#### CARN FEARNA WIND FARM



We invite you to attend our second round of public exhibitions for the Carn Fearna Wind Farm proposal at land approximately 1.5km northeast of the village of Garve in Ross-shire (NGR NH 42295 62742/What3Words: slicer.lamenting.slick). The proposal is for up to 9 wind turbines, a mixture of turbines of up to 200m and 180m to tip and other ancillary infrastructure associated with an onshore wind farm.

#### PHYSICAL EXHIBITIONS



Contin Community Hall - 10.30am to 2pm, Wednesday, 15th May

**Garve Community Hall** - 3.30pm to 8.30pm, Wednesday, **15**th May

**Strathpeffer Community Hall** - 3pm to 6.30pm, Thursday, **16**th May

Thank you, and we hope you can take part in the events.

#### VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Our exhibition website will be live from 6th May 2024 to 31st May 2024 with all exhibition material available and opportunities to discuss the project with the team. Please visit www.carn-fearna.co.uk for more information, where a link to the online exhibition and other details for the proposal are available. Comments should be made to Statkraft UK and do not constitute a formal representation. An opportunity to make a formal representation will exist when a subsequent application is made.



THE PRESS AND JOURNAL BUSINESS 31 Friday, May 3, 2024



# Catering boss cuts takeaway opening days

BY ALEX BANKS

he owner of an Inverness takeaway has had to cut opening hours to

save her business.
Jenny Whyte, who runs
Grazey Days, currently
opens the Shore Street
premises five days a week.
But the impact of rising
costs means she will now
only open on Fridays.
Grazey Days offers
outdoor catering, a hot food
van and delivery exprises as

van and delivery services as well as its takea

Ms Whyte started the

business almost four years ago with just £250 in her bank account.

The takeaway opened in 2021 as part of expansion plans for the business.

plans for the business. She said: "Grazey Days is what I started - for me closing showed it as a massive failure. "Tve been working 70-80 hours a week for almost four years now and just battling on as if it's normal. "It never really crossed

"It never really crossed my mind there may be an issue until I was speaking to my parents and my dad said he was worried about

"That's when it really hit me and I knew I needed to take a step back and have a proper look at things.

"I've spent weeks crying over the decision, I didn't

over the decision, I didn't want to let people down." Ms Whyte has four staff and said none of them will lose any hours as they will focus on the buffets and

outdoor catering.

She added: "I stand back now knowing I need to go in a different direction in

order to survive and grow.
"I feel what I've achieved "I feel what I've achieved is insane and I will keep battling on, my customers can't get rid of me that easy." Ms Whyte said the takeaway has been "breaking even at best". She said: "The van and custide extering make me

outside catering make me

"Unfortunately, the

"I was going to close it completely, but we've built up such a loyal customer base that wouldn't be fair." She says times are as tough

as ever for small businesses at the moment, adding: "The minimum wage has gone up by almost a pound an hour, which is massive for sinesses our size. "Everything else is rising

too, packaging, electricity, you name it. "What we're going to see

"What we're going to see is if a lot of similar sized businesses to ourselves don't make any changes, it won't be a happy ending." She said: "I sat my staff down and spoke to them to let them know what I was

let them know what I was

let them know wnat I was-thinking.

"They were so helpful and even said if they did end up losing a couple of hours it didn't matter as long as me and the business survived.

"Without them, and their support over this move, I'd

support over this move, I'd have packed it in months

With the focus back on

with the focus back on outdoor catering and its hot food van, the business already has a new contract. She said: "Belladrum has approached me to cater for them this year which is a really huge deal. "Without our recent

Without our recent rethink we probably would've had to say no."

The changes take place from May 6

### US billionaire takes over as new owner of subsea company Rovop

Subsea robotics firm Rovop is under new US ownership after its acquisition by American billionaire Gary Chouest. It was previously owned by global private equity firm Bluewater. The business, which turned over nearly \$53

turned over nearly £53 million in 2022-23, changed hands for an

changed hands for an undisclosed sum. Westhill-headquartered Roxop is one of the world's largest providers of remotely-operated vehicle (RoV) services, with clients in the oil and gas, offshore wind and utilities industries and operations in leastings. and operations in locations including Houston in the

including Houston in the US, Singapore and Dubai. Its last set of accounts showed the group employed 266 people, on average, in the 12 months to March 31 2023, including CEO Neil Potter.

Commenting on the new ownership, Mr Potter said: "This is a remarkable opportunity for growth,



Rovop has been bought for

innovation and delivery of even greater value to our even greater value to our clients, bringing a significantly increased flect of ROVs and an expanded knowledge that our customers will be able to

"We're now looking forward to this next chapter in the Rovop story." Mr Chouest is the owner

and president of Louisiana-based Edison

Chouest Offshore, which owns more than 200 offshore vessels for the oil

offshore vessels for the oil and gas and wind power industries. Dino Chouest, the new owner's eldest son, commented: "Rovop has established a reputation for swellages." for excellence

"This acquisition is a key part of our strategy to enhance our integrated subsea services."

#### CARN FEARNA WIND FARM



We invite you to attend our second round of public exhibitions for the Carn Fearna nately 1.5km northeast of the village of Surve in Ross-shire (NGR NH 42295 62742/What3Words: slicer.lar the proposal is for up to 9 wind turbines, a mixture of turbines of up sal is for up to 9 wind turbi

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An opportunity to make a formal representation will

### **Your Advert** Here.

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The Press and Journal







www.carn-fearna.co.uk



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Local Benefits & Investment	32
Your Views Are Important To Us	34

- 2

### Welcome



This brochure contains details from our exhibition boards and additional information about our Environmental Impact Assessment.

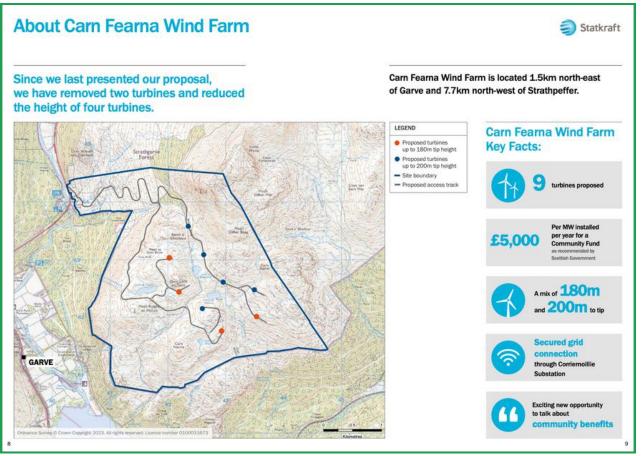
#### **About Statkraft**

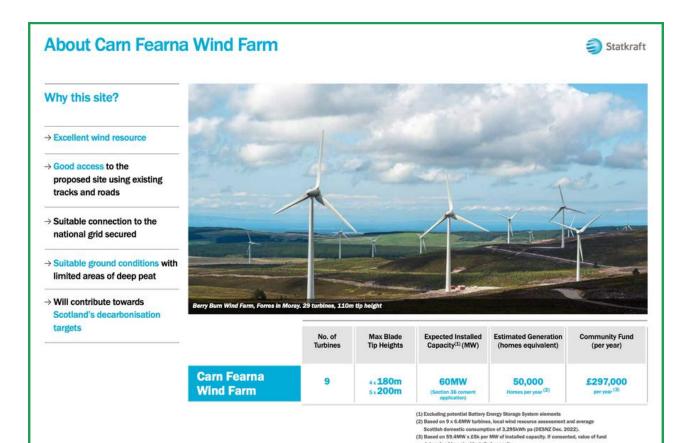
- → The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- → A state owned utility, with origins in Norwegian hydropower over 125 years ago
- → Operating in the UK since 2006
- → More than 50 staff working across Scotland
- → Distributed over £4 million to communities near operating wind farms



.











We have been working to balance energy generation and site impact throughout the design process. Here is how the project has evolved.

### Scoping Layout 2023: 14 turbines, up to 200m to tip height



Designed around initial technical and environmental constraints, to avoid interference with existing communications mast, and to maximise the energy generation capacity of the site.

#### Exhibition 2023 Layout: 11 turbines, up to 200m to tip height



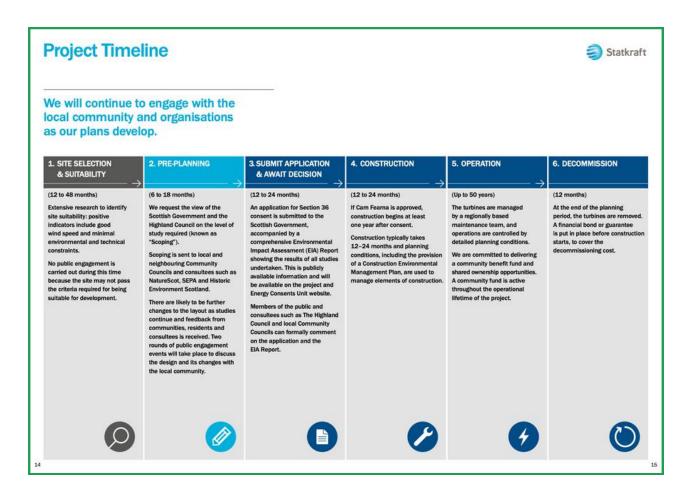
Turbines were removed or moved based on initial feedback and to improve the view from key locations including Garve and the A835. These revisions also reduced the visual impact on views from Ben Wyvis.

Current Layout: 9 turbines, mixture of up to 180m and up to 200m to tip height



Feedback from the local community and The Highland Council was incorporated via a design-led meeting with technical specialists. Key changes were the reduction in height of turbines that are seen from the west, pulling turbines further back from the western edge of the site, and relocation of turbines in the south-east of the site. The reduction in turbine numbers also reduced clustering and overlapping views. The site layout has been optimised to avoid areas of deep peat and other sensitive areas.

To predict what visual impact the wind farm will have, we agreed 33 viewpoints with the Highland Council, NatureScot and other consultees. Using photography from these locations, we can create wirelines and images showing how the wind farm will look.



### Environmental Impact Assessment

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

Our specialist environmental and technical consultants have been gathering a range of data in and around the proposed site. This information is incorporated into an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report which will be publicly available when an application is submitted to Scottish Ministers for determination.

As part of designing and assessing the suitability of this site for a wind farm, consultation has been undertaken with a number of consultees including The Highland Council, NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES).





The EIA Report will cover a range of topics including:

- → Landscape and Visual Amenity
- → Ecology and Ornithology
- → Cultural Heritage
- $\rightarrow$  Forestry
- → Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology and Soils
- → Noise
- → Traffic and Transport
- → Climate Change
- → Land Use, Socioeconomics and Tourism

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# Landscape and Visual Assessment

Feedback from the local community and The Highland Council was incorporated via a design-led meeting with technical specialists. Key changes were the reduction in height of turbines that are seen from the west, pulling turbines further back from the western edge of the site, and relocation of turbines in the south-east of the site. The reduction in turbine numbers also reduced clustering and overlapping views. The site layout has been optimised to avoid areas of deep peat and other sensitive areas.

To predict what visual impact the wind farm will have, we agreed 33 viewpoints with the Highland Council, NatureScot and other consultees. Using photography from these locations, we can create wirelines and images showing how the wind farm will look.

### The Wind Farm Layout

The appearance of the wind farm and how it will affect views and other aspects of the landscape has been given a high priority in the design process for the wind farm.

The location of wind farm within a plateau 'shelf' is of key importance to the way that it is accommodated in the landscape and seen in views from the surrounding area. Most importantly, the turbines must be located within the 'shelf' of the plateau and should not appear to either encroach down the western slope into Strath Garve, or to rise up eastwards towards Carn Gorm and into the Ben Wyvis massif.

The changes in layout between November 2023 and now have resulted in a considerable improvement to the appearance of the Proposed Development, including the following:



Proposed furthines up to \$80m sip height

Proposed furthines up to 200m sip height

Site boundary

- Statkraft
- pulling turbines back from the western edge of the site, thus reducing the level of visibility from the west, including views from Garve, Loch Garve, Gorstan, the A835, and the A832;
- reducing the height of turbines on the western edge of the site, to reduce the level of visibility from the west;
- rationalising the location of turbines on the south-eastern edge of the site so that they do not appear to rise up into the massif; and
- reducing the appearance of overlapping and clustering of turbines, so that the wind farm has a balanced and cohesive appearance.

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### Landscape and Visual Assessment

A comparison between the appearance of the November 2023 layout and the current layout can be seen in our wirelines.



Wireline drawing showing **2023 Exhibition Layout** (200m tip turbines Nearest turbine: 2.66 km



Wireline drawing showing **Current Layout** (200m tip turbines identified with black numbers, 180m tip turbines identified with orange numbers) Nearest turbine: 2.89 km

### Environmental Impact Assessment

### Statkraft

### **Ecology & Ornithology**



The site supports a mosaic of typical upland habitats including blanket bog, in addition to an extensive network of lochs and watercourses. The habitats are in variable condition across the site with some bog areas subject to peat hagging.

The wind farm has been designed to avoid siting turbines and infrastructure on deeper peat which supports sensitive habitats. Localised habitat features of interest, such as priority peatland, have been avoided where possible.

Overall, the site provides typical habitat for most species however surveys have been undertaken for wildcat, badger, red squirrel, pine marten, otter, bats, water vole and fish. Evidence of badger, pine marten, water vole and mountain hare were recorded on site.

Ornithological surveys have been undertaken over two years, in line with NatureScot Guidance. This included monthly flight activity surveys as well as surveys for breeding upland birds, breeding raptors (including golden eagle), breeding divers and black grouse.

The design of the wind farm has included appropriate buffers on known breeding sites identified through the surveys to minimise the potential effects on birds. Full details of the surveys undertaken will be presented in the EIA Report. Our submission to the Scottish Government will include a Nature Enhancement Management Plan. This document will lay out the measures we will take throughout the life of the wind farm to improve biodiversity, habitats and the natural environment in and around the project site.



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### Environmental Impact Assessment



### Geology, Hydrology & Peat



Our studies assess the main surface waters, identify drainage patterns, highlight areas vulnerable to erosion or sediment deposition, anticipate any pollution risks, identify licenced and private water supplies, understand site geomorphology and measure peat depth.

As part of our final application, an impact assessment will be undertaken to calculate and estimate the potential effects of the construction and operation of the wind farm development.

All of our work has been informed by best practice guidance to minimise and mitigate any risks and impacts associated with construction and operation. Issues considered include flood risk, impacts on surface and groundwater flow paths, pollution, and good management of peat soils that could be implemented and/or re-establishing existing degraded peat. We have sought to avoid areas of deep peat where possible.

### **Forestry**



The scheme design is sensitive to woodland habitats. We have identified a small area of woodland within the site and are considering how this can be integrated into the design to minimise loss and prevent fragmentation of the remaining woodlands.

Some areas of woodland may require to be felled for the construction and operation of the project. If this is the case, we will assess any changes to the woodland structure using the UK Forestry Standard, the results of which will be publicly available within the EIA Report with any application.

It is standard practice for any tree loss to be replaced.

Our application will include details of replacement planting and enhancement measures to ensure a net biodiversity gain.



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### **Environmental Impact** Assessment

### Statkraft

### **Cultural Heritage**



Specialist independent consultants have undertaken studies of archaeological and cultural heritage features within the site and surrounding area, in accordance with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) guidance. The EIA Report will include a detailed assessment of effects on both archaeology and cultural heritage in line with relevant legislation, policy and relevant Historic Environment Scotland (HES) professional guidance.

The information gathered has been used to inform the project design to avoid or minimise any direct and indirect impacts (i.e. direct disturbance during construction or indirect such as through changes to hydrology or vibrations of construction) or setting impacts (i.e. changes to the aspects of setting which contribute to an asset's significance), where possible.

Selection of viewpoints for visualisation has included consideration of cultural and heritage sites in the local area, including local monuments.

### Noise



A noise assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the current best practice guidance and standards. The noise assessment will consider the potential effects of construction works, construction traffic and operation of the proposal on nearby residential properties. The assessment will take into account other wind farm schemes operating or within the planning system in the surrounding area.

As part of our assessment, we will record background noise levels. These are due to be recorded during Summer 2024. These background noise levels will be used to determine the noise limits that the wind farm would have to operate within.

Noise limits are informed by Government guidance. If consented, the future operational wind farm, would operate within levels considered acceptable under these guidelines. This would be enforced by a planning condition applied by The Highland Council. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this in more detail with residents of nearby properties.

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### **Environmental Impact** Assessment

### Access, Traffic and **Transport**



Access to the site is proposed from the A835, at Black Water Falls northeast of Garve. Initial access assessment and swept path analysis has indicated that the Port of Invergordon is the most appropriate landing site for the major components.

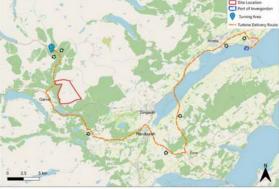
Due to the road alignment, the wind turbine components will be transported from the port to a turning area off the A835 at Inchbae Lodge approximately 6.3km north of the site. Here components will turn before heading back south to the site access.

The route from the port to site can be summarised as follows:

- → B817 eastbound
- → Academy Road to A9
- → A9 southbound to Tore Roundabout and the A835
- A835 to Inchbae Lodge, to turn abnormal load vehicles
- → A835 to site access.

A full traffic and transport assessment of the impact of vehicle movements during construction will be carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The focus of the assessment will be on the construction phase as this is likely to create the greatest environmental impacts due to the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) required to transport construction materials to site.







Indicative Turning Area Inchbae Lodge

### **Environmental Impact** Assessment

### Statkraft

### Land-Use, Socioeconomics and Tourism



An assessment of the potential economic effects of the wind farm will be undertaken and will set out the expected job creation, economic value and benefit to the local and wider economy through the different stages of the development life cycle.

It will assess all potential positive and negative impacts for the development including regional and local communities, as well as tourists, tourism related businesses and other recreational groups where appropriate. We welcome your ideas on how we can maximise the economic benefits our project could bring.

This assessment will also consider the impacts on recreational receptors which can be important to a community. These assets could be temporarily effected by construction activities and have an adverse impact on certain local receptors including walkers and other users of recreational routes, such as people travelling along the Core Paths outside of the site.

### **Climate Change**



Unprecedented heat, flooding and wildfires experienced across the globe over the past decade will continue to increase if we do not reduce our carbon emissions.

The Scottish Government has set a legally binding target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045, a goal supported by The Highland Council. Developments such as Carn Fearna Wind Farm are key to meeting this target, reducing reliance on gas and coal fired power stations, increasing domestic energy security and helping to meet the energy demands as we electrify transport and heating.

Using the Scottish Government's Carbon Calculator Tool we will assess and report on how long it will take for clean, renewable energy generated by the wind farm to off-set the carbon emitted during its construction, referred to as the proposal's "carbon payback period". To illustrate this, the carbon payback period for our Loch Liath Wind Farm is 2.4 years versus a 40 year lifespan - this is typical of current wind farms.

### Local Benefits & Investment

We strive to be a good neighbour and seek to add value and maximise benefits to communities. We welcome your ideas on how we can deliver for the community.

Windy Rig Wind Farm is another valuable contract for GTR. We are just one of several local businesses who are directly benefiting from the many wind farm developments within this area. This can only be a good thing for both local busine and the local economy."

Tanya Russell, Director, GTR Contracts Ltd.



#### **Community Benefit Fund**

We are committed to setting up a Community Benefit Fund of £5,000 per MW installed per year. We are keen to work with communities to deliver a fund that can meet local community needs and priorities.

#### Local Investment

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.

### Jobs and Skills

Our UHI scholarships support students on their career journey, helping them shape rewarding future careers. For more details or to apply, scan the QR code.









**Shared Ownership** 

we will progress the

Energy Scotland.

If there is interest locally,

opportunity for community

ownership, with the support

of organisations such as Local

### Your Views are Important to Us

We are working to complete our surveys and Environmental Impact Assessment Report ahead of our anticipated submission to the Scottish Government later this year.

When the proposal is submitted interested parties and statutory consultees will have the opportunity to formally comment on the application. All of the information will be available to view on the consenting authority's and our project website at the time of submission.

Comments made to Statkraft are not representations to the consenting authority. If an application is submitted there will be an opportunity for you to submit a formal response to the Scottish Government at that time.



We would like to keep you updated as our plans progress:



Please complete the feedback form provided



Register for updates: www.carn-fearna.co.uk



0800 772 0668

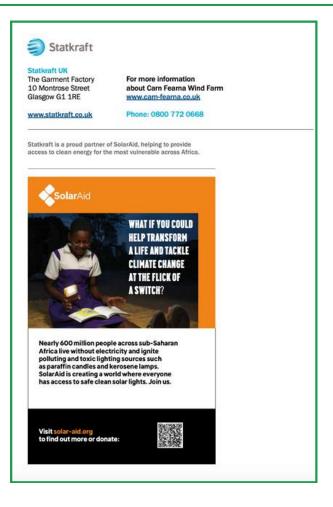


Freepost Statkraft (no stamp or further address details required)



UKProjects@statkraft.com

...



# Appendix 21





### Welcome

We would like to update you on our plans for Carn Fearna Wind Farm.

### **About Statkraft**

- → The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- → A state owned utility with origins in Norwegian hydropower over 125 years ago
- ightarrow Operating in the UK since 2006
- → Scottish Head Office in Glasgow
- → Development pipeline includes wind, solar, hydrogen and grid stability services
- → Six projects operating or in development in the Highlands
- → Distributed over £4 million to communities near operating wind farms





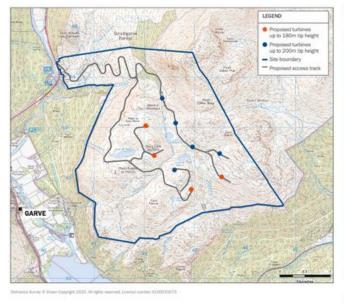






### **About Carn Fearna Wind Farm**

Since we last presented our proposal, we have removed two turbines and reduced the height of four turbines.



No. of	
Turbines	9 Turbines
Max Blade	A mix of 180m
Tip Heights	and 200m to tip
Expected	60MW
Installed Capacity <sup>(1)</sup> (MW)	(Section 36 consent application)
Estimated	
Generation	50,000
homes equivalent)	Homes per year (2)
Community Fund	£297,000
(per year)	per year (3)

 Excluding potential Battery Energy Storage System elements
 Based on 9 x 6.6MW turbines, local wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,295WWh pa (DESNZ Dec. 2022).

(3) Based on 59.4MW x £5k per MW of installed capacity. If consented,

We have refined our proposal based on feedback from local residents and consultees, including The Highland Council. We have worked to limit the visual impact on Garve and from Ben Wyvis, while maximising the electrical output of the site. We are avoiding areas of deep peat through careful siting of components.

www.carn-fearna.co.uk







### **Design Evolution**

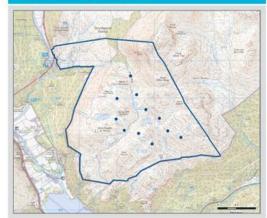
We have been working to balance energy generation and site impact throughout the design process.

### Scoping Layout 2023: 14 turbines, up to 200m to tip height



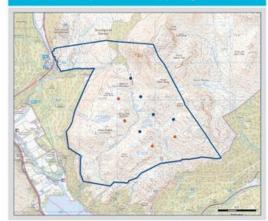
Designed around initial technical and environmental constraints, to avoid interference with existing communications mast, and to maximise the energy generation capacity of the site.

### Exhibition 2023 Layout: 11 turbines, up to 200m to tip height



The appearance of the wind farm from key locations was considered at this stage, with surbines being removed or moved based on initial feedback. Visibility from Garve, the A835, Loch Garve, and other areas to the west was reduced through the removal of turbines from the western edge of the site, while its appearance from the south was improved by relocation of the southern and south-eastern surbines. These revisions were also beneficial in reducing visual impact on views from Ben Wyvis.

### Current Layout: 9 turbines, mixture of up to 180m and up to 200m to tip height



Feedback from the local community and The Highland Council was incorporated via a design-led meeting with technical specialists. Key changes were the reduction in height of turbines that are seen from the west, pulling turbines further back from the western edge of the site, and relocation of turbines in the south-east of the site. The reduction in turbine numbers also reduced clustering and overlapping views. The site layout has been optimised to avoid areas of deep peat and other sensitive areas.







# **Environmental Impact Assessment**

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

Surveys and assessments are being undertaken by a team of specialist environmental and technical consultants. The results and findings will be detailed in an EIA Report, which will be publicly available following submission of an application.

It will include assessment of potential impacts on a range of topics including:

- → Landscape and Visual Amenity
- → Ecology and Omithology
- → Cultural Heritage
- → Forestry
- → Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology and Soils
- → Noise
- → Traffic and Transport
- → Climate Change
- → Land Use, Socioeconomics and Tourism









# **Ecology and Ornithology**

# Extensive ecological and ornithological surveys have been undertaken for habitats and protected species.

The site supports a mosaic of typical upland habitats including blanket bog, in addition to an extensive network of lochs and watercourses. The habitats are in variable condition across the site with some bog areas subject to peat hagging.

The wind farm has been designed to avoid siting turbines and infrastructure on deeper peat which supports sensitive habitats. Localised habitat features of interest, such as priority peatland, have been avoided where possible.

Overall, the site provides typical habitat for most species however surveys have been undertaken for wildcat, badger, red squirrel, pine marten, otter, bats, water vole and fish. Evidence of badger, pine marten, water vole and mountain hare were recorded on site.

Ornithological surveys have been undertaken over two years, in line with NatureScot Guidance. This included monthly flight activity surveys as well as surveys for breeding upland birds, breeding raptors (including golden eagle), breeding divers and black grouse.

The design of the wind farm has included appropriate buffers on known breeding sites identified through the surveys to minimise the potential effects on birds. Full details of the surveys undertaken will be presented in the EIA Report.

Our submission to the Scottish Government will include a Nature Enhancement Management Plan. This document will lay out the measures we will take throughout the life of the wind farm to improve biodiversity, habitats and the natural environment in and around the project site.









### **Transport and Access**

Access to the site for the construction traffic is under review and measures required to allow access using existing routes are being identified.

Access to the site is proposed from the A835, at Black Water Falls northeast of Garve. Initial access assessment and swept path analysis has indicated that the Port of Invergordon is the most appropriate landing site for the major components.

Due to the road alignment, the wind turbine components will be transported from the port to a turning area off the A835 at Inchbae Lodge approximately 6.3km north of the site. Here components will turn before heading back south to the site access.

The route from the port to site can be summarised as follows:

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Inchbae Lodge



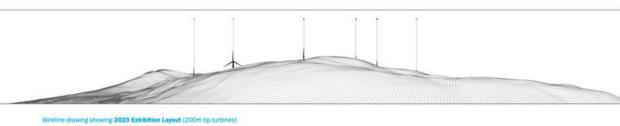


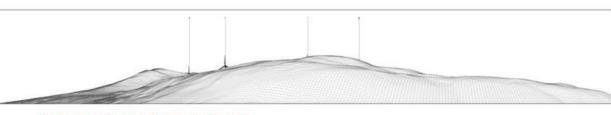
# **Landscape and Visual**

The Carn Fearna Wind Farm site is located on an elevated plateau of rounded rocky hills landscape to the east of Garve and north-west of the settlement of Strathpeffer.

The site can potentially be viewed from areas nearby including the settlements of Garve, Contin and Dingwall, the A835 and A832 roads and walking routes on hills and mountains including Ben Wyvis, Knockfarrel and Kinellan.

To predict what visual impact the wind farm will have, we agreed 33 viewpoints with the Highland Council, NatureScot and other consultees. Using photography from these locations, we can create wirelines and images showing how the wind farm will look.









# **Landscape and Visual**

### The Wind Farm Layout

The appearance of the wind farm and how it will affect views and other aspects of the landscape has been given a high priority in the design process for the wind farm.

The location of wind farm within the plateau 'shelf' described above is of key importance to the way that it is accommodated in the landscape and seen in views from the surrounding area. Most importantly, the turbines must be located within the 'shelf' of the plateau and should not appear to either encroach down the western slope into Strath Garve, or to rise up eastwards towards Carn Gorm and into the Ben Wyvis massif.

The changes in layout between

November 2023 and now have resulted
in a considerable improvement to the
appearance of the Proposed Development,
including the following:

- pulling turbines back from the western edge of the site, thus reducing the level of visibility from the west, including views from Garve, Loch Garve, Gorstan, the A835, and the A832;
- → reducing the height of turbines on the western edge of the site, to reduce the level of visibility from the west;
- rationalising the location of turbines on the south-eastern edge of the site so that they do not appear to rise up into the massif; and
- reducing the appearance of overlapping and clustering of turbines, so that the wind farm has a balanced and cohesive appearance.

A comparison between the appearance of the November 2023 layout and the current layout can be seen in our wirelines.





# **Project Timeline**

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

### 1. SITE SELECTION & SUITABILITY



(12 to 48 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, residents and consultees 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.



### Appendix 21 continued





### **Local Investment**

We strive to be a good neighbour and seek to add value and maximise benefits to communities. We welcome your ideas on how we can deliver for the community.

### **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.

### **Community Benefit Fund**

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

### We want to hear your views

Do you have thoughts and ideas about how our project could bring positive benefits to the local area? Please share these by speaking to a member of the Team, write to us at Freepost Statkraft, or get in touch through the project website.











# Thank you for visiting

Your comments and feedback are important to us.



We are working to complete our surveys and Environmental Impact Assessment Report ahead of our anticipated submission to the Scottish Government later this year.

When the proposal is submitted interested parties and statutory consultees will have the opportunity to formally comment on the application. All of the information will be available to view on the consenting authority's and our project website at the time of submission.

Sign up to our mailing list to be kept informed of project news.



Please return the freepost reply card provided.



Visit the project website: www.carn-fearna.co.uk



UKProjects@statkraft.com



Phone the project hotline: 0800 772 0668



03 September 2024

Carn Fearna Wind Farm - Consultation Report Second round of Public Exhibitions: 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024







### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report outlines the process and key findings of Statkraft's second round of Public Exhibitions for its Carn Fearna Wind Farm project. This engagement took place during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024, and followed on from the first round of Public Exhibitions that were delivered during November 2023.
- 1.2 Carn Fearna Wind Farm is a new wind farm, proposed for an area of land approximately 1.5km east of Garve and approximately 7km north-west of Strathpeffer within the Highlands. The project would consist of up to a maximum of nine turbines with a mixture of blade tip heights up to 180 metres or up to 200 metres. The number of turbines has been reduced by five, from a previous maximum of 14 turbines. This significant change in the number of turbines (a reduction of over 35%) follows engagement during the scoping process and receiving feedback during consultation with members of the community and key stakeholders, such as Garve & District Community Council and The Highland Council.
- 1.3 Our programme of public engagement began following the submission of the project's Scoping Request to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit in June 2023.

#### 2. CONSULTATION ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

- 2.1 We have attended Community Council meetings, updated political representatives and other stakeholders as we've continued our engagement for what is already a year in duration, building relationships and our understanding of local issues.
- **2.2** Statkraft has worked with local communications consultants to establish and continue extensive engagement and have now completed two rounds of Public and Online Exhibitions.
- **2.3** As well as attending Community Council meetings we have also visited residents, provided email, telephone and in-person updates, as we've sought to keep the community and those interested in the project updated.
- 2.4 The details for the second round of public exhibitions were promoted via:
- The project website
- A mailer distributed to 1,777 properties within a 10km radius of the proposed site
- Advertisements in the Ross-shire Journal and Press & Journal
- Posters sent to a variety of public locations in the area
- Emails to host and neighbouring community councils, elected representatives and community groups

#### 3. WEBSITE





Carn Fearna Wind Farm is a proposed wind farm to the east of Garve within The Highlands Council area. This website will provide information and updates on the project as it develops, as well as opportunities for you to ask questions and give your views

It is proposed that Carn Fearna Wind Farm would consist of a maximum of 9 turbines with a mixture of blade tip heights up to 180 meters or 200 meters. This was reduced from a maximum of 14 turbines following engagement during the scoping process and further reduced following feedback from our first round of exhibitions and engagement with stakeholders including Garve & District Community Council and The Highland Council.



- **3.1** Our project website <a href="www.Carn-Fearna.co.uk">www.Carn-Fearna.co.uk</a> was created in June 2023. We have continued to keep it updated with news about the project and Statkraft. We also used it for an online exhibition for the second round of Public Exhibitions (repeating our actions for the November 2023 Public Exhibitions).
- **3.2.** The website replicates the information that was on display at the Public Exhibitions (see example of home page above). Information continues to include key details of the proposed Carn Fearna site as well as information on the developers and development team. The extensive information on the website includes a project timeline, information about the site location, community benefit fund information, feedback facilities and a link to project documents, such as material showcased during public engagement events. Importantly, it provides visitors with the opportunity to submit questions and feedback regarding the project.
- 3.3 A virtual exhibition was hosted via on the Carn Fearna project website between 2nd-31st May 2024 to allow those unable to attend the physical events to participate in the consultation. All the



### 4. IN-PERSON PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

We invite you to join us at our next round of public exhibition to hear more abut that latest proposals for Carn Fearma Wind Farm. Join us at our exhibitions in Contin, Garve or Strathpeffer to meet the team and find out more.

Community Hall

10:30AM-2PM, 15 May

Garve Public 3:30PM-8:30PM, Hall 15 May

Strathpeffer 3PM-6:30PM, 16 Community May Centre

















4.1 The second round of exhibitions encompassed three separate physical exhibitions over the week commencing  $13^{th}$  May 2024.

DATE	LOCATION	TIME SLOTS
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Contin Community Hall	10:30am – 2pm
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Garve Public Hall	3.30pm - 8.30pm*
16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Strathpeffer Community Centre	3pm - 6.30pm

- \* We delivered an especially extended public exhibition at Garve Public Hall in answer to a request received at a meeting with Garve & District Community Council.
- **4.2** The reopening of the refurbished Garve Public Hall allowed us to host a public exhibition in the heart of the community. It also enabled us to do a hand delivery of project information to a local resident who, for health issues, was unable to attend in person.

- **4.3** As with the first round of public exhibitions, Statkraft ensured it had the correct expertise, knowledge and staffing on hand at the May exhibitions. We had a wide range of expert professionals in a team of 11 –working at the public events to discuss the proposal in detail, hear local people's thoughts and answer their questions. In attendance were:
- Statkraft's development team;
- The core EIA management team, SLR;
- A consultant landscape architect; OPEN
- A consultant ecologist/ornithologist; Avian Ecology and
- Communications consultants to support organisation and running of the event
- **4.4** The exhibitions comprised of a set of banners on easels, visual 3D flythroughs of various site viewpoints and large maps.
- **4.5** A welcome desk at the exhibition allowed the team to establish specific areas of interest so attendees could be introduced to the most relevant member of the exhibition team.
- **4.6** In total, 22 people attended the in-person exhibitions across the three separate events. This included the attendance of some community councillors. The number of attendees is based on those who signed in at the welcome desk of the exhibition (which was optional).

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Contin Community Hall	8
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Garve Public Hall	9
16th May 2024	Strathpeffer Community Centre	5

- **4.7** At our November Public Exhibitions we held events in Tarvie and Dingwall. Tarvie was only as an alternative to Garve owing to the closure, at that time, of Garve Public Hall. With Dingwall, the venue was excellent, but the footfall was very low, so it was decided to concentrate resources on being closer to the project site.
- **4.8** Attendees were invited to complete a Feedback Form and to take an information brochure upon exit. Where required, visitors to the exhibitions were offered further information to be sent to them in follow-up meetings and, if required, home visits.

#### 5. EXHIBITION FEEDBACK

**5.1** Of the 1,777 freepost reply cards posted to homes and available at consultation events, only a small number of replies were received with 74 reply cards were completed and returned, either by post, in person at the or online. These represent 4% of the potential responses.

**5.2** Of those 74 individuals, 37 (50% of respondents) agreed more renewable energy was required. 27 respondents agreed that this should take the form of onshore wind (36% of respondents). Additionally, 21 respondents (28% of total respondents or just over 1% of the total potential responses) agreed that the proposed site was a suitable location for a wind farm. This represents an increase of 10% from the consultation undertaken in November 2023, despite overall support for renewable energy and support for onshore wind declining between the two consultations.

**5.3** Comments were received on a wide range of issues, both relating specifically to the Carn Fearna and wider policy concerns. Relating directly to the wind farm, comment themes included:

- Support for the principle of renewable energy
- Concern about cumulative impact in relation to other nearby proposed developments and overhead pylons
- · The benefits of shared ownership
- Impact on flora and fauna within the project site
- . The visual impact of the wind farm on the surrounding area, including Ben Wyvis
- The benefits of a potential community benefit fund
- · Potential areas which could benefit from the community benefit fund

5.4 Wider themes relating to the energy industry included:

- The levels of energy bills in the north of Scotland
- · The lack of windfarms being built in the UK outside of Scotland
- · The power of local representatives within the planning system
- The need for a holistic approach to energy planning
- · Use of profits from energy developments

**5.5** Over the lifetime of the project we have received a number of comments regarding the unrelated grid strengthening projects being developed by Scottish and Southern Network (SSEN) Transmission. Our position remains that we are unable to take such comments and feedback into consideration for our proposals but note there continue to be consultation activities in place where interested residents can contribute their feedback directly to the developer.

5.6 In addition to the common topics identified above from reply cards, key themes of discussion with visitors to the exhibitions included:

- Changes which we've made to the project, such as reducing the number of turbines and making the wind farm less visible
- The transmission route for energy from Carn Fearna
- The environmental impact of the development
- The transport route for components
- Noise and visual impact on specific properties or settlements
- . The changes to the planning policy framework which make the proposal feasible

5.7 Feedback from both the exhibition and reply cards has previously fed into our significant project changes. We are now reviewing feedback received to see if there is anything further we might change about the project.

**5.8** All feedback and comments submitted through the consultation period will be acknowledged and responded to. If a member of the public has not received a response from us and was expecting one, this may have been prevented due to a GDPR requirement, or email containment issue. We encourage anyone who is keen to get our updates to contact us by phone to ensure that we can provide them with a response.

#### 6. KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 6.1 The proposed number of turbines has been reduced by over 35%, from 14 to 9.
- **6.2** Engagement and consultation has been valuable, with feedback and information from the community and stakeholders leading to significant changes in the design of the project.
- **6.3** Interest in the project appears to have declined with fewer numbers attending the Public Exhibitions in the second round of engagement.
- **6.4** The project team will continue to engage Garve & District Community Council; neighbouring community councils; community stakeholders; elected representatives; and local residents. It is through these efforts to date that we have arrived at the much-reduced wind farm proposal, with its improved design.
- **6.5** The project will remain open for feedback, questions and comments via the website, 0800 number, mail and email.

#### 7. NEXT ACTIONS

- 7.1 We will circulate this report to Garve & District Community Council; neighbouring community councils; community stakeholders; relevant officials from The Highland Council elected representatives; and the local residents who have requested an update.
- 7.2 We will publish this report on our project website.
- 7.3 We will respond to reply cards where respondents have given permission for us to contact us and provided us with email or postal contact details.
- 7.3 We will inform Garve & District Community Council; neighbouring community councils; community stakeholders; elected representatives; and the local residents who have requested an update, if and when our formal planning application is submitted.



11th September 2024



### **About the Carn Fearna team**



Scott Vallance
Principal Project Manager
scott.vallance@statkraft.com

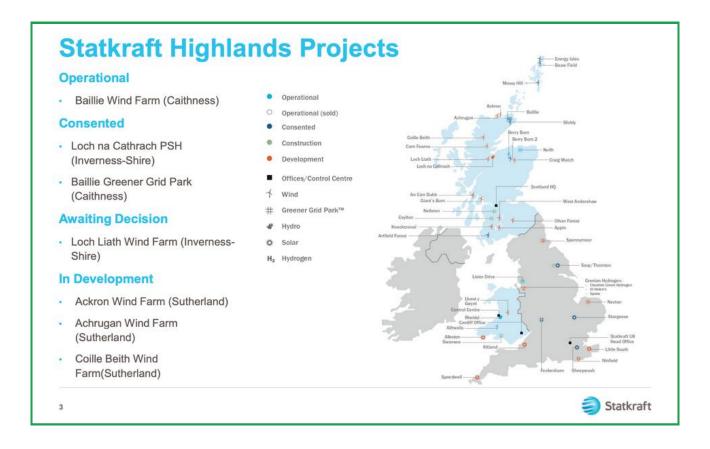


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Peter Kane
Communications Consultant
pkane@kanepartnership.com

Statkraft

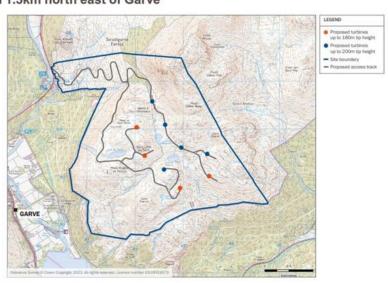


# **About Carn Fearna Wind Farm**

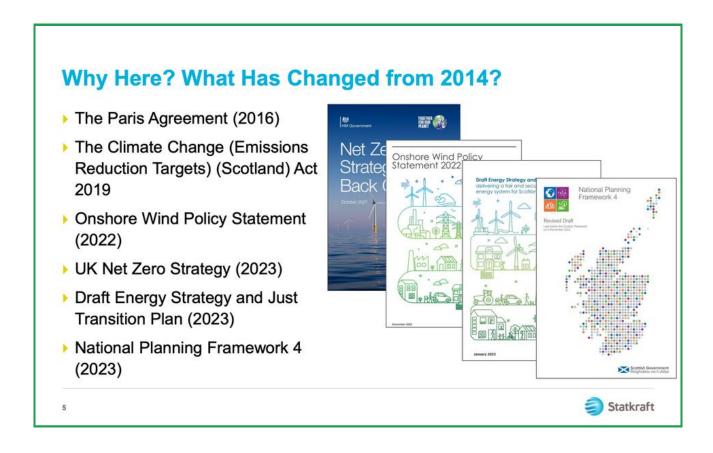
Carn Fearna Wind Farm is located 1.5km north east of Garve and 7.7km north of Strathpeffer.

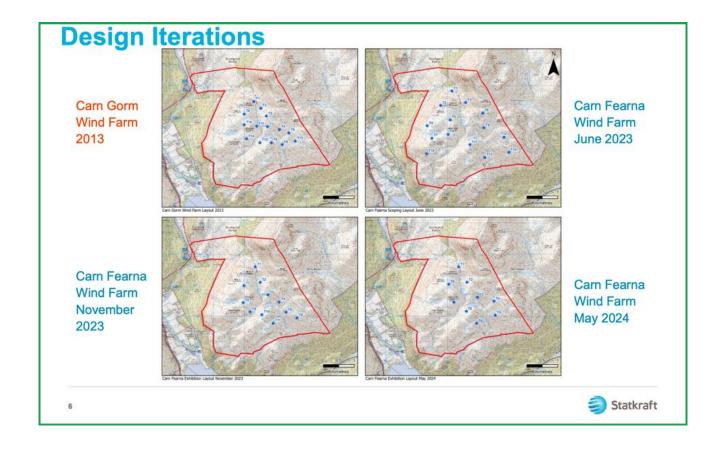
### **Key Facts:**

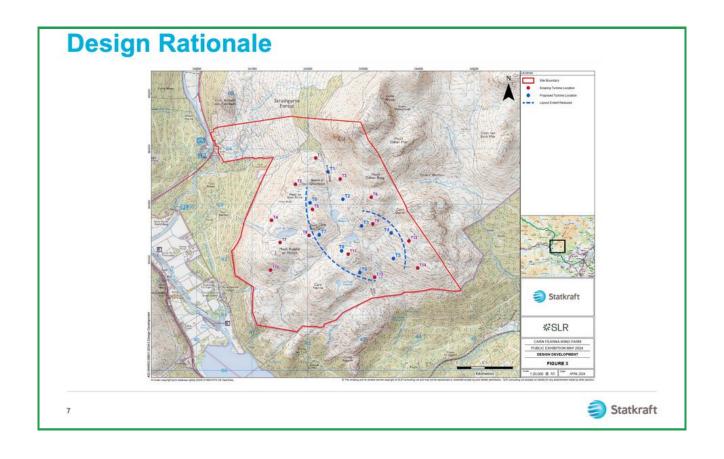
- Up to 9 wind turbines proposed (reduced from 14 at scoping)
- £5,000 per MW installed per year for a Community Fund (as recommended by the Scottish Government)
- A mix of 180m and 200m to tip
- New opportunity to talk about shared ownership and local supplies
- Secured grid connection at Corriemoillie substation with connection date of 2029

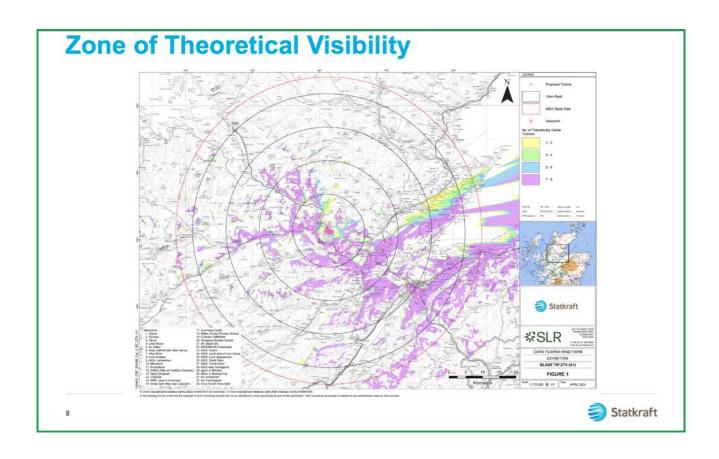


Statkraft

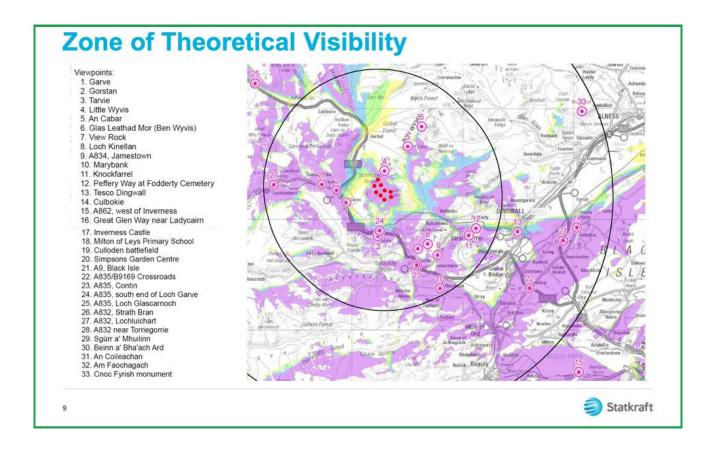


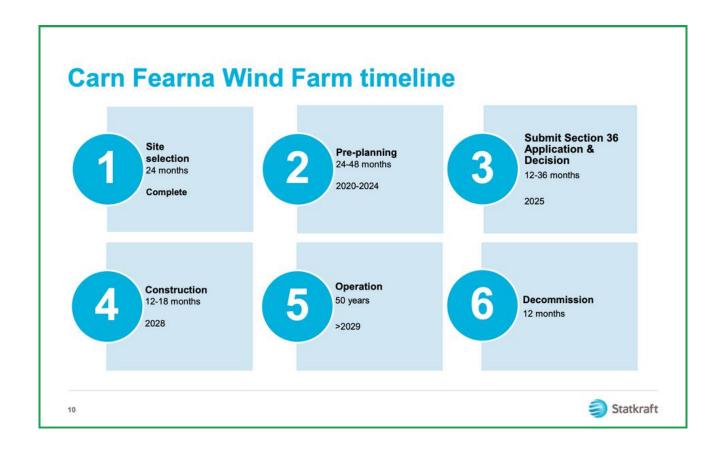


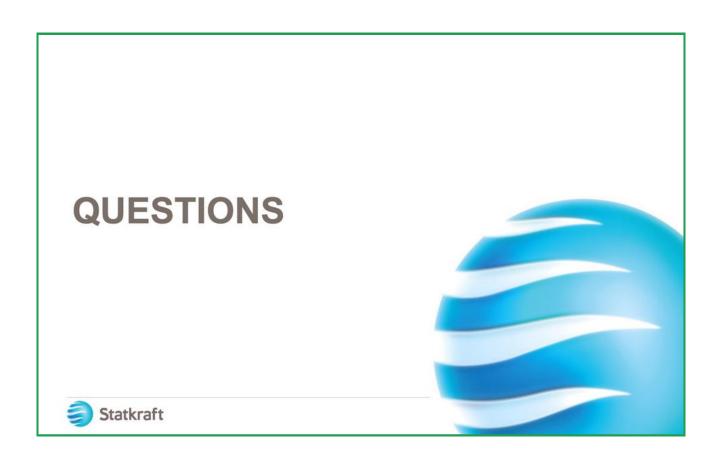


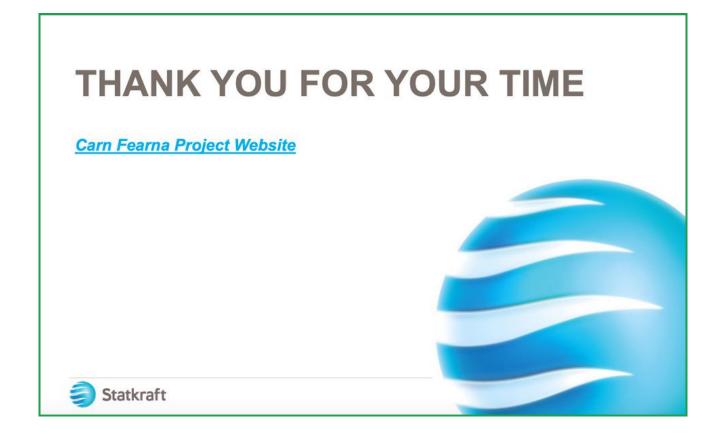


#### Appendix 23 CONTINUED





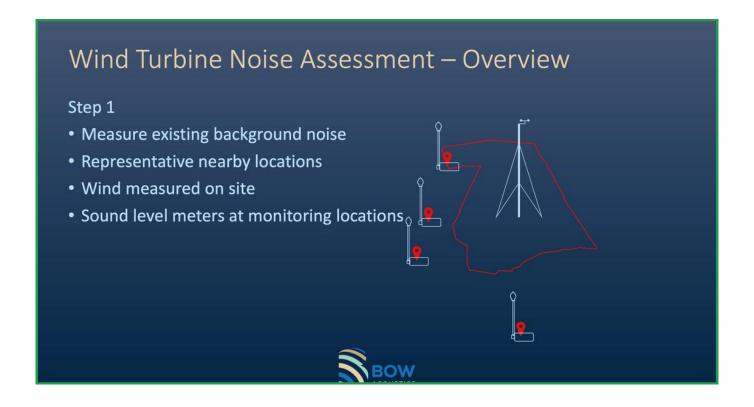




# Wind Turbine Noise Carn Fearna



# Wind Turbine Noise Assessment — Overview Step 1 • Measure existing background noise • Representative nearby locations

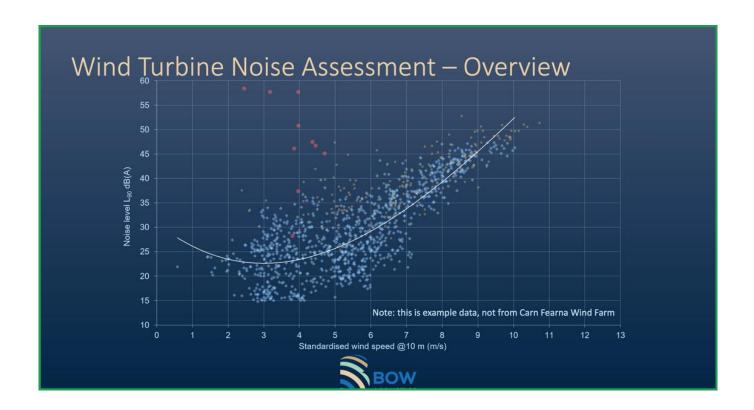


#### Wind Turbine Noise Assessment – Overview

#### Step 2

- · Noise data plotted against wind speed
- Quiet daytime & night-time
- Extraneous data excluded



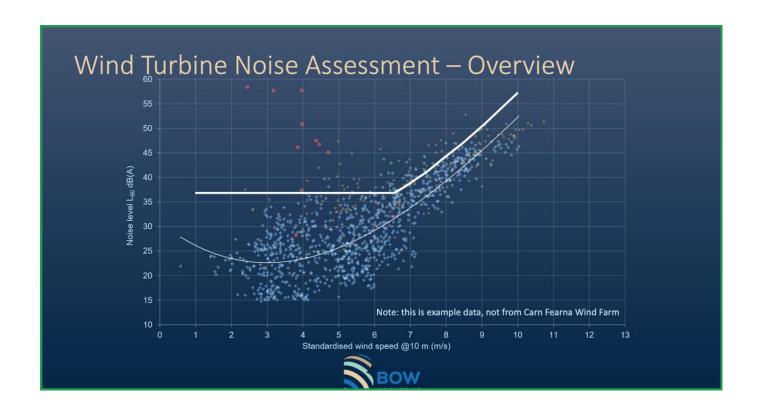


#### Wind Turbine Noise Assessment – Overview

#### Step 3

- Determine noise limits for survey locations
- Fixed portion / background +5 dB
- Apply limits at other representative locations





#### Wind Turbine Noise Assessment – Overview

#### Step 4

- Predict wind turbine noise at assessment locations
- Range of wind speeds from turbine cut-in to max noise
- Compare wind turbine noise against limit

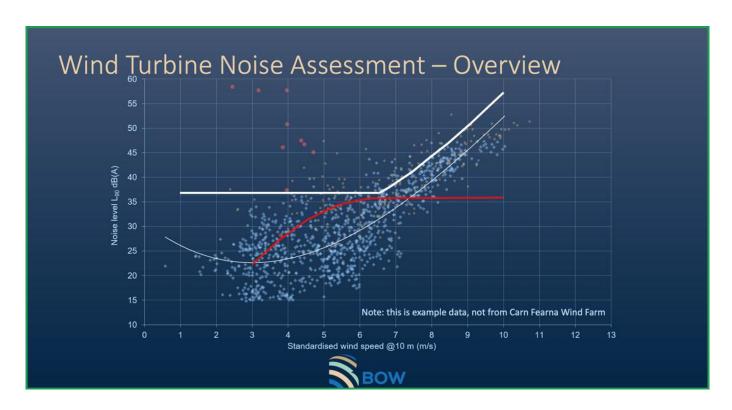


#### Wind Turbine Noise Assessment - Overview

#### If consented

- Noise limits will be conditioned at nearby dwellings
- Wind farm will have to operate within limits
- Investigate if there is concern levels are above limits





# Appendix 25



#### Context to night time aviation lighting



- Civil aviation lighting visible
- Military (MOD) aviation lighting infrared and visible



#### International framework

 ICAO International Standards and Recommended Practices: Aerodromes Annex 14 Volume 1, 8th Edition, July 2018



#### Table 6-3. Light distribution for medium- and high-intensity obstacle lights according to benchmark intensities of Table 6-1

Benchmark		Minimum requirements					Rec	ns		
intensity	Vertica	l elevation a	ngle (b)	Vertical be	am enroad	Vertica	l elevation a	igle (b)	Vertical beam sprea	
	0	lo.	-1°	(c		0°	-1°	-10°	(c)	
	Minimum average intensity (a)	Minimum intensity (a)	Minimum intensity (a)	Minimum beam spread	Intensity (a)	Maximum intensity (a)	Maximum intensity (a)	Maximum intensity (a)	Maximum beam spread	Intensity (a)
200 000	200 000	150 000	75 000	3°	75 000	250 000	112 500	7 500	7°	75 000
100 000	100 000	75 000	37 500	3°	37 500	125 000	56 250	3 750	7°	37 500
20.000	20 000	15 000	7 500	3°	7 500	25 000	11 250	750	N/A	N/A
2 000	2 000	1 500	750	3°	750	2 500	1 125	75	N/A	N/A

Note. This table does not include recommended horizontal beam spreads. 6.2.1.3 requires 360° coverage around an obstacle. Therefore, the number of lights needed to meet this requirement will depend on the horizontal beam spreads of each light as well as the shape of the obstacle. Thus, with narrower beam spreads, more lights will be required.

#### Note:

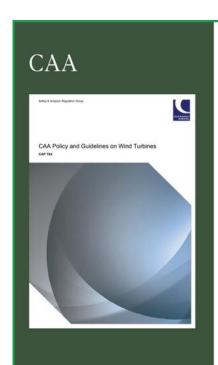
There is no requirement for any specified minimum or maximum light intensity at elevation angles lower than -1°, or above +2°. It is therefore open to lighting manufacturers to design lights that have intensities as close as possible to zero at angles of elevation lower than -1°, and above +2°.



Within the UK, The Air Navigation Order 2016 ('ANO'), Article 222 and CAA publication CAP 764: "Policy and Guidelines on Wind Turbines" set out a legal requirement reflecting ICAO's Recommendations on the lighting of obstacles of 150m or more.



- "Onshore Obstacle Lighting Requirement ICAO regulations (Annex 14 Chapter 6) and article 219 of the ANO 2009 require that structures away from the immediate vicinity of an aerodrome, which have a height of 150 m (492 ft) or more AGL are:
- 1. Fitted with medium intensity steady red lights positioned as close as possible to the top of the obstacle, and also equally spaced at intermediate levels, so far as practicable, between the top lights and ground level with an interval not exceeding 52 m;
- 2. Illuminated at night, visible in all directions and any lighting failure is rectified as soon as is reasonably practicable;
- 3. Painted appropriately: the rotor blades, nacelle and upper 2/3 of the supporting mast of wind turbines that are deemed to be an aviation obstruction should be painted white, unless otherwise indicated by an aeronautical study."



The UK goes further than ICAO Annex 14 in that the provision for lighting of obstacles 150m or more in height is established in law rather than as policy or guidance.

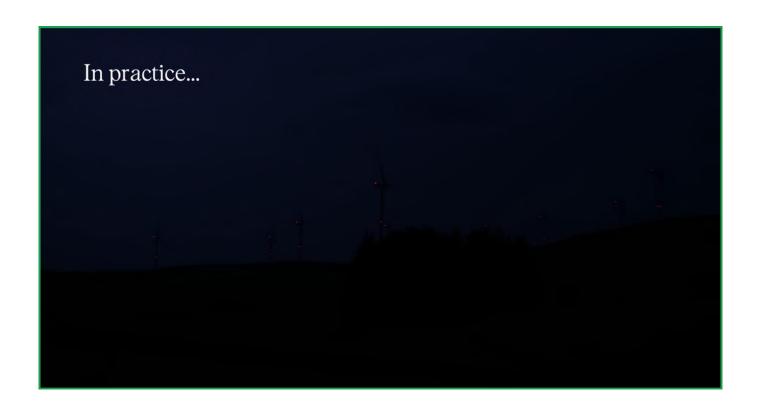
However, the law also makes provision for the Civil Aviation Authority ('CAA') to grant exemptions from the lighting requirements.



#### CAA

Summary of standard lighting requirements

- · a 2000 cd steady red light on top of the nacelle of each turbine
- · a second light serving as an alternative in case of failure of the operating light
- at least three 32 cd steady red lights (to provide 360° horizontal coverage) positioned on the turbine tower at half the nacelle height
- lights should be operated by an acceptable control device, such as a
  photocell, adjusted so that the lights will be turned on when illuminance falls
  below 500 LUX, and so that they will turn off when the illuminance rises to a
  level of 500 LUX or more, or a timer which switches the lights on at the start
  of official night and off at the end of official night
- failed lights are to be repaired or replaced as soon as practicable; if outages exceed 12 hours, a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) is to be issued
- the 2000 cd lights may be dimmed to 10% of the minimum peak intensity when horizontal meteorological visibility exceeds 5km from the wind turbines



# Appendix 25 continued

### AVIATION LIGHTING PRESENTATION TO GARVE & DISTRICT CC





#### CAA

Lighting mitigation options

- Automatic Dimming typically be triggered for around 90% to 95% of the time
- Vertical directional intensity mitigation (sometimes called 'narrow vertical beam spread' or 'angle intensity mitigation') – reduces intensity at negative and positive angles
- Reduced Lighting Scheme fewer lights, including removal of mid-tower lights
- Aircraft detection lighting systems (ADLS) primary and secondary radar (need for change in UK Law) - Transponders and TMZs

#### In practice...

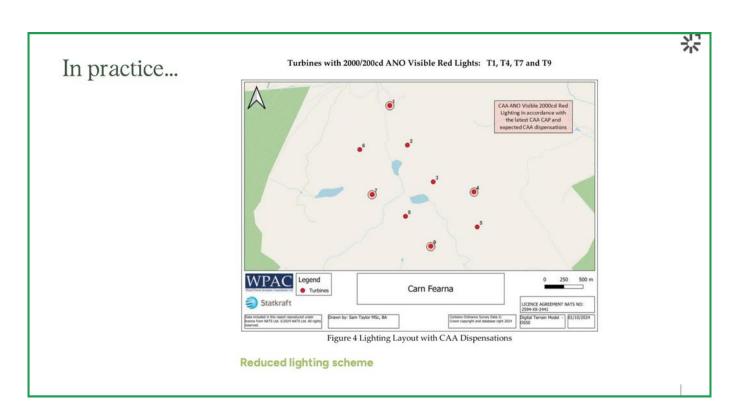


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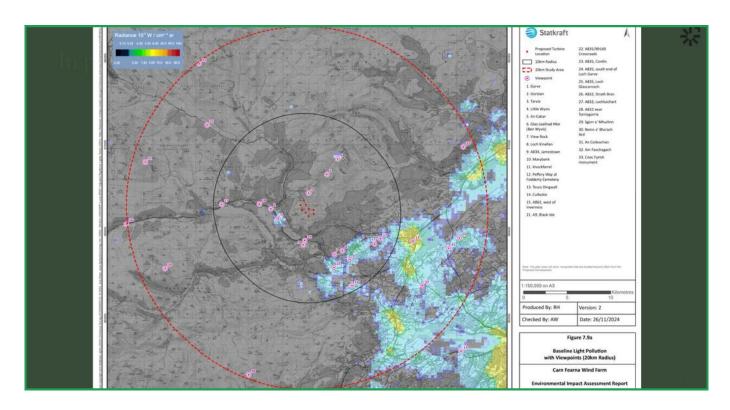
Intensity of	Turbine Light shown i	n Candelas (cd)					
Vertical angle	Turbine Lighting Intensity						
	2000cd scenario	200cd scenario					
Above 4°	<236 cd	<24cd					
3" to 4"	464 to 236 cd	46 to 24 cd					
2° to 3°	1113 to 464 cd	111 to 46 cd					
1° to 2°	2054 to 1113 cd	205 to 111 cd					
	2028 to 2054 cd	203 to 205 cd					
0° to -1	2028 to 1055 cd	203 to 106 cd					
-1° to -2°	1055 to 409 cd	106 to 41 cd					
-2° to -3°	409 to 206 cd	41 to 21 cd					
-3° to -4°	206 to 133 cd	21 to 13 cd					
Below 4°	<133 cd	<13 cd					

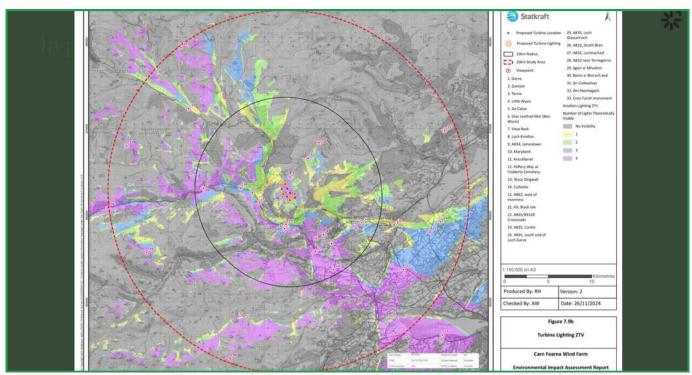
Vertical directional intensity mitigation

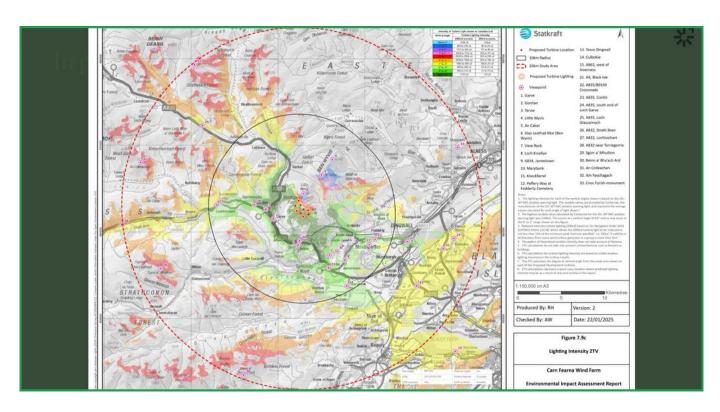
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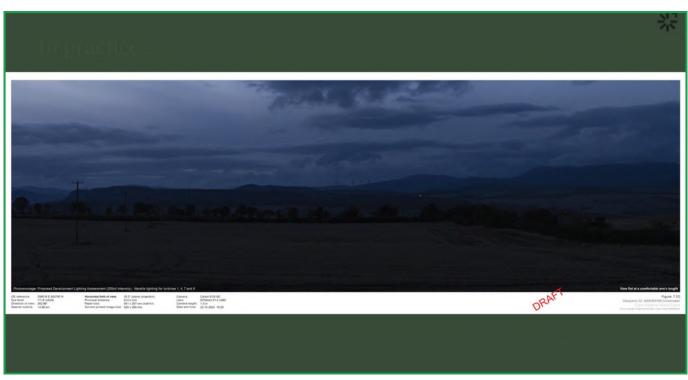






# Appendix 25 continued





# Appendix 25 continued









- · Understanding and applying the Guidance
- · Applying a mitigation hierarchy approach to eliminate unnecessary lighting
- Working with Aviation Consultant to achieve reduced lighting scheme
- Applying best technology/ products that minimise unwanted light benefits of dimming/ vertical mitigation
- · Committing to retrofit ADLS in circumstances that justify it.

# Appendix 25 continued



# Appendix 26

Local benefits Local suppliers

Get in touch



Date range: 11/07/2023 - 14/04/2024

362

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KP.

# Carn Fearna Wind Farm

**Pre-Application Consultation Report** 

April 2025

Appendices

