

## LIVE D&G WINDFARM SCHEMES

I've been circulating regular updates to windfarm warriors in **Scottish Borders Council** about developments there and have decided to do the same for **Dumfries and Galloway Council**. I've mentioned only those where a formal scoping request has been made or an application lodged but there are so many I may have missed some.

I include my thoughts on some general issues as I believe it's better to tell folks the same thing twice than not at all. At least some who read this may be relatively inexperienced in fighting windfarms and those who have been involved for even longer than me can just skip some of this document.

### A. PROCEDURE FOR WINDFARM APPLICATIONS

1. There are 2 different processes for windfarms dependent entirely on their **theoretical capacity** with those promising over **50MW** classed as **S36** schemes. For **S36** schemes the council can decide **only** whether to lodge an objection. If they do there will be a **PLI** but if they don't the scheme will be waved through by **SG**. Time limits given for council's responses are always ignored.

2. For smaller schemes the "final" decision is made by **DGC Planning Committee** (comprising elected councillors) who are presented with a report from the **Case Officer** (who has qualifications in Planning) recommending either approval or refusal. The **Case Officer** will rely heavily on input from the **Landscape Architect (LA)**. There have sadly been schemes where **Case Officers** have ignored recommendations by the **LA** to refuse a scheme (or to lodge an objection).

3. The decision on whether to object to a **S36** scheme is also made by the **PC** with the report recommending either that no objection should be lodged or setting out the grounds for lodging an objection.

4. On smaller schemes representations are made to **DGC** and will appear on their file but on **S36** schemes they only go to the **ECU** which takes ages to publish them.

### B. PRESSURE ON DGC

1. **DGC Planning** is under huge pressure partly from the number of schemes but equally (if not more so) from their own failings. The result is delays and insufficient time for the **LA** to give proper (and timeous) consideration to schemes.

2. **DGC** insists that their **LA** deals with schemes strictly in the order in which they appear. This only helps developers. Responding to a **Scoping Request** (particularly on **S36** schemes) before considering an active scheme where the decision lies with **DGC** is absurd.

3. Several smaller schemes have been appealed for **non-determination** but this can't happen on **S36** schemes. **DGC** have obtained extensions for their responses on

their **S36** schemes (see list below). I've asked **DGC** how they think they can meet the new dates and await their response.

### **C THE ESKDALEMUIR NOISE BUDGET (ENB)**

1. This affects all schemes within a **50km** radius of the **Eskdalemuir Seismic Station**. The total space available is called the **ENB** and once the ceiling was reached in **2012** the **MOD** lodged objections on every new scheme in the zone so none could go ahead. Even after changes to calculations were made in **2014** freeing up more space in the **ENB** there was still a **complete ban** on schemes within **10KM**.

2. The **ENB** re-emerged as an issue when **Faw Side** completely filled the **revised ENB**. All attempts to increase capacity in the affected area encountered difficulties even when the increase would only be tiny.

3. **ENB** is currently being reassessed by the **Eskdalemuir Working Group (EWG)**. There have also been exchanges in the **Faw Side PLI** as well as the appeals at **Little Hartfell** and **Callisterhall**. I expect some changes reasonably soon though I've no idea when. I think the complete ban on turbines **within 10km** will remain. That will scupper **Scoop Hill**.

### **D. THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY**

I have set out below the schemes under various categories. I've included references from the **ECU** and **DGC** websites. The numbers in brackets after the reference number show the number of documents on each file. I've found this quite a good way of tracking how developments are progressing.

#### **S36 SCHEMES (12)**

**SCOOP HILL** 20/1975/S36 (288): ECU0533 (712)  
**EUCHANHEAD** 20/1942/S36 (161): ECU2141 (245)  
**HOPSRIG** 21/2443/S36 (19): ECU2160 (257)  
**LOGANHEAD** 21/2444/S36 (14): ECU2161 (255)  
**HARESTANES STH EXTN** 21/0135/S36 (59): ECU2185 (262)  
**WINDY STANDARD 1 REPOWER** 23/0056/S36 (5): ECU3324 (184)  
**BLOCH/SOLWAYBANK EXTN** 22/2291/S36 (179): ECU3463 (209)  
**QUANTANS HILL** 23/0322/S36 (8): ECU3399 (245)  
**RIVOX** 23/1533/S36 (158): ECU3293 (182)  
**SANDY KNOWE EXTN** 22/1574/S36 (7): ECU3274 (**234**)  
**MID MOILE** 22/0394/S36 (12): ECU3405 **232**)  
**LORG 2** 23/0205 (73): ECU3283 (**167**)

#### **SCHEMES AWAITING DECISIONS BY DGC (5)**

**MANQUHILL** 23/0692 (142)  
**KNOCKMAN HILL** 22/0221/S42 (30)  
**LITTLE HARTFELL** 22/1431/S42 (14)  
**MINSCA** 22/2401/S42 (23)  
**DIVOT HILL** 23/0368 (132)

**AIRIES II** 21/0645/SCO (17)

**DPEA (7)**

**SANQUHAR II** WIN-170-2006 (1141)

**FAW SIDE** WIN-170-2007 (1395)

**CALLISTERHALL** PPA-170-2168 (255):22/0930 (**86**)

**GARCROGO 2** PPA-170-2152 (206):22/1754 (**445**)

**LITTLE HARTFELL-2** PPA-170-2175 (77): 20/1844 (53)

**CORNHARROW 3.1** PPA-170-2176(49):22/2487/S42 (53)

**CORNHARROW 3.2** PPA-170-2177(54):22/2486/S42 (81)

**SCOPING (9)**

**HARESTANES WEST** ECU 4778 (18)

**CLOUD HILL** ECU 3461 (17)

**APPIN** ECU 3447 (18)

**COLLIESTON** 22/1089/SCO (18)

**WESTERKIRK** ECU 2004 (8)

**BLAIR HILL** ECU 4878 (22)

**GLENVERNOCH** ECU 4892 (6)

**LAIRDMANNOCH** ECU **4900** (14)

**E. APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY WITH DGC**

The majority of applications currently with **DGC** are **S36** ones. I list them below with my comments on where matters stand.

**1.1. SCOOP HILL (20/1975/S36: ECU0533).**

Responses to this huge scheme near **Moffat** were very critical. **CWL** has reduced turbine numbers from **75** to **60** and a lot of new material (**AI**) has been uploaded to the **ECU** file recently triggering another advertisement and a further consultation period. It's the closest windfarm scheme to **Esksdalemuir** but **CWL** has always ignored the problems with the **ENB**. The **ECU** requested a response by **8<sup>th</sup> September**. That's totally unrealistic and will be ignored.

**1.2. EUCHANHEAD (20/1942/S36: ECU2141)**

The interim response from the **LA** dated **29<sup>th</sup> March** should mean that unless significant changes are made **DGC** will lodge an objection as they did on **Sanquhar II**. It's very close to **Sanquhar II** (see below). **DGC** have until **290923** to respond.

**1.3. HOPSRIG (21/2443: ECU00002160).**

**Muirhall** obtained consent for **12 turbines** (up to **140 metres**) in **2019** but lodged an application for **13 turbines up to 200 metres** in **November 2021**. Interim responses from the **LA** (**November 2022** and **May 2023**) state that **major changes** are needed

to avoid an objection on LVIA grounds. The consented scheme had no issues with the ENB but this one will. DGC have until **301123** to decide whether to object.

#### **1.4. LOGANHEAD (21/2444: ECU 00002161)**

In **2019 Muirhall** obtained consent for **8 turbines up to 135 metres** but applied for **9 turbines up to 200 metres in November 2021**. An interim response from the LA (**December 2022**) recommends refusal. The consented scheme had no issues with the ENB but this one will. DGC have until **301123** to decide whether to object.

#### **1.5. HARESTANES SOUTH EXTENSION (21/0135/S36: ECU00002185)**

This proposes **8 turbines of 200 metres**. Harestanes was consented in **2007** but an extension was refused in **2015**. The LA recommended an objection on LVIA grounds in her interim response (**October 2022**). It's also blocked by the ENB. DGC have until **290923** to decide whether to object.

#### **1.6. WINDY STANDARD 1 REPOWER (23/0056/S36: ECU 3324)**

There are far fewer turbines (**8**) than in the existing scheme but they're much higher (**200m**). There has been **no response** from the LA yet. There's no clue when this might reach the PC.

#### **1.7. BLOCH/SOLWAYBANK EXTN (22/2291/S36: ECU 3463)**

The site adjoins the existing operational scheme (**15 x 126.5 metre turbines**) but is for **21 turbines up to 230 metres**. There has been no response from the LA as yet even though DGC only have until **140923** to decide whether to object.

#### **1.8. QUANTANS HILL (23/0322/S36: ECU 3399 (244)**

The LA has provided a **very critical response** suggesting a huge number of changes to the **14 x 200 metre turbine scheme**. That **should** result in a recommendation to object but DGC have a history of ignoring concerns from their LA. Date for response is currently **230923**.

#### **1.9. RIVOX (23/1533/S36: ECU 3293(182)**

The scoping exercise began in **2021** but the application has only been lodged quite recently with **29 turbines between 200 and 230 metres**. Mountaineering Scotland have objected. DGC response is due by **221123** but that won't happen.

#### **1.10. SANDY KNOWE EXTN 22/1574 (70): ECU 3274 (234)**

This scheme has significant local support and I'd expect it to be waved through. DGC have until **301123** to respond.

#### **1.11. LORG 2 23/0205(7): ECU 3283 (172)**

The scheme is for **12 x 200 metre turbines**. There has been no response from the LA yet. Unusually the RSPB have expressed serious concerns. The date for a response is **311023**

#### **1.12. MID MOILE 22/0394/S36 (12): ECU 3405 (236)**

Some **AI** has appeared quite recently. This should have been advertised and has triggered another round of consultation. **DGC** had an extension until **310823** but that will be missed.

### **2.1. MANQUHILL (23/0692)**

This scheme relies on the fact that the area is already full of windfarms to justify infilling. It's adjacent to **Wether Hill** and **Cornharrow** with **8 x 200 metre** turbines. Plenty of objections have been lodged but it will probably be appealed for non-determination quite soon. The DGC website lists the case officer as John Hiscox. He used to work for SBC but resigned to train as a teacher.

### **2.2 KNOCKMAN HILL 22/0221/S42**

Time extension approved and will be consented after a Section 75 Agreement.

### **2.3. LITTLE HARTFELL 22/1431/S42**

Application for operational time extension which may be superfluous if the appeal on **Little Hartfell 2** succeeds.

### **2.4. MINSCA 22/2401/S42**

Time extension recommended for approval at the PAC meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

### **2.5. DIVOT HILL 23/0368**

This should really be called **Margree 2** as it covers the remainder of the area which was in the scoping request for Margree but not in the actual application. Another candidate for a non determination appeal,

### **2.6 AIRIES II (21/0645/SCO)**

There is a RTC recommending approval of a time extension to existing scheme but there's no indication that this has happened.

## **D. SCHEMES WITH DPEA**

Two schemes have gone to a **PLI** (where the decision will eventually be announced by the Scottish Government) with the others being appeals where the decision will be made by a Reporter.

### **1.1. SANQUHAR II (19/0490/S36: WIN-170-2006)**

The **PLI** process has finished and a report sent to **SG** several months ago. **SG** will announce their decision and though nobody knows when that will happen the very recent decision on **Shepherds Rig** suggests it will be quite soon.

### **1.2. FAW SIDE (WIN-170-2007)**

The Reporter submitted her report (which will include her decision on the **ENB**) to **SG** on **3<sup>rd</sup> August**.

### **2.1. GARCOGO 3 (PPA-170-2172)**

A **non determination** appeal for a **7 turbine** scheme up to **180 metres**. A **9 turbine**

scheme was refused on appeal. The Reporter Elspeth Gray was excellent on Barrel Law 2 but less so on **Clashindarroch II**.

## **2.2. CALLISTERHALL (PPA-170-2168:22/0930)**

This began as a **S36 scheme** which never progressed beyond scoping. The **7 x 200 metre** scheme has been **appealed for non-determination**. Some issues with the **ENB** are unresolved so the appeal is on hold.

## **2.3. LITTLE HARTFELL-2 (PPA-170-2175:20/1844)**

**EK** obtained consent for **12 turbines up to 160 metres** in **June 2020**. It was initially blocked by the **ENB** but after a court decision on priority that issue was resolved. The new proposal is for **9 turbines up to 190 metres**. **DGC** refused it because of unresolved issues with the **ENB**. **EK** accuse them of being inconsistent.

## **2.4. CORNHARROW 3.1 NEW S42**

22/2486/S42 (81): 22/2487 (53)

## **2.5. CORNHARROW 3.2 NEW S42**

22/2486/S42 (81): 22/2487 (53)

There are two applications for variations to the existing consent so two appeals. No documents have appeared on the DPEA files yet.

## **E. SCHEMES IN SCOPING**

### **A. HARESTANES WEST (ECU 4778)**

This **13 x 220 metre** scheme is close to other consented or proposed schemes near the village of Ae. No **DGC** file.

### **B. CLOUD HILL (ECU3461)**

A **Scoping Opinion** appeared in **June 2022** for **14 x 180** metre turbines. The **SUW** runs through the site. The latest iteration has **11** turbines and an application is expected soon. There is no **DGC** file.

### **C. APPIN (ECU3447)**

A Scoping Opinion appeared in **June 2022** for **23 x 250** metre turbines from **Statkraft**. In the latest iteration there are **17**. There is no **DGC** file.

### **D. COLLIESTON (22/1089)**

Scoping request for 8 x 230 metre turbines from **EK** was lodged in **June 2022**. **DGC** opened a file but it seems no scoping response has been delivered.

### **E. WESTERKIRK (ECU 2004)**

A scoping opinion was delivered in 2021 for this scheme which would have had a boundary with Faw Side. There is no **DGC** file.

### **G. BLAIR HILL (ECU 4878)**

**22 x 250** metre turbines just over 2km north of Newton Stewart. Request lodged recently so there is no **DGC** file yet.

### **H. GLENVERNOCH (ECU 4892)**

Another **EK** scheme – this time for **18 x 200 metre** turbines south of Glentroot.  
Request lodged recently so there is no **DGC** file yet.

**I. LAIRDMANNOCH (ECU 4900)**

This is another new arrival. It proposes **9 x 180 metre turbines** as well as solar panels. The location is **7km NE of Gatehouse of Fleet** in an area with no schemes nearby.

**DATES FOR S36 SCHEMES REACHING THE PC**

(310823	MID MOILE	3405)
080923	SCOOP HILL	533
140923	BLOCH	3463
230923	QUANTANS HILL	3399
290923	HARESTANES SOUTH EXTN	2185
	EUCHANHEAD	2041
311023	LORG 2	3283
231123	RIVOX	3293
301123	HOPSRIG	2160
	LOGANHEAD	2161
	SANDY KNOWE EXTN	3274
TBA	WINDY STANDARD 1 REPOWER	