

Letters of objection to the Windy Edge Wind Farm Application (Adjacent to Hermitage Castle)

Scottish Borders Council APPLICATION REFERENCE: 13/00789/FUL

The formal application by Infinis went live on the 4th July 2013. **All individual objections should be with SBC Planning Department no later than 8th August 2013.**

All 55 of the Application and Environmental Impact Statement documents relating to Windy Edge Wind Farm can be viewed by following this hyperlink:

<http://eplanning.scotborders.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Once you go to this link to view the application documents type in the search Box the application reference **13/00789/FUL**.

A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WORDS: Look at the photomontages taken from various viewpoints around the site – Document: Landscape and Visual Figs 6.16 – 6.80

If you are unable to easily access or download the documents (including photomontages) on-line, they are available to look at in booklet form at Hermitage Hall – please use the contact link on the HAG website (<http://www.hermitage-action-group.com>) to arrange a time for access.

1. Who can write letters objecting to developments?

Anyone and any organisation. You do not need to live locally or even in the Borders. For example, Americans, Canadians and Australians with Reiver ancestors can object. Heritage or landscape associations can write. ANYONE. However, it is important to clearly state what your connection/concern/interest is e.g., local resident, someone interested in protecting the unspoilt landscape setting of Hermitage Castle, ancestral links, tourist who was overwhelmed by the beauty of the Borders now at risk, or whatever.

2. When should you write? NOW PLEASE – the deadline is 8th August 2013.

3. Who should you write to ?

- **By email to:** ped@scotborders.gov.uk . (You should receive an acknowledgement email from SBC)
- **By post to:** John Hiscox, Planning Officer, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, MELROSE, Scottish Borders, TD6 0SA
- You can also send a copy your email/letter to everyone else you wish to contact (e.g., SBC Councillors, MSPs, MPs etc...). **See the HAG website for a list of key people who need to hear your objection and their contact details.**

4. *What should you put in the letter or email?*

- It is **important to put it in your own words.**
- **Keep it short** - preferably two pages or less.
- **Do not hold back.** Let them feel your shock and outrage, your fear of the immediate and long-term effects of this industrialisation of an unspoilt rural area.
- Head it with the reference number of the application - **13/00789/FUL.**
- Give the name, type and location of the proposed development, e.g., **I am writing to object to the development of “Windy Edge Wind Farm”, a proposed development comprising 17 wind turbines up to 121.5m high to tip AND associated infrastructure, on land North East and North West of Farmhouse Braidlie, (Windy Edge), very close to Hermitage Castle, near Hawick in the Scottish Borders.**
- **Set out your reasons for objecting:**
 - For example, negative impact on landscape, amenity, leisure, tourism/economy, destruction of the landscape setting of the iconic Hermitage Castle (one of the most important medieval castles in Scotland) are all grounds.
 - If you live in the locality, **include anything that particularly impacts on you personally** – too close, noise, you will be unable to go about your daily business without seeing it constantly.
 - If the disturbance during construction including closing of roads will affect your business and family, etc., put that in.
 - The Council and the Scottish Government both acknowledge your “**right to the peaceful enjoyment of your possessions**” in their wind farm guidance. It is one of your Human Rights. Don’t let them forget it and **Be emphatic about your rights and the importance to you personally of any negative impacts you cite.**
 - You can mention but do not give too much emphasis to wildlife and environmental impacts or any other areas requiring technical assessment unless you can claim expertise in these areas, in which case it can be effective to comment on them.

- You can also make reference to the following policies set out in the **SBC Policy & Consolidated Structure Plan 2001-2018**:
 - **Policy D4 : RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT (from SBC Appendix D – Wind Energy Overarching Polices): “significant unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural heritage that cannot be satisfactorily mitigated.”**
 - **Policy N9 – Maintaining Landscape Character** – the integrity of the landscape character and enhancement of its quality must be maintained.
 - **Policy N14 – National Archaeological Sites**: Development proposals which would destroy or adversely affect the appearance, fabric or setting of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (i.e., Hermitage Castle) or other nationally important sites not scheduled, (i.e., in our case, The White Dyke), will not be permitted.
 - **Policy N15 – Regional and Local Archaeological Sites**: Development proposals which will adversely affect an archaeological site of regional or local significance, (i.e., in our case Hermitage Castle and its Curtilage and the Nine Stane Rig), will not be permitted.
 - **Policy E22 – Protection and Tourism**: Development proposals which are considered likely to have a significant and sustained impact on tourism will not be permitted.

Please try and generate further objection letter support by forwarding this information on to at least 5 friends or relatives who are sympathetic to HAG’s aim in defeating this application.

For further Hermitage Action Group information, to view photos and videos, to donate to the campaign, to download our campaign song, etc..., visit our website at:

<http://www.hermitage-action-group.com>

Many thanks for your support, it is much appreciated.

Malcolm McGregor

Chairman – Hermitage Action Group