

Ditcher Law Consent



Consent has been given for the Ditcher Law Windfarm to go ahead. This consent comes during a time when many local community councils, including Lauderdale Community Council, are backing a statement asking for a pause in renewable energy developments until a comprehensive national energy policy is in place.

This development will consist of eight turbines ranging from 180m to 200m in height (ground to blade tip). It will be situated 8km north of Lauder and 3km from Oxtoun. Objections were registered by Lauderdale Community Council, Heriot Community Council and 63 private respondents. The Scottish Borders Council also objected, but their response was too late to automatically trigger a public enquiry. Concerns were raised by several other national organisations. These concerns are addressed in the list of required mitigations in the decision document.

In making their decision, the Scottish Government ministers acknowledged the visual impact on the area, including what they call "overwhelming views of turbines" at six residential properties. They also noted the effect on the character of the Lammermuir Hills, but consider the effects to "largely be contained and localised and will not undermine the characteristics of the Lammermuir Hills Special Landscape Area". These negative impacts of the development were outweighed by estimations of the economic benefits due to the boost to low carbon industries and jobs, and by contributions to national climate policy.

You can read more about the decision and the required mitigations that the developer must undertake via the Energy Consents Unit page here:

<https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00004890&T=6>