



# Achrugan Wind Farm

Welcome to the first round of public consultation events for the proposed Achrugan Wind Farm. Here you will have the opportunity to view early stage plans, meet the Project Team and leave your feedback on our emerging designs.

## About Statkraft

At Statkraft, we all share a common goal of maximising the positive benefits we can bring from our projects, which stretches beyond the generation of renewable energy, to habitat enhancement and investing in our communities to leave a lasting legacy for the area.



Berry Burn Wind Farm, Moray, 29 turbines, 100m tip height

- The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- A state owned utility, with origins in Norwegian hydropower over 125 years ago
- 6,000 employees in over 20 countries, all working towards our low carbon future
- Operating in the UK since 2006, our Scottish HQ is in Glasgow
- Eight projects operating or in development in the Highlands
- Distributed over £4 million to communities near operating wind farms in the UK



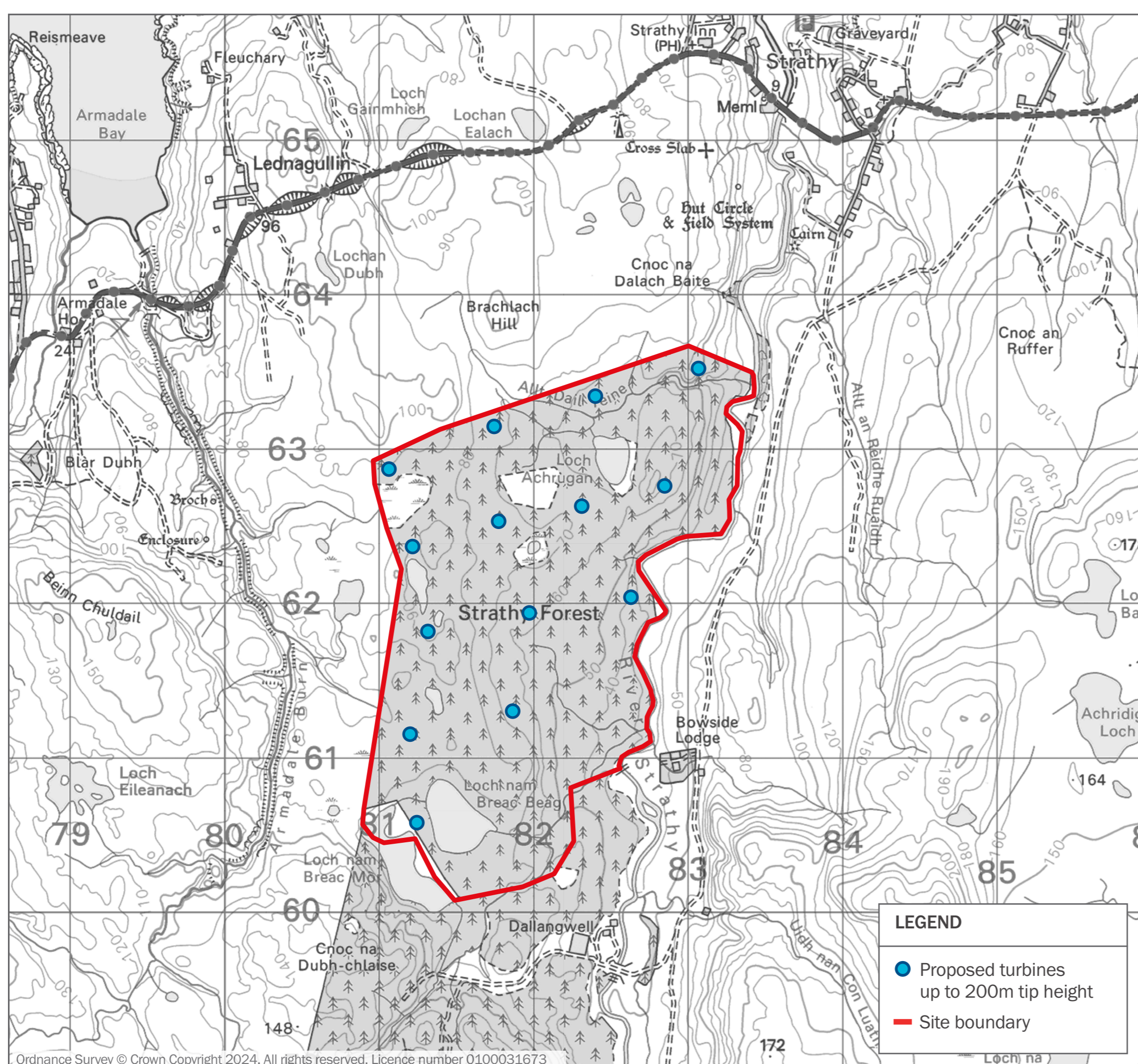
# About Achrugan Wind Farm

Located approximately 1.6km south of Strathy and 27km south west of Thurso, the wind farm is in early-stage development. Our initial proposal features up to 14 turbines with maximum tip heights of 200m, a battery energy storage system (BESS) of approximately 50 megawatts (MW) and ancillary infrastructure.

The final design of the development will be informed by a full suite of environmental surveys as well as feedback from the community and other consultees. Our design will strike a good balance between maximising the electricity output of the site while carefully relating to the existing use of the site and landscape.

This site is predominantly commercial forestry plantation with isolated areas of open grounds and lochans.

The plan shows the proposed layout of Achrugan Wind Farm



## ACHRUGAN WIND FARM

No. of Turbines	Up to <b>14</b>
Max Blade Tip Heights	Up to <b>200m</b>
Expected Installed Wind Capacity (MW)	Approx. <b>100MW</b>
Community Fund (per year)	Up to <b>£500,000</b> per year (1)
Homes Powered	Over <b>120,000</b> Homes per year (2)
Operational Life	Up to <b>50 Years</b>

(1) Based on 100MW x £5,000 per MW installed capacity. If consented, value of fund determined by actual installed capacity.  
 (2) Based on 100.8MW installed wind capacity, estimated site wind speed and Scottish domestic consumption of 3078 kWh pa (DESNZ 2024)

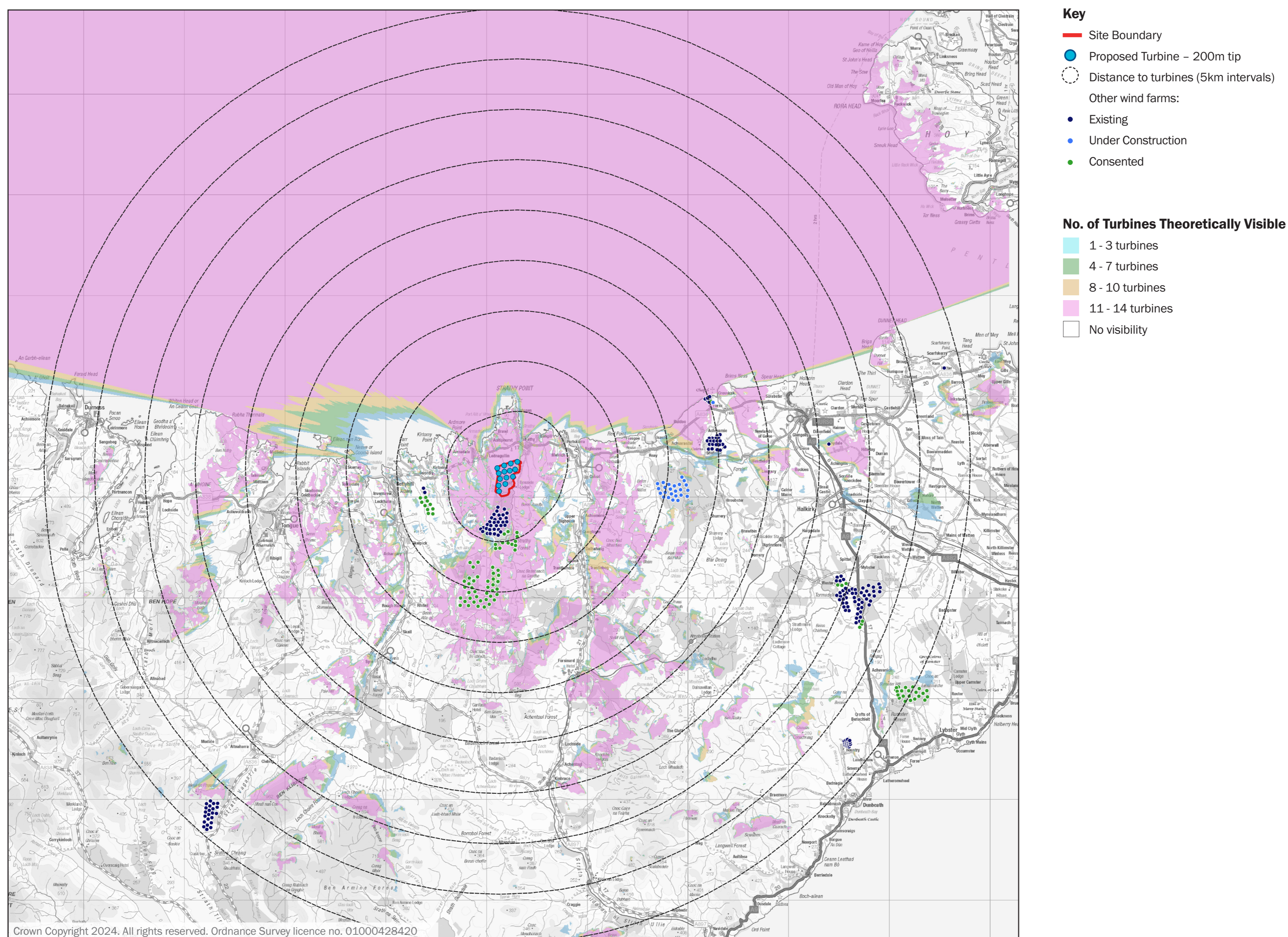




# Visualising Achrugan Wind Farm

Throughout the design process we will be reviewing how the development will be visible in the landscape.

Today we can share what the current proposal may look like from local viewpoints.



Approximately 14 visualisations will be created to demonstrate how the proposal could look. We are in the process of agreeing the location of these viewpoints with Highland Council and NatureScot. As the proposed turbines would be over 150m they would require aviation lighting, night-time viewpoints are also being agreed.

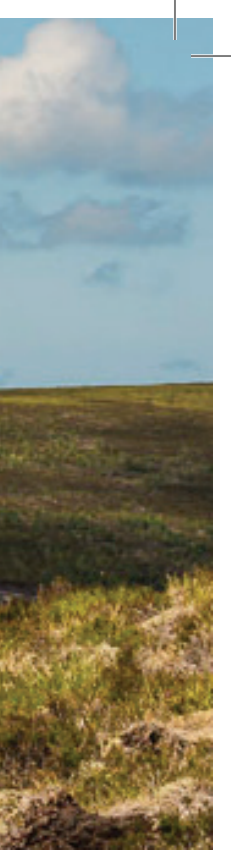
At this early stage six visualisations from local viewpoints and a computer model are available to view.

We are also presenting the 'screened' and 'bare earth' versions of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to help illustrate what you may see of the wind farm within the area. The 'bare earth' ZTV is shown above – this does not account for features such as forestry which may screen the views of the wind farm.

At our second round of public consultation events, we will present a selection of the agreed viewpoints.

Illustrations of all agreed viewpoints will be available with a planning application.





# Environmental Impact Assessment

The process of gathering robust environmental baseline data on a site is vital to designing a wind farm.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) will be submitted as part of the application. Applications over 50MW are subject to final approval by Scottish Government, informed by consultees such as Highland Council, NatureScot, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland.

The EIA Report assesses any likely significant effects the Proposed Development may have and how these impacts can be avoided or mitigated. Site surveys provide us with a comprehensive understanding of the local environment, and additional confidence that the design and mitigation measures proposed are right for this location.

## It will include:

- Landscape and Visual
- Ecology and Ornithology
- Cultural Heritage
- Forestry
- Geology, hydrogeology, hydrology and peat
- Noise
- Traffic and Transport
- Climate Change
- Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation







# Project Timeline

Statkraft will continue to engage with the local community and stakeholders throughout the lifetime of the Development.

## 1. SITE SELECTION & SUITABILITY



(12 months)

Extensive research to identify site suitability: positive indicators include good wind speed and minimal environmental and technical constraints.

No public engagement is carried out during this time because the Site may not pass the criteria required for being suitable for development.



## 2. PRE-PLANNING



(6 to 18 months)

We request the view of the Scottish Government and the Highland Council on the level of study required (known as "Scoping").

Scoping is sent to local and neighbouring Community Councils and consultees such as NatureScot, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland.

There are likely to be further changes to the layout as studies continue and feedback from communities and residents is received. Two rounds of public engagement events will take place to discuss the design and its changes with the local community.



## 3. SUBMIT APPLICATION & AWAIT DECISION



(12 to 24 months)

An application for Section 36 consent is submitted to the Scottish Government, accompanied by a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report showing the results of all studies undertaken. A hard copy will be available in a public location for the community to access.

Interested parties and consultees such as the Highland Council, and Community Councils hosting and neighbouring the proposal can formally comment on the application and the EIA Report.



## 4. CONSTRUCTION



(12 to 24 months)

If approved, construction begins at least one year after consent.

We anticipate the construction phase to take 12–24 months. Planning conditions, including the provision of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, are used to manage elements of construction.



## 5. OPERATION



(Up to 50 years)

The turbines are managed from a regionally based maintenance team, and operations are controlled by detailed planning conditions.

We are committed to community benefit and shared ownership opportunities. A community fund is active throughout the operational lifetime of the project for a range of community initiatives.



## 6. DECOMMISSION

(12 months)

At the end of the planning period, turbines are removed. A financial bond or guarantee is put in place before construction starts, to cover the decommissioning cost.







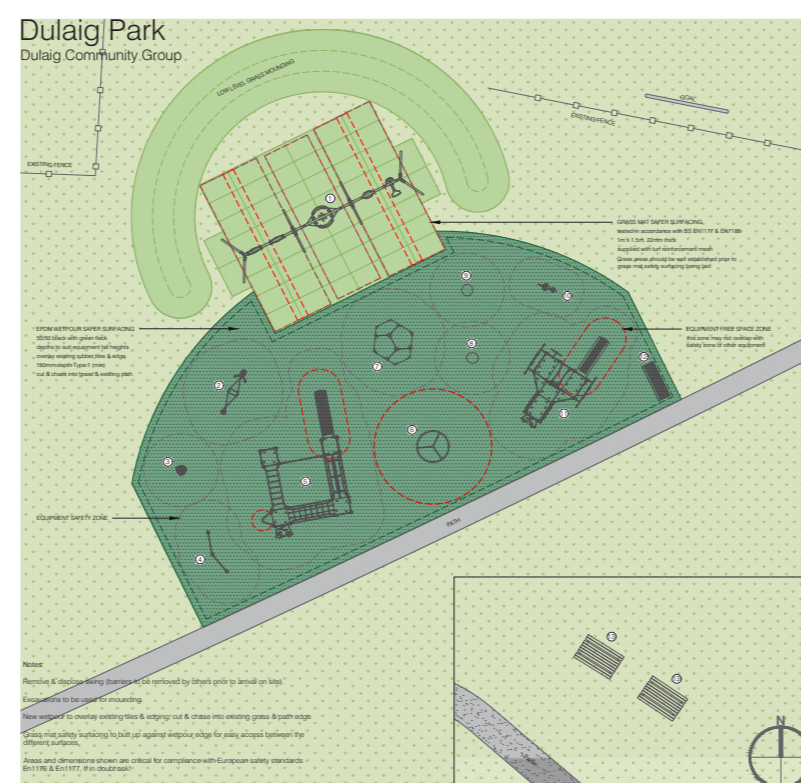
# Community Benefits

**We like our wind farms to be considered a local asset. We look forward to engaging with the communities to find out different ways we can bring positive benefits to the local area.**

Some examples of projects that have received funding through Community Benefit Funds



New business grants – North Coast Watersports



New and upgraded playgrounds



Funding for School Uniform Banks



Maintaining and Upgrading Recreational Paths

## Community Benefit Fund

We are committed to setting up a Community Benefit Fund that delivers £5,000 per MW installed wind capacity per year in line with Scottish Government recommendations.

## Shared Ownership

We are open to offering shared ownership on our projects, if there is local interest. We are keen to hear your views on enabling the community to have a financial share in the project.

## Improved Broadband

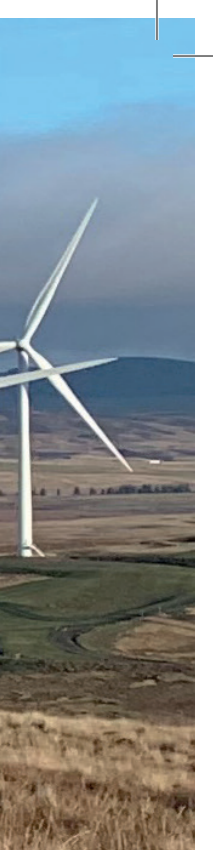
We commission a broadband feasibility study for all our projects. We require a reliable broadband service to operate our wind turbines and the study explores the potential for improving the local infrastructure as the wind farm is connected. The community may wish to explore this further and partially fund works through the Community Benefit Fund.

## Local Supply Chain

We want to work with local business groups to increase awareness of the opportunities during construction and operation of our projects. Local businesses can register their interest here:







# Thank you for visiting

Your comments and feedback are important to us.



Andershaw Wind Farm, South Lanarkshire, 11 turbines, 140m tip height

We are continuing work on refining our proposal and studies for our comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be submitted with a future application.

Before we submit our application, we'll return to the community to share and discuss our final proposal.

Members of our team are often in the area and are available to discuss the project with members of the community – please contact us.



Please return the freepost reply card provided.



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