

Welcome

About this exhibition

Thank you for taking the time to visit our exhibition today about the recently submitted Scoping Report for the proposed Variations to the consented Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm. The purpose of this exhibition is to share our proposed amendments and rough timelines with local communities and interested parties to inform and ultimately gather feedback, ahead of the submission of a Section 36C Variation application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) later this year.

We want our exhibitions to be an opportunity for you to meet the team, raise questions or concerns and to share any comments that you might have.

Here at SSE Renewables, we want to continue working in collaboration with the communities around our projects and take all feedback and comments into account. This is important to us at all stages of development.

Please take as much time as you like to view the information boards on display and chat with the project team who are on hand to assist with any questions you may have.





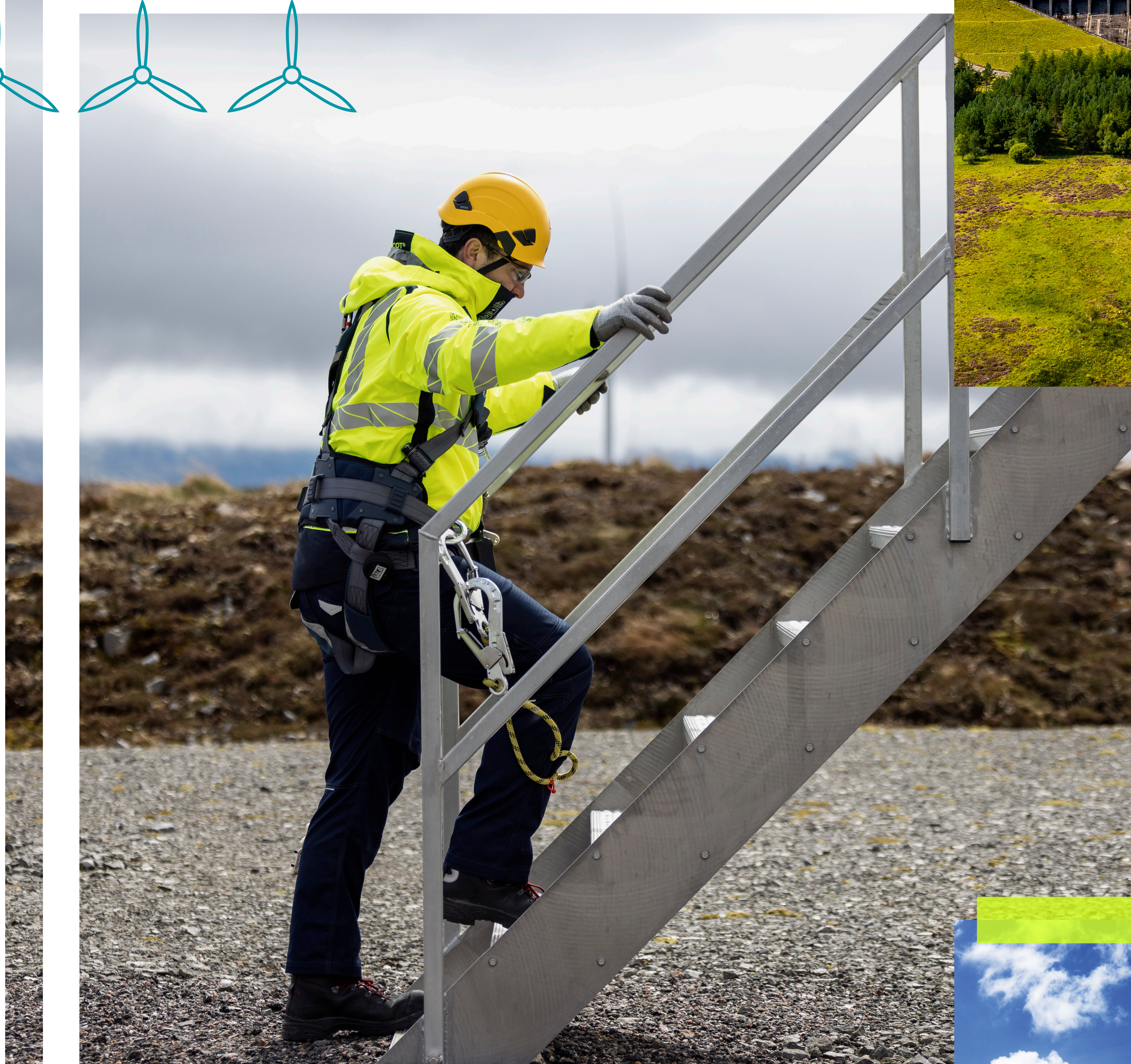
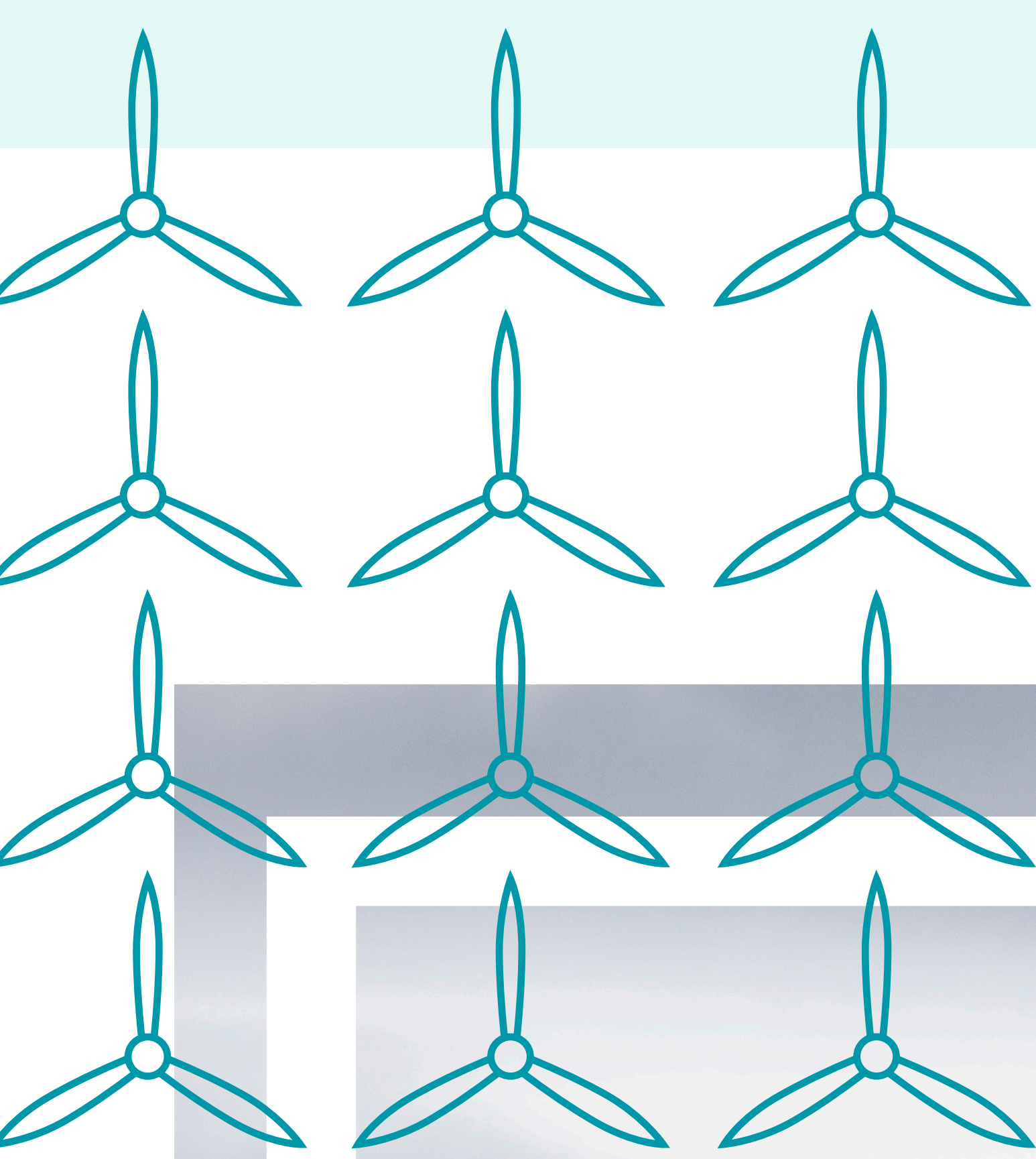
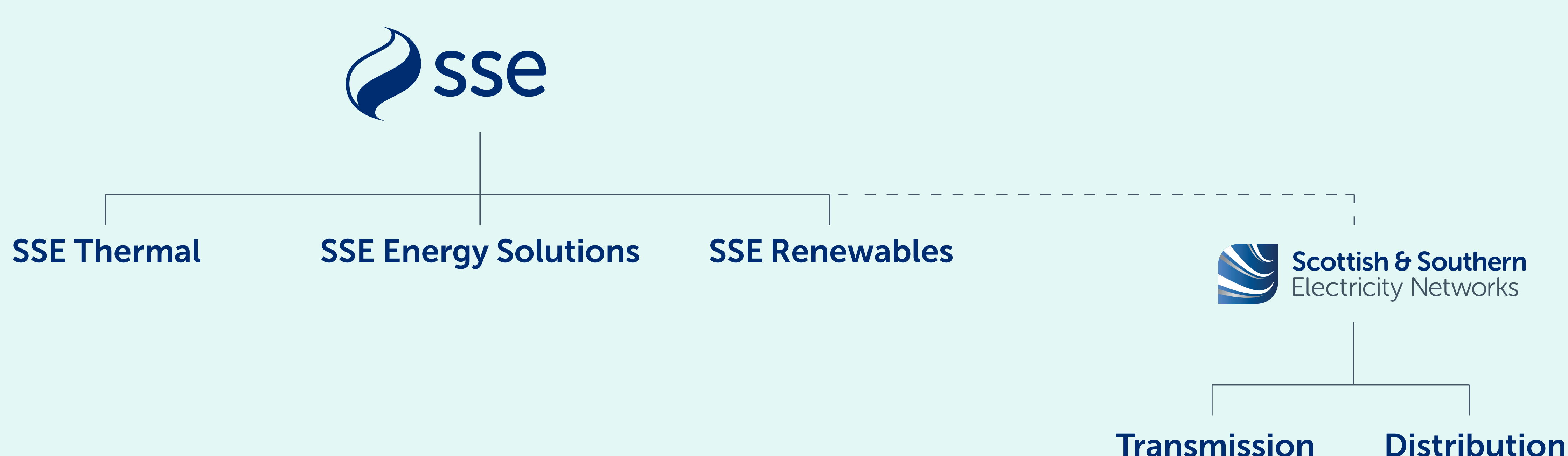
About SSE Renewables

SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy generation, focusing on onshore and offshore wind, hydro, solar and battery storage.

Part of energy infrastructure company SSE plc, UK-listed in the FTSE100, it is delivering clean power assets to increase SSE's operational renewable generation capacity as part of a five-year clean energy plan to 2027, the ~£17.5bn Net Zero Acceleration Programme (NZAP) Plus. This includes delivery of the world's largest offshore wind farm in construction, the 3.6GW Dogger Bank Wind Farm.

SSE Renewables has a team of around 2,000 renewable energy professionals with a passion for championing clean energy delivery, each based across the markets in which it operates.

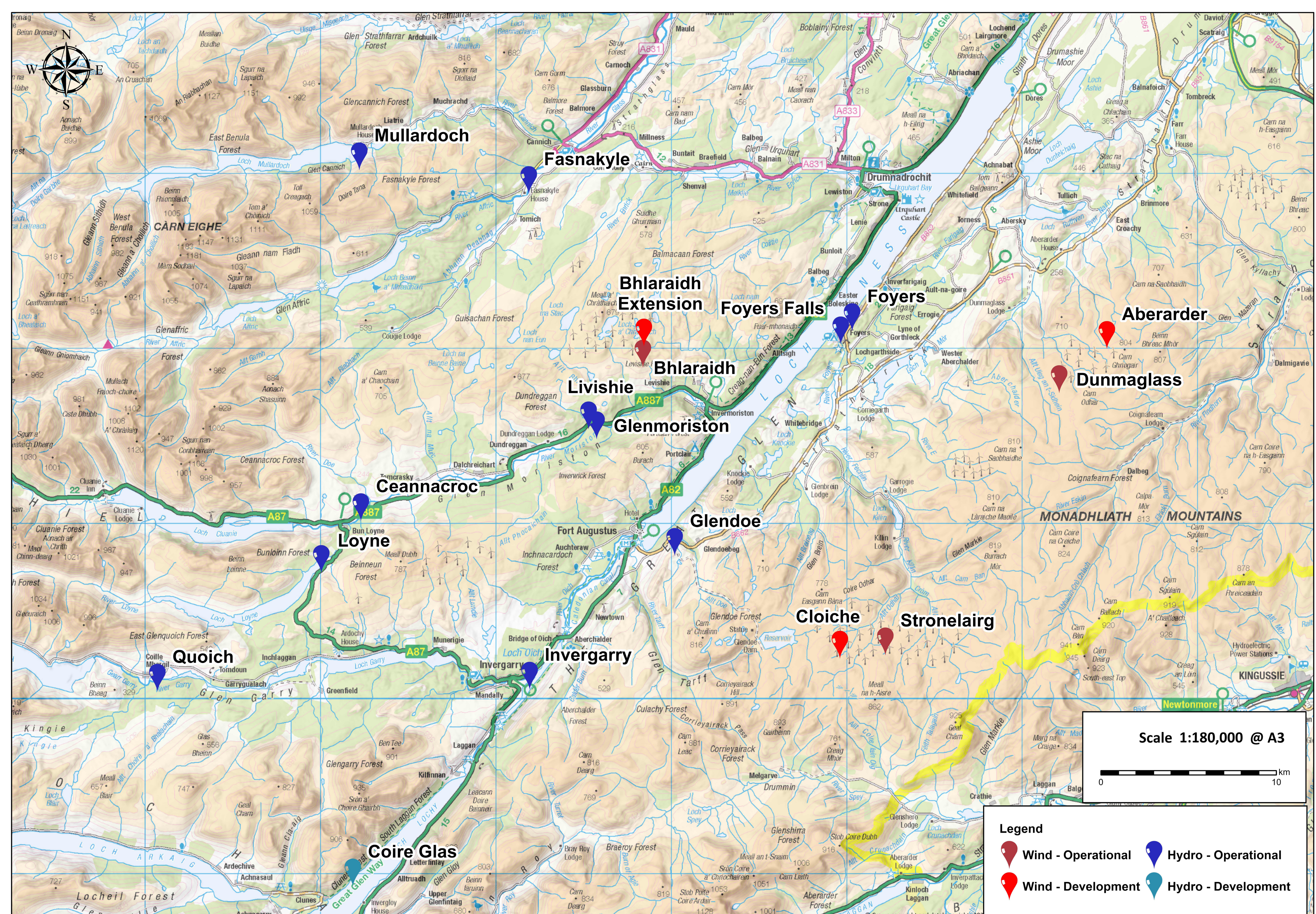
It operates across its core UK and Ireland markets, as well as in carefully selected international markets in Continental Europe and Japan.



SSE Renewables investment in the Great Glen

SSE Renewables has a long term commitment to investment in the Great Glen through both onshore wind and hydro. £3,872,550.09 of community benefit funding has also been delivered in the area to date through the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm.

The map below shows our current assets and projects which are in development:



Bhlaraidh Wind Farm

Bhlaraidh wind farm began operating in August 2017. The development has 32 turbines with an installed capacity of up to 108MW.

During its construction, Bhlaraidh offered significant job opportunities to local firms and had a considerable positive impact on the Highland economy.

Research by BIGGAR Economics calculated that the total capital and operating expenditure of the Bhlaraidh wind farm would be worth £360m, of which they expected £121m to directly benefit the Great Glen.



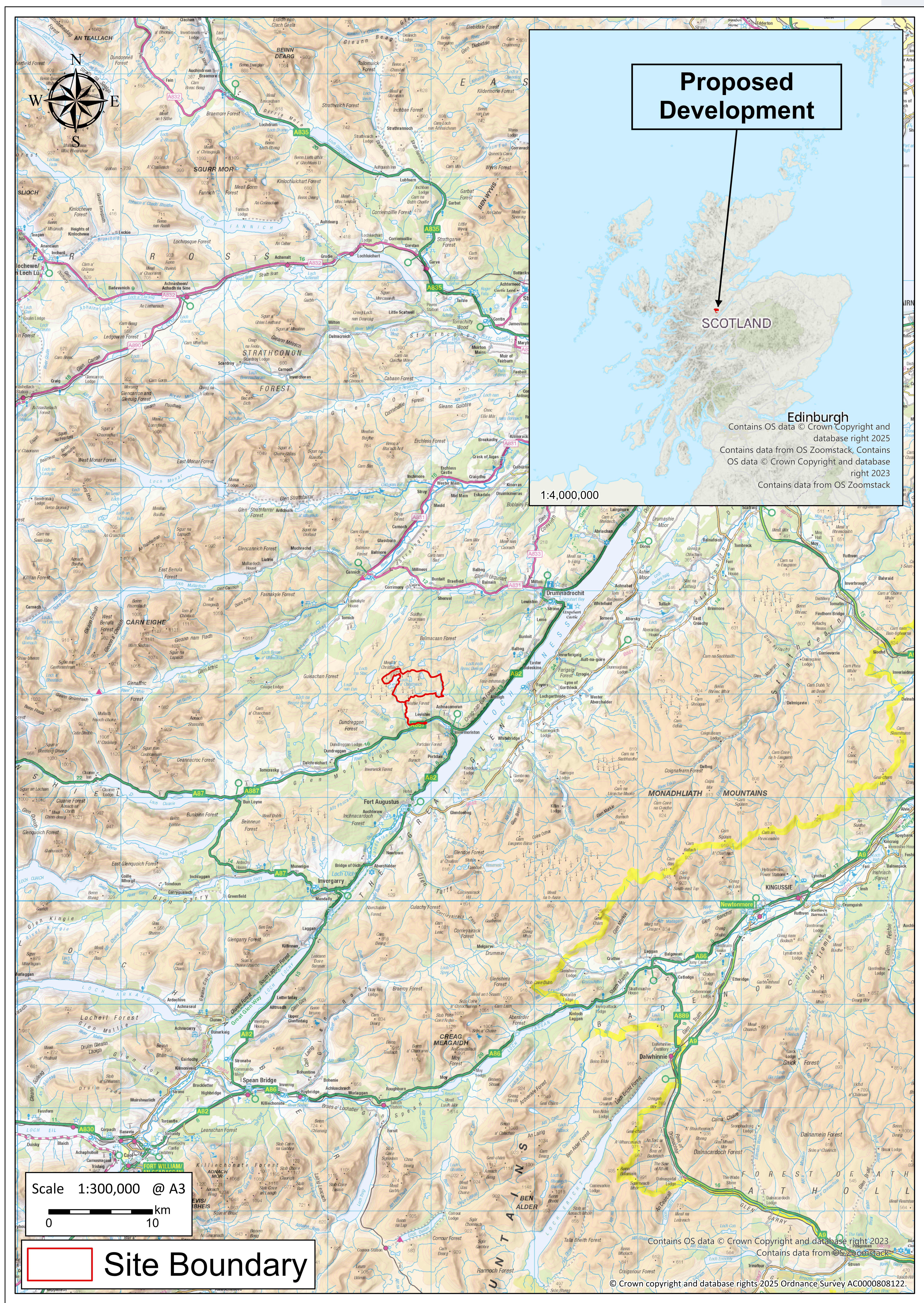


Bhlaraidh Extension Update

SSE Renewable's Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm is proposed on land located at the Glenmoriston Estate, north-west of Invermoriston in the Great Glen. The 15 turbine, 84MW project was consented by Scottish Ministers in August 2022 following extensive consultation with the local community and wider stakeholders.

Since the project's consent our project team has been working to progress the project towards construction, however due to a range of economic challenges it will not be possible to progress the project in its current consented form.

In January 2025, following a robust governance process, we took the decision to delay Final Investment Decision for Bhlaraidh Extension as we went through a period of project reassessment, which included the termination of Bhlaraidh Extension's AR5 CfD contract with the Low Carbon Contracts Company in March 2025.



Consulting on project re-design plans for Bhlaraidh Extension

After a detailed project feasibility study over the past few months, our project team is ready to progress a project re-design for Bhlaraidh Extension. A scoping report was submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit in May with plans to submit a Section 36C application to vary the Bhlaraidh Extension consent later this year.

Today's consultation event will provide an opportunity to find out more about SSE Renewable's proposed re-design for Bhlaraidh Extension and share feedback on our amended plans for the consented project.

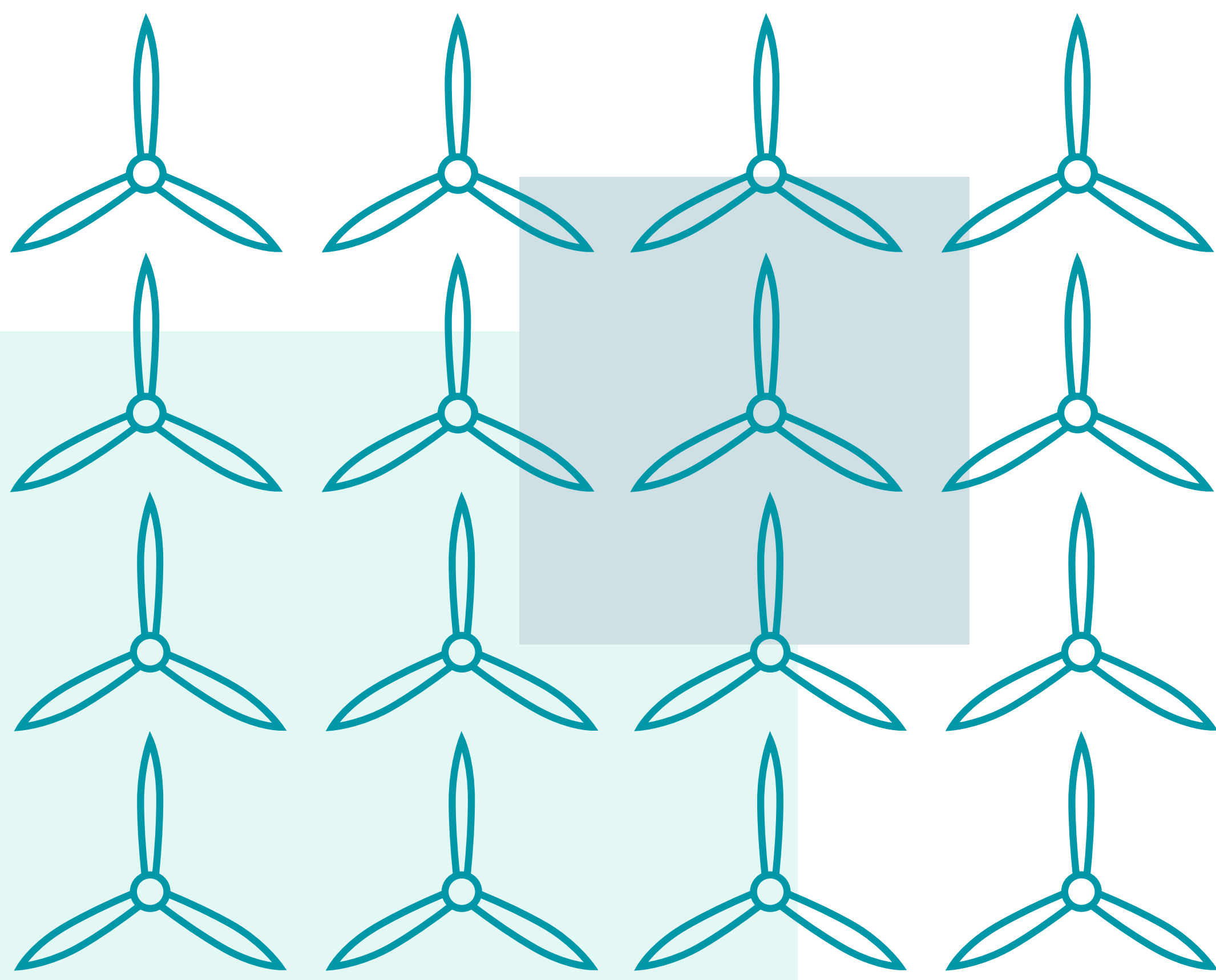


Proposed amendments to the Bhlaraidh Extension consent

The key variations to the Consented Development include proposals to increase the rotor diameter and tip height of turbines, with repositioning of some turbine locations, and required increases in hardstand sizes to meet technical and engineering requirements.

A summary of the key changes proposed through the project redesign can be found below:

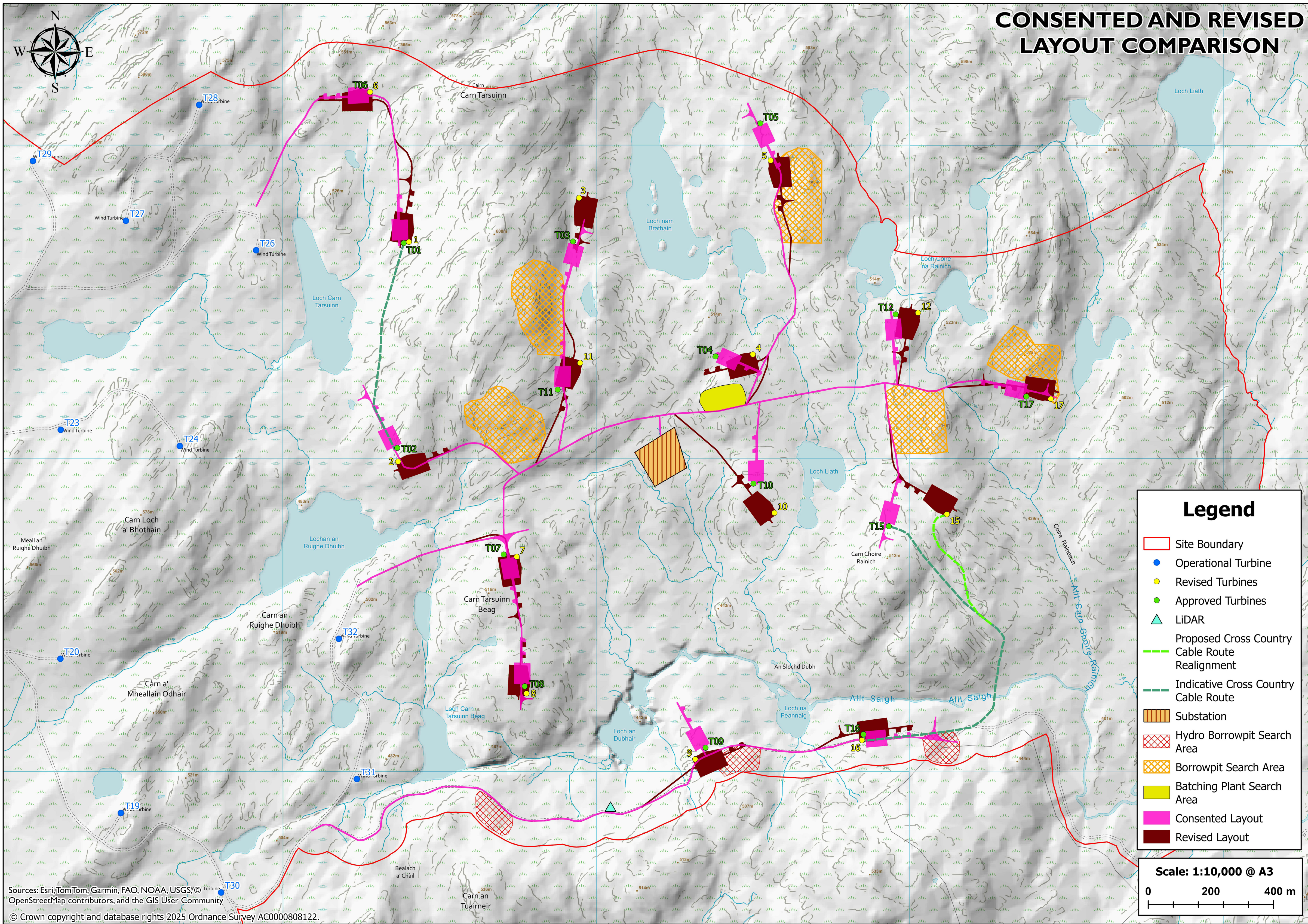
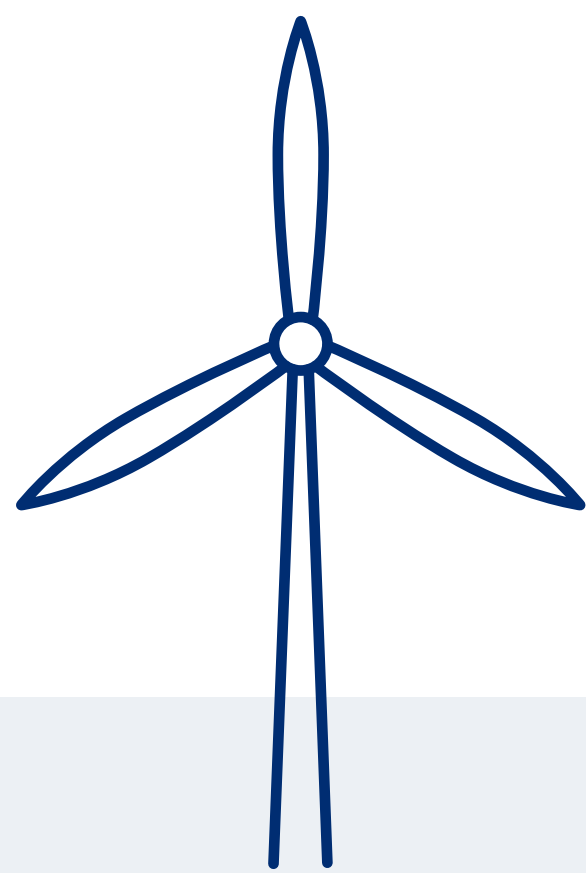
S36 Consent (Annex 1 Description of Development)	S36C Proposed Variations
15 turbines each with a maximum blade tip height of up to 180m	15 turbines each with a maximum blade tip height of up to 230m. While the overall layout of the scheme is not substantially changed, due to the increase in tip height and resultant change to wake zones and increased safety buffer for topple distance, some turbines have necessarily been repositioned.
Crane hardstandings for each turbine	The size of the hardstands has increased to reflect the proposed candidate turbine model. Some hardstands have also been repositioned /reorientated to improve and reduce earthworks requirements and in response to turbine repositioning.
Approximately 7.9km of new access tracks	No change. The realignment of tracks has balanced out and the same length of track is proposed for the Varied Development compared to the Consented Development. 1.4km of access track was constructed in 2024 as part of the Site Enabling Works.
Approximately 13.5km of existing access tracks	No change.
An onsite substation	No change. The substation platform has been constructed up to 275mm below final ground level (bFGL) as part of the Site Enabling Works in 2024. The final 275mm profile and construction of the substation building and associated infrastructure is still to occur as part of the main works.
Eight turning heads	Nine unloaded turning heads to accommodate turbine supplier delivery requirements for larger components. Removal of one loaded turning head.
Up to 8 borrow pit search areas	Reduced to 7 borrow pit search areas. The consented borrow pit adjacent to T17 has been removed. Two borrow pits have been worked and reinstated during construction of the Enabling Works in 2024 and these borrow pits will not be reworked.
Two temporary construction compounds	No change
A single permanent LIDAR station	No change
A concrete batching plant	No change
6 new access track water crossings	No change. Varied Development proposes same 6No. major watercourse crossings and no new ones have been identified for the realigned tracks. One bridge crossing, to the west of T07 identified in the 2021 EIAR as WXC-01, has been constructed as part of the Site Enabling Works in 2024.
Two routes of cross-country cabling approximately 700m and 1200m in length	Re-routed – although some realignment to connect to T15, the approx. length remains the same from the Consented vs Varied Development.
Enabling Works	No change – Enabling works were completed in 2024.





Proposed amendments to the Bhlaraidh Extension consent

The proposed update to the site layout can be viewed in the map below:



What will stay the same

Site boundary

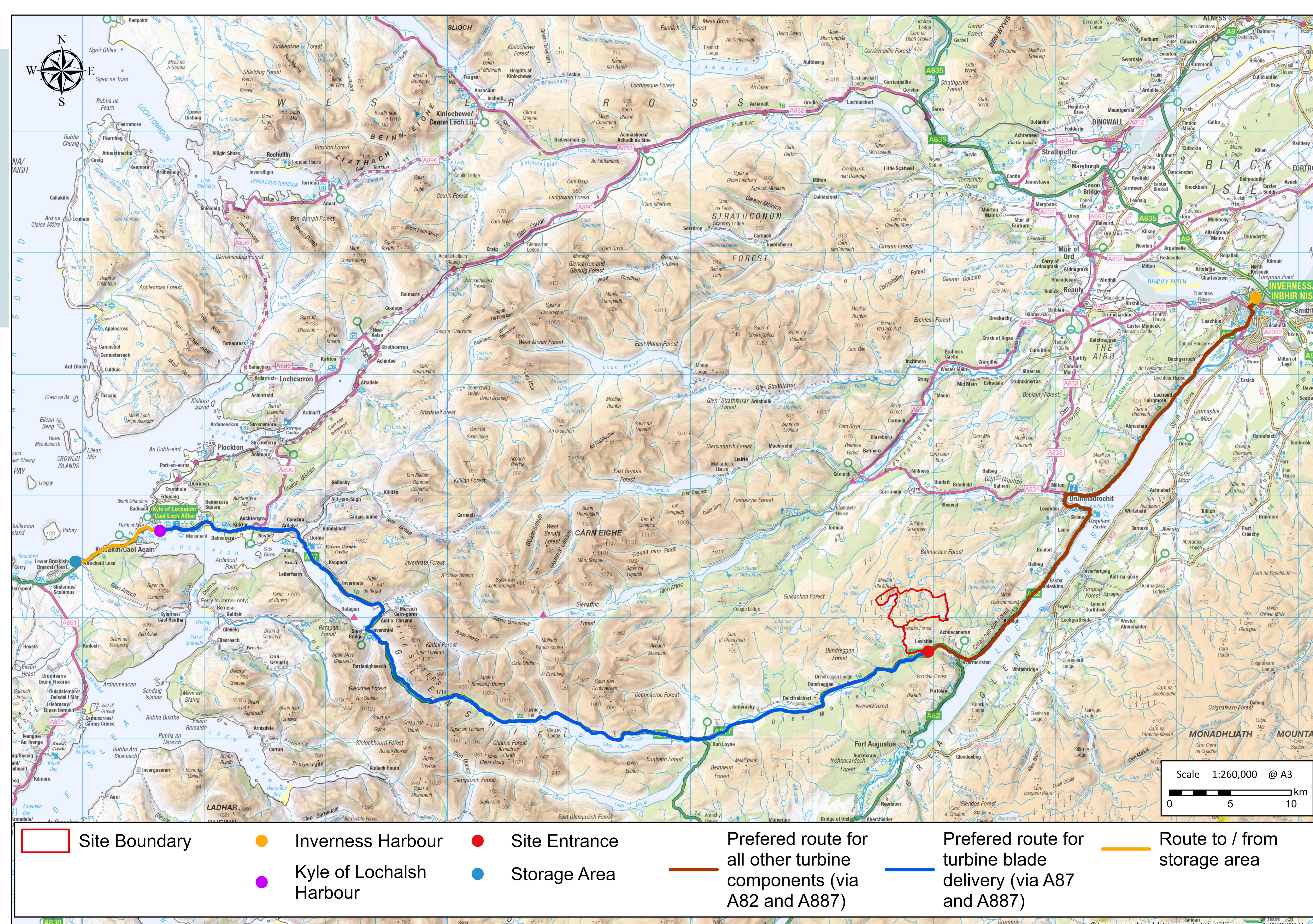
There are no changes proposed to the development site boundary of the Bhlaraidh Extension site, which will remain the same as consented.

While some changes are proposed to turbine positioning as a result of technical and engineering requirements for the proposed larger turbines, the site layout remains as close as possible to the consented layout. It is anticipated that the predicted levels of construction and decommissioning impacts will not change.

Turbine Delivery Route

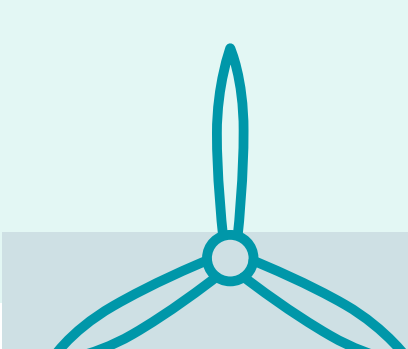
The proposed changes will have no impact on the original proposed turbine delivery route for the site.

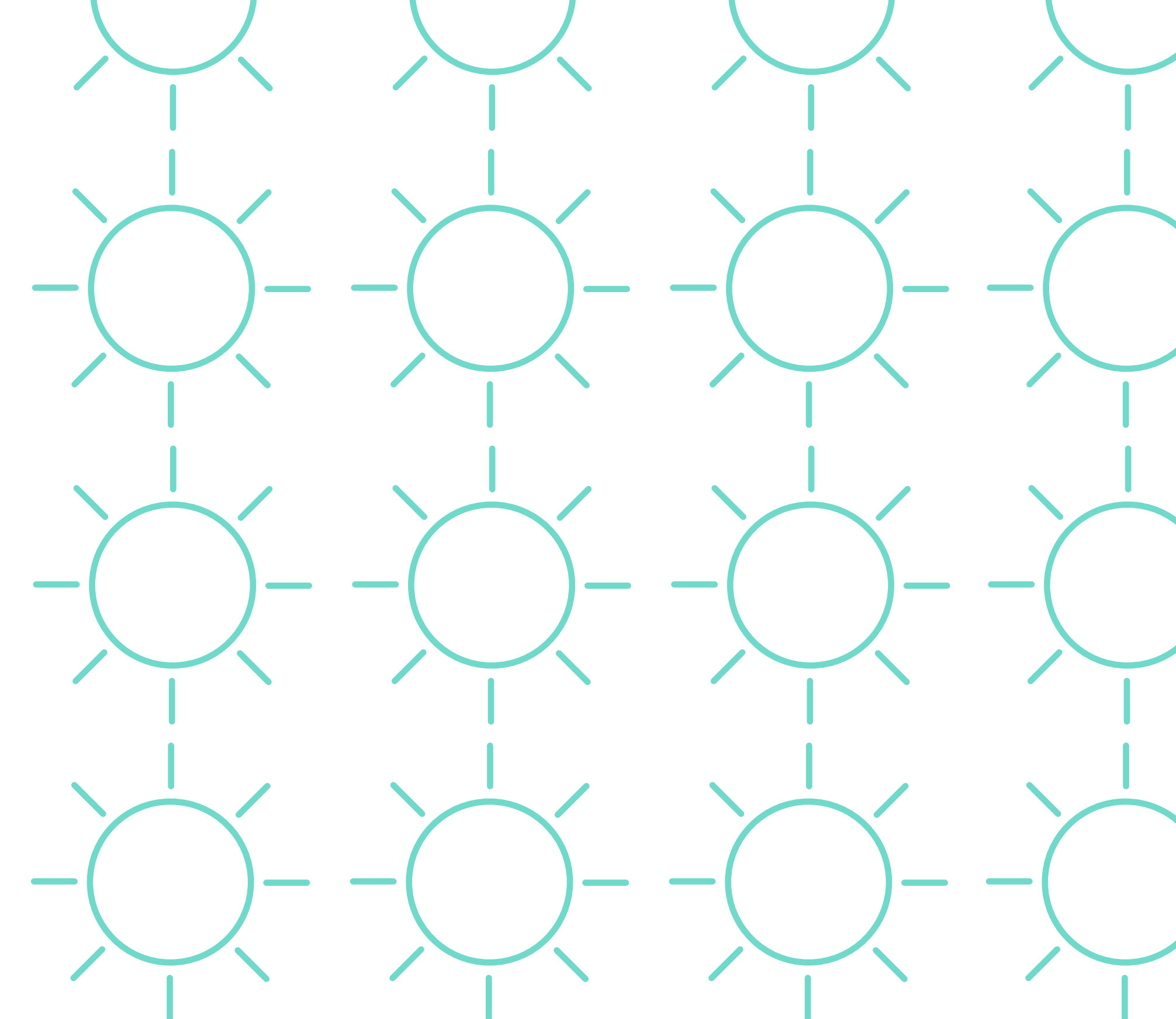
The preferred port of entry for turbine blades is anticipated to be Kyle of Lochalsh with delivery via the A87 and the A887. The preferred port of entry for all other components is anticipated to be Inverness with delivery via the A82 and the A887. All traffic will enter the site using the existing Bhlaraidh wind farm entrance and access tracks.



On site substation

Enabling works for the substation platform have now been completed on site. The construction of the substation building and associated infrastructure will take place as part of the main works when construction of the project formally commences.





Project redesign timeline



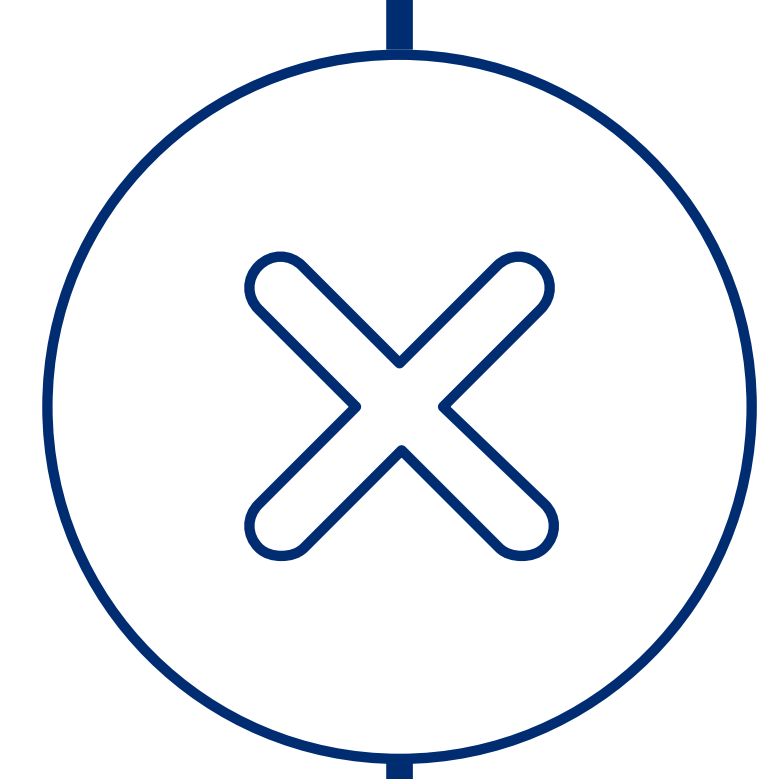
**Bhlaraidh Extension
consented**

August 2022



**Project
redesign**

January-May 2025



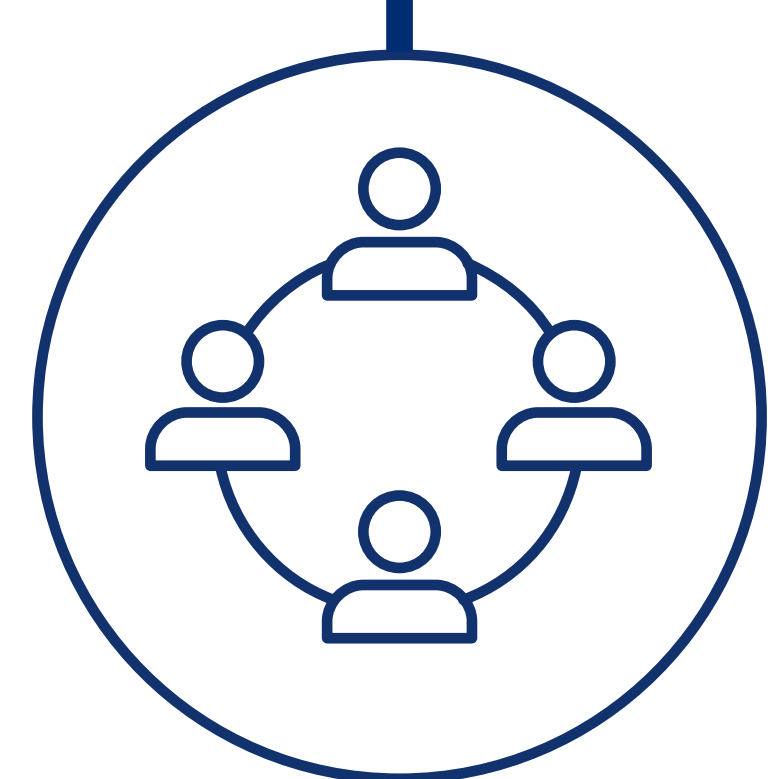
**AR5 Contract for
Difference terminated**

March 2025



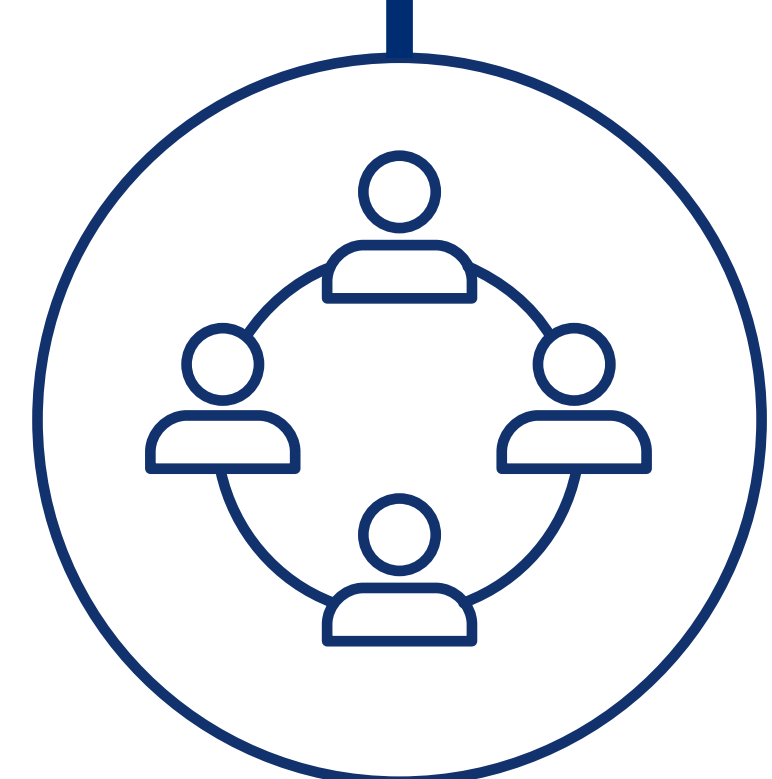
**Scoping report
submitted**

May 2025



**First round of public
consultation**

June 2025



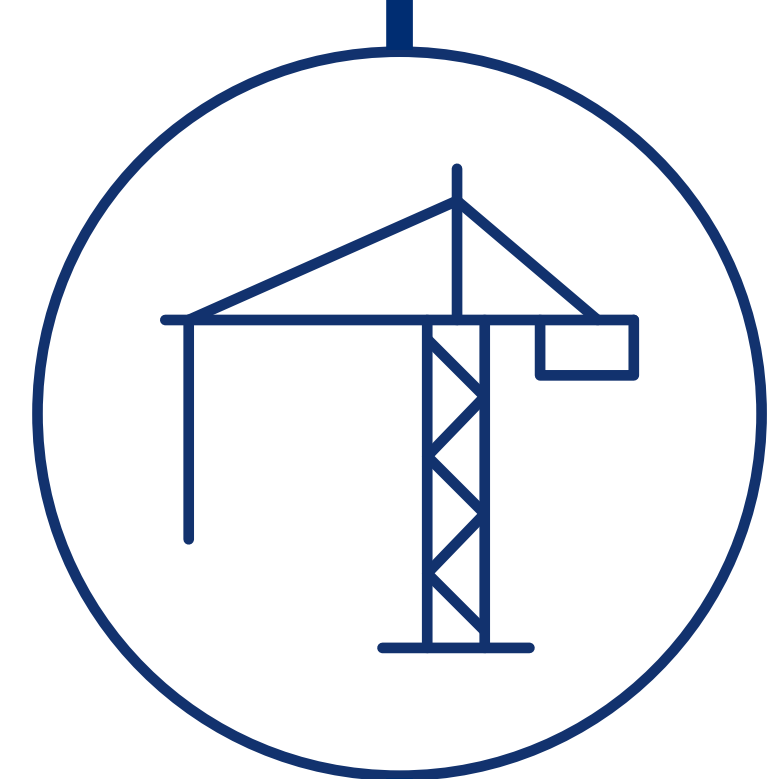
**Second round of public
consultation**

Late Summer 2025



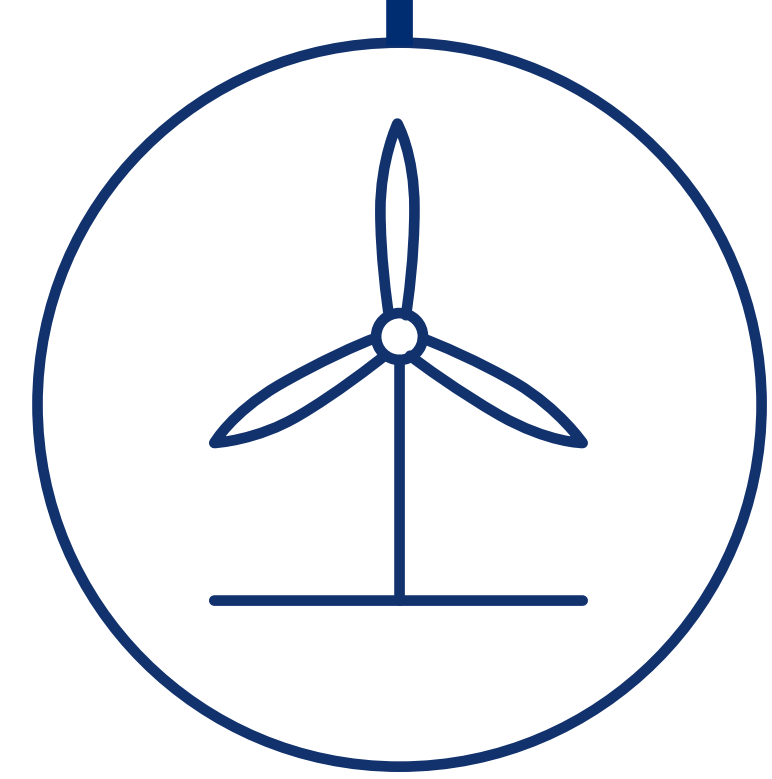
**S36C amendment submitted
to the Energy Consents Unit**

Late 2025



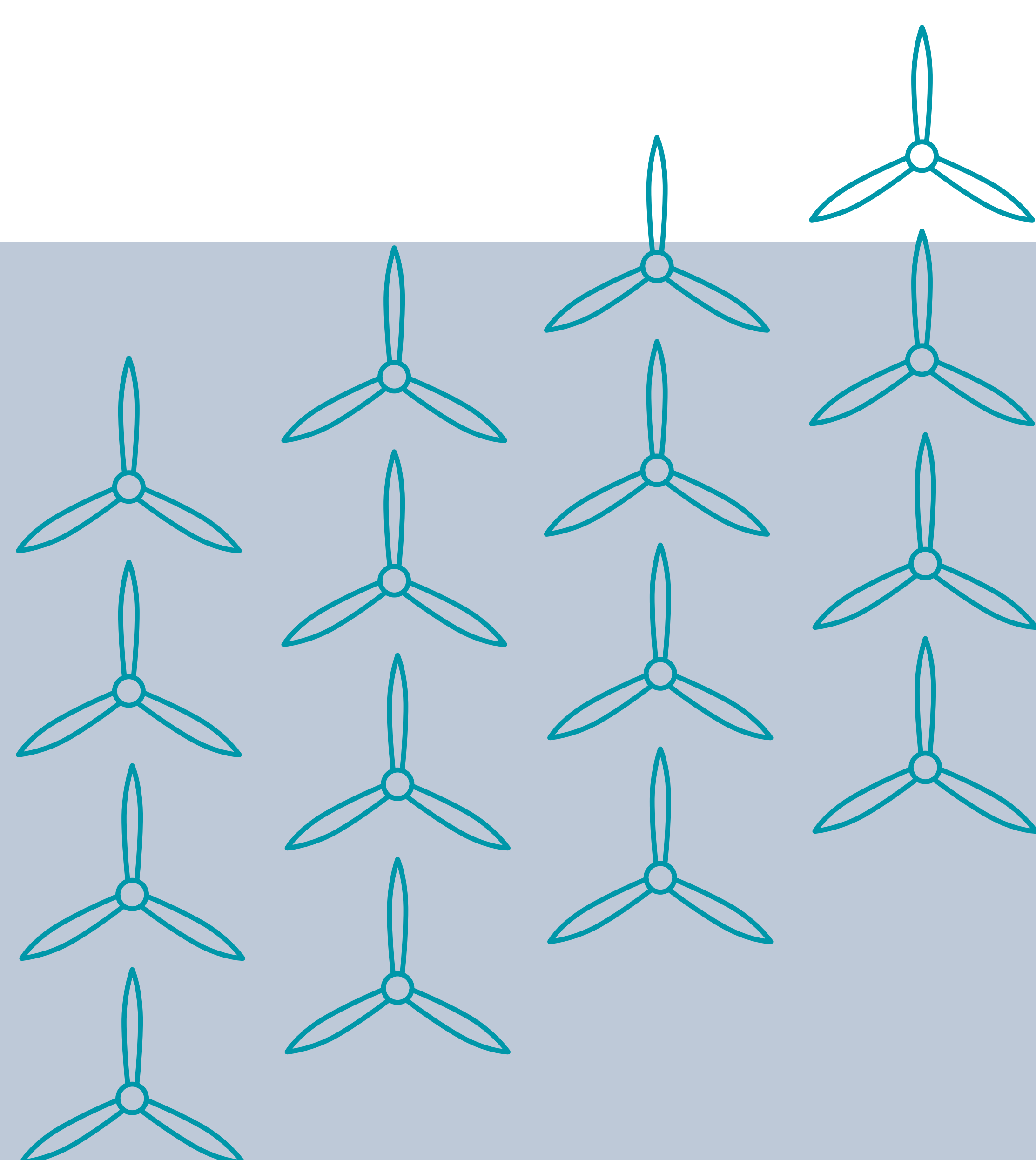
**Expected
Construction Start**

Spring 2028



**Expected
Operation**

Late 2029



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Scoped In

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken as part of the original application that was consented. The following areas will be impacted in such a way with the proposed design that they require an updated EIA, to verify no change to the previously reported EIA findings:

- Landscape and Visual
- Ecology
- Ornithology
- Geology (peat)
- Cultural Heritage
- Traffic, Access & Transport
- Aviation

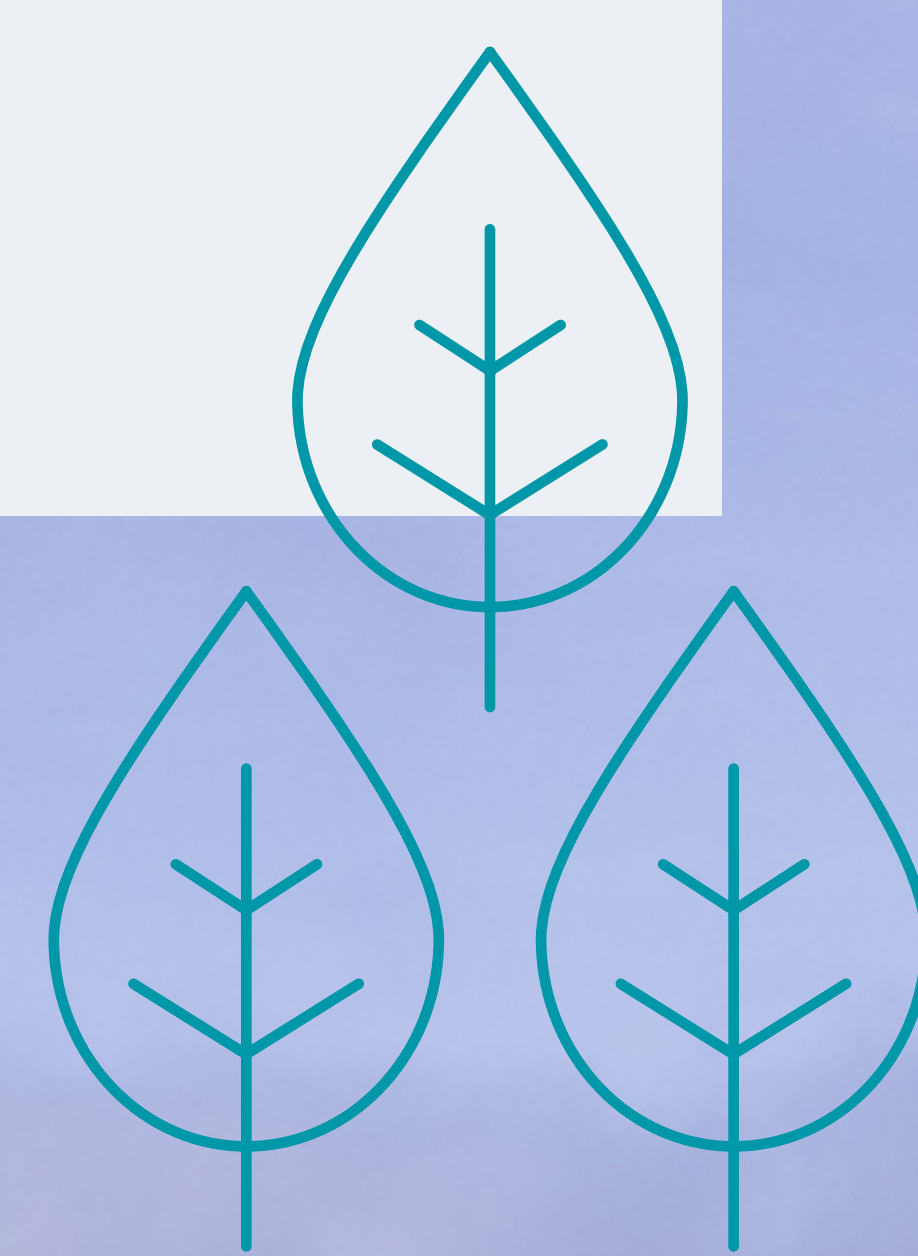
Scoped Out

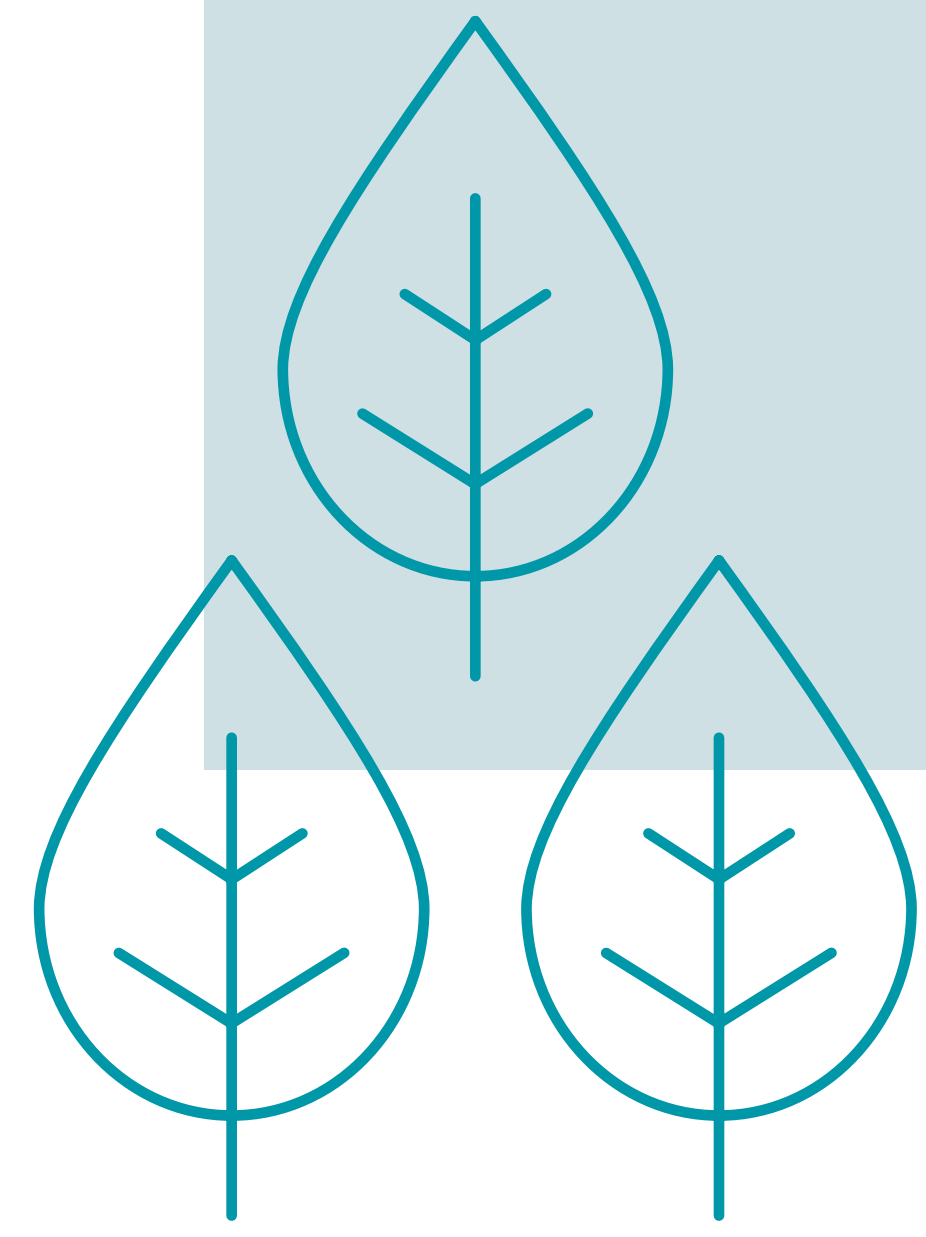
Independent consultants will be retained to carry out technical assessments and advise on environmental issues associated with the proposed amendment. These experts will work with us during the design process; carry out the new environmental impact assessments, and prepare documentation for the comparative EIA Report.

Each subject requiring assessment under EIA Regulations will be presented as a separate chapter in the main body of the new EIA Report, or included as a technical appendix.

The following areas have been deemed to receive no significant impact through the proposed design changes and therefore are not advised to require an updated EIA.

- Hydrology
- Socio-economics, Recreation & Tourism
- Noise & Vibration





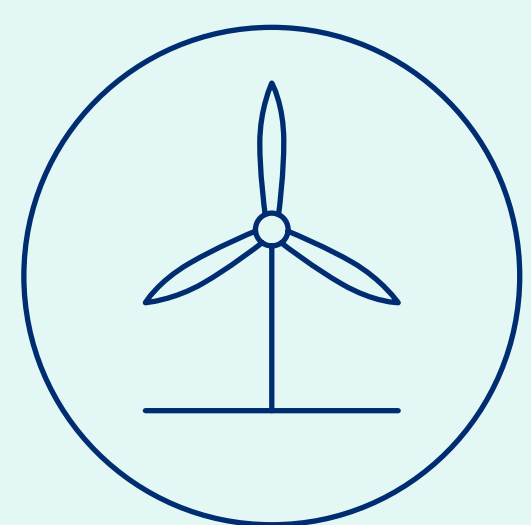
SSE Renewables in the Highlands

A Nature Positive approach

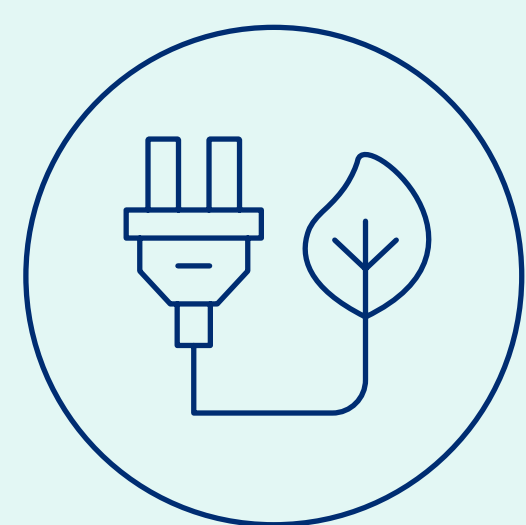
As we deliver the critical infrastructure that will be required to enable Scotland and the UK's transition towards a decarbonised and energy secure future, we are also committed to being a responsible and sustainable developer when it comes to the natural environment.

At the core of our approach, we aim to protect and where possible enhance the natural environment to ensure that we continue to meet our legal and regulatory requirements throughout all phases of our projects' lifecycle, from development through to asset management (operations) and decommissioning.

As part of these commitments, SSE Renewables have implemented a policy of no net biodiversity loss on all onshore sites consented from 2023 alongside a commitment to deliver biodiversity net gain on all new sites consented from 2025 onwards. By taking this approach we are ensuring that our projects provide a measurable benefit to nature conservation; demonstrated in the development of our ten-point plan for biodiversity below and in the Consented Development's Habitat Management Plan which has been approved by the Highland Council and NatureScot



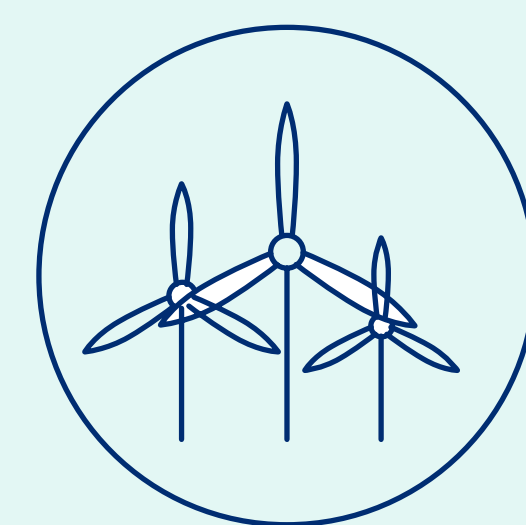
1. Deliver Biodiversity No Net Loss on major onshore projects consented from 2023



2. Deliver Biodiversity Net Gain on major onshore projects consented from 2025*



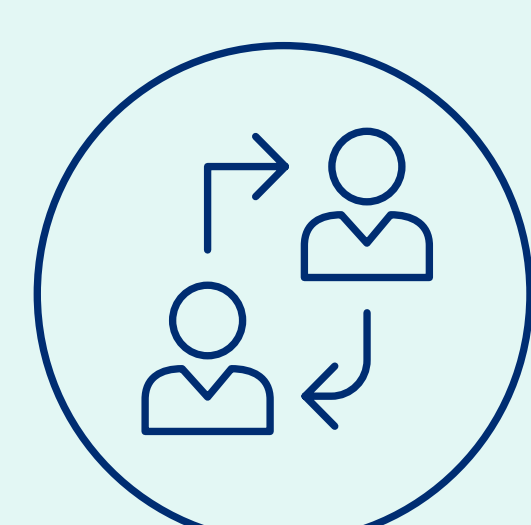
3. Embed BNG ambitions in decision-making at each stage of all new project developments from 2023



4. Use our BNG Toolkit and collaborate with partners to identify biodiversity improvements on operational sites



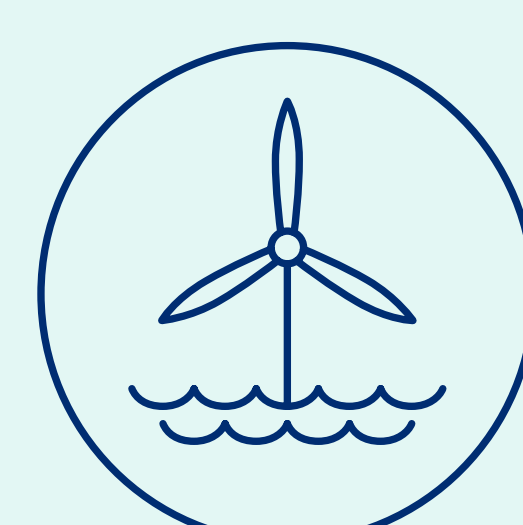
5. Evolve our BNG Toolkit and approach to enable use in all geographies



6. Actively participate in industry forums to support the development of BNG across all renewable technologies



7. Contribute to research projects and the creation of knowledge around BNG in the renewables sector



8. Trial new approaches for BNG on offshore projects, including digital innovations

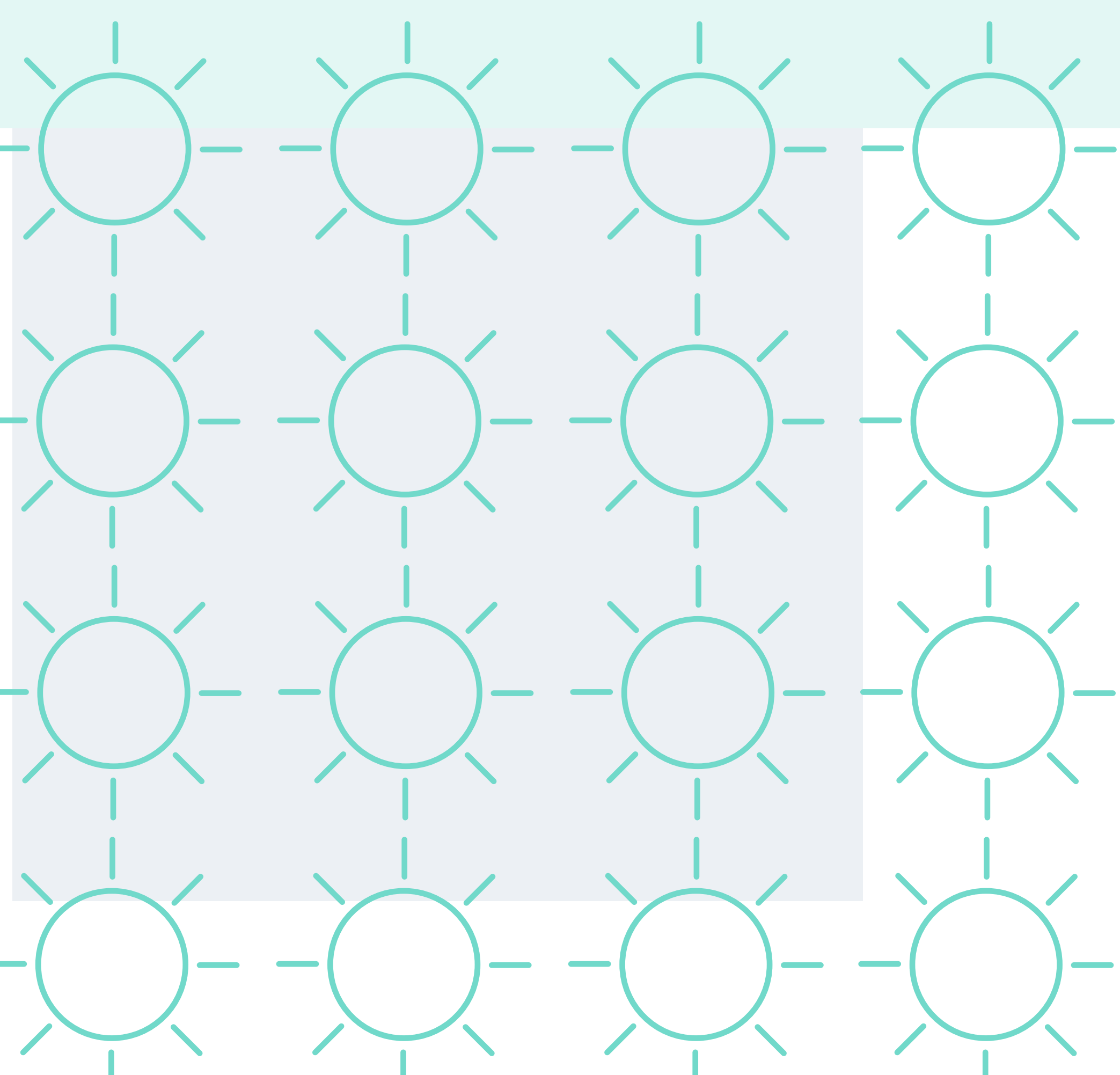


9. Develop the concept of 'Habitat Banks' with a transparent methodology for applying BNG credits



10. Lead the BNG working group of the Powering Net Zero Pact, a collaboration of global power sector companies

*This includes repowering and decommissioning projects.





Working with the Community

Delivering benefit locally

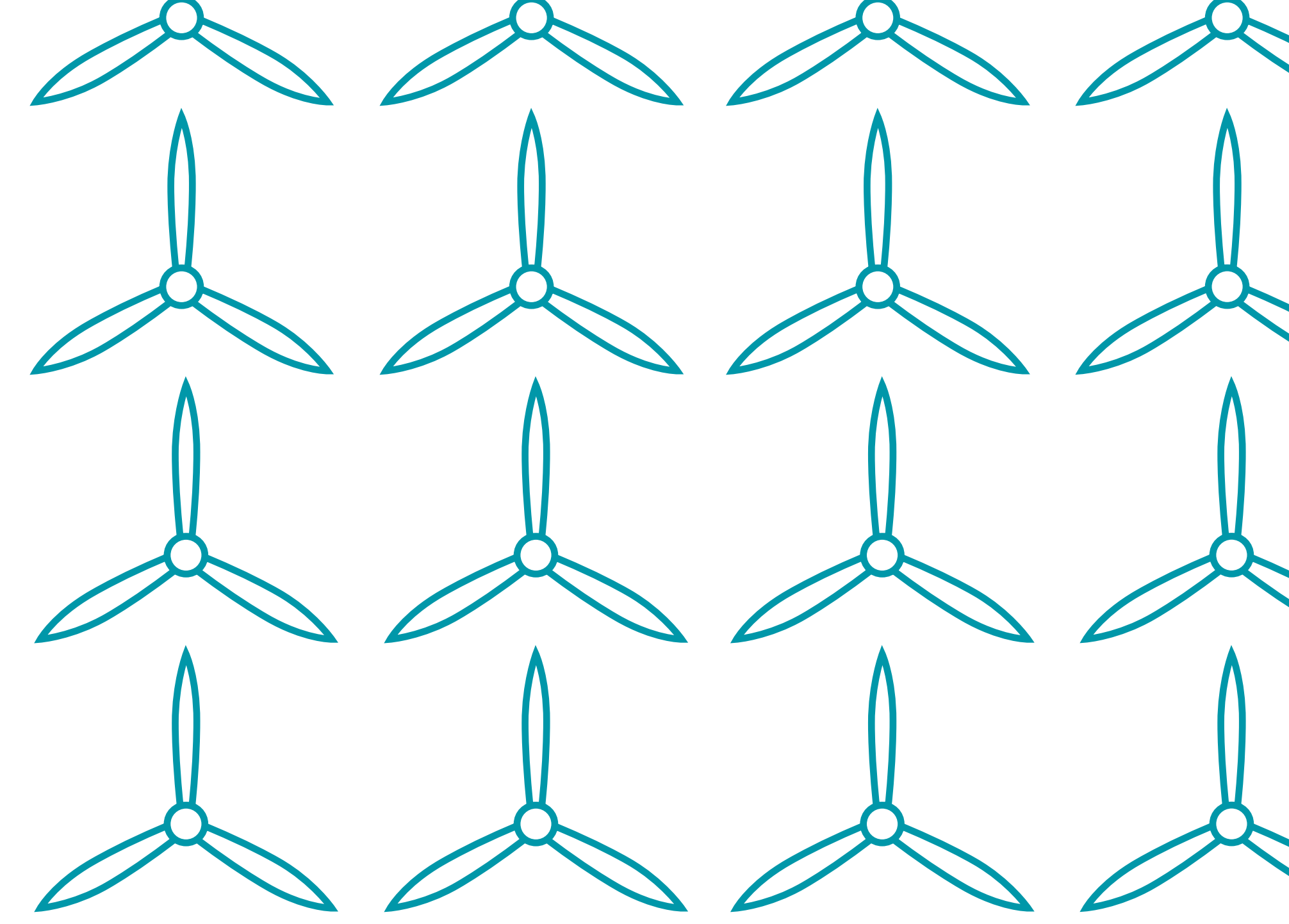
SSE Renewables has a long-term commitment to invest in our local communities. Over the next 25 years the SSE Renewables' Community Benefit Funds will generate at least £315 million across all UK and Ireland projects with a £100 million of that being delivered across the Highlands.

SSE Renewables is one of the world's largest developers of renewable energy. We have always believed in sharing the value of our renewable energy projects with communities, maximising the benefits of local, sustainable power.

We made a commitment in 2012 to invest in local communities. Our ambition is to make sure every single penny of that money is spent wisely; it makes a difference and reflects the priorities of local people. We think the best way to achieve this is for the grant decisions to be made by local people.

A community investment fund will be established for Bhlaraidh Extension valued at £5,000 per MW, with £2.5k distributed to local communities and £2.5k to our regional Highland Sustainable Development Fund. The funds will be available once main construction starts and will be in addition to funding that is currently being delivered through the established Bhlaraidh wind farm fund.





Powering Impactful Community Projects

What our funds are delivering in the Great Glen

Since 2016 the SSE Renewables Bhlairaidh Fund has awarded over **£3,872,550.09** in grants, across the community council areas of Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston and Glen Urquhart

These projects included; strategic legacy projects, including funding modern apprentices, enhancing local services, bringing new services into the area, supporting culture and heritage and many more which have brought social and economic benefits to these local communities.

Strategic projects include **£227,209** in 2018 toward the new medical centre in Fort Augustus, **£238,214** in 2020 to support the development of 12 community houses in Fort Augustus and **£290,000** in 2025 to support the renovation of the Glen Urquhart Hall in Drumnadrochit to a Community Hub.

The fund has supported 15 modern apprentices across a range of disciplines by contributing to their salary costs and training. This initiative encourages young people to remain in the area while gaining valuable work experience and a recognised qualification.

Sustainable Development Fund

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) is in addition to our local community funds and supports strategic projects in the regions where SSE is operating. It allows the benefits of our renewable energy developments to be accessible to a wider area and is directed to projects that can achieve significant impact in local communities.

In the Highlands, we expect the fund could be worth over **£25M** over the next 25 years. SDF celebrated 10 years of delivery in November 2023. Since its launch, **£10.7m** has been invested in almost 152 Highland based community projects, examples of projects supported in the Great Glen Include:

Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association: awarded **£80,000** to purchase the former Tourism Information Centre in Drumnadrochit to create the Loch Ness Hub and award winning Information and Transport Hub.



Glen Affric and Strathglass Marketing Association: awarded **£100,000** to develop off-road sections on the iconic Affric Kintail Way, helping to connect rural communities and provide local amenity for both residents and visitors to the area.



Fort Augustus Housing project



Fort Augustus Medical Centre



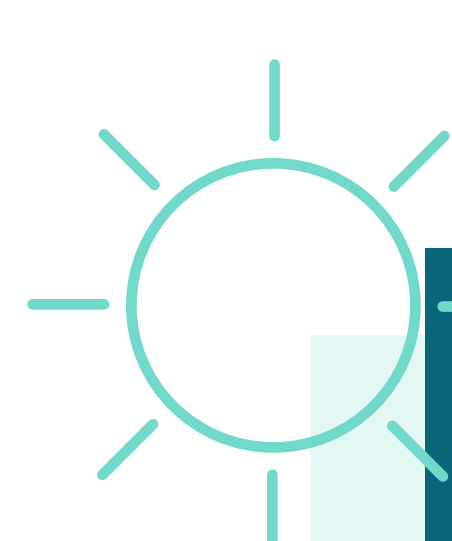
The fund has supported 15 modern apprentices across a range of disciplines.





Seeking your feedback

This exhibition is part of an ongoing conversation between SSE Renewables and stakeholders like you, who have an interest in the proposal.



Seeking your feedback

We would very much welcome any feedback you may be willing to provide and so we have provided feedback forms which are available in the hall. Alternatively, please submit one online by using this QR code



Next Steps for Bhlaraidh Extension

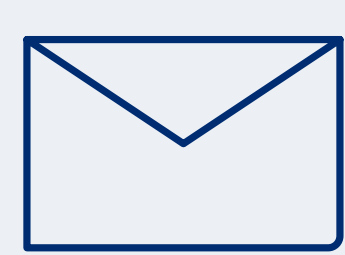
Thank you for attending the event today, and for sharing your views which will be considered by our project team.

A further consultation event will take place later this summer to provide another opportunity for feedback ahead of the submission of a final amended design to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit later this year. **Dates for the second consultation round will be confirmed and publicised in due course.**

Further information on our plans, including today's exhibition boards, will also be available at:

sserenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/bhlaraidh-extension/

Keeping in touch



If you'd like to get in touch with our team to discuss Bhlaraidh Extension please contact Kirstanne.Land@sse.com

