

This issue of Vos News launches our sites maps. The next (March) issue will report on suppressed bird kill data, feature news from Denmark and print some of your letters.

VoS News reveals the full landscape damage of the 'Dough for Blow' fiasco

'Incremental change' or Wanton Destruction?

The biggest change to Scotland's landscape for hundreds of years is taking place behind the backs of the population, uncharted by the Executive.

Our countryside faces a crisis which could hit the rural economy as hard as Foot and Mouth or the tourism drop post-9/11.

Except that the damage will be permanent.

Delegated by Westminster with meeting the bulk of UK targets for renewable energy, the Scottish Executive, supported by politicians from all parties, has handed the countryside over to wind-power developers with scant regard for the environment, its ecology or the tourism industry.

Dismayed by a lack of public information, VIEWS OF SCOTLAND set up a research project to determine the full extent of the dash for wind-power.

This is its first report: a series of maps highlighting the scale of development. It makes alarming and dispiriting reading.

Two years ago, there were four small working wind-power sites and a few isolated turbines in Scotland.

There are now over 120 sites either working, under construction or proposed.

New proposals or applications are announced at a rate of over one a week. Four were submitted on Christmas Eve.

They are sited on some of the finest landscape in Europe (see map 1). Some are very large indeed.

Project manager David Bruce said: 'The Scottish landscape – a resource not only for the UK but for

all of Europe – is seriously at risk. We face possibly the worst environmental intrusion in Scotland since the Industrial Revolution. It is certainly on a larger scale.

'Apart from a few larger sites for which it is directly responsible, the Executive's Energy Division hasn't even got a list of the proposals.

'No attempt has been made to estimate the cumulative effect on Scotland's landscape, its tourist economy or its ecology.

'The technology behind this extraordinary assault on our heritage has been dismissed by the engineering establishment as unviable.

'One is left with the indelible impression that nobody gives a damn.'

A conservative estimate of the cumulative effects in terms of visibility is highlighted on Map 3. The result is staggering.

The Executive treats landscape pollution in cavalier fashion. Its National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG6) claims that most landscapes in Scotland have been subject to 'incremental change' over many years and should be able to accommodate wind developments in 'appropriate' locations.

Map 2 shows that, almost without exception, the developers just want the cheapest connection to the National Grid.

Larger proposals (so-called S36 projects of over 50MW or from 25 to several hundred turbines) are determined by the Executive's Energy Division, not noted for its grasp of engineering issues.

Smaller proposals are determined by local authorities, whose planners are ill-informed on complex energy and environmental issues and seem to have no remit to consider applications in the light of similar developments just over their borders.

The recent revision of critical planning documents NPPG6 and PAN45 leant heavily on an internationally-touted opinion poll which had to be 'withdrawn' after a VIEWS OF SCOTLAND researcher pointed out that only a handful of people lived in an area where 207 interviews were supposed to have taken place.

Incredibly, the Executive says it stands by the survey results – though it refuses to discuss them with the researcher who discovered the flaw.

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What is there to hide?

It might be presumptuous to call the second *VoS News* a 'special' issue but VIEWS OF SCOTLAND members have made it clear that an accurate assessment of the national scale of wind-power development is needed – urgently.

The project was started by NoAH (Not on Angus Hills) over a year ago. It eventually tracked down 100 proposals, applications or approved projects.

At our founding conference on November 30, it was clear that the pace of the wind power bonanza (christened the 'Wheeze for Breeze' by the *Daily Telegraph*) had accelerated sharply.

The first Section 36 proposal (sites over 50MW, determined by the Scottish Executive) has just been approved. We hope to discuss the implications of this decision in the next *VoS News*.

Not counting the massive Beatrice Field off-shore proposal, which is surely some time off, we have recorded 18 other S36 sites, from Robin Rigg in the Solway Firth to seven in the north-east.

(There is a rumour that the Executive intends to ignore Dumfries and Galloway Council's call for a Public Inquiry on Robin Rigg – because its jurisdiction ends at the shore-line!)

These sites alone are capable of meeting the current Renewables Obligation (Scotland) target several times over.

As well as these S36 mega-sites, there are more than 110 other proposals.

The problems with too much wind power were discussed in our response (*Scotland's Landscapes – England's Windfarm?*) to an Executive energy paper, *Scotland's Renewable Energy Potential – Beyond 2010*, and have been widely aired elsewhere. (See the VIEWS OF SCOTLAND web site.)

Often, we just do not know what is planned. We had noticed activity at Forest of Ae in Dumfries and Galloway but that was all. *The Scotsman* recently 'revealed' that the site, close to Moffat, is earmarked by ScottishPower for a 180-turbine site.

VIEWS OF SCOTLAND's project is the first and probably the only attempt to put a credible picture of the extent of this vandalism before the public.

It is an indictment of the Executive that this information has not been made available. What has it got to hide?

We present it here as a contribution to the debate from and on behalf of the first victims of the great wind-power scam – the people of Scotland.

It remains to thank everyone who made it possible: not only the NoAH pioneers and our colleagues at *Country Guardian* but all those who so patiently provided priceless local detail.

These maps are designed as an environmental resource. Please help to keep them accurate by contacting *Vos News* about any errors or alterations.

E-mail edit.vosnews@viewsofscotland.org with your information or comments. We plan to update the maps monthly and place them on the web site.

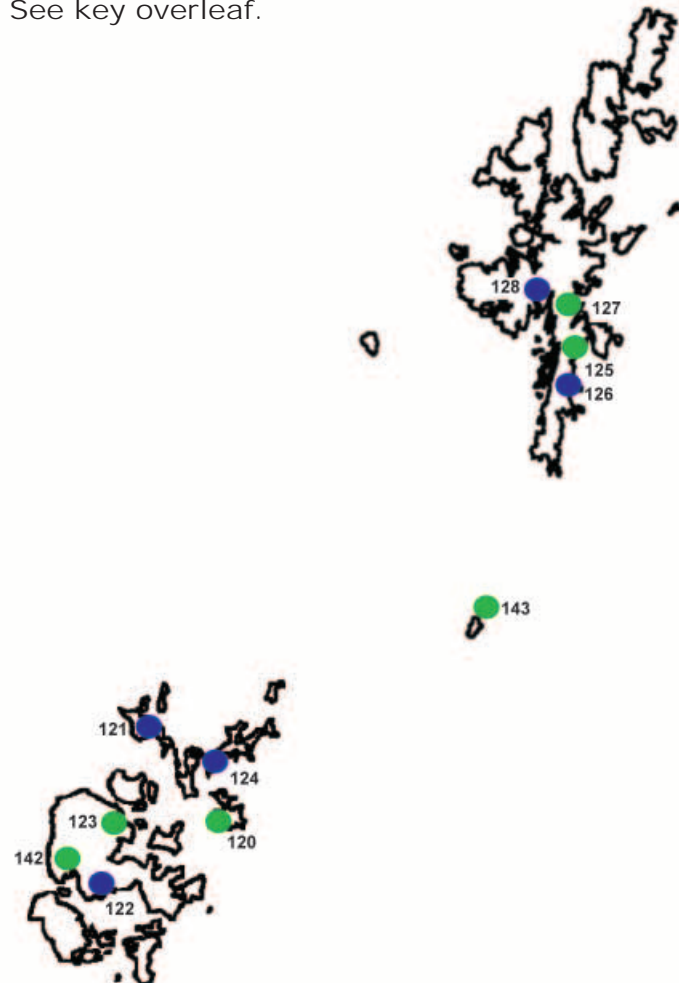
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


Key to map of sites for wind-driven power stations in Scotland

 Anemometry

 Proposal or in planning

 Approved or operational

 Failed or time lapsed

001	Aldie		061	Cairn Uish		121	Powdykes	
002	Fearnoch		062	Drummuir		122	Orphir	
003	Clashindarroch Forest		063	Findhorn		123	Thorfin	
004	Clashnarae Hill		064	Paul's Hill		124	Spur Ness	
005	Glens of Foudland Huntly		065	Ardeer		125	Burradale	
006	Insch		066	Ardrossan		126	Hamari Field	
007	Meikle Carewe		067	Burnt Hill		127	Susseter Hill	
008	Mid Hill		068	Kaim Hill		128	Tresta	
009	Woodhill		069	Black Law		129	Arnish Moor	
010	Ark Hill		070	Braes of Doun		130	Barvas Moor	
011	Shandford		071	Bowbeat Hill		131	Beinn Mholach	
012	An Suidhe		072	Glen Ogle		132	Ben Aketil	
013	Arran		073	Corbie Shank		133	Edinbane	
014	Beinn an Tuirc		074	Allfornought Hill		134	Sleat	
015	Beinn Churlach		075	Easter Newborn		135	Isle of Luing	
016	Beinn Ghlas		076	Greene Knowe		136	Stony Hill	
017	Clachan Flats		077	Kinnaird Estate		137	Tiree	
018	Corriechreivie		078	Pole Hill		138	Laggan	
019	Cruach Mhor		079	Trinafour		139	Hadyard Hill	
020	Cruach nan Gabhre		080	Gryff Reservoir		140	Park Estate	
021	Dalmally		081	Beinn Tharsuinn		141	Shell Fish Farm	
022	Deucharan Hill		082	Corriemoillie		142	Burgar Hill	
023	Gartnagrenach		083	Muir of Ord		143	Fair Isle	
024	Glenshira		084	Novar		144	West Garty	
025	Inverleiver Forest		085	Novar extension		145	Lionacleit	
026	Machrihanish		086	Achany		146	Kildrummy	
027	Tangy Farm		087	Achormlarie		147	Nigg	
028	Largie		088	A'Mhoine		148	Ardoch Farm	
029	Meall Mhor		089	Creag Riasgain		149	Overenoch Farm	
030	Stronachulin		090	Dalchork Wood		150	Akron Farm (Melvich)	
031	Black Hill		091	Harrow's Law		151	Greenaton Farm	
032	Crystal Rig		092	East Kilbride				
033	Dun Law		093	Hagshaw Hill				
034	Heart Law		094	Broomy Law				
035	Lamberton Moor		095	Harestanes				
036	Monashee Farm		096	Haggy Hill				
037	Banniskirk		097	Torrs Hill				
038	Broubster Hill		098	Robin Rigg				
039	Buolfrulich		099	Carlesgill Hill				
040	Causeymire		100	Craigenlee Fell				
041	Dounreay		101	Windy Standard				
042	Forss		102	Windy Standard extension				
043	Forss extension		103	Blinkbonny				
044	Schoolary		104	Craik Forest				
045	Westfield		105	Skelfhill Pen				
046	Hare Hill		106	Roger Hill				
047	Kilpatrick Hills		107	Barbae				
048	Whitelee Forest		108	Benan Hill				
049	Myres Hill		109	Gordonbush				
050	Johnsclough		110	Kilbraur				
051	Little Kilmain		111	Strathy				
052	Drumcarrow Craig		112	Loch Buide				
053	Flagstaff Hill		113	Minch Moor				
054	Lucklaw Hill		114	Scriberscross				
055	Beatrice Oil Field		115	Skelpick				
056	Dunmaglass		116	Strathy North Forest				
057	Dunmaglass extension		117	Strathy South Forest				
058	Farr		118	Gartymore				
059	Altyre		119	Stemster Hill				
060	Aultmore		120	Bu Farm				

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Notes

The size of the circles drawn round the wind-power sites to illustrate the 'Zones of Visual Influence' (ZVI) is based on the outer perimeter of the 10km 'Zone of Medium Proximity' as defined in the Scottish Executive's survey report, *Public Attitudes towards Wind Farms*.

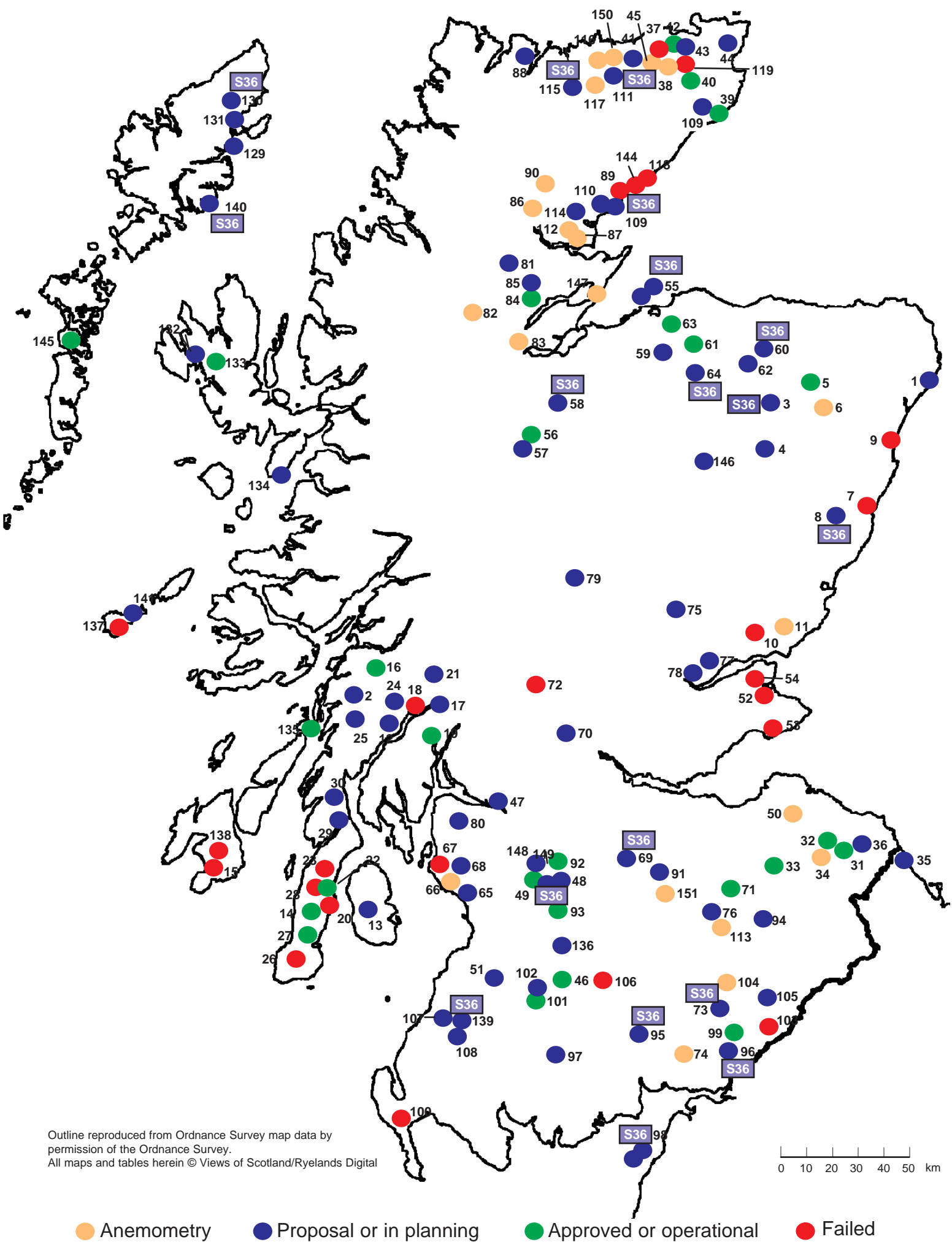
Although the survey was withdrawn after VIEWS OF SCOTLAND researchers discovered significant errors, the Executive stands by its findings. This figure is presumably therefore non-controversial. It is generally more conservative than ZVI radii recommended by Scottish National Heritage.

The map assumes that the sites are of zero radius except for S36 sites, where a radius of 5km is assumed.

There are two sites for which we have only a name – Hawkwood and Lamford Hill. They have been omitted.

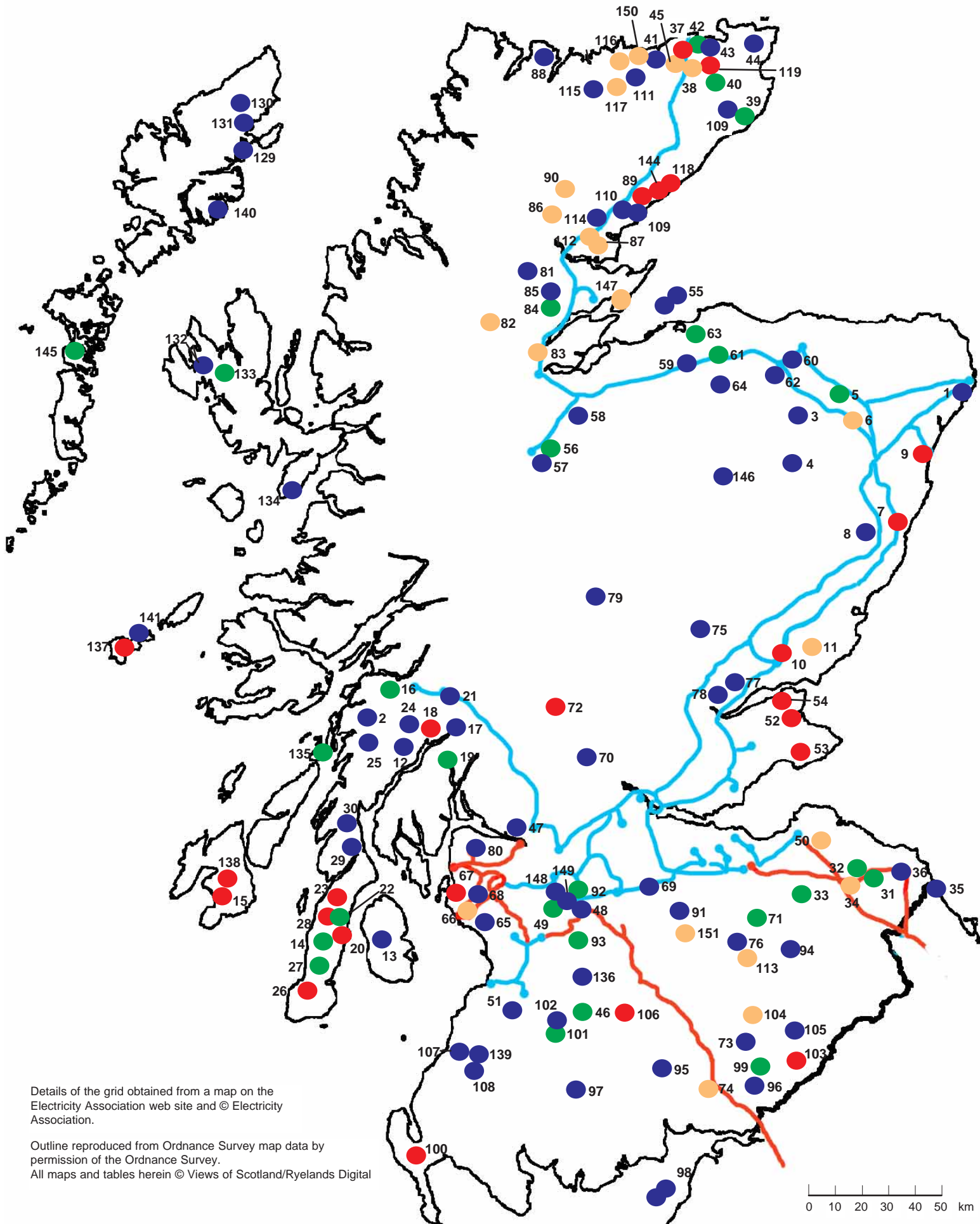
There are several anemometry sites for which we have, as yet, no substantive details. They have been omitted.

Distribution of wind-power sites proposed to date for Scotland



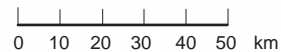
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Windfarms and the electricity grid



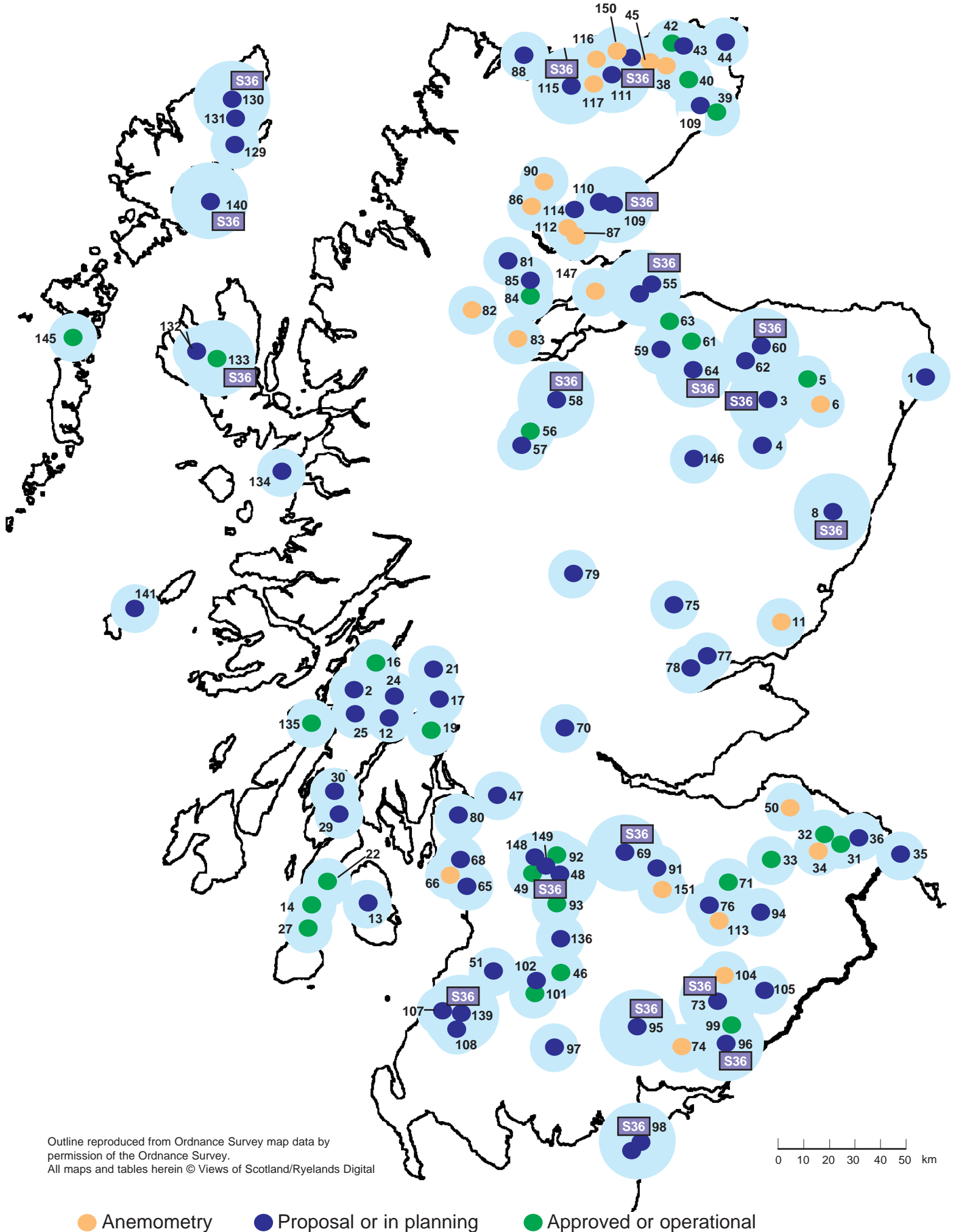
Details of the grid obtained from a map on the Electricity Association web site and © Electricity Association.

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● Anemometry
 ● Proposal or in planning
 ● Approved or operational
 ● Failed

A first-order estimate of the visual pollution on a national scale



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