

Main Issue 5 - Wind Energy

Comments on addendum from [REDACTED]

1. Overall impression:- The publication of the Scottish Government Planning Policy appears to have resulted in a **'cave-in'** from Aberdeenshire Council.

Scottish Planning Policy document states (Page 5 , Key Actions, Para.4 **Planning**) *Planning Authorities should be encouraged to complete the spatial frameworks required by Scottish Planning Policy, deliver development plans which clearly set out the spatial and policy context for renewables and implement development management procedures that allow for appropriately designed and sited onshore wind proposals to emerge.*

This is precisely what Aberdeenshire has done. A great deal of time and money has been spent producing their Main Issues reports. They have financed the Ironside Farrar report into the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire.

So why do the council now give the appearance of having accepted without question that industrial wind turbines are an inevitability all over Aberdeenshire ?

Why did you go to so much trouble to produce these reports only to hand over control of wind turbine developments without a fight ?

2. The comparison of maps Fig 3 (Main Issues report) and Fig 1 (Addendum) shows an extraordinary change of emphasis.

The former indicates that the majority of Aberdeenshire (coloured turquoise) was considered to have significant protection from additional industrial turbine development, with dark blue hatched areas being more likely sites for turbines.

The latter shows a few, mostly small, dark grey blobs where there is to be significant protection, some light grey blobs around settlements where there is to be a 2Km buffer zone and the rest of the county open for further industrial turbine development.

You give no indication why you have made such enormous changes from one map to another. Were your plans rejected by the Scottish Government ?

3. I can find nothing in either SPP or Aberdeenshire policy that indicates how many industrial size turbines are considered **'enough' in any one area/county.**

When is a county considered to have **'done its fair share'** of contributing to green energy initiatives ?

How does Aberdeenshire compare with other Scottish counties ?

Does the Scottish Government expect Aberdeenshire to allow industrial turbine developments in all non-grey areas of the Addendum map Fig 1. ?

4. How do Aberdeenshire intend to utilise the advice contained in the Ironside Farrar report which clearly indicates that there are many parts of Aberdeenshire already at or in excess of capacity for industrial wind turbines ?

Are you going to ignore Ironside Farrar in the light of the SPP ?

5. It seems you now intend (para 2.5 Addendum) to leave it to the developers to assess that their proposal does not lie in a protected area or have an unacceptable visual impact. This leaves far too much open to the developers' interpretation and **gives much less control to the planners. This is not acceptable or desirable.**
6. You use the expression '**visual envelope**' – the precise meaning of this is obscure and **should not be included** in any policy document.
7. You do not explain what you mean by a **2Km buffer zone** . Do you mean that no industrial sized turbines will be erected in such buffer zones ? This needs to be clearly stated in the forthcoming LDP 2016

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