How to Object to the Chapelcross Data Centre: Step-by-Step Guide.

October 2026

This is a practical guide for residents, families and young people to object to planning application 26/1649/PIP, for a proposed hyperscale data centre development on land north of the former Chapelcross Nuclear Power Station near Annan.

The published deadline for objections is 29 October 2026.
Please submit your objection in good time to avoid issues with Dumfries and Galloway Council website or email.

Important information before you object

- **Anyone can object.** You do not have to live nearby to submit an objection or comment. However, comments from people living close to the proposed development can be particularly valuable in highlighting local impacts. If you know someone who lives nearby, encourage them to have their say.

- **Everyone in your household can object.** If you are a family of five, all five people can submit their own individual objections but it is important to write in your own words. You can use the same planning policies and evidence as other people, but explain in your own way why you think the proposal is a problem.

- **There is no minimum age specified in the Council's guidance.** Young people can have their say too. They can get help with submitting an objection, but it is important that they explain their concerns in their own words.

- **Use your own words.** You can raise the same planning concerns as other people, but explain what matters to you personally. You do not need to be a planning expert.

- **Have you used the Scottish Greens' objection portal?** You may have submitted an objection through the Scottish Greens' Chapelcross campaign. The campaign tool may submit a representation that is treated as part of a collective campaign or petition. Therefore, we recommend also submitting your objection directly to Dumfries and Galloway Council, so you can check that it has been recorded against the planning application and to reflect that opposition to the proposed development goes beyond party politics.

- **Petitions count as one objection.** A petition is treated as a single objection, regardless of how many people sign it. Individual objections allow each person to explain their own concerns.

- **Community councils have a special role.** They are statutory consultees in the planning process. They can request formal consultations on applications affecting their communities, and an objection from a community council can trigger referral to the Planning Applications Committee if planning officers are minded to approve the application. Contact your local community council to ask whether it is considering the proposal and to influence their action.

OPTION ONE: Submit your objection via DG Council Online Planning Register

1. Open the Dumfries and Galloway planning register .
2. Search for application 26/1649/PIP.
3. Open the application and select the comments section.
4. Register and sign in to the council website.
5. Enter your details and objection, then submit it.

OPTION TWO: Email your objection

Send your written objection to: planningrepresentations@dumgal.gov.uk

Include:

- The application reference: 26/1649/PIP
- The site address: Land North Of The Former Chapelcross Nuclear Power Station Near Annan DG12 6RF
- Your full name and address
- The date
- Your email address
- the planning reasons for your objection.

Both options include your email address because the Planning Service uses email for its correspondence. If you cannot use either method, contact the Council to ask about an alternative.

What Can You Object On?

The Council can only consider comments relevant to planning policy. **They cannot consider comments on non-planning matters, such as: the effect on property values; disputes with neighbours; loss of a view; or, commercial or business competition.**

We know that the planning documents can be technical and overwhelming, so we've picked out some key reasons you might want to object and explained them in simple, easy-to-understand language below. You don't need to be an expert to have your say! We've written this guide to make the information easier to understand, whether you're new to planning or explaining the issues to a child.

These are starting points to help you prepare your objection, not a complete list of possible concerns. Where possible, refer to the planning application, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and Dumfries and Galloway's Local Development Plan to support your comments. As more information becomes available about the impacts of data centres, we'll share updates and add further guidance to help you have your say.

For Chapelcross, the main issues to investigate are the following.

1. **Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions**
   National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) Policy 2 requires the development to minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.

   The applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment reportedly identifies significant adverse greenhouse gas effects from the development, both during operation and over its lifetime.

   What to raise: Raise concerns over whether the proposal has demonstrated that lifecycle emissions have been minimised, how its electricity demand will be met, and whether the

impacts are compatible with Scotland's and Dumfries and Galloway's climate targets.

Plain language version
The rules for planning new buildings say they should make as little pollution as possible that causes climate change. The report for the proposed data centre says it could cause a lot of this pollution, both when it is running and over its lifetime.

What to raise: The application does not show clearly enough how the data centre will reduce pollution that causes climate change. There is not enough information about where the large amount of electricity needed to run the data centre will come from. The development could make it harder for Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway to meet their climate targets.

2. **Greenfield land and the use of brownfield land**
NPF4 Policy 9 prioritises the reuse of brownfield land. Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) Policy ED4 also prioritises brownfield reuse at Chapelcross.

The application documents describe the site as predominantly agricultural or greenfield land, despite the development being associated with the former nuclear power station.

What to raise: Whether the proposal makes sufficient use of previously developed land and complies with the brownfield-first approach in national and local policy.

Plain language version
Planning rules say that land that has been built on before should be used again where possible, rather than building on farmland or other undeveloped land.

The plans for Chapelcross say the site is mostly farmland or undeveloped land, even though it is linked to the former nuclear power station.

What to raise: The application does not clearly show whether enough previously developed land is being reused. The plans should explain why undeveloped land needs to be used when previously developed land may be available. The development should follow the rules that prioritise reusing land that has already been developed.

3. **Electricity demand and infrastructure**
The proposal describes a development of approximately 960 MW, while wider project descriptions refer to around 1,000 MW.

The data centre is estimated to use around 7,000 GWh of electricity each year. Dumfries and Galloway generates less than 3,000 GWh annually, so that demand would be more than twice the region’s total annual electricity generation.

This raises major questions about where the electricity will come from and what additional generation, grid connections and transmission infrastructure will be needed, alongside the environmental impacts.

What to raise: Whether the energy supply, grid connections and associated infrastructure are adequately identified and assessed, in line with NPF4 Policy 18.

Plain language version
The planning application describes a data centre that will need around 960 megawatts (MW) of power. Other project information says it could need around 1,000 MW.

A development this large will need a huge amount of electricity. New power lines or other equipment may be needed to supply it. These could have effects on the environment and local communities.

What to raise: The plans should clearly explain where the electricity will come from. The plans should identify any new power lines or other equipment needed. The environmental effects of this new infrastructure should be properly assessed.

4. **Air pollution from backup generators**
   Large data centres may use backup generators that require periodic testing. The proposed fuel, emissions, testing frequency and cumulative pollution effects should be assessed using the application documents.

   What to raise: Whether nitrogen oxides and other emissions such as ultrafine particulates have been properly assessed, including during routine testing and any emergency operation.

   Plain language version
   Large data centres may use backup generators if the power supply fails. These generators may also need to be tested regularly. They can burn fuel and release pollution into the air.

   What to raise: The plans should explain what fuel the generators will use and how often they will be tested. The effects of pollution from the generators should be properly assessed, including during testing and power cuts. The plans should consider how this pollution could affect local people and the environment.

5. **Electronic waste and the circular economy**
   AI servers and specialist computer chips have finite working lives and may require frequent replacement.

   What to raise: Whether the applicant has properly considered equipment replacement, electronic waste, reuse, recycling and the development's wider resource demands.

   Plain language version
   Computers, servers and computer chips do not last forever. They may need to be replaced regularly, creating electronic waste.

   What to raise in your objection: The plans should explain how old or broken equipment will be dealt with. The applicant should explain how equipment will be reused or recycled instead of thrown away. The plans should consider how much energy, materials and other resources the data centre will need over its lifetime.

6. **Noise and environmental effects**
   Cooling systems, generators and other plant may create noise during operation. The application should also be assessed for its effects on water, land, ecology and the surrounding area.

   What to raise: Whether noise assessments cover operational conditions, generator testing and cumulative effects, and whether environmental effects have been adequately assessed.

7. **Employment and community benefit**
   Claims about jobs and economic benefits should be considered alongside the number and type of permanent jobs the data centre will create, not just temporary construction jobs.

   Tourism is an important part of Dumfries and Galloway’s economy. In 2024, tourism supported

around 7,000 jobs in the region. The area's historic buildings, heritage sites, landscapes and visitor attractions help support tourism and local businesses.

What to raise: How many permanent jobs will be created, and what types of jobs will they be? Could the development affect tourism, the area's heritage and landscapes, or the local businesses and jobs that depend on them? Could it lead to job losses or make it harder for other local industries to grow? Do the promised economic benefits justify the scale of the development and its potential impacts on the environment and local communities?

8. **National planning guidance**
   The Scottish Government has discussed producing guidance for large-scale data centres. This guidance could help explain how these developments should be assessed and what impacts need to be considered.

   What to raise: The Council should consider whether it is appropriate to make a decision before the promised national guidance is published. Explain why this guidance could be important when assessing the proposed development.

   Note: You can refer to relevant parliamentary motions and Scottish Government statements, but remember that a parliamentary motion is not automatically a legally binding ban on development.

We know that objecting to a planning application may be new to many people, and the process can feel overwhelming. But having your say is an important part of local democracy. You don't need to be an expert or know all the planning rules to take part. Your views matter, and everyone should have the opportunity to help shape the future of their community.

Read the information, raise the concerns that matter to you, and have your say.

Sources and further reading

1. Dumfries and Galloway Council – Comment on or object to a planning application
2. Dumfries and Galloway Council – Preparing your comments
3. Dumfries and Galloway Council – Adding a comment to the planning register
4. Action to Protect Rural Scotland (APRS) – Chapelcross data centre information
5. Scottish Parliament – Chapelcross Data Centre motion
6. Scottish Greens – Chapelcross data centre objection campaign

This guide has been created by Say NO to CX Data Centre, a grassroots, community-led campaign working to ensure local people have the information they need to understand the proposed development and make their voices heard. If you notice any errors in the document, please email us at no_cx_data_centre@proton.me

EXAMPLE OBJECTION ONE: Short less personal objection.

Please remember to use your own words when submitting objections.
These are for reference only.

NAME
ADDRESS
DATE

Objection to planning application 26/1649/PIP – Chapelcross Data Centre

I object to the proposed Chapelcross Data Centre because of concerns about its environmental impacts and the long-term future of our local area.

The development could create significant greenhouse gas emissions and require huge amounts of electricity. The application does not clearly demonstrate how these emissions will be minimised or fully explain the infrastructure needed to supply the site.

I am also concerned about the use of undeveloped land when planning policy prioritises reusing land that has already been developed. The potential effects on local wildlife, water, noise levels, tourism, heritage and existing local businesses must also be properly assessed.

The Council should carefully consider whether the promised economic benefits, including permanent jobs, outweigh the potential long-term costs to our environment and community. I ask the Council to assess the application against national and local planning policies and ensure these concerns are fully addressed before making a decision.

Please record this objection against planning application **26/1649/PIP**.

EXAMPLE OBJECTION TWO: Longer personal objection

Please remember to use your own words when submitting objections.
These are for reference only. Dear Planning Officer,

Objection to planning application 26/1649/PIP – Proposed Chapelcross Data Centre

Dear Dumfries and Galloway Council,

I am writing to object to planning application 26/1649/PIP for the proposed hyperscale data centre at Chapelcross, near Annan.

I care about the future of Dumfries and Galloway and the communities that make this area home. I believe decisions about developments of this scale must consider not only the economic benefits promised by developers, but also their long-term effects on our environment, our communities and future generations.

Climate change and energy use
I am concerned about the significant greenhouse gas emissions associated with the development, both during construction and throughout its lifetime. A data centre of this size will require enormous amounts of electricity. The application should clearly demonstrate how these emissions will be reduced and where the electricity will come from. The Council must consider whether the proposal is consistent with national and local climate targets and the requirements of National Planning Framework 4.

Land, nature and the local environment
I object to the proposed development's use of undeveloped land. Planning policy prioritises reusing land that has already been developed, and I am concerned about the loss of farmland and greenfield land at Chapelcross. The Council should consider the impact of this land use alongside the wider environmental and community impacts of the proposal when deciding whether the development should be approved.

These impacts must be fully assessed by appropriately qualified independent experts, with surveys carried out across different seasons to understand how the site is used by wildlife throughout the year. Without this evidence, there is a risk that important species, habitats and environmental impacts could be overlooked. The Council should ensure that these impacts are properly understood before making a decision on the application.

Pollution and quality of life
The proposed development could bring noise from cooling systems, equipment and backup generators. I want to be confident that the effects on people living nearby and on the wider environment have been fully assessed. The Council should also consider air pollution from generators, including during routine testing and emergencies.

Jobs and the future of our communities
I understand that the developer may promise economic benefits and new jobs. However, I believe these claims must be examined carefully. How many permanent jobs will be created, and what kinds of jobs will they be? Temporary construction work is not the same as long-term employment.

Dumfries and Galloway has existing businesses, industries, heritage sites and landscapes that support local jobs and tourism. With an ageing population, protecting local jobs and creating opportunities for younger people is important to the future of our economy and communities.

I am concerned that a development of this scale could affect existing livelihoods and make the area less attractive to younger generations who are concerned about climate change and want to live and work in a place that takes its environmental responsibilities seriously. Short-term economic benefits should not be considered in isolation from the long-term environmental and social costs, or the needs and aspirations of future generations.

A decision that considers the long term
A development of this scale could have consequences for the area for many years. I ask the Council to assess the application carefully against national and local planning policies, including the requirements to address climate change and make effective use of land.

I also ask the Council to consider whether further national guidance on large-scale data centres is needed before making a decision, and to ensure that the potential impacts of the development and its associated infrastructure have been fully assessed.

Our communities deserve a planning process that takes these concerns seriously and considers the long-term public interest, not just the immediate promises of a developer.

For these reasons, I ask Dumfries and Galloway Council to refuse this application if it cannot demonstrate that it complies with planning policy and that its impacts can be properly addressed.

Please record this objection against planning application **26/1649/PIP**.

Yours faithfully,

[Your name]

EXAMPLE OBJECTION THREE: Citing specific concerns of properties close to the site.

Please remember to use your own words when submitting objections.
These are for reference only. Dear Planning Officer,

I am writing to formally object to planning application 26/1649/PIP for the proposed Chapelcross Data Centre development.

I live at ADDRESS. My home, along with our neighbours at ADDRESSES, is among the small number of residential properties that sit directly across the road from two of the proposed data centres.

I have serious concerns about the enormous scale of the development and the effect it will have on our homes, our families, our safety and the rural environment in which we live.

For those of us living immediately beside the site, this is not simply a development somewhere in the wider area. We will be living alongside it and experiencing its effects every day, during construction and beyond.

I am particularly concerned that my property, and my neighbour's property, do not appear to be identified among the residential properties specifically notified or considered in the submitted documentation.

Given the proximity of these properties to the proposed development, I find this extremely concerning.

These are existing homes which will be directly exposed to construction traffic, operational traffic, noise, low-frequency noise, vibration, dust, air pollution, lighting and the visual impact of the development.

I would ask the Council to clarify why ADDRESS have not been specifically identified in the relevant documentation and whether the impacts on these properties have been individually assessed.

The assessment of residential amenity should not rely solely upon a selection of properties considered to be representative if there are other homes which may be closer to the development or exposed to different or greater impacts.

ADDRESS is where we live with our three children. We will have to live with the consequences of this development on a daily basis. The fact that these properties do not appear to have been specifically identified should not result in their particular circumstances being overlooked.

I therefore ask the Council to ensure that the effects of the development are specifically assessed at Barnview and Mossview, including noise, low-frequency noise, vibration, traffic, dust, air quality, lighting, visual impact, road safety and the cumulative effect of these impacts on residential amenity.

I would also ask the Council to confirm whether the occupants of ADDRESS were included within the consultation and notification process and, if not, why these properties were not included.

I am also extremely concerned about the visual impact of the development.

The developer's own visualisation of the proposed development demonstrates the enormous scale and visual impact that the development would have on the surrounding rural landscape.

Importantly, the white house visible in this visualisation is my home.

Seeing my own home shown directly in front of the proposed development makes the potential impact particularly clear. The image demonstrates the relationship between the existing rural homes and the proposed large-scale industrial buildings.

This is not a distant development that will have limited visibility from our property. My home is directly within the landscape shown in the developer's own visual material, with the proposed buildings forming a substantial and dominant backdrop.

I am therefore particularly concerned that ADDRESS does not appear to have been specifically identified among the residential properties notified or considered in the submitted documentation.

The Council should assess the visual impact from my actual home and property, rather than relying on more distant viewpoints or generalised assessments. Consideration should be given to the views from the house and garden, the change from the existing rural outlook, the scale and height of the proposed buildings, associated infrastructure, lighting and the cumulative effect of the development.

The developer's own image provides a clear illustration of what residents at ADDRESS will be faced with. The white house in the foreground is an existing family home, while the enormous buildings proposed behind it would fundamentally change the character and outlook of the property, not to mention the value of our property.

This also reinforces my concern that the impact on ADDRESS needs to be individually assessed. These properties are not simply representative points within the wider study area; they are among the homes that will experience the development at particularly close range.

One of my greatest concerns is noise.

A development of this scale will involve substantial mechanical and electrical infrastructure, including cooling equipment, transformers, substations and other plant. I am particularly concerned about the potential for continuous operational noise, tonal noise, low-frequency noise and vibration.

Low-frequency noise is of particular concern to me because it can be intrusive and disturbing even when conventional noise measurements suggest that overall noise levels are within acceptable limits.

I therefore ask that the Council ensures the noise assessment properly considers low-frequency noise, tonal noise and vibration, rather than relying solely on average noise levels.

The assessment should specifically consider the impact at the nearest residential properties, including ADDRESS.

It should also consider both daytime and night-time conditions. Noise that may be considered acceptable during the day can have a very different impact at night, particularly in an otherwise quiet rural environment.

I am also concerned about the construction phase. This is not a short construction project that will be completed in a matter of months. Given the scale of the proposal, construction activity could affect local residents for many years.

Construction noise, vibration, heavy vehicle movements, deliveries, earthworks and other associated activity will have a significant effect on our quality of life.

I ask that construction noise and vibration are fully assessed and that any mitigation measures are robust, enforceable and capable of protecting the nearest residential properties throughout the construction period.

Traffic is another major concern for me, particularly because our home is immediately beside the B772, a road in my personal opinion through living here and experiencing the road daily, will not cope with the traffic that is expected to arise with the new development.

The submitted documentation states that the two-way 24-hour Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) during the construction period is anticipated to be circa 890 vehicles.

This is an astounding level of traffic for a rural road immediately beside our homes. It is particularly concerning when consideration is given to the type of traffic involved, including HGVs, construction vehicles, deliveries and specialist vehicles required for a development of this scale.

My concern is not only about inconvenience or congestion. It is about safety.

My child has started senior school and now waits at the roadside on the B772 for the school bus, and my younger children will follow when they reach senior school, (they are currently aged four and eight). As a parent, I am extremely concerned about them having to stand beside a road that could experience a significant increase in construction traffic, including large HGVs and other heavy vehicles.

The Council should specifically consider the safety of children waiting for the school bus rather than treating the B772 simply as part of the wider road network.

The assessment should consider:

- the anticipated circa 890 vehicle movements per day during construction;
- how those movements will be distributed throughout the day;
- how many will be HGVs and other large vehicles;
- whether construction traffic will coincide with school-bus times;
- the proposed routes for HGVs and abnormal loads;
- visibility and stopping distances at the locations where children wait for the bus;
- the ability of large vehicles to safely pass existing residential accesses;
- road safety for pedestrians and children;
- mud, dust and debris deposited on the road;
- potential queuing and congestion; and
- what specific measures will be put in place to protect local residents and children.

There is also a significant long-term concern because the traffic impact does not end when construction finishes.

The documentation indicates that once the development is operational there could be approximately 1,329 vehicle movements per day.

This is particularly concerning because it demonstrates that the increase in traffic is not simply a temporary consequence of construction. There will be a permanent and substantial increase in vehicle movements associated with the completed development.

The figures are therefore very significant:

Construction phase: circa 890 vehicle movements per day

Operational phase: approximately 1,329 vehicle movements per day

For residents of ADDRESS, this means that we will experience significant traffic impacts both during the many years of construction and permanently once the data centre is operational.

The Council should consider not only the total number of movements but also the type and size of vehicles, the times at which they will travel, their speed and their interaction with pedestrians, children and existing residential accesses.

The fact that traffic is expected to increase further once the development becomes operational is particularly important. This is not simply a temporary construction inconvenience; it represents a long-term change to the environment in which our homes and families are situated.

I am also very concerned about the impact of construction on air quality and pollution.

As already mentioned a development of this scale will involve substantial earthworks, excavation, construction activity and vehicle movements over a prolonged period. This creates the potential for dust, particulate matter, diesel emissions, mud and other pollution to affect nearby homes.

Because our homes are located so close to the development and directly beside the B772, we will be particularly exposed to these impacts.

I ask the Council to ensure that construction-phase air quality and dust impacts are properly assessed at the nearest residential properties, particularly ADDRESS.

Appropriate mitigation should include effective dust suppression, wheel washing, road cleaning and monitoring, together with measures to prevent construction materials, mud and debris being carried onto the B772.

Another concern of mine, and in particular a concern of my childrens is about the impact of the development on the wildlife, biodiversity in and around the site. The area surrounding our homes supports a wide range of wildlife, including deer, hare, badgers and squirrels, which we see on a very regular basis in and around our home and the site. We also have Dingy Skipper butterflies in the area, a species associated with specific habitats and of conservation interest. The loss and fragmentation of habitat, together with construction noise, lighting, dust, traffic and disturbance over many years, could have a significant impact on these species and the wider ecosystem. I ask that the Council ensures that a thorough, site-specific ecological assessment is undertaken, including proper consideration of protected species, habitats, fungi, insects and the cumulative effects of the development and associated infrastructure. Any mitigation should demonstrate that biodiversity will be protected and, where possible, enhanced rather than simply replaced elsewhere.

I am concerned that the individual impacts of the development could be considered separately without sufficient consideration being given to their combined effect.

For those of us living immediately beside the site, the impact will include:

- years of construction activity;
- significant construction traffic;
- HGV movements;
- construction noise;
- low-frequency noise;
- vibration;

- dust and air pollution;
- increased operational traffic;
- permanent mechanical and electrical plant noise;
- industrial lighting;
- substantial visual change; and
- the loss of the existing rural character immediately around our homes.

Each of these issues would have an effect, but the cumulative impact of all of them occurring together is astronomical & it is absurd to think that any family could have any quality of life living so close to this development if it were to go ahead.

This is particularly important for the small number of homes that are closest to the proposed development. The impact on those properties should not be diluted by considering average effects across the whole surrounding area.

My family should not have to accept years of disruption during construction followed by a permanent increase in traffic, noise and industrial activity without the specific impact on our home being properly assessed.

Conclusion

I am not objecting simply because I do not want development in the area. I understand that the Chapelcross site has potential for redevelopment.

My objection is based on the exceptional scale and proximity of this particular proposal and the effect it will have on our homes, our families and our quality of life indefinitely.

The developer's own visualisation shows my home, directly in front of the proposed development. This makes the potential scale of the visual and residential impact particularly clear and very real for us.

ADDRESS are among the properties that will experience this development at very close range. We are not distant residents who will only see the development occasionally; we will live alongside it and we need proper consideration.

I therefore respectfully ask Dumfries and Galloway Council to refuse planning application 26/1649/PIP.

Yours faithfully,

NAME
ADDRESS
DATE