



STOP DUNMAGLASS



A wind farm developer has admitted its mountain-top turbines will threaten Golden Eagles, icon of the Scottish Highlands.

Turbines will be seen from Cairngorm National Park visitor centre and Loch Ness tourist route.

A 36-turbine wind farm in the Scottish Highlands threatens to **kill up to 11 Golden Eagles** and disrupt future breeding, the developer's own report has admitted.

And other protected species including **rare Wildcats face death** or disturbance.

The threat is revealed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) commissioned by wind developer Renewable Energy Systems (RES), part of the global Sir Robert McAlpine engineering conglomerate.

RES has applied to the Scottish Executive to build what would be **Britain's highest wind farm**, in the 2000ft Monadhliath Mountains between Loch Ness and the Cairngorm National Park.

But international ornithologist and wildlife authority **Roy Dennis MBE** from Nethy Bridge, Inverness-shire says the development spells disaster for one of **the last true areas of Wild Land in Western Europe**.

"Golden Eagles will die, of that I have no doubt. The developer's own Environmental Impact Statement spells out the risks. This power station will turn a pristine wilderness into an industrial site."

Now environmentalists, landowners and local residents are to campaign against the mountain-top power station on Dunmaglass Estate, Highland family home of Bahamas-based property millionaire Sir Jack Hayward.

Dunmaglass Estate **will make an estimated £9million** for doing nothing but allowing RES to build turbines over 4 square miles (10sq km) of mountain plateau - an area **three times greater than the City of London**.

RES is expected to make **profits of more than £120million**.

Joining the call for a Public Inquiry, TV environmentalist Dr David Bellamy described the Dunmaglass development as: **"Selling Scotland's heritage for a mess of wattage."**

STOP DUNMAGLASS continued



The Developer's own Ornithological Assessment admits that Golden Eagles are at risk from turbine collision.

"If during the life of the wind farm (assumed to be 25 years) up to nine or conceivably even 11 eagles may collide (if the worst case is assumed) then this will impact on the potential for this area as a nursery ground for future replacement breeding birds in the region. It would also impact on the potential of the Monadhliaths to hold breeding pairs in the future." (*sic*)

The EIS also spells out the risks of:

- Disruption to the future breeding of Golden Eagles
- Turbine collision for Red Kites and other protected birds
- Construction disturbance to Wildcats and otters

The EIS says the Dunmaglass turbines and other wind farms will be **visible from the Ptarmigan visitor centre on Cairn Gorm in the Cairngorm National Park.**

It will be also be visible from the north side of Loch Ness, one of Scotland's most important tourist routes.

"The turbines would be visible as pale, moving, man-made vertical elements in a landscape with few obvious influences of man." says the report.

The development is so large - **each 360ft (110m) turbine is higher than Big Ben** - it is officially classed as a power station.

But the EIS concludes that the Dunmaglass development would have few significant adverse environmental effects.

A decision on its future lies with Scottish Ministers at Holyrood advised by the Scottish Executive Energy Consents Unit. **The public have until 18 April 2005 to object.**

But Highland Councillors have the power to trigger a Public Inquiry.

"A Public Inquiry will allow all the issues to be examined openly in the Highlands," said Mr Dennis. **"It is the least we can ask."**

A brochure, encouraging visitors and residents to insist on an Inquiry, is being distributed around Loch Ness and in Strathspey.

It claims wind farms are increasingly discredited. The respected David Hume Institute of Edinburgh reported **wind farms will make no substantial contribution to a reduction in UK carbon emissions and will cost the taxpayer £1.2billion.**



Why the Monadhliath Mountains are so important

- The mountains offer some of the best breeding and hunting territory for Golden Eagles in Scotland. They are home to more than 120 bird and animal species from snow-bunting to ptarmigan
- The pruning effect of winter weather ensures fresh vegetation in spring to sustain stocks of mountain hare, grouse and ptarmigan, all food for Golden Eagles
- On 40,000-acre Coignafearn Estate (next door to Dunmaglass) artificial nests are being built to encourage nesting
- The Monadhliaths are one of Britain's most popular areas for Golden Eagle watchers
- The mountain range boasts several Corbetts, hills more than 2,500 feet, often considered more interesting by walkers than the higher, but better-known Munros

The brochure and www.stopdunmaglass.com website claims the 360ft (110m) high turbines not only threaten wildlife but will:

- Degrade the unique mountain Wild Land experience for hill walkers, birdwatchers and traditional country sports enthusiasts
- Deter visitors from home and abroad seeking a true wilderness experience
- Potentially affect local businesses and employment that rely on tourism

and that:

- All the power goes to the National Grid. Local electricity prices will not be reduced.
- The developer estimates 35 temporary construction jobs for a year with no guarantee of more than a handful of long-term jobs.
- There has been no guarantee the turbines will be built in Scotland.
- Scotland already produces more alternative energy than it can use and supplies the rest of the UK. Dunmaglass is surplus to Scotland's needs.

STOP DUNMAGLASS continued



CONTACTS

Roy Dennis

Inchdryne, Nethybridge,
Inverness-shire PH25 3EF
Telephone 01479 831384
e-mail: roydennis@aol.com

Suzette Greathurst

R & R Urquhart, 117-121 High Street,
Forres, Moray IV36 1AB
Telephone 01309 672216
email: sgreathurst@r-r-urquhart.com

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT DUNMAGLASS POWER STATION

The Environmentalists

'As a conservationist I am committed to renewable energy, but a giant wind power station in this remarkable wild land is wholly unacceptable. If you believe, as I do, that the Dunmaglass Wind Farm proposal must not be allowed to go ahead please register your objection'

Roy Dennis MBE, international wildlife consultant, Nethybridge

'Why must we urbanise Scotland's natural heritage and sell it off for a mess of wattage? Dunmaglass can do nothing to cool the brow of global warming or provide the back-up to a sustainable supply of energy. If this development goes ahead it will destroy the brave heart of tourism in the Monadhliaths. This rush for wind is nothing less than a betrayal of Scotland's natural heritage and the real sustainable jobs that go with it'

Dr David Bellamy, environmentalist and TV presenter

'The Golden Eagle is our wildest creature. Its choice of wild land is far better than man's choice of wild land'

Dick Balharry, MBE, chairman John Muir Trust

The Stalker

'Coignafearn has been my life and my home for thirty years. It would anger me deeply to see our beautiful hills defaced and scarred'

Sandy Dey, stalker, Coignafearn

The Businessman

'The Monadhliaths are one of the most accessible areas of wild country in the Highlands where you can almost guarantee to show visitors an eagle. That's what they come for'

Ian Rowlands, Speyside Wildlife

STOP DUNMAGLASS continued



The Hillwalker

'Wind farms are the biggest threat Scotland has faced since the Highland Clearances'

Cameron McNeish, author and president Ramblers Association of Scotland

The Neighbours

'Maybe we do need wind power but surely not in the middle of one of the finest landscapes in the Scottish Highlands. There is a great deal of ocean around the coast of Scotland much better suited to accommodate these 'Monsters Of The Glen'. Did 'Braveheart' really fight and die for this?

Will our grandchildren thank us for vandalising their inheritance? What must Landseer be thinking?

Any Planning Authority with an ounce of sensitivity could not possibly consent to this application. There is still time for Dunmaglass and the developer to reflect and withdraw their application. Please, please, please everybody add your support and object in any way you can to this proposal before it is too late'

Robin Clark, Aberarder Estate, Strathnairn

'This is the roof of the Central Highlands. Here along a four mile skyline the huge urbanising wind turbine monstrosities will dominate the landscape. They WILL be the landscape. The terrain, the wildlife and all that makes this place magical will be subordinate to metal and concrete.'

Richard Benyon, Glenmazeran Estate

'We have rebuilt three golden eagle nests and want Coignafearn to again become a home to these endangered and splendid birds. A pair of golden eagles has already shown interest in one of the nests. The estate and Monadhliath Mountains are a hunting ground for younger golden eagles. Birdwatchers come to Coignafearn to enjoy the landscape and the sightings of vanishing, rare birds. It is one of the wildest and most beautiful areas of Europe, which now may be destroyed by an energy development at the whim of a single owner'

Dr Sigrid Rausing, social anthropologist, Coignafearn Estate

The Resident

'While I am in favour of the principle of renewable energy, wind turbines must not be situated at locations which will have the affect of destroying the last wilderness areas in Scotland, indeed in the UK. Research has shown that birds are killed by turbine blades and the thought that magnificent birds which are still prevalent in our areas, such as the Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, song birds and grouse, are under threat is intolerable'

Angus Mackenzie, chartered accountant and Tomatin resident

STOP DUNMAGLASS continued



BACKGROUND NOTES

- Dunmaglass neighbours backing the campaign to stop the Wind Farm include Sigrid Rausing of Coignafearn Estate, Robin Clark of Aberarder Estate and Richard Benyon of Glenmazeran Estate.
- The three estates operate an open access policy for hill walkers, bird watchers and lovers of the countryside.
- At Coignafearn in particular, Sigrid Rausing has spent six years restoring the natural habitat with the help and backing of Highland Council, RSPB, The Forestry Commission, The Deer Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage, Findhorn River Board and The Heather Trust.
- The Monadhliath Mountains are home to 13 internationally protected species including Golden Eagle, Osprey, White-tailed Eagle and Mountain Hare.
- A survey by official tourist organisation VisitScotland showed 50 per cent of visitors felt wind farms spoiled the look of the countryside.
- Roy Dennis, ornithologist, came to international prominence for his work on the conservation of rare birds and endangered habitats in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, especially large raptors such as ospreys and eagles.

STOP DUNMAGLASS continued



Objections to the Dunmaglass Wind Farm should be lodged with:

Lesley Thomson

Scottish Executive
Energy Consents Unit
Meridian Court
5 Cadogan Street
Glasgow, G2 6AT

Telephone 0141 242 5795

Fax: 0141 242 5807

email: lesley.thomson@scotland.gov.uk

Andrew Brown

Principal Planner
Planning Department
Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness IV3 5NX

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE STOP DUNMAGLASS CAMPAIGN CONTACT:

Roy Dennis

Roy Dennis Consultants
Inchdryne
Nethybridge
Inverness-shire PH25 3EF

Telephone 01479 831384

Fax 01479 831686

email: roydennis@aol.com

Suzette Greathurst

R & R Urquhart,
117-121 High Street,
Forres,
Moray IV36 1AB

Telephone 01309 672216

Fax 01309 673161

email: sgreathurst@r-r-urquhart.com

www.stopdunmaglass.com