



## AI data centres plan causes uproar across Scotland

### Description

*default watermark*

A screenshot of the interactive map that shows the planned AI data centres across Scotland. There are more than 18 sites marked on the map, with a concentration in the Central Belt.

[Scotland](#) looks set for an AI data centre crisis after plans were revealed detailing a massive number of data centres planned for construction on Scotland's Central Belt.

ARPS, Scotland's countryside charity, published [an interactive map](#) illustrating where the data centres are earmarked for.

The charity compiled the data over growing concerns about the impact of the data units on electricity prices, communities and the environment.

So far, at least 18 such data warehouse projects are seeking planning permission, the National reported, with a further six in the pipeline.

ARPS is calling for the [Scottish government](#) to implement a moratorium on these centres until it does a "proper" assessment of the impacts on the electricity grid, climate emissions and communities.

A spokesperson for the charity, Kat Jones, said:

Hyperscale data centres are some of the biggest buildings in the world and this is why we are seeing them being proposed mainly on greenbelt and Greenfield sites.

Their main requirements are large quantities of land and "access to huge amounts of electricity and water. These buildings are huge, but the amount of energy they use is absolutely off the scale.

## AI data centres: How might they impact you?

Kat Jones stated that the total demand for energy from the data centres in Scotland's planning system is now 6,200 megawatts (MW).

Combined with the requirement for the six sites that haven't completed all the planning stages yet, this would take the total to more than 11,000MW. That's nearly three-times Scotland's peak winter demand.

Jones didn't hold back on [stating the case clearly](#)

This is an inconceivable amount of energy that Scotland is being asked to divert to the use of hyperscale AI data centres, which will enrich a few billionaires in Silicon valley at the expense of the Scottish consumer.

No discussion on energy in Scotland can ignore the impact that these data centres would have on our electricity and energy prices.

We are calling for a moratorium to get some planning and policies in place.

Campaigners are rightly concerned about rising energy prices. In the US, areas with data centres have soared up to 267% according to [Bloomberg data](#)

## Communities must be consulted

Scottish communities are rallying against plans near them and have been encouraged by a recent [UN report](#)

The report details the [environmental impacts of AI](#) and says communities must be included in discussions about data centres.

It also estimates that global data centres have used 448 Terawatt-hour (TWh) of electricity. If aggregated as a country, Scotland would rank an astonishing 11th globally for consumption. This is beyond unsustainable - it's suicidal.

[AI-sceptic](#) pro-democracy campaign group, Pull the Plug, told the *Canary*:

Data centres have become a key issue in our political conversation. They contribute to climate change, impact the wellbeing of our communities, undermine public services, and push up household bills and our general cost of living.

The spokesperson added that "data centres are creating a tension between local democracy and central government".

The public increasingly stomachs the costs of data centres without agreeing to them. That has to change.

## Scotland resists the Datageddon

Scottish people are not taking the matter lightly. Hyper-local campaigns are emerging across the nation to resist the ugly, thirsty, energy-hungry monstrosities. Remember when wind turbines were â??eyesoresâ???

Last week, more than 200 people attended [a public meeting to oppose a data centre](#) near Auchtertool village in Fife. The community council said it was â??appalledâ?? by Fife Councilâ??s decision not to request even an environmental impact assessment.

Another campaign has been launched to [halt a similar development](#) in the Borders. Theyâ??ll hope to achieve a similar result as that in Edinburgh earlier this year.

Edinburgh councillors voted unanimously to refuse a proposed hyperscale centre at the former Royal Bank of Scotland headquarters in the city.

One spokesperson for [Save the ÂLammermuirs](#) Data Centre said afterwards that worries remained about the Âenvironmental impact.

We werenâ??t able to get any solid information and there is also the question of the local benefits â?? the numbers didnâ??t really hold up under scrutiny at this stage.

Sunlaws Development Company wants to build the [Southside](#) Data Centre on land near the village of Longformacus. The planned development on Roxburghe Estate is for three large, two-storey data centre buildings, each with a height up to 24m and ground footprint circa 27,000m<sup>2</sup>.

Campaigners allege that it will lead to the â??industrialisationâ?? of the Lammermuir Hills, and are Âsceptical of the job and economic benefit Âestimates. About 100 members of the public attended an initial consultation at Longformacus Village Hall this week.

The SNP is already criticising the â??[great renewables robbery](#)â?? where Scottish energy firms are forced to pay Â£1 billion to access the national grid. Companies in England and Wales *get paid* to do so.

But this massive, anti-worker construction madness â?? done entirely on the SNPâ??s watch â?? must be counted as [further theft](#) of the peopleâ??s energy needs by unaccountable tech companies.

Featured image via the [National](#)

By [Cameron Baillie](#)

[Source link](#)

## CATEGORY

1. News

## POST TAG

1. across
2. causes
3. centres
4. data
5. news
6. plan
7. scotland
8. uproar

## Category

1. News

*default watermark*