

BHLARAI DH WIND FARM EXTENSION PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION (PAC) REPORT



REPORT VERSIONS

Version	Author	Reviewer	Approver	Date
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Rev 02				
Rev 03				

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1. Introduction

1.1. PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION AIMS

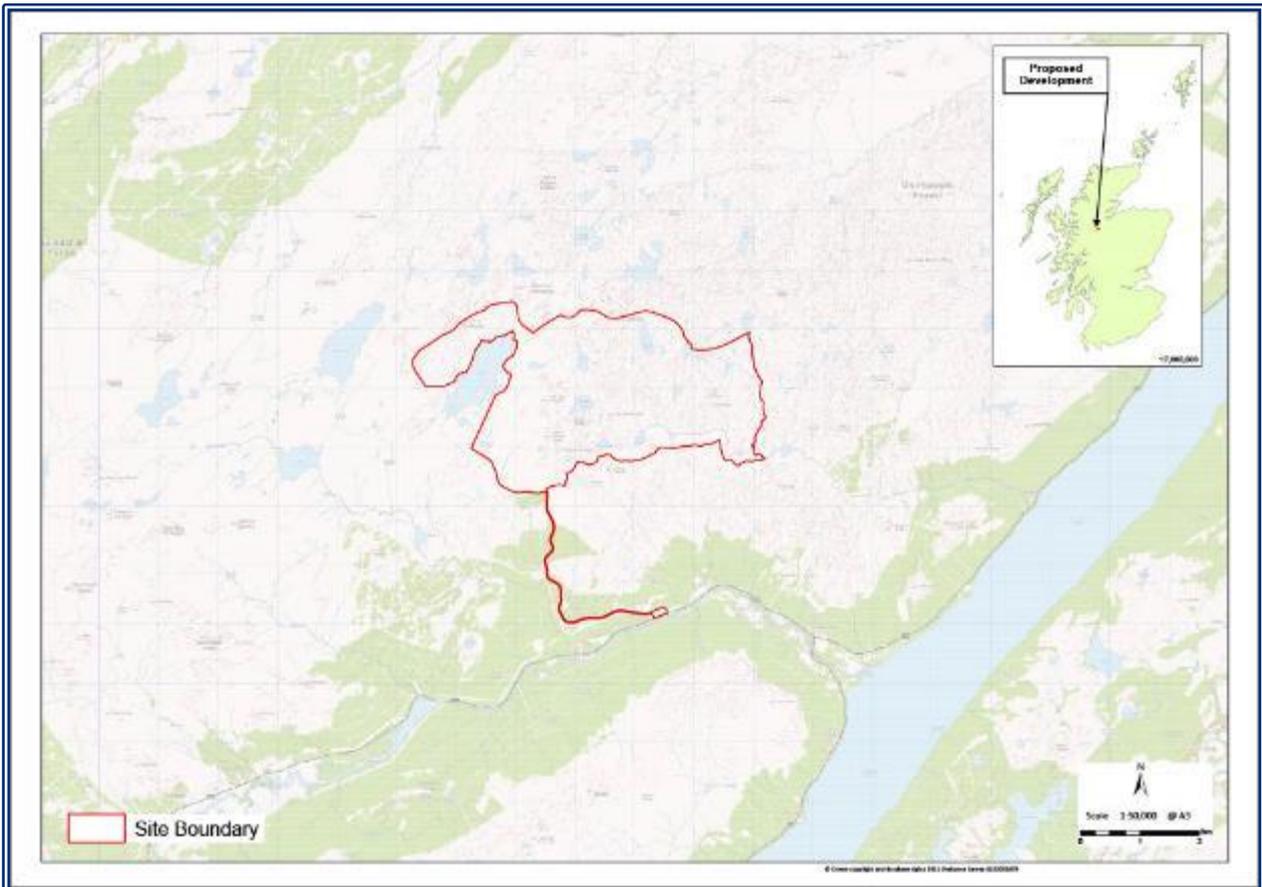
- 1.1.1 Pre-application consultation (PAC) reports are a mandatory requirement for ‘Major’ or ‘National’ projects, as set out in the Town & Country Planning (Development Management procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. However, as the application for Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension (the ‘Proposed Development’) is made under Section 36 of The Electricity Act 1989 and will be submitted to the Scottish Ministers, there is no such mandatory requirement. Nevertheless, SSE Generation Limited (hereafter referred to as ‘the Applicant’) is committed to a comprehensive strategy of community engagement, and as such a wide range of public consultation has been undertaken prior to the submission of the application, in line with best practice. In this spirit, a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was also submitted to The Highland Council on the 29 March 2021 to inform of public consultation undertaken up to the virtual public exhibitions held in February – March 2021, as well as the intention to submit an application for consent during Autumn 2021. A copy of the Proposal of Application Notice is included as **Appendix 1**.
- 1.1.2 This PAC report supports the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and should be read in conjunction with Chapter 3: Approach to EIA, which sets out the broad approach taken to produce the EIA for the Proposed Development and includes details of the consultation undertaken.
- 1.1.3 This PAC report aims to provide information on all activities undertaken to engage with the local community prior to submission of the application and to demonstrate where local views on the Proposed Development have been taken into account. The means by which pre-application consultation activities have been undertaken, the responses from this consultation and how these responses have been taken on board are presented in this report. Copies of consultation material together with the responses and outcomes of the consultation process are included as appendices to this report where appropriate.

1.2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.2.1 The Applicant intends to submit an application for the Proposed Development, located on the Glenmoriston Estate, near Invermoriston, Highlands (Figure 1). The application will be made to Scottish Ministers via the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. The application is supported by an EIA Report as required by the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 as amended (the ‘EIA Regulations’).
- 1.2.2 The Applicant is also seeking direction under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (‘the 1997 Act’) that planning permission would be deemed to be granted in respect of the Proposed Development.

1.2.3 The Proposed Development is adjacent to the operational 32 turbine Bhlaraidh Wind Farm ('Operational Development') (Highland Council planning reference: 12/02556/S36) (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Location of the Proposed Development (refer to Figure 1.1 of EIA Report)



2. Consultation Activities

2.1. GENERAL PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

- 2.1.1 Consultation and engagement with stakeholders started early in the development process. Advice and input from key consultees was sought at the initial stages of the project, in recognition that this engagement and feedback from key stakeholders helps greatly to inform decisions about the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.2 Pre-application meetings and telephone calls were held with representatives of Scottish Government (ECU), The Highland Council (THC), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland (HES), NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)), and Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, Strathglass, and Glen Urquhart Community Councils.
- 2.1.3 Meetings and calls were used to inform both statutory and non-statutory consultees and community councils of the Proposed Development and discuss the key issues in respect of the potential for environmental effects and to discuss the timescales for the submission of the application. A list of community consultation which has taken place is listed in **Appendix 2**.

2.2. SCOPING AND PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION SUMMARY

- 2.2.1 The purpose of EIA pre-application consultation is to:
- Ensure that statutory consultees and other bodies with a particular interest in the environment are informed of the proposal and provided with an opportunity to comment at an early stage in the EIA process;
 - Obtain baseline information regarding existing environmental site conditions;
 - Establish key environmental issues and identify potential effects to be considered during the EIA;
 - Identify those issues which are likely to require more detailed study and those which could be justifiably excluded from further assessment; and
 - Provide a means of confirming the most appropriate methods of assessment.
- 2.2.2 A Pre-Application Meeting took place with The Highland Council (THC) on 29 May 2019 and the advice received during the meeting and in the subsequently issued Pre-Application Advice Pack (Appendix 3.6 of the EIAR) was a key consideration when preparing the Scoping Report.
- 2.2.3 A Scoping Report was submitted to ECU on 12 July 2019. ECU consulted with a variety of statutory and non-statutory consultees from 17 July 2019 before providing an EIA Scoping Opinion on 2 September 2019 (Appendix 3.2 of the EIAR). The information in

the Scoping Opinion has been used to inform the design of the Proposed Development and the scope of the EIA. Scoping responses were received from the following consultees:

- THC
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- NatureScot
- British Horse Society
- British Telecommunications Plc
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation
- Highlands and Islands Airport Ltd
- Joint Radio Company Ltd
- NATS Safeguarding
- Northern District Salmon Fishery board
- RSPB Scotland
- Scottish Rights of Way of Access Society
- Scottish Water

2.2.4 Further direct consultation has also been undertaken with consultees, to confirm and agree the approach and scope of technical surveys and assessments on a topic by topic basis. Details of relevant consultations are included in each technical chapter of the EIAR and were detailed in the Gatecheck 1 Report that was submitted to the ECU on 2 November 2020. The Gatecheck 1 Report, consultee responses to the Gatecheck 1 Report, and records of further consultation following Gatecheck 1 are included within EIAR Appendices 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 respectively.

2.2.5 Whilst not required by the Section 36 application process, in order to keep THC informed of the consultation being undertaken the Proposed Development was subject to the submission of a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) in line with requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. A PAN was submitted by the Applicant to THC on 29 March 2021, detailing what public consultation has been undertaken.

2.3. COMMUNITY COUNCILS

2.3.1 The Applicant has proactively engaged and maintained dialogue with the following local community councils throughout the development and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process:

- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council;
- Glen Urquhart Community Council; and
- Strathglass Community Council.

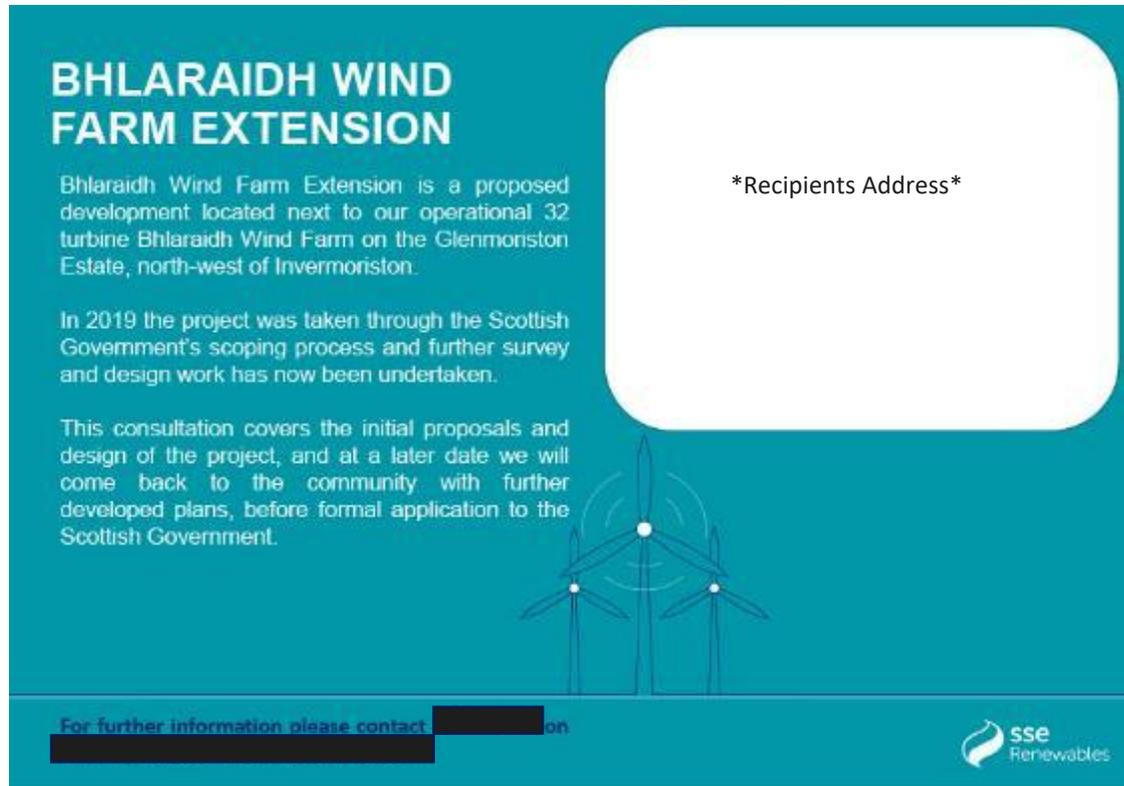
2.3.2 As part of the scoping process copies of the Scoping Report were issued to each community council by the ECU on 17 July 2019. A scoping response was received from Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council on 15 August 2019 which expressed concern that the Applicant was planning further activity given the disruption the community had experienced during construction of the Operational Development. In advance of the distribution of the Scoping Report, Glen Urquhart Community Council contacted the THC on 2 July 2019, prior to the issue of the Scoping Report, expressing concern about the landscape and visual impacts of the proposal, adding they could not comment further until more detailed proposals were available. In further correspondence to the ECU on 14 August they confirmed the concerns raised in their correspondence of 2 July remained. Strathglass Community Council responded on 2 August 2019 to say that this would be a considerable extension to the existing wind farm with substantial visual impact over a vast area beyond its intended location and requested that a rigorous LVIA is undertaken and that they and other neighbouring community councils were mandatory consultees. Scoping responses received from the community councils have been included in **Appendix 3**.

2.3.3 A representative of the Applicant contacted each community council via email in November 2019 to request information on scheduled meeting dates and offer attendance at future meetings to discuss the Proposed Development. In line with Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance, after 23 March 2020, attendance at community council meetings was not possible due to Covid-19 restrictions, however the Applicant offered to attend meetings digitally. Follow up correspondence included various emails with regards to alternative approach and digital consultation methods due to Covid-19 restrictions. Agreement was reached with each community council that representatives of the Applicant would be able to attend meetings digitally, either via video or phone link, as appropriate.

2.3.4 On 18 June 2020 representatives of the Applicant contacted the community councils to inform them of the launch of a dedicated Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension (Proposed Development) website and repeat an offer to attend community council meetings via digital link. A postcard was also distributed to 2,213 households and commercial

properties within the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, Glen Urquhart, and Strathglass community council areas to make residents and businesses aware of the recently launched website. A copy of this postcard (Figure 3) was included with the 18 June email.

Figure 3: Postcard Distributed in June 2020



BHLARAI DH WIND FARM EXTENSION
INITIAL CONSULTATION

SSE Renewables invite you online to visit our project website to view and comment on initial plans for our proposed Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension project. A brief summary of the project is included on the reverse of this postcard. Under current Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance our usual face to face consultations are not able to take place safely, therefore, we will be doing this initial consultation online only. We hope to be able to engage further with local stakeholders when it is safe to do so.

To have a look at our plans, provide feedback and comment or to contact our team, please visit:

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

For further information, please contact [redacted] on [redacted]



- 2.3.5 A further email was issued to community councils in June 2020, inviting feedback on the position of viewpoints to be used to assess the potential landscape and visual impact of the Proposed Development. A response from Strathglass Community Council said the map on the Proposed Development website, which was intended to be used as a basis for identifying viewpoints, was not of sufficient clarity to use as a reference for providing viewpoint positions. An A3 copy of the relevant map was sent via email but issues remained regarding image quality. Therefore an A3 colour printed version of the map was sent via post to them as requested. Following further dialogue, ZTV images displaying the visual impact from four locations specified by the community council were issued via email on 9 February 2021. The Applicant also provided information in the email exchange on the likely theoretical visibility from the four locations specified and also where applicable Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) viewpoints (VPs) would represent views from near the locations. The four points referred to were:
- Top of Kerrow Brae;
 - Affric River Car Park Viewing point;
 - North track Loch Affric; and
 - 2 x Core Paths at Upper Guisachan.
- 2.3.6 Strathglass Community Council restated concerns about the clarity of the images provided but accepted the images were an accurate reflection of the potential visual impact.
- 2.3.7 Representatives of the Applicant contacted the community councils in October 2020 to provide an update on the Proposed Development and present spring 2021 as a potential timescale for a second public exhibition.
- 2.3.8 Further email correspondence was issued via email in January 2021, informing community councils of the proposed dates for the public exhibitions (see Section 2.4). Following the distribution of the email, a representative of Strathglass Community Council contacted the Developer to raise a concern that constituents with limited access to a reliable internet connection would be unable to properly participate in the virtual exhibition. It was agreed that the newsletter notifying residents and businesses of the exhibition would be extended to include more extensive information, similar in content to the exhibition information boards, to address this concern.
- 2.3.9 A copy of the PAN was distributed via email to community councils on 29 March 2021. This email also included an offer to attend a future community council meeting, which was accepted by Strathglass Community Council.
- 2.3.10 Representatives of the Applicant were invited to attend Strathglass Community Council's meeting on 12 May 2021 and provided an overview of: the Proposed Development; details on the process leading up to submission of a Section 36 application to the Scottish

Government and an explanation of the opportunities Strathglass Community Council would have to comment on the Proposed Development during the application process. No questions were received following the presentation. The Applicant offered to attend a further community council meeting to address any further matters regarding the Proposed Development.

- 2.3.11 Following an email from the Applicant on 25 May 2021, followed by a meeting with the chair on 15 July, representatives of the Applicant agreed to meet with committee members of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council on 3 August 2021. This meeting was rescheduled to take place on 17 August 2021 at the community council's request.

2.4. PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

- 2.4.1 Public engagement is a key element of the consenting process and this is normally undertaken in two phases, comprising public exhibitions carried out between receipt of the Scoping Opinion and submission of the Section 36 application. The purpose of the exhibitions is to provide information regarding the Proposed Development to local residents.
- 2.4.2 In March 2020, an email was issued to each community council asking for a stated preference between two methods of engagement on public exhibitions. The Applicant had previously approached wind farm development with a two-stage community consultation – one around scoping phase and another after more detailed investigations to allow the community to comment on more substantial plans. Aware that other wind farm proposals were being brought forward in the area, and conscious of the time demands various consultations might place on community council members, the Applicant offered community councils two options for the public exhibition programme:
- i. Have the first set of exhibitions with limited additional information from the initial scoping information, then have the more detailed second set of exhibitions within six months.
 - ii. Only host the second set of exhibitions with more detailed information.
- 2.4.3 Fort Augustus Community Council and Glen Urquhart Community Council preferred the second option. Strathglass Community Council expressed a strong preference for two exhibitions, one based on information available during the scoping phase of the Proposed Development, and a second when more information would be available and prior to any submission of a planning application. On the basis of this feedback it was agreed to proceed with two exhibitions to ensure the fullest expectations for consultation were met.

First On-line Public Exhibition (Website)

2.4.4 An initial public engagement event was intended to be held in the first half of 2020 to notify the local community that the Applicant intended to extend the Operational Development and to present the initial design layout of the Proposed Development. This event was unable to go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions and information was instead presented via the launch of a dedicated project website in June 2020 in accordance with the Scottish Government’s guidance for consultation events during the restrictions:

<https://www.sserenewables.com/bhlaraidhextension>

2.4.5 Notification of the website launch was communicated to community councils, ward councillors, local residents and businesses via email and mailed postcards (Figure 3 above) and social media posts in early to mid-June 2020. Figure 4 below indicates the area for the distribution of the postcard which equates to the postcode areas of the boundaries of the three community councils.

Figure 4: Area of Postcard Distribution



2.4.6 Opportunities to provide feedback on the online exhibition information were encouraged via an online feedback form or direct contact with the Applicant (contact details were highlighted on the website). Between 22 June 2020 and 12 July, the webpage was visited 306 times. The responses to the feedback form however were limited to 11 respondents and their responses are summarised in **Appendix 4**.

Second Virtual Public Exhibition

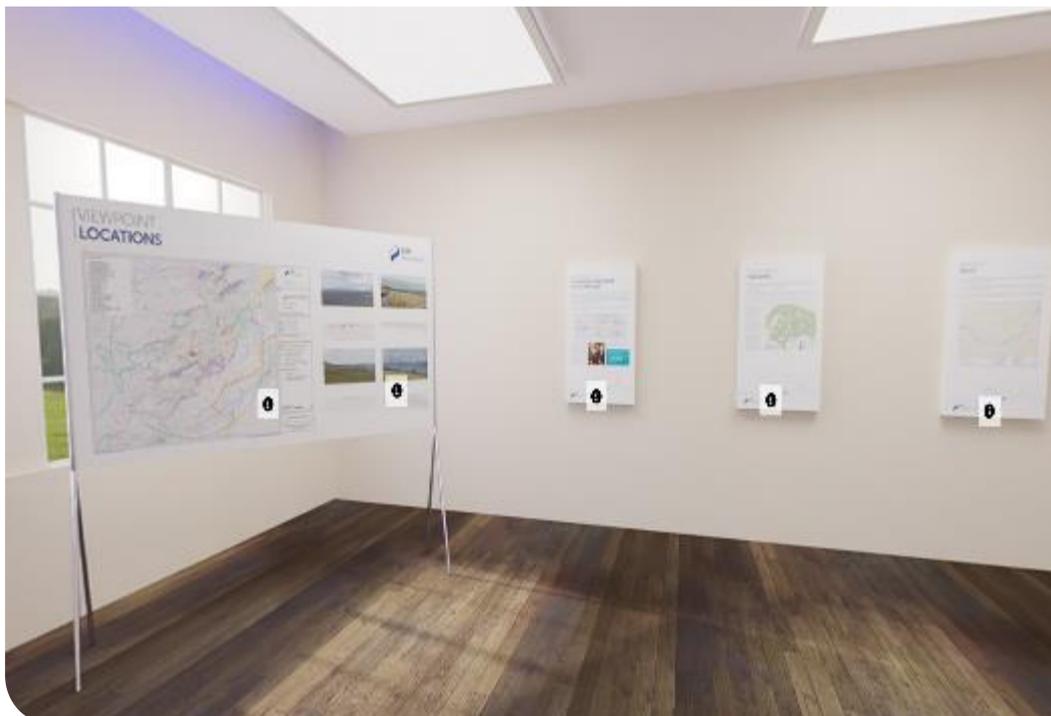
2.4.7 Following completion of all EIA field surveys and refinement of the project design, a second public exhibition was subsequently held virtually between 24 February and 12 March 2021.

2.4.8 The second exhibition, which was designed to present the final layout of the Proposed Development, was held virtually due to Scottish Government guidance “Coronavirus (COVID-19): planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events” (published 23 April 2020) and travel restrictions still being in place as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The virtual exhibition was hosted via an on-line / web-based platform, in the format of a ‘virtual room’. The information that would normally have been presented on exhibition boards and posters at a venue were instead displayed in a similar manner in the virtual room, with clickable links to take the viewer to more detailed information and plans. A copy of the virtual exhibition materials has been included in **Appendix 5**. The virtual exhibition was advertised as available for access between the 24 February and 12 March 2021, however the web page remained live and accessible until the submission of the Section 36 planning application to allow as much time as possible for anyone to review the information ahead of the application submission. Figures 5 and 6 show representations of the virtual exhibition space, as experienced by visitors.

Figure 5: Proposed Development Virtual Public Exhibition 2021 – Virtual Front Desk



Figure 6: Proposed Development Virtual Public Exhibition 2021 – Exhibition Boards



- 2.4.9 An extensive programme of notification and public engagement was undertaken to raise awareness of the virtual exhibitions. At the request of Strathglass Community Council, the newsletter distributed to promote attendance at the exhibition was increased in scope and extended to eight pages, to provide information to residents and businesses who may have been unable to access a digital platform.
- 2.4.10 The programme of engagement to promote the virtual exhibition encompassed the following activities:
- 22 January 2021: An invitation and link to the virtual exhibition space was issued to constituency MP and MSP, community councils and other community organisations.
 - 17 February 2021: A media release was sent to newspapers and formed the basis of an article published in the Inverness Courier on 24 February. <https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/virtual-exhibition-opens-on-proposals-for-more-wind-turbines-near-loch-ness-229199/>.
 - 20-22 February 2021: Newsletter distributed via mail drop to 2,213 local residents and businesses notifying of virtual public exhibition. A copy of the newsletter is included in **Appendix 6**.
 - 22 February 2021: Invitation reissued to community councils.
 - 23 February 2021: A quarter page advert is displayed in the Press and Journal (Figure 7).
 - 3 March 2021: Notification of additional live chat session issued via email to community councils and media release to local news outlets. A copy of the media release is included in **Appendix 7**.

Figure 7: Advert Published in the Press & Journal on 23 February 2021



FOR SCOTLAND FOR THE GREEN RECOVERY **FOR EVERY ONE OF US**

Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm
Online exhibition open from 24 February
until 12 March

SSE Renewables would like to share an update on our Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm proposal. The plans show how we can power the green recovery, support the local economy and help us all achieve a net-zero carbon future.

We want to know what you think.

To see more and give feedback, visit our virtual public exhibition at www.sserenewables.com/BhlaraidhExtension

Our project team will be available there for live chats:

- Wednesday 24 February 2-4pm
- Thursday 25 February 2-4pm
- Friday 26 February 2-4pm



2.4.11 During the exhibition, live Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions were available on 24-26 February between 14:00-16:00 as advertised. These sessions were held via a live chat function on the virtual exhibition. Additional live Q&A sessions were held on the 10 March at 10:00-12:00 and at 14:00-16:00 at the request of Glen Urquhart Community Council. The additional Q&A sessions were publicised through a media release which was distributed on 3 March (**Appendix 7**). During the live Q&A sessions members of the project team were available to answer any queries from website visitors as they arose and engage in live dialogue through an on-screen messaging service. Other opportunities to leave feedback on the exhibition were also available via an on-line feedback form at the virtual front desk or via messenger direct link to the community engagement and stakeholder email address. The following engagement methods were recorded:

- The exhibition was viewed 715 times by 314 users.
- Seven live chat sessions were recorded (average length of engagement was around 30 minutes).
- Four feedback forms were returned.
- One phone call was made to the mobile number advertised on the boards.
- One PDF version of the exhibition boards was issued to an individual with specific reading requirements.

2.4.12 A copy of the chat transcripts from the virtual exhibitions is provided as **Appendix 8**, summarising all live chat questions, feedback and follow up actions.

2.4.13 Table A provides a summary of the main discussion points raised during the live chat sessions and the Applicant’s response.

Table A: Summary of Live Chat Discussion Points

Exhibition Guest Comment	SSE Response
Further photomontages of views from the Great Glen Way and another local walking route should be included in the exhibition materials	The viewpoints on display are a selection of wirelines and photomontages agreed with THC’s landscape architects and developed for the Environmental Impact Assessment. Exhibition viewpoints were agreed with The Highland Council.

	<p>[Offer to investigate creation of further viewpoint photomontages was made without receipt of response].</p>
<p>Concern about the reach and impact of benefits to local communities near to onshore wind farms. Areas near wind farms do not benefit from lower energy prices which energy developers to do not take measures to address.</p>	<p>A community benefit package will accompany the Proposal but is not a material planning consideration and requires separate discussion with community organisations.</p> <p>SSE Renewables has a strong record of generating jobs and investment through its developments. This impact is summarised in the Great Glen Socio Economic Report: https://www.sserenewables.com/media/5s4im3bp/volume-4-technical-appendix-141-economic-assessment-of-sse-projects-in-the-great-glen.pdf</p>
<p>Is the virtual exhibition the last consultation opportunity for the community?</p>	<p>Communities will be able to comment on the Section 36 application once it has been submitted. Notification of the submission will be made in local and national media, and community councils will also be informed.</p>
<p>Has the Applicant produced a document displaying the socio-economic benefits of the Proposed Development?</p>	<p>A socio-economic assessment will form part of an environmental impact assessment report, which will be submitted as part of the planning application.</p>

3. Summary and Conclusion

- 3.1.1 The Applicant has proactively engaged with a wide range of local residents, groups and community councils prior to the submission of a Section 36 application for the Proposal Development.
- 3.1.2 Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the Applicant has made significant efforts to distribute project information to the community in both digital and non-digital formats to ensure accessibility to as wide an audience as possible. The virtual public exhibition was well advertised through a mail drop of newsletters to over 2,000 addresses, adverts and a published article in the local newspaper, email updates to the local Community Councils and politicians. The Applicant has also provided several different means of community engagement and feedback to ensure that all members of the community were afforded a suitable method to contact the project team or raise queries.
- 3.1.3 Consultation and engagement with communities is an ongoing and evolving process. The Applicant recognises the importance of working with communities from project inception, through development and beyond into the operational phases of projects to ensure communities, particularly within remoter rural areas, are not adversely impacted but are supported and enhanced through renewables development. It is considered that the pre-application consultation and ongoing engagement on the Bhlairaidh Wind Farm Extension project has demonstrated this approach through the compilation of this report.

Appendix 1: Proposal of Application Notice

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008

The Council will respond within 21 days of receiving the Notice. It will advise whether the proposed Pre-application Consultation is satisfactory or if additional notification and consultation above the statutory minimum is required. Please note that a planning application for this proposed development cannot be submitted less than 12 weeks from the date the Proposal of Application Notice is received by the Council and without the statutory consultation requirements having been undertaken. The planning application must be accompanied by a Pre-application consultation report.

<p>Applicant SSE Renewables 1 Waterloo Street Glasgow G2 6AY.</p> <p>Phone 0141 224 7131 E-mail: jane.macdonald@sse.com</p>	<p>Agent n/a</p> <p>Phone E-mail</p>
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Address or Location of Proposed Development

Glenmoriston Estate, near Invermoriston, Highlands.

The proposed development is located adjacent to the operational 32 turbine Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (the 'Operational Development') also operated by the Applicant (planning reference: 12/02556/S36). The British National Grid (BNG) reference for the centre point of the Site is 238732, 821202. The location of the proposed development is shown on **Figure 1.1 (attached)**.

Description of Development

The proposed development will extend the Operational Development onto the adjoining land to the east and north and will comprise 18 wind turbines of up to a maximum 180 m height from ground to blade tip when vertical. The total installed capacity of the Proposed Development will be approximately 100.8 MW. A number of ancillary elements are also proposed, including the following: access tracks and turning heads; crane hardstandings; underground cabling; on-site substation; two temporary construction compounds; a batching plant search area; five new borrow pit search areas; three former hydro borrow pit search areas; a temporary meteorological monitoring mast; and a permanent LiDAR.

The Proposed Development site layout is shown in **Figure 1.2 (attached)** and the wider site layout in context with the Operational Development is shown in **Figure 1.3 (attached)**.

Pre-application Screening Notice

Has a Screening Opinion been issued on the need for a Proposal of Application notice by the Highland Council in respect of the proposed development?

If yes, please provide a copy of this Opinion.

No. Section 36 Scoping Opinion was obtained from Energy Consents Unit.

Community Consultation [See checklist of Statutory minimum consultation attached]

State which other parties have received a copy of this Proposal of

Application Notice.

Community Council/s	Date Notice Served
Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston CC	29/3/21
Glenurquhart CC	29/3/21
Strathglass CC	29/3/21
Names/details of any other parties	Date Notice Served
Copy sent to Energy Consents Unit	29/3/21

Please give details of proposed consultation

Proposed public event	Venue	Date and time
Website	On-line	July 2020
Virtual Public Exhibition	On-line	24 th February – 12 th March 21

Newspaper Advert – name of newspaper	Advert date(where known)
Press and Journal (advert)	24 th February 2021

Details of any other consultation methods (date, time and with whom)

2020:

- 5th March 2020 - Initial email to community councils re engagement in public events. Further correspondence in Mar-May included various follow up emails on approach to alternative digital consultation methods due to covid-19 restrictions.
- 11th June 2020 – Project webpage live: <https://www.sserenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/bhlaraidh-extension/>
- 12th June 2020 - Correspondence to community councils, ward councillors and mailing list, social media.
- 15th/16th June - Postcards sent to ~2,000 local residents and businesses.
- 22nd June – Social media reminders of access to website and feedback
- 30th June – Reminder correspondence to community councils, ward councillors and mailing list
- 17th July 2020 - Reminder correspondence sent to community councils and notification of extension of online feedback deadline to the 21st July 2020.
- 13th October 2020 - Email correspondence with community councils re update on project progress.

2021

- 20-22nd Feb 2021 - Newsletter distributed via mail drop to 2,213 local residents and businesses notifying of virtual public exhibition. **Newsletter copy attached.**
- Feb 2021 - Virtual exhibition link included on project website
- 17th February 2021 - Media release to local news outlets, Inverness Courier and Press and Journal (P&J) <https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/virtual-exhibition-opens-on-proposals-for-more-wind-turbines-near-loch-ness-229199/>. **P&J advert attached.**
- 22nd January 2021 - Invitation to Community Councils.
- 22nd February 2021 - Second invitation to Community Councils.
- 3rd March 2021 - Notification of additional live chat session, issued to community councils.
- 3rd March 2021 - Media release to local news outlets.

Signed ...Jane MacDonald (issued by email)..... Date...29th March 2021.....

Appendix 2: Community Consultation Register

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
July 2019	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Distribution of Scoping Report	15.08.2019
July 2019	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Distribution of Scoping Report	02.07.2019
July 2019	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Distribution of Scoping Report	02.08.2019
22.11.2019	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Request for community council meeting dates	
22.11.2019	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Request for community council meeting dates	
22.11.2019	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Request for community council meeting dates	24.11.2019
27.11.2019	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Acknowledgement of re-mail regarding community council dates	05.12.2019

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
05.12.2019	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Confirmation of future community council dates	
05.03.2020	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Request for guidance on community consultation process	06.03.2020
05.03.2020	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Request for guidance on community consultation process	22.03.2020
05.03.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Request for guidance on community consultation process	07.03.2020
10.03.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Acknowledgement of community council's consultation preference	
10.03.2020	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Acknowledgement of community council's consultation preference	
23.03.2020	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Acknowledgement of email/assurance of further information on	

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
					consultation process	
27.03.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Response to request for information on COVID-compliant consultation process	28.03.2020
27.03.2020	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Update on plans for digital consultation process	
02.04.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Response to email noting community council's consultation preferences	07.05.2020
09.06.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Response to request for development update	
12.06.2020	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Update on digital consultation programme	
12.06.2020	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Update on digital consultation programme	

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
17.06.2020	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Invitation to provide feedback on scoping information published on Bhlaraidh Extension website	
17.06.2020	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Invitation to provide feedback on scoping information published on Bhlaraidh Extension website	18.06.20
17.06.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Invitation to provide feedback on scoping information published on Bhlaraidh Extension website	
18.06.2020	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Update on consultation, including copy of postcard distributed to area households	
18.06.2020	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Update on consultation, including copy of postcard distributed to area households	

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
18.06.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Update on consultation, including copy of postcard distributed to area households	
18.06.2020	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Response to request for confirmation of consultation deadline	
24.06.2020	Postal addresses within boundary area of Fort Augustus, Glen Urquhart and Strathglass community councils		Eilidh Todd	Post	Distribution of postcard highlighting website, scoping and requesting feedback alongside contact details.	
08.07.2020	Iain Inglis	Community member	Eilidh Todd	Email	Response to request for information on public exhibitions. Informed that pending COVID 19 guidance there will be exhibitions later in the year	
08.07.2020	John Furze	Community member	Eilidh Todd	Email	Provided assistance with	

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
					access to the Bhlaraidh Extension webpage via email during consultation period.	
17.07.2020	Humphrey Clarke	Community member	Eilidh Todd	Email	Response to various questions regarding Proposed Development	
17.07.2020	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Answer to community council questions regarding constraint payments and potential further extensions.	
17.07.2020	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Reminder of deadline for feedback on scoping information	
17.07.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Reminder of deadline for feedback on scoping information	
20.07.2020	Lorraine Doolan	Community member	Eilidh Todd	Email	Response to concerns about Auchterawe	

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
					substation, with relevant contact at SSE Networks.	
29.07.20	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Update on project team representation	
29.07.20	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Update on project team representation	
29.07.20	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Update on project team representation	
29.07.20	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Eilidh Todd	Email	Update on project team representation	
05.08.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Paul Stirling – member	Carolyn Wilson	Email	Information on image representations used in planning submission for Proposed Development	12.08.2020
12.08.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Paul Stirling – member	Carolyn Wilson	Email	Response to inquiry regarding image representations of Proposed Development	13.08.2020

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
13.08.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Paul Stirling – member	Carolyn Wilson	Email	Further information regarding image representations of Proposed Development	19.08.2020
25.09.2020	Soirbheas	Community Development Manager	Marianne Townsley	Phone	Conversation regarding community investment opportunities	
13.10.2020	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Aimi Munro	Email	Update on development activity	
13.10.2020	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Aimi Munro	Email	Update on development activity	
13.10.2020	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Aimi Munro	Email	Update on development activity	
27.10.2021	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Introduction of new SSE representative	
27.10.2021	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Introduction of new SSE representative	28.10.2021

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
27.10.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Introduction of new SSE representative	
19.11.2020	Soirbheas	Community Development Manager	Alan Greenwood	Email	Dialogue regarding role of Soirbheas	
20.11.2020	The Highland Council	Council Leader	Andrew Sloan, Chris Bell, Alan Greenwood	Video meeting	Update on Bhlaraidh Wind Farm extension	
14.01.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Paul Stirling – member	Carolyn Wilson	Email	Information on image representations used in planning submission for Proposed Development	22.01.2021
22.01.2021	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Update on development activity, including plans for virtual exhibition	
22.01.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Update on development activity, including plans for virtual exhibition	
22.01.2021	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Update on development activity, including plans for virtual exhibition	23.01.2021

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
25.01.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Response to request for newsletter to be distributed to householders in consultation area	
25.01.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Paul Stirling – member	Alan Greenwood	Email	Invitation to meet via videolink/phone	
27.01.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Paul Stirling – member	Alan Greenwood	Phone	Discussion regarding ZTV images	
04.02.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Paul Stirling – member	Alan Greenwood	Phone	Discussion regarding ZTV images	
04.02.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Paul Stirling – member	Alan Greenwood	Phone	Presentation of further ZTV images from locations specified by the community council	09.02.2021
09.02.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Paul Stirling – member	Alan Greenwood	Phone	Response to community council comments on ZTV	
12.02.2021	Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company	Chief officer	Marianne Townsley	Email	Consultation regarding details for use in exhibition materials	15.02.2021
17.02.2021	Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston	Chief officer	Alan Greenwood	Email	Confirmation of details for use in	

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
	Community Company				exhibition materials	
19.02.2021	Highlands and Islands Enterprise	Head of Strategic Projects	Alan Greenwood	Email	Project update	
22.02.2021	Highland Retreats Cannich	Proprietor	Alan Greenwood	Phone	Discussion regarding supply chain opportunities	22.02.2021
22.02.2021	M Freeman	Community member	Alan Greenwood	Phone	Arranged distribution via email of large print copy of newsletter	
22.02.2021	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Invitation to attend virtual wind farm exhibition	
22.02.2021	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Invitation to attend virtual wind farm exhibition	23.02.2021
22.02.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Invitation to attend virtual wind farm exhibition	
23.02.2021	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Confirmation of additional live chat dates per community council's recommendation	

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
26.02.2021	Jeffrey Dymond	Community Member	Alan Greenwood	Phone	Discussion about water courses at Proposed Development	26.02.2021
03.03.2021	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Confirmation of additional live chat sessions during virtual exhibition	03.03.2021
03.03.2021	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Confirmation of additional live chat sessions during virtual exhibition	
03.03.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Confirmation of additional live chat sessions during virtual exhibition	
05.03.2021	Jeffrey Dymond	Community Member	Alan Greenwood	Email	Brief update on status of inquiry into water courses	
09.03.2021	Soirbheas	Community Development Manager	Alan Greenwood	Email	Update on virtual exhibition	10.03.2021
09.03.2021	Jeffrey Dymond	Community Member	Alan Greenwood	Email	Response to inquiry into water courses	
29.03.2021	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Distribution of Proposal of Application Notice	

Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
29.03.2021	Glen Urquhart Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Distribution of Proposal of Application Notice	
29.03.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Distribution of Proposal of Application Notice	01.04.2021
02.04.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Acceptance of invitation to attend community council meeting	
05.05.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Confirmation of attendance at community council meeting	
12.05.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Submission of presentation materials for use at community council meeting	12.05.2021
12.05.2021	Strathglass Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Attendance at community council meeting	
25.05.2021	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Further offer of attendance at community council meeting	
25.05.2021	Glen Urquhart	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Further offer of attendance at	

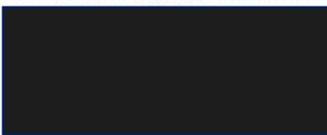
Date	Consultee	Recipient	Applicant Representative	Format	Summary	Response
	Community Council				community council meeting	
04.07.2021	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Treasurer	Alan Greenwood	Phone	Arrangements to attend community council meeting	
08.07.2021	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Phone	Brief project update	
15.07.2021	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Outdoor meeting	Project update	
03.08.2021	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	Chair	Alan Greenwood	Email	Rearrangement of meeting date	

Appendix 3: Community Council Responses to Scoping Report



FORT AUGUSTUS AND GLENMORISTON
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Deirdre MacKinnon, Chair



15th August 2019

Energy Consents Unit
Consents Manager
Mark Ashton

ECU00001900 19/03373/SCOP

Bhlaraidh Windfarm Extension Scoping application

Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council submit the following comment for consideration;

The Community Council have serious concerns over another major construction development which is being considered within the short timescale of the original Bhlaraidh windfarm construction having been completed.

The local residents and businesses in the areas of Invermoriston, Glenmoriston and Fort Augustus are only now returning to some level of normal life on completion of the major Bhlaraidh development.

If the proposed extension is permitted then the communities, residents and the local environment will again be subjected to approximately two years of severe disruption, noise, increased construction traffic and the impact of a minimum of 150+ abnormal traffic movements through the area.

The Community Council request these matters are submitted for consideration in the scoping process.

Stuart Findlay. Community Councillor

Ashton M (Mark)

From: Fiona Urquhart **Redacted**
Sent: 14 August 2019 18:13
To: Ashton M (Mark)
Subject: FW: GCC comment on Planning application - 19/01917/PREMAJ Bhlaraidh Extension, Glenmoriston Estate North Of Levishie Invermoriston,

Dear Mark,

As we couldn't access Highland Council Planning site to fill in a comment, I sent our comment to the case officer Simon Hindson ... see below so we did respond.

Regards,
Fiona Urquhart
Planning Sec.
Glen Urquhart Community Council.

From: Fiona Urquhart **Redacted**
Date: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 at 10:55
To: Simon Hindson **Redacted**
Subject: GCC comment on Planning application - 19/01917/PREMAJ Bhlaraidh Extension, Glenmoriston Estate North Of Levishie Invermoriston,

Hi Simon,

Tried to get this application on council website but couldn't ... take it its not up yet and this is just a pre warning of plans to come.

Anyway ... discussed at last CC meeting 24/6 and this was our feeling:

Ref Number 19/01917/PREMAJ **Application Type** Major Pre-Application
Validation Date 30/05/2019 **Grid Reference** 240062 822163
Description of Works Proposed to be over 50MW, comprising turbines with a tip height of up to 180m and a rotor diameter of up to 150m
Location of Works Bhlaraidh Extension, Glenmoriston Estate North Of Levishie, Invermoriston,
Community Council Glenurquhart Community Council
Applicant Name SSE Renewables
Applicant Address Per Alison Morrison, 1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY
Case Officer Simon Hindson

Redacted

Glen Urquhart Community Council has both landscaping issues and concerns on the visibility of these turbines.

We are unable to comment any further until a full and detailed drawing is put forward as to where these turbines are to be positioned on said landscape.

Ashton M (Mark)

From: nigelellis@Redacted
Sent: 02 August 2019 10:51
To: Ashton M (Mark)
Cc: Paul Stirling; HOOD Alan; Redacted Humphrey Clarke
Subject: Scoping opinion - ECU00001900 - Bhlaraidh Windfarm Extension.

Dear Mark Ashton,

I write on behalf of Strathglass Community Council regarding our requested scoping opinion regarding the above mentioned development.

We are of the opinion that this proposal will represent a considerable extension to the existing windfarm and will have a substantial visual impact over a vast area beyond it's intended location.

We therefore request that a rigorous visual impact assessment is insisted upon and that all neighbouring community councils, including Strathglass Community Council, are identified as mandatory consultees.

Thank you and regards,

Nigel Ellis
Chairman, Strathglass Community Council

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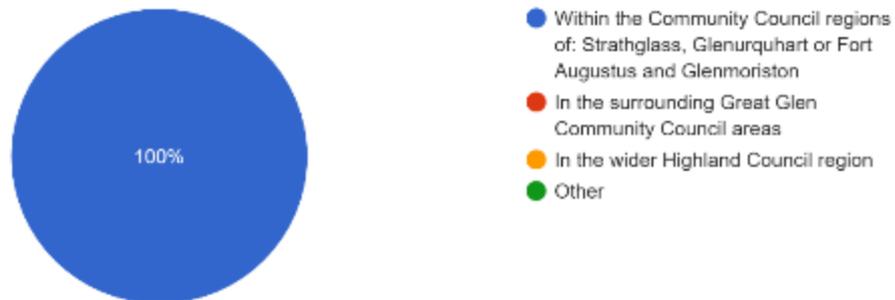
Appendix 4: First Online Public Exhibition – Feedback Report

Bhlaraidh Extension Online Public Exhibition – Feedback Report

From the webpage analytics, between 22nd June 2020 and 12th July the Bhlaraidh Extension webpage was visited 306 times. The responses to the feedback form however were limited to 11 respondents and their responses are summarised below.

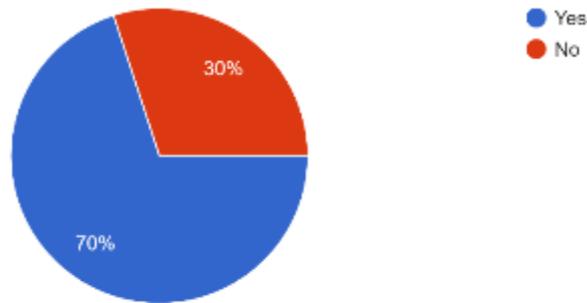
Where is your primary residence?

11 responses



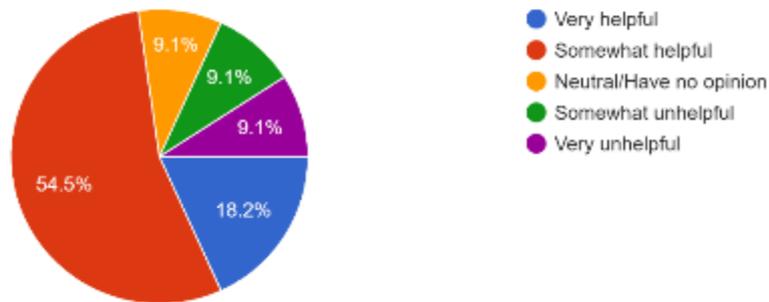
Were you able to access all the information you wanted about the Bhlaraidh Extension Proposals?
If no, please include what you would wish to see in the further detail section.

10 responses



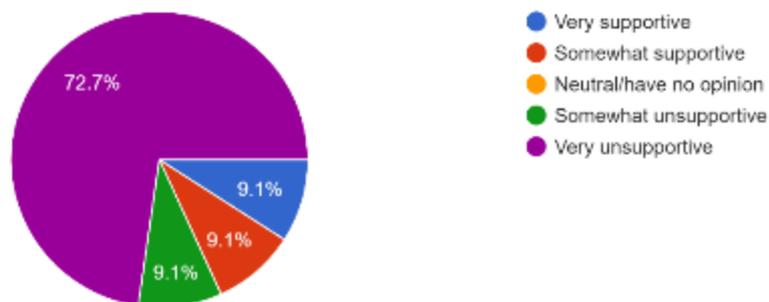
How helpful has this digital exhibition been in terms of giving you the information you wanted about the Bhlaraidh Extension project?

11 responses



How supportive are you of the Bhlaraidh Extension proposals?

11 responses



Question: What are your views on the proposed Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm?

In response to the above question a total of 11 responses were received and these are summarised below:

- It is a sadness to me to see more proposals for construction of onshore windfarms on the hills of the Highlands. Hydro and off-shore schemes should be the favoured approaches. There are better sites available for onshore windfarms, particularly in existing areas of industrial development. Should you think that this is not achievable take a look at Junction 11 of the M4, some 30 miles west of London. Here there is a large scale turbine adjacent to industrial and commercial business premises and right alongside one of Europe's busiest motorways. Continuing to desecrate the Highlands is a poor solution to the country's energy needs when other better options are available.
- If Scotland is to fully engage with and respond to the climate emergency then developments like this really have to happen. That's a big enough reason on its own to support this. Plus, much of the infrastructure (eg roads) is already in place.
- Do you not think that this environment has more than enough turbines and it's about time you stop raping this countryside and move on to another district? The communities of this area are sick to death of renewable companies attacking our working, living, areas of outstanding beauty in and around this area. This is another attempt to disregard public feeling and use the coronavirus to manipulate an awful situation. Your company is a disgrace and if this continues I will contact every national newspaper and write to the First Minister in Scotland.
It's about time you give your existing customer's value for money rather than hijacking vulnerable areas and manipulating renewable subsidiaries to make more profits for your overseas investors, who do not invest in this country by paying there fair share of taxes into the UK.
It is shameful that you are using a pandemic to try and get this venture through by the back door, people are dying and cannot leave Scotland to see loved ones but this means absolutely nothing to the low levels a company will devise in order to get this project over the line.
- More desecration of the landscape. There is an over abundance of wind farms in Scotland and my wife and I are bitterly opposed to this wind farm extension. It's all about big profit for the developers at the expense of the consumer. Why do you ask our opinions when you never take any notice of them. You also ignore community councils, local councils and regional councils, absolutely disgraceful. You have no concern of the impact on the environment whatsoever, profit, profit and more profit, that's what it's all about.
- This windfarm extension is wrong on so many levels, the amount of small lochs and wetland areas that are going to be destroyed with the roads and infrastructure that's need to put in place for this. These lochs are full of trout that use the small burns that criss-cross between them to spawn. as well as many wading birds that breed in this area. i am deeply saddened to see this happening in one of few wild areas we had left in Glenurquhart and Invermoriston this has nothing to do with renewable energy but greed.
- I think its terrible during a crisis such as Covid-19 that you go ahead with this application without the proper consultation with the public, which is not possible at the moment.
Deep peat stores more carbon than the rainforest p/ha how is digging it up and pouring concrete in it environmentally friendly.
Mining and producing the materials to manufacture these structures poisons people and watercourses.
The lochs that the existing Bhlaraidh windfarm surrounds have no fish left in them, the spawning burns have been blocked and silted up from road construction.

I regularly see osprey to the North of Chrathaich and Golden Eagle near Meall fuar- mhonaidh. Let these protected birds have a chance and leave some wild land for them to survive, they are running out of territory.

- It's a really really bad idea. We are not in favour at all and will object when planning permission is sought
- Totally against it
- Justified
- The only positive I can see is that extending here may save some other area from the ravages of human development.
- no commercial justification for further intrusion into Highland countryside

Question: We're interested to hear any further feedback or thoughts you may have on the proposals, please provide them below.

Responses to this question are outlined below:

- When will we know what the generating capacity will be?
- Defiantly
- Build them offshore.
- There are enough wind turbines. This is an area of outstanding beauty. Please don't do this!!
- Scotland is being ruined by these wind farms. They have a huge carbon footprint with the concrete used, roads put in (often left or not put back as the land was previously just being left too rough to walk over).

The wind farms require a certain amount of wind to use them, too much and they can't be used in case of damage to them. They use electricity to start them. They are subsidised by government incentives, hence the reason people build them.

Wildlife is being disturbed. The Bhlaraidh Extension will potentially enter into an area of wilderness, currently inhabited by lots of birds, divers, etc. Roads will be pushed in and the ground damaged for generations to come. Yet the turbines only have a live span of 25 years. What then?

- For goodness sake wake up and start using wave power, instead of ruining what is left of Scotland's wild areas.
- The visibility of this wind farm from lower elevations is very limited, which is good and I assume extension will be likewise. I would like to see pedestrian access provided through the base area, as there is a very substantial hill area that people could better enjoy, on foot or on bikes, were this the case. Vehicular access not required by public. Is there any plan or intention to provide the same? I am less than satisfied that the other two wind farms in vicinity of my home in Dalchreichart have actually made public access more difficult as there is no provision of pedestrian gates and the entry gates to these upland areas are barred by locked gate that discourages legitimate access.
- Although I understand the need for renewable energy, I am generally not in favour of on-shore wind farms as they encroach into the few wild places that still exist. As usual, one planning application is passed and another soon follows. How many more turbines will SSE wish to build once this application is passed? (as I am sure it will be). Whatever the 'experts' (paid by SSE) say, these developments have an impact on the environment.
- the developer always had a cynical intent to complete the original application then extend to what it originally wanted.

Where the respondent left contact details the team responded to them individually to answer the points raised.

Appendix 5: Virtual Exhibition Boards

ABOUT THIS VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Thanks for visiting our virtual public exhibition, providing an update on the Bhlairaidh Extension wind farm proposal. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 public health restrictions, our public exhibition has had to move from face-to-face information and informal consultation events to an online information platform. We hope you find our virtual exhibition useful and look forward to sharing our plans for Bhlairaidh Extension with you.

Your views matter and we hope the information presented here encourages you to share them with us. This will help us understand if you are supportive of the project, or if you have issues or concerns we can respond to before submitting a planning application.

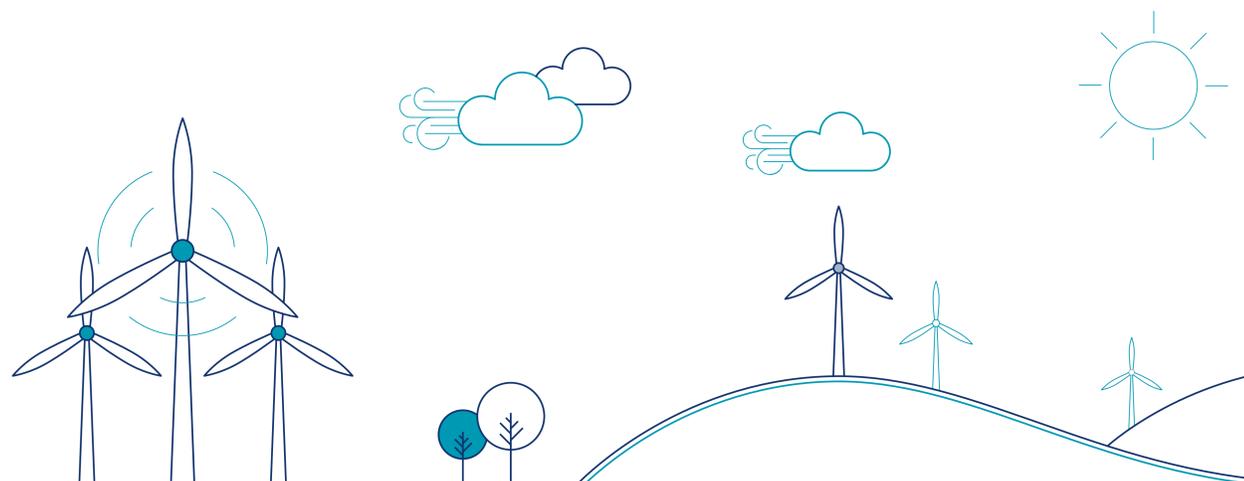
You can get in touch using the 'Contact Us' link or by clicking on the 'Live Chat' button during operating hours.

Live Question and Answer opportunities are available from Wednesday 24th February to Friday 26th February, between 2pm and 4pm each day, where members of our project team will be available to discuss any matters regarding Bhlairaidh Extension through our live chat function.



If you have any other queries after attending this event, please email them to alan.greenwood@sse.com or call Alan Greenwood on **07342 142714**

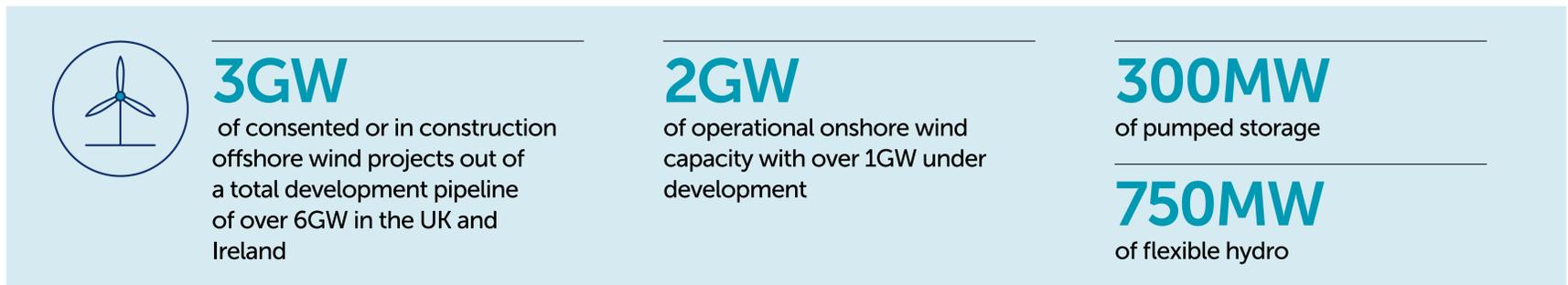
We look forward to hearing from you.



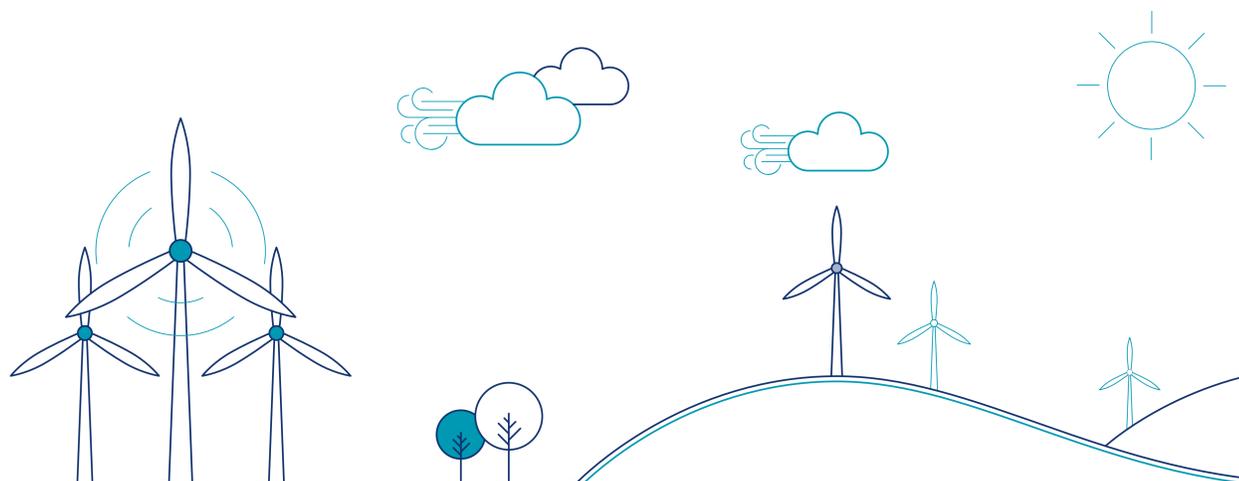
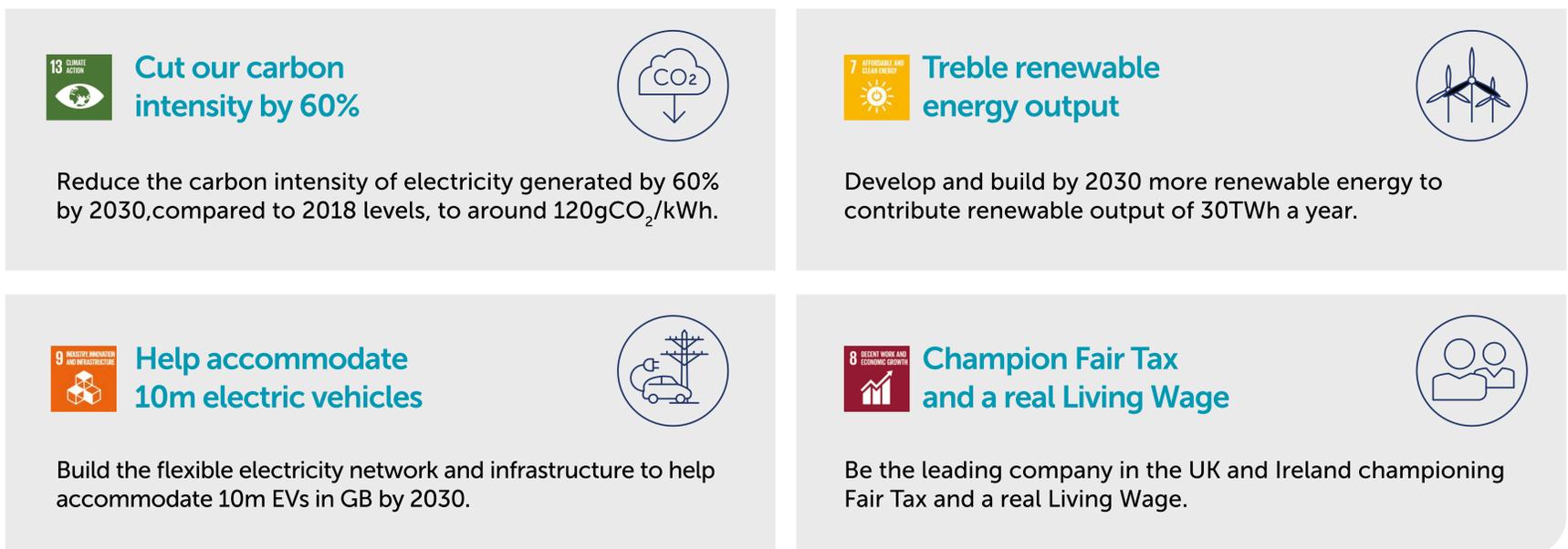
WHO WE ARE

SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy across the UK and Ireland. Our portfolio extends to around four gigawatts (GW) of onshore wind, offshore wind and hydro. Part of the FTSE-listed SSE plc, our strategy is to drive the transition to a zero-carbon future through the development, construction and operation of world-class renewable energy assets.

SSE Renewables owns nearly 2GW of operating onshore wind capacity with more than 1GW currently in development. SSE Renewables also has the largest offshore wind development in the pipeline in the UK and Ireland at more than 6GW.

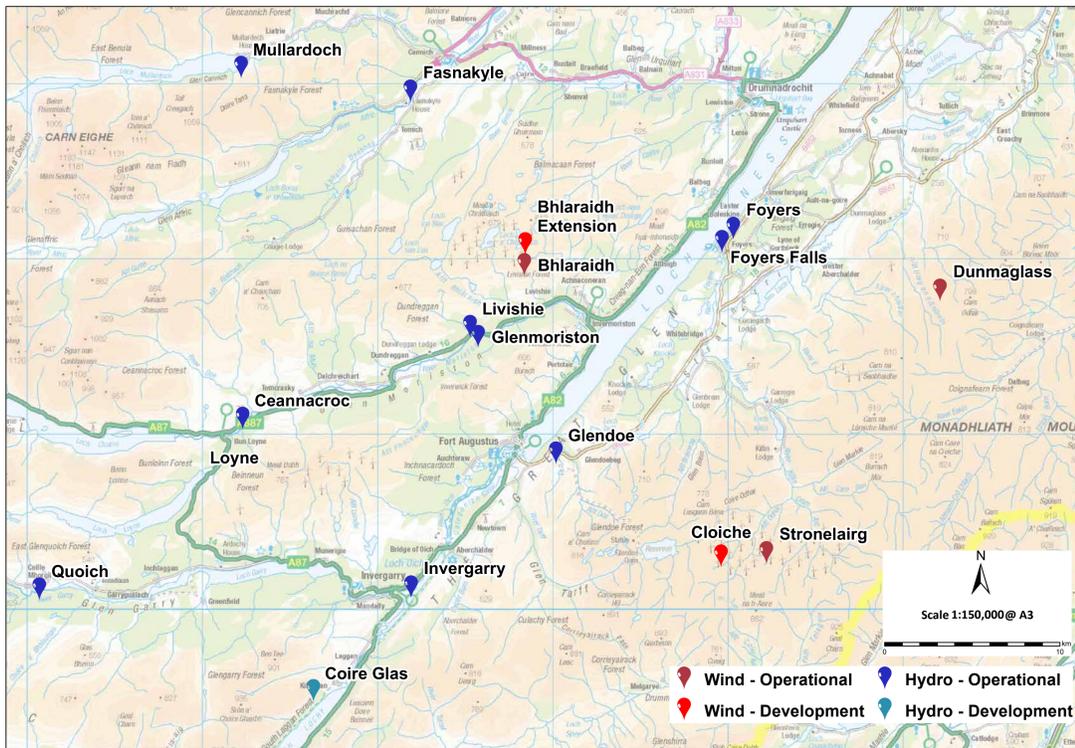


OUR 2030 GOALS



SSE IN THE GREAT GLEN

SSE Renewables has a long-term commitment to investment in the Great Glen through both onshore wind and hydro. This map shows our current assets and also projects that are in development.

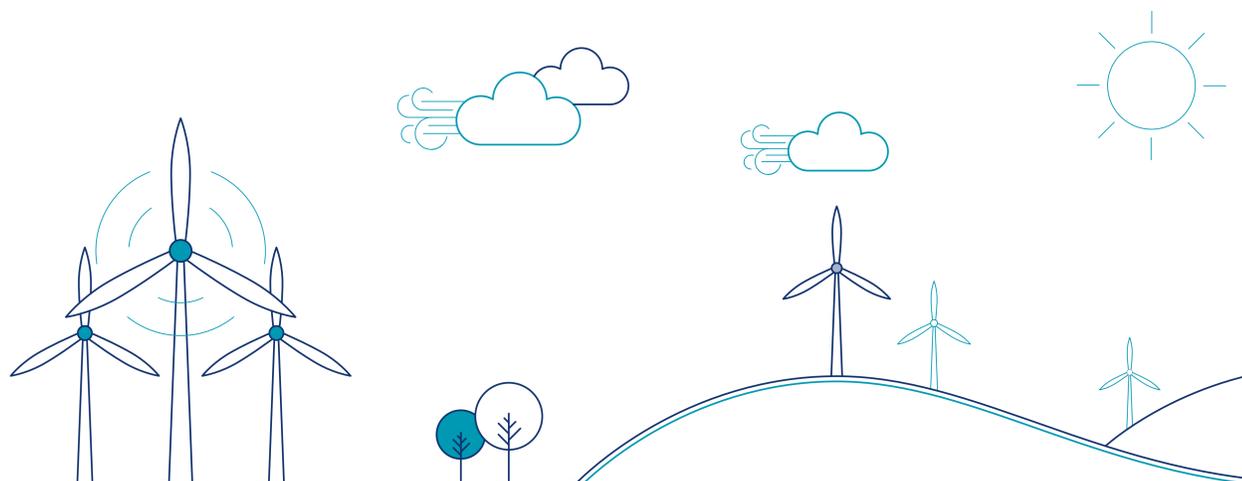


BHLARAI DH WIND FARM

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

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

Research by BIGGAR Economics calculated that total capital and operating expenditure of the Bhlairaidh wind farm would be £360 million, of which they expected £121 million to be secured in the Great Glen. [Source: 'Economic Impact Assessment of SSE Projects in the Great Glen', BIGGAR Economics, 2020]



THE PROJECT

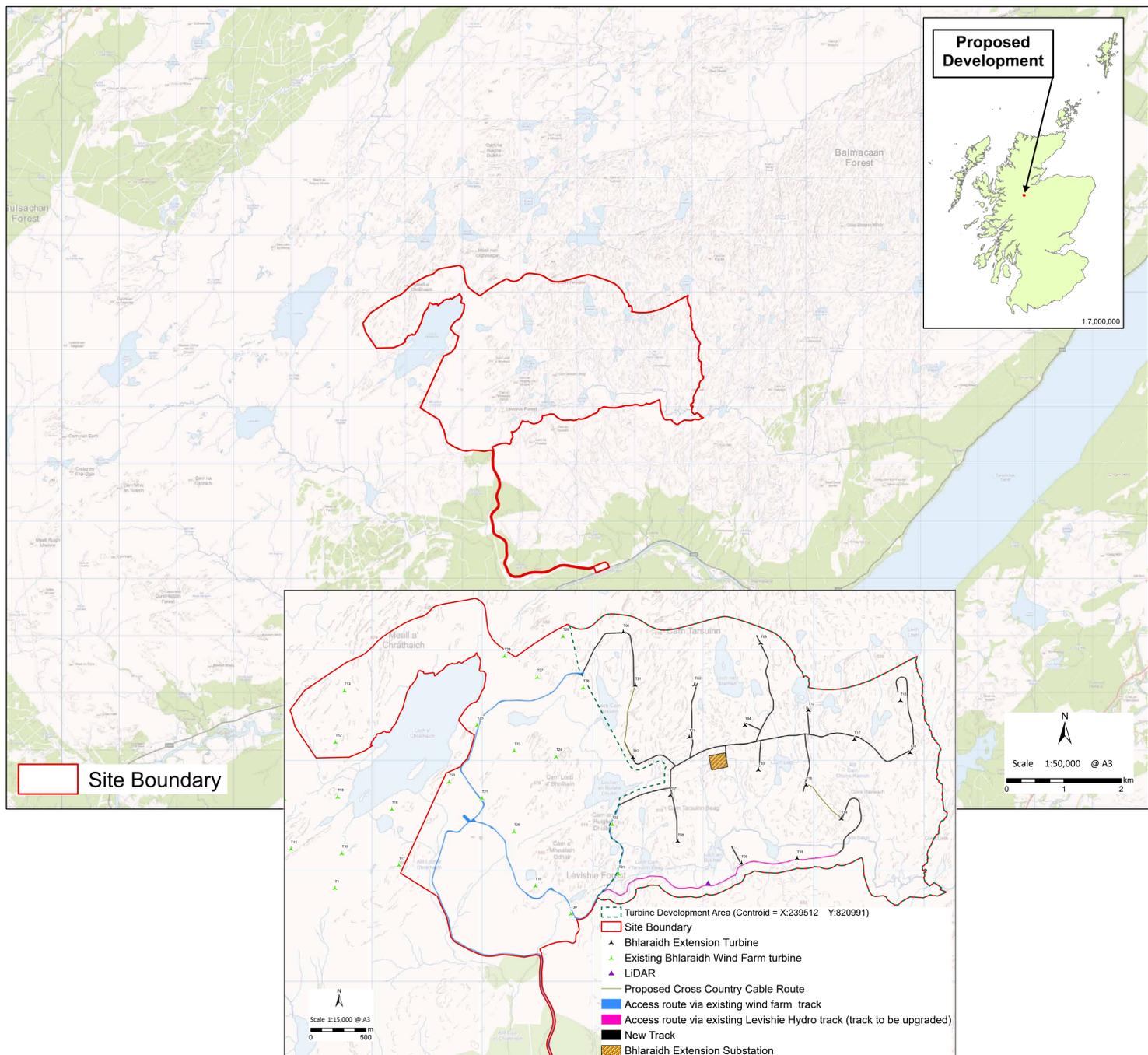
The proposed Bhlaraidh Extension site is located to the east of Bhlaraidh wind farm and is located approximately six kilometres from Invermoriston. We propose to build 18 turbines with a maximum tip height of 180m.



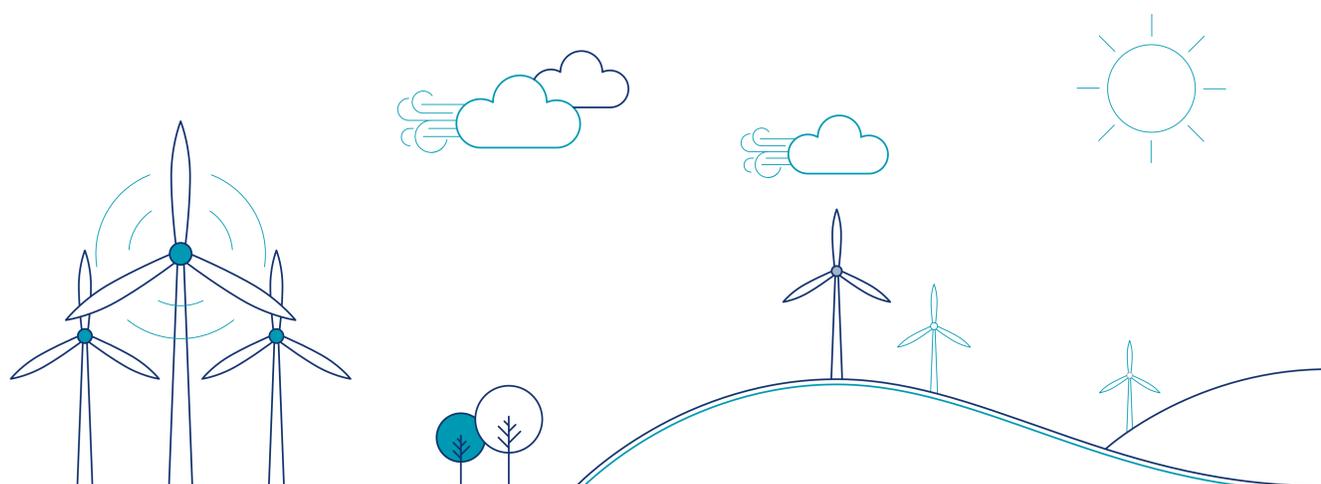
18 turbines, generating an installed capacity of around **100MW**



18 turbines, with a maximum tip height of **180m**



PROJECT TIMELINE

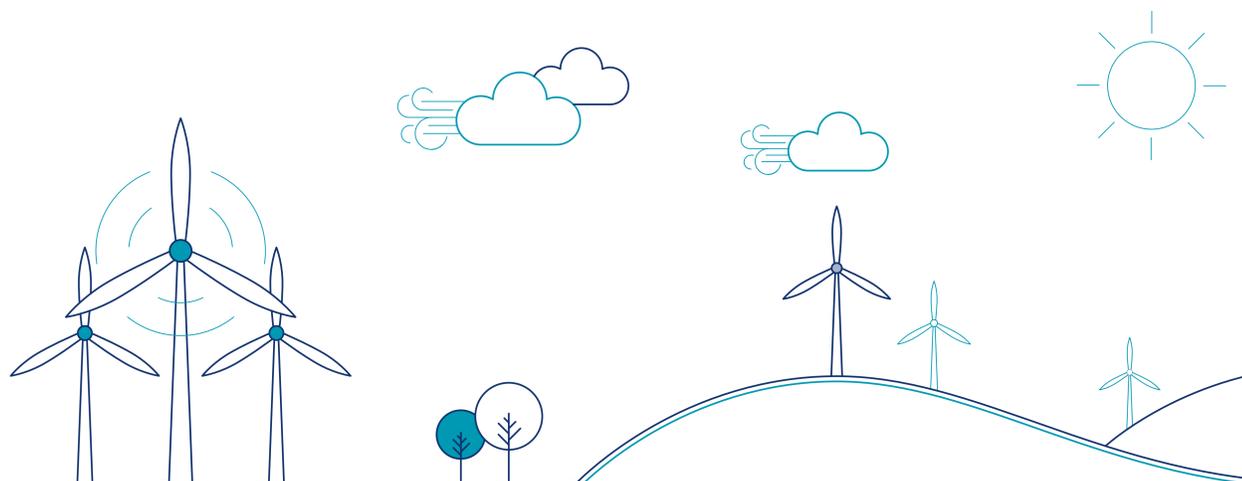
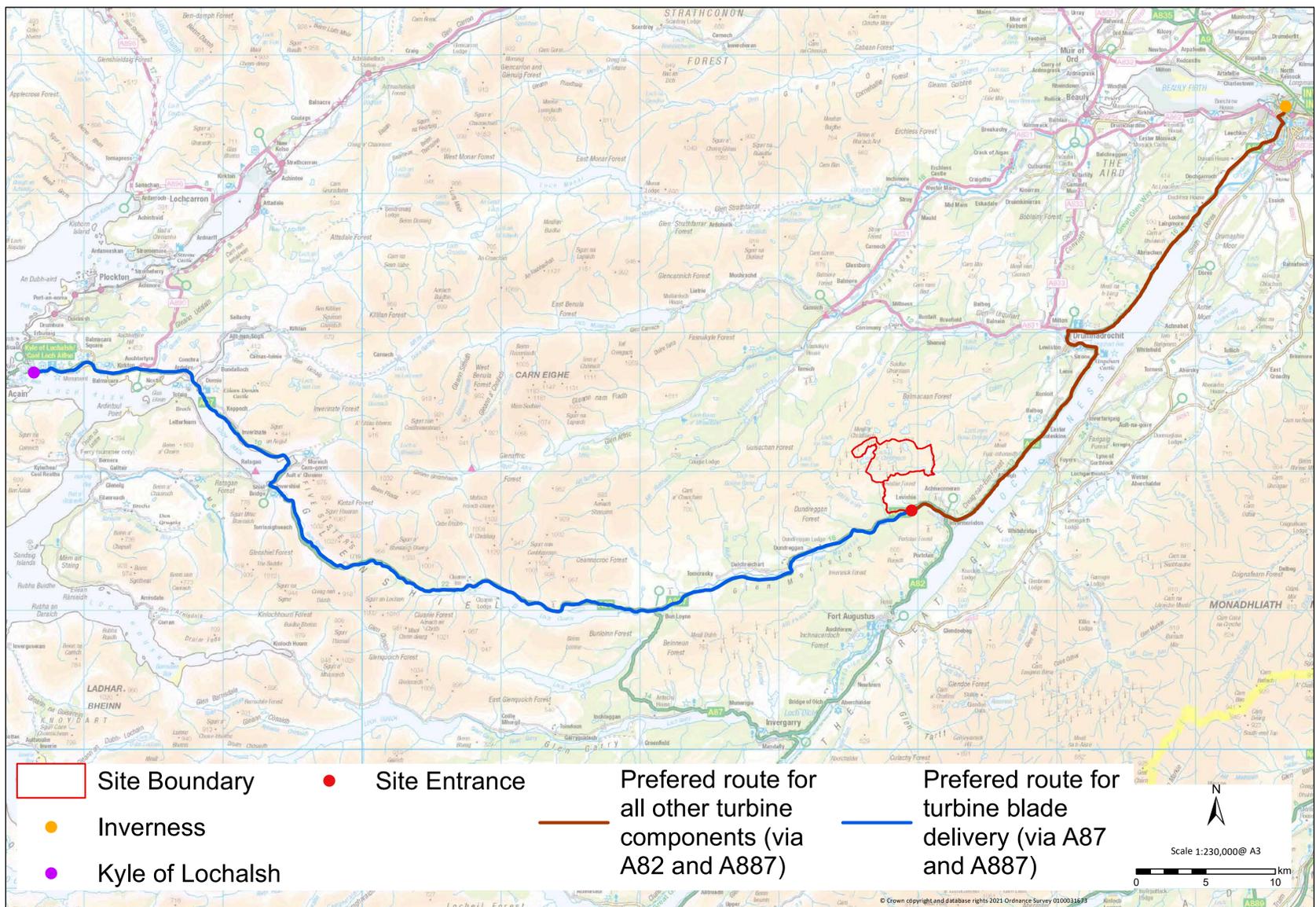


TRANSPORT ROUTE

The primary consideration of our traffic and transport assessments is to ensure our movements are as efficient and safe as possible.

In order to reduce new track construction, existing wind farm or hydro tracks have been incorporated into the layout design where possible. It is anticipated that on site borrow pits will be opened for the construction of new tracks and turbine foundations thereby reducing overall construction vehicle movements on the public roads surrounding 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 turbine components is anticipated to be Inverness with delivery via the A82 and the A887. All traffic would enter the site using the existing Bhlaraidh wind farm entrance and tracks. The map below provides an indication of these routes.



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Significant survey and assessment work has been conducted at the Bhlaraidh Extension site to recognise the importance of the surrounding habitat.

GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

An assessment of the potential effects on the hydrological, geological and hydrogeological environment associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposal is underway to understand any potential effects on water quality, and assessment of risks from chemical pollution or sedimentation, flood risk, flow regimes, any Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems and Private Water Supplies.

A detailed peat probing exercise and a peat slide risk assessment has been undertaken to inform the design of the proposed extension to the wind farm. This data will be used for assessments of carbon balance, peat stability and calculations of peat excavation and reuse volumes.

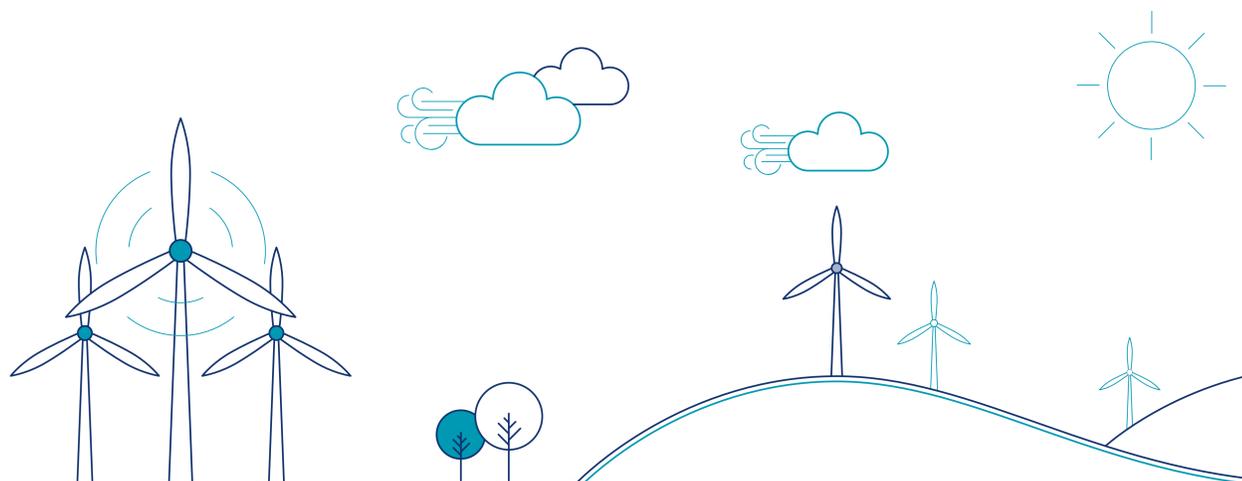
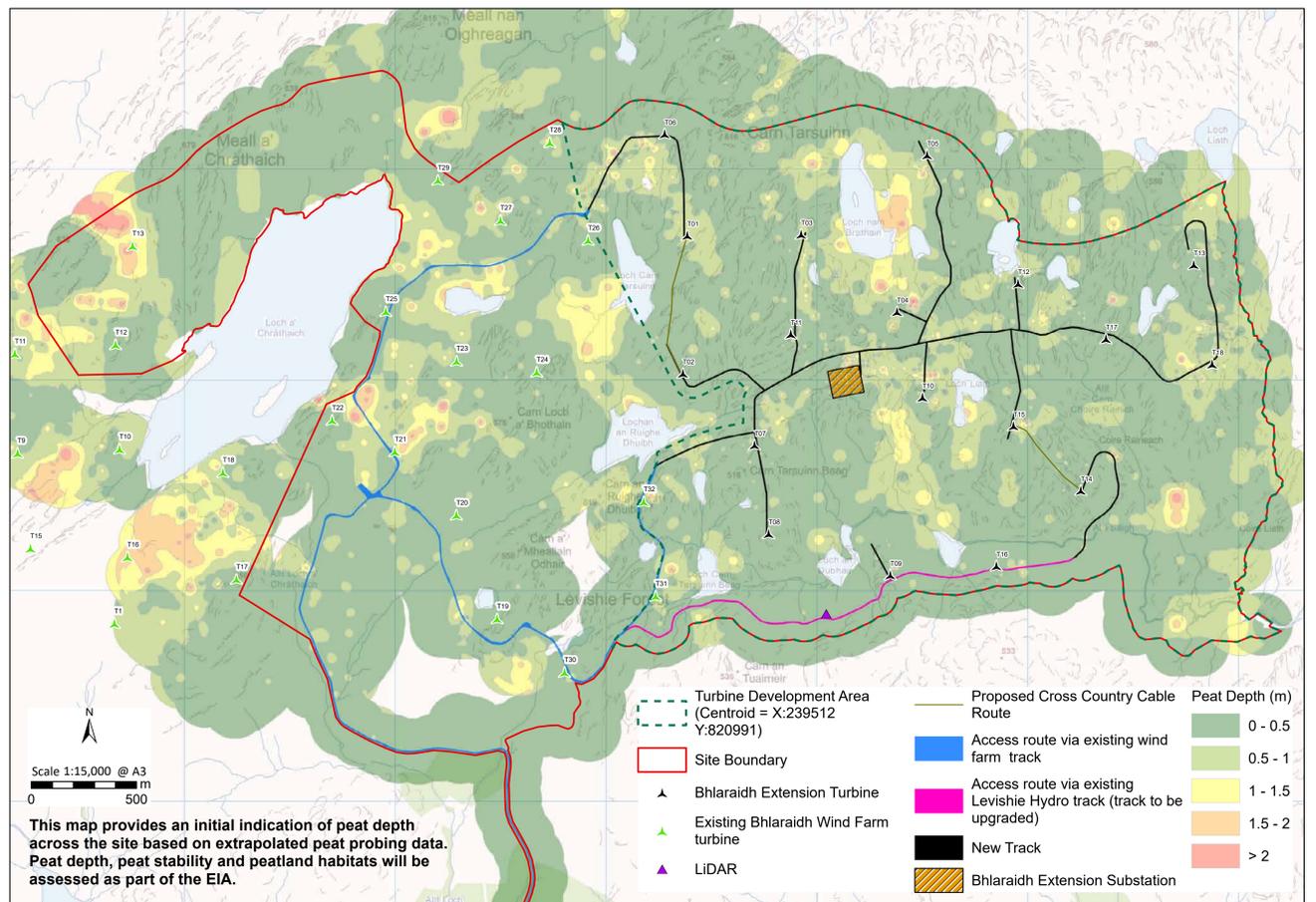
ECOLOGY

Our surveys show the dominant habitats are wet modified bog, blanket bog and wet heath. Protected species surveys identified the presence of water vole, common lizard, marsh fritillary and bat species.

ORNITHOLOGY

Two years of breeding bird surveys and vantage point flight surveys have been completed and the results have informed the design so far in terms of layout and location of the turbines.

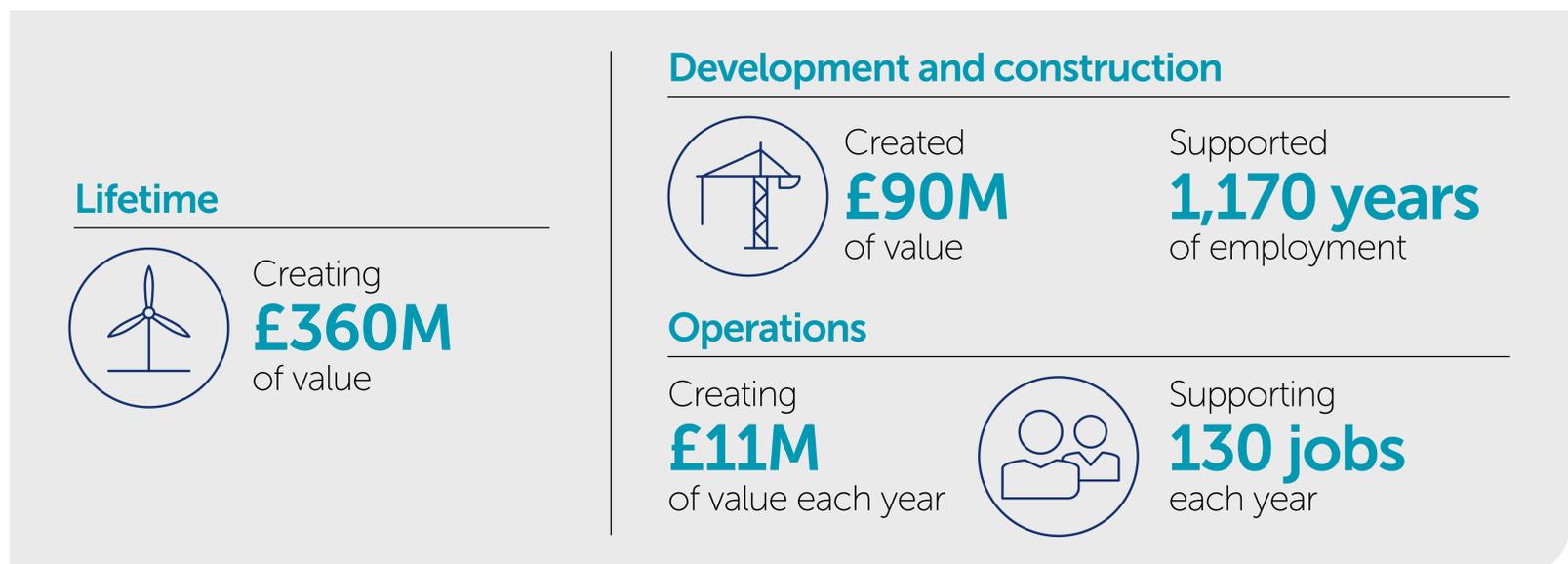
These surveys have provided sufficient information to form the baseline for the assessment of potential impacts on the bird populations due to collision risk with the turbines, as well as disturbance issues for breeding birds during both the construction and operational phases of the wind farm extension.



SSE RENEWABLES SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN THE GREAT GLEN

Our operations in the Great Glen provide significant investment and job opportunities across the area, and throughout Scotland. The community benefit programmes that accompany our wind farms at Stronelairg, Bhlairaidh and Dunmaglass will provide millions of pounds for local investment during the life span of each development, while our hydro scheme at Glendoe also delivers sizeable benefits to the local economy.

Our report, "Generating Benefits in the Great Glen", shows the economic contribution of these projects through their development, construction, operations and maintenance, with analysis undertaken by BiGGAR Economics. The illustration below provides an outline of the wider economic benefit of these projects to the Great Glen. [Click here to read the report.](#)



When Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company announced plans for a new local medical centre, we worked with them to understand their funding needs. By drawing together awards from various SSE Renewables community investment funds, we were able to contribute a total of £600,000 to the project. This in turn enabled the community to leverage a further £420,000 and meet the full cost of the new centre. The new medical centre provides the community with an asset and an income from a lease to the NHS, making it sustainable for the long term.



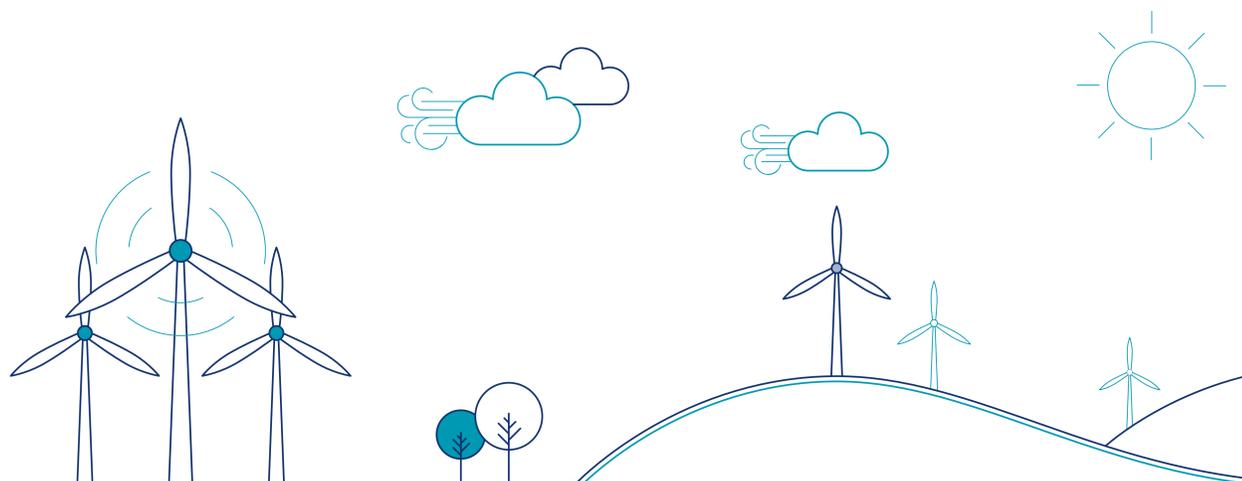
Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, opens the new medical centre alongside Linda (Harry) Whiteside, Chair of FAGCC.

For more information on SSE Renewables Community Benefit funds in the Great Glen contact:

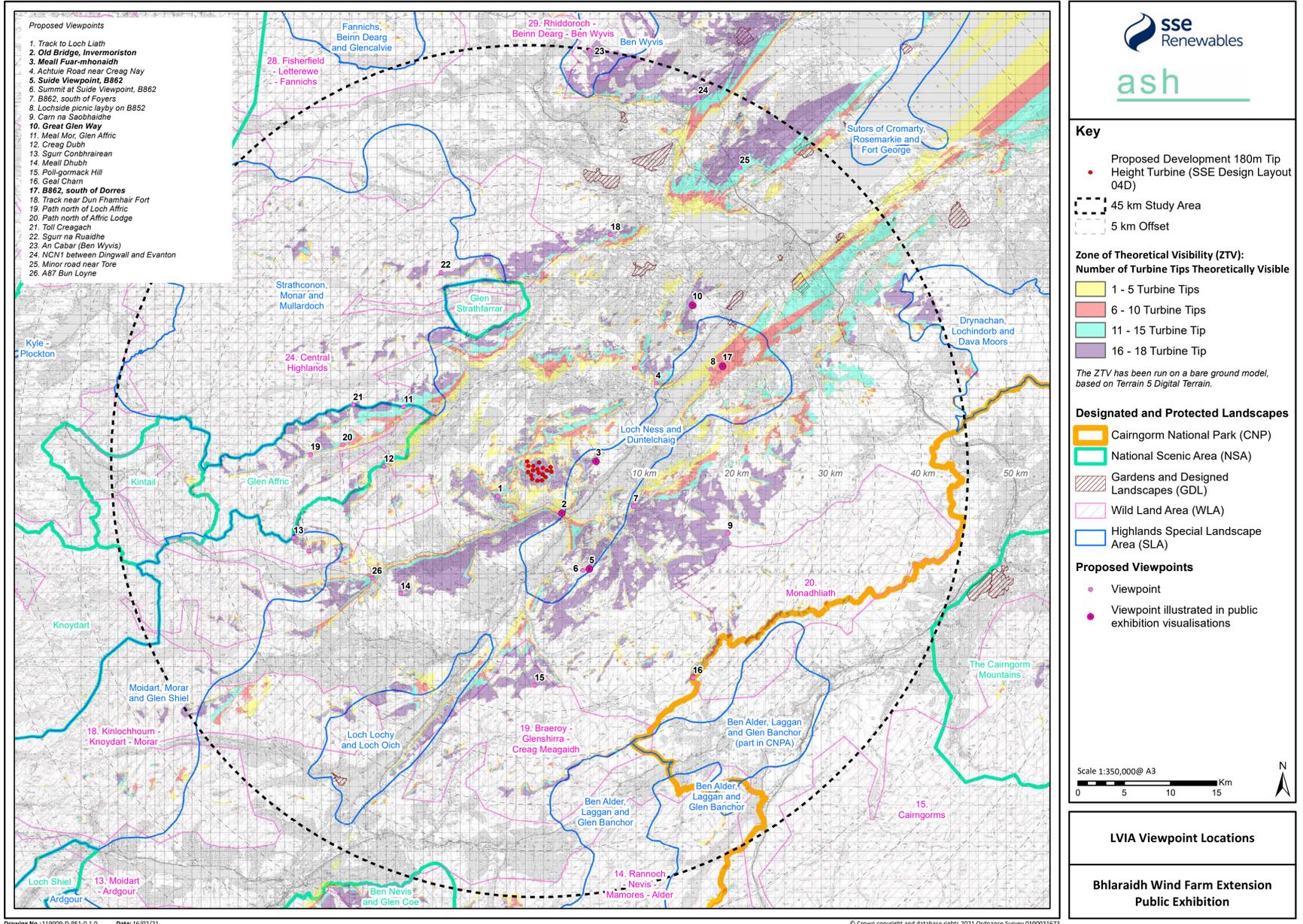


Marianne Townsley, Community Investment Manager, Tel: 01463 728069
marianne.townsley@sse.com

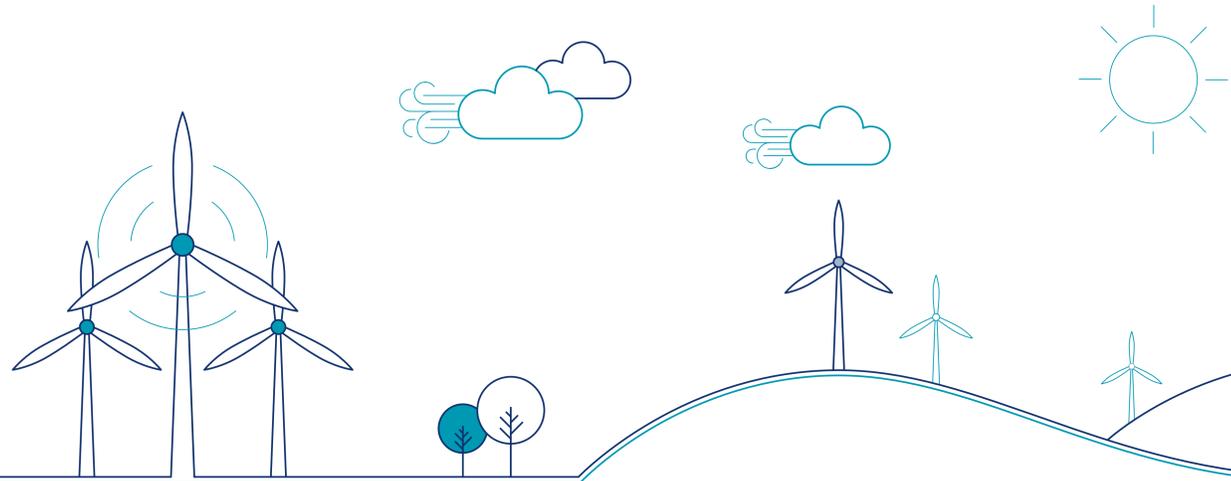
Available Tues/Weds/Thurs



VIEWPOINT LOCATIONS

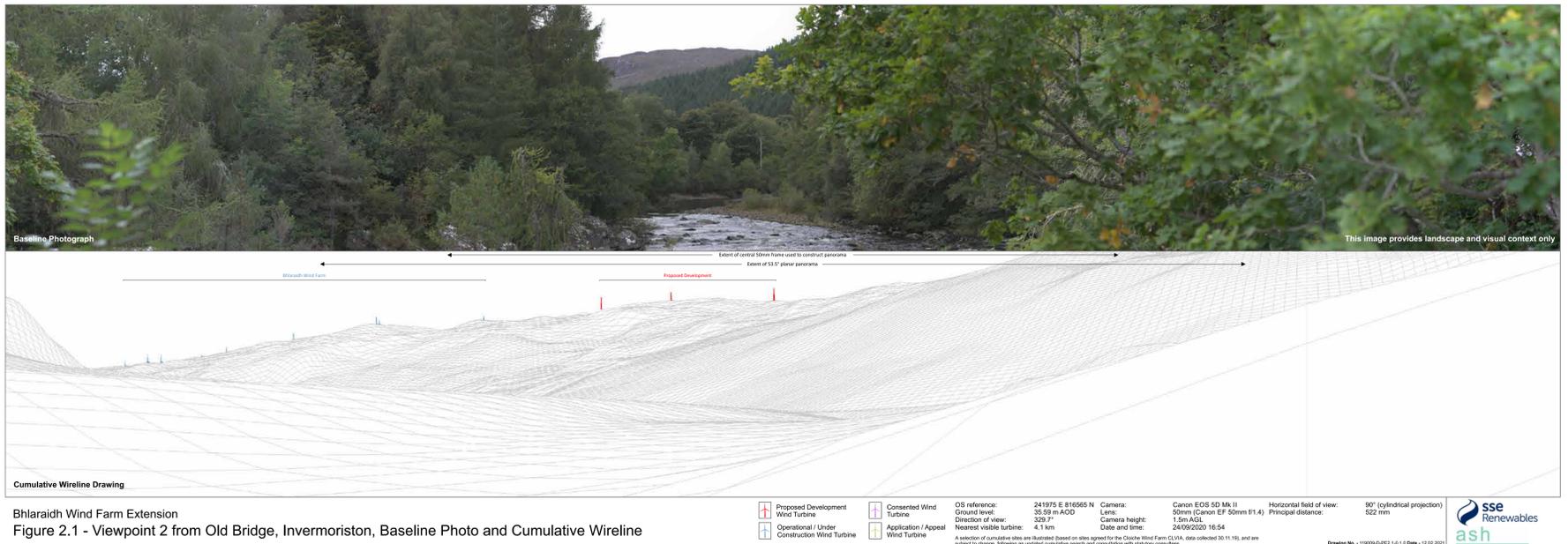


[Click here to view a larger image](#)

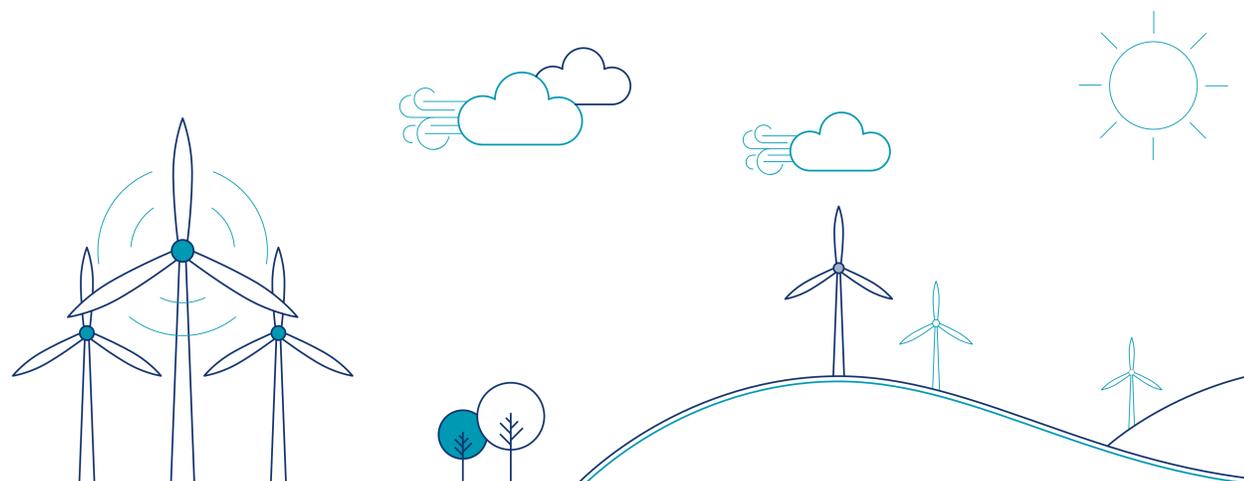


VIEWPOINT 2

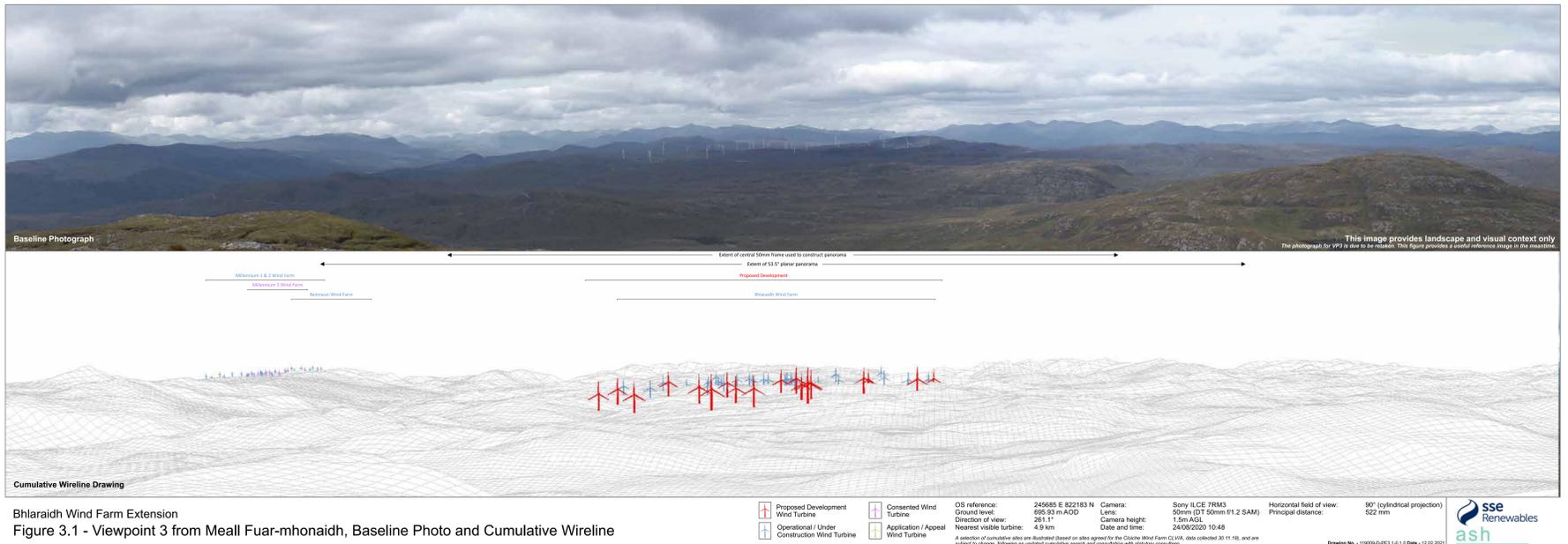
OLD BRIDGE, INVERMORISTON



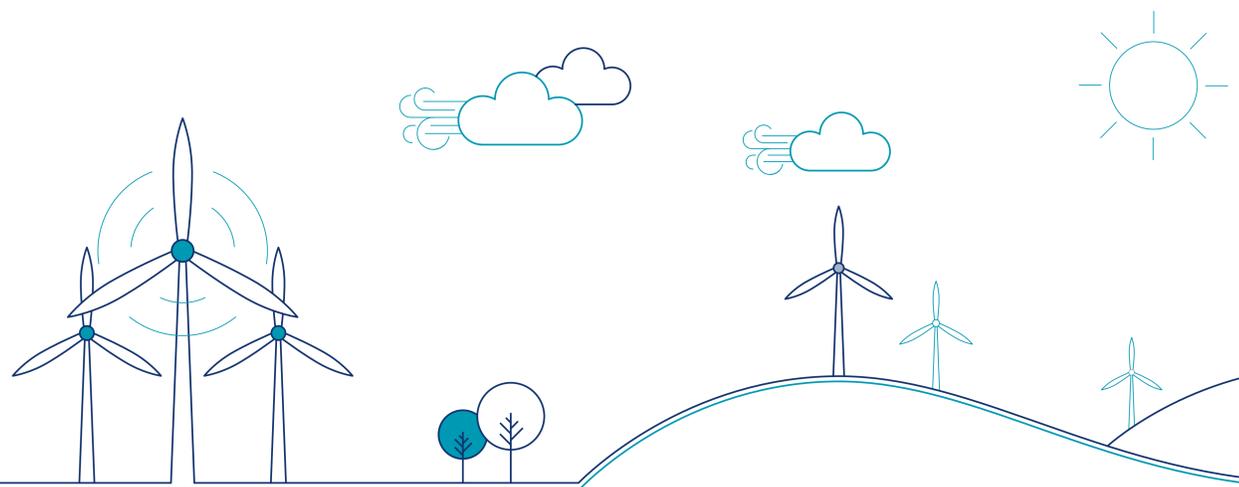
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VIEWPOINT 3 MEALL FUAR-MHONaidH

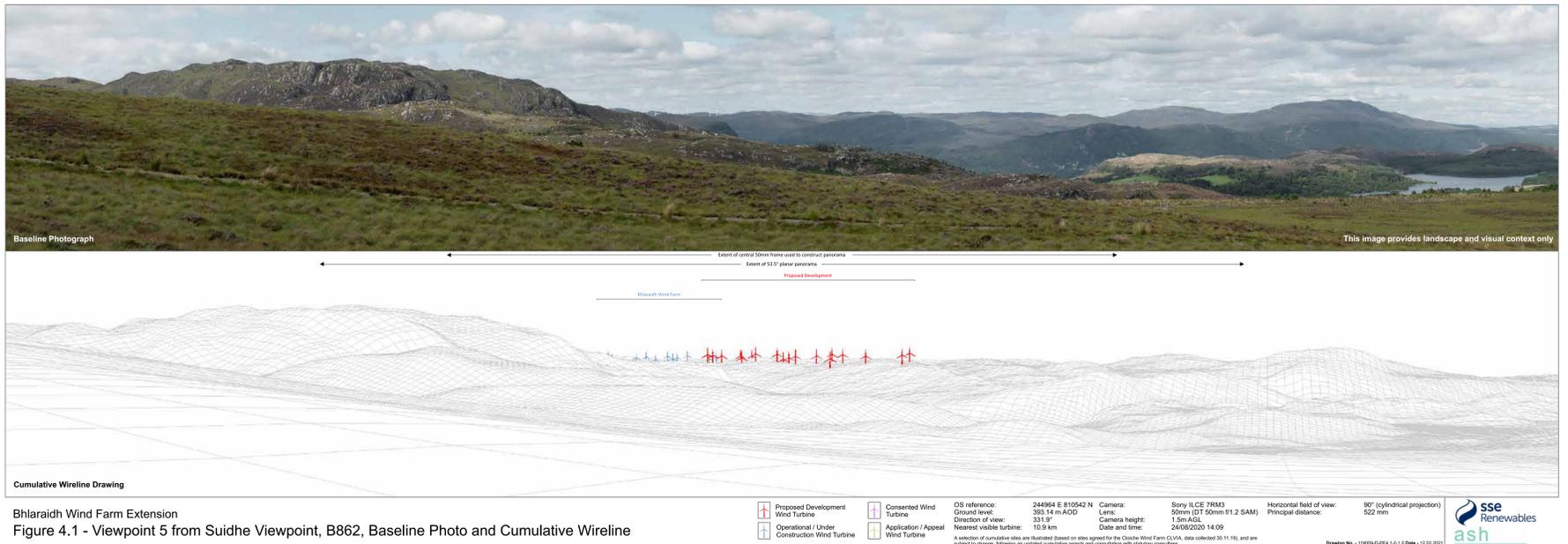


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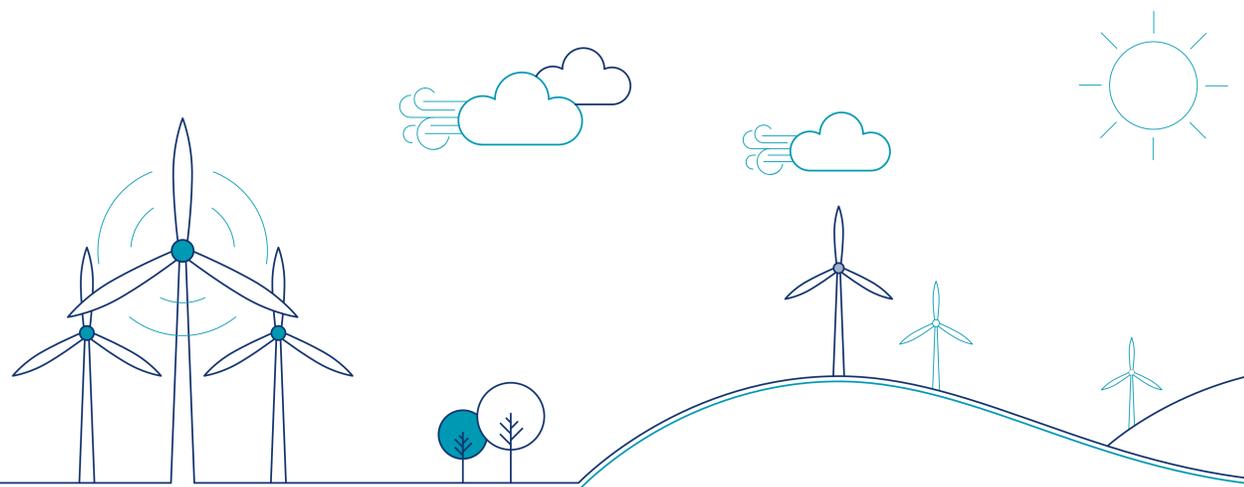


VIEWPOINT 5

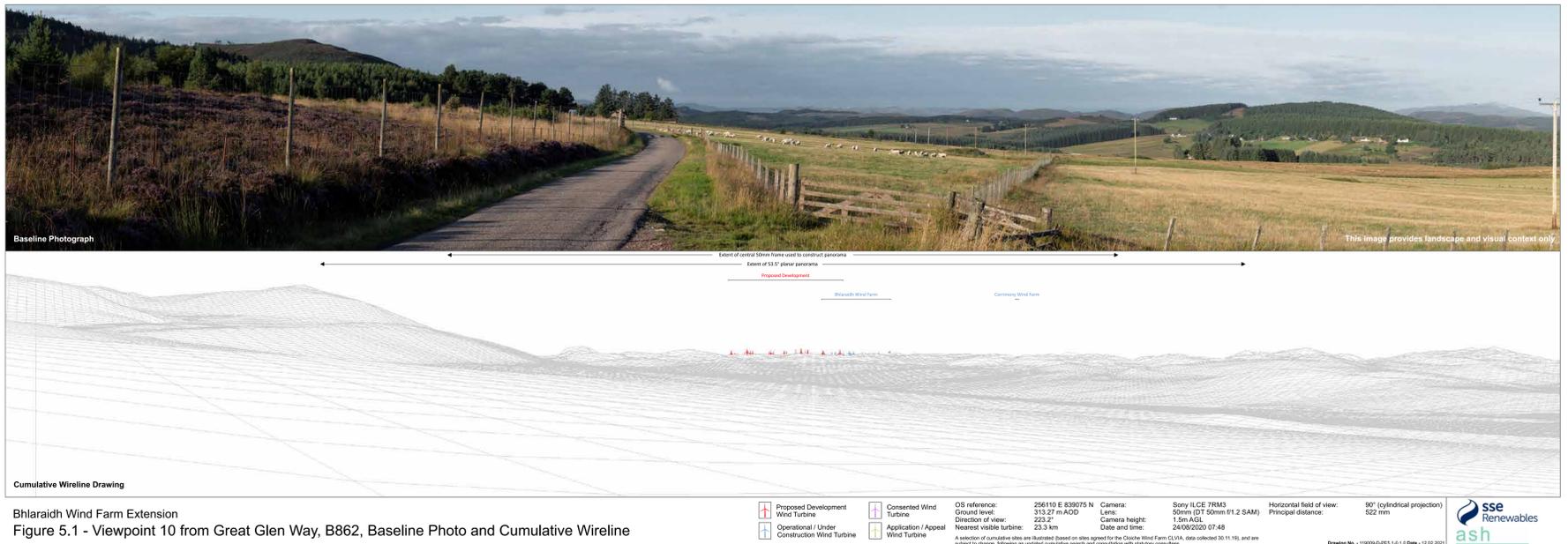
SUIDHE VIEWPOINT, B862



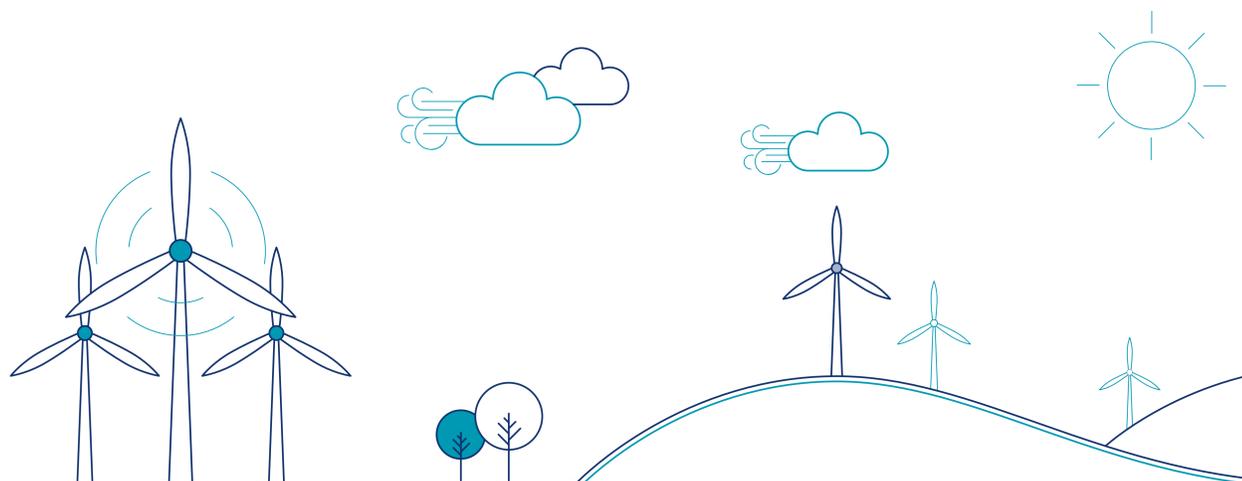
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VIEWPOINT 10 GREAT GLEN WAY

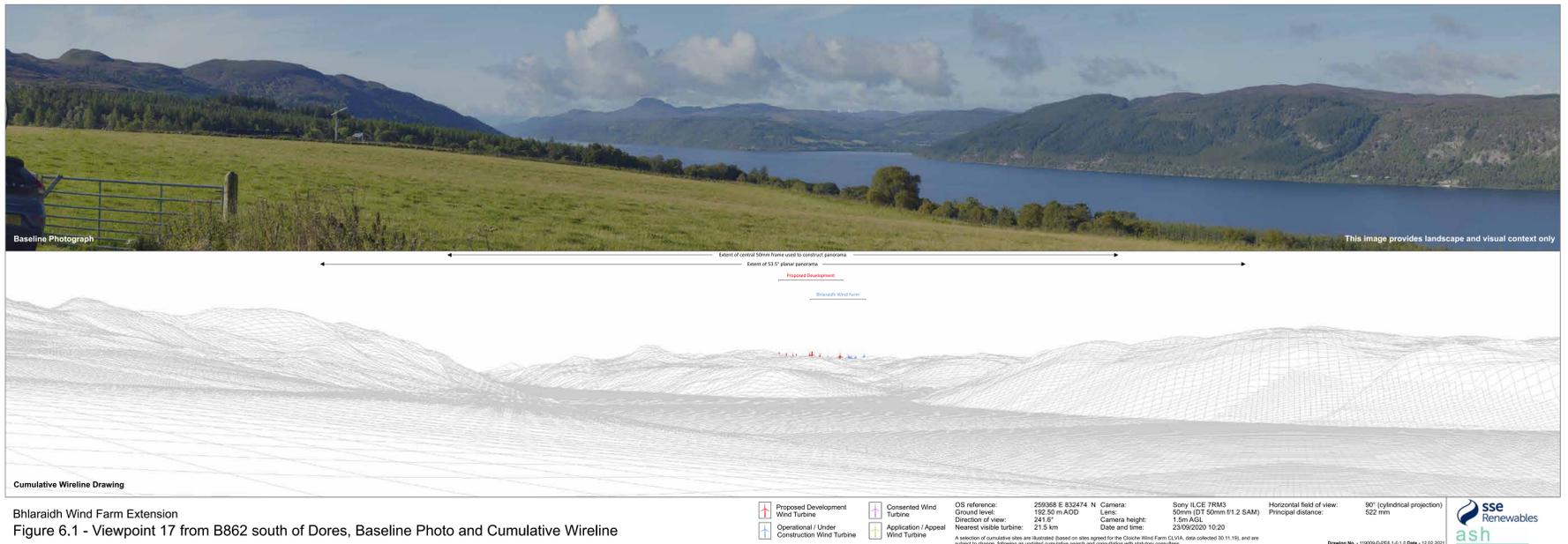


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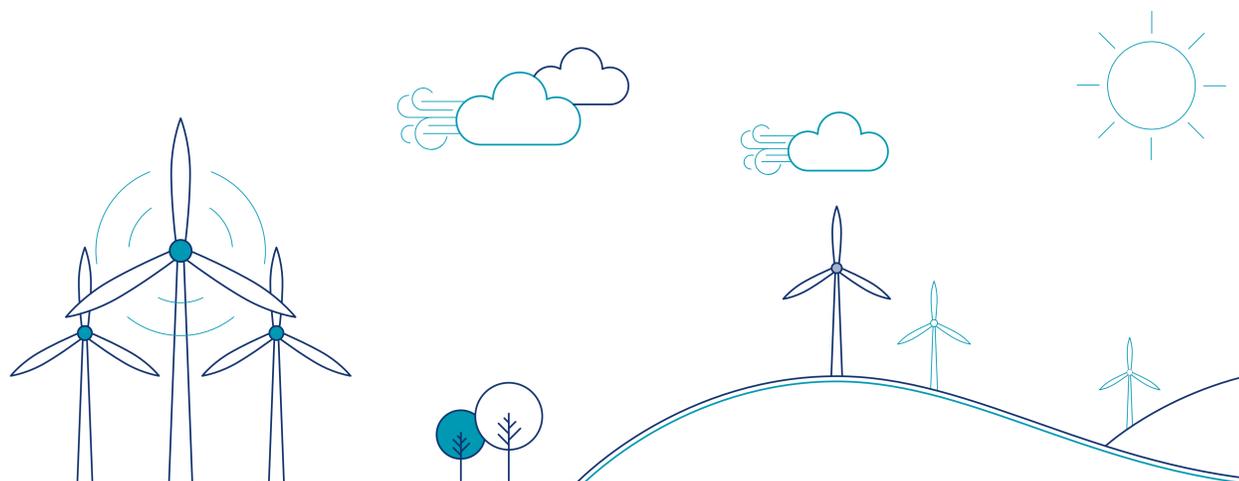


VIEWPOINT 17

B862 SOUTH OF DORES



[Click here to view a larger image](#)



Appendix 6: Newsletter



sse
Renewables

For a better
world of energy

BHLARAI DH EXTENSION **WIND FARM**

February 2021



Bhlaraidh wind farm during construction

|| INTRODUCTION

SSE Renewables is developing a proposal to extend our wind farm at Bhlaraidh in the Great Glen. The new Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm, if given planning consent, will produce around 100MW megawatts (MW) of energy and provide local jobs and investment opportunities.

BHLARAI DH EXTENSION WIND FARM

Bhlaraidh wind farm, located on the Glenmoriston Estate north-west of Invermoriston, was completed in 2017. Its 32 turbines generate up to 108MW of clean energy.

Following the successful completion of Bhlaraidh wind farm, we have been exploring the possibility of extending the site to the east. This proposed Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm would consist of 18 turbines, with a maximum tip height of 180m, generating an installed capacity of around 100MW.



18 turbines, generating an installed capacity of around

100MW

18 turbines, with a maximum tip height of

180m

If consented, the Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm will contribute to the Scottish Government's target to reduce the country's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045. The development will also offer significant employment and community investment opportunities to the Great Glen and the Highlands as a whole.

ABOUT SSE RENEWABLES

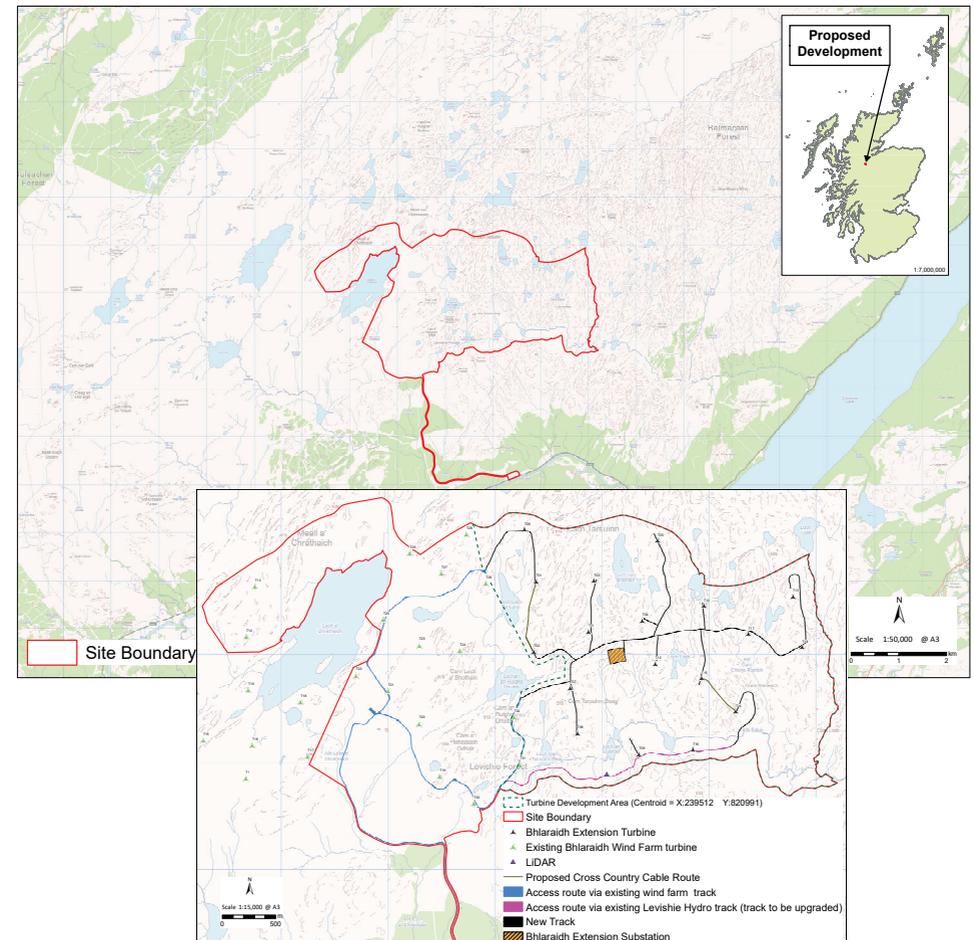
SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy across the UK and Ireland. Our operational portfolio extends to around four gigawatts (GW) of onshore wind, offshore wind and hydro. Part of SSE plc, our strategy is to drive the transition to a zero-carbon future through the development, construction and operation of world-class renewable energy assets.

Our energy projects in the Great Glen include the Dunmaglass, Stronelaig and Bhlaraidh wind farms, and the Glendoe, Levishie and Foyers hydro stations.

|| THE PROPOSAL

The proposed Bhlaraidh Extension site is located to the east of Bhlaraidh wind farm and is located approximately six kilometres from Invermoriston. We propose to build 18 turbines with a maximum tip height of 180m generating an installed capacity of around 100MW. The site was chosen because of its excellent wind resource and its proximity to the existing Bhlaraidh wind farm.

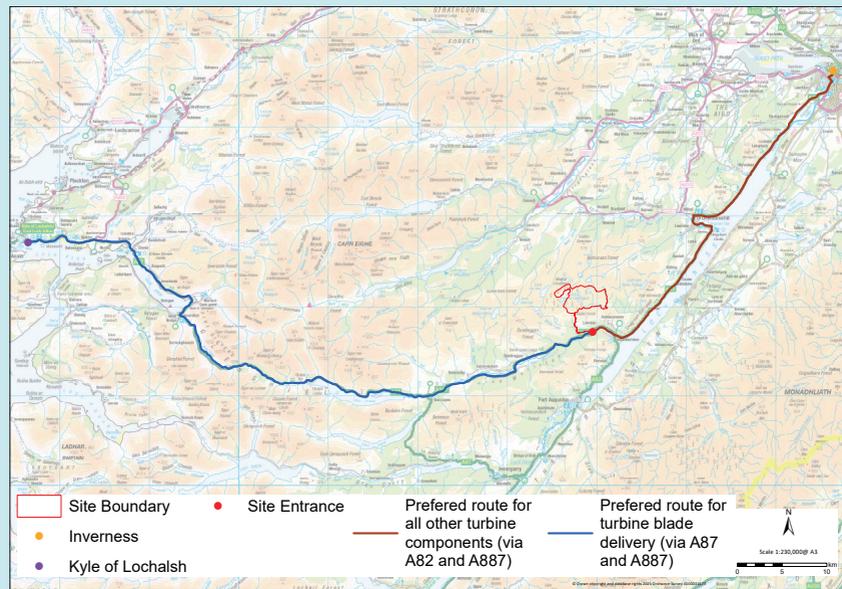
The Bhlaraidh Extension Section 36 application under the Electricity Act 1989 will be considered by the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government.



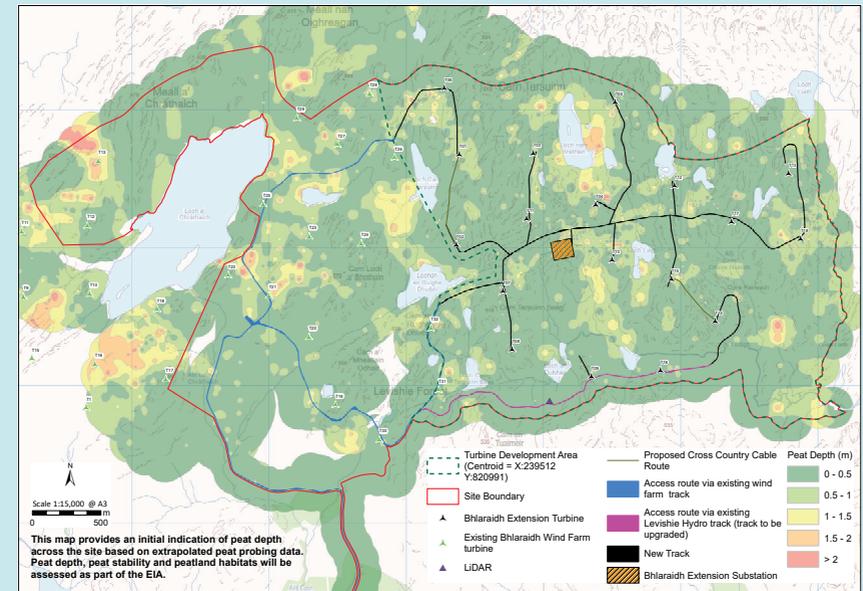
TRANSPORT

The chief consideration of our traffic and transport assessment is to limit the impact of traffic movements to the wider community while making sure turbine components, building materials and our project workers arrive at the site as efficiently and safely as possible.

In order to reduce new track construction as much as possible, existing wind farm or hydro tracks have been incorporated into the layout design where possible. 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 turbine components is anticipated to be Inverness with delivery via the A82 and the A887. All traffic would enter the site using the existing Bhlaraidh wind farm entrance and tracks.



ENVIRONMENT



We have considered environmental impacts at every stage of the Bhlaraidh Extension development process. Specialist assessments into the ecology and hydrology of the site have been conducted, along with surveys of the wildlife which inhabits and visits the area.

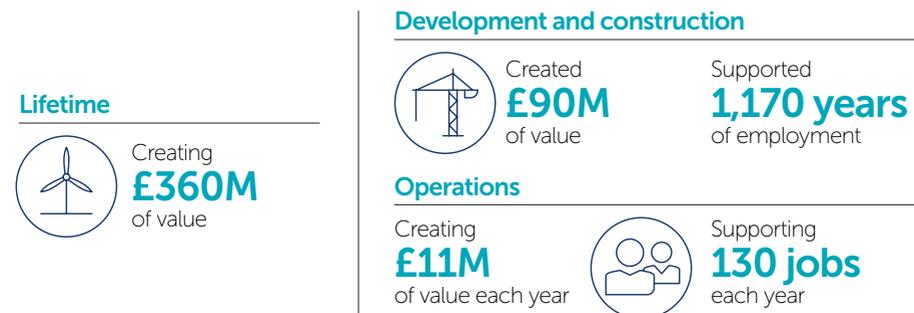
Particular attention has been given to preservation of peat habitats and peat stability on and around the site. A detailed peat probing exercise and a peat slide risk assessment has been undertaken to inform the design of the proposed extension to the wind farm.



SSE RENEWABLES – SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN THE GREAT GLEN

Our operations in the Great Glen provide significant investment and job opportunities across the area, and throughout Scotland. The community benefit programmes that accompany our wind farms at Stronelairg, Bhlaraidh and Dunmaglass fund projects across the region and will provide millions of pounds for local investment during the life span of each development, while our hydro scheme at Glendoe also delivers sizeable benefits to the local economy.

The illustration below provides an outline of the economic benefit of these projects to the Great Glen.



VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

At this stage in our consultation process we would usually host exhibitions at local venues, allowing you to discover more about Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm and discuss the development with our project team. This is currently not possible due to Covid-19 public health restrictions.

We will be hosting a virtual exhibition from 24-26 February. This online event will include information boards, like those you would expect to see at a village hall exhibition, including comprehensive details about the wind farm proposal and the timeline moving forward. There will also be an opportunity to participate in online discussions with members of the Bhlaraidh Extension project team.

Live chat sessions will run from February 24-26, but it will remain possible to visit the virtual exhibition space until March 12.

Virtual Exhibition web address: openplans.uk/bhlaraidhextension



If you cannot access an online exhibition, or would prefer to talk over the phone or through email, please get in touch via the contact details below:

Email: alan.greenwood@sse.com

Phone: 07342 142714

Further details of the Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm can be found on our website: www.sserenewables.com/bhlaraidhextension





Alan Greenwood
SSE Renewables
Inveralmond House
200 Dunkeld Road
Perth
PH1 3AQ

Email: alan.greenwood@sse.com
Phone: 07342 142714

Appendix 7: Media Release

NEWS
RELEASE



For immediate release – Wednesday 3 March

More live chat sessions for Bhlaraidh Extension virtual exhibition announced

SSE Renewables has announced times for two further live chat sessions at the Bhlaraidh Extension virtual exhibition.

Members of the Bhlaraidh Extension project team will be available online from 10am-noon and 2-4pm on Wednesday 10 March to listen to exhibition visitors' feedback and answer specific enquiries about the proposal..

The proposed Bhlaraidh Extension is situated on a site to the east of the operational Bhlaraidh wind farm on Glenmoriston Estate near Invermoriston. Visitors to the virtual exhibition will have an opportunity to view information on the proposed site layout, survey work that has been carried out to date and SSE Renewables' commitment to helping meet Scottish and UK Government green energy targets.

Craig Cunningham, project manager for the Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm, said: "We are grateful to everyone who has taken the time to visit our virtual exhibition and provide feedback on our proposals for Bhlaraidh Extension. We are looking forward to discussing Bhlaraidh Extension with more virtual exhibition visitors during the live chat sessions on 10 March."

The Bhlaraidh Extension virtual exhibition launched on February 24 and will conclude on 12 March. The virtual exhibition web address is: openplans.uk/bhlaraidhextension

ENDS

Background

About Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm

Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm is a proposal for an 18 turbine extension to the existing Bhlaraidh wind farm. If consented, Bhlaraidh Extension would have an installed capacity of circa 100MW. It is adjacent to Bhlaraidh wind farm which began operating in 2017.

SSE Renewables

SSE Renewables is a leading developer, owner, and operator of renewable energy across the UK and Ireland, with a portfolio of around 4GW of onshore wind, offshore wind and hydro. Part of the FTSE-listed SSE plc, its strategy is to drive the transition to a net zero future through the world class development, construction, and operation of renewable energy assets.

SSE Renewables owns nearly 2GW of operational onshore wind capacity with over 1GW under development. Its 1,459MW hydro portfolio includes 300MW of pumped storage and 750MW of flexible hydro. Its operational offshore wind portfolio consists of 580MW across three offshore sites, two of which it operates on behalf of its joint venture partners. SSE Renewables has the largest offshore wind development pipeline in the UK and Ireland at over 6GW.

For more information please contact **Alan Greenwood, Stakeholder Engagement Manager** for SSE Renewables on alan.greenwood@sse.com or 07342 142714.

Appendix 8: Virtual Exhibition Live Chat Transcripts

Chat begins: 3.32pm, 10.3.21	
Exhibition guest name: Carol Pritchard	
Exhibition guest	SSE
	Hello and thank you for joining our virtual exhibition. Please have a look around the room and don't hesitate to ask any questions you might have.
I think there should be more view point information gathered before you submit the application. The current turbines are visible from the Great Glen way high route between Invermoriston and Drumnadrochit. am particularly interested in what would be seen from Achnoconeran through to the View Finder and the rest of the high route to above All names Criche. The other place that I see the current turbines is when walking the Old Drove Road from close to Torgoyle Bridge over the hill heading towards Fort Augustus. Would there be any additional impact from there?	
That should read Alt na Criche.	
	<p>Thanks for your message Carol, we are currently in the process of conducting a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. As part of this process we have consulted with The Highland Council's landscape architects to agree viewpoints. The viewpoints shown here in the exhibition are only a selection of the wirelines and photomontages that will be developed as we go through the Environmental Impact Assessment.</p> <p>We will speak with our landscape architects to find out if it's possible to recreate a an image from the viewpoints you mention here and get back to you when possible. Do you have an email an email address we can reach you at?</p>
Chat ends	

Actions arising:

A full LVIA has been conducted since the public exhibition. This includes an assessment of visual effects for receptors at viewpoints (as well as receptors on routes and in settlements and residential groupings). This included receptors on the Great Glen Way (including the high route between Invermoriston and Drumnadrochit). Refer to EIAR Report Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual), in particular Appendix 8.2 and the detailed assessment in Table 1.4.1 of Appendix 8.6.

The Old Drove Road from Torgyle Bridge to Fort Augustus is also assessed within EIAR Chapter 8 (Landscape and visual). This route comprises Scottish Hill Tracks (SHT) 260a and 260b (Fort Augustus to Achlain or Torgyle Bridge (Glen Moriston), and Core Path IN16.16. These routes are included in the detailed assessment (see Table 1.4.1 of Appendix 8.6, under Core Path IN16.16, SHT 260a and SHT 260b). These routes are scoped into the detailed assessment in Appendix 8.2.

Chat begins: 3.32pm, 24.2.21

Exhibition guest name: Andy Rose

Exhibition guest	SSE
	Hello and thank you for joining our virtual exhibition. Please have a look around the room and don't hesitate to ask any questions you might have.
Thanks, I have had a look, it's pretty good given the circumstances!	
	Thank you. We appreciate you taking the time to visit. Do you have a particular interest in Bhlaraidh Extension?
So I do have a question though it's possibly a bit 'left field', is that OK?	
	Happy to hear it!
So, I live in Glen Urquhart (oh no! he thinks) but have nothing to do with STAG and didn't bother to get involved with Cnoc an Eas but do have severe reservations regarding wind farms. However not about the usual concerns, but about the social effect and lack of meaningful 'community benefit'. Are you Ok with this?	
As a subject I mean!	
	Yes, of course. Community benefit isn't part of the planning process for Bhlaraidh Extension, so it wouldn't be appropriate to discuss specifically, but I'd be happy to discuss our community investments

	<p>in the Great Glen which have been generated through other projects.</p>
<p>Thanks. We are surrounded locally and nationally by power generation infrastructure for better or worse yet while the perceived (and promoted) community benefits are constantly touted they don't actually get to many people. Too often they put solar panels on village hall roof's or fund a new GP Surgery. yet we are suffering from fuel poverty due to paying for some of the most expensive electricity in the UK. It's a huge issue for many people yet SSE and other wind farm (and solar farm) promoters and operators fail to acknowledge or attempt to tackle. Is it not time to get to the root of this and stop paying huge fees to land owners (especially for non generation periods) and taking profits for shareholders but actually put back into the communities in a real world way? I know you can't answer me now but i have been questioning these factors for a long time and no seems interested and very often feel very uncomfortable, I'd be interested in any thoughts . Thanks.</p>	
	<p>As with all our onshore wind farm developments in the Great Glen, Bhlaraidh Extension will incorporate a community benefit package. This would require a separate dialogue between representatives of our community investment team and community organisations following a successful planning application.</p> <p>Regarding money reaching the community, we commissioned a socio-economic report which shows how SSE Renewables is investing in projects across the Great Glen: https://www.sserenewables.com/media/5s4im3bp/volume-4-technical-appendix-141-economic-assessment-of-sse-projects-in-the-great-glen.pdf</p>
	<p>If you'd like to keep in touch regarding future community investment plans, should Bhlaraidh Extension gain planning consent,</p>

	I'd be happy to provide you with the details of our Community Investment Team.
Thank you, I'll have a look at the link you have sent and see where that gets me.	
Thank you very much for your time, much appreciated.	
Chat ends	
Actions arising:	
No further direct consultation. EIA Report Chapter 13 assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on socio-economics and tourism during its development and construction, operation and decommissioning phases.	
Chat begins: 3.05pm, 25.2.21	
Exhibition guest name: Graeme Craig	
Exhibition guest	SSE
	Hello and thank you for joining our virtual exhibition. Please have a look around the room and don't hesitate to ask any questions you might have.
hello, are you able to answer questions about the Bhlaraidh Extension or are you tech support for the platform?	
	Hello Graeme, I'm the consents manager on the project so hopefully I'll be able to answer any questions you might have, or at least point you in the right direction.
	Do you have a particular interest in the Bhlaraidh Extension proposal or any specific questions from the exhibition?
Chat ends	
Actions arising: None	
Chat begins: 10.05am, 10.3.21	
Exhibition guest name: Carol Masheter - Soirbheas	
Exhibition guest	SSE
	Hello and thank you for joining our virtual exhibition. Please have a look around the room and don't hesitate to ask any questions you might have.

Hi Alan, What timescale are you know working too?	
	Hi Carol, we are working towards a submission to the Scottish Government at the start of August.
Is this the last consultation opportunity for the community?	
	<p>This is the last time we'll be presenting information in this format, Carol, but members of the community will still be able to contact us with their views or questions via the Bhlaraidh Extension website: https://www.sserenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/bhlaraidh-extension/</p> <p>Comments will also be invited once the application has been submitted. Is there something specific you'd like to talk about? We'd be happy to arrange a meeting.</p>
Thanks	
Chat ends	
Actions arising: None	
Chat begins: 11.26am, 10.3.21	
Exhibition guest name: Lisa	
Exhibition guest	SSE
	Hello and thank you for joining our virtual exhibition. Please have a look around the room and don't hesitate to ask any questions you might have.
Hi there, I was trying to see the socio-economic benefits of this project. Is there a document I can look at please? I cant find it on this exhibition or the main project page. Thank you!	
	Hi Lisa, we are currently still completing the socio-economic assessment as part of the environmental impact assessment report. This will be available when we submit our planning application later in the year. There is a board called 'supporting communities in the Great Glen' within the exhibition, which outlines the involvement SSE have had in the

	region. Is there anything specific you would like to know? Jane
Hi Jane, Thank you. I'll take a look at the board :-) have a lovely day. Lisa	
	You too! Please feel free to leave feedback on the exhibition. Thanks for chatting. Jane
Chat ends	
Actions arising: No further direct consultation. EIA Report Chapter 13 assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on socio-economics and tourism during its development and construction, operation and decommissioning phases.	
Chat begins: 2.51pm, 26.2.21	
Exhibition guest name: Anonymous guest	
Exhibition guest	SSE
	Hello and thank you for joining our virtual exhibition. Please have a look around the room and don't hesitate to ask any questions you might have.
What is the best way to give feedback on this proposal?	
	Thanks for your question, please feel free to email me with any feedback: alan.greenwood@sse.com You can also fill in a feedback form on the virtual exhibition page, if you'd prefer.
OK, thank you.	
I have many questions. Here are a few - What is the life expectancy of the wind turbines? Will SSE decommission them at the end of their life? How many miles of new track have been put in on Glenmoriston Estate to construct the existing wind farm and how many more will be put in?	
	That is a lot of questions! Regarding the life span of the wind farm, we're proposing to apply for a 50-year consent for Bhlaraidh Extension but the current average life span of a turbine development is approximately 20-25 years.

	Twenty-one kilometres of new track was installed for the Bhlaraidh wind farm. For Bhlaraidh Extension, the approximate length of new track is c.10km and we are proposing to use around 14km of existing wind farm and hydro track combined.
So, is decommissioning factored in to the budget for the project. If after 50 years there is a move away using the site for turbines is there money put aside to restore the site as best as possible?	
	There will be standard condition imposed in any planning consent for a financial guarantee to be put in place by the developer (us). This is usually based on an independent valuation of the decommissioning, restoration and aftercare strategy. This will ensure that the site will be restored once wind farm operations have finished.
	I hope these answers are helpful. Please let me know if I can help with anything else.
Excellent. Thank you. I'm glad to hear that is covered.	
Chat ends	
Actions arising: None	