



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01445

Name of petitioner

Ashton Radcliffe on behalf of SWAN Action Group (Angus Glens)

Petition title

Stop the wind farm at Nathro

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to refuse the planning application for the proposed Nathro Hill Wind Farm by Eurowind to build seventeen 135 metre high turbines in the Angus Glens to ensure that this beautiful and iconic part of Scotland remains unspoiled.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

We have written to Angus Council and to the Energy Consents / Deployment Case Officer at the Scottish Government. Thus far we have not received a response.

We have approached two councillors from Angus Council and requested that they join us on our protest walk on 12th August. Cllr Evans has agreed to come and we are awaiting a response from Cllr Myles.

I formed SWAN Action Group together with a small group of people who live in and around the Angus Glens in response to the Eurowind proposal to build a wind farm in Glen Lethnot known as Nathro Hill.

We have been campaigning against the wind farm by distributing leaflets to local residents, writing to the press and the authorities and to other local estates.

We have a website at www.swanag.org.uk and a facebook page at www.facebook.com/swanag.

We will be having a protest walk to Peat Hill in Glen Lethnot on the site of the proposed turbines on Sunday 12th August at 11:00.

We are hosting a public meeting at Aberlemno Village Hall on Thursday 16th August at 19:30.

We will also be making representations at the Brechin Community Council and the Inveresk Community Council.

We are submitting an objection to the formal consultation together with two local estates, Hunthill and Glenogil both of which march with Nathro Estate and both of whom employ a large number of people such as gamekeepers and shepherds, unlike Nathro who have no employees and who let their hill ground for farming and sporting purposes.

Petition background information

This huge development would have a terrible visual impact on a beautiful and iconic part of Scotland and would have a detrimental effect on the environment, tourism, local business, wild life, sport and inward investment. It is an inappropriate site for industrial construction on this scale and would diminish one of Scotland's most historic and treasured areas.

This proposed development if allowed to proceed would comprise 17 huge turbines each 135m (442ft) in height. This is the same height as the London Eye, the fourth largest structure in London. St. Mary's Cathedral, the tallest building in Edinburgh is only 90m high.

These turbines would be erected on the hill tops between Glen Lethnot and Glenogil, changing the skyline and the beautiful views of the Angus Glens from far and wide.

The visual impact on this area of outstanding natural beauty and Scottish history would be significant.

The potential damage to the environment and wildlife is also a major concern. The effect on peat deposits, the threat to birds including Golden Eagles and Sea Eagles, the silting of burns vital to salmonoid development, contamination of the water table, are all serious risks.

The effect on tourism, leisure, culture and sport could have a severe effect on the fragile local economy. The value of the the surrounding land and the inward investment and employment by local estates is also threatened.

Whilst the need for renewable energy initiatives is undoubtedly of great importance, it cannot be right for an industrial construction on this scale to be forced on such an inappropriate location. An area of great beauty and natural heritage that is one of Scotland's most iconic and historic treasures.

There is currently a formal consultation underway until 22 August which we are keen to publicise and to encourage local people and groups and organisations to engage with.

We are already aware that there is concern from other organisations about this proposed development and we hope that they will voice their opposition; For example: The Esk Rivers and Fisheries Trusts are concerned about silting of burns which will prevent salmonoid development. The Mountaineering Council of Scotland are concerned about developments which will spoil the unique landscape of the area.

We would imagine that the Ministry of Defence may have concerns about the effect on radar and the restriction on low level flying which fast jets have enjoyed in the area.

We would also imagine that the Cairngorm National Park would not wish for such a massive development so close to its border.

The development will also overshadow historic monuments such as the Caterthun Pictish hill forts in Glen Lethnot, which are a much visited and popular feature of the local cultural heritage.

We hope that any groups who enjoy the Angus Glens for walking, cycling, picnicing, fishing, golf, shooting, or even just going for a drive will be concerned about the dramatic change to this iconic area that would result from this development proceeding.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/swan>

Related information for petition

STOP WINDFARM AT NATHRO (SWAN) Action Group Website:
www.swanag.org.uk

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

29 / 08 / 2012

Comments to stimulate online discussion

The following two statements are part of existing Scottish Government Planning Policy and should be considered in the context of this planning application:

1. Scotland's landscape and natural heritage are internationally renowned and important, underpinning significant industries such as the food, drink and tourism industries, and are a key component of the high environmental quality which makes Scotland an attractive place in which to live, do business and invest.
2. The design and location of any wind farm development should reflect the scale and character of the landscape. The location of turbines should be considered carefully to ensure that the landscape and visual impact is minimised.