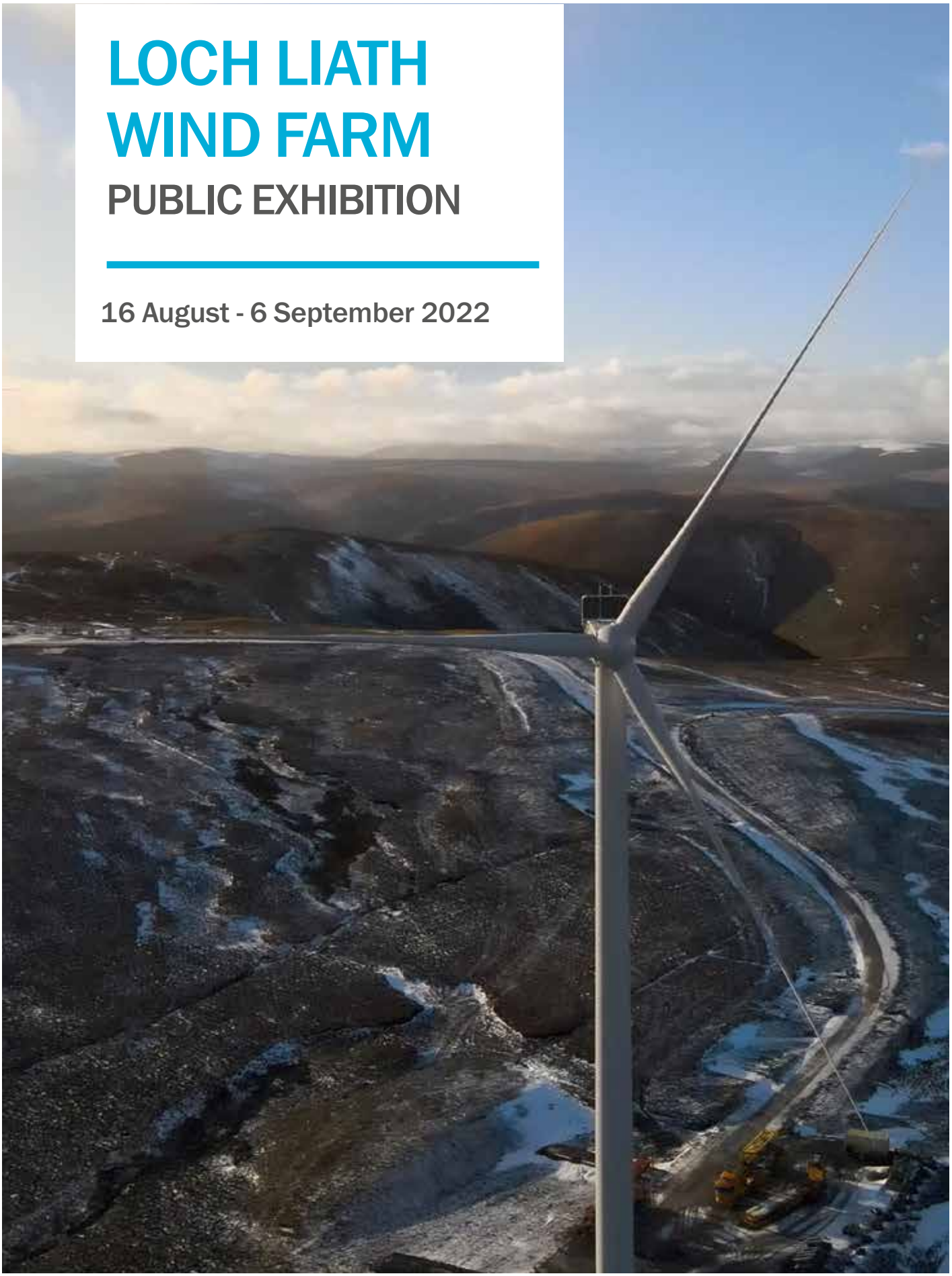
LOCH LIATH WIND FARM

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

16 August - 6 September 2022



Statkraft

www.lochliath.co.uk

Andershaw Wind Farm, South Lanarkshire, 11 turbines, 140m tip height

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Welcome

This exhibition is to share our updated plans for Loch Liath Wind Farm. We are excited to hear your views on the changes that we've made.

About Statkraft

- → The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- → A state owned utility, with origins in Norwegian hydropower 125 years ago
- → 4,800 employees in 19 countries, all working towards our low carbon future
- → Operating in the UK since 2006
- → Distributed over £2 million to communities near operating wind farms

Twentyshilling Hill Wind Farm, Dumfries and Galloway, 140m tip height

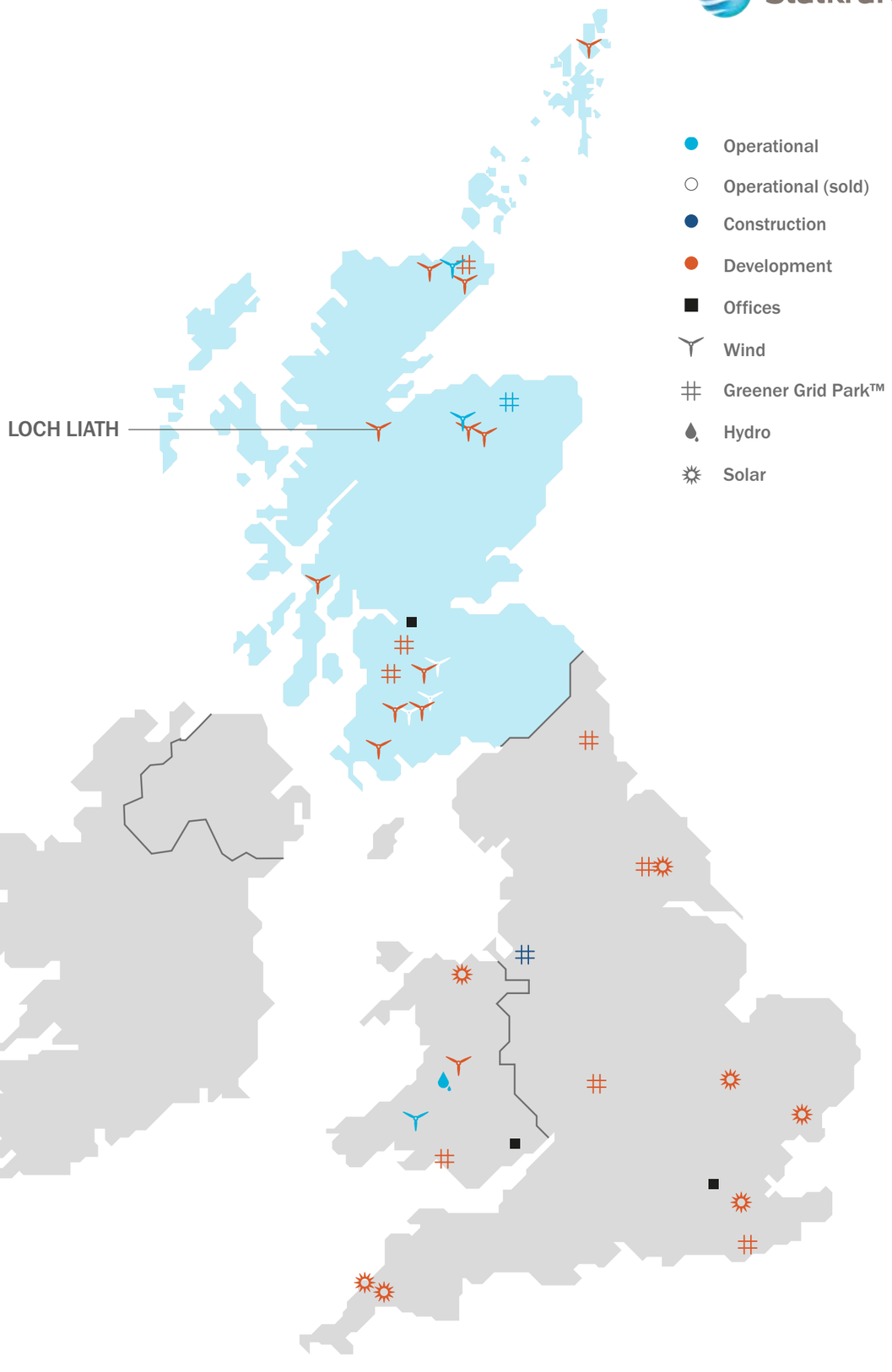
Welcome

Statkraft in the UK

- → Scottish Head Office in Glasgow
- → Operational portfolio includes six wind farms, one hydro plant
- → Growing presence in solar generation in England and Wales
- → Expanding Mer EV charging network
- → Over 700MW in development
- → Delivering grid stability services for National Grid across Scotland and the UK

scottishrenewables

inverness CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



About Loch Liath Wind Farm

We believe this is an excellent site to contribute to Scotland's ambitions of reaching net zero emissions by 2045

Key Facts:

13
Turbines

Reduced from 26 turbines

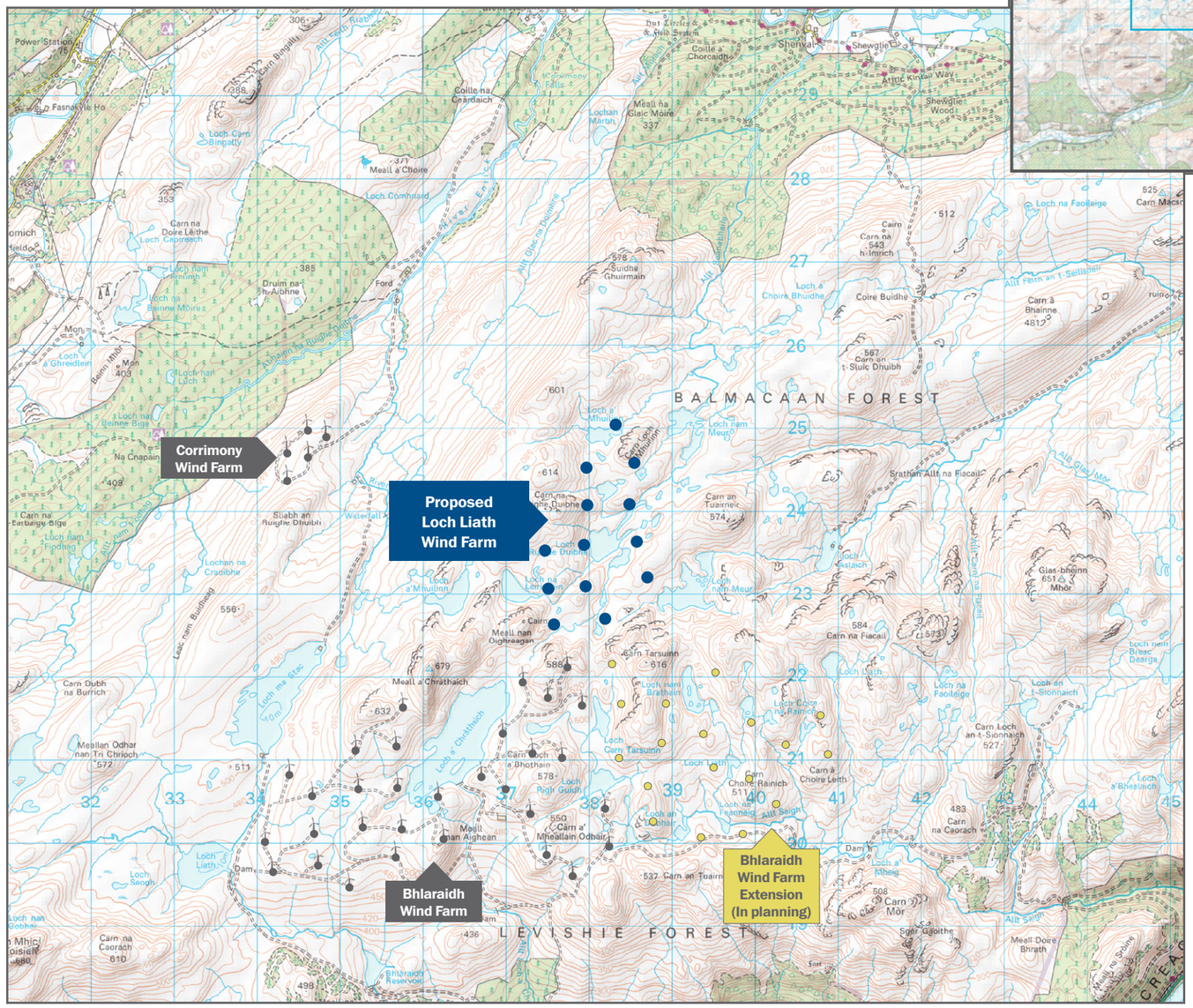
£5,000

Per MW installed per year for a Community Fund
As recommended by the Scottish Government

A maximum height of 200m to blade tip

Exciting new opportunity to talk about shared ownership and local suppliers

Potential for improved broadband provision



About Loch Liath Wind Farm

Why this site?

- → No national or internationally designated sites within the Developable Area
- → Closest turbine is over 11km from the centre of Drumnadrochit
- → Located in an area of good wind speed
- → Located within Group 2 and Group 3 areas for onshore wind farm development*
- → Would contribute towards Scotland's decarbonisation targets

We have listened to your feedback and carried out extensive surveys to reach the current design, reducing the number of turbines to remove the most visually prominent turbines and to protect peatland habitats.

	No. of Turbines	Max Blade Tip Heights	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Generation	Community Fund (per year)
Loch Liath	**13**	**200m**	**85.8**	**78,000** homes powered per year [1]	**£33,000** per turbine per year [2]

* **Group 2:** Areas of significant protection. Recognising the need for significant protection, in these areas wind farms may be appropriate in some circumstances. Further consideration will be required to demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation.
Group 3: Areas with potential for wind farm development. Beyond groups 1 and 2, wind farms are likely to be acceptable, subject to detailed consideration against identified policy criteria.

1. Based on a 6.6MW turbine, wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,520 kWh pa (BEIS 2021).
2. Based on a 6.6MW turbine and £5,000 per MW

Project Timeline

Throughout the development process Statkraft continuously engages with the local community and stakeholders about the emerging proposals.

1. SITE SELECTION

(12 months)

Extensive research to identify suitable sites: positive indicators include good wind speed and minimal environmental and technical constraints.

No public engagement carried out during this time because the site may not pass the criteria required for being suitable for development.

2. PRE-PLANNING

(6 to 12 months)

We request the view of the Scottish Government and The Highland Council on the level of study required (known as “Scoping”). Scoping is sent to local and neighbouring Community Councils and consultees such as NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Historic Environment Scotland.

There are likely to be further changes to the layout as studies continue and feedback from communities and residents is received. Ahead of the application being submitted into planning, we will host another consultation in line with Covid-19 advice.

3.SUBMIT APPLICATION & AWAIT DECISION

(12 months)

An application is submitted to the Scottish Government, accompanied by a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report showing the results of all studies undertaken.
This is publicly available information and will be available on the project website.

Interested parties and statutory consultees such as The Highland Council can formally comment on the application.

4. CONSTRUCTION

(18 to 24 months)

If Loch Liath Wind Farm is approved, construction begins at least one year after consent.

Construction typically takes 18-24 months and planning conditions are used to manage elements of construction.

5. OPERATION

(35 years)

The turbines are managed by a regionally based maintenance team, and operations are managed in accordance with detailed planning conditions.

We are committed to community benefit and shared ownership opportunities. A community fund is active throughout the lifetime of the project for worthwhile community initiatives.

6. DECOMMISSION

(12 months)

At the end of the planning period, turbines are removed. A financial bond or parent company guarantee is put in place before construction starts to cover this cost.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The process of gathering robust environmental data is vital to designing a wind farm which balances technical, environmental and commercial considerations.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process of identifying, assessing and presenting the likely significant environmental effects of a development proposal to inform sound decision making. Having an understanding of the potential for significant effects as information emerges through the EIA process also allows for early action to be taken to avoid these effects as part of the design of the project.

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

It will include:

- → **Landscape and Visual Amenity;**
- → **Hydrology and Peat;**
- → **Ecology and Ornithology**
- → **Cultural Heritage;**
- → **Noise;**
- → **Traffic and Transport;**
- → **Socio-economics; and**
- → **Climate Change**

As part of designing this wind farm and undertaking the EIA, advice and guidance has been sought from a range of statutory and and non-statutory bodies including, but not limited to:

- → The Highland Council;
- → NatureScot;
- → Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- → Historic Environment Scotland; and
- → Transport Scotland.

Landscape and Visual Assessment

The landscape and visual impact assessment will include a detailed assessment of the potential effects of the proposed wind farm which may arise across a 45km radius study area. This will assess the effects of the wind farm on its own, and in combination with other wind farm developments.

Particular consideration is given to effects on:

- → the landscape character of the site and the wider area;
- → special qualities of designated landscapes such as the Glen Affric National Scenic Area, Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area (SLA) and Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA;
- → the wild land qualities of Central Highlands Wild Land Area (WLA 24);
- → views experienced by road users, residential locations and recreation areas;
- → potential turbine aviation lighting; and
- → cumulative landscape and visual effects with other wind farms in the study area (operational, consented, and those which are the subject of a current application).

We have agreed a range of viewpoints with The Highland Council and NatureScot to ensure the most suitable locations are selected to illustrate the effects of the wind farm.

Additional viewpoints have also been agreed with other organisations to reflect how the community and visitors to the area use the surround land and view the site.

Viewpoints created for the EIA Scoping Report, the first part of the assessment, have helped to guide our decision making for our final layout.

Visualisations for the final EIA Report will be prepared and presented in accordance with both The Highland Council and NatureScot guidance.

Hydrology and Peat

An extensive suite of surveys, undertaken to record and understand peatland across the proposed wind farm site, has now been completed. Peat surveys aimed to record peat depths at regular intervals and have found that depths range from less than 0.5m to over 5m in some localised areas. This data has been used to inform the design of the scheme, which has included minimising infrastructure on the deepest areas of peat.

We will be submitting a peat management plan as part of our application for the proposed wind farm which will detail ways in which peat will be carefully and safely managed, to minimise any negative impacts on peatlands and their associated habitats.

A number of watercourses and waterbodies are located across the site. Where possible, all infrastructure has been sited at least 50m from waterbodies and watercourses which are mapped on Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 basemap, and outside of known flood risk areas. The wind farm has also aimed to reduce the number of watercourse crossings needed and avoid areas of Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE) habitats.

Bog pools located within the site. Turbines have been sited to reduce or avoid impact on bogs and other water bodies

Consultation is ongoing with nearby residents to identify any Private Water Supplies currently in use. Any water abstractions will be identified and the associated catchment areas determined so that they can be protected during construction and operation of the wind farm.

Environmental Impact Assessment

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Ecology

Extensive ecological surveys have been undertaken across the site for habitats and protected species. The survey findings show that the site supports a mosaic of typical upland habitats including blanket bog in addition to an extensive network of lochs and watercourses. The habitats are in variable condition across the site with some areas having been subject to grazing and other land management practices. The design of the wind farm has worked to avoid siting turbines and infrastructure on deep peat which supports sensitive habitats and localised habitat features of interest, such as bog pools, have been avoided where possible.

Overall, the site provides generally sub-optimal habitat for most species however surveys have been undertaken for wild cat, badger, red squirrel, pine marten, otter, bats and water vole. The surveys were agreed with NatureScot and have been completed in accordance with current NatureScot guidance. Full details of the survey findings will be included in the EIA Report, including detailed information, photographs, figures and assessment of effects on habitats and protected species.

Ornithology

A full suite of ornithological surveys has been undertaken at the site in line with current NatureScot guidance. This included monthly flight activity surveys as well as surveys for breeding upland birds, breeding raptors (including golden eagle), breeding divers and Slavonian grebes, raptors, and black grouse. The design of the wind farm has included appropriate buffers on known breeding sites identified through the surveys minimising the potential effects on birds. Full details of the surveys undertaken will be presented in the EIA Report.

Statkraft Recognised for Approach to Habitat Improvements

Statkraft values the ecological importance and potential of its projects to deliver biodiversity improvements. We work closely with statutory bodies and specialist consultants to understand potential impacts, and design robust and detailed plans to mitigate any potential effects.

Our approach to restoring and enhancing the biodiversity of a proposed wind farm in Moray has been recognised, being selected as Finalist for two major Scottish renewable energy awards.

A thorough habitat management plan was proposed for the Berry Burn Wind Farm Extension, after the site was severely damaged by a wildfire. A significant biodiversity gain is possible through the proposed restoration of blanket bog habitat, accelerating habitat recovery from the fire and reducing damage from future wildfires.

Finalist:
Outstanding Project

Finalist:
Best Onshore Renewable Energy Project

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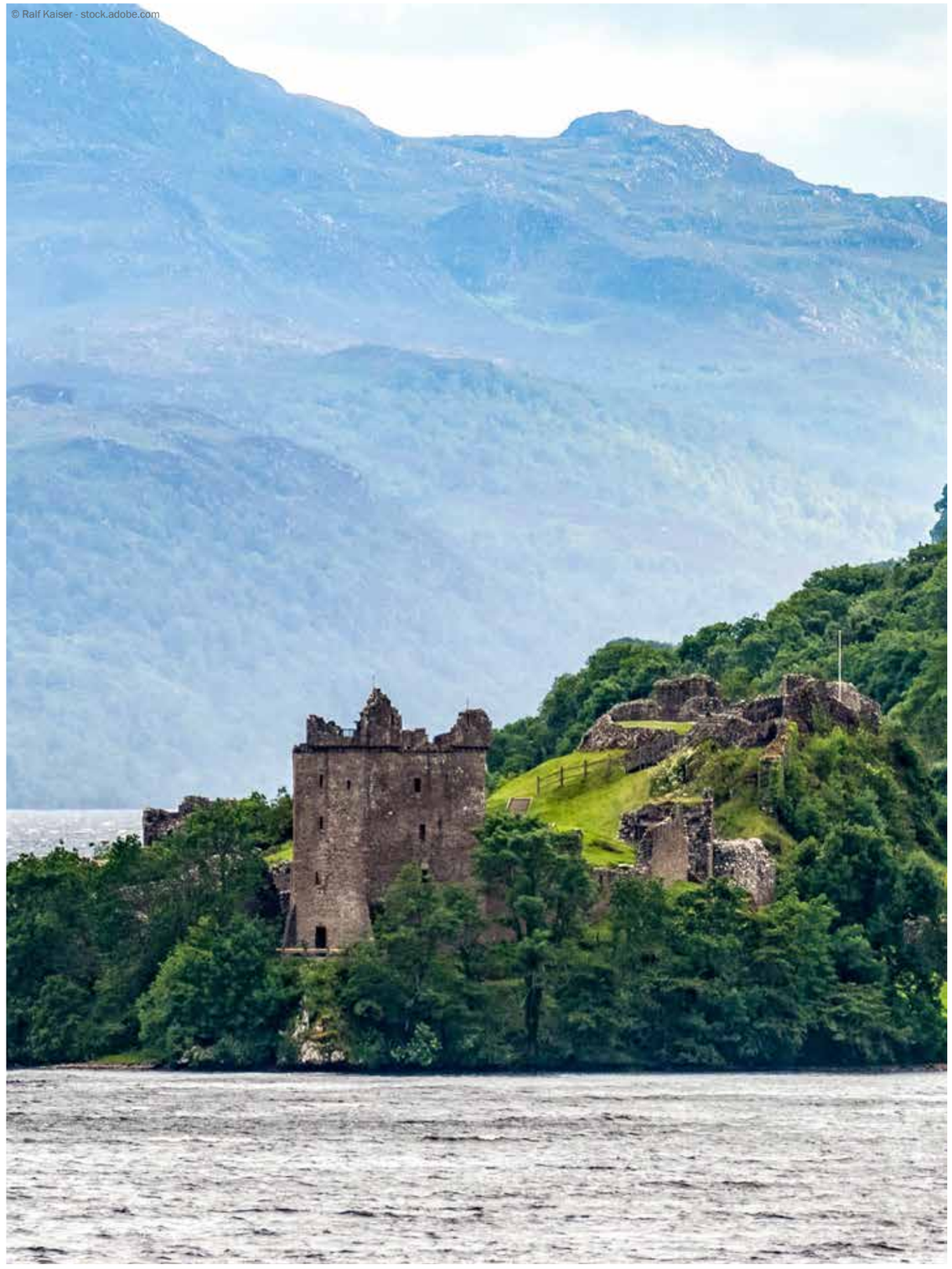
Cultural Heritage

The EIA Report will include a detailed assessment of effects on archaeology and cultural heritage in line with relevant Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and professional guidance.

The potential for physical effects on known archaeological remains has been avoided through careful design of the scheme. Locally important assets brought to the attention of the project team – including the John Ferguson Cairn on Loch nam Muer – have also been considered and any effects will be recorded in the EIA Report.

For assets in the wider landscape, a combination of site visits, 3D visualisations and professional judgement have been applied to avoid and minimise effects as a consequence of setting change – particularly with regard to Urquhart Castle and a range of nationally important prehistoric assets in the vicinity. Photomontages will be prepared to accompany the EIA Report for key assets highlighted as concerns by HES and The Highland Council.



Environmental Impact Assessment

Noise

A noise assessment has been undertaken to consider the potential effects on nearby residential properties associated with both the construction and operation of the wind farm. The assessment of effects of construction noise included consideration of noise from construction traffic on site access routes where residential properties may be affected.

There are three bothies located on the site, however on the basis that these are not residential in nature, these were not included in the noise assessment.

The noise assessment has also taken into account other wind farms in the area.

Traffic & Transport

The route used for delivery of the turbine components will depend on the port used for delivery. The ports currently under consideration include Kyle of Lochalsh for blade loads and Corpach for tower and nacelle loads.

A detailed access review has been undertaken to identify any necessary road upgrade works required to accommodate the proposed loads between the ports and the project site.

We are refining the options for transport from the road and into the project site to minimise the amount of hand standing required to reduce disruption to the surrounding land.

The main impact on local roads will be associated with the movement of general HGV traffic travelling to and from the site during construction. This impact will be assessed as part of the EIA report. The report will also provide details on how construction traffic will be managed to help reduce inconvenience to other road users during the construction period.

Climate Change

The Scottish Government has set a legally-binding target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045, and has an ambition to secure an additional 8-12GW of installed onshore wind capacity by 2030. Developments such as Loch Liath Wind Farm are key to meeting this target. Whilst Scotland has continued to make good progress in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, the need for low carbon energy supplies is paramount if Scotland is to achieve this net zero target.

By 2030, The Scottish Energy Strategy calls for 50% of 'all energy' to come from renewables. It emphasises that onshore wind is now one of the cheapest forms of electricity and will therefore continue to play an important role in this.

To quantify the emissions savings of Loch Liath Wind Farm, a 'carbon balance' assessment will be undertaken for the wind farm using Scottish Government guidance.

What is "Net Zero"?

Credit: www.nationalgrid.com/stories/energy-explained

Net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out.

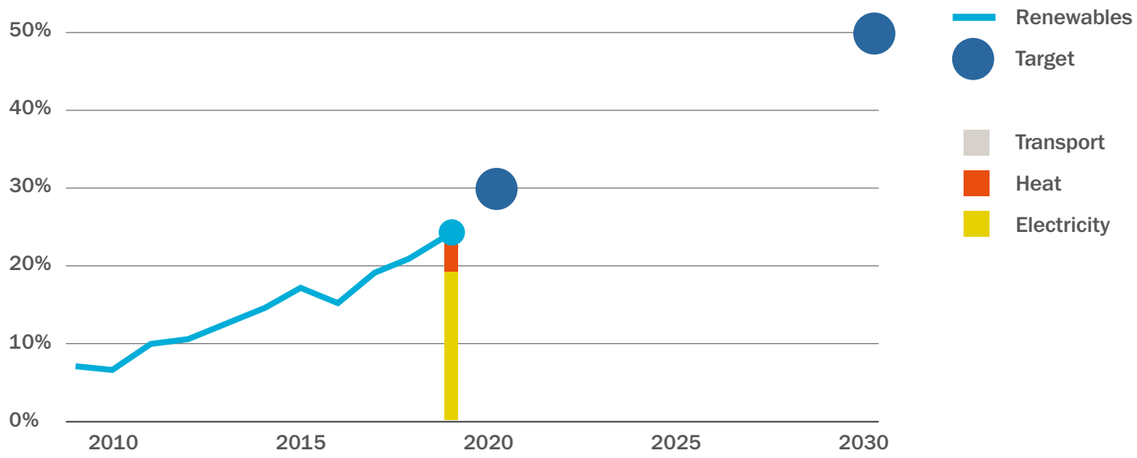
"Think about it like a bath – turn on the taps and you add more water, pull out the plug and water flows out. The amount of water in the bath depends on both the input from the taps and the output via the plughole. To keep the amount of water in the bath at the same level, you need to make sure that the input and output are balanced.

Reaching net zero applies the same principal, requiring us to balance the amount of greenhouse gases we emit with the amount we remove. When what we add is no more than what we take away we reach net zero. This state is also referred to as carbon neutral; although zero emissions and zero carbon are slightly different, as they usually mean that no emissions were produced in the first place."

HOW IS SCOTLAND DOING?

Scotland's share of renewable Energy (gross final consumption)

Scotland, 2009 - 2019



Source: Scottish Energy Statistics Hub

Local Benefits & Investment

We would like our wind farms to be considered a local asset and want to talk with you about how we can bring new investment to your community.

Investment from wind farm projects are helping young entrepreneurs achieve their business goals. Northcoast Watersports were granted £5,000 from Caithness Business Fund (Baillie Wind Farm) that enabled them to buy essential equipment to help get their, now very popular, business started.

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Community Benefit Fund

We are committed to setting up a Community Benefit Fund in each of our project locations. Over £2 million has been generated from our UK projects to local causes and innovative schemes.

Community Ownership

Progress the opportunity for local groups to have a financial interest in our project, with the support of organisations such as Local Energy Scotland.

Local Investment

We will work with local business groups such as the Chamber of Commerce to increase awareness of the opportunities in construction and operations.

Education & Enterprise

We welcome ideas on how our project can support local education and employment opportunities, and boost local businesses.

Wireless Broadband

We invest in feasibility studies to identify potential for improved connection, and support communities developing their own broadband initiatives.

Broadband

We are always exploring ways in which we can provide positive benefits to local communities near our projects.

We commissioned a feasibility study which suggested that communities near the Loch Liath Wind Farm could benefit from super fast fibre or microwave broadband.

We are interested in progressing this scheme further - please let us know if improved broadband could benefit your home or business.

The Broadband Feasibility Study explores the potential for using the infrastructure of our project to deliver super fast broadband.

FEASIBILITY

We require a **reliable broadband service** to operate our wind turbines, our study explored **potential for improving local infrastructure** as the wind farm is connected.

FIBRE & FIXED WIRELESS

Fibre is the optimal connection, but **fixed wireless broadband also offers opportunities** to connect some locations that can be difficult or costly to reach.

A BENEFIT

Potential to provide **improved internet connection for commercial and residential properties**. This could be **partially or fully funded by the community benefit fund** associated with the Loch Liath Wind Farm project.

NEXT STEPS

We would like to continue a conversation with you on the findings of the feasibility study. **Please contact us, and register on the website for updates.**

Your Views are Important to Us

We hope to submit an application in late 2022.

We welcome your comments and feedback -
Please register your comments by completing a feedback form. In order for us to take your view into account, **please comment by 13 September 2022.**

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 should be received no later than 13 September 2022.

Thank you for attending the Loch Liath Wind Farm Exhibition.

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

Please return the freepost reply card provided.

Register for updates
www.lochliath.co.uk

Phone the project hotline:
0800 772 0668

UKProjects@statkraft.com

Freepost Statkraft
(no stamp required)

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For more information about Loch Liath
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Berry Burn Wind Farm, Moray. 29 turbines, 100m tip height