CONDITIONS BROKEN

Storm blows over work carried out at windfarm

Enforcement notice is served

Emylie Howie

Work at a Waterside windfarm was forced to stop after an enforcement notice was issued on Wednesday.

East Ayrshire Council issued a stop and enforcement notice to Community Windpower in relation to works at Sneddon Law Windfarm.

It was discovered that work so far undertaken have not complied with planning approval conditions – in particular condition 36 and the effect of work on a private water supply.

The notice saw an immediate halt to all work associated with the windfarm development until the planning terms are complied with.

In July, Michael Keane, East Ayrshire Council's head of planning and economic development, told the Standard there had been "complaints alleging unauthorised works" at Sneddon Law windfarm site.

He added: "Complaints of this nature are taken very seriously and we are currently investigating the matter to determine if enforcement action is appropriate."

Plans for the site were approved on October 2014 and will see a windfarm comprising of 15 turbines.

Community Windpower are required to submit documentary evidence to the planning authority prior to beginning any formal work on the windfarm. In addition, private water supplies should be provided to properties at risk of pollution from construction work.

This week a council spokesman said: "We have served stop and enforcement which is specifically in relation to intrusive ground investigation works being undertaken by a contractor on behalf of Community Windpower, the developer of the windfarm site.

"We have taken this action because we do not consider Community Windpower to have demonstrated that certain relevant planning conditions for the site have been fulfilled.

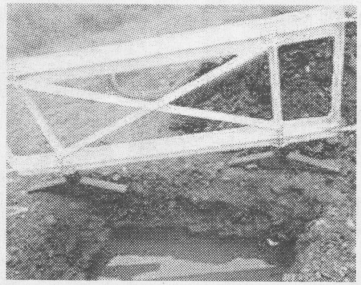
"The effect of these notices is that all works going forward, including further intrusive ground investigation works, are to be discontinued on site until such times as the terms of the enforcement notice are complied with."

Officers from the council met with representatives of Community Windpower to discuss matters and explore possible solutions to the current position at the early part of the week.

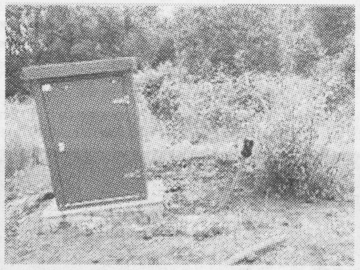
In response to an enquiry from the Standard, David McDowall from the council, said: "We are aware that one resident has experienced difficulty with an existing water supply.

"However, at this point, it is unclear whether this was attributable to any works subject to the enforcement notice.

"With regard to the other private water supplies in the area, we are currently engaging with the developer to mitigate any potential risks posed by the development."



Unauthorised
Contractors carried out drilling works that didn't comply with planning



Water pipes
Unconnected pipes are lying outside a borehole