



# THE BERRY BURN WIND FARM EXTENSION

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FEBRUARY 2020



### ABOUT BERRY BURN EXTENSION

We are proposing an extension of 9 turbines to the 29 turbine Berry Burn Wind Farm, located south of Forres, which we majority own and operate.

The wind farm generates electricity equivalent to the needs of over 47,000 homes and will very soon reach the milestone of delivering in excess of  $\pounds 1$  million to over 100 community groups.

In 2019 we began an extensive programme of community engagement. This was commenced in partnership with Airvolution Clean Energy, a company which we acquired in August last year.

This update includes the latest information from our second round of public exhibitions which took place in November 2019 and builds on an earlier interim report which was distributed after our first round of public exhibitions in March 2019.

Our intention is to submit a Section 36 application to Scottish Government in the Spring 2020.

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION FROM THE NOVEMBER PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

We held four public events between 21 – 23 November in Edinkillie, Rafford, Dallas and Forres. These venues were chosen after consultation with local community councils and having reviewed the feedback from our four public exhibitions which were held in March, 2019.

The events were publicised in various ways, including:

- Advertisements in the Forres Gazette, Press & Journal and Northern Scot
- Mailing over 690 homes with an invitation
- Project website
- Posters to Community Councils, groups and local shops for their noticeboards
- Via our community liaison group

Main points of information delivered during the November public exhibitions:

- Reducing the scheme from the original proposal of 10 turbines down to 9
- Increasing distance to nearest turbine from Dallas (now 6km)
- Retaining tip height of below 150m to avoid aviation lighting
- How the project can deliver a biodiversity gain
- Impacts of the wildfire and fire prevention measures



A total of 38 people attended, with 19 completing feedback forms. Of the 19 who responded, 13 were in favour of the proposal; 3 unsure; 1 provided no answer; and 2 unsupportive of the project.

The combined total for attendees of our consultation events in 2019 is: 105





## 1. RESPONDING TO FEEDBACK: SPECIALIST SESSIONS



### **Specialist Sessions**

We will be able to discuss all aspects of the project throughout the exhibition. We have arranged for independent experts to be available at the following sessions:

#### Shared Ownership, with Local Energy Scotland:

Drop in between 11am – 12pm, Thursday 21 November, Edinkillie Community Hall



#### Broadband, with MonsterNet:

Drop in between 2pm – 4pm, Friday 22 November, Rafford Village Hall

#### Ecology Workshop, with Avian Ecology:

A one hour session to hear about our work towards delivering a biodiversity gain. 10-11am, Saturday 23 November, Forres Town Hall We created and delivered three 'drop-in' workshops which focused on key topics which were of clear interest to the community.

We were pleased with the response to this new initiative which provided an opportunity for local residents to meet industry specialists in:

- Ecology
- Shared Ownership
- Broadband

This series of workshops were established as a direct result of feedback from our early-stage exhibitions in March, where attendees showed interest in getting behind the detail of these topics.





### SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER 2019 PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS



### QUESTIONS FROM THE EVENT

Feedback forms completed at the venues showed majority support for our proposal at both the March and November public exhibitions.

However, some residents do not support the project and we thought it would be useful to outline the main issues raised, along with a summary of our answers. All of the comments made will be taken into account as we finalise our application.

#### We have got enough wind turbines in Moray.

Less than 10% of Scotland is suitable for large onshore wind farms. This presents a great opportunity for Moray to be at the forefront of Scotland's net zero ambitions. There are good reasons to extend the Berry Burn Wind Farm. The proven wind speeds across the site make it an excellent wind farm location. It is limited in scale with a modest addition of 9 turbines. It is designed to make efficient use of existing access and tracks, thereby minimising impact on the community and the natural environment.

The site is also partially located within an area identified within Moray Council's Supplementary Guidance as an area with potential for extension/repowering.



#### Who will really benefit from this project?

The extension would provide for a community benefit fund of approximately £157,000 per annum, nearly doubling the existing amount. Over its project life, the extension alone would deliver £3.9 million for community projects and developments. The proposal is expected to generate electricity equivalent to the needs of approximately 34,000 homes.

On top of these benefits, we have also been engaging with the community on the option of shared ownership and are keen to progress this further if possible.

#### Was there any impact of the Berry Burn wind farm on the wildfires?

The wildfires were an awful occurrence and we would like to thank the emergency services and volunteers for their efforts in fighting the fires. We understand that the access roads to the Berry Burn Wind Farm aided access for the emergency services and played a positive part in fighting the fires.

We are currently working on how the extension can also implement fire prevention measures to minimise the risk of wildfire events in the future.







### 2. OTHER ISSUES RAISED

#### CUMULATIVE IMPACT

The application for our extension will consider the cumulative impacts with other proposed and consented wind farms. Moray Council has identified potential wind development areas – our site lies partially within this. Less than 10% of the land area of Scotland is suitable for large wind turbines and presents a great opportunity for Moray to be at the forefront of Scotland's NetZero ambitions.



#### LOSS OF UPLAND HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Our aim is to provide a net gain for biodiversity on and around the site. We have already seen ecological benefits from our habitat improvements on the existing wind farm site and aim to expand on this with the extension. The primary focus would be bog and heathland regeneration, specifically on those areas affected by the wildfire.



#### IMPACT ON TOURISM AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

There is no evidence to show that wind farms negatively impact on tourism. In fact, opinion polls consistently show over 75% of the public like onshore wind farms. Community benefit funds could be used to enhance local tourism facilities.



#### AIRCRAFT LIGHTING AND LIGHT POLLUTION

The turbines proposed for Berry Burn Extension will be less than 150m tall, therefore aviation lighting will not be required.



#### DEFORESTATION

There will be no large-scale removal of forestry as part of this project.

#### CONSTRUCTION DISTURBANCE

We are aware of the need to minimise the impact on local residents during construction. The same routes will be used as for the construction of Berry Burn, with some road widening required. We are engaging with the community to hear how we can minimise disruption during construction. With minimal commercial forestry being removed, traffic disruption is reduced.



#### POTENTIAL IMPACT ON WILDLIFE

Independent experts have surveyed the relevant area and are working with Scottish Natural Heritage. We will avoid or mitigate against significant impacts on protected or notable species.



### 3. SUBSEQUENT FEEDBACK FROM NOVEMBER 2019 PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

We received a variety of comments and feedback. We are following up with the various attendees and providing any further information requested.

"Keep talking to the FCC and the FDT and make sure to actually invest locally. We are your neighbours!"

"Promoting the site access to outdoor enthusiasts (walking, cycling) would help generate a more inclusive feel to these forms of project. Making it more attractive to public access rather than 'hidden away' would help in my opinion."

"Thank you. Very useful information from friendly, helpful people. How can money from windfarms be used to support a community theatre and based in Edinkillie Hall?"

"I would like more details on access route changes, a route maintenance and winter snow and ice treatment plans."

"I think Morayshire does not need further expansion of wind farms. Visual impact in particular leading to knock on, too adverse, impact on tourism and the opportunity to visit wild and non-industrial landscapes."

"Good presentation."

"I was very impressed with all the information about the nine extra turbines, how they are looking, how they will improve the involvement around the area and keep the land better than presently."

"With the extension, the additional funds for community benefit could be used in a more strategic way to benefit the area over a much longer term and in collaboration between organisations."

"Very reassuring presentation."

"Excellent ecology workshop and information."

"(concerned about) Road widening opportunities. Better use of fund for people on loop road most affected, such as solar panels, wifi."





### 4. COMBINED PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN 2019

Milestone figures for 2019:



8 public exhibitions

5 different venues



Over 6 days



3 associated workshops with 'drop in' access





### 5. NEXT STEPS

We have recorded feedback and are responding to queries received from the event as we finalise our application. Among other things, we are:

- Liaising with our technical team on project-specific feedback, such as road adjustments.
- Recording and storing all comments made regarding suggestions for community benefit funding.
- Following up with community stakeholders with regard to the potential for wireless broadband provision by sharing our feasibility study.
- Continuing to engage with elected representatives, community councils, local residents, and our community liaison group in order to keep them updated on progress.
- Scontinuing to make all information available on <u>www.berryburn-extension.co.uk</u>
- Scontinuing liaison with Local Energy Scotland and the community regarding shared ownership.
- Responding to correspondence and calls from local residents.

There was some expression of confusion between our project and the Clash Gour application. We can confirm that the two projects are totally unrelated.

Although it is not a requirement of a Section 36 application, we think it is important that Moray Council is aware of our community engagement and will be updating the council appropriately.

**CONTACT DETAILS** 

0141 483 1986 <u>www.berryburn-extension.co.uk</u> 1 West Regent Street, Glasgow, G2 1RW



# **APPENDICES**



### Appendix 1 Consultation zone



We followed up our March engagement with November public exhibitions, targeting the same geographical area in both cases. The geographical area shown above consists of two zones:

- An inner zone 10km from the centre of the extension site, encompassing two electoral wards within Moray Council and one within Highland Council.
- An outer zone stretching a further 5km which encompasses an additional electoral ward within Moray Council and one other electoral ward within Highland Council.



### Appendix 2 Berry Burn Invite



We are the largest generators of renewable energy in Europe, and majority own and operate the existing Berry Burry Murr Mun Farm. In August 2019 we acquired renewable energy developers Airvolution Clean Energy to further our ambitions of delivering more renewable energy projects across the UK.

www.berryburn-extension.co.uk

Glasgow G2 1RW Phone: 03303 636 229





Dallas Houldsworth Institute Forres IV36 2SA:

Thursday 21 November,

11am to 3pm

Thursday 21 November, 4.30pm to 8.30pm

#### orres IV36 2RU

Friday 22 November, 2pm to 6pm

Forres Town Hall (Lesser Hall) Forres IV36 1PB:

Saturday 23 November, 11am to 3pm (ecology workshop 10am -11am)

Can't make it? Please return the freepost reply card provided.



## **Specialist Sessions**

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#### Ecology Workshop, with Avian Ecology

A one hour session to hear about our work towards delivering a biodiversity gain. 10-11am, Saturday 23 November, Forres Town Hall

### Appendix 3 **Reply Card**





### Appendix 4

#### Advert which appeared in the Press & Journal, Northern Scot and Forres Gazette



**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989** Notice of pre-application consultation events in respect of a proposed application

for Section 36 consent and deemed planning permission for a proposed extension to the existing Berry Burn Wind Farm, south of Forres, Moray.

Berry Burn Wind Farm invites members of the public to view and discuss its proposals to extend the existing Berry Burn Wind Farm by up to nine turbines each of up to 149.9m in height and associated infrastructure before an application is submitted to Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government.

The public exhibitions will take place on the following dates and locations:

Further information relating to the proposals may be obtained from

Thursday 21st November 2019, 11am-3pm (specialist drop-in session on shared ownership with Local Energy Scotland 11am-12pm) Edinkillie Community Hall, Forres IV36 2QW

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www.berryburn-extension.co.uk

Statkraft UK Ltd

comments on the proposals may do so at the events and/or in writing to:

ukprojects@statkraft.com by 14th December, 2019

Further information relating to the

proposals may be obtained from

Statkraft UK Ltd

1 West Regent Street Glasgow, G2 1RW

Phone - 03303 636 229

Those wishing to make

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ELECTRICITY ACT 1989



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Statkraft THE PRESS AND JOURNAL Follow November 9, 2015



### Appendix 5 Feedback Form

3	Stat	kraft	Berry Burn Wind Farm Extension Thank you for attending today. Please tell us what you think of our plans to extend the existing wind farm.
Do you think that the country needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources?			
Yes	No		
Do you agree that onshore wind power is a good way to help achieve this?			
Yes	No	Unsure	
Do you support the proposed extension of Berry Burn Wind Farm?			
Yes	<b>N</b> o	Unsure	
We are actively exploring the potential to assist in bringing improved broadband to the area. Is this of interest to you?			
Yes	No	Unsure	
The Scottish Government thinks communities should be given a chance to invest in local renewable energy projects. If this project went ahead, would this be of interest?   Yes No Unsure			
Your questions and comments:			
Name			
Address			
Phone			
Email			
YES, Pleas	e keep me informed o	n project news	NO, I do not want to receive project updates

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### Appendix 6





### Appendix 6 (cont.)





### Appendix 6 (cont.)





### Appendix 6 (cont.)

