

KINTRADWELL WIND FARM

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Pre-Application Consultation Report



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This report

1.1.1. This 'Pre-Application Consultation Report' (PAC Report), relates to a planning application made by RES (the Applicant) for Kintradwell Wind Farm ('the Proposed Development') in East Sutherland. This document details and reports on the consultation process undertaken by the Applicant.

1.1.2. RES has served this document to the following parties:

- The Highland Council
- Brora Community Council ('host' Community Council)
- Helmsdale Community Council ('neighbouring' Community Council)
- Golspie Community Council ('nearby' Community Council)

1.1.3. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and a lack of accessible public buildings at this time, the Applicant has not placed hard copies of the planning documents in public viewing locations. However, an electronic version of this PAC Report is available to view or download from the project website at www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk along with the full planning application and associated documents:

- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary;
- Volume 2: Written Statement;
- Volume 3: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment GIS Output;
- Volume 4: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment NatureScot Output;
- Volume 5: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment The Highland Council Output;
- Volume 6: Technical Appendices; and
- Planning Statement.

1.1.4. The project website will also be updated with the planning application reference number (once the Section 36 application has been validated) as well as a link to the Scottish Government's planning portal where all of the planning documents can be viewed and formal consultation comments submitted.

1.2. Project description

1.2.1. The application seeks permission from the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) of the Scottish Government to construct a wind farm with an installed capacity of over 50MW, comprising 15 wind turbines and associated elements at Kintradwell, approximately 7.7km north of Brora (Kintradwell Wind Farm). The application has been prepared in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (EIA regulations).

1.2.2. The turbines will have a maximum height of up to 149.9m to the highest point of the blade tip. The proposal includes a number of ancillary elements, including a temporary construction compound, crane pads, temporary laydown areas adjacent to the turbines, access tracks, watercourse crossings, underground cables between turbines, an electrical switching station, an on-site substation and control building, battery storage infrastructure, a gatehouse compound, a telecoms mast, concrete batching plant and potential excavations/borrow workings.

1.3. Our approach to community consultation

- 1.3.1. As set out in Regulations the minimum consultation activity states that an applicant must consult with Community Councils and hold a public event. The Applicant believes that meaningful and productive consultation requires a more detailed approach and in undertaking the consultation for the Proposed Development the Applicant has gone above and beyond the minimum statutory requirement, including making provisions during the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure that the community was kept updated on the project (see **Section 2.6** for more information).
- 1.3.2. The Proposed Development sits within Brora Community Council area and consequently Brora has been the main focus for consultation. The Applicant has also written to neighbouring Helmsdale Community Council to the east, and Golspie Community Council to the west, and kept them updated throughout the pre-application stage of the Proposed Development.
- 1.3.3. At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant has set out clearly the purpose of consultation and emphasised that comments made are not representations to the determining authority and that there would be an opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once a planning application was submitted.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1. Preparation

- 2.1.1. Prior to undertaking formal public consultation, the Applicant undertook desk-based research to identify 'key stakeholders' located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Those identified included:
 - Local Community Councils (Brora, Helmsdale and Golspie);
 - Local Ward Councillors (East Sutherland and Edderton ward);
 - Constituency MSP (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross); and
 - Constituency MP (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross).

2.2. Introducing the project - Scoping (September 2019)

- 2.2.1. The Applicant wrote to key stakeholders in August 2019 ([Appendix 1](#)) to inform them that they were in the early stages of exploring the potential for a wind farm development at Kintradwell. The letter explained that the Applicant had submitted a Scoping Report to the ECU (links to electronic copies of the Report were provided, in addition to hard copies for the Community Councils), and that a public exhibition would be organised in the coming months to engage early with the wider community in the design development process and listen to their feedback on the proposal.
- 2.2.2. The Applicant also established a dedicated project website in August 2019 at <http://www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk>. The website has been kept up-to-date with information as the project has developed and includes details of consultation, local benefits, RES as a company, as well as the ability to view and download key project information including documentation such as the [Scoping report](#), information banners and visualisations (photomontages and wirelines) displayed at the public exhibition, project newsletters, and design layout updates.

2.3. Planning and advertising the public exhibition (August - September 2019)

- 2.3.1. The Applicant made follow-up contact later in August 2019 with all three of the local Community Councils to check that they had received copies of the Scoping Report and to seek their input on public exhibition plans. Discussions took place with representatives of both Brora and Golspie Community Councils (Helmsdale did not respond at this stage) regarding the proposed venue, date, times, advertising and local communication of the event. It was also agreed with Brora Community Council representatives that the Applicant would attend one of their upcoming Community Council meetings to update members on the project after the public exhibition had been held, so that local feedback could be discussed.
- 2.3.2. A follow-up email was issued in early September ([Appendix 2](#)) to all key stakeholders confirming that a public exhibition would be held on **Tuesday 24th September 2019** from **12 noon until 8pm** in **Brora Scout and Guide Hall**. The email explained that there would be a range of information on display, including photomontages (giving an impression of what the Scoping turbine layout would look like from different viewpoints in the area) and questionnaires for people to provide their feedback to the Applicant on the proposal at that stage; in addition, the Applicant's project team would be present to listen to people's views and answer any queries that people may have, and that all key information displayed at the exhibition would be made available on the Applicant's project website at www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk from the date of the exhibition event (for people to view online). The email also confirmed when and where the event would be advertised and provided copies of both the local newspaper advert and a 2-sided A4 local project newsletter which the Applicant had produced.
- 2.3.3. The Applicant placed an advert ([Appendix 3](#)) in the local Northern Times paper on Friday 6th September and Friday 20th September 2019 to advertise the details of the public exhibition to the wider community. The advert made it clear that comments made on the proposal at that stage should be provided in writing to the Applicant by the closing date of Friday 25th October 2019 (details of how to do this were provided in the advert) and that these comments were not representations to the determining authority but that there would be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.
- 2.3.4. The Applicant also distributed a project newsletter ([Appendix 4](#)) and/or poster during w/c 2nd September to key local venues in Brora, Golspie and Helmsdale including:
- Community Centre, Dunrobin Street, Helmsdale;
 - SPAR shop, Dunrobin Street, Helmsdale;
 - Highland Council Service Point, Main Street, Golspie;
 - Voluntary Groups East Sutherland (VGES), Main Street, Golspie;
 - The Trawler, Main Street, Golspie;
 - Golspie Library, Community Centre, Golspie;
 - SPAR shop, Tower Street, Golspie;
 - Nisa store, Main Street, Golspie;
 - Mitchells Chemist, Main Street, Golspie;
 - Sutherland Swimming Pool, Back Road, Golspie;
 - Royal Marine Hotel, Golf Road, Brora;
 - Scout and Guide Hall, Gower Street, Brora;
 - Brora Library, Gower Street, Brora;

- Right Medicine Pharmacy, Victoria Road, Brora;
- Brora Community Centre, Gower Street, Brora; and
- Drs surgery, Main Street, Brora.

2.3.5. Posters were also put up on some of the local bus shelters in Golspie and Brora (upon request from members of the community) to help raise awareness of the exhibition event and consultation, and then taken down again the day after the public exhibition.

2.3.6. Hard copies of the newsletter were also provided (handed over in person or posted out) to representatives of the three local Community Councils during w/c 2nd September.

2.4. Public exhibition event (September 2019)

2.4.1. The venue for the public exhibition was identified (in addition to Brora Community Centre which wasn't available for the times required that week), through background research and was selected for its proximity and accessibility for people attending from the three Community Council areas. The venue choice, dates and times, were then sense-checked with representatives of Brora and Golspie Community Councils in August 2019 (Helmsdale did not respond at this stage) before being booked and finalised.

2.4.2. The Applicant held a public exhibition event on Tuesday 24th September 2019 in Brora Scout and Guide Hall. The exhibition was held from 12 noon until 8pm to enable a wide cross section of the local community to attend, including people returning from work. Five staff members representing the Applicant were present during the public exhibition, to discuss the proposal with attendees, covering a range of specialisms including technical (wind resource and turbine layout), construction, environmental and development considerations, as well as community relations.

2.4.3. Information banners covering the following project-specific topics were on display at the public exhibition ([Appendix 5](#)):

- About the project;
- Site layout;
- Environmental considerations;
- Transport route and access;
- Supply chain opportunities; and
- Your views count.

2.4.4. In addition to the information banners a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) was provided showing proposed viewpoints, in addition to five 'visualisations' (photomontages and wirelines) designed to help give an impression of what the site would look like at that early (scoping layout) stage from the following selected local viewpoints:

- View from Doll;
- View from Lower Brora;
- View from A9, North Brora;
- View from Beinn Dhorain; and
- View from Ben Horn.

2.4.5. The event attracted more than 50 people, and attendees were able to discuss aspects of interest and question the Applicant on a variety of issues. A questionnaire ([Appendix 6](#)), to encourage people to provide feedback and comments on the proposal to the Applicant, was also provided and it was made clear (on the exhibition advert, newsletter, questionnaire form, and project website) that comments made on the proposal at that stage should be provided in writing to the Applicant by the closing date of Friday 25th October 2019 (details of how to do this were provided in the advert) and that these comments were not representations to the determining authority

but that there would be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made. A summary of the questionnaire responses and written comments from people on the proposal can be found in [Section 3](#) and [Section 4](#) of this report.

- 2.4.6. All of the exhibition materials (information banners, ZTV, visualisations [photomontages and wirelines], and questionnaire) were uploaded onto the project website at www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk from the date of the exhibition, so that they were also accessible for people to view and download online. They remained on the website throughout the 'comments period'.
- 2.4.7. A total of 39 completed questionnaires were handed in at the exhibition event, in addition to one set of written comments on a contact card. Two further questionnaires were posted to the Applicant shortly after the public exhibition, in addition to two emails with written comments on the proposal. In total, 41 'questionnaires' were received, and 3 sets of written comments outwith the questionnaire forms; all of these comments were received by the closing date of Friday 25th October 2019 for written comments to the Applicant on the proposal.

2.5. Post exhibition engagement (September 2019 onwards)

- 2.5.1. Following the exhibition the Applicant met with individual local residents and businesses (between October 2019 and March 2020) who had raised particular queries or concerns at the public exhibition and wished to discuss them further.
- 2.5.2. The Applicant also spoke to representatives of Brora Community Council in September 2019 to enquire about meeting formally with the Community Council (as discussed in August 2019). Due to the upcoming Community Council elections (October/November 2019) it was agreed that the Applicant should get back in touch with the Community Council once it had reformed after the elections. In January it was agreed that the Applicant would attend Brora's 17th March 2020 meeting.
- 2.5.3. At the end of October 2019, once the 'comments period' had closed on 25th October, the Applicant emailed key stakeholders with a brief update on feedback received from the public exhibition.
- 2.5.4. In December 2019, the Applicant wrote letters to all three of the newly formed local Community Councils (Golspie, Brora and Helmsdale) to introduce the project, provide an update on the public exhibition feedback received, explain that the Applicant was working on updating and improving the design, and confirm that if they had any questions to contact the Applicant. The letter to Brora Community Council also offered to attend an upcoming Community Council meeting to discuss the proposal and public exhibition feedback in more detail.
- 2.5.5. In December 2019 the Applicant also wrote letters to all those who provided written comments at the exhibition (or during the 'comments period') to acknowledge their comments, answer any questions that had been raised where possible, and provide a general update on the proposal.

2.6. Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic (March 2020 onwards)

- 2.6.1. In mid-March the Applicant took the decision to prohibit all non-essential travel for staff due to the escalating Covid-19 pandemic and duly contacted Brora Community Council Secretary to explain the situation. It was agreed that the Applicant should not attend the 17th March Community Council meeting and the Applicant followed this up with a letter to Brora Community Council explaining their decision.

- 2.6.2. In April 2020 the Applicant received a letter from Brora Community Council asking for further information regarding consultee consultation on ‘viewpoints’, the proposed site access from the A9, any updates on the proposed turbine layout, as well as the proposed schedule for submission. A detailed response was emailed back to the Community Council in early July, in line with the stakeholder update described below, which also addressed the specific points and questions raised in the April letter. The letter included an updated comparative turbine layout and associated wirelines and clarified that these figures were indicative, subject to change, and provided for information only. The letter also confirmed that these updated layouts and wirelines had been added to the project website for people to view. The Applicant provided contact details too and encouraged the Community Council to get in touch if they required any further information (such as hard copies) or had any questions on the project.
- 2.6.3. Following the July letter to Brora Community Council, and ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Applicant decided to issue similar project updates to the wider community in order to maintain engagement and keep them up to date with the project during the ongoing lockdown.
- 2.6.4. In July 2020, update letters were emailed to key stakeholders confirming some of the key design changes and providing an updated comparative turbine layout and associated wirelines. The letters explained that the Applicant had also uploaded the updated layout and wirelines onto the project website for people to access and view; the letter clarified that these figures were indicative, subject to change, and provided for information only. The Applicant also provided contact details, as well as a link to the project website, and encouraged key stakeholders to get in touch if they required any further information (such as hard copies) or had any questions on the project.
- 2.6.5. A second newsletter [[Appendix 7](#)] was also issued in July 2020, to people who had asked to be kept informed on the proposal, providing a high level map showing the updated comparative turbine layout and informing that this map, in addition to associated updated wirelines, could be viewed on the project website. The newsletter also provided contact details so that people could get in touch with the Applicant if they required further information or had any questions on the proposal, and confirmed that the Applicant was willing to post out hard copies of the updated layout map and associated wirelines upon request. The newsletter was also emailed to key stakeholders.
- 2.6.6. Copies of the project update newsletter [[Appendix 7](#)] were also posted out to the following sixteen key venues in Brora, Golspie and Helmsdale (which had begun to open again by this point) in order to help keep people up to date with the proposal:
- Community Centre, Dunrobin Street, Helmsdale;
 - SPAR shop, Dunrobin Street, Helmsdale;
 - Highland Council Service Point, Main Street, Golspie;
 - Voluntary Groups East Sutherland (VGES), Main Street, Golspie;
 - The Trawler, Main Street, Golspie;
 - Golspie Library, Community Centre, Golspie;
 - SPAR shop, Tower Street, Golspie;
 - Nisa store, Main Street, Golspie;
 - Mitchells Chemist, Main Street, Golspie;
 - Sutherland Swimming Pool, Back Road, Golspie;
 - Royal Marine Hotel, Golf Road, Brora;

- Scout and Guide Hall, Gower Street, Brora;
- Brora Library, Gower Street, Brora;
- Right Medicine Pharmacy, Victoria Road, Brora;
- Brora Community Centre, Gower Street, Brora; and
- Drs surgery, Main Street, Brora.

2.6.7. The above steps demonstrate the Applicant's commitment to ongoing engagement keeping key stakeholders and the wider community informed about the proposal during the Covid-19 pandemic and potential ongoing restrictions.

2.7. Post-submission approach (during ongoing Covid-19 uncertainties)

2.7.1. The Applicant will write to key stakeholders, post submission, to ensure that they are aware of the application for Section 36 consent being submitted and where to view the associated documents, as well as how to get in touch with the Applicant if they have any questions about the project or require any further information (including specific information in hard copy form).

2.7.2. The Applicant will also issue another newsletter, post submission, to people who asked to be kept up to date with the project in order to raise awareness of the Section 36 submission and where to view the associated documents, as well as how to get in touch with the Applicant if they have any questions about the project or require any further information (including specific information in hard copy form).

2.7.3. The Applicant will also offer to meet with Brora Community Council as well as Golspie and Helmsdale Community Councils, in person or by virtual means if face to face isn't appropriate, post submission.

2.7.4. In addition to being placed in public viewing locations (mentioned in **Section 1.1**), the Section 36 application and associated documents will also be uploaded onto the project website for people to view and download. In addition, a 'zipped' file download option of all the documents will be made available for ease of viewing offline (and to help people on slower or intermittent broadband).

2.7.5. The above steps again demonstrate the Applicant's commitment to ongoing engagement and ensuring maximum accessibility for people, post-submission, to the Section 36 submission and associated documents (as well as any other project information) during the potential ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and potential ongoing restrictions.

3. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

3.1. Questionnaires

3.1.1. The graphs below show the breakdown of feedback to the questions on the 41 questionnaire forms received by the Applicant; the other three sets of written 'comments' which were sent to the Applicant are summarised in **Section 4** of this report together with the 'comments' provided on the comments section of the questionnaire forms.

Figure 1.

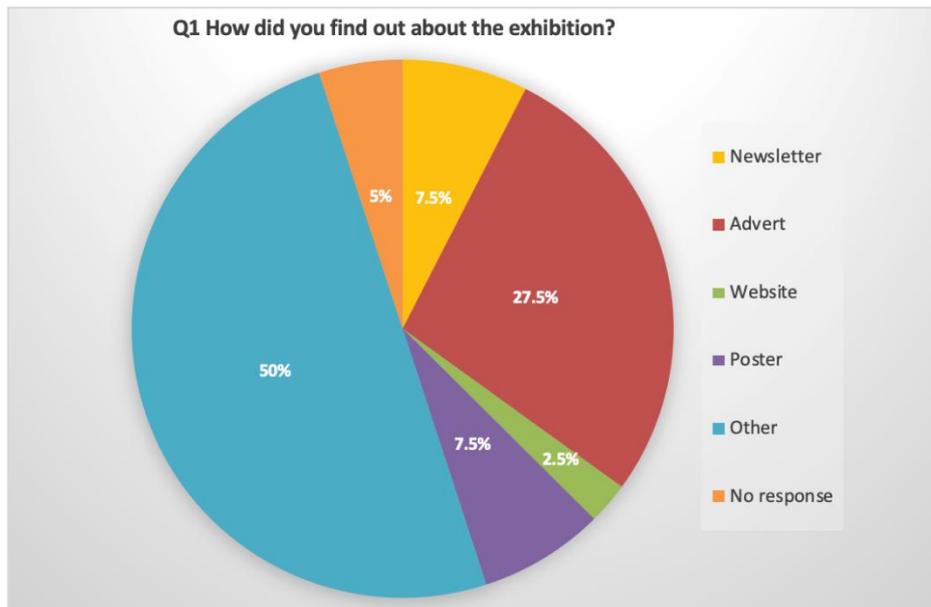


Figure 2.

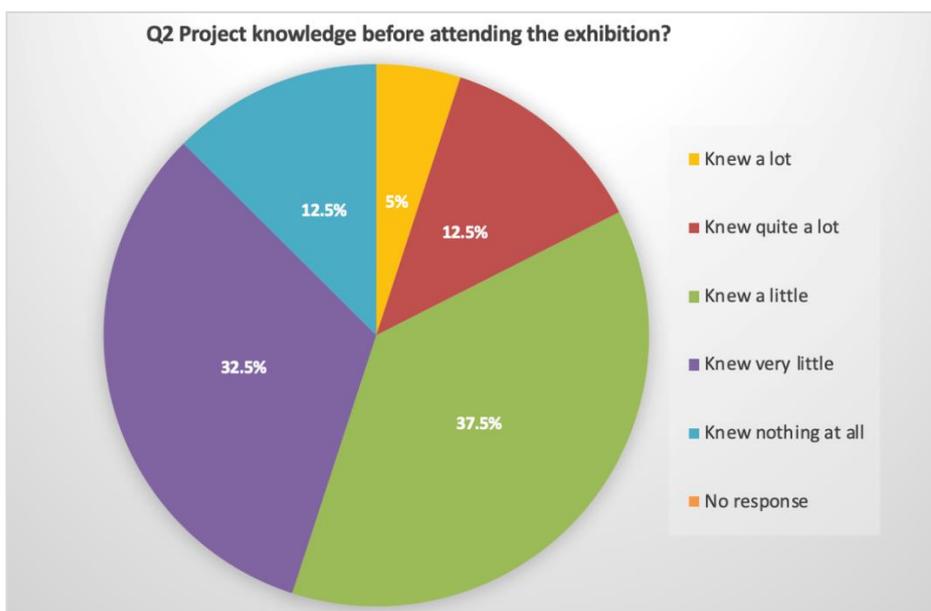


Figure 3.

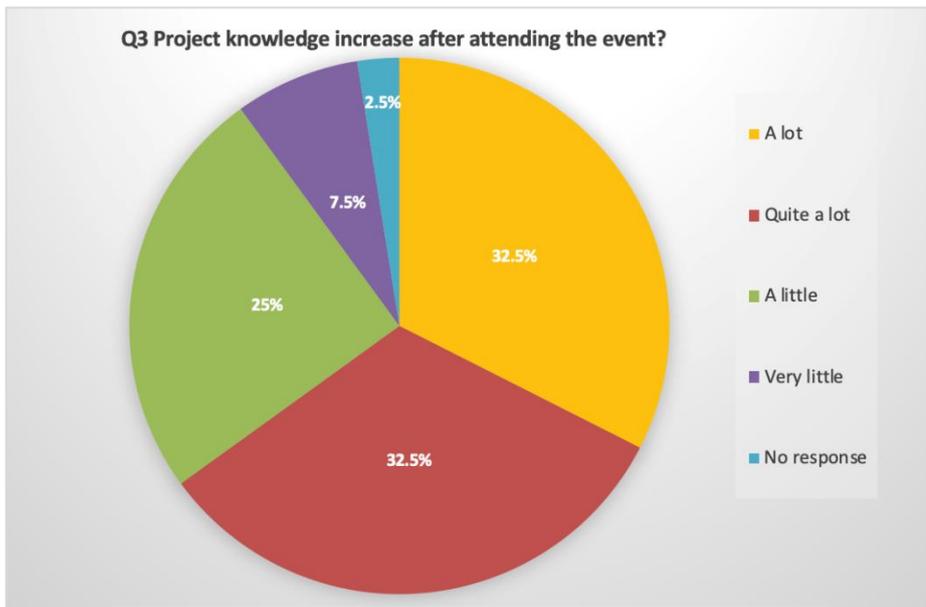


Figure 4.

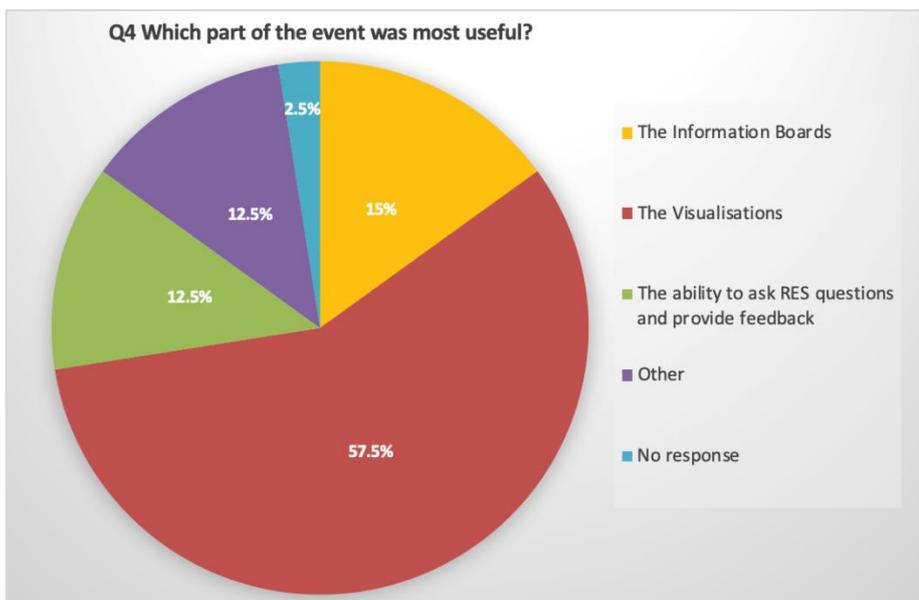
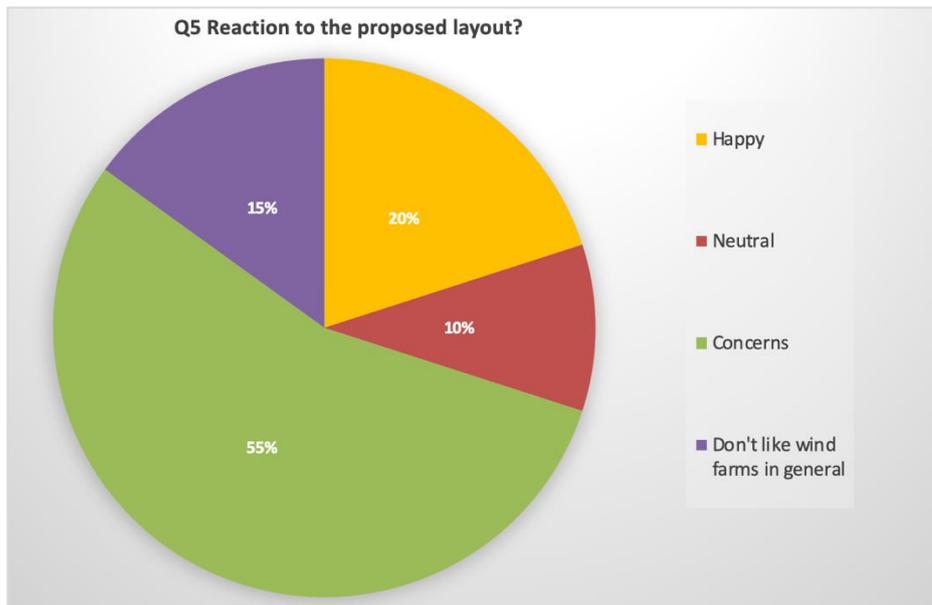


Figure 5.



3.2. Summary of answers

- 3.2.1. (Figure 1.) The majority of **people found out about the exhibition** by 'other means' such as 'word of mouth' and 'Facebook' (50%), followed by the 'newspaper advert' (27.5%) with the remainder finding out about the event from either the local 'newsletter' (7.5%), local 'posters' (7.5%), or project 'website' (2.5%). No answer was given to this question by some (5%).
- 3.2.2. (Figure 2.) **Before attending the exhibition people's knowledge about the proposal** was fairly limited, with the majority of people who filled out questionnaire form saying that they knew 'a little' (37.5%), 'very little' (32.5%), or 'nothing at all' (12.5%) about the event. The remainder knew 'quite a lot' (12.5%) or 'a lot' (5%) about the proposal before attending the event.
- 3.2.3. (Figure 3.) **Most people's knowledge about the proposal after attending the exhibition** increased 'a lot' (32.5%) or 'quite a lot' (32.5%). Some people's knowledge increased 'a little' (25%), with a small minority saying that it had increased 'very little' (7.5%) or giving no response (2.5%).
- 3.2.4. (Figure 4.) **The part of the event which people found most useful** was the 'visualisations' (57.5%), followed by the 'information boards' (15%), and the 'ability to ask RES questions and provide feedback' (12.5%). Some people who selected 'other' (12.5%) referred to being able to talk to people or see maps or stated that they had 'been here before' or 'none/not a lot - heard it all' with the remainder (2.5%) not giving any answer.
- 3.2.5. (Figure 5.) The majority of **people's reaction to the proposed layout** was that they had concerns (55%), with the remainder stating that they were happy with the proposal layout (20%), didn't like wind farms in general (15%), or were neutral to the proposed layout (10%).

4. OUTCOMES and RESPONSES

4.1. Summary of topics raised

- 4.1. The majority of consultation feedback was provided at the public exhibition events where attendees, after taking in the information on display and then discussing their views with the project team, provided their comments on a questionnaire form (forms were made available at the exhibition event and on the project website) which comprised a series of questions (covered in **Section 3** above) as well as a 'comments' section. Three sets of written 'comments' were also received during the comments period.
- 4.2. A summary of the topics raised in the 'comments' section of the 41 questionnaire forms and three sets of additional written comments, along with the Applicant's response to each issue, can be found in Table 1 below.
- 4.3. The Applicant endeavoured to ensure that everyone who provided written comments on the proposal received either a response letter acknowledging their feedback or further information if they'd asked questions, and ongoing updates on the project via newsletters (if they'd asked to be kept up to date).

Table 1: Summary of topics raised during the pre-application consultation	
Topics raised	The Applicant response
Access	<p>Some concerns were raised about turbine deliveries and general construction traffic associated with the proposal using the A9, passing through villages and across narrow bridges, and potentially causing congestion. In addition, a query was also raised about the point of access into the site and also that the site should be accessible to walkers, mountain bikers and skiers (once built).</p> <p>The turbine delivery route would come from either the Port of Cromarty Firth (Invergordon) or Port of Nigg and head north up the A9 to site, turning off near or to the north of the existing Kintradwell site entrance.</p> <p>A detailed swept path analysis has been undertaken of the turbine delivery routes and a detailed Traffic Management Plan (TMP) would be developed and agreed with the Highland Council Roads Department and police before any construction work or turbine deliveries commenced.</p> <p>With any project of this nature there will be a temporary increase in traffic in order to facilitate the construction process; this increase will be minimised where possible during peak commuting periods, and any impacts kept to a minimum, through appropriate traffic management measures such as careful timing of deliveries.</p> <p>Once constructed, the site will be accessible to walkers, cyclists, and other outdoor pursuits in accordance with The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.</p>

	<p>Further information can be found in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Volume 2: Written Statement, Chapter 11 Traffic and Transport.</p>
<p>Landscape and Visual</p>	<p>As is quite typical for any wind farm proposal, the majority of comments received related to the visual aspects of the proposal and including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding visibility of the wind farm from or around Brora village, Brora Golf Club, the Doll, Col-Bheinn, the East Sutherland Hills, the A9 and along the coast generally as well as from Tain, north; • Comments in relation to relocating or removing particular turbines from around Col-Bheinn as well as other parts of the site, and the height of the turbines; • Concerns about the location of the proposal being too forward on the hills and within a Scenic Landscape Area (SLA); • Concerns about the cumulative impact of the proposal with other wind farm sites in the area; and • Concerns about the impact of the proposal on the general amenity of the area and tourism. <p>The Applicant has spent considerable time studying the area and undertaking detailed surveys in order to understand the various constraints. The layout that has been designed for the Proposed Development takes into account wind speed, national designations, hydrological and ecological features, ornithological considerations, and cultural and archaeological heritage features. The design aim was to achieve reduced landscape and visual effects whilst achieving an appropriate landscape fit, and avoiding areas constrained by other environmental factors such as ecology, hydrology and archaeology whilst maximising potential electricity generation.</p> <p>The Scoping layout consisted of a 22-turbine proposal, but as a result of consultation, detailed environmental and technical surveys and a thorough design process the number of turbines reduced to 15. The final location of the turbines has taken into account the local topography and views into the site from the surrounding area.</p> <p>Key design changes to reduce overall visibility (particularly from Brora and the Doll area) were made in direct response to local community feedback from the public exhibition and ‘comments period’ (together with consultee feedback and the findings from site survey work) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbine numbers reduced from 22 to 15; • Turbines moved off Col-Bheinn and the ridgeline to the north as far as possible; • Turbines to south of site either removed or moved further back (northwards);

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines (majority) within remainder of site relocated to varying degrees. <p>A full Landscape and Visual Assessment (including a cumulative impact assessment) has also been undertaken to help assess the design and turbine layout. The final location of the turbines has taken account of the local topography and views of the site from the surrounding area. From the studies we have undertaken and the professional advice we have received, we believe that the current turbine locations and heights proposed are appropriate for a wind farm at this location.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Volume 2: Written Statement, Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual.</p>
Environmental	<p>Some concerns were received regarding the potential impact of the proposal on local wildlife - particularly birds - as well as other wildlife, plants and peat.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a number of detailed site environmental surveys including ecology, hydrology, hydrogeology, geology, and gathered extensive information on the site including 2 years of ornithological data (vantage points, flight lines, nesting and breeding bird surveys).</p> <p>A full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to determine the likelihood of any potential impacts on the environment. The results of the EIA are described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) which is available at the locations detailed in Section 1 of this report.</p>
Archaeology and Cultural heritage	<p>Several comments were received regarding WWII plane crash sites on the hills close to the proposal and concerns raised about the impact of the proposed development on these.</p> <p>The Applicant identified and mapped these sites as part of its Archaeology and Cultural Heritage surveys and has buffered the WWII plane crash sites (and associated debris) to 100m in order to ensure that they are protected.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Volume 2: Written Statement, Chapter 7 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.</p>
Socio-economics	<p>A number of comments were received in relation to socio-economics such as that there would be no real employment or cheap electricity from the proposal, and that local businesses should be used where possible. Another comment was that if the turbines were manufactured in Scotland they would result in some long term employment.</p>

	<p>A number of people also commented that community benefit from the proposal would be a good idea and that reduced power costs would be attractive. Other suggestions included (electric) car-charging points, greening of existing buildings, apprenticeships and the upgrading of toilets.</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to ensuring that its wind farms benefit the local community in various ways and will continue to explore this further with the local community, although it is important to note that voluntary community benefits are not a planning matter.</p> <p>Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a project like Kintradwell are jobs and employment for local businesses and contractors, in addition to the use of local services and amenities, all of which can generate a significant amount of inward investment within the area. Kintradwell is expected to deliver approximately £4 million of inward investment into the local area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services.</p> <p>In addition, in December 2020 the Applicant announced that it had signed an agreement with local Brora-based firm Edward Mackay Contractors which gave them right of first refusal on the civil construction work for the proposed scheme - helping to secure valuable jobs and employment opportunities for local people should the project receive consent. The Applicant also committed to support a local apprentice at Edward Mackay Contractors.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Volume 2: Written Statement, Chapter 14 Socio-economics.</p>
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5. SUMMARY

5.1. Key points

- 5.1.1. In accordance with Regulations, the Applicant has fulfilled and exceeded the minimum statutory consultation activity, including documenting and reporting on the consultation activities undertaken.
- 5.1.2. The Applicant engaged early with the local community, and over an extended period of time, to facilitate a constructive consultation process; this has helped us understand and address concerns, where possible, as the project has developed.
- 5.1.1. The Applicant responded directly to any enquiries received throughout the project's development and offered to meet with local residents or key stakeholders who had questions or concerns about the proposal.
- 5.1.2. The Applicant ensured that everyone who provided comments during the exhibition and consultation period received an acknowledgement letter, with an update on the project and further information in relation to their specific comments wherever possible. Anyone who asked to be kept up to date with the proposal also received ongoing project updates in the form of a newsletter. EIA-related comments have been collated in [Section 4](#) of this report with details of how the Applicant has responded to these comments.
- 5.1.3. Several changes were made to the proposal, throughout its design development (further details provided in Chapter 3 (Volume 2) of the EIA Report), in direct response to some of the feedback received by the Applicant from the local community:
- Turbine numbers reduced from 22 to 15
 - Turbines moved off Col-Bheinn and the ridgeline to the north as far as possible
 - Turbines to south of site either removed or moved further back (northwards)
 - WWII plane crash sites (including associated debris) buffered to 100m

These changes have resulted in reducing overall visibility, particularly from Brora and the Doll area, and helping protect more sensitive areas of the site in relation to ecology, ornithology and cultural heritage.

- 5.1.4. In addition, in direct response to feedback received by the Applicant from the local community about the importance of local jobs from projects like this, the Applicant has partnered with local Brora-based firm Edward Mackay Contractors and signed an agreement which gives Edward Mackay Contractors right of first refusal on the civil construction work for the Proposed Development - helping to secure valuable local jobs and employment opportunities for local people should the project receive consent. The Applicant has also committed to support a local apprentice at Edward Mackay Contractors.
- 5.1.5. The Applicant made a concerted effort to keep key stakeholders and the wider community up to date with the project during the Covid-19 pandemic and ensure that people knew how to get in touch with the Applicant if they needed to. This approach will be continued post submission.
- 5.1.6. Throughout the consultation process, the Applicant has helped the community understand the benefits and impacts of the Proposed Development and added value and improved the quality of the proposal through meaningful and productive consultation. The consultation process has resulted in a high-quality proposal that the Applicant hopes the local community will largely support in their area.

5.2. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Introduction letter (key stakeholders) - August 2019

Appendix 2: Exhibition details email (key stakeholders) - September 2019

Appendix 3: Newspaper advert - September 2019

Appendix 4: Newsletter 1 - September 2019

Appendix 5: Information banners (public exhibition) - September 2019

Appendix 6: Questionnaire form (public exhibition) - September 2019

Appendix 7: Newsletter 2 - Summer 2020

Appendix 1: Introduction letter (key stakeholders) - August 2019



Renewable Energy Systems Limited
3rd Floor, STV, Pacific Quay
Glasgow G51 1PQ, United Kingdom
T +44 (0)141 404 5500 F +44 (0)141 404 5501
E info@res-group.com www.res-group.com

[Redacted]

19 August 2019

Dear [Redacted]

Kintradwell Wind Farm Proposal

I am writing to inform you that RES is in the early stages of exploring the potential for a 22-turbine wind farm on Kintradwell Estate, approximately 9 km north of Brora.

The proposed site lies in the east of Brora Community Council's boundary area and we have written to Brora in order to make them aware, as well as to Helmsdale Community Council whose boundary neighbours the site to the east, and also to Golspie Community Council due to the A9 (which could be used for any turbine deliveries) passing through their village.

We have undertaken some initial feasibility work on site and are now progressing detailed environmental and technical surveys which will be carried out over the next few months. In line with this we have submitted a Scoping Report to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) and other key consultees this week, including Highland Council, setting out the proposed scope of environmental assessment work for their consideration. Further information is available on the project website at www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk.

In addition to the site survey work, we will be looking to hold a public exhibition in the next few months in order to engage early with the local community and listen to people's feedback. We have appointed Ruth Liddicoat (of Liddicoat PR Consultancy) to support us with these events and overall project communications. Once we have further details about the public exhibition we will write to update you, but in the meantime please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like further information.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Senior Development Project Manager

E John.Appleton@res-group.com

T +44 141 404 5523

M +44 750 066 4705

Registered in England & Wales Number 1589961
Registered Office: Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire WD4 8LR, United Kingdom

Appendix 2: Exhibition details email (key stakeholders) - September 2019

Subject: Kintradwell Wind Farm Proposal: Public exhibition event
Date: Thursday, 5 September 2019 at 10:34:09 British Summer Time
From: Ruth Liddicoat
To: secbroracc@googlemail.com
CC: [REDACTED]
BCC: [REDACTED]
Attachments: Newsletter.pdf, Advert.pdf, image001.png, image002.png

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to my previous email (below) and recent follow-up conversations with your Community Council Secretary, I can now confirm that RES will be holding a public exhibition in **Brora Scout and Guide Hall** on **Tuesday 24th September** from **12 noon until 8pm**.

RES will have a range of information on display, including photomontages which will help give an impression of what the current site layout will look like from different viewpoints in the area, and the RES project team will be on hand (as well as myself) to listen to people's views and answer any queries that people may have. Questionnaires will also be available to gather feedback, and all of the key information displayed at the exhibition will be made available on our project website at www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk from the date of the exhibition event (for people to view online).

An **advert** with details of the event will also be placed in the Northern Times this Friday 6th September, and again in the week before the exhibition on Friday 20th September, and I have attached a copy of the advert for your awareness. In addition, RES has developed a **project newsletter** providing a high-level summary of the proposal and I will personally distribute the newsletter (together with laminated copies of the advert - serving as a poster) this week to key venues in Brora, Golspie and Helmsdale in order to help raise awareness locally of the proposal and public exhibition event. Hard copies of the newsletter will also be provided to each of the Community Councils, and copies of both the newsletter and advert are available on the project website.

I hope that the above information is helpful. We will write to you with a summary of the public exhibition after the event, but in the meantime if you would like any further information on the project or more copies of the newsletter and advert please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Ruth

NB – Please note that I am on annual leave from Monday 9th September until Monday 16th September and that during this period the point of contact will be [REDACTED] Community Relations Manager (UK and Ireland), on 0141 404 5560 or at [REDACTED]

Ruth Liddicoat
Consultant



Liddicoat
PR Consultancy

Appendix 3: Newspaper advert (exhibition) September 2019



RES is in the early stages of exploring the potential for a 22-turbine wind farm on Kintradwell Estate, approximately 9 kilometres north of Brora.

A public exhibition is being held to inform the local community about the project and listen to people's views. RES staff will be on hand to answer any queries, and questionnaires will be available to gather feedback.

**Tuesday
24th September**

12 noon - 8pm
Brora Scout and Guide
Hall, Gower Street,
Brora, KW9 6PD

If you're a local business and interested in getting involved with the construction and operation of onshore wind projects, please come along and meet our team.

Comments on the proposal must be provided in writing by either filling out a questionnaire form at the exhibition or by writing to John Appleton, Development Project Manager, via email at john.appleton@res-group.com or by post at RES, Third Floor STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ. **The closing date for comments is Friday 25th October 2019.**

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

For more information on the project please visit our website at www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk or contact John Appleton, Development Project Manager, on 0141 404 5523.

Appendix 4: Newsletter 1 - September 2019

KINTRADWELL WIND FARM

Newsletter – Summer 2019



Welcome to the first newsletter from RES, designed to keep the local community informed about our Kintradwell Wind Farm proposal.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Location

RES is in the early stages of exploring the potential for a 22-turbine wind farm proposal on Kintradwell Estate, approximately 9 km north of Brora.

Some initial survey work has been undertaken to assess the site's feasibility, and we're now moving into the Scoping stage.

Scoping stage

A Scoping Report was submitted to the Scottish Government (Energy Consents Unit) in August 2019, setting out the scope of the proposed environmental assessment works on site.

Over the next few months we will be carrying out detailed environmental and technical site surveys as well as holding a public exhibition in September (details overleaf) to inform people about the project and engage with the local community.

Site boundary and indicative turbine layout



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BENEFITS

Low cost renewable electricity

New onshore wind farms, like the proposed Kintradwell scheme, could produce low-cost¹, clean renewable electricity for around 96,000 homes².

The renewable electricity will also support the Scottish Government target of generating 50% of Scotland's overall energy consumption from renewable sources by 2050.

Supply chain opportunities

Kintradwell has the potential to deliver economic benefit to the area of approximately £6 million in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services.

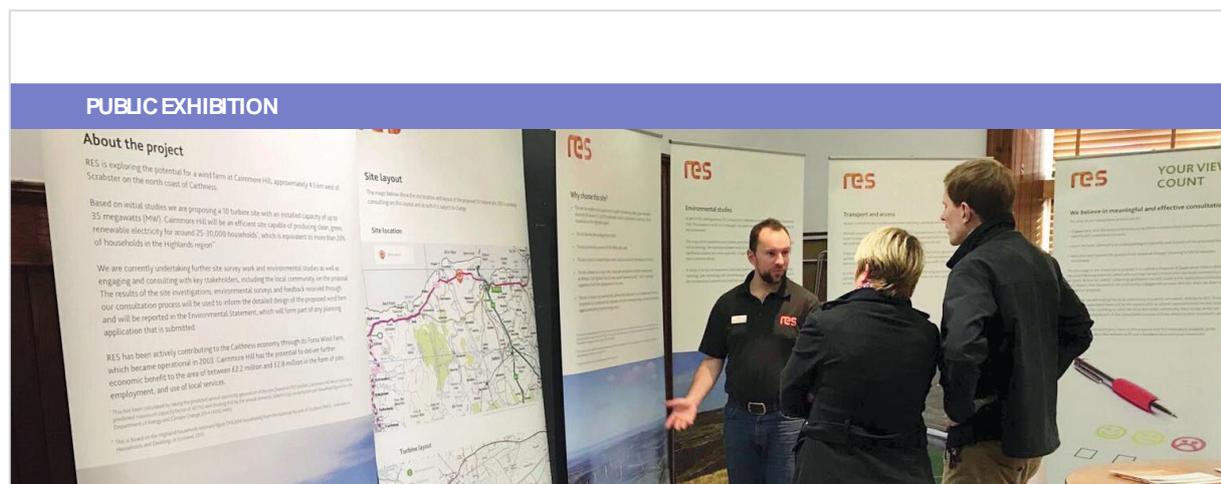
For example, during the construction of Freasdale Wind Farm in Argyll and Bute RES appointed a range of local contractors and as a result in excess of £6 million was spent in the local economy.



Photo of Kelburn Wind Farm, North Ayrshire, for illustrative purposes (turbines 100m to blade tip)

¹ Electricity Generation Costs - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, November 2016

² The 96,000 homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Kintradwell has a predicted capacity factor of 44.4% - based on a 4.3 MW [megawatt] candidate turbine) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,828 kWh (2018). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.



PUBLIC EXHIBITION

About the project

RES is exploring the potential for a wind farm at Carrmore Hill, approximately 4.5 km west of Scrabster on the north coast of Caithness.

Based on initial studies we are proposing a 10 turbine site with an installed capacity of up to 35 megawatts (MW). Carrmore Hill will be an efficient site capable of producing clean, green, renewable electricity for around 22-30,000 households, which is equivalent to more than 20% of households in the Highlands region.

We are currently undertaking further site survey work and environmental studies as well as engaging and consulting with key stakeholders, including the local community and beyond. The results of the site investigations, environmental survey, and feedback received through our consultation process will be used to inform the detailed design of the proposed onshore and will be reported in the Environmental Statement, which will form part of any planning application that is submitted.

RES has been actively contributing to the Caithness economy through its Forss Wind Farm which became operational in 2010. Carrmore Hill has the potential to deliver further economic benefits to the area of between £2.2 million and £2.8 million in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services.

The map below shows the proposed site location and the proposed 10 turbine layout. The map also shows the proposed access road and the proposed 110kV power line.

Site layout

The map below shows the proposed site location and the proposed 10 turbine layout.

Site location



YOUR VIEW COUNT

We believe in meaningful and effective consultation.

Engaging with the community

We are keen to engage with the local community and are holding a public exhibition in the local area to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views. RES staff will be on hand to answer any queries, and questionnaires will be available to gather feedback.

The exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. **Comments on the proposal must be provided in writing** by either filling out a questionnaire form at one of the exhibitions or by writing to John Appleton, Development Project Manager, using the contact details below. **The closing date for comments is Friday 25th October, 2019.**

Tuesday 24th September
12 noon - 8pm

Brora Scout and Guide Hall
Gower Street, Brora, KW9 6PD

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

Working with the local supply chain

RES has a strong track-record of working closely with the local supply chain and maximising inward investment opportunities wherever possible. If you're a local business and interested in getting involved with the construction and operation of onshore wind projects, please come along and meet our team.

RES IN SCOTLAND

CONTACT US

About RES

RES, a privately owned British company with a proud history in the Highlands, is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy project developers with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific.

RES has developed and/or built more than 17,000 MW of renewable energy capacity worldwide.

Employing over 100 staff in Scotland, RES has more than 35 years' experience of developing, constructing and operating projects of outstanding quality, including Forss Wind Farm, Caithness.



John Appleton
Senior Development
Project Manager

✉ john.appleton@res-group.com
☎ 0141 404 5523

Third Floor STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

For more information on the proposal please visit our website at www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk.

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please get in touch with us. This newsletter has been designed to keep you up to date with the Kintradwell Wind Farm proposal. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please write to us and let us know.

Appendix 5: Information banners (public exhibition) - September 2019



RES
power for good

KINTRADWELL WIND FARM

About the project

Site location

RES is in the early stages of exploring the potential for a wind farm on Kintradwell Estate, approximately 9 km north of Brora.

The map below shows the site location and indicative turbine layout.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Map Data © Crown Copyright 2016. All rights reserved. License Number 010002023.

Project overview

Initial feasibility studies have been undertaken to assess the site's suitability and a 22-turbine layout developed. We are now progressing detailed technical and environmental surveys over the next few months, in order to help further develop and refine the design, and engaging with the local community on the proposal.

The site was chosen because:

- » it has good wind resource;
- » it can be easily accessed off the A9; and
- » it is close to a grid connection point.

The wind farm is likely to have an installed capacity of up to 94.6 megawatts (MW) and will be capable of providing renewable electricity for around 96,000 homes¹. The renewable electricity will also support the Scottish Government target of generating 50% of Scotland's overall energy consumption from renewable sources by 2050.

New onshore wind is now the cheapest form of electricity generation², making onshore wind developments not only beneficial for the environment but also for bill payers.

¹The 96,000 homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Kintradwell has a predicted capacity factor of 44.4% - based on a 4.3 MW candidate turbine) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,828 kWh (2018). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

²Electricity Generation Costs - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, November 2016

www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk

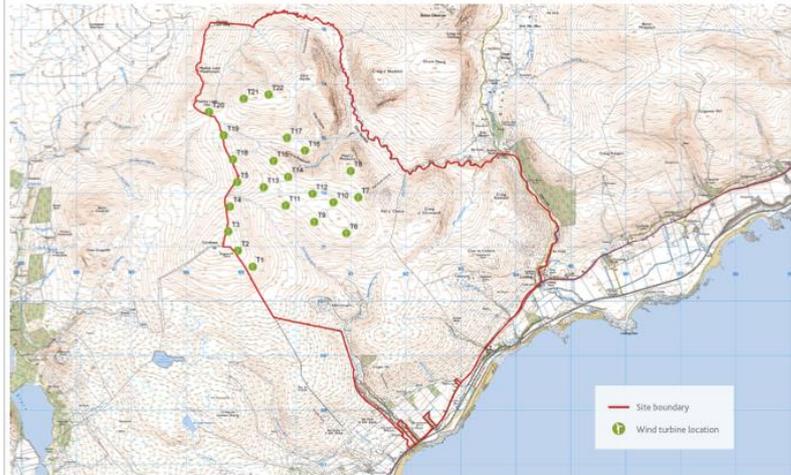


KINTRADWELL WIND FARM

Site layout

Scoping turbine layout

The map below shows the current 22-turbine layout which RES has developed (as shown in the August 2019 Scoping Report).



Site infrastructure

In addition to the wind turbines and foundations, the site infrastructure is expected to include:

- » crane hard-standings;
- » on-site access tracks between turbines and from the point of access to the turbines;
- » underground cabling between the turbines;
- » on-site substation;
- » wind farm control building with welfare facility;
- » temporary construction compound(s);
- » laydown area(s);
- » compound for battery storage;
- » borrow pits (if suitable locations available);
- » concrete batching plant; and
- » permanent communications mast.

RES is also in the process of exploring the options available for a grid connection and it is likely that the wind farm will 'tie-in' directly to the existing transmission line which runs through Kintradwell Estate. The grid connection would be submitted as a separate Section 37 Electricity Act application.

www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk



KINTRADWELL WIND FARM

Environmental considerations

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

As part of the planning process RES is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The purpose of an EIA is to investigate any significant potential effects of a development on the environment and, where applicable, identify mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce potential effects.

In August 2019, RES submitted a Scoping Report to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) and other key consultees (including Highland Council, SNH, and SEPA), setting out the proposed scope of the EIA environmental assessment work. RES will continue to engage with key consultees as part of this process in order to keep them informed and discuss findings where necessary.

Survey work

Over the next few months RES will be undertaking a wide range of technical studies and environmental surveys on the site, including:

- » Landscape and visual;
- » Ornithology;
- » Ecology;
- » Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
- » Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology;
- » Traffic and transport; and
- » Noise.

A wealth of data and information will be collected, enabling RES to develop the design in relation to environmental considerations. The information gathered will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the results presented in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA-R) which will accompany any application submitted to the Scottish Government (Energy Consents Unit).



www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk



KINTRADWELL WIND FARM

Transport and access

Turbine delivery route

Access is one of the key considerations when selecting a potential wind farm site, particularly with regard to the turbine deliveries.

The turbine components for Kintradwell Wind Farm are likely to arrive at Invergordon Harbour and then be transported, by special abnormal load vehicles, up the A9 to site.

Safety is the key consideration and RES will be undertaking a detailed swept path analysis of the turbine delivery route, as well as careful assessment of the main site access options off the A9. The preferred access point and turbine delivery route are shown on the map below.

Traffic Management Plan

Over the next few months we will consult The Highland Council Roads Department, the emergency services, the local community and other relevant bodies on our transport plans.

A transport assessment will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and, if the wind farm is given consent, a detailed Traffic Management Plan will be agreed with the roads authority and the police.

Wherever reasonably practicable we will use materials available on site and source construction materials locally in order to help reduce traffic movements.



www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk



KINTRADWELL WIND FARM

Supply chain opportunities

Working with local businesses

RES has a strong track-record of working closely with the local supply chain and maximising inward investment opportunities wherever possible.

Kintradwell Wind Farm has the potential to deliver approximately £6 million in the form of jobs, employment, and the use of local services, and RES is keen to hear from local businesses who are interested in learning more about the opportunities associated with the construction and operation of this site. Some of the skills, services and materials which are likely to be required are as follows:

- » Civil engineering
- » Groundworks
- » Electrical works
- » Steel fixing
- » Plant operators
- » Labourers
- » Cleaners
- » Plant and crane hire
- » Concrete and aggregates
- » Quantity surveyors
- » Fencers
- » Local B&Bs

Case studies

The case studies below demonstrate RES' commitment to working with the local supply chain and maximising inward investment opportunities wherever possible on its wind farm projects:

RES' Freasdail Wind Farm on the Kintyre peninsular in Argyll and Bute was commissioned in March 2017. Consisting of 11 turbines, the 22.55MW project has injected £6.34 million into the Argyll and Bute economy through working closely with the local supply chain - with £4.21 million being spent with local contractors, £1.56 million on local materials, £0.36 million on local supplies and services and £0.21 million on local accommodation.

RES' Glenchamber Wind Farm near New Luce, Kirkcowan and Glenluce, was commissioned in October 2016. Consisting of 11 turbines, the 27.5MW project delivered a considerable £8 million of inward investment and employed 45 people during construction leading to upskilling of the local workforce.

The images below are for illustrative purposes only. Top-left: Hill of Towie Wind Farm (turbines: 100m to blade tip). Top-right: Caticraig Wind Farm (turbines: 125m to blade tip).



www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk

Appendix 6: Questionnaire form (public exhibition) - September 2019



Kintradwell Wind Farm Proposal September 2019 Exhibition - Questionnaire Form

RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation with the communities around our wind farm developments. We are keen to hear your views on our proposed Kintradwell Wind Farm and would appreciate it if you would take a minute to provide us with some feedback.

1. How did you find out about the exhibition?

- Newsletter (please specify location) _____
- Advert in Northern Times newspaper
- Website: www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk
- Poster (please specify location) _____
- Other (please specify) _____

2. Before coming to the public exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Kintradwell Wind Farm?

- Knew a lot
- Knew quite a lot
- Knew a little
- Knew very little
- Knew nothing at all

3. Having attended this exhibition, to what extent do you feel we have increased your understanding and information about the proposed Kintradwell Wind Farm?

- A lot
- Quite a lot
- A little
- Very little
- Not at all

4. Which part of the exhibition did you find most useful today?

- The information banners
- The visualisations
- The ability to ask RES questions and provide feedback directly to the project team
- Other (please specify) _____

PTO



Kintradwell Wind Farm Proposal September 2019 Exhibition - Questionnaire Form

5. What do you think about the layout for Kintradwell Wind Farm proposal?

- I am happy with the proposed layout
- I am neutral towards the proposed layout
- I have concerns about the proposed layout (please suggest any changes to the layout below)
- I don't like wind farms in general

Layout comments: _____

6. Additional comments:

Please provide your name and address/email address below in order to authenticate this comments form (any forms missing these details will not be accepted).

Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project please tick this box

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us.

Appendix 7: Newsletter 2 - Summer 2020

KINTRADWELL WIND FARM

Newsletter – Summer 2020



Welcome to the second newsletter from RES, designed to keep the local community informed about our Kintradwell Wind Farm proposal.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

RES has been exploring the potential for a wind farm proposal on Kintradwell Estate, approximately 8km¹ north of Brora. The site was chosen because it has good wind speeds, straightforward access off the A9 public road, and is close to a grid connection point.

A Scoping Report was submitted to the Scottish Government in August 2019, setting out the proposed site survey work for the 22-turbine 'Scoping' layout. Detailed environmental and technical surveys have since been undertaken to help inform the design - including:

- Ornithology;
- Ecology;
- Archaeology & Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape & Visual;
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology & Geology;
- Traffic & Transport; and
- Noise.

RES is now reviewing the survey work and undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), to investigate and mitigate any potential effects of the proposal. The findings from the EIA will be written up in a comprehensive Environmental Statement which will accompany any planning application.

In addition to being capable of generating low-cost² clean renewable electricity for around 76,000 homes³ and helping tackle climate change, Kintradwell also has the potential to deliver approximately £4.7 million of economic benefit to the area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services. RES has a strong track-record of working with the local supply chain to maximise inward investment around its projects.



Hill of Towie Wind Farm, Moray ©KeithArkins

DESIGN CHANGES

In September 2019 RES held a local public exhibition in Brora to engage with the community on the proposal. Comments received covered a range of topics including site location, turbine layout, cultural heritage, environmental considerations, transport, local benefits, jobs and employment.

Over the last few months we have been developing an improved layout. Key design changes have been made in direct response to community feedback from the public exhibition (and subsequent 'comments' period) as well as findings from on-site survey work and consultee feedback.

A summary of the main design changes is as follows:

- Turbine numbers reduced from 22 to 17;
- Turbines moved off Col-Bheinn;
- Turbines to the south of the site either removed or moved further back (northwards); and
- WWII plane crash sites (including associated debris) buffered up to 100m.

These changes have resulted in reducing overall visibility, particularly from Brora and the Doll area, and helping protect more sensitive areas of the site in relation to ecology, ornithology and cultural heritage. RES is grateful to everyone who took the time to provide feedback to RES on the proposal.

¹ It is approximately 8km (7.7km) in distance between Brora Clock Tower and the nearest turbine on the June 2020 updated indicative turbine layout.

² Electricity Generation Costs - Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, November 2016.

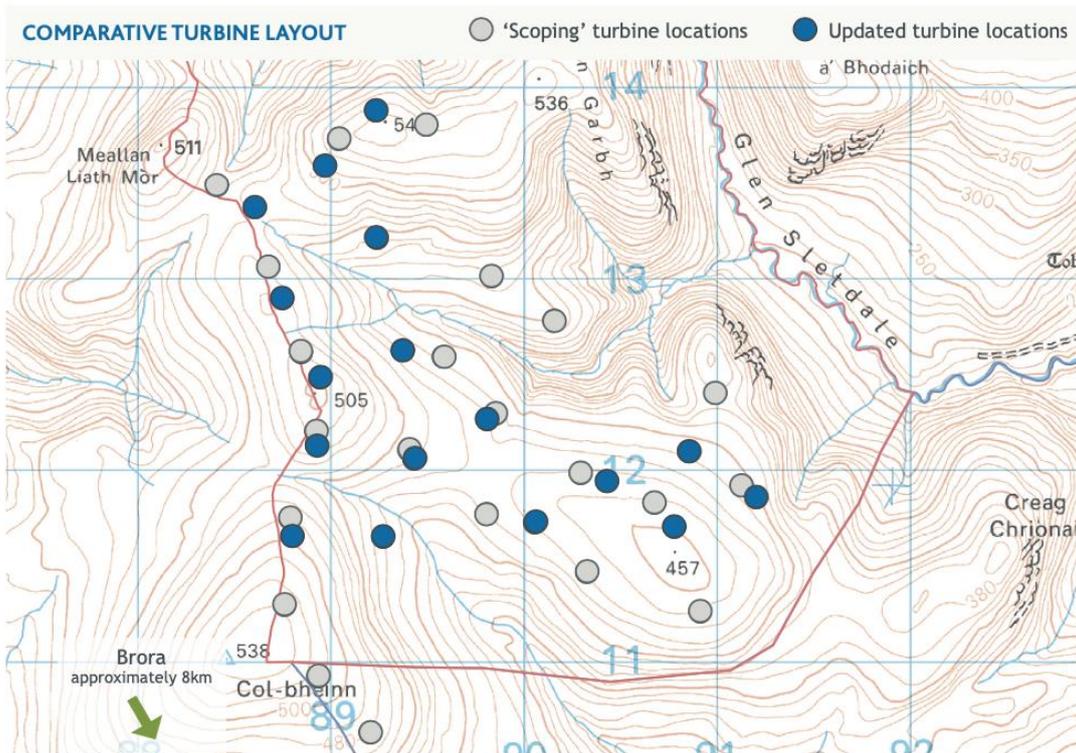
³ The 76,000 homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Kintradwell has a predicted capacity factor of 44.4% - based on a 4.3 MW [megawatt] candidate turbine) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,729 kWh (2019). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

UPDATED TURBINE LAYOUT (INDICATIVE)

The map below shows an updated indicative turbine layout, alongside the original 'Scoping' layout (August 2019). This updated layout is also available on 'THE PROJECT' page of the project website at www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk in addition to updated indicative wirelines (helping to give an impression of what the updated layout would look like from different viewpoints in the area) and other project information. Hard copies will be made available upon request.

RES will continue to refine the design over the coming weeks with the view to submitting a Section 36 application to the Scottish Government later this year.

Once submitted, people will have the opportunity to submit comments on the application to the Scottish Government as part of their formal consultation on the proposal.



RES IN SCOTLAND

About RES

RES, a privately owned British company with a proud history in the Highlands, is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy project developers with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-pacific. RES has developed and/or built more than 18,000MW of renewable energy capacity worldwide. Employing over 100 staff in Scotland, RES has 38 years' experience of developing, constructing and operating projects of outstanding quality including Forss Wind Farm in Caithness, and Dunmaglass Wind Farm south of Inverness.

CONTACT US



John Appleton
Senior Development Project Manager
✉ john.appleton@res-group.com
☎ 0141 404 5523

Third Floor STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

For more information on the proposal please visit our website at www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk.

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please get in touch with us.

This newsletter has been designed to keep you up to date with the Kintradwell Wind Farm proposal. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please write to us and let us know.