Pre-Application Consultation Report



Appendix 5 Presentation Panels for First Public Event



# Welcome

# Berry Burn Extension Wind Farm







## Welcome

We are here today to update you on progress towards construction of the Berry Burn Extension Wind Farm, and our proposals for two borrow pits for construction materials.



## **About Statkraft**

- $\rightarrow$  The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- $\rightarrow$  A state owned utility with origins in Norwegian hydropower over **125** years ago
- $\rightarrow$  Operating in the UK since 2006
- $\rightarrow$  Scottish Head Office in Glasgow
- $\rightarrow$  Development pipeline includes wind, solar, hydrogen and grid stability services
- ightarrow Operational at Berry Burn since 2014



Meet the project team:



#### **STEVE REID**

**Steve is the Project** Manager and responsible for bringing the project to construction phase.



#### **ALISON HOOD**

Alison leads on community engagement and now has a focus on how this project can maximise benefits to the community and region.





#### **SEUMAS SKINNER**

Seumas has recently returned to the Highlands and will work with our local partners to facilitate our community engagement.







## Background

# The existing 29 turbine Berry Burn Wind Farm has been operating since 2014. A nine turbine extension was consented by Scottish Ministers in December 2021.

As part of our construction preparations, we are proposing to submit a planning application to enable the use of borrow pits during the construction period. We are not

seeking planning permission for further turbines, beyond those nine that are consented.



#### Approved turbine layout as part of Section 36 consent.

	No. of Turbines	Turbine (MW)	Total (MW)	Max Blade Tip Heights	Electricity Generation (homes equivalent)	Community Fund (per year)	Community Fund (over project life)
Berry Burn	29	2.3	66.7	<b>100m</b>	over <b>47,000</b> homes	Minimum £166,750	Minimum £4.16 million
Extension	9	4.5	40.5	<b>149.9m</b>	over <b>43,000</b> homes	Minimum <b>£202,500</b> (40.5MW x £5,000)	Minimum £6 million

Information based on 9 turbines and current knowledge of site wind speed.

These figures may change subject to turbines installed.

Calculated using annual average Scottish domestic consumption of 3078 kWh, DESNZ 2024.





# **Preparing for construction**

We have spent several years progressing the project towards construction. During this time, we have been seeking opportunities to minimise the impact on local roads and road users during construction.

DODDOW/DITC

#### BORROW PIIS

Borrow pits are small on-site quarries, with suitable material for the wind farm's construction. There are many benefits to utilising on-site borrow pits. A key benefit, for the local community and for the environment, is the reduction in construction traffic, with fewer heavy vehicles bringing construction materials to site. The existing permission for the Wind Farm Extension already includes two borrow pit areas. Site investigations have shown that the original proposed borrow pit locations need to be moved to be optimal for the site. Our aim today is to provide information on what is proposed. Two events are taking place in September and October to consult with the local community.







## **Environmental Impact Assessment**

A comprehensive assessment of the environmental impact of this application will be undertaken to design the two borrow pits. A key objective is to avoid negative impacts where possible, or to effectively minimise or mitigate them.

Some of the factors to be assessed include:

### Hydrology

A detailed assessment of potential impacts on the local water environment from the new borrow pit locations is taking place. A review of existing information relating to abstractions, discharges and private water supplies from Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and Moray Council will be undertaken. The application will contain a Water Environment Appraisal. The planning application will also set out any mitigation measures to either avoid or reduce any impact upon the water environment so that potential impacts are minimised or kept within acceptable limits. This will be publicly available when the application is submitted.

## **Peat and ground conditions**

Investigations have concluded that neither of the two proposed borrow pit search areas are located in areas of Class 1 or Class 2 of soils or deep peat. Because the proposed borrow pits will be avoiding areas of peat, no significant effects upon peat and soils are considered likely. However, we are still proposing to submit a Peat and Soils Appraisal with the planning application to consider these matters in more detail.

Site investigation works have already taken place in both of the proposed borrow pit locations. This has confirmed that both locations have suitable construction materials, with early assessments indicating sufficient material could be excavated to meet all of the aggregate needed for construction of the project.

#### Ecology

#### **Restoration of Borrow Pit Areas**

We already have extensive knowledge of the ecology of this site and surrounding area. Ecology studies are ongoing across the site and will be used to assess the impact and inform the final design of the borrow pits. The application will include details of these surveys and will need to demonstrate that significant impacts on protected or notable species and habitats will be avoided. When the project is completed, the borrow pits will be reinstated to an agreeable profile. A detailed Restoration Plan will be included within the planning application, for approval by Moray Council. This will include topographic surveys of pre-construction profiles with topographical surveys of the fully restored borrow pits. The Peat Management Plan for the wider Berry Burn Extension Wind Farm will set out how peat is to be utilised in the restoration of the new borrow pits.





## Construction

## Statkraft will continue to engage with the local community and stakeholders before, during and throughout the lifetime of the operational wind farm.



ABNORMAL INDIVISIBLE LOAD (AIL) ROUTE

Map showing the transport route from inverness to site.

Abnormal loads (turbine components) are proposed to originate from the Port of **Inverness.** The Project Timeline indicates the current indicative timing for the commencement of deliveries.

The Environmental Impact Assessed (EIA) route for other construction traffic was from west and east of Forres on the A96.

**Construction traffic would then travel south** on the A940 and then along the U89E (Half Davoch Road) to site.

Necessary road upgrades are under review for the abnormal and construction traffic routes to site. Further updates will be communicated nearer to construction commencement.





## Local Investment

We strive to be a good neighbour and seek to add value and maximise benefits to communities. This project provides an opportunity to significantly boost the local economy – your ideas are welcome on how we can retain investment in the local area.

#### **Good Neighbour Approach**

We are committed to listening to local stakeholders and working with them to find the best solutions to issues.

#### **Community Benefit Fund**

This project will generate over £200,000 each year for community projects – more than £6 million over the project lifetime.

#### **Local Suppliers**



We have a track record of increasing awareness of opportunities during the construction phase of our projects. Scan the QR Code

to register your interest in getting involved with the project.

#### **Supporting STEM Careers**

Our UHI scholarships support students on their career journey, helping them shape rewarding future careers.













## Next Steps

#### **Indicative Timeline**



## Your views are important to us

We are committed to engaging with the local community and would like to keep you informed. Contact us with your questions, comments or to subscribe for project updates.



Please return the freepost reply card provided.



Visit the project website: www.berryburn-extension.co.uk



UKProjects@statkraft.com



Phone the project hotline: **0800 772 0668** 



## Scan the QR code to view the project webpage





# **Supporting STEM Careers**

Statkraft are proud to provide over £70,000 for STEM Scholarships at the University of the Highlands and Islands to support students for the duration of their studies.





Alison Wilson, Director of Development and Alumni Engagement at UHI:

This is a greatly welcome commitment from one of the most important renewable energy companies in the world. The fact that the scholarships stay with the students throughout their time with UHI provides financial stability, vital in the current cost of living crisis, to allow them to concentrate on their studies and shape rewarding future careers for themselves.

- → Student studying a multi-year STEM course at UHI
- Support for up to four years students will be required to continue to meet academic requirements and provide an annual report of their progress
- $\rightarrow$  Full-time student
- $\rightarrow$  Student ordinarily resident in Scotland
- → Selection panel assessment of student's academic performance and potential and desire to progress

University of the Highlands and Islands To find out more and apply, scan the QR code or search on the UHI website:





www.uhi.ac.uk

