



KANE PARTNERSHIP

Loch Liath Wind Farm

April 2023

Pre-Application Consultation Report



Statkraft

Contents

Chapter 1		Engagement after First Exhibition and Consultation Period	17
Introduction	1	Feedback Report	17
Overview	1	Response to Virtual Exhibition and Consultation Comments	18
The Proposed Development	1	Exhibition Summary	21
About the Applicant	2		
Report Structure	2		
<hr/>			
Chapter 2		Chapter 6	
Statutory Consultation Requirements	4	Exhibition 2 – In-Person and Online	22
Public Consultation Guidance and Legislation	4	Exhibition 2	22
		Exhibition Mailing to Households and Businesses	22
		Community Councils and Organisations	22
		Elected Representatives	22
		Newspapers	23
		Social Media	23
		Consultation Webpage	23
		Question & Answer Sessions	23
		In-Person Exhibition	23
		Receiving Feedback	24
		Engagement after Second Exhibition and Consultation Period	24
		Feedback Report	24
		Response to Public Exhibition and Second Consultation Comments	25
		Community Benefit Board	28
		Exhibition Summary	28
		Additional Engagement	28
<hr/>			
Chapter 3		Chapter 7	
Consultation Measures	5	Summary	30
Consultation Measures	5	Design of the Proposed Development	30
		Benefits to the Community	32
		Biodiversity	32
		Engagement following Section 36 Application	32
<hr/>			
Chapter 4		Appendix A	
Public Consultation	12	Consultation Timeline	A-1
Scoping	12		
Consultation Zone	12		
Community Councils and Organisations	12		
Elected Representatives	13		
Project Website	13		
Newsletter	13		
Socio-Economic Impact	13		
<hr/>			
Chapter 5		Appendix B	
Exhibition 1 – Virtual Exhibition	15	Consultation Zone	B-1
Exhibition 1	15		
Exhibition Mailing to Households and Businesses	15		
Community Councils and Organisations	15		
Elected Representatives	15		
Newspapers	15		
Social Media	15		
Posters	16		
Consultation Webpage	16		
Question & Answer Sessions	16		
Receiving Feedback	16		

Contents

Appendix C Community Council Introduction	C-1	Appendix O Virtual Exhibition Reply Card Response	O-1
Appendix D Elected Member Introduction	D-1	Appendix P Virtual Exhibition Summary	P-1
Appendix E Post-Election Correspondence	E-1	Appendix Q Second Exhibition Webpage and Materials	Q-1
Appendix F Public Exhibition Leaflet	F-1	Appendix R Second Exhibition Mailing	R-1
Appendix G Newsletter	G-1	Appendix S Community Council Invite to Second Exhibition	S-1
Appendix H Virtual Exhibition Webpage and Materials	H-1	Appendix T Elected Representative Invite to Second Exhibition	T-1
Appendix I Virtual Exhibition Mailing	I-1	Appendix U Newspaper Advertisements for Second Exhibition	U-1
Appendix J Community Council Invitation	J-1	Appendix V Physical Exhibition Materials	V-1
Appendix K Elected Representative Invitation	K-1	Appendix W Response to Second Exhibition Reply Card	W-1
Appendix L Virtual Exhibition Newspaper Adverts	L-1	Appendix X Second Exhibition Summary	X-1
Appendix M Virtual Exhibition Social Media Posts	M-1		
Appendix N Virtual Exhibition Poster	N-1		

Chapter 1

Introduction

Overview

1.1 Loch Liath Wind Farm Ltd ('the Applicant') and The Kane Partnership Ltd have prepared this Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report for the proposed Loch Liath Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').

1.2 The Applicant is applying to the Scottish Ministers for Section 36 (S36) consent under the terms of the Electricity Act 1989 and for deemed planning permission under Section 57 (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for permission to construct and operate the Proposed Development.

1.3 The application is supported by this PAC Report which details the consultation undertaken by the Applicant, the feedback received and any resultant modifications to the Proposed Development. While not a requirement of a S36 application, the Applicant recognises that it is important to ensure that residents and communities surrounding the Proposed Development are afforded appropriate and meaningful opportunities to comment on the proposals before they are finalised in accordance with good practice guidance. A timeline of all consultation undertaken is provided in **Appendix A**.

The Proposed Development

1.4 The Site (as shown by the red line boundary in **Figure 4.1** of the EIA Report) is located approximately 4km south-west of Drumnadrochit. The Site is predominantly located within the Balmacaan Estate, directly west of the Great Glen and Loch Ness, within the Highland Council (THC) administrative area.

1.5 The Proposed Development is described in detail in **Chapter 4: Project Description** of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. In summary, it will comprise:

- Up to 13 wind turbines (three (Turbines 1, 6 and 7) will have tip heights of up to 180m and ten (Turbines 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13) will have a tip height of up to 200m);
- Foundations supporting each wind turbine;
- Crane hardstandings and adjacent laydown areas at each turbine location;

- Approximately 9.3 km of new access tracks which includes 8.2 km standard track and 1.1 km of floating track;
- Nine new watercourse crossings, seven crossings over small drains and associated infrastructure, i.e. culverts;
- Network of onsite underground electrical cables and cable trenches to connect the turbines to the onsite substation;
- One permanent steel lattice anemometer mast of up to 122.5m in height;
- Vehicle turning heads;
- Onsite passing places (location and size to be determined by the turbine supplier);
- Site signage;
- A permanent compound containing the onsite substation and control building; and
- An Outline Restoration and Enhancement Plan (OREP) for peat, biodiversity, forestry and landscape.

1.6 In addition to the above components of the operational Proposed Development, construction of the Proposed Development will also require the following components:

- One temporary compound;
- Creation of one temporary borrow pit for the extraction of stone;
- A concrete batching area (location to be confirmed however this is likely to be in the borrow pit, construction compound or such a place as identified by the Contractor and agreed in the CEMP); and
- Whilst no widening of the existing Bhlaraidh Wind Farm access from the A887 is required, it may be necessary to improve the running surface prior to use and to scrape of the top layer of material to facilitate delivery of the turbine components.

1.7 The Proposed Development is described in detail in **Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy**, and **Chapter 4: Project Description** of the EIA Report.

About the Applicant

1.8 The Applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of Statkraft UK Ltd (hereafter referred to as 'Statkraft').

1.9 Statkraft is a leading company in hydropower internationally, and Europe's largest generator of renewable energy. The Group produces hydropower, wind power, solar power, and supplies district heating and is a global company in energy market operations. Statkraft has 5,300 employees in 21 countries.

1.10 Statkraft is at the heart of the UK's energy transition. Since 2006, Statkraft has gone from strength to strength in the UK, building experience across wind, solar, hydro, storage, grid stability, EV charging, green hydrogen and a thriving markets business. Statkraft has invested over £1.3 billion in the UK's renewable energy infrastructure and facilitated over 4GW of new-build renewable energy generation through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

1.11 Statkraft employs nearly 450 staff across its' business activities in England, Scotland and Wales and plays a key role in helping the global business reach its goal of 9GW of developed wind and solar power by 2025.

1.12 Across Scotland, Statkraft owns or operates five onshore wind farms and has a further three wind farms consented. Statkraft is also at the forefront of innovative Greener Grid Parks, with operational projects in Keith and Liverpool, which facilitate more green energy onto the grid and offer grid stability services.

1.13 Over the past decade, Statkraft has invested over £200 million in renewable energy infrastructure in Scotland. Over £4 million has been distributed to communities near their wind farms through local Community Benefit Funds.

1.14 As part of the development process the Applicant has sought to proactively engage with the local community. The Applicant is committed to being a good neighbour, and as such has implemented a wide-ranging programme of engagement with additional actions on tourism, access for visitors, and superfast broadband. The objective of the two-year programme has been to create clear opportunities for the local community to provide feedback and comment on the proposal prior to submission of the application and to ensure that this is communicated widely and in an accessible manner.

1.15 It is estimated that the number of households that could be powered by the Proposed Development is over 78,000 per year, based on use of 6.6MW turbines with a total installed capacity of 85.8MW. This is based on the wind resource

assessment for the Site and the average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,520 kWh per annum¹.

1.16 As well as contributions to the generation of low carbon electricity and the resulting offsetting of carbon emissions, the Proposed Development also provides the opportunity for local communities to benefit financially from its operation through regular annual payments of £33,000 per turbine per year from a Community Benefit Fund (based on 6.6MW turbines and £5,000 per MW as recommended by the Scottish Government).

1.17 Statkraft will require reliable broadband to operate the Proposed Development. A broadband feasibility study has been undertaken which suggested that communities near the Proposed Development could benefit from super-fast fibre or microwave broadband. As such, there is the opportunity for the provision of improved internet connection for commercial and residential properties, partially or fully funded by the Community Benefit Fund associated with the Proposed Development.

1.18 Statkraft recognises the opportunities and benefits that arise from community ownership in energy projects. The Applicant is committed to working with communities around the Proposed Development to create suitable community ownership schemes if there is interest in taking such a scheme forward.

1.19 Further details on economic benefits are provided in **Chapter 13: Land Use, Socio-Economic and Tourism** of the EIA Report.

Report Structure

1.20 This report comprises the following sections:

- Section 1: Introduction;
- Section 2: Statutory Consultation Requirements;
- Section 3: Consultation Measures - Describes the various types of consultation undertaken for the Proposed Development;
- Section 4: Engagement at Scoping Stage;
- Section 5: Exhibition 1 – Virtual Exhibition - Describes the consultation process undertaken for the Online Exhibition in May and June 2021, the Engagement carried out afterwards and the response to the Engagement;
- Section 6: Exhibition 2 – In-Person and Online - Describes the consultation process undertaken for the

¹ BEIS, *Subnational Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics Regional and Local Authority, Great Britain, 2020* (London: Office for National Statistics)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1079141/subnational_electricity_and_gas_consumption_summary_report_2020.pdf

Exhibition in August and September 2022, the Engagement carried out afterwards and the response to the Engagement; and

- Section 7: Summary - Describes how the consultation process has influenced the design of the Proposed Development.

Chapter 2

Statutory Consultation Requirements

Public Consultation Guidance and Legislation

2.1 Permission for the Proposed Development is being sought under Section 36 of the Electricity Act which does not carry a statutory requirement for a PAC report.

2.2 However, as noted above, the Applicant recognises the benefits of carrying out early consultation during the planning process and regards producing a PAC report as best practice. The Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 – Community Engagement, has been used as a framework and guide for carrying out the PAC engagement activity for the Proposed Development and provided guidance on how the earlier phase of consultation was carried out. This was added to by the publication of the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) best practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 issued in February 2022 and updated in July 2022². This updated guidance was incorporated into the undertaking of consultation during 2022.

2.3 Consultation activities throughout 2021 and early 2022 for the Proposed Development were carried out during Covid-19 restrictions. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government provided development planning and engagement regulations through The Electricity Works (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020³, which remained in force until 30 September 2022.

2.4 The Scottish Government also issued 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events'³ which stated that engagement should focus on digital means and the consultation engagement should involve information in a user-friendly format on a free, publicly accessible website. In addition, engagement should be enhanced by non-digital communication. Recommended channels included placing articles in newspapers circulated locally, expanding contact with Community Councils, or posting letters to households. It was also to be made clear if there were mechanisms for people to obtain copies of the engagement materials offline, as well as the ability for them to submit comments by post.

2.5 Following the ending of restrictions on public events in early 2022, it was possible to hold physical exhibition events. The Applicant hosted three local events in August and September 2022, run in parallel with an online presence.

2.6 Engagement activities for the Proposed Development have concentrated on Community Councils hosting, or bordering, the Site as well as communities where there may be visibility of the Proposed Development. Mapping of these areas accounted for the scale of Loch Ness, ensuring that relevant communities on both sides of the Loch were contacted. All properties and business within the 'Consultation Zone' (as described below) were mailed to seek residents' views on the Proposed Development.

2.7 During the pre-application stage of the Proposed Development, the Applicant's aim has been to provide the local community and those with an interest in the proposal with a clear opportunity to comment and provide feedback prior to submitting the S36 application. This PAC report sets out the background and details of the pre-application engagement and public exhibition activity carried out by the Applicant in the preparation of the Section 36 application, and how the feedback received has resulted in modifications to the Proposed Development.

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-guidance-on-pre-application-consultations-for-public-events/#history>

Chapter 3

Consultation Measures

Consultation Measures

3.1 As noted above, the Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 – Community Engagement, which provides guidelines for PAC, has been used as a framework for the engagement activity for this Proposed Development. Following the publication of the updated best practise guidance in February 2022 and July 2022, this guidance was also incorporated. The guidelines have provided a useful framework to help plan, monitor and evaluate community engagement in relation to the Proposed Development.

Table 1: An Overview of Community Engagement – Consultation Stages

Standard	PAN 3/2010 Standard	Activities Undertaken
1	Involvement: Identify and involve the people and organisations who have an interest in the focus of the engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The host and neighbouring Community Councils, local community organisations and local elected officials for the Proposed Development were identified and contacted with information about the Proposed Development at the time of Scoping, when the project was first entered the public domain. ■ Stakeholders in the local area were offered the opportunity to meet with the project team virtually or, when possible, in-person. ■ A dedicated website with contact details was launched on 12 January 2021. ■ Virtual Exhibitions were held 21 May – 14 June 2021, and 16 August– 6 September 2022. ■ With Covid-19 restrictions eased, the second exhibition period included Physical Exhibitions held 30 August (Cannich), 31 August (Drumnadrochit) and 1 September (Invermoriston). ■ Invites and feedback forms were sent to 1,973 (first mailing) and 1,993 (second mailing) residents and businesses surrounding the Proposed Development at the start of the respective exhibition periods. The additional addresses can be accounted for within typical housing market activity.
2	Support: Identify and overcome any barriers to involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Respondents could communicate with the Proposed Development team via the project website, email, letter, telephone, or in-person. ■ Accessible Online Exhibitions in 2021 and 2022, and Physical Public Exhibitions in three accessible locations in 2022 (Appendix W). ■ The exhibitions were advertised in the Press & Journal (Appendices L and U). Adverts were provided to Community Councils, Councillors and other key stakeholders (Appendices J, K, S and T). ■ Invitations were sent to nearly 2,000 households and businesses surrounding the Proposed Development, during both exhibition periods. The invitations included information on the forthcoming consultation and how to get involved, details on the Proposed Development and a freepost feedback reply card. (Appendices I and R). ■ The Applicant commissioned additional research for Chapter 13 of the EIA Report, including a survey of local businesses, providing additional opportunity for businesses to participate and make their views known.
3	Planning: Gather evidence of need and resources to agree purpose, scope and actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The commitment to undertaking meaningful consultation with the local community was set out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In the Scoping Report (Section 2.3), adhering to Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010; and,

Standard	PAN 3/2010 Standard	Activities Undertaken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – When contact was made with Community Councils and further stakeholders outlining proposed approach and requesting feedback to ensure reach as many people as possible.
4	Methods: Agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Information presented on the Proposed Development website, accessible to interested parties. ■ Commitment to engagement outlined in communications, issued to Community Councils, including commitment to attend Community Council meetings. ■ Two Exhibitions, providing residents and interested groups an opportunity to meet and interact with the Proposed Development team, allowing discussion and feedback. In line with prevailing Covid-19 advice, the first exhibition was online and the second exhibition online and in-person. ■ Following Covid-19 restrictions easing, a physical exhibition was held across three locations in the local area during the second exhibition period. ■ Online Chat sessions were held during both exhibition periods.
5	Working Together: Agree and use clear procedures that enable participants to work together effectively and efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The PAC process enabled the Applicant to listen and take on board comments from interested parties and use responses to influence design. ■ Encouraged use of virtual meetings, feedback forms and contact details provided at public exhibitions to receive input. ■ Project contact information was provided on all public documentation and included a dedicated website. ■ Held physical exhibitions for the second period of exhibitions. ■ Offered to meet with Community Councils in-person and online., ■ Sought active engagement and involvement from the community to suggest potential uses for Community Benefit Funds.
6	Sharing Information: Ensure necessary information is communicated between the participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Interaction at Online and Physical Exhibition and follow up with any questions and provided further information. ■ Exhibition Brochure, Zone of Theoretical Visibility and viewpoints made available online. ■ The use of interactive software at Physical Exhibitions to demonstrate possible visibility of the Proposed Development from any location. ■ Provide Consultation Report for Community Councils, key community groups and the public following feedback from community engagement events. ■ Offering to attend Community Council meetings and to keep key stakeholder groups informed following submission of the application.

Standard	PAN 3/2010 Standard	Activities Undertaken
7	Working with Others: Work effectively with others with an interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction and comment from residents and Community Councils. Feedback provided at the consultation sessions has been considered as the project has been developed, particularly in relation to visibility and on the desire for an access route from the south via existing wind farm infrastructure.
8	Improvement: Develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of the participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experienced team members (including the Project Manager and the EIA team) attended the public consultation events to provide information requested by visitors. Provided visitors at the exhibitions the opportunity to view a representation of the Proposed Development from different viewpoint locations.
9	Feedback: Feedback results to the wider community and agencies affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A summary of exhibitions provided to stakeholders such as Community Councils and local politicians via email update. Responses direct to every feedback form received during the public consultations (if GDPR allowed). Dialogue with individuals with specific queries, posed before or during the consultation process, with responses to queries followed up. Provided a 'Frequently Asked Questions' one page document of the key questions asked during each consultation period. Provided Consultation Reports for Community Councils and the public (published on website) following feedback from each exhibition and consultation period. Consultation Reports sent to stakeholders are also published on the project specific website.
10	Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitor and evaluate whether engagement achieves its purpose and meets the national standards for community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Followed best practice as set out in PAC Report.

Table 2: Requirements under best practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989

Activity	Minimum Expectation	Activities Undertaken
Pre-application consultation events	The applicant is expected to hold at least two public consultation events prior to submitting the application. The final public event should be held at least 14 days after the first public event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events were held in May 2021 and August 2022, although the first of these was held as an online only event in compliance with The Electricity Works (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications)

Activity	Minimum Expectation	Activities Undertaken
	<p>The public events are to give members of the public the opportunity to make comments to the applicant as regards the proposed development.</p> <p>At the final public event, the applicant should provide feedback to members of the public in respect of comments received by the applicant as regards the proposed development.</p>	<p>(Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020' due to Covid-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Comments could be made via the project website, using reply cards distributed in the local area by mail, via email, through online chat sessions or using an 0800 number. ■ The Second Exhibition highlighted significant changes to the project layout as a result of public and stakeholder feedback.
<p>Notice of the pre-application consultation events</p>	<p>At least seven days before holding a public event, the applicant should publish on the applicant's website and in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated a notice containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed development; ■ The date and place of the public event; ■ A statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the applicant relating to the proposal may do so; and ■ A statement that comments made to the applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if the applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish Ministers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Details were published online and in the Press and Journal ahead of the exhibitions. Additional notification of the exhibition was sent to approximately 1900 local house houses ahead of the first and second exhibitions. ■ Relevant materials are detailed in Appendices F, H, I, L, M, N, Q, R and U.
<p>Details of the pre-application consultation events</p>	<p>The applicant should provide the following details at the public event and publish these details on the applicant's website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A description of the development to be carried out; ■ A plan showing the outline of the site at which the development is to be carried out and sufficient to identify that site; and ■ Details as to how the applicant may be contacted and corresponded with. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Records of the materials provided can be found in Appendices H and Q.

Activity	Minimum Expectation	Activities Undertaken
<p>Content of public event and pre-application consultation report</p>	<p>The applicant is expected to prepare a pre-application consultation report ("PAC Report") setting out what has been done to accord with the guidance set out above. The PAC Report should be submitted with the application.</p> <p>The PAC Report should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The dates on which and places where public events were held; ■ A description of any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult with members of the public regarding the development; ■ A list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the applicant and a description of how they were consulted; ■ A description of any materials sent to consultees and materials provided to those attending public events; ■ Copies of any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event, and photographs of any display boards or models at public events; ■ Confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the Scottish Ministers; ■ A summary of the written responses to consultations and views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events; ■ An explanation of how the applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process; and ■ An explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the applicant's consideration of the views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All specified details and evidence is present in the PAC Report and Appendices, broken down by the first and second exhibition.

Activity	Minimum Expectation	Activities Undertaken
	raised during the pre-application consultation process.	

Chapter 4

Public Consultation

Scoping

4.1 A Scoping Report for the Proposed Development was submitted to the ECU on 4 December 2020. A Scoping Opinion was requested under the terms of regulation 12 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulation 2017, as amended ('the EIA regulations').

4.2 The Scoping Report went live on the ECU website on 7 December 2020 with Statutory and Non-Statutory consultees consulted as part of the formal scoping process.

4.3 This section of the PAC Report outlines the engagement with Community Councils and other community stakeholders following Scoping. Summaries of the statutory consultees' responses are provided in **Chapter 2: Approach to the EIA** of the EIA Report and in respective chapters.

Consultation Zone

4.4 Prior to the submission of the Scoping Report, the Applicant agreed a geographical 'Consultation Zone'. This took into account a number of factors including the local communities, Community Council areas, the topography of the Loch Ness and the Great Glen, possible transport routes and the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV).

4.5 Following consultation with THC's Planning Officer, the Consultation Zone was extended to include all properties within a 10km radius of the turbines (based on the 26-turbine layout at the time) where these areas were not already covered.

4.6 This provided the project with a Consultation Zone boundary containing approximately 2,000 household and business addresses, in which the correct Community Councils and elected representatives could be identified. The Consultation Zone can be found in **Appendix B**.

Community Councils and Organisations

4.7 The communities surrounding the Site host active Community Councils, as well as organisations involved in development of their local areas. Care was taken to engage with these organisations early in the process and to remain engaged with them throughout the planning process.

4.8 The following Community Councils were identified as stakeholders in relation to the Proposed Development during Scoping:

- Glen Urquhart Community Council (Host);
- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council (Host);
- Strathglass Community Council;
- Kiltarlity Community Council;
- Dores and Essich Community Council; and
- Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council.

4.9 The Applicant wrote to these Community Councils on 12 January 2021, with an introduction to the project and a presentation providing maps and background on the proposals (**Appendix C**).

4.10 Of these Community Councils, one, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council, requested a meeting to discuss Development prior to the first exhibition. This took place on 29 June 2021 as a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams.

4.11 Strathglass Community Council signposted the Applicant to Soirbheas, a local charity which works to develop the communities of Glen Urquhart and Strathglass, as the contact point for discussions regarding the Community Benefit Fund. An initial meeting with Soirbheas was held on 4 March 2021. Subsequent to this meeting, the Applicant has met with Soirbheas regularly to provide project updates, discuss community benefit schemes and keep abreast of the organisation's activities in the local area. Dates of correspondence and meetings can be found in **Appendix A**. The Applicant has continued to engage with Strathglass Community Council, including providing information on the Community Benefit Fund as appropriate.

4.12 In addition to the above organisations, the Applicant engaged with other community organisations in-person or online throughout the development process. These included but were not limited to:

- Glenurquhart Rural Community Association (GURCA);
- Loch Ness Hub;
- Highland Tourism; and
- Glenmoriston Improvement Group.

Elected Representatives

4.13 Introduction letters and a presentation were sent to councillors covering the Aird and Loch Ness Council Ward, MSPs covering the Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch and Inverness and Nairn constituencies and the MPs for Ross, Skye and Lochaber and Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey on 12 January 2021. Examples of this correspondence can be found in **Appendix D**. Further correspondence was sent to elected representatives with project updates (detailed in **Appendix A**). Details of both the first and second exhibition were shared with elected representatives at the time, with requests to share details with their constituents.

4.14 Introductions to the Proposed Development were sent to the newly elected councillors following the election of Cllr David Fraser in a by-election on 12 March 2021 and following the Council Election of 5 May 2022. This correspondence can be found in **Appendix E**.

4.15 In addition to elected representatives for the Host and Neighbouring Wards, the Applicant contacted Councillors Bill Lobben and Jimmy Grey in April 2021 to highlight the Applicant's wider work in the Highlands after the Applicant's Berry Burn Wind Farm funded the completion of a community project within their ward.

Project Website

4.16 The Applicant's approach has been to provide information and consult with local residents and community representatives at an early stage of the process. The hub for this was the project website, found at www.LochLiath.co.uk, which has provided a consistent source of information throughout development.

4.17 The website was set up ahead of submission of the Scoping Report, allowing it to go live at the same time as the document was published on the ECU website and sent to consultees. This represented an earlier website launch than had previously been typical for the Applicant's projects, due to the Project Team being unable to meet local residents and community representatives in-person due to Covid-19 restrictions.

4.18 The website provided easy access to all information relating to the Proposed Development and provided a way for the project team to be contacted while it was not possible for them to be physically present in the community due to Covid-19 (See **Appendix F** for examples of website content). In August 2022, the Applicant migrated the project website from a third-party platform to an internal system based on their own website. No downtime was recorded during this migration. As the migration was a significant redesign of the website,

examples of the new website are also to be found in **Appendix F**.

4.19 The content on the Proposed Development website included a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section, project maps, a timeline of the Proposed Development, short video introductions of some of the team members and project contact details.

4.20 Other project materials, such as the presentation sent to Community Council and Elected Representatives, were also made available on the website alongside independent reports and information relating to wind farms in general.

Newsletter

4.21 On 13 May 2021, a Project Newsletter was made available on the website and sent to elected representatives. This provided more information relating to the project, including an introduction from the Project Manager, information about Statkraft UK Ltd (the parent company of the Applicant) and case studies on the impact of Community Benefit Funds at other projects. The Newsletter is provided in **Appendix G**.

Socio-Economic Impact

4.22 With tourism forming a major part of the economy in the communities surrounding the project, and in the Highland region as a whole, the Applicant undertook additional research into potential impacts and effects of both the Proposed Development and the renewable energy infrastructure as a whole. At present, there is no guidance on how assessment of these factors should be undertaken as part of the EIA process. The Applicant has sought to ensure that the assessment is robust, meets best practice and reflects the views of a range of local business stakeholders.

4.23 Research included ascertaining the views of businesses towards renewable energy, renewable developments and the perceived impact and effects of renewable energy infrastructure on the tourism sector.

4.24 Key findings relevant to the consultation include:

- No evidence of adverse impacts on the tourism sector;
- Negligible impact on the marketing and activities carried out by local businesses;
- Potential boosts for visitor accommodation during the construction phase of the development; and
- That jobs equivalent to up to 55 Person Years are likely to be created during construction directly or indirectly.

4.25 This research was commissioned by MKA Economics Ltd and is detailed in full in **Chapter 13: Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism** of the EIA Report.

Chapter 5

Exhibition 1 – Virtual Exhibition

Exhibition 1

5.1 The aim of the first public exhibition was to introduce the project to the community; providing information on the Applicant and the design of the project at the time which comprised up to 26 turbines with a maximum tip height up to 200m (hereafter referred to as the ‘Scoping Layout’). It provided an initial opportunity for the community to offer comments and feedback for consideration by the Applicant as the project progressed through the design process.

5.2 The first public exhibition took place between 21 May and 14 June 2021 and presented the Scoping Layout. It took place virtually in adherence to Scottish Government guidance on travelling between regions and limiting public events to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

5.3 The Virtual Exhibition was hosted on a dedicated webpage accessed through the main project page at www.LochLiath.co.uk. This included digital versions of the materials typically available at an equivalent in-person exhibition including an exhibition brochure, a site map, a transport options map, four visualisations of the Proposed Development and an online feedback form. The brochure and visualisations are available in **Appendix H**. A video introduction from the Project Manager was also included on the website.

Exhibition Mailing to Households and Businesses

5.4 On 18 May 2021, households and businesses within the Consultation Zone received direct correspondence from the Applicant via Royal Mail inviting them to participate in the Virtual Exhibition. This consisted of an invitation leaflet along with a survey reply card and a freepost envelope sent to 1,973 household and business addresses. Examples of the mailing can be found in **Appendix I**.

Community Councils and Organisations

5.5 Invites to the exhibitions were sent to Community Councils and a range of organisations between 14 and 17 May 2021. Examples of these can be found in Appendix J. These organisations were asked to share the invitation with local residents via social media or other available channels to increase the reach of the mailing and promotional activities.

5.6 The organisations contacted were:

- Glen Urquhart Community Council;
- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council;
- Strathglass Community Council;
- Kiltarlity Community Council;
- Dores and Essich Community Council;
- Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council;
- Soirbheas;
- Loch Ness Hub; and
- GURCA.

Elected Representatives

5.7 Elected representatives for Aird and Loch Ness Council Ward, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch and Inverness and Nairn Scottish Parliament constituencies and the Ross, Skye and Lochaber and Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Westminster Constituencies were contacted by email from 14 May 2021 with copies of the invitation leaflet and reply card. It was requested this be shared with constituents via appropriate channels. Examples of this correspondence can be found in **Appendix K**.

Newspapers

5.8 The Press & Journal carried adverts for the Virtual Exhibition on 21 May 2021 and 29 May 2021. These can be found in **Appendix L**.

Social Media

5.9 To further promote the exhibition in the area, the online exhibition was advertised through paid adverts on Facebook. These were targeted to approximately 4,000 individuals accessing the platform from the geographic area surrounding the Site.

5.10 Limitations on Facebook’s advertising tools meant that only an approximation of the Consultation Zone could be used rather than following the same boundaries as the physical mailing list.

5.11 An example of the Facebook advert can be found in **Appendix M**.

Posters

5.12 As opportunities for promoting the exhibition in the local area were limited by Covid-19 restrictions, posters and spare copies of the invitations were sent to a number of commercial and public buildings within the Consultation Zone. These locations were asked to display the materials so they could be viewed those in the local area. These included:

- Fort Augustus Memorial Hall;
- Stratherrick Public Hall;
- Gorthleck, Cannich Village Hall;
- Glen Urquhart Village Hall;
- Abriachan Village Hall;
- Dores Village Hall;
- Kiltarlity Village Hall;
- Glenmoriston Post Office & General Store;
- Dores Post Office;
- Kiltarlity Post Office;
- Foyers Stores, Post Office & Café;
- Cannich Stores (SPAR) & Post Office;
- Fort Augustus Post Office;
- Foyers Primary School;
- Kilchuimen Academy;
- Fort Augustus;
- Glen Urquhart High School;
- Stratherrick Primary School;
- Balnain Primary School;
- Cannich Bridge Primary School;
- Scotmid Co-op;
- Cobbs Group;
- Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust Ltd; and
- The Wildside Centre.

5.13 The poster can be found in **Appendix N**.

Consultation Webpage

5.14 A separate webpage was set up to host the first Online Exhibition. This could be accessed at any time over the exhibition period via a link from the Proposed Development website. The Online Exhibition sought to replicate the type of information and materials available at a physical exhibition

while remaining accessible. See **Appendix H** for the brochure that was available online and examples of the Exhibition Webpage.

5.15 The Online Exhibition included:

- An exhibition Brochure including all the information usually found at an in-person village hall exhibition, covering:
 - Information on the Applicant;
 - An overview of the Proposed Development, including layout;
 - An overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment process; and
 - Community Benefit, construction opportunities and Shared Ownership Information.
- A Pre-recorded video introducing the Proposed Development and some of the Project Team as well as an extended video presenting more information about the Proposed Development.
- An extensive FAQs section on the Proposed Development.
- An opportunity to leave comments through online feedback forms or request a call back.

Question & Answer Sessions

5.16 As it was not possible to hold in-person events, online Question and Answer sessions were held as an alternative.

5.17 Initially three sessions were planned, all taking place in the afternoon or early evening. Based on feedback from Strathglass Community Council, the proposed session on Tuesday 1 June was amended to take place outside typical working hours. This change was communicated to stakeholders via email.

5.18 The chat sessions were accessed via the dedicated project webpage and took place on:

- Thursday 27 May 2021, from 1-3pm;
- Tuesday 1 June 2021, from 6-8pm; and,
- Monday 14 June 2021, from 2-4pm.

5.19 The online chat sessions were promoted in the Exhibition invitation, correspondence with stakeholders, online and newspaper adverts and on the project website.

Receiving Feedback

5.20 In addition to the freepost reply cards and online sessions, a number of channels were provided and publicised

to allow people to respond to the exhibition or to get in touch with the project team. These included:

- Contacting the project team via a freephone number;
- Requesting a call back using an online form;
- Submitting questions for the project FAQs via an online form; and
- Contacting the team via email.

5.21 These channels were promoted across all available consultation materials during the exhibition period.

Engagement after First Exhibition and Consultation Period

5.22 Following the Virtual Exhibition, the project team responded to questions and queries submitted through the various channels.

5.23 All individuals who left comments and asked questions via the feedback forms (online or offline) were responded to directly (where GDPR has allowed). For individuals who ticked the box not to be contacted in their feedback form, the Applicant has included general responses on their website – please see **Appendix O** for specific examples of responses to feedback forms.

5.24 Each letter included a summary of the Frequently Asked Questions that were raised during the exhibition. A copy of the FAQs can be found in **Appendix O**.

Feedback Report

5.25 The virtual exhibition page attracted 458 visits. 195 visits saw individuals visiting multiple pages, viewing videos or downloading documents, demonstrating engagement with the webpage.

5.26 77 postal reply cards were returned with a further 15 online submissions for a total of 92 submissions. Two online submissions made close together on the same day provided identical email addresses and written submissions, and the second of these has been removed as an accidental resubmission, for a total of 91 valid submissions.

5.27 Respondents were strongly in favour of the use of renewable energy to meet the UK's energy needs, with 70% supportive of the principle of renewable energy (**Chart 1**).

5.28 When asked whether onshore wind is a good was to help generate more renewable energy 58% of respondents said 'no', whilst 31% said yes and 11% were unsure (**Chart 2**).

5.29 Only 22% of respondents were in favour of the location of the windfarm, when presented with the 26-turbine Scoping Layout, while a further 10% were unsure (**Chart 3**).

Chart 1 Pie Chart showing the Communities response to 'Do you agree that onshore wind power is a good way to help achieve this?'

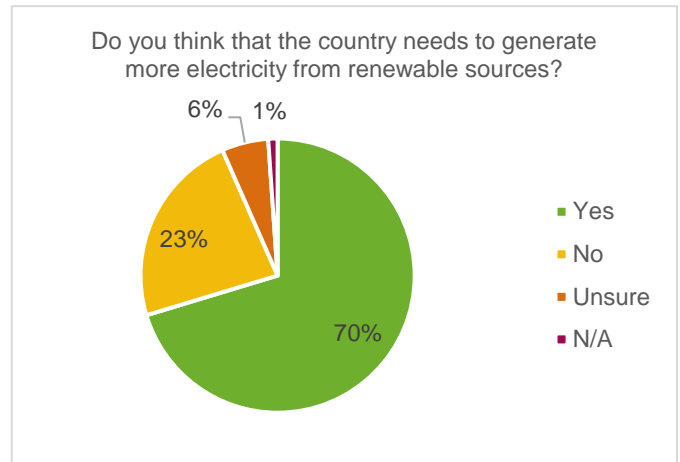


Chart 2 Pie Chart Showing the Communities Response to 'Do you agree that onshore wind power is a good way to help achieve this?'

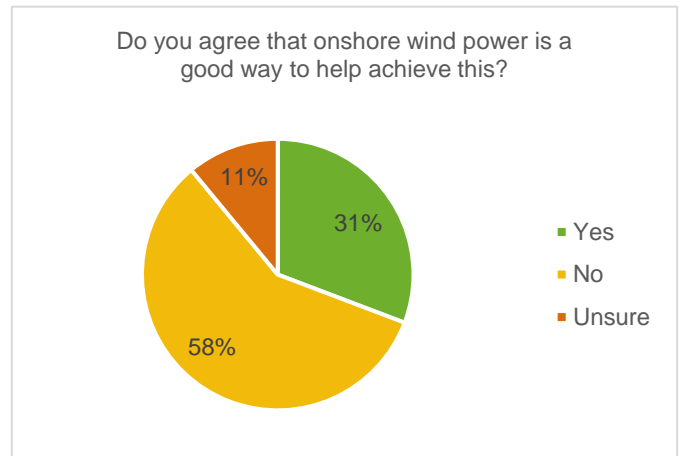
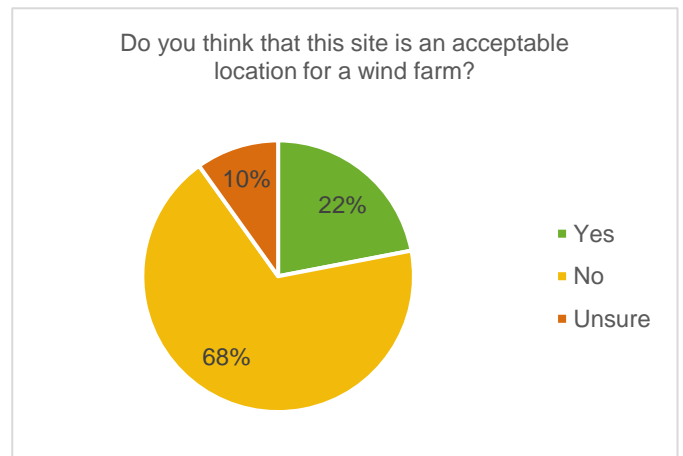


Chart 3: Pie Chart Showing the Communities Response to 'Do you think that this site is an acceptable location for a wind farm?'



Response to Virtual Exhibition and Consultation Comments

5.30 Respondents had a number of ways to provide feedback on the Proposed Development to the Applicant. Examples of the feedback provided and the Applicant's response to them can be found in this section.

5.31 A number of respondents left comments about the project in reply cards. Examples of these can be found in **Table 3**.

5.32 **Table 4** below outlines the common comments and issues raised, and the Applicant's response to these. These responses were used to create a Frequently Asked Questions document which was published on the project website and sent to those who provided comment and requested a response, in addition to tailored answers on specific issues.

Table 3: Example Positive and Negative Comments Received from Reply Cards and Online Responses during the First Exhibition

Positive	Negative
"We'd be interested in the broadband and community fund potential of this scheme."	"We are taking too much land from wildlife. Mankind has enough land and make use of that. We are filling the ground with concrete in wild places, lets leave some for other creatures."
"Well sited as Glen Moriston "inroads" can avoid using our narrow roads and visual/noise impact less; Use of wind & hydro makes sense if the areas are carefully selected but costly. Good luck."	"Even with all these wind turbines generating electricity my unit price increased by 22% on my last contract renewal. In 17 years my unit price has never decreased only increased massively. Why is this?"
"We can't have too many wind turbines. I think wind turbines are beautiful."	"This is an area of outstanding natural beauty and a haven for wildlife attracting international tourists. So many WF proposals from (173 turbines in total) international companies taking the profits."
"I think that residents close to wind farms should receive preferential electricity rates."	"The most northerly point of your proposed WF is situated in an area of lochans & peat bogs that are very important for wildlife and carbon storage. The most northerly 4 of them will be visible from the glen. You do not specify your access road - this should be from the Bhlaraidh side. Scale the project back to 15 or 16 turbines in the south of the area!"

Table 4: Frequently Asked Questions and Responses provided following the First Exhibition

Topic	Comment Received	Applicant's Response
Cumulative Impact	<i>There are too many wind farms in this area</i>	<p>“The Highland Council’s Spatial Framework for Onshore Wind Energy (2020) indicates that the location of the proposed Loch Liath Wind Farm may be appropriate, with some scope to accommodate large scale turbines. As part of our work towards the planning application for the project, we have undertaken substantial analysis into the landscape and visual considerations in the vicinity of the development. We continue to develop the project with the aim of finding the right balance between maximising the electricity output and carefully siting and designing the proposal to relate to the existing landscape, including other wind developments.</p> <p>“Our analysis shows that less than 10% of land in Scotland is suitable for onshore wind farms. To find out what makes a site suitable for onshore wind, a recent webinar hosted by Future Net Zero featured our Head of Development who goes through the steps in new site searching. Please visit this link to view.”</p>
Alternative Renewable Investments	<i>Wind turbines should be offshore?</i>	<p>“We need a mix of all types of renewable energy generation. New-build onshore wind is presently the most cost-effective way to generate new electricity, out of all forms of electricity.”</p>
Visual Impact	<i>I don't like the look of onshore wind farms</i>	<p>“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).</p> <p>“If there is concern about a specific view, please let us know and we’ll try to provide suitable illustrations at our next consultation event later this year.”</p>
Environmental Impact	<i>Wind turbines are bad for the environment [construction, peat disturbance, use more carbon than they save]</i>	<p>“All wind farm applications are required to report their “carbon payback period” in the Environmental Impact Assessment. This uses a Scottish Government calculator which includes all emissions from the manufacture of the turbines, including any peat disturbance, as well as construction and decommissioning. This is usually in the range of 1-2 years, and part of the work we do during the development phase is to get that number as low as possible.</p> <p>“We commission experienced technical consultants to undertake detailed environmental surveys of the peatland habitat, ecology and ornithology, amongst many others. This information is used to inform the proposed layout of the project and we work closely with these consultants to minimise</p>

Topic	Comment Received	Applicant's Response
		<p>impacts. We will commit to implementing management plans prior to, and throughout, the construction phase to minimise any damage or disturbance. In addition, a detailed habitat management plan will be implemented for the lifetime of the project which will aim to bring long term benefits to local wildlife. Statkraft is committed to improving habitat across our projects. We were finalists in two prestigious industry awards for our efforts in Moray where we committed to maximising habitat improvements of an area of bog habitat, which was devastated by a wild fire, to deliver a biodiversity gain.”</p>
Transport Access	<p><i>What is the transport route for the turbines? Are the roads suitable for this construction and ongoing access?</i></p>	<p>“We are confident a suitable access route can be proposed and this is part of our detailed planning work. A Traffic Management Plan will be agreed with the Highland Council prior to construction commencing.”</p>
Local Benefits/ Community Benefit	<p><i>What is the benefit to locals?</i></p>	<p>“There are several ways our projects can bring local benefits. We are always open to discussing how this can be tailored to each area. The construction phase provides a significant opportunity for local businesses to get involved – over 80 businesses completed our local suppliers register for the construction of our Keith Greener Grid project.</p> <p>“The operation of a wind farm brings significant local investment. Statkraft commit to delivering a community benefit fund with all new wind farms at £5,000 per MW installed per year, as per Scottish Government best practice guidance. The exact total amount will depend on the number and type of turbines installed, but as a guide, this is around £25,000 per turbine per year, over the operating period of the wind farm.”</p>

Further Engagement Opportunities

5.33 Community Councils requested further opportunities to find out more about the project. An offer was made to the Community Councils, local organisations and elected representatives to organise further online events or workshops on topics including “Ecology & Ornithology; Carbon Payback measures; Traffic and Transport; Broadband; and Shared Ownership”. This was intended to provide alternative to face to face engagement that would otherwise have been possible outside of lockdown conditions. None of the local organisations took up the offer of further sessions.

Exhibition Summary

5.34 Feedback regarding the number of turbines, the potential impact on wildlife and proximity to areas of deep peat and lochans throughout the Site contributed to the decision by the Project Team to revise the number of turbines and their positions. This reinforced feedback that was provided by the Highland Council (**Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy** of the EIA) and statutory consultees including NatureScot and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

5.35 A Post Exhibition Report was produced following the end of the exhibition. This summarised the findings of the consultation and detailed the steps taken to provide effective consultation in spite of Covid-19 restrictions. Following the exhibition, this was made available on the project website and emailed to elected representatives and stakeholder groups. This is available in **Appendix P**.

Chapter 6

Exhibition 2 – In-Person and Online

Exhibition 2

6.1 A second exhibition, beginning on 16 August 2022, presented the near final design of the Proposed Development. This iteration featured 13 wind turbines, with three turbines with a height up to 180m to tip and 10 turbines with a height up to 200m to tip. This presented the near finalised layout and the proposal which is being taken forward to application.

6.2 The proposed access to the turbines had not been confirmed at the point of the submission and so was not presented in any of the display materials. The Applicant was open to discussions about the access options available and engaged with members of the community who were interested in this subject.

6.3 The purpose of the consultation was to provide engagement opportunities on the revised project design and to provide an update following the completion of surveys and baseline data gathering carried out as part of the EIA process.

6.4 Reflecting the easing of travel restrictions and limitations on events held in enclosed spaces (introduced as part of the Scottish Governments' response to Covid-19), the exhibition adopted a hybrid approach. This retained the majority of the arrangements for the previous Virtual Exhibition, with the addition of three face-to-face events spread over three days.

6.5 The online element of the exhibition ran from 16 August to 6 September 2022. In-person events took place in Cannich on 30 August, Drumnadrochit on 31 August and Glenmoriston on 1 September.

6.6 In addition, the exhibition was again hosted on a dedicated webpage accessed through the main project page at www.LochLiath.co.uk. Materials included an exhibition brochure, a Zone of Theoretical Visibility Map, a site map, visualisations, digital versions of the banners produced for the face-to-face exhibition and an online feedback form. Examples of these materials are included in **Appendix Q**.

Exhibition Mailing to Households and Businesses

6.7 From 16 August, households and businesses within the Consultation Zone began receiving direct correspondence from the Applicant via Royal Mail inviting them to attend the exhibitions and to participate in the exhibition online. This

consisted of an invitation leaflet along with a survey reply card and a freepost envelope sent to 1,993 household and business addresses. This was based on an identical geographical area to the Virtual Exhibition mailing, with addresses updated to reflect the latest available Royal Mail records. Examples of the mailing can be found in **Appendix R**.

Community Councils and Organisations

6.8 Invites to the exhibitions were sent to relevant Community Councils (see below) and organisations on 16 August. As with the Virtual Exhibition, it was requested that these organisations share the invitation with local residents using their own channels to increase the reach of the Applicant's consultation activities. A copy of the mailing can be found in **Appendix S**.

6.9 The following organisations were contacted:

- Glen Urquhart Community Council;
- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council;
- Strathglass Community Council;
- Kiltarlity Community Council;
- Dores and Essich Community Council;
- Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council;
- Soirbheas;
- Loch Ness Hub;
- GURCA;
- Glenmoriston Improvement Group; and
- Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company.

6.10 Following submission of the Project Gatecheck Report in November 2022, Strathglass Community Council requested that Strathglass Marketing Group be included in regular correspondence alongside these organisations.

Elected Representatives

6.11 Following the precedent for the Virtual Exhibition, elected representatives for Aird and Loch Ness Council Ward, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, and Inverness and Nairn Scottish Parliament constituencies, and the Ross, Skye and

Lochaber and Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Westminster Constituencies were contacted by email regarding the exhibition on 16 August 2022. This correspondence included copies of the invitation and reply card with a freepost envelope, along with a request to share the relevant dates and times with constituents. Examples of this correspondence can be found in **Appendix T**.

Newspapers

6.12 The Press & Journal carried adverts for the Exhibition on 16 August 2022 and 20 August 2022. These can be found in **Appendix U**.

Social Media

6.13 The exhibition was publicised on Statkraft's LinkedIn account as part of a wider campaign to raise awareness of Statkraft's brand in the UK and around project areas.

Consultation Webpage

6.14 As with the Virtual Exhibition, a dedicated project webpage was created, accessed through the project website at www.LochLiath.co.uk.

6.15 Prior to the second exhibition, the Applicant migrated their project websites from a third-party system to the Applicant's main website. This necessitated a complete redesign of the existing project website and consultation web pages. The redesign website retained the same information as the previous site but with a more accessible design. The Consultation Webpage was also redesigned to improve accessibility and make it easier to find key information. Examples of the redesigned pages can be found in **Appendix H**.

6.16 The Consultation Webpage was accessed by a link displayed in a prominent button near the top of the Proposed Development's website. As has become standard for the Applicant's online exhibitions since the Covid-19 pandemic, the website sought to replicate the information and materials available at the physical exhibition. This included:

- An updated exhibition Brochure including:
 - Information on the Applicant;
 - An overview of the Proposed Development, including the new layout (comprising up to 13 turbines with tip heights ranging from up to 200m for 10 turbines, and up to 180m for three turbine);
 - An overview of the EIA process and high level findings;
 - Information on Community Benefit, construction opportunities and Shared Ownership.

- A high resolution ZTV Map;
- A visualisation booklet including five visualisations and wireframes showing the impact of the updated design;
- An extensive FAQs section on the Proposed Development; and
- An opportunity to leave comments through online feedback forms, request a call back or pose questions to the Applicant.

6.17 Ahead of the in-person events, copies of the banners created for display were also uploaded to the Consultation Webpage.

Question & Answer Sessions

6.18 Two online chat sessions took place as part of the exhibition. These were timed to provide options in the evening, reflecting previous feedback.

6.19 The chat sessions took place on:

- 23 August: from 4pm – 6pm; and
- 6 September from 5pm – 7pm.

6.20 The online chat sessions were promoted in the exhibition invitation, correspondence with stakeholders, online and via newspaper adverts. The chats were prominently displayed on the Project Website and the Consultation Webpage during their running time, with the redesigned site allowing increased prominence of buttons to access the chat.

In-Person Exhibition

6.21 The in-person exhibitions were held in the following locations:

- Cannich Village Hall, Cannich – 4:00pm-7:00pm on 30 August;
- Glenurquhart Public Hall, Drumnadrochit – 12:00pm-6:30pm on 31 August; and
- Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston – 1:30pm-4:30pm on 1 September.

6.22 The in-person exhibitions included a series of eight project banners, visualisations, and an interactive board where visitors could suggest uses for the Community Benefit Fund. These can be found in **Appendix V**, including images of the banners in-situ. An exhibition team of ten people was present to host the public exhibition, including staff with a diverse range of skills from the Applicant, LUC and Kane Partnership. This also included learning opportunities for a trainee member of staff, contributing to their continuing professional development.

6.23 Project Staff from LUC provided access to ReSoft WindFarm, an interactive software package which allows wireframes to be run on a 'bare-earth' model to provide a visual representation of the Proposed Development from anywhere in the local area. They were also able to provide expert support on questions regarding the EIA process.

6.24 In total, the exhibitions received 41 visitors over three days, with the majority of attendees taking time to discuss the project with team members. Subjects raised included, the visual impact, the impact on tourism, the Broadband Feasibility Study, how businesses could get involved, and what the next stages of the project would be.

Receiving Feedback

6.25 All methods of feedback from the virtual exhibition remained open during the Second Exhibition:

- Contacting the project team via a freephone number;
- Requesting a call back using an online form;
- Submitting questions for the project FAQs via an online form; and
- Contacting the team via email.

6.26 Additionally, local residents were able to complete feedback forms at the exhibitions or hand postal reply cards to the Project Team at the in-person exhibition.

6.27 Due to impacts on the postal services stemming from postal worker strikes and the death of HM The Queen, the deadline for submission of reply cards by post was extended by two weeks from the advertised period.

Engagement after Second Exhibition and Consultation Period

6.28 Following the Second Exhibition, the project team responded to questions and queries submitted through the various channels.

6.29 All individuals who left comments and asked questions via the feedback forms (online or offline) were responded to directly (where GDPR has allowed). The response included a letter addressing specific issues raised, along with an FAQs document which summarised response to frequently asked questions. The FAQs document was also made available on the project website. Examples of the correspondence can be found in **Appendix W**.

Feedback Report

6.30 The Second Exhibition saw 297 visitors to the Consultation Webpage. Of these, 125 were unique visitors with the majority navigating directly to the page via the web

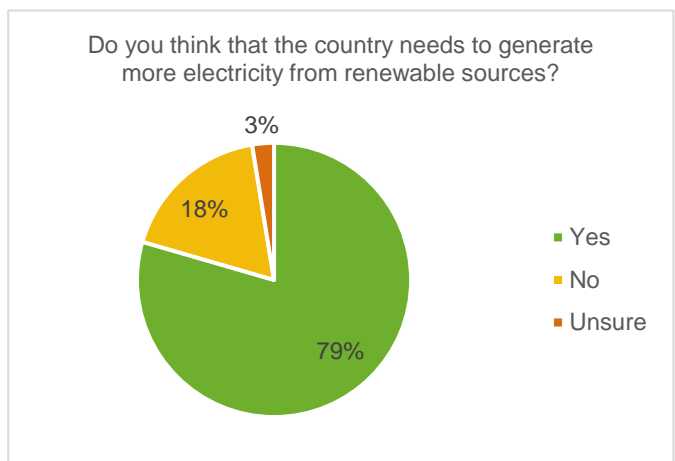
address, suggesting the mailout as a significant driver of traffic. The reduced number of online visitors compared to the virtual exhibition in 2021 is likely due to the resumption of in-person exhibitions.

6.31 As noted above, the in-person exhibitions were attended by 41 people over three days. The exhibitions in Cannich Hall and Glen Urquhart Memorial Hall were the most popular with 14 and 26 visitors respectively. The small number of visitors to Invermoriston is likely due to the limited visibility of the Proposed Development from the south and it's siting within the established pattern of operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and the consented Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension.

6.32 79 survey responses were received. Four of these were received online, with the rest being returned via post. One postal response was returned completely blank and was discounted for a total of 78 completed surveys.

6.33 Responses to the survey questions were markedly different to those received during the Virtual Exhibition. Support for renewable generation to meet the energy needs of the UK increased to 79% (**Chart 4**), likely reflecting the impact that the Russian invasion of Ukraine had on energy prices and the wider discussions around generation and energy security in politics and media in the time period between the two exhibitions.

Chart 4 Pie Chart Showing the Communities Response to 'Do you think that the country needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources?'



6.34 Support for onshore wind developments also saw a significant increase, with 55% of respondents (up from 31%) supporting the principle of onshore wind (**Chart 5**). This would again seem to reflect the wider conversations taking place in society regarding energy security

6.35 The increase in support for renewables and onshore wind was also seen in respondents' views on the Proposed Development (**Chart 6**). While only 22% of respondents had

been positive at the time of the of the Virtual Exhibition in 2021, there was a marked increase to 46% of respondents supportive of the site, while a further 17% were unsure compared to 10% during the Virtual Exhibition. Based on comments received in the reply cards, it is likely that this increase is linked to the reduction in the number of turbines between the two exhibitions.

Chart 5 Pie Chart Showing the Communities Response to ‘Do you agree that onshore wind power is a good way to help achieve this?’

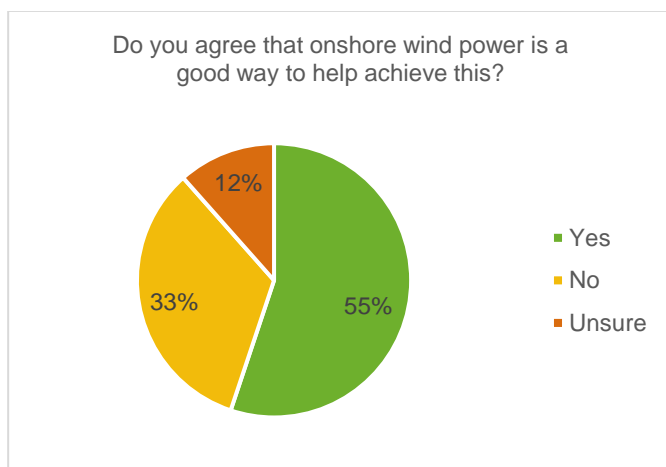
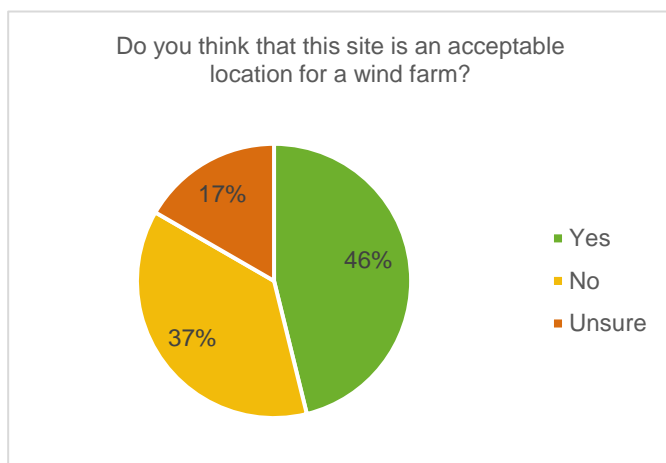


Chart 6 Pie Chart Showing the Communities Response to ‘Do you think that this site is an acceptable location for a wind farm?’



Response to Public Exhibition and Second Consultation Comments

6.36 Respondents had a number to ways to provide feedback on the Proposed Development to the Applicant. Examples of the feedback provided as part of the Second Public Exhibition and Consultation and the Applicant’s response to them can be found in this section.

6.37 A number of respondents left comments about the project in reply cards. Examples of these can be found in **Table 5**.

Table 5 Example Positive and Negative Comments Received from Reply Cards and Online Responses during the Second Exhibition

Positive	Negative
“Your revised Loch Liath plan is very close to what I suggested previously. Thank you for these amendments, and I accept the revised plan.”	“No need for more turbines - enough ways to provide electricity. We have renewable energy but the cost is still rising.”
“I’m pleased to see that you listened to my concerns about visual impact from Glenurquhart and have reduced turbine numbers, at Suidhe Ghuirmain. I was also pleased to meet the Nature Scotland officer surveying the Glen on your behalf.”	“New hydro schemes are better than onshore wind. Offshore wind is better than onshore but hydro is a better long term sustainable option with less negative impact on local communities.”
“A pity the number of turbines was reduced.”	“What mitigation measure will be used to avoid conflict with birds of prey and with avoiding areas of deep peat?”
“Fantastic! £500K a year for community is what we need - school, care home, roads.”	“I prefer nuclear power. Why does one of the most beautiful parts of the country need more... Extra access roads will impact on us. If we must have wind power then I feel it is better out at sea or even on top of buildings in city centres!”

6.38 **Table 6**, below, outlines the common comments and issued raised, and the Applicant’s response to these. These responses were published on the project website and sent to those who provided comment and requested a response to their reply cards.

Table 6: Frequently Asked Questions and Responses provided following the Second Exhibition

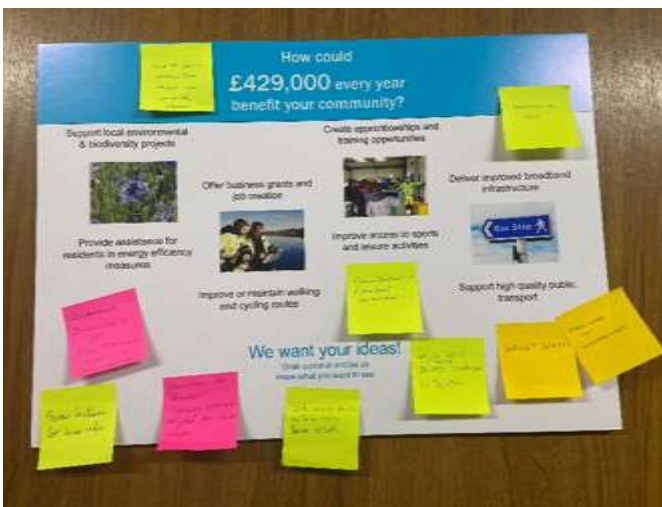
Topic	Comment Received	Applicant's Response
Landscape and Visual	<i>I don't like the appearance of the wind turbines/This is not a suitable location for them</i>	<p>“Scottish Government planning guidance indicates that the proposed site of Loch Liath Wind Farm may be acceptable for development of wind farms if suitable measures are taken to protect the natural environment.</p> <p>“As part of our work towards a planning submission and as a result of previous feedback, we have reduced the number of turbines and moved some of them to reduce environmental and visual impact in the local area. We continue to develop the project with the aim to find the right balance between maximising the electricity output and carefully siting and designing the proposal to relate to the existing landscape, including other wind developments.</p> <p>“Less than 10% of land in Scotland is suitable for onshore wind farms. Our Head of Development, Richard Mardon, gave a webinar in June 2021 on how Statkraft finds suitable sites for new windfarms. In it, he discusses the factors that we consider before every development, including proximity to housing, monuments and historic sites, wild land, and areas of ecological or scientific significance.”</p>
Scheme Reduction	<i>Why has the scheme been reduced? Why not include more turbines?</i>	<p>“Our technical studies over the last year and feedback from the community have helped us to arrive at our proposal for a 13-turbine layout, which we believe gives a balance between maximising the electricity generated and minimising impacts.</p> <p>“While reasons for removal of individual turbines vary, they include reducing visual impact from key locations, and avoiding areas that are home to deep peat, sensitive for bird species and which might impact on nearby lochs and burns.”</p>
Alternative Renewable Investments	<i>Why not invest in hydroelectric power, off-shore wind or tidal energy instead of on-shore wind?</i>	<p>“We need a mix of all types of renewable energy generation. New-build onshore wind is presently the most cost-effective way to generate new electricity, out of all forms of electricity.”</p>
Energy Bills	<i>Will this development help reduce energy bills?</i>	<p>“The current energy price rises in the UK are closely linked to the price of natural gas. By increasing the amount of renewable energy that the UK can generate and by strengthening the energy network with developments like our Greener Grid Parks, we are reducing the reliance on electricity generated from gas which should reduce prices over time. You can see the impact renewable energy is having on reducing our reliance on imported and expensive fossil fuels here: https://eci.u.net/winter-power-tracker.”</p>

Topic	Comment Received	Applicant's Response
Local Benefits/ Community Benefit	<i>Comments regarding benefits to the local area</i>	<p>“There are several ways our projects can bring local benefits, and we are always open to discussing how this can be tailored to the local area. The construction phase provides a significant opportunity for local businesses to get involved and Statkraft have a track record of working with local organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce to maximise local investment during this time. Over £1.6m was retained in the local economy during construction of our Greener Grid Park at Keith, sourced through promotion of our Local Supplier Register. On a wider level, a recent University of Strathclyde report demonstrates the breadth of economic benefits being delivered from onshore wind and the wider renewable energy industry. Scotland’s renewable energy industry supported more than 27,000 full time jobs, and £5.6bn of output, with onshore wind supporting the most employment. The operation of a wind farm brings significant local investment. Statkraft commit to delivering a community benefit fund with all new wind farms at £5,000 per MW installed per year, as per Scottish Government guidance. The exact amount will depend on the number and type of turbines installed, but as a guide, is currently estimated at £429,000 per year over the operating period of the wind farm.”</p>

Community Benefit Board

6.39 The inclusion of an interactive exhibition board (**Image 1**) allowed exhibition visitors to share their ideas for use of the Community Benefit Fund, introducing an approach which was novel for the Applicant. The approach was adopted due to its success in other fields of planning consultation and as the Applicant was particularly interested in gaining more feedback on how the community could benefit from the fund.

Image 1: Exhibition Board



6.40 The board was positively received by visitors, with a number leaving suggestions for the use of the fund. Ideas included:

- Improved broadband;
- Public hall renovation;
- A Community shop;
- A Project Manager for community projects;
- Energy grants;
- Horse riding gates; and
- Training opportunities and jobs for local people.

Exhibition Summary

6.41 A Post Exhibition Report was produced and issued in December 2022. The report summarised the activities carried out during the consultation and the results of the reply cards and surveys. The Report was published on the project website and emailed to elected representatives and community groups. The report is available in **Appendix X**.

Additional Engagement

6.42 Recognising the importance of the tourist economy to the area around the Proposed Development, the project team took additional steps to engage directly with local businesses, organisations and attractions.

Local Footpaths

6.43 Local stakeholders highlighted challenges posed by the condition of public paths in the area, including those within close proximity to the Site. As a result of this, the Applicant commissioned a specialist survey of a popular local route within the area (to the summit of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh) by a local mountain guide with experience delivering walking trips for people with a wide variety of abilities and fitness. This has helped to inform proposals for the upgrade of this route as detailed below.

Meall Fuar-mhonaidh

6.44 The Pre-Application Advice meeting with the Highland Council, and the subsequent report, raised the need to consider the local footpath up the Meall Fuar-mhonaidh summit specifically. The Applicant walked this route and had identified that it is degraded in a number of places, resulting in the path being boggy, wet and not easily accessible, specifically in the upper section. The knock-on effect of this is that the treaded area is substantially wider than would be necessary for a footpath, caused by walkers seeking out drier, less boggy sections to walk, resulting in a larger area of erosion and degradation.

6.45 In February 2022, the Applicant commissioned a Red Level Survey of the upper section of the Meall Fuar-mhonaidh walking route (from the deer stile to the summit) to ascertain the potential for improvement works which could be delivered as part of the application. Following consultation with THC, the Applicant commissioned a further Red Level Survey of the route from the car park to the stile to provide contextual data of the condition of the route as a whole. This survey was undertaken in February 2023 and identified that the lower sections of the path comprised well-used boardwalk and a path through wooded and moorland habitat. This has informed the proposal to upgrade the upper section of the route from the deer stile to the summit (approximately 2.5km) as part of the application for the Proposed Development. Further details of this are contained within **Appendix 13.1: Outline Access Management Plan** of the EIA Report, submitted in support of the application.

Broadband Feasibility

6.46 Reflecting feedback from elected representatives and Soirbheas on the quality of local broadband and the fact that the initial broadband survey was carried out under lockdown

conditions, the Applicant has agreed to commission an updated broadband feasibility study, if required. This will be shared with stakeholders once complete, and if there is support from the local community and the Proposed Development is consented, the Applicant will support the community in progressing proposals for improved broadband access.

Local Cultural Heritage Features

6.47 Between the two exhibitions, a phone call was received from a member of the public concerned about impact on local monuments and memorials in the Site. They provided a list of OS grid references to allow the Project Team to consider these features in the design process. The design of the Proposed Development will not have any significant impacts on these cultural heritage features, three of which are outside the final Site boundary. The fourth is a cairn to John Ferguson, a local who died fishing at Loch nam Meur, and is located on the loch. Further information on the cairn is provided in the EIA Report in **Appendix 10.1: Historic Environment Assessment** of the EIA Report.

Further Meetings

6.48 The Project Team met with Cllr David Fraser at Glen Urquhart Hall on 3 February 2023 to provide a general update on the Proposed Development including submission timescales. The meeting aimed to provide an update on the design evolution including how the reduced scheme (reduced from 26 turbines to 13 turbines) has minimised the project's visual impacts on the local area. In addition, the meeting included discussions on proposed upgrades to the Meall Fuar-mhonaidh footpath and broadband feasibility studies.

6.49 The Project Team attended the Strathglass Community Council meeting on 5 April 2023 to provide an update on the Proposed Development. The Project Team presented the findings from the Second Exhibition and outlined how the feedback gathered through consultation has informed the design process. The Project Team also provided information on proposed timescales and next steps prior to, and post submission of the Application. The Project Team were asked a number of questions from the attendees at the meeting including further information on:

- Overall timescales of the project;
- Engagement with Soirbheas;
- Community Benefit Fund; and
- Grid connection.

6.50 Due to the facilities available at the meeting, it was not possible to present the PowerPoint presentation however a copy of the presentation was emailed to Strathglass Community Council after the meeting.

Chapter 7 Summary

Key Outcomes

7.1 Feedback from both the Virtual Exhibition and the Second Exhibition, in addition to ongoing consultation activities with the community, has helped inform the design process of the Proposed Development, as outlined in **Chapter 3** of the EIA Report. Further information on the evolution of the Proposed Development is also included in the Design and Access Statement (DAS) and the EIA Report.

Design of the Proposed Development

7.2 Feedback from the Consultations aided the project team in making a number of key decisions, including:

- **Reduction in the number of turbines.** Particular focus was given to removing and reducing the number of turbines located in the north and east of the Site, with the aim of reducing visibility from the nearby Glen Urquhart community located north of the Site.
- **Adoption of the southern access route first as the preferred option and then as the final option within the Application.** Members of the community voiced a preference for the Proposed Development to take access through the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, from the South rather than creating a new route from the north. Through engagement with relevant landowners and associated companies, the design of the Proposed Development has been able to deliver on this. Both options are illustrated in Image 2.
- **Reducing visual impact from Glen Affric.** The design sought to relocate the western most turbines such that they were situated further into the centre of the Site as much as possible, which resulted in turbines being better screened by the ridge which runs along the western edge of the Site. In addition, turbines were dropped from the north of the Site to reduce the horizontal spread of turbines visible from the Glen Affric area.
- **Reducing horizontal spread of turbines when seen from Meall Fuar-mhonaidh summit.** The design has sought to remove turbines from the north and the east of the Site which reduces the spread of visible turbines and also the proximity to this peak. The turbines were also removed from more elevated ground to reduce their prominence.

- **Reducing visual impact on views from the Affric-Kintail Way and from east bank of Loch Ness.** The design has sought to minimise visual impacts from important locations for the community, including through dropping the tip height of three turbines.

7.3 The design process, as informed by consultation, has resulted in a reduction in the number of turbines, as well as optimisation of laydown areas and other areas of hard standing to minimise impacts on peat and watercourses. This can be seen in Images 3 to 5, which present the initial layout, one of the four iterations considered prior to design freeze, and the final design as submitted.

Image 2: Comparison of northern and southern access routes showing how the southern route reduces impact by utilising existing infrastructure

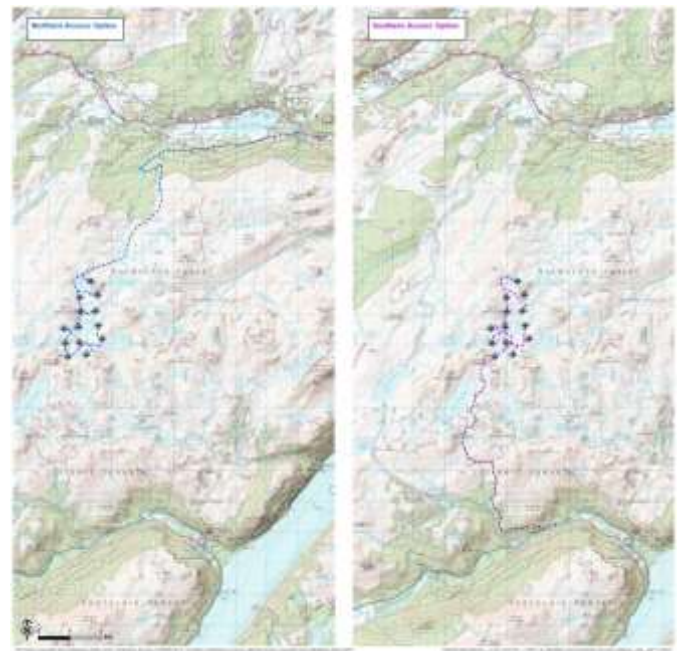


Image 1 Turbine layout at Scoping, showing initial 26 turbine proposal.

This layout aimed to optimise the Site's potential for onshore wind development, taking in to account areas of high wind speed and initial advice from technical teams in relation to landscape and visual impacts.



Image 2 Turbine layout considered in early 2022, showing 17 turbine layout.

This layout primarily resulted in feedback from the Virtual Exhibition in relation to landscape and visual concerns, in addition to initial ornithological advice.

Turbines have been dropped from the north and east, whilst the development, as a whole, has aimed to group the turbines in a more uniform way, reducing and containing the visual impact.

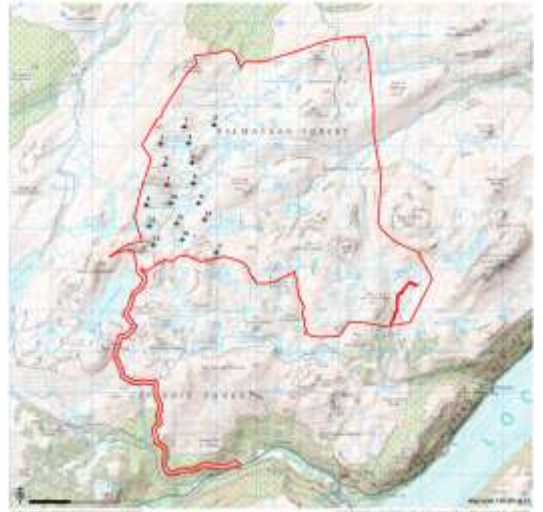


Image 3 Turbine layout at Design Freeze, showing 13 turbine layout.

This layout took into considerations comments on landscape and visual, ecology and ornithology, engineering difficulties, peat and hydrology.

Most notably, turbines along the western edge were dropped and the two most northerly turbines removed to reduce visual impacts from the Glen Urquhart area.



Benefits to the Community

7.4 Further to the above primary design considerations, the Applicant has utilised the consultation responses to inform the proposed measures which are aimed at bringing benefits to the community. These include:

- Delivery a Community Benefit Fund of £5,000 per MW, therefore £33,000 per turbine (based on a 6.6MW machine), totalling £429,000 per year for the Proposed Development.
- Committed to delivering an updated Broadband Feasibility Study; and,
- Upgrading the upper section of the Meall Fuar-mhonaigh footpath. Through our consultation, it was evident that this footpath was of importance to the community, as well as to THC. Whilst reducing visual impact from the summit was a key influence in the design (see **Design of the Proposed Development**), the Applicant has also committed to improving the quality of approximately 2.5km of the footpath, from the deer stile to the summit.

Biodiversity

7.5 Further to this, the Applicant recognises, and is committed to, delivering a project which, not only provides clean, renewable energy, but also brings biodiversity benefits, in line with the requirements of NPF4. During consultation with the community, it was evident that the local ecology is of strong importance. The Applicant is committed to delivering a robust Restoration and Enhancement Plan which will include:

- Restoration of peatland habitat involving up to 6ha of land;
- Planting of a minimum of 30ha native tree species including Grey Willow, Juniper and Rowan with a planting scheme designed to recreate native woodland;
- A target of planting 5ha of riparian woodland, helping to create and enhance habitats for animals including black grouse, otter, red squirrel and pine marten, and enhancing the foraging route for bats;
- Planting of montane scrub across the site, including cultivation of established plants and seeds where possible;
- Installing three 'diver rafts' on three lochs within the Site to support breeding red-throated diver; and,
- Delivery of a Regional Eagle Conservation Management Plan for Natural Heritage Zone 7, to expand on the success of the equivalent for NHZ10.

Engagement following Section 36 Application

7.6 The Applicant is committed to ensuring that local stakeholders and residents are kept informed throughout the planning process via email, face to face meetings or the project website as appropriate. All Section 36 planning documentation relating to the project will be available on the project webpage accessible at www.LochLiath.co.uk in addition to the Energy Consent Unit website. The project team will remain available to respond to feedback or queries regarding the application via existing channels.

7.7 The Applicant will continue to pursue programmes discussed as part of the development of Loch Liath Wind Farm. This will include undertaking a new or updated broadband feasibility study and continuing discussions with local bodies regarding the implementation and administration of the Community Benefit Fund.

7.8 While support for the option of shared ownership with the community has been limited to date, the Applicant remains committed to the principles of community ownership and welcomes further discussions regarding this.

7.9 The Applicant would like to put on record their thanks to the Community Councils, elected representatives community groups and residents for their input and time in the planning process to date.

Appendix A

Consultation Timeline

Table A: Timeline of Consultation Activities

Date	Action	Consulted Parties
07.12.2020	Scoping report goes live on Energy Consent Unit Website	
12.01.2021	Introductory project letter and presentation issued to elected representatives and Community Councils	Drew Hendry MP; Ian Blackford MP; Fergus Ewing MSP; Kate Forbes MSP Ward councillors: Margaret Davidson, Helen Carmichael and Emma Knox Community Councils: Glen Urquhart; Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston; Strathglass; Kiltarlity; Dores and Essich; and Stratherrick and Foyers
12.01.2021	Website project page goes live	
02.02.2021	Follow-up activities with Community Councils: Answering requests for more information and accepting offers to attend future CC meetings	Community Councils: Glen Urquhart; Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston; Strathglass; Kiltarlity; Dores and Essich; and Stratherrick and Foyers
19.02.2021	Liaising with local business and third sector representatives to understand aspirations for the area.	Local Business Leaders; Loch Ness Hub; Soirbheas
23.02.2021	Meeting with Loch Ness Hub to introduce the project	Russell Fraser
23.02.2021	Email to Soirbheas to arrange meeting – Glen Urquhart Community Council directed the project to liaise with this organisation as their representatives.	Carol Masheter
03.03.2021	Meeting in-person with business and tourism community leader.	Willie Cameron of Cobbs and local hotel chain
04.03.2021	Follow-up meeting with Soirbheas to discuss the project and community benefit	Carol Masheter and Jimmy Murray
11.03.2021	Teams meeting with Highland Tourism to discuss impacts and opportunities for the Tourist Sector	Yvonne Crook
15.03.2021	Email to Cllr Fraser on his election as ward councillor. Mr Fraser responded and requested the Project Team liaise with Dianne Fraser, Chair Glen Urquhart Community Council for related matters	David Fraser, newly elected councillor for the Aird and Loch Ness area and follow up email with Dianne Fraser as directed

Date	Action	Consulted Parties
21.04.2021	Email introduction to Loch Liath included with introduction materials relating to another Statkraft project's investment in the Highlands.	Councillors Bill Lobban and Jimmy Gray
30.04.2021	Email to provide an update on the project's progress and to detail milestones for the coming months.	Aird and Loch Ness Ward Councillors: Margaret Davidson, Helen Carmichael, David Fraser and Emma Knox. Community Councils: Glen Urquhart, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, Strathglass, Kiltarlity, Dores and Essich and Stratherrick and Foyers
13.05.2021	Newsletter update distributed and posted on the project website	Drew Hendry MP; Ian Blackford MP; Fergus Ewing MSP; Kate Forbes MSP Ward councillors: Margaret Davidson, Helen Carmichael and Emma Knox Community Councils: Glen Urquhart; Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston; Strathglass; Kiltarlity; Dores and Essich; and Stratherrick and Foyers
14.05.2021	Email invite to attend the Virtual Exhibition, providing information on timings, location and live chat sessions.	Drew Hendry MP; Ian Blackford MP; Fergus Ewing MSP; Kate Forbes MSP Ward councillors: Margaret Davidson, Helen Carmichael and Emma Knox Community Councils: Glen Urquhart; Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston; Strathglass; Kiltarlity; Dores and Essich; and Stratherrick and Foyers Organisations/people: Soirbheas; GURCA; Loch Ness Hub
17.05.2021	Correspondence confirming amended times for third virtual chat sessions following feedback from Strathglass Community Council	Strathglass Community Council
19.05.2021	Invite to Virtual Exhibition with reply card	1,973 household and business addresses
19.05.2021	Email discussion to arrange attendance at next Council meeting	Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council
19.05.2021 to 14.06.2021	Localised Facebook advertising to promote on-line exhibition	Shared with Community Councils and other community stakeholders and subsequent updates on special 'chat with team' sessions
20.05.2021	News update announcing Virtual Exhibition	All local media
21.05.2021	Copy of residents invite and poster with request to display the poster to help publicise the Virtual Exhibition issued by post	Community Councils: Glen Urquhart; Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston; Strathglass; Kiltarlity; Dores and Essich; and Stratherrick and Foyers Local key organisations and businesses: Fort Augustus Memorial Hall, Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck, Cannich Village Hall, Glen Urquhart

Date	Action	Consulted Parties
		Village Hall, Abriachan Village Hall, Dores Village Hall, Kiltarlity Village Hall, Glenmoriston Post Office & General Store, Invermoriston, Dores Post Office, Kiltarlity Post office, Foyers Stores, Post Office & Café, Cannich Stores (SPAR) & Post Office, Fort Augustus Post Office, Foyers Primary School, Kilchuimen Academy, Fort Augustus, Glen Urquhart High School, Drumnadrochit, Stratherrick Primary School, Gorthleck, Balnain Primary School, Cannich Bridge Primary School, Scotmid Co-op, Drumnadrochit, Willie Cameron, Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust Ltd and The Wildside Centre
21.05.2021 29.05.2021	Virtual exhibition advertised in Press & Journal	
21.05.2021 -	Virtual Exhibition goes lives	
21.05.2021	Email to inform elected representatives that Virtual Exhibition has started and including poster to publicise the event	Drew Hendry MP; Ian Blackford MP; Fergus Ewing MSP; Kate Forbes MSP Ward councillors: Margaret Davidson, Helen Carmichael, David Fraser and Emma Knox
14.06.2021	Virtual Exhibition closes	
29.06.2021	Online presentation to Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council	Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council
26.07.2021	Virtual Exhibition responses issued by email or post	
26.07.2021	Virtual Exhibition Key Questions and Feedback published on website	
10.08.2021	Virtual Exhibition Summary published to website and emailed to key stakeholders	
04.10.2021	In-person meeting with Soirbheas, to provide project timings	Carol Masheter, Jimmy Murray, Ian McKay
21.10.2021	In-person meeting with Glenmoriston Improvement Group to provide project timings and update	Glenmoriston Improvement Group
29.11.2021	In-person meeting with mountain guide expert re Access for All Abilities	Anna Danby of Wild Roots Guiding
07.12.2021	Report on potential of Access for All Abilities at the Meall Fuar-Mhonaidh	Provided by Anna Danby which informed project approach on people access and second round of exhibition content
03.03.2022	Teams meeting with Friendly Access to find more information on Access for All Abilities	Friendly Access

Date	Action	Consulted Parties
15.08.2022	Invitation to Public Exhibitions issued	1,993 household and business addresses
16.08.2022	Second Exhibition online component goes live	
16.08.2022	Email to elected representatives, Community Councils and key stakeholders to provide details of the Second Exhibition, and new project brochure	Drew Hendry MP; Ian Blackford MP; Fergus Ewing MSP; Kate Forbes MSP Ward councillors: Helen Crawford, Emma Knox, Chris Ballance and David Fraser Community Councils: Glen Urquhart; Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston; Strathglass; Kiltarlity; Dores and Essich; and Stratherrick and Foyers Organisations/people: Soirbheas; GURCA; Loch Ness Hub, Glenmoriston Improvement Group; and Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company
16.08.2022 20.08.2022	Exhibitions advertised in Press & Journal	
29.08.2022	In-person meeting with Soirbheas to provide project update and to discuss the Community Benefit Fund and Community Broadband	Carol Masheter and Jimmy Murray of Soirbheas
30.08.2022 01.09.2022	In-person exhibitions take place	30 August – Cannich Village Hall 31 August – Glen Urquhart Public Hall 1 September – Glenmoriston Millennium Hall
06.09.2022	Second Exhibition online component closes	
02.11.2022	Issue of Broadband Feasibility Study results summary to gauge interest in refreshed study	Kate Forbes MSP Ward councillors: Helen Crawford, Emma Knox, Chris Ballance and David Fraser Organisations/people: Soirbheas; GURCA
07.12.2022	Comments received in response to Gatecheck Report regarding consultation with local organisation and the Affric-Kintail Way.	Strathglass Community Council
15.12.2022	Response issued to Strathglass Community Council on Gatecheck Report	Strathglass Community Council
23.12.2022	Exhibition Summary issued	Drew Hendry MP; Ian Blackford MP; Fergus Ewing MSP; Kate Forbes MSP Ward councillors: Helen Crawford, Emma Knox, Chris Ballance and David Fraser

Date	Action	Consulted Parties
		Community Councils: Glen Urquhart; Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston; Strathglass; Kiltarlity; Dores and Essich; and Stratherrick and Foyers Organisations/people: Soirbheas; GURCA; Loch Ness Hub, Glenmoriston Improvement Group, Strathglass Marketing Group; and Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company
03.01.2023	Meeting with Councillor David Fraser to provide project update	Councillor David Fraser
08.02.2023	Offer to attend Strathglass Community Council meeting following engagement on Gatecheck Report; Arranged for early April.	Strathglass Community Council
22.03.2023	Offer to Community Councils to provide update ahead of or around the time of application submission.	Glen Urquhart; Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston; Kiltarlity; Dores and Essich; and Stratherrick and Foyers
05.04.2023	Meeting with Strathglass Community Council to provide projects updates	Strathglass Community Council

Appendix B

Consultation Zone

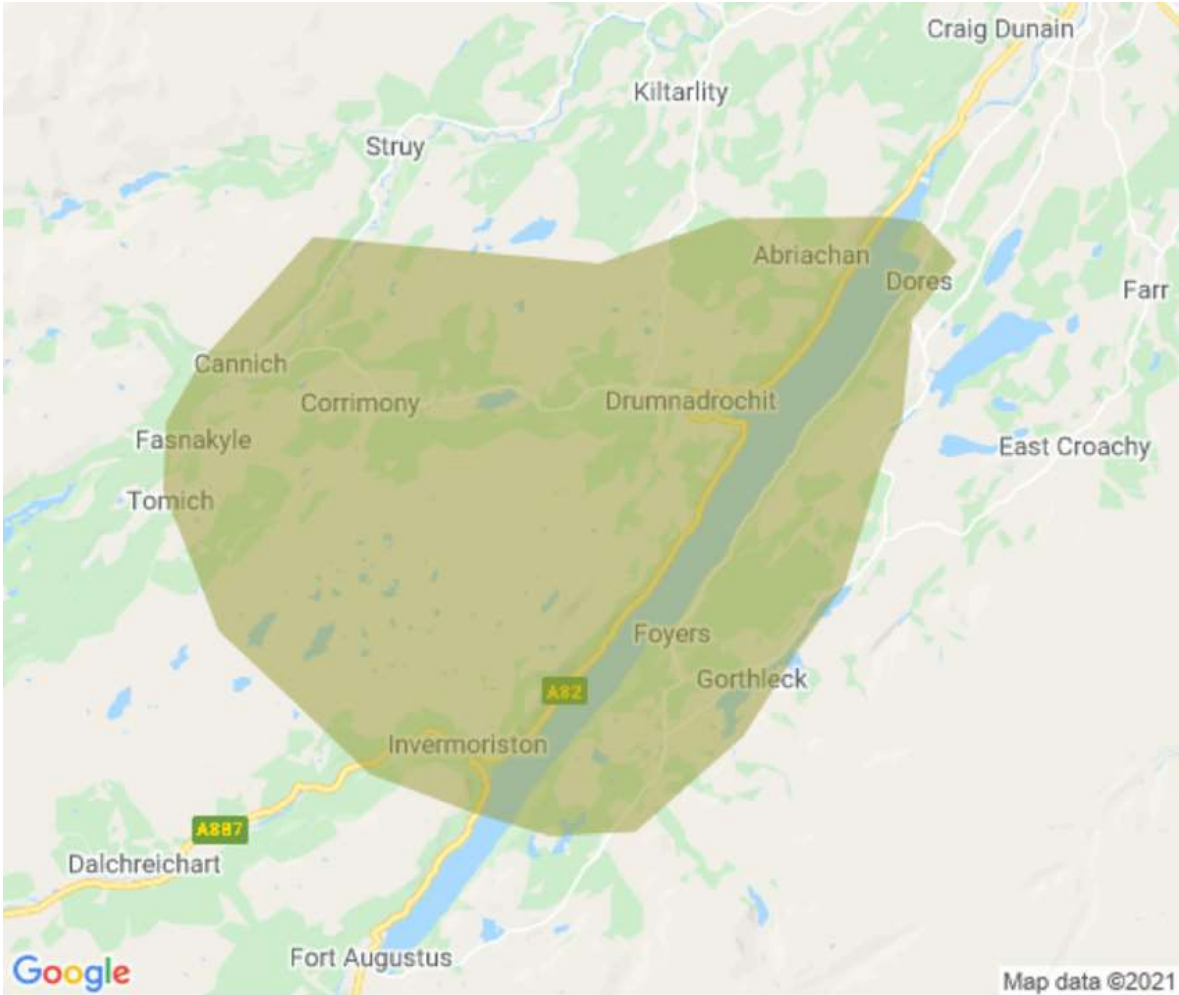


Figure B-1: Geographical Consultation Area



Figure B-2: Main Address Clusters within the Consultation Zone

Appendix C

Community Council Introduction



Figure C-1: Example of Introduction Letters Sent to Community Councils (Front)



Consulting Early

Our next step is to seek initial feedback on our plans and we have recently submitted a Scoping Request to the Scottish Government in order to continue our explorations. We want to make sure you have heard from us directly, that you have our contact details and an opportunity to find out more about us and our project. We expect the Scottish Government will also contact you with our Scoping Request for feedback.

We have a proven track record of engaging early with local communities, and have confidence that we can still do that, whilst respecting ongoing Covid-19 restrictions. Face-to-face meetings may not be possible at this time, but please be assured that we intend to introduce ourselves to local residents directly.

We plan to start our public engagement activity shortly, when we have scoping responses back and are able to share more information about our plans for the site. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you by phone or video call at an appropriate time to outline our proposals in more detail, introduce the project team, and receive any early feedback.

Although the project is still at scoping stage, we are aware of the need to provide early access to information on the project, so I wanted to let you know that our project website is now live – www.lochliath.co.uk. As the project is at an early stage, it contains introductory information and, most importantly, allows people to register for updates and to contact us directly with questions.

Next Steps

Attached to this introduction letter is a short summary of the project and we would appreciate an opportunity to discuss this with you via telephone or video call at a time convenient for you.

Finally, we understand that you may be busier than usual during this time due to impacts of Covid-19, but we wanted to provide this information and to outline that, where possible, we are continuing our daily working activity and we are committed to our investment plans for Scotland.

Recent discussions have taken place with the Energy Consents Unit and The Highland Council, who both confirmed capacity to take forward the Scoping Request, and we are following Scottish Government advice throughout all of our work in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce Statkraft and outline our proposals. Please contact me at heather.lafferty@statkraft.com if you require any further information or have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Heather Lafferty.

Heather Lafferty
Project Manager, UK Wind and Solar

Figure C-2: Example of Introduction Letters Sent to Community Councils (Rear)



Figure C-3: Introduction Presentation to Community Councils (Cover)

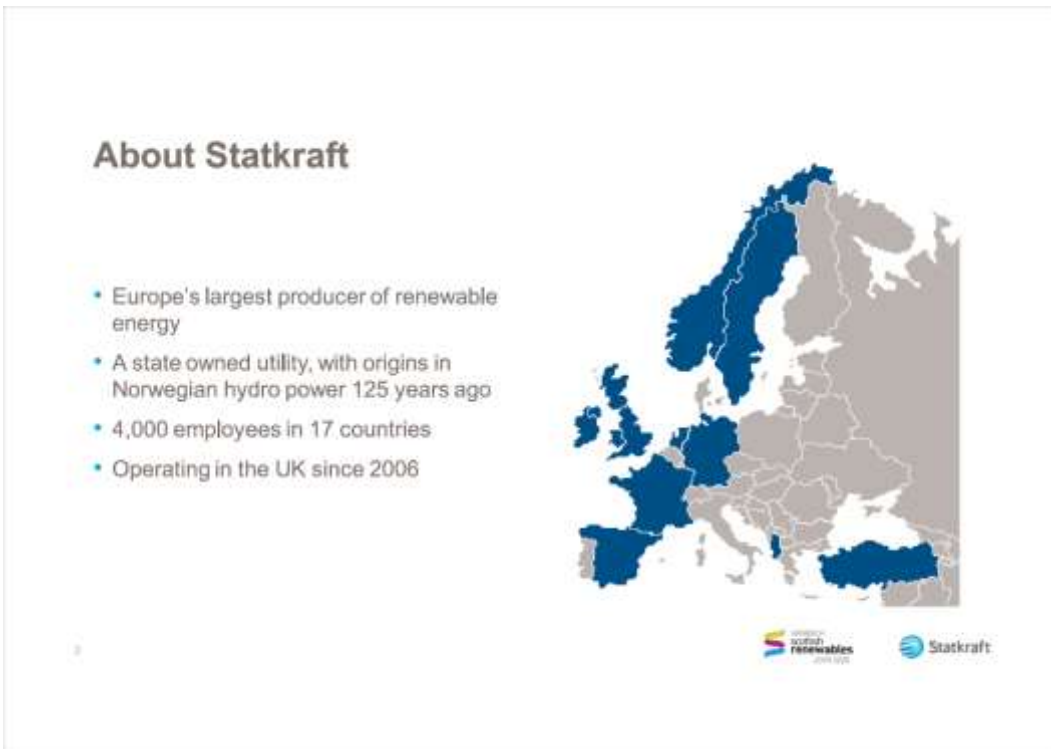


Figure C-4: Introduction Presentation to Community Councils (Page 1)

Statkraft in Scotland

- Scottish HQ in Glasgow
- Growing workforce across the country including the Highlands and Moray
- Working with groups such as Skills Development Scotland to explore the creation of further employment opportunities
- Engaging with communities to explore the potential for improved access to broadband
- Multi-million pound investment in Greener Grid Parks

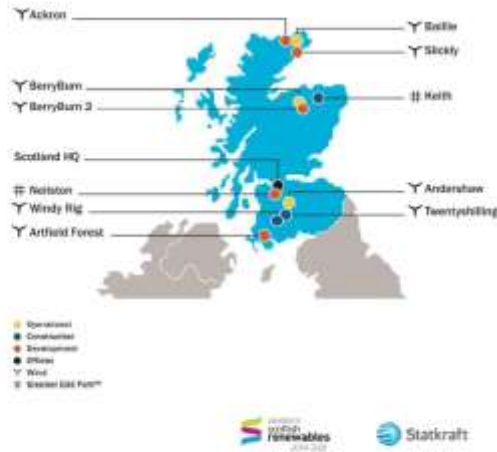


Figure C-5: Introduction Presentation to Community Councils (Page 2)

About the Site

Site Location and Potential

- The proposed turbines are located approximately 10km southwest of Drumnadrochit
- A maximum of 26 wind turbines
- Considering up to 200 metres tip height
- Project size to be determined as studies are undertaken and consultation feedback received



Figure C-6: Introduction Presentation to Community Councils (Page 3)

About the Site

Site History

- The site does not currently have any turbines.
- The proposed Loch Liath scheme will be designed to sit alongside the operational Bhlairaidh Wind Farm.
- SSE Renewables have proposed an Extension to Bhlairaidh Wind Farm. The extension was Scoped in July 2019.




Figure C-7: Introduction Presentation to Community Councils (Page 4)

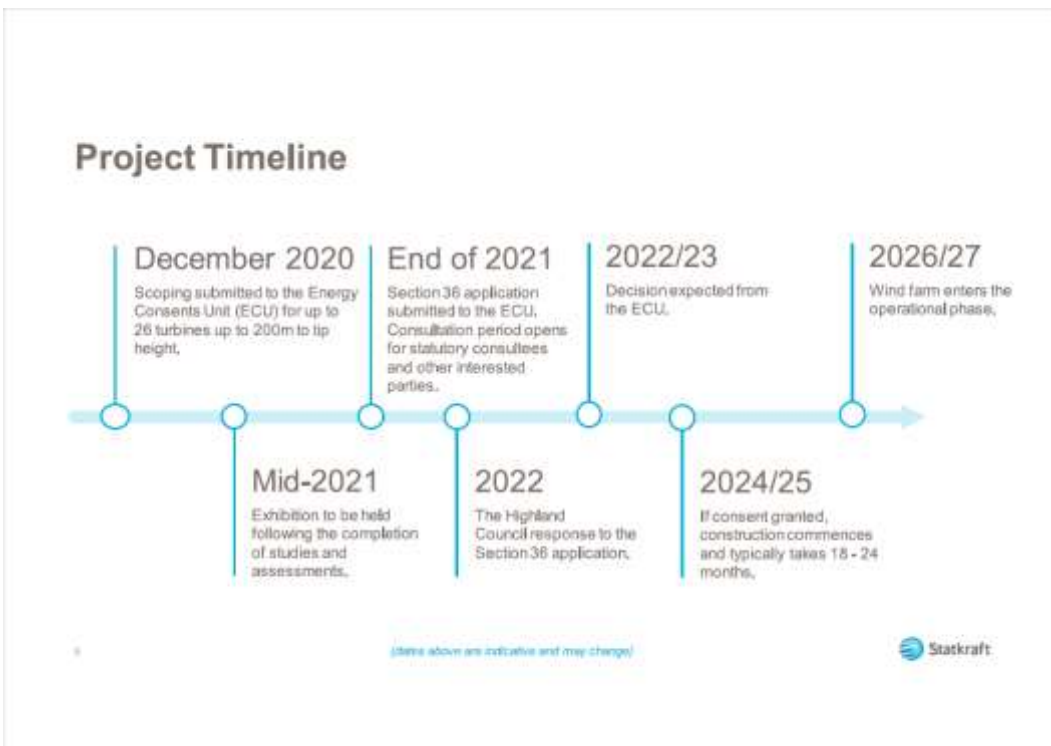


Figure C-8: Introduction Presentation to Community Councils (Page 5)

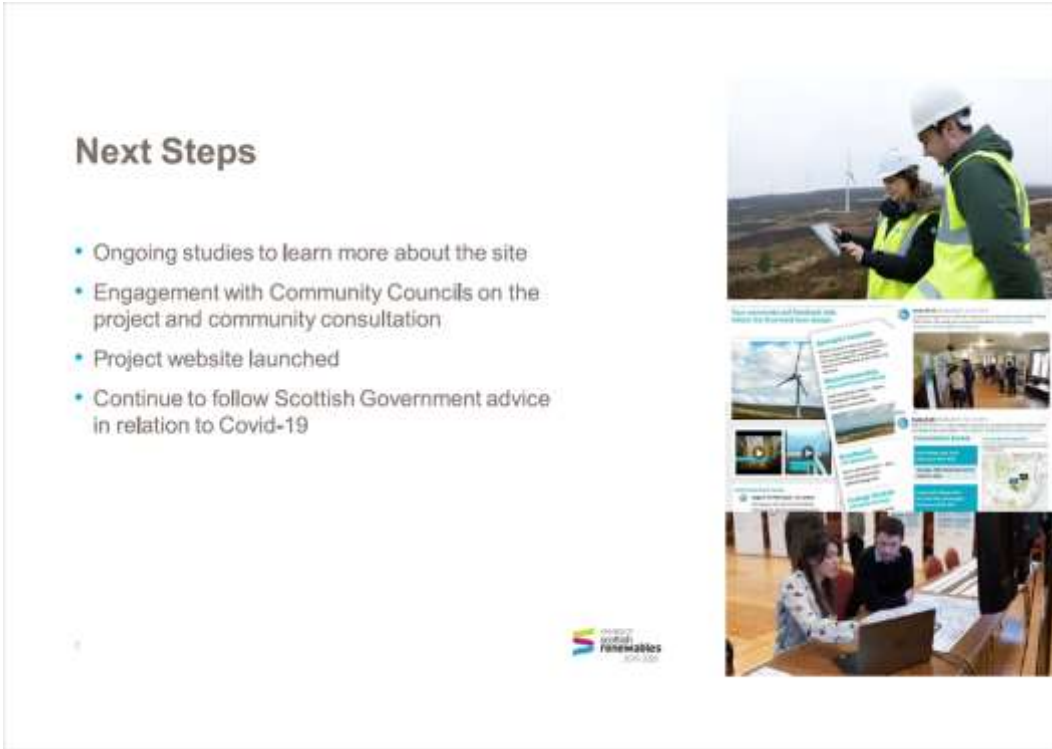


Figure C-9: Introduction Presentation to Community Councils (Page 6)

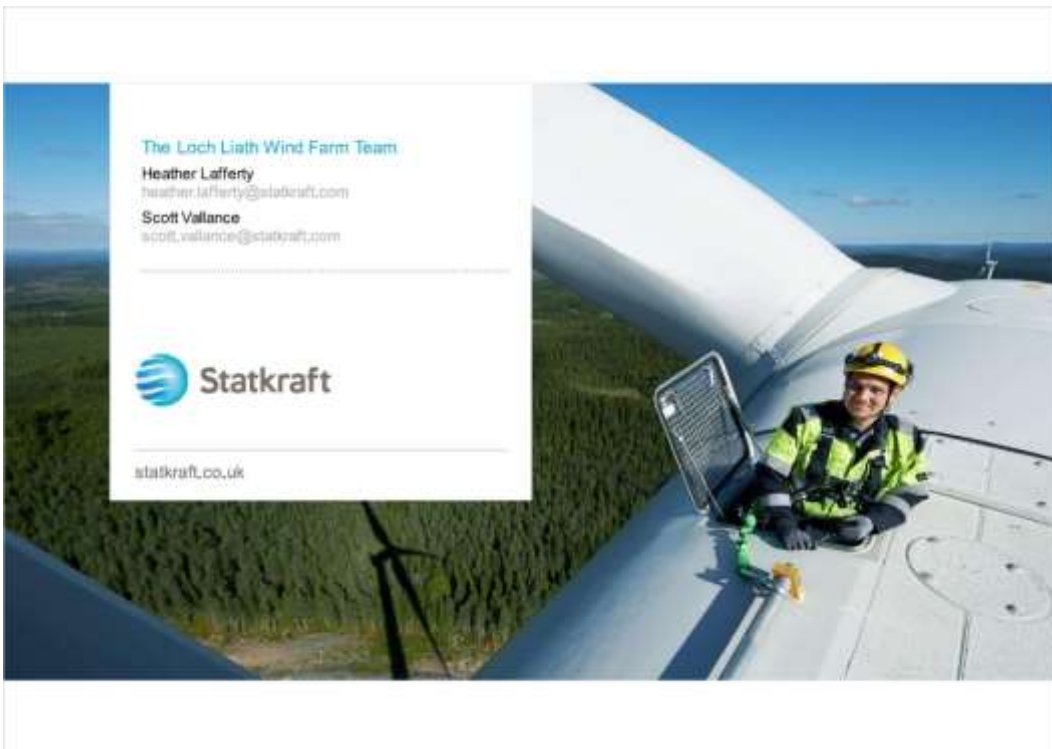


Figure C-10: Introduction Presentation to Community Councils (Back Cover)

Appendix D

Elected Member Introduction



Loch Liath Wind Farm Proposal

Dear Cllr [REDACTED]

I am writing on behalf of Statkraft UK Ltd to introduce our proposal for Loch Liath Wind Farm, located southwest of Drumnadrochit.

About Us

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, with origins going back 125 years in Norwegian hydro power. In the UK we operate a hydro power plant and four wind farms, and we are also involved in electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and developing grid stability projects for the operator of the National Grid. Our Scottish headquarters are in Glasgow, and we have 4,000 employees across 17 countries.

Our current development activity in the Scottish Highlands includes three wind farm proposals. We are pleased to retain a commitment to deliver a community benefit fund of £5,000 per MW installed, in line with Scottish Government guidance.

We are enthusiastic about bringing forward opportunities for shared ownership with local communities, and to discuss this with communities and representatives during the development phase. We are the only wind farm developer that has pledged to commission feasibility studies to assess the potential for bringing improved access to broadband in each project area, and we look forward to discussing that with you as our project progresses. We also see it as vital that we operate as a good neighbour, and believe we can play a role in the economic recovery which will be needed due to the impact of the pandemic.

About the Proposed Loch Liath Wind Farm

The proposals for Loch Liath Wind Farm are at an early stage of the design process. We think there is potential for up to 26 turbines, up to 200m tip height. The proposals may reduce in scale as our environmental consultants progress their studies and feedback is received from statutory consultees.

Figure D-1: Example of Introduction Letters Sent to Councillors and Elected Representatives (Front)



Consulting Early

Our next step is to seek initial feedback on our plans and we have recently submitted a Scoping Request to the Scottish Government in order to continue our explorations. We want to make sure you have heard from us directly, that you have our contact details and an opportunity to find out more about us and our project. We expect the Scottish Government will also contact you with our Scoping Request for feedback.

We have a proven track record of engaging early with local communities, and have confidence that we can still do that, whilst respecting ongoing Covid-19 restrictions. Face-to-face meetings may not be possible at this time, but please be assured that we intend to introduce ourselves to local residents directly.

We plan to start our public engagement activity shortly, when we have scoping responses back and are able to share more information about our plans for the site. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you by phone or video call at an appropriate time to outline our proposals in more detail, introduce the project team, and receive any early feedback.

Although the project is still at scoping stage, we are aware of the need to provide early access to information on the project, so I wanted to let you know that our project website is now live – www.lochligath.co.uk. As the project is at an early stage, it contains introductory information and, most importantly, allows people to register for updates and to contact us directly with questions.

Next Steps

Attached to this introduction letter is a short summary of the project and we would appreciate an opportunity to discuss this with you via telephone or video call at a time convenient for you.

Finally, we understand that you may be busier than usual during this time due to impacts of Covid-19, but we wanted to provide this information and to outline that, where possible, we are continuing our daily working activity and we are committed to our investment plans for Scotland.

Recent discussions have taken place with the Energy Consents Unit and The Highland Council, who both confirmed capacity to take forward the Scoping Request, and we are following Scottish Government advice throughout all of our work in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce Statkraft and outline our proposals. Please contact me at heather.lafferty@statkraft.com if you require any further information or have any queries.

Yours sincerely,


Heather Lafferty
Project Manager, UK Wind and Solar

Figure D-2: Example of Introduction Letters Sent to Councillors and Elected Representatives (Rear)



Figure D-3: Introduction Presentation to Councillors and Elected Representatives (Cover)

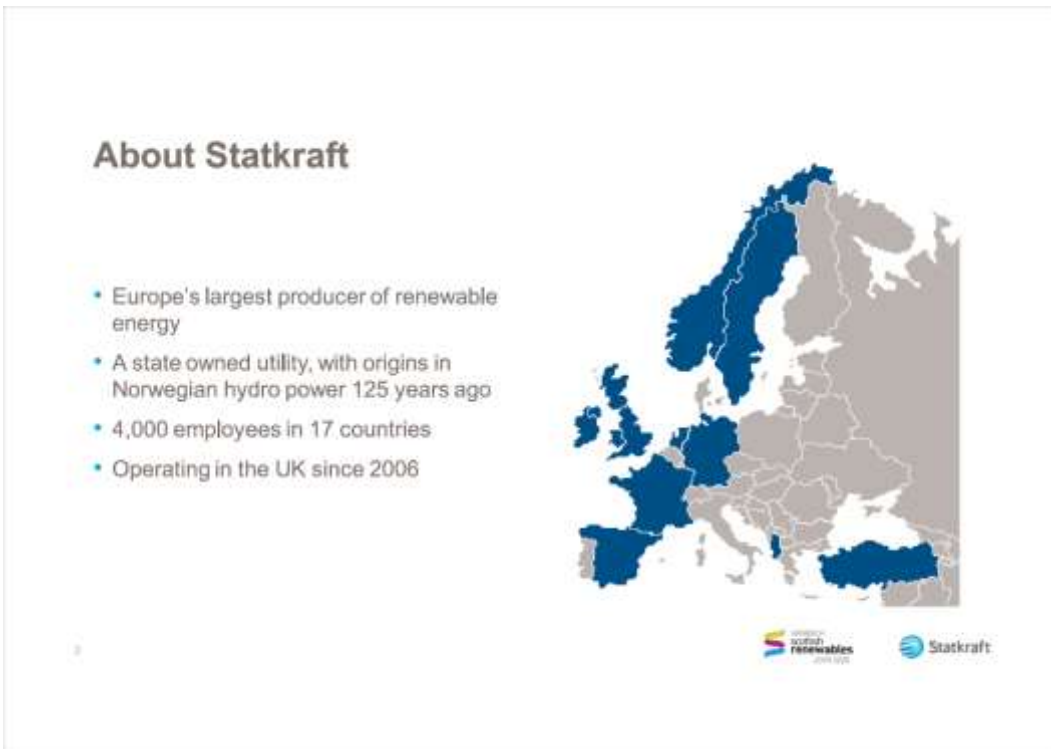


Figure D-4: Introduction Presentation to Councillors and Elected Representatives (Page 1)

Statkraft in Scotland

- Scottish HQ in Glasgow
- Growing workforce across the country including the Highlands and Moray
- Working with groups such as Skills Development Scotland to explore the creation of further employment opportunities
- Engaging with communities to explore the potential for improved access to broadband
- Multi-million pound investment in Greener Grid Parks

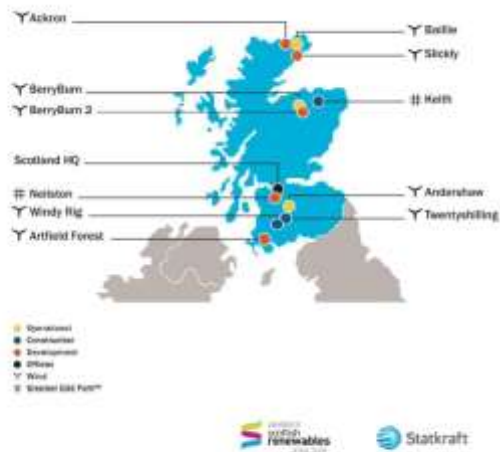


Figure D-5: Introduction Presentation to Councillors and Elected Representatives (Page 2)

About the Site

Site Location and Potential

- The proposed turbines are located approximately 10km southwest of Drumnadrochit
- A maximum of 26 wind turbines
- Considering up to 200 metres tip height
- Project size to be determined as studies are undertaken and consultation feedback received



Figure D-6: Introduction Presentation to Councillors and Elected Representatives (Page 3)

About the Site

Site History

- The site does not currently have any turbines.
- The proposed Loch Liath scheme will be designed to sit alongside the operational Bhlairaidh Wind Farm.
- SSE Renewables have proposed an Extension to Bhlairaidh Wind Farm. The extension was Scoped in July 2019.




Figure D-7: Introduction Presentation to Councillors and Elected Representatives (Page 4)

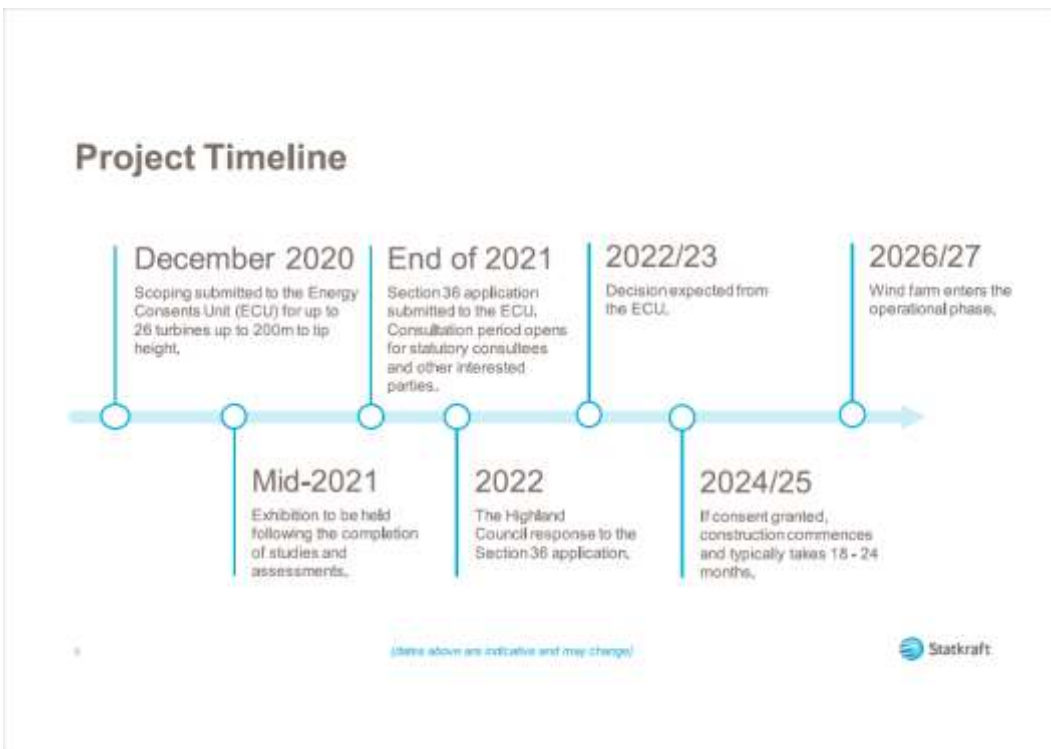


Figure D-8: Introduction Presentation to Councillors and Elected Representatives (Page 5)

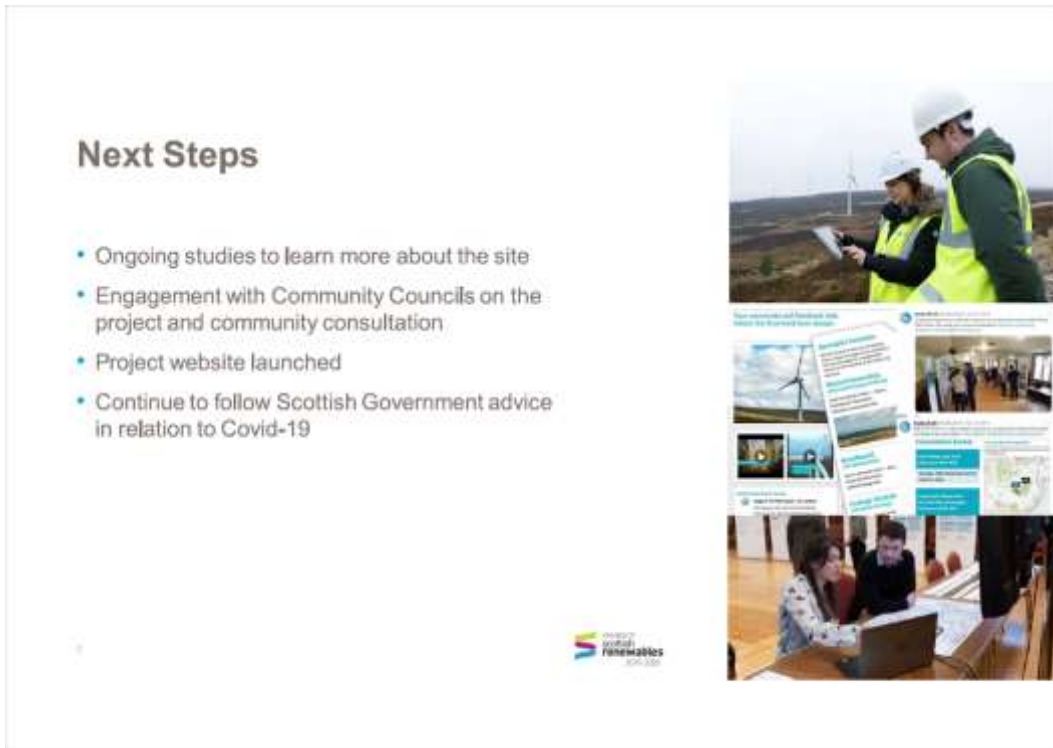


Figure D-9: Introduction Presentation to Councillors and Elected Representatives (Page 6)

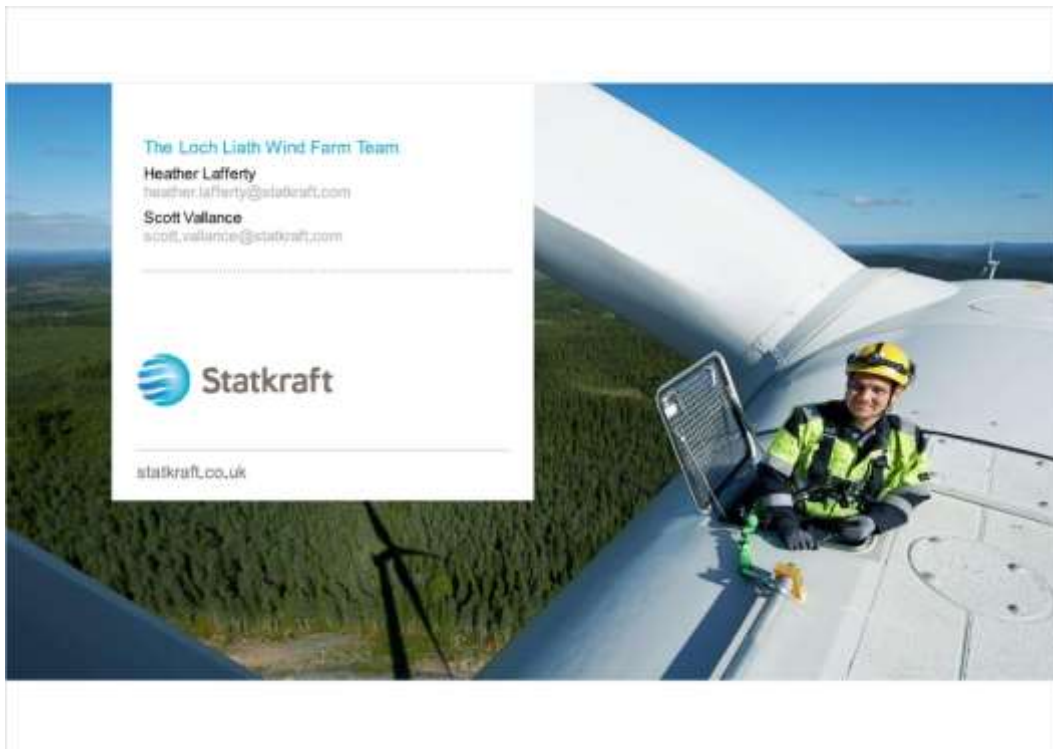


Figure D-10: Introduction Presentation to Councillors and Elected Representatives (Back Cover)

Appendix E

Post-Election Correspondence

From: Lafferty, Heather
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: By-election Congratulation
Date: 15 March 2021 13:34:00
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear Mr Fraser,

My name is Heather Lafferty and I am the project manager for Statkraft's Loch Liath project. I was in touch with you January to introduce our proposed project and I just wanted to drop you a note of congratulations on your by-election success. It must have been exciting and exhausting at the same time!

I hope we can meet at some time when you are fully into your new role. In the meantime, I would like to wish you every success as ward councillor in your continued valuable service to the community.

Kind regards,

Heather Lafferty
Project Manager, UK, European Wind and Solar

... heather.lafferty@statkraft.com
... Mobile: [REDACTED]
... Switchboard: +47 24 06 70 00

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 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Figure E-1: Correspondence with Cllr David Fraser following the March 2021 byelection

Appendix F

Public Exhibition Leaflet



Figure F-1: Example of the project webpage from January 2021 to August 2022

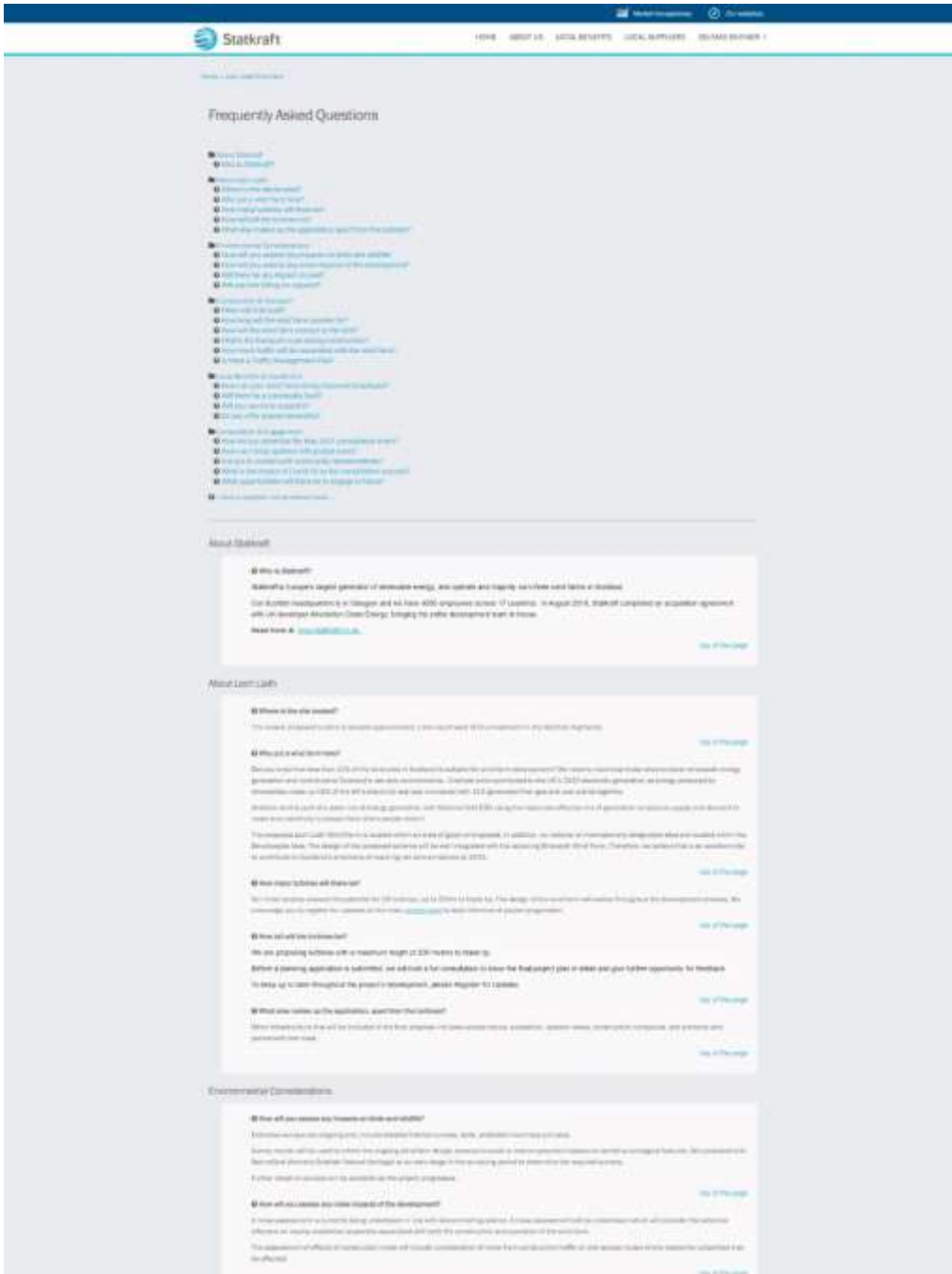


Figure F-2: Example of the project FAQ webpage from January 2021 to August 2022



Figure F-3: Example of the project webpage from August 2022 to present

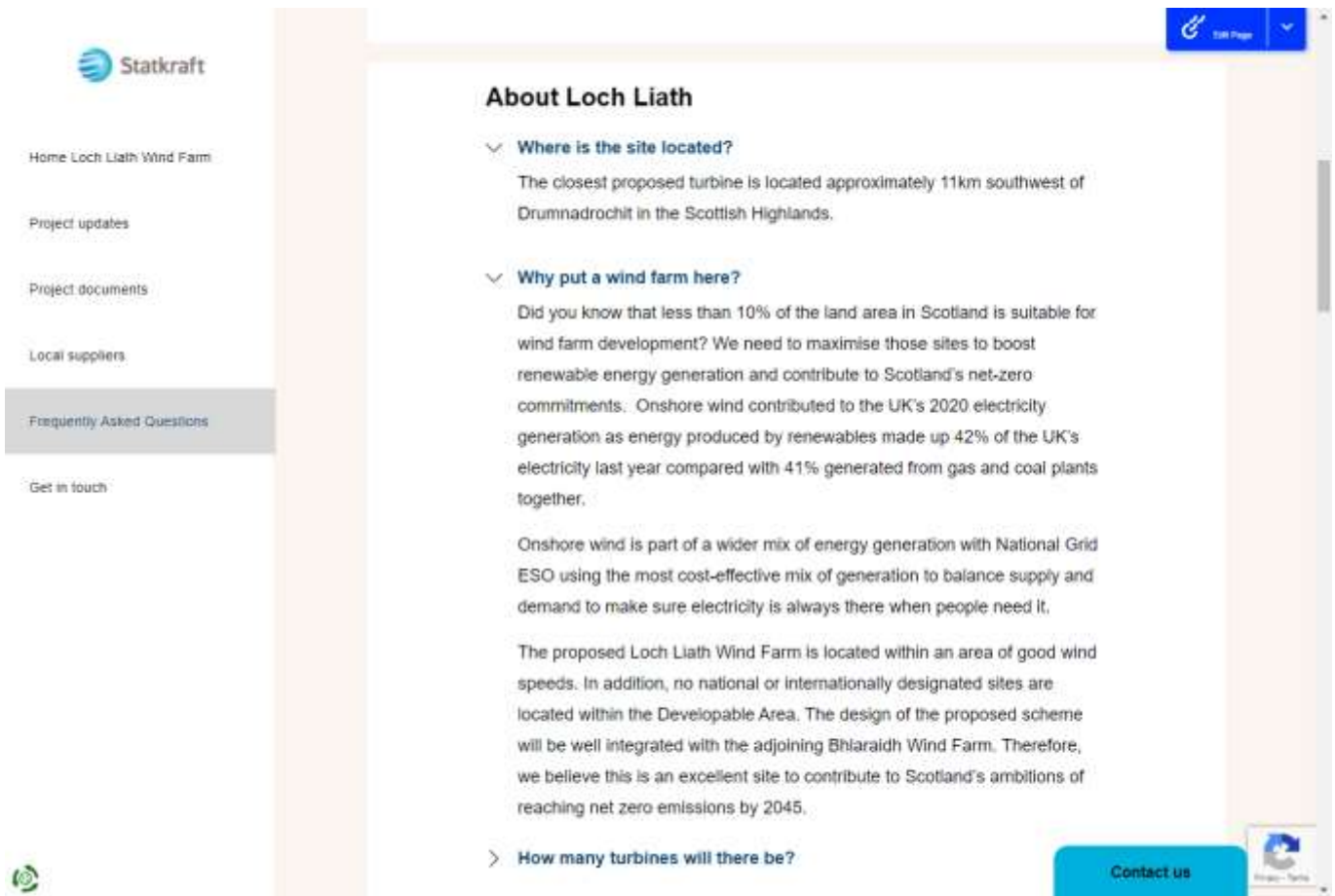


Figure F-3: Example of the project FAQ webpage from August 2022 to present

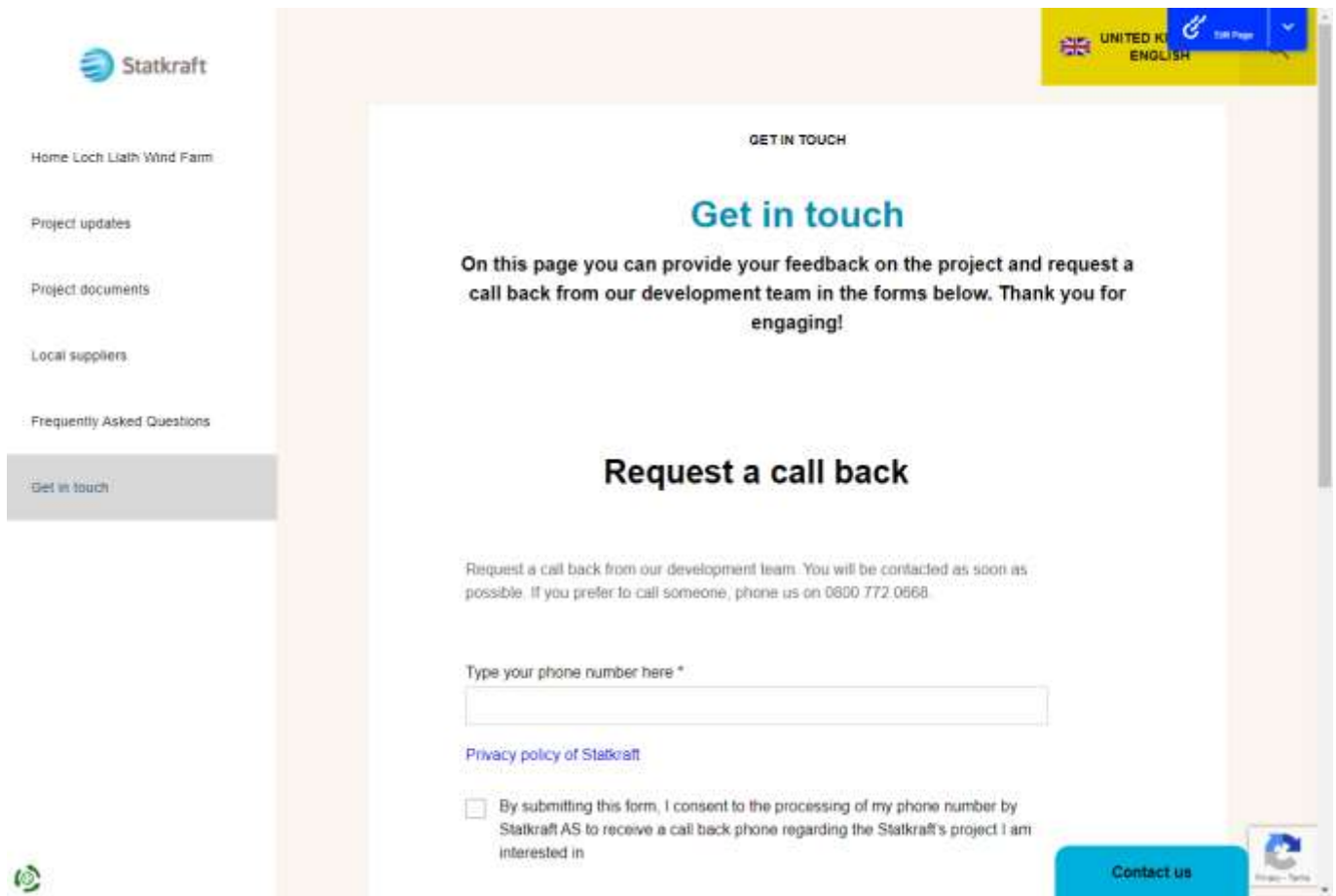


Figure F-5: Example of the project webpage from August 2022 to present

Appendix G

Newsletter



MAY 2021

PAGE 1

Welcome

Hello, my name is Heather Lafferty and I am proud to be leading the development of the proposed Loch Liath Wind Farm. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, and a bit about the project. Having grown up in Dornoch, I moved to Glasgow to study Zoology and started my career as an ecological consultant in the renewables sector before joining Statkraft to develop renewable energy projects. I've worked from Statkraft's Scottish headquarters in Glasgow since 2019.

In December 2020, we submitted a Scoping Report for the proposed Loch Liath Wind Farm project to the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government. The Scoping Report is where we detail the potential issues which will be considered in the project's environmental impact assessment and invite consultees to provide comments.

We understand that people in neighbouring communities will want to know more detail – how the proposal would look; transport plans during construction; potential impacts on wildlife and the environment, among other aspects. All of these elements, and many more, are currently being studied by technical experts to assess what is suitable for this site. This means that the proposed layout shown at this stage is based on our current knowledge of the site. The layout



Heather Lafferty, Loch Liath Project Manager

will go through design changes as more information is gathered and will change before an application is submitted for planning consent. It's important to note that before an application is submitted we will present the detail of the final scheme to the community and be available to discuss and answer questions.

This is a great time to hear your feedback – we believe it will help us to refine and improve our plans.

If you are interested in the project and would like to provide feedback or learn more, please contact us.

It's an incredible achievement that in 2020,

Scotland met nearly 100% of its electricity demand from renewables. But this doesn't mean we don't need more projects like Loch Liath. Only about a quarter of Scottish energy consumption comes from renewables – so we need to continue our journey towards further decarbonisation of heating and transport systems.

The team and I look forward to discussing our project with you throughout the development process.

Heather
Project Manager
Loch Liath Project Manager

Our Approach to Consultation During Covid

Although face-to-face meetings and events may not be able to happen as we would like, we are confident that we can continue to facilitate discussions and conduct meaningful engagement in our project areas.

We will directly mail homes and businesses within the area with information on the project, and provide options to contact us – online, by post or by phone. We will advertise key consultation events in the Press & Journal and community noticeboards. We will also utilise social media advertising to increase awareness of the project.

Our online consultation events are held over

several weeks to ensure that there is plenty of time and opportunity for people to learn more about our project, ask any questions and provide feedback.

Like everyone, we have adjusted to a digital-first method of engagement over the past year. One advantage of hosting virtual exhibitions is that they run over a longer period, and can provide more opportunity to engage with communities and elected representatives. However there is no substitute for a chat in person, and we very much hope to be able to do this later in the year, when it is safe to do so.

Keep in Touch

We would like to keep you informed. Sign up for project updates, ask questions and have your say:

www.lochliath.co.uk
or phone:
0800 772 0668.

Figure G-1: May 2021 Newsletter (Page 1)

Podcast: How Scotland can become a renewable energy superpower

Statkraft is the largest generator of renewable energy in Europe. The Scotsman newspaper has recently published its Sustainable Scotland podcast which carries a full interview with Richard Mardon (Statkraft's Head of Business and Project Development, UK European Wind and Solar).

Richard said: "Statkraft has been making clean energy possible for over a century, long before climate change was a climate crisis. The company invests 100 per cent of its growth entirely in renewables. We exist to lead the shift to renewable energy. We've been doing it from the start, and we're leading it today."

In the interview, Richard explains how Scotland can become a major exporter of renewable power as part of its transition away from oil and gas.



[Click here to listen to The Scotsman's Sustainable Scotland Podcast.](#)

[Click here to read The Scotsman article.](#)



Richard Mardon, Statkraft UK

Project Timeline



www.lochliath.co.uk

About Loch Liath Wind Farm Project

- Up to 26 turbines
- Up to 200 metres to blade tip
- Will be designed to sit alongside the operational Bhlairaidh Wind Farm



Figure G-2: May 2021 Newsletter (Page 2)

Opportunities for local business suppliers

As we open up after lockdown and attempt to build back our economy, we have been impressed by local efforts around Loch Lath to promote businesses in the area.

Statkraft endeavours to provide opportunities for local businesses on our projects. We are a member of Inverness Chamber of Commerce and already have a number of operations across the region that provide economic investment. As part of our commitment around each project, we create Local Supplier Registers. This enables local companies and individuals to tell us about

the services they can provide, and in turn, this allows us to provide business opportunities.

Gordon Sproat, a site manager at one of our Moray projects, said: "The Local Supplier Register is extremely useful. It is my first port of call for any services we require. Approximately 75% of our supplier business to date has come from companies on that register."

This is something we would seek to replicate with the Loch Lath project. If you have a local business we'd like to hear from you, so please register at: www.lochlath.sc.nhs.uk

Leading the shift to renewable energy

- We commit to delivering a community benefit fund of £5,000 per MW installed, in line with Scottish Government guidance
- We focus on regional investment through local supplier initiatives
- We continue to fund feasibility studies to explore the opportunity for our projects to bring enhanced timesharing access
- We are open to your suggestions on how to maximise benefits. There are many examples of how wind farms have delivered transformational change to communities and we would like to hear your ideas

For more about Statkraft, please visit our website: [Statkraft UK](http://StatkraftUK.com)

About Statkraft

We envision a world that runs entirely on renewable energy. We are committed to working closely with the communities where we operate to bring economic benefits across the Highlands, and across Scotland.

So here is a little bit more about us:

- Europe's largest renewable energy producer
- 4,500 employees in 17 countries
- Majority own and operate 4 wind farms, and one hydro plant in the UK
- Increased wind development since 2018 and opened Glasgow HQ in September 2019
- Supply 100% renewable energy to UK businesses through subsidiary Bryt Energy
- Recent expansion into UK solar and electrical vehicle charging infrastructure
- Contracted by National Grid ESO to provide grid stability services that will lessen the requirement for fossil fuels



Figure G-2: May 2021 Newsletter (Page 3)

Positive economic impact – Statkraft community benefit fund case study



Moray Firth Credit Union

A credit union based in Forres has welcomed a funding award from a wind farm community benefit fund. The money will enable it to improve its Covid-19 response and help families who are facing significant financial challenges.

Moray Firth Credit Union (MFCU), which has 1000 members and serves an area with almost 100,000 people, has been awarded £17,160 towards salaries for two part time staff to focus on the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The funding comes from the Berry Burn Community Benefit Fund, which was set up by Statkraft, Europe's largest generator of renewable energy. MFCU, formerly Forres Area Credit Union, has been providing a safe saving and loans service since the 90's though during the pandemic members needed help to access emergency grants, vouchers for food and fuel and information that they were entitled to regarding welfare benefits and business support.

Members of the MFCU, once they have saved, can borrow using their savings as 'collateral' and as the loans are paid back at an 'affordable' rate, members are encouraged to continue to add to their savings.

Councillor Lorna Creswell, chair of the MFCU, said: "We are mainly made up of volunteers and there are 10 of us at present, including Maggie Bell who deals with volunteer support and Jackie Nicol who is responsible for finance

and promotion. Since the pandemic began we have lost 50% of our team as they shielded and have subsequently resigned. However, we now have the Berry Burn funding to pay two staff a small number of hours until September 2021. This will enable us to recruit and train new volunteers, examine lending processes and support members that have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"When we first set up the Credit Union in the nineties, the unemployment rate was the second highest in Scotland, and we envisage that the impact of COVID-19 will be even worse. That's why we want to make it clear that we have funds that can't be used for operational expenses but can be used for loans, so people should come and speak with us to see if we can help. We are delighted that the Berry Burn Trust agreed to fund wages until September, we can't thank them enough. We also want to thank Statkraft as these community benefit funds are vital."

Michael Ó Broin, senior project manager with Statkraft, said: "At this time of pandemic when the negative economic impact on communities is growing, we can only commend the work of the MFCU and their efforts to help people in the area in dealing with financial challenges. Statkraft remains committed to the Scottish Government's guidance on providing meaningful community benefit funds and hope to be investing further in Moray and Scotland throughout 2021."

www.forresareacreditunion.co.uk

Figure G-4: May 2021 Newsletter (Page 4)

Positive economic impact – Statkraft community benefit fund case study



Dulaig Park Renovation Project – Grantown-on-Spey

Young people, the elderly and families are set to benefit from a renovation project for Grantown-on-Spey that will provide a healthy 'green space' for them to play and relax in.

The Dulaig Park Renovation Project has attracted an award of just over £19,600 from the Berry Burn Community Benefit Fund. The park is currently not used as much as it could be and needs a lot of work to make it more amenable for residents and tourists alike.

The award provides the support the project requires in order to implement all of its plans.

Ingrid Artus, a director with the Grantown Initiative (a community development company) has been responsible for funding applications to the project: "The pandemic has created a great sense of loneliness. We want to make the park a proper green space where people can relax. People in the community have become so passionate about it. There have been numerous fundraising activities, from a local 'Virtual London Marathon' (from the Cairngorm Mountain to Grantown-on-Spey) to raffles and cake sales."

The funding award will see Dulaig Park upgraded with bespoke solutions for seating, access and enjoyment. There are 220 children in the local primary and over 300 pupils in the secondary school who will be able to benefit. There are also residents of a local home for the elderly who will have a peaceful place to sit.

Ingrid explained: "The area is well served by the Grantown Initiative but the Dulaig Park Project has needed its own funding because the Park sits in an area that has been recognised by the Scottish Government as having a poor housing status. We rely heavily on tourism so the pandemic has hit hard with some people being made redundant. This makes the funding very welcome."

"When I received the email of confirmation from the Berry



Burn Community Fund, I had to sit down. We have been awarded every penny that we asked for."

The five year plan for the park will hopefully see the play area of the park upgraded during 2021, whilst an area which is friendly for those suffering from aspects of dementia is expected in 2022.

Says Ingrid: "This kind of award buoys the community. It shows people that they can make a difference. It's a phenomenal amount of money. It provides a fabulous opportunity for the Dulaig Park Renovation Group to fully support the procurement that is vital to the play park."

"This will provide physical and mental relaxation in a green space. We are wholeheartedly thankful to the Berry Burn Community Benefit Fund and Statkraft for the award."

Keep in Touch we would like to keep you informed. Sign up for project updates, ask questions and have your say: visit www.lochillath.co.uk or phone: 0800 772 0668.


Figure G-5: May 2021 Newsletter (Page 5)

Appendix H

Virtual Exhibition Webpage and Materials

Virtual Exhibition Launched for Loch Liath Proposals

21 May 2021



Today marks the first day of the virtual exhibition for Loch Liath wind farm.

The exhibition runs from 21 May to 14 June 2021 and will include:

- visuals of the proposed project
- videos from the project team
- frequently asked questions
- an opportunity to speak to the project team directly

An invitation to attend the virtual exhibition has been sent to over 2,000 homes, advertised in the Press and Journal and advertised on social media to ensure that local residents know about the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal. The invitation included a freepost reply card and an 0800 phone number for those who are unable to participate online.

The virtual exhibition website enables visitors to ask questions, or join the Online Chat with the development team at the following times:

- 27 May, 1-3pm
- 1 June, 6-8pm
- 14 June, 2-4pm

Heather Lafferty, Development Project Manager said:

"We welcome all feedback on our plans for the Loch Liath Wind Farm. What we are displaying is the maximum size the project could be. The scheme will change as more information is gathered, so this is a great time for residents to provide their feedback. We'll also be talking to businesses about how the project can bring new investment to the community including using local suppliers."

Statkraft has committed to presenting the revised proposals to the community later this year, before an application is submitted for planning consent.

Figure H-1: News post announcing Virtual Exhibition on Project Website

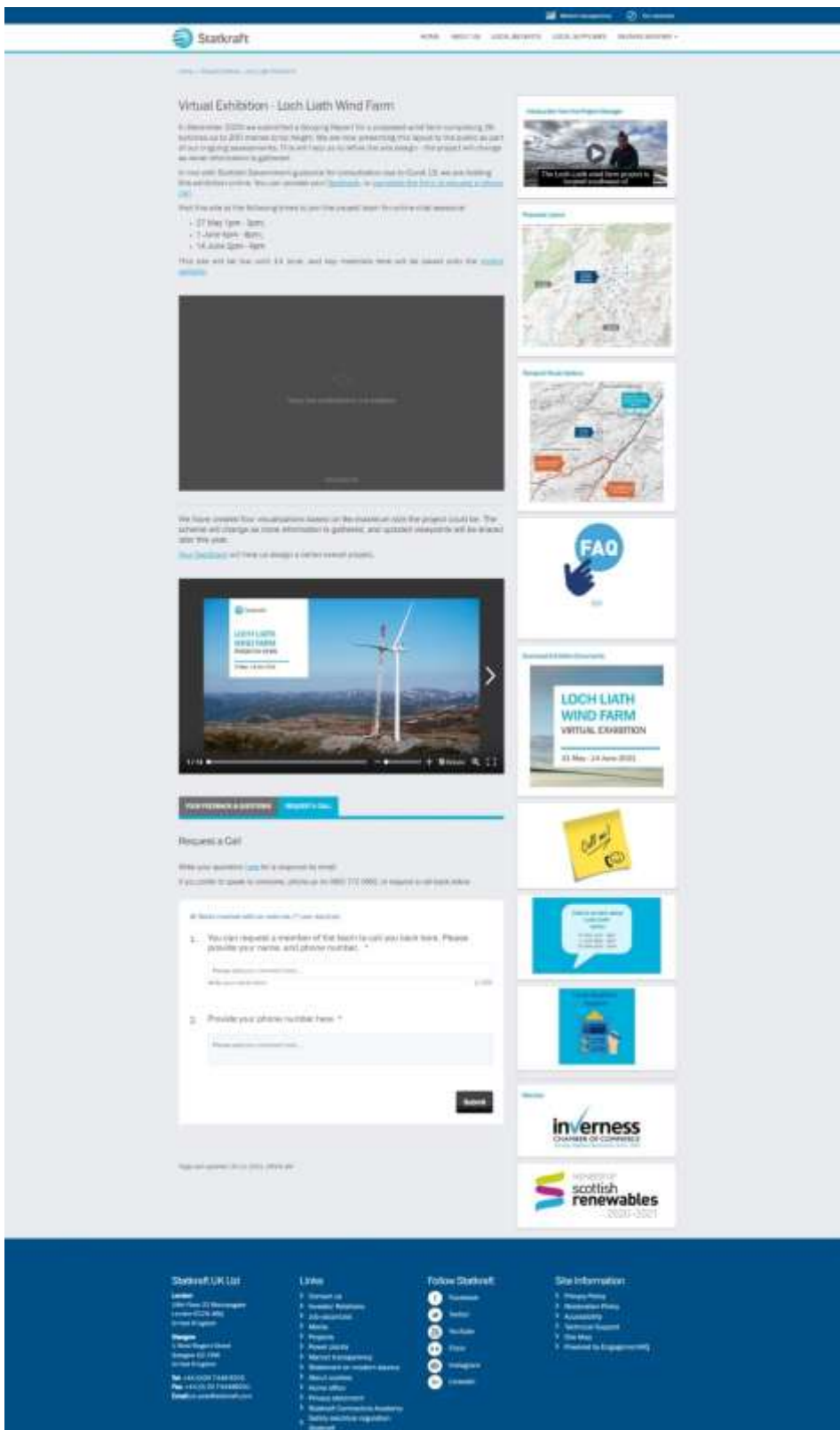


Figure H-2: Virtual Exhibition landing page with Request A Call Back Form. This image was captured following the end of the exhibition, when the brochure was no longer available to view via Issuu. It remained available to download elsewhere on the site.



Figure H-3: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (Cover)



Figure H-3: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 2-3)

Contents 

Welcome	4
About Loch Liath Wind Farm	8
Project Timeline	12
Environmental Impact Assessment	14
Local Benefits & Investment	28
Broadband	30
Your Views are Important to Us	32

Welcome



Statkraft in the UK

- Scottish Head Office in Glasgow
- 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
- Over 700MW in development
- Delivering grid stability services for National Grid in Moray and Liverpool

- Operational
- Construction
- Development
- Offices
- Y Wind
- ⊞ Greener Grid Park™
- ⊞ Hydro
- ⊞ Solar

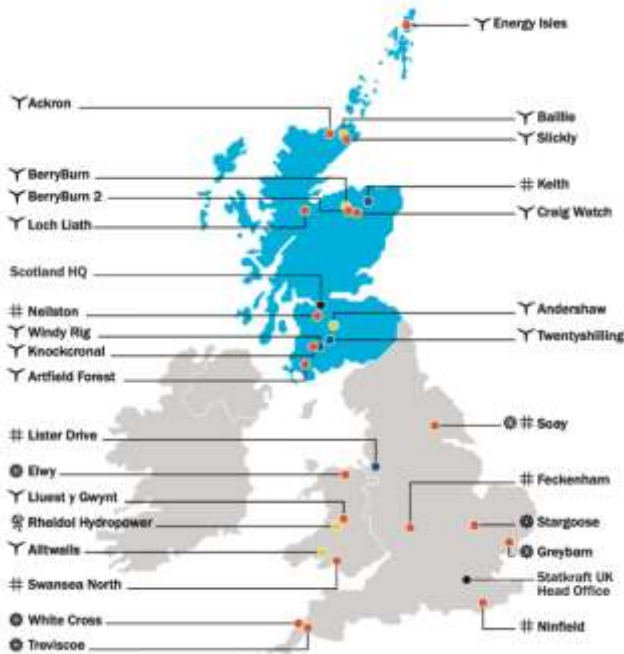


Figure H-4: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 4-5)

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:

- 26** Up to 26 wind turbines proposed
- £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

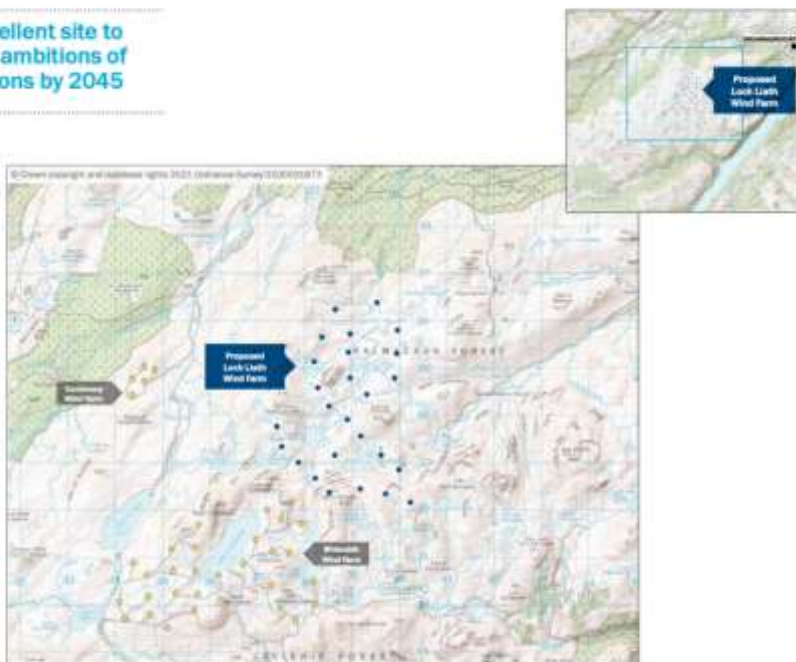


Figure H-5: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 6-7)

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
- Designed to be well integrated with the adjoining Bhiaraidh Wind Farm
- Located within Group 2 and Group 3 areas for onshore wind farm development*
- Would contribute towards Scotland's decarbonisation targets



The below is based on our current knowledge of the site, and will go through more design changes as more information is gathered. The scheme will change before an application is submitted for planning consent – and we will present this to the community later this year.

Your feedback will help us design a better overall project.

	No. of Turbines	Max Blade Tip Heights	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Generation (homes equivalent)	Community Fund (per year)
Loch Liath	up to 26	200m	over 50 <small>(subject to planning authorisation)</small>	over 5,500 <small>(homes per turbine per year¹)</small>	£28,000 <small>per turbine per year²</small>

*Group 2 areas of significant potential. Recognising the need for high-level protection, in these areas wind turbines are subject to a more comprehensive assessment and will be subject to a more detailed assessment of their potential effects on the quality of the environment or the community through existing, design or other mitigation.

Group 3 areas are potential for wind farm development. Subject to Group 2, and other constraints to be determined, subject to planning, consultation and other relevant criteria.

1. Based on a 5.8MW turbine, wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,363 kWh pa.
2. Based on a 5.8MW turbine and £3,000 per MW

Figure H-6: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 8-9)

Project Timeline



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



Figure H-7: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 10-11)

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

An important first-step to the EIA is the EIA Scoping Report. A number of statutory and non-statutory organisations comment on this including, but not limited to, the following:

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

Documents related to the Scoping Report can be downloaded from www.bathlab.co.uk

Figure H-8: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 12-13)

Environmental Impact Assessment



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 proposed).

We are currently in the process of agreeing locations of viewpoints with The Highland Council and NatureScot to ensure the most suitable locations are selected to illustrate the effects of the wind farm. The locations of these will be available to view at our second exhibition, before an application is submitted.

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

Four visualisations have been provided to demonstrate how the proposed wind farm would look at its maximum size of 26 turbines at 200m to blade tip. We will refine the project according to results of ongoing surveys and community feedback.



[Click here to access the predicted views brochure](#)

Figure H-9: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 14-15)

Environmental Impact Assessment



Hydrology and Peat



A full suite of surveys to assess potential effects of the proposed wind farm on hydrology, geology and hydrogeology are underway. This data will be used to help inform the design of the proposed wind farm.

Extensive peat depth surveys have been undertaken across the site which has shown that peat is present at depths of less than 0.5m, up to over 5m in some localised areas. A peat management plan will be prepared, and a detailed peat slide risk assessment will be undertaken, as part of the EIA process.

There are a number of water bodies and watercourses located across the site. Where possible, all infrastructure will be sited a minimum of 50m from water bodies and watercourses which are mapped on the ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map, and outside known areas of flood risk. The design of the wind farm will also seek to minimise the number of watercourse crossings required and avoid areas of Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE) habitats where possible.



Big pools located within the site. These habitats will be taken into consideration during the design evolution process.

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.

Figure H-10: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 16-17)

Environmental Impact Assessment



Ecology



Extensive ecological surveys are being undertaken across the site for habitats and protected species.

The initial 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.

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 have been agreed with NatureScot and have been completed in accordance with current NatureScot guidance.

Ornithology



A full suite of ornithological surveys is currently underway at the site in line with current NatureScot guidance. This includes 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 final design of the wind farm will take into account appropriate buffers on known breeding sites identified through the surveys.

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 in the past year.

A thorough habitat management plan was proposed for the Berry Burn Wind Farm Extension, after the site was severely damaged by a wildfire. If approved, 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.



Figure H-11: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 18-19)

Environmental Impact Assessment



Cultural Heritage



An archaeological and cultural heritage assessment will be undertaken to understand the potential effects of the wind farm in line with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) guidance. This includes the potential for direct effects on any archaeological remains which are located within the site.

An initial review of available desk-based information indicates that there is a Category C-listed building within the site (Loch Ashlaich shooting box and bothy) as well as a number of other undesignated features. A walk over survey will be undertaken to confirm the presence of these features, and to identify any previously unknown features of archaeological interest. These will be avoided through the design of the wind farm.

Setting effects on cultural heritage assets in the wider landscape will also be assessed. Particular attention will be given to Urquhart Castle, especially the long-distance views from and towards the castle over Loch Ness. We are currently in the process of agreeing with The Highland Council and HES the locations where we will produce predicted views in relation to other Scheduled Monuments nearby.



Figure H-12: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 20-21)

Environmental Impact Assessment



Noise



A noise assessment will be undertaken which will 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 will include 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 will not be included in the noise assessment.

The noise assessment will also take into account other wind farms in the area.

Traffic & Transport



We are currently assessing multiple options for access to the site, including for general construction traffic as well as for the turbine components.

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, Corpach or Inverness Ports.

Access to the site will likely be from either the A887 or the A831. A detailed access review is being undertaken to identify the most suitable option and further consultation with The Highland Council's transport planning team will likely be undertaken.

The main transport effects will be associated with the movement of general HGV traffic travelling to and from the site during construction and this will be assessed as part of the EIA.

Extensive information detailing the proposed routes will be provided in the EIA Report, which is publicly available when an application for consent is submitted.

[Click here to see a map of the potential options being considered.](#)

Figure H-13: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 22-23)

Environmental Impact Assessment



Climate Change

The Scottish Government has set a legally-binding target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. 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/uk/ew/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 principle, 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, 2008 - 2018

Source: Scottish Energy Statistics Hub

Figure H-14: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 24-25)

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 Cairness Business Fund (Ballie Wind Farm) that enabled them to buy essential equipment to help get their, now very popular, business started.



<h4>Community Benefit Fund</h4> <p>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.</p>	<h4>Community Ownership</h4> <p>Progress the opportunity for local groups to have a financial interest in our project, with the support of organisations such as Local Energy Scotland.</p>
<h4>Local Investment</h4> <p>Work with local business groups such as the Chamber of Commerce to increase awareness of the opportunities in construction and operations.</p>	<h4>Education & Enterprise</h4> <p>We welcome ideas on how our project can support local education and employment opportunities, and boost local businesses.</p>
<h4>Wireless Broadband</h4> <p>We invest in feasibility studies to identify potential for improved connection, and support communities developing their own broadband initiatives.</p>	

Figure H-15: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 26-27)

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 Loch Liath.

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



Figure H-16: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 28-29)

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 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 this winter. Before then, we will hold another public exhibition to share details of the final proposal.

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 28 June 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 28 June 2021.

Thank you for attending the Loch Liath Wind Farm Exhibition.

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

Please complete the feedback form ✉️

Register for updates: www.lochliath.co.uk 🌐

0800 772 0668
(local call rate applies) 📞

Freepost Statkraft
(no stamp required) 📍

UKProjects@statkraft.com ✉️

Figure H-17: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (pages 30-31)



Figure H-18: Virtual Exhibition Brochure (page 32))



Image H-19: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (Cover)

Predicted Views

We are currently in the process of agreeing locations of viewpoints with The Highland Council and NatureScot to ensure the most suitable locations are selected to illustrate the effects of the wind farm. The locations of these will be available to view at our second exhibition, before an application is submitted.

Four visualisations have been provided to demonstrate how the proposed wind farm would look at its maximum size of 26 turbines at 200m to blade tip. We will refine the project according to results of ongoing surveys and community feedback.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

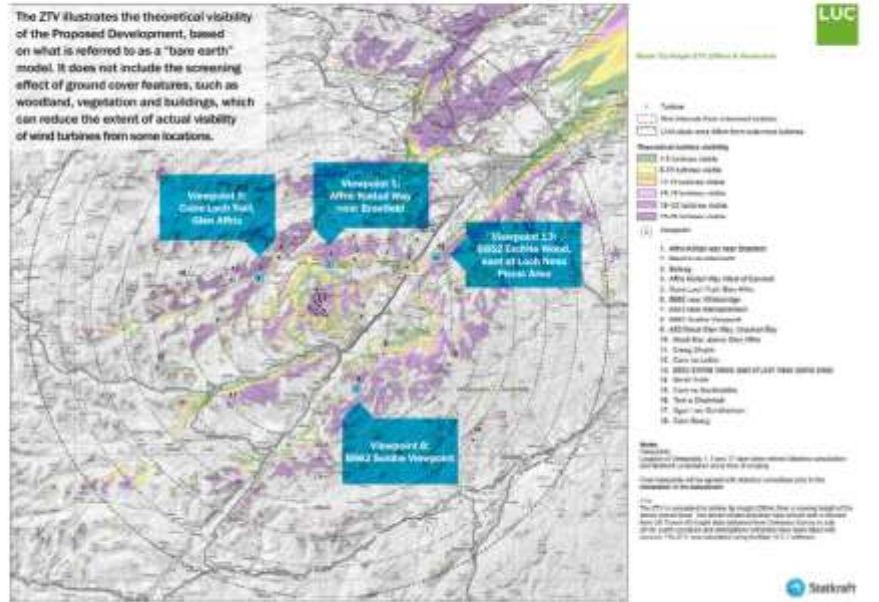


Image H-20: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 1)

Viewpoint 1: Affric Kintail Way near Braefield



PREDICTED VIEW



Photomontage showing scoping layout.
26 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height

Image H-21: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 2)

Viewpoint 1: Affric Kintail Way near Braefield



PREDICTED VIEW
(WITH TURBINE LOCATION MARKERS)



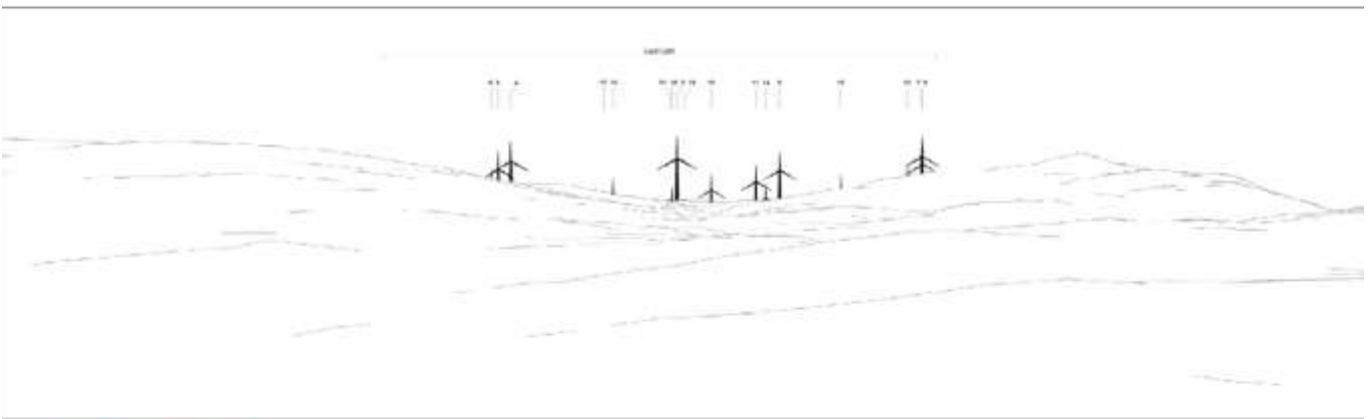
Photomontage showing proposed layout
26 turbines @ 200m to scale (to height)

Image H-22: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 3)

Viewpoint 1: Affric Kintail Way near Braefield



WIREFRAME



Wireframe showing proposed layout
26 turbines @ 200m to scale (to height)

Image H-23: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 4)

Viewpoint 5: Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric



PREDICTED VIEW



Photomontage showing scoping layout:
26 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height

Image H-24: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 5)

Viewpoint 5: Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric



PREDICTED VIEW
(WITH TURBINE LOCATION MARKERS)



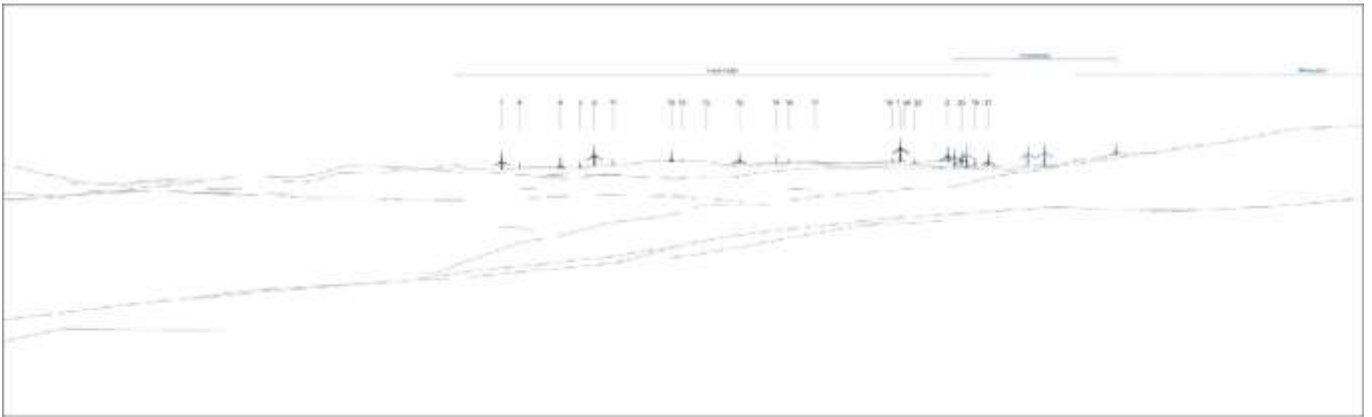
Photomontage showing scoping layout:
26 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height

Image H-25: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 6)

Viewpoint 5: Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric



WIREFRAME



Wireframe showing scoping layout -
26 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height

Image H-26: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 7)

Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint



PREDICTED VIEW



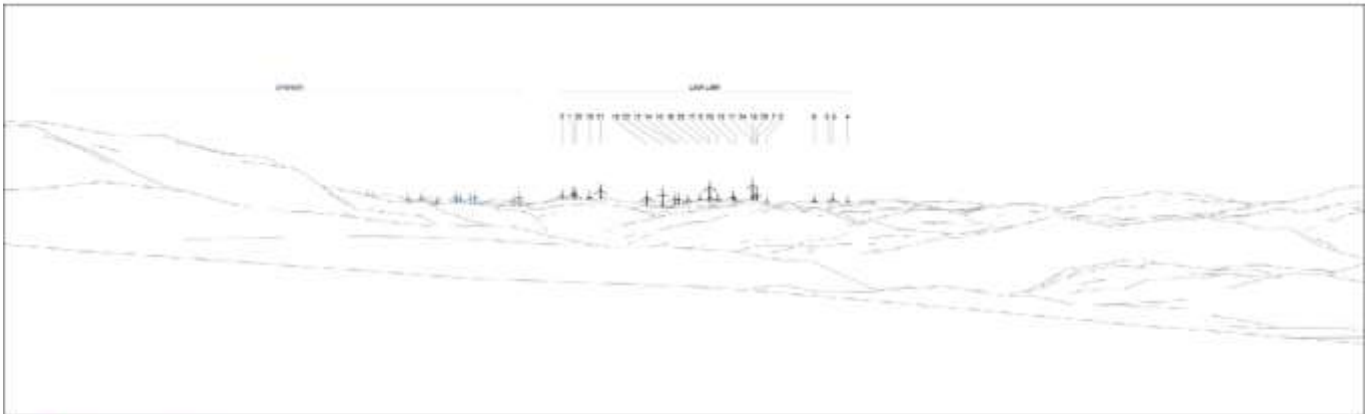
Photomontage showing scoping layout -
26 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height

Image H-27: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 8)

Viewpoint 8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint



WIREFRAME



Wireframe showing scoping layout -
26 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height

Image H-28: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 9)

Viewpoint 13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness Picnic Area



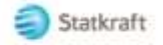
PREDICTED VIEW



Photomontage showing scoping layout -
26 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height

Image H-29: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 10)

Viewpoint 13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness Picnic Area



PREDICTED VIEW
(WITH TURBINE LOCATION MARKERS)



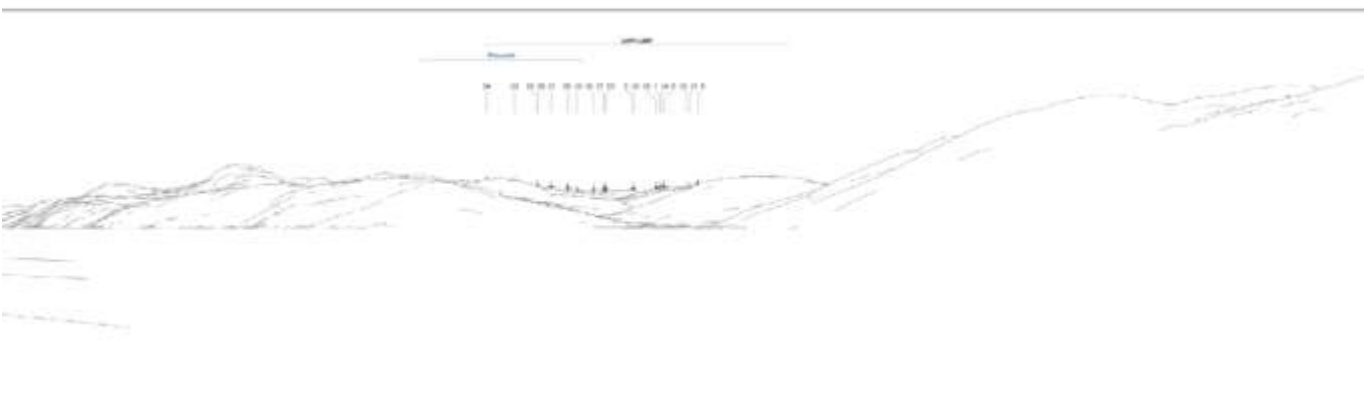
Photomontage showing scoping layout -
26 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height

Image H-30: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 11)

Viewpoint 13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness Picnic Area



WIREFRAME



Wireframe showing scoping layout -
26 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height

[Return to the Virtual Exhibition](#)

Image H-29: Predicted Views Digital Booklet (page 10)

Appendix I

Virtual Exhibition Mailing



We're innovative and community focused

Statkraft is dedicated to engaging with communities and bringing meaningful benefits.

We would like to speak with you about how our project can bring new investment to your community. We are open to your ideas.

Community Benefit Fund
We are committed to a Community Benefit Fund that delivers £5,000 per MW installed, per year, in accordance with Scottish Government guidance.

Shared Ownership
We are open to offering Shared Ownership on our projects, if there is local interest. We would like to hear your views on enabling the community to have a financial share in the project.



Improved Broadband
Join our virtual exhibition to find out more about our approach to facilitate improved broadband access near our projects.

Local Supply Chain
We want to work with local businesses to deliver our projects. Visit our project website for information on how local businesses can register their interest.

<p>Please return the freepost reply card provided </p>	<p>www.lochliath.co.uk </p>
<p>Phone the project hotline: 0800 772 0668 </p>	<p>UKProjects@statkraft.com </p>

Statkraft UK Ltd
1 West Regent Street
Glasgow
G2 1EH
+44 (0)141 482 1886



**Invitation to Virtual Exhibition:
21 May – 14 June 2021**

Loch Liath Wind Farm Proposal

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves, our proposal for Loch Liath Wind Farm, and the potential economic and environmental benefits it could bring.



Loch Liath Wind Farm, Loch Lomond, Loch Lomond & Shetland

We are bringing forward proposals for Loch Liath Wind Farm, located approximately 11km southwest of Drumsadrochit. In line with Scottish Government advice in relation to Covid-19, we are holding a virtual exhibition as well as online chat sessions, where you can find out more and help shape and inform the proposal.

About Us

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, with origins going back 125 years in Norwegian hydro power. Our Scottish headquarters are in Glasgow and we have 4,500 employees across 17 countries.

www.statkraft.co.uk

Figure I-1: Virtual Exhibition Invitation (Side 1)

Loch Liath Wind Farm Proposal



Project Summary

Community engagement is very important to us.

We would like to invite you to our virtual exhibition. We are committed to listening to communities to help shape and inform our proposals.

Virtual Exhibition:
21 May – 14 June 2021
www.lochliath.co.uk

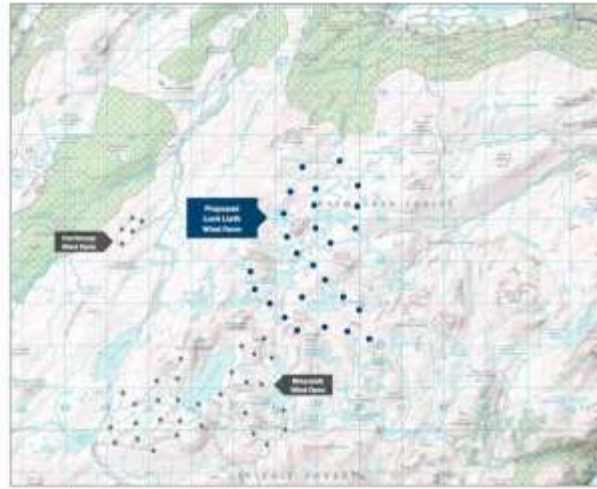
26 Up to 26 wind turbines proposed

£5,000 Per MW installed per year for a Community Fund as recommended by 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



Our consultation is being held online due to COVID19 restrictions in place.

View our virtual exhibition by visiting:
www.lochliath.co.uk

Ask questions, provide feedback or book a phone call.

Online Chat Dates:
27 May 1 – 3pm
1 June 6 – 8pm
14 June 2 – 4pm

Meet the Project Team:

Our Project Manager Heather and a team of specialists will be able to answer questions and provide more information throughout the exhibition. Please visit our website to find out more.
www.lochliath.co.uk



You can find out more about our projects and the way we work at www.statkraft.co.uk

We would like to hear your suggestions on how our project can bring benefits to the area – from community funding to improved access to broadband. Please visit our virtual exhibition to find out more.

Figure I-2: Virtual Exhibition Invitation (Side 2)

Appendix J

Community Council Invitation

From: [Luffery Health](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Statkraft Loch Lath Project - exhibition dates for May and June
Date: 30 April 2021 17:14:00
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear [REDACTED],

I hope this finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of Statkraft to update you on the progress of our Loch Lath wind farm project which is in your ward, and to highlight key engagement milestones for your information.

I'm pleased to say that we will be running an online exhibition from the 21st May until the 14th June. It's a bit early unfortunately to be arranging a public face-to-face exhibition due to the Covid-19 situation, but hopefully this is something we will be able to do in the latter part of this year. In the meantime, we will be arranging special chat sessions with our team during the virtual exhibition which will help us to gather feedback and answer questions. If you or members of the community council would like a bespoke preview and/or meeting with the team, we would be delighted to arrange that for you. I'll await your guidance on that.

Other items for your notes include the fact that we will be liaising with community councils, ward councillors and other community stakeholders so that we can keep them informed about the project also. We are open to all feedback and are keen to hear views on visual impacts, transport access and ornithology/bio-diversity in particular. We believe that this engagement and the views we receive will greatly help us to evolve our project for the better.

Over the coming weeks we will be sending out a newsletter which will provide information about the project and more detail about Statkraft. We have a 'good neighbour' ethos which entails working closely and honestly with the communities where our projects are based. In the past we have had very positive feedback from community councils on our engagement and keenness to hear about concerns and priorities.

We are the only on-shore wind developers in Scotland who commit to carrying out wireless broadband feasibility studies for all of our new projects (to ascertain if our technology can be used to provide superfast broadband to surrounding communities). We will have a related wireless broadband feasibility study for the Loch Lath area to share with you which we would like to hear your views on.

As you might know, Statkraft is the largest generator of renewable energy in Europe. The Scotsman newspaper has this week published its Sustainable Scotland podcast which carries a full interview with Richard Mardon (Statkraft's Head of Business and Project Development, UK, European Wind and Solar) – I know you are extremely busy but here is the link in case you find it useful to hear his thoughts on investment in Scotland:
<https://anchor.fm/jpimedia/episodes/How-Scotlands-renewables-industry-has-grown-and-where-its-heading-eyty7k>

We very much hope to have a positive working relationship with you and the community, so if there is any information you would like to receive, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Figure J-1: Example of Correspondence inviting Community Councils to the Virtual Exhibition (Page 1)

Kind regards,

Heather Lafferty

Project Manager, UK, European Wind and Solar

— heather.lafferty@statkraft.com

— Mobile [REDACTED]

— Switchboard: +47 24 06 70 00

Statkraft UK Ltd.

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www.statkraft.com

Statkraft UK Ltd, Reg. Company No. 05742795, Reg. Office: 22 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4BQ



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Figure J-2: Example of Correspondence inviting Community Councils to the Virtual Exhibition (Page 2)

Appendix K
**Elected Representative
Invitation**

From: [Lafferty Heather](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Loch Liath Project Update
Date: 21 May 2021 14:04:00
Attachments: [Loch Liath Exhibition Poster.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to my earlier correspondence, I would like to inform you that the Loch Liath Wind Farm virtual exhibition has gone live today, and can be accessed by clicking on the 'Enter Here' button on the projects website, www.lochliath.co.uk.

By way of a reminder, the virtual exhibition will be live until 14 June, and we will be hosting a series of online chat sessions, in addition to providing ways for individuals to leave feedback on the project, or request a call from a member of the team.

I enclose the exhibition poster for distribution as you wish, and I will also be mailing this to community councils to display on notice boards.

Thank you for your time and interest,

Heather Lafferty
Project Manager, UK, European Wind and Solar

___ heather.lafferty@statkraft.com
___ Mobile [REDACTED]
___ Switchboard +47 24 06 70 00

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From: Lafferty Heather
Sent: 17 May 2021 16:15
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Loch Liath Project Update

Dear [REDACTED]

Since emailing you on Friday, I have received feedback in relation to the Loch Liath interactive chat sessions with a request to ensure one is outside of daytime working hours. As a result, I

..

Figure K-1: Example of Correspondence inviting Elected Representatives to the Virtual Exhibition (Page 1)

have amended the session on Tuesday 1 June such that it will now take place between 6pm and 8pm. For the avoidance of doubt, the virtual exhibition will take place between Friday 21st May and Monday 14th June, inclusive, and we will be holding special interactive chat sessions at the following revised times:

- 1pm-3pm, Thursday 27th May
- 6pm-8pm, Tuesday 1st June
- 2pm-4pm, Monday 14th June

Statkraft values community engagement and see it as a key aspect of the project development process. It is, for this reason, that we endeavour to hold an informative event, which will be accessible to those who wish to attend. We will take all feedback on board, and use this to help shape our project.

Kind regards,

Heather Lafferty

Project Manager, UK, European Wind and Solar

... heather.lafferty@statkraft.com

... Mobile [REDACTED]

... Switchboard +47 24 06 70 00

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From: Lafferty Heather

Sent: 14 May 2021 16.59

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Loch Liath Project Update

Dear [REDACTED],

Please see attached our newsletter update which provides information about Statkraft, our Loch Liath Wind Farm project, and case studies of the company's positive economic impact. You will hopefully see that it

The uncertainty around Covid-19 restrictions have ruled out having a face-to-face public exhibition for now, but we are pleased to confirm that our virtual exhibition will commence on the 21st May and run through until the 14th June.

Figure K-2: Example of Correspondence inviting Elected Representatives to the Virtual Exhibition (Page 2)

Should you be interested, this elongated timescale will provide a greater number of opportunities for you and other members of the community to explore our project further. To add to the information provided by the exhibition, our project team will also be online for special interactive chat sessions, where it will be possible to ask questions and get answers in real time.

Special interactive chat sessions:

1pm-3pm, 27th May
4pm-6pm, 1st June
2pm-4pm, 14th June

We are also offering bespoke preview sessions from the 19th May. If you would like to have a preview, please let me know.

Statkraft believes in being a good neighbour and we hope to demonstrate that throughout our community engagement. If you have any queries, please do let me know. It is also possible to visit our project website which is already live, and sign up for updates: [Loch Liath website](#)

Thank you for your time and interest,

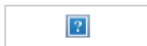
Heather Lafferty

Project Manager, UK, European Wind and Solar

-- heather.lafferty@statkraft.com
-- Mobile [REDACTED]
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Figure K-3: Example of Correspondence inviting Elected Representatives to the Virtual Exhibition (Page 3)

Appendix L

Virtual Exhibition Newspaper Adverts



COASTAL DELIGHT: A total of 11 beaches in the north and north-east have been named among the top 18 in Scotland, as selected by travel guide Lonely Planet.

Beaches named among best

DENNY ANDONOVA

Those of us who live near them or have travelled there on holiday know the beaches across the north and north-east of Scotland take some beating.

Now travel guide Lonely Planet has flagged them up to the rest of the world as some of the best Scotland has to offer.

In all, 11 of the 18 which are featured at the very best will already be familiar to many readers.

From family-friendly seaside resorts to remote empty coves beneath towering cliffs, here are the best beaches in the region, according to the travel guide book publisher.

Number one in the list was Sanda, Orkney, with the guide reporting: "Famed for ancient standing stones and prehistoric villages, for sublime sandy beaches and spectacular coastal scenery, Orkney is a region whose ports tell of lives shared with the blessings and rough moods of the sea."

"Sunday is flinged by Orkney's best beaches - with dazzling white sand of the sort you'd expect in the Caribbean."

"It's a peaceful, green, pastoral landscape with the sea revealed at every turn." On to Sandwood Bay, Kinlochbervie, which

earned the description: "South of Cape Wrath, Sandwood Bay boasts one of Scotland's best and most isolated beaches, guarded at one end by the spectacular rock pinnacle An Bhanaille. Few people walk all the way to the beach's northern end, so if you've packed a picnic, that's the spot to aim for."

Perhaps the most accessible beach, Aberdeen, scored plenty too, Lonely Planet enthusing: "On a warm summer's day, this is an excellent beach; when the waves are right, a small group of dedicated surfers ride the breaks at the south end. The beachfront Esplanade sports several traditional seaside attractions, including Cudmore's, complete with a tram and a vintage walkway, dogtime, a roller coaster, log flume and a haunted house."

Bosta Beach on Great Bernera was lauded for its "fine coastal walks", the guide continuing: "On a sunny day, make the long detour to Great Bernera's northern tip for a picnic at the perfect little sandy beach of Bosta."

Yet another inland entry was Luskentyre, on South Harris: "Luskentyre is one of the biggest and most beautiful beaches in Scotland, famed for its

acres of low-tide white sands and turquoise water. A minor road leads along the northern side of the bay to a parking area beside an ancient graveyard; from here you can walk west along the beach or through the grassy dunes with gorgeous views across the sea to the island of Tarasay."

And another Outer Hebrides beach to feature, Duagh Mor on Barra, was praised for its "vast expanse of firm golden sand" which famously serves as Barra's airport.

The coast between Arisaig and Morac, in the West Highlands, gets the star treatment, described as "full of rocky inlets, inlets and gorgeous silver-sand beaches backed by dunes and machair, with stunning sunset views across the sea to the silhouetted peaks of Sigg and Ross."

On Skye, the Coral Beaches at Dunvegan more than make up for its "unremarkable village". Scourburgh Sands on Shetland features a "gloriously white sandy beach backed by dunes and rolling countryside."

And Calgary Beach is "Mull's best (and busiest) silver-sand beach, flanked by cliffs and with views out to Coll and Tiree".

LOCH LIATH WIND FARM Virtual Public Exhibition Invitation

We invite you to attend a virtual public exhibition for our Loch Liath Wind Farm proposal, located approximately 11km southwest of Durrusbrocht.

In line with Scottish Government guidance for online consultation due to Covid-19, we are holding a virtual public exhibition. We are committed to listening to communities as we seek to shape our development.

Our consultation website will be live 21 May - 14 June 2021 with more information on the project, the O&A answers with the project team and an opportunity to book one-to-one calls to discuss the proposal - please visit www.lochliath.co.uk, where a link to the website will be available.

Feedback on the exhibition material should be provided by 28 June 2021.

Please visit www.lochliath.co.uk or use the contact details below. Comments about this notice in Scotland UK and do not constitute a formal representation. More opportunities to comment will follow later this year. An opportunity to make a formal representation will exist if a subsequent planning application is made. We hope you see the joy in the consultation events.

Website: www.lochliath.co.uk
Project Hotline: 0800 772 0468
Write to: Freepost Scotland (no stamp required)





CASC SHOP

CRAFT BEER A HUGE RANGE OF CORE AND SPECIALTY CRAFT BEER, MANY OF WHICH ARE KEFT REFRIGERATED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

WHISKY & SPIRIT SELECTION OVER 100 WHISKIES AND OTHER SPIRITS, FOCUSING ON SINGLE CASK, LIMITED RELEASES AND INDEPENDANT BOTTLING.

SKATEBOARD COFFEE OUR UNIQUE BLEND OF BEANS ROASTED TO HIS'S PERFECTION FOR A GREAT BREW.

WE'RE OPEN 10AM-6PM MON-SAT & 10AM-5PM SUN
100 BURNING WOODS, 117A, BURNING WOODS, DUNDEE
01392 624464

Figure L-1: Loch Liath Wind Farm advert in the Press & Journal, 21 May 2021



SCENIC: Crofts in parts of Scotland are, it's claimed, being sold as building sites.

Croft owners cashing in on rising prices

Croft owners who are cashing in on rising land values have been highlighted in a new report, fuelling calls for better regulation.

The Crofting Commission investigation found some were holding on to their property as "a financial asset" while the body, which represents crofters, warned of an "impending catastrophe" if the situation and other abuses are not better regulated.

Last year a former UK Government minister attacked the sale of a croft in the Outer Hebrides which went on the market at offers over £200,000.

It is currently under offer and is believed to have attracted a bid well over the asking price.

It is thought to be one of the most expensive bare land crofts up for sale, and not only is there no home on it, there is no planning permission for one.

The purchaser will not even own the land as a crofter is usually a tenant of a small agricultural holding, rented from a landowner.

Ex-Scottish Office minister Brian Wilson

-who set-up the Community Land Unit and the fund on which community buy-outs of crofting estates was based - waded into the row.

Mr Wilson said the sale of Croft 4 on the Isle of Harris was an "extreme example" of why "without proper regulation, the crofting system is doomed to destruction".

"This is an extreme example of how a great system of tenure is being destroyed by the hopeless failure to defend it against market forces," said Mr Wilson, who lives on Lewis and is chairman of Harris Tweed Hebrides.

"The system was designed to keep people on the land and it succeeded for 100 years but if money is allowed to dictate the market then it is doomed to destruction.

"The idea that someone is going to pay £200,000 with the intention of working a croft is ludicrous.

"That is not the way it has been marketed and that is not the way it will be bought. Crofts in scenic areas are essentially being sold as building sites in a

market where very few local people can compete.

"In West Harris, there is community ownership doing a good job but that is trumped by the utter uselessness of the Crofting Commission and the Scottish Government."

Crofting legislation dating from the 19th Century aimed to stop tenants being cleared by unscrupulous landlords.

But crofters have increasingly been cashing on scenic locations with potential as housing plots.

The Crofting Commission said in a statement: "The commission does not have any control over the price crofts change hands for.

"However, if it is a tenanted croft then commission consent must be sought for the transfer of that tenancy and, as part of that process the incoming tenant would have to provide details of their intention for taking up residence and the working of the croft."

The Scottish Crofting Federation welcomed the probe and reiterated a call to fund the commission sufficiently for it to tackle the "emergency".

Firefighters use derelict council properties for training exercises

Firefighters have been carrying out lifesaving training exercises in a cluster of council homes earmarked for demolition.

Highland Council's housing team will allow the fire service to use the properties in Meiklefield Road, Dingwall, for training before they are knocked down next month.

The exercises are for the local retained crews, but it will also help the local authority ensure future affordable housing is designed in the safest way.



Firefighters are put through their paces in Dingwall.

Derek Wilson, senior officer for the fire service in the north, said: "This type of training, using different search and rescue scenarios within derelict buildings, is essential in helping our staff prepare for actual events within our communities."

"The exercise at Dingwall was of great value in maintaining and developing firefighting

skills and we are grateful to have been given the opportunity."

Councillor Angela MacLean and Faye Dyer, a housing officer at the council, have already been along to one of the training sessions to find out more about the challenges the crews face.

Ms MacLean said: "It was good to see the properties be of use to the

community one last time by allowing Scottish Fire and Rescue Service colleagues to train in a realistic environment to everyone's benefit."

A dozen homes in the Meiklefield area will be knocked down in June to make room for 14 new flats and houses. They are the first phase of a project aimed at improving housing in the area.

LOCH LIATH WIND FARM Virtual Public Exhibition Invitation

We invite you to attend a virtual public exhibition for our Loch Liath Wind Farm proposal, located approximately 11km southwest of Durnadrochit.

In line with Scottish Government guidance for online consultation due to Covid-19, we are holding a virtual public exhibition. We are committed to listening to communities as we seek to shape our development.

Our consultation website will be live 21 May - 14 June 2021 with more information on the project, live Q&A sessions with the project team and an opportunity to book one-to-one calls to discuss the proposal - please visit www.lochliath.co.uk, where a link to the exhibition will be available.

Feedback on the exhibition material should be provided by 28 June 2021.

Please visit www.lochliath.co.uk or use the contact details below. Comments should be made to Statkraft UK and do not constitute a formal representation. More opportunities to comment will follow later this year. An opportunity to make a formal representation will exist if a subsequent planning application is made. We hope you can take part in the consultation events.

Website: www.lochliath.co.uk
Project Hotline: 0500 772 0568
Write to: Freepost Statkraft (no stamp required)

A new way of working

The way we work has changed but our quality news coverage has not: 71% of our (The Press and Journal) readers normally read "Business News"

Please get in touch for editorial and advertising opportunities.

Caroline McAndrew
Call: 01757 499339 or email: caroline.mcan@thejournal.co.uk

The Press and Journal

Figure L-2: Loch Liath Wind Farm advert in the Press & Journal, 21 May 2021

Appendix M

Virtual Exhibition Social Media Posts



Figure M-1: Social Media Post advertising Statkraft's Facebook Page advertising Loch Liath Wind Farm Virtual Exhibition (16 May 2021)



Figure M-2: Social Media post from @StatkraftUK advertising Loch Liath Wind Farm Virtual Exhibition (25 May 2021)



Figure M-3: Social Media post from @StatkraftUK advertising Loch Liath Wind Farm Virtual Exhibition (27 May 2021)

Appendix N

Virtual Exhibition Poster

Loch Liath Wind Farm Proposal



Project Summary

26 Up to 26 wind turbines proposed

£5,000 Per MW installed per year for a Community Fund As recommended by Scottish Government

A maximum height of 200m to blade tip

Exciting new opportunity to talk about shared ownership and local suppliers

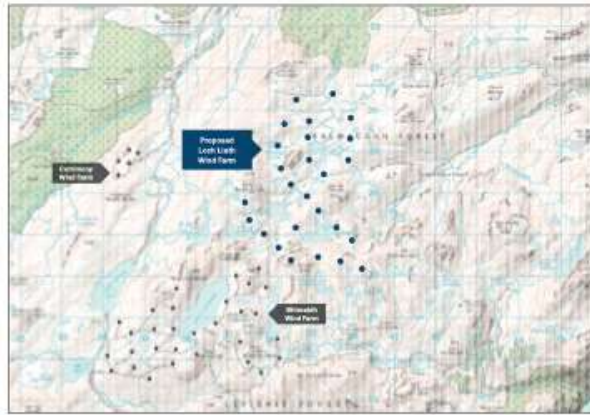
Potential for improved broadband provision

You can find out more about our projects and the way we work at www.statkraft.co.uk

Invitation to Virtual Exhibition

We are bringing forward proposals for Loch Liath Wind Farm, located approximately 11km southwest of Drumnadrochit. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are holding a virtual exhibition. We would like to introduce ourselves, our proposal and the potential economic and environmental benefits it could bring.

If you can't attend online, please call us on 0800 772 0668 to arrange a chat with a member of the team.



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We would like to hear your suggestions on how our project can bring benefits to the area – from community funding to improved access to broadband. Please visit our virtual exhibition to find out more.

Virtual Exhibition:
21 May – 14 June 2021
www.lochliath.co.uk

Our consultation is being held online due to COVID19 restrictions in place.

View our virtual exhibition by visiting:
www.lochliath.co.uk

Ask questions, provide feedback or book a phone call.

Online Chat Dates:

27 May 1 – 3pm
1 June 6 – 8pm
14 June 2 – 4pm

Meet the Project Team:

Our Project Manager Heather and a team of specialists will be able to answer questions and provide more information throughout the exhibition. Please visit our website to find out more.
www.lochliath.co.uk



Figure N-1: Virtual Exhibition Poster

Appendix O

Virtual Exhibition Reply Card Response



Figure O-1: Example Response Letter to Virtual Exhibition Reply Card

Loch Liath Wind Farm



During the May/June 2021 consultation, some questions and comments were frequently raised. Below is our response to these.

(July 2022)

There are too many wind farms in this area

The Highland Council's [Spatial Framework for Onshore Wind Energy](#) (2020) indicates that the location of the proposed Loch Liath Wind Farm may be appropriate, with some scope to accommodate large scale turbines. As part of our work towards the planning application for the project, we have undertaken substantial analysis into the landscape and visual considerations in the vicinity of the development. We continue to develop the project with the aim of finding the right balance between maximising the electricity output and carefully siting and designing the proposal to relate to the existing landscape, including other wind developments.

Our analysis shows that less than 10% of land in Scotland is suitable for onshore wind farms. To find out what makes a site suitable for onshore wind, a recent webinar hosted by Future Net Zero featured our Head of Development who goes through the steps in new site searching. Please visit [this link](#) to view.

Wind turbines should be offshore

We need a mix of all types of renewable energy generation. New-build onshore wind is presently the most cost-effective way to generate new electricity, out of all forms of electricity.

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](#)).

If there is concern about a specific view, please let us know and we'll try to provide suitable illustrations at our next consultation event later this year.

Wind turbines are bad for the environment [construction, peat disturbance, use more carbon than they save]

All wind farm applications are required to report their "carbon payback period" in the Environmental Impact Assessment. This uses a Scottish Government calculator which includes all emissions from the manufacture of the turbines, including any peat disturbance, as well as construction and decommissioning. This is usually in the range of 1-2 years, and part of the work we do during the development phase is to get that number as low as possible.

We commission experienced technical consultants to undertake detailed environmental surveys of the peatland habitat, ecology and ornithology, amongst many others. This information is used to inform the proposed layout of the project and we work closely with these consultants to minimise impacts. We will commit to implementing management plans prior to, and throughout, the construction phase to minimise any damage or disturbance. In addition, a detailed habitat management plan will be implemented for the lifetime of the project which will aim to bring long term benefits to local wildlife. Statkraft is committed to improving habitat across our projects. We were finalists in two prestigious industry awards for our efforts in Moray where we committed to maximising habitat improvements of an area of bog habitat, which was devastated by a wild fire, to deliver a biodiversity gain.

What is the transport route for the turbines? Are the roads suitable for this construction and ongoing access?

We are confident a suitable access route can be proposed and this is part of our detailed planning work. A Traffic Management Plan will be agreed with the Highland Council prior to construction commencing.

What is the benefit to locals?

There are several ways our projects can bring local benefits. We are always open to discussing how this can be tailored to each area. The construction phase provides a significant opportunity for local businesses to get involved - over 80 businesses completed our local suppliers register for the construction of our Keith Greener Grid project.

The operation of a wind farm brings significant local investment. Statkraft commit to delivering a community benefit fund with all new wind farms at £5,000 per MW installed per year, as per Scottish Government best practice guidance. The exact total amount will depend on the number and type of turbines installed, but as a guide, this is around £25,000 per turbine per year, over the operating period of the wind farm.

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

Figure O-2: FAQ included in response to Virtual Exhibition Reply Card

Appendix P

Virtual Exhibition Summary



Figure P-1: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Cover)



Figure P-2: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 1)

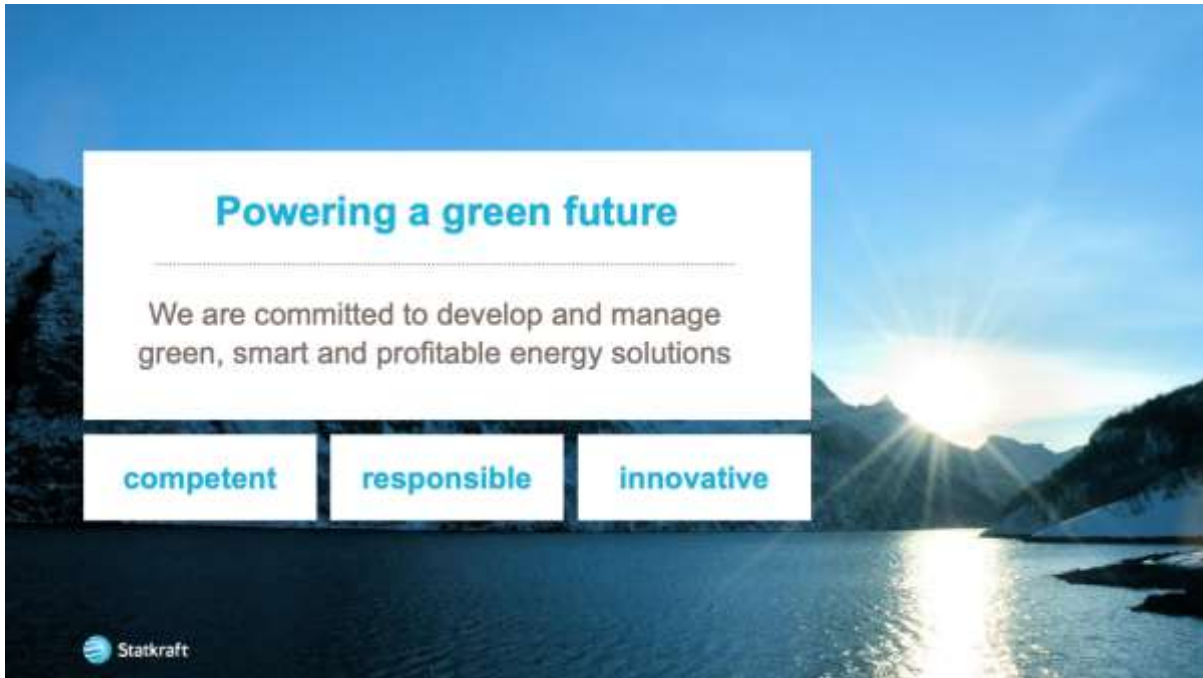


Figure P-3: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 2)



Figure P-4: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 3)

Europe's largest producer of renewable energy

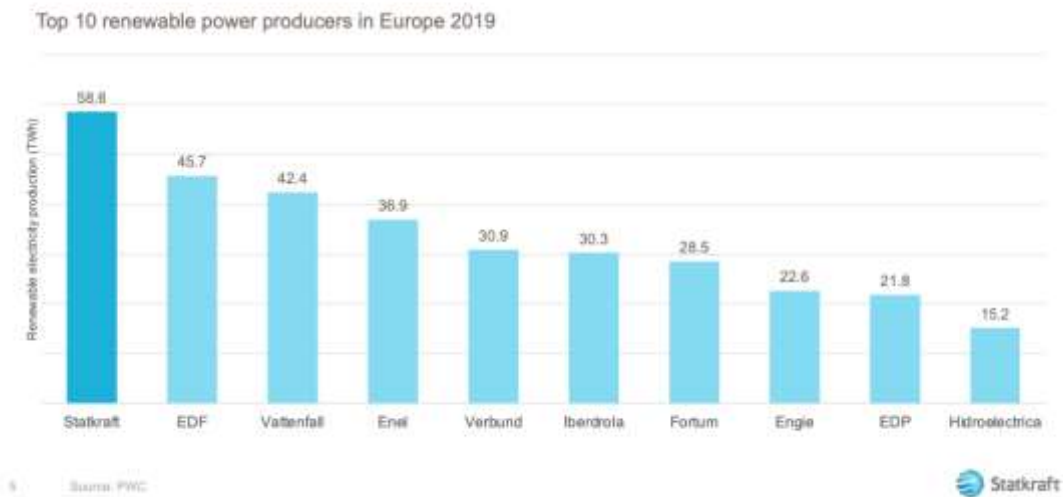


Figure P-5: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 4)

Corporate responsibility in Statkraft

Statkraft aims to be one of the world's leading **renewable energy** companies by 2025. We base our operations on a strong commitment to **sustainability** and **responsible** business practice, and we aim at creating **shared value** for society, the environment and the company.



Figure P-6: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 5)

About the Loch Liath Wind Farm Project


Figure P-7: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 6)

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:

- 26** Up to 26 wind turbines proposed
- £5,000** Per MW installed per year for a Community Fund administered by the Scottish Government
- Y** A maximum height of 200m to blade tip
- 44** Exciting new opportunity to talk about shared ownership and local suppliers
- Wi-Fi** Potential for improved broadband provision



Statkraft

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
- Designed to be well integrated with the adjoining Bharaidh Wind Farm
- Located within Group 2 and Group 3 areas for onshore wind farm development*
- Would contribute towards Scotland's decarbonisation targets

*Group 2 areas of high potential suitability. Group 3 areas of medium potential suitability. These areas are defined in the Scottish Government's 'Onshore Wind Resource Potential' map. The map is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/topics/energy/energy-consultations/energy-consultations-onshore-wind-resource-potential>

Figure P-8: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 7)

Community Engagement

Since project announced in January 2021



Figure P-9: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 8)

Early engagement

During the early stages of the project a focus was placed on engaging with key members of the community

- **Community Councils**
Introduced ourselves to host and neighbouring community councils, and offered invitations to meet before the wider community were contacted.
- **Elected representatives**
Informed ward councillors and other relevant elected representatives of the project, and are keeping them updated on progress.
- **Community organisations**
Met with local community organisations such as Soirbheas and Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association (GURCA)

10



Figure P-10: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 9)



11

Figure P-11: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 10)

Providing an opportunity to learn more about Loch Liath

An exhibition was held virtually, adhering to the advice of Scottish Government in relation to Covid-19.

The virtual exhibition included:

- Project brochure
- Predicted views of the proposal from various viewpoints
- Site maps and plans showing the proposed turbine locations, transport routes and Zone of Theoretical Visibility
- Introductory video from the project team
- A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section
- Request-a-call function to speak with the project team
- Three opportunities to chat online with the project team
- Subscribe to project updates
- Feedback form

12



Figure P-12: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 11)

Figure P-12: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 11)

Notifying the Community

Community engagement was carried out remotely, adhering to the advice of Scottish Government in relation to Covid-19.

A variety of methods were used to reach out to members of the community to inform and invite them to provide feedback:

- Newsletter to over 2,000 properties closest to site, providing information on the proposal, freepost reply card, freephone number, and website address for the virtual exhibition
- Printed advertisements in the Press & Journal
- Targeted facebook advertisements to over 4,000 local users
- Letters to elected representatives
- Posters to Community Councils and a number of community groups for local noticeboards

13



Figure P-13: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 12)

Summary of the Community's Engagement Analytics

The virtual exhibition ended on 14 June, and residents were asked to submit their responses by 28 June 2021.

Over 2,000 properties were mailed directly. Just under 4% of freepost reply cards were returned.

Results of website activity throughout the 3-week exhibition period include:

- Over 300 total visits
 - 11 "engaged" (participated in a survey/asked question)
 - 198 "informed" (due to time spent, viewed video or downloaded document)
- Facebook was source for 70% of visitors
- 62 downloads of the transport route map



14

Figure P-14: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 13)

Summary of Consultation Response

It is our policy to acknowledge all feedback received, where GDPR allows. Since reviewing and analysing the feedback, we have issued 50 letters with specific responses to members of the community who provided feedback.

A number of common themes were raised, a summary of these are listed below.

- There are too many wind farms in the area
- Don't like the look of wind turbines
- Use alternative renewable energy (offshore)
- Wildlife/Biodiversity concern
- Traffic disruption during construction
- Concerns about peat
- Not convinced about carbon saving impacts

15

Figure P-15: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 14)



Striving for quality engagement

The community can play an important part in shaping the design of projects at this stage, and the feedback received so far will be part of that process. However we would like to investigate further ways we can source more in-depth feedback that could be used to influence the next design iteration.

Our commitment to listening and engaging with communities has enabled us to significantly improve the design of our projects – and resulted in being shortlisted for two Scottish industry awards for our approach to biodiversity and ecology.

We propose hosting small online events/workshops on specific topics to gain the feedback required by our project team. This could include topics such as:

- Ecology & Ornithology
- Carbon Payback measures
- Traffic and Transport
- Broadband
- Shared Ownership

18



Figure P-16: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 15)

Our actions

Priorities:

- Follow-up responses: we have followed up with the community members who have engaged so far, answering any queries put forward to the project team.
- Continue to engage with elected representatives, community councils and local residents to keep them updated.
- Work with community representatives to gauge appetite for events/workshops on specific topics and suggested attendees
- To welcome further comments from the community to help shape the development
- Continue to provide updates on the project website
- Deliver a second exhibition, to present the final project design and how it has evolved

19



Figure P-15: Virtual Exhibition Summary Report (Page 16)

Appendix Q

Second Exhibition Webpage and Materials

Statkraft

Loch Liath Wind Farm

Online Exhibition

This is our second exhibition to present our plans to the local community. Since our first event, the project has been reduced by half, and we are now proposing a 13 turbine wind farm.

Residents can view exhibition materials on this website, or meet the team in Cannich, Glenurquhart or Glenmoriston. We look forward to meeting you.

Exhibition Sessions

Although Covid restrictions have eased, we appreciate that some prefer to access information online. We are presenting all information displayed at our exhibitions online as well, to enable access for all.

30 August: 4pm – 7pm
Cannich Village Hall, Cannich

31 August: 12pm – 6.30pm
Glenurquhart Public Hall, Drumnadrochit

1 September: 1.30pm – 4:30pm
Glenmoriston Millenium Hall, Invermoriston

Live Chats

Visit this website during the following times to chat to us online. The project team will be at their keyboards and provide an immediate response to any questions you may have. If you prefer to speak or email us, you can do so [here](#).

23 August: 4pm – 6pm

Contact us

Figure Q-1: Second Exhibition Webpage

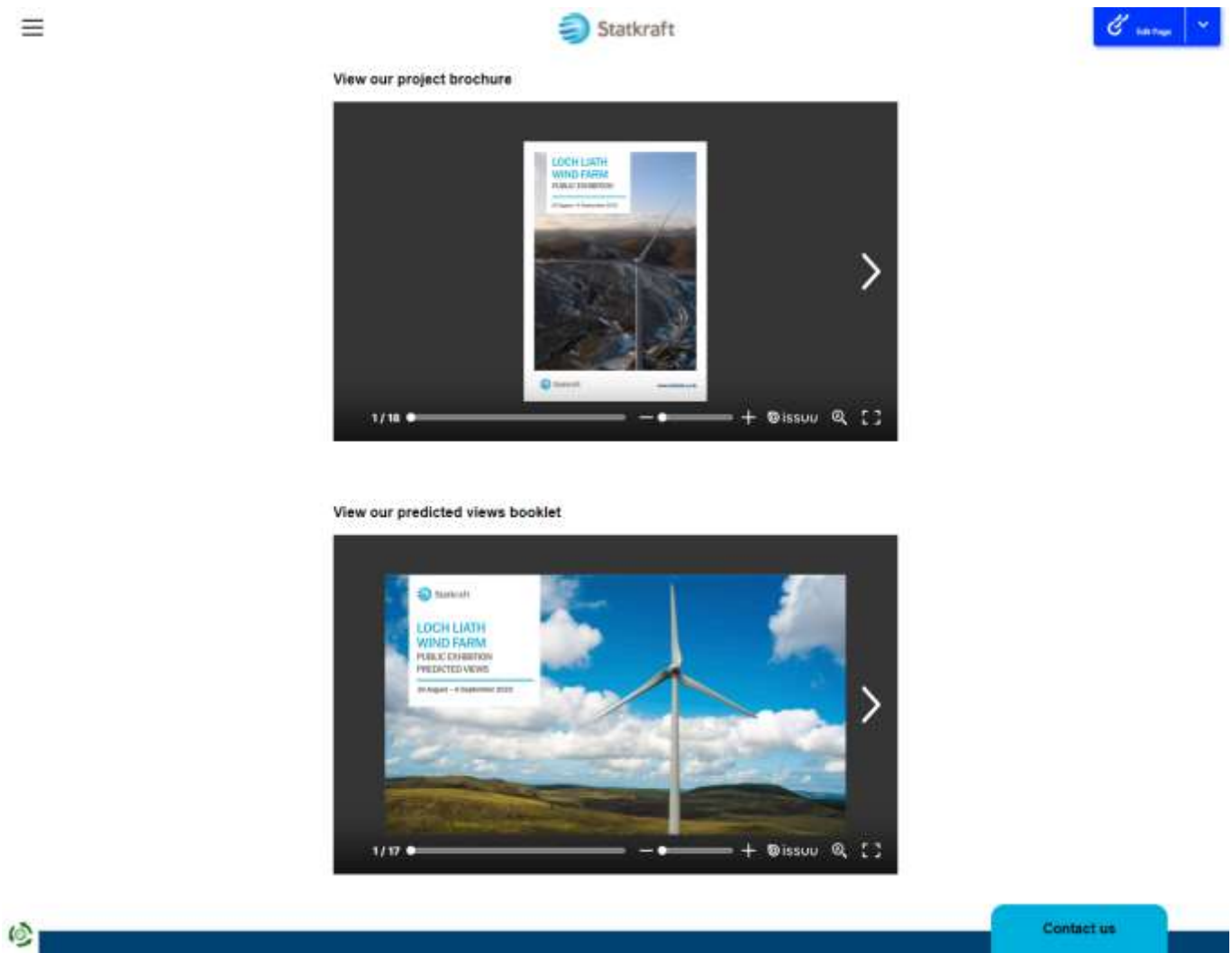


Figure Q-2: Second Exhibition Webpage (continued)

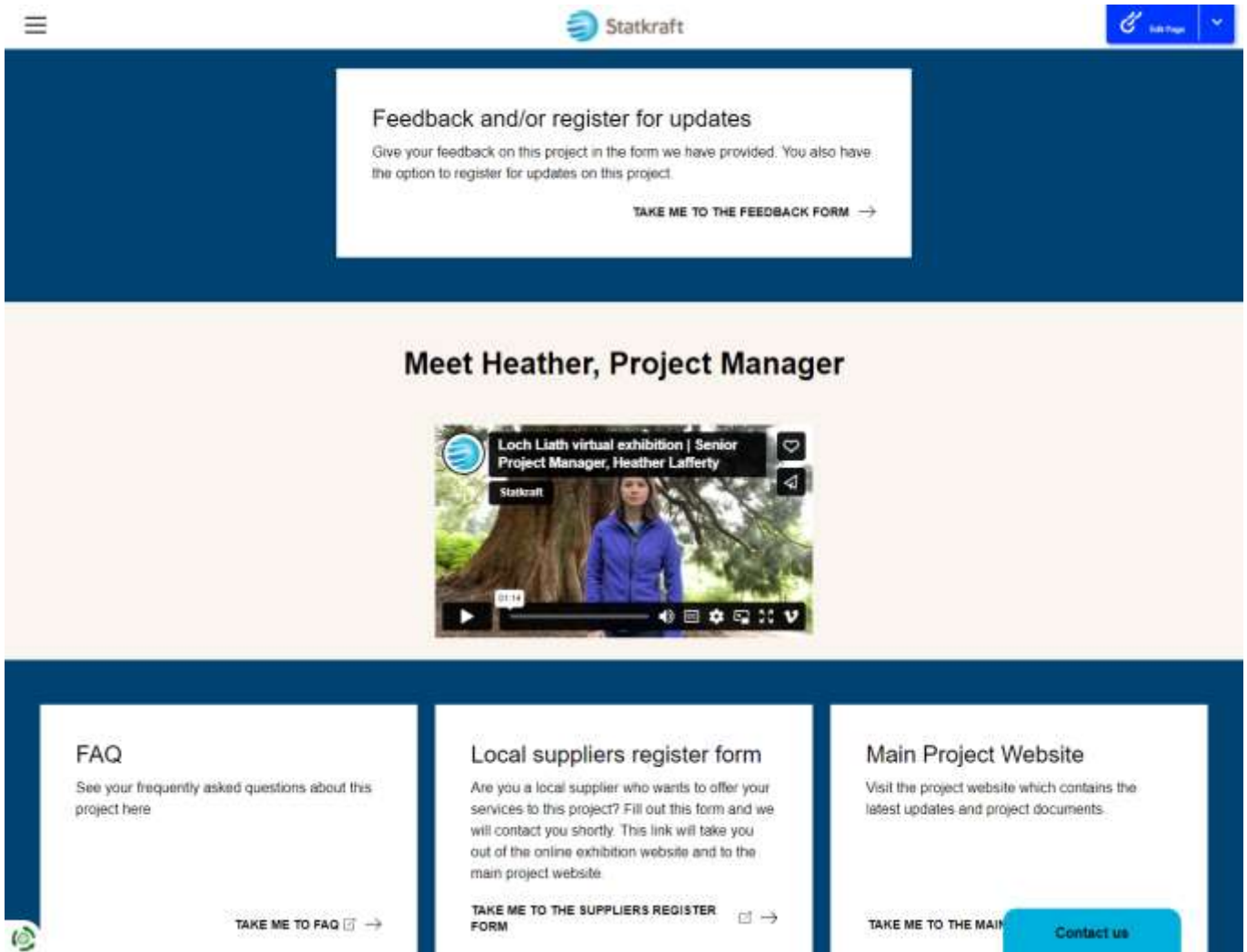
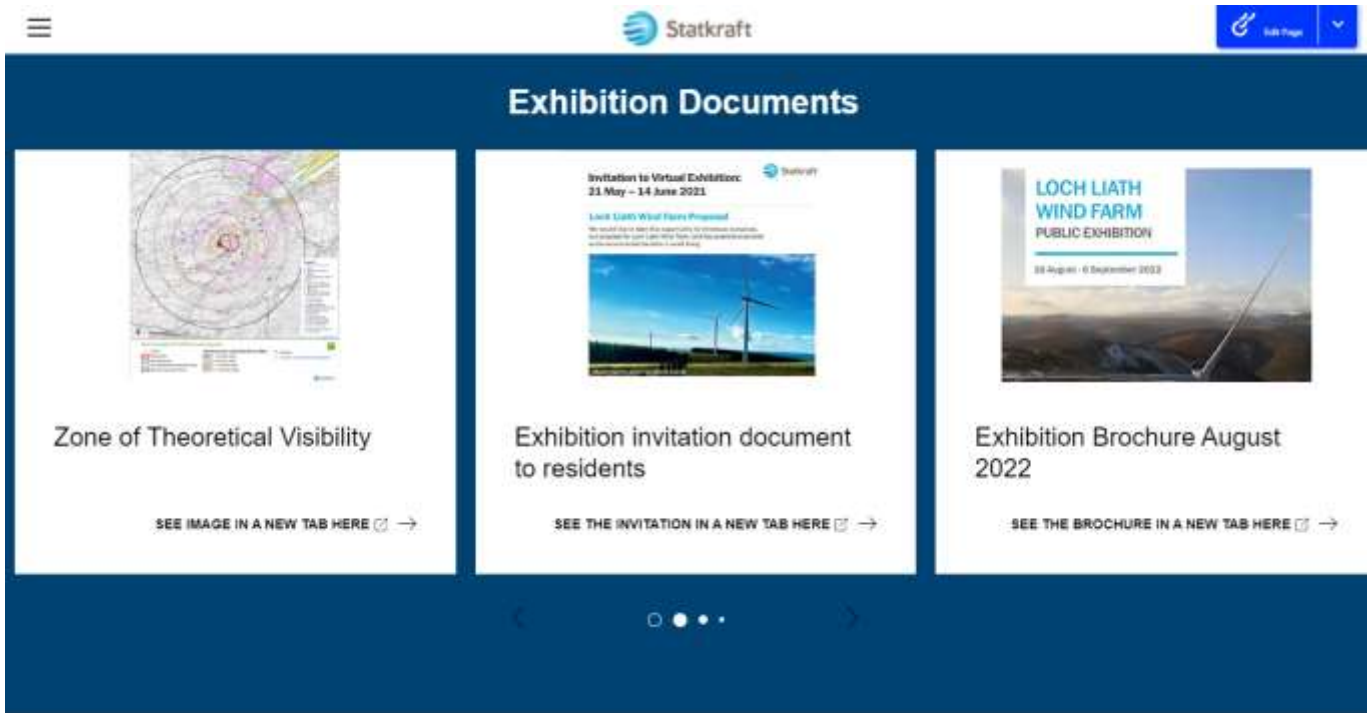


Figure Q-3: Second Exhibition Webpage (continued)



Member of



Figure Q-4: Second Exhibition Webpage (continued)



Figure Q-5: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 1)



Contents



Welcome	4
About Loch Liath Wind Farm	8
Project Timeline	12
Environmental Impact Assessment	14
Local Benefits & Investment	28
Broadband	30
Your Views are Important to Us	32

Figure Q-6: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 2-3)

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



Twinstyabbie Hill Wind Farm, Dumfries and Galloway, 140m to height

Figure Q-7: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 4-5)

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



Figure Q-8: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 6-7)

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**

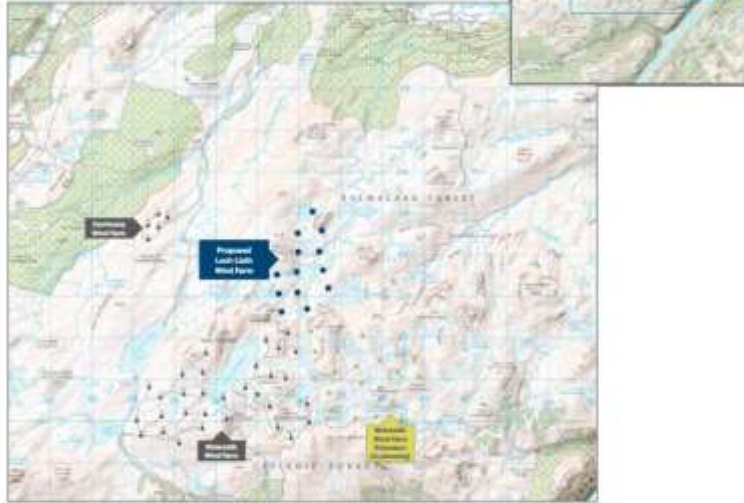


Figure Q-9: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 8-9)

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 Drumadrocht
- 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 <small>turbin generated per year¹</small>	£33,000 <small>per turbine per year²</small>

* Group 2 areas of significant potential. Recognising the need for significant potential, in these areas wind farms may be appropriate to deliver decarbonisation. Turbine developments will be limited to developments that are appropriate for the quality of resources and are technically viable for wind, design or other mitigation. Group 3 areas are suitable for wind farm development. Group 2 and 3 wind farms are likely to be also suitable for other renewable technologies subject to local planning and other requirements.

1. Based on a 6.6MW turbine, wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,525 kWh per (BSG 2021).
2. Based on a 6.6MW turbine and £5,000 per MW

Figure Q-10: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 10-11)

Project Timeline



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



12

13

Figure Q-11: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 12-13)

Environmental Impact Assessment



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

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.

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.

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 non-statutory bodies including, but not limited to:


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

14

15

Figure Q-12: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 14-15)

Environmental Impact Assessment



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.





Figure Q-13: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 16-17)

Environmental Impact Assessment




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.

Figure Q-14: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 18-19)

Environmental Impact Assessment



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.

20

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
Developing
Project



Finalist
Best Nature
Renewable
Energy Project

21

Figure Q-15: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 20-21)

Environmental Impact Assessment



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.



22

23

Figure Q-16: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 22-23)

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.

24

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.

25

Figure Q-17: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 24-25)

Environmental Impact Assessment



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.

26

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 principle, 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 net 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

27

Figure Q-18: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 26-27)

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. Northwest Watersports were granted £3,000 from Cairnness Business Fund (Ballie Wind Farm) that enabled them to buy essential equipment to help get their, now very popular, business started.



28

<p>Community Benefit Fund</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Community Ownership</p> <p>Progress the opportunity for local groups to have a financial interest in our project, with the support of organisations such as Local Energy Scotland.</p>
<p>Local Investment</p> <p>We will work with local business groups such as the Chamber of Commerce to increase awareness of the opportunities in construction and operations.</p>	<p>Education & Enterprise</p> <p>We welcome ideas on how our project can support local education and employment opportunities, and boost local businesses.</p>
<p>Wireless Broadband</p> <p>We invest in feasibility studies to identify potential for improved connection, and support communities developing their own broadband initiatives.</p>	

29

Figure Q-20: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 28-29)

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.



30

<p>FEASIBILITY</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>FIBRE & FIXED WIRELESS</p> <p>Fibre is the optimal connection, but fixed wireless broadband also offers opportunities to connect some locations that can be difficult or costly to reach.</p>
<p>A BENEFIT</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>NEXT STEPS</p> <p>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.</p>

31

Figure Q-21: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 30-31)

A

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.

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)**

Figure Q-22: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 32-33)



Figure Q-23: Second Exhibition Brochure (page 34)

Appendix R

Second Exhibition Mailing



We're innovative and community focused

Statkraft is dedicated to engaging with communities and bringing meaningful benefits.

We would like to speak with you about how our project can bring new investment to your community. We are open to your ideas.

Community Benefit Fund
We are committed to a Community Benefit Fund that delivers £5,000 per MW installed, per year, in accordance with Scottish Government guidance.

Shared Ownership
We are open to offering Shared Ownership on our projects, if there is local interest. We would like to hear your views on enabling the community to have a financial share in the project.

Improved Broadband
We commissioned a feasibility study into improving local broadband as part of the project and want to gauge interest for further development.

Local Supply Chain
We want to work with local businesses to deliver our projects. Visit our project website for information on how local businesses can register their interest.

Meet the Project Team:

Our Senior Project Manager together with a team of specialists will be able to answer questions and provide more information throughout the exhibition. Please visit our website to find out more.
www.lochliath.co.uk



 Please return the freepost reply card provided.	 www.lochliath.co.uk
 Phone the project hotline: 0800 772 0668	 UKProjects@statkraft.com

Statkraft UK Ltd
1 West Regent Street
Glasgow
G2 1RH
+44 (0)141 483 1986



Invitation to Public Exhibition: 30 August – 1 September 2022

Loch Liath Wind Farm Proposal

In 2021, we announced our interest in developing a wind farm 11km southwest of Drumnadrochit. Last summer, we exhibited the project at its early stages. Since then we have refined the design and now invite you to view our plans before they are submitted to the Scottish Government later this year.



Revised Loch Liath Wind Farm, Drumnadrochit and Gellie, 8 turbines, 140m to height

We will be hosting exhibition sessions in Invermoriston, Cannich and Drumnadrochit, as well as a virtual exhibition and online chats. We look forward to meeting you and hearing your feedback on our latest proposals.

About Us

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, with origins going back 125 years in Norwegian hydro power. Our Scottish head office is in Glasgow and we have 4,800 employees across 19 countries. We have more than 20 projects in operation or in development across the UK, including the Bailie Wind Farm in Caithness, Berry Burn Wind Farm in Moray and the Keith Greener Grid Park.

www.statkraft.co.uk

Figure R-1: Second Exhibition Invitation (Side 1)

Loch Liath Wind Farm Proposal



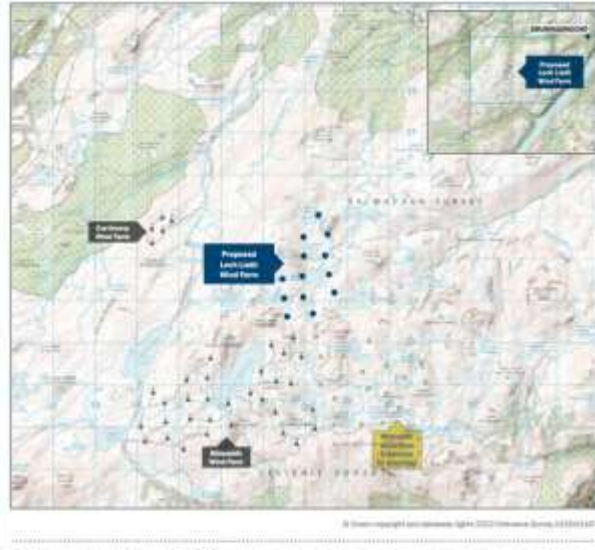
Project Summary:

- 13 TURBINES**
Reduced from 26 wind turbines
- £5,000**
Per MW installed per year for a Community Fund
As recommended by 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**

You can find out more about our projects and the way we work at www.statkraft.co.uk

Community engagement is very important to us.

Since our 2021 exhibition, we have listened to feedback and carried out further environmental surveys to shape the development. The number of turbines has reduced from 26 to 13, removing the most visually prominent turbines and protecting peatland habitats.




Visit our public exhibitions to speak to members of the project team, find out more and to see how the proposals may look from your local area. We look forward to meeting you.

For more information, visit:

www.lochliath.co.uk

- 3 local EXHIBITIONS**
- 30 August: 4pm – 7pm**
Cannich Village Hall, Cannich
- 31 August: 12pm – 6.30pm**
Glenquhart Public Hall, Drumadrochit
- 1 Sept: 1:30pm – 4:30pm**
Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston
- FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND:**
- 3 week ONLINE EXHIBITION**
- 16 August – 6 September**
- 2 online LIVE CHAT SESSIONS**
- 23 August: 4pm – 6pm**
- 6 September: 5pm – 7pm**

Figure R-2: Second Exhibition Invitation (Side 2)



**SECOND PUBLIC EXHIBITION
AUTUMN 2022**

LOCH LIATH WIND FARM

You can use this form to let us know your views or ask any questions, we will respond to all queries as quickly as possible.

PRIVACY STATEMENT
Our online privacy statement explains how, why and for how long Statkraft processes your personal data. Go to <https://uk.svk.com/SHUR02>

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.

Please tell us what you think – complete and return

Do you think that the country needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources?
YES NO UNSURE

Do you agree that onshore wind power is a good way to help achieve this?
YES NO UNSURE

Do you think that this site is an acceptable location for a wind farm?
YES NO 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

We are open to offering Shared Ownership on our projects. If this project went ahead, would this be of interest?
YES NO UNSURE

Yes please, I would like to receive project updates (mainly by email)

No thank you, I do not want project updates

Your questions and comments:

Yes, please respond to my comment and advise when the project is submitted

Title: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Tel: _____

Figure R-3: Second Exhibition Invitation (Reply Card)

Appendix S

Community Council Invite to Second Exhibition

From: Peter Kane [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 at 15:12
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Statkraft - Loch Liath Public Exhibitions

Dear [REDACTED],

Good afternoon, I hope this finds you well.

I'm pleased to say that we have finalised dates, times and venues for public exhibitions in the area where we will be able to provide an update on Statkraft's Loch Liath Wind Farm Project.

Although Covid restrictions have eased, we appreciate that some prefer to access information online so we have also set up a virtual exhibition which goes live today: <https://www.statkraft.co.uk/projects/Loch-Liath/virtual-exhibition-loch-liath-wind-farm/>

A key evolution of the project is that it has come down from 26 turbines to 13, but we have quite a bit of information to update you on.

Our dates, times and venues:

30 August: 4pm – 7pm
Cannich Village Hall, Cannich

31 August: 12pm – 6.30pm
Glenurquhart Public Hall, Drumnadrochit

1 September: 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Glenmoriston Millenium Hall, Invermoriston

Live Chats

There will also be live chat sessions online, where the project team will be available to answer questions:

23 August: 4pm – 6pm

6 September: 5pm – 7pm

The team are travelling up on the 29th August and if you would like a catch up and personal update, we'll be very glad to do that.

Figure S-1: Example of correspondence notifying Community Councils of the Second Exhibition (page 1)

If you need any further information, please just let me know.

Best regards,
Peter



Figure S-2 1: Example of correspondence notifying Community Councils of the Second Exhibition (page 2)

Appendix T

Elected Representative Invite to Second Exhibition

Loch Liath Public Exhibition Dates



Peter Kane [redacted]

Tuesday, 16 August 2022 at 14:36

To: [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Good afternoon. I'm pleased to say that we have finalised dates, times and venues for public exhibitions in the area where we will be able to provide an update on the Loch Liath Wind Farm Project.

Although Covid restrictions have eased, we appreciate that some prefer to access information online so we have also set up a virtual exhibition which goes live today: <https://www.starkraft.co.uk/projects/Loch-Liath/virtual-exhibition-loch-liath-wind-farm/>

A key evolution of the project is that it has come down from 26 turbines to 13, but we have quite a bit of information to update you on.

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Cannich Village Hall, Cannich

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1 September: 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Glenmoriston Millenium Hall, Invermoriston

Live Chats

There will also be live chat sessions online, where the project team will be available to answer questions:

23 August: 4pm – 6pm

6 September: 5pm – 7pm

The team are travelling up on the 25th August and we would very much like to meet up with you again and take you through our project update. Morning and evenings in particular are good options for a face to face catch up perhaps?

If you need any further information, please just let me know.

Best regards,
Peter

Figure T-1: Example of correspondence notifying elected representatives of the Second Exhibition

Appendix U

Newspaper Advertisements for Second Exhibition

LOCH LIATH WIND FARM Public Exhibition

We invite you to attend a public exhibition for our Loch Liath Wind Farm proposal, located approximately 11km southwest of Drumnadrochit.

We will be hosting exhibition sessions in the following locations:

- 30 August: 4pm – 7pm
Cannich Village Hall, Cannich
- 31 August: 12pm – 6.30pm
Glenurquhart Public Hall, Drumnadrochit
- 1 September: 1:30pm – 4:30pm
Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston

We are committed to listening to communities as we seek to shape our development.

Feedback should be provided by 13 September.

Our consultation website will be live from 16 August – 6 September 2022. Visit www.lochliath.co.uk for more information.

Comments should be made to Statkraft UK and do not constitute a formal representation. An opportunity to make formal representation will exist if a subsequent planning application is made.

Website: www.lochliath.co.uk

Project hotline: 0800 772 0668

Write to: Freepost Statkraft (no stamp required)



Figure U-1: Loch Liath Wind Farm advert proof



DOWNING TOOLS: Johanna Baxter of Unison dismissed the pay offer as 'derisory'.

Strikes will go ahead as pay offer rejected

LUCINDA CAMERON

Strike action by council workers across the north and north-east will go ahead after union members rejected a "derisory" pay offer, Unison has said.

A fresh offer was made by local authority body Cosla on Friday, after an initial 2% pay increase was rejected.

Its new proposal included an offer equivalent to a 3.5% increase.

At a meeting yesterday, Unison unanimously agreed to reject the revised offer outright and voted overwhelmingly to continue with their strike plans at councils.

Waste and recycling workers will walk out between August 26 and 29 as well as between September 7 and 10.

Members of GMB Scotland's local government committee have also rejected the offer and warned that strikes will be unavoidable unless a "significantly improved offer" is urgently tabled.

Johanna Baxter, head of local government at Unison Scotland, said: "This is another derisory pay offer.

"We are in a ridiculous position of both our employers and the Scottish Government agreeing this 3.5% pay offer is not nearly enough, but both are at loggerheads about who should pay for it.

"Meanwhile council workers - over half earn less than £25,000 per year - are worrying about paying the bills.

"We have written to Cosla to tell them the strike continues in waste and recycling and we will confirm dates for strike action in schools and early years in the coming days."

Unison said it has rejected the offer as it has not been sufficiently improved, falls far short of the Joint Trade Unions' claim (submitted in January) and also of the current rate of inflation, which continues to rise.

Unison members in Aberdeenshire, Clackmannanshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Stirling and South Lanarkshire have said they will walk out.

Authorities where GMB members have said they

will strike are Aberdeen, Angus, Dundee, East Ayrshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Glasgow, Inverclyde, Highland, Midlothian, Orkney, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, West Lothian, Perth and Kinross, and North Lanarkshire.

GMB Scotland senior organiser Keir Greenaway said: "Friday's offer has been totally rejected by our workplace reps in local government and no one at Cosla or the Scottish Government should be surprised."

Speaking after a virtual special meeting of council leaders on Friday, Cosla resources spokeswoman Katie Hagmann said she had been mandated to make an offer that raises the Scottish local government living wage to £10.50. She said: "Leaders continue to call on Scottish Government to provide funding and flexibilities to enable an offer beyond the monies provided to date. As such we will be seeking to make an improved offer via the appropriate negotiating mechanisms as soon as possible."

MSP invites minister to meet with mum of man 'trapped' in Carstairs

An Aberdeenshire MSP supporting the mother of a man "trapped" in Carstairs has written to the Scottish Government's mental wellbeing and social care minister regarding the case.

Kyle Gibbon, 34, from Kemnay, has been kept at Scotland's state psychiatric hospital, Carstairs, since 2009.

He had no criminal conviction when he was transferred to the South Lanarkshire facility.

His mother, Tracey Gibbon, has continuously campaigned for his release and has now spoken to the BBC as part of its latest Disclosure investigation.

Ahead of its airing last night, Ms Gibbon's local MSP, Alexander Burnett, has written a letter to minister Kevin Stewart encouraging him to take action.

The Conservative MSP has spoken for Mr Gibbon's mother at



Kyle Gibbon has been at Carstairs since 2009.

to be taken. He concludes his letter by inviting Aberdeen Central MSP Mr Stewart to meet with himself, Ms Gibbon, and the mothers of other young men featured in the investigation, for a round table chat to discuss what can be done to help now.

A Scottish Government spokesman said: "The Scottish Government and Cosla published the Coming Home Implementation Report earlier this year which sets out a clear aim to significantly reduce delayed discharge and inappropriate out-of-area placements for adults with learning disabilities and complex care needs by March 2024.

"We can only succeed through strong local and national partnerships that focus on joined-up planning across health and social care services, housing providers and local authorities."

LOCH LIATH WIND FARM Public Exhibition

We invite you to attend a public exhibition for our Loch Liath Wind Farm proposal, located approximately 11km southwest of Drumadrochit.

We will be hosting exhibition sessions in the following locations:

- 30 August: 4pm - 7pm
Cairloch Village Hall, Cairloch
- 31 August: 12pm - 6.30pm
Glenurquhart Public Hall, Drumadrochit
- 1 September: 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston

We are committed to listening to communities as we seek to shape our development.

Feedback should be provided by 13 September.

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Comments should be made to Statkraft UK and do not constitute a formal representation. An opportunity to make formal representation will exist if a subsequent planning application is made.

Website: www.lochliath.co.uk
Project hotline: 0800 772 0868
Write to: Freepost Statkraft (no stamp required)



Figure U-2: Loch Liath Wind Farm advert in the Press & Journal, 16 August 2022

Minister 'on a mission' as he visits isles

ANDREW STEWART

UK 'levelling up' chief Greg Clark has been visiting Orkney this week, ahead of the first-ever islands forum.

Orkney will serve as the host for the gathering, when it takes place in Kirkwall on September 27.

Mr Clark said he is on a mission to "get under the skin of islands issues and understand them" so he can serve as a better chairman when the forum takes place.

He spoke to the leaders

of Orkney Islands Council and heard about their plans for the future – for example, the ambitious Harbours Masterplan.

Mr Clark said this ambition is exactly what landed Orkney the hosting role for the forum.

He said: "Orkney, in my experience, is very energetic and ambitious. I've known this for years. When I was a junior minister, I was responsible for devolution in cities."

"I was negotiating what became the Glasgow City

Deal. The council in Orkney got to hear of it and came down to see me in my office in Whitehall and said: 'Orkney are all very well but Orkney has just the same potential as Glasgow. We've got technology, we've got tourism, we've got energy, and we think we should have a deal!'"

"So, I was the least surprised of anyone that Orkney had landed the hosting role for the first UK islands forum."

While in Orkney Mr Clark, who is Secretary of



ISSUES: UK Minister Greg Clark at Kirkwall Harbour during this week's visit to Orkney.

State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, also plans to view installations at the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) and hear more about the county's port ambitions.

Speaking about the islands forum, Mr Clark said: "The purpose of the exercise is to reflect on the fact that island

communities face particular challenges and opportunities.

"Sometimes there isn't enough of a focus on the needs of islands. Having the summit will help have a more focused understanding."

"But, it's not sufficient to just understand, there then needs to be action taken."

"When we talk about the

cost of living, energy prices are a big driver of that."

"For many island communities, including Orkney, it's a particular pressure. There does need to be recognition of that."

"One of the things that has come out of our discussions today is that it would be desirable to have Ofgem represented for discussions at the forum."

FÈISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
Dùisich nan Gàidheal | Celebrating Highland Culture

Blas Festival 2022

September 2 - 10 Sultain

Ceòl BEÒ air feadh na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean
LIVE traditional music across the Highlands & Islands
40+ events and an online programme
Coimisean ùr - Summer Walkers - by Chloë Bryce

Allan Henderson | Allan MacDonald | Angus MacKenzie
AVANC | Brian McAlpine | Bruce MacGregor | Catriona Macdonald
Charlie McKerron | Chloë Bryce | Darren Maclean
Dr Angus MacDonald | Duncan MacGillivray
Duncan & Rona MacLeod | Emma MacLeod | Ewen Henderson
Ewan Robertson | Falasgair | Fèisean Cèilidh Trails
Finlay Wells | FRAS | Gary Innes | Giltebride MacMillan | Hecla
Hugh Dan MacLennan | Iain MacFarlane & Ingrid Henderson
James Duncan Mackenzie | James Graham | Jo MacDonald
Julie Fowles | Julie Matthews | Kim Carnie | Làirig
Maighread & Triona Nì Dhomhnaill | Màiri Callan | Mànrán
Margaret Bennett | Margaret Ford | Margaret Stewart
Mary Ann Kennedy | Mary Smith | Màrtainn Skane
Megan Henderson | Monach Isles Cèilidh Band | Nick Turner
Norrie MacIver | Pàdrùig Morrison | Paul McKenna Band
Rachel Walker | Roman Martin | Rory Matheson | Ross Martin
Ruairidh Cormack | Sian | Sìleas Sinclair | Staran

Fiosrachadh - www.blas.scot - for details of events

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LOCH LIATH WIND FARM Public Exhibition

We invite you to attend a public exhibition for our Loch Liath Wind Farm proposal, located approximately 11km southwest of Drumnadrochit.

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Canrich Village Hall, Canrich
- 31 August: 12pm – 6.30pm
Glenquhan Public Hall, Drumnadrochit
- 1 September: 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Glenmoriston

We are committed to listening to communities as we seek to shape our development. Feedback should be provided by 13 September.

Our consultation website will be live from 16 August – 8 September 2022. Visit www.lochliath.co.uk for more information. Comments should be made to Statkraft UK and do not constitute a formal representation. An opportunity to make formal representation will exist if a subsequent planning application is made.

Website: www.lochliath.co.uk
Project hotline: 0800 772 0068
Write to: Freepost Statkraft (no stamp required)

Statkraft
PURE ENERGY

Figure U-2: Loch Liath Wind Farm advert in the Press & Journal, 20 August 2022

Appendix V

Physical Exhibition Materials



Welcome

Our team are here to discuss our plans, listen to your views and outline the next steps of the Proposed Development.



About Statkraft

- The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- A state owned utility with origins in Norwegian hydropower over 125 years ago
- Operating in the UK since 2006
- Scottish Head Office in Glasgow
- Development pipeline includes wind, solar and grid stability services
- Distributed over £2 million to communities near operating wind farms





Figure V-1: Public Exhibition Display Board 1



About Loch Liath Wind Farm: The Story So Far

Our updated proposal is for 13 turbines, reduced from the plan for 26 presented at our last exhibition. We expect to submit an application in late 2022.



	No. of Turbines	Max Blade Tip Heights	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Generation	Community Fund (per year)
Loch Liath	13	200m	85.8	78,000 <small>kWhs generated per year</small>	£429,000 <small>per year</small>

Following detailed consultation and extensive surveys, we have reduced the number of turbines and relocated infrastructure to minimise environmental impacts.

We welcome your views on our updated plans.

Project website: www.lochliath.co.uk

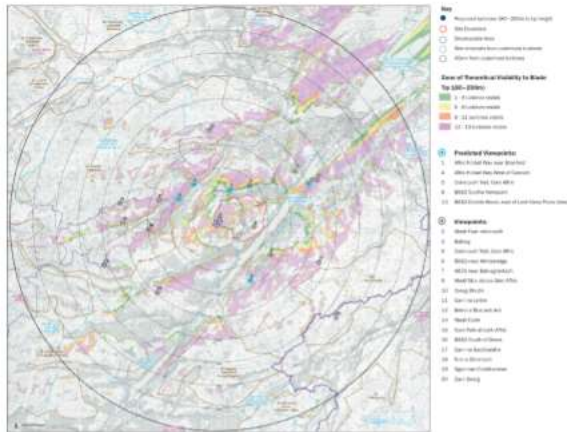
Figure V-2: Public Exhibition Display Board 2



What will Loch Liath Wind Farm look like?

We understand you want to know how our proposal will look.

Today we can show you how the wind farm will look from specific locations using specialist computer software. Talk to a member of our team to find out more.



The map illustrates the theoretical visibility of the wind farm, based on what is referred to as a "bare earth" model. It does not account for screening effects provided by woodland, vegetation and buildings, which reduce the extent of visibility.

Figure V-3: Public Exhibition Display Board 3



Environmental Impact Assessment

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 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



Figure V-4: Public Exhibition Display Board 4



Peatlands

Understanding the peatland habitats and quality on site has been a key consideration in the design of Loch Liath Wind Farm.

Detailed peat surveys were undertaken at an early stage of this project to understand peat depths and quality across the site. The surveys found that the peat varied greatly, ranging from depths less than 50cm, to localised areas with depths greater than 5m.

The scheme has been designed to reduce infrastructure on areas of deep peat, and to avoid the sensitive habitats which it supports.



Damaged peatland can be restored through our Habitat Management Plan, promoting a healthier environment for plants and animals

Peat is a valuable resource for our planet. It acts as a carbon store, supports valuable habitats and provides a water management system. Our project will propose the implementation of a Habitat Management Plan which will aim to improve the quality of peatland habitats on site, including reducing areas of exposed peat which release carbon if left untreated and will likely degrade further overtime.

Our Habitat Management Plan is at an early stage of design and we would be happy to discuss it with you.

Figure V-5: Public Exhibition Display Board 5



Local Economic Assessment

We want to find out more about the local economy and how we can support it throughout the lifetime of the wind farm. We have commissioned additional research to inform our assessment of the development and identify opportunities.


This includes consulting tourism ambassadors, a local hill guide and "access for all" experts, as well as local organisations. Extensive analysis of any economic impacts, positive and negative, has been carried out and includes:

- Likely investment for local suppliers throughout construction and operation of the wind farm
- Local business views towards wind farms
- Tourism attitudes and opportunities
- Analysis of population and demographics of the area
- Improved access for recreational walkers and cyclists



This information will be published as part of our planning application.


Figure V-6: Public Exhibition Display Board 6



Community Benefits

We would like our wind farms to be considered a local asset. We look forward to engaging with the communities to find out different ways we can bring positive benefits to the local area.

Some examples of projects that have received funding through Community Benefit Funds



New business grants - North Coast Waterworks **New and upgraded playgrounds** **Funding for School Uniform Banks** **Maintaining and upgrading Recreational Paths**

<h3>Community Benefit Fund</h3> <p>We are committed to setting up a Community Benefit Fund that delivers £5,000 per MW installed per year in line with Scottish Government recommendations.</p>	<h3>Shared Ownership</h3> <p>We are open to offering shared ownership on our projects, if there is local interest. We are keen to hear your views on enabling the community to have a financial share in the project.</p>
<h3>Local Supply Chain</h3> <p>Visit our project website to find out how your local business can register to find out more about the opportunities to provide supplies and services to help deliver our projects.</p>	<h3>Improved Broadband</h3> <p>We require a reliable broadband service to operate our wind turbines and can explore the potential for improving the local infrastructure as the wind farm is connected. You may wish to explore this further, partially funding works through the Community Benefit Fund.</p>

Figure V-7: Public Exhibition Display Board 7



Thank you for visiting

Your comments and feedback
are important to us.



We are continuing work on our comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to be submitted with our application. You can find out more about what is included within the EIAR on our project website.

When the proposal is submitted interested parties and statutory consultees will have the opportunity to formally comment on the application. All of the information will be available to view on the consenting authority's and our project website at the time of submission.

	Please return the freepost reply card provided.		Visit the project website.
	UKProjects@statkraft.com		Phone the project hotline: 0800 772 0668

Figure V-8: Public Exhibition Display Board 8



Figure V-9: Display Board and other materials in-situ at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, 1 September 2022



Figure V-10: Display Board and other materials in-situ at Glenurquhart Public Hall, 31 August 2022

Appendix W

Response to Second Exhibition Reply Card



Figure W-1: Example response to Second Exhibition Reply Card



Loch Liath Wind Farm

Throughout our consultation in August and September 2022, several key issues were raised by residents and organisations. Below is our response to these. (December 2022)

I don't like the appearance of the wind turbines/This is not a suitable location for them
Scottish Government planning guidance indicates that the proposed site of Loch Liath Wind Farm may be acceptable for development of wind farms, if suitable measures are taken to protect the natural environment.

As part of our work towards a planning submission and as a result of previous feedback, we have reduced the number of turbines and moved some of them to reduce environmental and visual impact in the local area. We continue to develop the project with the aim to find the right balance between maximising the electricity output and carefully siting and designing the proposal to relate to the existing landscape, including other wind developments.

Less than 10% of land in Scotland is suitable for onshore wind farms. Our Head of Development, Richard Mardon, gave a webinar in June 2021 on [how Statkraft finds suitable sites for new windfarms](#). In it, he discusses the factors that we consider before every development, including proximity to housing, monuments and historic sites, wild land, and areas of ecological or scientific significance.

Why has the scheme been reduced? Why not include more turbines?
Our technical studies over the last year and feedback from the community have helped us to arrive at our proposal for a 13-turbine layout, which we believe gives a balance between maximising the electricity generated and minimising impacts.

While reasons for removal of individual turbines vary, they include reducing visual impact from key locations, and avoiding areas that are home to deep peat, sensitive for bird species and which might impact on nearby lochs and burns.

Why not invest in hydroelectric power, off-shore wind or tidal energy instead of on-shore wind?
We need a mix of all types of renewable energy generation. New-build onshore wind is presently the most cost-effective way to generate new electricity, out of all forms of electricity.

Will this development help reduce energy bills?
The current energy price rises in the UK are closely linked to the price of natural gas. By increasing the amount of renewable energy that the UK can generate and by strengthening the energy network with developments like our [Greener Grid Parks](#), we are reducing the reliance on electricity generated from gas which should reduce prices over time. You can see the impact renewable energy is having on reducing our reliance on imported and expensive fossil fuels [here](#).

What is the benefit to the local community?
There are several ways our projects can bring local benefits, and we are always open to discussing how this can be tailored to the local area.

The construction phase provides a significant opportunity for local businesses to get involved and Statkraft have a track record of working with local organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce to maximise local investment during this time. Over £1.6m was retained in the local economy during construction of our Greener Grid Park at Keith, sourced through promotion of our Local Supplier Register. On a wider level, a recent [University of Strathclyde report](#) demonstrates the breadth of economic benefits being delivered from onshore wind and the wider renewable energy industry. Scotland's renewable energy industry supported more than 27,000 full time jobs, and £5.6bn of output, with onshore wind supporting the most employment.

The operation of a wind farm brings significant local investment. Statkraft commit to delivering a community benefit fund with all new wind farms at £5,000 per MW installed per year, as per Scottish Government guidance. The exact amount will depend on the number and type of turbines installed, but as a guide, is currently estimated at £429,000 per year over the operating period of the wind farm.

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

Figure W-2: FAQ included in response to Second Exhibition Reply Card

Appendix X

Second Exhibition Summary



Figure X-1: Second Exhibition Summary Report (Cover)

Statkraft in the UK

Facts and Figures

- 3 Operational windfarms
- 89GWh generated annually at Rhedai Hydro Power Plant
- 11 Greener Grid Parks in operation or development
- 2000+MW Generated from projects installed and in construction
- 2500MW of wind and solar power in development
- £1.5 million delivered in community benefit
- 280 employees across the UK
- 12.5TWh annual generation managed through Power Purchase Agreements

- Operational
- Operational under development
- Construction
- Approved
- Wind
- Solar
- Hydro
- Solar



Figure X-2: Second Exhibition Summary Report (page 1)

About Loch Liath Wind Farm

- Scoping submitted in late 2020
- 13 Turbines
 - Maximum tip height of 200m
 - Delivering up to 86MW installed capacity
 - Sufficient to power 78,000 homes every year
- £429,000 per year in Community Benefit (Index linked to inflation)
- More than 11km from Drumnadrochit
- Located in an area of good wind speeds and within Group 2 and 3 areas for onshore wind development



Figure X-3: Second Exhibition Summary Report (page 2)

Project Evolution



Since our first exhibition, we:

- Worked closely with stakeholders to develop a balanced design for Loch Liath
- Reduced the proposal to 13 turbines (from 26)
- Worked hard to minimise impacts on peat, ecology and local waterways
- Designed our final layout to complement neighbouring schemes
- Hope to share critical infrastructure paths where possible, reducing environmental impacts including habitat loss



Figure X-4: Second Exhibition Summary Report (page 3)

Showing how the project has changed

- Covid created a difficult environment for consultation and our first exhibition. We wanted to make sure the community could engage fully with our final designs and provide feedback and suggestions.
- **To ensure we consulted as widely as possible:**
 - Invitations were sent to elected officials, community councils and other local stakeholders
 - Adverts printed in the Press & Journal
 - Invitation leaflets and surveys were sent to more than 2000 homes and businesses in the local area
 - A virtual exhibition made project documents available for download, with two live chat sessions
 - In-person exhibitions were held in Cannich, Drumnadrochit and Glenmoriston
 - Feedback could also be left online or via an 0800 phone number



Figure X-5: Second Exhibition Summary Report (page 4)

Exhibition Engagement

- 41 people attended the in-person exhibitions across three days
- **Key topics discussed included:**
 - Visual impact
 - Wildlife and biodiversity
 - Energy costs, the National Grid and the range of renewable power sources
 - Impact on tourism
 - Use and allocation of the Community Benefit Fund
 - How Statkraft with work with local businesses
 - What the next stages would likely be



Figure X-6: Second Exhibition Summary Report (page 5)

Exhibition Feedback

- Engagement sessions could have been later in the day
 - Sessions were proposed to cover all times of day, and to accommodate all working schedules, where possible
 - Times at some locations were limited by long standing bookings
 - Online chat sessions were provided as an alternative
 - We will ensure that more or longer opportunities are provided in the future
- The spread of exhibitions across nearby communities was welcomed by many
- People were positive about the return to face to face exhibitions



Figure X-9: Second Exhibition Summary Report (page 8)

Overall Feedback

- Broad support for the principle of renewable energy (including hydroelectric, solar and wind)
- Positive reception for reduction in turbines and consideration of environmental elements
- Recognition that the energy sector and Government need to do more to ensure heating and power is affordable
 - Statkraft will continue to engage with communities and energy industry bodies on this issue
- More detail requested on environmental impact and habitat management
 - This will be published as part of our final application



Figure X-10: Second Exhibition Summary Report (page 9)

Next Steps

We will:

- Share our Broadband Feasibility Study and potentially commission an update
- Continue working to complete our final planning submission
- Lodge our planning application with the Scottish Government in late 2022/early 2023
- Begin planning for distribution and allocation of the community benefit fund if the project is consented



Figure X-11: Second Exhibition Summary Report (page 10)

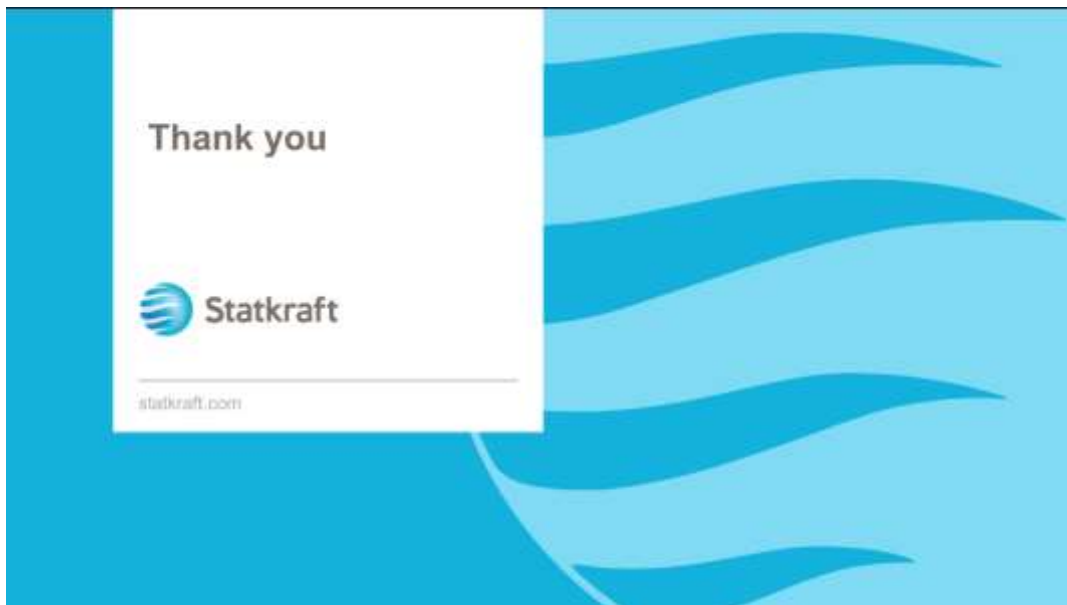


Figure X-12: Second Exhibition Summary Report (page 11)