

Loch Liath Wind Farm Update

MAY 2021

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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.

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).

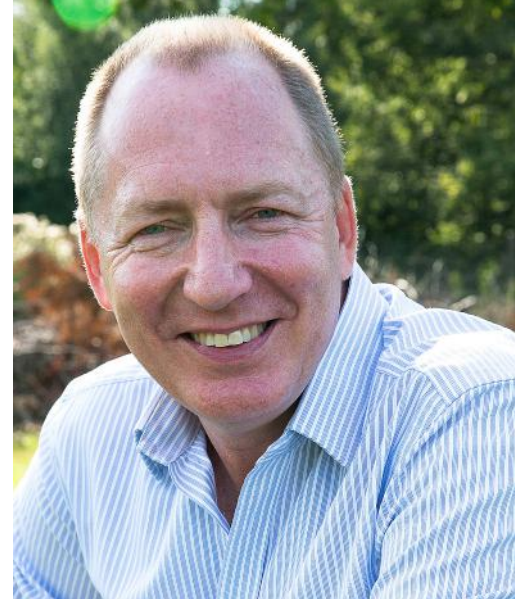
Richard said: "Statkraft has been making clean energy possible for over a century, long before climate change was a climate crisis. The company invests 100 per cent of its growth entirely in renewables. We exist to lead the shift to renewable energy. We've been doing it from the start, and we're leading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



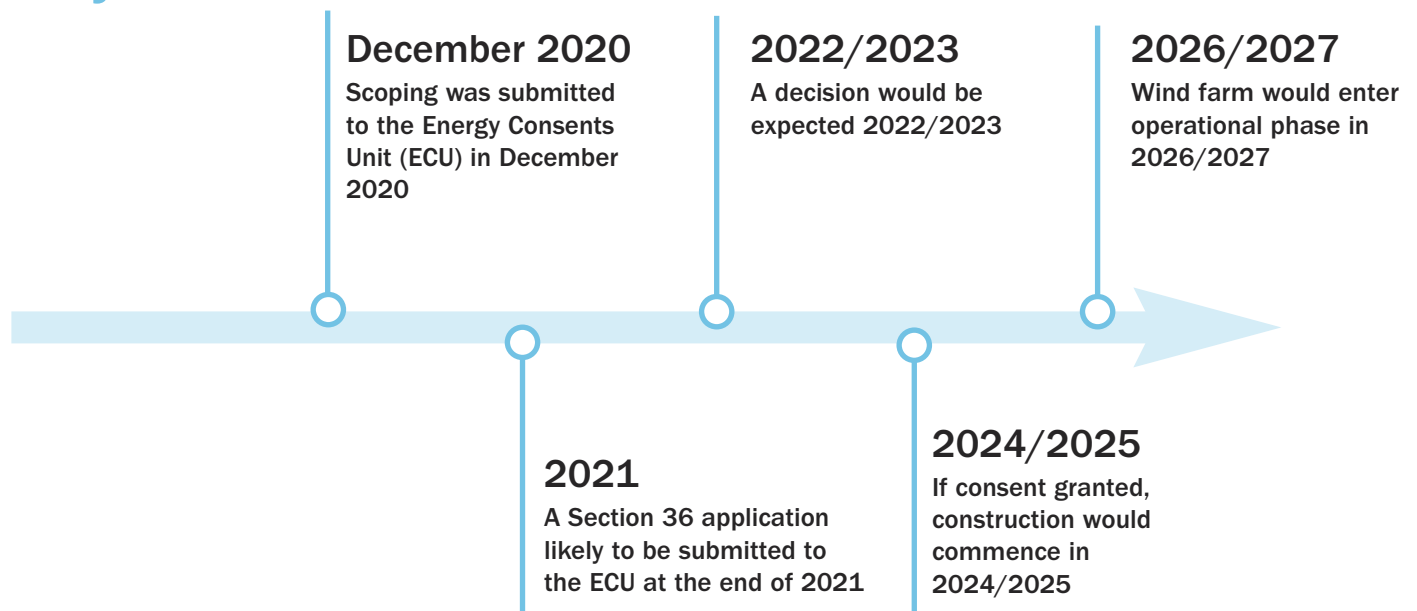
[Click here to listen to The Scotsman's Sustainable Scotland Podcast.](#)

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



Richard Mardon, Statkraft UK

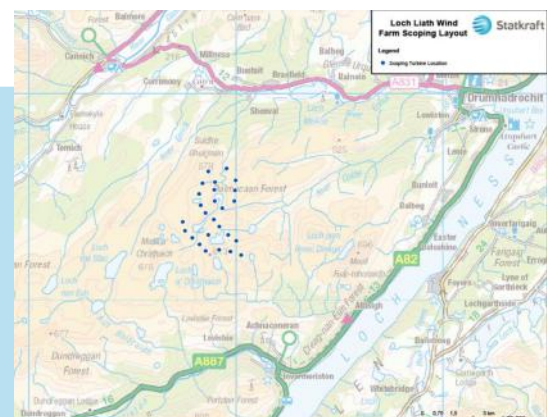
Project Timeline



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 Bhlairidh Wind Farm



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 Liath 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 Liath project. If you have a local business we'd like to hear from you, so please register at: www.lochliath.co.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 commit to funding feasibility studies to explore the opportunity for our projects to bring enhanced broadband 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

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



Positive economic impact – Statkraft community benefit fund case study



Maggie Bell and Jackie Nicol of Moray Firth Credit Union, showing the love. Inset: Cllr Lorna Cresswell, Chair of the MFCU.

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."

Mícheál 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

Positive economic impact – Statkraft community benefit fund case study



Dulaig Park Renovation Project – Granttown-on-Spey

Young people, the elderly and families are set to benefit from a renovation project for Granttown-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.

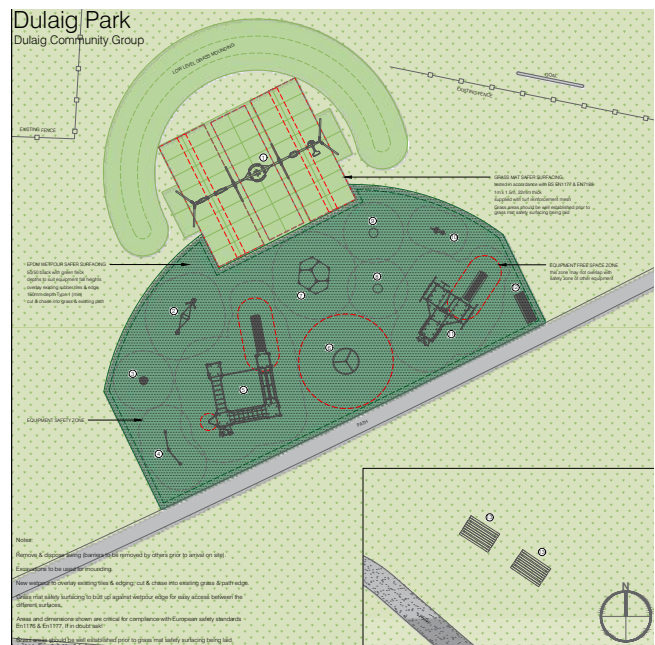
The award provides the support the project requires in order to implement all of its plans.

Ingrid Artus, a director with the Granttown 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 Granttown-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 Granttown 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.”

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