

West Andershaw Wind Farm

Public Consultation Feedback Report

August 2022

About West Andershaw Wind Farm

West Andershaw Wind Farm is a proposal for up to 11 turbines, each up to a maximum of 250m to turbine blade tip. The nearest turbines of the layout presented at the first exhibition are located approximately 3.3km south of Glespin, 4km west of Crawfordjohn, and 4.9km south of Douglas. The table below highlights some key information about the proposal.

| | No. of Turbines | Max Blade Tip Heights | Expected Installed Capacity (MW) | Estimated Generation (homes equivalent) | Community Fund (per year) |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| West Andershaw | Up to 11 | Up to 250m | Over 50 MW (section 36 planning application) | Over 47,700 Homes per year ⁽¹⁾ | Estimated £250,000 per year ⁽²⁾ |

(1) Based on 50 MW Installed Capacity, wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,393kWh pa (BEIS Dec. 2020). Candidate turbine still tbc'd.
 (2) CBF based on 50MW x £5k per MW of installed capacity. If consented, value of fund determined by actual installed capacity. Candidate turbine still tbc'd.

A programme of community engagement and online consultation for the proposal began in May 2021 and is ongoing. Our engagement is adhering to Scottish Government advice in relation to Covid-19.

Initial Consultation Period: Introducing the project

Community engagement and feedback is very important to us as we develop and shape West Andershaw Wind Farm. In May 2021, when the project was first introduced into the public domain with a request for a Scoping Opinion from the Scottish Government, we launched a dedicated project website, providing the opportunity for interested parties to view and, importantly, comment on the proposals.

At the same time, we wrote to the host and neighbouring Community Councils* and local political representatives to raise awareness of the proposal and offer an opportunity to virtually meet to provide feedback on the consultation approach and the proposals. Members of the project team presented to Douglas Community Council in July 21 and Duneaton Community Council in August 2021.

Main Consultation Period

This overview presents the findings of the feedback received during the first round of consultation. This was held between 9 August and 27 August 2021 and included an online consultation website and non-digital sources of feedback such as by phone and postal feedback forms, with feedback accepted until 17 September 2021. Responses received since this date continue to be evaluated and responded to, if required, and will help to shape and inform the proposals through the development and design stages.

The consultation was publicised in various ways, including:

- Advertisements in the Carlisle and Lanark Gazette at the start of the live consultation;

*Community Councils of: Duneaton Community Council and Douglas Community Council.

- Mailing to all households and businesses (over 1,400 in total) surrounding the site with an invitation to take part in the online consultation as well as providing feedback cards and freepost envelopes for those who preferred to write back rather than go online;
- Writing to host and neighbouring Community Councils and local ward members at the start of the consultation; and
- Details of the consultation on the West Andershaw project website;

As part of the online consultation, we provided:

- Exhibition Brochure online - information you would usually find on boards at a village hall exhibition;
- Pre-recorded video introducing the project, some of the project team and key aspects of the project;
- Extensive FAQ section on the project to help inform residents when they arrive on the consultation website;
- Three live Q&A sessions with the project team held over 17 August and 27 August - giving residents the opportunity to have live interactive chat with the project team;
- A 'ring back' service to allow members of the public to have a dedicated chat with our team at a date/time suitable to them; and
- An opportunity to leave comments through online feedback forms.

We will hold a second exhibition before we submit a Section 36 application for the proposed West Andershaw Wind Farm to the Scottish Government in Winter 2022/23.

Summary of Consultation Responses

Of the 1,408 households and businesses surrounding the site contacted with the invitation and freepost feedback form we received 45 (3.2%) back. In addition, we received 142 website visits and 7 online forms completed.

From the completed online and offline forms 75% of respondents agreed that the country needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources, 19% didn't agree and the remaining 6% were unsure or did not answer. Over half of respondents, 56%, agreed that onshore wind power is a good way to help achieve this aim, 35% didn't agree and 9% were unsure or didn't answer.

In response to the question; 'Do you think this site is an acceptable location for a wind farm?' 46% don't think so, 44% believe it is an acceptable location and of the remaining respondents or are 8% are unsure or did not provide an answer (2%).

In terms of local benefits, we look forward to investigating further with the local community the potential of bringing local benefits to the area. With 52% responding yes, they are interested in us exploring the potential to bring improved broadband to the area, we will share our feasibility report once this is complete.

Furthermore, just under a half (49%) of those who responded to the shared ownership question responded they were interested or unsure about shared ownership. We suggest hosting an information session with Local Energy Scotland to provide the community with more information on shared ownership more generally during the development stage.

Nearly half of respondents responded positively to the question 'Would you like updates?' and we look forward to keeping them up to date at key project milestones.

Key Topics from Consultation

During the consultation period, some questions and comments were frequently raised. When responding to feedback these questions and our responses to those were included. This is appended to this report and included on the project website. We wrote back to those who provided feedback, and gave us permission to correspond with them in October 2021.

We would welcome discussions with the community on the various topics raised, all of which, will be considered as the design and layout for the wind farm develops.

Cumulative Impact

A number of comments and questions about the location and 'too many' wind farms in the area were received as part of the feedback. South Lanarkshire Council's Local Development Plan 2: Supporting Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy (2021) indicates that the location of the proposed West Andershaw Wind Farm is in a Group 3 Area, as defined by Scottish Planning Policy (2014). This means that wind farms are likely to be acceptable, subject to detailed consideration against identified policy criteria. As part of our work towards a Section 36 application we have and continue to undertake substantial analysis into the landscape and visual considerations of the development.

With less than 10% of the land area in Scotland suitable for onshore wind¹, substantial analysis of potential suitable locations is undertaken including landscape and visual sensitivities. We are seeking to develop a proposal that strikes the right balance between maximising electricity output and which relates to the existing landscape including other developments. Our Head of Development recently outlined more information on this topic during a webinar 'Location, Location which is available watch on demand at <https://www.futurenetzero.com/2021/06/28/webinar-location-location-the-challenges-to-siting-onshore-wind-farms-in-scotland/>

Community Benefit

Statkraft is dedicated to engaging with communities and finding different ways projects can bring positive benefits to the local area. If the project is approved, Statkraft is committed to offering a Community Benefit Fund that delivers £5,000 per MW installed per year as per Scottish Government Guidance. Statkraft aims to offer maximum flexibility regarding how community funds are used, as local communities best understand how funds could be utilised to meet local needs and ambitions. We are also open to offering shared ownership on the project, should there be interest from within the community.

Next Steps

We will continue to engage with communities and welcome the opportunity to meet with the Community Councils to discuss our wind farm plans as they develop. We will hold a second exhibition in September 2022 and it is our expectation that we will submit a Section 36 Application this Winter 2022/23.

Our next steps for local engagement are:

- Send a copy of this summary report to the host and neighbouring Community Councils and elected representatives and welcome further discussions on the key areas and any other considerations for the project;
- We will hold a further public exhibition event in Autumn 2022 which will include information on how feedback has been incorporated into the design. We will also hold in person sessions at this time;
- Continue to receive feedback and respond to queries;
- Share the findings of the broadband feasibility study, once available, with community stakeholders regarding the potential;
- Gauge interest in setting up a shared ownership (virtual) roundtable with Local Energy Scotland to provide more information to those interested in shared ownership opportunities;
- Continue to engage with elected representatives, community councils and local residents to keep them updated on progress;
- Record and store all comments made regarding suggestions for community benefit funding; and
- Continue to update the project website

¹ Based on Statkraft research.

Appendix: West Andershaw Farm FAQs included in response to 1st Exhibition West Andershaw Wind Farm

During the August 2021 consultation, some questions and comments were frequently raised. Below is our response to these. (October 2021)

There are too many wind farms in this area/why here?

South Lanarkshire Council's Local Development Plan 2: Supporting Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy (2021) indicates that the location of the proposed West Andershaw Wind Farm is in a Group 3 Area, as defined by Scottish Planning Policy (2014). This means that wind farms are likely to be acceptable, subject to detailed consideration against identified policy criteria. As part of our work towards a Section 36 application we have and continue to undertake substantial analysis into the landscape and visual considerations of the development. Our aim is to develop a project that finds the right balance between maximising electricity output while carefully siting and designing the proposal to relate to the existing landscape, including other wind developments.

The Scottish Government has a target to achieve net zero by 2045. Onshore wind is expected to play a role in achieving this aim. Our analysis shows that the area suitable for onshore wind development in Scotland is limited due to a range of factors. To find out more about what makes a site suitable for onshore wind, you are invited to watch this webinar '[Location, Location – the challenges to siting onshore wind farms in Scotland](#)' where our Head of Development explores the challenges faced in finding the best sites to maximise Scotland's excellent natural wind resources.

I don't like the look of onshore wind farms

We appreciate not all people like the look of wind turbines, but they are very much part of the answer to increasing our carbon-free electricity generation and decreasing the need for fossil fuels. The UK Government has surveyed attitudes towards different types of electricity generation since 2012 and the results consistently show around 75% support for onshore wind ([BEIS Attitudes Tracker](#)).

Viewpoints have been selected within the area to provide suitable illustrations of how the proposed Wind Farm will look should it be consented and built. The viewpoints are agreed with South Lanarkshire Council and NatureScot and the locations will be available to view at our second public consultation event and at the time we submit an application.

Queries about Community Benefit, Shared Ownership and the Broadband Feasibility Study

There are several ways our projects can bring local benefits to the area, and we are always open to discussing how this can be tailored to each area's needs and priorities.

Statkraft is committed to delivering a community benefit fund for all new wind farms in development at £5,000 per MW installed per year, as per Scottish Government best practice guidance. No other decisions regarding the fund have been made to date, including how it will be managed.

Statkraft is not prescriptive regarding how the community benefit fund could be used within the local area. We received a number of suggestions during the consultation regarding how the fund could be used and we will pass across any ideas or feedback gathered to local community groups who will consider how to take the fund forward. If you have ideas on how the money should be spent, do share these with us or your local community council.

Should there be local interest, we are also happy to explore the opportunity of shared ownership with the community for the proposed development. We hope to have more information about shared ownership available shortly.

We look for other ways in which our projects can bring benefits to our neighbours and local community over and above the community fund - this is how we have come to investigate the opportunity for our projects to bring improved broadband infrastructure. We require a reliable broadband service to operate our wind turbines and with this in mind we commission a Broadband feasibility study to explore the potential for improving local infrastructure as the wind farm is connected. Where the study indicates that there is the opportunity to improve internet connection the community could decide to explore this further. As the project progresses we will commission this study and share further details with the community.

For more FAQs go to www.westandershaw.co.uk