



# Fact Sheet

## Overview

Gartocharn based Lomond Energy proposes to develop a wind farm on moorland located 2km east of Bonhill and 5km south of Gartocharn in West Dunbartonshire. If successful, 10 wind turbines would be built to produce enough green electricity to power a third of all the homes in West Dunbartonshire and bring significant economic benefits to local communities.

## The Proposal

The windfarm is proposed to be sited on land at Merkins Farm, with access taken via Auchencarroch landfill site, and will comprise the following:

- 10 wind turbines, each 2-2.5MW installed capacity
- 7 turbines with blade tip height of 120m, 3 of 120m
- New and upgraded access tracks from the public road to provide construction and maintenance access.
- Borrow pits from which stone will be won for the construction of new access tracks.
- Underground cables to connect the wind turbines together and the wind farm to the electricity grid via an on-site substation and control building.
- Grid connection to Strathleven or Helensburgh main grid supply points.

The land is currently used for livestock grazing which can continue when the wind farm is operational.



## Local Communities

Being under local site ownership and development, this project opens up a significant opportunity for local communities to participate and directly benefit from the project as follows:

- Local ownership (or equivalent) of a 'one turbine share' of the wind farm to generate revenue for local projects for the closest communities (similar to 'Fintry' model)
- Community Fund will bring socio-economic benefits to a wider area around the site within West Dunbartonshire.
- Potential development of West Dunbartonshire Core Path network to enhance access for walkers across the site
- Opportunities for local contractors during construction and operation of the windfarm

To date the project has been presented to 15 public meetings and public exhibitions were held in Gartocharn and Balloch in September 2010. Furthermore, a recent poll of residents in Kilmarnock showed 66% of voters were in support of the project.

# Merkins Wind Farm

## Other Project Benefits

In addition to the local benefits the project will bring the following environmental benefits:

- Local production of 72 million units of electricity annually, equivalent to the electricity consumption of 15,000 homes (1/3 of West Dunbartonshire)
- Habitat Management and Enhancement Plan, to be funded by the windfarm, to improve the quality of peatland on the moor and increase biodiversity.

## Environment and Planning

Environmental surveys and design work carried out over the last three years has resulted in a project which will have a minimum impact on the site ecology, hydrology, local bird life, and archaeological relics. The wind farm is to be located on remote moorland over 2km away from the nearest houses to ensure the protection of local amenity.

The detailed environmental survey and assessment work will be reported in an Environmental Statement which will accompany a planning application to West Dunbartonshire Council this summer.

## Further Information

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