

Coille Beith Wind Farm

Pre-Application Consultation Report

June 2025



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Coille Beith Wind Farm

**Pre-Application
Consultation Report**

June 2025



Statkraft



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1. Introduction

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT

1.1 Coille Beith Wind Farm Limited ('the Applicant'), together with Kane Partners, have prepared this Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report to support an application to Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) to construct and operate a wind farm and associated infrastructure ('the Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development would include up to 11 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 200 metres (m) above ground level on land approximately 18 kilometres (km) southwest of Lairg and 20 km northwest of Bonar Bridge, the Highlands, Scotland.

1.2 This PAC Report details the consultation undertaken with the community, stakeholders, and statutory consultees regarding the Proposed Development. The Applicant has sought to proactively engage with residents to ensure meaningful opportunities for participation in shaping the project.



2. Proposed Development

2.1 The Proposed Development would include the following key components:

- Up to 11 wind turbines, each up to a maximum tip height of 200 m;
- Associated permanent foundations and crane hardstanding;
- A total of approximately 9.54 km of new on-site tracks with associated water crossings, passing places, turning heads, and approximately 4.1 km of existing tracks, upgraded as required (not including access options which are accounted for below);
- A network of on-site buried electrical cables connecting the turbines to the on-site substation compound;
- A substation and control building compound;
- Two temporary construction compounds and laydown areas;
- A main Site entrance (one of two options) to the east or west of the Site, for use during construction and operation, designed to accommodate abnormal indivisible loads required for turbine components;
- Two access options, (with only one option taken forward if the Proposed Development were to gain consent):
 - An eastern access option, with a total of approximately 2.14 km of new on-site access tracks with associated watercourse crossings and approximately 3.16 km of existing tracks, upgraded as required; or
 - A western access option with a total of approximately 3.18 km of new on-site access tracks with associated watercourse crossings and approximately 451 m² of proposed widening of an existing road.
- Associated ancillary work, including:
 - Nature Enhancement Management Plan (NEMP) areas, and forest felling;
 - Extraction of rock from borrow pit; and
 - Concrete batching plant.

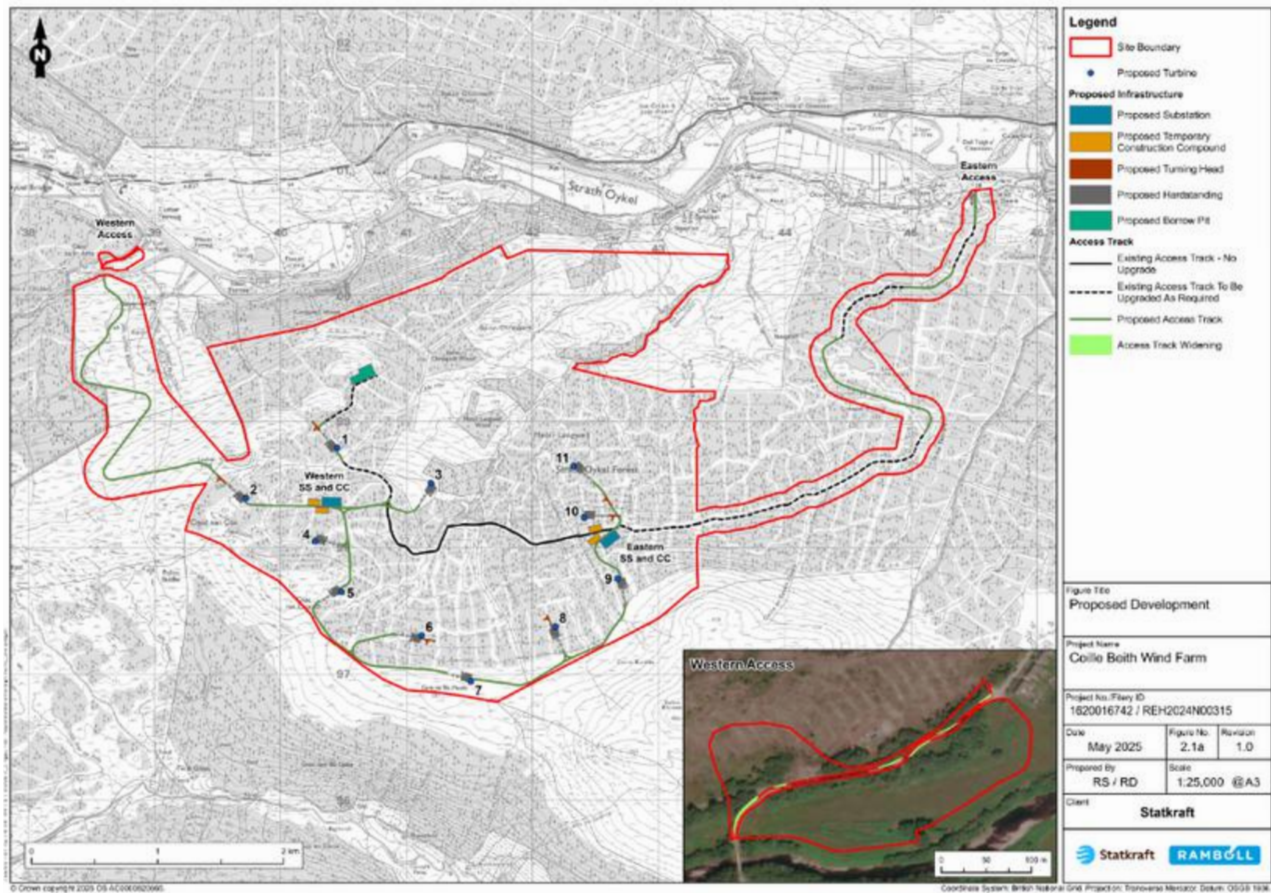


2. Proposed Development

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT

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2.2 The layout of the proposed development can be seen below or in more detail in Figure 2.1 of the Environmental Impact Assessment.



3. About the Applicant

3.1 The Applicant for the Proposed Development is Coille Beith Wind Farm Limited, a subsidiary of Statkraft UK Ltd (hereafter referred to as 'Statkraft').

3.2 Statkraft is a leading company in hydropower internationally and Europe's largest renewable energy generator. The Group produces hydropower, wind power, solar power, greener grid parks, and supplies district heating.

3.3 Statkraft is at the heart of the UK's energy transition. Since 2006, Statkraft has gone from strength to strength in the UK, building experience across wind, solar, hydro, storage, grid stability, EV charging, green hydrogen, and a thriving markets business. Statkraft has invested over £1.4 billion into the UK's renewable energy infrastructure and facilitated over 4 gigawatts (GW) of new-build renewable energy generation through Power Purchase Agreements (PPA). Statkraft develops, constructs, owns and operates renewable facilities across the UK and employs over 600 people in offices across Scotland, England, and Wales.

3.4 Across Scotland, Statkraft owns or operates five onshore wind farms and has a further three wind farms consented. Statkraft is also at the forefront of innovative Greener Grid Parks, with operational projects in Keith and Liverpool, which facilitate more green energy onto the grid and offer grid stability services.

3.5 Over the past decade, Statkraft has invested over £200 million in renewable energy infrastructure in Scotland, placing it in the top five companies investing in the country.

4.1 Permission for the Proposed Development is being sought under Section 36 (S36) of the Electricity Act, which does not carry a statutory requirement for public consultation or production of a Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report).

4.2 However, as noted in Section 1 above, the Applicant prioritises community engagement and recognises the benefits of carrying out early and meaningful consultation during the planning process and follows best practice of producing a PAC Report.

4.3 Two documents which set out best practice for engaging with communities during development have been used as a framework to support the delivery of the Proposed Development's engagement programme. The Scottish Government Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 – Community Engagement and the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) best practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 issued in February 2022 and updated in July 2022.



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Standard	PAN 3/2010 Standard	Activities Undertaken
1	Involvement: Identify and involve the people and organisations who have interest in the focus of the engagement.	<p>The host and neighbouring community councils elected Councillors for the host ward, MSPs and MP for the Proposed Development were identified and contacted with information about the Proposed Development at the time of Scoping in Summer 2024, when the project Proposed Development first entered the public domain.</p> <p>Local stakeholders were offered the opportunity to meet with the Proposed Development team, virtually or in person.</p> <p>A dedicated website with contact details was launched when the Proposed Development project went into scoping.</p> <p>Two periods of public exhibitions were held in September 2024 and April 2025.</p> <p>Invites and feedback forms were sent to more than 302 residents and businesses surrounding the Proposed Development at the start of each of the consultation periods. Mailing lists were updated ahead of the second exhibition to take account of local population changes.</p> <p>The Applicant provided a presentation on the proposal to the local community councils in Spring 2025.</p>
2	Support: Identify and overcome any barriers to involvement.	<p>Respondents could communicate with the Proposed Development team via the project website, email, letter, telephone or in person.</p> <p>Accessible in-person exhibitions were held at local venues, with online exhibitions being held in parallel.</p>

4. Public Consultation

TABLE 1 – AN OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – CONSULTATION STAGES

CONTINUED

		<p>The exhibitions were advertised in the Press and Journal and the Northern Times. Adverts were also provided to Community Councils and Councillors for sharing on their social media.</p> <p>A direct mail invitation was sent to more than 302 households and businesses ahead of each of the consultation periods. The invitations included information about the Proposed Development, its location, timings, what information would be made available, contact details, and how to get involved. A feedback card and freepost envelope were included in the mailing to make it easy for local people to return their views on the proposal.</p> <p>The Applicant attended meetings of the host and neighbouring community councils as appropriate.</p>
3	Planning: Gather evidence of need and resources to agree purpose, scope and actions.	<p>The Applicant prioritises meaningful consultation with the local community, as set out in correspondence with them.</p> <p>When contact was made with Community Councils and wider stakeholders, the proposed approach was outlined, and feedback was requested to ensure as many people as possible knew about the Proposed Development.</p>
4	Methods: Agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose.	<p>Information presented on the Proposed Development website was accessible to interested parties throughout the development period.</p> <p>The website provided the opportunity to find out the latest information about the Proposed Development and ask the team questions.</p>

4. Public Consultation

TABLE 1 – AN OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – CONSULTATION STAGES

CONTINUED

		<p>The Applicant held two exhibitions, providing residents and interested groups with an opportunity to meet and interact with the team, allowing discussion and feedback. Both exhibitions were held in person and online.</p> <p>At the in-person exhibitions, an interactive model was available for residents to understand what the Proposed Development would look like from various points within the local environment, i.e., their home, key local locations, and viewpoints.</p> <p>The Applicant offered to meet with Community Councils and Ward Members several times during the Development period.</p>
5	Working Together: Agree and use clear procedures that enable participants to work together effectively and efficiently.	<p>Pre-Application Consultation enabled the Applicant to listen and take on board comments from interested parties and used responses to influence design from the point of scoping.</p> <p>The Applicant encouraged the use of meetings, feedback forms and contact details provided at public exhibitions to receive input.</p> <p>Contact information was provided on all public documentation and included a dedicated website.</p> <p>Physical exhibitions were held.</p> <p>The second in-person exhibition additionally provided an interactive model of the proposed development.</p> <p>The Applicant offered to meet with the Community Councils.</p> <p>The Applicant sought engagement and involvement from the community to suggest</p>

4. Public Consultation

TABLE 1 – AN OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – CONSULTATION STAGES

CONTINUED

		potential uses for Community Benefit funds at the exhibitions.
6	Sharing Information: Ensure necessary information is communicated between the participants.	<p>Interaction at the Online and Physical Exhibition, and follow up on any questions, and provide further information.</p> <p>An exhibition brochure, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), and viewpoints were available online and in person. An interactive model was also available at the second in-person exhibition to help attendees understand what the Proposed Development may look like.</p> <p>Attended Community Council Meetings and kept key stakeholder groups informed following submission of the application.</p>
7	Working with Others: Work effectively with others with an interest.	<p>Interaction and comments from residents and Community Councils were sought.</p> <p>Feedback provided at the consultation sessions has been considered as the project has been developed, particularly on height and local/visibility of several turbines.</p>
8	Improvement: Develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of the participants.	<p>Experienced team members (including the Project Manager and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Consultant Team) attended the public exhibition events to provide information requested by visitors and answer questions.</p> <p>The Applicant provided visitors at the exhibitions with the opportunity to view a representation of the Proposed Development from different viewpoints.</p>
9	Feedback: Feedback results to the wider community and agencies affected.	<p>The Applicant provided responses to feedback forms received during the public consultation (where GDPR allowed).</p> <p>The Applicant undertook dialogue with individuals regarding specific queries posed</p>

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		before or during the consultation process, with responses to queries followed up.
10	Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitor and evaluate whether engagement achieves its purpose and meets the national standards of community engagement.	The Applicant followed best practice as set out in this PAC Report.

4. Public Consultation

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TABLE 2 - GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR APPLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 36 AND 37 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 REQUIREMENTS

Activity	Minimum Expectation	Activities Undertaken
Pre-application consultation events	<p>The Applicant is expected to hold at least two public consultation events prior to submitting the application. The final public event should be held at least 14 days after the first public event.</p> <p>The public events are to give members of the public the opportunity to make comments to the Applicant as regards the Proposed Development.</p> <p>At the final public event, the Applicant should provide feedback to members of the public in respect of comments received by the Applicant as regards the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Two periods of public exhibitions were held in September 2024 and April 2025.</p> <p>Invites and feedback forms were sent to more than 302 residents and businesses surrounding the Proposed Development at the start of each consultation period. Mailing lists were updated ahead of the second exhibition to account for local population changes.</p> <p>The iterative designs for the Proposed Development were communicated throughout the process, including comparisons of the scoping, intermediate, and final layouts.</p>
Notice of the Pre-application consultation events	<p>At least seven days before holding a public event, the applicant should publish on the applicant's website and in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated a notice containing:</p> <p>A description of, and the location of, the Proposed Development;</p> <p>Details as to where further information may be obtained</p>	<p>The exhibitions were advertised in the Press and Journal and the Northern Times two weeks ahead of each round of exhibitions.</p> <p>Adverts were provided to Community Councils and Councillors to share on their social media.</p> <p>The exhibitions were published on the project website.</p>

4. Public Consultation

CONTINUED

TABLE 2 - GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR APPLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 36 AND 37 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 REQUIREMENTS

	<p>concerning the Proposed Development;</p> <p>The date and place of the public event;</p> <p>A statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the applicant relating to the proposal may do so; and</p>	
Notice of Pre-Application consultation events	<p>A statement that comments made to the Applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if the Applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representation on that application to the Scottish Ministers.</p>	<p>The details set out opposite were published as required.</p>
Content of public event and pre-application consultation report	<p>The Applicant is expected to prepare a pre-application consultation report ("PAC Report") setting out what has been done to accord with the guidance set out above. The PAC Report should be submitted with the application.</p> <p>The PAC report should contain the following information:</p> <p>The dates on which and places where public events are held;</p> <p>A description of any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult with</p>	<p>All the details required are presented within this PAC Report and Appendices.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that attendees of both in-person and online exhibitions were advised that they can comment on the final application once it is made to Scottish Ministers.</p>

4. Public Consultation

CONTINUED

TABLE 2 - GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR APPLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 36 AND 37 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 REQUIREMENTS

<p>members of the public regarding the Proposed Development;</p> <p>A list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the Applicant and a description of how they were consulted;</p> <p>A description of any materials sent to consultees and materials provided to those attending public events.</p> <p>Copies of any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event, and photographs of any display boards or models at public events;</p> <p>Confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the Scottish Ministers;</p> <p>A summary of the written responses to consultations and views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events;</p>	
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4. Public Consultation

CONTINUED

TABLE 2 - GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR APPLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 36 AND 37 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 REQUIREMENTS

	<p>An explanation of how the Applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process; and</p> <p>An explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the Applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process.</p>	
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5.1 The Consultation Process

This section of the PAC Report outlines the engagement with Community Councils and other community stakeholders following Scoping.

5.2 Pre-Application Consultation

The Applicant has conducted an extensive public consultation process to engage with the local community and gather feedback on the project. This included two rounds of public exhibitions and multiple stakeholder engagements, involving community councils, local businesses, and elected representatives.

- Rosehall Village Hall – 1:00pm -7:00pm; 25 September 2024
- Oykel Bridge Hotel – 10:30am-2:30pm: 26 September 2024
- Rosehall Village Hall – 2:00pm-7:00pm; 2 April 2025
- Rosehall Village Hall - 10:00am-2:00pm; 3 April 2025

6. Scoping

6.1 A Scoping Report for the Proposed Development was submitted to the ECU on 5 July 2024. A Scoping Opinion was requested under the terms of regulation 12 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulation 2017, as amended ('the EIA regulations').

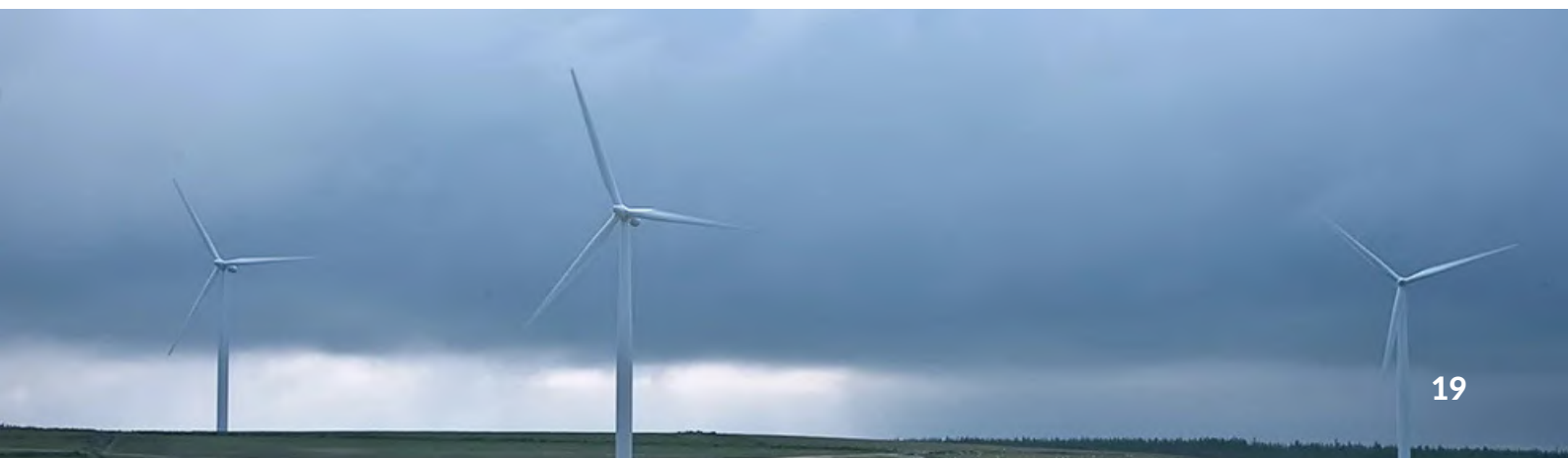
6.2 The Scoping Report went live on the ECU website on 19 July 2024. Statutory and Non-Statutory consultees were consulted as part of the formal scoping process. The ECU reference is **ECU00005173**.



7.1 Prior to submitting the Scoping Report, the Applicant agreed to a geographical 'Consultation Zone'. This considered several factors, including the local communities, Community Council areas, possible transport routes, and the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV).

7.2 The Consultation Zone was based on a 10km radius centred on the project site. This was adjusted so that settlements on the edges of the zone were not split and to ensure that communities to the east, which fell within the ZTV, were included.

7.3 This provided the project with a Consultation Zone boundary containing 302 household and business addresses, in which the correct Community Councils and elected representatives could be identified. A search for new addresses within the same radius was undertaken ahead of the second exhibition, however this did not result in any changes to the number of properties contacted.



8.1 The communities surrounding the Site at the time of scoping hosted an active Community Council (Creich Community Council) and a Community Council that was in abeyance (Ardgay & District Community Council). Care was taken to engage with these organisations early in the process and to remain engaged with them throughout the planning process, including corresponding with Ardgay & District Community Council when it was reconvened. Ardgay & District Community Council is the 'host' community council.

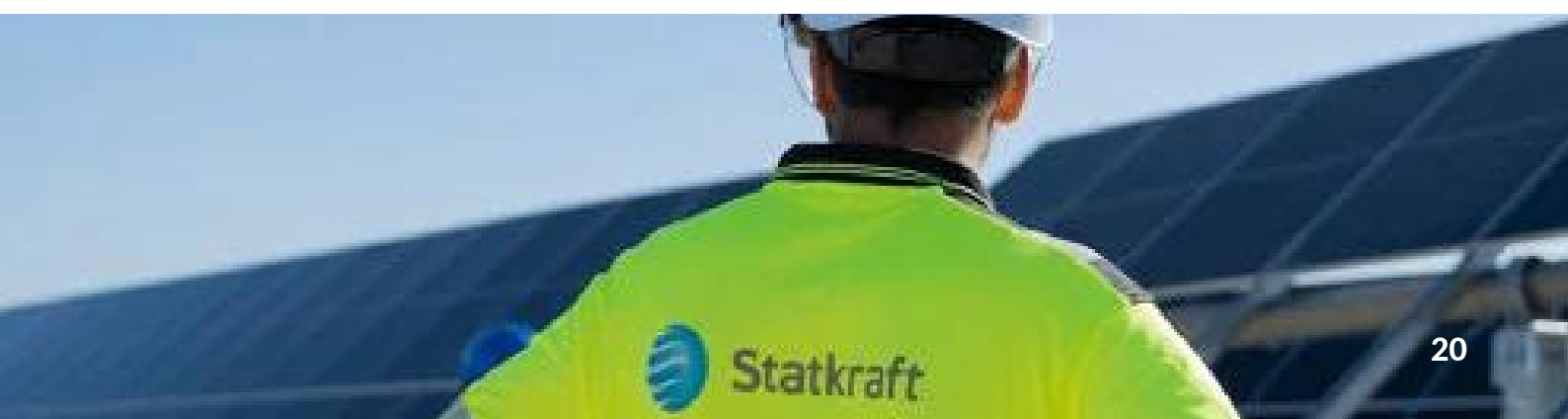
8.2 The Applicant wrote to these Community Councils on 12th September 2024, with an introduction to the project.

8.3 The Project Team attended the meeting of Creich Community Council on 3 March 2025 and Ardgay & District Community Council on 13 March 2025. Both meetings were well attended, each with approximately 20 members of the community.

8.4 Prior to the Creich Community Council meeting, the Council outlined a number of issues that they would like to see addressed by the project team. The project team responded to these during their presentation, as well as taking questions from the Council and audience (members of the public).

8.5 Ahead of the meeting with Ardgay & District Community Council, the project team provided the list of topics raised by Creich and asked for any additional issues which they would like to see covered. Based on the feedback, additional clarification and detail was provided on some key issues. There was again time for questions.

8.6 The Community Council meeting contributed to the decision for a Hydrologist to attend the Second Consultation Events in April 2025, as well as informing the location for the deposit copy of the Application and the Info Day following submission.



8.7 Ardgay and District Community Council Abeyance and Dissolution

Following the resignation of four Community Councillors (confirmed by Phil Tomalin, Highland Council February 2024), leaving only one remaining, the Community Council was in abeyance until the next round of Community Council elections, held in Autumn 2024. Being in abeyance meant that the Community Council could not meet, make any decisions, or speak on behalf of or otherwise represent the Community. As such, correspondence was not provided during this period.

8.8 Further to the community council being reinstated, in May 2025, Ardgay and District Community Council voted once again to disband and reform itself at a later date (an election date is yet to be confirmed by Highland Council). During this period, correspondence was provided to outgoing secretary to ensure that residents were kept informed.



9. Elected Representatives

WARD COUNCILLORS, MSP, MP

9.1 The Applicant wrote to elected representatives on 12th September 2024, with an introduction to the project. The project site sits exclusively within Ward 1 of the Highland Council, which is represented by Councillor Marianne Hutchison, Councillor Hugh Morrison, and Councillor Micheal Baird. The local constituency MSP, Maree Todd, as well as the regional MSPs, and local MP, Jamie Stone were also contacted.

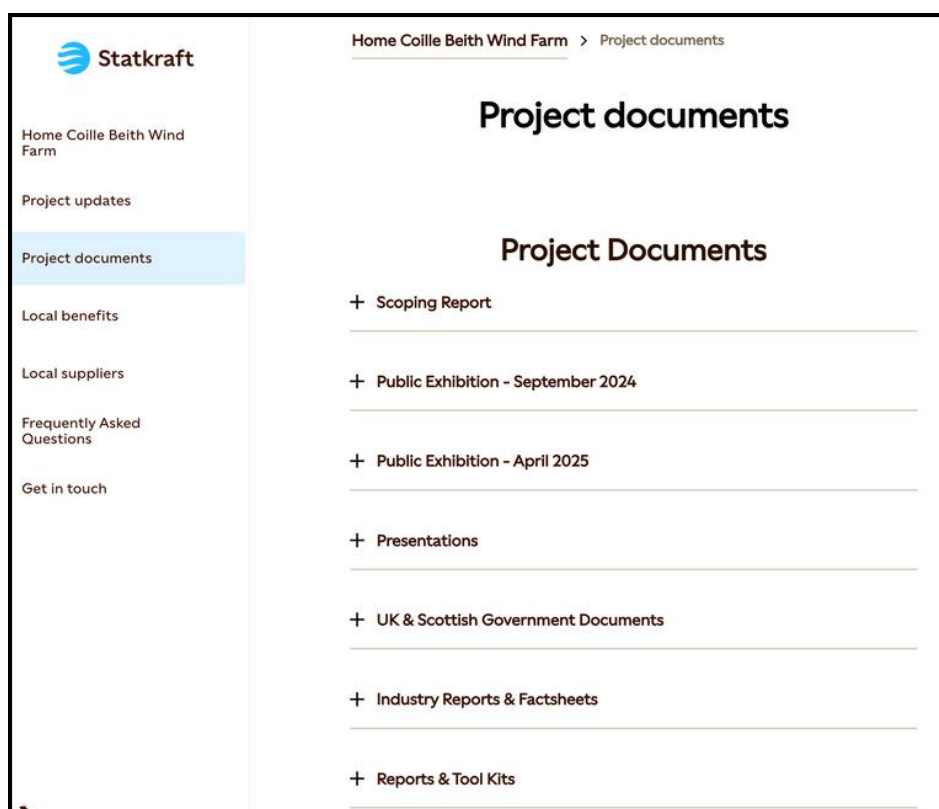


10.1 The project website has served as the key focus for the Applicant in providing information and updates on the project. The website consists of a dedicated project page reachable by navigating to www.Coille-Beith.co.uk

10.2 The website was set up before the Scoping Report was submitted, allowing it to go live at the same time as the document was published on the ECU website and sent to consultees.

10.3 The content on the Proposed Development website included a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section, project maps, a timeline of the Proposed Development, and project contact details. During the consultation periods, a dedicated sub-page was created providing the information available at the in-person exhibitions. Following the exhibitions, all information has been retained on the website to ensure that a clear record of the consultation exists.

10.4 There were 616 unique visitors to the website between the launch of the project June 2024 and the end of May 2025. Peak visitor numbers corresponded to the launch of the project and the consultation in March and April 2025, with near 200 visits to the website during the second consultation period. The most commonly accessed pages aside from the main project page were the Project Documents page, where copies of the consultation documents were posted, and the Project Updates section which includes the latest details regarding the project.



11.1 The Applicant worked to ensure that the public consultations were widely advertised in the local area. Both public consultations were promoted in the same way to provide.

This included:

- Project website updates
- Mailer distribution to 302 properties, via Royal Mail
- Advertisements in the weekly Northern Times and daily Press & Journal
- Posters in public locations and on local social media platforms
- Emails to local groups and elected representatives.

11.2 The choice of a physical mail distribution was made to ensure that correspondence was widely accessible. For the same reason, each mailer included a leaflet with a project map, key details and list of ways to contact the project team, including a freephone number, a freepost address and an email address. This helped to ensure that even in the event that someone did not have access to the internet, they could get in touch to find out more.

12.1 The first consultation introduced the project to the community, providing an initial opportunity to present information on the proposal, answer questions, and gather feedback. The project layout at this stage consisted of 19 turbines with a maximum tip height of 200m.

12.2 A virtual exhibition was hosted online from 25th September to 9th October 2024, allowing residents to access project materials remotely. In-person exhibitions were held at:

- Rosehall Village Hall – 1:00pm -7:00pm; 25 September 2024
- Oykel Bridge Hotel – 10:30am-2:30pm: 26 September 2024

12.3 Attendees were encouraged to provide feedback via reply cards, online forms, or direct discussions with project representatives. The exhibition was widely publicised through newspaper advertisements in the Press & Journal and the Northern Scot and direct mail to 302 households.

12.4 In total, 38 people attended the in-person exhibitions across the two events. This included the attendance of some who noted that they had previously been members of the Ardgay & District Community Council, which at that time was in abeyance. The number of attendees is based on those who signed in at the exhibition's welcome desk (which was optional).

12.5 In face-to-face conversation, a number of issues were highlighted to the project team. These included:

- A high level of concern about the inclusion of the Battery Energy Storage System within the project
- The access route proposed for both Coille Beith and other wind farm projects and its impact on existing public roads and bridges
- Noise issues from an operational wind farm within the local area
- The cumulative impact following a number of other schemes proposed for the area
- The area for distribution of the Community Benefit Fund

12.6 Of the 302 freepost reply cards posted to homes and available at consultation events, only 23 were completed, either by post, in person at the exhibitions, or online. Of those 23 individuals, 43% (10 respondents) agreed that more renewable energy was required.

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12.7 Comments on the reply cards dealt with a range of issues, the most commonly identified issues were:

- The visual impact of the development on the landscape
- Safety of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Expensive energy bills, despite turbines in the area
- Cumulative impact across the Highlands
- Community benefit and community ownership issues

12.8 Several comments were also received regarding unrelated grid strengthening projects being developed by Scottish and Southern Network (SSEN) Transmission. We were unable to consider this feedback for our proposals but noted that there were consultation activities in place where interested residents could contribute their feedback directly to the developer.

12.9 Feedback from both the exhibition and reply cards fed into revisions to the proposal's design.

12.10 All feedback and comments submitted through the consultation period were acknowledged and responded to if updates had been requested. If a member of the public had not received a response from us and was expecting one, this may have been prevented due to a GDPR requirement, an incomplete postal address or emails being caught in spam filters.

13.1 The second round of consultation, held in April 2025, featured a refined design with fewer turbines, incorporating adjustments based on community feedback. The updated layout reduced the number of turbines to 11 and the removal of the BESS following direct feedback.

13.2 The exhibition was hosted both online and in person at Rosehall Village Hall. Following feedback from the previous exhibition, exhibitions were held at Rosehall on two consecutive days rather than at an alternative venue on the second day.

13.3 Face to face feedback remained consistent with the first exhibition, although a number of visitors welcomed the removal of the BESS element of the project. Numerous visitors made reference to a lack of trust in the planning system following the consenting of another wind farm in the area and noted that further projects had come forward. Other topics of conversation included:

- visual impact,
- local economic benefits, and
- biodiversity considerations.

13.4 In total, 19 people attended the in-person exhibitions across the two days. This included the attendance of some community councillors. The number of attendees is based on those who signed in at the exhibition's welcome desk (which was optional).

13.5 Discussion with attendees suggested that the lower attendance compared to the first exhibition may be due to the project team having recently spoken at well attended Community Council meetings in the area.

13.6 Of the 302 freepost reply cards posted to homes and available at consultation events, only a small number of replies were received. 18 reply cards were completed and returned, either by post, in person at the office, or online. The majority of the responders agreed that more renewable energy was needed in the UK. The rate of response was 6%, which is average for such exercises run by the Applicant, with another recent Highland area project receiving a 4% response rate.

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

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

13.8 Wider themes relating to the energy industry included:

- The levels of energy bills in the north of Scotland
- The lack of wind farms being built in the UK outside of Scotland
- The power of local representatives within the planning system

14.1 Information Day

The Applicant intends to hold an Information Day in Bonar Bridge, following submission of the Application. This will provide the local community with an opportunity to discuss the final application with the project team, ask any questions regarding the application and to understand the stages of the planning process following submission.

15. Key Consultation Outcomes

15.1 Resident feedback was the primary driver behind the removal of the BESS element of the project. In both face-to-face discussions and written responses, the project team recognised the strength of feeling against this particular element leading directly to the decision to remove it from the proposal.

15.2 The proposed number of turbines was significantly reduced, with a 42% reduction, from 19 to 11 turbines. Feedback on visual impact, resulted in turbines being moved to locations where they would have less impact on key viewpoints, although given the nature of the development, this impact could not be eliminated.

15.3 A number of visitors provided concerns relating to watercourses and streams which feed the River Oykel. To help provide more information on this a Hydrology specialist was in attendance at the second exhibition and was able to answer questions regarding the methodology and EIA requirements relating to hydrology.

15.4 It is recognised that through both feedback cards and conversations at Community Council meetings and the two exhibitions that residents in the Strath Oykel area are concerned about the cumulative impact of wind farms currently in development. Where this was raised, it was highlighted that Statutory Consultees may request additional information to fully inform consideration of the cumulative impact.

16.1 Feedback from the community played a critical role in shaping the final design of the Coille Beith Wind Farm. While some residents expressed support for renewable energy and recognised the role of wind power, concerns were raised about the cumulative impact of multiple developments in the area. Below is a summary of key comments, and the project adjustments made in response.

16.2 Key Themes and Concerns over both rounds of public exhibitions

- Concerns about landscape and visual impact, particularly from key viewpoints.
- Impact on local wildlife, including birds of prey and peatland habitats.
- Tourism-related concerns.
- Desire for more community benefits.
- General support for renewable energy.

16.3 Project Adjustments Relative to Feedback

- Reduction in the number of turbines from 19 to 11 to reduce visual impact.
- A relocation of turbine locations away from the River Oykel.
- Removal of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- Enhanced biodiversity measures, including habitat preservation commitments.
- Increased community benefit discussions, with options for shared ownership and local funding opportunities.

16.4 Conclusion

Statkraft remains committed to ongoing engagement with the community and key stakeholders. Based on local feedback, the Coille Beith Wind Farm proposal has evolved significantly, balancing renewable energy generation with community and environmental considerations. The Applicant looks forward to working with residents as the project progresses.

17.1 The Applicant seeks to deliver significant socio-economic benefit as part of the development. Details of the socio-economic benefits that will be delivered by the project are included within the Statement on Socio-Economic Benefits prepared by the Applicant alongside the Environmental Impact Assessment.

17.2 Implementation of some socio-economic benefits will require an extension of the public engagement process to help ensure that the community shape the management and implementation of key benefits.

18.1 Community Benefit Fund

The Applicant has committed to delivering a community benefit fund for local communities throughout the lifetime of the project, with the value of £5,000 per megawatt of installed capacity. Based on the proposed design, this would see a value of £396,000 per year (based on 11 turbines with a capacity of 7.2MW each). The fund will be linked to the Retail Price Index from the point of operation, ensuring that it retains value over the lifetime of the wind farm.

18.2 The Applicant recognises the opportunities and benefits that arise from community ownership in energy projects. The Applicant is committed to working with communities around the Proposed Development to create suitable community ownership schemes if there is interest in taking such a scheme forward.

18.3 STEM Education

As part of Statkraft's on-going commitment to local communities and Science, Technical, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education, the applicant has committed to supporting a series of STEM workshops for local schools as part of the project development. These will be carried out by Edinburgh Science using existing workshop programmes in cooperation with local schools at a future date to be agreed with the relevant schools.

KP.

Coille Beith Wind Farm

**Pre-Application
Consultation Report**

June 2025



Statkraft



KP.

Coille Beith Wind Farm

**Pre-Application
Consultation Report**

June 2025

Appendices



Statkraft




Appendix 1


CONSULTATION TIMELINE

DATE	ACTION	CONSULTED PARTIES
19th July, 2024	Scoping report goes live on Energy Consents Unit Website	
19th July, 2024	Project website goes live	
21st July, 2024	Scoping submission update made public	
5th September, 2024	Introductory project letter and invitation to first Public Exhibition sent to direct mail	Sent to over 300 addresses in the area
11th September, 2024	Public Exhibition advertised in the Press & Journal newspaper	
12th September, 2024	Introductory project letter and invitation to first public exhibition issued to elected representatives and Community Councils, providing information on project and offering meetings	CLLrs Baird, Hutchison, and Morrison; Creich CC, Ardgay CC (in abeyance at that time); Maree Todd MSP (constituency); MSPs Burgess, Halcro Johnston, Eagle, Grant, Mountain, Roddick, and Ross; and Jamie Stone MP
13th September, 2024	Public Exhibition advertised in the Northern Times newspaper	
25th September, 2024	Online Public Exhibition live	Open to the public
25th September, 2024	Public Exhibition at Rosehall Village Hall, 13:00 to 19:00	Open to the public
26th September, 2024	Public Exhibition at Oykel Bridge Hotel, 10:30 to 14:30	Open to the public
9th November 2024	Online Public Exhibition closes	

DATE	ACTION	CONSULTED PARTIES
13th November 2024	Post exhibition letter to Creich CC to provide update and offer to attend CC meeting	Creich CC
13th November 2024	Post exhibition letter to Ardgay CC to provide update and offer to attend CC meeting	Ardgay CC
13th November 2024	Post exhibition letter to elected representatives to provide update and offer meetings	Cllrs Baird, Hutchison, and Morrison; Creich CC, Ardgay CC; Maree Todd MSP (constituency); MSPs Burgess, Halcro Johnston, Eagle, Grant, Mountain, Roddick, and Ross; and Jamie Stone MP
7th February 2025	Follow-up letter to offer attendance at CC meeting	Creich CC
7th February 2025	Follow-up letter to offer attendance at CC meeting	Ardgay CC
3rd March 2025	Presentation plus Q&A session at public community council meeting	Creich CC and members of the community
12th March 2025	Letter of clarification on information requested by CC	Creich CC
13th March 2025	Presentation plus Q&A session at public community council meeting	Ardgay CC and members of the community
17th March 2025	Invitation to second invitation Public Exhibition sent to direct mail	Sent to over 300 addresses in the area
17th March 2025	Invitation to second invitation Public Exhibition sent to elected representatives	Cllrs Baird, Hutchison, and Morrison; Creich CC, Ardgay CC; Maree Todd MSP (constituency); MSPs Burgess, Halcro Johnston, Eagle, Grant, Mountain, Roddick, and Ross

DATE	ACTION	CONSULTED PARTIES
17th March 2025	Letter of response to constituency MP	Jamie Stone MP
19th March 2025	Second public exhibition advertised in the Press & Journal newspaper	
21st March 2025	Second public exhibition advertised in the Northern Times newspaper	
31st March 2025	Letter of clarification on information requested by CC	Ardgay CC
2nd April 2025	Second Online Public Exhibition live	Open to public
2nd April 2025	Public Exhibition at Rosehall Village Hall, 14:00 to 19:00	Open to public
3rd April 2025	Public Exhibition at Rosehall Village Hall, 10:00 to 14:00	Open to public
16th April 2025	Second Online Public Exhibition closes	
25th April 2025	Post exhibition update to all stakeholders	Ardgay CC; Creich CC; Cllrs Baird, Hutchison, and Morrison; Creich CC, Ardgay CC; Maree Todd MSP (constituency); MSPs Burgess, Halcro Johnston, Eagle, Grant, Mountain, Roddick, and Ross; and Jamie Stone MP





Maximising Community Benefits

Statkraft is dedicated to engaging with communities and bringing meaningful benefits.


Using Highland Skills
We have commissioned UHI to deliver a Highland Skills Report to provide insight into the workforce requirements for our next construction project, to stimulate an increase in local skills and training.

Community Benefit Fund
We have committed to a Community Benefit Fund that delivers £5,000 (index linked) per MW installed, per year, for the operational lifetime of the project.


Shared Ownership
We are keen to offer Shared Ownership if there is local interest. We would like to hear your views on enabling the community own a share of the project.

Local Supply Chain
We want to work with local businesses. We're interested in hearing from all types of local suppliers, from catering and accommodation to equipment suppliers and engineering firms.

Meet the Project Team:



Project Manager,
Fraser Clarke




Assistant Project Manager,
Shannon Alibon

Our team of specialists will be able to answer questions and provide more information throughout the exhibition. Please visit our website to find out more.
www.collie-beith.co.uk

Invitation to Public Exhibition: 25 – 26 September 2024

Collie Beith Wind Farm

We are writing to you to introduce ourselves and our proposal for Collie Beith Wind Farm.



Twentyfifteen 100 Wind Farm, Dumfries and Galloway, 9 turbines, 160m tip height


Collie Beith Wind Farm is a new wind farm proposal south of the river Oykel in Sutherland.


We would like to share more information with you about Statkraft, our proposal, and hear your feedback on our plans. This project is at an early stage in development, and your feedback will help us to shape our final application, which we expect to submit in 2025.


Come along to our exhibitions in Rosehall or Oykel Bridge to find out more about our proposal. We look forward to meeting with you and the local community. If you are unable to make it along please visit our online exhibition or get in touch if you require resources or information in a different format.


About Us
Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, with origins going back over 125 years in Norwegian hydropower. Our Scottish headquarters are in Glasgow and we have more than 6,000 employees in over 21 countries. Across the Highlands, we have seven wind farms and one pumped hydro storage facility in operation or development.

www.statkraft.co.uk www.collie-beith.co.uk

 Please return the freepost reply card provided.

 www.collie-beith.co.uk

 Phone the project hotline: 0800 772 0668


 UKProjects@statkraft.com

Statkraft UK Ltd
The Garment Factory
10 Montrose Street
Glasgow G1 1RE

Highland RENEWABLES

scottishrenewables


Collie Beith Wind Farm Proposal




Community engagement is very important to us.


We are committed to listening to communities so that they can shape and inform our proposals. The project is in the very early stages and your feedback will help us refine turbine numbers, locations, and other key aspects of our design. We will also progress studies and surveys which inform the design.


For more information, visit:
www.collie-beith.co.uk

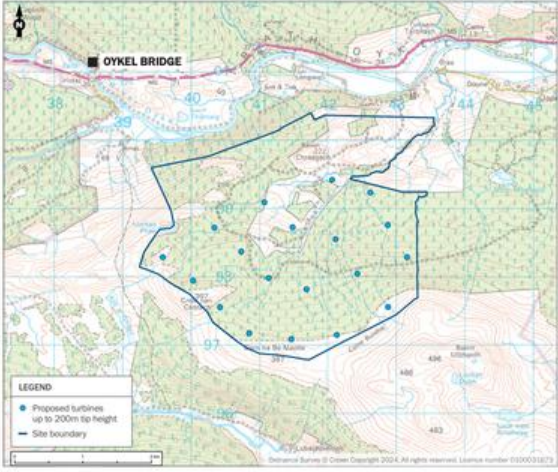
 **19** Up to 19 wind turbines proposed

Up to £684,000
Community Benefit Fund per year

 A maximum height to blade tip of up to: **200m**

 Potential to support improved **broadband provision**

 Opportunities to explore other **community benefits**



Plan showing Collie Beith Wind Farm scoping layout.

2 LOCAL EXHIBITIONS

25 September:
1pm - 7pm
Rosehall Village Hall

26 September:
10:30am - 2:30pm
Oykel Bridge Hotel


ONLINE EXHIBITION

25 September - 9 October
www.collie-beith.co.uk

We look forward to hearing your views on this project and your ideas on how community funding and shared ownership could deliver benefits to the area.

You can find out more about our projects and the way we work at www.statkraft.co.uk

FEEDBACK FORM ENCLOSED WITH RESIDENT'S INVITE


Statkraft

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION
AUTUMN 2024**

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM

You can use this form to let us know your views or ask any questions, we will respond to all queries as quickly as possible.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Respect for privacy and personal data protection is part of Statkraft's corporate culture. This enables us to maintain an environment where our customers, vendors and other stakeholders can trust Statkraft to process their personal data. Our online privacy statement explains how, why and for how long Statkraft processes your personal data. Scan here for more information.

Comments made to Statkraft are not representations to the consenting authority. If an application is submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the consenting authority.

Please note all comments for this community consultation should be received no later than 9 October 2024.

Please tell us what you think – complete and return in the envelope provided

Do you think that the country needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources?

YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE ☐

Do you agree that onshore wind power is a good way to help achieve this?

YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE ☐

Do you think this is an acceptable location for a wind farm?

YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE ☐

We will explore the potential to assist in bringing improved broadband to the area. Is this of interest to you?

YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE ☐

We are open to offering Community Shared Ownership on our project. If this project went ahead, would this be of interest?

YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE ☐

☐ Yes please, I would like to receive a response to my question and comments (if applicable) and project updates (mainly by email)

☐ No thank you, I do not want a response to my question and comments (if applicable) or project updates

Your questions and comments:

[continue overleaf...](#)

Title:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Tel:

www.coille-beith.co.uk



To:
Scott Veters

VIA EMAIL

12 September 2024

POSTAL ADDRESS:
Statkraft UK Ltd
The Garment Factory
10 Montrose Street
Glasgow
G1 1RE

PHONE:
+44 (0)141 846 1444

INTERNET:
www.statkraft.co.uk

E-MAIL:
fraser.darke@statkraft.com

Dear Mr Veters,

Coille Beith Wind Farm Proposal

I am writing on behalf of Statkraft UK Ltd to introduce our proposal for Coille Beith Wind Farm, located approximately 15km southwest of Lairg and 18km northwest of Bonar Bridge.

About Us

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, with origins in Norwegian hydropower dating back 125 years. Our Scottish headquarters are in Glasgow, with 4,000 employees across 17 countries.

Our current development activity in the Scottish Highlands includes five wind farm proposals and, as part of this development activity, we are pleased to retain a commitment to deliver a community benefit fund of £5,000 per MW installed, in line with Scottish Government guidance.

About the Proposed Coille Beith Wind Farm

The Coille Beith Wind Farm proposals are at an early stage; we believe there is potential for up to 19 turbines, with a tip height of up to 200m. The proposals are likely to reduce in scale as our environmental consultants progress their studies and feedback is received from statutory consultees.

Consulting Early

We recently submitted a Scoping Request to the Scottish Government to agree the scope of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which will support any future planning application made for Coille Beith Wind Farm. Following this Scoping Request, our next step is to seek initial feedback on our plans.

We want to make sure you have heard from us directly, that you have our contact details, and that you have an opportunity to find out more about us and our project. We have a proven track record of engaging early with local communities, and I am writing to invite you to our first public exhibitions for the proposed project.



Our public exhibition details are as follows:

13:00 to 19:00, Wednesday, 25th September 2024 at Rosehall Village Hall

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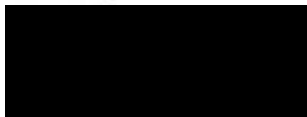
We welcome the opportunity to speak with you by phone or video call at an appropriate time to outline our proposals in more detail, introduce the project team, and receive any early feedback you may have.

Although the project is still at the scoping stage, we are aware of the need to provide early access to information on the project, so I wanted to let you know that our project website is live - www.coille-beith.co.uk. As the project is at an early stage, it contains introductory information and, most importantly, allows people to register for updates and to contact us directly with questions.

Attached to this introductory letter is a copy of the resident's invite (sent to over 700 residents), which should have arrived no later than yesterday, to inform them of the exhibitions above. The events will also be advertised in the Press & Journal (on 11th September) and the Northern Times (13th September).

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce Statkraft and outline our proposals. Please contact me at fraser.clarke@statkraft.com if you require any further information or have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke

Project Manager
Coille Beith Wind Farm



To:
Cllr Michael Baird

VIA EMAIL

12 September 2024

POSTAL ADDRESS:
Statkraft UK Ltd
The Garment Factory
10 Montrose Street
Glasgow
G1 1RE

PHONE:
+44 (0)141 846 1444

INTERNET:
www.statkraft.co.uk

E-MAIL:
fraser.clarke@statkraft.com

Dear Cllr Baird,

Coille Beith Wind Farm Proposal

I am writing on behalf of Statkraft UK Ltd to introduce our proposal for Coille Beith Wind Farm, located approximately 15km southwest of Lairg and 18km northwest of Bonar Bridge.

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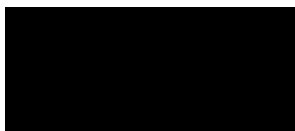
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Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke

Project Manager
Coille Beith Wind Farm



To:
Maree Todd MSP

VIA EMAIL

12 September 2024

POSTAL ADDRESS:
Statkraft UK Ltd
The Garment Factory
10 Montrose Street
Glasgow
G1 1RE

PHONE:
+44 (0)141 846 1444

INTERNET:
www.statkraft.co.uk

E-MAIL:
fraser.clarke@statkraft.com

Dear Ms Todd,

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Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke

Project Manager
Coille Beith Wind Farm

PRESS & JOURNAL - PUBLICATION DATE: 11TH SEPTEMBER 2024

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM – PUBLIC EXHIBITION



Statkraft would like to invite residents to public consultation events for the proposed Coille Beith Wind Farm, located approximately 15km southwest of Lairg and 18km northwest of Bonar Bridge. The Proposed Development will comprise up to 19 turbines with a maximum tip height of up to 200m.

At the public consultation events, you can view our project plans, ask the Project Team questions, and provide feedback, which will help us refine the project's design.

Our consultation website is live and can be accessed via www.coille-beith.co.uk

Find out more:
 Freephone: 0800 772 0668
 Website: www.coille-beith.co.uk
 Email: UKprojects@statkraft.com

We will be hosting public consultation events in the following locations:

 Rosehall Village Hall

 **Tuesday, 20th August 2024:**
1.00pm to 7.00pm

 Oykel Bridge Hotel

 **Wednesday, 21st August 2024:**
10.30am to 2.30pm

Comments should be made to Statkraft UK by **17 September 2024** and do not constitute a formal representation. If a subsequent planning application is made, you will have an opportunity to make a formal representation.

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL
Wednesday, September 11, 2024

NEWS 9

Entrepreneur looking forward to opening vintage, retro boutique

A vintage and retro boutique will soon open its doors in Elgin town centre.

Owner Julie Flanighan, from Elgin, is preparing to welcome customers to her new shop Docs & Frocks on Saturday October 5.

Julie and her family are busy renovating the 6 Harrow Inn Close unit ahead of the big day.

The unit was formerly home to Enchanted Highlands, owned by Eryne Scott, which has now moved to a larger unit on South Street.

Docs & Frocks will offer a range of pre-loved and brand-new items.

As the name of the shop suggests, it will mainly focus on Doc Martens and vintage dresses.

"I've always wanted to have my own vintage, retro frock shop," Julie said.

"I've been thinking about it for so long, and this unit just seemed like the perfect size for a new shop."



Julie Flanighan outside Docs & Frocks in Elgin.

"There's been a lot of buzz about the shop because everyone loves their Doc Martens."

"And then there are some people who are more interested in the dresses."

After being a mental health nurse for 20 years, as well as having moved back to her home town of Elgin last year, she says she is now set for a new adventure.



Doc Martens on display.

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM – PUBLIC EXHIBITION



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 Website: www.coille-beith.co.uk
 Email: UKprojects@statkraft.com

We will be hosting public consultation events in the following locations:

-  Rosehall Village Hall
-  **Wednesday 20 September 2024:**
1.00pm to 7.00pm
-  Oykel Bridge Hotel
-  **Thursday 21 September 2024:**
10.30am to 2.30pm

Comments should be made to Statkraft UK by 17 October 2024 and do not constitute a formal representation. If a subsequent planning application is made, you will have an opportunity to make a formal representation.

Your Advert Here.

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Get in touch with our sales team today at advertising@dothomson.co.uk or call us on 01224 891212

The Press and Journal



NORTHERN TIMES - PUBLICATION DATE: 13TH SEPTEMBER 2024

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM – PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Statkraft would like to invite residents to public consultation events for the proposed Coille Beith Wind Farm, located approximately 15km southwest of Lairg and 18km northwest of Bonar Bridge. The Proposed Development will comprise up to 19 turbines with a maximum tip height of up to 200m.

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Website: www.coille-beith.co.uk
Email: UKprojects@statkraft.com

**Statkraft**

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 Tuesday, 20th August 2024:
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 Wednesday, 21st August 2024:
10.30am to 2.30pm

Comments should be made to Statkraft UK by **17 September 2024** and do not constitute a formal representation. If a subsequent planning application is made, you will have an opportunity to make a formal representation.

general notices

GENERAL NOTICES

The Rental Team would like to invite all family & friends to a service of **Thanksgiving & Remembrance**



This will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for everyone who has served for.

You would be delighted if you are able to join us at The Burn Church, Church House Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh, IV3 7AB on Sunday 22nd September 2024 at 3pm.

For those who prefer to watch, the service will be available on YouTube - search for NHS Highland Band and click on the live tab.



Scottish Crofting Federation Autumn Roadshow

Durness Village Hall
Tuesday 24th September
7pm to 9pm

Kincraig Community Hall
Thursday 26th September
7pm to 9pm

All crofters are welcome for an open discussion about:-

- the new conditions for basic payments;
- the Crofting Bill;
- how the SCF can best support you.

And more....

Contact celia@crofting.org

classified north



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WWW.MORGANENERGY.CO.UK
CALL OR VISIT 08387 411 270

GARDEN STREAMER
• 1/2 pond, £50 each. Tel: 01255 651231 (x4hours)

Best for Local News, Views and Sports
Reviewed

public notices

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online or (if/when) via www.highland.gov.uk electronically by appointment at the area planning and BUILDING STANDARDS office, DRUMPUIS, GLENKILN, IV16 6TA, or electronically by appointment by your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/building-standards>, or by phone.

Written comments should be made to the DPC by the contact dates below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be declined to any individual or body who requests rights of representation in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposed Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected & time period for comments
24/01863/PL	Land 2201 North East of Glendon, 17th Clachnass, Sower, Lochmaben	Erection of house and garage	(14 days)
24/01865/PL	Land 1801 SW of Old Clachnass, Berrisdale, Kildrummy	Erection of 20.0m lattice tower, 30.0m antenna, 10m, 15m high wind turbine, solar panels, generator, ground-based cables, 1.5m section fence, and ancillary development thereon. Formation of new A77 route	(14 days)
24/02766/PL	Land 481W SW of Craig Rannoch, West Fife, Leven	Erection of a 70m transmission mast	(14 days)
24/03322/PL	Clachnass Distillery, Old Brers Distillery, Brers, KIVV 6LR	Erection of a new steel pipe bridge and road crossing for the installation of a new stream line between Old Brers Distillery and Clachnass	(21 days)

at Planning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenkiln Road, INVERNESS IV3 6NQ. Email: uplandings@highland.gov.uk

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM - PUBLIC EXHIBITION



Stackraft would like to invite residents to public consultation events for the proposed Coille Beith Wind Farm, located approximately 15km south-east of Lurg and 18km north-east of Bonar Bridge. The proposed development will comprise up to 25 turbines with a maximum tip height of up to 100m.

At the public consultation events, you can view our project plans, see the Project Team questions, and provide feedback, which will help us refine the project's design.

Our consultation website is live and can be accessed via www.coille-beith.co.uk

Find out more:
Telephone: 0800 772 0668
Website: www.coille-beith.co.uk
Email: UKProject@stackraft.co.uk

We will be hosting public consultation events in the following locations:

- 1. **Resilient Village Hall**
Wednesday 28 September 2024: 2.00pm to 5.00pm
- 2. **Dyke Village Hall**
Thursday 29 September 2024: 10.00am to 2.00pm

Comments should be made to Stackraft UK by 30 October 2024 and we will circulate a formal representation. If a subsequent planning application is made, you will have an opportunity to make a formal representation.

Best for Local News, Views and Sports Reviews

The Northern Times

Proposed Appointment of a Common Grazings

South-west Fife is applying for an appointment of part of the Melness Common Grazings extending to 61925 ha for the purpose of creation of house and shed.

Written comments from any stakeholder or owner of the said common grazings (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachford House, Inverness IV3 6NW, including your name by 13 October 2024.

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CROFTING COMMISSION COMBESAN NA CROFTACHAID DRUMPUIS

1. C. H. Macdonald, 47th St, Inverness IV3 6NQ
(01463) 211111

2. S. A. Macdonald, 47th St, Inverness IV3 6NQ
(01463) 211111

3. J. H. Macdonald, 47th St, Inverness IV3 6NQ
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30. S. A. Macdonald, 47th St, Inverness IV3 6NQ
(01463) 211111


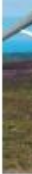
31. J. H. Macdonald, 47th St, Inverness IV3 6NQ
(01463) 21111

Welcome

We would like to introduce Coille Beith Wind Farm.

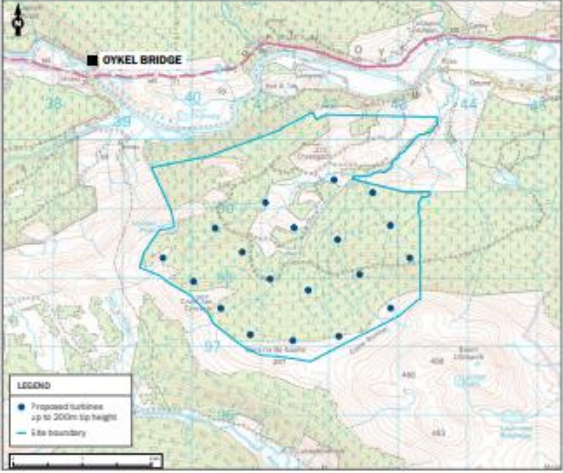
About Statkraft

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

About Coille Beith Wind Farm

We are proposing up to 19 turbines with a maximum height of up to 200 meters to blade tip. We refine the design based on feedback and on-going environmental studies.



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COILLE BEITH WIND FARM	
No. of Turbines	Up to 19
Max Blade Tip Heights	Up to 200m
Expected Installed Wind Capacity (MW)	Up to 136.8MW <small>(Section 26 consent applications)</small>
Estimated Generation (homes equivalent)	140,000 <small>homes per year (1)</small>
Community Fund (per year)	Up to £684,000 <small>per year (2)</small>
Operational Life	Up to 50 Years

(1) Based on 19 x 7.2MW turbines, local wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,078kWh pa (DGSA2 Jan 2024).



(2) Based on £36,000 x £50 per MW of installed capacity, if consented, value of fund determined by actual installed capacity.

The proposal will be refined throughout the development process as studies and surveys are completed and feedback is received.

We welcome the views of the wider community to help inform our proposal.

Our design will strike a good balance between maximising the electricity output of the site while carefully relating to its existing use. We will work with the local landscape to reduce the visual impact on the surrounding area.

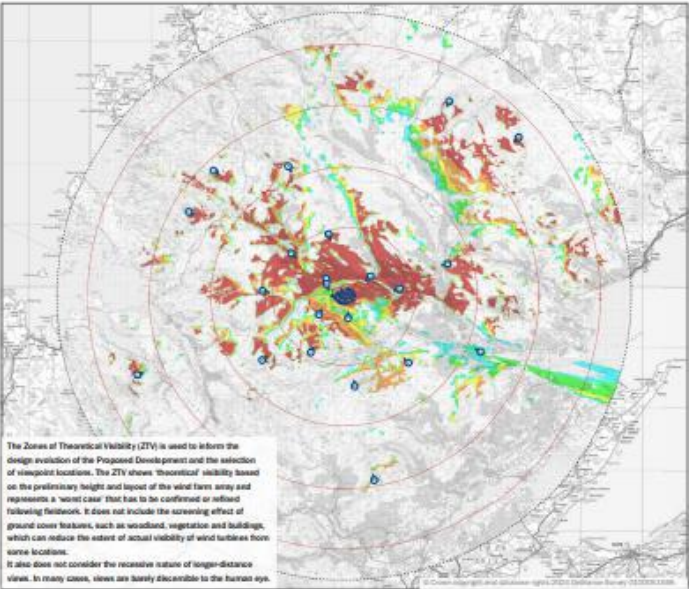
Project website: www.coille-beith.co.uk

What will Coille Beith Wind Farm look like?

We understand that people in the community will want to know how our current proposal will look. We can share key visualisations with you today.

Whilst viewpoints have been provisionally agreed with statutory consultees, we welcome further suggestions.



Key

- Proposed Turbines - 200m tip
- Viewpoint
- 10km Radius from Outer Turbines
- Study Area 45km Radius from Outer Turbines

No. of Turbines Visible at Blade Tip Level

- 1 - 2 tip visible
- 2 - 5 tip visible
- 5 - 10 tip visible
- 10 - 15 tip visible
- 15 - 19 tip visible

Predicted Viewpoint Location

1. Cul More Summit
2. Conig Summit
3. Ben Moss Summit
4. Glas Mheall Mor Summit
5. Bodach Mor
6. Carn Seilachaidh
7. Oyval Bridge
8. A837 Strath Oyval
9. A837 Kyle of Sutherland
10. Footpath, Rappach Water
11. A949 Approach to Benar Bridge
12. Ben Wyvie Summit
13. Dirlidale Ridge
14. Summit of Daln an Ebin
15. Track west of Strath Cullerweach
16. Strath Cullerweach
17. Seana Eirinnigh Summit
18. Ben Kiltreck
19. Craig Wier Summit
20. Oyval Bridge to Glen Elrig Footpath
21. A837, Loch Craggie
22. A836, south of Laig



The Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) is used to inform the design evolution of the Proposed Development and the selection of viewpoint locations. The ZTV shows 'theoretical' visibility based on the preliminary height and layout of the wind farm array and represents a 'worst case' that has to be confirmed or refined following fieldwork. It does not include the screening effect of ground cover features, such as woodland, vegetation and buildings, which can reduce the extent of actual visibility of wind turbines from some locations. It also does not consider the recessive nature of longer-distance views. In many cases, views are barely discernible to the human eye.

We are working with The Highland Council and NatureScot to finalise the viewpoint locations for assessment. This means the viewpoint locations may change slightly between now and when we submit a Section 36 consent application. As the proposed turbines are over 150m and will require aviation lighting, night time viewpoints are also being agreed.

At this exhibition four visualisations from local viewpoints are available to demonstrate how the current proposal could look.

A selection of the finalised viewpoint locations and a 3D digital model allowing the view from other locations to be explored will be available to view at a second exhibition in 2025, before submission.

Illustrations of all agreed viewpoints will be available as part of our application submission.

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 undertaken by a team of specialist environmental and technical consultants. The results and findings will be detailed in an Environmental Impact Assessment (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 Ornithology
- Cultural Heritage
- Forestry
- Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology & Soils
- Noise
- Traffic and Transport
- Climate Change
- Land Use, Socioeconomics & Tourism


Some of the surveys and studies completed to date include:

- Habitat surveys, fish and bat surveys
- Peatland assessment, i.e. phase 1 peat probing
- Ornithology surveys, flight activity and searches for breeding birds
- Landscape and Visual Amenity
- Forestry




Berry Acre Wind Farm, Farnes in Mossy. 29 turbines, 100m tip height







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 local community.


<h3>Local Suppliers</h3>  <p>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.</p>	<h3>Community Benefit Fund</h3> <p>We are committed to setting up an index linked Community Benefit Fund that delivers £5,000 per MW installed per year in line with Scottish Government recommendations.</p> <h3>We want to hear your views</h3> <p>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.</p>
<h3>Supporting STEM Careers</h3> <p>Our UHI scholarships support students on their career journey, helping them shape rewarding future careers.</p>	




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Inspiring a Sustainable Future




UHI University of the
Highlands and Islands
Oileigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean





Thank you for visiting





Your comments and feedback are important to us.





Twentyshilling Hill Wind Farm, Dumfries and Galloway. 9 turbines, 240m tip height

We are working to refine our proposal and complete the studies for our comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to be submitted with a future application. You can find out more about what is included within the EIAR on our project website.


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.

	Please return the freepost reply card provided.		Visit the project website: www.coille-belth.co.uk
	UKProjects@statkraft.com		Phone the project hotline: 0800 772 0668



Supporting STEM Careers

Statkraft are proud to provide STEM Scholarships at the University of the Highlands and Islands to support two students per year for the duration of their course with an award of £3,000 per year.




Our scholars visiting the Glasgow office

Merlin Farrell, who is currently studying a Marine Science BSc at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) is one of our first recipients of the Statkraft STEM Scholarship Fund.

As a result of his successful scholarship application, Merlin, who previously lived in Kinbrace, Sutherland, embarked on a scientific research trip to the Roots Red Sea camp in Egypt, 600 miles south of Cairo. There, he collaborated with fellow students and marine science researchers over 12 days. Statkraft will continue to support Merlin as he completes his studies at SAMS, part of The University of the Highlands and Islands.


Alison Wilson, Director of Economic Development and Advancement at UHI:

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




University of the
Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean


To find out more, scan the QR code or search on the UHI website: www.uhi.ac.uk



Coille Beith Wind Farm

September/October 2024





Berry Barn Wind Farm, Ffos-y-Moray, 29 turbines, 200m tip height

Project Overview

Coille Beith Wind Farm is a new wind farm proposal south of the River Okyel in Sutherland. We are proposing up to 19 turbines with a maximum height of up to 200 meters to blade tip.

We will refine the design based on feedback and on-going environmental studies. Our design will strike a good balance between maximising the electricity output of the site while carefully relating to its existing use. We will work with the local landscape to reduce the visual impact on the surrounding area.


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 undertaken by a team of specialist environmental and technical consultants. The results and findings will be detailed in an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, which will be publicly available following submission of an application.

About Statkraft

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, with origins going back over 125 years in Norwegian hydropower. Our Scottish headquarters are in Glasgow and we have more than 6,000 employees in over 21 countries. Across the Highlands, we have seven wind farms and one pumped hydro storage facility in operation or development.

COILLE BEITH



COILLE BEITH WIND FARM

No. of Turbines	Up to 19
Max Blade Tip Heights	Up to 200m
Expected Installed Wind Capacity (MW)	Up to 136.8MW <small>(Section 36 consent application)</small>
Estimated Generation (homes equivalent)	140,000 <small>Homes per year (2)</small>
Community Fund (per year)	Up to £684,000 <small>per year (2)</small>
Operational Life	Up to 50 Years

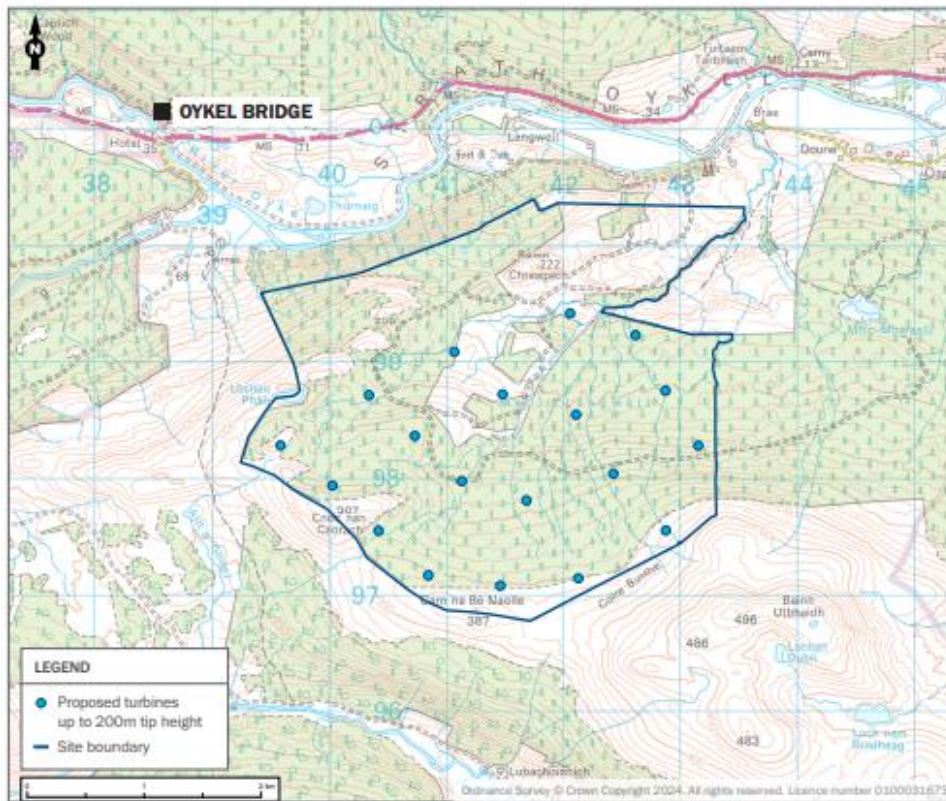
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(2) Based on 136.8MW x £5k per MW of installed capacity. If consented, value of fund determined by actual installed capacity.

Project website: www.coille-beith.co.uk

Coille Beith Wind Farm

Indicative Layout



Plan showing Coille Beith Wind Farm scoping layout.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- **July 2024**
→ Submit scoping
- **September 2024**
→ Public consultation to discuss initial layout
- **Spring 2025**
→ Public consultation to share revised layout and gather further feedback
- **Summer 2025**
→ Submit Section 36 Planning Application to Scottish Government
- **Summer 2026**
→ Expected planning decision

Indicative timescale, subject to change

Community Opportunity

Based on a 19 turbine scheme, the project would deliver a community benefit fund of £684,000 per year for the lifetime of the development. We will also be offering the opportunity for shared ownership uptake as well as a feasibility study for the area to enhance broadband connectivity for the area.

Contact us:



Freephone: 0800 772 0668



Email: UKProjects@statkraft.com



Website: www.coille-beith.co.uk



To:
Mr Scott Veters
Chairperson
Creich Community Council

VIA EMAIL

13 November 2024

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fraser.clarke@statkraft.com

Dear Mr Veters,

Coille Beith Wind Farm Proposal

As you may be aware, we held two public exhibitions on the 25th and 26th of September 2024 at Rosehall Village Hall and Oykel Bridge Hotel, respectively, to outline the early-stage proposals for the Coille Beith Wind Farm, located approximately 15km southwest of Lairg and 18km northwest of Bonar Bridge. These exhibitions were advertised in the Press & Journal and Northern Times newspapers. Residents were also individually lettered ahead of the exhibitions.

Our scoping request (submitted to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in July 2024 - ref. ECU00005173), proposes a maximum of 19 turbines with a tip height of up to 200m. However, as explained at the public exhibitions, the number of turbines will reduce as the proposal progresses through the iterative Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) design process, and as we receive feedback from statutory consultees and the local community.

We were pleased that the exhibition was well attended - including two representatives from the community council - and that residents took time to engage with us. We met with 38 residents over two days, and 23 filled out feedback forms.

Some of the key topics discussed were:

- The need to reduce local energy bills;
- Wind farm access route;
- Expanding the community benefit funding (£5000 per MW per year) inclusion zone;
- The effects on landscape, natural environment and business/tourism; and
- The inclusion of a proposed Battery Energy Storage System within the planning proposals.



We will take all the views expressed and everything we have learned on board as we move forward. We are currently in the process of answering any questions submitted on the feedback forms or by residents attending the exhibitions in person.

The following link lets you view our exhibition documents, including the resident's invite, exhibition display boards & leaflet and viewpoints <https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/Coille-Beith/project-documents/>

Further information can be found on our project website
<https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/Coille-Beith/>

We encourage people to register on the website to ensure they are kept up to date as the project progresses, and to easily contact us.

If you require copies of the exhibition brochure or wish to discuss any aspect of the project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

On behalf of the project team, I would like to meet with the representatives of Creich Community Council ahead of our second public consultation event in spring 2025. This meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the proposal in more detail, address any questions, and ensure that the views and concerns of the community are fully considered as we move forward. We look forward to arranging a convenient time to meet and collaborate.

Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke
Project Manager
Coille Beith Wind Farm



To:
Mr Les Waugh
Chairperson
Ardgay & District Community Council

VIA EMAIL

13 November 2024

POSTAL ADDRESS:
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E-MAIL:
fraser.clarke@statkraft.com

Dear Mr Waugh,

Coille Beith Wind Farm Proposal

Firstly, I would like to send my congratulations to Ardgay and District Community Council on successfully reforming and returning to action after a short absence. It is important to ensure that local communities are represented, and it demonstrates the strength and resilience of the community in ensuring that its voice is heard on key issues.

We understand how vital it is for residents to have a platform for meaningful participation in decisions that affect the future of their area. In this spirit, we are pleased to introduce our proposal for the Coille Beith Wind Farm now the Council has reformed. We believe this project will bring significant benefits to the local community, from sustainable energy generation to potential economic opportunities.

As you may be aware, we have already held two public exhibitions on the 25th and 26th of September 2024 at Rosehall Village Hall and Oykel Bridge Hotel, respectively, to outline the early-stage proposals for the Coille Beith Wind Farm proposal, located approximately 15km southwest of Lairg and 18km northwest of Bonar Bridge. These exhibitions were advertised in the Press & Journal and Northern Times newspapers. Local residents were also individually mailed ahead of the exhibitions.

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We will take all the views expressed and everything we have learned on board as we move forward. We are currently in the process of answering any questions submitted on the feedback forms or by residents attending the exhibitions in person.

The following link lets you view our exhibition documents, including the resident's invite, exhibition display boards & leaflet and viewpoints <https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/Coille-Beith/project-documents/>

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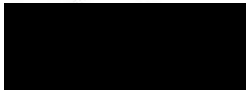
We encourage people to register on the website to ensure they are kept up to date as the project progresses, and to easily contact us.

If you require copies of the exhibition brochure or wish to discuss any aspect of the project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Once again, congratulations to the Ardgay and District Community Council on your reform and renewed efforts. We look forward to returning in the spring next year with a project update and a second public exhibition; when dates are confirmed for our next public exhibition, we will write to you to invite you to attend.

Ahead of the second exhibition the project team would also like to offer you the opportunity to meet with us to discuss the project and raise any questions, should this be of interest to the Community Council.

Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke
Project Manager
Coille Beith Wind Farm



To:
Cllr Michael Baird

VIA EMAIL

13 November 2024

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Dear Cllr Baird,

Coille Beith Wind Farm Proposal update

Thank you for taking the time to attend our first exhibition at Rosehall.

As you know we held two public exhibitions on the 25th and 26th of September 2024 at Rosehall Village Hall and Oykel Bridge Hotel, respectively, to outline the early-stage proposals for the Coille Beith Wind Farm, located approximately 15km southwest of Lairg and 18km northwest of Bonar Bridge.

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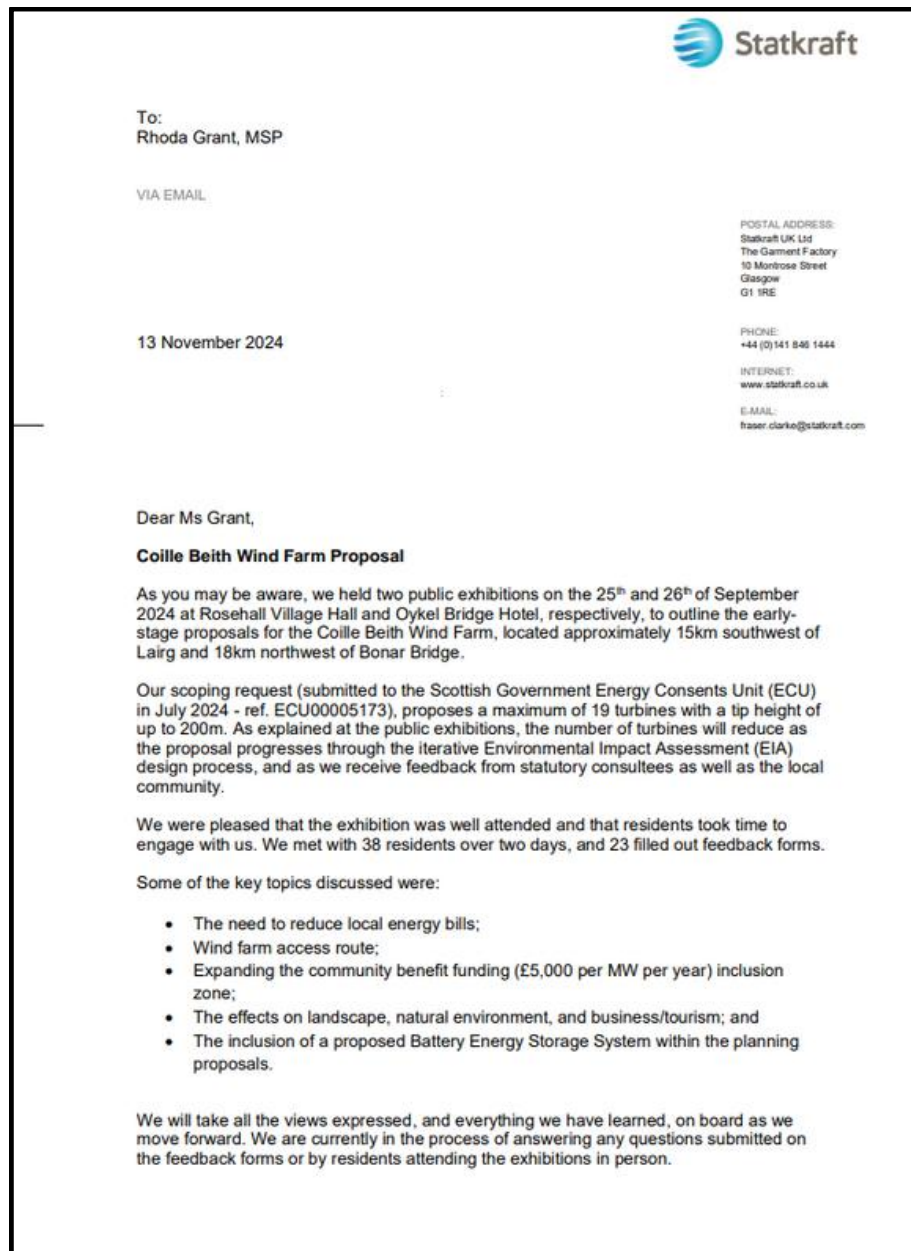
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We look forward to returning in the spring next year with a project update and a second public exhibition; when dates are confirmed for our next public exhibitions, we will write to you to invite you to attend. In the meantime, we would be happy to arrange to meet with you online or in person if you have questions about the project or wish to find out more.

Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke
Project Manager
Coille Beith Wind Farm





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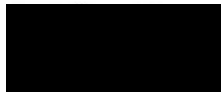
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Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke
Project Manager
Coille Beith Wind Farm



To:
Mr Scott Vettters
Chairperson
Creich Community Council

VIA EMAIL

7 February 2025

POSTAL ADDRESS:
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+44 (0)800 772 0668

INTERNET:
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fraser.clarke@statkraft.com

Dear Mr Vettters,

Coille Beith Wind Farm Proposal

Further to our letter dated 13.11.24, we would like to reiterate the offer of a meeting with the community council to provide an update on our Coille Beith Wind Farm proposal.

Our first two days of public exhibitions in September last year outlined the early-stage proposals for the Coille Beith Wind Farm and were well attended – including two representatives from the community council. We would very much like to continue our dialogue ahead of our second public consultation event in spring this year. This meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss the proposal in more detail, address any questions, and ensure that the views and concerns of the community are fully considered as we move forward.

As a reminder, all materials from our first exhibition are available online at the following link, including the resident's invite, exhibition display boards & leaflet and viewpoints:
<https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/Coille-Beith/project-documents/>.

We hope to hear from you soon to arrange a convenient time to meet and collaborate.

Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke
Project Manager
Coille Beith Wind Farm



To:
Mr Les Waugh
Chairperson
Ardgay & District Community Council

VIA EMAIL

7 February 2025

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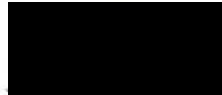
Further to our letter dated 13.11.24, we would like to reiterate the offer of a meeting with the community council to provide an update on our Coille Beith Wind Farm proposal.

Our first two days of public exhibitions in September last year outlined the early-stage proposals for the Coille Beith Wind Farm and were well attended. We would very much like to continue our dialogue ahead of our second public consultation event in spring this year. This meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss the proposal in more detail, address any questions, and ensure that the views and concerns of the community are fully considered as we move forward.

As a reminder, all materials from our first exhibition are available online at the following link, including the resident's invite, exhibition display boards & leaflet and viewpoints: <https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/Coille-Beith/project-documents/>.

We hope to hear from you soon to arrange a convenient time to meet to discuss the project.

Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke
Project Manager
Coille Beith Wind Farm



Agenda		
1	2	3
Introductions	Coille Beith Wind Farm	Policy Context
Project Team and Statkraft	Project Overview	Brief explanation of supporting policy
4	5	6
Design Evolution	Requested Information	Next Steps
How the wind farm layout has changed	Providing answers to your questions	Timeline of what comes next

2



Introductions

Project Team & Statkraft

Project Team Representatives



Who are Statkraft?

- The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- A state-owned utility with origins in Norwegian hydropower 130 years ago
- Operating in the UK since 2006
- Scottish Head Office in Glasgow
- Development pipeline includes wind, solar, hydrogen, and grid stability services
- Nine projects operating or in development in the Highlands
- Distributed over £4 million to communities near operating wind farms



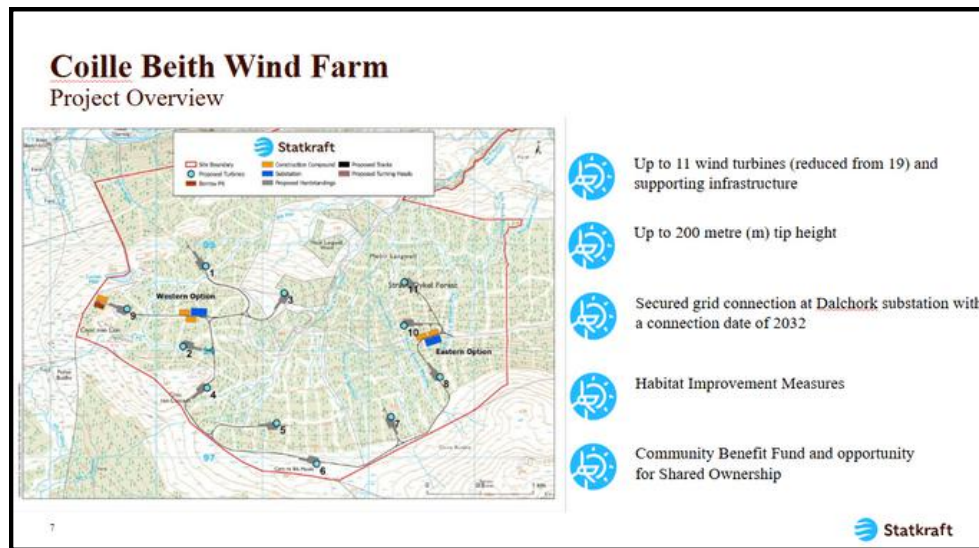
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Coille Beith Wind Farm

Project Overview

Click to add subtitle



Policy Context

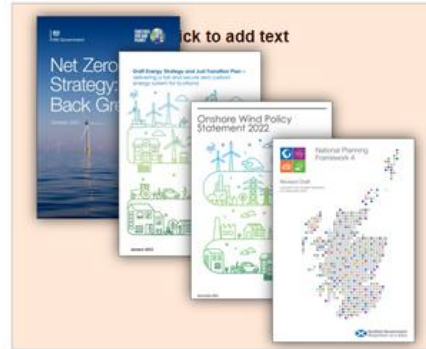
Brief explanation of supporting policy



Policy Context

Brief summary

- The Paris Agreement (2016)
- The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019
- Onshore Wind Policy Statement (2022)
- UK Net Zero Strategy (2023)
- Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (2023)
- National Planning Framework 4 (2023)



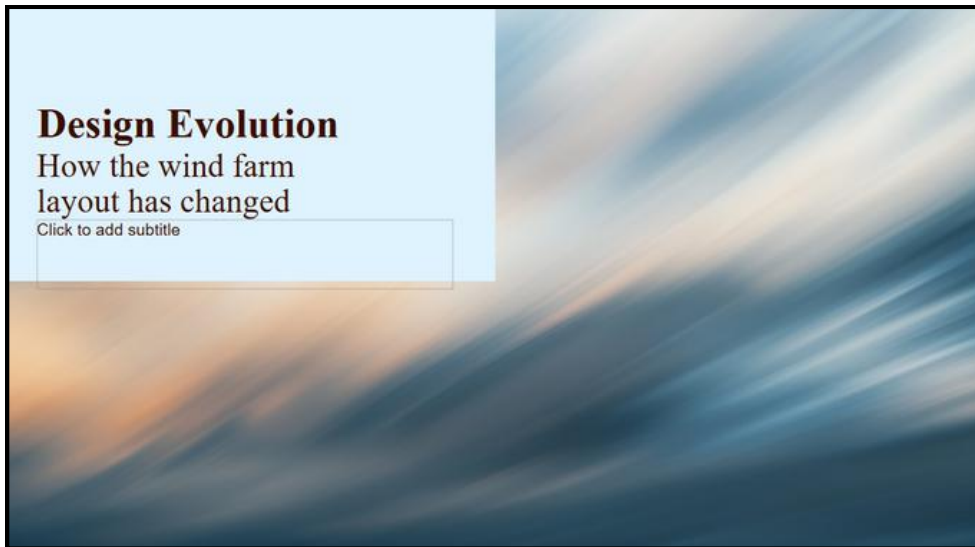
9

Statkraft

Design Evolution

How the wind farm layout has changed

Click to add subtitle



Design Evolution

How the wind farm design has changed



Reduction of eight turbines



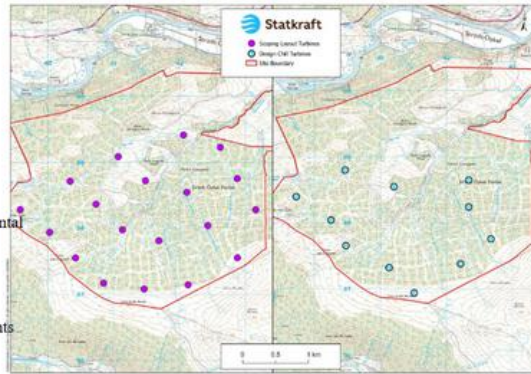
Turbine array has moved south away from River Oykel valley



Revised turbine locations avoids onsite environmental constraints, including watercourses



Presents as a balanced turbine array from viewpoints where visible



11

Statkraft

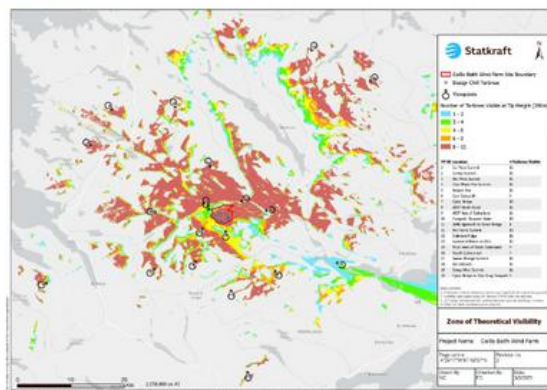
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

How the wind farm design has changed

VP Location

- 1 Cul More Summit
- 2 Canisp Summit
- 3 Ben More Summit
- 4 Glas Mheall Mor Summit
- 5 Bodach Mor
- 6 Carn Salaceidh
- 7 Oykel Bridge
- 8 A837 Strath Oykel
- 9 A837 Kyle of Sutherland
- 10 Footpath, Rappach Water
- 11 A949 Approach to Bonar Bridge
- 12 Ben Wyvis Summit
- 13 Diebidale Ridge
- 14 Summit of Beinn an Eibh
- 15 Track west of Strath Cuileannach
- 16 Strath Cuileannach
- 17 Seana Blarraig Summit
- 18 Ben Kiltreck
- 19 Creag Mhor Summit
- 20 Oykel Bridge to Glen Einig Footpath

12



Statkraft

Requested Information

Providing answers to your questions

Battery Energy Storage System

“BESS System”

- The Development was introduced via a Scoping Report to the ECU and at Autumn 2024 Public Exhibitions; at this stage, the Development included a Battery Energy Storage System.
- Whilst BESS is now a standard and useful component of onshore wind developments in Scotland, it was clear from public feedback that BESS was a real source of concern.
- The project team have therefore removed BESS from Coille Beith Wind Farm plans.

Environmental Impact including Hydrology

“Effect on the environment”

- The planning application will contain an environmental impact assessment (EIA).
- Written by independent assessors who are professionally responsible for their assessments. Assessments are reviewed and commented upon by statutory consultees (SEPA, NatureScot, HES etc.).
- Embedded Design Mitigation.
- Additional Mitigation.
- Planning controls – ongoing water quality monitoring etc.

15



Environmental Impact including Hydrology

“Control of run-off”

- During construction all works will be in accordance with a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and contractor Construction Method Statements. The CEMP is written by experts and reviewed/approved by the local authority and SEPA.
- Sediment buffers and control structures will be employed, detailed within a site drainage plan.
- Designated areas for storage of materials etc. away from watercourses and if required stored on an impervious base within rainwater monitored bunds.
- Interceptor drip trays.
- Water quality monitoring.
- Clean water diversion.

16

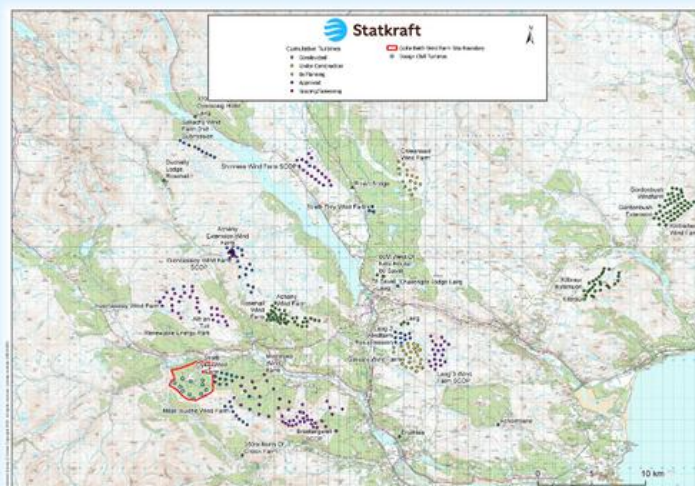


Cumulative Assessment

“Provide an assessment of the cumulative effect of the proposed development with other planned developments (those that are operational, those that are already consented and those where an application has been submitted but not yet determined)”

- The extent of environmental effects may be altered when considered cumulatively, therefore our planning application will provide a full, robust cumulative assessment.
- Each environmental topic will assess the development’s effect in isolation and then cumulatively.
- The list of developments to be included will be as of the end of February / start of March 2025.

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Emergency Planning

“Emergencies and disasters mitigation”

- Emergency and disaster events associated with onshore wind farms are not common.
- The construction of a wind farm is a highly controlled and scrutinised activity and therefore emergency and disaster events are unlikely. Should they occur, the construction team will have well-established plans in place to mitigate and react to events.
- Statkraft has a full-time operations team, with 24/7 function; the team are expertly trained in emergency response and disaster mitigation. The wind farm would be fitted with turbine monitoring via SCADA to detect any issues.
- EIA assesses the Development’s susceptibility to natural disasters.

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Access & Traffic

“Access to site”

- Access to the site is currently planned to be via the consented Strath Oykel Wind Farm or the consented Meall Buidhe Wind Farm.
- Working with other developers to minimise effects.
- The port of entry is likely to be Nigg or Invergordon.
- The exact proposed route to site is still being determined.
- Our planning application will contain the details of the proposed route to site.

“Traffic management – deliveries (stone, concrete, turbines) & workers”

- A traffic & transport assessment will be included within the EIA as part of the planning application.
- A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be agreed with the transport authorities ahead of construction. The CTMP will include times where deliveries can and cannot take place.
- Turbine components will be delivered along the agreed route in line with the agreed CTMP. Turbine components are delivered outwith peak periods under the supervision of Police Scotland.
- Onsite concrete batching is being explored.
- Onsite borrow pits.

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Grid Connection

“Grid connection – when, where to, & timetable for work if consented”

- Secured grid connection for 2032.
- Dalchork Substation is the current point of connection.
- The exact grid route is not yet known (SSEN responsibility, separate planning process) it is likely that nearby wind farm grid connections are aligned so that they follow similar routes where possible.
- Trident poles not transmission pylons.

21



Community Wealth Building

“Effect on local economy”

- Approx 30 FTE positions in construction making use of local facilities and amenities
- Supply roles for construction compound
- Need for accommodation, provisions and other services over 18-month construction period

“Community benefit – how much and how is it delivered?”

- £396,000 per year (based on 11 7.2 MW turbines)
- Community Benefit area to be identified and agreed with the community
- Fund managed independently but in partnership with the community
- Operational funds at Berry Burn and Baillie Wind Farm

“Work for local companies, employees – during construction and long term”

- Construction
 - Working with UHI, Developing the Young Workforce and others to create training and skills opportunities
 - Supplier Database for local companies to get involved
- Operation
 - 1-3 permanent FTE roles
 - Creates roles for operations and maintenance suppliers

22



Community Consultation

“Community consultation - independent survey of local residents, feedback from consultations”

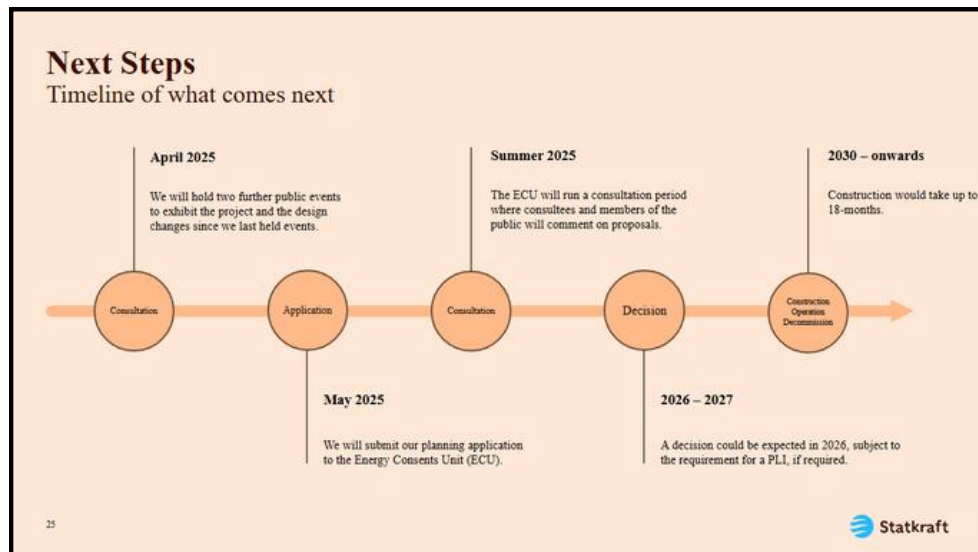
- Two Pre-Application Consultations
 - September 2024 and April 2025
 - Advertised by mailing to 300+ households and businesses near the site
 - Provides feedback to Statkraft to inform our design decisions
- Statutory Consultation
 - Carried out by the Energy Consents Unit; Used to inform advice to Scottish Ministers
 - Advertised in local and national newspapers
 - Statkraft will advise local stakeholders and those who have requested updates of details following submission of our application and the start of the consultation period
 - Print copy of full application available in the local area – feedback on location welcome

23



Next Steps

Timeline of what
comes next



Thank you

More info at www.projects.statkraft.co.uk/Coille-Beith/

Our team can be contacted via the following contact details.
Please mark any written correspondence *FAO Coille Beith Project Team*.

E: ukprojects@statkraft.com
T: 0800 772 0668



Creich Community Council - representing people living within the communities of Bonar Bridge, Invershin, Rosehall, & Spinningdale in the county of Sutherland in the North Highlands of Scotland.

Sent by email.

FAO: Mr Scott Velters, Chairperson of the Creich Community Council
Via: secretary@creichcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Date
12.03.2025

Our ref.
CCC_20250303_1

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Dear Mr Scott Velters,

Creich Community Council Meeting 03/03/2025: Clarifications

Introduction

Thank you for allowing the Collie Beith Wind Farm project team, on behalf of Statkraft, to present to Creich Community Council and members of the public at your recent meeting on 03 March 2025.

During the meeting, I gave a presentation on Collie Beith Wind Farm ('the Proposed Development') and participated in a Q&A session where questions were asked by both community council members and the public. Some topics discussed required further investigation or clarification, which is set out below.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

At the Community Council meeting I confirmed that, following community feedback, BESS has been removed from the Proposed Development. In the Q&A session which followed it was asked, even with the removal of the BESS, whether the Proposed Development would still connect into another BESS. The project team answered this question but there were some back-and-forth exchanges, and I felt that the answer may have been lost. Therefore, for clarity, the answer to this question is no, the Proposed Development will not be connected to any BESS development.

Cumulative Landscape & Visual Assessment

Questions were raised about which schemes would be included within the cumulative assessment within the planning application. Following the meeting, I sought clarity on this point from qualified chartered landscape architects who will undertake the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), including a cumulative assessment in line with the appropriate guidance from Statutory Consultees, such as NatureScot.

The design of the Proposed Development considers the interaction with other existing and proposed developments of similar scale on landscape character and views/ visual amenity. Turbines under 50 m to tip, single turbines beyond 5 km from the site, and schemes at scoping stage are not included unless specifically requested by the determining authority. Regarding schemes at scoping stage, they are not included (unless otherwise requested by the determining authority) as they are unlikely to have a finalised layout against which an assessment can be made, or the schemes may not be brought forward to application or operation. The primary focus will be on the key cumulative effects which are likely to influence decision making, that is

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1/3



potentially significant effects, rather than an assessment of every potential cumulative effect. This is likely to be wind farms in the immediate landscape context (up to 20 km).

A review of patterns of development is provided for operational, consented, and proposed wind farms which are the subject of a valid planning application, up to 45 km from the Site. The cumulative baseline is updated until approximately 3 months prior to submission when the cumulative baseline is finalised. The list of projects to be assessed is usually identified through desk top research and Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping. Wind farms that are operational or under construction are included as part of the baseline.

The 'primary' LVIA will consider the potential effects of the addition of the Proposed Development to the existing landscape against a baseline that includes existing wind farms and those under construction. The cumulative LVIA will consider the potential cumulative effects of the Proposed Development, against a baseline that includes wind farms that may or may not be present in the landscape in the future (i.e. including wind farms that are consented but unbuilt or part of an undetermined application). Wind farm applications that have been refused but that are subject to appeal will also be considered in the assessment. For those schemes which are at scoping (and not requested to be included by the determining authority) but ultimately do come forward into planning, then those schemes and their cumulative LVIA would consider the Proposed Development; therefore, ensuring that cumulative impact is assessed robustly and in full.

The potential visibility of cumulative wind farm development is described and represented by supporting wireline drawings and photomontages which clearly distinguishes between each individual project and its status within the planning system. This is used to establish in-addition and in-combination cumulative effects on both the landscape and views.

Cumulative Transport Assessment

Similarly, questions were asked about the cumulative transport assessment. All committed significant developments within the study area will be included in the assessment, in line with transport planning guidance. These will include any form of development (energy or non-energy), with the assessment being undertaken assuming that all peak traffic events coincide to provide a robust assessment of the road network.

Micro-siting

A member of the public asked about micro-siting, noting it had the potential to undo elements of embedded design mitigation assessed within the Environmental Impact Assessment. The project team explained the requirement of micro-siting and the checks in place to ensure any micro-siting is not contrary to wider planning protections.

Micro-siting allows for wind farm infrastructure to have its location adjusted by a prescribed distance (typically up to 50 m). Micro-siting is secured via a planning condition attached to the planning permission and its purpose is to allow flexibility to avoid unforeseen construction constraints such as unexpected geological features, archaeological features, or deep areas of peat, for example. Should micro-siting be required, it must be within the bounds of the planning condition which sets out micro-siting restrictions, for example that a turbine cannot be moved to a location which has a greater overall impact on peat than the original location. The planning condition will require that all permissible micro-siting should be submitted to and approved in writing by the Ecological Clerk of Works prior to the micro-siting being implemented. Detailed site investigations (SI), often also termed as ground investigations (GI), are undertaken ahead of construction to better understand the ground conditions etc.

Physical Copy of Planning Application for Inspection

At the Community Council meeting, the project team requested feedback from the Community Council on suggested locations for locating Coille Beith Wind Farm's planning application for public inspection. Due to the busy schedule of the Community Council, immediate feedback was not possible. We would like to ask the Community Council to consider if Bonar Bridge Library is an appropriate location for the public copy of the application to be held. If not, we would welcome suggestions for alternative locations in the area that would be able to host the application and are open to the general public.

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2/3



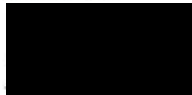
Information Day

At community council meetings before the planning application submission, some questions cannot be answered until assessments are completed by technical experts. I therefore propose an Information Day after the planning application submission, where the project team can hold a drop-in session for the public to visit and ask questions based on the application documents. Please confirm if this is of interest, and I will arrange it with the community in due course, following planning application submission.

Conclusion

I trust the above is clear and provides clarification; however, I remain available should questions remain. Can I again thank you and the Community Council members for their time; the engagement of Community Council members and the public is very much welcomed by Statkraft as an important and valued part of the pre-application process. Some community members raised concerns about the planning process; during the Information Day, should it be confirmed, the Project Team can discuss the planning system with members of the public in a bid to ease concerns. We are committed to transparency and ongoing engagement to ensure the community's views are fully considered.

Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke
Project Manager
Collie Beith Wind Farm



Maximising Community Benefits

Statkraft is dedicated to engaging with communities and bringing meaningful benefits.

Developing Highland Skills
Our partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands supports a generation of skilled workers in the Highlands. This includes funding scholarships to deliver the scientists and engineers we need for the future.

Community Benefit Fund
We have committed to a Community Benefit Fund that delivers £5,000 (index linked) per MW installed, per year, for the operational lifetime of the project.

Shared Ownership
We are keen to offer Shared Ownership if there is local interest. We would like to hear your views on enabling the community own a share of the project.

Local Supply Chain
We want to work with local businesses. We're interested in hearing from all types of local suppliers, from catering and accommodation to equipment suppliers and engineering firms.

Meet the Project Team:



Project Manager:
Fraser Clarke



Assistant Project Manager:
Shannon Aitchison

Our team will be able to answer questions and provide more information throughout the exhibition. Please visit our website to find out more.

www.coille-beith.co.uk

Invitation to Public Exhibition: 2 – 3 April 2025



Coille Beith Wind Farm

We are writing to you with an update on our proposal for Coille Beith Wind Farm.



Transporting 600 Wind Farm, turbine and battery 10 turbines, 200m tip height

We are writing to you to provide an update on the proposed Coille Beith Wind Farm and to invite you to our next round of public exhibitions.

Following our first exhibitions in September 2024, we have been carrying out surveys as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment and amending our designs based on survey results and public feedback. Based on feedback, we have removed the proposed Battery Energy Storage System, reduced the number of planned turbines, and relocated planned turbines.

Visit our public exhibitions in Rosehall or our project website to find out more about the changes we have made.

About Us

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, with origins going back over 125 years in Norwegian hydropower. Our Scottish headquarters are in Glasgow and we have more than 7,000 employees in over 20 countries. Across the Highlands, we have six wind farms and one pumped hydro storage facility in operation or development.

www.statkraft.co.uk www.coille-beith.co.uk

 Please return the freepost reply card provided.

 Phone the project hotline: 0800 772 0668

 www.coille-beith.co.uk


 UKProjects@statkraft.com

Statkraft UK Ltd
The Garment Factory
10 Morriess Street
Glasgow G1 1HE






Coille Beith Wind Farm Proposal




Key Changes since 2024


- Removal of 8 turbines
- Removal of Battery Energy Storage System


For more information, visit:
www.coille-beith.co.uk

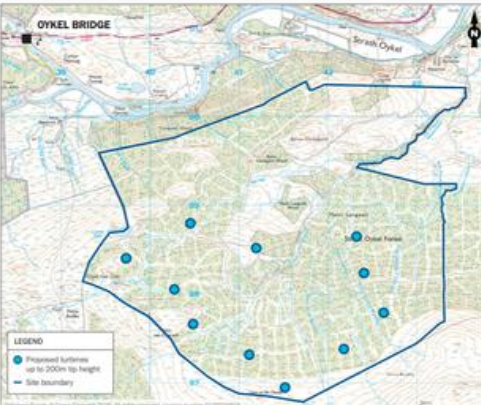
 **11 turbines**
(reduced from 19)

£396,000
Community Benefit Fund per year

 A maximum height to blade tip of up to:
200m

 Powering 78,000 Scottish houses per year*

 Opportunities to explore other community benefits



Plan showing Coille Beith Wind Farm layout.

2 LOCAL EXHIBITIONS

2 April 2025:
2pm – 7pm
Rosehall Village Hall

3 April 2025:
10am – 2pm
Rosehall Village Hall

ONLINE EXHIBITION


2 April – 16 April 2025
www.coille-beith.co.uk

We expect to submit our application to the Scottish Government in May 2025. Visit our website to request email updates about the project.

You can find out more about our projects and the way we work at www.statkraft.co.uk

*Based on 11 x 7.2MW turbines, local wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,078kWh pa (DESNZ Jan 2024).

FEEDBACK FORM ENCLOSED WITH INVITE TO RESIDENTS




**PUBLIC EXHIBITION
SPRING 2025**

**COILLE BEITH
WIND FARM**

You can use this form to let us know your views or ask any questions, we will respond to all queries as quickly as possible.

PRIVACY STATEMENT
Respect for privacy and personal data protection is part of Statkraft's corporate culture. This enables us to maintain an environment where our customers, vendors and other stakeholders can trust Statkraft to process their personal data. Our online privacy statement explains how, why and for how long Statkraft processes your personal data. Scan here for more information.



Comments made to Statkraft are not representations to the consenting authority. If an application is submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the consenting authority. Please note all comments for this community consultation should be received no later than 16 April 2025.

Please tell us what you think – complete and return in the envelope provided

Do you think that the country needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources?

YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE ☐

Do you agree that onshore wind power is a good way to help achieve this?

YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE ☐

Do you think this is an acceptable location for a wind farm?

YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE ☐

We are open to offering Community Shared Ownership on our project. If this project went ahead, would this be of interest?

YES ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE ☐

☐ Yes please, I would like to receive a response to my question and comments (if applicable) and project updates (mainly by email)

☐ No thank you, I do not want a response to my question and comments (if applicable) or project updates

Your questions and comments:

continue overleaf...

Title:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Tel:

www.coille-beith.co.uk



FAO: Scott Velters, Chair of Creich Community Council
Via: secretary@creichcommunitycouncil.org
Date 17.03.2025 Our ref.

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Dear Mr Velters,

Coille Beith Wind Farm Proposal

I am writing to provide an update on the proposed Coille Beith Wind Farm, located approximately 15km southwest of Lairg and 18km northwest of Bonar Bridge, and to invite you to our upcoming public exhibitions.

Since our initial consultations in September 2024, we have been conducting surveys as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment and refining our design based on survey findings and public feedback. In response to this input, we have removed the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and reduced the number of planned turbines from 19 to 11.

We recently attended the monthly meetings of both Creich and Ardgay & District Community Councils, which are the closest to the project site. We appreciated the opportunity to attend their meetings, where we were able to engage directly with residents and address their questions in person. Prior to the meeting, the community councils forwarded key topics for discussion, allowing us to ensure all relevant points were covered. A link to the presentation can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yer6s6cy>

The second round of public exhibitions for the proposed project are as follows:

14:00 to 19:00, Wednesday, 2nd April 2025 at Rosehall Village Hall
10:00 to 14:00, Thursday, 3rd April 2025 at Rosehall Village Hall

We are happy to set up a video call with you if you would like to discuss the project in more detail.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the resident's invite to the second exhibition (sent to approximately 300 households in the surrounding communities), which should have arrived no later than tomorrow (18.3.25), to inform them of the exhibitions above. The events will also be advertised in the Press & Journal (19th March) and the Northern Times (21st March).

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on our proposals. Please contact me at fraser.clarke@statkraft.com if you require any further information or have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke
Project Manager, Coille Beith Wind Farm

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Fraser Clarke

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1/1



FAO: Michael Baird
Via: Michael.Baird.clr@highland.gov.uk
Date 17.03.2025 Our ref.

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Dear Cllr Baird,

Coille Beith Wind Farm Proposal

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Yours sincerely,

Fraser Clarke
Project Manager, Coille Beith Wind Farm

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FAO: Edward Mountain
Via: Edward.Mountain.msp@parliament.scot
Date: 17.03.2025

Our ref.

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Dear Mr Mountain,

Coille Beith Wind Farm Proposal

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Yours sincerely,

Fraser Clarke
Project Manager, Coille Beith Wind Farm

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Fraser Clarke

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Fraser.clarke@statkraft.com

Telephone
+44 (0)141 846 1444

1/1



FAO: Mr Jamie Stone MP
Via: jamie.stone.mp@parliament.uk

Date 25.4.2025 Our ref.

Postal address
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The Garment Factory
10 Montrose Street
Glasgow
G1 1RE

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+44 (0)141 846 1444

Internet
www.statkraft.co.uk

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fraser.clarke@statkraft.com

Dear Mr Stone,

Update on Public Consultation – Coille Beith Wind Farm

Further to my letter dated 17 March 2025 regarding our second public consultation at Rosehall Village Hall, I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the exhibitions.

As you'll be aware, we held public exhibitions on 2nd and 3rd April 2025 to share the latest developments on our proposals for the Coille Beith Wind Farm, located approximately 15 km southwest of Lairg and 18 km northwest of Bonar Bridge.

Since the project began, we have continued to refine our design in response to survey results and feedback from the local community. As noted in my previous correspondence, this has led to the removal of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), a reduction in the number of turbines from 19 to 11, and a relocation of turbine locations away from the River Oykel.

Although attendance at the exhibition was lower than at our previous consultation, we were pleased to welcome 19 residents over the two days. We appreciated the time people took to engage with us and share their views. The two community council meetings we attended prior to the exhibitions were both very well attended, and we believe many residents chose to participate in those sessions instead.

Feedback highlighted a range of views regarding the Coille Beith Wind Farm proposal. While some residents expressed support for renewable energy and recognised the role of wind power, concerns were raised about the cumulative impact of multiple developments in the area.

Key points included potential effects on local wildlife, rivers, peatlands, and tourism. A number of those that we spoke to highlighted issues at the macro level, such as a desire for more strategic, coordinated planning and siting of energy infrastructure closer to areas of demand. Several visitors also highlighted issues experienced with operational wind farms in the nearby area.

We intend to submit the planning application within the coming months; this application will take account of cumulative effects through assessment. Once accepted, a full copy of the application will be available for public viewing at The HUB in Bonar Bridge (as agreed with the community councils).

We also plan to host an information day during the consultation period to answer any questions about the submission. I will be in touch to confirm dates and timings once the application has been formally accepted, and validated, by the Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

ENUWI
Fraser Clarke

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1/2



The following link lets you view our exhibition documents, including the residents' invite, exhibition display boards & leaflet and viewpoints <https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/Coille-Beith/project-documents/>

In the meantime, if you wish to discuss any aspect of the project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fraser Clarke".

Fraser Clarke
Project Manager, Coille Beith Wind Farm

PRESS & JOURNAL - PUBLICATION DATE: 19TH MARCH 2025

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM – PUBLIC EXHIBITION

We invite you to attend our second round of consultation events for the proposed Coille Beith Wind Farm, located approximately 15 km southwest of Lairg and 18 km northwest of Bonar Bridge. Since our first exhibition in Autumn 2024, we have revised our proposed development from 19 to 11 turbines, with a maximum tip height of up to 200 m.

At the public consultation events, you can view our project plans, ask the Project Team questions, and provide feedback.

Our virtual exhibition will be live from 2nd April to 16th April 2025, with all exhibition materials available to view. Please scan the QR code or visit www.coille-beith.co.uk

Find out more:
 Freephone: 0800 772 0668
 Website: www.coille-beith.co.uk
 Email: UKprojects@statkraft.com



We will be hosting public consultation events in the following location:

- ROSEHALL VILLAGE HALL**
Altas, Lairg IV27 4EU
- Wednesday, 2nd April 2025:**
2.00pm to 7.00pm, and
- Thursday, 3rd April 2025:**
10.00am to 2.00pm

Comments should be made to Statkraft UK by **16th April 2025** and do not constitute a formal representation. If a subsequent planning application is made, you will have an opportunity to make a formal representation.



30 BUSINESS

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Energy firm's long-term plan

BY BEN HENDRY

It was two years ago that Baker Hughes took over the Portlithen base of the Aberdeen-based company. Now the energy firm, which has headquarters in Texas and London, has shed some more light on its plans for the site in the Aberdeenshire town.

Proposals have been submitted to the council, seeking permission for a new industrial building on the site at the Badenov Industrial Estate.

It is hoped this will boost production as the energy giant eyes up a long-term future at the spot.

The building there was originally operated by Q&S when it opened in 2004.

After bought that firm over in 2008, then it

became the Altas Intervention hub in 2013.

And now Baker Hughes wants to boost business at the Portlithen site by adding this new 720sq m industrial building.

Papers sent to Aberdeenshire Council explain that it will allow work usually undertaken outdoors to take place inside – meaning it won't be waylaid by adverse weather conditions.

A report states: "This development is part of the business consolidation process."

"The client has identified a requirement for covered workspace for both storage and general industrial use, and this building will increase capacity for both throughout the site."

"The building will also allow for business activities which take place externally

to be moved inside during extended poor weather episodes."

The new structure would take up space in what is currently a "significantly underutilised" overpall out park.

Architects also reveal that a "10-year extension of the site lease is currently being negotiated".

Architects from Albyn Design and Build add: "The proposal will provide a premises of high quality and longevity, appropriately extending its already long-term occupancy."

These plans come as a nitrogen tank is being relocated from another Baker Hughes base to Portlithen in a further bid to beef up the new site.

You can see the full Baker Hughes plans for Portlithen at the Aberdeenshire Council website.



BUILDING PROPOSAL: Baker Hughes Portlithen base at Badenov Industrial Estate.

Fasnakyle to Bingly 132kV Connections

Route options consultation events

We are holding a route options consultation event for our proposed 132kV connection between the existing Fasnakyle substation and proposed Bingly 400kV substation.

As the transmission licence holder in the north of Scotland, we have a duty under Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity. We have obligations to offer non-discriminatory terms for connection to the transmission system, both for new generation and for new sources of electricity demand.

Subject to planning consent, SSE Transmission is required to connect the proposed Bingly substation to the existing Fasnakyle substation to allow connection onto the wider transmission network. To facilitate this, we are proposing to utilise one or more existing towers in the north section, a Transition location, in the form of a cable sealing and compound and underground cable between the sealing end and the proposed Bingly substation. The routes proposed are up to 10 km in length.



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Community Liaison Manager:

Nicki McLuskey
 205 Curlew Road, Perth, PH3 3GH
 Tel: 07879 793 652
 Email: nicki.mcluskey@sse.com
 @SSETransmission

The event will be held on:

Tuesday 25 March, 4-7.30pm
 Cannich Hall,
 Cannich, Beaulieu, IV4 7LJ



Find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL:
www.sse-transmission.co.uk/fbc

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM – PUBLIC EXHIBITION



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The Press and Journal



NORTHERN TIMES - PUBLICATION DATE: 21ST MARCH 2025

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM – PUBLIC EXHIBITION

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18 NORTHERN TIMES www.northerntimes.co.uk Friday, March 21, 2025



Participants in the appliqué class were asked to appliqué hearts or flowers, leaves and a vine onto a 15 inch background square.

There was much hilarity at the well felt class.

Creativity on show at popular Fibre Fest

People were keen to try their hand at needle punching - a textile technique in which loose fibres are formed into a cohesive fabric by repeatedly piercing and entangling them with barbed needles, creating a nonwoven material without the need for weaving or knitting.

By Caroline Morrison
caroline.morrison@nmt.co.uk

ENTHUSIASTIC crafters from as far afield as Denver, Colorado, descended on a sunny Dornoch last weekend for the town's annual Fibre Fest, now in its 16th year.

They took part in a variety of workshops and master-classes ranging from Fair Isle knitting, felting and embroidery to appliqué, Dorset buttons and peg loom.

This year's guest speaker was Jane Bennett, who gave a humorous talk about her life as a shepherdess and the different herds of sheep in Glamsorgan.

The Highland Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers once again gave demonstrations at the Dornoch Hub and invited people to try their hand at a range of crafts.

A number of stalls were set up in the Social Club and the West Church Hall selling yarn, materials, haberdashery and craft supplies.

The town's Historylinks Museum was also used as a teaching venue, with visitors able to view an exhibition of historical costumes and some of the panels from the 'Spirit of the Highlands and Islands Tapestry'.

Sarah Whelan, who helped organise the event and led the Fair Isle knitting workshop, said: "Dornoch Fibre Fest is truly a collaboration between crafters, tutors and vendors, and together they make it, as two of our attendees have said, an 'unmissable event' and 'my favourite weekend of the year'."

Jane Bennett, shepherd of the award-winning Kestrelton and Carlad Rocks in the Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales, gave a talk entitled 'My Life with Shetland Sheep'.

Participants in the Short Row Shaping class required only basic knitting skills. Taught by Helen Lockhart, the class was an introduction to 'short row shaping' colour work which allows knitters to achieve dramatic patterns and shapes.

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Statkraft
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Ardgay & District Community Council - representing people living within the communities of Ardgay and District in the county of Sutherland in the North Highlands of Scotland.

Sent by email.

FAO: Mr Les Waugh, Chairperson of the Ardgay & District Community Council
Via: secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Date
31.03.2025

Our ref.
ADCC_20250313_1

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Statkraft UK Ltd
The Garment Factory
10 Montrose Street
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E-mail
fraser.clarke@statkraft.com

Dear Mr Les Waugh,

Ardgay & District Community Council Meeting 13/03/2025: Clarifications

Thank you for allowing the Coille Beith Wind Farm project team, on behalf of Statkraft, to present to Ardgay & District Community Council and members of the public at your recent meeting on 13 March 2025.

During the meeting, I gave a presentation on Coille Beith Wind Farm ('the Proposed Development') and participated in a Q&A session where questions were asked by both community council members and the public. The topic of hydrology surveys was discussed but required further investigation or clarification, which is set out below.

Hydrology Surveys

Qualified hydrologists have undertaken a site walkover, including the footprint of the proposed development design, to survey all the surface water crossings, the potential groundwater terrestrial ecosystem areas, and visited private water supply owners.

Water quality monitoring (WQM) will be undertaken as part of the planning conditions post-consent; WQM usually takes place before, during, and after construction and implemented via the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), itself required via planning condition as explained at our recent meeting.

Information Day

At the meeting, it was highlighted that, some questions could not be answered as assessments and analysis are yet to be completed by technical experts. I therefore propose an Information Day after the planning application submission, where the project team can hold a drop-in session for the public to visit and ask questions based on the application documents. Please confirm if this is of interest, and I will arrange it with the community in due course, following planning application submission.

Public Copy of Planning Applications Documents

Following the feedback at the community council meeting, my colleague Seumas has been in contact with the secretaries of both Creich and Ardgay & District Community Councils to confirm that we are happy for the public copies of the documents to be held at the Kyle of Sutherland Hub. We appreciate the feedback on this matter.

ENUWI
Fraser Clarke

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Fraser.clarke@statkraft.com

Telephone
0800 772 0668

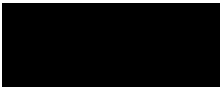
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Conclusion

Once again, I would like to extend my thanks to you and the Community Council members for your time and engagement. Constructive dialogue from both the Community Council and the wider public is genuinely appreciated by Statkraft and plays a vital role in the development of our projects. We remain fully committed to transparency and ongoing engagement, ensuring that the views of the community are heard, understood, and carefully considered as we move forward.

Yours sincerely,





Fraser Clarke
Project Manager
Coille Beith Wind Farm

Welcome

We are here to update you on our proposals for Coille Beith Wind Farm.

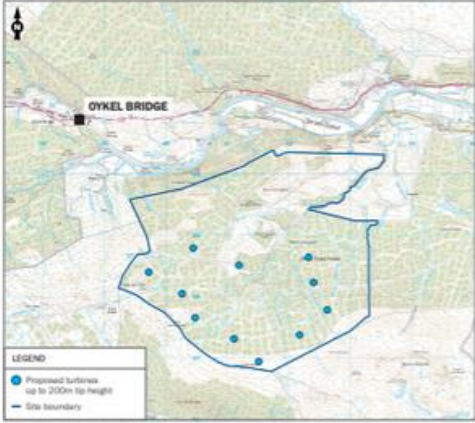
About Statkraft

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

About Coille Beith Wind Farm

Since our exhibition in September 2024,
we have revised our design based on feedback
and environmental surveys.



Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2025. All rights reserved. Licence number 10003204625

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM	
No. of Turbines	up to 11
Max Blade Tip Heights	up to 200m
Expected Installed Wind Capacity (MW)	up to 79.2MW <small>(Section 36 consent application)</small>
Estimated Generation (homes equivalent)	78,000 <small>(homes per year (1))</small>
Community Fund (per year)	up to £396,000 <small>(per year (2))</small>
Operational Life	up to 50 Years



(1) Based on 11 x 7.2MW turbines, local wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,078kWh per (2024) (2024) (2024).

(2) Based on 79.2MW x £500 per MW of installed capacity, if consented, value of fund determined by actual installed capacity.

Based on feedback, we have removed turbines to reduce visual impact on the Strath and removed the Battery Energy Storage System following feedback about this element in particular.

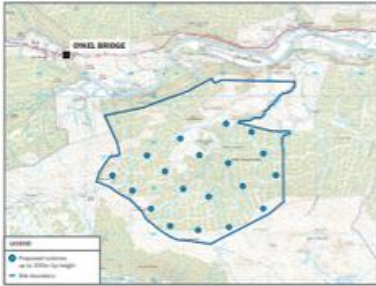
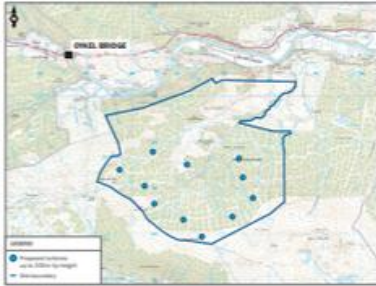
Our updated design strikes a balance between maximising energy output and reducing overall impact on the surrounding landscape.

Project website: www.coille-beith.co.uk




Design Evolution


We have developed our design based on the results of environmental surveys and feedback received.

2024 – SCOPING	2025 – FINAL PROPOSAL
	

Our final design removes the turbines to the north of the site to reduce visual impact on the Strath. Using the data from our environmental surveys, we have worked to optimise distances from nearby waterways and key routes for wildlife such as bats.

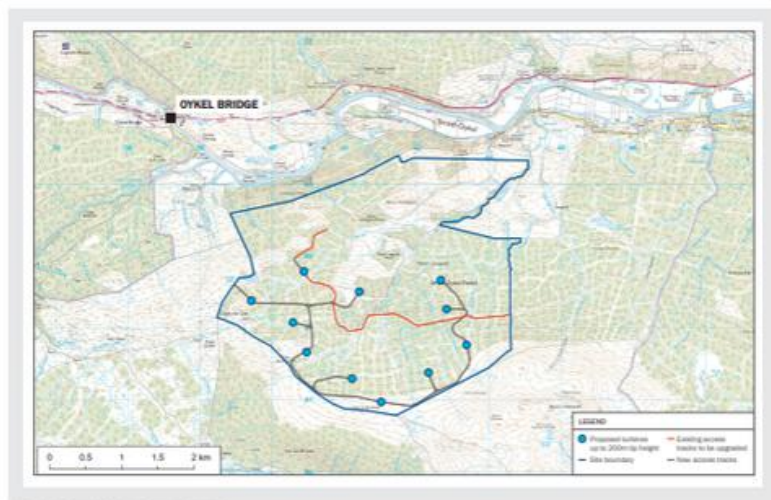
Project website: www.coille-beith.co.uk








Site layout

We will work to minimise the impact of tracks, site compounds and laydown areas on the site, both as part of our planning application and, if consented, during construction.



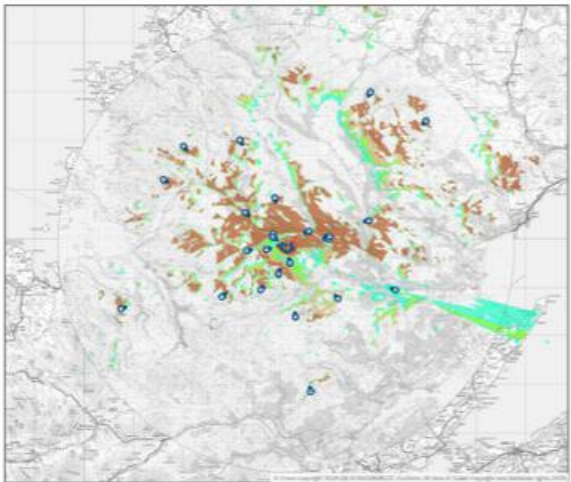
Legend

- Proposed turbines (up to 200m dia height)
- Existing access roads to be upgraded
- Site boundary
- New access roads

What will Coille Beith Wind Farm look like?

Our updated Zone of Theoretical Visibility and key visualisations will help demonstrate how the development will look in the landscape.



Key

- Proposed Turbines (3.1 MW layout B)
- Viewpoint Location
- Site Boundary
- Study Area 1000m Radius from Outer Turbines

No. of Turbines Visible at Blade Tip Level

- 1 - 2 tip visible
- 3 - 4 tip visible
- 5 - 6 tip visible
- 7 - 8 tip visible
- 9 - 10 tip visible

Predicted Viewpoint Location



1. Cul Mhor Summit
2. Cairnag Summit
3. Ben More Ruighe Summit
4. Glen Mhail Mhor Summit
5. Slouch Mhor
6. Carn Salsburgh
7. **Cybil Bridge***
8. **AB37 South Side***
9. **AB37 Side of Salsburgh***
10. Roadpath, Rappach Water
11. Rappach Approach to Benar Bridge
12. Ben More Summit
13. Chelidun Ridge
14. Summit of Benar an Eile
15. Track west of Benar Cuckermash
16. Benar Cuckermash
17. Seana Bhrugh Summit
18. Ben Kibouch
19. Cragg Mhor Summit
20. Cybil Bridge to Glen Grog Roadpath
21. **AB37 at Loch Groggle**
22. AB37, south of Loch
23. Carn a Chian Grog
24. North of the AB37 Near the Crofting Township of Abnau

* Night time viewpoint to be included in final ZTV submission

We have worked with The Highland Council and NatureScot to finalise the viewpoint locations for assessment. As the proposed turbines are over 150m and will require aviation lighting, night time viewpoints have also been agreed and are listed above.

A selection of the finalised viewpoint locations and an interactive 3D model to view the project from other locations are available at our exhibition today.

Illustrations of all agreed viewpoints will be available as part of our application submission.



Environmental Impact Assessment

A robust range of surveys inform the design of the wind farm.

Surveys and assessments are undertaken by a team of specialist environmental and technical consultants. The results and findings will be detailed in an Environmental Impact Assessment (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 Ornithology
- Cultural Heritage
- Forestry
- Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology & Soils
- Noise
- Traffic and Transport
- Climate Change

Overbuilding 660 Wind Farm, Quorn and Gullane, 9 turbines, 240m tip height



Project Timeline

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

<p>1. SITE SELECTION & SUITABILITY →</p> <p>(12 to 24 months)</p> <p>Extensive research to identify site suitability: positive indicators include good wind speed and minimal environmental and technical constraints.</p> <p>No public engagement is carried out during this time because the Site may not pass the criteria required for being suitable for development.</p> 	<p>2. PRE-PLANNING →</p> <p>(6 to 18 months)</p> <p>We request the view of the Scottish Government and The Highland Council on the level of study required (known as "Scoping").</p> <p>Scoping is sent to local and neighbouring Community Councils and consultees such as NatureScot, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland.</p> <p>There are likely to be further changes to the layout as studies continue and feedback from communities and residents is received. Two rounds of public engagement events will take place to discuss the design and changes with the local community.</p> 	<p>3. SUBMIT APPLICATION & AWAIT DECISION →</p> <p>(12 to 24 months)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> 
<p>4. CONSTRUCTION →</p> <p>(12 to 24 months)</p> <p>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.</p> 	<p>5. OPERATION →</p> <p>(Up to 50 years)</p> <p>The turbines are managed from a regionally based maintenance team, and operations are controlled by detailed planning conditions.</p> <p>We are committed to community benefit and shared ownership opportunities. An inflation linked community fund is active throughout the operational lifetime of the project for a range of community initiatives.</p> 	<p>6. DECOMMISSION</p> <p>(12 months)</p> <p>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.</p> 




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 local 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.

Community Benefit Fund

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



Supporting STEM Careers

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

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.





Berry Bush Wind Farm, Ffos-y-Mynydd, 28 turbines, 235m tip height

We will submit our proposal to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit in May 2025. This will include a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report.


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 Energy Consent Unit's website and our own project website at the time of submission.

	Please return the freepost reply card provided.		Visit the project website: www.coille-beith.co.uk
	UKProjects@statkraft.com		Phone the project hotline: 0800 772 0668

Supporting STEM Careers

Statkraft are proud to provide £72,000 over a period of six years to support UHI STEM students through the Statkraft STEM Entrance Scholarship Fund.




Two students will be selected every year, each receiving £3,000 per year for the duration of their course.

Merlin Farrell, who is currently studying a Marine Science BSc at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) is one of our first recipients of the Statkraft STEM Scholarship Fund.

As a result of his successful scholarship application, Merlin, who previously lived in Kinbrace, Sutherland, embarked on a scientific research trip to the Roots Red Sea camp in Egypt, 600 miles south of Cairo. There, he collaborated with fellow students and marine science researchers over 12 days. Statkraft will continue to support Merlin as he completes his studies at SAMS, part of The University of the Highlands and Islands.

To find out more and apply for 2025/26 scholarships, scan the QR code or search on the UHI website: www.uhi.ac.uk



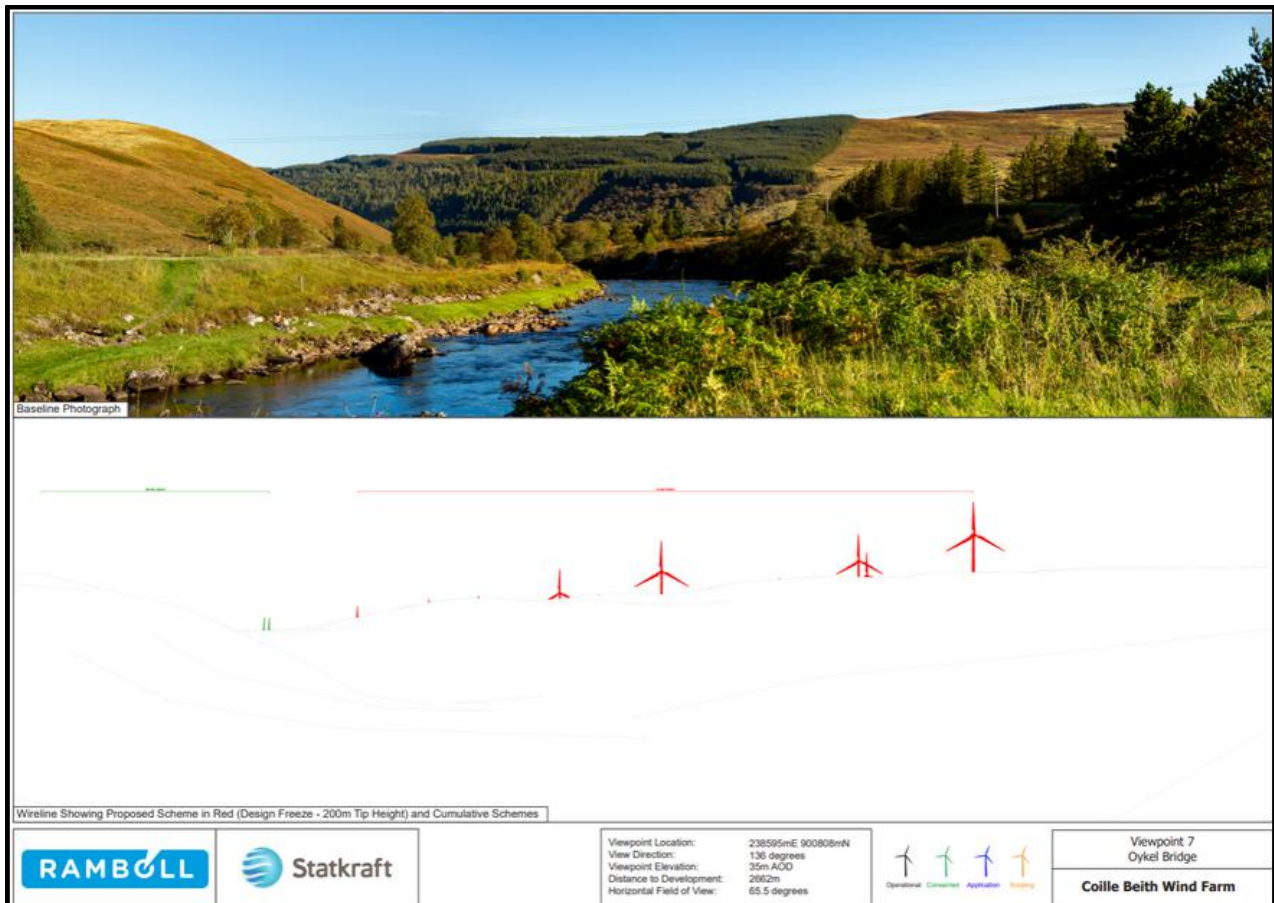
UHI University of the Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean

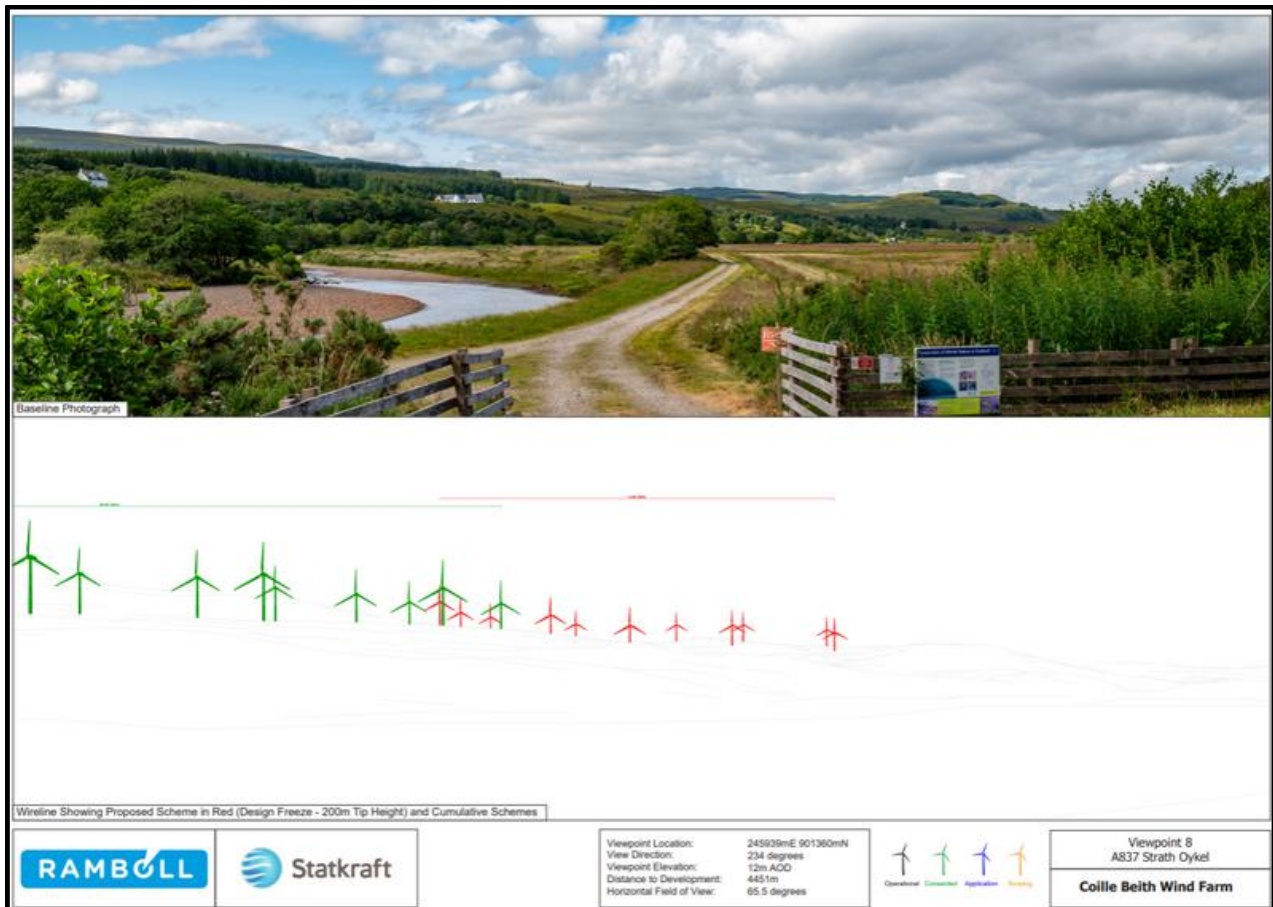
Statkraft

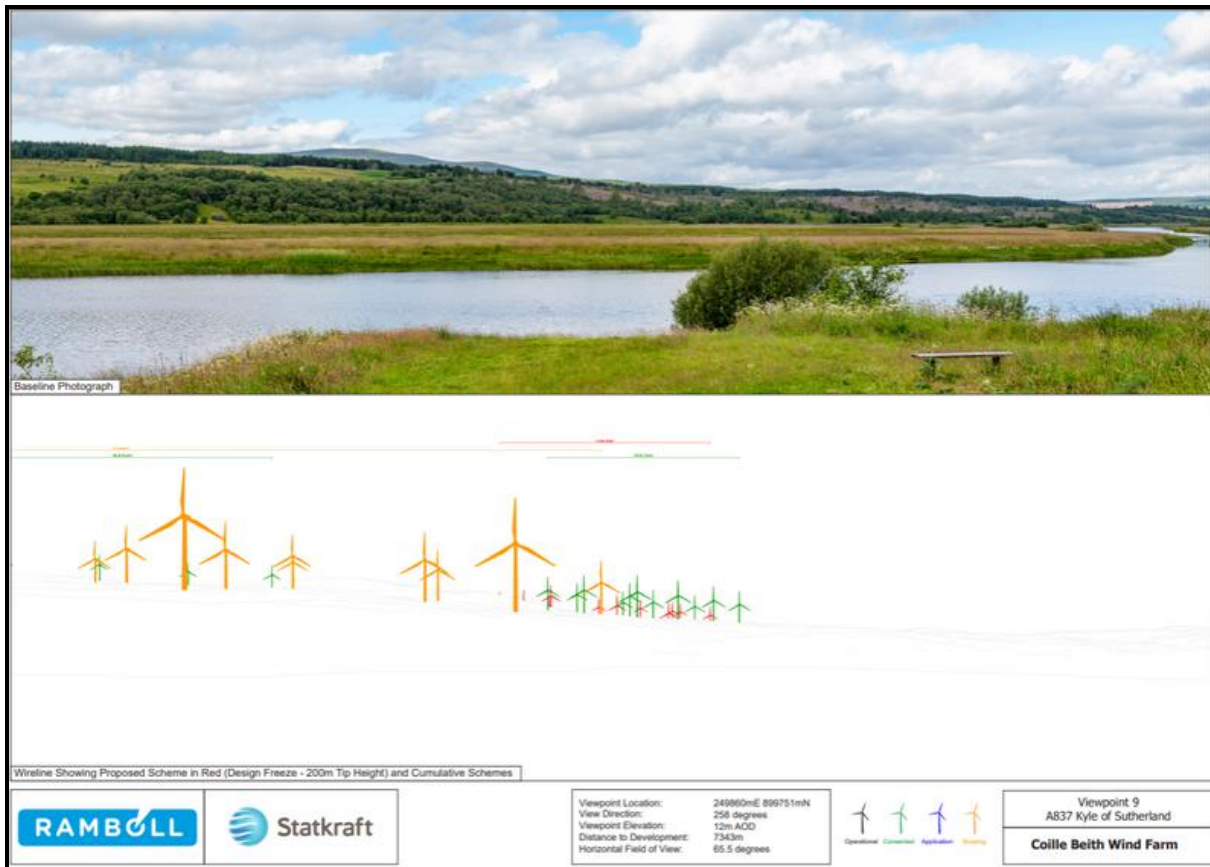
UHI students Lewis and Merlin with Statkraft's Scott Stokness

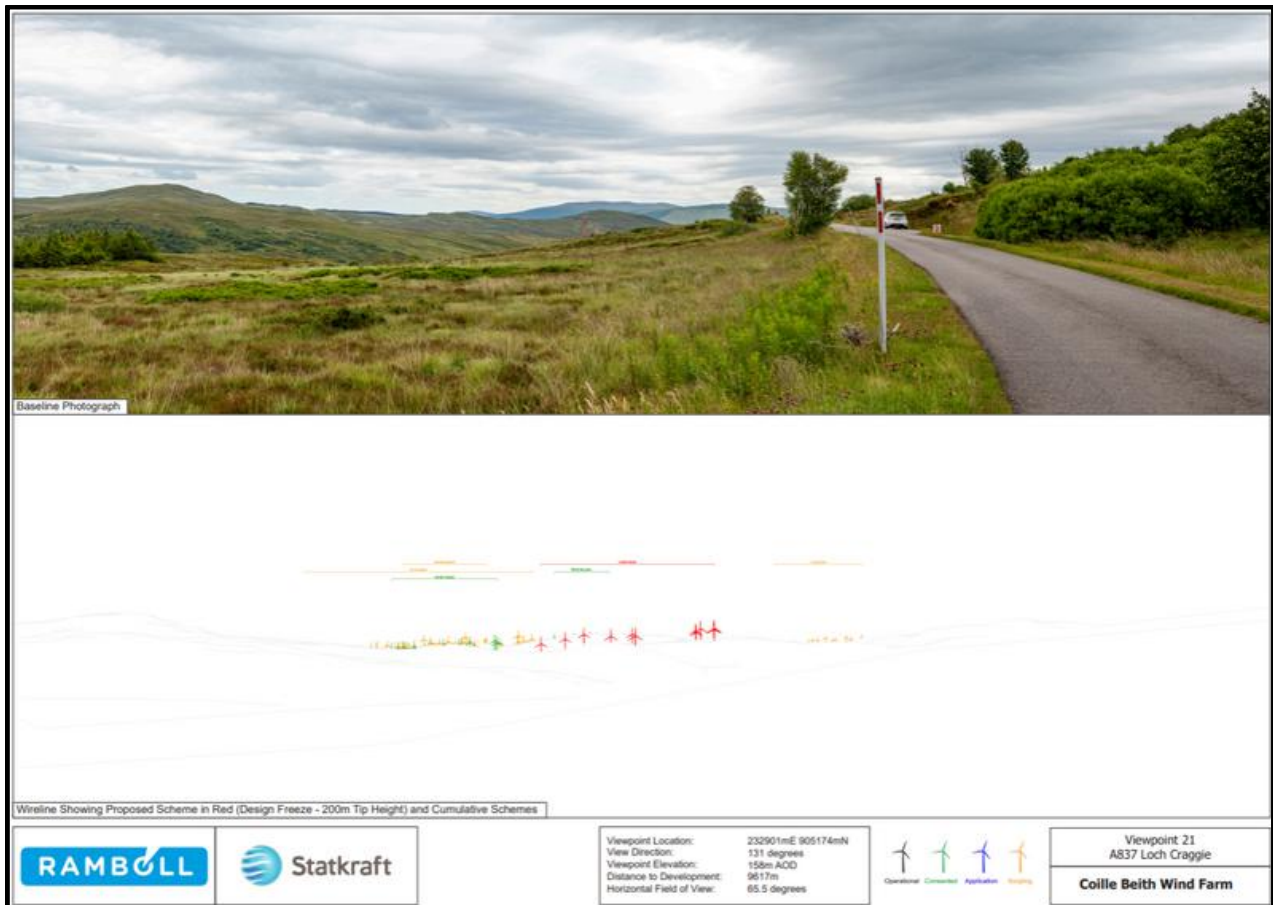
Allison Wilson, Director of Economic Development and Advancement at UHI:

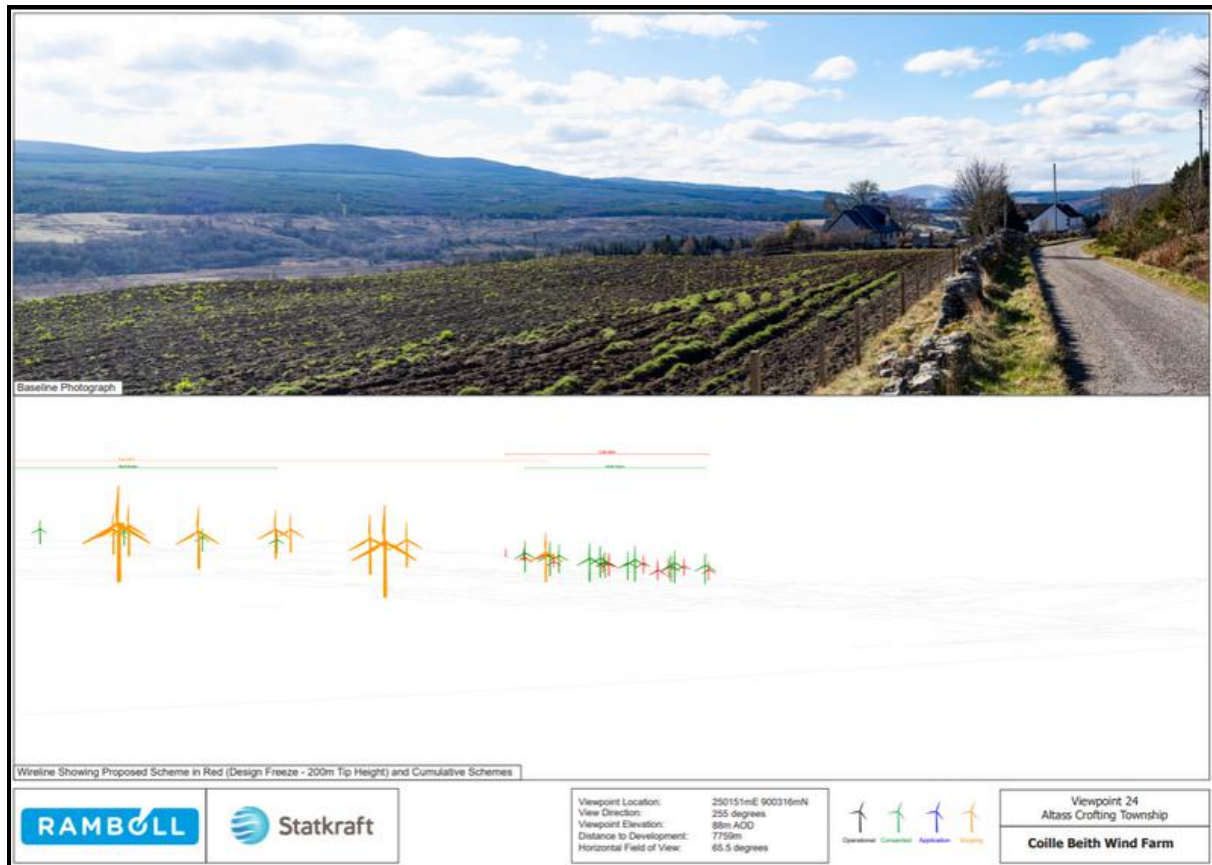
“ This is a greatly welcome commitment from one of the most important renewable energy companies in the world. The fact that the scholarships stay with the students throughout their time with UHI provides financial stability, vital in the current cost of living crisis, to allow them to concentrate on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

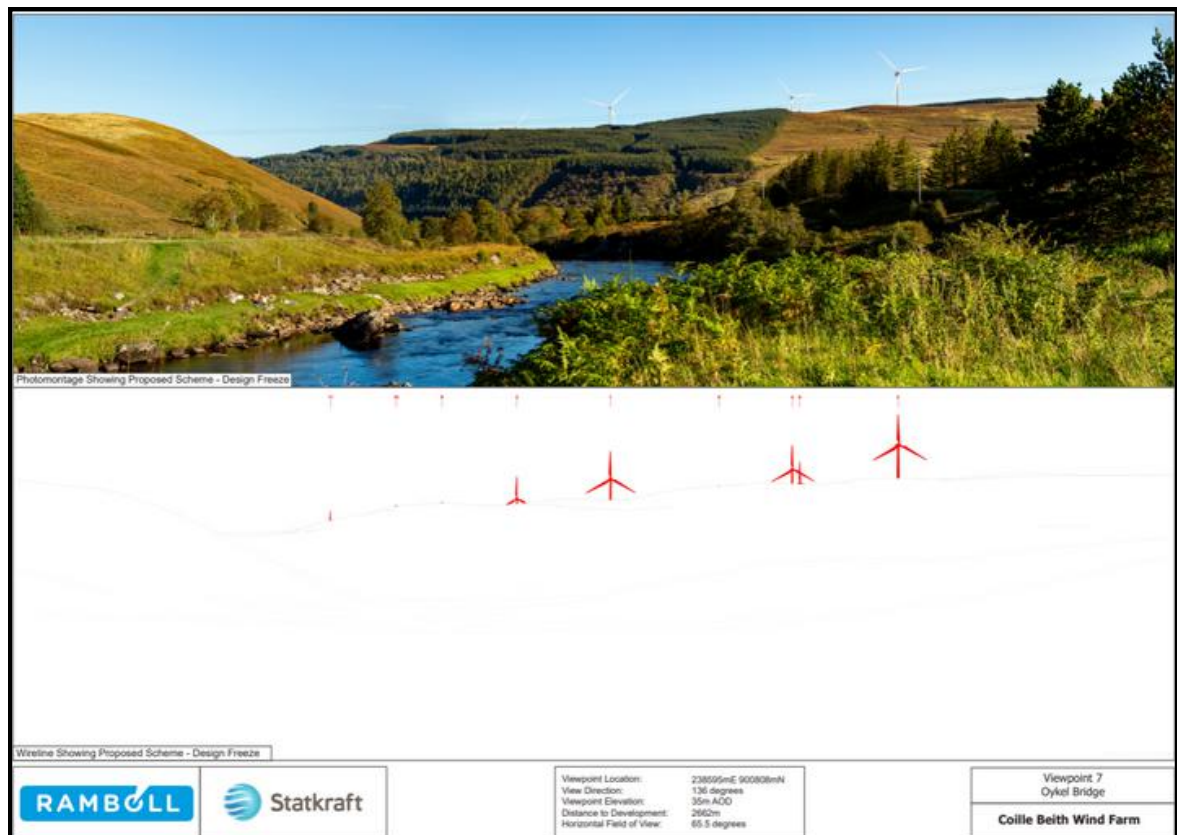


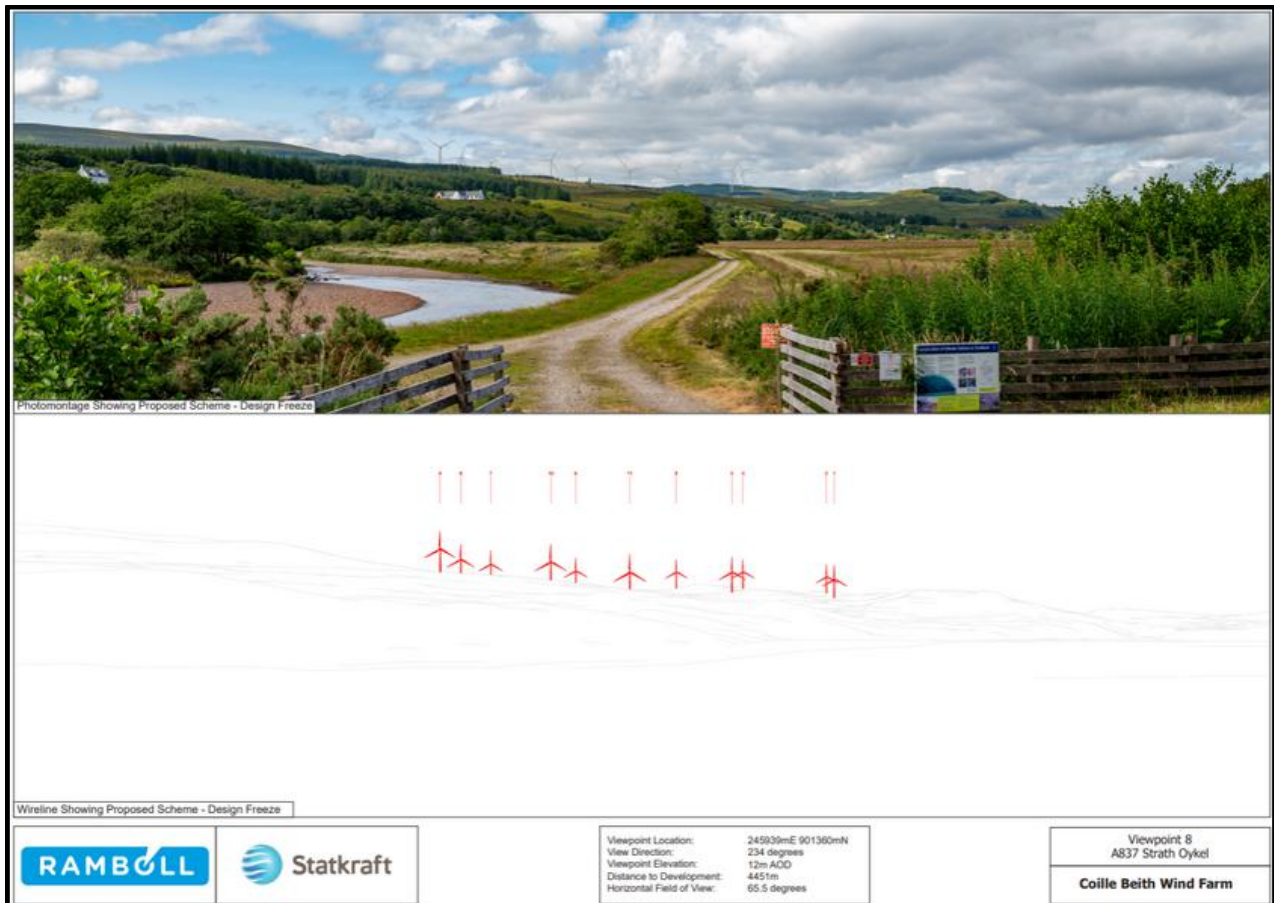


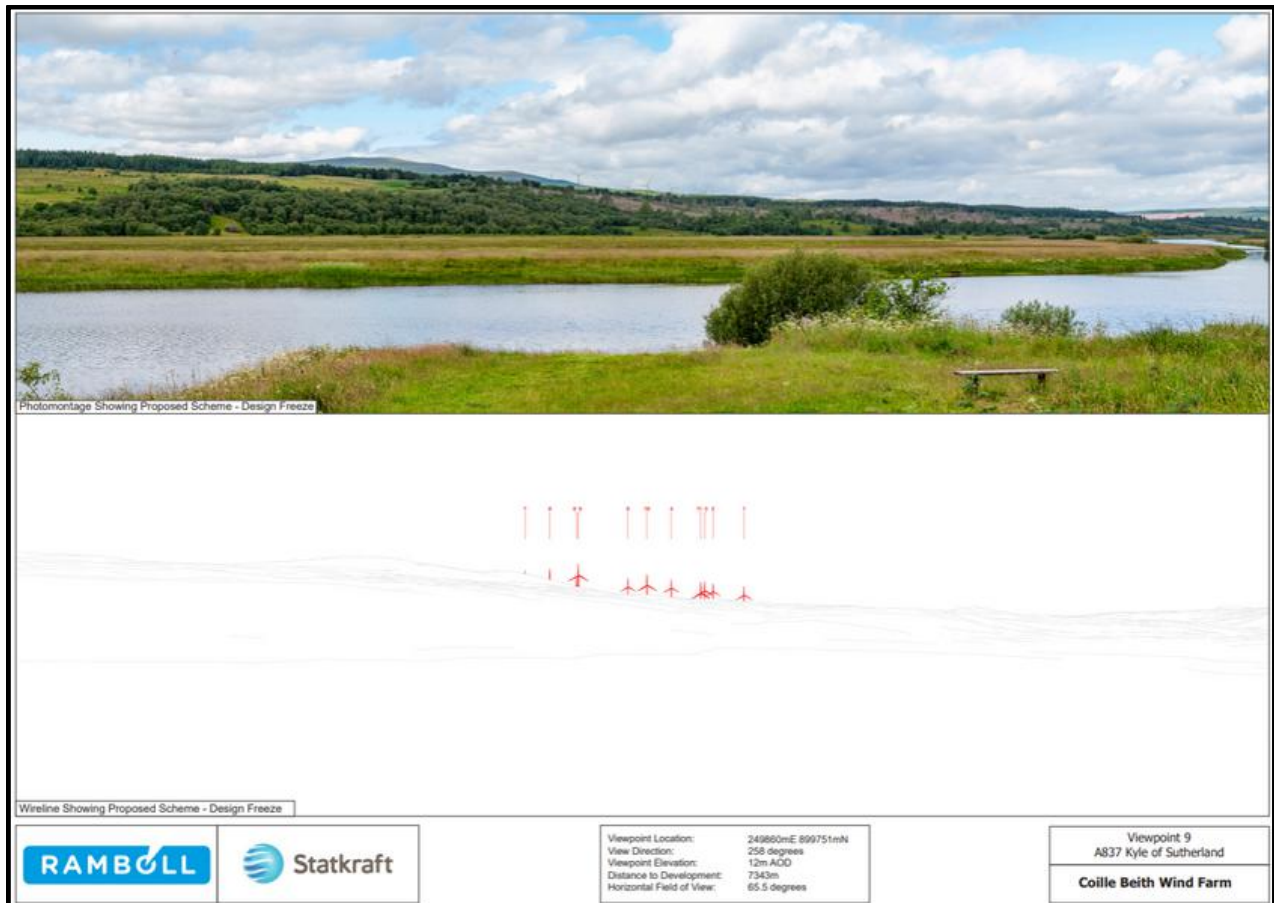


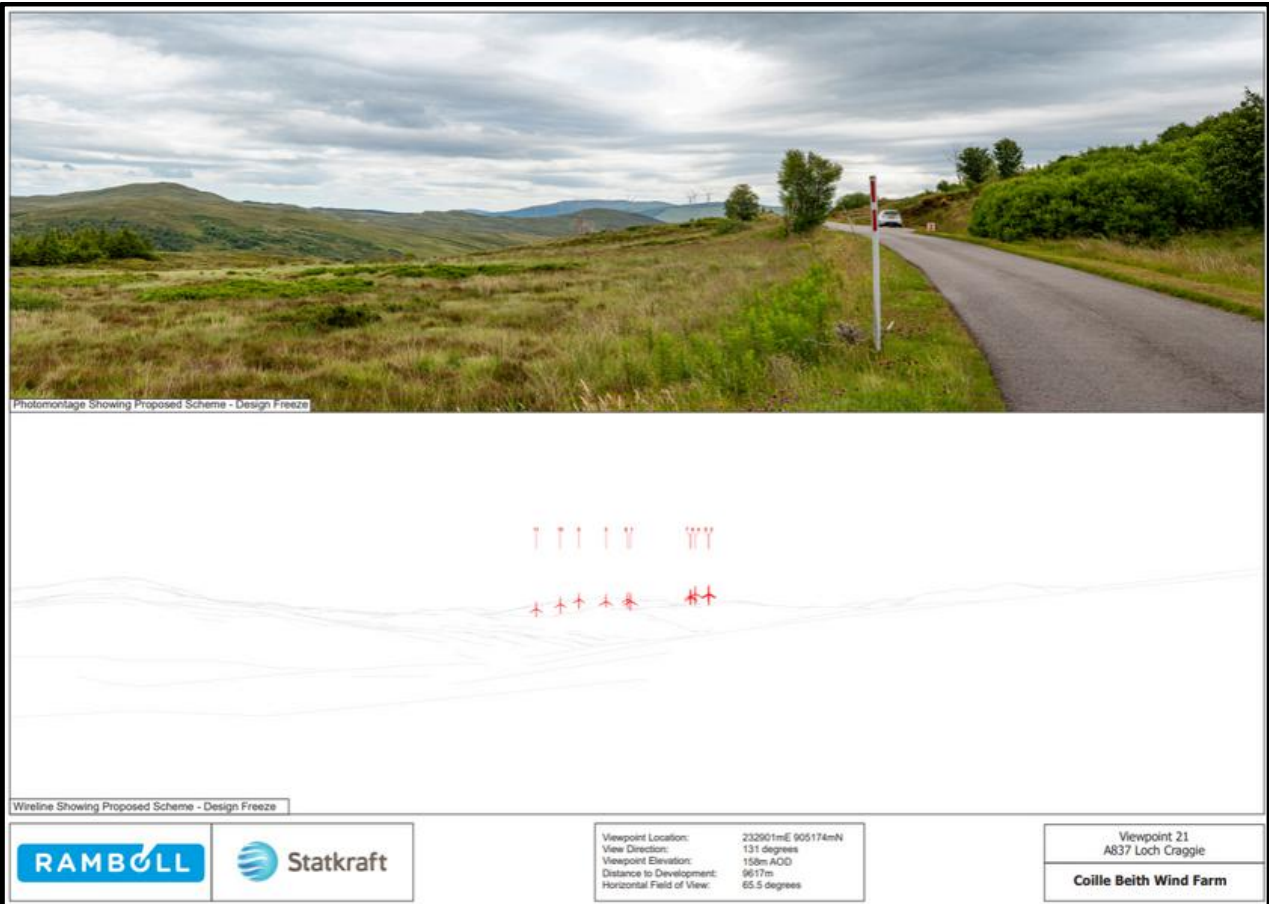


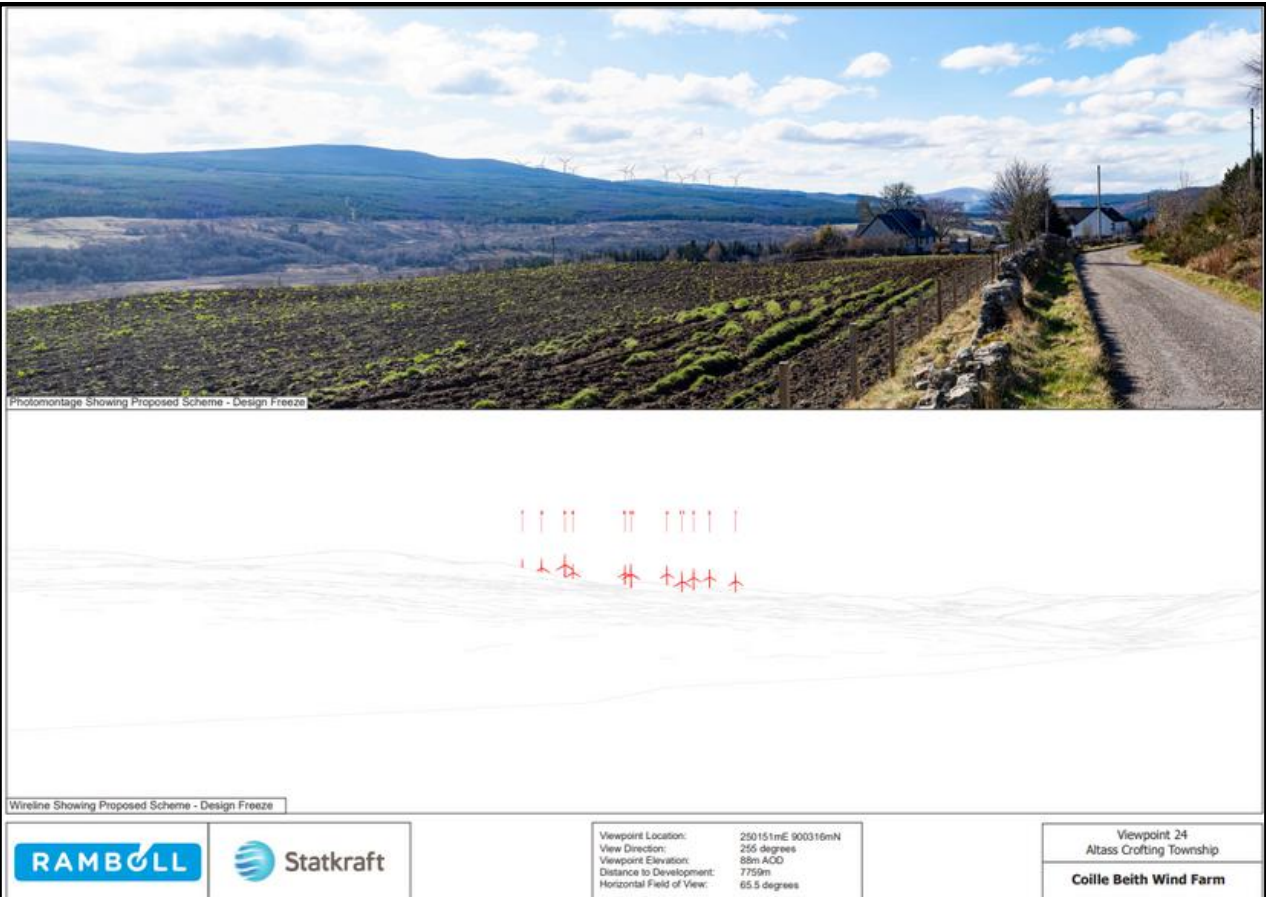













Coille Beith Wind Farm

Spring 2025



Project Overview


Coille Beith Wind Farm is a wind farm proposal for an area of land south of the River Oykel, approximately 15km south-west of Lairg. We are proposing a wind farm with a maximum of 11 turbines with a height of up to 200m to tip.

Since our exhibition in September 2024, we have revised our design based on feedback and environmental surveys.

Based on feedback, we have removed turbines to reduce visual impact on the Strath and removed the Battery Energy Storage System following feedback about this element in particular. Using the data from our environmental surveys, we have worked to optimise distances from nearby waterways and key routes for wildlife such as bats.

Our updated design strikes a balance between maximising energy output and reducing overall impact on the surrounding landscape.

We anticipate submitting our full application to the Scottish Government in May 2025.



COILLE BEITH

About Statkraft

Since 2006, Statkraft has invested over £1.4 billion in the UK's renewable energy infrastructure. We develop, operate and maintain energy facilities across a range of technologies, including wind, solar, hydro, storage, grid stability, EV charging and green hydrogen.

Across our UK businesses we have over 550 employees in England, Scotland and Wales and play a key role in helping the global business reach its goal of 2-2.5GW annual delivery rate for solar, onshore wind and battery storage from 2026 and onwards.

www.statkraft.co.uk

COILLE BEITH WIND FARM

No. of Turbines	Up to 11
Max Blade Tip Heights	Up to 200m
Expected Installed Wind Capacity (MW)	Approx. 79.2MW (Section 36 consent application)
Estimated Generation (homes equivalent)	78,000 Homes per year (1)
Community Fund (per year)	Up to £396,000 per year (2)
Operational Life	Up to 50 years

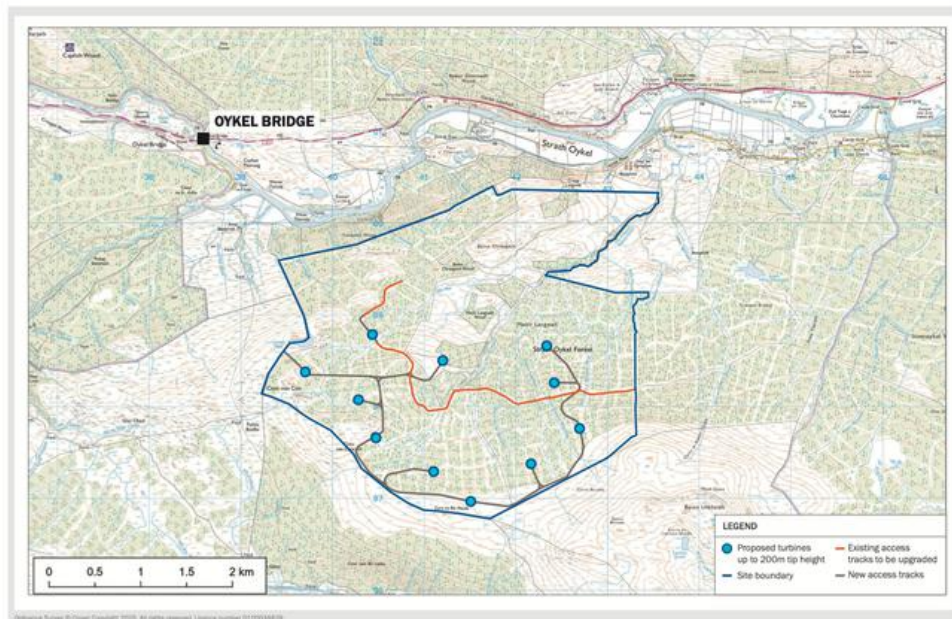
Project website: www.coille-beith.co.uk

(1) Based on 11 x 7.2MW turbines, local wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,078kWh pa (DESNZ Jan 2024).

(2) Based on 79.2MW x £5k per MW of installed capacity. If consented, value of fund determined by actual installed capacity.

Coille Beith Wind Farm

Indicative Layout



Community Opportunities

Coille Beith Wind Farm will provide the communities around the proposal with £396,000 (index linked) in community benefit every year. Do you have thoughts and ideas about how our project could bring additional positive benefits to the local area? Please contact us using the details below.

All materials from today's exhibition are available online.

If you need assistance accessing them, please get in touch.

Contact us:



Statkraft UK
The Garment Factory,
10 Montrose Street,
Glasgow, G1 1RE



Visit the project website:
www.coille-beith.co.uk



Email:
UKProjects@statkraft.com



Phone the project hotline:
0800 772 0668



FAO: Mr Les Waugh
Via: secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk
Date 25.4.2025 Our ref.

Postal address
Statkraft UK Ltd
The Garment Factory
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+44 (0)141 846 1444
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E-mail
fraser.clarke@statkraft.com

Dear Mr Waugh,

Update on Public Consultation – Coille Beith Wind Farm

Further to my letter dated 17 March 2025 regarding our second public consultation at Rosehall Village Hall, I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the exhibitions.

As you'll be aware, we held public exhibitions on 2nd and 3rd April 2025 to share the latest developments on our proposals for the Coille Beith Wind Farm, located approximately 15 km southwest of Lairg and 18 km northwest of Bonar Bridge.

Since the project began, we have continued to refine our design in response to survey results and feedback from the local community. As noted in my previous correspondence, this has led to the removal of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), a reduction in the number of turbines from 19 to 11, and a relocation of turbine locations away from the River Oykel.

Although attendance at the exhibition was lower than at our previous consultation, we were pleased to welcome 19 residents over the two days. We appreciated the time people took to engage with us and share their views. The two community council meetings we attended prior to the exhibitions were both very well attended, and we believe many residents chose to participate in those sessions instead.

Feedback highlighted a range of views regarding the Coille Beith Wind Farm proposal. While some residents expressed support for renewable energy and recognised the role of wind power, concerns were raised about the cumulative impact of multiple developments in the area.

Key points included potential effects on local wildlife, rivers, peatlands, and tourism. A number of those that we spoke to highlighted issues at the macro level, such as a desire for more strategic, coordinated planning and siting of energy infrastructure closer to areas of demand. Several visitors also highlighted issues experienced with operational wind farms in the nearby area.

We intend to submit the planning application within the coming months; this application will take account of cumulative effects through assessment. Once accepted, a full copy of the application will be available for public viewing at The HUB in Bonar Bridge (as agreed with the community councils).

We also plan to host an information day during the consultation period to answer any questions about the submission. I will be in touch to confirm dates and timings once the application has been formally accepted, and validated, by the Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

ENUWI
Fraser Clarke

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Fraser.clarke@statkraft.com

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+44 (0)141 846 1444

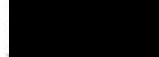
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The following link lets you view our exhibition documents, including the residents' invite, exhibition display boards & leaflet and viewpoints <https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/Coille-Beith/project-documents/>

In the meantime, if you wish to discuss any aspect of the project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke
Project Manager, Coille Beith Wind Farm



FAO: Cllr Marianne Hutchison
Via: Marianne.Hutchison.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Date 25.4.2025 Our ref.

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Dear Cllr Hutchison

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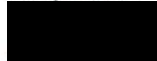
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Yours sincerely,



Fraser Clarke
Project Manager, Coille Beith Wind Farm



FAO: Emma Roddick MSP
Via: Emma.Roddick.msp@parliament.scot
Date: 25.4.2025 Our ref.

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Dear Ms Roddick,

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Fraser Clarke
Project Manager, Coille Beith Wind Farm

[Project updates](#)
[Project documents](#)
[Local benefits](#)
[Local suppliers](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Get in touch](#)


These are the latest project updates for Coille Beith Wind Farm.

Latest news

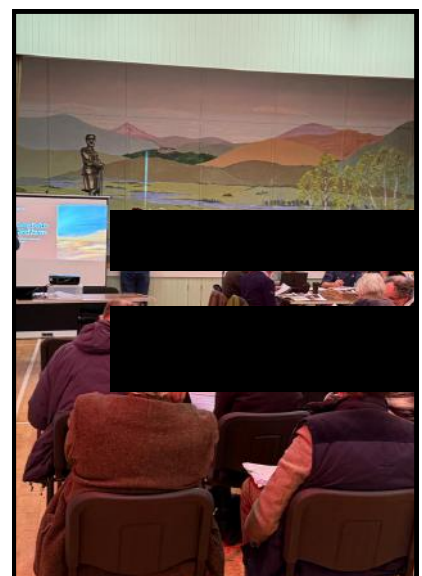
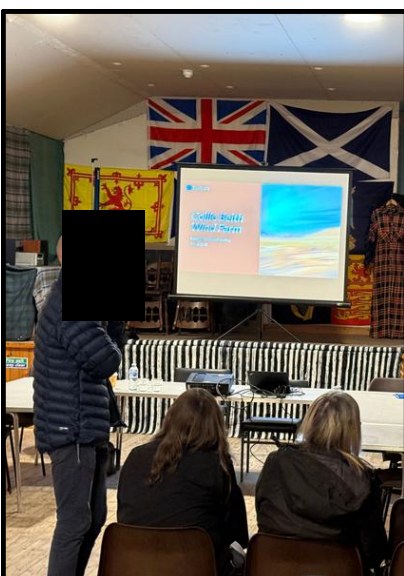
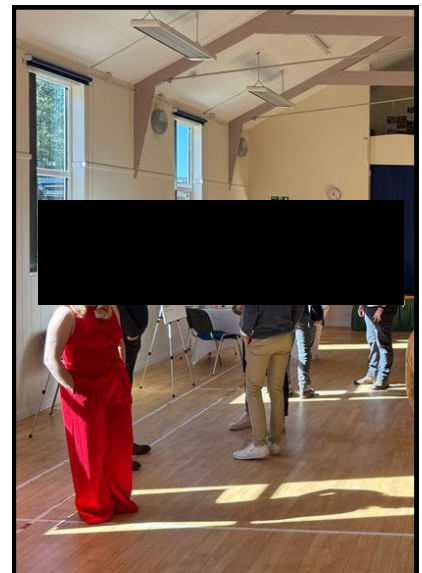
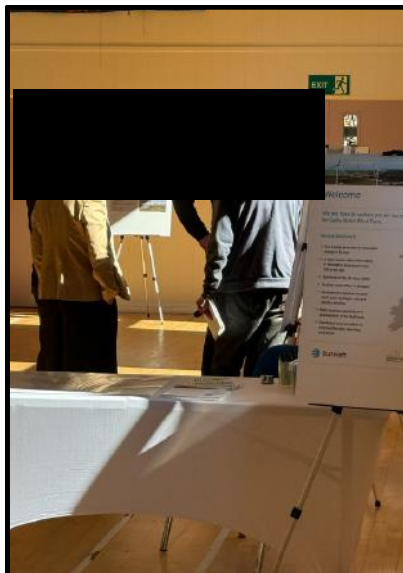
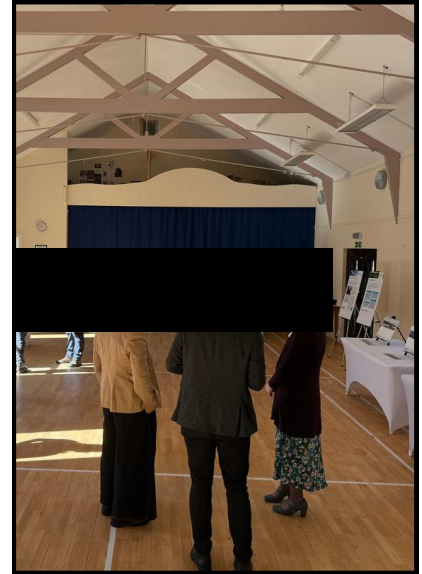
16 JUN, 2025

Statkraft team raises funds for Mikeysline through Etape Loch Ness challenge

A team of cyclists from Statkraft has raised funds for Mikeysline by taking on the 66-mile Etape Loch Ness, supporting the Highland mental health charity that provides a vital lifeline to people in crisis.



- **Date range:** 01/06/2024 - 01/06/2025
- **Page visits:** 708
- **Page views:** 999
- **Unique visitors:** 616
- **Direct traffic:** 30.5%
- **Search engines:** 45.1%
- **Social media:** 0.6%
- **External referrers:** 1.8%
- **Internal referrers:** 1.8%



KP.

Coille Beith Wind Farm

**Pre-Application
Consultation Report**

June 2025

Appendices



Statkraft

