

Gordonbush wind farm
Proposed extension

Gordonbush wind farm, Balnacoll, Sutherland

About SSE Renewables

SSE is a Scottish registered and British owned energy company, headquartered in Perth, and employs over 2,000 employees and contractors in the north of Scotland. SSE is the largest generator of renewable energy across Great Britain and Ireland.

SSE Renewables is the renewable energy development division of SSE and is responsible for the development of renewables in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. We have been building and operating wind farms since 2002, and have over 30 onshore wind farms in Scotland and Ireland, in addition to those in development or under construction.

The proposal

Gordonbush is a 35 turbine wind farm at Balnacoll, north west of Brora, in Sutherland which became operational in June 2012.

We are looking at a potential extension to the site of up to 20 turbines with a turbine tip height of up to 132m (the existing Gordonbush turbines have a tip height of 110m). The search area sits to the south west of the current site and we are in the early stages of design.

Site location

Wind power is one of the most developed of the renewable technologies and it is estimated that Scotland has 25% of Europe's wind resource. It is important to harness this energy in order to meet Scotland's climate change targets.

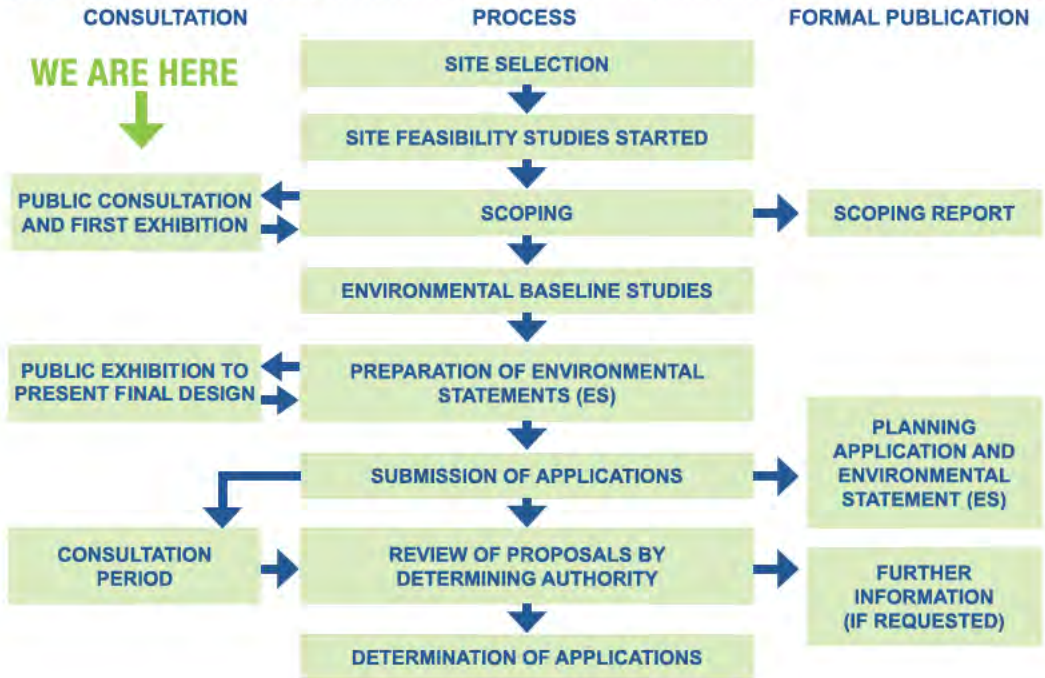
We are committed to helping meet Scotland's climate change targets and believe that renewables play an important part in this. As the UK's leading generator of renewable energy we are proud to be at the forefront of helping tackle climate change.

In addition to the turbines themselves, the extension will include crane hard standings, on site access tracks and a new welfare building. One of the benefits of constructing and operating a wind farm in this location is the capacity to make use of the existing infrastructure and access tracks.

Power generated by the turbines would be transferred via underground cables to the on site substation.



Development process



Development process

The diagram above identifies the three key opportunities for public consultation. We are keen to receive comments and views from the local community on the proposed extension at this early stage.

Over the coming months we will develop the design for the proposal in response to feedback from statutory and non statutory consultees, including local communities and interested parties. The findings from this consultation and the technical and environmental surveys will help us to create a final design for the proposal.

We will hold a second public exhibition, prior to submission of the planning application, to update the local community on the proposal and final design and gather further comments.

Community benefits

For over 10 years now, SSE has established community funds to enable communities to benefit from renewables developments in their area. The existing Gordonbush wind farm fund has already awarded over £300,000 to the local communities of Golspie, Brora, Helmsdale and Rogart since 2011.

SSE also gives each one of its staff a day to volunteer with a charity or project close to their heart, and many of these days are used in the communities within which we work.

Our projects create opportunities for local businesses to get involved too. Over £100m was invested in Gordonbush wind farm, and a number of local businesses benefited from the project through the provision of materials, services, labour and accommodation.

How do I comment on the proposals?

We are keen to receive comments and views from the local community on the proposed extension at this early stage.

This allows us to consider people's comments in Relation to the development of the proposal, and identify ways that we can help minimise any impacts on the community.

Closing date for comments

Whilst we are aware that there will always be a mix of views about a new development within a community, we are keen to understand what people think about the proposed extension.

The closing date for comments is **29th November 2013**. We will accept comments submitted after the closing date, but cannot guarantee that they will be considered as part of the design development.

Comments can be submitted as follows:

- **By post** to our Liaison Manager (details below)
- **By email** to our Liaison Manager (details below)

Comments forms and information can be downloaded from the project website (details below) or posted out to you by our Liaison Manager, upon request.

Contact details

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