



September 14, 2011

Dear First Minister Salmond:

I object in the strongest possible terms to the current location of the wind turbines as proposed by Vattenfall, which are only 2 km from my championship golf course and directly opposite Royal Aberdeen Golf Club. Its adverse visual impact on my development and the beautiful Aberdeen coastline will be disastrous and environmentally irresponsible.

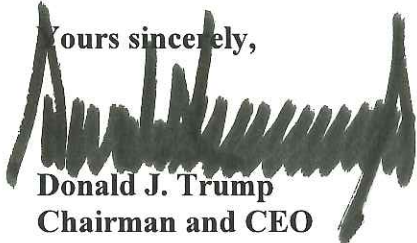
Despite the economic downturn, I have continued to move forward with my project because of what it means to me personally and because I want to create a wonderful legacy in Scotland. I will have soon invested approximately £60,000,000 of my own money (which is not a public subsidy, unlike the funding for Vattenfall's turbines) to create a world class golf resort under my global brand. After enduring the expense and many years of complex planning procedures, the championship course is nearing completion, well ahead of schedule. Unfortunately, instead of celebrating the start of something valuable and beautiful for Scotland, this ugly cloud is hanging over the future of the great Scottish coastline.

My objection to the wind farm should come as no surprise to anyone because I have consistently warned of the adverse consequences it would have on my development and on Aberdeen. As I stated five years ago, I would not have gone forward with wind turbines off our coastline and was repeatedly promised, as an incentive for us to proceed with my project, that wind turbines would not be destroying and distorting Aberdeen's magnificent coastline. Despite repeated assurances from Vattenfall and others that the turbines would not be visible from my site, the current application indicates otherwise.

Many places that actually respect their coastline, such as Cape Cod, Massachusetts (and numerous others) have totally rejected these wind farms entirely because they are unsightly and noisy. No matter how far out they are sited, their terrible screeching sounds are audible to both people and wildlife. Just recently a major story appeared that highly protected and prized bald eagles are being killed by a wind turbine in California. What's even worse, energy experts have proven that wind farms are a major disappointment and yield only a fraction of their intended capacity. After totally decimating the local bird population, Aberdeen will be left with a useless eyesore obstructing everyone's beautiful view of the North Sea - - - no one will know what to do with them.

In short, this wind farm should not be built, or alternatively, be relocated. If not, you should ask yourself if any other international developer would ever risk investing in Scotland after my experience and all the promises that were made to me!

Yours sincerely,

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald J. Trump', written over the typed name.

**Donald J. Trump
Chairman and CEO
The Trump Organization**

PS: Would you put a wind farm opposite St. Andrews - - - I don't think so!

THE TRUMP ORGANIZATION
MENIE ESTATE GOLF RESORT
OBJECTION TO THE 'EOWDC' OFF SHORE WIND FARM
SUPPORTING INFORMATION TO OBJECTION

Background:

1. In December 2008, the Scottish Ministers granted outline planning permission for a golf course and resort development at the Menie Estate. Work on the championship golf course started on 19 November 2009 with marram grass planting. Course construction works started on 1 July 2010 with an anticipated completion date of 1 July 2012.
2. From the outset, Mr Trump has clearly stated his intention to develop a world class championship golf course with world class facilities, including the resort hotel.
3. Mr Trump has also consistently warned of the adverse consequences of this wind farm.¹
4. On 14 December 2010, a letter outlining our concerns was submitted to Vattenfall AB.²
5. There has been no effective consultation or engagement with our team on this wind farm. We now see that what we were shown was inaccurate and misleading.
6. We attach a photomontage which accurately shows the adverse visual impact of the wind farm on our development.³

Grounds of objection:

7. Our grounds of objection are:
 - a. Adverse impact on tourism;
 - b. Adverse visual impact;
 - c. Incompatibility of neighbouring uses; and
 - d. Economic impact on Aberdeenshire and Scotland.

¹ See Press Cuttings - Appendix 1

² Appendix 2

³ Appendix 3

Adverse Impact on Tourism:

8. Vattenfall's Tourism Report⁴ is fundamentally flawed because it concludes that:

*"the impact of the proposed development on **Tourism** is considered to be of **negligible significance**."*⁵

9. First of all, it is based on a Marine Scotland economic impact assessment⁶ in relation to off shore wind farms in the broad areas of Scotland⁷, including the "North East focusing on Beatrice." Beatrice is located more than 22 km off shore on the Continental Shelf in sharp contrast to this site, which is only 2 - 4km off shore. We question the relevance of reliance on this assessment.

10. The Report then states:

"The views of consultees supported this view, though the close proximity of the Trump Development at Menie Estate has been noted. Construction of new golf courses is well underway at Menie and the EOWDC lies to the south east of the estate."

11. That is the *only* consideration of impact on our resort. It is inaccurate, superficial and without any evidential base. It does not provide a sound, prudent or reasonable basis for their conclusion.

12. The reality is that this wind farm will significantly impact on our resort to the extent that the remaining parts will be at risk.

13. They have written off the possibility of impact on our resort on the basis of one sentence:

"Construction of new golf courses is well underway at Menie and the EOWDC lies to the south east of the estate."

14. The first part of that sentence is incorrect. Construction is only underway in relation to the championship golf course. The second golf course is not "well underway". Nor are the commercial elements of the development, including, in particular, the resort hotel.

15. Without asking us, they have assumed that, since work has started, the whole development will be completed! Their assumption is wrong, unjustified and arrogant. It ignores the commercial risks facing all projects in this economic climate, as well as the specific commercial risks for our resort if our beautiful seascape is blighted by an industrial development.

16. The meaning of the second part of their sentence is obscure. What is the relevance of the fact that it lies to the south east of the Menie Estate?

⁴ ES: Appendix 23.2: Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism EIA Technical Report dated July 2011

⁵ Paragraph 1.7 of the Tourism Report

⁶ Marine Scotland: Economic Assessment of Short Term Options for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters: Costs and Benefits to Other Marine Users and Interests 2011

⁷ Specified in Draft Offshore Wind Energy

17. They have simply dismissed the possibility of any adverse impact on either the championship golf course or the resort just because the championship golf course is under construction.
18. We are aware of studies/surveys on the impact of on shore wind farms on tourism.⁸ Although they generally conclude that there should be minimal impact on the tourism, this case can clearly be distinguished from the generality. This case involves the location of an off shore wind farm in the direct sight line of our proposed world class golf resort.
19. One report⁹ said: "*Most people appear to believe that, from the hotel bedroom, it is better to face an open hillside, rather than a wind farm.*" This also applies to the outstandingly beautiful seaward views from both the championship golf course and the resort hotel.

Gleneagles Comparison:

20. The Gleneagles Hotel objected to a wind farm¹⁰ within 2.4km of The Queen's Course stating:

"It is a fundamental concern to Gleneagles Hotel that the compatibility of both the hotel resort and the wind farm could exist without there being a detrimental economic impact on the future success of Gleneagles, as a major international tourism, leisure and business operation."

"Resorts are recognised, at both national and regional level, as key economic assets in achieving stated aims but importantly in fostering sustainable economic growth."

This wind farm was rejected partly due to the potential negative economic impact on the Gleneagles Hotel complex.

Macrahanish Comparison:

21. Earlier this year SSE abandoned plans for a wind farm off shore from the Macrahanish dunes in Kintyre. Critics successfully argued that the wind farm would damage tourism and destroy the beautiful seascape.
22. An off shore wind farm is incompatible with a world class golf resort, including a championship golf course. We are unaware of any UK precedent for siting an off shore wind farm within 2-4 kilometres of a championship links golf course.
23. Their conclusion on tourism impact should be **Very High** and **Major**¹¹, not of **negligible significance**.

⁸ For instance, the Scottish Government commissioned Glasgow Caledonian University to assess whether Government priorities for wind farms in Scotland are likely to have an economic impact – either positive or negative – on Scottish tourism

⁹ The Glasgow Caledonian University study

¹⁰ The proposed on shore wind farm at Standingfauld

¹¹ Table 2.2 of the Report

Adverse Visual Impact:

24. In December 2010 Vattenfall provided Trump International with wire frame diagrams showing the expected visual impact, at that time, of the proposed wind turbines from various points across the championship golf course and the hotel site. A letter was sent to Vattenfall in response setting out our position that "these impacts are completely unacceptable".¹²
25. The ES submitted by Vattenfall does not include the championship golf course or the hotel site as a viewpoint. We therefore attach a photomontage which clearly shows the adverse visual impact on the Menie Estate.¹³ The photomontage shows the visual impact from the 4th hole of the championship golf course. The impact shown is not dissimilar to the impact shown to us by the Applicant from the hotel site in December. It is also not dissimilar to the impact shown in the ES on Balmedie Beach. The ES concludes that the impact on Balmedie Beach is **major**.
26. The Vattenfall ES refers to a 'long process' starting in 2002 to select a suitable location for the wind farm. In selecting this location, they claim to have had discussions with key environmental and other stakeholders. But not with us. Why not?
27. Also, in justifying their changes to positions and number of turbines¹⁴, there is no mention of assessing visual impact. The reasons given relate to MOD firing range, shipping and helicopter routes. There is no evidence of any proper consideration of visual impact on shore.
28. This application also lacks substantive detail. The layout in indicative plans could vary significantly from what they have shown. Given the research status of this windfarm, they need flexibility in turbine size and layout. It would be far more appropriate to locate this wind farm in an industrial or low value area where its external appearance would be unlikely to be seen other than in an industrial context.
29. They could not risk discussing on shore visual impact with us because they knew that it would not be possible either to design out or mitigate the visual impact on our resort – so they kept their heads down, no doubt in the hope that by the time we realised what was happening it would be too late. They add insult to injury by dismissing impact on our resort simply because work had started on the championship course.

Incompatibility of neighbouring uses:

30. An off shore research wind farm, especially one with unusual design characteristics, such as varying turbine sizes, is not compatible with a world class links golf course.

¹² Appendix 2

¹³ Appendix 3

¹⁴ ES Table 2.1

31. There is no way that any international hotel operator will commit to developing a world class hotel overlooking what will be an off shore industrial facility.
32. There is no UK precedent for locating a wind farm just off shore from championship links golf course.
33. The location of the Trump Golf Resort is fixed, so the location of the wind farm should be moved.

Economic impact on Aberdeenshire and Scotland:

34. We know that this wind farm is a commercial undertaking which benefits from public funding having secured a grant of up to 40 million Euros. The European Commission website notes the project is "realising an offshore wind testing facility off Aberdeen."
35. But the intention cannot have been to spend public money on a project which would directly impact on a £1 billion inward investment project. With such a significant grant, it must be feasible to locate the wind farm "off Aberdeen" without risking our resort.
36. In an extremely difficult market, Mr Trump has continued to invest in Aberdeenshire and in Scotland. This significant investment, which does not benefit from public subsidy, has been ongoing since 2005 and has funded one of the most complex consenting processes in Scottish planning history. Mr Trump has a legitimate expectation that no decision will now be taken to undermine the commercial viability of his project – simply because it is easier to move the wind farm away from other uses.
37. The opportunity cost of approving the wind farm in this location will be the economic benefits of the Trump Golf Resort, as reported to the Scottish Ministers in 2008.¹⁵

Conclusion:

38. The Scottish Ministers, local authorities, other decision makers and supporters should be working to secure delivery of both developments in the interests of sustainable economic and social growth.

¹⁵ The Fraser of Allander Institute report on The Economic Impact of the Menie Estate Development on the Scottish and local economy

APPENDIX 1

**PRESS CUTTINGS
FROM 2006 - PRESENT**

Sunday Herald (Glasgow, UK)

3 April 2006

Section: News

Anger over Trump's threat to pull-out of golf development TOURISM: NEW ROW £300m investment under threat over windfarms

By Jenifer Johnston

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have slammed Donald Trump's threats to withdraw from building a prestigious golf resort in the northeast unless a windfarm development is halted.

The American billionaire warned on Friday that he would abandon a planned pounds-300 million world-class Aberdeenshire golf investment unless proposals for a nearby windfarm were scrapped.

Trump, who is of Scottish descent, claimed he chose the location – an 800acre stretch of sand dunes on the Menie Estate, near Balmedie – over 211 other sites around the world. But the businessman fears that a windfarm would spoil the "ocean views" from the links.

Aberdeen City Council is currently carrying out a feasibility study into an offshore windfarm development in Aberdeen Bay. Last night politicians and renewable energy campaigners called for the council and the Scottish Executive not to bow to pressure from the entrepreneur. Green MSP Robin Harper, who is chair of the parliament's cross party Renewable Energy group, warned against capitulating to Trump.

He said: "We need to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of how much we will gain from the Trump investment – how much of the profit will stay here and how much will go overseas? Windfarm campaigners have been trying to get projects moved offshore but if it becomes a precedent that these are then classed as 'ugly' then we won't get anywhere. What else would he like to ban – would he stop boats and tankers as well?" Trump's plans are seen as a major tourism opportunity for the northeast.

The entrepreneur revealed that the First Minister, Jack McConnell, personally telephoned him to persuade him to choose Scotland over rival locations.

But Duncan McLaren, chief executive of Friends of the Earth Scotland, said reducing carbon emissions should be a higher priority for the Executive than backing a new golf course. He added:

"Instead of attacking climate-friendly wind power, Mr Trump should be embracing it.

Renewables, such as wind power, may be the only thing that will stop top golf courses from being literally being washed away by climate change." Trump aims to submit a planning application for the resort to Aberdeenshire Council in May, but the feasibility study into the windfarm project being carried out by Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) – a consortium of businesses and the council – may not be finished for some months.

It has also emerged that Scottish Enterprise is involved with both the golf deal and the windfarm. An arm of the quango, Scottish Direct Investment, has been in the US helping to facilitate the Trump Organisation in their plans, but the Scottish Enterprise Energy Group is part of the AREG consortium.

A spokesman for Scottish Enterprise said yesterday: "Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development International are duty bound to pursue economic development opportunities but we always make it clear that any proposal is subject to the statutory planning process. Any decision on Mr Trump's proposals or the plans for the wind farm is entirely a matter for the local authorities." It is understood that if Trump fails to gain planning permission in Aberdeenshire a site in Ireland would be second choice, but he has stressed his desire to invest here.

P & J

4 April 2006

Windfarm and trump's golf resort compatible - 'greens'

Tom Kirk

Innovative plans for a £100million windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen should prove compatible with Donald Trump's scheme for a huge new golf resort, environmentalists claimed yesterday.

The property tycoon, who plans to create "the greatest golf course in the world" at Menie Links, near Balmedie, has threatened to pull out unless the other project is scrapped.

Green campaigners have reacted angrily to Mr Trump's statement that he will go elsewhere if the turbines end up spoiling the "ocean views" from his 800-acre stretch of dunes at Menie Links.

But it is understood that the renewable energy scheme, developed jointly by the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and the engineering giant Amec, may not clash directly with his plans.

About 20 turbines could be built stretching roughly from Bridge of Don to Blackdog, starting about three-quarters of a mile out to sea. Such a development is likely to fall about three-and-a-half miles short of the southernmost tip of Donald Trump's earmarked site.

Areg's chairman Jeremy Cresswell indicated yesterday that the scheme was an "evolving" one, the layout of which is being refined in line with consultations.

Mr Trump has so far made no effort to speak to Areg about the matter, however.

Mr Cresswell said such a move might be "helpful" at this stage. "Areg with Amec are going through a very detailed consultation process at the moment," he said.

"We would welcome an approach from the Trump Organisation.

"We believe the two projects are mutually compatible."

VisitScotland, which gave the unveiling of Mr Trump's proposals a rapturous welcome last week, said tourist ventures should be compatible with renewable energy schemes wherever possible.

A spokeswoman said: "We want to reiterate what a coup it is that Donald Trump wants to invest here.

"It is great news for tourism, but we are also fully behind drives towards sustainable and renewable energy sources.

"We hope that the two, in general terms, can be compatible with one another."

Audrey Findlay, chairwoman of Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum, said she also hoped some sort of compromise could be reached.

Neither the Trump Organisation nor Areg has yet formally submitted a planning application. Mr Trump is expected to present his proposals to Aberdeenshire Council in May, and has said he will only tolerate quick progress thereafter, with a view to starting work as soon as September.

But the strenuous consultation carried out by Areg about its own scheme suggests the deadline could prove ambitious. Since outlining its plans in 2003, the organisation has consulted both the public and a wide range of interest groups, while also assessing the potential impact on shipping, bird life and marine ecology.

Mr Trump's own project, as well as having to pass through a complicated council planning procedure, will have to meet with the approval of Scottish Natural Heritage.

SNH has already expressed concerns because the resort would cover about a third of Foveran Links, deemed an environmentally important site of special scientific interest.

P & J

4 April 2006

Windfarm And Trump's Golf Resort Compatible, Say Environmentalists

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"We believe the two projects are mutually compatible."

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"It is great news for tourism, but we are also fully behind drives towards sustainable and renewable energy sources.

"We hope that the two, in general terms, can be compatible with one another."

Audrey Findlay, chairwoman of Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum, said she also hoped some sort of compromise could be reached. Neither the Trump Organisation nor Areg has yet formally submitted a planning application.

Mr Trump is expected to present his proposals to Aberdeenshire Council in May, and has said he will only tolerate quick progress thereafter, with a view to starting work as soon as September. But the strenuous consultation carried out by Areg about its own scheme suggests the deadline could prove ambitious.

Since outlining its plans in 2003, the organisation has consulted both the public and a wide range of interest groups, while also assessing the potential impact on shipping, bird life and marine ecology.

Mr Trump's own project, as well as having to pass through a complicated council planning procedure, will have to meet with the approval of Scottish Natural Heritage.

SNH has already expressed concerns because the resort would cover about a third of Foveran Links, deemed an environmentally important site of special scientific interest.

The local councillor, Debra Storr, said yesterday the Trump Organisation would have to understand in detail what made the environment unique if its plans were to come to fruition.

"They've got to consider the total environmental package, not least because it is precisely that aspect that's attracting them to the area in the first place," she said.

Scottish Enterprise, which has worked closely with the Trump Organisation, said both developments would have to go through a fair and balanced planning process.

A spokesman added: "We are duty-bound to pursue economic management opportunities wherever they arise, but we always make it clear to investors that their proposals are subject to statutory planning procedures.

"Any decisions on Mr Trump's proposals or plans to build a windfarm are entirely a matter for the local planning authority and the Scottish Executive."

Aberdeen Evening Express

4 April 2006

'Windfarm won't Trump Donald's golfing dream'

Lynn Kernan

Environmental experts today rubbished fears a wind farm could scupper plans for a multi-million pound golf course.

Millionaire Donald Trump has threatened to ditch proposals for the Balmedie resort.

The businessman and star of hit US show *The Apprentice* reportedly fears an offshore windfarm will ruin the £300 million development.

Flamboyant American property developer Trump is due to submit a planning application for two courses, a luxury hotel and around 400 holiday homes.

But he said he would abandon his dream of creating the world's greatest golf course if the coast is blighted by a windfarm.

He said: "I would have no interest in proceeding.

"If they were to ruin Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen with that, then I would walk away. We would sell the site and go elsewhere."

But today environmentalists insisted the planned £100 million wind farm would not clash with Trump's development.

Green campaigners said the innovative scheme, being developed by the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and the engineering giant Amec, would see 20 turbines built offshore stretching from Bridge of Don to Blackdog.

It is likely to fall about three-and-a-half miles short of the southern tip of the site earmarked for the golf resort.

Areg chairman Jeremy Cresswell said: "Areg with Amec are going through a very detailed consultation process at the moment. We would welcome an approach from the Trump organisation.

"We believe the two projects are mutually compatible."

And tourism representatives also hope the two schemes can work together for the benefit of the city.

A spokeswoman for VisitScotland said: "We want to reiterate what a coup it is that Donald Trump wants to invest here.

"It is great news for tourism, but we are also fully behind drives towards sustainable and renewable energy sources."

Offshore Aberdeen wind turbines could start spinning in the next two or three years - the same timescale for the building of the Trump golf resort.

Mr Trump is expected to present his proposals to Aberdeenshire Council in May with a view to starting work as soon as September.

Aberdeen Evening Express

5 April 2006

Sir Sean tees up to join Trump's new course

Scots actor Sir Sean Connery has become the first celebrity name to sign up for membership at Donald Trump's planned £300 million golf course in Balmedie.

Wearing a kilt, the former James Bond, 75, was at an event celebrating New York's annual Tartan Week.

He told of his plans to sign up to play at the course Trump wants to build in Aberdeenshire. Planning permission for the site could be submitted within months, but Trump has said he could pull out of the venture if plans for a £100 million wind farm go ahead.

Advisors for Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group have responded by inviting the American millionaire to join discussions for the site.

Spokesman Iain Todd said: "From day one we have put a great deal of emphasis on a thorough consultation process.

We would encourage the Trump Organisation to join this."

The innovative scheme would see 20 turbines built offshore, stretching from Bridge of Don to Blackdog.

It is likely to fall three-and-a-half miles short of the southern tip of the site earmarked for the golf resort.

Plans are due to be submitted plans for a two courses, a luxury hotel and around 400 holiday homes.

But Mr Trump has said he would "sell the site and go elsewhere" if the coast is blighted by the windfarm.

Areg hopes the two schemes will be able to work together to find a solution.

Aberdeen Evening Express

6 April 2006

Trump card in having brighter outlook for all

At Last Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire could live up to that new logo - "A Brighter Outlook". Donald Trump's plan to create a £300 million world-class golf course gives this area a golden opportunity to rise above being the poor cousin to Edinburgh, Glasgow and even Dundee.

It's a dream come true for Aberdeen - unless the powers-that-be blow it.

The general public and Mr Trump have one factor in common - they don't want windfarms at the beach.

Let's hope the authorities listen, because if they don't the proposed plans could well go to Ireland.

To give Donald Trump the freedom to set up at Balmedie will have a ripple effect beyond our wildest dreams.

Perhaps when he sees the gridlock on our roads he might consider financing, in part, an underground tunnel bypass. Other possibilities are a private air strip and helipad.

After all Aberdeen Airport is a long way short of providing "jet set" facilities and standards.

If this opportunity is missed, then the Lord Provost can lock the gates of the city after the mass exodus of businesses looking for a brighter outlook elsewhere.

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire have a golden opportunity.

They must start welcoming the millionaires.

Kay Bremner City Centre Aberdeen

Aberdeen Evening Express

11 April 2006

Provost calms tycoon's concern over windfarm

Fiona McWhirter

Aberdeen's Lord Provost today revealed tycoon Donald Trump's concerns about a windfarm ruining his North-east golf dream have been overcome.

John Reynolds met the tycoon during New York's Tartan Week and he is confident any worries Mr Trump had over a wind farm programme near his proposed golf course at Balmedie were erased with a face-to-face meeting.

The Lord Provost met Mr Trump in his penthouse office on the 26th floor of Trump Towers.

Mr Reynolds said: "He was very positive about Scotland and he is very committed to Scotland, hence wanting to build a golf course over here.

"The one thing he did bring up was the wind farm. He had been looking at the original plans for the wind farm which is for a single line of windmills. But it went to consultation and is now to be a double line."

He said the new lay-out would keep the windmills closer to Aberdeen making them far less of an eyesore near his site.

The proposed £300 million links project will feature two championship golf courses, a five-star hotel, golf academy, a turf grass research centre and a mixed residential development.

Having celebrated Tartan Week in the Big Apple, the Lord Provost said he returned the invitation to Mr Trump.

"I invited him to our Tartan Day, on August 5," he said.

"He didn't have his diary on him but hopefully he will come."

P & J

16 April 2006

Trump will jet in to see £300m dune site

Tom Kirk

Donald Trump is to visit the site of his planned £300million north-east golfing resort at the end of the month.

The billionaire business tycoon will fly into Aberdeen by private jet on April 28 and spend the weekend at the Menie Estate, heading back to New York on April 30.

It will be Mr Trump's first visit to Scotland since he announced his plans to develop Trump International Golf Links, Scotland, on the stretch of dunes near Balmedie, north of Aberdeen.

As exclusively revealed in the Press and Journal, he intends to spend nearly £300million building two championship golf courses, a five-star 400-bedroom hotel, a golf academy, holiday homes and other facilities.

In a brief statement yesterday, a spokeswoman for the Trump Organisation said: "He will be arriving first thing on the Friday morning on his 727 from New York, which is custom-fitted to suit all his personal needs.

"He will spend the weekend on the stunning Menie Estate and then leave on Sunday evening from Aberdeen."

Mr Trump's plans have already met with an enthusiastic response from the local tourist industry, politicians and various economic bodies.

Assuming it goes ahead, the development is expected to contribute £157million to the local economy over 10 years and create up to 400 jobs.

Mr Trump, whose mother was from Lewis, has described the project as a chance to "come home" to his Scottish roots and plans on bringing the Open championship to Aberdeenshire.

But with the property magnate adamant that the resort will open in 2008, some potential sticking points remain.

He has already threatened to pull out altogether if a planned offshore windfarm, developed jointly by the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and the engineering giant Amec, spoils the view from the estate.

Areg claims that the adventurous scheme need not clash with Mr Trump's own development, but so far the matter is unresolved.

Scottish Natural Heritage has meanwhile also expressed concerns about the stretch of coastline, which is a protected area, designated a site of special scientific interest.

It has, however, said that it wants to work closely with the Trump Organisation to "find a way forward", and the American firm has likewise insisted it will respect the local environment in its design.

It is expected the company will formally submit its planning application to Aberdeenshire Council in May.

Aberdeen Evening Express

21 April 2006

New windfarm plans to be unveiled

A New lay-out for Aberdeen's windfarm will be unveiled at next month's renewable energy conference in the city.

City council leader Kate Dean said she hoped the plan would not deter American billionaire Donald Trump from bring a £300 million golf development to the North-east.

The property tycoon wants to build two courses, a luxury hotel and around 400 holiday homes at Balmedie.

But he has said he would abandon his dream of creating the world's greatest golf course if the coast is blighted by a windfarm.

Councillor Dean told the council's policy and strategy committee Mr Trump's organisation had been looking at "historical plans" for the windfarm and said a new layout would be unveiled.

She said: "The Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group has invited Mr Trump's people to engage in dialogue."

The £100 million windfarm, being developed by the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and the engineering giant Amec, would see around 20 turbines built just offshore, stretching from Bridge of Don to Blackdog.

It is likely to fall about three-and-a-half miles short of the southern tip of the site earmarked for the golf resort.

Mrs Dean pointed out the windfarm plans were being continually refined.

Offshore Aberdeen wind turbines could start spinning in the next two or three years - the same timescale for the building of the Trump golf resort.

Mr Trump is expected to present his proposals to Aberdeenshire Council in May with a view to starting work as soon as September. He will be flying into the region on April 28.

P & J

28 April 2006

Trump's visit likely to go a fairway to clearing up doubts

Tom Kirk

Donald Trump is expected to receive a warm welcome when he arrives in the north-east tomorrow, despite ongoing doubts and concerns over his planned luxury golf resort.

The billionaire businessman is due to touch down at Aberdeen airport by private jet tomorrow morning, before spending the weekend at the Menie Estate, the site of the proposed £300million development.

The tycoon's visit will take place less than a month after his plans for the 800-acre stretch of dunes near Balmedie were revealed. Its official purpose is to give him a chance to view the site in detail, but it is also likely to help consolidate the rapturous reception his plans were given by tourism and business leaders as well as politicians.

Mr Trump intends to build two championship golf courses, a five-star 400-bedroom hotel, a golf academy, holiday homes and other facilities. It is expected to contribute £157million to the local economy over 10 years and create up to 400 jobs.

But the climate in which he arrives will be subtly different from that in which the plans were announced a month ago.

Despite ongoing, widespread support for Mr Trump's scheme, doubts and concerns have also been raised during the intervening weeks. As recently as Monday the plans made headlines when First Minister Jack McConnell, was accused of breaching ministerial guidelines by backing the project.

Mr McConnell has denied that he broke the ministerial code of conduct by meeting Mr Trump or expressing his pleasure when the project was announced. Councillors and some MSPs believe he has come close to prejudicing a forthcoming decision on the matter.

A planned offshore windfarm, a joint development by the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and the engineering giant Amec, is the foremost of various environmental concerns connected with the site. Areg has said the two projects are compatible, but Mr Trump has threatened to pull out unless it is scrapped, because it might spoil the "ocean views" from the estate.

Questions also remain as to how far Mr Trump has appreciated or is prepared to tolerate a potentially long-winded planning process once the plans are submitted in May.

The billionaire says he wants the resort to open in 2008, but Aberdeenshire Council officials have suggested the deadline is ambitious given the number of steps the scheme will have to pass through before it is thrown out or approved.

P & J

29 April 2006

End in sight over trump stand-off

Tom Kirk

There was growing optimism last night that a stand-off between the Trump Organisation and the developers of an offshore windfarm might be resolved, as the two sides met ahead of Donald Trump's own arrival in Scotland today.

The Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) said it was increasingly confident its plans to build more than 20 turbines off the north-east coast could prove compatible with the business tycoon's own proposals for a £300million golf resort.

Representatives from both Areg and the engineering company Amec, who are behind the windfarm plans, met staff from the Trump Organisation yesterday.

Mr Trump had previously threatened to withdraw his proposals and any economic benefits they might bring if the turbines threatened to spoil the "ocean views" from the Menie Estate, near Balmedie.

But the line from the Trump Organisation last night was that they had held an "informative" first meeting about the two projects.

There was no repeat of the threat to pull out.

Areg described the discussions as a positive first step to resolving the issue and proving the two schemes can work alongside one another.

Although no resolution has yet been reached, further meetings are expected, while the positive mood will pave the way for Mr Trump's arrival at Aberdeen Airport this morning. He will make his first official visit to Menie Links this weekend.

Ian Todd, senior adviser to Areg, said: "We found the meeting very open, constructive and informative and we discussed the benefits of both projects.

"I think it is now obvious that the nearest turbine is some miles from their golf course and that was really at the centre of our discussions. My line all along has been that I hope we end up as good neighbours. Hopefully the meeting has begun that process."

Areg, a private and public sector partnership, says the Trump Organisation's original statement was made in response to a previous windfarm design that has since been revised.

The group's current plan is to build about 23 turbines offshore from the Bridge of Don to Blackdog, the northernmost of which would be almost four miles from the dunes.

Some of the turbines would still be visible to golfers but Areg insists that they will be far enough away not to dominate the view.

In a brief statement yesterday, a spokeswoman for the Trump Organisation said: "The objective of the meeting was to discuss the respective proposed projects for Aberdeenshire."

She said it would be "one of many meetings The Trump Organisation will be having with representatives from a variety of businesses in the area".

No date has been set for further meetings between the three organisations.

Aberdeen Evening Express

29 April 2006

Back me or I'm off

Karen Grant

Property tycoon Donald Trump today pledged to make his North-east golf course the best in the world.

The American billionaire touched down in Aberdeen today to discuss his plans for a course and hotel complex at the Menie Estate, near Balmedie.

But he warned if he did not get local backing, he would pull the plug on the £300 million project.

And the businessman raised concerns about offshore wind farms.

Mr Trump's first words as he stepped off his private jet onto the windswept tarmac of Dyce Airport, were: "I'm here to build the greatest golf course in the world.

"It is going to be very good, and economically good for Aberdeen. We are creating a legend here."

And he said he wanted Scottish actor Sir Sean Connery to be the first to tee off.

There have been concerns that Mr Trump might pull out of the project if an offshore windfarm is built nearby.

Today, he said: "I don't think we want to ruin the beauty and majesty of the land with wind farms. They are not the most pretty things. I think wave power is the way to go."

And he stated clearly that if he didn't get backing for his project, he would take his money somewhere else.

"If the community groups, the community, the local representatives or local politicians for any reason think we are not doing them right then we will go somewhere else," he said.

"There are a few other sites I think this could be achieved but I want it to be in Scotland."

Giving hints at what the clubhouse might look like, Mr Trump, who hopes to lodge an application with Aberdeenshire Council as early as next month, said it would be a Victorian-style design with verandas.

"It will be one of the most spectacular in the world," he said.

The site will also host a five-star, 500-bedroom hotel.

Some residents in the area have been approached by Trump's team, which is interested in buying up property.

Mr Trump was accompanied today by architect Tom Fazio and vice president of the Trump Golf Organisation, Ashley Cooper, at the press conference.

He said he was looking forward to an "intense weekend" speaking to residents and officials. Smiling as questions were fired at him, Mr Trump appeared to be enjoying himself.

And he shared a laugh with our reporter when we presented him with a set of Evening Express golf balls.

When asked about the haar and windy weather at Balmedie, Mr Trump said: "This is the home of golf and part of it is because of the weather."

He said he would like to stage the British Open at the Menie resort.

Mr Trump said he counted Nick Faldo among his friends and he would like to see the golf champion and Colin Montgomerie play on his course.

Mr Trump hit back at critics of Scotland's First Minister, Jack McConnell who has been accused of breaching guide lines by backing the project.

He said: "Jack McConnell has been amazing as the representative for Scotland.

"He's done an amazing job in trying to get us to come and spend our money in Scotland."

Stewart Spence, vice-chairman of the Scottish Enterprise Grampian, said Mr Trump's scheme had the potential to make the biggest single impact on the North-east economy since the discovery of oil.

But a North-east Green MSP said her party was concerned about the siting of the project.

Shiona Baird said: "We have serious concerns about the environmental damage that will be involved in building a golf course and hotel complex in such an undeveloped area.

Aberdeen Evening Express

29 April 2006

Golf plan obstacles can be overcome

Several obstacles could bunker Donald Trump's golf dream or pull it off course.

The first hazard he must negotiate is Scotland's planning process, which can be lengthy. Mr Trump says he wants the resort to open in 2008, but Aberdeenshire Council officials have suggested the deadline is ambitious.

However, Geoff Runcie, chief executive of the Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, reckons he will have weighed up the risks.

He said: "Any major developer who's got a global development strategy makes himself aware of what the planning regimes will be where those projects are envisaged."

Hazard number two could take the unlikely form of an offshore windfarm.

But city council leaders are confident a compromise can be reached.

Independent (UK)

29 April 2006

Section: News

Keep your hair on! Trump blows into town with attack on windfarms

By Paul Kelbie

Scotland's potential as a world leader in wind power was not lost on Donald Trump's legendary comb over as it flapped violently in what passes for a light breeze in Aberdeen yesterday.

But for the tycoon himself, the prospect of placing wind turbines next to his planned pounds 300m golf complex was too much to bear.

"When I stand on the 18th hole of Trump International Golf Links, Scotland, I want to see the ocean. I do not want to see windmills," he said bluntly.

Mr Trump said he had been in discussions with energy companies who planned an offshore wind farm close to Menie Estate where his 800-acre course is planned. "The world thinks of Scotland as some of the most beautiful land anywhere," he said. "I do not think Scotland, for the sake of some electricity, wants to ruin the beauty or majesty of your country. When I saw this piece of land, I was overwhelmed by the imposing dunes and rugged Aberdeenshire coastline," he said. "I knew that this was the perfect site for Trump International, Scotland."

The dream to build a new complex in his mother's native country, however, has yet to be granted planning permission. But that did not stop him receiving the red carpet treatment from local dignitaries. The man who fought back from bankruptcy to a pounds 2.7bn fortune, was serenaded by a lone piper playing Highland Laddie as he stepped from his jet. He was met by council and business officials, all eager to welcome what some claim will be the biggest thing to hit Aberdeen since the discovery of North Sea oil.

As the son of a Scot, the 59-year-old international property developer has claimed that, in looking throughout Europe for an ideal spot, Scotland had always been his first choice. "This is where my mother was born and I should almost kiss the earth," he said. "We are looking to build the greatest golf course in the world and it is going to be great," he added with typical modesty. "It is estimated that the project will bring up to pounds 150m into the country's economy over the next decade and create up to 400 jobs. "The new development will take us on to a whole new level of tourism-related activity, raising our international profile," gushed Ian Dunlop, Visit Scotland's area director.

Mr Trump is expected to meet with local business leaders and officials to discuss details of a planning application for the resort which is expected to be submitted next month, even though work is already scheduled to begin in September, with a course expected to open in spring 2008.

A survey by the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum released yesterday claimed his development could have the single biggest positive impact on the local economy since the discovery of oil. "A project of this scale could change the economic landscape of the region," said Jennifer Craw, chief executive of Scottish Enterprise Grampian.

However as the estate is home to several areas of Special Scientific Interest there are concerns that any development will have to be handled carefully.

Mr Trump added that if there was any suggestion from residents that his plan was not welcome he would go somewhere else. "I am doing this to a large extent in honour of my mother," he said. "But if people do not want this I will go elsewhere."

Express (UK)

29 April 2006

Golf tycoon Trump tilting at windmills

By Sarah Bruce

AMERICAN billionaire Donald Trump gave "beautiful" Scotland and its people the thumbs up yesterday – but warned windfarms could ruin our country.

The US tycoon said Sean Connery was one of his best friends and Jack McConnell did a good job, but also said alternative energy was ruining a good view.

He touched down in Aberdeen for the weekend to view the site of what he says will be "the best golf course in the world".

But he condemned plans for an offshore windfarm next to the site at Menie Estate, south of the city. The businessman said:

"Jack McConnell has done an amazing job trying to get us to spend hundreds of millions in Scotland – we want to thank him.

"But I'm not thrilled about the windfarm.

When I look out into the ocean I want to see the ocean, not some windmills.

"For the sake of some electricity, I don't think you want to ruin the beauty and majesty of your country." The US star of *The Apprentice* also revealed that Sir Sean Connery was the only man automatically on the members' list for the new course.

He added: "Sean is a great man and highly respected – maybe he's a good choice to open the new course.

"Nick Faldo has seen the plans for the course and I love your Colin Montgomerie, he's a terrific guy too." The tycoon's mother was brought up in Lewis. The £300million resort will feature two courses as well as a hotel, golf academy and holiday flats.

Yesterday, the tycoon and his course designer Tom Fazio II flew into Aberdeen on the Trump jet.

They revealed artists' impressions of a Victorian-style clubhouse and hotel that would rival the views from courses like St Andrews.

Daily Record (Glasgow, Scotland)

29 April 2006

Section: News

YOU'RE FIRED UP, DONALD
US billionaire's warning to Scotland TRUMP FLIES IN TO SEE pounds 300m GOLF RESORT

By Louise Hosie

US property tycoon Donald Trump thundered into Scotland yesterday to push through plans for a pounds 300million golf resort.

The billionaire businessman became a household name in the cut-throat TV business series *The Apprentice*, where his catch-phrase was: "You're fired!"

And yesterday, he warned that if there is any opposition to his plans, Scotland can forget them and he'll take the project elsewhere.

He even poured scorn on plans for a windfarm close to the proposed site of Trump International Golf Links Scotland near Balmedie, Aberdeenshire.

During his stay, Trump will brief his planning team and meet householders whose property lies US billionaire's near the 800-acre site.

At Aberdeen Airport, he said: "If, for any reason, the community groups, the community, the local representatives, the politicians, feel that we are not doing the right thing, it they let us know, we will go someplace else.

"We are not looking to have any arguments - we are looking to take a great piece of land and build the greatest golf course in the world.

"There are a few other sites where this could be achieved. But I really wanted to come to Scotland. We hope the planning process can go quickly.

"If, for some reason, in the wisdom of the officials and people of Aberdeen and shire, they feel they don't want this, I will not be insulted at all. I will go elsewhere."

The resort would boast two championship golf courses, a five-star hotel and a golf academy. But the 800 acres of land earmarked for the resort include a site of special scientific interest, as it's home to important land-forms and wildlife. Scottish Natural Heritage say they will co-operate with Trump but the area's heritage must be protected.

Trump also expressed concerns about plans for a pounds 100million offshore windfarm close to his site.

His team met the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Forum for talks - but Trump, 59, was "not thrilled" with the windfarm idea.

He said: "I am a big fan of all forms of all electricity, but I don't think you want to ruin the beauty or the majesty of your country.

"When I look out on to the ocean from the 18th hole of Trump International Golf Links, I don't want to see windmills.

"I warn Scotland, you can't do this to yourselves."

First Minister Jack McConnell has faced claims he broke planning neutrality rules through his association with Trump, who he met twice in the States.

But yesterday, Trump said: "Jack McConnell has been amazing as a representative for Scotland. He has not discussed the specifics of our site, all he wanted to do is make sure that we came to Scotland.

"I want to thank Jack, but also the people of Scotland owe him thanks."

Trump - who also visited the Old Course at St Andrews - revealed the resort has the backing of British golf legend Nick Faldo and that if it is approved, Sean Connery could officially open the course.

He said: "Maybe Sean is a good choice. He'd be certainly right up there with me."

Daily Mail (UK)

29 April 2006

Trump warning over Pounds 300m golf project

DONALD TRUMP said he wanted to kiss the ground after arriving in Scotland yesterday then told locals they can kiss goodbye to Pounds 300million if they don't back his plans for a new golf resort.

The American tycoon flew in on his private 737 jet to spell out his vision to create the 'best golf course in the world' at Menie, north of Aberdeen.

But he immediately claimed that plans for an offshore wind farm could still force him to look elsewhere.

And he insisted he would walk away if locals tried to block his proposals to build two championship courses, a hotel, golf academy, driving range and residential holiday apartments at an estimated cost of Pounds 287million.

Mr Trump said: 'If, for some reason, community groups feel we're not doing the right thing windfarm. When I look out into the ocean, I want to see the ocean I do not want to see some windmills.' 'The world thinks of Scotland as having some of the most beautiful scenery. You don't want to ruin that for the sake of some electricity.' A new report claimed the project could contribute Pounds 157million to the local economy over the next ten years and create up to 400 jobs.

Mr Trump said he chose Scotland in honour of his mother, Mary Macleod, who was born in Stornoway, Lewis.

Fittingly, on his arrival at Aberdeen Airport he was piped off his plane by Andrew Macleod, 30, from Stornoway.

'I could kiss the ground,' Mr Trump said as he set foot on Scottish soil.

He then revealed that Sir Sean Connery would be his choice to open the new course, adding: 'Sean is a great man. And I love your Colin Montgomerie he's a terrific guy, too.' A planning application for the resort will be submitted to Aberdeen City Council next month. If permission is granted, work will start in September, with the first golfers teeing off in 2008.

Aberdeen Evening Express

30 April 2006

Tell us more about trump's golf resort

Karen Grant

Residents today called on billionaire Donald Trump to reveal concrete plans for 'the world's best golf course.'

The property tycoon touched down at Aberdeen Airport in his private jet yesterday to speak about his plans for the £300 million golf resort at Menie Estate, Balmedie.

Business leaders believe his visit could spark the biggest economic boost since oil was discovered.

But some local residents today said they wanted the world-renowned businessman to give more "concrete plans".

Mr Trump is staying at Menie Estate this weekend and will meet residents and officials. Yesterday he said he wanted to create a legendary course but - without public backing - would pull out.

However, Balmedie councillor Debra Storr said: "The sooner we get concrete plans for people to look at, the better.

"At the moment, it's all if, buts and maybes."

She said some people were in favour due to the economic impact, while others were worried for the environment.

But Ms Storr echoed Mr Trump's views against windfarms.

Mr Trump said he believed that wave power was the way forward for renewable energy.

He said: "I don't think we want to ruin the beauty and majesty of the land with windfarms."

And he added: "If community groups, local representatives or local politicians for any reason think we are not doing them right then we will go somewhere else."

But David Milne, who lives in the old coastguard station at Balmedie, said: "That's a very good opening line and it's a good frightener but no one goes to the lengths he has gone with the intention of walking away.

"We should get past the superficial fluff and see the meat of the project."

A spokeswoman for Trump International Golf Links said: "Planning will be submitted in May and therefore the plans will be made available."

But she was unable to say if details would be revealed prior to the application being submitted.

No one from the Menie Estate was available for comment.

P & J

13 May 2006

Rooms plea for delegates at all-energy

Keith Findlay

This year's All-Energy exhibition and conference will be the largest and best yet, the organisers of Aberdeen's annual renewable-energy event said yesterday.

Last year's All-Energy gathering attracted more than 2,100 people and the 2006 showcase for the renewables sector, at Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre on May 24 and 25, is expected to beat that total.

Such is the growing reputation of the event that project director Judith Patten made a plea yesterday for Aberdeen hoteliers to release more rooms.

She added: "We are certainly not putting up signs telling people not to come, but we know the city's hotels are already getting full. If any of them are keeping rooms back, then we urge them to release them."

Rita Stephen, development manager for the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum, said All-Energy'06 would give the area a huge economic boost.

She added: "It just gets bigger and bigger every year and the increasing international element to it is an ideal opportunity for local companies to expand their connections."

Aberdeen City Council is the event's principal sponsor and council leader Kate Dean was anticipating a further boost to the Granite City's claim to be the energy capital of Europe.

"The importance of green energy solutions has never been greater and it is really pleasing to see how this exhibition has grown over the years," she said.

A new logo has been launched for All-Energy'06, which will see more than 200 exhibitors showcasing their renewables projects and products.

More details of the £100million offshore windfarm proposed jointly by Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and engineering giant AMEC are due to be unveiled during the event.

US billionaire Donald Trump warned during a visit to the north-east last month that it could scupper his own plans for a £300million golf resort at Menie Links, near Balmedie.

All-Energy'06 will also feature an update on the Beatrice windfarm demonstrator project, which could be a forerunner to a proposed 200-turbine scheme linked by undersea cables to a platform in the Beatrice oil field - about 20 miles east of Helmsdale, in the Highlands.

Two wind turbines are being installed this summer in a mammoth operation that involves them being assembled onshore and then taken to sea.

The project is spearheaded by oil and gas firm Talisman Energy (UK) and power group Scottish and Southern Energy.

Brian Redden, director of funding consultant Nautilus Associates, said the turbine installation would be explained at All-Energy'06, adding: "Next year we will come back and tell the world how it went."

Other highlights of this year's free-to-attend event include the first exhibitor from Japan, a strong turnout of companies from Norway and a technical tour of Aberdeenshire's first windfarm at Glens of Foudland.

P & J

23 May 2006

Windfarm cut to size as trump pitches in

Tom Kirk

Controversial plans for an offshore windfarm have been watered down after American billionaire Donald Trump threatened to pull out of a deal to build a major golf course in Aberdeenshire.

But last night the developers behind the windfarm proposals insisted the changes were not made as a result of the tycoon's attacks on the project.

Under the original proposals, 33 wind turbines were planned for an area stretching from Aberdeen to Newburgh, less than a mile from the coast.

Mr Trump threatened to abandon his planned £300million luxury resort at Menie Links, near Balmedie, if the turbines spoiled the view.

Plans to be unveiled later this week, however, will show that the size of the windfarm has been cut by a third.

Now developers Aberdeen Renewable Energy group (Areg) want to build just 23 turbines. And instead of stretching as far north as Newburgh, the project will stop at Bridge of Don, ensuring Mr Trump can largely retain an unspoilt view of the North Sea.

Last night Areg denied the changes had been made as a result of Mr Trump's comments on the plans for the £100million development.

But last month the Trump Organisation was in talks with Areg and engineering giant Amec who are jointly behind the project. Both sides say they want the projects to be compatible.

Artist's impressions, showing the 490ft structures to be barely visible from the Trump clubhouse, are understood to have been submitted to the tycoon.

A spokeswoman said that Mr Trump had not seen the plans, adding that it was therefore impossible to discuss them in detail at the moment but it is understood that his representatives are "happy" with the new version.

"Mr Trump has always made it clear that he does not wish to see wind turbines from the resort," she added.

The revised layout will be unveiled at the All Energy Show, the largest all-renewable energy show yet held in the UK, which is taking place at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre this week.

Areg chairman Jeremy Cresswell yesterday insisted the changes pre-dated Mr Trump's golf scheme, and had been made after careful consultation on other matters, such as the impact on wildlife and aviation.

He added that the project had been "evolving" since it was first unveiled in September 2003. "This layout has been achieved through extensive and ongoing consultation not least with wildlife, aviation, maritime and local community interests," Mr Cresswell said.

"Further, we will shortly be starting a second round of consultations with those communities whose views we greatly value."

Kate Dean, a director of Areg and Aberdeen City Council's representative on the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum, which has welcomed Mr Trump's plans, also insisted the revision had nothing to do with the golf scheme.

"The potential layout of the windfarm has evolved over many months of consultation with interested parties," she said.

"Mr Trump originally saw a very outdated version of the layout and my understanding is that his people are now happy with the most up-to-date version.

"There should now be no reason whatsoever that the two projects should not prove compatible."

Robin Harper, co-leader of the Scottish Green Party, said it would be "absolutely appalling" if the reduction in the number of turbines was as a direct result of pressure from Mr Trump as it would mean renewable energy prospects in the area were not being exploited to the full.

But he added: "I would hope very strongly that this decision has been made in the absence of any direct lobbying from Mr Trump and is purely a commercial assessment on the basis of what the site has to offer.

"It would be completely unacceptable if they bowed to pressure from Mr Trump."
Visiting the north-east last month, Mr Trump warned the people of Scotland not to ruin its natural "beauty and majesty" with windfarms.

"Windfarms aren't the most beautiful things in the world and I have seen many," he said.
"When I look across the ocean from the 18th hole, what I want to see is the ocean. I don't want to see windmills".

The comments have outraged some green campaigners. Mr Trump claims he is a "big fan" of renewable energy, but says wave power is more viable.

His plans for a golf complex have been applauded by a host of business, tourist and economic organisations.

It is expected to contribute an estimated £157million to the economy over the next 10 years and create up to 400 jobs.

Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum said it could be as important as the discovery of oil and gas in the north-east.

Developers behind the windfarm say it could play a key role in maintaining Aberdeen's energy-capital status once the oil and gas run out, as well as helping Scotland meet its renewable energy targets.

P & J

25 May 2006

Trump to glimpse windfarm changes as plans go public

Tom Kirk

A Wary Donald Trump can now scrutinise detailed plans for a giant offshore windfarm north of Aberdeen as they are revealed for the first time today.

The plans - being launched at an energy conference in Aberdeen - show a revised location for the 23 turbines.

Images also show that the turbines would be visible on the skyline from Balmedie beach, just south of the Menie Estate, where the American billionaire hopes to build a £300million golf resort.

Mr Trump has repeatedly threatened to pull out of the project if the turbines spoil the view, but the nearest turbine would now be about three-and-a-half miles away.

The plans, which have been revised from those originally published three years ago, show the turbines would stretch from the city to Blackdog - not to Newburgh, as originally proposed. No one at the Trump Organisation would comment on the revised plans last night until Mr Trump had scrutinised them himself.

However, there were fresh warnings that the windfarm and golf resort together had the potential to hit local wildlife hard.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in Scotland says the turbines could threaten tens of thousands of birds, including some internationally important species.

The new design will be revealed today at the All Energy Conference by its co-developers, the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and project management services firm Amec.

They will now launch a fresh batch of consultations before submitting plans next year.

The developers claim the objections by the RSPB are based on the old design.

And they have vigorously denied claims that unsympathetic comments by Mr Trump have had any impact on their plans.

The Trump Organisation reiterated earlier this week that Mr Trump "does not wish to see wind turbines from the resort". A spokeswoman said yesterday that this position had not changed.

Green campaigners welcomed the new layout as a means of providing the north-east with thousands of sustainable jobs.

The windfarm would stretch about two-and-a-half miles, from the Bridge of Don to Blackdog.

Areg spokesman Iain Todd said the project was at "an exciting stage".

"The latest layout reflects the progress that has been made in discussions and leaves a framework for us to work towards a final design," he said.

"The key drivers behind the latest changes are environmental issues surrounding the Ythan estuary and operational issues faced by local helicopter pilots. We believe this new layout addresses many of the issues raised so far."

P & J

25 May 2006

Trump will eye skyline for signs of windfarm

Tom Kirk

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The Trump Organisation reiterated earlier this week that Mr Trump "does not wish to see wind turbines from the resort". A spokeswoman said yesterday that position had not changed.

Green campaigners welcomed the new layout as a means of providing the north-east with thousands of sustainable jobs.

Drastic changes have been made since the project was announced in September 2003. Then 33 turbines were planned, running in two rows from Aberdeen to Newburgh.

After intensive consultations the number has been cut to 23, arranged in a grid.

The windfarm would stretch about two-and-a-half miles, from the Bridge of Don to Blackdog, and start less than a mile out to sea.

Areg spokesman Iain Todd said the project was at "an exciting stage".

"The latest layout reflects the progress that has been made in discussions and leaves a framework for us to work towards a final design," he said.

"The key drivers behind the latest changes are environmental issues surrounding the Ythan estuary and operational issues faced by local helicopter pilots.

"We believe this new layout addresses many of the issues raised so far, but it is still very much a work in progress."

Other concerns, including access to Aberdeen harbour, were also taken into account, he said. David Hodgkinson, managing director of Amec's wind-energy business, stressed that the changes had nothing to do with Mr Trump's comments.

But both schemes came under fire from RSPB Scotland which said the two together could "decimate" wildlife.

Mr Trump's resort would cover about a third of Foveran Links, deemed an environmentally important site of special scientific interest, while the RSPB claims the windfarm would sit in the direct flight path of migrating birds.

Martin Auld, the RSPB's director for east Scotland, said: "These developments are being talked about as if consent has already been given but there is a lot at stake.

"We have voiced our concerns about the potential impact of a windfarm to the developers and are waiting to see what they are proposing."

The Aberdeenshire coast is home to hundreds of thousands of seabirds, ducks and divers. The RSPB is concerned not only because the birds could collide with the wind turbines but also because of the chosen site.

In summer many of the birds live on the water while they moult. They choose the area because it is safe and there are plenty of fish.

Thousands more breeding birds live on the links, where Mr Trump plans his golf course. Mr Todd said he hoped the RSPB would take a more supportive stance on the project once it had time to assess the design changes.

A Trump Organisation spokeswoman stressed its commitment to the environment. "Mr Trump has won awards of recognition for his environmental work in past developments," she said.

The windfarm developers claim the turbines could power the equivalent of about a third of the homes in Aberdeen and create thousands of jobs.

A further round of public consultation exhibitions will take place in June.

Last night the Green Party described the windfarm as "an enormous opportunity". A spokesman said it was confident the RSPB and developers would reach an agreement.

The spokesman added: "It is clear that renewable energy can provide thousands of sustainable jobs for the north-east and for Scotland as a whole.

"The Trump development has many environmental, social and economic issues that need to be considered, but it is the jobs and economic benefits of all forms of renewable energy that we need to prioritise."

PA News

24 May 2006

'TRUMP GOLF COURSE, PLUS WINDFARM, WILL DECIMATE WILDLIFE'

By Matt Dickinson, Scottish Press Association

Donald Trump's proposed £300 million Scottish golf complex and a nearby windfarm could "decimate" wildlife in the area, experts warned today.

The billionaire American property developer is hoping to build a championship course and luxury hotel on the Menie Estate in Aberdeenshire.

It would see the transformation of 800-acres of coastline - some of which is under special environmental protection rules.

In a separate development, the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) wants to build a £100 million development out in Aberdeen Bay, made up of 23 turbines between two and three miles off the coast.

But the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has warned that both projects could spell disaster for hundreds of thousands of birds on the shore and out at sea.

Dr Martin Auld, RSPB director for East Scotland, said the coastal strip is like a "motorway" for birds such as guillemots, kittiwakes and eiders flying between nesting areas and feeding grounds - and that the neighbouring projects have the potential to decimate the wildlife.

Urging all the parties to consider the implications before proceeding, he said: "These developments are being talked about as if consent has already been given, but there is a lot at stake.

"We have voiced our concerns about the potential impacts of a windfarm in Aberdeen Bay to the developers and are waiting to see what they are now proposing.

"The environmental impacts need to be looked at very carefully."

Last month Mr Trump, 59, visited the site of his proposed development - part of which is a site of special scientific interest.

His plans include two golf courses, a six-storey, 500-bed hotel in Victorian style and a golf academy.

During his visit he said that if officials decided they did not want the development, he would go elsewhere.

Following the RSPB warning, the Trump Organisation said in a statement: "Mr Trump has stated on many occasions that he is very keen to work with environmental bodies and to follow all correct procedures when developing his golf course as he always does.

"The Trump Organization is currently working on the planning application and is in consultation with all relevant environmental bodies, specialists and consultants to ensure a full, responsible and accurate planning application is submitted as we very much respect the planning process and the procedures involved."

AREG director and Aberdeen City councillor Katharine Dean said the RSPB's concerns had been worked into plans for the windfarm.

She said: "I assume we will never take away their fears unless the whole project is abandoned. "But I hope that we can continue to be in contact with them and that eventually we can come to some agreement."

The windfarm location will be unveiled at a conference in Aberdeen today that will examine alternative energy sources.

Deputy First Minister Nicol Stephen will be among hundreds of delegates expected at All-Energy 2006.

Aberdeen Evening Express

25 May 2006

Windfarm plan cuts turbine numbers

David Ewen

Revised plans for Aberdeen's offshore windfarm have been unveiled.

The number of turbines has been reduced - and they will be positioned further from the beach.

The group behind the plan say they have taken on board the views of the community, environmentalists and businesses.

But it also said no special changes had been made to accommodate American tycoon Donald Trump's plans for a golf course at Balmedie.

Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Ltd is a joint venture between Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and AMEC, an international project management services company.

The managing director of AMEC's wind energy business, David Hodgkinson, said: "While confirming that we have had constructive discussions with Mr Trump's representatives, I can state that they have not resulted in any further modifications to the layout beyond those incorporated previously to address concerns raised by other project stakeholders."

The initial layout consisted of 33 turbines running in a double row from Aberdeen almost as far as Newburgh, about a mile offshore.

The new layout consists of 23 turbines placed in a grid formation about two miles away.

The group responded to a request from the Harbour Board that there should be no turbines within two miles of the harbour mouth.

Iain Todd of AREG said more work was needed for the final design which they hope to send with their planning application to the Executive early next year.

He said key reasons for the changes were environmental concerns and operational issues for helicopter firms.

A new series of public consultation exhibitions are due next month.

In Aberdeen today, Deputy First Minister Nicol Stephen announced £20 million for green energy projects.

The cash will develop biomass, marine, offshore wind, fuel cell and hydrogen technology. The money will be spent over the next two years, the Aberdeen South MSP said.

P & J

27 May 2006

Shipping in danger from windfarm, warn chiefs

Keith Findlay

New plans for a giant windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen pose a danger to shipping, two of the north-east's most prominent business figures warned yesterday.

The co-developers behind the, windfarm Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and project management services firm Amec, unveiled their latest plans yesterday.

Details of the 23-turbine scheme show that it reduces the impact on views from the Menie Estate, near Balmedie, where US billionaire Donald Trump aims to build a £300million golf resort.

He has threatened not to go ahead with the project if turbines spoil the view from Menie Links but those behind the windfarm insist his comments have had no bearing on the decision to modify the plans.

However, fresh concerns about the scheme, which has no turbines north of Blackdog, emerged during a business breakfast as All-Energy 2006 got under way yesterday.

Douglas Craig, managing director of Aberdeen's Craig Group, said the changes would appease helicopter operators and Mr Trump but create a serious hazard for ships.

He also said they would have a negative impact on views from the Royal Aberdeen Golf Course, where he is a member. Speaking after the breakfast, Mr Craig said: "I am concerned as a ship owner and harbour user. The windfarm's (new) location favours Donald Trump and avoids helicopter flight paths but it does not take into consideration that Aberdeen is the busiest port in Europe in terms of oil supply vessel movements.

"Hundreds of ships will come close to these turbines. I am all in favour of a windfarm but not on our doorstep and where it will be an eyesore and an extreme danger to shipping."

His concerns about the impact on shipping were later echoed by Aberdeen Harbour Board chief executive Colin Parker.

He said: "We welcome the removal of turbines from within the port area and the developers' commitment to discuss fully the maritime industry's remaining serious concerns."

But Mr Parker added: "The (new) layout would cause potentially dangerous congestion in the port approaches. Windfarms closer than 1.5 nautical miles can interfere with ships' radar."

Mr Parker said Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) guidelines had a requirement for windfarms to be at least two nautical miles from shipping routes.

This would not be the case in Aberdeen, which has around 17,000 shipping movements each year, he added. "These concerns will be raised by Aberdeen Harbour Board through our contact with the windfarm developers," said Mr Parker.

The harbour authority supported the principle of a windfarm that did not create a hazard for ships, he added. He also said the board was to carry out a study of the possible impact of the proposed windfarm on shipping.

Iain Todd, Areg's "renewables champion", said he recognised the new layout could have implications for maritime safety but these would be fully investigated, with Areg's full co-operation, by the MCA.

Aberdeen Evening Express

1 June 2006

Trump misses target for golf dream

Karen Grant

Donald Trump has missed his May goal to submit a planning application for his multi-million North-east golf resort.

But the property tycoon's development has not suffered any setbacks.

His team want to ensure they go over every detail with a fine-toothed comb before lodging the £300 million plans for Menie Estate, near Balmedie.

Project director Neil Hobday said: "I wouldn't say it is delayed. It is progressing rapidly. "We want to make sure that certain issues are addressed."

The news comes a week after detailed plans for a giant offshore windfarm - near to Mr Trump's proposed golf resort - were revealed for the first time.

The American billionaire has repeatedly threatened to pull out of his project if the huge turbines spoil the view.

However, the windfarm plans included a revised location for the 23 turbines which would now be about three-and-a-half miles away.

Mr Hobday said he was unable to comment on the latest windfarm plans.

Last month, Mr Trump visited the North-east to discuss his plans to build the greatest golf course in the world.

He wants to create two 18-hole championship courses, a five-star hotel and a state-of-the-art golf academy - as well as additional amenities on the 800-acre site.

Mr Trump had said that he hoped to lodge his plans with Aberdeenshire Council this month.

But a Trump Organisation spokeswoman today said the plans were still under scrutiny.

She said: "It is in consultation with all relevant environmental bodies, specialists and consultants to ensure a full, responsible and accurate planning application is submitted, as we very much respect the planning process and the procedures involved.

"We will be submitting the application as soon as we have the detailed information finalised."

Aberdeen Evening Express

21 June 2006

Windfarm moved from Trump site

Revamped plans for a huge offshore windfarm, which threatened to scupper the development of Donald Trump's dream golf resort, have gone on show.

The team behind the project is seeking public support before the application is scrutinised by Aberdeenshire Council officials.

Developers the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and project management services firm Amec took their original plans on tour in October and November last year.

But since then the plans have been altered.

Originally 33 turbines were planned, running in two rows from Aberdeen to Newburgh. Now, after intensive consultations, the number has been cut to 23 - arranged in a grid.

The windfarm would stretch about two-and-a-half miles, from the Bridge of Don to Blackdog, and start less than a mile out to sea.

American billionaire Mr Trump has yet to comment on the revised application.

He has repeatedly threatened to pull the plug on his £300million golf resort plan if the turbines spoil the view.

But the nearest turbine would now be about three-and-a-half miles away from the proposed course, just south of the Menie Estate.

People in Peterhead were given the first chance to view the revised plans. They will now go to Cruden Bay, Newburgh, Collieston, Balmedie, the AECC, Tullos Primary and Aberdeen's Patio Hotel.

P & J

23 June 2006

Public puzzled over offshore turbines site off city beach

Claire Elliot

A Windfarm off the north-east coast should be built behind the high cliffs at Cove and out of sight from the recreational beaches at Aberdeen, Balmedie and Newburgh, it was claimed yesterday.

US tycoon Donald Trump has still to comment on revised plans for the offshore windfarm, which will now be about three-and-a-half miles from his proposed £300million golf resort at Menie Estate, near Balmedie. There was mixed reaction from residents when the changes went on display in Newburgh.

Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and management services firm Amec took their original plans on tour in October and November last year. Since then the number of wind turbines has been reduced from 33, which would have been in two rows from Aberdeen to Newburgh, to 23, set out in a grid.

One local, who did not want to be named, said he was completely opposed to the scheme and did not see the need for wind energy in the area.

"They are installing a new power station at Boddam and that could easily supply this electricity," he said.

He also believes the turbines would spoil the view from the beach at Aberdeen, and added: "I would back what Donald Trump is saying, that people coming to play on golf courses do not want to see windmills."

Colin Reid cycled from Aberdeen to Newburgh to view the plans, which he had mixed feelings about. He said: "I think quite a lot of people will come to Aberdeen to see it."

He questioned why it was being proposed in front of the recreational beaches at Aberdeen, Balmedie and Newburgh.

Mr Reid believes the windfarm would be better "round the corner" towards Cove where he said the visual impact would not be as intrusive as the turbines would be behind the high cliffs on that part of the coast.

Sandy Anderson, a retired ecologist from Newburgh, said: "We have seen windfarms in New Zealand and elsewhere and I find them impressive.

"Whether I would like to live next door to one swooshing away is another matter."

He also said his main concern was how the windfarm would affect the flight path of hundreds of migratory birds.

Amec development manager Tom Thorogood said they were in the process of carrying out a bird survey using ornithologists and radars. He said so far the "indications are very positive" as the study had shown that the birds move well below the blades or in areas away from the site of the windfarm.

Last year about 400 people attended the exhibitions and mostly welcomed the scheme, which will be decided by the Scottish Executive.

Residents are urged to take the opportunity to join fully in the consultation process, which continues at the Kirk Centre in Ellon today and at Collieston Community Centre tomorrow.

Next week the exhibition will call at the Whitehorse Inn, Balmedie, the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre, Tullos Primary School and finally at the Patio Hotel, Aberdeen.

Aberdeen Evening Express

23 June 2006

Turbines should be 'out of sight'

A Planned offshore windfarm should be built near Cove and "out of sight" of leisure beaches, it was claimed.

The comments came as a display about the controversial project was held at Newburgh.

It was part of a roadshow by Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and management services firm Amec who are behind the proposal, which has been reduced from 33 wind turbines to 23.

Colin Reid, who cycled from Aberdeen to Newburgh to view the plans, questioned why it was being proposed in front of the beaches at Aberdeen, Balmedie and Newburgh.

He believes the windfarm would be better towards Cove where the visual impact would not be as intrusive as the turbines would be behind high cliffs.

Donald Trump has still to comment on revised plans for the windfarm, which will now be about three-and-a-half miles from his proposed £300million golf resort near Balmedie.

The consultation was due to continue today at the Kirk Centre in Ellon today and at Collieston Community Centre tomorrow, with other events to be held at various venues next week.

Aberdeen Evening Express

1 July 2006

Windfarm plans go on show to visitors

A Steady stream of visitors have looked at plans for an offshore windfarm near Aberdeen. A series of exhibitions showing the plans have been held at various centres during a 10-day consultation process.

Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group and management services firm Amec said that several hundred people had attended.

The revised plans now feature 23 turbines, arranged in a grid.

When the project was first announced, in 2003, it was proposed to put up 33 turbines between Aberdeen and Newburgh.

US billionaire Donald Trump threatened to ditch plans for a £300 million golf course development at the Menie Estate in Balmedie if the original project went ahead.

He has not commented on the revised plans.

Ian Todd of Aberdeen Renewables said: "We've been consulting and listening to what people have to say. We've already changed the plans due to the visual impact.

"This is part of the drive to make Aberdeen not just an oil and gas city but one that is at the forefront of renewables technology."

5 October 2006

Harbour board says windfarm would be danger to shipping

Aberdeen Harbour Board yesterday vowed to oppose the current plans for an offshore windfarm near the Granite City.

Chief executive Colin Parker said the proposed development posed a danger to shipping entering and leaving the port.

He also warned that shopping and housing developments in the heart of Aberdeen would inhibit future growth and hamper the city's potential generally.

Mr Parker said the harbour board was not opposed to the idea of a windfarm, but the current plans for 23 turbines offshore meant they would interfere with vital shipping radar.

The port boss was speaking as the harbour board celebrated the opening of its GBP4.5million marine operations centre at Footdee.

Originally, 33 wind turbines were planned, running in two rows from Aberdeen to Newburgh, when the project was announced in September 2003.

The revised scheme took the turbines further away from US tycoon Donald Trump's proposed GBP300million golf resort at Menie Estate, near Balmedie.

Mr Trump had threatened to scrap his project if turbines spoiled the view for golfers.

But the new site for the windfarm, while now outside the port limit, has raised concerns among harbour users on operational and safety grounds.

Mr Parker said: "It is a serious concern to the safe navigation of vessels and we will resist and fight the application." The developers of the windfarm, Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) and project management services firm Amec aim to hold another public consultation before submitting a planning application to Scottish ministers next year.

Mr Parker also criticised the decision to scrap a rail yard to make way for 1,700 parking spaces for the new Union Square shopping development.

He warned that new rail-freight facilities being created at Craiginches and at Raith's Farm, Dyce, could result in more heavy lorries on the road.

The existing yard would have been the ideal site for an integrated transport hub, he said, adding: "Closing the yard is a lost opportunity for the city." Luxury flat developments in the harbour area were another concern for the port bosses.

Mr Parker said: "People will move into these new flats and then complain when they are woken at 2am by noisy ships." Despite the "unhelpful" developments, the 72ft new marine operations centre coincides with a period of increasing business activity at the harbour.

Last year saw records smashed, with 8,300 vessels bringing in 4.85million tonnes of cargo and 140,000 passengers. This year is predicted to be an even busier one for the port.

The new operations centre - designed by SMC Parr Architects and constructed by Sir Robert McAlpine - houses the latest vessel traffic services systems for monitoring and directing ships, an upgraded bridge-training simulator, training room, emergency response room and other facilities.

It replaces the navigation centre known locally as the Roundhouse, which has been in use for more than two centuries.

Mr Parker said: "By employing state-of-the-art technology and integrating various aspects of operations at a single location, the centre brings further important improvements to the management of the port and provides capacity for future growth in traffic." The new centre is one of three major projects in a GBP44million five-year redevelopment of the port, including the completion in March of a GBP4.75million reconstruction of Albert Quay West.

At Point Law Peninsula, more than 215,000sq ft of surfaced area is being created to support a wide range of operations.

The harbour board is also looking at deepening and widening the port entrance to allow larger vessels to come in.

AREG renewables champion Iain Todd said the windfarm developers were investigating the scheme's impact on shipping and the risks would be fully assessed through consultation with the Maritime Coastguard Agency.

"Maritime safety is an extremely important issue for our project," he said.

5 October 2006

Aberdeen harbour boss plans to fight windfarm amid safety fears

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Chief executive Colin Parker said the proposed development posed a danger to shipping entering and leaving the port.

He also warned that shopping and housing developments in the heart of Aberdeen would inhibit future growth and hamper the city's potential generally.

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Express (UK)

28 November 2006

Trump tees off his 1bn course plan

By Billy Youngson

AMERICAN tycoon Donald Trump yesterday revealed his 1billion plan to give Scotland the world's best golf resort.

Golfers could be just over two years away from teeing off at the course, on the Menie Estate near Aberdeen.

Ashley Cooper, Mr Trump's executive vice president of acquisitions and development, said: "We are not here by accident. We considered dozens of sites when we started out on this project four years ago.

"But Donald wants to make it happen here. It is perfect for the vision that he has."
Yesterday, Mr Trump's team officially submitted an application to Aberdeenshire Council to transform the 1,400-acre site.

The flamboyant businessman, whose mother was born in Stornoway, is planning a 450room five-star hotel, 950 holiday homes and 36 luxury golf lodges for the resort, which would also have a conference centre, tennis courts, a state-of-the-art golf academy and a spa.

Two 18-hole courses could be ready for use by 2009 and the whole resort finished by 2012.

Locals had feared that a large number of private houses could be built around the resort, but Mr Cooper added: "Mr Trump is here because he wants to build the best course in the world.

The houses are a by-product of that.

"When there is so much investment going out, we have to find some balance.

"We would not come here solely to build houses - we would go to Asia or China for that because they are screaming out for the Trump brand there."

The Trump team say the course will generate millions in tourist income for years to come. Mr Cooper said: "Donald is very excited about influencing a regional economy.

"It is very rare for anyone, even him, to get the opportunity to do that.

"He wants to build something that will stand well beyond all our lifetimes.

"The support we have had from this area since we bought the land back in March has been phenomenal. People are very excited by this." Mr Trump had previously objected to a proposed offshore windfarm, which he says would spoil the view from the luxury resort, and his team yesterday said their opinion on the renewable energy project still stood.

Mr Cooper said: "Mr Trump said guests won't want to look out to sea and see turbines. That still stands.

"They are a business, like we are a business, and we are just one voice."

28 November 2006

Trump triples the cost and doubles size of resort plan

Donald Trump yesterday unveiled his long-awaited and spectacular GBP1 billion vision to transform part of the north-east coastline into a world-leading golf resort.

The massive project - which received widespread support last night from business leaders and politicians - has doubled in size to around 1,400 acres and rocketed from its earlier GBP330 million price tag.

But it also includes substantial areas earmarked for future residential development which look likely to cause controversy.

The US-based Trump Organisation yesterday began a series of public meetings to outline what it calls the "world's best golf resort" at Balmedie, near Aberdeen.

Last night more than 200 locals welcomed the mega-development on their doorstep.

The fanfare was timed to coincide with the submission of an outline planning application to Aberdeenshire Council.

The plans include two championship golf courses - one is expected to host The Open - a 450-room, five-star hotel, a 10,000sq ft conference centre, 950 holiday homes, 36 guest villas and a number of residential homes "to be determined".

A 25,000sq ft clubhouse, a golfing academy and an accommodation block for 400 employees are also detailed.

But the vast swathes of untouched land earmarked for housing at the Menie Estate could be a stumbling block with local authority planners whose policies prevent building new homes in the countryside.

The organisation's executive vice-president, Ashley Cooper, Mr Trump's man in Scotland, would not say how many were planned but stressed they were essential to finance the overall scheme.

He also warned that proposals for a North Sea windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen and potentially in sight of Balmedie could still jeopardise the resort. He told local residents, business people and politicians how the resort - called Trump International Golf Links - would create at least 400 jobs and put the north-east firmly on the world map for golf tourism.

Mr Cooper said: "There is a natural gap in this area for a five-star golf resort. People coming to Scotland already go to established resorts like St Andrews, the home of golf, but then miss the north-east.

"This will bring huge numbers of tourists and make the best of the stunning landscape here in Aberdeenshire." The New Jersey-based businessman was joined by a panel of experts on the project team to field questions at the tiny Forsyth Hall, at Belhelvie, just a couple of miles from the proposed resort.

Politicians from all parties joined community councillors to quiz the panel on the possible impact to transport, economy and the environment.

Mr Cooper assured the audience that a thorough study of the fragile dune system would be completed before work could begin and said the beach and main dune barrier would be left untouched.

He also played up the local benefits adding: "This will be very much a public resort with a small private membership." "There will remain access to the beach and the hotel doors will be swung open to guests. It will bring a big change to the local economy.

"We were having dinner at the local pub last night and a cab driver was telling me how he will be bringing more people here. They will use local facilities." He added: "The plans will eventually take into account impact to schools, hospitals, roads, but it is still too early to go into that in detail." The timetable to open the golf course and clubhouse in spring 2009 hinges on road improvements already underway on the A90 Aberdeen-Ellon trunk road.

Future plans could include helicopter links bringing wealthy visitors from Aberdeen Airport and beyond directly to the golf course.

The resort is planned to be opened in phases starting with the golf course, clubhouse, the 36 guest homes then teaching and practice facilities. Phase two could include holiday homes, the hotel - then the controversial residential homes.

Mr Cooper said: "This is not an all-or-nothing application. We have not filed for one single house yet. It's all about give or take." But he added: "We have found five sites that were suitable for the kind of vision we have. A lot of places have welcomed us with open arms.

"There will be detractors. If this becomes insurmountable, then we will maybe have problems." Gordon Liberal Democrat MP Malcolm Bruce, who was at the lunchtime meeting, was among those to offer support for the plans.

He said: "Everyone should recognise that this is a major investment and a potential draw to this part of Scotland." North-east SNP list MSP Maureen Watt welcomed the presentation and pushed for local businesses to be involved in the construction.

North-east Labour list MSP Richard Baker said it was too early to discuss the plans but welcomed the opportunity to listen to the project team.

North-east Green MSP Shiona Baird was one of just a few to criticise the project.

She said: "A more sound investment for Mr Trump may be in the north-east's renewables industry, but he seems to still be opposed to the offshore windfarm, planned nearby, if it is visible from the hotel. This does not inspire confidence." The planning application will be available for public viewing after it has been formally registered by Aberdeenshire Council planning officials.

The local authority's chief executive, Alan Campbell, said he "warmly welcomed" the Trump Organisation's interest and added: "Such an investment could have the potential to deliver huge benefits to Aberdeen city and shire." Councillors who will debate the application stayed away from yesterday's meetings following advice from the authority's top lawyer. They can no longer comment publicly on the live application.

But a spokesman for the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum called it "one of the most eagerly-awaited planning applications in the region's history".

20 May 2010

Proposals for offshore windfarm take step forward

ian.forsyth

Plans for a GBP150million offshore windfarm near Aberdeen took a major step forward yesterday after harbour bosses and helicopter firms dropped their safety objections.

Industry body Oil & Gas UK and Aberdeen Harbour Board said they were satisfied the scheme would not pose a risk after the company behind it agreed to site the 11 turbines away from the city's port towards an area off Blackdog.

The latest boost for the project was announced at a breakfast to mark the start of the All-Energy show in Aberdeen by Iain Todd, renewables champion for the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG), which is spearheading the scheme with Swedish utility firm Vattenfall.

The project was originally scaled down from 33 turbines after Donald Trump threatened to drop his plans to create a GBP1billion golf resort at the Menie Estate. A subsequent proposal was put forward for up to 23 turbines in a grid formation between one and three miles out to sea, stretching from Bridge of Don to Blackdog.

A year ago the project was scaled down further, to 11 turbines, to help allay fears about shipping safety and helicopter operations.

The project leaders would not say yesterday where exactly the 11 turbines would be located off Blackdog, though they are still in the original agreed 'footprint' area.

Last night, Mr Trump's team said it would need to see the revised plan before commenting. The windfarm, to be known as the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre, now faces two main hurdles if it is to be operational by 2012.

The scheme still needs to secure final European approval for GBP36million of funding and consent from the Scottish Government.

The plans include testing facilities that will be used to assess the next generation of offshore wind turbines, as well as hunt for new ways to create energy from wind.

The proposal could create hundreds of jobs.

Robert Paterson, health and safety director with industry body Oil & Gas UK, said: 'Following a meeting with AREG last Friday, Oil & Gas UK is satisfied that the new location of the proposed windfarm is not likely to pose a risk to helicopter safety.'

'We are pleased that AREG has taken the aviation and oil and gas industry's concerns into account in moving the location of the proposed windfarm.'

Aberdeen Harbour Board's chief executive Colin Parker said shipping firms had discussed concerns with the developer about the impact on navigational safety.

'We are satisfied that, as a result of these discussions, the footprint of the test facility has been amended, which will lessen any impact the development has on this important area for anchorage and the busy shipping lanes.'

The Press and Journal reported last December that the European Union had pledged GBP36million to the Aberdeen windfarm.

The funding was part of more than GBP1.3billion of grants from Brussels.

(UK)

8 December 2010

Section: Editorial

Turbines in wrong place

DONALD Trump is quite right to do his best to stop the offshore wind farm if he believes it will detract from his golf course. Whatever people think of Mr Trump, or his plans for Menie, Aberdeenshire, he has been given the go-ahead for his resort - yet now he is faced with having an unsightly windfarm as the view.

If the wind turbines are needed, why cannot they be placed somewhere else? On the one hand Scotland - and Mr Trump - wants to attract tourists, golfers and their cash to the north-east coast. On the other hand, there now appears to be a concerted effort to negate one of the main attractions of his resort. Where is the logic? If these wind turbines are so necessary, why did the authorities reduce their number from 33 to 11? If they were quick enough to cut 22 turbines from the project, it is clear that they could do without any, or at least erect them in a more appropriate place.

Express (UK)

8 December 2010

Section: News

Trump says windfarm will spoil his sea view

Judith Duffy

TYCOON Donald Trump yesterday vowed to fight plans for a massive offshore windfarm overlooking his controversial £750million golf resort. Proposals have been unveiled to build 11 turbines up to 195 metres tall off the coast of Aberdeen.

But the American billionaire said he will "vehemently" oppose the development amid fears it will ruin the view from his golf course in Menie, Aberdeenshire. Mr Trump said: "Every component of our project is based upon sea views.

"We cannot allow the construction of what is tantamount to 11 65-storey structures off our beautiful coastline.

"These turbines, if ever built, will in one fell swoop destroy Scotland's magnificent heritage."

The proposed £150million European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre, has already been scaled down from 33 turbines after complaints from Trump, the oil and gas industry and the harbour board.

But opponents of his golf resort plans yesterday accused him of being a "hypocrite".

David Milne, who is refusing to sell his property on the Menie Estate to Mr Trump, said: "He is an arrogant idiot.

"Trump is desecrating a protected site of specific scientific interest for his own personal profit. For him to say this is a bit like the pot calling the kettle black.

"Wind farms are for future generations and the good of the public. What he's doing is considerably worse."

A detailed planning application will be submitted to Marine Scotland next year.

The proposal states: "The layout reflects the careful consideration of technical, environmental and economic considerations."

Daily Record (Glasgow, Scotland)

8 December 2010

Section: News

SEVEN IRONY

Tycoon claims windfarm will spoil view from his controversial pounds 750m coastal golf course

Kris Gilmartin

TYCOON Donald Trump has declared war on a proposed windfarm, claiming it would "destroy" Scotland's natural heritage.

Trump said yesterday that the giant structures would spoil the view from his pounds 750million golf complex.

But opponents, who say the golf complex at the Menie Estate in Aberdeenshire is itself harming the environment, last night labelled the billionaire American a hypocrite.

The pounds 150million windfarm's turbines would be up to 394ft (120m) high and would be in full view of the course.

Trump said last night he would "vehemently oppose" the application when it goes before Marine Scotland next year.

He said: "Every component of our project is based upon sea views. We cannot allow the construction of what is tantamount to 65-storey structures off our coastline "These turbines, if ever built, will in one fell swoop destroy Scotland's magnificent natural heritage. They are noisy and unsightly and we will oppose the siting of this vehemently."

But Martin Ford, the Aberdeenshire councillor whose casting vote saw Trump's plans initially rejected, said the tycoon was a "hypocrite".

He said: "If Mr Trump is so concerned about the natural beauty of Scotland's coast, he should stop destroying it himself.

"Unlike his own construction project, the proposed turbines will not harm any designated nature conservation site. They will not 'destroy Scotland's magnificent natural heritage' - though Mr Trump has done exactly that at Menie."

Trump's course is expected to open in 2012 and the resort, which includes a 450-bedroom hotel, 950 holiday homes and 500 houses, could create more than 1000 jobs.

Vattenfall, Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group are behind the windfarm proposal, which has received EU backing.

Vattenfall's David Hodgkinson said: "We spoke to local residents, businesses and community representatives and received broadly positive support."

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

8 December 2010

Trump in fresh row with developers

ryan.crighton

DONALD Trump has again clashed with rival developers over plans to build a windfarm off the stretch of north-east coastline where he is creating a GBP750million golf resort.

The American billionaire has already started work on what he believes will be the greatest golf course in the world at the Menie Estate, near Balmedie.

Each of the 18 holes at the championship course has been designed to offer dramatic views of the North Sea as players weave through the site's sand dunes.

However, plans to site 11 turbines about three miles off the coast of nearby Blackdog have once again cast a shadow over his proposals.

Those behind the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) are promising a potentially major economic spin-off.

But last night Mr Trump said he will fight to block the structures, which will stand at between 328ft and 394ft above sea level at low tide.

Mr Trump has criticised the plans in the past, before the turbines were sited farther towards Aberdeen.

However, fresh designs -- which went out to public consultation last month -- have the turbines just over two and a half miles away.

'Scotland is one the most beautiful places on earth with a coastline that is recognised around the world as being the best,' Mr Trump said.

'These turbines, if ever built, will in one fell swoop destroy Scotland's magnificent natural heritage. They are noisy, unsightly and we will oppose the siting of this windfarm vehemently.

'Every component of our project is based upon sea views and we cannot allow the construction of what is tantamount to 11 65-storey structures off our beautiful coastline.'

The EOWDC, which is being taken forward by Vattenfall, Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group, would not only generate power for half the homes in Aberdeen but also act as a test centre for new technology.

It is hoped the windfarm -- earmarked for GBP36million of European Union funding -- will be operational by 2012.

Last night the EOWDC said the project was 'potentially of huge importance to Scotland, the wider UK and Europe'.

A spokesman said: 'The project partners recently held five public information days in the north-east regarding the proposed development.

'The views expressed at these events and those of a range of other stakeholders will be taken into account when submitting a planning application to Marine Scotland early next year.'

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

16 December 2010

Offshore windfarm wins GBP34m EU grant

ross.davidson

AN OFFSHORE windfarm planned for the north-east has received more than GBP30million in European funding.

Proposals for 11 turbines and a test centre three miles off the coast have been backed by the European Union with a grant of 40million euros (GBP34million).

The organisations behind the European offshore wind deployment centre (EOWDC) will now turn their attention to preparing an application to Marine Scotland for planning consent, expected to be submitted early next year.

It is hoped the windfarm, to be sited three miles off the coast at Blackdog, north of Aberdeen, will be operational by 2012.

The EOWDC, which is being taken forward by Vattenfall, Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg), would generate power for half the homes in Aberdeen and act as a test centre for new technology.

Yesterday, David Hodkinson, director and head of development of Vattenfall Wind Power in the UK, said the project will create jobs and generate investment in the north-east's renewable energy industry.

He said: 'We very much welcome the news from the European Union which confirms the considerable financial support being awarded and underlines the strategic importance of the EOWDC and a move towards a vibrant UK offshore wind industry.'

Aberdeen North MSP Brian Adam welcomed the funding and described the project as 'possibly game-changing' for Aberdeen. 'Aberdeen has a big role to play in developing the renewable energy sector, putting our current expertise in the offshore environment into these new and developing technologies,' he said.

'It is with projects like this we should be able to harness our potential.'

Last week American Donald Trump spoke out against the windfarm proposal because it would be close to where he is creating a GBP750million golf resort.

The billionaire said the turbines would 'destroy Scotland's magnificent natural heritage', and added he would 'vehemently' oppose the Blackdog siting of the windfarm.

Mr Trump has criticised the plans in the past.

The windfarm has been scaled back several times from the original scheme for 33 turbines after he threatened to drop his golf resort plans.

In addition Oil & Gas UK and Aberdeen Harbour Board voiced concerns about safety for helicopters and shipping lanes.

Herald (Glasgow, Scotland)

5 August 2011

Section: HS – News

NO HEADLINE

DONALD Trump's organisation has vowed to fight a proposed windfarm "on every possible front".

Plans for the £150 million offshore windfarm have taken a step forward with the submission of a formal planning application.

The 11-wind turbine European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre would be situated off Aberdeen Bay and is a joint venture by utility company Vattenfall, engineering firm Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group.

In a statement issued last night The Trump Organisation said: "We are opposed to the siting of this windfarm and we will fight the proposal on every possible front."

UK country manager of Vattenfall David Hodkinson said: "We believe we have made a good case for the development, which places Aberdeen at the heart of the development of new technologies to serve the growing European offshore wind sector.

"We would build the project with the same attention to detail in respect of environmental and community considerations as we have for our previous developments".

Dates will be released shortly for a series of consultation events.

3 August 2011

Plans in for energy venture off Aberdeenshire coast

calum.ross

PLANS have been tabled for a GBP200million windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen which could help turn the north-east into a global leader in the renewable energy industry.

After six years on the drawing board, the application for the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) has been lodged with the Scottish Government agency Marine Scotland.

US billionaire Donald Trump once threatened to pull out of his golf resort plans for the Menie Estate because the proposed location of the turbines was so close to his development.

George Sorial, managing director at the Trump Organisation, vowed last night to object to the application and fight it 'using any available legal means in any jurisdiction'.

Under the proposals, 11 offshore turbines would be erected -- capable of producing enough electricity to power more than half of the homes in Aberdeen.

The highest point of the biggest turbines could be 640ft above the sea -- taller than the London Eye and more than double the height of Big Ben. The test centre site lies about one-and-a-half miles off the coast between Balmedie and the outskirts of Bridge of Don, and work could get under way in 2013 if the application is approved.

Energy industry companies, governments and academics from across Europe would closely monitor the progress of a scheme which aims to prove offshore wind technology is ready for full-scale commercial deployment.

In the north-east, the development is seen by many as crucial to ensure the region becomes a key player in marine energy as it looks towards a post-oil future.

The project is a joint venture between Vattenfall, Europe's sixth largest generator of electricity, subsea engineering firm Technip, and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg).

Morag McCorkindale, chief operating officer at Areg, said: 'The region has an offshore oil and gas supply chain unrivalled outside of Houston and therefore has the highest concentration of energy expertise, experience, skills and technology.'

'This industrial-scale know-how is crucial to the development of marine renewables, and in the short-term particularly, offshore wind.'

5 August 2011

Project points to our renewable future

tom.forsyth

THE sight of 11 wind turbines sprouting one and a half miles off the coast north of Aberdeen could change how we view the city in more ways than one.

We have been prepared for it for some time, of course, as the original plan, before it was scaled back, was for 33 turbines, to drive an offshore windfarm and test centre for the renewable-energy industry.

The scaling back followed objections on aesthetic and safety grounds from Donald Trump, whose new golf centre is on the same stretch of coast, and Oil and Gas UK and Aberdeen Harbour Board. Safety concerns for shipping and helicopters in a congested sea area have also brought a compromise.

There will still be keen debate about the aesthetic nature of the project, its environmental impact and the value of the energy it produces. These are arguments which already swirl around land-based windfarms, which have mushroomed rapidly across Scotland.

Very few modern industrial issues have divided people so much. They create an alien landscape in the eyes of many people who find wind turbines intrusive. It is a fledgling industry, so they will look strange for a time before we become fully accustomed to their presence. Oil platforms might also have looked environmentally intrusive at one time, but it did not matter because they were so far out to sea that no one could see them.

If Aberdeen wants to maintain its status as European energy capital, and ensure there is life after oil and gas, it must diversify while exploiting the expertise it has built up. There are many rivals vying to take away its crown, but this major project could ensure the north-east remains the industry leader.

5 August 2011

Trump vows to fight plans for massive windfarm

calum.ross

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In the north-east, the development is seen by many as crucial to ensure the region becomes a key player in marine energy as it looks towards a post-oil future.

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'This industrial-scale know-how is crucial to the development of marine renewables, and in the short-term particularly, offshore wind.'

'The EOWDC is a key project to assist in the diversification of its economy.'

Mr Sorial said the Trump Organisation would object to the application, and suggested the firm could even pursue legal action in the US, because the turbine development would spoil the views from the GBP750million Balmedie resort.

'We are all for anything that will help the region and create jobs,' he said.

'On that regard our interests are aligned, but you don't do that by compromising one asset.'

'We have invested significant resources in this project and we have become part of the fabric of the north-east. We are here to stay and I don't think it's a good idea to interfere with our investment.'

'We are not going to support a project that compromises what we have done. We will use any available legal means in any jurisdiction.'

The plans for the north-east were previously scaled back from the original proposal for 33 turbines after Mr Trump threatened to walk away, and Oil & Gas UK and the Aberdeen Harbour Board raised concerns about safety for helicopters and shipping lanes.

David Hodkinson, Vattenfall's UK manager, said: 'We believe we have made a good case for the development, which places Aberdeen at the heart of the development of new technologies to serve the growing European offshore wind sector.'

Ron Cookson, senior vice-president of Technip Offshore Wind, said: 'It is our belief that this project could, with considerable EU support, be the catalyst which 'kick starts' the region's rapid emergence as an industry-leading player in marine renewables.'

Offshore wind is said to have the potential to deliver more than 28,000 direct jobs in Scotland by 2020 and inject up to GBP7.1 billion of investment into the economy.

In August last year, The Crown Estate awarded the EOWDC an exclusivity agreement as an offshore wind demonstration site, and in December it was given a 40 million euro (GBP35million) grant from the EU.

The turbines could be between four and 10mw, which, based on a capacity of 100mw, would produce more than 300,000mw hours every year, the equivalent of the domestic needs of more than 65,000 homes. The 4mw turbines would have a maximum height of 328ft above low tide, while the 10mw structures would be up to 394ft, and the rotor blades would be between 196ft to 246ft, giving a maximum height of 640ft.

Consultation will be held before a decision is made by the Holyrood government, with the environmental impact assessment to go on display at a series of public meetings.

Bob Collier, chief executive of Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, said: 'There is fierce competition, not just in Scotland but across the rest of Europe to gain recognition as a leader in the field and this project will provide an extremely valuable testing site for manufacturers to demonstrate their products and to gather vital data on performance.'

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

6 August 2011

Windfarm and course 'vital'

calum.ross

BUSINESS leaders have said plans for a GBP200million windfarm off the Aberdeen coast and Donald Trump's golf resort are 'equally important' for the future of the north-east.

The announcement this week that an application has been lodged for 11 giant offshore turbines met strong opposition from the Trump Organisation.

The structures would measure up to 640ft -- twice the height of Big Ben -- and are to be positioned one and a half miles from the coast between Balmedie and Bridge of Don.

Mr Trump has criticised the proposed location because of its proximity to his GBP750million golf development at the Menie Estate -- and senior members of his team this week vowed to fight the plans using 'any available legal means in any jurisdiction'.

Many people who have spoken in support of the economic benefits of the Trump development also view the plans for the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) as key to the region becoming a global player in the renewable energy industry and securing its post-oil economic future.

Tom Smith, chairman of Aberdeen City and Shire and Economic Future (Acsef), said the EOWDC was crucial to anchor the energy industry in the Energetica corridor between Aberdeen and Peterhead.

'Both the Trump development and the EOWDC are of strategic importance for our economy and integral parts of Energetica, which is a unique energy destination, based on low carbon principles, that will attract new businesses and people to the region,' he said.

'The EOWDC will be the catalyst to securing new investment in renewable energy technologies and services.

'However, to attract those businesses and their employees, the environment, both natural and built, along with world-class leisure facilities are equally important and our aim is to strike the right balance - which the new layout and location of the EOWDC achieves.'

The offshore windfarm and test centre plans have been lodged with Scottish Government agency Marine Scotland by Vattenfall, Europe's sixth-largest electricity generator, subsea engineering firm Technip, and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group.

North-east Labour MSP Lewis Macdonald said: 'There were many people keen to support Donald Trump's golf development, on the basis of the jobs and business it promised to bring.

'If it's good enough for golf, it's good enough for green electricity. I call on all concerned to back these plans.'

PA News

10 August 2011

TRUMP SLAMS WINDFARM APPLICATION

Kate Shannon Press Association Scotland

US billionaire Donald Trump has criticised a plan to build an offshore windfarm near his luxury golf resort.

A planning application for an 11-turbine wind farm off Aberdeen Bay was submitted on Friday.

The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre is a £150 million joint venture by utility company Vattenfall, engineering firm Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group.

In a statement, Mr Trump said: "I am very disappointed that Scotland may allow the development of a wind power plant directly off Aberdeen's beautiful coastline.

"When I first became involved with our billion-pound development - golf course construction is weeks away from completion with a planned opening before July 1 2012 - I was repeatedly promised, as an incentive for us to go forward and proceed with this project, that wind turbines would not be destroying and distorting the magnificent coastline.

"Unfortunately, despite these prior assurances that the wind project would not proceed, I am now learning that this issue has again raised its ugly head.

"Many places, such as Cape Cod, Massachusetts and numerous others, have totally rejected these so-called wind farms entirely because they are unsightly and noisy. No matter how far out they are sited, their terrible screeching sounds are audible to both people and wildlife.

"Scotland is one of the most beautiful countries on earth, with its greatest asset being its magnificent coastline, a coastline known for its great beauty throughout the entire world.

"Speaking both selfishly and as somebody who loves Scotland, the birthplace of my mother, I hope that the mistake of building these massive and visually destructive power plants is avoided. Don't be misled. Your coastline will be forever ruined. Your wildlife will be devastated. And your valuable tax revenues wasted."

The windfarm planning application seeks permission for work to start on its construction and operation.

Mr Trump's under-construction golf course is on the Menie Estate near Aberdeen on the North Sea coast, parts of which are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

David Rodger, spokesman for the windfarm project, said: "We have been in regular contact with the Trump Organisation and acknowledge the concern raised.

"We have made a strong case for the environmental and economic benefits of the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre as a centre of global research and development for offshore wind and as such it is of strategic importance to Aberdeen and Scotland's renewable energy ambitions.

"The project is now subject to a formal consultation and decision-making process."

Independent (UK)

11 August 2011

Section: News

Trump opposes plan for windfarm

News

Kate Shannon

THE US billionaire Donald Trump has criticised a plan to build an offshore windfarm near his luxury golf resort in Scotland.

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Daily Record (Glasgow, Scotland)

11 August 2011

Section: News

TRUMP BLOWS UP OVER PLAN FOR WINDFARM

Fury at turbines near his golf resort

John Ferguson

DONALD Trump has accused the Scottish government of allowing the "destruction" of the coastline with plans for an offshore windfarm near his pounds 1 billion golf resort.

The American tycoon claims the scheme would spoil the view from his controversial Menie course near Aberdeen.

In a statement yesterday, the billionaire said: "When I first became involved with our development, I was repeatedly promised, as an incentive for us to go forward and proceed with this project, that wind turbines would not be destroying and distorting the magnificent coastline. Despite these prior assurances, I am now learning that this issue has again raised its ugly head.

"No matter how far out they are sited, their terrible screeching sounds are audible to people and wildlife."

He also claimed turbines are "extremely inefficient".

A planning application for the pounds 150 million windfarm went in last week. Eleven turbines would go up in Aberdeen Bay in a joint venture by Vattenfall, engineering firm Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group.

Technip Offshore Wind senior vice president Ron Cookson said: "It is our belief this project could, with considerable EU support, be the catalyst which kickstarts the region's rapid emergence as an industry-leading player in marine renewables."

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

11 August 2011

Donald Trump tilts at 'turbine threat which will forever ruin coastline'

ryan.crighton

Billionaire Donald Trump claimed last night that Scotland's coastline will be 'forever ruined' if a GBP200million windfarm is built next to his north-east golf resort.

He has attacked the plans for giant turbines to be built off the coast of Aberdeen because of the visual impact they will have on his Menie Estate links course.

The 11 structures -- which would make up the European Offshore Wind Development Centre (EOWDC) -- would measure up to 640ft high, twice the height of Big Ben.

They would be erected one-and-a-half miles from the coast between Balmedie and Bridge of Don.

But the Trump Organisation has vowed to use any available legal means to make sure the project does not go ahead.

Mr Trump said: 'I am very disappointed that Scotland may allow the development of a wind power plant directly off Aberdeen's beautiful coastline.'

He also released his own artist's impression of what the scheme would look like from his championship golf course, which is nearing completion.

'When I first became involved with our billion-pound development, I was repeatedly promised, as an incentive for us to go forward and proceed with this project, that wind turbines would not be destroying and distorting the magnificent coastline,' he said.

'Unfortunately, despite these prior assurances that the wind project would not proceed, I am now learning that this issue has again raised its ugly head.'

Mr Trump previously threatened to walk away from his golf development when original proposals for the windfarm cited 33 turbines.

That number, however, was eventually scaled back.

Building work for the project -- a partnership between Vattenfall, Technip, and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (Areg) -- could start as early as 2013.

But Mr Trump still fears the scheme could compromise his plans. He added: 'Scotland is one of the most beautiful countries on earth, with its greatest asset being its coastline -- a coastline known for its great beauty throughout the entire world.'

'Speaking both selfishly and as somebody who loves Scotland, the birthplace of my mother, I hope that the mistake of building these massive and visually destructive power plants is avoided.'

And he warned Scottish residents: 'Don't be misled -- your coastline will be forever ruined, your wildlife will be devastated and your valuable tax revenues wasted.'

David Rodger, project spokesman for the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre, said: 'We have been in regular contact with the Trump Organisation and acknowledge the concern raised.'

Meanwhile, an engineering expert has questioned the drawing that the Trump Organisation released yesterday to justify its concerns.

Alan Owen, of the School of Engineering at the Robert Gordon University, said: 'The Trump picture shows the wind turbines too close to shore and incorrectly distributed, both relative to the shore and to one another.'

Mr Owen, a member of the Areg board, added: 'The area is already an industrial landscape with large boats congregating frequently, and the applicant's picture is far more accurate.'

Last night, the Scottish Government dismissed Mr Trump's claims and said each offshore application would be assessed by Scottish ministers.

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

11 August 2011

Donald Trump tilts at 'turbine threat which will forever ruin coastline'

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ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

16 August 2011

Massive offshore turbines plan going before the public

catriona.webster

PLANS for a controversial GBP200million windfarm off the coast of Aberdeen will come under public scrutiny later this month.

A series of consultation events are to be held on the proposed European Offshore Wind Development Centre.

If approved it would include 11 giant turbines measuring up to 640ft high, twice the height of Big Ben.

The structures would be positioned one-and-a-half miles from the coast between Balmedie and Bridge of Don.

Earlier this month an application was lodged with Scottish Government agency Marine Scotland by Vattenfall, Europe's sixth-largest electricity generator, subsea engineering firm Technip, and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group.

Detailed plans for the project will go on show at venues across the north-east for public to have their say.

Vattenfall UK country manager David Hodkinson said: 'The public information events are an important part of the formal consultation and decision-making process.

'We believe we have made a strong case for the environmental and economic benefits of the centre. I would like to encourage people to make their own judgment after viewing the information that we will present at the events and speaking to members of the project team.'

The application has met strong opposition from the Trump Organisation.

Billionaire Donald Trump has criticised the proposed location because of its proximity to his GBP750million golf development at the Menie Estate.

Last week, senior members of his team vowed to fight the plans using 'any available legal means'.

Consultation events will be held at the Palace Hotel, Peterhead, on August 29; Udney Arms, Newburgh, August 30; and the Kirk Centre, Ellon, on August 31.

Events will also be held at the Whitehorse Inn, Balmedie on September 1 and the Doubletree Hilton, Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen, on September 2.

The plans will be open to view from 2pm to 8pm at each location, with the formal consultation process due to end on September 16.

Any representations on the application should be made to the Scottish Government's Marine licensing operations team by September 16.

APPENDIX 2

**LETTER TO VATTENFALL
ON BEHALF OF TRUMP INTERNATIONAL
DATED 14 DECEMBER 2010**

Our ref AF/TRU047.0007

Øystein Løseth
Chief Executive Officer
Vattenfall AB
SE-162 87
Stockholm

Direct Line: +44 (0)131 200 7452

14 December 2010

Dear Øystein

Trump International Golf Links, Scotland

We act for the Trump Organisation in relation to their ongoing development of a world class golf resort at the Menie Estate in Aberdeenshire.

The Trump Organisation fully supports efforts being made by the Scottish Government and the Scottish renewable energy industry to achieve ambitious national targets to meet 20% of Scotland's energy demand from renewable sources by 2020. Our clients support proposals for appropriately located wind farms and ultimately wish your projects every success.

The Menie site was chosen by Mr Trump because of the outstanding coastal landscape and expansive views to the sea. The development was approved by the Scottish Ministers in 2008 following a public inquiry. The national economic importance of the Trump Golf Resort was endorsed by the Aberdeenshire Council and the Scottish Ministers. Our clients have relied upon that planning permission in carrying out masterplanning and detailed design. In July 2010, work started on the championship golf course as the first phase of the development.

There has been extensive world wide media coverage of our clients' project in recent years so your project team must have been fully aware of Mr Trump's interest in the Menie Estate when planning their stakeholder and community engagement. Indeed we understand that your team carried out detailed pre-application consultation with other leading stakeholders, who were given the opportunity to comment on the proposed location of your development to avoid compromising other important services and developments in the region. Yet no attempt was made to engage properly with one of the most high profile and nationally important developments in Scotland in recent history. When my clients made attempts to question your team on the location, scale and visual impact of the proposed wind farm, the answers were evasive and lacking in substance. This led our clients to believe that the proposed wind farm would have no adverse impact on the golf resort so they were alarmed to receive diagrams on 3 December which illustrate a significantly adverse visual impact on a tourist development of national importance.

You will be well aware that landscape and seascape impacts are crucial determining factors in the assessment of the acceptability or otherwise of wind farms. The importance of the individual and cumulative visual impact of wind farm developments is enshrined in national

and local planning policy. The adverse visual impact of your proposals to develop an offshore wind deployment centre is therefore of the utmost concern to our clients.

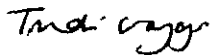
We have now reviewed your wire frame diagrams showing the expected visual impact of the proposed wind turbines from various points across the championship golf course and the hotel site. These impacts are completely unacceptable to our clients.

During your public consultation exercise in 2006, our clients made it very clear to your project team that Mr Trump regarded this adverse visual impact as a deal breaker for the golf resort. Since then Mr Trump's vision has been endorsed by the Scottish Government and is supported by the local planning authorities, national and local enterprise companies and local businesses.

As a significant and well known stakeholder, your project team could and should have made greater efforts to engage with our clients. It is particularly surprising and disappointing that they did not include our clients as a consultee in your EIA Scoping Opinion request in August 2010.

Although our clients support the principle of your development, they oppose, in the strongest possible terms, the proposed siting of the wind turbines and will take all necessary steps, including legal proceedings in the UK and elsewhere, to protect their continuing investment in their development, which is of national economic importance.

Yours sincerely



PP Ann Faulds

Partner, For and on behalf of Dundas & Wilson CS LLP

cc Lars Westerberg, Chairman of the Board of Vattenfall
The First Minister, Scottish Government
The Chief Planner, Scottish Government
Chief Executive, Aberdeenshire Council
Director of Planning and Environmental Services, Aberdeenshire Council
Chief Executive, City of Aberdeen Council
Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure, City of Aberdeen Council
The Energy Consents Unit
David Rodger, Vattenfall Wind Power Limited
Ian Todd, AREG

APPENDIX 3

PHOTOMONTAGE SHOWING ADVERSE VISUAL IMPACT FROM 4TH HOLE OF CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE