Balnespick Wind Farm

EXHIBITION BROCHURE

October 2023

Fred. Olsen Renewables

Welcome

We are exploring the potential to develop Balnespick Wind Farm, located 5.6km east of Tomatin and 6.6km north-west of Carrbridge.

We are at the very early stages of our proposals and we would like to start a conversation with the local community and key stakeholders about how we can develop a project that:

- Is shaped by community feedback
- Supports local aspirations
- Allows us to explore delivering local initiatives, such as:
  - Connectivity
  - Recreation
  - Tourism
- Will deliver local and regional supply chain opportunities

We hope that these materials provide you with useful information. We welcome your feedback and opinions. Please complete a feedback form or contact the team to discuss the plans further.

There are many ways for you to get in touch with us:

www.balnespickwindfarm.co.uk

communities@fredolsen.com

07435 763 900

About Fred. Olsen Renewables

Fred. Olsen Renewables is one of the longest standing renewable energy developers in Scotland.

Developing

Constructing

Operating

Our portfolio consists of 258 operational turbines, alongside a further 76 consented. This, combined with our projects in Norway and Sweden, brings our total operational capacity to 787.7 MW – providing enough power for 586,190 homes.

We are excited about the future. With a pipeline of more than 1GW, central to our success will be collaboration with communities, committing to local businesses and contributing towards Scotland's sustainable future.

Our Proposal

We are at the early stages of our proposals and we still have a significant amount of information to gather prior to submitting an application.

We have submitted a scoping request to the Scottish Government, which will allow us to gather stakeholder feedback that will help to shape our plans. We are embarking upon consultation with the community and key stakeholders and the feedback that we gather throughout the consultation process will help to inform our final plans.

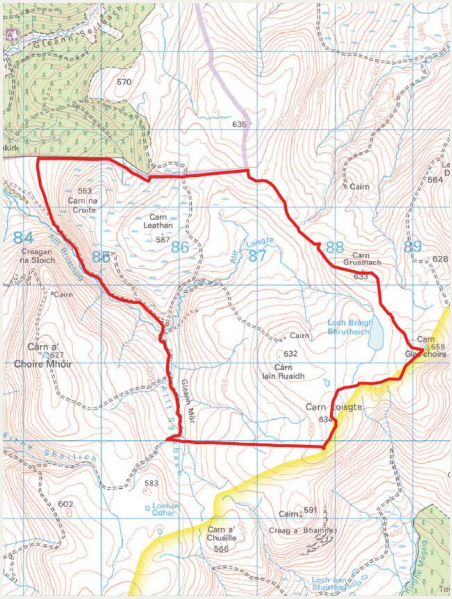
All of our activity will be supported by a range of public consultation, including this exhibition.

We hope that this event will:

- Help to start a conversation with the local community
- Provide information on our initial proposals and timelines
- Detail the opportunities that Balnespick Wind Farm will present locally
- Help us to understand local priorities
- Provide the opportunity for you to ask any questions and provide feedback

At this stage it is anticipated that the project will involve:

- Up to nine wind turbines with a height of up to 200m to tip
- Battery Storage
- Turbine foundations and hardstandings
- External transformers
- A network of new and upgraded access tracks
- An anemometry mast for wind monitoring
- An onsite substation and control building
- Temporary construction compounds, laydown areas and car parking
- Temporary borrow pits



Layout and Design Process

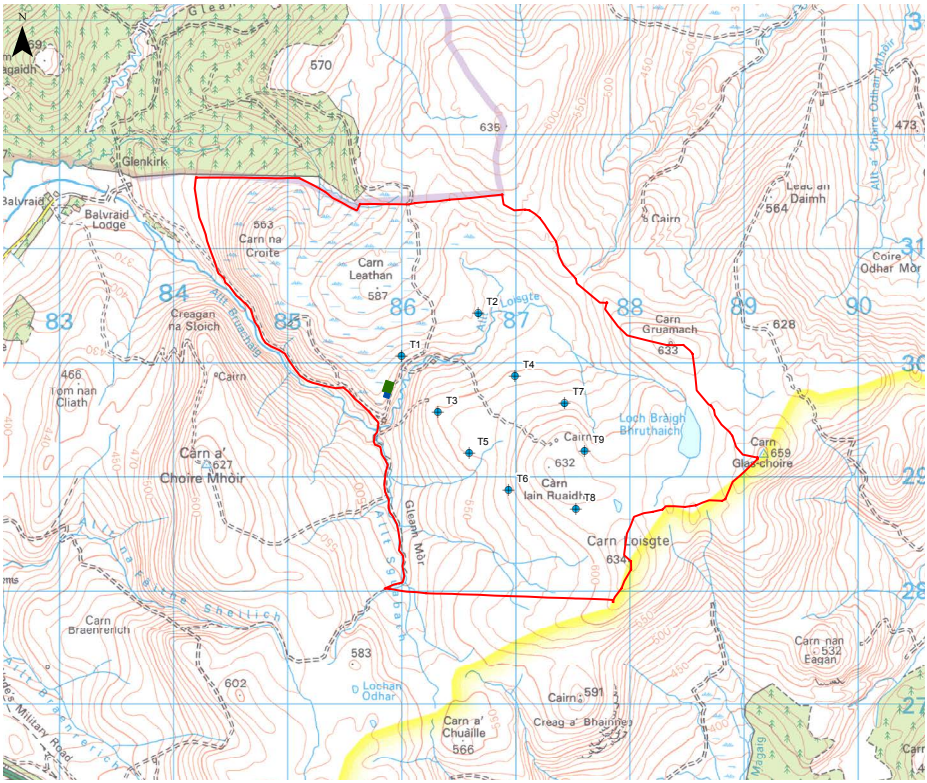
Many factors will determine the final layout of Balnespick Wind Farm, and the location of turbines.

This include:

- Visual impact
- Impact on sensitive habitats
- Proximity to areas of ecological interest
- Wind resource
- Engineering constraints
- Community comments

Some of these issues will not be fully identified until the technical assessments are finished. This means that the layout you see today may be different from the layout submitted with the application for consent.

We will ensure that the local community and key stakeholders are consulted throughout the development of our proposal and on the final layout.



The Development Process

We are currently undertaking the scoping and consultation of our development process for the proposed development.

We submitted a Scoping Report to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in August 2023. This described our draft proposal and invited the views of consultees on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The Scoping Opinion that we receive will determine the scope of the EIA.

Baseline surveys are ongoing for the proposed development. These surveys will inform the final layout of the site ensuring that it minimises effects on the local environment. We will then evaluate and present the effects of the project in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The EIAR will accompany the application for consent to the ECU.

The EIAR will consider:

- Ornithology
- Ecology
- Landscape and visual
- Noise
- Hydrology, geology and hydrogeology
- Cultural heritage
- Access, traffic and transport
- Socioeconomics, recreation and tourism
- Telecommunications
- Aviation and Existing Infrastructure
- Climate change

Our Development Timeline

Environmental Impact Assessment

Environmental Considerations

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being undertaken to identify and assess the potential significant environmental effects of the proposal. The information gathered through the EIA process will help to shape the design and layout of the proposed development and required mitigation measures.

This includes, amongst others:

Ornithology

This assessment considers any potential effect on local bird assemblages. Extensive ornithology surveys have been completed.

Ecology

This assessment considers the local flora and fauna, except for birds which are assessed separately. Habitat and protected species surveys have been undertaken within the site which include bats, water vole, otter, badger, red squirrel, and pine marten.

Cultural Heritage

This assessment considers the cultural heritage assets near the site and helps to inform the design of the proposal and appropriate mitigation techniques.

Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology

This assessment considers the hydrological, geological and hydrogeological characteristics of the proposed development site, and helps to inform appropriate mitigation proposals, if they are required.

There are mapped areas of peat on the site and whilst considering other constraints, the layout will be designed to avoid deep peat as far as possible.

Aviation and Existing Infrastructure

This assessment will consider the potential effects of the proposed development on civil and military aviation interests. Telecommunications operations will also be considered.

Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism

Predicted socioeconomic, recreational and tourism effects of the proposed development will be outlined within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). This includes benefits on local, regional and national levels during the construction and operational periods of the proposed development.

Noise

This assessment will consider the effects of both construction and operational noise on nearby sensitive receptors, including in combination with other nearby wind farms. No perceptible ground-borne vibration is expected from the operation of the proposed development.

Traffic and Transport

This assessment considers the impact on traffic volumes and the transport network during the construction period, operational phase and decommissioning phase of the proposed development.

Climate Change

Wind farms have the potential to make savings on greenhouse gas emissions compared to electricity that is generated using fossil fuels.

We will assess the magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions of the proposed development throughout its lifetime, including assessing the potential impacts on peat, and the period of time it takes to payback for those carbon emissions compared with a scenario where there is no development.

Landscape and Visual Impact

Once the design layout has been finalised, a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the proposed development will be carried out. This will consider effects on:

- **Landscape fabric** – changes to the physical form of the landscape and its elements
- **Landscape character** – changes in the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape
- **Visual amenity** – changes in the appearance of the landscape

The proposed development will be analysed to identify elements with the potential to cause an effect on the landscape within the specified study area.

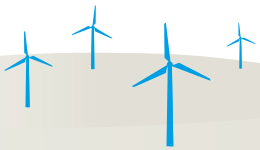
Photomontages and ZTV

The images presented at this exhibition have been prepared to illustrate the visual impact of the proposed draft wind turbine layout from four viewpoint locations. Photomontages from each of these viewpoints have had wind turbines added using computer generated software.

A preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) diagram has been generated for the proposed development that indicates the number of turbines theoretically visible from any location within the study area.

This means that from those areas that are coloured you may be able to see the proposed development. The different colours let you know how many wind turbines you may be able to see.

The ZTV does not consider trees and buildings. These can often screen views so that fewer or no turbines are actually visible. The ZTV gives an initial idea of those areas from which you may be able to see the proposed development. This is checked by landscape architects during site visits.



Why Renewable Energy?

A substantial amount of carbon emissions come from energy used across power, heating and transport.

Renewable energy such as wind power, does not emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Therefore, by using renewable energy technologies like wind turbines, solar panels and hydro we are reducing carbon emissions created by traditional energy consumption.

By bringing forward more renewable energy in Scotland, we are:

Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels

Improving energy security by reducing imports

Meeting government targets

Tackling climate change

Renewable Energy and Climate Change

What is Climate Change?

Climate is the average weather we experience over many years, climate change is the change we are seeing in these averages conditions. The rapid climate change we are now seeing is caused by humans using oil, gas and coal for their homes, factories and transport.

Average global temperatures have risen by more than 1°C since the 1850s. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 were the hottest years ever recorded. Scotland, and the rest of the world is in the midst of a global climate emergency.

We are already seeing the negative impact of climate change. Unless action is taken, temperatures will continue to rise and we will experience catastrophic impacts such, with worsening droughts, greater sea level rise and mass extinction of species. We all have a role to play.

The Impact of Climate Change

Environment

We are already witnessing changes to our environment such as the melting of ice caps and glaciers with low lying and coastal cities at particular risk of flooding.

Climate change is expected to worsen the frequency, intensity, and impacts of some types of extreme weather events. For example, increases in temperatures have resulted in a greater risk of wildfires like those recently seen in the USA, Australia and Europe.

People

Climate change is affecting people in far-reaching ways. Things that we all depend upon and value – water, energy, wildlife, agriculture, ecosystems, and human health – are experiencing the effects of a changing climate.

These extreme weather events (floods, storms and wild fires) will become more common and intense, threatening lives and livelihoods.

Nature

There is already evidence that animals, birds and plants are being affected by climate change in both their distribution and behaviour.

Changes are happening so fast that many species do not have time to adapt to the loss of habitats or food and will soon become extinct.

For example, the loss of sea ice has already seen large reductions in the numbers of Polar Bear species whilst increasing sea temperatures has dramatically impacted coral reefs – a vital habitat for many sea creatures.

Impact in the UK

Changes to the climate are also being felt in the UK.

Our winters are becoming warmer and wetter resulting in increased flooding. Whilst our summers will become hotter and drier meaning the likelihood of droughts will increase.

People, nature, and infrastructure are already vulnerable to a range of climate impacts today and these will only increase in the coming years as the climate continues to change.

Community Benefit

We believe that there are many opportunities for local residents to benefit from Balnespick Wind Farm.

We are proposing that the development will deliver community benefit equating to:

£5,000 PER MW OF INSTALLED CAPACITY

This has the potential to provide over £9.7m throughout the lifetime of the project.

We want to work closely with the communities surrounding the proposed development to ensure that the community benefit fund is structured to be able to address local and regional needs, meeting challenges such as:

- Fuel poverty
- Energy efficiency
- Housing stock
- Recreation
- Connectivity
- Tourism

Our experience

We believe that our wind farms can be an asset to the local area, supporting the local economy and helping to meet local aspirations. Each year Fred. Olsen Renewables provides over £600,000 to eligible communities surrounding our wind farms, amounting to more than £6m to date.

Duns Swimming Pool

The community benefit funds from Crystal Rig Wind Farm have helped many local children master the important life skill of swimming. The funding provides children with access to free swimming lessons from birth. In addition, all local residents benefit from subsidised pool membership. Helping to build confidence in the water, provide a social outlet and keep kids active.

This initiative has also helped to support Duns Swimming Pool, a local charity, allowing it to reinvest in the facilities and provide a valuable service.

Supply Chain

We always seek to employ local services during the construction and operation of our wind farms. If you, or your company, would like to register your services please contact suppliers@fredolsen.co.uk.

£317
million of contracts signed with Scottish businesses

246
Construction jobs
(Full Time Equivalent)

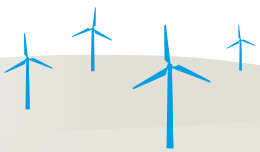
2,458
Construction Job Years
(Per Year Equivalent)

50
Operational & Maintenance Employment
(Per Time Equivalent)

£3.0
million funding for the local community throughout the lifespan of our wind farms

£29
million contribution to Scottish GVA

Moray figures, correct November 2021



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