

Ecotricity's Planning Application to construct the proposed **Upper Sonachan Wind Farm** was registered by the Scottish Government on 6 November 2015, for eventual determination by the Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism. **The window for representations to the Scottish Government about this application closes on 21 December; if you plan to make a representation you must do so before this date.**

It is important that members of the same family from the same address write separate letters, as **all letters whether for or against the application are individually assessed and counted.**

Please bear in mind that any representations must qualify as '**material considerations**'. Concerns such as turbines being visible from your property, or general reservations about the claimed benefits of wind electricity generation, probably do not meet this test, so if you include them you will, unfortunately, be wasting your time and efforts.

Here is a list of subjects which, we suggest, *are* eligible for material consideration in relation to the Upper Sonachan application:

- The negative effect on the **landscape and visual environment** of Loch Awe, in a designated **Area of Panoramic Quality**, as perceived by residents and visitors;
- The negative impact on the **historic environment** of Loch Awe and the Scheduled Monuments in its vicinity;
- Potentially damaging impacts on **tourism** with consequent impact on the livelihoods of residents and businesses. Turbines will be seen from the main tourist routes;
- Negative effects on **private water supplies and hydro schemes** whose water catchment areas fall within the boundaries of the site;
- **Noise and potential associated adverse health impacts** on near neighbours of wind power developments, as increasingly widely and convincingly documented;
- Close proximity to the **Glen Etive and Loch Fyne Special Protection Area for golden eagles**;
- Location of the turbines within or adjacent to a landscape type classified in Argyll and Bute's Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study, which informs the Council's recently adopted Local Plan adopted, as **highly sensitive to large turbines**;
- the **cumulative effect** of yet another wind farm overlooking Loch Awe.

If you would like further information on grounds and procedures for objections, or advice on how to access the developer's full Environmental Statement, please look at our blog at [www.uppersonachanwindfarm.wordpress.com](http://www.uppersonachanwindfarm.wordpress.com). As time goes by the blog will include more and more facts, illustrations, suggestions, comments and discussion. We hope it will be helpful.

**Objections must be clearly entitled 'OBJECTION – Upper Sonachan Wind Farm, Argyll' (there is no Reference No.) and must include the sender's name and address. If you do not wish your representation to be published or made available to third parties you should mark your representation 'Confidential'. Personal data is, however, redacted from all communications before any publication or transmission to third parties.**

Please send representations either:

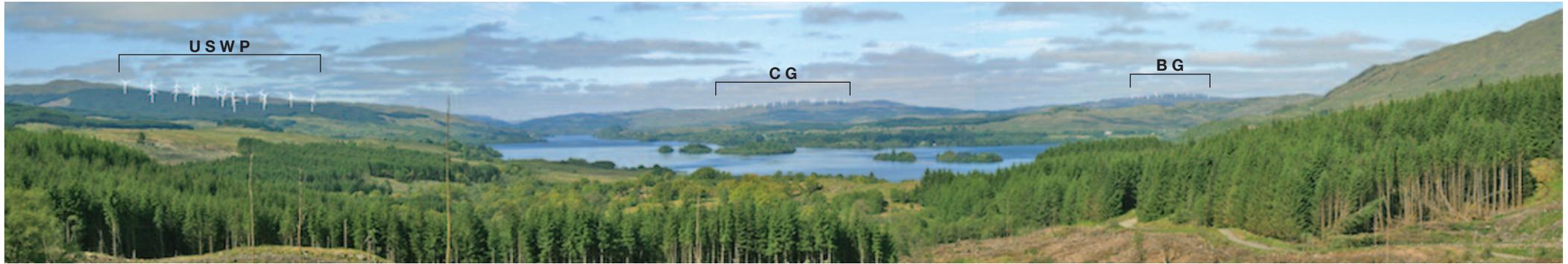
- by email to: **Representations\_Mailbox@gov.scot** or
- by post to: **The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU**

Please help to

# STOP THIS WINDFARM



This visualisation by Malcolm Kirk of the proposed  
**UPPER SONACHAN WIND PARK**  
was compiled from information published by Ecotricity  
and based on a photograph by Andrew Rose taken on  
30 May 2015 from the approach road to Cruachan Dam,  
Map Ref. OS 72645 21085. Lens 75mm.



## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

It matters to residents and visitors on both sides of Loch Awe because:

- **The visual impact** of a development of this scale in this location, within a designated **Area of Panoramic Quality**, will have far-reaching effects on their lives, their well being and their legitimate enjoyment of the amenities. **19 colossal turbines 450 feet high** will not only dominate the hills-and-water landscape of North Loch Awe, but building a gigantic industrial complex of steel, fibreglass and concrete, with access roads for mammoth construction equipment and quarries for the vast amount of foundation materials needed, will cause destruction of the land and unprecedented disruption to the roads network.
- The area is especially vulnerable to **losses in the tourist industry** from the destruction of cherished landscapes such as this one will entail. The Scottish Government Reporter's recently delivered refusal of another developer's Appeal against Argyll & Bute Planning Authority's rejection of the nearby Ardchnonnel windfarm application specifically recognised the importance of tourism to the locality and acknowledged concern about potential damage thereto.
- **Sound**, including infrasound also known as Low Frequency Noise, affects close neighbours to turbines and is magnified across bodies of water. Potential adverse health effects are well documented in peer reviewed reports, details of which can be found in our weblog [www.uppersonachanwindfarm.wordpress.com](http://www.uppersonachanwindfarm.wordpress.com).
- **The cumulative effect of a fourth windfarm (with two more already in the planning system)** surrounding Loch Awe, all visible from landmarks such as the summit of Ben Cruachan, will be severe.
- There are real threats to **protected species**, including golden eagles and other wild life with habitats in the adjacent officially designated SPA (Special Protected Area).
- **Private water supplies** may be seriously contaminated in this area where there is no mains water, as has occurred in other windfarm developments in Scotland. For details of such implications see the document 'Request for Action' in [www.windsofjustice.org.uk](http://www.windsofjustice.org.uk).

## IT MATTERS BECAUSE

**The North-East end of Loch Awe is an inland landscape of mountains, loch and islands whose configuration is second to none in Scotland. In this part of the loch alone there are:**

- no fewer than twelve islands;
- two historic ruined castles – Kilchurn and Fraoch Eilean;
- an ancient burial ground at the Chapel of Fyndoca on the island of Inishail with carved stones dating back to crusading times;
- ten offshore crannogs along its shoreline.

**The Chapel of Fyndoca and Kilchurn Castle are both Scheduled Monuments.**

As well as the beauty and undisturbed tranquillity of the Loch Awe landscape – repeatedly immortalised in literature and paintings such as J M W Turner's watercolour of Kilchurn Castle, Sir Walter Scott's novella *The Highland Widow* and the poetry of the blind bard of Glen Orchy, Duncan Ban MacIntyre, whose monument overlooks the entire wide panorama of the loch from above Ardteatle Bay as shown in the photograph above – the powerful historic and aesthetic inspiration of the region is of immense intrinsic interest to our tourist industry as well as to the general well-being of Argyll and the West Highlands. We cannot stand by and allow this wonderful, unique environment to be desecrated by the intrusion of gigantic wind turbines – not just overlooking, but actually WITHIN it. No amount of cosmetic 'landscaping', could mitigate the appearance of a major industrial development covering an ugly, barren scar of newly felled coniferous forest, wholly detrimental to the ambience and nature of the area.

Serious questions are increasingly being asked as to the overall value and effectiveness of onshore wind power. While such questions are excluded from determination of a planning application, what is indisputable is that the wrong type of energy generation in the wrong place can do immeasurable harm.

**If you would like to object, for guidance on how best to do so please turn to the back page of this leaflet.**