

Loch na Cathrach Update – Winter 2025

It has been a busy six months since our last update and as the year comes to a close, I'm pleased to share this latest project news and information on the project timeline. We are planning some Drop-In Events early next year before construction commences, and you are encouraged to visit the project website and sign up to our mailing list to be kept informed.

In the meantime, from myself and the whole project team, we would like to wish you all a happy holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in person next year.

Scott Gilbert,
Project Director



Geo-technical Surveys

Our next phase of site investigations is underway – with our contractor Natural Power drilling further boreholes, to provide us with detailed information to us on the geo-technical conditions around the site. These will help us refine the design in preparation for construction.

These works are expected to conclude in early 2026.

The link between Loch na Cathrach and Ofgem

The UK Government's Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) support scheme is a flagship policy to decarbonise the energy system. The industry regulator, Ofgem, is currently assessing information provided last month by Statkraft and other organisations with eligible projects into this scheme. Ofgem's timeline indicates that we will know of our progression to the next stage in Spring 2026.

We believe that Loch na Cathrach is one of the best projects that could be selected. It aligns with the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan and facilitates more effective and efficient use of our home-grown electricity, whilst generating hundreds of jobs and local value. These are just some of the benefits that Loch na Cathrach can bring.

A decision from Ofgem in Spring 2026 would allow us to reach Final Investment Decision in Late Summer / Autumn 2026.

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Update on Project Programme

There are several factors that influence a project timeline, and we appreciate that shifting timescales can cause frustration for the community. The project needs to reach a number of milestones before a timeline can be fixed, below is a current update.

Pre-Construction

Also known as “Enabling Works”, this is the early-stage work to prepare for main construction. It will include the realignment of the C1064, some tree felling and creating the compounds used for the duration of construction. *We are working towards starting this work in Spring/Summer 2026, and expect it to take four months.*

Main Construction

There are multiple conditions attached to the consent of this project. Before construction, we must discharge those conditions and ensure that all necessary licences associated with the scheme are in place and agreed with relevant authorities. This has been a major strand of work over the past year, which we will continue working on in 2026.

This includes finalising plans for construction, including the Construction Traffic Management Plan. We know that construction traffic is of specific interest to the local community. As we work on these plans, we are considering options on how to minimise traffic impact. It is helpful that all material excavated will be re-used on the site. This is a truly sustainable way of constructing a project, as it means no earthworks materials will be delivered to or from the site, minimising lorry movements on local roads. This is also safer, causes less disruption for road users and reduces emissions.

We plan to share information about the construction route at our public events early next year.

We are working towards starting this work in Late Summer/Autumn 2026, and expect it to take five years.

Local Jobs & Suppliers



Scott Gilbert, presenting at the Highland Renewables Network. November 2025.

We will soon be able to confirm our preferred contractors for the construction phase. This is an important milestone as it means the job opportunities identified in the Workforce Skills report, published on our website in January 2025, can start to be fulfilled.

We are keen to involve as many local suppliers as possible in the project. We recently presented at the Highland Renewables Sustainability Summit at the Kingsmills Hotel to share the varied supplier opportunities. We encourage any local companies interested in working on Loch na Cathrach to sign up to our local supplier database on the project website - www.loch-na-cathrach.co.uk