

Report To:	The Planning Board	Date:	7 August 2013
Report By:	Head of Regeneration and Planning	Report No:	12/0286/IC Plan08/13
			Local Application Development
Contact Officer:	Guy Phillips	Contact No:	01475 712412
Subject:	Notification of Planning Appeal Decision: Erection of 1No 50Kw 34.378 metre high wind turbine at Shielhill Farm, Dunrod Road, Inverkip		

INTRODUCTION

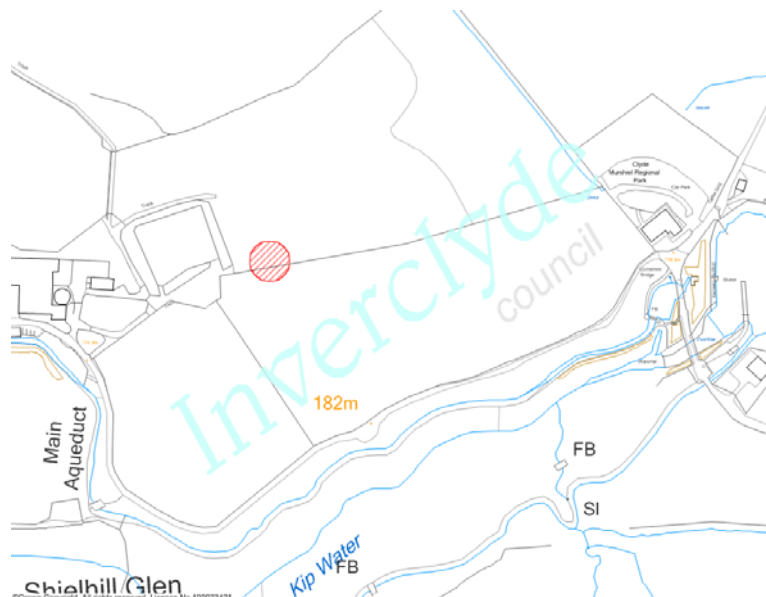
In December 2012 planning permission was refused for the erection of a 34.3m to blade tip wind turbine at Shielhill Farm, Dunrod Road. Inverkip.

Planning permission was refused for the following reason:

“A combination of height and scale, proximity to Dunrod Road, the Greenock to Overton Cut (designated as a Core Footpath, to encourage the public into the countryside and as an Outstanding Area of Regional Industrial Archaeological Significance), Dunrod Hill and The Cut Visitor Centre combine to create an unexpected and dominant feature in this part of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park contrary to:-

- a. Policy UT6 of the Inverclyde Local Plan, criteria (a) and (b).
- b. Interim Inverclyde Local Plan Policy UT6A, criterion (c).
- c. Interim Inverclyde Local Plan Policy UT6B, criterion (f); and
- d. Inverclyde Local Plan Policy HR1, criterion (b). “

This refusal of planning permission was the subject of an appeal to the Scottish Ministers and considered by written submissions.



NOTIFICATION OF APPEAL DECISION

The Reporter considered that the determining issues were landscape and visual impact (including cumulatively with other wind turbines in the area) particularly in the context of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and the Greenock Cut, any other environmental impacts and, if the impacts would be adverse would they be outweighed by the benefits of the proposal.



The Reporter was not convinced that the existence of a single, turbine would detract significantly, if at all, from the majority who visit the location within the Regional Park and he is of the view that whilst the turbine would be a distinctive feature in the immediate locality it would not have significant impact on landscape and visual amenity.

Regarding other potential environmental impacts, the Reporter concluded that noise and shadow flicker would not be a problem, there is no evidence to suggest that residents of Inverkip would be adversely affected and there is no adverse impact upon the Greenock Cut, the Renfrewshire Hills Special Protection Area, the Dunrod Hill SSSI, protected hen harriers and bats.

It was further noted by the Reporter that no objections were raised on road safety or aviation safeguarding grounds.

The appeal was sustained.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board note the position.

Stuart Jamieson
Head of Regeneration and Planning

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Planning application 12/0286/IC
2. Reporter's decision letter dated 21st June 2013.