landscape designation is of high sensitivity.

4.2 Baseline Description

- 4.2.1 The baseline description identifies a number of 'Regional Seascape Units' and the 'Aberdeen Beach Regional Seascape Unit' and the 'Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit' are described in Appendix 19.1 paragraphs 3.3.3 and 3.3.4. The descriptions are broadly accurate, however whilst the description of the 'Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit' includes a reference to the Royal Aberdeen and Murcar golf courses there is no mention of the Trump International Golf Links.

Furthermore, the northerly extent of this Regional Unit is incorrectly described as the mouth of the River Ythan. The dune landscape actually extends northwards to Collieston and ES Figure 19.3 indicates the full extent of the 'Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit' (and the OS plan used in [REDACTED] Appendix Document Figure 1 indicates the extent of the dune landscape). Therefore the beach is accessible from the Forvie National Nature Reserve and Collieston as well as 'the Bridge of Don, Balmedie and Newburgh'. [REDACTED] Appendix Document Figure 2 indicates the Core Paths links to the beach.

- 4.2.2 Appendix 19.1 paragraph 3.3.4 concludes that 'In contrast to Aberdeen Beach, this Regional Seascape Unit is relatively remote and harmonious, with only the industrial and commercial elements to the south of Balmedie adding a discordant element. The landscape and nature designations also need to be taken into consideration and it is judged that overall the sensitivity to the type of change proposed varies from Medium to the south of Balmedie and High to Medium in the northern extents'. This

understates the sensitivity of this Seascape Unit as sensitivity to the north of Balmedie will be high rather than 'High to Medium' given the Balmedie to Longhaven Area of Landscape Significance.

4.3 Meteorological Context

- 4.3.1 Appendix 19.1 paragraph 4.0 concludes that *'Overall, it is clear that the visibility from these particular points in the study area varies considerably and that the EOWDC will not be seen 100% of the time, even at the closer distances, and this is an important factor that should be taken into account in the assessment of the effects upon land/seascape character and visual amenity.'*

This is not the case. GLVIA paragraph 2.35 makes it clear that to accord with general principles of good practice the 'worst case situation' should be considered. Whilst it is self evident that weather conditions may at times mean that the proposal will not be visible, the assessment should be based upon an assumption of clear visibility as this represents the 'worst case' for seascape, landscape and visual effects.

4.4 Baseline Visual Environment

- 4.4.1 The selection of viewpoints and sensitivity of viewpoint receptors is addressed in MSC Topic Paper 1. Otherwise the viewpoint descriptions in Appendix 19.1 section 5.3 are broadly correct.

5.0 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

5.1 Seascape and Landscape Impact Assessment

- 5.1.1 The ES SLVIA assessment (extracted from ES Appendix 19.2 paragraph 3.4) and the corresponding MSC assessment are presented in summary form in

the table below (to allow a direct comparison) for three key landscape receptors:

VP	ES Sensitivity	ES Magnitude	ES Significance	MSC Sensitivity	MSC Magnitude	MSC Significance
Aberdeen Beach Regional Seascape Unit (5km)	Medium	High to Medium	Major – Moderate to Moderate	Medium	High to Medium	Major – Moderate to Moderate
Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit (3.5km)	Medium (South) High to Medium (North)	High	Major – Moderate (South) Major to Major – Moderate (North)	Medium (South) High (North)	High	Major – Moderate (South) Major (North)
Balmedie to Longhaven Area of Landscape Significance (3.5km)	High	High to Negligible	Major to Negligible	High	High to Negligible	Major to Negligible

NB * Not Assessed Red Significant effect Blue Potential Significant Effect

5.1.2 Whilst there is a difference in the assessment of sensitivity for the Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit there is no overall difference in the findings of significant effects for each of the three key landscape receptors.

5.1.3 Aberdeen Local Plan Policy Env 5B states that 'Development within or adjacent to an Area of Landscape Significance will not be permitted where its scale, location or design will detract from the quality or character of the landscape, either in part or as a whole.' The ES and [REDACTED] assessments find that the proposed development will have a significant effect upon the Balmedie to Longhaven Area of Landscape Significance. Therefore the proposed windfarm will have a strong characterising effect on the southern part of the designation that will detract from 'the quality or character of the landscape'.

5.2 Cumulative Seascape and Landscape Impact Assessment

5.2.1 It should be noted that [REDACTED] adopt a precautionary approach that assesses the nature of effects for all landscape impacts as adverse.

5.2.2 The ES cumulative SLVIA assessment (extracted from ES Appendix 19.2 paragraph 3.4) and the corresponding cumulative assessment are presented in summary form in the table below (to allow a direct comparison) for the three key landscape receptors:

VP	ES Sensitivity	ES Magnitude	ES Significance	MSC Sensitivity	MSC Magnitude	MSC Significance
Aberdeen Beach Regional Seascape Unit (5km)	Medium	Low to Negligible	Moderate – Minor to Negligible	Medium	Low to Negligible	Moderate – Minor to Negligible
Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit (3.5km)	Medium (South) High to Medium (North)	Low to Negligible	Moderate – Minor to Negligible (South) Moderate to Moderate – Minor to Negligible (North)	Medium (South) High (North)	High to none	Major – Moderate (South) Major (North)
Balmedie to Longhaven Area of Landscape Significance (3.5km)	High	Low	Moderate	High	High to None	Major to Negligible

NB * Not Assessed Red Significant effect Blue Potential Significant Effect

5.2.3 The ES finds no significant cumulative effects for the three key landscape receptors. However ES Figure 13 demonstrates that whilst only the EOWDC Windfarm will be visible from within the Aberdeen Beech Regional Seascape Unit (apart from Girdle Ness) there are areas where existing and proposed windfarms will be visible from the Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit (particularly to the north) and the Balmedie to Longhaven Area of Landscape Significance (again, particularly to the north). In each case the EOWDC Windfarm will contribute to significant adverse cumulative seascape and landscape effects on these receptors.

5.3 Visual Impact Assessment

5.3.1 It should be noted that [REDACTED] adopt a precautionary approach that assesses the nature of effects for all visual impacts as adverse.

5.3.2 The ES viewpoint assessment (extracted from ES Appendix 19.2 paragraph 4.6) and the corresponding assessment are presented in summary form in the table below (to allow a direct comparison) with the location of the viewpoints being shown in the appendix document:

VP	ES Sensitivity	ES Magnitude	ES Significance	MSC Sensitivity	MSC Magnitude	MSC Significance
1 Balmedie Beach (3.51km)	High	High	Major	High (Beach Users)	High	Major
2 A90 (Harehill) (4.44km)	Medium to Low	High	Major – Moderate to Moderate	Low to High (Road Users)	High	Moderate to Major
3 Jesmond Drive, Middleton (7.14km)	High	Negligible	Negligible	*	*	*
4 B999 Whitecairns (8.1km)	High (residents) Medium to Low (travellers)	Medium	Major – Moderate (residents) Moderate to Moderate Minor (travellers)	Low to High (Residents and Road Users)	Medium	Major-Moderate to Moderate/Minor
5 Aberdeen Beech (7.52km)	High	High to Medium	Major to Major – Moderate	High (Beach Users)	Medium	Major-Moderate
6 A90 (West Pitmillan) (9.31km)	Medium to Low	Medium to Low	Moderate to Moderate Minor to Minor	Low to High (Road Users)	Medium	Major-Moderate to Moderate/Minor
7 Torry Battery (7.89km)	High to Medium	High to Medium	Major to Major – Moderate to Moderate	High (Walkers and Visitors)	Medium (Focal point of view and overlapping rotors)	Moderate/ Major
8 South College Street, Aberdeen (9.19km)	Low	Negligible	Negligible	*	*	*
9 Forvie Nature Reserve (10.27km)	High	Medium	Major – Moderate	High (Walkers)	Medium	Moderate/ Major
10 Midstocket Road / North Anderson Drive (10.47km)	High (residents) Medium to Low (travellers)	Low	Moderate (residents) Moderate - Minor (travellers)	Low to High (Residents and Road Users)	Medium / Low	Moderate/ Major to Minor
11 Leslie Road (A978) Aberdeen (8.07km)	High (residents) Medium (travellers)	Low	Moderate (residents) Moderate - Minor (travellers)	Low to High (Residents and Road Users)	Low	Moderate to Minor

12 Kincorth Hill (11.56km)	High to Medium	Medium	Major – Moderate to Moderate	High (Walkers and Visitors)	Medium / Low	Moderate/ Major
13 Udny Station (12.63km)	High	Medium to Low	Major – Moderate to Moderate	High (Residents)	Low	Moderate
14 A96 / Kirkhill Forest (14.13km)	Medium to Low	Low	Moderate – Minor to Minor	Low to High (Road Users)	Low	Moderate to Minor
15 Brimmond Hill (14.41km)	High to Medium	Medium	Major – Moderate to Moderate	High (Walkers and Visitors)	Low	Moderate
16 Formantine and Buchan Way, near Quilquox (25.98km)	High (Residents) Medium (cyclists)	Low	Moderate (residents) Moderate – Minor (cyclists)	High (Residents & Cyclists)	Low	Moderate
17 Minor Road near Netherley and Durris Forest (24.99km)	High	Low to Negligible	Moderate to Negligible	High (Residents)	Negligible	Moderate/ Minor
18 Slains Castle (22.23km)	High	Low	Moderate	High (Visitors)	Negligible	Moderate/ Minor
19 Mithar Tap, Bennachie (32.02km)	High to Medium	Low to Negligible	Moderate to Moderate Minor to Negligible	High (Walkers and Visitors)	Negligible	Moderate/ Minor
20 A92, Mill of Uras (33.58km)	Medium	Negligible	Negligible	Low to High (Road Users)	Negligible	Moderate/ Minor to Minor/ Negligible
21 Girdle Ness Lighthouse (7.93km)	*	*	*	High (Walkers and Visitors)	Medium	Moderate/ Major
22 No Viewpoint Provided	*	*	*	*	*	*
23 Murcar 8 th Tee (3.22km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	High	Major
24 No Viewpoint Provided	*	*	*	*	*	*
25 Murcar Club House (3.88km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	High	Major
26 Menie Estate (Hotel Site) (5.22km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	High	Major
27 Menie Estate (Front Nine) (4.19km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	High	Major

28 Menie Estate (Back Nine) (5.26km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	High	Major (Adverse)
29 Royal Aberdeen (9 th Tee) (3.93km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	High	Major (Adverse)
30 Royal Aberdeen (Club House) (5.53km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	High	Major (Adverse)

NB * Not Assessed Red Significant effect Blue Potential Significant Effect

5.3.3 The ES assessment finds significant adverse visual effects at ES Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, and 15 (nine of the twenty ES Viewpoints assessed). The ES does not assess ES Viewpoints 21 to 30.

5.3.4 The assessment neither assesses ES Viewpoints 3 and 8, as there is no (or minimal) visibility from these locations, nor ES Viewpoints 22 or 24, as there are no photomontages or wirelines provided.

5.3.5 The assessment finds, additionally, that potential significant adverse visual effects (moderate level of effect) occur at ES Viewpoints 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16:

- **Viewpoint 11** – This viewpoint is at street level and although road users will not be subject to significant effects some residents are likely to be subject to significant effects (particularly from upper floor windows orientated towards the development);
- **Viewpoint 13** – Residents are of high sensitivity but the distance of the turbines (12.83km) is unlikely to result in significant effects;
- **Viewpoint 14** – Road Users are of low to high sensitivity but the distance of the turbines (14.13km) is unlikely to result in significant effects;

- **Viewpoint 15** – Walkers are of high sensitivity and the elevation of the viewpoint with views over Aberdeen Bay will result in significant effects despite the distance of the turbines (14.41km); and
- **Viewpoint 16** – Residents and cyclists are of high sensitivity but the distance of the turbines (25.95km) is unlikely to result in significant effects.

5.3.6 Therefore the assessment finds significant adverse visual effects at ES Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 (nineteen of the twenty six ES Viewpoints assessed). This outcome validates the concerns raised in MSC Topic Paper 1.

5.4 Cumulative Visual Assessment

5.4.1 The ES cumulative visual assessment (extracted from ES Appendix 19.2 paragraph 4.6) and the corresponding assessment are presented in summary form in the table below (to allow a direct comparison):

VP	ES Sensitivity	ES Magnitude	ES Significance	MSC Sensitivity	MSC Magnitude	MSC Significance
1 Balmedie Beach (3.51km)	High	None	None	High (Beach Users)	*	*
2 A90 (Harehill) (4.44km)	Medium to Low	None	None	Low to High (Road Users)	*	*
3 Jesmond Drive, Middleton (7.14km)	High	None	None	*	*	*
4 B999 Whitecairns (8.1km)	High (residents) Medium to Low (travellers)	None	None	Low to High (Residents and Road Users)	*	*
5 Aberdeen Beech (7.52km)	High	None	None	High (Beach Users)	*	*
6 A90 (West Pitmillan) (9.31km)	Medium to Low	Low	Moderate Minor to Minor	Low to High (Road Users)	*	*

7 Torry Battery (7.89km)	High to Medium	Negligible	Negligible	High (Walkers and Visitors)	*	*
8 South College Street, Aberdeen (9.19km)	Low	None	None	*	*	*
9 Forvie Nature Reserve (10.27km)	High	None	None	High (Walkers)	*	*
10 Midstocket Road / North Anderson Drive (10.47km)	High (residents) Medium to Low (travellers)	None	None	Low to High (Residents and Road Users)	*	*
11 Leslie Road (A978) Aberdeen (8.07km)	High (residents) Medium (travellers)	None	None	Low to High (Residents and Road Users)	*	*
12 Kincorth Hill (11.56km)	High to Medium	Negligible	Negligible	High (Walkers and Visitors)	*	*
13 Udny Station (12.63km)	High	Low	Moderate	High (Residents)	Low	Moderate
14 A96 / Kirkhill Forest (14.13km)	Medium to Low	None	None	Low to High (Road Users)	*	*
15 Brimmond Hill (14.41km)	High to Medium	Low	Moderate to Moderate Minor	High (Walkers and Visitors)	Low	Moderate
16 Formantine and Buchan Way, near Quilquox (25.98km)	High (Residents) Medium (cyclists)	Low	Moderate (residents) Moderate – Minor (cyclists)	High (Residents & Cyclists)	Low	Moderate
17 Minor Road near Ntherley and Durris Forest (24.99km)	High	Low to Negligible	Moderate to Negligible	High (Residents)	*	*
18 Slains Castle (22.23km)	High	Low to Negligible	Moderate to Negligible	High (Visitors)	Low	Moderate
19 Mither Tap, Bennachie (32.02km)	High to Medium	Negligible	Negligible	High (Walkers and Visitors)	Low	Moderate
20 A92, Mill of Uras (33.58km)	Medium	None	None	Low to High (Road Users)	*	*
21 Girdle Ness Lighthouse (7.93km)	*	*	*	High (Walkers and Visitors)	*	*
23 Murcar 8 th Tee (3.22km)	*	*	*	*	*	*

25 Murcar Club House (3.88km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	*	*
26 Menie Estate (Hotel Site) (5.22km)	*	*	*	*	*	*
27 Menie Estate (Front Nine) (4.19km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	*	*
28 Menie Estate (Back Nine) (5.26km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	*	*
29 Royal Aberdeen (9 th Tee) (3.93km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	*	*
30 Royal Aberdeen (Club House) (5.53km)	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	*	*
MSC 6 Tamhill Hunthill Estate	*	*	*	High (Golf Course Users)	*	*

NB * Not Assessed Red Significant effect Blue Potential Significant Effect

5.4.2 The ES assessment finds no significant cumulative visual effects at any of the twenty ES viewpoints assessed.

5.4.3 [REDACTED] assesses ES Cumulative Viewpoints 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 as these are the only viewpoints provided with cumulative wirelines. The [REDACTED] assessment finds potential significant cumulative visual effects at all five ES Cumulative Viewpoints. However none are considered significant as these viewpoints are distant from the EOWDC (12.63km to 32.02km). This calls into question the use of these ES viewpoints to illustrate cumulative visual effects.

5.4.4 However, it should be noted that none of the other windfarms illustrated are of the size and extent of the EOWDC Windfarm. Therefore from viewpoints in closer proximity (where other windfarms are visible) the EOWDC is likely to make the largest contribution to cumulative effects.

5.5 Sequential Cumulative Visual Assessment

5.5.1 The ES sequential cumulative visual assessment (extracted from ES Appendix 19.2 paragraph 4.6) and the corresponding assessment are presented in summary form in the table below (to allow a direct comparison):

Route	ES Sensitivity	ES Magnitude	ES Significance	MSC Sensitivity	MSC Magnitude	MSC Significance
Travelling Public - Rail (>9km)	Medium to Low	Negligible	Negligible	Low to High	*	*
Travelling Public - Coastal Path (>3km)	High to Medium	High to Low to Negligible with distance	Major to Major - Moderate reducing to Moderate - Minor to Negligible with distance	High	*	*
Travelling Public - Ferry (>1km)	Medium to Low	Low (overall) High (when passing in close proximity)	Moderate - Minor to Minor (overall) Major - Moderate to Moderate (when passing in close proximity)	Low to High	*	*
Shipping / Fishing (>1km)	Low	Medium	Moderate - Minor	Low	*	*
Recreational Sailing (>1km)	Medium	Medium (overall) High (when passing in close proximity)	Moderate (overall) Major - Moderate (when passing in close proximity)	High	*	*
A90 (4km)	Medium to Low	High within 5km reducing to Medium around Ellon and Aberdeen and Low to Negligible elsewhere	Major - Moderate to Moderate within approx 5km, Moderate to Moderate - Minor around Ellon and Aberdeen and Minor to Negligible elsewhere	Low to High	*	*
A920 (15km)	Medium to Low	Low to Negligible	Moderate - Minor to Minor to	Low to High	*	*

			Negligible			
A93 (12km)	Medium to Low	None	None	Low to High	*	*
A947 (10km)	Medium to Low	Low to Negligible	Moderate – Minor to Minor to Negligible	Low to High	*	*
A948 (15km)	Medium to Low	Medium to Negligible	Moderate to Moderate – Minor to Negligible	Low to High	*	*
A96 (11km)	Medium to Low	Medium to Negligible	Moderate to Moderate – Minor to Negligible	Low to High	*	*

NB * Not Assessed Red Significant effect Blue Potential Significant Effect

5.5.2 The ES assessment finds significant sequential cumulative visual effects for users of the coastal path, ferry users, recreational sailors, and users of the A90.

5.5.3 [REDACTED] has not undertaken an assessment of sequential cumulative effects due to the absence of ES sequential cumulative wirelines from routes. However if the ES assessment of magnitude of change is applied to the [REDACTED] sensitivity levels then users of the A948 and A96 may also be subject to significant adverse sequential cumulative effects.

5.5.4 Whilst the 'coastal path' is assessed in the ES none of the ES figures map its route or linkages. The Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan and the Aberdeen City Core Paths Plan map all core paths including the 'coastal path'. This has been transcribed onto [REDACTED] Appendix Document Figure 1. This illustrates that the 'coastal path' runs along the beach from Bridge of Don to Newburgh and returns to the coast via Forvie National Nature Reserve. There are linkages to the 'coastal path' at Blackdog, Balmedie and to the north of Menie. All users of sections of the 'coastal path' that are on the coastline will be subject to significant adverse effects.

6.0 Environmental Statement Addendum

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Addendum Volume 1 relates to seascape, landscape and visual effects and comprises the following documents (as enumerated on the contents page of 'Volume 1 ES Addendum: Rochdale Adjustments, R&D proposals and Landscape & Visual Assessment'):

1. 'AOWFL Addendum June 2012 Addendum Application Letter to Marine Scotland
2. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 Introduction to Addendum and Rochdale Adjustment
3. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 R&D Proposals & Responses
4. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 Golf Course and Offshore Wind farm Study
5. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 Golf Course Visuals- Photomontages
6. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 Golf Course Visuals – Wireframes
7. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 Supporting Statement to Rochdale Adjustment
8. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 Rochdale Visuals - Height Study
9. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 Rochdale Visuals - Zoning Scenarios
10. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 ZTV – Comparative ZTV on Bareground
11. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 ZTV – Comparative ZTV of Blade Tips with Obstructions in Aberdeen
12. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 ZTV - Comparative ZTV of Blade Tips with Obstructions
13. AOWFL Addendum June 2012 Additional Visual – Girdle Ness Lighthouse'

However the actual title of Document 7 is 'Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Adjustment of the Proposed Rochdale Envelope Assessment' and Document 4 is dated July 2012 rather than June 2012.

- 6.1.2 In addition, the documents are not numbered which further confuses navigation of the Appendix. However, for the purposes of brevity this Topic Paper will refer to the Addendum contents document numbers and for clarity each document will be addressed in turn.

6.2 Document 1 - Addendum Application Letter to Marine Scotland

- 6.2.1 It is assumed that this relates to the letter dated 30 July 2012 which accompanied the submitted Addendum. It states that 'As agreed with SNH, RSPB and Marine Scotland, the Addendum is comprised of additional baseline information as well as updated environmental assessment information.'

Unfortunately no copies of correspondence or meeting minutes are included in the Addendum, so it is not possible to determine whether it meets the requirements of the consultees. However it should be noted that Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council are not mentioned and third parties were not party to the agreement of the Addendum scope.

6.3 Document 2 – Introduction to Addendum and Rochdale Adjustment

- 6.3.1 Document 2 paragraph 2 confirms that Addendum Volume 1 contains '...revised impact assessments taking account of new data, as well as a review of existing offshore wind farms in close proximity to golf courses, golf course visualisations from Menie Estate, Royal Aberdeen and Murcar Golf courses, and preliminary environmental R&D proposals.'

6.3.2 Document 2 paragraph 17 confirms that 'This document introduces an adjustment to the Rochdale envelope as used for the ES submission in August 2011' and paragraph 21 states that 'Since the submission of the ES in August 2011 a number of wind turbine manufacturers have proposed to manufacture new wind turbines that fall marginally outside of the Rochdale envelope as submitted.'

Document 2 paragraph 29 confirms that 'Following the commercial evaluation of turbine suppliers, the project team require an adjustment to the tip height of up to 198.5m, and rotor radius of up to 86m...'

6.3.3 Addendum Document 2 paragraph 34 confirms that 'Following a comprehensive review of consultation responses, including Marine Scotland, SNH, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council we have given substantial consideration to landscape and visual design principles in addition to the work carried out in earlier phases.'

Document 2 paragraph 36 goes on to state that 'Since the landscape and visual meeting held with Marine Scotland on the 1st March 2012 and evaluation of the 3rd party independent landscape and visual review, the project team has worked very hard across engineering disciplines to meet SNH's request to consider landscape and visual design principles...'

The Addendum does not include the 'independent landscape and visual review' or a summary of its findings or details of the SNH 'request to consider landscape and visual design principles'.

6.3.4 ES Appendix 19.1 Appendix 2 SLVIA Methodology 'Design' section states that 'The documented assessment will include:

- A description of the proposed wind farm development.
- A description of the design process and any iterations of the design.
- A description of any mitigation measures incorporated within the proposals to help reduce identified potential landscape and visual effects.'

It is evident that the ES fails to adequately address the second and third bullet points and therefore the ES Addendum seeks to retrospectively address landscape and visual design issues. Even so the ES Addendum preface still describes these principles as 'preliminary'.

6.3.5 Document 2 paragraph 37 confirms that 'The team aimed to meet the following objectives through this process:

- Objective 1: The closest shoreward array (Turbines 1-3) should be relatively consistent in tip height to maintain design integrity in views from the immediate coastline
- Objective 2: The closest shoreward array (Turbines 1-3) should be populated with the smallest tip heights and rotor diameter. The variation in turbine heights will aim to work with perspective, rather than against, with the tallest turbines located further out to sea and a gradation to the lowest turbines located closest to the coastline.
- Objective 3; The largest turbines should be placed on locations 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11.
- Objective 4: Turbines 3, 6, 9, and 11 should increase in size from shoreward to seaward with the smallest being at turbine no 3, and largest at location 11.
- Objective 5: Minimum heights are as important as maximum heights when considering design principles.'

These 'objectives' are logical but unlikely to significantly alter the effects of such large turbines set in a predetermined geometric grid.

- 6.3.6 Document 2 paragraph 38 states that *'In defining these principles we have taken account of recognised aesthetic design principles. These include a commitment to having a clear and legible arrangement that works with the gentle sweep and alignment of the coastline. The detailed design considerations will also be mindful of a range of broader aesthetic considerations such as scale, proportion, visual balance and harmony, the effects of perspective and the perception of distance, visual framing, changing visual context and visual contrasts.'*

This statement is laudable but is contradicted by a rigid geometric layout of the turbines which does not respond to the 'gentle sweep' of the coastline (Appendix Document Figure 1). Whilst the detailed design might be *'mindful of a range of broader aesthetic considerations'*, it is unlikely that any of these can be applied successfully to a predetermined layout.

- 6.3.7 The design principles are then applied to three scenarios which vary turbine height but not position. Document 2 paragraph 47 concludes that *'Taking all considerations into account, we believe that the preliminary Rochdale design proposals shown in Table 1.4 meet the SNH request to give consideration to landscape and visual design principles.'*

However Document 2 paragraph 48 confirms that *'These scenarios have been used to re-assess the likely adjusted Rochdale envelope effects in order to demonstrate whether there are levels of perceptible change compared to the original Rochdale envelope as submitted'* and

paragraph 49 concludes that *'...in landscape and visual terms, these adjustments represent a non material adjustment.'* In other words the application of the design principles makes no material difference to the assessment of effects. This demonstrates that design principles retrospectively applied to turbine height alone are ineffectual for a development of this scale and geometric configuration.

- 6.3.8 Document 2 paragraph 39 states that *'Many of these considerations are either directly mentioned or implied within SNH's 2009 publication 'Siting and Designing windfarms in the landscape'. Whilst this design document is focused upon onshore development it does include a brief section on the coast (para 4.50 – 4.54) and some of the design principles contained within this document can, and will be, usefully applied to the detailed design stage for the EOWDC.'*

It has been demonstrated that the application of the limited Addendum design principles has been ineffectual. The fundamental design principles set out in *'Siting and Designing windfarms in the landscape'* should have been applied to the submitted ES layout and not deferred to a future *'detailed design'* stage (where it is inevitable that retrospective design will be ineffectual). Indeed this is conceded in Document 2 paragraph 39 which states that *'None of these generally subtle design refinements outweigh though the principal source of effects which essentially arise from the number and size of the turbines as already set out within the ES.'*

- 6.3.9 *'Siting and Designing windfarms in the landscape'* paragraph 4.53 states that *'From inland areas, offshore developments may not even be perceived as being offshore if their immediate setting within the sea is screened by inland features.'*

This is the case with the EOWDC development, as sand dunes (which run along the majority of Aberdeen Bay) will screen the sea (but not the turbines) from many inland views and particularly from the coastal plain. Therefore not only are the majority of significant effects 'onshore', the EOWDC will also be perceived as an 'onshore' windfarm in many views.

- 6.3.10 *'Siting and Designing windfarms in the landscape'* paragraph 4.53 also distinguishes between Scottish 'inshore' and 'offshore' waters. The legal maritime definition of 'offshore' is beyond a twelve mile limit from the coastline and the general public's understanding of 'offshore' is likely to be similar (particularly in the vicinity of Aberdeen where 'offshore' oil rigs are some distance from the coast).

A simple definition of 'inshore' is 'close to the shore' whilst a simple definition of 'offshore' is 'at a distance from the shore'. Therefore the EOWDC is an 'inshore' development (as it lies 'close to the shore' and, as MSC Appendix Document Figure 1 illustrates, is sited within Aberdeen Bay) that causes significant 'onshore' effects.

The fact that the development lies within Aberdeen Bay is illustrated by ES Viewpoint 18 – Slains Castle (where the development is viewed against the backdrop of Aberdeen) and to a lesser extent from ES viewpoint 21 – Girdle Ness Lighthouse. This effect will also be apparent from the Forvie Nature Reserve Visitor Centre, the coastal path at Forvie Ness and St Catherine's Dub at Collieston.

- 6.3.11 The Document 2 paragraph 47 concludes that *'Taking all considerations into account, we believe that the preliminary Rochdale design proposals shown in Table 1.4 meet the SNH request to give consideration to landscape and visual design principles.'*

No doubt SNH will confirm whether their concerns have been addressed however it is clear that the EOWDC is poorly sited in close proximity to key landscape and visual receptors and the Addendum concedes that only *'subtle design refinements'* (which will not have any material impact on the significant effects of the proposal) will be made to the submitted scheme.

6.4 Document 3 – R & D Proposals and Responses

- 6.4.1 Document 3 Figure 1 confirms that the overall project comprises two main elements: a *'Commercial Wind Farm'* (innovative wind turbines, innovative foundations, innovative cabling/laying and onshore facilities) and a *'Deployment Centre'* (Ocean Laboratory, environmental monitoring R&D and training opportunities).

It is confirmed that the *'Deployment Centre'* will be the subject of a separate application. Therefore the assessment of seascape, landscape and visual effects relates solely to the *'Commercial Wind Farm'*.

6.5 Documents 4, 5 & 6 - Golf Course and Offshore Wind Farm Study, Photomontages and Wirelines

- 6.5.1 Document 4, paragraph 1.1 states that *'Given the presence of golf courses in the study area and a number of representations from non-statutory consultees, the project team has produced an evidence base relating to golf courses near offshore wind farms'* and goes on to confirm

that the study has also been produced '*...following comments from statutory consultees for the EOWDC and discussions with Marine Scotland, following an independent review of the ES.*'

Therefore non-statutory consultees and an independent review undertaken on behalf of Marine Scotland have found the ES fails to assess key receptors of significant visual impacts. The independent review was not circulated alongside the addendum.

6.5.2 Document 4, paragraph 1.2 does not confirm the basis for the study scope or methodology or whether they were agreed with statutory and non-statutory consultees. However paragraph 1.2 does confirm that a number of caveats apply including:

- *'No landscape or visual factors have been considered in the mapping exercise. Offshore turbines are not necessarily visible from golf courses shown on the plans or listed in the schedules'; and*
- *'Factors such as topography, vegetation or the built environment may create areas where the offshore turbines are not visible. Any commentary on the likely visibility of wind farms from golf courses is based solely on desk study and should be considered to have similar weight as a scoping exercise. No assessment fieldwork has been undertaken.'*

The acknowledgment that there has been no fieldwork undertaken and that the offshore turbines may not even be visible from the mapped golf courses calls into question the basic purpose and effectiveness of the study. It would seem that its sole purpose is to try to justify the indefensible omission of key receptors from the ES assessment.

6.5.3 Document 4 A3.2 demonstrates that of the eight golf courses closest to an offshore windfarm five are associated with the EOWDC. The other three are associated with the Teeside Windfarm (146.5m to blade tip) and the Scroby Sands Windfarm (108m to blade tip).

6.5.4 [REDACTED] Appendix Document Figure 1 illustrates the relative distances (when viewed from the southern end of the Trump International Golf Links) that are required to occupy the same vertical angle of view for other offshore turbines implemented by Vattenfall.

It should also be noted that the 'swept vertical airspace' occupied by these other turbines is as follows:

- Kentish Flats and Thanet (90m dia) - 6,362.55m²
- Ormonde (140m dia) – 15,395.80m²
- EOWDC (original 150m dia) – 17,673.75m²
- EOWDC (revised 172m dia) – 23,238.23m²

Therefore the vertical swept path for EOWDC is almost four times the size of that for the Kentish Flats and Thanet windfarms ([REDACTED] Appendix Document Figure 1).

6.5.5 One of the reasons cited by developers of offshore windfarms for the use of larger turbine height and blade diameter is the lack of scale indicators by which the relative size of the development can be judged. This is not the case with EOWDC, as the proposed windfarm is juxtaposed with the Aberdeen harbour anchorage area (ES Figure 3.4 and [REDACTED] Appendix Document Figures 3, 4, and 5) and will also be seen in the context of vessels using the sea lanes beyond the windfarm (ES Figure 15.1).

Therefore scale indicators are present day and night when viewed from locations with uninterrupted views of the sea.

Where scale indicators are screened by intervening topography or vegetation, the size of the turbines (relative to more typical inshore and onshore turbines) will make the development seem closer. Therefore the proposed increase in turbine diameter will increase the scale or perceived proximity of the development.

- 6.5.6 Document 4, paragraph 1.6 concludes that *'The review of Round 1 ESs indicates that golfers are not given special treatment in the ESs of offshore wind farms and are only considered where they are likely to be receptors, and/or perhaps where it is agreed through consultation that there is a need for a viewpoint from a golf course receptor. This reflects a central tenet of LVIA methodology that assessment is proportionate to the project and its likely effects. For this reason, specific user groups (e.g., golfers, equestrians or windsurfers) are only considered as required by a specific landscape context.'*

The assessment of key receptors subject to significant effects is not *'special treatment'*. The assessment of key receptors at golf courses in Aberdeen Bay is *'proportionate to the project and its likely effects'* and is fully justified by their *'specific landscape context'*.

- 6.5.7 Document 4, paragraph 1.6 also claims that ES Viewpoint 1 (Balmedie Beach) and ES Viewpoint 2 (A90 at Harehill) *'...represent the changes to views which may arise from the coastal golf courses near the EOWDC.'* However ES Appendix 19.1 paragraph 5.3.1 confirms that Viewpoint 1 is representative of *'...visitors to the beach'* and ES Appendix 19.1

paragraph 5.3.2 confirms that Viewpoint 2 is representative of ‘...travellers on the A90...’

- 6.5.8 The ES Addendum provides additional wirelines and photomontages for viewpoints at the Murcar Links Golf Course, the Royal Aberdeen Golf Course and the Trump International Golf Links. Whilst (Viewpoint 21 Girdle Ness Lighthouse) could be described as representative of Nigg Bay Golf Course, there are no viewpoints or visualisations from the Kings Links Golf Centre, the East Aberdeenshire Golf Course or the Newburgh on Ythan Golf Course. Furthermore there is no viewpoint description or assessment similar to that provided for other viewpoints in the ES.
- 6.5.9 Document 4, paragraph 1.6 also states that *‘This research has also demonstrated that some world-famous courses are likely to have views of offshore wind farms’*. However it is not stated whether these views result in significant effects. It should also be noted that the Gleneagles Hotel and Golf Club have objected to windfarms and for the proposed Standingfauld Windfarm a specific study was undertaken to determine effects upon visitors to the hotel and golf courses. Similar work has also been undertaken for the proposed Rhodders Windfarm.
- 6.5.10 The purpose of the ES is to establish the significance of effects arising from the EOWDC development. It has failed to do so and furthermore the Addendum fails to assess the effects from the supplementary golf course viewpoints. This Topic paper concludes that an unsubstantiated desk based study of unrelated golf courses relative to other offshore windfarms is of little or no relevance to the assessment in this case.

6.6 Documents 7 to 12 – Supporting Statement to Rochdale Adjustment, Height Study, Zoning Scenarios and ZTVs

6.6.1 The term 'Rochdale envelope' is misused in the ES and ES Addendum, as it applies to 'outline' applications rather than 'detailed' applications. This issue is dealt with in the overall objection prepared by [REDACTED]

6.6.2 The ES Appendix 19.1 Appendix 2 'Design' section states that '*Often there is the need to consider a number of alternative schemes and, through consultation, to reach agreement as to which of the scheme options constitutes the worst case scenario scheme in accordance with the 'Rochdale Envelope' principals.*' This statement implies that the most intrusive of the potential scheme options should be assessed. However the scale of the impact of this development demands a high degree of design resolution, so as to ensure that the ES assesses a scheme that is as close as practicable to that which might be implemented.

6.6.3 Document 7, paragraph 1 states that '*Since the submission of the application in August 2011, commercial re-evaluation of prospective turbine suppliers who can meet the EU requirements has revealed that a number of manufacturers' turbines marginally exceed the Rochdale envelope parameters (as submitted). These turbines would require an adjustment to the tip height of up to 198.5m, and rotor radius of up to 86m as summarised in the table below.*'

Therefore there is an increase in the maximum turbine tip height from 195m to 198.5m and an increase in the maximum rotor radius from 75m to 86m (the hub height remains at a maximum of 120m).

6.6.4 Document 7, paragraph 3 concludes that *'This report and the accompanying figures demonstrate that the proposed variation to the Rochdale envelope would bring about barely perceptible changes to seascape, landscape and visual effects. The visual difference arising from the variation would be extremely marginal in SLVIA terms and would not constitute a new realistic worst-case scenario. As such the Rochdale envelope as assessed in the August 2011 submission is considered to represent effectively the proposed adjusted worst-case SLVIA scenario.'*

Based on the submitted visualisations this statement is broadly correct with respect to the overall turbine height but less so for the 'swept vertical airspace' occupied by the turbines.

6.6.5 It should be noted that Document 7, paragraph 2.2 confirms that *'Figure 3336/104 comprises a set of photomontages from a selection of the closest viewpoints submitted with the SLVIA in August 2011 and from a number of locations on coastal golf courses on the stretch of coast to the north of Aberdeen. The latter viewpoints were not used in the SLVIA but were produced at the request of Marine Scotland during April and May 2012, to respond to representations made by third parties in relation to the August 2011 submission.'*

The use of the golf course viewpoints confirms their importance for a proper assessment of effects (in this case arising from the revised Rochdale envelope scenarios).

6.7 Documents 13 – Additional Visual – Girdle Ness Lighthouse

6.7.1 Addendum drawing numbers 3336-WF and 3336-PM (Viewpoint 21 Girdle Ness Lighthouse) provide a photomontage and wireline but are not

accompanied by an assessment of effects. [REDACTED] assess visual effects from this viewpoint in the Visual Impact Assessment section of this Topic Paper and concludes that visual effects are significant.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 Topic Paper 2 Summary

7.1.1 [REDACTED] Topic Paper 2 identifies the following salient points relating to design:

- the ES relates to the effects of the 'commercial' windfarm element of the EOWDC;
- there would appear to have been no consideration of visual effects in the design process;
- the SLVIA assessment is for a predetermined geometric turbine layout; and
- the yellow turbine bases, navigational lighting and aviation lighting will maximise the visual prominence of the windfarm at day and night.

7.1.2 [REDACTED] Topic Paper 2 identifies the following salient points relating to the baseline assessment:

- the description of the 'Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit' includes a reference to the Royal Aberdeen and Murcar golf courses but fails to mention of the Trump International Golf Links;
- the northerly extent of the 'Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit' is incorrectly described as the mouth of the River Ythan. The dune landscape actually extends northwards to Collieston;
- the sensitivity of the 'Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit' to the north of Balmedie will be high rather than 'High to Medium';

- the assessment should be based upon an assumption of clear visibility as this represents the 'worst case' for seascape, landscape and visual effects;

7.1.3 [REDACTED] Topic Paper 2 identifies the following salient points relating to the assessment of seascape and landscape effects:

- the ES and [REDACTED] find significant effects for each of the three key landscape receptors (the Aberdeen Beach Regional Seascape Unit, the Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit and the Balmedie to Longhaven Area of Landscape Significance); and
- the ES finds no significant cumulative effects for the three key landscape receptors. However there are areas where existing and proposed windfarms will be visible from the Aberdeen Bay Regional Seascape Unit and the Balmedie to Longhaven Area of Landscape Significance. In each case [REDACTED] finds that the EOWDC Windfarm will contribute to significant adverse cumulative seascape and landscape effects.

7.1.4 [REDACTED] Topic Paper 2 identifies the following salient points relating to the assessment of visual effects:

- the ES assessment finds significant adverse visual effects at ES Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, and 15, whilst the [REDACTED] assessment finds significant effects at ES Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30. This outcome validates the concerns raised in [REDACTED] Topic Paper 1;
- the ES assessment finds no significant cumulative visual effects at any of the twenty ES viewpoints assessed;
- wirelines are provided for ES Cumulative Viewpoints 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19. However the use of these ES viewpoints to illustrate or

assess cumulative visual effects is questionable as they are distant from the EOWDC (12.63km to 32.02km);

- the ES assessment finds significant sequential cumulative visual effects for users of the coastal path, ferry users, recreational sailors, and users of the A90;
- whilst the 'coastal path' is assessed in the ES none of the ES figures map its route or linkages; and
- [REDACTED] has not undertaken an assessment of sequential cumulative effects due to the absence of ES sequential cumulative wirelines from routes.

7.1.5 [REDACTED] Topic Paper 2 identifies the following salient points relating to the ES Addendum:

- no copies of correspondence or meeting minutes are included in the Addendum, so it is not possible to determine whether it meets the requirements of the consultees;
- the Addendum does not include the 'independent landscape and visual review' or a summary of its findings or details of the SNH 'request to consider landscape and visual design principles';
- the ES Addendum seeks to retrospectively address landscape and visual design issues. Even so the ES Addendum preface describes these principles as 'preliminary';
- the Addendum design 'objectives' are logical but unlikely to significantly alter the effects of such large turbines set in a predetermined geometric grid;
- whilst the detailed design might be 'mindful of a range of broader aesthetic considerations', it is unlikely that any of these can be applied successfully to a predetermined layout;

- the Addendum implies that the design principles makes no material difference to the assessment of effects and acknowledges that *'None of these generally subtle design refinements outweigh though the principal source of effects which essentially arise from the number and size of the turbines as already set out within the ES'*;
- *'Siting and Designing windfarms in the landscape'* distinguishes between Scottish *'inshore'* and *'offshore'* waters. The EOWDC is an *'inshore'* development (as it lies *'close to the shore'* and is sited within Aberdeen Bay) that causes significant *'onshore'* effects;
- the acknowledgment that the offshore turbines may not be visible from the mapped golf courses calls into question the purpose of the study. It would seem that its sole purpose is to justify the indefensible omission of key receptors from the ES assessment;
- the assessment of key receptors subject to significant effects is not *'special treatment'*. The assessment of key receptors at golf courses in Aberdeen Bay is *'proportionate to the project and its likely effects'* and is fully justified by their *'specific landscape context'*;
- the Gleneagles Hotel and Golf Club have objected to windfarms and for the proposed Standingfauld Windfarm a specific study was undertaken to determine effects upon visitors to the hotel and golf courses;
- there are no viewpoints or visualisations from the Kings Links Golf Centre, the East Aberdeenshire Golf Course or the Newburgh on Ythan Golf Course;
- the purpose of the ES is to establish the significance of effects arising from the EOWDC development. It has failed to do so and furthermore the Addendum fails to assess the effects from the supplementary golf course viewpoints as well as the Girdle Ness Lighthouse;

- Topic Paper 2 concludes that an unsubstantiated study of unrelated golf courses relative to other offshore windfarms is of little or no relevance.

7.2 Conclusion

- 7.2.1 This Topic Paper demonstrates that the ES omits key receptors and that the ES LVIA methodology has resulted in an understatement of the sensitivity of some receptors and the consequential significance of effects. The [REDACTED] LVIA shows a greater number of significant visual effects. Furthermore the design objectives cited in the ES Addendum are ineffectual, whilst the entirely desk based golf course study is an unsuccessful attempt to justify the omission of key receptors from the ES assessment.

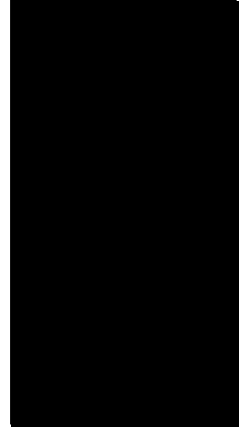
[REDACTED]
September 2012

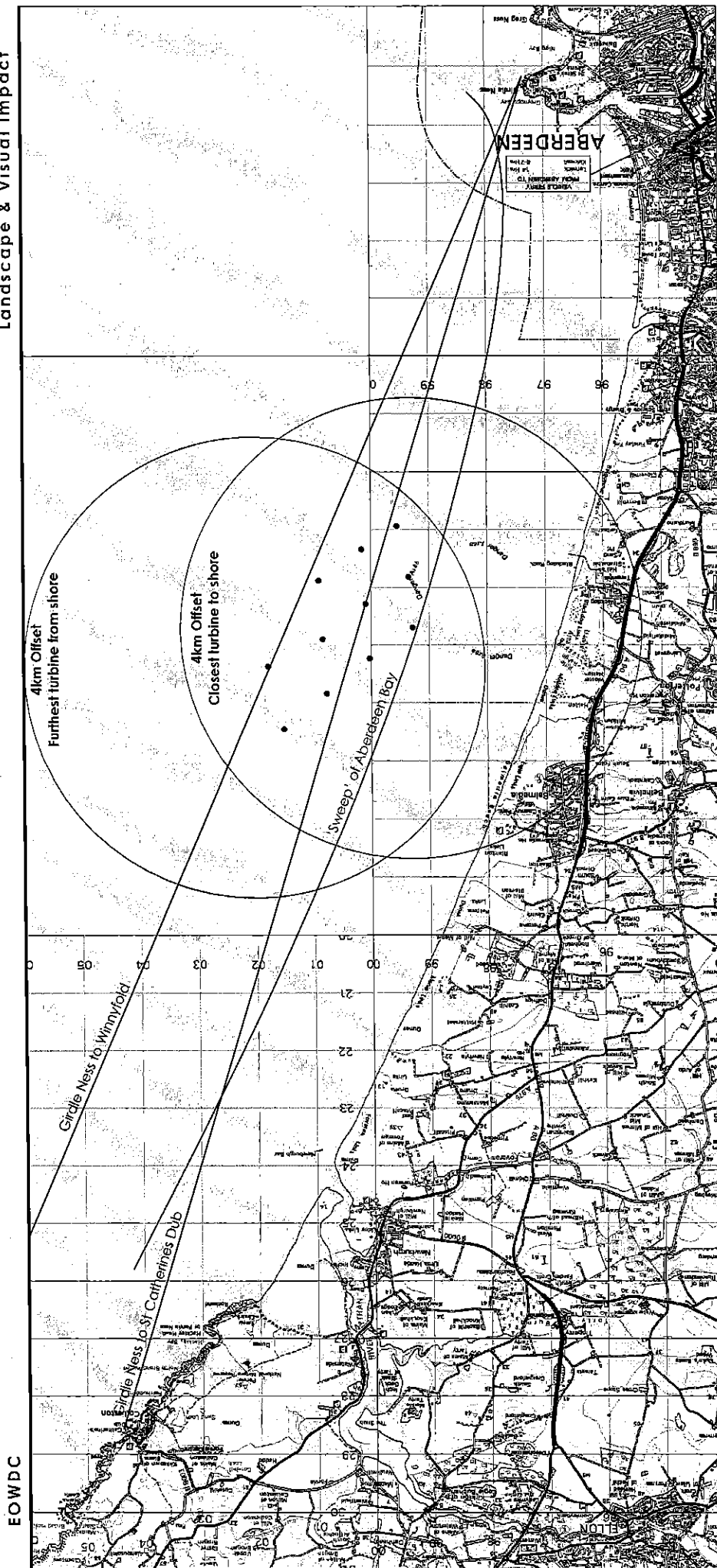
European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre

Section 36 Application

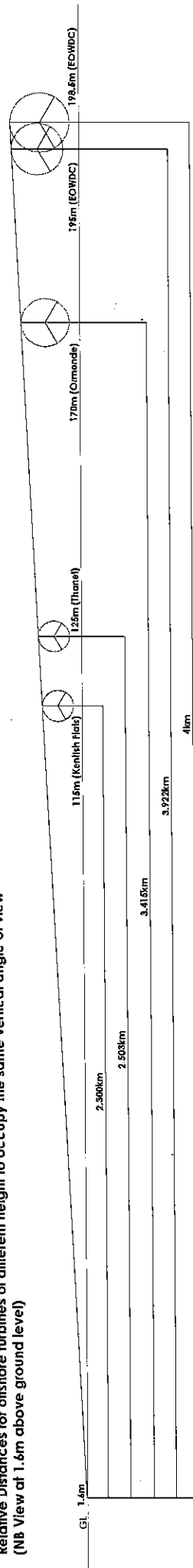
Landscape & Visual Impact - Appendix Document

On Behalf of
Trump International Golf Links





Relative Distances for offshore turbines of different height to occupy the same vertical angle of view
(NB View at 1.6m above ground level)



● Proposed Turbines

— Extent of Aberdeen Bay

— 'Sweep' of Aberdeen Bay

Figure 1 - Location and Scale

Not to Scale (grid squares 1km x 1km)

C0812 / September 2012

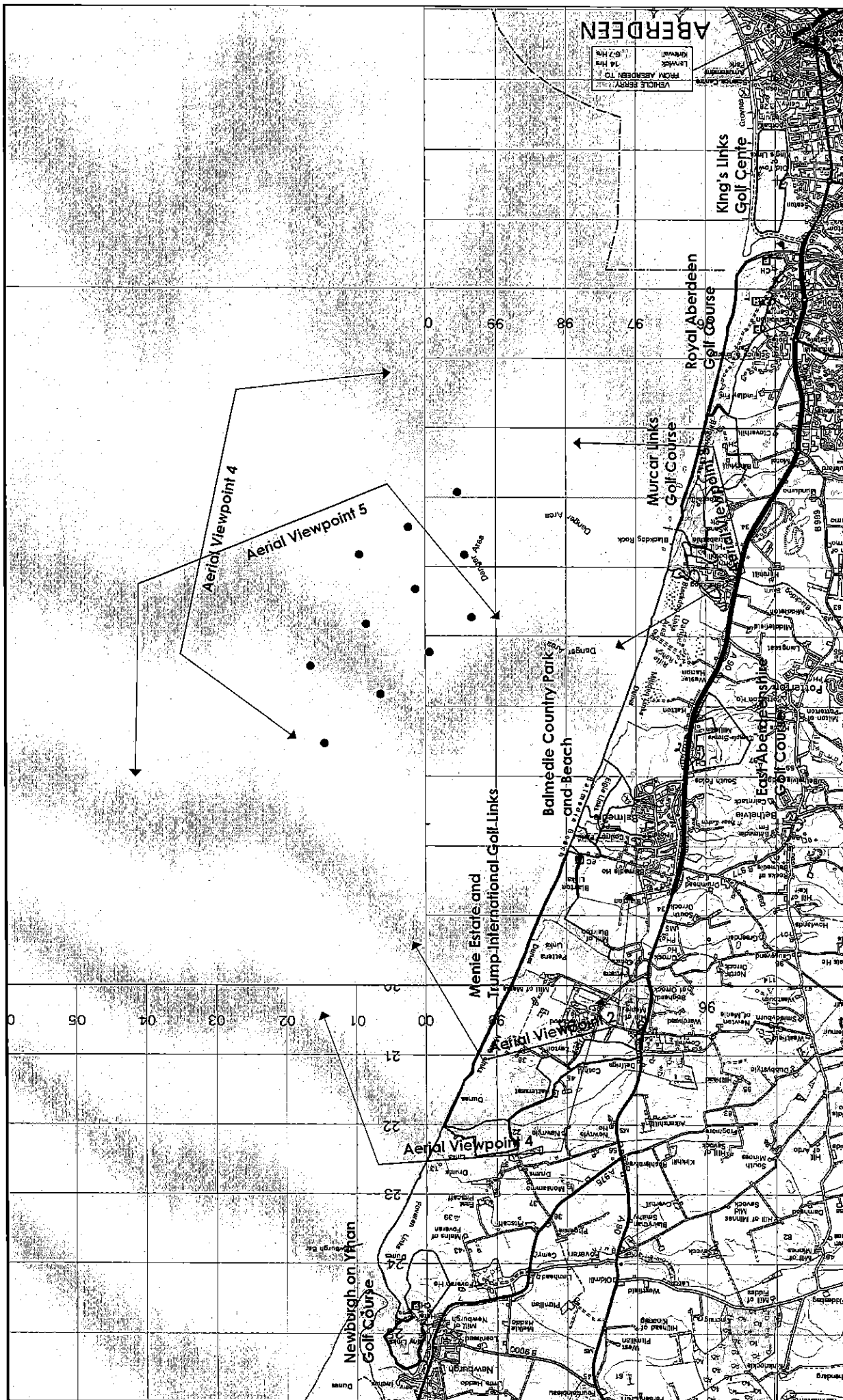


Figure 2 Golf Courses, Core Paths & MSC Aerial Viewpoints

Scale 1:50 000

C0812 / September 2012



Figure 3 MSC Viewpoint 1

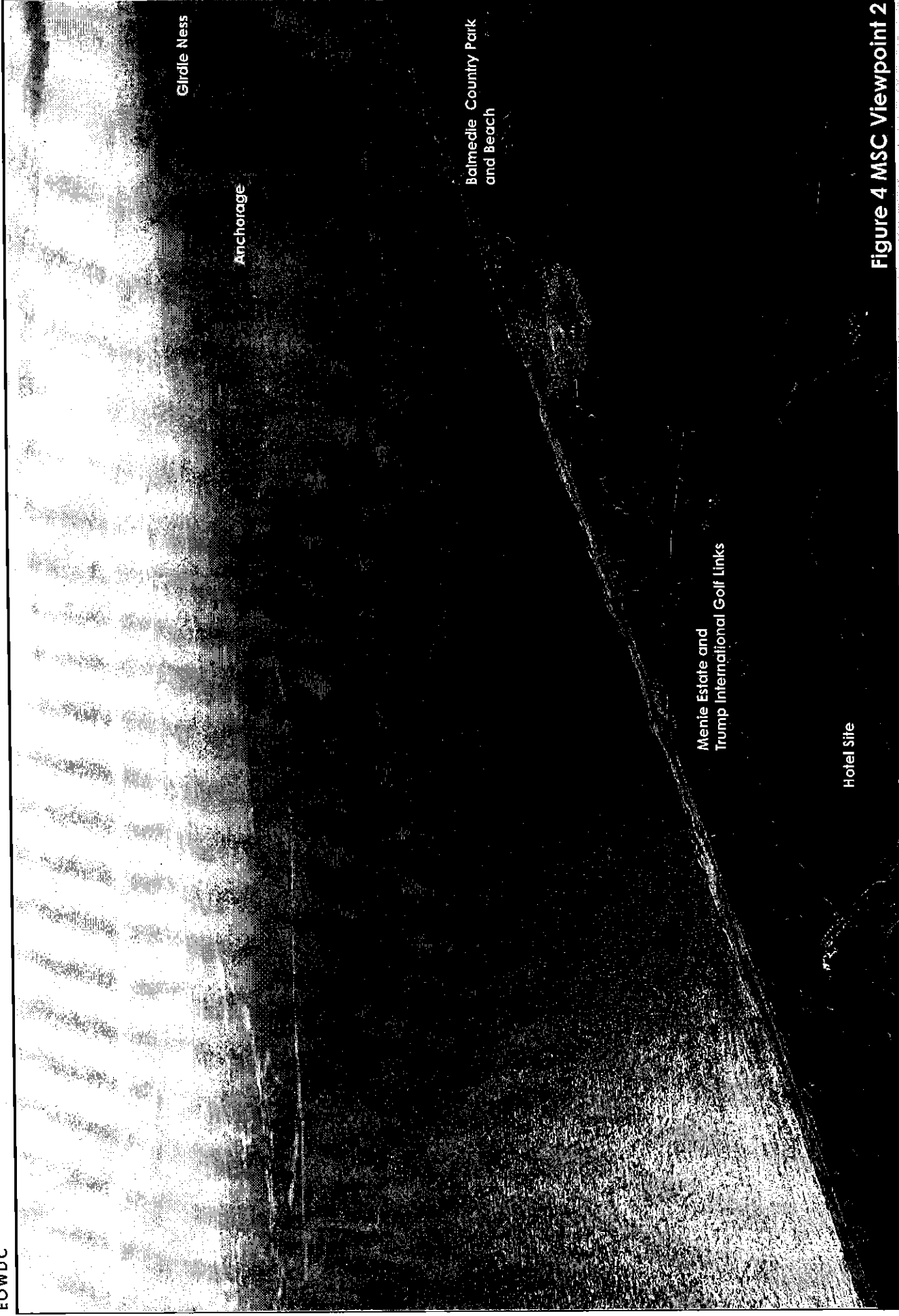


Figure 4 MSC Viewpoint 2

C0812 / September 2012

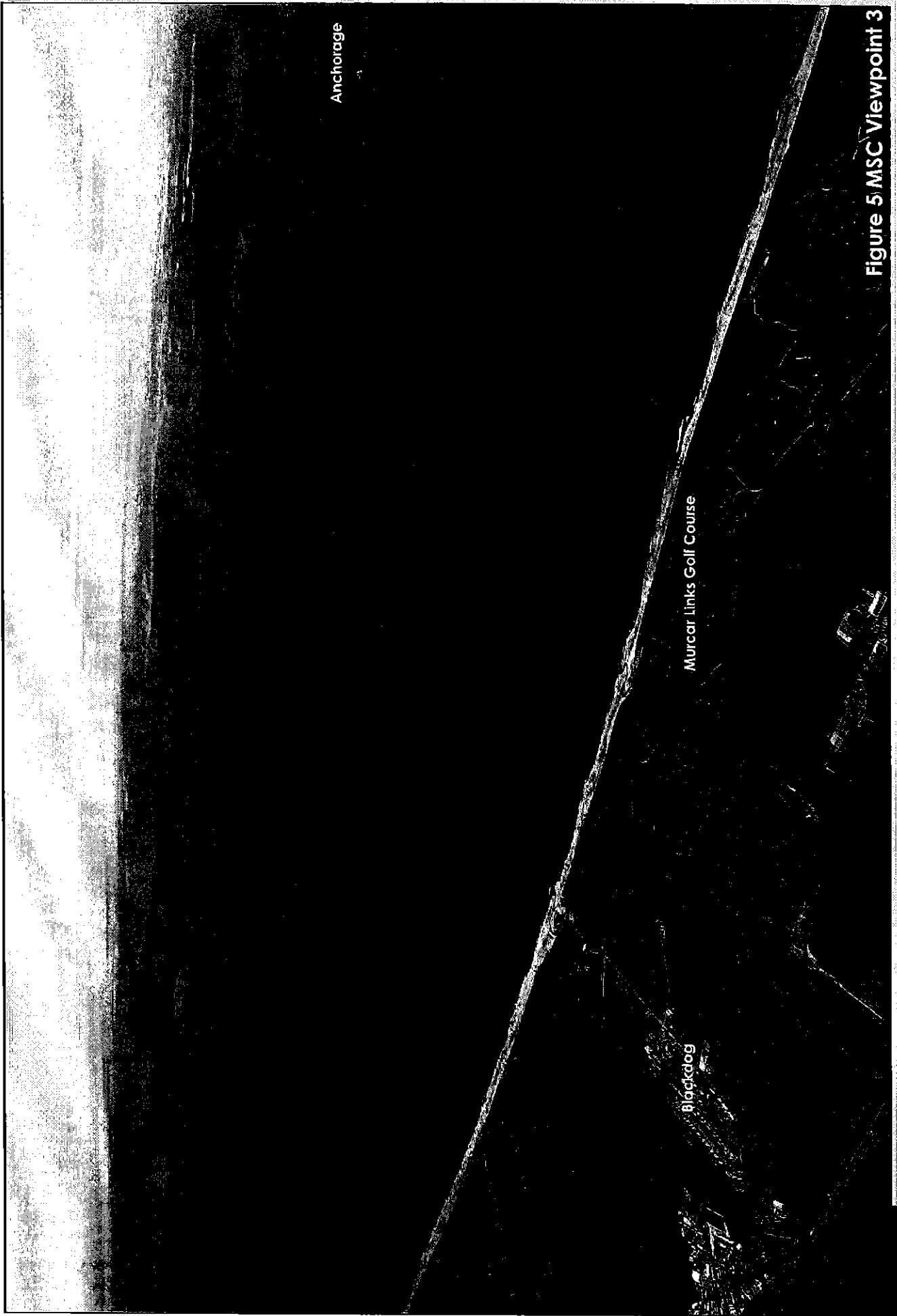


Figure 5 MSC Viewpoint 3

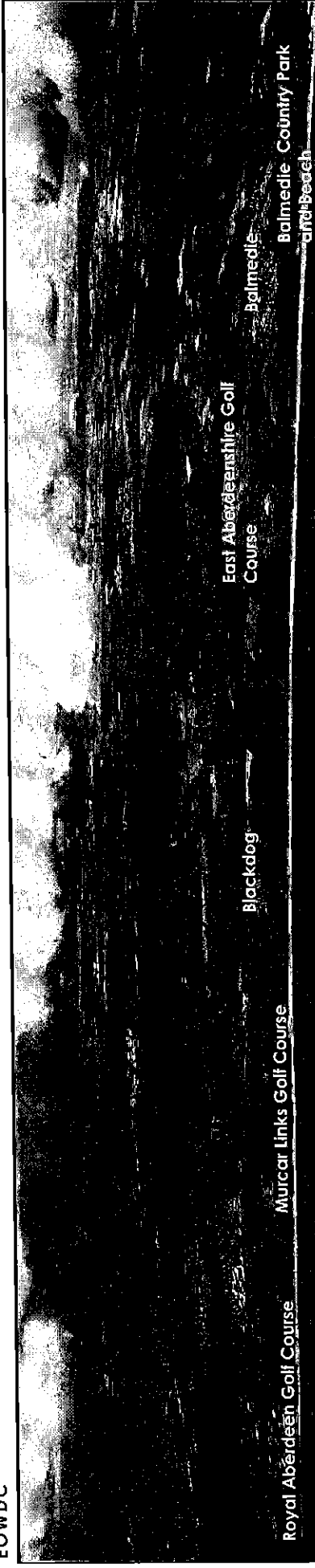


Figure 6 MSC Viewpoint 4

C0812 / September 2012

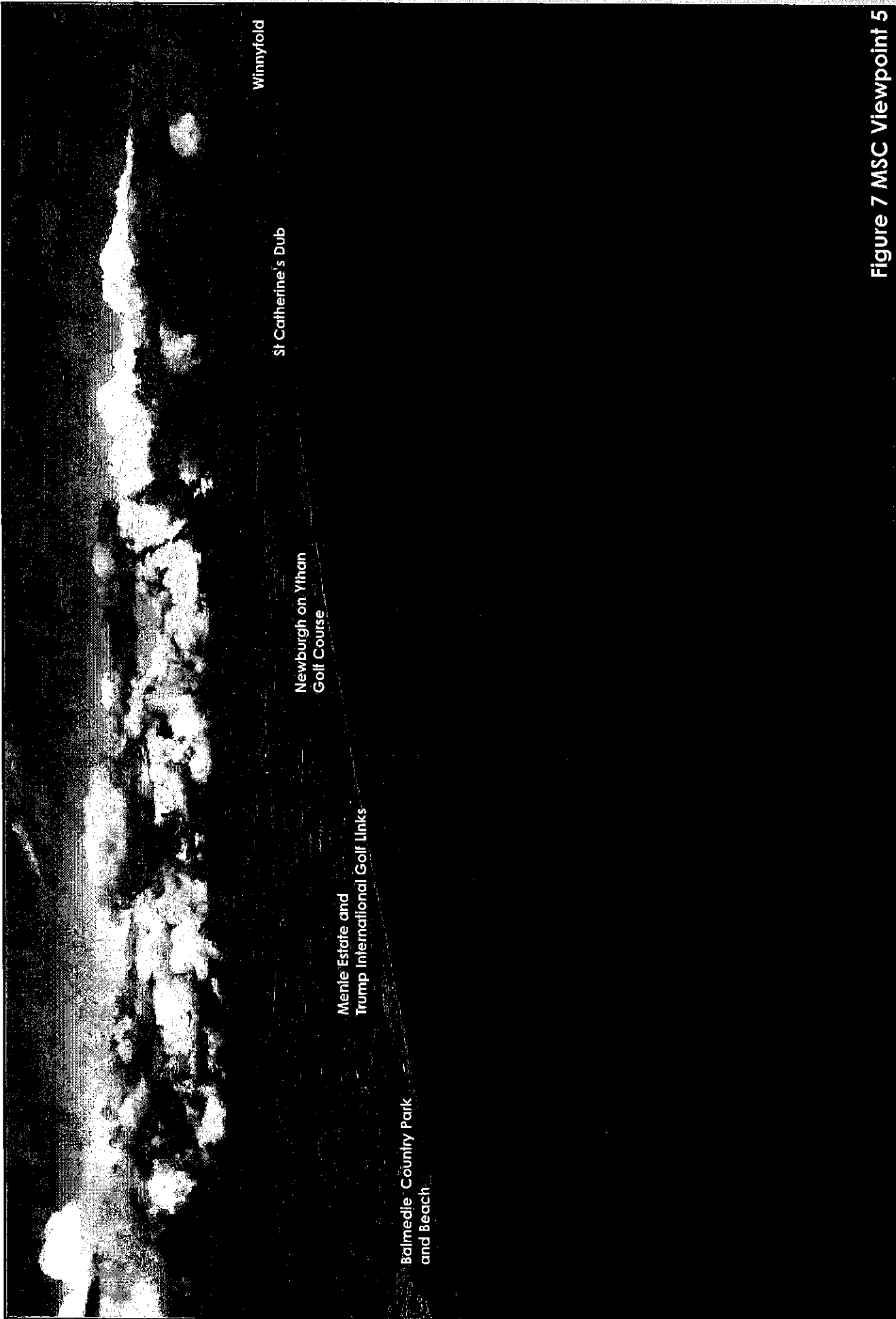


Figure 7 MSC Viewpoint 5

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 September 2012 08:36
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Proposed EOWDC - Objection

[REDACTED]

This is the bounce back message from the use of the email address in the statutory advert.

Regards,



[REDACTED]

Graham+Sibbald - thecompleteproperty service | 3 Charlotte Street | Perth | PH1 5LW | [mailhttp://www.g-s.co.uk](http://www.g-s.co.uk)
tel: 01738 445 733 | fax: 0141 332 5914 | mob: 0788 760 5561

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[REDACTED]

Should you have a complaint about our service please contact the sender of this email in the first instance. Graham+Sibbald is a member of the Surveyor Ombudsman Service which may be able to help you with your complaint if we are unable to.

From: System Administrator
Sent: 18 September 2012 08:34
To: Ian Kelly
Subject: Undeliverable: Proposed EOWDC - Objection

Your message did not reach some or all of the intended recipients.

Subject: Proposed EOWDC - Objection

22/11/2012

Sent: 18/09/2012 08:31

The following recipient(s) cannot be reached:

ms.marine.licensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk on 18/09/2012 08:33

The e-mail account does not exist at the organization this message was sent to. Check the e-mail address, or contact the recipient directly to find out the correct address.

<R0117G.scotland.gov.uk #5.1.1>

This email was received from the INTERNET and scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Cable&Wireless Worldwide in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) In case of problems, please call your organisation's IT Helpdesk.

Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

This email has been received from an external party and

has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 September 2012 09:21
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Proposed EOWDC - Objection
Attachments: Project 687 (Menie) EOWDC - TIGLS Objection - Issue.pdf

[REDACTED]

I had corrected but not saved (or so it seems) a typo in the first paragraph – the caveat. I attach a corrected copy – that is the only change.

Regards,
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Residential | Commercial | Specialist | Construction

[REDACTED]

Should you have a complaint about our service please contact the sender of this email in the first instance. Graham+Sibbald is a member of the Surveyor Ombudsman Service which may be able to help you with your complaint if we are unable to.

Sent: 18 September 2012 08:31
To: 'ms.marine.licensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk'
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed EOWDC - Objection

Proposed EOWDC Wind Farm – Objection – Trump International Golf Links Scotland

Dear Sir,

I enclose our client's objection and submission in respect of the above proposed wind farm. This comprises three reports and a maps/photographs appendix. Please acknowledge receipt of this objection.

Also, please note the caveat in the objection. As substantial additional information was only supplied yesterday afternoon we will make a supplementary submission once we have had the opportunity to evaluate that additional material.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

22/11/2012

This email was received from the INTERNET and scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Cable&Wireless Worldwide in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) In case of problems, please call your organisation's IT Helpdesk.

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GS/687/IK

Marine Scotland Act 2010

Electricity Act 1989

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

PROPOSED EOWDC WIND FARM

OBJECTION

On behalf of

TRUMP INTERNATIONAL GOLF LINKS SCOTLAND (TIGLS)

Submitted: 24th September 2012

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Caveat

1. At the time of lodging this submission a considerable amount of requested and material information, including the independent review of the original Environmental Statement (ES) and key consultee responses, had only just been made available by Marine Scotland (supplied in the afternoon of 17th September). The information, running to around 130 pages, will take some time to assess and, on that basis, the objectors will submit additional and/or supplementary objections as soon as possible following the consideration of this material.
2. It should be noted by way of contrast and comparison, that for every planning application and for every planning appeal in Scotland all of this type of information is automatically and timeously published on the respective Council and/or DPEA web site and is fully available to the public. There is no reasonable excuse for similar processes not being applied in respect of proposed marine developments.

Background

3. This objection to the proposed European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre – EOWDC – wind farm has been prepared and submitted on behalf of the Trump International Golf Links Limited Scotland (TIGLS), the owners and operators of the Menie Estate golf and resort complex at Balmedie, Aberdeenshire.
4. The nature of the interest of TIGLS is best understood by way of reference to the project history statement attached as an appendix to this objection submission. In short, the proposed wind farm development would fundamentally and fatally compromise the whole design philosophy of the Menie complex including the golf course and the proposed hotel.
5. The assessment of the latest information on the EOWDC project and this resultant objection has been prepared by [REDACTED], a chartered town planner with thirty five years' experience in the public and private sectors, mainly in Scotland but also involving work south of the Border, and in Europe, mainly in Scandinavia. He has worked on more than a dozen wind farm cases at various stages in the s36 consent/deemed planning permission process. He has also

assessed a similar number of wind farm planning applications and has recent experience in assessing small scale renewable energy proposals. The objection has been informed by detailed landscape and visual impact Topic Papers (and Appendix) prepared by [REDACTED]. Full copies of the Topic Papers and Appendix are lodged with this objection and they should be considered as part of the objection submission. All of the submitted material has been reviewed by senior Counsel. The instructions in this case have been issued by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The Trump Organisation.

6. This objection supplements the original objection lodged in September 2011. The terms of that earlier objection are held to still stand and they should be treated as having been incorporated into this objection. However, for the sake of brevity and precision, the detailed terms of the September 2011 objection are not repeated and, in turn, this objection mainly focusses on the 2012 ES Addendum submitted by Vattenfall.
7. TIGLS are of the view that both the Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeenshire Council should object to the application and trigger a Public Inquiry (having regard to the terms of the Electricity Act). However, in the event that the neither Council objects, Marine Scotland is requested to have careful regard to:
 - a. The terms of this objection (and the earlier objection)
 - b. The significant and adverse landscape and visual effects on receptors including golf course and resort users
 - c. The likely position of key consultees, and
 - d. The complexity and novelty of the decision making frameworks that apply in this case (as set out later)
8. These factors should lead Marine Scotland to recommend to Scottish Ministers that they should either refuse the application now, or if they believe that this is not within their powers, that they should call a Public Local Inquiry (PLI). As the Scottish Minsters will realise from the recent experience of the Dunbeath, Wester Dod, Druim

Ba and Harelaw onshore wind farms, it is only at a PLI that the fullest possible assessment of these major wind farm applications can take place.

The Statutory Tests

9. The text set out below needs to be read in the context of the Dorenell Court of Session case (*Wm. Grant & Son v The Scottish Ministers and Another*) where one of the grounds for seeking the reduction of the relevant decision was that the Reporter erred in law by not applying the s.25 test. That case is considered at the end of this section.
10. The statutory tests are complex when addressing off shore wind farms. They are even more complex in cases such as this where the key significant effects are onshore effects and, thus, the Development Plan is brought into play. The end result is that there are three aspects of statutory tests to be addressed:
 - a. Consent under the Marine Scotland Act 2010
 - b. S.36 consent (and deemed planning permission) in terms of the 1989 Electricity Act
 - c. Consideration of the Development Plan having regard to the above
11. In terms of the Marine Scotland Act 2010 it appears that the tests are that Scottish Ministers, in determining whether or not to grant a marine licence, must have regard to:
 - a. The need to protect the environment
 - b. The need to protect human health
 - c. The need to protect interference with legitimate uses of the sea, and
 - d. Such other matters as the Ministers consider relevant
12. These aspects in the decision making process have not yet been tested in any off shore wind farm decision or at any relevant PLI in Scotland. However, s.28 of the 2010 Act does contain a general provision for Ministers to cause a PLI to be held in connection with their determination of any application for a marine licence.

13. In addition, consent is needed under the terms of s.36 of the Electricity Act in the same way as applies to onshore wind farms of over 50 MW installed capacity. In terms of the application of the relevant policy in the determination of s.36 consent cases, to date, it is clear that there has been something of a polarisation of opinions. On the one hand there are those who are effectively saying that the primary decision is one to be taken against the Schedule 9 tests only (in the Act), and that the deemed planning permission should then automatically follow on from a s.36 consent. In that latter regard the Development Plan is demoted to the status of a mere material consideration of very little weight that can be easily “outweighed” by energy policy considerations.
14. Then there are others, who with clear regard to the overarching principles set out in the 2006 Planning (Scotland) Act and the consolidated SPP (Scottish Planning Policy), as well as the generality and inadequacy of the Schedule 9 tests, take the view that there are two decisions to be taken and that, for the deemed planning permission decision, ss. 25 (which applies to any determination under the Planning Acts) and 37 of the Planning Act should apply, and that a proposal must meet the normal compliance with the Development Plan tests which apply right across the board. It would seem very odd if the very largest form of development which is changing the face of the entire rural and sea areas of the United Kingdom were to be excused from rigorous scrutiny under the Development Plan, simply because of its current interest to politicians.
15. This EOWDC application is one that will be, or has been, considered by the two Councils (Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City) as Planning Authorities following a consultation by the Scottish Government. Under the s.36 procedures an objection from either Council will trigger a Public Inquiry, as a matter of law. The Electricity Act was passed in 1989 to reorganise the Electricity industry and to govern the connection of large thermal power stations to the National Grid. Given its date, it was not of course designed to deal with the detailed assessment of onshore or offshore wind farms.

16. As indicated above, in addition to the marine licence aspects, it is considered that this form of application gives rise to a further two sets of tests as follows.
17. Paragraph 3 of Schedule 9 of the 1989 Act provides a specific requirement on the Scottish Ministers (who are the nominated decision makers under the 1989 Act) to have regard to:
- a. *The desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeology interest: and*
 - b. *The extent to which the developer has complied with its duty to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or any such flora, fauna, features, sites buildings or objects.*
18. Whilst views can vary on the matters set out above, the precise language used means that it is almost impossible not to comply with these so-called tests. Indeed there is nothing in them that would actually prohibit or prevent the destruction of key natural assets as a developer or Ministers could “*have regard to the desirability of preserving*” and then not preserve. As with the provisions in the Marine Scotland Act, these requirements do not give a specific set of criteria or thresholds against which to assess a project, but at their simplest, they do clearly indicate that there is a balance to be struck between the claimed policy and technical justification for any project and the directly associated environmental and other impacts (whether capable of mitigation or not).
19. However, given the deemed planning permission aspect of the process, it is well established in practice for on shore wind farms that a s.25 Planning Act test should also be carried out in order to consider whether the proposed development complies with the Development Plan. As a minimum, the 1997 Act planning criteria are an important material consideration in any s.36 or similar case decision. That will, in turn, necessitate a consideration of whether, and to what extent there are any other

material considerations which change the presumption that flows from a Development Plan assessment.

20. Those material considerations will include Government renewable energy and climate change policies (to the extent that they have any additional effect beyond the positive, supportive and up to date Marine Plan, Development Plan, SPG and SPP policies). However, the generalised policy making on these topics does not, in any way, overrule the Development Plan, or call for the Development Plan to be set aside in the determination of an application such as this one.
21. In this case the Development Plan, for both Councils, is very up to date indeed and the Plans do contain specific and detailed Policy in relation to renewable energy projects and the effects of such projects. There are also clear landscape protection policies. **There is, therefore, a full and up to date planning policy basis for assessing the application for the proposed EOWDC wind farm.**
22. However, it is now also necessary to have regard to the outcome of the *Wm Grant & Sons* case – where Lord Malcolm described the s36 procedure as a “self contained code” and rejected the primacy of s.25. At the same time it is also necessary to consider the recent Spittal wind farm Ministerial decision letter – disagreeing with the Reporter on s.25, ruling that the schedule 9 duties/tests had been met, but still refusing consent (and deemed planning permission) *inter alia* on the basis of damage to residential amenity.
23. The former consideration raises the immediate question that, if this is the case, then why has Scottish Government planning policy guidance since that time, 1989, not made the position abundantly clear? That, combined with the Spittal decision, where the Minister has not invoked a “self contained code” approach, really leaves it utterly unclear if there is any structured decision making framework at all that links energy policy, targets, democratically endorsed planning policy and consents/refusals.
24. **In order to make some sense of this situation this objection proceeds on the basis that the EOWDC application requires to be tested against the Marine Act tests, the Electricity Act tests and the Development Plan, with the bulk of the**

assessment being in respect of the Development Plan (and related material considerations). The EOWDC should be rejected unless it passes all three sets of tests.

National Climate Change and Energy Policy

25. Clearly it is not appropriate to challenge Government Policy per se in an objection to this proposed wind farm application. However, it is certainly appropriate to consider how such Government Policy translates through to the land use and inshore planning system including assessing the outcome of policy.
26. The Scottish Government's renewables policy, which sits within UK National Energy Policy, is now well known. Ministers are fully committed to promoting the increased use of renewable energy sources where it is environmentally appropriate, and so long as impacts can be satisfactorily addressed. According to Ministers, this commitment recognises renewables' potential to tackle the causes of climate change and harmful pollution, as well as their potential to support economic growth. Scottish Ministers have set clear targets for renewable electricity, announcing a series of increasing targets. The current target is for 100% of consumption to be met by renewables by 2020. However, this political aspiration was not accompanied by any Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) until the recent publication of a draft SEA addressing the "Routemap 2020" statement of renewables policy.
27. The draft SEA that has been produced is a document that fundamentally fails the test of actually being an SEA, and is nothing more than a generalist attempt, based on opinions and hopes, and without actual evidence, to retrospectively justify a predetermined policy irrespective of its impacts and irrespective of the relative impacts of available reasonable alternatives.
28. Therefore, it can be concluded that the published SG SEA simply does not address the requirements of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment in that it does not:
 - a. Identify the environmental effects – objectives, benefits and adverse effects – that have arisen from the policy/programme over the last 20 years

-
- Issue
Page 9

objective, evidence based approach there cannot be the necessary degree of public confidence in the decision making process for renewable energy projects. Individual project decisions, such as any eventual decision to consent the EOWDC scheme, themselves will become liable to challenge as a direct result of the fundamentally flawed SEA should they be approved on the basis of assumed but actually non-existent “benefit”. In short, the Scottish Government cannot produce any evidence of any actual environmental benefit of renewable energy installations.

31. Therefore, at this point in time, it cannot be said that the politically driven target equates to a properly defined plan or framework for subsequent permissions or consents on individual projects. Rather, the target is one of a number of key considerations for Planning Authorities when updating their Development Plans and when preparing SPG, for Marine Scotland in preparing the Marine Plan, and for Ministers when considering these documents. But a target by itself does not presume that s.36 consents and/or planning permissions must follow for any particular site. The existence of a target does not define the outcome of an application such as this.
32. The Planning and consents system has already played its full part in ensuring that the 2010 interim target was met. There is very considerable consented or approved capacity that has not yet been built or commissioned, meaning that there is already significant progress towards the 2020 target.
33. At the time of writing, there is no indication of any change to current national planning policy as set out in SPP, which is that only technically suitable and environmentally appropriate sites should be consented. The Scottish Government’s policy direction generally favours both onshore and offshore wind farm developments on appropriate sites, but it does not do so unquestioningly. Indeed policy throughout the UK is clear that wind farms are not to be permitted at any cost. They are only to be permitted where they can be satisfactorily accommodated and where the identifiable and measurable benefits of any scheme outweigh any adverse impacts. That is clearly the overall thrust of the guidance in the consolidated SPP, and it is also the tone of the caveats which appear throughout energy policy.

34. Therefore, only environmentally acceptable (as well as operationally effective) schemes should be approved. There is nothing in the weight of Government climate change or energy policy to justify approving projects that are unacceptable in terms of adverse environmental and other impacts and that are contrary to Development Plan policy. There is nothing in any of the Government's Renewable Energy Policy that explicitly, or by implication, changes the law or the operation of the planning system in Scotland.

The Proposal

35. The full details of the proposed development are as set out in the submitted Environmental Statement (ES) and in the Addendum. The MSC Topic Papers address the detail of this. In simple terms it is proposed to construct 11 turbines that will be up to 198m high to blade tip. The actual dimensions will vary depending on the turbines that are selected and the dimensions could vary over time if different turbines are "assessed".
36. The ES Addendum does not appear to mention micrositeing. On a site such as this it is considered that the normally requested micrositeing of the order of 50m (100m is often also sought) could give rise to different sets of significant environmental effects that really should be properly assessed. Therefore, should consent be granted despite these objections, there should be no permitted changes to location other than by a full consenting process.
37. There is a **significant procedural issue** for the statutory tests, as set out above. It is clear from a detailed assessment of the applicant's references to the "Rochdale Envelope" concept that is mentioned in the ES and Addendum (and from the background to what is meant by that phrase which relates to an outline planning application case), that the Addendum Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (SLVIA) are based on the assumption that this EOWDC wind farm application is, in effect, an **outline application** rather than a detailed application. This, in turn, clearly explains the scant information on design in the earlier ES, the very defensive tone of much of this part of the Addendum, and the repeated references to "Rochdale".

38. The question comes to be whether it is right that such a high impact development should be presented in outline or whether, as a matter of procedural principle, the proposals should be in detail. In this regard it is noted that the Marine Scotland Act 2010 does not include any power to issue a licence *in outline*.

The Submitted ES and Addendum

39. The applicants have prepared and submitted an ES (with various accompanying reports) and an Addendum. The ES and the earlier material were subject to some criticism in the original objection. This supplementary objection comments on various aspects of the development and its impacts. However, the fact that a particular aspect is not mentioned does not mean that TIGLS have accepted the findings of the ES or the Addendum. It simply means that either a final view cannot be formed on that impact until further information is seen or it has been concluded that the issue is not of primary importance to the objection.
40. In this case there appears to have been no real consideration of **alternatives**. It is accepted that there is no legal requirement to consider alternatives but, where they have been considered, the choice must be explained. It is not. In the case of a project of this scale in such a sensitive location, it is reasonable to at least raise the question as to whether the project, particularly given that it is a “European and offshore” demonstration and testing project, could not have been located in a less sensitive and more offshore location. The project is an initiative that has developed from a combination of EU programmes which aim to stimulate renewable energy technology developments and aim to provide a number of demonstration projects for next generation turbines. That means that the promoters of the project had the whole of the EU sea area in which to choose a location for the wind farm. This is not like a standard wind farm proposal where a key site selection criterion is often simply the availability of land owned by a willing landowner.
41. “Alternatives” are addressed in section 2.1, Site Selection, in the ES. In paragraph 1, reference is made to a “long process”. However, paragraph 2 immediately jumps to the Aberdeen Bay location. The rest of the section consists of design iterations. Therefore, it appears that there has been no proper consideration of alternative

locations at all, even in terms of the likely operational effectiveness of what is claimed to be a research and testing facility.

42. The only conclusion that can be reached, based on the ES and Addendum, is that there is no proper, detailed and comparative justification for locating the EOWDC at this site within Aberdeen Bay. Given the resultant significant environmental impacts this failure to justify the location is, in itself, a strong reason for rejecting this proposal.
43. Beyond the generation of electricity and the undertaking of some research and development functions, the range of claimed **benefits** of the proposal is limited. The environmental benefits are basically the assumed greenhouse gas emissions savings that are already built into the favourable policy framework.
44. It is considered vital to be specific about what the claimed benefits of a wind farm development actually are. This is because some decision makers, including Scottish Ministers, sometimes proceed on the basis of making sweeping claims, not directly correlated to evidence in any precise way, that clearly identified actual impacts and precisely specified environmental objections to a wind farm are outweighed by the assumed, but unspecified, benefits that the proposal will bring. Whether the adverse effects are just outweighed and no more, or are overwhelmingly outweighed, or whether there is a tipping point somewhere in between, is not made clear.
45. In this case the benefits of the scheme are simply the limited economic benefits as described and the environmental benefits (by and large the greenhouse gas emissions reductions and climate change benefits), that are **assumed** by policy and are already factored into the favourable policy environment. There are no other significant claimed scheme specific economic or environmental benefits. These limited economic benefits should not carry great weight and the assumed environmental benefits should, therefore, not be double counted in the planning balancing exercise.

The Position of SNH

46. As indicated earlier the most up to date assessment by SNH (along with other key information) has not yet been made available. A further objection assessment will therefore be made at a later date.

47. However, one important aspect that has become clear from the SG draft SEA addressed earlier, is that Marine Scotland does not currently have what might be called a comprehensive and robust baseline understanding of the existing marine environment, the current processes that operate in that environment, and the likely range of significant effects that would arise from the undertaking of extensive construction projects within that environment. In that regard it must be remembered that the likely range and nature of effects are materially different from those arising from a single structure (like an oil rig) that is anchored to the sea bed. Whilst various research contracts have been let there is simply not the independent, non project specific, evidence base available, at this time, to enable effects to be understood and assessed.
48. Given the environmental, social and economic importance of the marine environment the Scottish Government should be operating the precautionary principle and decline to even consider consenting any offshore wind farms until there is a much higher level of understanding of the marine environment and the likely significant effects.

Additional Evidence affecting the Planning Policy Assessment and Objection

49. This objection has taken into account the earlier objection. It has also particularly taken into account the LVIA assessments by [REDACTED]. The assessments are reported as two Topic Papers and an Appendix. All three assessments are lodged with this objection and should be referred to for their full detail. In order to lead into the planning policy assessment the [REDACTED] findings are summarised below.
50. The [REDACTED] Topic Paper 1 Topic Paper relates to the Environmental Statement (ES) Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) methodology and its application. It also addresses relevant guidance and provides a critique of the ES SLVIA methodology having regard to that guidance.
51. The Topic Paper concludes that there is ample justification to conclude that the methodology used in the ES SLVIA does not fully accord with guidance and, as a result, may understate the significance of effects.

52. The [REDACTED] Topic Paper 2 tests the veracity of the ES Addendum SLVIA conclusions and tests these by undertaking an independent assessment.
53. In terms of design the Topic Paper concludes that there has been no consideration of visual effects and that the SLVIA assessment is for a predetermined geometric turbine layout. In terms of the baseline assessment the Topic Paper concludes that that there are various errors, including that the assessment should be based upon an assumption of clear visibility as that is the correct worst case scenario. In terms of seascape and landscape effects it is concluded that there will be significant effects on landscape receptors and that the EOWDC will contribute to cumulative effects. In terms of visual effects the Topic Paper finds significant effects including significant sequential cumulative effects. In terms of the Addendum, the Topic Paper concludes that the Addendum seeks to retrospectively address landscape and visual design issues, calls into question the purpose and relevance of the “golf courses study”, and concludes that the ES and Addendum fail to identify the significance of effects from the proposed EOWDC wind farm development.
54. Overall, Topic Paper 2 demonstrates that the ES (and Addendum) omits the study of impacts on key receptors and that the ES LVIA methodology has resulted in understatement of the sensitivity of some receptors and the consequential significance of effects. The [REDACTED] LVIA prepared as part of Topic Paper 2 shows a greater number of significant visual effects. Furthermore, the design objectives cited in the ES Addendum are ineffectual, whilst the entirely desk based golf course study (sic) is an unsuccessful attempt to justify the omission of key receptors from the ES Assessment.
55. The [REDACTED] Appendix clearly illustrates the various points made above by reference to plans, diagrams and photographs.
56. In terms of this overall objection submission it can be concluded that the assessment by [REDACTED] has identified material omissions in the ES such that any decision to consent the scheme would be unsafe.

Consideration in terms of the Development Plan

57. In terms of the Development Plan consideration needs to be given to the Structure Plan, the emerging Strategic Development Plan, the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan and the Aberdeen City Local Development Plan.
58. The Aberdeen City and Shire **Structure Plan** (2009) has as one of its aims “to protect and improve ournatural environment.” The adverse effects identified above lead to a conclusion that the proposal is not protecting and enhancing the natural environment and, therefore, the proposed EOWDC wind arm is contrary to the Structure Plan. Beyond that the Structure Plan does not have any specific policies or proposals that are relevant to this proposed wind farm.
59. The emerging **Strategic Development Plan** is at the main issues report (MIR) stage. The proposed plan will be published in late 2012. The MIR did not contain any suggested policy approaches for assessing wind farms such as this.
60. The **Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan** (2012) consists of a short Plan document (LDP) alongside extensive Supplementary Guidance (SG). In terms of the LDP vision and aims, the Council seeks to encourage the sensitive development of renewable energy resources. The assessed adverse effects of the EOWDC wind farm mean that it is not a sensitive development in accordance with the LDP vision and aims. Another aspect of the vision and aims is to protect and improve assets and resources (including designated sites and sites of environmental importance). The range of assessed adverse effects of the EOWDC are in breach of this aspect of the vision and aims.
61. Policy 3 addresses Development in the Countryside and is linked to two SG documents – SG Rural Development 2: Wind Farms and Medium to Large Turbines and SG Rural Development 3: Other Renewable Energy Developments.
62. SG Rural Development 2 requires wind energy applicants to demonstrate compliance with a number of criteria (including air traffic, MOD and radar issues that are being addressed by other objectors). In terms of the TIGLS objection it is clear from all of the material set out earlier that the applicant’s proposals will have a significant

adverse effect on tourism and recreation interests. In addition the applicants have not properly considered and assessed the cumulative landscape and visual impacts. The reasoned justification for this SG refers to demonstrating the capacity of sites through design and layout that is appropriate to the landscape character. The [REDACTED] assessment shows that there has been no landscape/seascape driven design input for this proposal. Finally, the reasoned justification also states that the Council has been unable to find any areas which could accommodate wind farms of over 20MW. That being the case there should be no planning policy support for this size of scheme (well in excess of the threshold) in a location that is effectively onshore.

63. SG Rural Development 3 does not specifically describe what “other” renewable energy developments that the policy is to be applied to. However, it must be assumed that it is directed mainly at individual turbines and, therefore, need not be part of the detailed assessment in this case.
64. Having regard to the above it can be concluded that the proposed EOWDC wind farm is in breach of LDP policy 3 and the related SG on account of its assessed adverse impacts.
65. LDP Policy 12 addresses Landscape Conservation and is linked to two SG documents – SG Landscape 1: Landscape Character and SG Landscape 2: Valued Views.
66. The aim of Policy 12 is to maintain and improve the overall quality of the landscape. The significant adverse landscape effects of the EOWDC are not in accordance with this aim. The Policy defines the landscape assets of Aberdeenshire as “valuable assets and vulnerable resources which are facing various pressures of change”. It is considered that the EOWDC had not adopted an approach that recognises this situation.
67. In terms of SG Landscape 1 the scale, location and design of the EOWDC are not appropriate to the landscape character of the area. In addition the proposal will have adverse effects on the natural landscape character, adverse effects on the composition and quality of the landscape character, and adverse cumulative impacts. The proposal is, therefore, not in accordance with SG1.

68. SG Landscape 1 defines a number of Landscape Character Areas. The TIGLS and adjoining land is within area 12 – Formartine Links and Dunes. This was previously an Area of Landscape Significance, which demonstrates its sensitivity to adverse landscape (and visual) effects. Further planning advice is to be prepared to assess and control impacts in such areas but that guidance is not yet available.
69. SG Landscape 2 sets out to protect valued views. The appendix lists the valued views that are subject to the policy protection. The most directly relevant is viewpoint number 16 – Balmedie Beach. However, there are also potential effects in relation to viewpoints 8, 10, 15, and 17. However, in terms of the TIGLS objection to the proposed EOWDC it is sufficient to consider valued viewpoint 16. In terms of the policy guidance and having regard to the assessments set out earlier the proposal, by virtue of its scale, location and design, the proposed EOWDC will have an adverse impact on the viewpoint and an adverse impact on the characteristics (the view out to sea) for which the view itself is valued.
70. Having regard to the above it can be concluded that the proposed EOWDC wind farm is in breach of LDP policy 12 and the related SG on account of its adverse impacts.
71. It can therefore be concluded that the EOWDC is contrary to the relevant provisions of the Aberdeenshire LDP and the associated SG all as set out above.
72. In terms of the **Aberdeen City Local Development Plan (2012)** there are no policies that directly related to major wind farms given that the LDP relates to a built up City area. However, Policy NE 7 – Coastal Planning is relevant. The introduction to the policy mentions new marine spatial powers under the Marine Scotland Act and proposals for Integrated Coastal Zone Management. However, neither of these new planning guidance provisions has yet been brought forward and, therefore, it is only necessary to simply address the policy as set out in the LDP.
73. Policy NE 7 provides that, for undeveloped coastal areas, development must demonstrate compliance with three criteria. In that regard, and taking account of all of the material set out earlier, it is considered that the proposed EOWDC wind farm has not demonstrated that there are no other suitable sites, does not respect the character

of the environment or the recreational value in the surrounding area, and has not demonstrated an overriding environmental benefit. The proposal is, therefore, in breach of LDP Policy NE 7.

74. Therefore, it can be concluded that the proposal is not in accord with the relevant provisions of the Aberdeen City LDP.

75. Based on the detail of this objection and the associated appendix and Topic papers **the overall planning policy conclusion** is that the proposed EOWDC wind farm is in breach of the relevant aims and policies in the Structure Plan, the Aberdeenshire LDP and the Aberdeen City LDP. The presumption, in law, should therefore be for a refusal of deemed planning permission for the proposed EOWDC wind farm.

76. There are no balancing considerations, such as economic or environmental benefit, in the actual policies considered above and, therefore, these necessary balancing considerations are assessed under material considerations and are included in the overall conclusions.

Material Considerations

77. **National climate change and energy policy** is often cited as a key consideration of some weight in the determination of wind farm proposals. It is accepted that it is an important factor. However, this Government policy “green card” cannot simply override all other considerations.

78. Rather, the Government’s political policy should be delivered through the proper operation of an up to date Plan led system, and decisions should be transparently taken within the operational processes of the Planning Acts which were designed to properly, openly and fully assess the *acceptability* of proposed developments. National climate change and energy policy do not call for the Planning system to be set aside. All renewables policy, at every level, while stressing the policy importance of renewable generation, is subject to the express caveat that generating plant, including wind power stations, should only be approved in appropriate and environmentally acceptable locations. It is the Planning system that forms the basis of

deciding whether or not a site is environmentally acceptable and whether significant impacts have been satisfactorily addressed.

79. In terms of the **benefits** of the proposal, the potential economic benefits, which are limited, require to be considered having regard to what has been set out earlier.
80. In the absence of any patented offshore wind turbine technologies being held locally and with the current limited turbine manufacturing, fabrication and assembly capability in Scotland, the local and regional economic benefits of the proposal will be relatively minor. They may be concentrated on any local fabrication and assembly works, on the marine civil engineering works at the construction stage, and on the conceptual research and development proposals. These benefits will be limited. It must also be taken into account that no balanced, overall economic impact assessment is presented by the applicants – for example the income transfer effects of the ROCs system and the pricing of environmental externalities are not factored into the assessment.
81. Therefore, overall, the scheme specific economic benefits, beyond the production of electricity, are likely to be very limited indeed. It follows that the potential limited economic benefits of the scheme should be given little weight.
82. That leaves the environmental benefits to be addressed, again picking up on the earlier review under the ES section of this objection.
83. The potential greenhouse gas savings and the associated climate change impacts are often the principal claimed environmental benefits of wind farm proposals and that is the case for this proposal. However, these assumed generic benefits are already built into a favourable policy environment. Therefore, are **no** additional, scheme specific and verifiable environmental benefits claimed for the EOWDC wind farm.
84. **The National Planning Framework NPF2, 2009** sets out the key planning issues and high level spatial planning guidance for Scotland. The north east of Scotland is seen as a key driver of the Scottish economy. However, that is not an unqualified position. Section/paragraph 99 stresses the importance of landscape and visual impacts in decision making. This aspect has been taken into account in this objection.

85. There is nothing in the reminder of the new NPF which changes the approach in this objection, for what is in effect an onshore wind farm application, of a balanced assessment of benefits and disbenefits in the light of the Development Plan policy.
86. The consolidated **Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)** provides planning policy guidance, indeed it is the only such Scottish Government policy guidance, on wind farms in its paragraphs 187 to 191. The key guidance is that planning authorities should support the development of wind farms in locations where the technology can operate efficiently and environmental and cumulative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed. Landscape and visual impact and cumulative impact are listed as criteria that Development Plans should refer to. In this case the landscape and visual impacts, including cumulative impacts, are not satisfactorily addressed by the scheme which has been assessed as having significant adverse effects. There is nothing else in the SPP section on wind farms that would lead to a view that the Development Plan assessment conclusions, or the conventional approach to such assessments, should be set aside.
87. Key sections of this part of the SPP are directed at the development of a positive policy framework, including SPG/SG, by Planning Authorities. That is exactly what we have in this case and, therefore, both Development Plans, containing policies that are based directly on the guidance in SPP should be given considerable weight.
88. Landscape is considered in paragraphs 125 to 141 of the SPP. These paragraphs set out the importance that is attached to all landscapes and not just designated landscapes. Paragraph 128 confirms that the most sensitive landscapes may have little or no capacity to absorb (the impacts of) new development. Paragraph 131 confirms that landscapes are sensitive to (the effects of) inappropriate development and that planning authorities should ensure that potential effects, including cumulative effects, are considered in planning decision making. Whilst the role of planning and design is recognised, it is also stated that there will be occasions where the sensitivity of the site or the nature or scale of the proposed development is such that the development should not be permitted. Having regard to both paragraphs, that “should not be

permitted” scenario is the situation that we have with the proposed EOWDC wind farm.

89. It is difficult to argue that there is an overarching empirical evidence based case for the causal relationships between wind farms and tourism in Scotland. However, the proposed EOWDC wind farm development has the potential for adverse effects, during both the construction and the operational phases, on the **operational activities of TIGLS**. Those effects, which are clearly set out in both the original objection and in the statement appended to this objection, are not addressed in the ES or Addendum.
90. Attempting to calculate the precise level of harm to TIGLS's business interests from a proposed wind farm development such as the EOWDC facility, and including cumulative and secondary effects, is difficult to do in terms of exact quantification. However, there can be no doubt that the whole experience for TIGLS clients will inevitably be devalued if this intrusive wind farm is developed. Holes 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13 (oblique view), 16, 17 and 18 all play in a southerly direction that will have a clear view of the wind farm. The proposed hotel site would have a clear view out to the wind farm. These are all adverse effects that in turn will significantly impact upon the attractiveness and demand for the sporting offer and the accommodation, reducing the income, and, in time, reducing the associated benefit to the local economy. The prospective remaining elements of the development would be placed at significant risk. This negative impact of the proposed development on the core of the local tourism economy should be weighed against the very limited generic economic benefits associated with the proposed development.
91. In that regard it is noted that the latest Visit Scotland Survey reports that, for Scotland, 17% of residents stated that the presence of a wind farm would affect their choices of where to visit/stay, nearly 20% agreed that wind farms spoil the look of the Scottish countryside, and 17% agreed that they would tend to avoid an area of countryside with wind farms. Even without picking up on the high net worth international tourists who were **not** part of this latest survey, these figures show that there is, at least, a wider basis for the concerns of TIGLS.

92. There are no other material considerations that are relevant to the objection being made on behalf of TIGLS.
93. In summary, the material considerations assessed above, including the planning balance considerations of the claimed benefits of the proposal, do not change the conclusions arising from the Development Plan assessment that this EOWDC wind farm application should be refused a marine licence, refused a s.36 consent and refused deemed planning permission on account of failure to meet the Marine Scotland Act tests, the Electricity Act tests and on account of non compliance with the Development Plan, all as drawn together in the concluding section below.

Overall Planning Policy Assessment and Conclusions

94. This objection submission is also of relevance to the consideration of the Addendum by the two Councils and it will be copied to them. Whilst Ministers have the ability to call an Inquiry if they see fit, it is only an objection by one or both of the Councils that will automatically trigger a full Public Inquiry. Experience to date has shown that it is only at a full Public Inquiry that all aspects of proposed major wind farms are fully assessed. The Councils will consider the consultation on the application as Planning Authorities. In that respect the application is clearly contrary to the very up to date Development Plans. Therefore, TIGLS fully expect that the Councils will properly apply their own policy framework and object to this proposal.
95. In reaching the overall conclusions in this objection, the approach has been to consider both the benefits of the scheme and the likely adverse impacts, or disbenefits of the scheme. For the reasons set out in above, it is considered that the material benefits of the scheme are only the limited economic benefits and those generic, assumed environmental benefits associated with wind energy generation. These generic benefits (which are now known to be only assumed benefits) are already factored into the favourable policy environment for this type of development and should not be counted twice.

96. Whilst the substantive means for the detailed assessment of the EOWDC proposal is the assessment against the Development Plan, the Marine Scotland Act and the Electricity Act must also be considered. These aspects are summed up below.
97. In terms of the Marine Scotland Act the application has not properly addressed the need to protect the environment nor, in terms of other matters, has it properly assessed the impacts on land based receptors including users of the golf courses. Therefore, the tests are not met.
98. In relation to the tests in the Electricity Act, it is not considered that these provide any valid basis for the *detailed* assessment of the acceptability of the scheme. However, they must be considered and they do point to the need to balance benefits with adverse effects. Given the significant adverse landscape and visual impacts, including cumulative impacts and given the uncertainties over effects on the marine environment, it is concluded that the developer has neither preserved natural beauty and flora, nor secured reasonable mitigation. These adverse effects are not offset by the claimed benefits. The tests are not therefore met.
99. In terms of the deemed planning permission aspects the proposals have been assessed against the Development Plans, having regard to the material set out in this objection, and taking into account the matters set out in the ES and Addendum (and related documents). In doing so the overall assessment has always sought to balance the identifiable scheme specific benefits in the equation.
100. Based on the above it is concluded that the proposed EOWDC wind farm development is contrary to the Development Plans on account of its significant adverse landscape and visual impacts, including cumulative landscape and visual impacts, and on account of the adverse effects on the local recreational and tourism resource. There are potential adverse significant effects on the marine environment. This range of significant adverse effects is not offset by the assumed generic benefits of the scheme.
101. Therefore, the overall conclusion of this objection is that the proposal is not in accordance with the Development Plans and that, therefore, the presumption, in law,

is for the refusal of deemed planning permission for this EOWDC wind farm application.

102. As set out in this objection a range of material considerations have been taken into account. The conclusions on all of these matters are set out above. In summary, it is concluded that there are no material considerations that would change the conclusion that arises from the Development Plan assessments.

103. The question has been raised earlier as to whether it is right that such a high impact development should be presented in outline or whether, as a matter of procedural principle, the proposals should be in detail. In this regard it is noted that the Marine Scotland Act does not include any power to issue a licence *in outline*.

Ministers are respectfully asked to consider the implications of this.

104. In conclusion it is respectfully requested that Scottish Ministers should conclude that the EOWDC wind farm application should be refused a Marine Licence as the Marine Scotland Act 2010 tests are not met, should be refused a s.36 consent as the Electricity Act tests are not met and that, in terms of the deemed planning permission aspect, that should be refused on the grounds that the proposal is not in accordance with the Development Plans.

[END]

APPENDIX

TIGLS "STATEMENT

"Development of a World Class Golf Resort at Menie, Aberdeenshire

The business of developing a significant tourism opportunity does not come about by accident. In looking at the effects of the Vattenfall project, called the EOWDC, it may be helpful to consider a little how the decision to locate the Trump Organisation's (TO) project at Menie came about.

The TO is a world class tourism leader operating in a high class luxury market. [REDACTED] is a real estate investor. He began in 2005 to look around the world for a location for land on which to build a significant golf course which would equal the best in the world. Top glass golf is a very significant segment of the tourism market and the people who travel around the world playing top class golf course tend to be wealthy and very demanding. What is not so well known is that they are very numerous.

The TO looked at more than 200 properties across the world. We wanted a coastal site – golf began in Scotland on the coastal links. The TO made its interest known and we were literally assailed from all quarters with expressions of interest. A team was appointed by the Chairman to coordinate the search. There is no need to detail the effort, which stretched over a number of years. When Menie was presented – 1400 acres – it was obvious from the start that it should come very high up the shortlist.

Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City have unique assets which they may not immediately appreciate. History tends to suggest that they are not, since tourism development and encouragement has been fairly sporadic. However, from Royal Aberdeen in the south to Cruden Bay in the north, there is one of the world's great golfing shorelines, with at least 4 golf courses of a quality and character which cannot be found elsewhere. Royal Aberdeen, Murcar, the Menie course, Newburgh and Cruden Bay all line up and compete in this short distance. These courses, alongside a major airport, a large city with all its amenities, hotels, a harbour and commercial prosperity are, if all taken together, a remarkable collection of assets.

It is not necessary to recount the entire history of the planning process, but a brief outline will suffice. We bought the Menie site and carried out very extensive studies. We were able to see the potential for a hotel, housing and at least one golf course, perhaps two. We applied for planning permission, which was granted by 7 votes to 4 at the Formartine Area Committee. At Aberdeenshire's Infrastructure Services Committee, the votes were tied, and the Chairman's casting vote was against the proposal, despite the positive recommendation. We were surprised, and after due consideration we decided not to appeal. Part of the secret of the TO's success is knowing when to walk away, and sometimes you have to do that. When that was announced, we were subjected to immense pressure by the Scottish Government to appeal, but we declined. The FM called the Chairman personally and was insistent that we should appeal. We took instructions and told him that we would not be doing so. The FM spoke to the Chief Planner. Before the refusal notice had been issued, the application was called in by Scottish Ministers. We learned of this from the BBC.

None of this much matters now. On reflection, we decided that we should participate in the call in process. Menie had been a shoreline shooting estate. It was a useful land bank, at worst. We had faith in the property. The 5 week inquiry cost us more than \$5million. We took on every environmental challenge that came our way – and there were many – with expert after expert, high calibre lawyers and so on. There were 39 environmental questions, issues or problems to overcome. We got consent – that is on record – but after we worked through the pre start conditions, we felt that Aberdeenshire was really working us hard and putting us through the mill in planning terms before the sign-off of the various conditions. We all know that planners have discretion. On this occasion we seemed to be forced to do more than normal. It was if they were frightened to treat us generously. Some of the hurdles we had to cross were simply unprecedented.

But the result is that we have built the course. In planning terms, a great golf course, with endless economic potential, has been constructed from the native dunes. They are a special place, but a different special place from what they were before. It has been a long journey, sometimes with immense difficulty. We have spent tens of millions doing it, consciously striving for quality and excellence, in a world market which is very demanding and super-critical. If we had built a "good enough" course, nobody would be so enthusiastic about it, but as it is, it has been rated in the top 10 in the world without even being played, and now

that it has begun to bed in, the quality of the design and craftsmanship is really showing through. The golf world has “raters”; people who travel the world “rating” new courses. They are the hardbitten critics of golf, really hard to impress. We will not take up space dealing here with the reviews, but they have been very impressive. And this is a very hard golf course to play.

In planning terms, the permission came from the Inquiry. The permission is an unequivocal vote of confidence in us and our ideas, where we felt we were being told – “you have challenged our status quo, but we believe in what you are offering, and give our consent.” It is a reasonable and legitimate expectation that, since that has happened, what we have been given – what we have won, against some very well organised opposition – will not be taken away. A consent for the proposed Vattenfall project would do that.

What brings golfers to a venue of this kind is the combination of histories – golf was invented on the links, and golfers like to think that they are walking through history as they play by the sea. The links courses are the best in the world; the Open Championship, played by rotation on 7 or 8 courses, is always played on links courses – Lytham, Royal St George, Sandwich, Muirfield, St Andrews, Turnberry, Carnoustie etc.

Then there is the test - this is a tough course. Golfers love that – there is something in the human spirit which does not like to be beaten. The weather, not noticeably warm in Aberdeenshire, doesn't matter at all. It's just part of the test. Since we opened we have sold 11,000 quite expensive rounds of golf, which will take us to the end of the season. And we have done that without really trying. So the signs are that in the first year, the idea has caught on, and is working. The planning permission which we have is coming to yield our expectations.

There is more to that permission. The hotel is consented, and will sit on the escarpment. The residential component will sit on land which broadly slopes towards the sea in shallow terraces. Each of these components reveals the sea as its essential key feature. Without exaggerating the qualities of the land, the planning permission has enabled us, as developers, to unlock its potential for maximum enjoyment by as many people as possible.

We are convinced that as this dune terrain comes to be better understood, the way in which people relate to it and the sea will become more intertwined. That too is the product of the enlightened planning permission which has been granted.

The TO doesn't do cheap. None of this should be tacky or populist. We own a number of clubs back in the US, and have an astonishingly loyal following; for example, someone owning a Trump Tower apartment on Fifth Avenue may also own a villa in the Trump Club on Hawaii, and divide their time between the two. We have multiple owners, and to bring us back to where we started, this stretch of coastline, with its beach and great golf really has the potential to become a destination of some considerable significance. Where one hotel is built, others follow; where some houses are built – and Aberdeenshire is short of houses, others follow.

None of this will happen if the proposed wind farm is built just offshore, within the arms of Aberdeen Bay. Really, the proposal is not an offshore wind farm at all – it is an onshore wind farm, just in the water, in relative terms. The visual effect on the club, beginning as one travels to the second where the sea is revealed, to the 3rd, where the player is asked to play directly towards the sea, and the long fourth where the sea on one side and the burn on the other create an atmosphere of tension from which it is difficult to escape. The planning permission, in other words, has drawn on the natural consequences of building this course by the sea, and exploited them to the fullest possible extent. It is unarguable that the wind farm will completely alter that designed and deliberate experience. However powerful the argument for renewables, testing grounds, or whatever, it cannot be right that what is given with one hand is taken away with the other. The wind farm is so close that it will dominate each shot, and turn the experience of the course from a world beater to a world hater – it will be a major disappointment to feel as if you are playing next to an industrial park. Weighing one thing with another, and setting the mood of astonished insult to one side for the moment, the unique combination of sea, sun sky and water seen from so many of the holes are what makes this course. What the setting it will do for the hotel will be even greater.

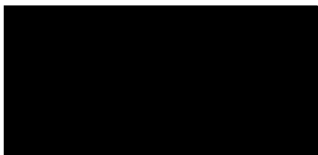
The downside of all this is that if the wind farm receives consent, not only will it be a reneging on the permission, but it makes Menie unsuitable as a TO resort. It is simply preposterous to suggest that they could co-exist. Put it as simply as possible – why would we

build a hotel with an uninterrupted view of what is, in effect, an industrial park. I think what we would do is to treat the golf course as a form of land bank, and we would work out a way of disposing of what we have – which is not without value. The TO would go somewhere else with the large scale investments.

It should be made clear that we have made our own expectations clear from the outset – nobody can have been in the slightest doubt that we would oppose the wind farm if it came forward. We have already rehearsed in public what was said and promised by successive First Ministers, but this is not the place for that argument. If we build a hotel and the wind farm is there, our core clientele, who are beginning to come regularly, and to ask questions about Menie, simply will not come. We know these people – they have full lives, are almost all self made, and they simply will go somewhere else, with a shrug. Their expectations are high, and if we don't meet them, they go to Ritz Carlton, Four Seasons, Fairmont or one of the other operators – it's a crowded field, but we are at the top of it. We want to stay there and, in this case, that means opposing this proposed wind farm."

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 December 2011 17:56
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)
Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue



19 December 2012

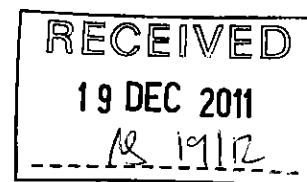
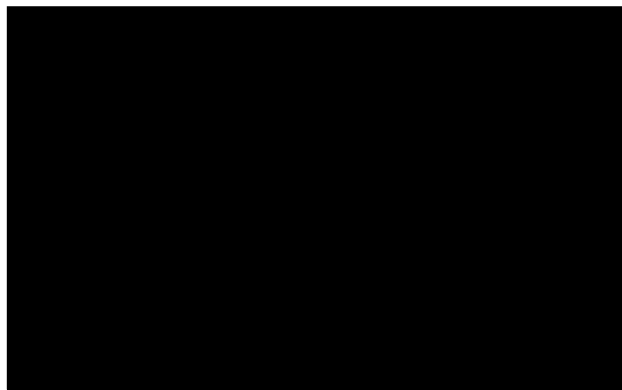
Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,



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19/01/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 19 March 2012 12:59
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection to Windfarms off the coast by the estuary of the River Don Aberdeen

Dear Sirs

I am writng to object to your plans to site wind farms off the coast of Aberdeen, by the estuary of the River Don. I think that these will be detrimental to the area for a whole host of reasons.

They will have an adverse effect on the ecosystems of the river estuary,
they are out of scale with the natural environment where you plan to put them,
they will have a detrimental effect on tourism to the Grampian region
they will cause a serious safety risk for the busy port of Aberdeen, when every day one can see the ships linked to the oil business lining up along the coast waiting to dock
they will have an adverse effect on the lives of those who live close by.

There are hundreds of miles of coastline in the North East of Scotland. I suggest that you choose an area of less outstanding beauty and less inhabited for your windfarms.

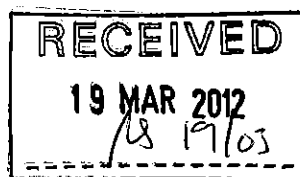
Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

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19/03/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: Sutherland AI (Andrew) on behalf of MS Marine Licensing
Sent: 19 March 2012 08:51
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Objection to sub -station for off-shore wind turbines

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your representation regarding the proposed European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) off Aberdeen.

I am afraid that your attachment cannot be accessed by myself due to IT restrictions. Could you please resubmit this representation including the attached information another way no later than **16th April 2012** so that I can record this otherwise I will be forced to disregard your email.

Best regards,

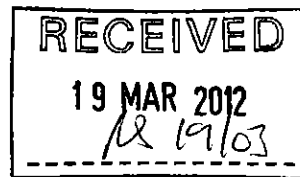
Andrew

Andrew Sutherland

Marine Renewables Licensing Advisor
Marine Scotland – Marine Planning & Policy Division
Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101 | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB


S/B + 44 (0) 1224 876544
Fax: + 44 (0) 1224 295524

Email: [REDACTED]
ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland>
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/marine/licensing/marine>



From: [REDACTED]@live.co.uk]
Sent: 16 March 2012 23:57
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Objection to sub -station for off-shore wind turbines

[REDACTED] has 1 file to share with you on SkyDrive. To view it, click the link below.

 wind turbine and visitor centre adjacent to Balgownie Links.docx

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]@live.co.uk]
Sent: 19 March 2012 09:35
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: RE: Objection to sub -station for off-shore wind turbines

Hi Andrew- here is my representation

I would like to object to the EOWDC proposed erection of the sub-station and visitor centre planned in connection with the off-shore wind turbines. This is proposed adjacent to historic Balgownie Links. This will not only affect the hundreds of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club and Aberdeen Ladies' Golf Club members but will have a seriously detrimental effect on visitors. Royal Aberdeen is the 6th oldest golf club in the world and as such has hosted prestigious golf tournaments such as last year's Walker Cup, which provided Aberdeen City with much needed tourist income. The event won an award for Best Scottish Event of the Year. Future events and visitors are unlikely to be attracted to a course over-shadowed by the proposed giant tower, with the attendant noise from the generators. This tower, in conjunction with the off-shore wind turbines will have a dramatic visual impact on the course.

Digging up part of this historic course, which has taken many years of careful nurturing, to lay cables to the sub-station, will cause damage from which it would take a long time to recover and their maintenance will cause further damage. The golf club members would suffer disruption to their play throughout the laying of the cables and the club suffer the loss of visitor income. Aberdeen Ladies currently does not have full membership and this will discourage potential new members.

The turbines proposed to be sited off-shore will be clearly visible and will also be a deterrent to visitors and members alike. I have counted as many as 30 ships moored off-shore there and the turbines will obviously create a hazard for shipping in the approaches to such a busy harbour. Helicopters fly overhead from the oilrigs on a regular basis, often quite low, and the turbines will be a hazard to them too, quite aside from the effect they will have on the air currents. This is not a sensible place to site any turbine.

These turbines are not efficient at producing electricity and are costing all electricity users excessive amounts in an effort to meet the renewable energy targets set by the Scottish Government.

My view is that they should not be built at all and certainly not in such a scenic part of the country, destroying a valuable commodity such as the golf course, which contributes to the local economy in encouraging visitor income.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Subject: RE: Objection to sub -station for off-shore wind turbines

Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2012 08:50:48 +0000

From: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

To: [REDACTED]@live.co.uk

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your representation regarding the proposed European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) off Aberdeen.

I am afraid that your attachment cannot be accessed by myself due to IT restrictions. Could you please resubmit this representation including the attached information another way no later than **16th April 2012** so that I can record this otherwise I will be forced to disregard your email.

Best regards,

Andrew

Andrew Sutherland

19/03/2012


Marine Renewables Licensing Advisor
Marine Scotland – Marine Planning & Policy Division
Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101 | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB

S/B: + 44 (0) 1224 876544
Fax: + 44 (0) 1224 295524

Email: [REDACTED]
ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland>
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/marine/licensing/marine>

From: [REDACTED]@live.co.uk]
Sent: 16 March 2012 23:57
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Objection to sub -station for off-shore wind turbines

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 wind turbine and visitor centre adjacent to Balgownie Links.docx

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

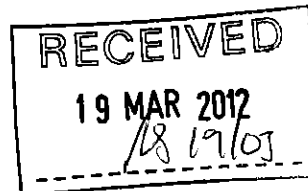
From: Sutherland AI (Andrew) on behalf of MS Marine Licensing
Sent: 19 March 2012 09:48
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Objection to sub -station for off-shore wind turbines

Hi [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your prompt response. I can now confirm that I have received and recorded your representation objecting to the proposed development.

Best regards,

Andrew



Andrew Sutherland

Marine Renewables Licensing Advisor
Marine Scotland – Marine Planning & Policy Division
Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101 | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB

[REDACTED]
S/B + 44 (0) 1224 876544
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Email: [REDACTED]
ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland>
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/marine/licensing/marine>

From: [REDACTED]@live.co.uk]
Sent: 19 March 2012 09:35
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: RE: Objection to sub -station for off-shore wind turbines

Hi Andrew- here is my representation

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19/03/2012

Helicopters fly overhead from the oilrigs on a regular basis, often quite low, and the turbines will be a hazard to them too, quite aside from the effect they will have on the air currents. This is not a sensible place to site any turbine.

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My view is that they should not be built at all and certainly not in such a scenic part of the country, destroying a valuable commodity such as the golf course, which contributes to the local economy in encouraging visitor income.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: RE: Objection to sub -station for off-shore wind turbines

Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2012 08:50:48 +0000

From: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

To: [REDACTED]@live.co.uk

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your representation regarding the proposed European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) off Aberdeen.

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Best regards,

Andrew

Andrew Sutherland

Marine Renewables Licensing Advisor

Marine Scotland – Marine Planning & Policy Division

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101 | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB

S/B + 44 (0) 1224 876544

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Email: [REDACTED]
ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Web: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland>
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/marine/licensing/marine>


From: [REDACTED]@live.co.uk]

Sent: 16 March 2012 23:57

To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox

Subject: Objection to sub -station for off-shore wind turbines

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]@wanadoo.co.uk]
Sent: 19 March 2012 11:33
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Objection to offshore wind deployment centre

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen s coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

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19/03/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com]

Sent: 17 March 2012 12:11

To: MS Marine Licensing

Dear Sir,

I write to protest against the gigantic wind farm proposed to be located in the North Sea opposite Royal Aberdeen Golf Club. This is one of the few peaceful areas left in an increasingly industrialized city. The proposal will blight the view out to sea from the first nine holes and is not acceptable.

Surely it would make more sense to locate this opposite an already industrial area such as Peterhead. Please register my objection to this proposal.

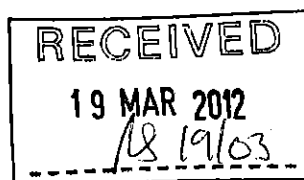
[REDACTED]

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com]
Sent: 18 March 2012 12:47
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Wind Farm offshore Aberdeen

Dear Sir

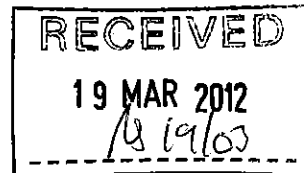
I am seriously concerned about the plan to site a wind farm off the coast at Aberdeen.

'I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland'.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]



tel [REDACTED] /Mob [REDACTED]

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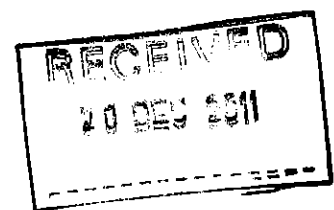
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19/03/2012

TO:

MARINE SCOTLAND

LETTERS OF OBJECTION ATTACHED



[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 August 2011 10:31
To: lora@trumpgolfscotland.com
Subject: Local Support

23 AUG 2011

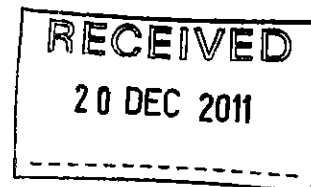
Importance: High

[REDACTED] hope you are well and enjoying the emerging success of the golf links project. I routinely jog/walk the beach most days and I have been blown away by both the design and the progress of the course, which is truly remarkable.
Well done to all concerned.

Noticed in the local press your concern over the recently lodged planning application to erect massive wind turbines just offshore from Balmedie. I along with a substantial number of local residents share your concerns and reservations and would like to explore how best we can co-ordinate and concentrate our objection towards the local planning authorities. Your advice on how best we can do this would be much appreciated.

Can you also provide any details around whether you intend to have any local residency memberships of the golf course and if so how and when this will be organized.

Look forward to hearing back from you,
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 October 2011 08:59
To: admin@trumpgolfscotland.com
Subject: Wind farm objection

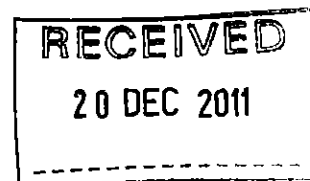
[REDACTED]

I have been watching your campaign with interest. Here in Wigtownshire we too were faced with the prospect of a very large wind farm being placed too close to our shores.

We mounted a high profile campaign and were successful in having the plan turned down by the Scottish Government. You can view our campaign website [here](#). You might also be interested in our response document that was submitted to the Scottish Government.

If we can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]



18/8/11

Dear [REDACTED]

I share your concerns about the needless destruction of beautiful views on the Scottish coastline and Highland scenery by demonstrably useless wind turbines.

To let you see the potential disaster about to engulf Aberdeenshire I enclose a map of wind turbines built and in planning. Your potential customers will have to face an astonishing array of industrial turbines when they take a day off to visit our magnificent castles and countryside near your world class golf course.

I also enclose the latest research from the WAUBRA Foundation that has grave concerns about the health risks directly associated with windfarms. They suggest a minimum safe distance of at least 10 kilometres! Hopefully it may give you some ammunition in protecting your wonderful views.

Good luck with your golf course development, a much greener solution!

Yours, trying to protect the Highlands

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

20 DEC 2011

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 September 2011 19:27
To: admin@trumpgolfscotland.com
Subject: windmills protest

Hi why not start a petition against the windmills and make it public I personally think they are a waste of time and being put in the wrong place . Would start one myself but dont know how too. Sure a lot of people would sign up

I live in Aberdeen and we dont need them here

all the best



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 October 2011 12:11
To: admin@trumpgolfscotland.com
Subject: wind turbines

Dear sir/madam

I have followed the progress of the balmedie golf coarse with great admiration and truly think that mr trump has given Aberdeenshire a once in a lifetime chance to make a difference. the turbine idea is an eyesore but i live 10 miles noth of balmedie and we to had a fight over turbines and won. the main reason they didn't get permission wasn't the birds or the eyesore it was the danger to the helicopter traffic to the offshore instulations that won the day and there is emergency landing strips alone the coast that would be effected by the turbines. So good luck with everything you do

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

20 DEC 2011

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 September 2011 17:46
To: admin@trumpgolfscotland.com
Subject: The late Tom Weir and Scotland

Categories: Reply required ✓

Hi,

Being one of the many people in Scotland that have backed the Trump Golf complex for the Menie estate since it was first spoken about ,I would like to bring to your attention a story that was published in the Scottish sunday newspaper of todays date,The Sunday Post.Tom Weir was known to many hundreds of thousands of Scots and his passion for Scotland was second to non.His widow Rhona Weir (aged 91) is now going to spearhead a national challenge against wind turbines.I feel this will help in stopping any further turbines being built in Scotland,on or offshore.

With so many wind turbines being proposed and located in many beautiful parts of the UK including Scotland I feel more needs to be done to stop this destruction. Iam right behind any new technology that stops us from using our depleted fossil fuels but on close inspection of wind generated power the wind turbines do not produce the electricity that the makers state and require major maintenance with a very short life span.Wind turbines rae not by the way ugly,but they do cast a large imprint on any landscape.Better ways of producing power in Scotland is by using water,be it fresh or salt its so sad that no one has came forward with such plans.

It would please me if you took the time to read the Sunday Post story and it may now be an ideal time to think about other ways of producing some of the energy that will be required on the Trump golf complex in Scotland without the help of wind turbines which to my mind are now out of date.

Kindest regards
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED
20 DEC 2011

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 September 2011 08:00
To: admin@trumpgolfscotland.com
Subject: WIND TURBINES
Categories: Reply required

[REDACTED]

RE: WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT

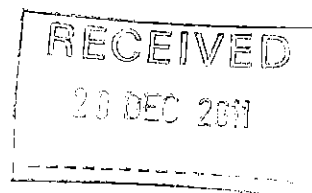
For your information most Aberdonians are against the proposed development which will permanently scar the superb view of the sea and coast for all.

I agree wholeheartedly with Donald in his comments regarding this awful development and it must be stopped when there are other suitable locations off the north East coast available that would be seen by very few people.

I attended the presentation in the Hilton hotel in Aberdeen last month only to see some very contrived artistic views of how these massive structures will look which confirms that they will serve as giant bird slicing m/c's..

I have since made official complaint to the marine authority responsible for giving the go-ahead for this plan but so far without acknowledgement.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2011 3:40 AM
To: admin@trumpgolfscotland.com; Dan Borbet
Subject: Wind Turbines

[REDACTED]

I am a local Aberdeenshire citizen , to be precise west aberdeenshire on Aberdeenshire Morayshire border. Meikleton Of Ardonald area AB54 4ub.

I see in the press you have a potential eyesore being planned at sea near Balmedie.

The whole of Aberdeenshire is being hit with these structures , and residents are having to put up with minimum distances of 400 meters with all the downsides, Noise , Eyesore ,House devaluation, visual impact and Environmental destruction.

Your visitors wont all jet in , some will drive in through bountiful Aberdeenshire countryside.

My house has two wind farms in front of our house in planning and two behind totalling 41 turbines. 1 at 1500 meter 1 at 2000 meters 1 at 2900 meters 1at 6000 meters.

My near neighbours minimum distance 400 meters.

This could be Balmedie onshore near you!!!!!! nothing is sacred in Aberdeenshire, planning is slacker here than other county in scotland.

Remember planning does not take loss of view into consideration.

One day countryside , next day Industrial estate at no fault of your own and a real struggle to sell your property if you don't like your new environment.

You have a core of people in the Aberdeenshire onshore that would support you if you supported us.

Wind generation on a day of poor wind is pitiful, 7 billion spent on grant aid so far for 3500 turbines uk wide and recording 1% and less production into the grid , and they want to triple these numbers. It's a matter of time until they come your way on land. I will send you some links to check out. Please don't hesitate to reply. Thanks for your time.

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

RECEIVED

20 DEC 2011

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 December 2011 08:48
To: admin@trumpgolfscotland.com
Subject: Wind Farm

[REDACTED]

I taught you in Clerhill in P4 and have watched your career with interest. Well done.

However my main reason for writing is the proposed wind farm. Have a look at the site of the proposed farm especially today with high winds- ships and boats waiting to enter Aberdeen harbour in bad weather "park" there before they can cross the bar into the harbour.

I used to watch my Dad - a trawl skipper- returning from Iceland and Faroe entering the harbour regularly and know the perils that was 60 years ago and it is no different.

Surely Aberdeen harbour is going to object to the proposal as a wind farm there would mean the death of the offshore supply industry in Aberdeen as vessels would no longer have a safe "parking" place in bad weather as Aberdeen bay is the only shelter available.

Look at the proposed area any day and you will see at least 7 vessels there- more today.
Worth investigating I think as Aberdeen needs an offshore base more than a wind farm.

I think an investigation into this area of the proposal will have more effect than any calls for an inquiry for as you know our planning applications have a process to go through but an amalgamation with the interests of the harbour and yourselves with pictures etc of the vessels regularly sheltering there would be rather effective.

Good luck in your endeavours and I look forward to the opening of the course. Although now over 70 I am a member at Cruden Bay and play regularly - not this week though!

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

20 DEC 2011

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

03 October 2011 15:13
admin@trumpgolfscotland.com
Trump Resort Windfarm

RECEIVED
20 DEC 2011

As a veteran campaigner against windfarms of any sort I am equally against the offshore windfarm threatening the Donald Trump Golf Resort and have some comments, based on past experience, which I think may be worthy of your attention.

It is reported that Mr Trump has appealed directly to Alex Salmond; apparently without any success, but in this case there must be some doubt that Mr Salmond can override the rule of Law as it is applied in Scotland by The Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals.

"The Directorate is responsible for dealing with planning and related appeals in Scotland. A Reporter appointed by the Scottish Ministers decides most appeals. These are called "delegated" appeals. In a small number of cases the reporter does not issue the decision, but submits a report with a recommendation to the Scottish Ministers. These are called "non-delegated", or recalled, appeals."

It seems therefore that all cases must go through an Appeals procedure before there is any chance of a Reporter submitting them, together with his recommendations, to anyone in the Scottish Executive?

If Trump International does now lodge an Appeal and this goes before a Reporter then on past experience it is highly unlikely this will be successful if based primarily on the argument that the windfarm is inappropriately placed. It is usual for a Reporter to decide an Appeal by convening a Public Inquiry at which he is given a "remit" enjoining him to take account of the objections of local inhabitants and interested parties as weighed against the benefits offered by the applicants. In addition the Reporter is also obliged to take account of Government policies, "targets" set for carbon emissions reductions and other environmental objectives, but whereas the applicants can remind the Reporter of the requirement to consider these Government policies and objectives the objectors are not allowed to debate, criticise or otherwise disparage them in any way. By these means the Inquiry is skewed in favour of the applicants. If, for example, the Reporter comes to the Inquiry with a predetermined inclination to give overwhelming consideration to Government requirements he will hear nothing at the Inquiry which could tend to inform or persuade him differently. In such a case both the objectors and the applicants are unwittingly wasting both their time and their money! The SNP in Scotland has set itself the "world

leading" target of generating 100% of Scotland's electricity from renewable resources (i.e. windfarms!) and to do this they will need all the windfarms that developers are offering to build - anywhere, but particularly any that are built offshore as this these do not encroach on cherished Scottish landscapes.

Those who have fought against the folly of windfarming for the last ten years or so are now coming to conclude that supporting the fight of individual windfarms one by one is not a productive exercise and that the focus needs to be shifted to opposing windfarming in all its guises as an expensive, unnecessary, useless, inefficient, ecologically damaging and wasteful technology in itself. (see attached article by Christopher Booker of the Sunday Telegraph)

In the nine years since I began writing here about wind turbines, I have been approached by more than 100 such local campaigns in every part of Britain, trying to fight the rich and powerful companies that have been queuing up to cash in on the vast subsidy bonanza available to developers of wind farms. Having been the chairman of one such group myself, I know just how time-consuming and costly such battles can be. The campaigners are up against a system horribly rigged against them, because all too often - although they may win every battle locally (in our case we won unanimous support from our local council) - in the end an inspector may come down from London to rule that the wind farm must go ahead because it is "government policy".

I long ago decided that there was little point reporting on most of these individual campaigns, because the only way this battle was going to be won was by exposing the futility of the national policy they were up against. My main aim had to be to bring home to people just how grotesquely inefficient and costly wind turbines are as a way to make electricity - without even fulfilling their declared purpose of reducing CO2 emissions.

Christopher Booker, Sunday Telegraph 10th Sept 2011

An outright assault on the whole idea of windfarming and renewable energy targets cannot be undertaken in any present Appeals procedure as such arguments are directly in contradiction of Government policy and therefore not allowable. There may however be a possibility that a shift in focus can be achieved indirectly. To arrive at a judgement the Reporter has to "weigh" the arguments put by the applicants against those put by the objectors, but having done this he then has to add the preconceived weight he has secretly allocated to Government policies onto the applicants side of his scale. I am inclined to believe it may be possible to counteract this gross injustice by arguing that it is illegal for the Reporter to do this without providing the interested parties with a list of the items of government policy he is taking into account, giving an indication of the weighting he attaches to each and allowing each interested party an opportunity to debate his

opinions and perhaps challenge his assessments **This on the basis that he is obliged to determine his findings solely on the evidence presented to him in open court.** - There should be no hidden, or forbidden, contentious issues!

I am an Engineer not a Lawyer so am unable to judge whether my suggestions are legally possible or not, but if they are then I foresee a number of advantages for the Donald Trump organisation. By switching the attack from a "Nimby" objection to one particular windfarm to an attack on the whole conception of windfarming and the associated utter lunacy of SNP/Government energy policy Trump International will be seen by the general public, not as a selfish single issue complainer, but as a worthy champion of the ordinary people who are fed up with seeing their cherished landscapes despoiled, their electricity bills artificially increased and taxpayers money diverted to foreign firms and foreign workers. Support would come from all those individuals and groups who have fought windfarm applications, but who have mostly failed by default - not having the financial muscle to compete with the ample resources of the "Big Wind" developers. I am confident that media backing for such an initiative will come from such stalwarts as Christopher Booker and sympathetic newspapers like the Daily Mail and Sunday Telegraph. Advice on all windfarm deficiencies is readily available from Country Guardian organisation and expert witnesses such as Prof. David Bellamy and Dr John Etherington (Author of *"The Windfarm Scam"*).

If this "hidden agenda" argument is accepted as a "point of law" then, at the very least, it should be possible to halt the building of the windfarm whilst the argument is pursued and Appealed through all the various Courts right up to the High Court of Judiciary in Scotland and then perhaps on to the Supreme Court in London? Could take years!

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: 19 March 2012 17:47
To: McQuarrie A (Alison); MS Marine Licensing
Subject: wind farms

Dear Ms McQuarrie,

Thank you for the letter dated March 16.

I note you stress I should be assured that " careful and thorough consideration " will take place on these plans.

This Government and its subsidy hungry power company partners use these wordings along with "sympathetic positioning".

Obviously that is a bit of a joke----you are as capable of putting an offshore wind farm in a wrong place as you are as capable of putting an onshore wind farm in a wrong place (Loch Ness /Cairn Gorms).

The only thing I can be assured about is this Government expects serious subsidies to back up its blinkered arrogance.

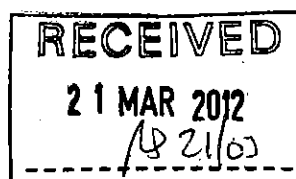
They keep you alive----along with the landowners who are financially enticed--AND who is paying for that??

Yours sincerely

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23/03/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]@tiscali.co.uk]
Sent: 20 March 2012 16:35
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Offshore Windfarm
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

To whom it may concern,

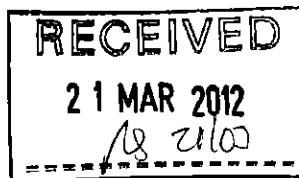
I wish to lodge my objection to the proposed wind farm off the coast at Balgownie, Aberdeen.
I feel the placing of such could have a detrimental effect on the leisure and tourism industry locally.

[REDACTED]

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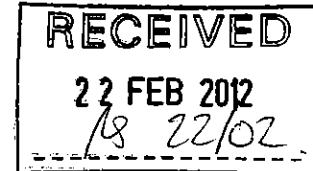
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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 February 2012 17:53
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) near Aberdeen
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue



Sir

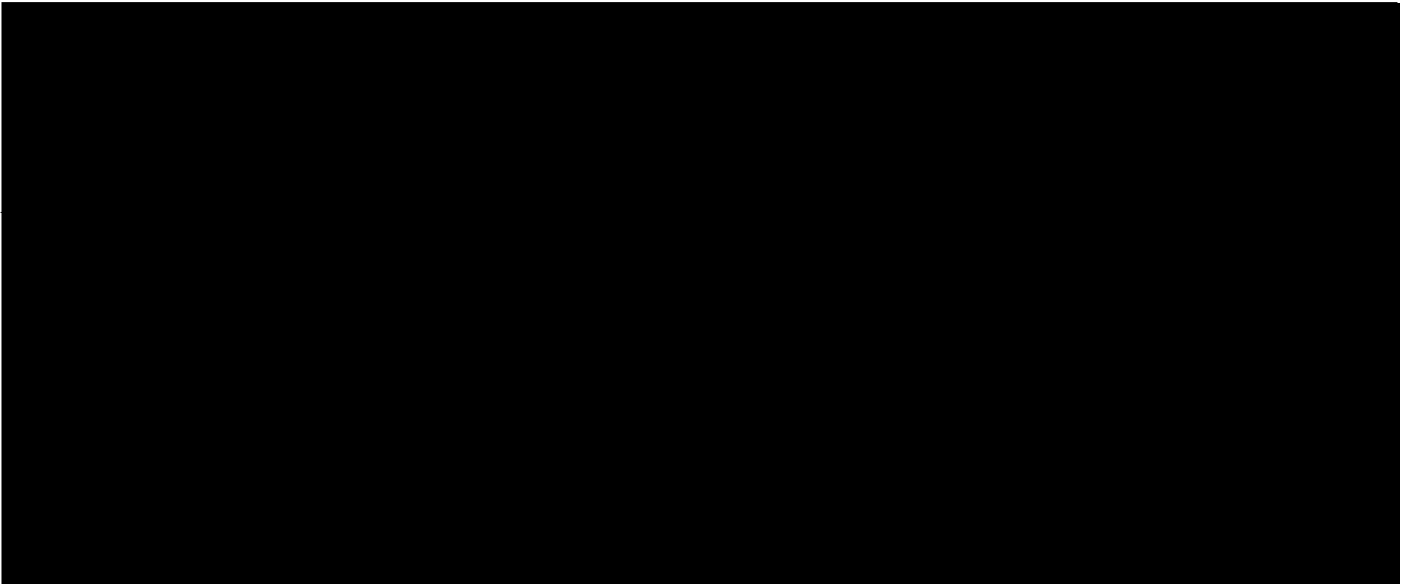
I would like to note my objection to this proposal for a wind farm off Aberdeen on three grounds

1. I believe it will have a detrimental effect on the wonderful scenery we enjoy off the Aberdeen coast and will become a blight on the landscape
2. It has a serious effect on the area where vessels anchor off Aberdeen which are a pleasant and ever changing scene as opposed to the robotic sight of blades endlessly turning.
3. Windfarms are anything but efficient producers of electricity and their construction and deployment nullifies any "green" saving they might offer in the future. We should invest in more responsible production of electricity like wave power which will have a far more beneficial impact on the environment.

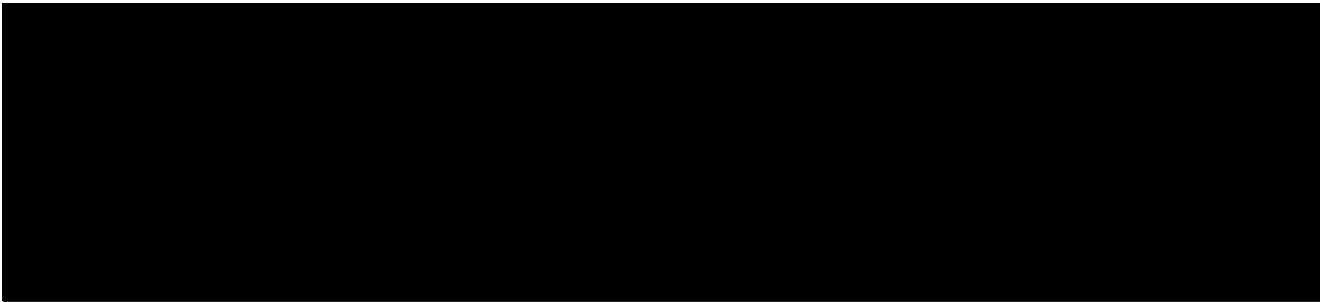
Please consider my views in your adjudication

Regards
[REDACTED]

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23/02/2012



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Sutherland AI (Andrew)**RECEIVED****23 AUG 2011**

AS 23/08

From: [REDACTED]@tiscali.co.uk]**Sent:** 23 August 2011 09:21**To:** MS Marine Licensing**Subject:** Application To Scottish Ministers For Consent by Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited

The Scottish Government

Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team

Proposed European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre - Application To Scottish Ministers For Consent by Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited

I am a resident of Balmedie, the settlement closest to the proposed development. I am also a retired landscape designer and town planner and have experience in the assessment of environmental impacts of development. I object to the proposed development because of the likely potential visual impacts on the people living and working in the area, and also because of the likely changes the development would have on the landscape character of the coastal strip. The coastal strip is identified as an Area of Landscape Significance in the Aberdeenshire Structure Plan.

The form and scale of the seascape is fundamentally horizontal, large and open, but the introduction of essentially high and vertical industrial components, grouped relatively closely together, and within readily available direct views from the Balmedie dunes, the associated country park, and local housing, will create visual ambiguity and confuse scalar definition. The current open and uncluttered seascape will be significantly affected. In this context the proposed 2.4km spatial separation between the coastal strip and the development means relatively little in visual terms and the turbines will appear quite close to receptors. The country park at Balmedie is a popular recreational facility and merits particular attention in the ES. It is argued that the sensitivity of these receptors to change should be registered as 'High' and the magnitude of the change should be 'Medium to High'.

The structure plan says that "Development which would have an adverse effect on ... Areas of Landscape Significance ... will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that any damaging impact is considered acceptable overall or there is a public interest which outweighs the conservation interest." I do not believe the claimed economic benefits will outweigh the environmental and social impacts of the development. The ES records a "major to negligible indirect effect on the Area of Landscape Significance which lies along the coast from Balmedie" and says "The proposals "would fundamentally change the character of the Aberdeen Bay seascape and views from the nearby coastline", but little mention is made specifically to the populations of the settlements of Balmedie and Blackdog as significant receptors - they are the nearest settlements to the proposed wind farm, housing some 2000 people in the immediate area. By comparison more is made of the population of Aberdeen City which is further away, although it is the Bridge of Don part of it that is the major receptor there, and this has mainly non residential land uses located closest to the coastal fringes.

I also object to the application on the grounds that the application does not include of the details that would have an impact on people and other receptors living within the vicinity of the development. In particular the means, form and location of the onshore facilities - for example, electricity substation, onshore cabling, and maintenance buildings, and the means of exporting electricity to the national grid is not identified. Not all alternatives to the location of the wind farm have been examined by the ES. In particular a more appropriate location for a wind farm would have been to locate it onshore in the industrial facility at the Aberdeen Science and Energy Park, or around the ridgeline at Perwinnes. A closer relationship to the land and buildings in these locations would not create the visual ambiguity in vertical and horizontal planes, or through a lack of scalar definition, that a seaward location would have. Connection to the national grid would also be easier from these landward locations. The ES does not examine all of the likely impacts of the development. Specifically, the marine and aviation lights on the turbines mean that the wind farms influence would extend beyond daylight hours into night time - leading to the potential for additional light pollution in the area. This appears to be unrecognized by the ES.

For all the above reasons I urge the Scottish Ministers to reject the application.

[REDACTED]

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23/08/2011

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2012 20:08
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: ""mailto:vwatts@aberdeencity.gov.uk""@hosting-w.gsi.gov.uk;
""mailto:colin.mackenzie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk""@hosting-w.gsi.gov.uk;
""mailto:Jim.Mackinnon@scotland.gsi.gov.uk""@hosting-w.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: OBJECT TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

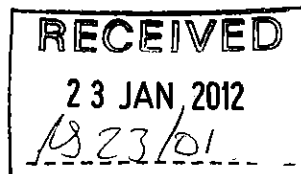
The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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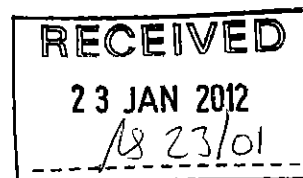
Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: Allen R (Ruth)
Sent: 23 January 2012 13:11
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: FW: Aberdeen Bay Wind Deployment Project (Vattenfall / Technip / AREG)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

One from the MS Mailbox.

Ruth

Ruth Allen
Communications Manager
Marine Scotland
Scottish Government
1 A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ



www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland

From: [REDACTED]@virgin.net]
Sent: 23 January 2012 12:31
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Aberdeen Bay Wind Deployment Project (Vattenfall / Technip / AREG)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to post my objections to this project. My Wife and I both are of the opinion that the proposed massive 600ft plus structures are going to be situated far too close to the shore not to be an eyesore, no matter what colour they were painted. Why in the bay? is it to cause maximum visual effect for the All Energy people visiting AECC. I realise they are close to the Port of Aberdeen but they really will look out of place along this beautiful sandy stretch of seascape we can offer our visitors.

Although all my working life I was at sea, I used a visual horizon calculator (available on the internet) which indicates that these structures would be visible from sea level for 30 miles or more.

I have been to each of the presentations of this project over the years, from when it was to be a long string of 32 turbines between the Ythan and Don/Dee through its different guises and have never been convinced that they will just fade into the background. Also the fact that this is to be a development project there is likely to be an ever presence off construction and dismantling structures, besides the Turbines themselves, blighting the sea-scape for many years to come should this project go ahead.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

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23/01/2012

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From.



Dear Sir or Madam.

I am writing you to complain about the proposed location of eleven wind turbines of the coast of ABERDEEN/BALMEDIE.

This location does not make any sense when you consider the effect it will have on local people and tourist using the lovely beaches that will be ruined if this project goes ahead.

And the effect on local businesses when people do not use the facilities in and around these beach areas.

Why are they not being sited further North or further South were there is high cliffs .

I tend to think this has not been looked at only the cheapest option .

Of course once again these would never get installed if it was just Private industry funding them.

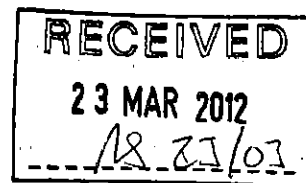
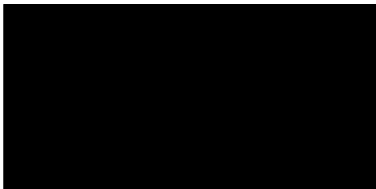
Our taxes being used to off set the costs and long term subsidies. Which once again, the domestic user will have higher bills to pay for energy.

The units themselves are mostly imported and have high maintenance costs and cannot perform in high winds .The SNP government need to look at the fact, about wind turbines in general i.e The true cost , maintenance , reliability.

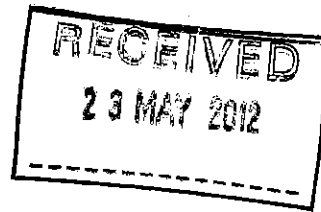
Does Marine Scotland along with the SNP want to be remembered for ruining the coast line and the beaches for future generations .

Just in case you are wondering I am an SNP voter and have been since I could vote .But due to the wind turbines if they go ahead I would probably never vote SNP again?.

Regards



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 April 2012 22:59:52
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: Aberdeenshire wind farm



Hello,

I am emailing in regard to the proposed wind farm off the coast of Balmedie Beach, Aberdeenshire. I am from Aberdeen and am absolutely appalled by the lack of communication between your government and the local people. The wind farm will not only affect the beautiful landscape, but will also ruin the Trump course development along with the view from other prestigious golf clubs. The golf clubs are visited all year round by foreign tourists and these ugly wind turbines will only deter future visitors. No one wants to look out to the sea and view something so unattractive. There are miles and miles of uninhabited coastline so why would the Scottish Government choose to place them in such a well used area.

Yes I am in favour of renewable energies but there are plenty more options that can be explored. I feel the SNP needs to start listening to the views of the Scottish people and not just try to meet your own agenda. After voting for the SNP in the last Scottish election I cannot say I will do so again. The priority seems to be to look after the party and completely disregard the opinions of Scottish citizens. The majority of people in the Aberdeen area are against this wind farm and if it goes ahead the SNP will lose, and deserve to lose a lot of votes when the next election comes around.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Sent from my BlackBerry? smartphone on O2

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: McQuarrie A (Alison)
Sent: 23 May 2012 11:57
To: Sutherland AI (Andrew)
Subject: Aberdeen representation

Attachments: S20120013758 - [REDACTED]

Hiya

Another Aberdeen wind farm representation...a few more to follow I think...

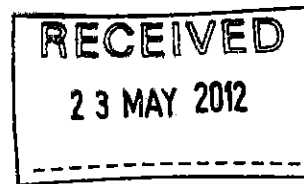
Cheers,
Alison



[REDACTED]

Marine Renewables and Offshore Wind
Marine Planning and Policy
Marine Scotland
Tel: 0131 244 1617

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 April 2012 13:45:36
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: Fw: Windfarms



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2012 1:41 PM
To: alex.salmond.msp@scottish.parliament.uk<mailto:alex.salmond.msp@scottish.parliament.uk>
Subject: Fw: Windfarms

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2012 7:44 PM
To: eilidh.whiteford.mp@parliament.uk<mailto:eilidh.whiteford.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: Fw: Windfarms

Subject: Windfarms

Greetings Alex Salmond, First Minister MSP
It is with interest that I have been following the Trump Wind Farm saga. as a retired Ships Master I find it rather sad that both parties have become entrenched. no consultation as to the effect it will have on the safe Navigating and Anchoring of Ships Servicing the North Sea Oil and Gas Fields. as I previously suggested why not compromise by relocating the Wind Farm to South of Girdleness Hd. then Donald Trump can finish the Golf Course with all of the local benefits for the future that entails and also still have the Wind Farm. this may appear simplistic but to me it would be a win win for all concerned and then we could get on with the more important task of Scotland becoming a Free Nation again. I wish all the SNP Councillors all success in the coming Council Elections.

Your Faithfully
[REDACTED]

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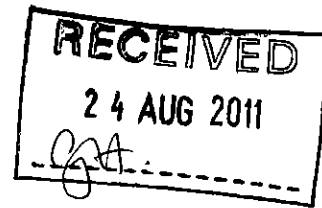
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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 August 2011 09:20
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Windfarms



Sirs,

I would like to register that I do not support your projects or department in it's present form.

Although in favour of alternative energy, I am only so when it is viable.
Presently the level of subsidy is massively disproportionate to it's worth.
It is also skewed in favour of the the rich to the further detriment of the the poor.
The least able are being taxed further into debt whilst landowners and investors gorge on their misery.
Many politicians appear to be part of this cabal but far too many are naive enough to have been convinced by the so called
'green' element and now, as the financial facts become apparent, too arrogant to admit they've been conned.
When wind farms can pay for themselves then they will be worthy of support and not before.

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24/08/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 January 2012 15:18
To: MS Marine Licensing; "'mailto:marinescotland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk'" [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

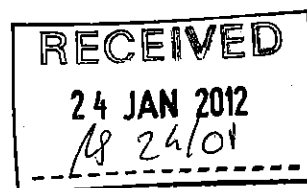
Dear Sir or Madam

OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Aberdeen
AB10 1JG

[REDACTED]
Advertising : Marketing : PR

"As you walk down the fairway of life you must smell the roses,
for you only get to play one round." - Ben Hogan

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
*Innes Associates is a trading name for Charlie Innes Associates Limited.
Registered in Scotland No. 276245 : Registered Office: 34 Albyn Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1FW*

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24/01/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 January 2012 15:20
To: MS Marine Licensing; "mailto:marinescotland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk"
Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam

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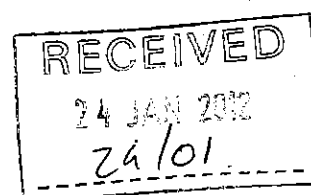
The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Aberdeen
AB10 1JG



[REDACTED]

Advertising : Marketing : PR

"As you walk down the fairway of life you must smell the roses,
for you only get to play one round." - Ben Hogan

[REDACTED]

*Innes Associates is a trading name for Charlie Innes Associates Limited.
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24/01/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

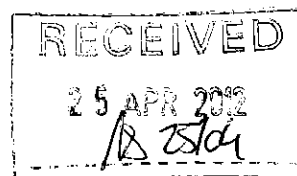
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 April 2012 17:01
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Proposed Windfarm In Aberdeen Bay Ref EOWDC
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir

I would like to take this opportunity to OBJECT to the above proposed development in Aberdeen Bay . Whilst i am certainly not against the idea in principal i would have thought a more industrial location along the coast would be much more suitable .

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]
Aberdeen
AB12 5UD
[REDACTED]

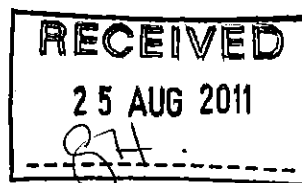


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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 August 2011 21:45
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: 'European Offshore Wind Deployment



Dear Sir/Madam

I am totally against any further wind turbine development.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

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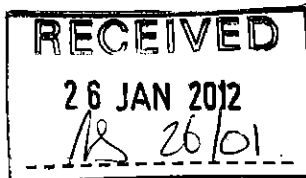
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25/08/2011



FAO – Licencing Team
Marine Scotland
Marine Laboratory
PO Box 101
375 Victoria Road
AB11 9DB



23rd January 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre – Aberdeen Bay

We write with reference to the proposed offshore wind farm comprising eleven turbines in Aberdeen Bay, which is being promoted by Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm Ltd. Following discussions with Marine Scotland, we are aware that the consultation period for the submission of representations remains open, and this letter is therefore submitted timeously. Royal Aberdeen Golf Club wishes to object to the Marine Licence application for this project for the reasons set out below.

Royal Aberdeen Golf Club is the sixth oldest golf club in the world, founded in 1780, and has been established at its current location at the Bridge of Don since 1888. From its earliest beginnings the club has nurtured the game in the North East, organising exhibition matches involving major players including Tom Morris, Walter Hagen, Henry Cotton, Tony Lema and Tom Watson to name but a few. Throughout the past 124 years, the course has been subject to modification and improvement, with the aim of establishing a very high quality and traditional links. This has resulted in the course becoming firmly established in the top twenty five in the UK. The culmination of these improvements has allowed the attraction of a series of prestigious tournaments over recent years, including the Senior British Open in 2005, the Scottish Boys Championship in 2009, and the premier amateur competition in the world – the Walker Cup in 2011. As a result of the profile and quality of the Balgownie Links, it has become a popular visitor destination for golfers from all over the world. As a consequence of the club's success in attracting competitions and visitors, it has generated millions of pounds for the local economy. The relative significance of Balgownie has been encapsulated by the eminent golf writer – Bernard Darwin, who stated "*It represents a huge gap in my golfing education not having played Balgownie until now - much more than a golf course, a noble links.*"

Much of the attraction of the golf club derives from its high quality landscape setting and the unspoilt coastal environment in which it is located. The clubhouse sits in an elevated location overlooking the first hole, with Aberdeen Bay beyond, and this provides a very attractive

outlook. Moreover the opening nine holes of the course (which are widely regarded as amongst the finest anywhere in the world) provide a series of long range coastal views, particularly from the teeing grounds. Depending on weather conditions, these views can extend as far as Peterhead to the north (23 miles) and Girdleness Lighthouse to the south (3 miles). The proposed turbines would be located only 2.2 miles offshore, and given the range of uninterrupted views which are currently available, it is clear that the wind farm would result in a fundamental change to the views which are currently enjoyed. It is considered that the erection of eleven very large wind turbines, measuring approximately 200 metres in height, would erode these special landscape characteristics, and would undermine the setting of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club.

The importance of the landscape characteristics of the coastal zone to the north of Aberdeen, are recognised in both the local plans which have been produced for the City and Shire. The Aberdeen Local Development Plan identifies the area of the golf course as an *Undeveloped Coastal Area*, with the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan identifying the land to the north as an *Area of Landscape Significance*. The presence of these allocations confirms the qualities and value which this locality offers in landscape terms, and reinforces its need for protection.

Examination of the Environmental Statement supporting the application indicates that significant on-shore infrastructure will be required, including a substation, with the potential for a research & development and interpretive centre. Given the nature of these proposals, it is understood that they are likely to be located at Claymore Avenue at the Science and Technology Park. It is anticipated that an interpretive centre would require viewing areas towards the wind-farm, and this would necessitate the construction of a relatively high building which would overlook the golf course. Whilst such buildings will require individual planning applications to be submitted, the pressure for such development would become firmly established should the wind farm be approved, and this offers further potential to erode the landscape qualities of the area.

In the event that the substation was constructed at the Science and Technology Park, a connecting cable would require to be laid across the golf course. The installation of such a cable would result in significant disruption to the golf club during the construction period, and this is a further reason for the submission of this objection.

It is also worth considering the cumulative effect of renewable energy proposals in the vicinity of the golf club. In addition to the proposed off-shore wind farm, a planning application for a very large single wind turbine was approved on the 1st July 2011 (local authority ref – P110562). This turbine will measures 67 metres in height, and will be positioned immediately adjacent to the 14th tee on the golf course. The presence of such a substantial structure immediately to the west of the golf course, when combined with the large scale off-shore development will significantly alter the current undeveloped rural amenity of this coastal stretch which would be to its detriment. It is hoped that the cumulative effects of both approved and proposed developments in the area can be taken into consideration in the decision on the Marine Licence application.

The hosting of the Walker Cup in 2011 was regarded as an extremely successful event, and the golf club is keen to attract further championships to the North-East in the future. The decision making process in relation to the venues for such tournaments is highly competitive, and factors such as the attractiveness of the course and the wider landscape can have a bearing on the success or otherwise of securing international competitions. The approval of the licence for the wind farm would do nothing to improve the chances of organising further events, and in all likelihood would undermine future opportunities.

The opening of the Trump International Golf Links later in the year, offers the potential for the North-East to increase in its importance as a worldwide tourism destination for golfers. Such visitors have a very broad range of choices for golfing trips, and the construction of the wind farm off-shore from both courses would detract from the tourist offering of the region for golfers.

It is not considered that the Environmental Statement adequately assesses the impact on tourism within the area. Chapter 23 of the statement considers this subject, and lists a range of recreational activities which take place in the coastal zone, including kite surfing, sea angling and canoeing. No assessment has been made of the land based recreational activities such as golf, which take place opposite the wind farm. As a result the licence application is considered to be deficient in its assessment of the proposal's impact on users of the coastline.

Royal Aberdeen Golf Club is supportive of the principle of development of renewable energy projects. However the coastline of Scotland is largely untouched by wind and wave powered facilities, and there is considerable scope to locate such proposals in zones which have less landscape and recreational value than the current site. The construction of the wind farm in such close juxtaposition to Royal Aberdeen Golf Club undermines many of the characteristics which have allowed the club to become highly rated, and successful in attracting prestigious competitions to the North East. These qualities could be easily maintained should the proposed wind farm be relocated.

In conclusion, it is considered that the construction of the proposed off-shore wind farm would have an adverse effect on the unspoilt landscape characteristics of the area. This would be exacerbated by the recently approved turbine to the west of the course and the demand for the ancillary on-shore infrastructure which would be required. This combination of factors would jeopardise the future opportunity to attract major tournaments and golfing tourists, and would damage the unique and unspoilt setting of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club. For the foregoing reasons we respectfully request that the Marine Licence application for the proposed wind farm be rejected.

Yours faithfully



Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 March 2012 18:27
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Wind turbines off Balmedie/Aberdeen
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sirs,

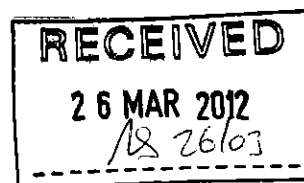
I respectfully request that you do not go ahead with building those ginormous wind turbines opposite the wonderful and historic Royal Aberdeen Golf Course or the new top class Trump course. There are places for them, but to build them in full view of these golf courses is so detrimental to Scotland. We are being encouraged to open up to tourism and to diversify to bring people and jobs to the area for when oil has gone. With those two golf courses and Cruden Bay we would have world class golf tourism right there and possibly the World Golf Championships too. There are miles of coastline which do not impinge on people's eyes or spoil the beauty and peace of a huge horizon. If the tower blocks by Aberdeen beach, 24 storeys high, can be seen from Balmedie nine miles away, what can the effects of the equivalent of 76 storeys be. Please please don't self destruct.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

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29/03/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

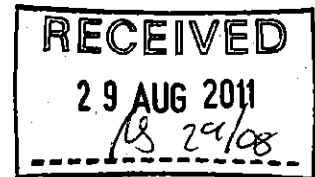
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 August 2011 18:26
To: MS Marine Licensing

How can 11 turbines possibly cost 150million?
have we got a 0 too many???
ask the danish
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Nokia phone

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 March 2012 09:34
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Proposed EOWDC Windfarm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

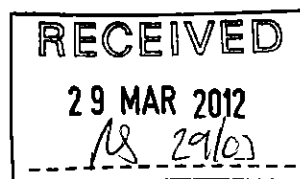
I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline.

The siting of this wind farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

[REDACTED]
Aberdeen. AB15 9PB

Sent from my iPad

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Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 March 2012 15:41
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Wind Turbine Proposal - Objection
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

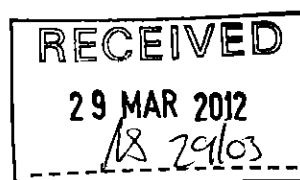
Dear sir / madam

I write to state my objection at the proposal to site wind turbines off the coast of Aberdeen, just north of the River Don.

These would have a very negative impact on the surrounding coastline and the population of Aberdeen in general and will surely also have an impact on tourism in this part of Scotland. Surely a more appropriate location in a less densely populated area can be found to site these turbines.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Aberdeen



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29/03/2012

MCU 11/11



Aberdeen
AB23,8FG.

M.C.U.

14 NOV 2011

9 - NOV 2011

Received

COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVED

29 NOV 2011

18 29/11

To

The SNP Party from a voter that has voted for you since I was 16yrs old.

Regarding the proposed wind farm situated between Aberdeen Beach and Balmedie.

Points of concern

- *It will be a totally complete eye soar in this area, as it is situated to close to the shore line.*
- *So much for the quality of the beaches between Aberdeen and Cruden Bay being our tourist strength. When the major eye soar will be there.*
- *Comments from any tourist or people visiting tend to always refer to the silver sands between Aberdeen and Cruden Bay with a good selection of beaches close to the North of Aberdeen.*
- *Do you think people will like looking out at these inefficient wind turbines.*
- *Which will be getting located to close to the beach due to keeping the costs down.*
- *Why has the south side of Aberdeen not been considered for the wind farm. Again the reason will be cost due to having to cross the rocky shore line also deeper water*
- *The south side would have been the best option as there are virtually not any good beaches to the south of Aberdeen.*
- *Being an Aberdonian myself I have not met any local person that is for this wind farm in the proposed location.*
- *When will public meetings being getting held on the above subject..*
- *If it goes ahead.*
- *It wont be the people of Aberdeen that will benefit from the wind farm.*
- *It will be Big corporations that will just increase their profits. With the tax payer having paid the greater part. Of the original costs.*

- At the cost of Aberdeen's shore line and beaches.
- *I hope the City Council have not been wasting any of the council tax payers money on funding any of this project. Or monies from the common good fund?.*
- **This is a comment made to myself by several tourists that I have meet in the last 12 months, which include Americans, Australia's ,English, Germany and Irish.**
- *Also due to the fact I work offshore most people agree that we should not install the wind farm in the proposed area. They think the proposed area is stupid and only being propped for cost reasons.*
- **This was about where the offshore wind farms are proposed to be located off .of Aberdeen. Even the so called energy pier proposed at Aberdeen Beach .**
- *It will be tourist a Eye soar when travelling the coastal route when you pass on the way from Aberdeen to Inverness.*
- *We should fight to retain the natural beauty of our country side and shore line . Lets face it we have enough countryside eye soars due to the electrical power company's. Power line already.*
- **When it is again to increase their profitability.(Never bury their power cable 's go for the cheap option every time).**

Which in the long run is more harmful to the enviroment..

These wind turbines are not cost effective , they are only being installed due to them being paid for using tax payer monies and (SUE's).

Again there is only one winner the companies that make them and install them.

Their made of materials that cost a lot of energy to produce , the component parts they are made of copper ,steel ,aluminium ,high grade plastic's ,electrical varnishes etc.

Which some of them are not friendly due to their chemical make up.

Also they are not cost effective when sited offshore due to high maintenance costs that they incur.

We have already to many of them ,spoiling the country side between Perth and Inverness .

What's happened to water turbines being installed on some of our bigger river. The river ebb and flow .why are we not considering water turbines .

Also the Mega watt output of these units are to low for the costs incurred

Also they need to be shutdown in high winds which defeats the purpose of installing them .

Well at the end of the day the SNP will be loosing a few regular supports if it goes ahead and that includes myself and my children ..

It's a pity as the party has lost its place due to poor technical support and not fully understanding the cost of each wind turbine for the complete lack of output .

ie Without tax payers monies these projects would not go ahead due to the number of turbines required to have the required power output. N years to come they will be classed as a bad investment.

Regards

10.10.11.

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com]
Sent: 29 September 2011 06:45
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Ltd.

I wish to raise objections to the above development.

- 1 Aberdeen is fairly unique as a city with a splendid beach. This development will industrialize the beach.
- 2 The development is too close to areas where shipping moors in time of storm.
- 3 The walk from Aberdeen to Balmeddie will be spoiled by the close proximity of these wind turbines.
- 4 There may be an impact on bird migration to the Ythan, Don and Dee.
- 5 The noise in periods of windy weather will be unacceptable.
- 6 The flicker effect may impact on air traffic control
- 7 The economics of wind turbines as a source of renewable power is highly questionable
- 8 Less intrusive forms of renewable energy should be explored.
- 9 This development will have a negative effect on Aberdeen city and shire's attempts to increase tourism.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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29/09/2011

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 January 2012 14:13
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox; MS Marine Licensing
Cc: Mackinnon JG (Jim); colin.mackenzie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk;
vwatts@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE
(EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sir or Madam

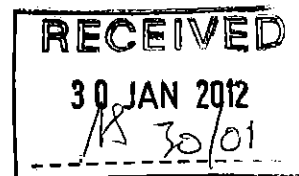
OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

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The siting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

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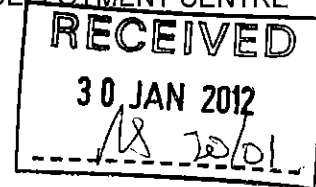
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30/01/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com]
Sent: 28 January 2012 10:18
To: MS Marine Licensing; Marine Scotland Mailbox;
colin.mackenzie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; vwatts@aberdeencity.gov.uk; Mackinnon JG
(Jim); Jonas Hedberg
Subject: OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE
(EOWDC)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue



OBJECTION TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

Dear Sir or Madam

I respectfully request that you **reject** the EOWDC proposal (Vattenfall), initially on the grounds of the credible danger to the offshore fleet of supply vessels. They require the use of our local coastline to moor off in bad weather or to get ready to enter our busy supply port - these have had to have shelter of the last 2 months with the very rough weather & high Seas.

Secondly, why is the "Windfarm" being located in the busiest helicopter fly zone corridor in Europe?

The sighting of this wind-farm is not appropriate and will have a very detrimental effect on the offshore, golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland. (Yes, I am a local lad, work in the Oil Industry & a keen golfer)

We need to safe guard & support our biggest local market sector (Offshore) & equally look to the future to welcome any new opportunities, including tourism investors.

I do appreciate there is a balance for the growing momentum in the renewable sector and understand the need to look for other energy means, but we do have a large Coast line & Country with no Major Investors present – Oil / Tourism needs our local support.

We must ask ourselves what we & the local government / area will have provided when the Oil output reduces or worse vanishes?

Tourism is a huge market and Scotland has a great world wide appeal for its Golf, Industry but most of all our People. Easy sell, but needs high profile Oil Companies (Shell / BP / Total) & Global Investors such as the eagerly awaited Trump development to visit & experience our Hospitality.

Who knows who or what is around the corner & sure the world wide community will be watching keenly how we develop our Country and deal with Potential New Investors.

I hope you consider my views as a caring local family lad that only wants the best for our future and thank you in advance for your perusal of the above.

Yours Very Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

30/01/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com]
Sent: 31 January 2012 10:24
To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Dear Sirs

OBJECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE (EOWDC)

I respectfully request that you reject the EOWDC proposal on the grounds of the extremely negative visual impact the turbines will have on Aberdeen's coastline and my quality of life. The siting of this wind-farm is wrong and will have a detrimental effect on the golf, leisure and tourism industry in the North-east of Scotland.

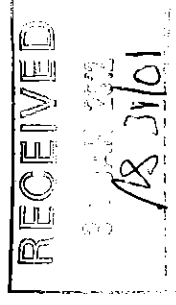
Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

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01/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: Allen R (Ruth)
Sent: 31 January 2012 16:33
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: FW: Offshore Wind Turbines.
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Ruth Allen
Communications Manager
Marine Scotland
Scottish Government
1 A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ


www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland

From: @gmail.com]
Sent: 31 January 2012 15:13
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: Offshore Wind Turbines.

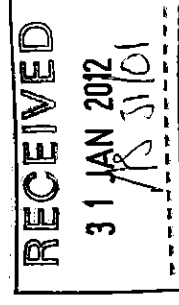
Please stop this desecration of the bay view of Aberdeen by these monstrous constructions thrust upon us by politicians and viable only via large subsidy.
Consider also the impact on marine life especially the dolphins that are regular visitors to this area.



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01/02/2012

Sutherland AI (Andrew)

From: [REDACTED]@aol.co.uk]
Sent: 31 January 2012 15:27
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: European Offshore Wind deployment Centre
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

[REDACTED]

To Whom it may Concern.

I send this e-mail with an objection to the proposal for the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre wind farm in Aberdeen Bay (EOWDC).

[REDACTED] I cannot believe this proposal is even being given any serious consideration.

Do the people who are trying to get this proposal through realise that Aberdeen Bay is one of the busiest traffic zones for all types of shipping traffic.

Also in the spring of the year it is renowned for thick fog in this area. (I worked in Aberdeen Bay for 23 years as a fishing boat skipper)

You can make it a restricted area to shipping if you want, but rest assured there will be a shipping accident if this proposal goes ahead.

The environmental disaster that will probably happen to the beautiful beach and coastline to Aberdeen Bay will be unthinkable.

There is absolutely nothing that can be said in any way about this proposal that is positive.

Hopefully there are plenty more objections to European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre and who ever takes the final decision on this proposal listens to the people of Aberdeenshire and treats it with the disdain it deserves and turns down the proposal.

Yours Faithfully

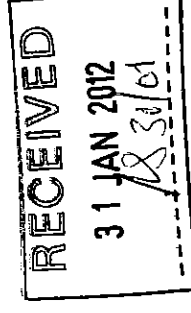
[REDACTED]

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01/02/2012