

Glen Lednock Wind Farm

Description

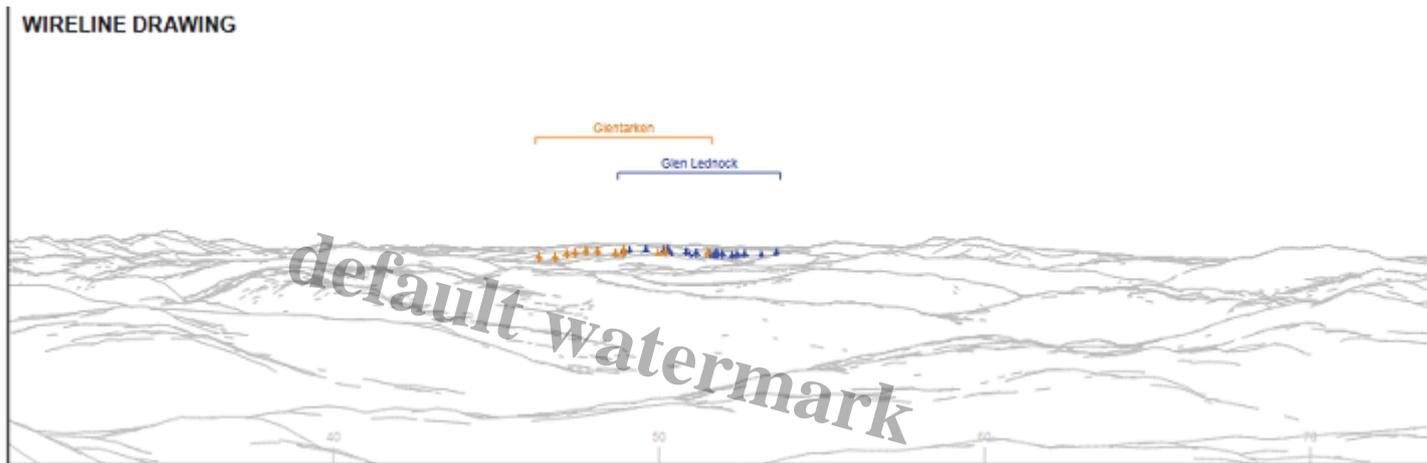


[Edâ??s note. My apologies to Felicity Martin who wrote this briefing on the Glen Lednock windfarm application for Parkswatch 10 days ago but which I managed to miss while away. (I have added the illustrations from the planning application). Felicity wrote a piece on Oxygen Conservation and Glen Lednock in April which complements what she has written here ([see here](#)) and includes photos showing what is at stake. It is highly recommended reading].

[Authorâ??s note: lâ??ve done a [new blog post](#) about the Save Glen Lednock campaign. Felicity]

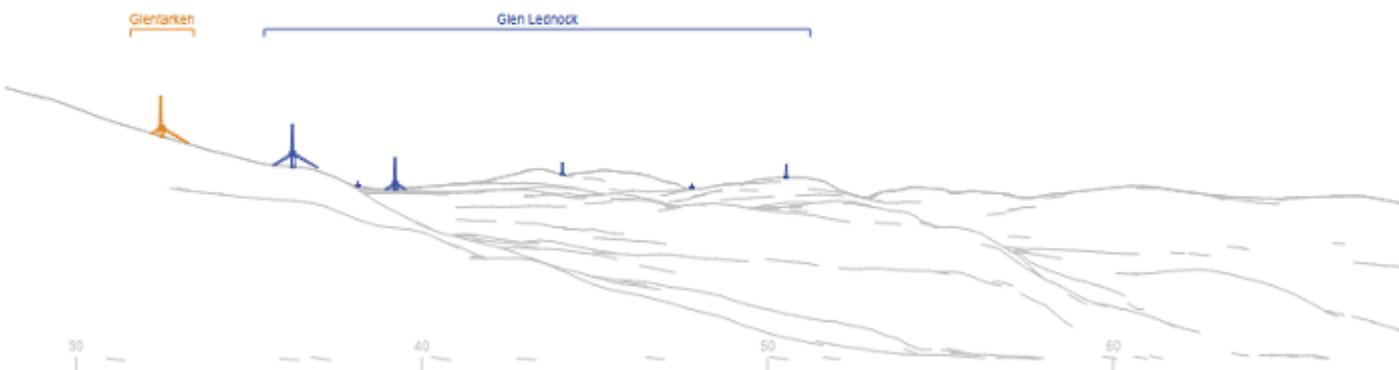
Background

- the proposed development would represent a major visual intrusion in a district which is currently devoid of wind farms and is an important gateway into the Highlands
- the application has been submitted by Low Carbon, a sister company of Oxygen Conservation who own Invergeldie Estate; both are wholly owned subsidiaries of Oxygen House [Ed.OC have been buying up lots of land for "conservation" purposes including the Dorback Estate in the Cairngorms National Park ([see here](#))]
- on an open day in September 2023, Oxygen Conservation introduced themselves as a green investment company who were going to restore biodiversity "with no mention of a wind farm despite direct questions about renewable energy



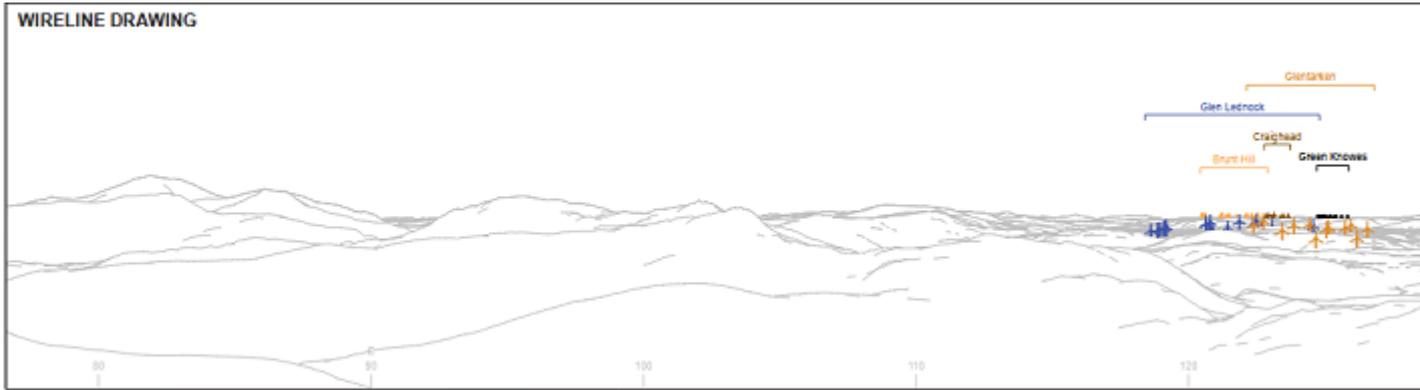
Visualisation from planning documents showing how the turbines would be visible from the summit of Ben Lomond

- with 19 mega-turbines "three up to 180m high, and 16 up to 200 metres high" the wind farm would industrialise a precious mountain landscape within three miles of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park



Visualisation from planning documents showing the turbines are so tall they would be visible from the south shore of Loch Earn

- the turbines would despoil views both from within and across the River Earn National Scenic Area, between Comrie and St Fillans, and the Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon National National Scenic Area, on the north side of Loch Tay



Visualisation from planning documents showing the turbines would be visible from the summit of Maol Ghaordie, a munro north of Glen Lochay. Ben Lawers is the highest hill on the left of drawing.

- the spinning blades would be visible from multiple locations because of their proposed siting on the southern boundary of the Highlands; the effect on the landscape would be even greater if adjacent Glen Tarken Wind Farm is approved with cumulatively 31 mega-turbines (and become overwhelming if Meallbrodden Energy Park is also approved east of Crieff)

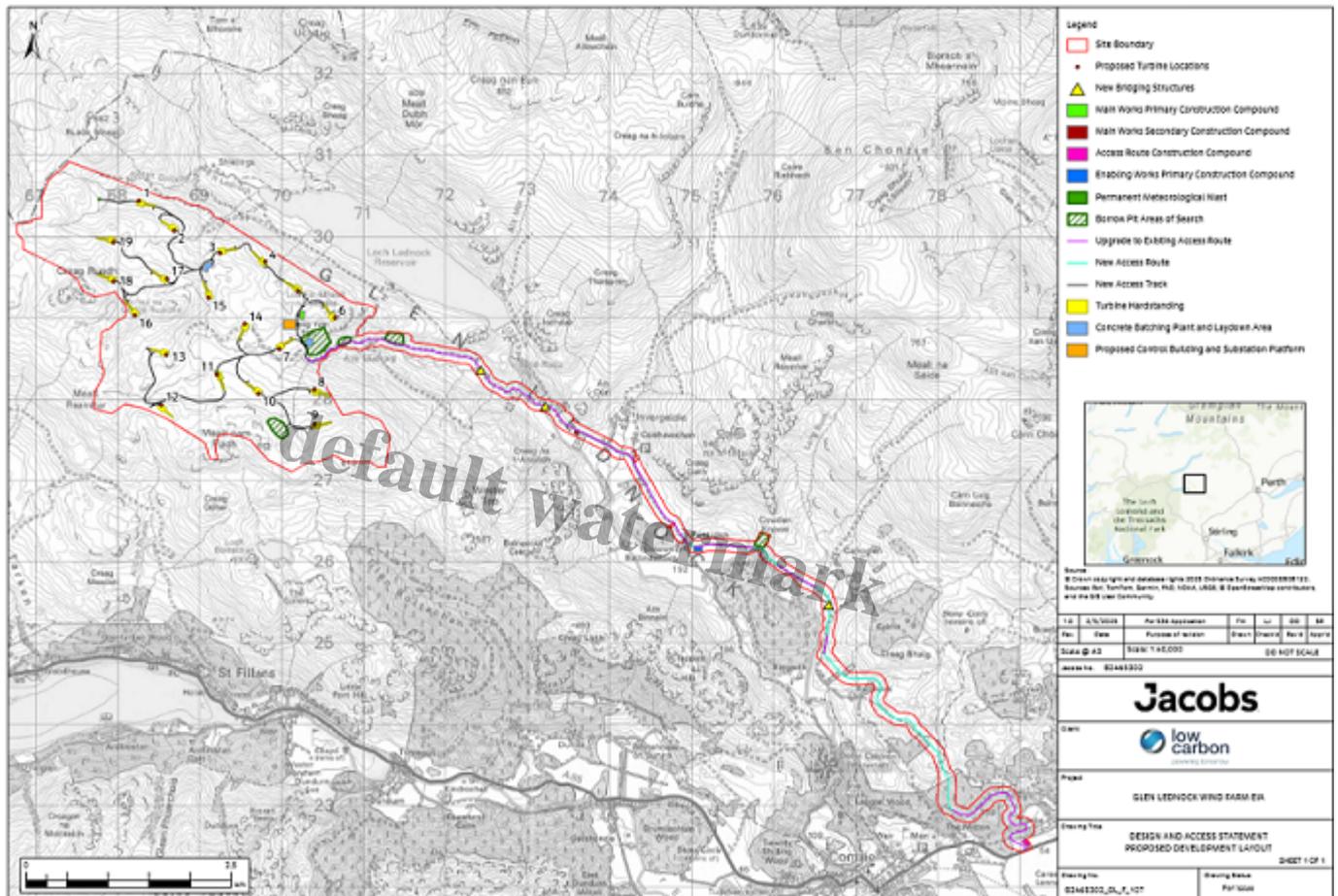


Soil Map of Scotland (Partial Cover): Generalised Soil Type

Soil map from planning application showing positions of turbines and access tracks: purple = peat; red = peaty podzols; green = peaty gleys

- the wind farm would be sited on peatland of varying depths on the western portion of Invergeldie Estate; a large area of deep peat would be dug up and degraded to create turbine bases and access tracks (but Oxygen Conservation are applying for a public grant for peatland restoration on the east side of Invergeldie Estate)

- the 30-foot-wide route of the proposed 8-mile access road from the A85 would impact two SSSIs [Sites of Special Scientific Interest] and destroy the landscape quality of tranquil Glen Lednock, one of the loveliest in Perthshire – especially on steep slopes where the engineering corridor will be much wider

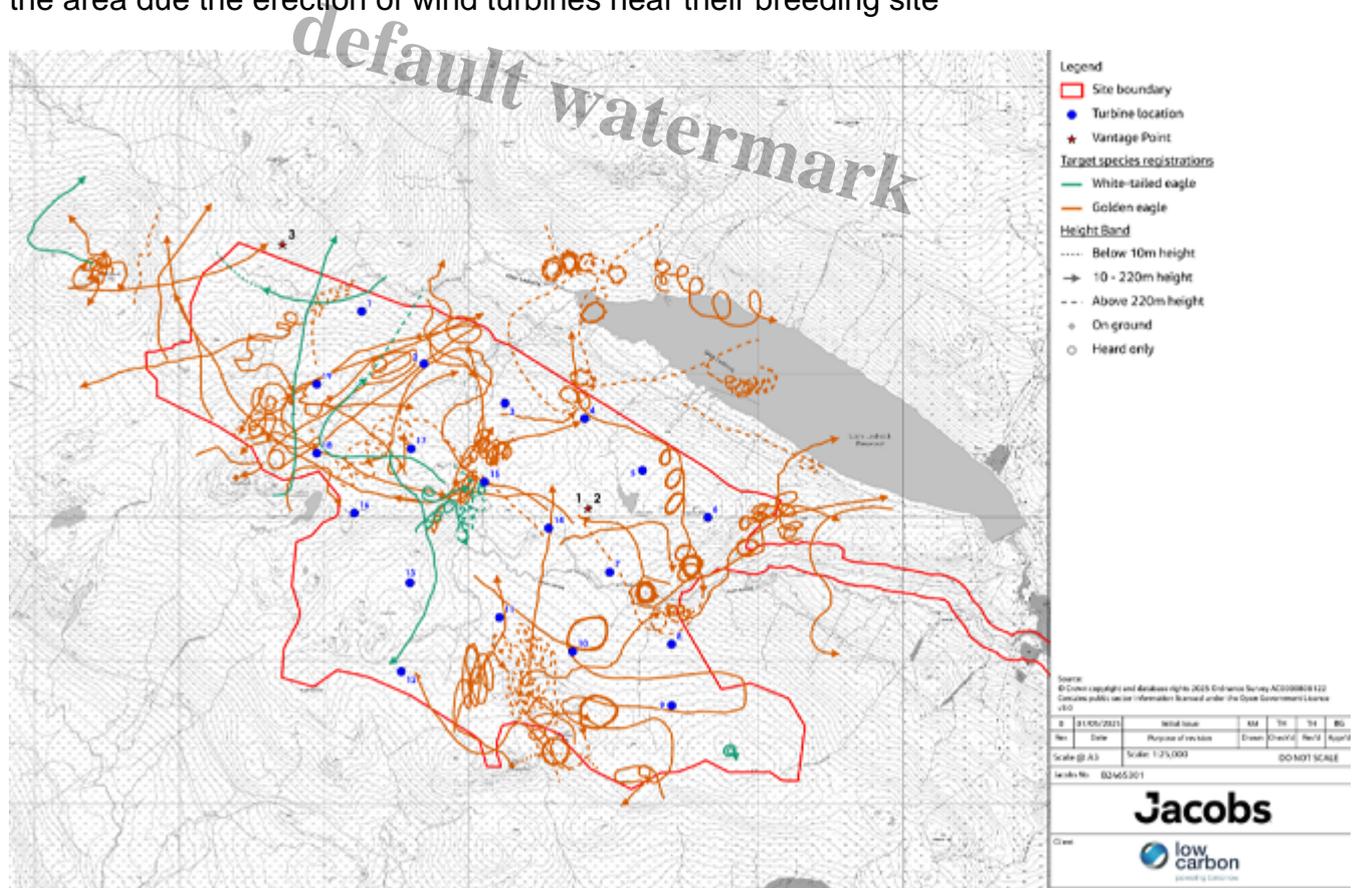


Site plan showing the new (light blue) and ‘‘upgraded’’ (dark blue) access road

- approximately 5 miles of the new access road, in the southerly part of the glen, would be forged through woodland and across tranquil pastures, much of it wrecking a grassy Right of Way between Comrie and Loch Tay
- the upper part of the access would use the single-track public road for about a mile from Funtullich to Invergeldie, then a hydro board tarmac lane for about two miles – this route, well used by walkers and cyclists, would have to be widened and the ruins of the old Glenmaik (Glenn Mathaig) township flattened
- the construction phase would involve about 200 abnormal load movements carrying the huge turbine components, as well as hundreds of other heavy lorries, along the A85 and up Glen Lednock; local knowledge indicates that the proposed route is not viable without major engineering to sections of road and considerable tree felling (for instance a tree-lined right angle junction is in the plan at the foot of Highlandman Loan, a route that will bypass Crieff High Street but take the turbines past the High School, two Primary Schools and all the town’s supermarkets)
- much of the traffic, especially during construction of the access road, will use Monument Road from Comrie – a steep, narrow minor road with blind bends through Comrie Oakwoods SSSI

â?? 1km of this is part of the popular Glen Lednock Circular walk (one of Comrieâ??s best known attractions).

- the developers have said to people living on the lower section of Monument Road that, during construction, they propose to close it to everyone except residents from 7am to 7pm on weekdays and 7am to 4pm on Saturdays, preventing locals, and recreational users accessing Glen Lednock and the heavily used Invergeldie car park, the start point for hill walks, including the much-visited Munro, Ben Chonzie, as well as biking and rock climbing
- people living in the upper glen, who live beside the proposed turbine blade access route have asked for a meeting with the developers but have been told it will be after 21st deadline for representations
- the developers propose to house workers in local hotels and with other accommodation providers over two years of construction â?? the shortage of holiday accommodation and lack of access to Comrieâ??s best known recreational area will severely affect shops, eateries and tourism businesses in the village
- Golden Eagles currently breed in the upper glen and it is almost certain that they would be lost to the area due the erection of wind turbines near their breeding site



â??Vantage point flightlinesâ?• recorded over windfarm site during surveys Oct 2022 to Nov 2023. The brown shows golden eagles, the blue white tailed eagles. The planning documents contain flight records for other species too.

- in the application their Collision Risk Modelling estimates total collisions over the 40-year lifespan of the wind farm of: 14 Golden Eagles, 18 White-tailed Eagles, 112 Red Kites â?? but that is deemed acceptable because the modelling suggests that the extra deaths will not wipe out the population

- across the UK, the cost of switching off wind turbines and switching on gas generators when demand is low is already £649m so far in 2025 ([see here](#)) and is likely to be £2.5bn by the year-end
- Scotland is now self-sufficient in electricity generation so we shouldn't be destroying our treasured landscape, iconic wildlife and precious habitats just to send more electricity southwards

How to object

[Ed. while the official deadline for public comments is the date of this post, Monday 21st July, there is nothing to prevent people emailing in objections to the Energy Consents Unit after that. Copying in your MSP/s might encourage the ECU to consider late objections]

- Go to <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00004966> and click on Representation, then click on Register, then click here to make a representation or alternatively email your objection to representations@gov.scot or by post to Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU
- Application name: Glen Lednock Wind Farm
- Application reference: ECU00004966 (zeros, not the letter O)
- Your full name in block capitals, email address and postal address including postcode
- Your grounds for objection

Do copy your objection to:

- Perth & Kinross Council developmentmanagement@pkc.gov.uk
- Comrie Community Council secretary@comrie.org.uk
- Save Glen Lednock campaign saveglenlednock@gmail.com

More info:

- Low Carbon's Glen Lednock Wind Farm website contains all application documents in order: <https://www.glenlednockwindfarm.co.uk/>
- <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00004966>
- Save Glen Lednock campaign <https://www.facebook.com/groups/saveglenlednock>

Category

1. Loch Lomond and Trossachs
2. Other parts Scotland

Tags

1. access rights
2. hill tracks
3. landscape
4. Local communities
5. outdoor recreation
6. planning
7. renewables

8. windfarms

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