

Precognition from Bob Graham for the Landscape, Visual/Cumulative Impact Inquiry Session associated with the Dorenell Wind Farm Application (proposed for the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010) – in association with a Power Point Presentation

Readers of the new SPP will quickly realise that the Scottish Government has serious concerns about protection of ‘built quality’, ‘natural environment’, our ‘wild places’ and our ‘world renowned landscapes’. A brief look through this document has identified several references to these concerns

Para 8 (bullet point 6) states that there should be *‘due focus given to the protection and enhancement of the built and natural environment.’*

Para 93 comments *‘whilst ensuring that the natural and cultural heritage are protected’*

Para 125 states that *‘Scotland’s landscape and natural heritage are internationally renowned and important’*.

Para 126 states that *‘Planning authorities should take a broader approach to landscape and natural heritage than just conserving designated or protected sites and species, taking into account the ecosystems and natural processes in their area’*.

Para 128 states that *‘Areas of wild land character in some of Scotland’s remoter upland, mountain and coastal areas are very sensitive to any form of development or intrusive human activity and planning authorities should safeguard the character of these areas in the development plan’*.

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I have been involved in researching the wind industry for the past 9 years. I have given evidence, based on this research, at public inquiries and countless local authority hearings. I have also given presentations to government ministers. In short there is very little that I don’t know about this industry and its practices.

It is axiomatic that information supplied in support of a planning application is accurate, precise and truthful. However the wind industry has consistently paid lip service to these principals, particularly when it comes to the photomontages and wire line drawings used to represent what a wind farm should eventually look like.

Infinergy’s application to erect 59 x 410 foot turbines at Dorenell is no exception, their montages and wire line drawings are a prime example of the wind industry’s sharp practice. It is no coincidence that Infinergy’s application to build a wind farm at Tom nan Clach was recently refused planning permission by Highland Council. It is important to note that the photomontages produced by Infinergy were deemed to be unacceptable and Highland Council commissioned an independent company (Architech) to produce more realistic images. It was these new images that resulted in the ‘refusal’.

Cumulative impact doesn't have any boundaries as the maps 'borrowed' from Infinergy's SEI (July 2010) show. Using Power Point I have superimposed 10 km and 20km radius circles over each application, these represent ZVI's or Zones of Visual Influence. The original ZVI's used by the Scottish Executive had a radius of 20 km but as you can see even using circles half the size still produces a devastating result. I have deliberately left out several applications to make it easier to distinguish the main sites.

Assessing Cumulative Impact is quite simple, in reality it is about how far you can fly, drive, walk, cycle, climb, ski, row or even sail, without having your visual amenity ruined by giant wind turbines. Even using the developers own maps it becomes apparent that the Moray area is saturated with applications, either operational, under construction or at some stage of planning. There is also a distinct possibility that the Beaulay-Keith electricity grid will be upgraded to cope with all the wind farm applications in this and adjoining areas, with all the implications of larger pylons etc. (SSE phase 2)

I have included quotes from the original SPP1 which was current up until February this year. These quotes are as applicable now as they were when the document was first produced, because they are based on Agenda 21 and simple human rights

SPP1 (Page 3 para 7, Page 3 para 8)

Emphasises the need for "*minimising Greenfield development*", "*conserving important historic and cultural assets*", "*protecting and enhancing areas for recreation and natural heritage*",

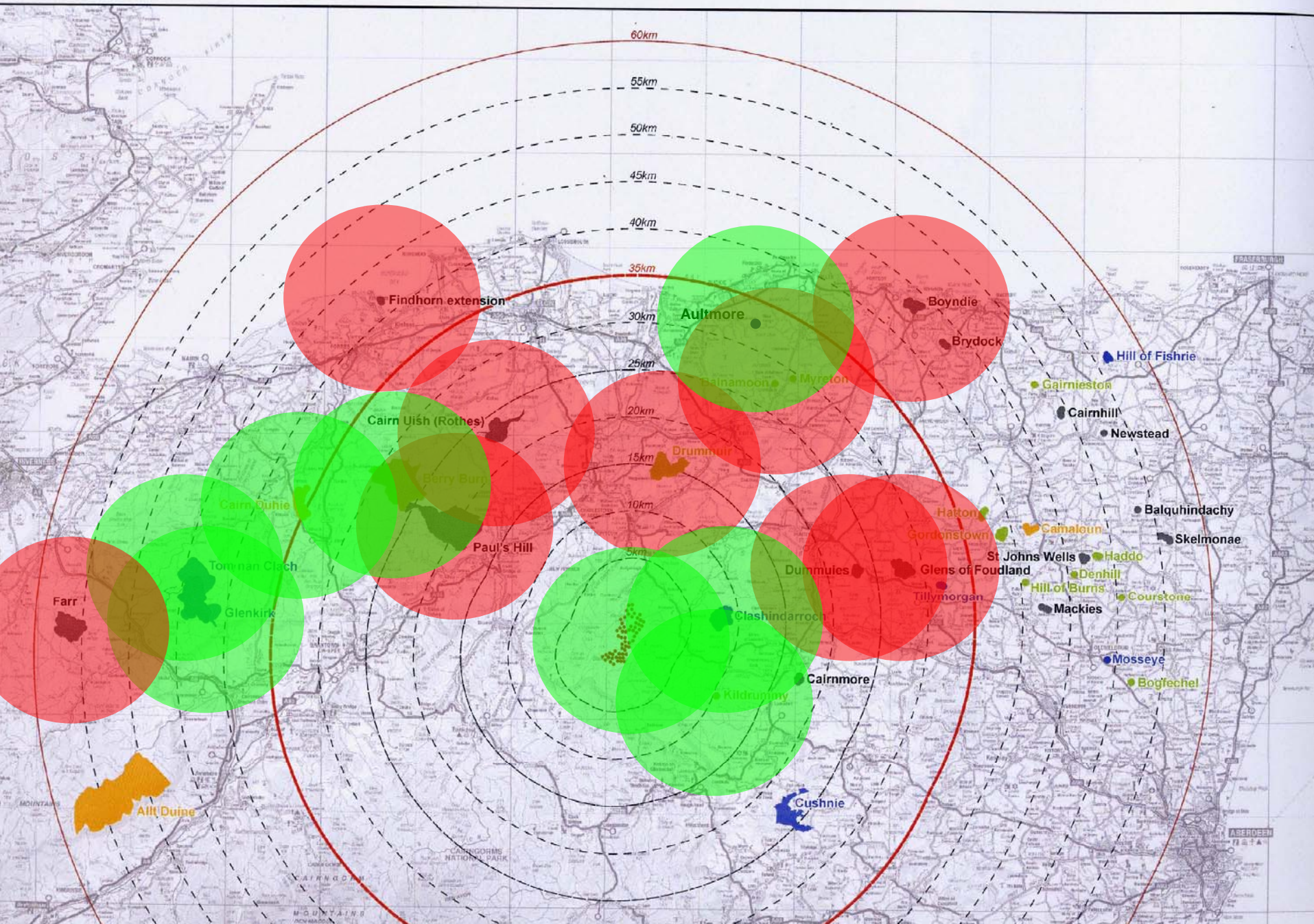
SPP1 (Page 6 para 15) stated

*"Environmental justice requires us to recognise the cumulative impact of environmental disbenefits and work towards ensuring people do not have to live in degraded surroundings"*.

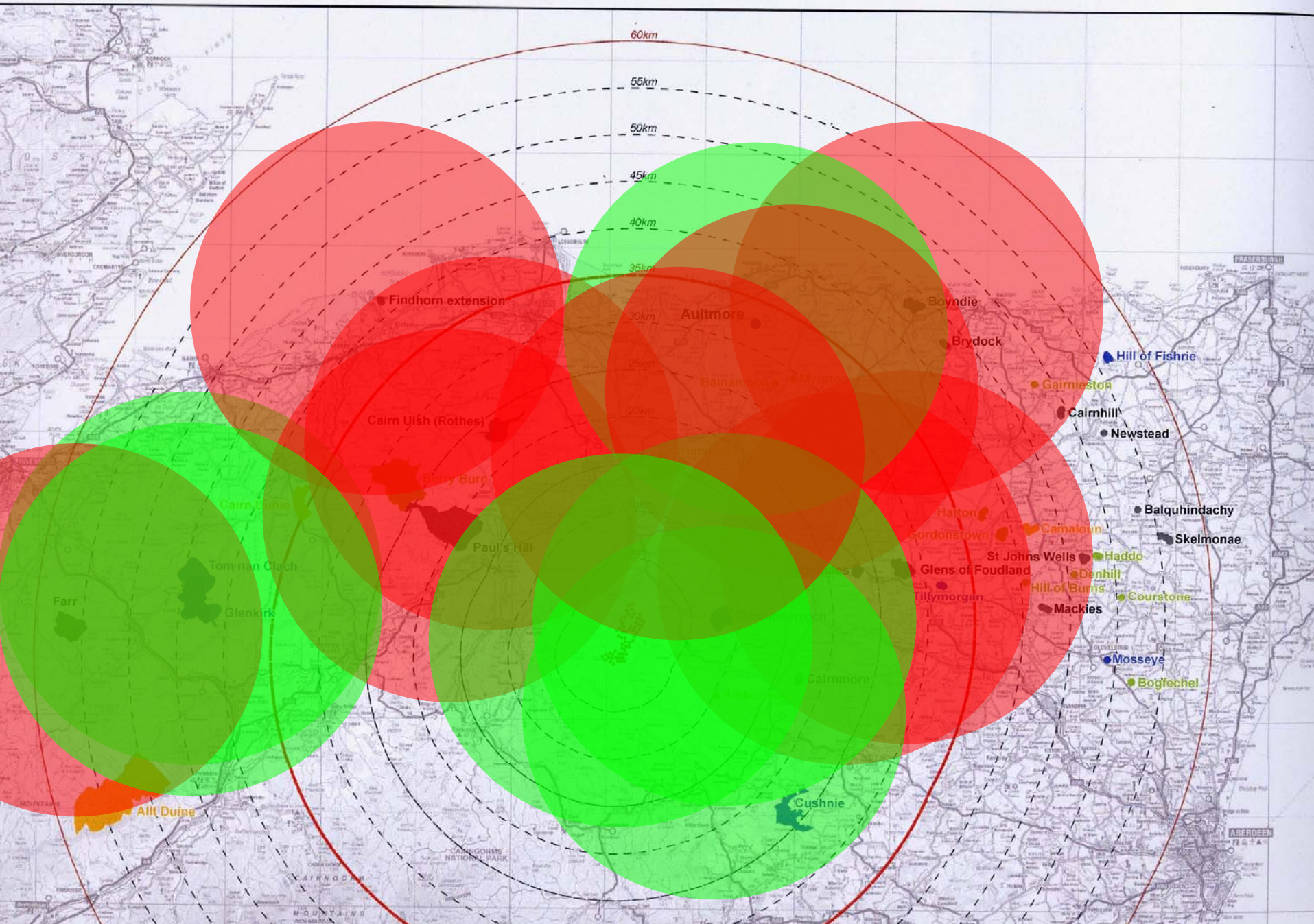
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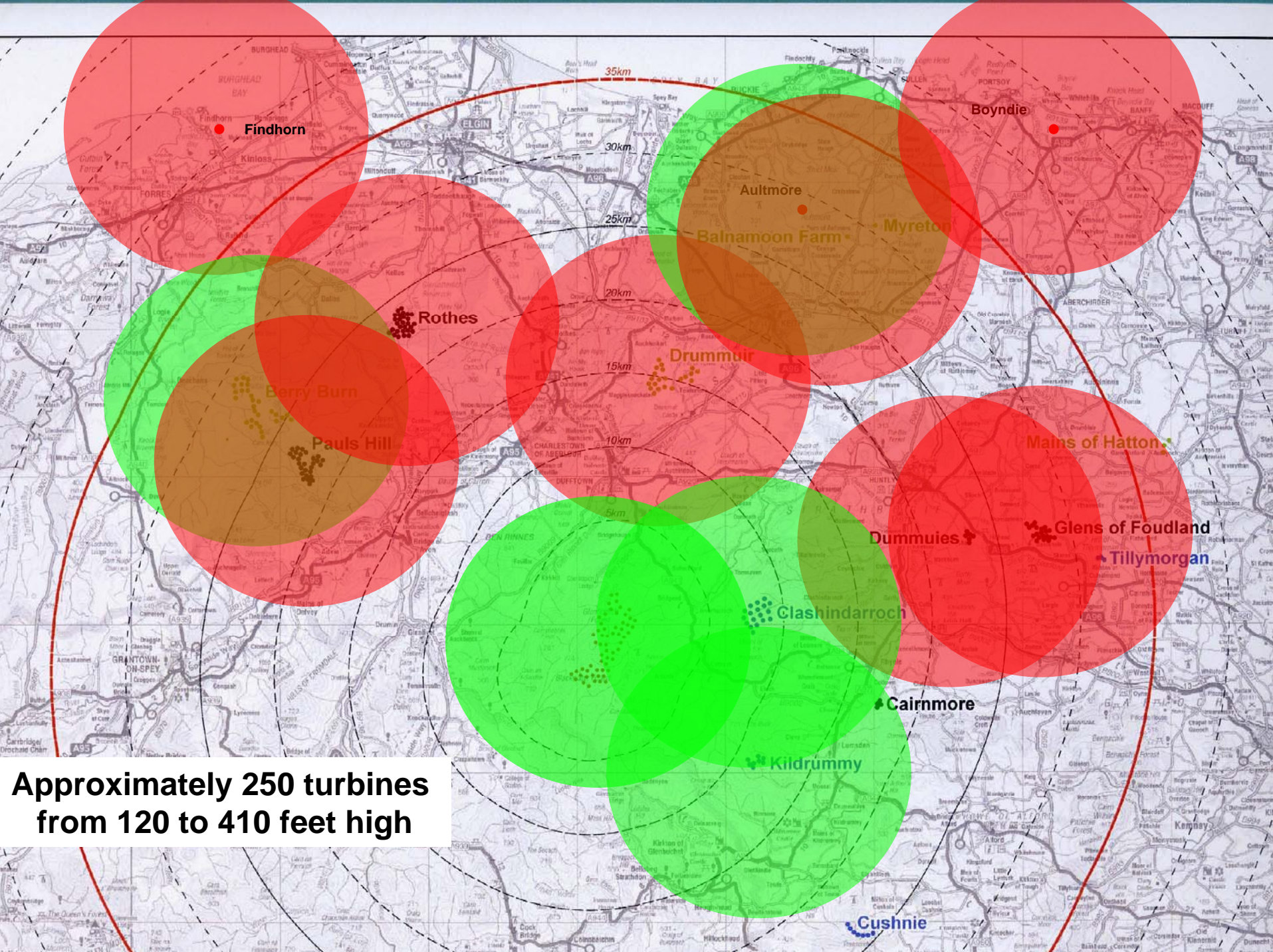
I respectfully ask the Scottish Reporter to support Moray Council's decision to refuse permission for Infinergy's application to build a wind farm at Dorenell.

# Mid Farm Location Plan



# Wind Farm Location Plan





Findhorn

Boyardie

Aultmøre

Balnamoon Farm

Myreton

Roths

Drummuir

Berry Burn

Pauls Hill

Mains of Hatton

Dummuies

Glens of Foudland

Tillymorgan

Clashindarroch

Cairnmore

Kildrummy

Cushnie

Approximately 250 turbines  
from 120 to 410 feet high