

West Andershaw Wind Farm

Online and In-Person Consultation September – October 2022

Feedback Report March 2023

About West Andershaw Wind Farm

West Andershaw Wind Farm is a proposal for up to 11 turbines, 9 up to a maximum of 250m to turbine blade tip and 2 up to a maximum of 200m (this has changed from 11 turbines up to a maximum of 250m to turbine blade tip). Of the layout presented at the second exhibition, the nearest turbines are located approximately 3.3km south of Glespin, 3.7km west of Crawfordjohn, and 5km 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	11	Up to 250m	Up to 68.2 MW <small>(section 36 planning application)</small>	Around 65,000 <small>Homes per year ⁽¹⁾</small>	Up to £341,000 <small>per year ⁽²⁾</small>

(1) Based on 68.2 MW Installed Capacity, wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,520kWh pa in 2020 (published BEIS Dec. 2021). Candidate turbine still tbc'd.

(2) CBF based on 68.2MW x £5k per MW of installed capacity. If consented, value of fund determined by actual installed capacity. Candidate turbine still tbc'd.

The project was introduced to community representatives in May 2021 and an online consultation event, adhering to Scottish Government advice in relation to Covid-19, was held in August 2021. A feedback report for the first consultation event was circulated to Community Councils in September 2022. The report has also been uploaded to the Project Website.

A second consultation, both online and in person, was held over September – October 2022. This feedback report focuses on the feedback received during this second exhibition period.

Background

Community engagement and feedback is very important to us and we provide a number of opportunities on all our projects, throughout the development stage, to highlight our proposals and receive feedback and input from nearby communities.

For West Andershaw we have contacted the host and neighbouring Community Councils* and local political representatives at key stages of the project; when the project was first introduced to the public domain in May 2021, at the first public exhibition in August 2021 and again in September 2022 for the second exhibition period. To help raise more general awareness of the project and provide an informal opportunity to provide feedback on the project, we sponsored and attended the Douglas Gala Day in August 2021 and sponsored it again in June 2022.

Throughout the project development stage we have and will continue to host a dedicated project website, providing the opportunity for interested parties to view and comment on the proposals at any time.

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

Second Exhibition Period

This overview presents the findings of the feedback received during and after the second round of consultation held between 21 September and 14 October 2022, which included in-person and online consultation opportunities. Feedback could also be provided by phone, an online chat session and postal feedback forms with responses accepted until 26 October 2022. (The start of the second exhibition period was delayed due to the death of Her Majesty the Queen and the official period of mourning. The dates changed from an original plan of 12 September – 5 October, to run on the later dates noted above; the in-person exhibition dates did not change.)

The consultation was publicised in various ways, including:

- Advertisements in the Carlisle and Lanark Gazette at the start of the live consultation;
- Mailing to all households and businesses (over 1,400 in total) surrounding the site with an invitation to the in-person exhibitions and details of the online consultation, plus 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, providing copies of the adverts should they wish to highlight the events on their social media; and
- Details of the consultation on the West Andershaw project website.

In-Person Exhibitions 28 and 29 September 2022

The In-Person Physical Exhibitions were held as follows:

- Wednesday, 28 September 2022 – Crawfordjohn Village Hall, Crawfordjohn. 2pm – 7pm
- Thursday, 29 September 2022 – St Bride’s Centre, Douglas. 2pm – 7pm

On display at each exhibition were a number of information boards covering:

- Information about the developer
- An overview of the proposed development, including layout, key viewpoints, and how the project had taken on board comments from the first exhibition event;
- A zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) of the proposed development; and
- Community benefit, construction/supplier registration opportunities and shared ownership.

We also provided a fly-through visualisation of the site and animated views from the viewpoints presented at the exhibition enabling visitors to experience a more immersive representation of the proposed development.

Printed copies of the online exhibition brochure were available for members of the public to take away. Finally, feedback forms were available at the event for members of the public to fill out or take away along with a freepost envelope.

The Crawfordjohn exhibition had 13 visitors and the Douglas exhibition had 19 visitors, a total of 32 visitors over the two days. Representatives from both Duneaton Community Council and Douglas Community Council attended the events.

Online exhibition, 21 September to 14 October 2022

The virtual exhibition, accessed via a link from the main project website, sought to replicate the type of information and materials available at the physical exhibition. This included:

- An exhibition brochure – to replace and expand on the information you would normally expect on exhibition boards.
- Specific information about how the proposed development had been progressed since the first exhibition.
- Community benefit, construction/supplier register and community ownership information.

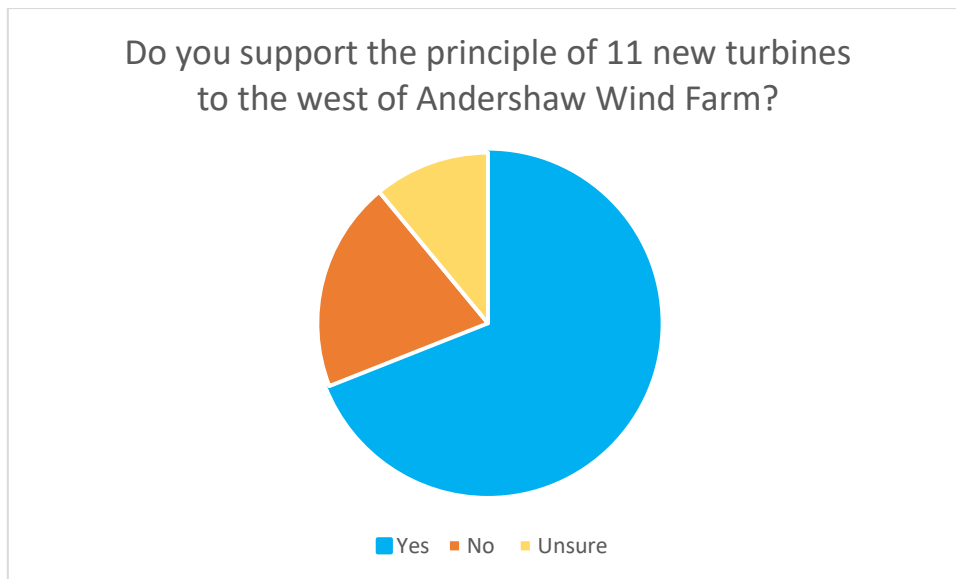
- Details of the live Q&A session with the project team held on 11 October - giving residents the opportunity to have live interactive chat with the project team;
- A 'ring back' service to allow members of the public to have a dedicated chat with our team at a date/time suitable to them;
- An extensive FAQ section on the project to help inform residents when they arrive on the consultation website;
and
- An opportunity to leave comments through online feedback forms.

Summary of Consultation Responses

We received 55 feedback forms in total - both in the post via our freeport feedback form and forms completed at the exhibition.

From the completed forms 86% of respondents agreed that the country needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources, 9% didn't agree and the remaining 6% were unsure. Nearly three quarters, 73%, agreed that onshore wind power is a good way to help achieve this aim, 16% didn't agree and 11% were unsure.

In response to the question; 'Do you support the principle of 11 new wind turbines to the west of the existing Andershaw Wind Farm?' 69% responded yes, 20% responded no and the remaining 11% were unsure.



In terms of local benefits, we look forward to investigating further with the local community the potential of bringing local benefits to the area. 78% of respondents were interested in exploring the potential to bring improved broadband to the area and we will share our feasibility report once this is complete.

Furthermore, nearly two fifths (38%) of respondents are interested in finding out more about shared ownership with a further 30% unsure. We suggest hosting an information session with Local Energy Scotland to provide the community with more information on shared ownership more generally, during the next development stage.

Over 60% 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 second exhibition period we received positive, negative and neutral comments. The feedback generally received was positive, also reflected in the feedback cards, with 69% of respondents supporting in principle 11 new wind turbines west of the existing Andershaw Wind Farm.

The negative comments received were generally around the visual impact. The majority of queries focussed on the Community Benefit and what impact more wind farms may have on energy bills.

Answers to the questions and comments frequently raised during the consultation period were included when responding to any specific feedback or questions asked by respondents. 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 March 2023.

Next Steps

We will continue to engage with communities and welcome the opportunity to meet with the Community Councils to discuss our plans as we progress to submission of a Section 36 Application, expected before the end of 2023.

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 keep interested parties updated on the project.
- Offer to attend local and neighbouring Community Council meetings to present the project and answer further questions.
- Continue to receive feedback and respond to queries;
- Share the findings of the broadband feasibility study with community stakeholders;
- Set up a shared ownership (virtual) roundtable with Local Energy Scotland to provide more information to those interested in shared ownership opportunities;
- Continue to update the project website

Appendix: West Andershaw Farm FAQs included in response to 2nd Exhibition

Why here/too many wind farms in this area?

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 to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) we have undertaken substantial analysis into the landscape and visual considerations of the development. Our aim has been 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.

West Andershaw is a natural extension to the existing Andershaw Wind Farm. Since the first exhibition, the height of the two northerly turbines has reduced from 250m to 200m and turbine locations revised, avoiding priority habitats and minimising impacts on the setting of cultural heritage assets.

The Scottish Government has a target to achieve net zero by 2045. Onshore wind is expected to play a key 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 wind resources.

Will more wind farms contribute to cheaper energy bills?

In the UK we are currently reliant on gas to meet around 40% of our electricity needs. The way the energy market works means the spot price of electricity is set to the price of the last source of supply used to meet our electricity needs, therefore linked to the price of gas generation. A market review of how electricity prices are set is currently underway. You can read more in the article [attached](#).

However more renewable sources feeding into the grid more quickly, including onshore wind power, will ultimately result in cheaper electricity as we will not be as dependent on gas to meet our electricity needs. To increase the amount of renewable energy transmitted through the national grid Statkraft have built "Greener Grid Parks" (GGPs) in Keith and Liverpool, and are developing a number of other GGPs across the UK. GGPs are a collection of small buildings, usually located near substations, containing innovative technology that provides the flexibility necessary to stabilise the electricity grid, which in turn facilitates increased renewable generation.

Community Benefit, local electricity discounts, Shared Ownership and Broadband Feasibility Study queries

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 decisions regarding how the fund will be managed have yet been made.

We received a number of suggestions during the consultation regarding how the fund could be used and we will pass any ideas or feedback gathered on to local community groups who will consider how to take the fund forward. A number of respondents asked about a Local Energy Discount for residents. Statkraft Community Benefit Funds currently do not allow for direct payments to residents for money off electricity bills. We fully support funding to be used for activities that reduce energy bills over the long term, such as energy efficiency, education and small scale renewable schemes. We are keen for funds to meet local needs and are aware these needs change, so our funds may look different by the time the project should become operational, estimated to be around 2029.

There is some local interest in shared ownership and we are aiming to set up a session with Local Energy Scotland in 2023 to provide more details to the community about what this involves and may look like, as the project moves through the development process and once operational.

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. The completed West Andershaw Broadband feasibility study shows that the majority of properties in the area will benefit from improved connectivity through the R100 programme. Where properties are not covered by this scheme the community could decide to explore this further.

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