

CNPA 1

**THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
THE PLANNING ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006
Town and Country Planning (Appeals) (Scotland) Regulations 2008**

INQUIRY INTO AN APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 36 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT

DORENELL WIND FARM

NEAR DUFFTOWN, MORAY

***LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACTS
ON THE CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK***

TOPIC PAPER CNPA 1

**WITNESS INTRODUCTION
DAVID TYLDESLEY**

- 1.1 I am David Tyldesley. I am a qualified planner, landscape architect and environmental manager. I hold a Diploma with Distinction in Town and Country Planning (1973), and a post graduate Diploma in Landscape Design (1978). I am a founder Member and former Council Member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. I was elected a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 1973 and a Fellow of the Institute in 1994, in recognition of my outstanding contribution to planning for landscape and nature conservation. I am also a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts (2000).
- 1.2 I am Principal of David Tyldesley and Associates, a planning, landscape and environmental consultancy based in Edinburgh and Nottingham which I founded in 1983. I have 42 years experience in environmental planning practice in local government (17 years) and consultancy (25 years). In local government I worked on the full scope of planning and environmental issues including planning policy for seven years and development management for almost 10 years.
- 1.3 I have studied and researched the subjects of landscape history, landscape ecology and nature conservation, leading to the publication of 4 books in my own name and edited contributions to 2 other books. I have had over 30 papers published in the professional and technical press. I have worked in the fields of landscape planning, landscape ecology, landscape character assessment, landscape capacity assessment and strategic and project environmental assessment for over 15 years.
- 1.4 I have led a number of projects, commissioned by the Scottish Executive / Government, including two projects to help to inform the establishment and designation of Scotland's National Parks (1999 – 2001). These involved, amongst other things, detailed research on how National Park boundaries had been defined in England and Wales and elsewhere, to assist in developing a consistent approach to defining National Park boundaries in Scotland; and research into the effects on land use planning of such boundaries.
- 1.5 I am retained as a landscape adviser to Scottish Natural Heritage and Natural England. I have also advised a wide range of statutory and non-statutory organisations including Historic Scotland, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, both of Scotland's National Park Authorities and almost half of all Scottish local authorities.

- 1.6 Between 1995 and 1998 I led a team of landscape architects undertaking five Landscape Character Assessments for SNH and Local Authorities as part of a series of 29 covering the whole of Scotland; the assessments we undertook did not include those relevant to this Inquiry.
- 1.7 In 1998 I was commissioned by SNH to draw the 29 assessments together and generate a national landscape character database, with a GIS cover, for the whole of Scotland. In undertaking this work I carried out a detailed examination of the Cairngorms (**CD Q 5**), Moray and Nairn (**CD Q 8**) and Aberdeenshire (**CD Q 7**) landscape character assessments (amongst others) in order to blend and integrate them into the national database.
- 1.8 I have visited and / or viewed many of the constructed wind farms and wind turbines, and many sites where they have been proposed but not yet constructed, in Scotland, from Orkney to Dumfries and Galloway. I have visited and seen other wind farms in England and Wales and Continental Europe.
- 1.9 I was contracted by SNH in 2000 to write "*A Handbook on Environmental Impact Assessment*" which was published in 2001 as an authoritative guide to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation, policy, process and practice. I have assisted in its promotion by speaking on this subject in a series of "Sharing Good Practice" Workshops. The publication was upgraded in 2002 and has been widely commended as the most comprehensive guide to EIA in Scotland. I completed a comprehensive update of the Guidance in 2009, now available on SNH's web site.
- 1.10 Prior to the establishment of the National Park, I worked on three projects for the 'Cairngorms Partnership', on landscape and wider policy issues. Since then I have advised the National Park Authority (NPA) on major case work (2007-2008) and on a methodology for a new Landscape Framework for the NPA to lead its partners in the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (2009).
- 1.11 Owing to the high workload of the small landscape team at the NPA, I was asked to look at the Dorenell proposal with a view to assisting the NPA at this Inquiry. After a thorough examination of the Environmental Statement, preliminary investigations and discussions with the NPA, I was satisfied that my views were consistent with those expressed by the NPA and I accepted a commission to present evidence to this Inquiry in respect of the impact of the proposal on the National Park.

1.12 Having visited the Cairngorms and surrounding areas on many occasions over the last 30 years, I already had a working knowledge of the Cairngorms landscapes prior to my involvement in this particular case. However, I have also spent several days, on two separate occasions, specifically carrying out field work in relation to the Dorenell proposal.