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Pre-Application Consultation Report

1.1 Executive Summary

1.1.1 Bluebell Wind Farm Limited, the joint venture between Infinergy Limited and Loch Luichart Estate, (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant'), has undertaken consultation for its proposed Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II (hereafter referred as the 'Proposed Development') in line with Scottish Government Guidance: *Coronavirus (COVID-19): development planning consultation and engagement advice - May 2020* by engaging with stakeholders virtually to present plans and gather feedback.

1.1.2 Consultation activity included:

- distribution of newsletters to local residents;
- updates to the dedicated project website www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk including an online consultation page;
- a Freephone telephone number and dedicated email address;
- virtual meetings with the Garve and District Community Council; and
- virtual community engagement sessions held on Thursday 3rd December 2020.

1.1.3 Local stakeholders were invited to attend the Virtual Community Open Days (vCODs). These live online Zoom sessions were publicised through the newsletter, sent out to the district's 178 households and businesses, and advertised via the local Community Council. At each of the vCODs members of the development team were on hand to explain the proposals, discuss the wider issues of climate change and energy security as well as demonstrate landscape impact via photomontages. Anyone visiting the website had the opportunity to view the information panels and the landscape visualisations and complete a feedback questionnaire.

1.1.4 A total of six people attended the vCODs and over the period of December 2020 while the information was live and feedback could be given, three opinion forms were received. Newsletter feedback slips were not offered due to the Infinergy offices being closed in line with Government guidance on Covid-19. In total we have received three official responses from the general public to the Proposed Development consultation.

1.1.5 Of those who responded to the full public consultation programme asking how they felt about the Proposed Development, two of the three respondents stated they were supportive of the Proposed Development, with none either opposed or very opposed. The remaining respondent is, as yet, undecided.

1.1.6 The Applicant has responded to all local residents who raised questions or concerns via the various feedback mechanisms. Consultation is on-going and will continue post submission.

1.2 Introduction

1.2.1 This Report is a supporting document to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report which accompanies the planning application for the Proposed Development. The application has been submitted to the Highland Council ('THC') as a Major Development by 'the Applicant': Bluebell Wind Farm Limited, the joint venture between Infinergy Limited and Loch Luichart Estate. The application is for the construction, operation and decommissioning of a single wind energy scheme, referred to in the EIA Report as the 'Proposed Development'

1.2.2 The Applicant embraces community consultation; it is at the heart of its approach to development. This report provides detailed information regarding the Proposed Development community consultation.

1.3 Framework for pre-application consultation

1.3.1 The Applicant's public consultation plans for the Proposed Development are influenced by THC's Pre-Applications Consultation guidance, alongside PAN 3/2010 which includes the National Standards for Community Engagement and Planning Aid for Scotland's SP=EED framework and comply with Scottish Government Guidance: *Coronavirus (COVID-19): development planning consultation and engagement advice - May 2020 (Appendix 9)*.

1.3.2 This outlines how applicants of major infrastructure projects should undertake pre-application consultation with the community during the global pandemic. The aim of this procedure is to make sure that communities are still made aware of and have an opportunity to comment on these types of development proposals before a formal application is made. This allows community views to continue to be reflected during the process and gives the Applicant the opportunity to incorporate them into the proposals where possible before making a formal application, as has been the case for the Proposed Development.

1.3.3 The guidance outlines the following relevant consultation and involvement activities:

- Community Council consultation;
- Advertising virtual events; and
- Virtual public engagement.

- 1.3.4 The Proposed Development as a Major Development application required submission of a Proposal of Application Notice, submitted to THC on 22nd September 2020 (**Appendix 1**).

1.4 The approach to community involvement

- 1.4.1 The Applicant's general approach to community involvement in projects has been adapted to comply with Covid-19 Guidance and includes the following:
- Consultation with community councils and interested community groups;
 - A dedicated project website;
 - Production and circulation of digital information material for local residents; and
 - Hosting of virtual community events prior to submission of the planning application, when the development is at draft design stage.

1.5 Consultation

Introduction

- 1.5.1 Consultation that has taken place so far in the pre-application stage has enabled the Applicant to take forward its commitment to continuing the already well established and constructive relationship with residents and local representatives within the local community of Garve and District.
- 1.5.2 To consult on the proposals with the local community, the Applicant undertook the following activity, outlined further below:
- Dedicated website;
 - Freephone provision;
 - Newsletter distribution;
 - Virtual community liaison; and
 - Virtual community engagement events.

Website

- 1.5.3 The website www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk was set up to provide information for all stakeholders about the proposal and has been updated as the proposal developed. It also allows for questions to be asked via info@lxxwindfarm.co.uk - the dedicated email facility for the project.

1.5.4 Due to the pandemic and following Covid-19 Government Guidance, a new online consultation page was added to the website which provided the following:

- welcome video explaining the content of the page;
- information panels;
- landscape visualisation panels;
- online feedback form; and
- links to the online consultation events, facilitated by Zoom.

Freephone

1.5.5 In addition, there is a Freephone telephone number (0800 980 4299) for specific enquiries relating to the proposal, enabling residents to receive additional information and speak to members of the project team.

1.5.6 Whilst Infinergy offices are closed in accordance with Government guidance, the freephone telephone number is maned by a telephone answering service which forwards on any messages received by email.

Newsletters

1.5.7 In November 2020 the Applicant distributed 178 newsletters (**Appendix 2**) to local residents and businesses in the area surrounding the proposed development as well as the local Community Council.

1.5.8 The newsletters were posted via Royal Mail (1st class) using a specifically sourced address-based database. The newsletters provided an invitation to visit the online consultation page and advertised the virtual community engagement events, overview/update of the project including site suitability, explanation of the plans.

Community Council

1.5.9 The Applicant began a dialogue with the Garve and District Community Council in 2005/06 when the operational Lochluichart Wind Farm and subsequent Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension (the 'Operational Schemes') were first proposed. This relationship has continued through the subsequent consent and application for the second extension. The Community Council has been fundamental to the dialogue between the Applicant and the local community, actively assisting in the dissemination of information regarding the consultation process and providing valuable feedback.

Virtual Community Engagement

- 1.5.10 A new online consultation page was developed for the website which was live from Tuesday 1st December until 4th January 2021. This gave stakeholders the flexibility to view the information presented and give feedback over a longer period than the standard public community open days.
- 1.5.11 Two virtual community engagement events (vCODs) were held on 2nd December at 2pm and at 7pm via Zoom. Timings and platform for these events had been discussed and agreed with the Community Council in order to ensure as many stakeholders as possible had the opportunity to engage. One person attended the first virtual session and was able to discuss issues relating to the proposal and wider climate emergency with the Managing Director of Infinergy, who was able to join due to the nature of the event. The evening session attracted five residents, all of whom had engaged in previous consultation exercises. Copies of the digital information panels can be found in **Appendix 3 and 4** and consultation webpage in **Appendix 5**.
- 1.5.12 As well as being able to discuss the development alongside the wider issues of climate change, energy security, government support etc, members of the development team were able to demonstrate the difference in landscape impact between the consented tip height turbines and the proposed tip height turbines via photomontages.

Publicity

- 1.5.13 Invitation to the virtual consultation was sent as part of the newsletter, see **Appendix 2**.
- 1.5.14 In addition, the Community Council circulated details of the consultation through their meeting minutes.
- 1.5.15 Consultation activity was released in the news section of the project website.

Media

- 1.5.16 A press release was uploaded onto the website and issued to the local newspaper prior to each event. (**Appendix 6**).

Attendance

- 1.5.17 Six people attended the virtual consultation events in total, where they had the opportunity to inspect the draft proposal, discuss issues with the project team and were encouraged to complete a questionnaire (**Appendix 7**).

1.6 Consultation Feedback

1.6.1 We received feedback following the virtual consultation events. A summary of the key findings is provided in the sections below.

Virtual Community Open Days (vCODs)

1.6.2 vCOD opinion forms were completed by three attendees, all of whom live within 5km of the project.

1.6.3 The feedback forms were completed online. These questionnaires are taken into account in the overall results of the public consultation exercise. Copies of all returned CODs questionnaires can be found in **Appendix 8**.

1.6.4 As can be seen in Figure 1, the majority of people who returned opinion forms at the CODs were supportive. Those who were undecided were in favour of renewable energy in general:

Supportive	2
Undecided	1
Opposed	0
Very opposed	0
No comment	0
Total	3

Issues

- 1.6.5 The feedback questionnaires asked respondents if they had any specific issues or concerns about the proposal and a list of possible issues was provided.
- 1.6.6 The vCODs provided feedback in relation to a number of issues including noise and grid capacity. Questions/issues discussed during the Zoom sessions included:
- Do bigger turbines increase the noise?
 - Would we consider planting trees in the area if there is more noise to absorb it?
 - Bottlenecks on the grid.
 - Shared ownership.
 - Should there be more hydrogen produced in conjunction with new windfarms?
 - Decommissioning.
 - Further ecological survey work.

Summary of Feedback

- 1.6.7 Taking account of all consultation methods, overall feedback for the Proposed Development to date has been positive/neutral.

1.7 Community Benefits

Community benefit

- 1.7.1 The Applicant wants to help the communities closest to its renewable energy projects benefit from it in as many ways as possible. The Applicant has committed to the industry standard community benefit amount of £5,000 per MW of installed capacity. This amount is set out in the Scottish Government's 'Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments'.

Community Fund

- 1.7.2 The Operational Schemes gave rise to the Lochluichart Development Trust and has subsequently seen the development of a Community Development Company. The mechanism for distribution of community benefit funds is well established in this area.
- 1.7.3 Via the consultation process, local residents have been encouraged to give suggestions both to the Applicant and to their own Community bodies as to what they would like to see such funds used for. Suggestions so far have included funding for electric vehicle charging points in the local area.

1.8 Response to Consultation Feedback

- 1.8.1 Further to the consultation process outlined in this statement, a number of activities have or are being undertaken in order to respond to feedback received. These are detailed as follows:

Email

- 1.8.2 Everyone who submitted a question or query either through the vCOD or by email direct has been responded to directly by email.

1.9 **Future Consultation**

Next Steps – Pre and Post Submission

- 1.9.1 The Applicant is committed to the continued involvement of and consultation with the local community and other stakeholders throughout the planning process.
- 1.9.2 While the pre-application consultation has been completed, the Applicant is committed to further consultation during the planning determination period, ensuring that local residents and stakeholders continue to be involved in the process and be kept informed of the proposal's progress. These updates will be undertaken at both the Community Councils and at other local community group meetings as requested.

Stakeholder/Interest group briefings

- 1.9.3 Members of the local Development Trust attended the vCODs.
- 1.9.4 The Applicant will continue to update the local interest groups about the proposed development's journey through the planning process and will keep all channels for feedback and questions open.

Media relations

- 1.9.5 Media relations activity will be ongoing. Once the application has been submitted, a news release detailing the submitted proposal will be issued to the media. The Applicant will respond to media enquiries and requests for information throughout the determination time period.

Ongoing response to queries

- 1.9.6 The Applicant will continue to respond to queries that are received via the various consultation channels i.e. Freephone telephone number, website and direct email.

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION

NOTICE MOLADH

BRATH IARRTAIS

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.

Applicant: Bluebell Wind Farm Limited

Agent:

Address: 16 West Borough
Wimborne
Dorset, BH21 1NG

Address:

Phone No: 01202 847680

Email: n.sage@infinergy.co.uk

Address or Location of Proposed Development Please state the postal address of the prospective development site. If there is no postal address, please describe its location. Please outline the site in red on a base plan to a recognised metric scale and attach it to this completed Notice

Lochluichart Wind Farm is located on Loch Luichart Estate, 18km north west of Dingwall in the Scottish Highlands.

Description of Development Please include detail where appropriate – eg the number of residential units; the gross floorspace in m² of any buildings not for residential use; the capacity of any electricity generation or waste management facility; and the length of any infrastructure project. Please attach any additional supporting information.

Erection of Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II comprising up to 5 wind turbines of no more than 149.9m to blade tip height (with an overall generating capacity of up to 25MW) and associated infrastructure for an operational period of up to 40 years.

This proposal is to be taken forward as an alternative to the consented Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II (THC planning permission reference 19/01284/FUL) which comprises 5 wind turbines of 133m to blade tip height.

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

Community Consultation

State which other parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice.

Community Council/s

- Garve and District CC

Date Notice Served: **Same date as issue to The Highland Council**

Other Parties:

Please give details of proposed consultation

Proposed public event Venue

Community Open Day*: Garve Village Hall, Garve

Date and time

4th & 5th November 2020,
2-7pm

Online Consultation: n/a

4th & 5th November 2020 2020

2-7pm

Newspaper Advert – name of newspaper

Advert date (where known)

Ross-shire Journal

23rd October & 30th October 2020

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

- Newsletter outlining plans comprising Community Open Days/Online Consultation invitation and comment card circulated to all households within the community council area (187 households) up to one month prior to events;
- Project website with feedback mechanism; and
- Ongoing attendance at Community Council meetings where appropriate.

Signed

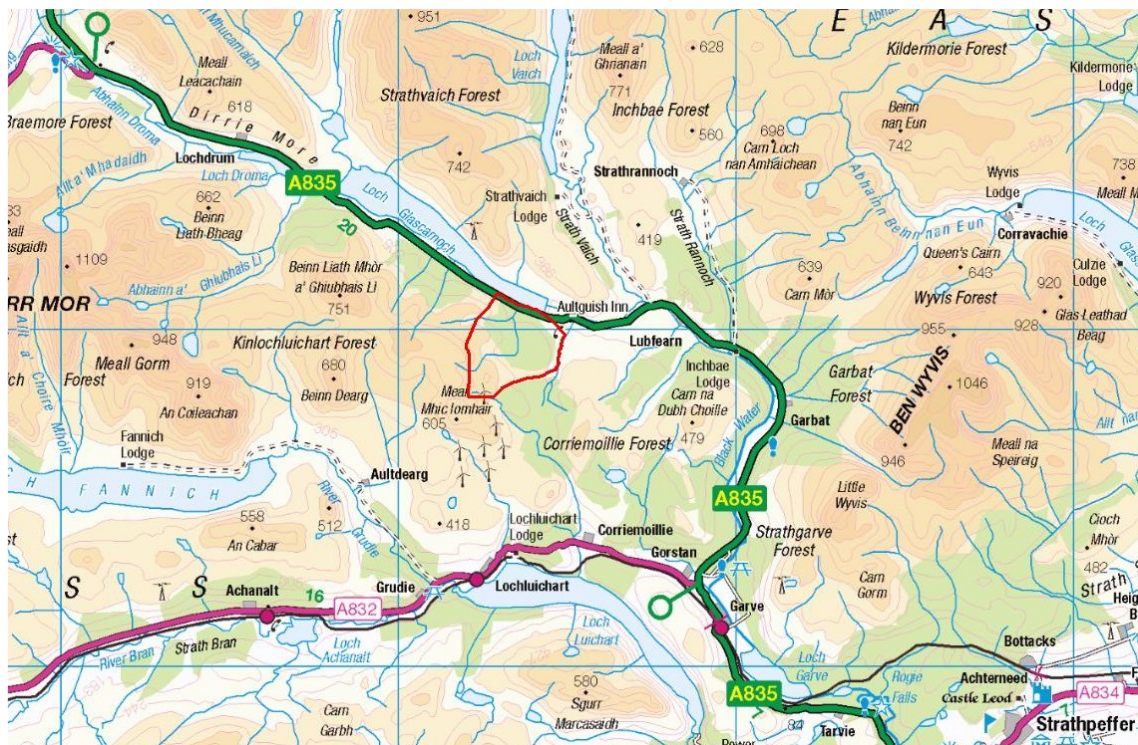
Date 22nd September 2020



*Conditional on being compliant with Scottish Government Covid-19 Guidance at the time of the event.

Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II

Site Location & red-line boundary



Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II



Newsletter – November 2020

Printed on sustainably sourced paper



Virtual Community Open Day

Online at www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk

Live webinar - Thursday 3 December 2020, 2pm and 7pm

Please log on, we look forward to 'seeing' you then.

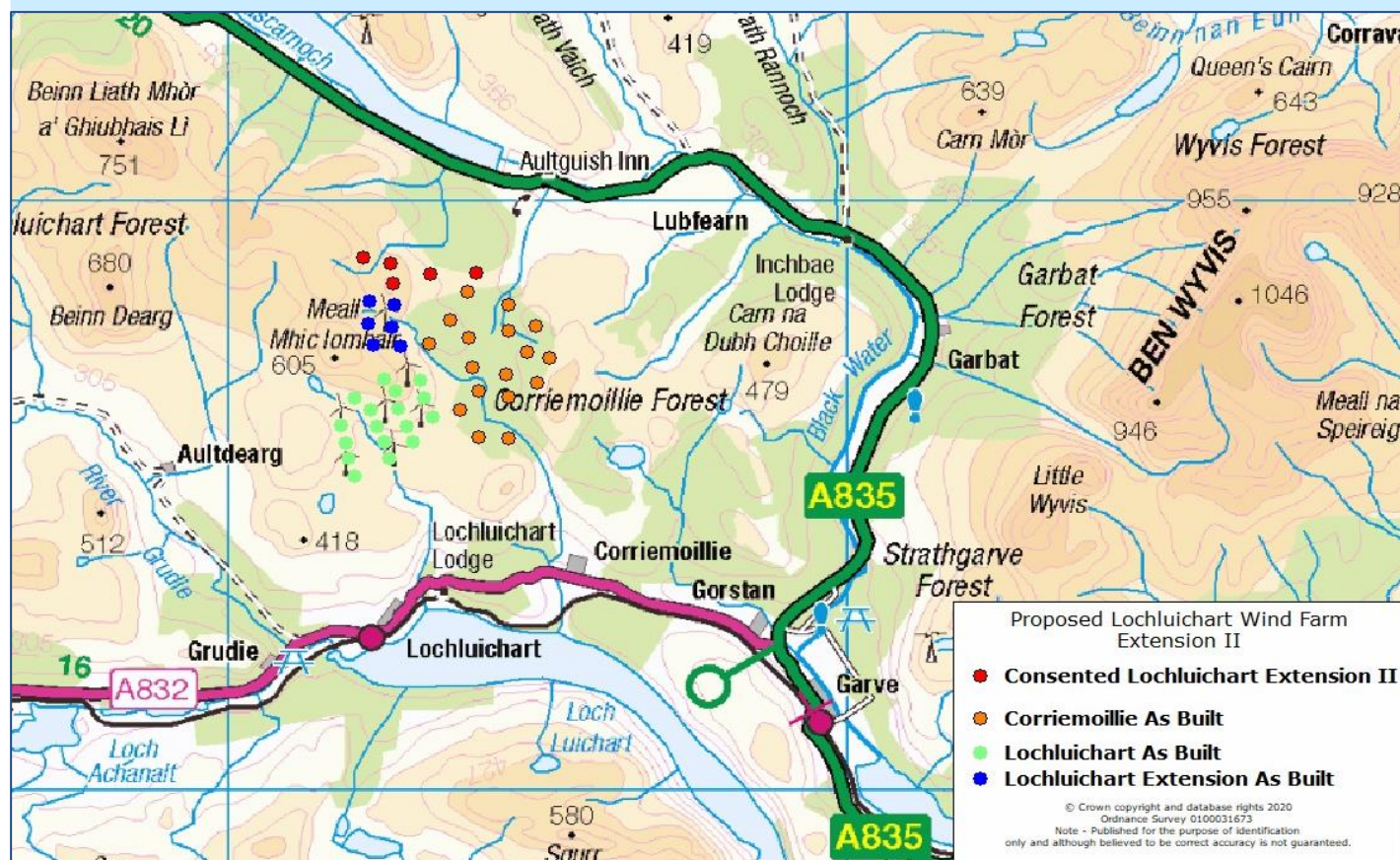
Proposed update to Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II

Following the consent of Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II earlier this year the team at Infinergy has been looking at ways of improving the energy yield from the 5 consented turbines, balanced by working within the restrictions of a planning permission which was considered acceptable in terms of environmental impacts by The Highland Council. The grid connection date for the scheme is now 2024, so there is now more time to consider this.

The most straightforward way of doing this was to consider the turbine models new to the market, which have changed since the original assessment was carried out in 2018.

We are now proposing to increase the hub (76m → 83m) and tip heights (133m → 149.9m), keeping the turbines & infrastructure in the same locations. To progress this application, we must once again carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment which will be collated to form an EIA Report to support a new planning application to The Highland Council. Before this is submitted, in order to ensure the local community is fully consulted on the plans, and in line with Scottish Government Covid-19 Guidance, we would like to invite you to visit our Virtual Community Consultation to hear about and discuss our proposals with the team. The project information will be live on the website from Tuesday 1 December, with live sessions held via Zoom on Thursday 3 December at 2pm and 7pm.

The final version of the proposed development will then be submitted as a major planning application to The Highland Council for consideration in the new year.



The Proposed Plans

- **Increase consented extension turbine dimensions from a tip height of 133m to 149.9m.**
- **The revised 5 wind turbines** will have an approximate capacity of 4.8MW each and could add up to 24MW to the current capacity, bringing the total installed capacity of the whole site to approximately 93MW.
- **The lifetime of the wind farm** will be increased to 40 years from 25 years.
- **Submission** of the planning application to The Highland Council is expected this winter.

Why this site in particular?

- **Good average wind speed:** proven suitable for wind energy.
- **Existing infrastructure** including access roads and grid transmission lines are already in place, minimizing disruption.
- The position of the 5 consented turbines will not change and so they are **expected to blend equally well** with the existing developments of Lochluichart and Corriemoillie.
- **Extensions reduce the need for new sites.**



Community Benefit

The area has a well-established Development Trust, the LCT, and newly formed Garve & District Development Company in place to help the community become more resilient and sustainable over the long term. This is funded by the community benefit payments from the Lochluichart and Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension projects as well as funds from the Corriemoillie Wind Farm. Additional funds at £5000 per MW of installed capacity from this new extension would allow even more good causes to be supported locally, including the potential addition of more electric vehicle charging points along the NC500 in the area.

If you have further ideas for projects, including ideas about the best place for new electric vehicle charging points, please do let us know by contacting us directly by email at any time.

The Developer

Renewable energy developer Infinergy Ltd has a significant amount of experience developing wind farms in Scotland. Infinergy has successfully developed over 500 MW of wind energy projects in the UK, most of them in Scotland, including the original Lochluichart Wind Farm projects. The team of specialists working on the application for Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II has been brought together based on their extensive experience and expertise in wind farm design and development and their knowledge of the local area.

Get in touch

Infinergy
Creative Exchange
93 Constitution Street
Edinburgh
EH6 7AE

Freephone number : 0800 980 4299

Email : info@lxxwindfarm.co.uk

Website : www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk

Post : Freepost Infinergy Ltd (no further address details or stamps required)

Welcome to the Virtual Community Consultation for Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II

- Thank you for logging on to our first virtual 'Community Open Day'. In the following slides you will find a selection of information boards outlining the new proposal for changes to the consented Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II.
- You will find all of the panels available to download from the website following the consultation period. Please take your time to study the information and please do not hesitate to contact us in one of the ways set up if you have any questions.
- We would be grateful if you could complete a 'Feedback Form' which can be found on the website.
- We will be hosting 2 live 'webinars' to discuss the project with you. Details of these sessions will be on the Consultation webpage.
- There are several other ways to obtain further information and to contact us:
 - Our website **www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk** will be updated with all the latest information. We will publish the planning application documents including the Environmental Statement on the website once the application has been submitted.
 - Email us at **info@lxxwindfarm.co.uk**
 - Ring the freephone number **0800 980 4299**
 - Write to us using **Freepost Infinergy Ltd.**



How wind farms are changing

Wind farms are changing, and that's due to a number of different things:

- **New turbine technology:** Advances in technology are driving efficiency. In order to maximise the amount of energy a turbine can generate, by capturing as much wind as possible, longer turbine blades are being installed. In the UK, there have been new wind farm proposals coming forward which are considering turbines of 180m tip height, for example, Bad Fearn Wind Farm near Dunbeath and up to 200m tip height Sanquhar II Wind Farm in Dumfries & Galloway.
- **New design tools:** The tools we have available to us now to assess locations in terms of the technical requirements, particularly in relation to wind resource, have improved greatly over the years. All that feeds back into the design process and helps developers design the most appropriate wind farm for the site.
- **Market support:** All forms of new renewable energy technology are given financial support by the UK Government until they reach a stage where they can be economically viable without it. Onshore wind is now a more 'mature' technology, market support levels have now reduced considerably. This means that a wind farm designed today must be able to pay for itself through the sale of electricity and in order to do that, the most efficient design and turbines need to be utilised.

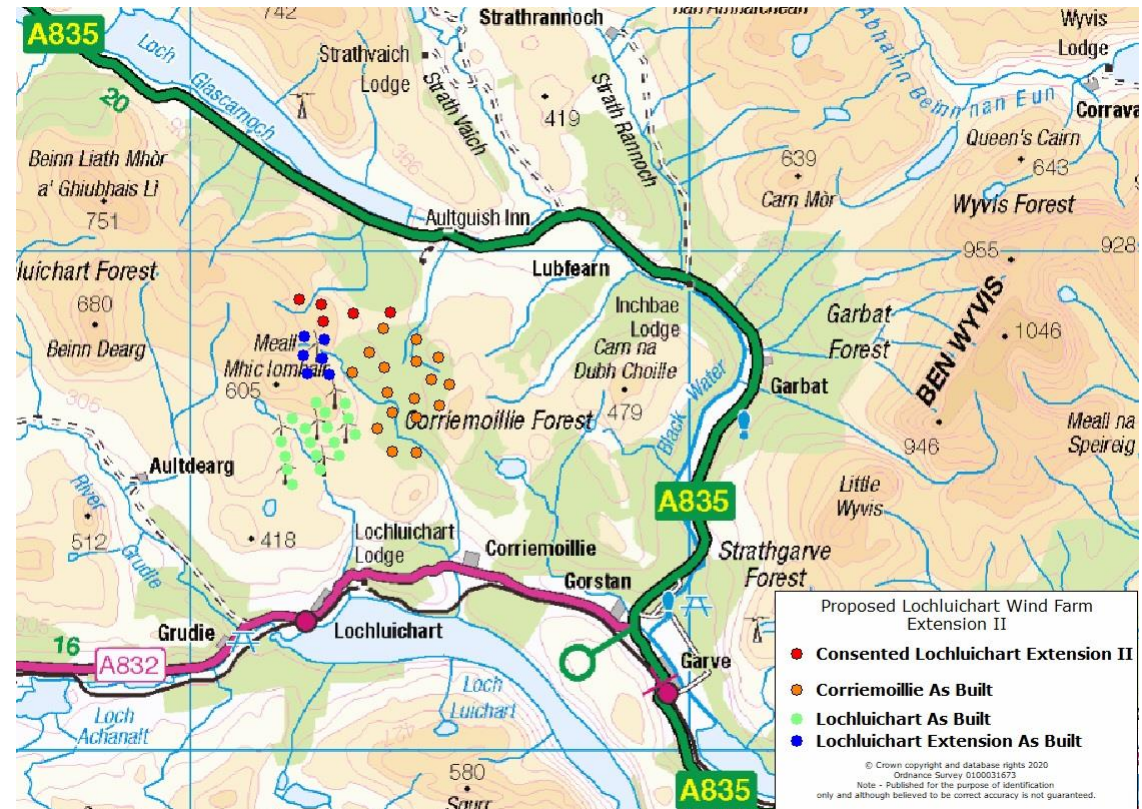
Lochluichart Wind Farm, Highland
Image for illustrative purposes only



This will mean that in the future, wind farm sites, whether they be new sites, extensions or the repowering of existing sites, will most likely have larger turbines in order to maximise the energy potential.

Overview of the proposed plans

- The proposal is to increase the height, and output, of the five consented turbines that will form an extension to the existing, operational Lochluichart and Corriemoillie Wind Farms.
- The proposal seeks to extend the lifetime of the consented development from 25 to 40 years.
- The proposed turbines would increase the maximum tip height from 133m to 149.9m when one of the blades is in a vertical position. Hub heights would increase from 76m to 83m.
- These 5 wind turbines would have an installed generating capacity of up to 24 megawatts (MW). At present there are various turbine models that suit this site. New and updated models matching the proposed dimensions will also be considered.
- Keeping turbine tip heights under 150m means there is no requirement for visible aviation lighting.



Consented 5-turbine extension

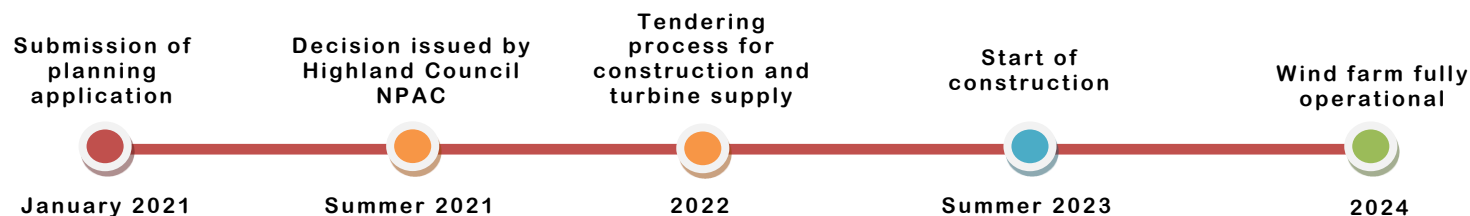
Electricity & CO₂ equivalent

- Combined, five turbines with an installed capacity of 24MW would have the ability to produce enough green electricity to meet the annual demand of over 13,279 homes*
- The wind farm would replace the emissions of over 24,841 tonnes of CO₂ each year*

*Source: Scottish Government Renewable Electricity Output Calculator. These calculations take the variable output of wind power into consideration and are considered industry standard (the accurate figures, based on the Scottish Government carbon calculator and based on 'all Fossil Fuels' being displaced, will be available as part of the LXX EIA Report).

Next steps

- We are now planning to submit the new planning application for **Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II** to the Highland Council early in the new year as a 'Major Planning Application'.
- The Highland Council will consult with NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage) and SEPA as well as a number of other statutory consultees.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) including all the results from the surveys will be submitted with the planning application. All documents will be uploaded to our website www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk under 'Downloads'.
- If you would like to receive a CD containing all the planning application documents or a hard copy of the Non-Technical Summary (NTS, a condensed version of the ES), please just drop us an email at info@lxxwindfarm.co.uk. The CDs and the NTS are provided free of charge for as long as stock last.
- The timeline shown below gives an indication of possible timescales should the proposal be deemed acceptable and is subject to change depending on the planning process.



Community Benefit

- This area has a well-established Development Trust, the Lochluichart Community Trust (LCT), and more recently formed Garve & District Development Company in place to help the community become more resilient and sustainable over the long term. Thanks to the community benefit from the Lochluichart and Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension projects, as well as funds from the Corriemoillie Wind Farm, many projects have already been developed and additional funds from this new extension would allow even more good causes to be supported locally.
- Whilst a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment has already been undertaken, if you have further ideas for projects, please do let us know by contacting us or one of the local organisations directly.
- For example, should the funds support:
 - Skills and education?
 - Business enterprise?
 - Tourism infrastructure, eg. More electric vehicle charging points along the NC500?
 - Energy saving measures for local people?
 - Affordable housing?
- Please feel free to write any ideas that you have on how community benefit could make a positive contribution to your local community on the online feedback form which you will find on the consultation webpage.



View from A835, Aultguish Inn



Photomontage showing proposed Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II



Photomontage showing consented Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II

- OS Reference:
- Eye level:
- Direction of view:
- Nearest turbine:
- Horizontal field of view
- Viewing distance
- Paper size:
- Correct printed image sizes:
- Camera height:
- Turbine height (to tip):
- 235166 E 870394 N

- c 229 m AOD

- 233 degrees

- 1.99 km

- 53.5 degrees

- View flat at a comfortable arm’s length

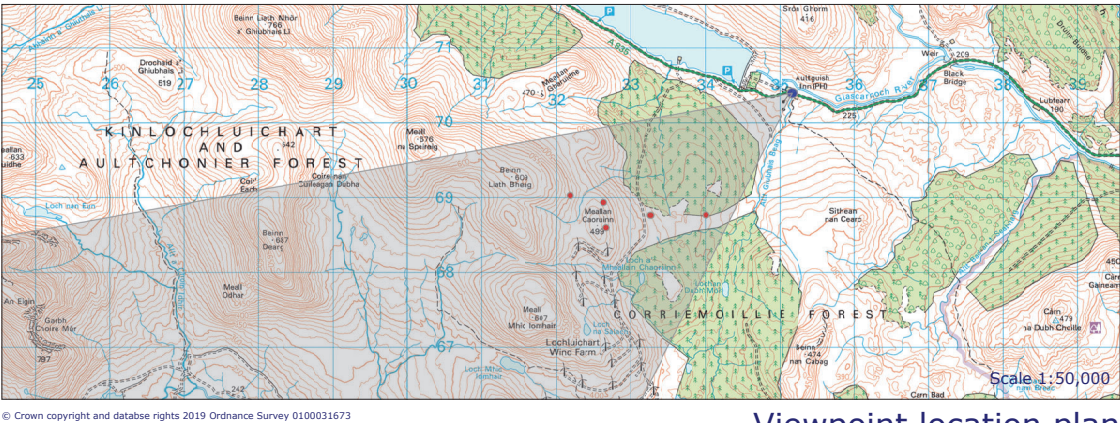
- 841 x 841 mm

- 820 x 260 mm

- 1.5 m AGL

- 149.9m

Note: Visualisations can give an impression of the appearance of a landscape and proposed wind farm. However neither photographs or visualisations can convey a view exactly as it would be seen by the human eye in reality.



Viewpoint location plan

View from A835, Black Water Bidge



Photomontage showing proposed Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II (existing turbines have been montaged in this view)



Photomontage showing consented Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II (existing turbines have been montaged in this view)

- OS Reference:
- Eye level:
- Direction of view:
- Nearest turbine:
- Horizontal field of view
- Viewing distance
- Paper size:
- Correct printed image sizes:
- Camera height:
- Turbine height (to tip):
- 237349 E 870830 N

- c 213 m AOD

- 247 degrees

- 3.96 km

- 53.5 degrees

- View flat at a comfortable arm’s length

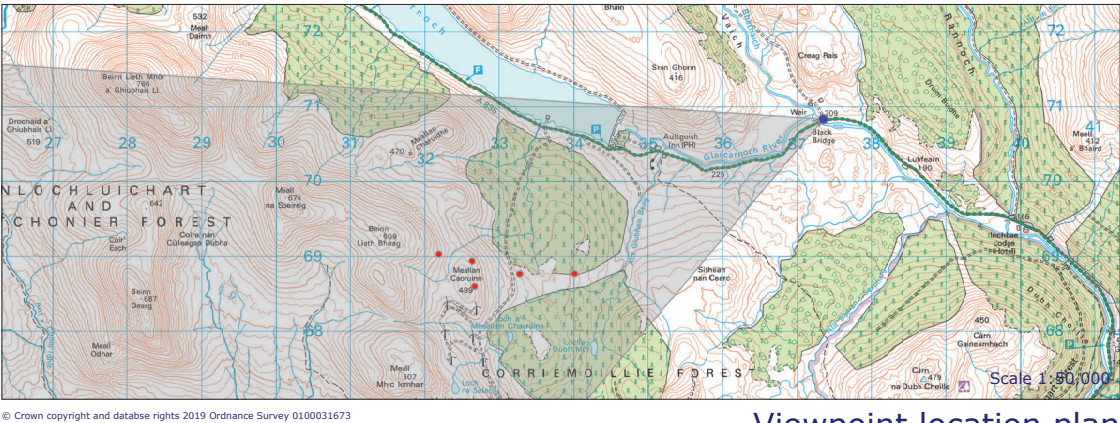
- 841 x 841 mm

- 820 x 260 mm

- 1.5 m AGL

- 149.9m

Note: Visualisations can give an impression of the appearance of a landscape and proposed wind farm. However neither photographs or visualisations can convey a view exactly as it would be seen by the human eye in reality.



Viewpoint location plan

View from Old Drovers Route, Corriemoillie



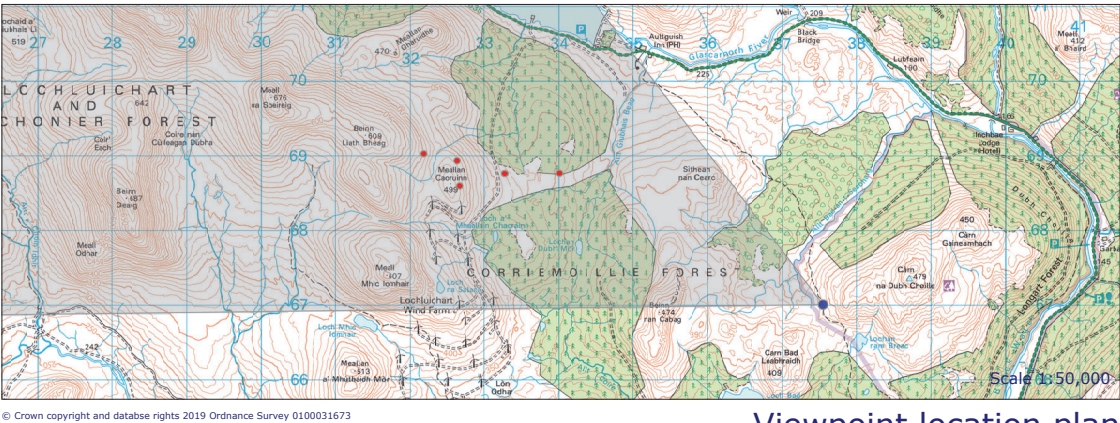
Photomontage showing proposed Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II



Photomontage showing consented Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II

OS Reference:	- 237546 E 867006 N
Eye level:	- c 335 m AOD
Direction of view:	- 296 degrees
Nearest turbine:	- 3.95 km
Horizontal field of view	- 53.5 degrees
Viewing distance	- View flat at a comfortable arm’s length
Paper size:	- 841 x 841 mm
Correct printed image sizes:	- 820 x 260 mm
Camera height:	- 1.5 m AGL
Turbine height (to tip):	- 149.9m

Note: Visualisations can give an impression of the appearance of a landscape and proposed wind farm. However neither photographs or visualisations can convey a view exactly as it would be seen by the human eye in reality.



Viewpoint location plan

View from Ben Wyvis (Glas Leathad Mor)



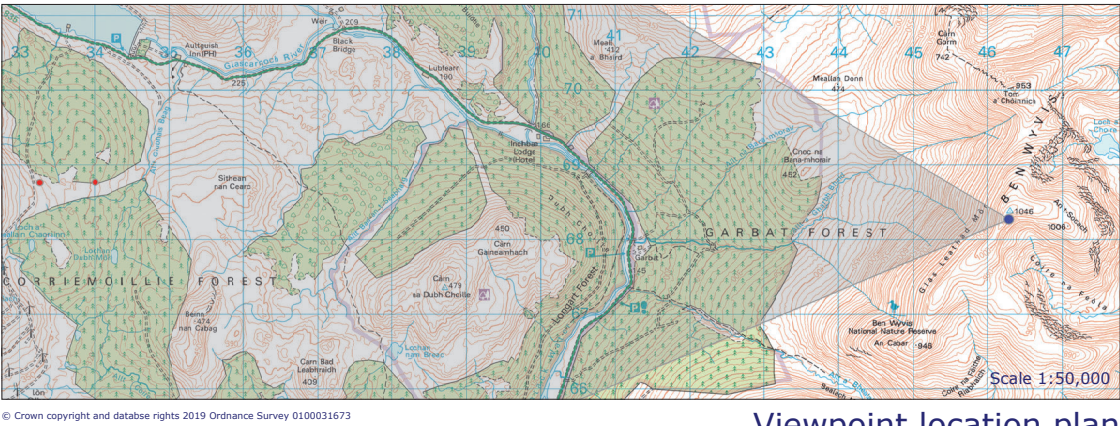
Photomontage showing proposed Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II



Photomontage showing consented Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II

OS Reference:	- 246289 E 868377 N
Eye level:	- c 1047 m AOD
Direction of view:	- 274 degrees
Nearest turbine:	- 12.28 km
Horizontal field of view	- 53.5 degrees
Viewing distance	- View flat at a comfortable arm’s length
Paper size:	- 841 x 841 mm
Correct printed image sizes:	- 820 x 260 mm
Camera height:	- 1.5 m AGL
Turbine height (to tip):	- 149.9m

Note: Visualisations can give an impression of the appearance of a landscape and proposed wind farm. However neither photographs or visualisations can convey a view exactly as it would be seen by the human eye in reality.



Viewpoint location plan

View from Beinn a Chaisteil



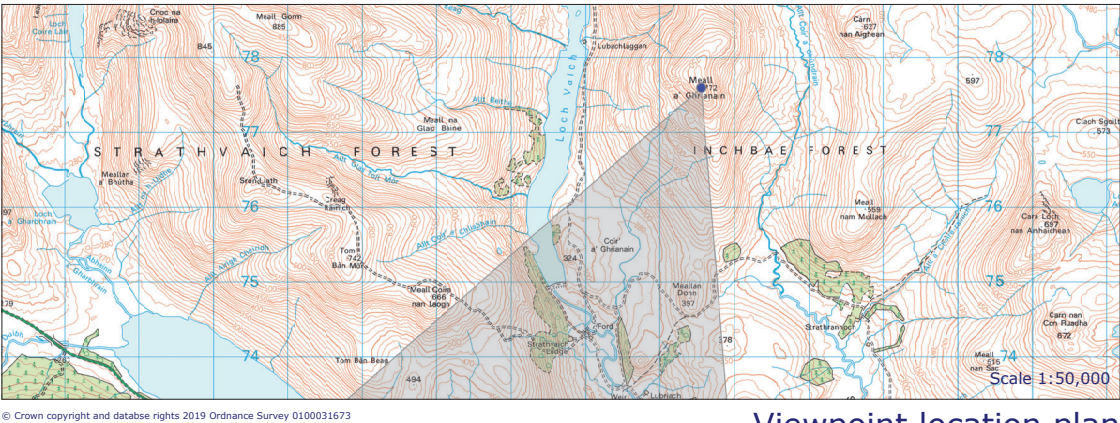
Photomontage showing proposed Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II



Photomontage showing consented Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II

- OS Reference:
- 236550 E 877594 N
- Eye level:
- c 774 m AOD
- Direction of view:
- 202 degrees
- Nearest turbine:
- 9.18 km
- Horizontal field of view
- 53.5 degrees
- Viewing distance
- View flat at a comfortable arm’s length
- Paper size:
- 841 x 841 mm
- Correct printed image sizes:
- 820 x 260 mm
- Camera height:
- 1.5 m AGL
- Turbine height (to tip):
- 149.9m

Note: Visualisations can give an impression of the appearance of a landscape and proposed wind farm. However neither photographs or visualisations can convey a view exactly as it would be seen by the human eye in reality.



Viewpoint location plan

View from Beinn Dearg



Photomontage showing proposed Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II (existing turbines have been montaged in this view)



Photomontage showing consented Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II (existing turbines have been montaged in this view)

- OS Reference:
- Eye level:
- Direction of view:
- Nearest turbine:
- Horizontal field of view
- Viewing distance
- Paper size:
- Correct printed image sizes:
- Camera height:
- Turbine height (to tip):
- 225952 E 881158 N

- c 1083 m AOD

- 150 degrees

- 13.63 km

- 53.5 degrees

- View flat at a comfortable arm’s length

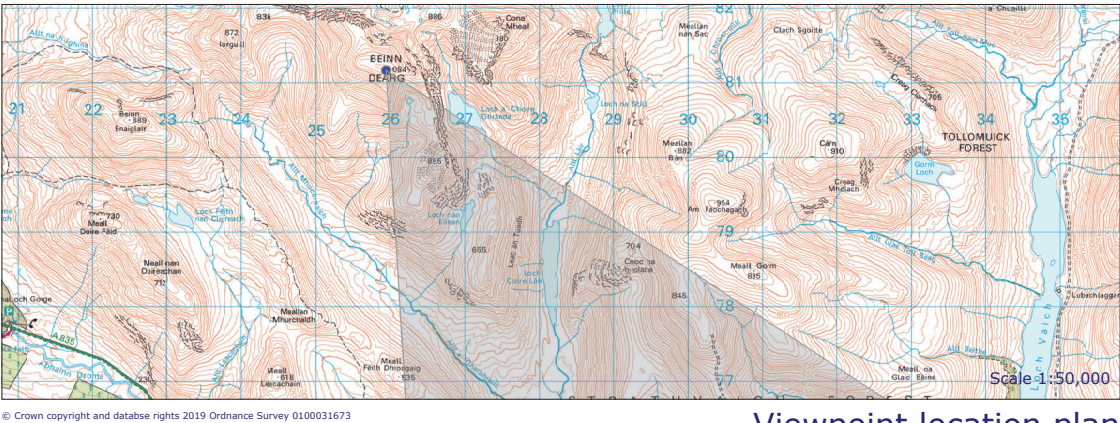
- 841 x 841 mm

- 820 x 260 mm

- 1.5 m AGL

- 149.9m

Note: Visualisations can give an impression of the appearance of a landscape and proposed wind farm. However neither photographs or visualisations can convey a view exactly as it would be seen by the human eye in reality.



Viewpoint location plan

Online Consultation

Welcome

November 2020

Welcome to the Online Consultation for the update to the Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II. While we would normally be visiting you in person, we are following the Scottish Government's Covid-19 Guidance and carrying out our public consultation online. Below you will find the information and landscape and visual panels along with a comparative zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) map.

Welcome Video



Live Zoom Sessions



We will be hosting a zoom session which will cover the information presented here and allow participants the chance to ask questions of the project team.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Meeting 1 – 2-3pm Thursday 3rd December

[https://zoom.us/j/97885851343?](https://zoom.us/j/97885851343?pwd=ckt3RlVVRnV5Z25hZTgxb0NieW1oQT09)

[pwd=ckt3RlVVRnV5Z25hZTgxb0NieW1oQT09](https://zoom.us/j/97885851343?pwd=ckt3RlVVRnV5Z25hZTgxb0NieW1oQT09)

Meeting ID: 978 8585 1343

Passcode: z4QgXL

Meeting 2 – 7-8pm Thursday 3rd December

[https://zoom.us/j/97175633623?](https://zoom.us/j/97175633623?pwd=dIM4S2drSWxNUHRobkMzOGJPY3VFZz09)

[pwd=dIM4S2drSWxNUHRobkMzOGJPY3VFZz09](https://zoom.us/j/97175633623?pwd=dIM4S2drSWxNUHRobkMzOGJPY3VFZz09)

Meeting ID: 971 7563 3623

Passcode: WFr643

Information Panels

Here you will find the information panels we would normally display at our Community Open Days.



Landscape and Visual Panels

Here you will find the Landscape and Visual panels we would normally display at our Community Open Days.

Please note, visualisations can give an impression of the appearance of a landscape and proposed wind farm however neither photographs or visualisations can convey a view exactly as it would be seen by the human eye in reality.

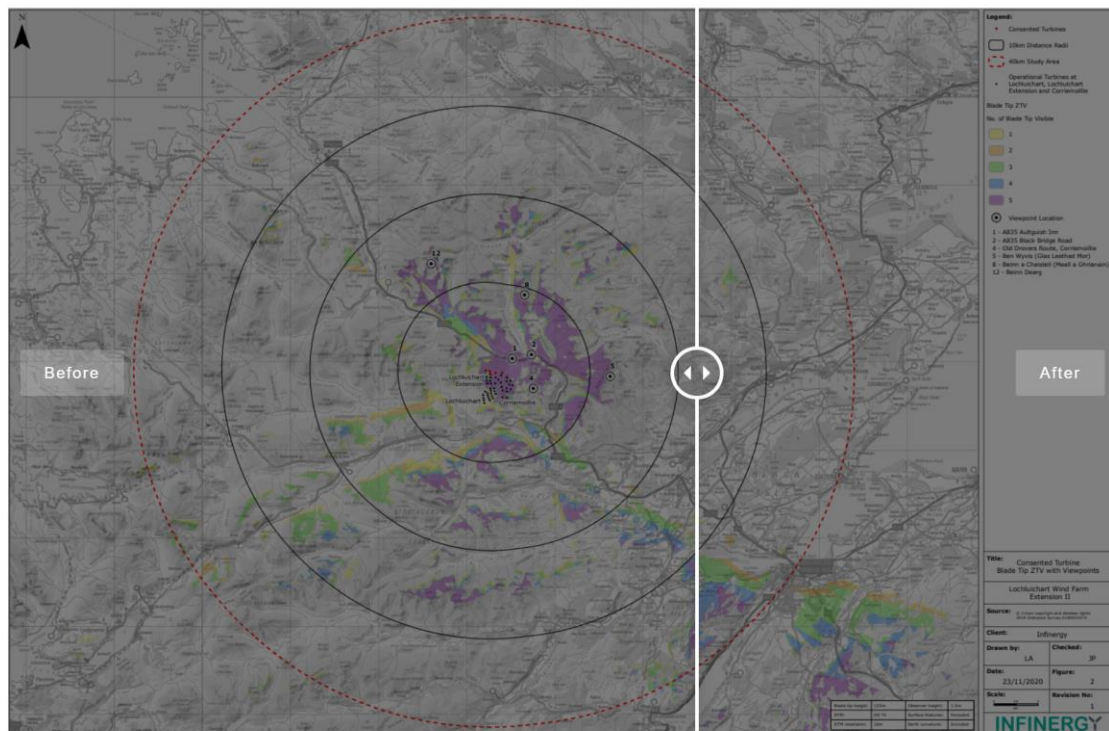


Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

Here you can compare the consented ZTV with the proposed ZTV using a slider tool. If you are having trouble view the slider or wish to view it in greater details, the PDF versions can also be downloaded.

[Consented version](#)

[Proposed version](#)



Feedback Form

We would appreciate you taking a moment to complete the following questionnaire so we can find out more about your views on the wind farm proposal this exhibition is all about. The aim of this questionnaire is to allow individuals to contribute to the development process and interact with Infinergy. This is not a substitute for the official planning process. No personal information will be passed on to third parties.

Please [click here](#) to access the form.

Thank you

Many thanks for taking the time to visit our online consultation. When the consultation period is over, we will transfer all of the relevant files to the Documents section of the website. If you have any further questions at any time, please don't hesitate to contact us by email at info@lxxwindfarm.co.uk

Online Consultation going live for Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II

November 26, 2020 · [Site Admin](#) · ·

Under normal circumstances when bringing a new or revised project to a local community, Infinergy would visit the local area and hold Community Open Days. Sadly, because of the pandemic, we're unable to do that and so, following Government guidance, have moved our consultation exercise online!

On this website, from Tuesday 1st December you will find a specific consultation page which will host the information panels, landscape visualisation panels and feedback form. In addition, there will be two 'zoom' sessions held on Thursday 3rd December, one at 2pm and one at 7pm and the links will be shown on the consultation page.

We look forward to seeing you virtually!

RECENT NEWS

> [Online Consultation going live for Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II](#)

> [Scoping submitted for revision of Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II](#)

> [Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II Update](#)

Online Consultation – Feedback Form

We would appreciate you taking a moment to complete the following questionnaire so we can find out more about your views on the wind farm proposal this exhibition is all about. The aim of this questionnaire is to allow individuals to contribute to the development process and interact with Infinergy. This is not a substitute for the official planning process. No personal information will be passed on to third parties.

Name *

Address

Postcode

Email *

Telephone

1. What are your views on the use of renewable energy to help meet our energy requirements?

(onshore and offshore wind power, solar power, biomass, wave and tidal power, amongst others)

- ☐ Very supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Opposed
- ☐ Very opposed

2. What are your views on the use of wind energy in particular to help meet our energy requirements?

- ☐ Very supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Opposed
- ☐ Very opposed

3a. How do you feel about the Lochluichart Windfarm Extension II proposal?

- ☐ Very supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Opposed
- ☐ Very opposed

3b. Why do you hold this view? Please state

4. How close do you live to the proposed wind farm site?

- ☐ Within 1 kilometre (0.6 miles)
- ☐ Between 1 and 5 kilometres (3.1 miles)
- ☐ Further away than 5 kilometres (3.1 miles)

5. If you have any further interests, please state below:

6. How did you first learn about the project?

- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Google or other search engine
- ☐ Newspapers
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ TV
- ☐ (Invitation for) Public Exhibition

If other, please state below

7. Please use the area below to ask a specific question or comment on the project:

8. If you would like us to respond to any of the comments you have made or questions you have asked in this questionnaire, please indicate here and, if required, we will get back to you shortly:

- ☐ Response wanted
- ☐ No response wanted

Submit

Entry (ID 9)

Show empty fields

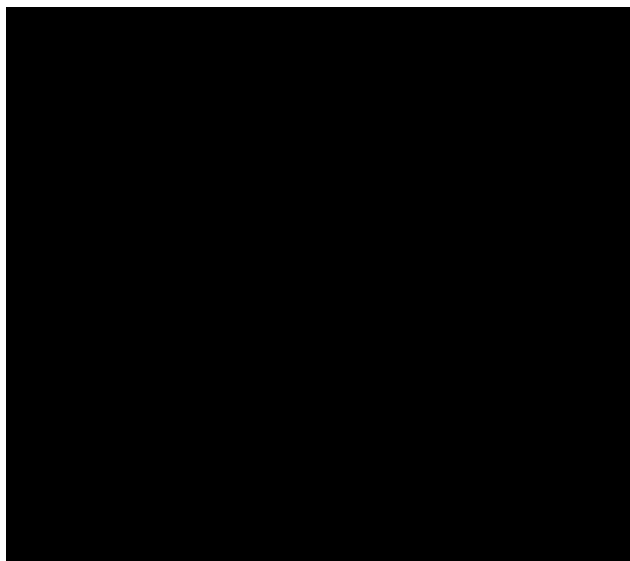
Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone



1. What are your views on the use of renewable energy to help meet our energy requirements?
(onshore and offshore wind power, solar power, biomass, wave and tidal power, amongst others)

Supportive

2. What are your views on the use of wind energy in particular to help meet our energy requirements?

Supportive

3a. How do you feel about the Lochluichart Windfarm Extension II proposal?

Supportive

3b. Why do you hold this view? Please state

We need to become carbon neutral with our energy requirements. Renewable energy will help towards this goal and will reduce the energy footprint of our communities.

4. How close do you live to the proposed wind farm site?

Within 1 kilometre (0.6 miles)

5. If you have any further interests, please state below:

I am interested in battery storage for the community, in particular, for the village hall/hub which are being considered for the future. Would you be able to help with such a project.

6. How did you first learn about the project?

Newsletter

7. Please use the area below to ask a specific question or comment on the project:

I am concerned about the harmonics I hear from the wind farm when you increase the blade sizes. The noise has kept me awake on a few occasions in the past, mainly during the winter periods. I have personally planted 120 trees to help reduce the noise. Would you consider tree planting to reduce the noise on scale that may have an effect?
Can you please forward your noise modelling calculations for my house/location?
Thank you.

8. If you would like us to respond to any of the comments you have made or questions you have asked in this questionnaire, please indicate here and, if required, we will get back to you shortly:

Response wanted

Entry Details



Submitted: Dec 3, 2020 @ 20:09



Entry ID: 9



Entry Key: pb6e4

User Information



IP Address: 2a00:23c5:e586:a700:d0f0:8c50:df31:c4b



Browser/OS: Apple Safari 13.1 / OS X

Referrer: <https://www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk/online-consultation-feedback-form/>

Entry (ID 10)

Show empty fields

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone

1. What are your views on the use of renewable energy to help meet our energy requirements?
(onshore and offshore wind power, solar power, biomass, wave and tidal power, amongst others)

Very supportive

2. What are your views on the use of wind energy in particular to help meet our energy requirements?

Supportive

3a. How do you feel about the Lochluichart Windfarm Extension II proposal?

Supportive

3b. Why do you hold this view? Please state

Better to extend than find and create new onshore sites in the beautiful Highlands

4. How close do you live to the proposed wind farm site?

Further away than 5 kilometres (3.1 miles)

5. If you have any further interests, please state below:

As the Founder of the Communities Energy Group and a current Director of the TGDDC, I want to optimise the communities engagement with the Renewable Energy agenda and see a more 'aspirational' approach to how we can use our 'wind fall' funds to contribute to and lead on carbon neutral homes, transport and the wider environment.

If other, please state below

Through our developed Community Organisations (formed on the back of Wind farm funding!)

7. Please use the area below to ask a specific question or comment on the project:

I suspect that our colleague from the G&D Energy group made all relevant comments earlier today? - but happy to reinforce these and in particular, hear from you on how you, Eneco and our other 'benefactors' can communicate with and support those in the community who are trying to be 'aspirational' in developing a cleaner, greener and more sustainable future for this community and beyond.

Is the 'ring fencing' of an element of future Community benefit funds, targeted at local development around this agenda, something that could be considered?

8. If you would like us to respond to any of the comments you have made or questions you have asked in this questionnaire, please indicate here and, if required, we will get back to you shortly:

Response wanted

Entry Details



Submitted: Dec 3, 2020 @ 20:36



Entry ID: 10



Entry Key: cuq49

User Information



IP Address: [REDACTED]

Entry (ID 11)

Show empty fields

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone

1. What are your views on the use of renewable energy to help meet our energy requirements?
(onshore and offshore wind power, solar power, biomass, wave and tidal power, amongst others)

Very supportive

2. What are your views on the use of wind energy in particular to help meet our energy requirements?

Supportive

3a. How do you feel about the Lochluichart Windfarm Extension II proposal?

Undecided

3b. Why do you hold this view? Please state

As a community representative I take a neutral view.

4. How close do you live to the proposed wind farm site?

Further away than 5 kilometres (3.1 miles)

5. If you have any further interests, please state below:

Chair of Garve & District Development Company

If other, please state below

Community Council

8. If you would like us to respond to any of the comments you have made or questions you have asked in this questionnaire, please indicate here and, if required, we will get back to you shortly:

No response wanted

Entry Details



Submitted: Dec 3, 2020 @ 20:59



Entry ID: 11



Entry Key: y6cn6

User Information



IP Address: [REDACTED]

COVID-19 & Development Planning

Consultation & Engagement Advice - May 2020

1. The COVID-19 emergency means it is not currently possible to hold public events without unacceptably posing a significant risk to public health. This has consequences for development plans as they are progressed. This document provides advice on consultation and engagement whilst there is a ban on public gatherings and there is a need for physical distancing.
2. It is important that the planning system continues to function during this period to support future economic and societal recovery, business and jobs and avoid delays to infrastructure, housing and other development. **Plans should therefore continue to progress where possible** so they are as relevant as they can be to give confidence and certainty to stakeholders as we emerge from the emergency.

Existing Requirements

3. Consultation requirements for stages of local development plan preparation are set out in sections 17, 18 and 20B of the amended Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008. The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 makes provision for documents to be made available for inspection by electronic means rather than at an office or library.
4. The requirements include Planning Authorities preparing a Participation Statement which sets out the form that consultation is to take. This will involve a range of engagement activities suited to the stage of plan preparation and often involve events that people attend in person. These activities provide opportunities to develop awareness and understanding about how a place will change into the future by asking questions and receiving responses. They also enable decisions to be reached in a fair and transparent way. However, in light of the current ban on public gatherings and advice on physical distancing, we recognise that it is not possible for events to take place in person at present.

Temporary Approach

5. It is the responsibility of the planning authority to prepare the local development plan for their area. We would expect authorities to take a cautious but pragmatic approach to doing this during this temporary period.
6. **Scottish Ministers wish to see plans make progress where possible during this time. We expect authorities to enhance their use of digital engagement approaches but any engagement period should not comprise solely of digital communication. If the whole engagement period takes place whilst there is a ban on gatherings and there is a need for physical distancing, we would expect authorities to also enhance their non-digital communication to enable opportunities to have specific questions responded to informally.**

Reasoning

7. Consultation and engagement in progressing plans has long been a significant feature of the development plan system and improving its effectiveness is a key aspect of the Scottish Government's planning reform programme. The temporary approach in no way changes our commitment to enhanced engagement in development planning. We will continue to make progress on this for future implementation taking into

COVID-19 & Development Planning

Consultation & Engagement Advice - May 2020

account the changed environment. Given the changes to society and the economy in recent months, it is essential that engagement opportunities for stakeholders in development planning are enhanced so that plans are progressed that are relevant to the new context.

8. Advice on temporary alternatives for engagement in development management (pre-application consultation) was published on 23 April 2020:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-guidance-on-pre-application-consultations-for-public-events/> Engagement in development management and development planning shares some similarities but they are not the same and have different requirements under usual circumstances. Engagement in development planning generally involves a broader range of interests across a larger spatial area because plans consider multiple potential development proposals and their collective impact. The temporary approaches are therefore tailored to these differences.
9. Digital engagement solutions may be applied to the different stages of the local development plan process. However, planning authorities should be mindful that there may be practical difficulties for intended audiences, in that employees may have been furloughed or redeployed and many people face different working contexts. Whilst many people are upskilling their digital abilities in the present situation, reliance only on digital approaches will also potentially exclude some people, in particular older people, those on lower incomes and people with long-term health conditions. A balanced approach is necessary to enable all parts of the community to contribute to a plan which will influence the area for several years to come, therefore other forms of engagement must be included in the process as a whole.

Implementation

10. Planning authorities know their communities well and in implementing the above advice, planning authorities should consider the ability of stakeholders to engage effectively: **flexibility will be essential**. It is for planning authorities to explain the approach they take to consultation and engagement. They may wish to consider extending timescales and/or allowing informal opportunities to comment outwith the statutory process; however, in the interests of clarity and fairness periods should not be open-ended. Authorities can usefully make clear any changes to consultation arrangements by amending the Participation Statement in their Development Plan Scheme. This may outline factors influencing changes in approach, such as geography of the area.

Enhanced Digital Communication

11. There are currently a range of ways to engage with stakeholders digitally. These can assist in maintaining progress with the plan. Digital communication can help in reaching new audiences and creating flexibility for when people can engage. New platforms and local groups have gained popularity during the lockdown. Planning authorities may already be intending to use a number of these methods and should continue to do so. They may also wish to increase opportunities for digital engagement.

COVID-19 & Development Planning

Consultation & Engagement Advice - May 2020

12. Digital engagement should involve information in a user friendly format on a free, publicly accessible web site. Consideration should be given to providing information that can be easily accessed, downloaded and printed. Subject to resources and capabilities, digital tools and applications could be used for video presentations or hosted slideshows to help explain the plan and provide live and interactive web based events for the public to ask questions and receive responses. It would be useful for the Scottish Government to receive any feedback as regards the use of online approaches to community engagement as part of the work in relation to implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

Enhanced Non-Digital Communication

13. Engagement through digital platforms will not suit everyone: this may relate to having limited internet access and in the current situation, individuals and organisations may also be facing a range of other challenges due to the restrictions imposed. Planning authorities should therefore ensure that other means of effective engagement in plans are available. This may include placing articles in newspapers circulating locally, expanding contact with community councils or letters to households in areas where there are significant proposals for change. It should be made clear if there are mechanisms for people to obtain copies of the engagement materials offline, as well as the ability for them to submit comments by post.

Development Plan Progression

14. As plans progress through the different stages of preparation, the nature of the documents and the type of consultation and engagement undertaken generally changes. However, any consultation and engagement now taking place will be the first opportunity stakeholders will have had to consider the plan within the changed context. The timescale of plan preparation is important, however Ministers expect planning authorities to balance matters relating to timeliness with the relevance of the plan to the new context, and to do this in a manner appropriate to their area and stage of plan preparation.
15. Statutory requirements remain relating to notification in a local newspaper of the publication of Main Issues Reports and Proposed Plans. These require the inclusion of the date by which representations should be made, for Proposed Plans this is to be no less than 6 weeks. Scottish Ministers would expect planning authorities to be flexible in applying extensions to the timescales indicated in the notice if necessitated by changes in how restrictions are lifted, and may wish to indicate this in the notice.
16. Supplementary Guidance is a statutory part of the development plan and has the same weight in decision making. The temporary approach outlined above therefore applies equally. Supplementary guidance provides further information or detail on the policies and proposals in the plan, generally relating to a focused topic or location. We would therefore expect planning authorities to continue to carry out their statutory duty to take such steps that will, in their opinion, ensure that stakeholders who may be expected to make representations, are aware they are entitled to do so.
17. The Participation Statement in the Development Plan Scheme will be taken into account by the appointed person prior to an examination, when they consider the extent to which the planning authority's actions with regard to consultation and the

COVID-19 & Development Planning

Consultation & Engagement Advice - May 2020

involvement of the public at large for the Proposed Plan have conformed with the Participation Statement. Ministers would expect the appointed person to take account of the current circumstances and the content of this advice when they carry out their consideration.

18. The [Chief Planner letter](#) of 3 April 2020 regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) and planning procedures outlines that there are options available to enable decisions to continue to be made on planning matters. Local authorities already have the power to hold meetings virtually. The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 provides that, for the duration of the coronavirus crisis, local authorities have the power to exclude the public from their meetings on health grounds, to protect the public and local authority council members.
19. There are requirements throughout plan preparation to engage with Key Agencies and Ministers would expect this engagement to continue. Electronic copies of plans and associated documents should be sent to the relevant agency digitally and relevant information should be provided as timely as possible. Joint agency discussions could provide an efficient and co-ordinated approach to engagement.
20. There are also requirements to send copies of documents to Scottish Ministers. Where this relates to Planning and Architecture Division (PAD), including the Main Issues Report, Proposed Plan, Notification of Intention to Adopt, Supplementary Guidance, Development Plan Scheme and Action Programme, electronic copies should be sent to the Development Plan Gateway: developmentplans@gov.scot. For Notification of Intention to Adopt stages of plans and Supplementary Guidance, Ministers have a 28 day consideration period. This timescale remains and PAD will endeavour to meet the timescale where possible and will advise of extensions that will apply where it is not. For instances where the number of copies are specified in legislation, indicating a requirement for paper copies, these can be forwarded at an appropriate time in the future as and when it is practicable for authorities. Where the requirement for copies relates to an examination, advice should be sought from the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals.
21. Work on National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) has begun and under changes to be made by the Planning (Scotland) Act, 2019, it will be part of the development plan when relevant sections are commenced. Further opportunities for consultation and engagement in NPF4 will take into account the principles that underpin this advice.
22. Ministers acknowledge that decisions on the progress of plans in the current emergency will be the responsibility of the planning authority.

Review of Advice

23. This advice will be reviewed as Government guidance on physical distancing and/or public gatherings is updated.