

Our work to address community concerns

To provide the most robust assessment of Craig Watch Wind Farm, we have carefully developed the project through extensive environmental assessment, technical analysis and community consultation. Throughout the design process, we have listened to feedback from residents, stakeholders and statutory consultees and have sought to avoid, reduce and mitigate potential impacts wherever possible.

We recognise that the local community have some queries about the project, and we wanted to provide some further information.

Background

Location: approximately 8km south of Dufftown on the border of Moray and Aberdeenshire

Turbines: 10

Capacity: 72MW

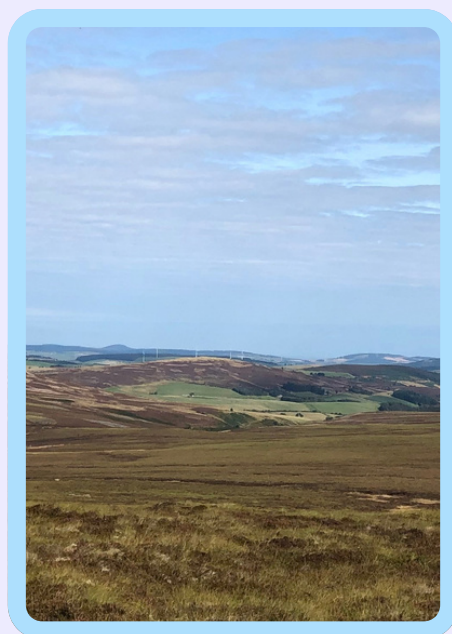
Enough to power 60,000 Scottish households

Tip height: up to 200m

Carbon savings: 128,785 tonnes per year

Benefits including:

- 104 hectares of peatland restoration
- Approx. 32 hectares of woodland re-planting
- Habitat and wildlife enhancements
- Socio-economic opportunities
- Community wealth building



Why here?

It is estimated that around less than 10% of Scotland is suitable for wind farm development. The location for the project has been determined through an in-depth feasibility assessment which considered environmental parameters, local resources and constraints, habitat and species, and planning policy.

This site would be appropriate for the Craig Watch Wind Farm development as:

- It sits within a cluster of wind farm developments
- The site is not located in an area of landscape designation
- The site has suitable access
- The site has anticipated high wind speeds

Cumulative impact

We recognise that there are a number of renewable energy-related developments in the local area, and we have developed our designs to ensure they have minimal additional cumulative impact. This is shown through our reduction in turbines from 16 to 10 and removal of proposed battery storage elements.

Additionally, with no prescribed limit on the number of turbines within a given area, this project appropriately adheres to national and local requirements and guidance. The EIAR and SEI conclude that cumulative effects have been appropriately assessed and the wider environmental, climate and energy benefits of Craig Watch Wind Farm remain significant.

Across our [Environmental Impact Assessment Report \(EIAR\)](#) and [Supplementary Environmental Information \(SEI\) Report](#), we have provided a series of viewpoints to communicate the cumulative impact of our proposal across the landscape.



Visualisations

The wireframes submitted for the Inquiry provide visualisations of all developments (operational, in construction, consented or proposed) as of January 2026, from each of the 19 assessment viewpoints. This provides consultees with the most up-to-date development view of surrounding schemes and represents a more accurate cumulative position than previous visualisations. While there are minor presentational differences between visualisations (such as a slightly higher eye-level viewpoint of the proposed development, bringing the Garbert West Turbine into the visualisation), these do not materially alter the environmental conclusions of the EIAR and SEI report.

The changes to our visualisations to include the Dorenell Extension ensures a more robust consideration of the proposed development. The Dorenell Extension was not in the planning system at the original landscape and visual impact assessment was carried out.



Landscape and cultural heritage

In considering the impact of this project on the landscape, we have reduced the visibility and prominence of turbines from nearby settlements, glens, transport routes, scenic areas, and recreational places. Craig Watch Wind Farm is proposed in an area that is not considered a designated landscape and we took the decision to significantly reduce the number of turbines. This supports our efforts to maintain residential visual amenity as much as possible.

Archaeology

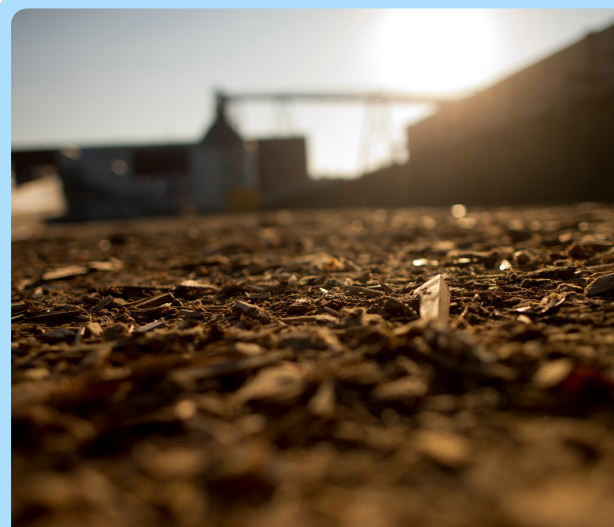
We have assessed the local area to determine the potential impacts of this proposed development on cultural heritage sites, including archaeological locations and historic buildings. Where possible, areas of cultural heritage have been avoided, and where impacts have been identified, mitigation measures have been developed to minimise their effects.

To provide further assurance of archaeological protection, our Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed ahead of any work taking place and will identify our commitment to specific archaeological protection measures. The CEMP will be approved by the local authorities prior to the commencement of construction.

Throughout the process of consultation, and through collaboration with Historic Environment Scotland (HES), the design of our project has evolved in line with heritage recommendations, resulting in our final proposal being considerate of local sites. This resulted in movement or removal of turbines where appropriate.

We acknowledge that landscape is an important consideration for the local community, and we have worked collaboratively with residents to reduce our landscape impacts. While landscape views are subjective, RenewableUK has emphasised that there is limited [evidence](#) demonstrating that onshore wind farms negatively impact tourism.

Our initial assessments of landscape and cultural heritage are available in the project's [EIAR](#), and our more recent reconsideration of these assessments is available in our [SEI Report](#).





Environmental benefits

Craig Watch Wind Farm would bring significant environmental benefits, including over 104 hectares of peatland restoration. This represents a significantly higher rate of restoration than is identified under current NatureScot guidance, which would require only around 68 hectares of restoration.

We are committed to implementing a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) to provide significant biodiversity net gain benefits to the site. This plan aims to enhance moorland and fisheries and to identify opportunities for black grouse, common gull, wildcat, and otter.

Our assessments have not identified evidence that Craig Watch Wind Farm would undermine the viability or delivery of existing regeneration projects. The environmental benefits of Craig Watch Wind Farm would provide a considerable positive impact on local vegetation and habitat, which supports the sustainability of local place and enhances the area's natural resources.

Social benefits

To support the community, Craig Watch Wind Farm will provide opportunities for local contractors and businesses. Statkraft is committed to using local suppliers. We have created a local supply register where local businesses have offered their services. This will be made available to the construction, operation and decommissioning managers as well as the construction Principal Contractor.

The proposed development has supported skills development in the local area through collaboration with Towie, Rhynie, Lumsden, Glass, Mortlach, and Botriphnie Primary Schools to provide STEM workshops and inspire students for future learning. Through our research and local knowledge, we have ensured that the social benefits of Craig Watch Wind Farm align well with local community goals such as inspiring, educating and engaging young people.

Community wealth building

For the community, Craig Watch Wind Farm will provide approximately £11 million in community benefit funding across the lifetime of the project.

We are not prescriptive in how community benefit funds are set up and look forward to working with locals to upgrade amenities and tend to community priorities.

If there is interest from the community, we are keen to progress discussions around the potential for community ownership in Craig Watch.

Water

Our proposal includes measures to protect water resources and mitigate against any potential impacts. As such, private water supplies have been specifically considered through the EIAR and subsequent submissions.

Our assessments have indicated that there will be no significant adverse cumulative effects during construction and operation. This assessment includes consideration of private water supplies for residences within a 5km radius of the site.

We will be developing further water management plans for the construction element of the development through the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This would be agreed with Moray and Aberdeenshire Council in consultation with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Shadow flicker

The potential for shadow flicker at Craig Watch Wind Farm has been assessed against UK Government guidance, with no significant shadow flicker effects likely to occur.

In the unlikely event that significant shadow flicker effects become apparent following construction, there are a number of mitigations which can be put in place against these. This can include turning certain turbines off during conditions when shadow flicker may occur. We would work with local Environmental Health Departments to ensure that any mitigations required are effective.

Noise

Our assessments acknowledge that the proposed wind farm will produce some operational noise, the level of which is dependent upon wind speed. The noise that is expected remains below acceptable noise levels set out by the UK Government. Details of the findings of our noise assessments can be found in the [EIAR](#) and [SEI Report](#).

Our most recent assessment in line with the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise (ARWTN) guidance indicates that there are no material changes to conclusions from our previous SEI assessments. Further discussions with Moray Council regarding further noise requirements are publicly available on the DPEA [website](#) under ref: WIN-300-6.

We acknowledge that there will be a temporary increase in noise during the construction phase of the development. We will engage with the community prior to and during construction to ensure that they are well informed and mitigation measures, such as limited working hours or notification ahead of any work likely to result in non-typical noise, that are in place to keep disruption to a minimum.



No objections from NatureScot, SEPA, Marine Scotland, or Scottish Forestry.

Energy and planning policy

Craig Watch Wind Farm aligns with the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) on a wider basis than wholly focusing on energy generation. It is our assessment that this proposal performs well across a range of NPF4 objectives, including climate action, biodiversity enhancement, peatland restoration and community benefit.

The criteria for an area to be identified for onshore wind development require consideration of several factors including:

- Cumulative impacts
- Landscape and visual impacts
- Impacts on long-distance walking and cycle routes and scenic routes
- Impacts on tourism and recreation

Statkraft places great emphasis on being a good neighbour and returning as much value to the community as possible. As part of our approach, we make considerable efforts to:

- Protect the local environment as part of our intensive environmental impact assessments, plans and commitments
- Enhance place through community consultation and engagement approaches
- Support communities via community wealth building initiatives such as community ownership and tailored solutions to socio-economic challenges

All of our project-related material is available online. If you can't find the answer to your question, get in touch with us at ukprojects@statkraft.com.

You can find out more about Craig Watch Wind Farm here: <https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/craigwatch/>

