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Your Ref: **11/01184/EIAL** Our Ref: **1338**  
Subject: **Erection of two 132m high wind turbines and associated works**

**Glaxo Smith Kline  
Wind Turbine Site 2 & 3  
Cobden Street  
Montrose**

Date: **30-May-12**

The Trust has examined this application by Glaxo Smith Kline for the above and wishes to comment as follows:

The Trust wishes to **object** to this application. The Trust supports the views contained in the submission of The Montrose Society, a group affiliated to the Scottish Civic Trust.

The Trust's primary concern is the impact of the proposed turbines on the wider landscape of Montrose and the setting of the town's listed buildings. The setting and skyline of Montrose is highly distinctive. Built on a low shingle peninsula, between the North Sea and tidal Basin to the west, it is pierced by the magnificent A-listed spire by James Gillespie Graham. The spire is the tallest building in Angus, and amongst the tallest spires in Scotland. We believe that its setting and its role as the primary landmark of the town should remain unchallenged. The town's unique setting has been commented on and admired by artists, poets, and writers. Historic Scotland's Managing Change Guidance Note: Setting notes the importance that historical, artistic, literary, linguistic, or scenic associations, intellectual relationships can have on the setting of historic buildings.

The Trust believes that the proposal by GSK for two wind turbines, if approved, would result in grossly over dominant additions to the Montrose skyline. At 132m tall the proposed turbines would overwhelm the spire and usurp it as the dominant element in Montrose's distinctive skyline.

The Scottish Government, in PAN 52: Planning in Small Towns uses the burgh of Montrose as a town whose character and setting are to be viewed as exemplars. PAN 52 states that: "For many small towns the physical features which distinguish them from other places can be one of their most important assets; but these features are a fragile commodity that can be easily eroded....Topography and landscape help frame the town and are an important part of its identity; contrast, for example, towns like Tillicoultry or Alva which nestle below steeply rising hills with Montrose which is located on a rising spit of land on the coast...From a distance landmark buildings or structures can be easily identified, including those which appear out of character; the positive features should act as a reference and control on the height, massing and scale of future development".

Angus Windfarms Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impacts Study (2008),



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highlights the low elevation of the landscape at Montrose, limited screening features, long open views and uncluttered skylines of the coast as characteristics which limit development potential.

The continued protection of the town's important environmental assets including the Basin, Mid Links, South Links, seafront and historic townscape is highlighted as a key issue for Montrose in the Angus Local Plan Review 2009. The Development Strategy therefore seeks to: "safeguard and enhance the natural and built features which are a key part of the character and identity of the town". The Local Plan Review: Environment & Resources also gives priority to, "conserving and enhancing important landscapes and landscape features and ensuring that new development is sympathetic to landscape character" and "protecting and enhancing the quality of the built and historic environment and ensuring that development proposals respect local characteristics."

The Trust recommends that this application be refused as it is contrary to national policy and guidance regarding the setting of listed buildings and Local Plan policies ER5: Conservation of Landscape Character and ER16: Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gemma Wild'.

Gemma Wild  
Technical Officer (Conservation and Design)

**To** Head of Planning & Transport, Angus Council  
**Cc** Historic Scotland, AHSS, Montrose Society

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