CRAIG WATCH WIND FARM

Spring 2021

Statkraft

www.craigwatch.co.uk

Baillie Wind Farm, Caithness. 110m tip height

Contents

Statkraft

Welcome

This consultation is designed to share our early stage plans for Craig Watch Wind Farm.

About Statkraft

- ➔ The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- ➔ A state owned utility, with origins in Norwegian hydropower 125 years ago
- ➔ 4,000 employees in 17 countries, all working towards our low carbon future
- ➔ Leader in electric vehicle infrastructure

scottishrenewables

MORAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce

Berry Burn Wind Farm, Moray. 100m tip height

Welcome

Statkraft in the UK

- ➔ Operating in the UK since 2006
- ➔ Glasgow office opened in 2019
- ➔ Distributed over £2 million to communities near operating wind farms
- ➔ Operational portfolio includes four wind farms, one hydro plant
- ➔ Two wind farms in Dumfries & Galloway in construction
- ➔ Recent expansion into solar development and electric vehicle charging points
- ➔ Contracted by National Grid ESO to increase the amount of renewables on the Grid, through our Greener Grid Parks, the first in construction in Keith.

Baillie Wind Farm, Caithness. 110m tip height

About Craig Watch Wind Farm

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

Key Facts:

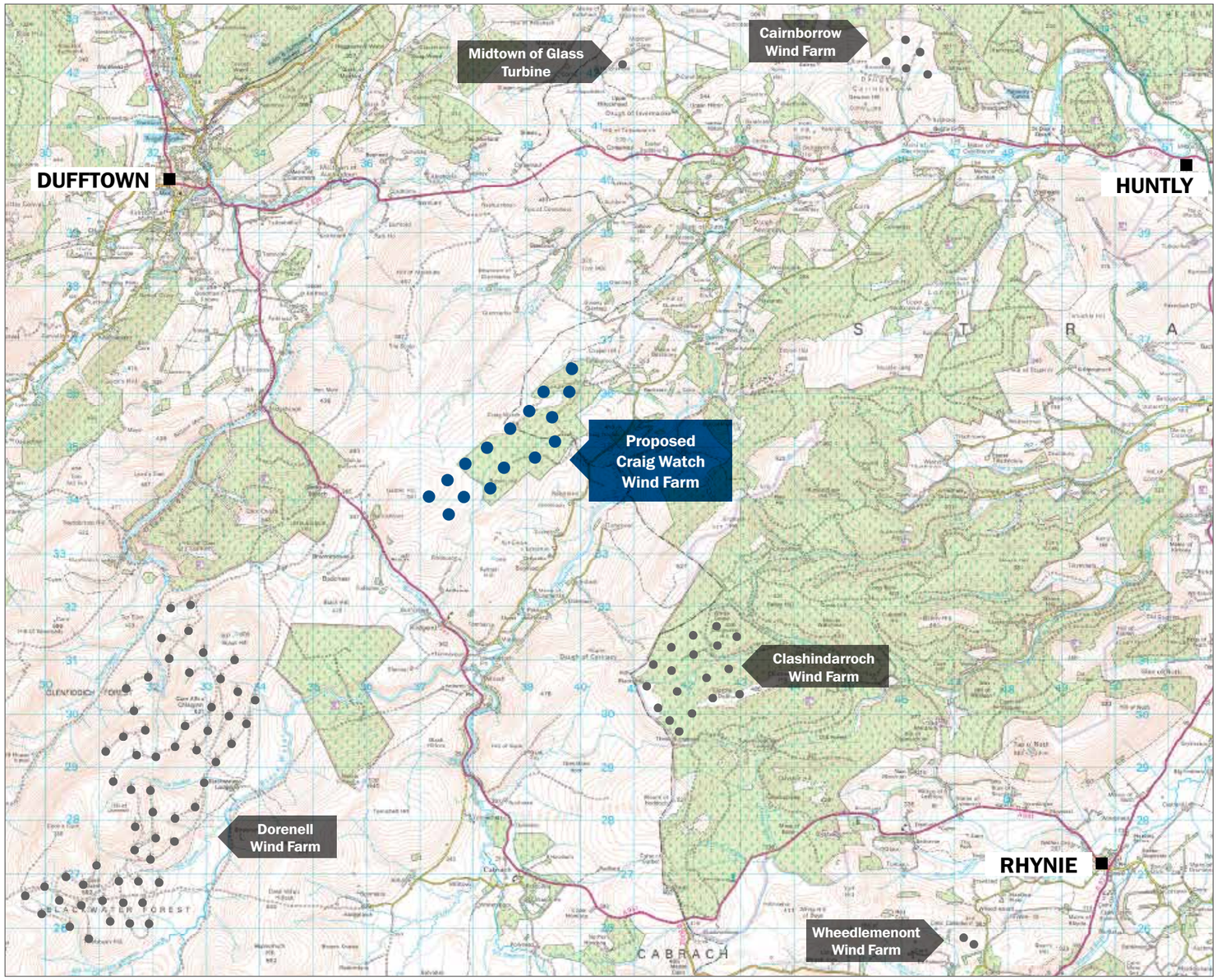
16 Up to 16 wind turbines proposed

A maximum height of 200m to blade tip

Opportunities to discuss shared ownership, local suppliers and broadband benefits

£5,000 Per MW installed per year* for a Community Fund

*in line with Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles



About Craig Watch Wind Farm

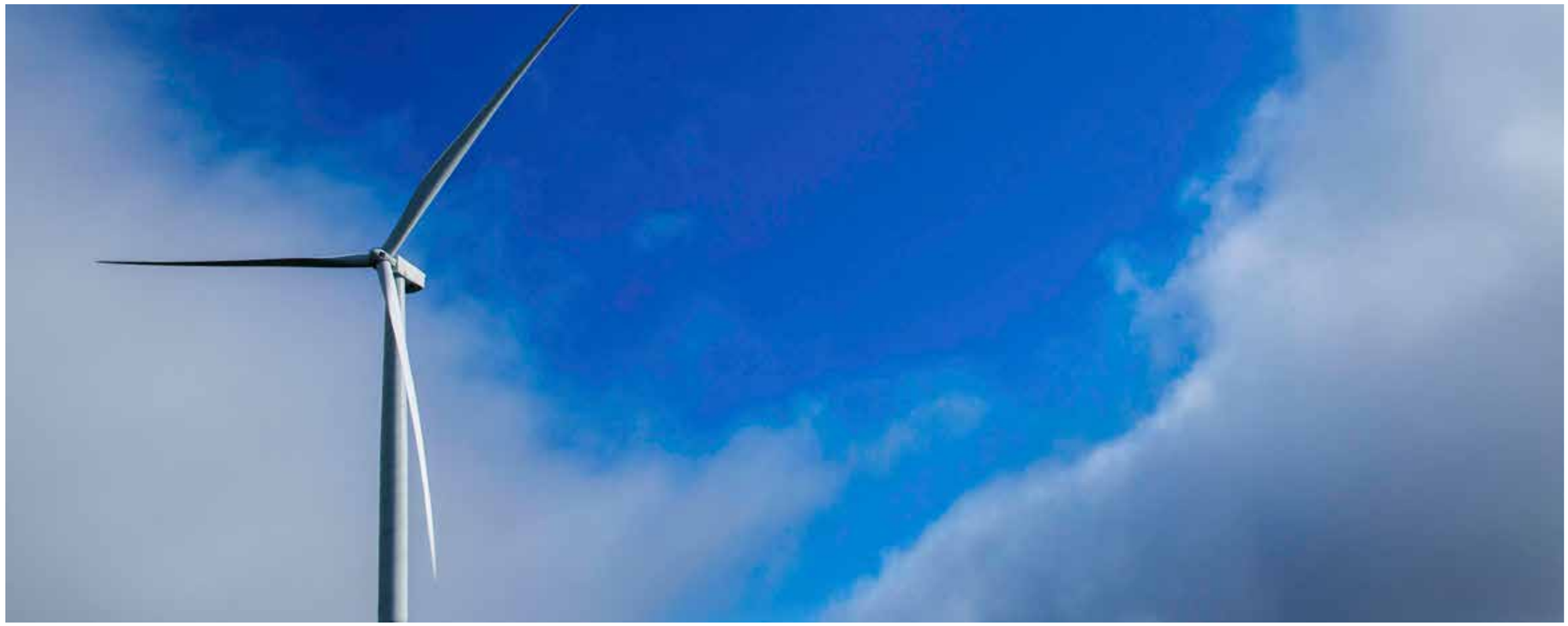
Why this site?

Desktop analysis of the site shows good wind speeds.

Approximately 8km to the nearest town (Dufftown)

Suitable access for delivery of turbine components

Contributing towards Scotland's commitment of net-zero emissions by 2045



	No. of Turbines	Max Blade Tip Heights	Expected Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Generation	Community Fund (per year)
Craig Watch	Up to **16**	Up to **200m**	Over **50**	Approximately **4,500** homes per turbine (1)	**£250,000** per year (2)

(1) Based on available wind speed data for the site and 2018 Scottish average household consumption of 3,910 kWh pa.

(2) Based on 50MW installed capacity and £5,000 per MW installed

Project Timeline

Throughout the 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 is 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 Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils on the level of study required (known as “Scoping”). Scoping is sent to local and neighbouring Community Councils and consultees such as NatureScot, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland.

At this stage, it is expected that our initial proposals will evolve, taking information from studies and engagement with the public and statutory consultees. We will continue to follow all Scottish Government advice in relation to Covid-19 and focus our engagement online.

3.SUBMIT APPLICATION & AWAIT DECISION

(12 months)

An application is submitted to the Scottish Government, accompanied by a comprehensive Environmental 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 Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils can formally comment on the application.

4. CONSTRUCTION

(12 to 18 months)

If Craig Watch is approved, construction begins at least one year after consent.

Construction typically takes 12-18 months and planning conditions are used to manage elements of construction.

5. OPERATION

(25+ years)

The turbines are managed from a regionally based maintenance team, and operations are controlled by 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. Financial security (e.g guarantees/bank bonds) to cover the full cost of reinstating the land would be put in place before construction starts.

Landscape and Visual Assessments

As developers, our challenge is to find the right balance between maximising the electricity output of a site and carefully siting and designing the proposal to relate to the existing landscape, including other wind developments.

Our studies will include a detailed assessment of the project within a 45km study area, to include the proposed development on its own, as well as in the context of existing, consented and proposed wind farm developments.

These studies will pay particular regard to:

- ➔ Effects on the landscape character of the immediate area, as well as the character of the wider area.
- ➔ Effects on the special qualities of landscape designations such as the Ben Rinnes Special Landscape Area.
- ➔ The amenity of residential properties near to the Site in Glen Deveron.
- ➔ The design in relation to Clashindarroch, Dorenell and other proposed wind farms in the area.
- ➔ Effects associated with possible turbine lighting.

The project is at an early design stage, so there are no predicted views to share at this time.

Images showing predicted views will be produced when the proposed layout takes shape, and shared during another consultation event later this year.

These will also be available to view within the planning documents when it is submitted.

We are currently in the process of agreeing the locations of the viewpoints with NatureScot, Moray Council and Aberdeenshire Council to ensure the most suitable locations are selected.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The process of gathering good environmental data on a site is vital to designing a good wind farm, including turbine locations, access roads and other infrastructure. This is carried out by a team of specialist environmental and technical consultants.

This data is incorporated into an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which will be publicly available.

As part of designing this wind farm, advice and guidance has been sought from a range of regulatory and voluntary bodies including, but not limited to:

Moray Council and Aberdeenshire Council,
NatureScot,
Scottish Environment Protection Agency,
Transport Scotland,
Historic Environment Scotland.

The results and findings will be detailed in the EIAR which is made public when we submit our application for consent. The EIAR will include the following topics:

- ➔ **Landscape and Visual Amenity**
- ➔ **Ecology**
- ➔ **Ornithology**
- ➔ **Noise and Vibration**
- ➔ **Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology (including peat)**
- ➔ **Cultural Heritage**
- ➔ **Traffic, Transport and Access**
- ➔ **Socioeconomics**
- ➔ **Aviation and Telecommunications**
- ➔ **Forestry**
- ➔ **Shadow Flicker**
- ➔ **Climate**

Environmental Impact Assessment

The following topics are key considerations in the evolution of the Site's design:

Ecology & Ornithology

- ➔ Extensive surveys have been completed, including for habitats, birds, protected mammals and fisheries. All surveys have been undertaken in accordance with current NatureScot guidelines and survey results have been used to inform the on-going wind farm design process.
- ➔ The potential for impacts on breeding common gulls, which are a protected feature of the Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designations, is a key influence on project design and will be fully considered in the impact assessment process.
- ➔ Black grouse have been established to be present in the area and the project design will safeguard this species' 'lekking' (display) grounds.
- ➔ The design of the project will seek to minimise the risk of bat collisions, by including buffers around woodland and watercourses
- ➔ The site is dominated by plantation woodland, but notable habitats on the periphery include blanket bog, wet heath and dry heath. The final design will seek to avoid and enhance sensitive habitats, as far as possible.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Cultural Heritage

- An Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Assessment will be undertaken to understand the potential impacts of the Proposed Development.
- This includes any archaeological remains which survive, or may survive, within the Site.
- The setting of heritage assets within the wider landscape will also be assessed, considering how turbines might affect the way in which monuments are understood, appreciated and experienced.

Particular attention will be given to the Scheduled Monuments at Auchindoun Castle and the Tap o'Noth Fort. The Craig Dorney Fort is not designated but is also a key consideration in our design process.

Noise

- A noise assessment will be undertaken for the Proposed Development in line with Government guidance.
- Background noise monitoring will be carried out at a number of representative properties surrounding the Site to determine existing noise levels.
- The background noise levels will be used to determine noise limits that the Proposed Development would have to operate within.
- The noise assessment will also take into account other wind farms in the area.

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.

Windy Rig Wind Farm, Dumfries & Galloway.

"It's great to see Statkraft engaging with the local business community in the region. We congratulate Statkraft for keeping as much work 'local' as possible."

Lee Medd, Dumfries & Galloway Chamber of Commerce

MORAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce

Community Benefit Fund

Our turbines will generate community funding of £5,000 per MW installed. Based on a 50MW installed capacity, this equates to £250,000 per year, or £7.5 million over the project lifetime.

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 Suppliers

Work with local business groups to increase awareness of the work opportunities for local suppliers 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

Investing in feasibility studies to identify potential for improved connection, and supporting 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 are often asked by people if we can help deliver faster broadband, or even get them connected in the first place.

With this in mind, we have commissioned a feasibility study to investigate the potential at Craig Watch.

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

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FEASIBILITY

We require a **reliable broadband service** to operate our wind turbines, and the study explores the **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 our 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 2021, when all application documents will be publicly available.

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 31 March 2021.**

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 31 March 2021.

Statkraft

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

Please complete the feedback form.

Register for updates: www.craigwatch.co.uk

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For more information about Craig Watch
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