

Independent Community Engagement Report

Insights to shape an Outdoor Management Plan for the proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm

March 2025





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Introduction

<u>Planning Aid Scotland</u> is an educational charity and social enterprise that helps people across Scotland engage with the planning system. Since 1993, we have provided impartial advice, training, and community engagement to support individuals and communities in shaping their local areas.

Statkraft commissioned Planning Aid Scotland to conduct an independent engagement process to inform an Outdoor Management Plan for the proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm, located north-east of Garve. This report will be included as part of the Energy Consent Application, helping to inform conditions related to outdoor management should consent be granted. If the development does not proceed, the report may still serve as a valuable resource for community members interested in pursuing its recommendations.

This report summarises the findings by Planning Aid Scotland following engagement with members of the local community. The report will be shared with the community once finalised.

Background

The Carn Fearna site is located to the north-east of Garve, on a mountain slope leading to Little Wyvis. The proposed development, in its current form, includes up to nine variable pitch (three bladed) wind turbines, five with a maximum blade tip height of up to 200 m, the remaining four with a maximum blade tip height of up to 180 m. The access point is proposed off the A835, just north of Silverbridge. The site spans two community council areas: Garve and District, and Strathpeffer.

If consent is granted, a likely condition will be the delivery of an Outdoor Management Plan. This plan will be informed both by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted during the application process and by findings gathered through engagement with the local community.

As part of the pre-application process, Statkraft held multiple engagement events in March and November 2024. During these sessions, members of the public suggested various environmental and outdoor improvements that could be incorporated into the wind farm development.

In response, Statkraft commissioned Planning Aid Scotland as an independent organisation to conduct a more in-depth engagement exercise to explore potential outdoor enhancements with local residents. Further details on Statkraft's engagement outcomes can be found here.



Key Considerations

The focus of this engagement process was on outdoor management. However, for transparency, we note that many residents wished to express opposition to the proposed development.

Contributions from the local community to the findings in this report should not be interpreted as an endorsement of the wind farm development itself. Comments on the principle of the Carn Fearna Wind Farm development will be considered separately as part of the formal consenting process.

The findings in this report reflect the views of local residents on their environment, including the challenges they face, opportunities for improvement, and potential solutions. The engagement process was designed to identify tangible actions that could enhance the local environment.

It should be noted that the views within this report are not representative of all residents within the surrounding Community Councils.

The in-person event was facilitated by Planning Aid Scotland, with two Statkraft representatives present to listen and answer any questions or queries regarding the proposed development.

Engagement Approach

We conducted desk-based research to develop a broad understanding of the local environment, including potential challenges and opportunities. Our review of outdoor management plans helped shape the design of the engagement session. We also considered existing community plans:

- Garve and District Local Place Plan 2024-2029
- Garve and District Community Development Plan 2019-2024
- Strathpeffer Local Community Action Plan 2019-2024

Invitation

Three community councils were identified as significantly impacted by the proposed development:

- Garve & District Community Council
- Strathpeffer Community Council
- Contin Community Council

We emailed all three community councils, along with the Garve & District Development Company and the Strathpeffer Residents' Association. We also invited selected local businesses via email. We asked recipients to use the provided images/graphics and share details of the engagement event on their

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websites and social media where possible. Planning Aid Scotland also contacted the owners of garve.org to help promote the event.

According to the Garve & District Development Company, the event advertisement reached:

- 104 email subscribers to the community website, with 54 opening the email
- 393 Facebook views, reaching 149 people
- 136 views of the event page on the garve.org website

Email representation

Before the engagement event, we received five emails from a total of six local residents, who expressed general objections to the Carn Fearna Wind Farm development and explained that they could not attend the drop-in session.

Drop-in session

We hosted the drop-in session on Thursday, 27 February 2025, from 2:30 – 7:00 pm at Garve Village Hall. Based on our research, we structured the engagement around four key themes:

- 1) Community Assets
- 2) A Place to be Active
- 3) A Place to Learn
- 4) A Place for Nature

For each theme, we printed relevant background information, questions, and maps in A1 size. Participants could annotate, draw on the maps, or use tracing paper to add their input. You can find the engagement boards in <u>Annex A</u> and the maps in <u>Annex B</u>. We asked open-ended questions and encouraged participants to elaborate on any close-ended responses.

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We arranged the information boards, questions, and maps on tables throughout the room, allowing participants to move freely between themes. We suggested a counterclockwise flow, but people could engage with the material in any order.

Although the session was designed for discussions about outdoor enhancements, two Statkraft representatives were present to answer any questions or queries relating to the wider proposal for the wind farm.

Nine people attended the drop-in session. Two opted to review the questions and respond online later rather than provide input on the day. Another



Picture 1: Garve Village Hall Set up 27 February 2025

two attended only to express their objections to the scheme and did not engage further.

Online Survey 1

We launched an <u>online survey</u> from Friday 28 February to Sunday 9 March, giving people the chance to respond to the same questions used in the engagement workshop. The survey also allowed respondents to download the engagement boards and maps from the in-person event.

Sixteen people completed the survey. It was not mandatory to respond to all question, however most questions received answers from between 11-13 participants. Three respondents used the survey solely to express their opposition to the proposed development and, by extension, the engagement process.

Online Survey 2

We launched an <u>online survey</u> from Wednesday 19 March to Monday 24 March, giving people the chance to review a draft version of this report. The survey allowed respondents to give feedback on the engagement process.

Two people responded to the survey by emailing Planning Aid Scotland. One person opposed to the development. They also did so for the first online survey.



Engagement Barriers and Challenges

Several individuals expressed concerns about how their participation in the independent engagement process might be interpreted, particularly whether it could be seen as an endorsement of the proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm. Despite our efforts to clarify that this would be not the case, these concerns proved a challenge for the engagement process.

Some participants also criticised the timing of the drop-in session. We have taken this feedback on board and will consider it when planning any future workshops in the area. In response to these concerns, as well as additional feedback received via email, we launched an online survey ('online survey #1') to provide an alternative means of participation.

Engagement with the online survey was limited. Three respondents specifically stated via email that they chose not to take part due to concerns that their involvement might be misinterpreted as support for the wind farm development.

To address this, we shared a draft report with residents ('online survey #2') to provide another opportunity for feedback on potential improvements to the area. However, engagement has remained limited with only two responses gathered.

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Findings

This engagement process focused on outdoor enhancements, not the principle of the proposed Carn Fearna development. However, in the interest of transparency, we recorded the following objections to the wind farm:

- 8 people raised objections during the drop-in session.
- 6 people objected via email, with 3 stating they would not engage with the questions to avoid appearing to support the wind farm.
- 3 people objected through the online surveys (surveys 1 and 2).

The findings are based on both in-person and online responses, which were reviewed and grouped into themes for clarity. Numbers in brackets indicate how many times a response was mentioned. Some contributions from the in-person session were recorded by facilitators as they listened to participants.

Direct quotes from the in-person event and online survey are highlighted in blue throughout the report.

Community Assets

Respondents were asked what community assets they use or visit regularly. A list of assets, found within the Garve LPP, was included and people were asked to select assets from the list:

- Strathgarve Primary School (2)
- District War Memorial (2)
- Garve Public Hall (5)
- Wyvis Natural Playpark (4)
- Old and new burial grounds at Garve and Achanalt (2)
- Railway Station (5)
- Garve football area (1)
- Community land (known as The GD CORe) Garve (3)
- Silverbridge public toilets (7)

Respondents were also able to add additional assets:

- Walks at Little Wyvis/Summit (2)
- Walking/Hillwalking (2)
- Ben Wyvis (1)
- Walks in and around Little Garve and Silverbridge (4)

[&]quot;ALL THESE COMMUNITY ASSETS ARE IMPORTANT."

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"WAR MEMORIAL WILL ALWAYS BE USED."

People were asked what their favourite memories are based on the mentioned community assets.

Respondent were split about whether the wind farm development would have a negative impact on the existing assets:

- No (9)
 - 2 people added they liked wind turbines
- Yes (6)
 - o 2 people mentioned the visual impact on the landscape
 - 1 person mentioned noise pollution

"WILL SPOIL USE OF SSSI BEN WYVIS - WHO WANTS TO LOOK AT MORE WIND FARMS".

Respondents were asked if and how the impact of the wind farm could be offset. Responses included:

- Not building a wind farm (4)
 - Enough wind energy is available
 - o Damage to peatland and woodland and dark skies
- Nothing can be done to offset the impact (7)
 - o Actions to limit impact are already taken
 - o The farmer is already making the right decisions
- Don't know (1)

"Number of wind turbines and height of turbines."

Respondents were asked if there is anything else they would like to say about their community assets:

- No (6)
- Leave community assets including untouched land alone (1)
- Keep current assets instead of enhancing them through wind farm development (1)
- Use community asset money through Local Community Trust. Village hall hire is too high. (1)

"MAIN CONCERN IS HOW CLOSE THE WIND FARM WILL BE TO THE SCHOOL AND VILLAGE."

"TOILETS SHOULD BE OPEN."

A Place to be Active

This section was about understanding the barriers and opportunities to stay active within the area. People attending the in-person event had the opportunity to annotate printed maps with information.

Respondents were asked about how they found navigation in the area. Due to most respondents living very locally, mostly this did not pose a challenge. However, some people thought that signage could be improved and/or replaced.

- Easy/very easy (8)
- Could be improved (5)
- Happy with the routes (1)

"THEY COULD BE MADE CLEARER. YES I GENERALLY DO STICK TO ROUTES I'M FAMILIAR WITH".

"SIGNAGE ISN'T GREAT - WHERE WOULD YOU START TO FIND THE TRACKS UP THE HILL?"

Respondents were asked what could improve finding their way around:

- Nothing (7)
- Improve signage (4)

"REPLACE DILAPIDATED NON-EXISTENT SIGNAGE ON SUCH ROUTES."

Respondents were asked to identify maintenance works for routes and paths to improve usage:

- Upkeep of paths (4)
- Bigger car park at Ben Wyvis (1)
- Signage (1)
- Bush trimming (1)
- Nothing identified (4)

"A BIT OF GRAVEL THROWN ONTO BOGGY PARTS MIGHT HELP"

Respondents were asked if there were any routes they would like to walk, wheel or ride on which they are currently unable to do:

- No (8)
- Upkeep of paths (1)
- Introduction of wheelchair accessible track (1)

"ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF LOCH GARVE, FOLLOWING THE ROUTE OF THE A835. IT IS UNSAFE TO USE THE ROAD DUE TO ITS NARROWNESS AND THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC ON IT."

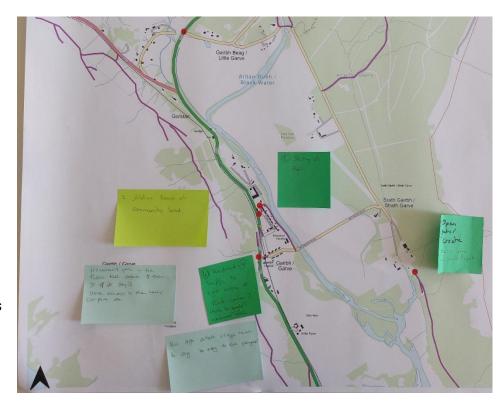
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"FLAT/DISABLED TRACK FOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESS."

Respondents were asked what summits and viewpoints they would like to preserve or improve access to:

- All of them (1)
- None or N/A (5)
- Ben Wyvis and Little Wyvis (1)
- Ben Wyvis (1)
- Carn Fearna (1)
- I'm sure they will do this anyway (1)
- Wild lands (1)

"PRESERVE THE VIEW TO CARN
FEARNA WITHOUT DESTROYING IT
WITH METAL AND THE DARK SKIES
WITH RED LIGHTS."



Picture 2: Dots and post-it notes from people who attended the drop-in session. Location: Garve

Respondents were asked what could be done to make the area more accessible:

- Nothing or N/A (8)
- Bike stands/ locks (1)
- No wind farm (1)
- Public toilets (1)
- Seating at Village Hall (1)

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide further comments on signage, routes and being active:

- Make the signs more visible. (1)
- Managing of car parking, too many people block access at the Village Hall when going hillwalking.
 (1)
- Locals would like additional signs to redirect traffic to the Wyvis Natural Playground. This should
 include engagement with Google Maps and the local authority to divert people away from Stirling
 Drive and Strathgarve. The most appropriate access is the northernmost road to Little Garve, just
 south of Silverbridge Car park. (2)

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- Access road used by Forestry and Land Scotland running along the north of Loch Garve should be made accessible to locals, particularly in cases of accidents along the A835. (2)
- Opportunities should be given for the placing of memorial benches. (1)





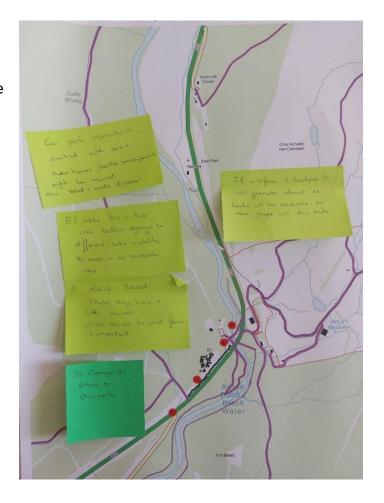
Picture 3: Photo on the left shows the path running east of Loch Garve, it is uneven and muddy. The photo on the right shows an old unmaintained wooden sign.

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A range of comments were also given regarding the Silverbridge Car Park. This car park is well used, and the public toilet provision is key. The car park is often at capacity and capacity issues may increase with the development of a wind farm. The car park is also used by caravans creating further capacity challenges. Additional stopping places for caravans should be considered as well as improved toilet and waste management.

The A835 at the car park is hard to cross as it is a busy road. There is a stepped path (not accessible) under the bridge to cross the road, but people new to the area may not be aware of it. Further information boards and signage should be considered to mitigate this.

The path from Silverbridge Car Park to little Garve is not cycle friendly. A cycle lane should also be considered. Silverbridge may need to be more of a 'hub' to direct visitors and hillwalkers.



Picture 4: Dots and post-it notes from people who attended the drop-in session. Location: Silverbridge

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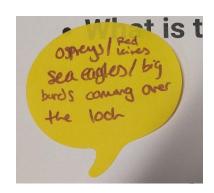
A Place to Learn

This section was about understanding how people engage with their area through information boards and whether there is room for additional learning opportunities.

Respondents were asked whether there are sufficient information boards available:

- Yes (6)
- No (2)
- Don't know (2)

"I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY. GARVE IS A STRANGE DISTANCE FROM CONTIN SO I DON'T OFTEN STOP THERE. IT'S TOO FAR TO WALK, TOO DIFFICULT TO CYCLE, AND IF I'M IN THE CAR I'M GOING FURTHER."



Picture 5: Single post-it note mentioning different birds in the area.

Respondents were asked whether the information boards are useful:

- Yes (7)
- Don't know (2)

"YES. I LIKE THE FACT THEY EXIST TO SHOW PEOPLE WHERE THE PATHS ARE."

Respondents were asked if there were any information they would like to have on information boards:

- Information boards which flip up and uncover animals/plants that you are likely to find within the area. (1)
- Information board at Community owned land. (1)

Respondents were asked what would help them learn about the area:

- Up-to-date online content. (1)
- Safe locations for learning and discovery for scouts and similar groups. (1)

A Place for Nature

This section was about understanding what natural habitat and wildlife locals appreciate and seek to protect and enhance.

Respondents were asked if they have suggestions on how to improve biodiversity:

- Manage red deer numbers (1)
- Encourage native plants/tree planting (2)
- Taking care around breeding bird populations and raptor flight paths (1)
- Not developing the wind farm/leaving the area as is (7)
- No (6)

"DO NOT BUILD A WIND FARM, ACCESS TRACKS ETC HERE. WINDFARMS KILL BIRDS, INSECTS, BATS ETC. TONS OF CONCRETE WILL BE POURED INTO THE SOIL, PEATLAND DESTROYED."

Respondents were asked what wildlife they have seen in the area:

- Deer (8)
- Pine marten (3)
- Various birds and birds of prey (4)
- Stag (1)
- Badger (1)
- Red squirrel (1)
- Rabbits (1)
- Sheep (1)

"BADGER, PINE MARTEN, RED SQUIRREL, WILD CAT (ON TRAILCAM) WHITE TAILED EAGLES, RED KITE, BATS, OSPREY, RED DEER, SIKA DEER, ROE DEER, BLACK GROUSE, DOTTEREL, DIPPERS, WOODPECKER, CUCKOO, BUZZARD AND GARDEN AND WOODLAND BIRDS."

Respondents were asked about their most memorable wildlife they have seen in the past year:

- Deer (5)
- Stag (2)
- Birds of prey (2)

Respondents were asked about their views on reintroducing and increasing the number of certain species:

- Reintroducing wild boar (1)
- Reintroducing wildcats and red squirrels (1)
- Considerations for geological uncovering (1)

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- Not developing the wind farm (3)
- No additional views (5)

"GEOLOGY - IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GROUND WORKS WILL EXPOSE OTHER PEGMATITES, SIMILAR TO THE ONE AT CARN GORM SSSI. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, ACCESS NEEDS TO BE PRESERVED AND THERE NEEDS TO BE ADEQUATE GEOLOGICAL CHARACTERISATION. IT MIGHT MEAN MOVING A TURBINE LOCATION."

Respondents were asked for further suggestions to improve habitats for species:

- Reduce number of people wandering (1)
- Under road tunnels (1)
- More trees (1)
- Natural state of wind farm site should be preserved and managed according to habitat. (1)
- No wind farm (4)
- No further suggestions (4)

The creation of wildlife hides was suggested. The hides are good for photography and observation of wildlife. The hide could also support educative purposes for children. They can be stocked with food to attract animals.

"NIGHTSKY PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE RUINED BY RED LIGHTS ON TURBINES."

Online Survey 2

Following the two responses to the draft report, the report was reviewed to ensure Garve & District Community Council and Garve & District Development Company are referenced correctly throughout the document.

One respondent asked for Strathpeffer Community Council to be equally consulted as Garve & District Community Council, since a large part of the site is located within the Strathpeffer Community Council boundary.

Another respondent sought to clarify that certain recommendations have already been attended to by the local community:

- For insurance reasons the village hall cannot provide public toilets but the Silverbridge toilets have been refurbished.
- A noticeboard and car parking management are in place on the community land.
- Poor signage on core paths has been raised with local authorities.
- A playpark sign directing people away from Garve Village is already in hand.
- Improving cycle connections between Garve and Contin has proven challenging. Further information and updates on this project can be found online.



Recommendations

Through the engagement process following recommendations we identified the following recommendations. Please note most of these recommendations have previously been identified by the local community and some are actively being worked on. We suggest a continuing dialogue with the community to further develop each potential enhancement.

'On-Site' and 'Off-Site'

Some proposed improvements fall outside the red-line boundary of the wind farm site. Within this boundary, the developer and landowners have direct control to deliver the scheme and any attached conditions if it is approved. However, Statkraft has expressed a willingness to support improvements beyond the red-line boundary and to engage with neighbouring landowners where necessary, should the development proceed.

On-site improvements

Paths

Improved paths and signage help visitors stay on designated routes, allowing them to enjoy the natural environment while protecting local habitats and giving them space to thrive. When considering paths and trails, both those developed and used for the proposed wind farm, as well as other trails outside of its scope, have been taken into account.

Most nearby trails are not accessible for buggies, bicycles, or wheelchairs. As part of the development, an accessible trail should be provided, with a fully wheelchair-accessible route included if feasible. Site accessibility can be generally improved by maintaining all existing paths and ensuring they can be navigated on foot and, where possible, by non-motorised wheels.

Discussions should be initiated between the site landowners and neighbouring landowners, such as Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), to explore connections between existing trails to the west around Strath Garve and to the southeast from Rogie Falls. If physically viable, this could create additional walking routes and longer circular trails.

Seating

Seating should be installed along the trails to enhance accessibility for those who require resting places. This would also offer local residents the opportunity to install memorial benches. A maintenance plan should be established for all newly introduced street furniture to ensure long-term sustainability.



Signage

Each intersection on-site should include signage or colour-coded wayfinding markers to aid navigation. This should encompass all paths on-site, including those not designated as wind farm trails. Informal signs currently exist around farm homes and holiday lodges, particularly in the northwest corner where access will be established. These could be formalised to improve clarity.

Signage should be complemented by larger information boards at key access points. If a new entrance is created, three main trails leading to Little Wyvis and the Carn Fearna site should feature information boards to assist visitors.

Information boards

The area has a rich natural habitat, and respondents have expressed interest in information boards showcasing local wildlife, as highlighted in the findings. More interactive boards, featuring rotating or flipping panels for additional details, were also suggested. Given the area's topography, panoramic boards identifying surrounding peaks and valley towns could be included.

Additionally, the region has significant historical heritage. The presence of the well-respected War Memorial reflects the importance of local history. Historical information could be displayed at various points along the trails to make walks more engaging and educational, particularly for children and visitors.

Wildlife observation

The installation of wildlife hides was also proposed. These shelters would allow visitors to observe wildlife from a distance without disturbing natural habitats. Such installations could be integrated into accessible trails, providing educational opportunities for children and groups such as the Scouts to explore and learn about the area.

Nature and wildlife

Concerns were raised regarding the reintroduction of local wildlife and its potential impacts. The management plan should outline how site development can support local habitats for species such as deer, wildcats, and birds of prey, among other wildlife mentioned in the findings.

Planting native species can contribute to wildlife conservation while also helping to mitigate the visual impact of the wind farm.

Additionally, the impact on peatland, woodland, and dark skies should be assessed, and any potential effects or mitigation measures should be clearly communicated to local residents.



Car-parking

Both Silverbridge Car Park and Ben Wyvis Car Park were noted to have insufficient capacity. As both car parks are understood to be located on FLS-owned land, consideration should be given to whether additional parking spaces, including caravan spaces, could be incorporated into the development. Expanding parking facilities would ease congestion and reduce the need to cross the A835 to access the trail leading to Little Wyvis.

Off-site improvements

Further communication with local residents would help clarify how their community assets may be affected by the wind farm. The development could also create opportunities to improve connectivity and wayfinding between different assets. Early discussions should be initiated regarding how the community fund generated by the wind farm could be allocated.

Paths and signage

The area around Garve was explored by Planning Aid Scotland staff, some of whom were visiting for the first time. While many locals are highly familiar with the area and do not require additional wayfinding support, some have acknowledged a lack of signage or the need for existing signs to be replaced. The Planning Aid Scotland team took photographs during their visit and noted that paths running from Rogie Falls to Silverbridge would benefit from maintenance and improved signage. It is understood that much of this land is owned by FLS, with some paths designated as Core Paths, which may fall under the responsibility of the local authority.

Wyvis Natural Playpark

The Wyvis Natural Playpark is a key community asset; however, access to it has been a point of contention. Locals have faced challenges in installing signage to direct traffic to the northernmost access point off the A835, which would reduce traffic through Garve, Strath Garve, and Little Garve. Statkraft could engage in further discussions about providing signage to the playpark from the appropriate access point. Similarly, a clear sign at the bridge near Strathgarve Primary School could help redirect visitors away from Strath Garve.

A835 and trail east of Loch Garve

The A835 between Contin and Silverbridge has been criticised for being winding and hazardous, particularly due to the lack of segregated cycling infrastructure, which poses risks to both cyclists and drivers. Concerns have also been raised about the additional construction traffic that could result from the potential wind farm development. Additionally, during road closures, access to Garve requires a lengthy detour.

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A track running from Rogie Falls over Strath Garve to Silverbridge has been suggested as a possible solution. However, this track is not well maintained, is partially gated, and is difficult to cycle on – and only accessible via a 4x4 vehicle. Discussions have already started with FLS to improve its accessibility, although this has proven challenging. An initial step could be enhancing the track for road cycling, which might help divert some traffic away from the A835. Should the Carn Fearna Wind Farm receive consent, the developer could facilitate further discussions with FLS on improvements.

Additionally, the gated access could be automated, and in case of emergencies, locals could be granted entry via remote code access. This system has been trialled successfully in the past.

Silverbridge

The Silverbridge toilets are a key community asset, improving the area's accessibility. However, concerns have been raised about their upkeep and ensuring they remain consistently open. Discussions with the local authority could be facilitated to maintain these facilities effectively.

The A835 at Silverbridge can be crossed via an underpass trail from the car park to the Little Wyvis trail. However, this trail has been noted as difficult to find and not particularly accessible. Consideration should be given to improving access to and visibility of this crossing point.



Conclusion

Planning Aid Scotland was commissioned by Statkraft to carry out an independent engagement process with the local community to inform future outdoor management plans. The data gathered in this report should help inform any conditions attached should consent be granted for the wind farm development. Additionally, the report may serve as a resource for community members who wish to take it forward, regardless of whether the proposed development gains consent.

Following an in-person event, an online survey ('online survey #1'), and an online survey on the draft report ('online survey #2'); this report summarises some of the views locals have on their natural environment and the outdoors.

The engagement process has identified a number of opportunities for enhancing outdoor spaces, including improvements to pathways and signage. The addition of information boards, benches, and wildlife hides could offer further learning opportunities, and wildlife management and the planting of native species could enrich the natural environment, enhancing the experience for both the local community and visitors.



Annex A – Engagement Boards

Share Your Ideas On The Natural Environment Around Carn Fearna



About this event

Planning Aid Scotland is a charity and social enterprise that helps people to navigate the planning system and shape the future of their place.

Statkraft has commissioned Planning Aid Scotland to facilitate this event on their behalf, to gather views from the local community on **potential improvements to biodiversity and outdoor management**. Statkraft is in the process of preparing a planning application for a wind farm at **Carn Fearna**.

Our role as Planning Aid Scotland is to ensure that all voices are heard and recorded in an open and impartial manner. Following the event, we will independently produce a **report** that will be **shared** with both Statkraft and the community.

Should the proposed development go ahead, improvements identified in the report will be considered and further developed by Statkraft. If the wind farm does not proceed, it is hoped that the community will still find the report useful as a basis for taking forward potential improvements in the area.

The site

Carn Fearna is located 1.5km north east of the village of Garve, Ross-shire within Highland Council.

The land within the site boundary (red line on map opposite) is predominantly bog, acid grassland, heather, heather grassland, thin peaty soils and freshwater lochans.

The site is surrounded by woodland to the west, south and east. Ben Wyvis mountain range rises to the north east of the site.

Based on the Zone of Theoretical Visibility*, it is estimated that the following community council areas would be most affected by the development:

- Garve and District Community Council
- Contin Community Council
- Strathpeffer Community Council

The questions on the information boards are intended to act as a guide. If you have any other ideas and thoughts on how biodiversity, nature and access to the outdoors can be improved on and around the site - please write them down or share them with a member of the team.

The focus of this event is on **biodiversity and outdoor management improvements** in and around the Carn Fearna site.

Previous consultation events have been organised by Statkraft regarding the principle of the proposed development; this event organised by Planning Aid Scotland will focus on identifying enhancements and potential actions for improvement in relation to biodiversity and outdoor management.

This drop-in session is not about agreeing or disagreeing with the development of the wind farm. If you have any questions about the wind farm, employees of Statkraft will be on hand to speak with you and answer your questions.

Statkraft is looking to hear from the local community to include ideas for biodiversity enhancement and outdoor management in and around the Carn Fearna site. These actions for improvement could be delivered as part of the development and would be delivered in addition to any community benefit.

Should the development come forward, Statkraft will have control within the red line boundary area (as shown on the map). Whilst Statkraft does not have control outwith this area, they are open to engaging with neighbouring landowners should some of the ideas extend beyond the site boundary.

Community Benefit

While it is not a legal requirement for wind farm developers to provide community benefit funds, the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles recommend a community benefit value equivalent to £5,000 per megawatt (MW) of installed capacity per year, adjusted for inflation, over the operational lifetime of the project. For the Carn Fearna Wind Farm, it is expected that the community benefit money available will be in the region of £297,000 per year.

Any ideas or proposals that emerge from this engagement process (i.e., relating to outdoor management and biodiversity enhancements) will be separate to and **in addition to** any community benefit monies generated by the Carn Fearna Wind Farm.

* See Terminology sheet on table





Existing Community Assets

Context

Over the last few years, a number of plans have been put together by the local community that cover the Carn Fearna area. These plans, which you may have come across before, are:

- Garve and District Local Place Plan 2024-2029
- Garve and District Community Development Plan 2019-2024
- Strathpeffer Local Community Action Plan 2019-2024
- Contin Local Place Plan is currently being prepared *

You can have a look at these plans either on the laptop or by looking at the paper copies on this table.

Questions

Please write your answers to the questions below on the sticky notes provided and add to the large question sheet.

- Do you have any favourite memories of the places listed to the right that you would like to share? Why are these places important to you?
- Are you less likely to visit these places if a wind farm is developed on the Carn Fearna site? If so, why?
- Is there anything that could be done to make the impacts of the wind farm smaller? If so, what?

Community assets

In the community-led plans that have been created, a number of key community assets were identified by the members of the local communities who participated in creating the plan. The Garve and District Local Place Plan set out the community assets as those listed below.

We have added numbers to the corresponding map opposite to show where each asset is located.

Please put a dot beside each of these community assets that you use regularly. You may also add more below if there are places you visit/use frequently that are not on the list.

- (1) Strathgarve Primary School
- (2) District War Memorial
- (3) Garve Public Hall
- (4) Wyvis Natural Playpark
- (5) Old and new burial grounds at Garve and Achanalt
- (6) Railway Station
- (7) Garve football area
- (8) Community land (The GD CORe) Garve
- (9) Silverbridge public toilets

Others (please add):

* See Terminology sheet on table





Existing Community Assets

Questions

Please write your answers to the questions below on the sticky notes provided and add them below.

 Do you have any favourite memories of the places listed above that you would like to share? Why are these places important to you?

• Are you less likely to visit these places if a wind farm is developed on the Carn Fearna site? If so, why?

• Is there anything that could be done to make the impacts of the wind farm smaller? If so, what?





A Place To Be Active









Introduction

The report from this engagement will outline potential actions to enhance access to and within Carn Fearna. These improvements may include path repairs, ongoing maintenance, and better signposting, as well as identifying opportunities for new paths. It could also include things such as adding benches, toilets, or other things that make the site more accessible.

Several well-used paths in and around the site have been identified by Ramblers Scotland, though most are not designated as Core Paths. On Carn Fearna itself, a main path runs from Silverbridge to Little Wyvis in the north and Meall Ruighe an Fhirich in the south.

Should the proposed wind farm proceed, public access to the Carn Fearna site will remain fully open, including the ability to walk up to and between the turbines. If the wind farm does not go ahead, the report's recommendations can still serve as a valuable resource for the community to explore and implement potential improvements to outdoor access and biodiversity.

As part of the development, new onsite access tracks would be provided to all the turbines. This could be an opportunity for these new paths to be used by the public, or for other paths to be put in that would benefit locals. These new paths could be connected to existing paths and trails.

Should the development proceed, Statkraft will be responsible for the area within the red line boundary (please see maps). While Statkraft cannot act directly outwith this area, they are keen to collaborate with neighbouring landowners if any proposed ideas for enhancement reach beyond the wind farm boundary.

Finding your way around

Please write your answers to the questions below on the sticky notes provided and add to the large question sheet.

- How easy do you find navigation in the area? Could signage for the routes you use be improved? Do you find yourself sticking to routes you know rather than trying new ones?
- What could be done to make it easier to find your way around?

Mark on the map...

Please mark on the corresponding map routes that you currently walk/wheel/cycle/ride in the area and routes that you would like to be able to do.

You can mark paths that you already use, as well as marking where you would like paths to join up, where you would like new paths to be added.

- Is there any maintenance work or are there any improvements that could be made to routes so that they would be better to use?
- What summits and viewpoints would you like to preserve or improve access to?
- Is there anything else that could be done to make the area more accessible to you? E.g., toilets, bike racks, ramp access, car parks, benches, gates, crossings etc.
 Please mark where it would be useful to have these.





A Place To Be Active

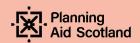
Questions

Please write your answers to the questions below on the sticky notes provided and add them below.

- How easy do you find navigation in the area?
 - Could signage for the routes you use be improved? Do you find yourself sticking to routes you know rather than trying new ones?

• What could be done to make it easier to find your way around?





A Place To Learn



Introduction

A strong connection to the local landscape and heritage fosters a deep sense of place, encouraging communities to engage with and care for their surroundings.

The area around Carn Fearna has a rich yet often overlooked heritage. Local organisations, such as the Ross and Cromarty Heritage Society, actively preserve and share knowledge of the region's history.

There are many ways in which local people and communities can be supported in learning about and further caring for their landscape.

By engaging in this process, local people have the opportunity to highlight the types of history and heritage that are most meaningful to them.

Learning about the area

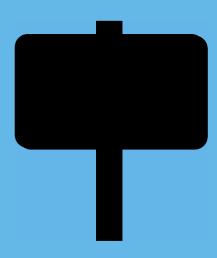
Please write your answers to the questions below on the sticky notes provided and add to the large question sheet.

- Are there any or sufficient information boards in this area?
- Do you find the existing information boards useful?
 Please say what you like and dislike about them.
- Are there any questions you have about the area that you would like to have information boards on? Or if you are someone who knows a lot about the area, are there questions you get asked a lot?
- Is there anything else that would help you learn about this area? E.g., led walks/ bike rides, training sessions on surveying the environment.

Mark on the map...

Please mark on the corresponding map

- · Location of information boards
- · Other signage or wayfinding information in the area
- Locations where you think information boards or other signage would be useful







A Place To Learn

Questions

Please write your answers to the questions below on the sticky notes provided and add them below.

• Are there any or sufficient information boards in this area?

- Do you find the existing information boards useful?
 - Please say what you like and dislike about them

 Are there any questions you have about the area that you would like to have information boards on? Or if you are someone who knows a lot about the area, are there questions you get asked a lot?

- Is there anything else that would help you learn about this area?
 - E.g., led walks/ bike rides, training sessions on surveying the environment.





A Place For Nature









The area around Carn Fearna is known for its diverse range of plant and wildlife species. As part of the wind farm development, Statkraft will conduct a series of impact assessments to evaluate the effects of the windfarm on these habitats and species.

The land within the site boundary primarily consists of bog, acid grassland, heather, heather grassland, thin peaty soils, and freshwater lochans.

Some of the land in and around this site is protected by land designations as shown on the map, including:

- Wild Land Area* 'Rhiddoroch Beinn Dearg Ben Wyvis'
- Wildcat Protection Area* (WPA) 'Strathpeffer'
- · Site of Special Scientific Interest* 'Carn Gorm'

Nature

Please write your answers to the questions below on the sticky notes provided and add to the large question sheet.

 Do you have any suggestions about what could be done to improve biodiversity/ the natural environment across both the Carn Fearna site and other locations which are important to you?

Some suggestions of things that may be relevant are biodiversity corridors, tree planting, wildflower meadows, removing non-native species, planting native species, protecting invertebrates and pollinators (see Buglife website on laptop).



Wildlife

If the wind farm is goes ahead, Statkraft must ensure that biodiversity enhancement* is part of the project. Good practice is to enhance biodiversity within the site boundary, however if this is not possible, Statkraft will work with neighbouring land owners to deliver enhancements elsewhere.

A range of surveys will be carried out to identify species that may be impacted by the proposed development. The species that have already been identified as needing to be surveyed in the area are wildcats, badgers, squirrels, pine martins, otters, bats, water voles, and fish.

Please write your answers to the questions below on the sticky notes provided and add to the large question sheet.

- What wildlife have you seen in this area? Please mark what you have seen and where you have seen it.
- What is the most memorable thing you have seen in the last year?
- Do you have any thoughts on the reintroduction of species or other things which can be done to increase numbers of a certain species in this area?
- Do you have any suggestions on what can be done to improve habitats for any of the species in this area?

Mark on the map...

Please mark on the corresponding map

Where do you go to enjoy nature within this site?
 Please mark locations on the map as well as explaining what draws you to these places.

* See Terminology sheet on table





A Place For Nature

Please write your answers to the questions below on the sticky notes provided and add them below.

Nature

Do you have any suggestions about what could be done to improve biodiversity/
 the natural environment across the Carn Fearna site and other locations which are important to you?

Wildlife

- What wildlife have you seen in this area? Please mark what you have seen and where you have seen it.
- What is the most memorable thing you have seen in the last year?
- Do you have any thoughts around reintroduction of species or other things which can be done to increase numbers of a certain species in this area??
- Do you have any suggestions of what can be done do improve habitats for any of the species that are important to you in this area?





Share Your Views

Next steps - biodiversity and outdoor management enhancements

Following the community drop-in event, Planning Aid Scotland will prepare a report that captures potential improvements for biodiversity and outdoors management, which will be shared with Statkraft and the community. Please share your email address with a member of the team and we will share the report directly with you.

If after attending today's event you have questions, or if you would like to share further thoughts or ideas, please reach out to the team at Planning Aid Scotland (see contact details below).

If you know anyone else who wanted to come along to the event but couldn't made it - we have an online survey that asks all of the same questions available here:

https://forms.office.com/e/EfSzLV7edE

Please ensure we receive your comments by Sun 9th March

Key contacts

Planning Aid Scotland

Anne Krippler Planning & Projects Officer Anne@pas.org.uk



Statkraft

Jo Elston Volunteer Co-ordinator Jo@pas.org.uk

Statkraft

Scott Vallance Project Manager Scott.Vallance@statkraft.com



UKprojects@statkraft.com 0800 772 0668

Next steps - Carn Fearna Wind Farm proposed development

Statkraft expects to submit a Section 36 application to the Scottish Government in March/April 2025.

Once the application has been validated by the Energy Consents Unit, the Statutory Consultation Period will be advertised on the project webpage, in local and national newspapers and to those who have asked for project updates by email.

Comments and objections can be made to the Energy Consents Unit and instructions on how to do this will be provided.

Following the consultation, the Energy Consents Unit will take six to twelve months to compile a report examining the merits of the application and making a recommendation for the Scottish Minister to either "Consent" or "Refuse" the project.

If the project is consented, Statkraft will engage in preconstruction work such as tendering for contractor roles and placing orders for plant equipment for twelve to eighteen months.

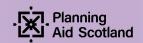
Planning Aid Scotland: a free, impartial & confidential advice service

For over 30 years, Planning Aid Scotland has operated a free, confidential and impartial Advice Service for members of the public and community groups, providing support on a wide range of planning issues.

Should you wish information or advice on a particular matter, please submit your enquiry through the website and one of our advisors will contact you.

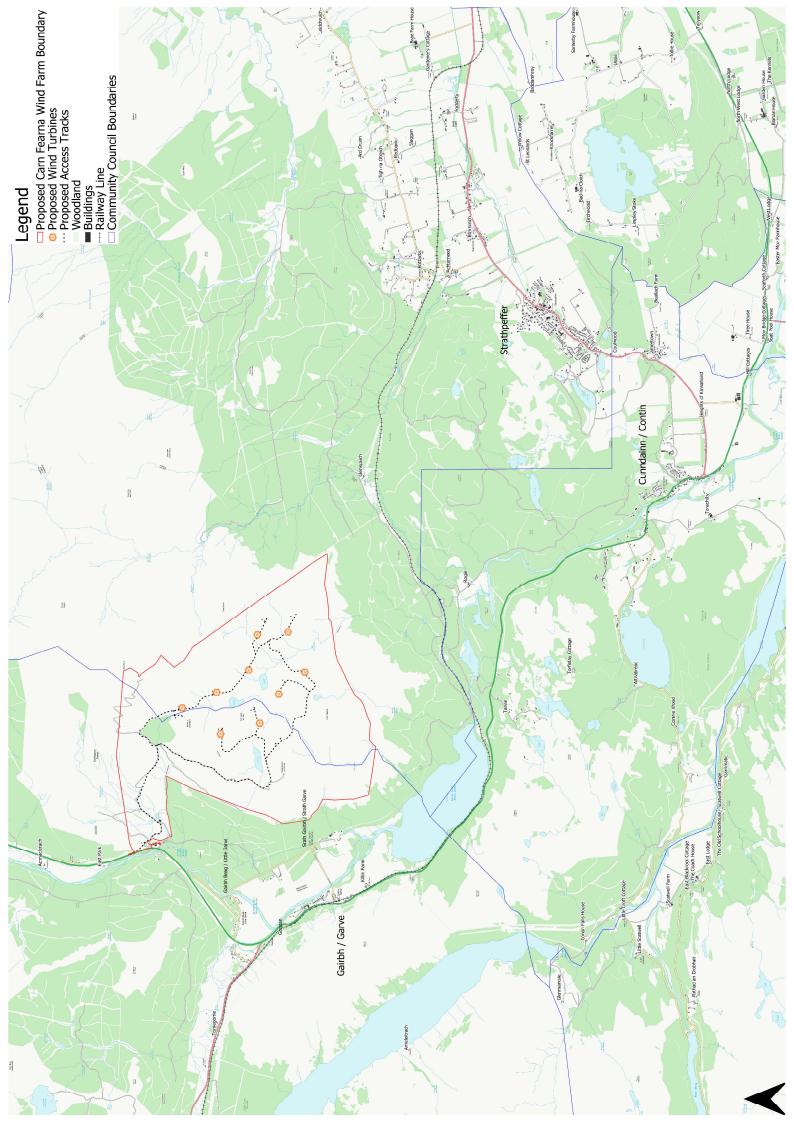
Website: www.pas.org.uk (click on 'Advice')

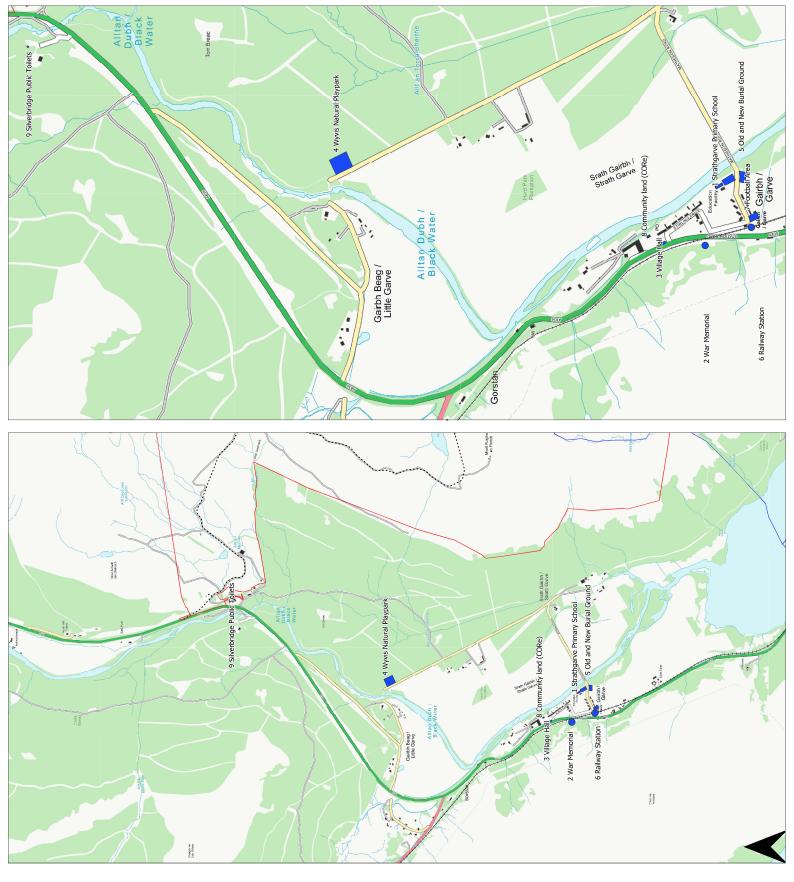






Annex B - Maps





Community Assets

Please use this map and mark:

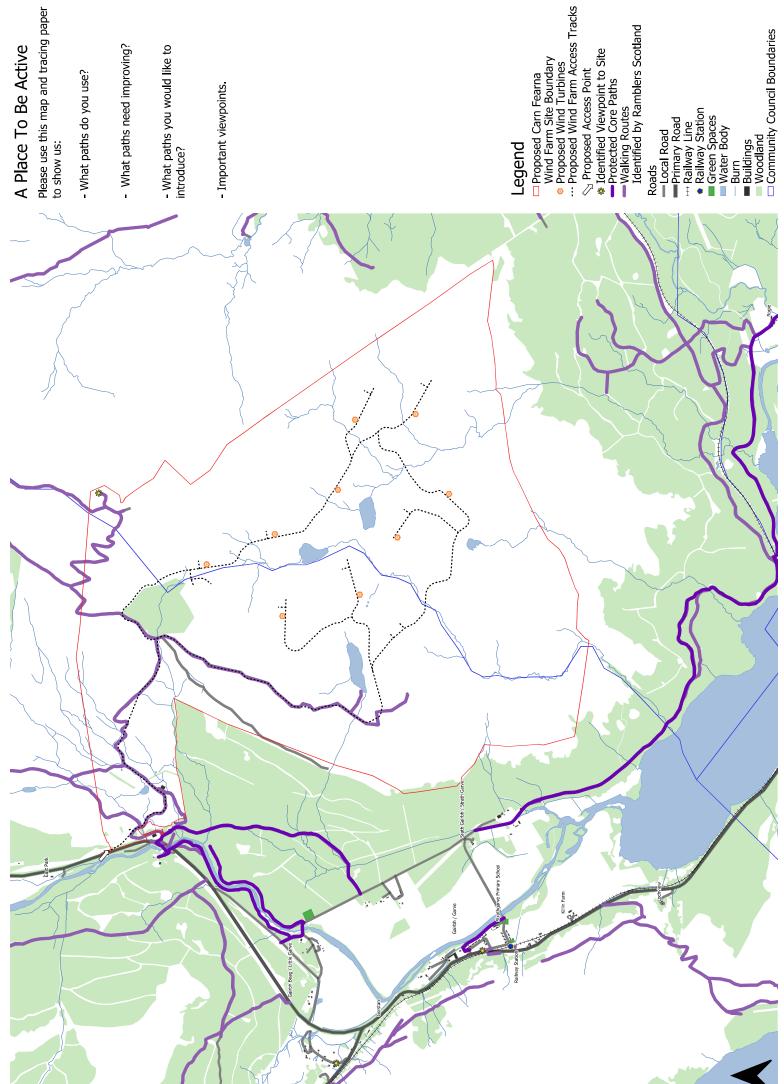
- Community Assets important to you.
- Community Assets you think need improving.

Legend

Community Assets

- 1 Strathgarve Primary School
 - 2 War Memorial
 - 3 Village Hall
- 4 Wyvis Natural Playpark5 Old and New Burial Ground
- 6 Railway Station
- 7 Football Area
- 8 Community land (CORe)9 Silverbridge Public Toilets

- □ Proposed Carn Fearna
 Wind Farm Boundary
 ⊙ Proposed Wind Turbines
 ⋯ Proposed Wind Farm Access Tracks
 ⋯ Railway Iine
 Woodland
 □ Community Council Boundaries

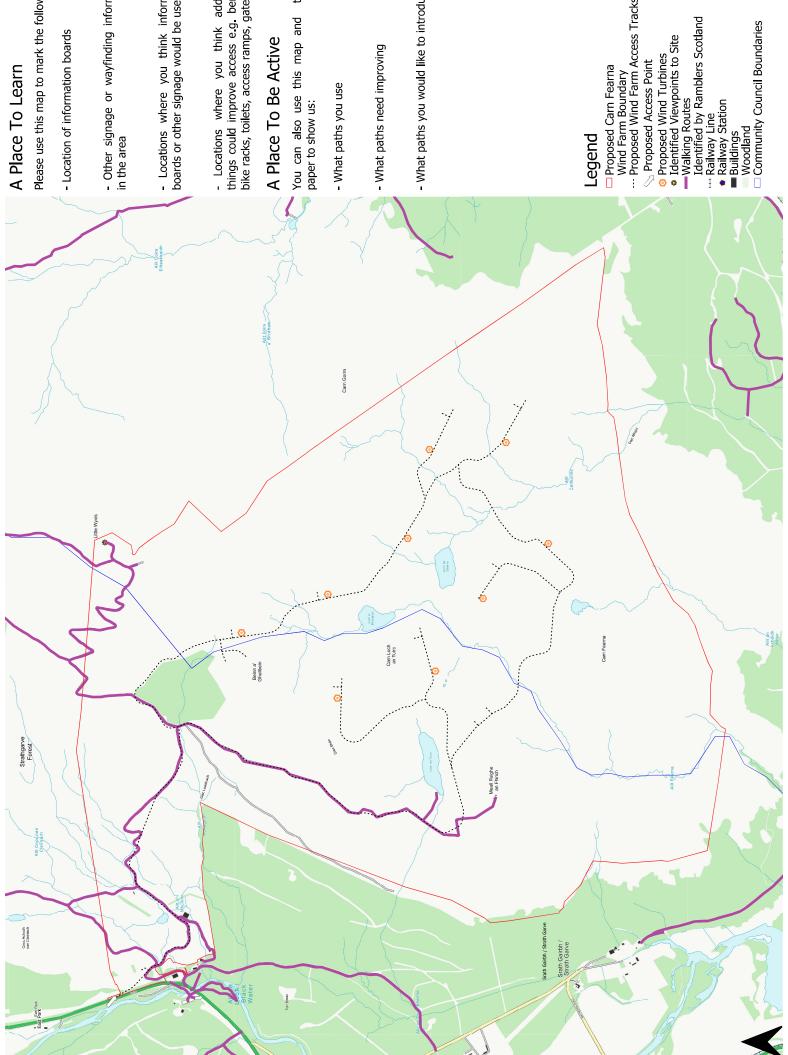


A Place To Be Active

Please use this map and tracing paper to show us:

- What paths you would like to introduce?

- - Proposed Access Point



Please use this map to mark the following:

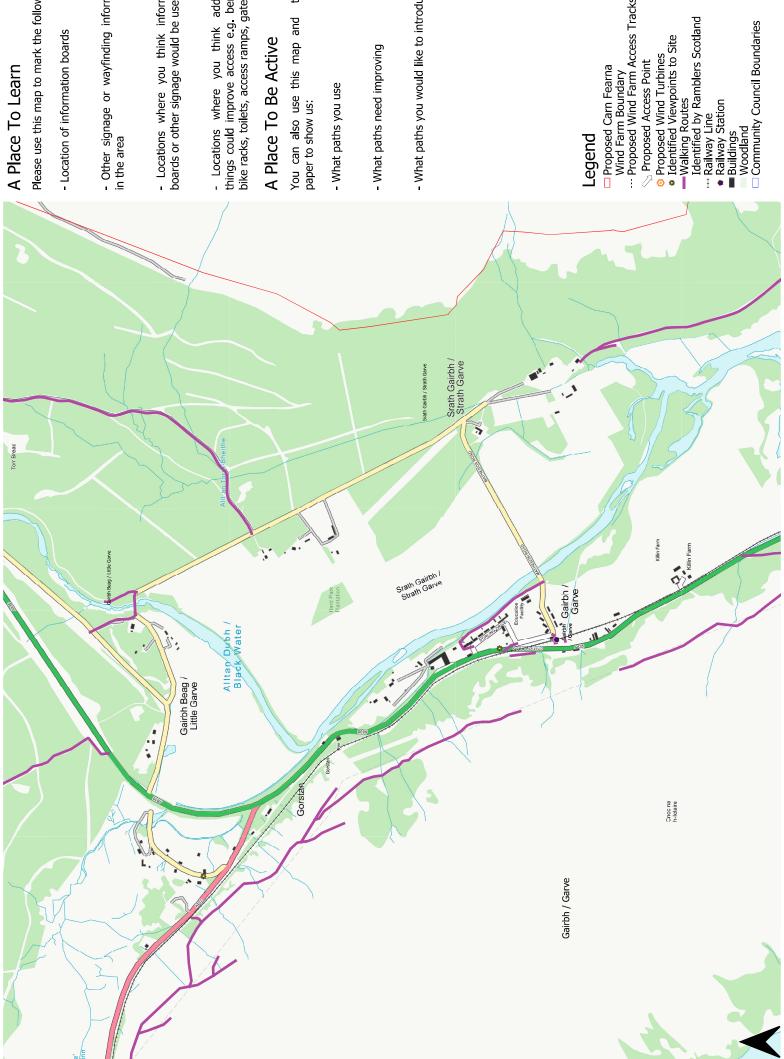
- Location of information boards
- Other signage or wayfinding information in the area
- Locations where you think information boards or other signage would be useful
- Locations where you think additional things could improve access e.g. benches, bike racks, toilets, access ramps, gates etc.

A Place To Be Active

You can also use this map and tracing paper to show us:

- What paths you would like to introduce

- □ Proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm Boundary … Proposed Wind Farm Access Tracks
 - - Proposed Access Point



Please use this map to mark the following:

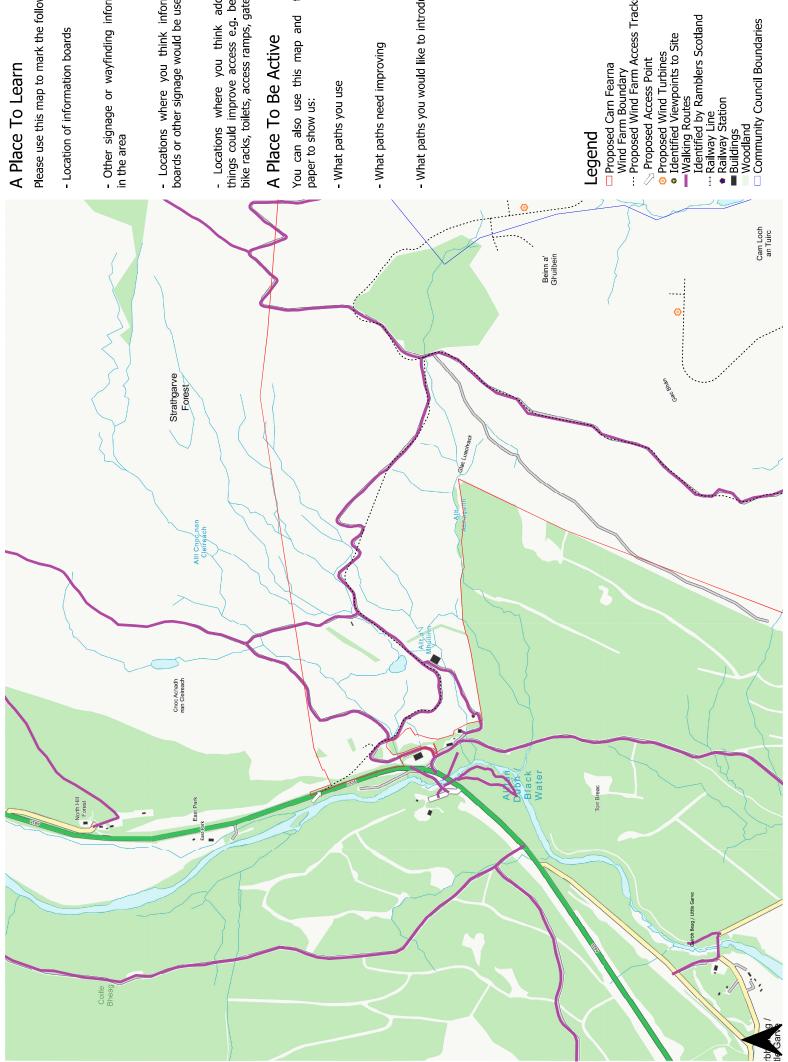
- Location of information boards
- Other signage or wayfinding information in the area
- Locations where you think information boards or other signage would be useful
- Locations where you think additional things could improve access e.g. benches, bike racks, toilets, access ramps, gates etc.

A Place To Be Active

You can also use this map and tracing paper to show us:

- What paths you use
- What paths need improving
- What paths you would like to introduce

- □ Proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm Boundary … Proposed Wind Farm Access Tracks
 - Proposed Access Point



Please use this map to mark the following:

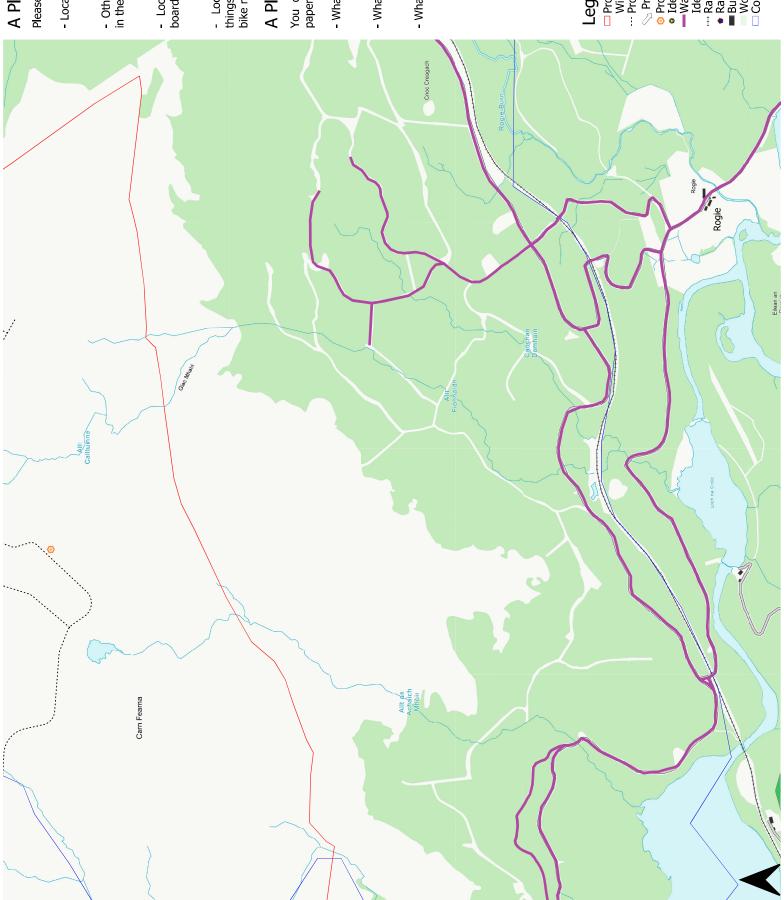
- Location of information boards
- Other signage or wayfinding information in the area
- Locations where you think information boards or other signage would be useful
- Locations where you think additional things could improve access e.g. benches, bike racks, toilets, access ramps, gates etc.

A Place To Be Active

You can also use this map and tracing paper to show us:

- What paths need improving
- What paths you would like to introduce

- □ Proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm Boundary … Proposed Wind Farm Access Tracks
 - - Proposed Access Point



Please use this map to mark the following:

- Location of information boards
- Other signage or wayfinding information in the area
- Locations where you think information boards or other signage would be useful
- Locations where you think additional things could improve access e.g. benches, bike racks, toilets, access ramps, gates etc.

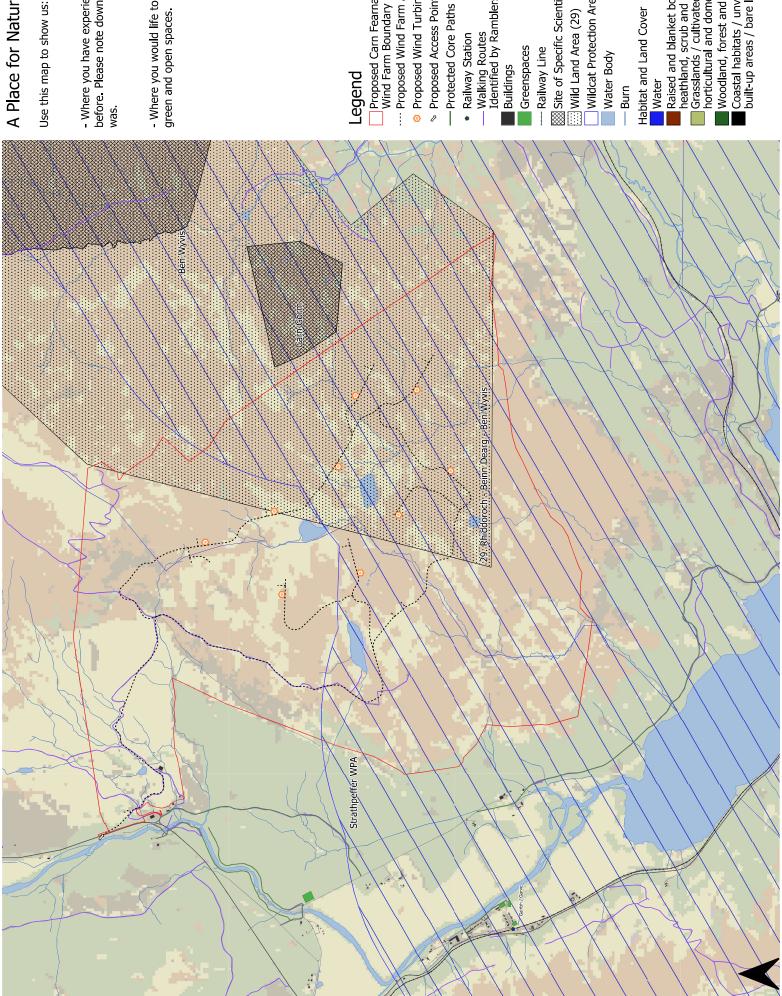
A Place To Be Active

You can also use this map and tracing paper to show us:

- What paths you use
- What paths need improving
- What paths you would like to introduce

Legend

- □ Proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm Boundary … Proposed Wind Farm Access Tracks
 - - Proposed Access Point
- Proposed Wind Turbines
 Identified Viewpoints to Site
 Walking Routes
 Identified by Ramblers Scotland
 Railway Line
 Railway Station
 Buildings
 Woodland
 Community Council Boundaries



A Place for Nature

Use this map to show us:

- before. Please note down what wildlife this - Where you have experienced wildlife
- Where you would life to improve nature, green and open spaces.

- Proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm Boundary
- ···· Proposed Wind Farm Access Tracks
 - Proposed Wind Turbines
- Proposed Access Point

- Walking RoutesIdentified by Ramblers Scotland
- Greenspaces
- Site of Specific Scientific Importance
- Wild Land Area (29)
- Wildcat Protection Area (WPA)
 - Water Body

Habitat and Land Cover

- Water
- Raised and blanket bogs heathland, scrub and tundra Grasslands / cultivated agricultural horticultural and domestic habitats
- Woodland, forest and other wooded land
 - Coastal habitats / unvegetated habitats built-up areas / bare land



Annex C – Online Survey Form 1

Share your ideas on the natural environment around Carn Fearna

Planning Aid Scotland is a charity and social enterprise that helps people to navigate the planning system and shape the future of their place.

Statkraft has commissioned Planning Aid Scotland to facilitate this event on their behalf, to gather views from the local community on potential improvements to biodiversity and outdoor management. Statkraft is in the process of preparing a planning application for a wind farm at Carn Fearna.

Our role as Planning Aid Scotland is to ensure that all voices are heard and recorded in an open and impartial manner. Following the event, we will independently produce a report that will be shared with both Statkraft and the community.

Should the proposed development go ahead, improvements identified in the report will be considered and further developed by Statkraft. If the wind farm does not proceed, it is hoped that the community will still find the report useful as a basis for taking forward potential improvements in the area.

The questions in this survey are intended to act as a guide and are based on the drop in session we ran in Garve Public Hall on the 27th of February. If you have any other ideas and thoughts on how biodiversity, nature and access to the outdoors can be improved on and around the site - please write them in the 'any other comments' box at the end of each section, or get in touch with anne@pas.org.uk.

We understand that many local residents do not want the wind farm to go ahead, and information about how to object can be found either on the last information board, or by getting in touch with the Planning Aid Scotland Advice Service. Even if you do not want the wind farm to proceed, it is still worth filling in the questions below to make sure that you get the best possible outcome for the area if the wind farm application is approved.

To see the information heards we used at the drap in events place slick on the following

Background

Carn Fearna is located 1.5km north east of the village of Garve, Ross-shire within Highland Council. The land within the site boundary (red line on map below) is predominantly bog, acid grassland, heather, heather grassland, thin peaty soils and freshwater lochans.

The site is surrounded by woodland to the west, south and east. Ben Wyvis mountain range rises to the north east of the site.

Based on the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (the area where you are likely to be able to see the wind farm from), it is estimated that the following community council areas would be most affected by the development:

- Garve and District Community Council
- Contin Community Council
- Strathpeffer Community Council

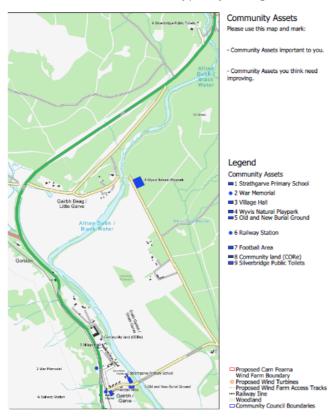


Existing Community Assets

Over the last few years, a number of plans have been put together by the local community that cover the Carn Fearna area. These plans, which you may have come across before, are:

- Garve and District Local Place Plan 2024-2029
- Garve and District Community Development Plan 2019-2024
 Strathpeffer Local Community Action Plan 2019-2024
 Contin Local Place Plan is currently being prepared

You can have a look at these community plans by searching for them online.



1

In the community-led plans that have been created, a number of key community assets were identified by the members of the local communities who participated in creating the plan. The Garve and District Local Place Plan set out the community assets as those listed below.

Please use the list below to select which of these community assets you use regularly. You can also use the 'Other' box to add in other places you visit/ use frequently that are not on the list.

	Strathgarve Primary School
	District War Memorial
	Garve Public Hall
	Wyvis Natural Playpark
	Old and new burial grounds at Garve and Achnanalt
	Railway Station
	Garve football area
	Community land (the GD CORe) Garve
	Silverbrigde public toilets
	Other
E a	Oo you have any favourite memories of the places listed above that you would like to share? Why re these places important to you?
	3 are you less likely to visit these places if a wind farm is developed on the Carn Fearna site? If so, why?
l:	4 s there anything that could be done to make the impacts of the wind farm smaller? If so, what?

5	
Is there anything else you would like to say about community assets?	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	

A Place to be Active

Context

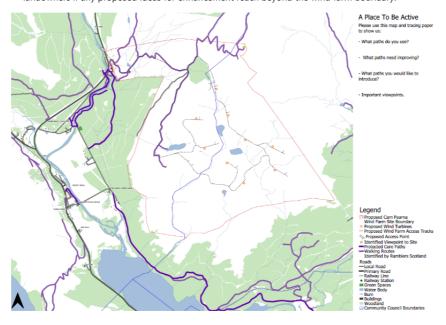
The report from this engagement will outline potential actions to enhance access to and within Carn Fearna. These improvements may include path repairs, ongoing maintenance, and better signposting, as well as identifying opportunities for new paths. It could also include things such as adding benches, toilets, or other things that make the site more accessible.

Several well-used paths in and around the site have been identified by Ramblers Scotland, though most are not designated as Core Paths. On Carn Fearna itself, a main path runs from Silverbridge to Little Wyvis in the north and Meall Ruighe an Fhirich in the south.

Should the proposed wind farm proceed, public access to the Carn Fearna site will remain fully open, including the ability to walk up to and between the turbines. If the wind farm does not go ahead, the report's recommendations can still serve as a valuable resource for the community to explore and implement potential improvements to outdoor access and biodiversity.

As part of the development, new onsite access tracks would be provided to all the turbines. This could be an opportunity for these new paths to be used by the public, or for other paths to be put in that would benefit locals. These new paths could be connected to existing paths and trails.

Should the development proceed, Statkraft will be responsible for the area within the red line boundary (please see the provided maps). While Statkraft cannot act directly outwith this area, they are keen to collaborate with neighbouring landowners if any proposed ideas for enhancement reach beyond the wind farm boundary.



6

How easy do you find navigation in the area?

Could signage for the routes you use be improved? Do you find yourself sticking to routes you know rather than trying new ones?

What could be done to make it easier to find your way around?
Is there any maintenance work or are there any improvements that could be made to routes/ paths you use so that they would be better to use?
9 Are there any routes you would like to be able to walk, wheel, or ride that you are currently unable to do?
10 What summits and viewpoints would you like to preserve or improve access to?
Is there anything else that could be done to make the area more accessible to you? E.g., toilets, bike racks, ramp access, car parks, benches, gates, crossings etc. Please mark where it would be useful to have these.
ls there anything else you would like to say about signage, routes, or being active around the Carn Fearna site?

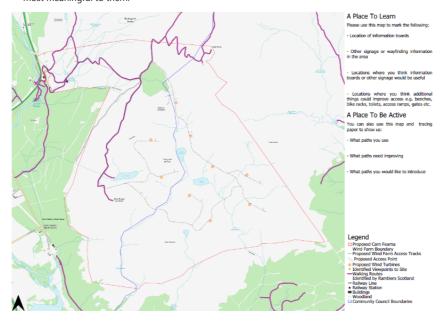
Context

A strong connection to the local landscape and heritage fosters a deep sense of place, encouraging communities to engage with and care for their surroundings.

The area around Carn Fearna has a rich yet often overlooked heritage. Local organisations, such as the Ross and Cromarty Heritage Society, actively preserve and share knowledge of the region's history.

There are many ways in which local people and communities can be supported in learning about and further caring for their landscape.

By engaging in this process, local people have the opportunity to highlight the types of history and heritage that are most meaningful to them.



Are there any or sufficient information boards in this area?
You can also let us know about the quality and location of the boards and signs.

14

Do you find the existing information boards useful?
Please say what you like and dislike about them.

Are there any questions you have about the area that you would like to have information boards on? **Or** if you are someone who knows a lot about the area, are there questions you get asked a lot?

16

Is there anything else that would help you learn about this area?

E.g., led walks/ bike rides, training sessions on surveying the environment.

A Place for Nature

Context

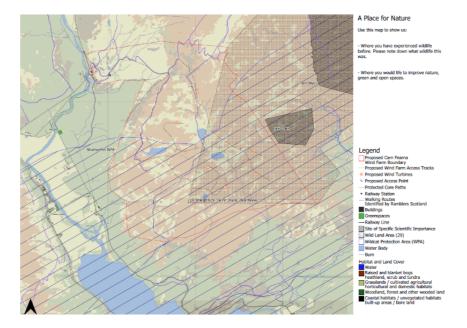
The area around Carn Fearna is known for its diverse range of plant and wildlife species.

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A range of surveys will be carried out to identify species that may be impacted by the proposed development. The species that have already been identified as needing to be surveyed in the area are wildcats, badgers, squirrels, pine martins, otters, bats, water voles, and fish.

The land within the site boundary primarily consists of bog, acid grassland, heather, heather grassland, thin peaty soils, and freshwater lochans. Some of the land in and around this site is protected by land designations as shown on the map, including:

- Wild Land Area* 'Rhiddoroch Beinn Dearg Ben Wyvis' Wildcat Protection Area* (WPA) 'Strathpeffer' Site of Special Scientific Interest* 'Carn Gorm'



Nature - Do you have any suggestions about what could be done to improve biodiversity/ the natural environment across both the Carn Fearna site and other locations which are important to you?

Some suggestions of things that may be relevant are biodiversity corridors, tree planting, wildflower meadows, removing non-native species, planting native species, protecting invertebrates and pollinators.

Wildlife - What wildlife have you seen in this area?
19 Wildlife - What is the most memorable wildlife you have seen in the last year?
Wildlife - Do you have any thoughts around reintroduction of species or other actions which can be done to increase numbers of a certain species in this area?
Wildlife - Do you have any suggestions of what can be done do improve habitats for any of the species that are important to you in this area?



Annex D – Online Survey Form 2

Next Steps - Biodiversity and outdoor management enhancements

Following the community drop-in event and this online survey, Planning Aid Scotland will prepare a report that captures potential improvements for biodiversity and outdoors management, which will be shared with Statkraft and the community.

You can share the online survey with other people: https://forms.office.com/e/EfSzLV7edE Please ensure we receive your comments by **Sun 9th March.**

22	
Please share your email address here if you want us to share the report directly with you.	

Next Steps - Carn Fearna Wind Farm proposed development

Statkraft expects to submit a Section 36 application to the Scottish Government in March/April 2025. Once the application has been validated by the Energy Consents Unit, the Statutory Consultation Period will be advertised on the project webpage, in local and national newspapers and to those who have asked for project updates by email.

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If you would like advice on how to write your representation on this project or any other development please get in touch with the Planning Aid Scotland Advice Service. https://www.pas.org.uk/what-we-do/advice/

If the project is consented, Statkraft will engage in pre-construction work such as tendering for contractor roles and placing orders for plant equipment for twelve to eighteen months. You can find out more here: https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/Carn-Fearna/

Or get in touch with Statkraft:

Scott Vallance

Project Manager Scott.Vallance@statkraft.com

Seumas Skinner

Community Liaison Manager Seumas.Skinner@statkraft.com

UKprojects@statkraft.com0800 772 0668

Thank you!

Thank you for completing this survey. If you would like to share further thoughts or ideas, please reach out to the team at Planning Aid Scotland anne@pas.org.uk.

Planning Aid Scotland: a free, impartial & confidential advice service

For over 30 years, Planning Aid Scotland has operated a free, confidential and impartial Advice Service for members of the public and community groups, providing support on a wide range of planning issues. Should you wish information or advice on a particular matter, please submit your enquiry through the website and one of our advisors will contact you. Website: www.pas.org.uk (click on 'Advice')

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Feedback on Planning Aid Scotland Independent Community Engagement Report

Insights to shape a Biodiversity and Outdoor Management Plan for the proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm.

Planning Aid Scotland is a charity and social enterprise that helps people to navigate the planning system and shape the future of their place.

Statkraft has commissioned Planning Aid Scotland to facilitate this event on their behalf, to gather views from the local community on potential improvements to biodiversity and outdoor management at Carn Fearna, Garve. Statkraft is in the process of preparing a planning application for a wind farm at Carn Fearna.

Our role as Planning Aid Scotland is to ensure that all voices are heard and recorded in an open and impartial manner. We carried out an event on the 27th February 2025 and an online survey.

We have now produced a draft report. This draft report is provided for the local community to review and offer feedback on the findings before it is finalised. Once finalised, the report will be included as part of the Energy Consent Application for the proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm development. It will also be shared with local residents, who may wish to take forward some of the suggested actions.

This survey will close Monday 24th March at 11.59pm.

Introduction, Background and Key Considerations

Please read through the following sections of the report: Introduction, Background and Key Considerations

1.	Do you agree with the content of these first three sections?
	○ Yes
	○ No
	On't know
2.	What would you like to add to the first three sections of the report?

3.	Doy	you feel the findings are representative of the local community?
	\bigcirc	Yes
	\bigcirc	No
	\bigcirc	Don't know
4.	Wha	at would you like to add to the Findings section of the report?

Findings

Please read through the Findings section of the report.

Recommendations

Please read through the Recommendations section of the report.

5. Do you agree with the Recommendations?	
Yes	
○ No	
On't know	
5. What would you like to add to the Recommendations section of the report?	

Any other comments

7.	Do you have any other comments you would like to add about the report?				
8.	Do you have any other comments you would like to add about our engagement approach? We always look for feedback so we can improve future engagement.				

Final report

9.	If you want to receive the finalised report please leave your email address here:
	We will send out the report to Garve and District, Contin and Strathpeffer Community Councils.

Thank you

Thank you for your continuous engagement. We will finalise the report in the coming week and then share the report with relevant stakeholders.

If you would like to share further thoughts or ideas, please reach out to the team at Planning Aid Scotland $\underline{anne@pas.org.uk}$.

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