

# Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

Clune Wind Farm

January 2025



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

This Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report) summarises the pre-application public activity undertaken by RES (the Applicant) to accompany a Section 36 application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) under the Electricity Act 1989 for consent to construct and operate Clune Wind Farm (the Proposed Development).

# 2 THE APPLICANT

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission, and distribution. An industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and plans to bring more than 22GW of new capacity online in the next five years.

As a service provider, RES has the skills and experience in asset management, operations and maintenance (O&M), and spare parts – supporting 41GW of renewable assets across 1,300 sites. RES brings to the market a range of purposeful, practical technology-based products and digital solutions designed to maximise investment and deployment of renewable energy.

RES is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy bringing together global experience, passion, and the innovation of its 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied. Visit: [www.res-group.com](http://www.res-group.com)

## 2.1 Commitment to consultation

RES is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of engaging with all its stakeholders, including local residents and community organisations, and believes that the views of local people are an integral part of the development process.

RES is also committed to developing long term relationships with the communities around its projects, proactively seeking ways in which it can support and encourage community involvement in social and environmental projects near its developments.

The project website ([www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)) will be updated with a copy of the Section 36 planning documents, including this PAC Report, once the planning application has been validated – as well as a link to the Scottish Government's planning portal where the planning documents can be viewed and formal consultation comments submitted.

### 3 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Proposed Development is for 26 turbines up to tip height of 200m, resulting in an overall site generating capacity of 187.2MW, enough to power around 162,500<sup>1</sup> homes with clean, low-cost electricity every year. The Proposed Development also includes a battery energy storage system to provide flexibility for the grid.

The site is located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin in the Highlands and is predominately managed upland grouse moorland with agricultural fields and mixed woodland.

The location of the site is shown in Figure 1.1 of the Clune Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR (Volume 1)).

The Proposed Development comprises the following:

- up to 26 three-bladed horizontal axis wind turbines of up to 200m tip height. The wind turbines would be nominally rated between 6MW – 8MW. For the purpose of this EIA a candidate turbine rated at 7.2MW has been used;
- at each wind turbine, associated low to medium voltage transformers and related switchgear;
- wind turbine foundations;
- hardstand areas for erection cranes at each wind turbine location;
- a network of access tracks including watercourse crossings, passing places, turning heads, and new Site entrance from the U2856;
- borrow pit(s) (dependent on availability of stone within the Site);
- a substation compound containing electrical infrastructure, control building, welfare facilities and a communications mast;
- a battery energy storage system (BESS), rated at 100MW and associated compound;
- a network of buried electrical and communication cables;
- temporary construction, gatehouse and batching plant compounds;
- signage; and
- habitat management and biodiversity enhancement (see Technical Appendix 7.5 for further details).

The Proposed Development also includes plans which seek to deliver habitat improvements, including peatland restoration and regenerative planting. Parts of the Site comprise vegetation and peatland which has been historically degraded through management of the habitat for shooting, including muirburn, which dries out the peat leading to the introduction of poorer quality habitats. As part of the Proposed Development, the Applicant would implement a number of habitat improvement proposals to restore these areas and encourage the formation of the high quality and important habitats that establish when they are undrained. See Chapter 7: Ecology and Technical Appendix 7.5: Outline Habitat Management and Biodiversity Enhancement Plan for further details.

A full description of the Proposed Development is presented in Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description (EIAR Volume 1)

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<sup>1</sup> The 162,418 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (using the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) long-term average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 32.08% and RES' predicted site generation capacity of 187.2MW) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024).



## 4 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT & PROCESS FOR CONSULTATION

The Proposed Development is for a wind farm over 50MW and an application is being made under Section 36 of the Electricity Act directly to the Scottish Government's (ECU).

Whilst consultation events and engagement are not a statutory requirement under the Electricity Act, the Applicant recognises the importance of early and effective consultation to help inform the local community of the Proposed Development, provide meaningful engagement and input into the plans.

For the Proposed Development, the Applicant has followed the Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010—Community Engagement, which outlines guidance for the Applicant for Pre-Application Consultation.

It outlines that community engagement should be meaningful and proportionate as well as take place at an early stage to influence the shape of the Proposed Development.

PAN 3/2010 uses National Standards for Community Engagement and this provides the Applicant a framework to help plan, monitor and evaluate community engagement. It sets out ten standards which are intended as best practice guidance:

- Standard 1: Involvement; identify and involve people and organisations who have an interest in the focus of the engagement.
- Standard 2: Support; identify and overcome barriers to involvement.
- Standard 3: Planning; gather evidence of need and resources to agree on purpose, scope and actions.
- Standard 4: Methods; agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose.
- Standard 5: Working together; agree and use clear procedures that enable participants to work together efficiently and effectively.
- Standard 6: Sharing information; ensure necessary information is communicated between participants.
- Standard 7: Working with others; work effectively with others with an interest.
- Standard 8: Improvement; develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of the participants.
- Standard 9: Feedback; feed results back to the wider community and agencies affected.
- Standard 10: Monitoring and evaluation; monitor and evaluate whether engagement achieves its purpose and meets the national standards for community engagement

## 5 SCOPING - FEBRUARY 2024

The Applicant's approach has been to provide information and consult with local residents and community representatives at an early stage of the process.

A Scoping Report (Reference number: ECU00005038) for a project of up to 27 turbines, 200m to tip in height, with battery storage was submitted to the ECU in February 2024 who then consulted with Statutory and Non-Statutory consultees as part of the formal scoping process. Local and near neighbouring Community Councils were included in the list of consultees by the ECU and they were formally notified of the Applicant's plans to investigate the site for a potential wind farm development.

Letters were issued on 20 February 2024 to households within 3km of the Proposed Development to introduce the Applicant and the plans, providing the Development Project Manager's contact details and a summary of the project. At the same time, the project website [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) was set up and live so that local residents and community representatives can view more information on the plans.

The Applicant also contacted the local and near neighbouring Community Council on 19 February 2024, once the Scoping was validated by the ECU, to introduce the Applicant and the Proposed Development. The Applicant wrote to Strathdearn Community Council and Kinraig & Vicinity Community Council to offer to attend a future Community Council meeting at an early stage of the consultation process. A copy of the letter can be found at Appendix A. It should be noted that Carrbridge Community Council, one of the near neighbouring Community Council areas to the Proposed Development, was not an active Community Council at time of submission of Scoping.

The Applicant also contacted the following local elected representatives in February 2024 to introduce the Proposed Development and offer a meeting to outline the plans:

- Local ward members for Inverness South;
- Local ward members for Strathspey and Badenoch;
- Local MSP for Inverness and Nairn; and
- Local MP for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey.

## 6 FIRST PUBLIC EXHIBITION & CONSULTATION - JUNE 2024

The Applicant originally planned for events in March 2024 and started the advertising process for them, including adverts in the local press and writing to community representatives and local residents. The exhibitions were postponed to June 2024, with notification sent directly to households of the postponement. The Applicant still attended the venues on the two dates originally advertised to meet any residents who may not have seen the postponement details.

The Applicant held consultation events at:

- Carrbridge Village Hall, Main Road, Carrbridge, PH23 3AA - Tuesday 4 June 2024, 2pm - 8pm
- The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin, IV13 7YN - Wednesday 5 June 2024, 2pm – 8pm

*Photos below of Carrbridge Village Hall and exhibition material boards/material.*



Photos below of The Strathdearn Hub and exhibition material boards/material.



The events were to outline the Proposed Development of up to 27 turbines, show photomontages from key viewpoints and receive feedback to help inform the preliminary design of the project. The venues were chosen due to their proximity to the Proposed Development and accessible to local residents.

The exhibitions were publicised in various ways, including:

- Advert in the Strathspey Herald (23 May 2024) and Inverness Courier (24 May 2024) - providing advance notice in the local media of the consultation events;
- Invitation postcard sent directly to homes and businesses within 12km of the site - the mailout included a summary of the Proposed Development and the Applicant, contact details for the Development Project Manager and details of the exhibition events and online details;
- Email summary and invitation to Strathdearn Community Council and Kinraig & Vicinity Community Council to highlight the consultation event. The invitation included an online poster/advert and the Applicant asked if the Community Councils would consider helping promote the events on their social media due to their reach in the local area;
- Email summary and invitation to local ward members, local MSP and local MP to highlight the consultation event;
- Posters up in the local area.

All material included the contact details for the project team of the Proposed Development so that residents and community representatives could contact the Applicant if they had any comments, feedback or questions.

On display were 18 information boards (as shown at Appendix E), covering a range of information, including five visualisations prepared to NatureScot guidance which helped to give an impression of what the site could look like

from different viewpoints in the area. Comments forms were available to allow attendees to provide comments on the project.

The project website ([www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)) was uploaded with the exhibition material and an online comments form on 4 June 2024 for those unable to attend the in-person event.

A deadline of 5 July 2024 was set to provide feedback and comments from the first round of exhibitions, giving approximately a month for residents and organisations to respond to the Applicant following the exhibition events.

## 6.1 JUNE 2024 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

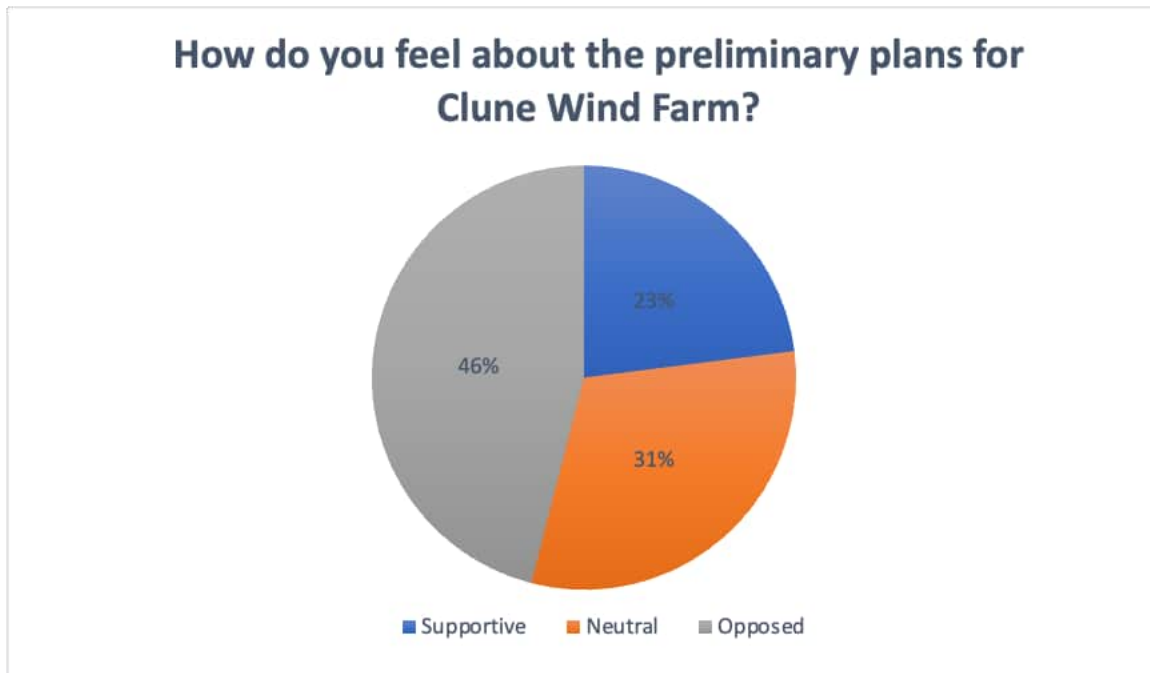
Comments on the Proposed Development are derived from the comments forms direct emails to the Applicant team during public exhibition events.

The Applicant recorded 49 attendees who visited the exhibition in the Strathdearn Hub and 15 attendees in Carrbridge Village Hall.

14 comments forms were received by the time that the consultation period closed. There was a mix of feedback, including supportive, neutral and negative comments on the proposals. The Applicant acknowledges that the feedback on the comments forms may not be representative of the wider community due to the small number (14) returned to the team. However, the feedback does provide a summary of some of the key themes raised throughout the two days of the exhibition events.

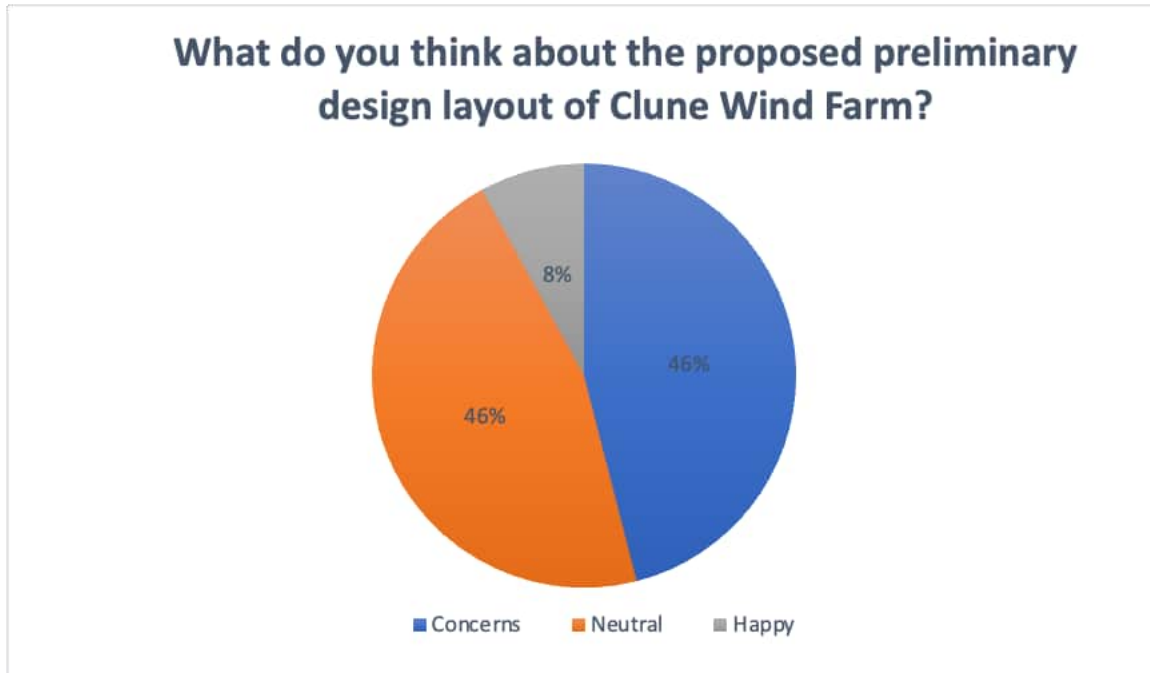
The Applicant included a multiple-choice question on the comments form that asked people about their attitude to the proposal for a wind farm at Clune. The breakdown of responses is as follows:

**Figure 1** - Question 2.1 How do you feel about the preliminary plans for Clune Wind Farm?



RES also included a multiple-choice question that asked what people thought about the preliminary design layout. The breakdown of responses is as follows:

**Figure 2:** Question 2.2 What do you think about the proposed preliminary design layout of Clune Wind Farm?



## 6.2 RESPONSE TO JUNE 2024 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

There were open ended questions in the comments form to ask for comments on the design of the Proposed Development and to highlight key issues and areas of interest.

The table is a summary of the main issues raised with the Applicant during the consultation in June 2024 and a summary of answers to the questions and comments at that time.

Table 1: Summary of topics, key themes, and Applicant response

Topic	Comment Received	Response
<p>Landscape &amp; Visual Impact</p> <p>Cumulative Impact</p>	<p>Turbine height: turbines size; too visible over wide area.</p> <p>Cumulative impact – have enough wind turbines in this area; a number of developments being proposed in the area.</p> <p>Residential amenity: turbines will be visible from local properties; residential amenity will be affected.</p>	<p>The Applicant will consider the design ahead of the next exhibition events following the feedback.</p> <p>The turbines being proposed for Clune are up to 200m in height. Wind turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that wind turbines are now taller and more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of electricity per wind turbine.</p> <p>There are turbines consented in Scotland at 250m in height and operational wind farms in Scotland at 220m in height. Modern taller wind turbines provide more electricity, which helps address the climate emergency and security of energy supply.</p> <p>The 200m tall wind turbines proposed at Clune Wind Farm would allow for far greater benefits in terms of renewable electricity generation per wind turbine than smaller turbines would. We are looking to achieve a design that strikes an acceptable balance between the visibility of the proposal and its ability to generate significant amounts of renewable energy.</p> <p>The proposal will be considered in relation to potential cumulative impacts with other developments. At the request from residents and community representatives at the exhibition event in Strathdearn Hub, the Applicant will engage with the other developers to see how to present information together to allow greater clarity for residents.</p> <p>Ultimately, the acceptability of this design will be assessed by the determining authority in relation to current energy policy and planning requirements having considered feedback from consultees as well as representations by members of the community and wider public.</p>
<p>Environment impacts/ concerns</p>	<p>Wildlife: concerns about potential impact on wildlife (ecology and ornithology) – including birds of prey.</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are a compulsory part of the planning and consenting process for wind farms. The purpose of an EIA is to investigate and mitigate any potential effects of a development on the natural, physical and human environment.</p> <p>Protecting and minimising any potential direct or indirect impacts on local wildlife and their habitats is of utmost importance and we take this responsibility seriously.</p> <p>The Applicant will look to mitigate any potential effects of the development during construction and operation on the habitats and protected species that are found to be present or active within the site. The findings from the wide range of technical studies and</p>



	<p>General: general comments and enquiries about the preservation and management of the environment surrounding the wind farm.</p>	<p>environmental surveys (including Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology; and Ornithology and Ecology among others) that have been undertaken over the last couple of years will be written up in a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which the Scottish Ministers will take into account when deciding whether or not to grant consent for the wind farm.</p> <p>For instance, a wide range of detailed ecological surveys have been undertaken by qualified ecologists as part of the non-avian Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA). The non-avian EclA survey and assessment work is an extensive undertaking, and the findings will be included in the EIAR. The planning application and associated documents such as the EclA and survey data (excluding any confidential annexes) will become available for public viewing and comment as part of the formal consultation period which will be run by the Scottish Government’s ECU once the planning application is submitted.</p> <p>We are in consultation with relevant consultees, including The Highland Council, NatureScot, SEPA, RSPB Scotland, and Marine Scotland Science with regard to designated sites, protected areas and protected species. As part of the project design, we are also developing an outline Habitat Enhancement and Management Plan for the site which will set out the measures being proposed for the site, including a plan for biodiversity enhancement which will focus on improving the biodiversity already found on the site beyond offsetting any potential loss of biodiversity from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Although any enhancement measures proposed will look to offset potential impacts of the project, primarily they will seek to complement the existing conditions for flora and fauna while expanding their effective reach as much as is practicable. RES has begun to look at ways in which it can help support the restoration of peatland areas and continue the great work that has been ongoing since the early 2000’s to help regenerate the natural forests of the Kinveachy forest through active forest management programmes.</p>
<p>Transport</p>	<p>General interest regarding the transport route</p> <p>Transport route: timing in relation to the dualling of the A9</p> <p>Site access: opening the site up to cyclists</p>	<p>A map of the transport route was available at the exhibition event.</p> <p>Should the Proposed Development be consented, construction of the development is not expected until the completing of the dualling of the Moy to Tomatin section of the A9. The indicative turbine delivery route does not go via any of the nearby settlements.</p> <p>RES has begun discussions with the Highland Council and Network Rail regarding using the Reigbeg Railway bridge for access into the site entrance. Early discussions between the council and rail operator have concluded that the bridge in its current condition would be unsuitable for oversized vehicles. RES is exploring options of either refurbishing or replacing the bridge which would bring positive benefits to the council, network operator and wider community.</p> <p>Following feedback at the exhibition, RES has begun exploring providing car parking spaces at the site entrance near the Reigbeg railway bridge to facilitate members of the public who wish to access the land surrounding the proposed development recreationally. We are hoping to establish recreational routes as part of the proposals for the wind farm that are safe and accessible for the general</p>

	<p>and walkers once the wind farm is operational</p>	<p>public post construction.</p> <p>Should the project be consented, a detailed Traffic Management Plan would be developed and agreed with Highland Council in consultation with Police Scotland, setting out the steps that RES would take to help mitigate any potential impacts on local traffic and road users and ensure road safety. Some examples of measures that have been taken by RES on other construction projects include introducing a reducing speed limit for project construction traffic along certain stretches of road; avoiding turbine deliveries between school-drop off and pick-up and/or rush-hours; delivering turbine components at night-time; and, agreeing certain 'routes to site' for daily construction traffic.</p> <p>RES often establishes local Community Liaison Groups (CLGs) during the construction phase of a wind farm to support regular engagement with the local Community Councils and wider public – in addition to project communications and updates via local newsletters and the project website. This approach ensures that questions and concerns or opportunities can be raised to RES and encourages a constructive dialogue to ensure that the project is delivered with consideration to the local community.</p>
<p>Community Benefit Fund</p>	<p>Community Benefit Funds and a Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) were main topics both in verbal discussions at the exhibition and in the comments forms.</p>	<p>Should the project be consented, a community benefit package will be established to support the communities who host, and are closest to, the project.</p> <p>RES is proposing a tailored package of benefits for the community from the Proposed Development that would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum. Based on the current layout design and installed capacity of 187.2MW this could equate to a tailored community benefit package of £936,000 (index linked) each year, which over a 40-year operational lifetime would mean in excess of £37 million for the local area.</p> <p>RES offer the Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) which could form part of the tailored community benefits package. There was strong support and interest at the Clune exhibition events for a LEDS scheme if the Proposed Development was given the go ahead. Should the Proposed Development receive consent, the area of benefit will be determined in consultation with community representatives from the closest communities.</p> <p>It is important to note that voluntary community benefits are not a material planning consideration.</p>

The Applicant produced a 'Report on Feedback', with a summary of the main comments and feedback from the first consultation round. The Applicant issued the report to Community Councils on 4 September 2024 to highlight the issues raised ahead of the second exhibition events and also shared it on the project website. Copies of the report were made available at the second exhibition. A copy is available in Appendix I.



## 7 SECOND PUBLIC EXHIBITION & CONSULTATION - SEPTEMBER 2024

The Applicant held another round of exhibition events in September 2024 as follows:

- Carrbridge Village Hall, Main Road, Carrbridge, PH23 3AA - Wednesday 18 September, 1pm - 7pm
- The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin, IV13 7YN - Thursday 19 September, 1pm - 7pm

The second round of consultation was to provide the updated design of the Proposed Development as it was proposed to be submitted to the ECU for determination, summarise feedback from the first round of consultation and hear from local residents on the updated design and information. The Proposed Development on display was for 26 turbines, up to 200m – with one turbine removed and other turbines moved since the first round of consultation.

The second exhibition events were advertised in a similar way as the first round via:

- Advert in the Strathspey Herald (5 September 2024) and Inverness Courier (6 September 2024) - providing advance notice in the local media of the consultation events;
- Invitation postcard sent directly to homes and businesses within 12km of the site - the mailout was to the same area as the first mailout invitation. It again included a summary of the Proposed Development and the Applicant, changes from the first exhibition round, contact details for the Development Project Manager and details of the exhibition events and online details;
- Email summary and invitation to Strathdearn Community Council and Kinraig & Vicinity Community Council to highlight the consultation events. The invitation included an online poster/advert and the Applicant asked if the Community Councils would consider helping promote the events on their social media due to their reach in the local area. Email summary and invitation to local ward members; and
- Posters up in the local area.

The Applicant held the consultation events in the same venues used for the June public exhibitions and included the same contact details/point of contact to keep the events consistent with the first round of consultation. The materials followed the same design as the first round of exhibitions to give continuity/clarity to residents and community representatives.

On display were 20 information boards (as shown at Appendix H), covering a range of information, including updated visualisations prepared to NatureScot guidance. The additional boards included a summary of the design evolution of the wind farm from the first round of consultation. New comments forms were available to allow attendees to provide comments on the updated project.

The new consultation material and an online comments form was made available on the project website on 18 September 2024 to coincide with the start of the in-person exhibition events.

A deadline of 18 October 2024 was set to provide feedback and comments from the second round of exhibitions, again giving approximately a month for residents and organisations to respond to the Applicant following the exhibition events.

## 7.1 SEPTEMBER 2024 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

The Applicant recorded 14 attendees for the Carrbridge exhibition and 15 attendees at the Strathdearn Hub exhibition. The total over the two days (29 attendees) was fewer than the June exhibitions (64 attendees).

The Applicant received 16 comments forms - both hardcopy and submitted online via the website. Two forms were received after the set deadline but have been included in the summary of comments. The Applicant also received several emails from residents with comments on the Proposed Development. These comments are also taken into account by the Applicant and summarised below in the feedback. Like the first round of exhibition events, there was a mix of feedback, although the vast majority of the comments forms and email responses in this round highlighted concerns and/or negative comments on the Proposed Development.

Although there were fewer attendees to the exhibitions, there was a slight increase in comments forms provided to the Applicant. The Applicant acknowledges that the feedback on the comments forms may not be representative of the wider community due to the overall small number (16) returned to the team. The feedback in this round provides a summary of some of the key themes raised throughout the two days of the exhibition events and the main issues - potential visual impact and cumulative impact - are again the same main concerns raised by residents.

The Applicant included a multiple-choice question on the comments form that asked people about their attitude to the proposal for a wind farm at Clune. 80% were 'opposed' to the plans, with 13% outlining they are generally opposed to wind farms and 7% 'neutral' on the plans.

RES also included a multiple-choice question that asked what people thought about the updated design layout. Similar to views on plans for a wind farm at the site, 80% had concerns about the proposed layout, with 13% outlining they are generally opposed to wind farms and 7% 'neutral'.

Landscape and visual impacts (8 comments) and cumulative impacts (6 comments) were the most common concerns highlighted to the Applicant in comments forms. Cost to the consumer/private profit (4 comments), environmental impact concerns (4 comments) and traffic concerns (4 comments) were the next most mentioned concerns. These were the main issues highlighted in the first round of consultation.

On Community Benefits, the main response was the need for discounted or free electricity (5 comments) and it was also highlighted that Community Benefit can be divisive for communities and/or seen as a bribe to communities (4 comments).

## 7.2 RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 2024 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

As with the first round of exhibitions, the potential cumulative impact and visual impact of the Proposed Development and community benefit queries were the main topics and feedback to the exhibition team. The below table is a summary of other main issues raised with the Applicant during the second consultation and a summary of answers to the questions and comments.

Table 2: Summary of topics, key themes, and Applicant response

Topic	Comment Received	Response
Cumulative Impact	Concerns regarding the number of developments in the area/ information with all proposed developments together	<p>Cumulative impacts will be assessed as part of the application submission.</p> <p>The Applicant took part in a Community Coffee Morning with four other Wind Farm Developers and Scottish and Southern Energy Networks Transmission on Saturday 30 November 10am - 12noon at the Strathdearn Community Hub, Tomatin. The event was drop-in at any time for local residents and community representatives and was organised by the developers and the Strathdearn Community Council. The Community Coffee Morning initiative followed a request by the community to view the plans in one setting. The event allowed the Applicant, alongside fellow developers of wind farm projects Balnespick, Kyllachy, Highland, and Lynemore, to engage with residents and provide up-to-date information on the application and the submission timeline.</p>
Cost to consumer	Comments on the high cost of energy while the Highlands already hosts a number of wind farms.	<p>Onshore is one of the cheapest forms of energy generation. With more onshore wind on the grid, it will bring down energy costs across the UK.</p> <p>Onshore wind plays an important part in creating a balanced energy mix and is required alongside other technologies, such as offshore wind, all of which have their merits in relation to cost, efficiency, environmental or social benefits. For example, onshore wind is one of the lowest cost forms of new electricity generation and can be constructed in 12-14 months (quicker than offshore).</p> <p>Should the Proposed Development be consented, a community benefit package would be established by the Applicant to support the communities who host, and are closest to, the wind farm. This could include RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) which offers an annual discount on the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating operational wind farm. The final LEDS discount per property, and extent of eligible area, will be determined in consultation with community representatives from the closest communities.</p>

## 8 OUTCOME

The pre-application consultation has helped inform the design of the Proposed Development and has provided local residents and community representatives with information on the plans at an early stage. Changes to the Proposed Development due to the consultation and further studies include:

- Parking area at the site entrance to open up access to the area for local walkers and cyclists;
- Removal of a turbine and turbines being moved on site in relation to potential visual impacts; and
- More engagement between Developers due to concerns regarding potential cumulative impact;

## 9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POST S36 APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Following submission of the application, the Applicant will continue to engage with the local community on the Proposed Development during the planning process. The Applicant is taking part in a Developer Coffee Morning on 30 November 2024 and will also write to Community Councils and community representatives on submission of the application.

The project website will also be kept updated to allow residents and community representatives an accessible point of public information.

## 10 MEETING BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE (PAN 3/2010)

The Scottish Government’s Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: Community Engagement states that: “Effective engagement with the public can lead to better plans, better decisions and more satisfactory outcomes and can help to avoid delays in the planning process. It also improves confidence in the fairness of the planning system”

As outlined at the start of the PAC Report, there are ten standards in the guidance. The below summary describes how these standards have been met in the pre-application consultation:

Table 3: Meeting Best Practice

PAN 3/2010 Standard	Activities Undertaken
Involvement: Identify and involve the people and organisations who have an interest in the focus of the engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter to nearest neighbours at start of project to introduce Applicant and Proposed Development - contact details and offer for residents to get in touch, which was taken up by some near neighbours.</li> <li>Local community councils and elected representatives for the Proposed Development were identified and contacted with information on the proposed development.</li> <li>Offer to meet Community Councils at a monthly meeting at start of process and during the pre-application process;</li> <li>Project website with contact details set up at start of the project;</li> <li>Mailout to all households within 12km of the Proposed Development - exhibition events in June 2024 and September 2024.</li> </ul>
Support: Identify and overcome any barriers to involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project information available on the website at the start of the process.</li> <li>Able to communicate with the project team via email, letter, telephone, or in person;</li> <li>Public Exhibitions in nearest communities to the Proposed Development;</li> <li>Mailout/postcard sent out and adverts in local newspaper Strathspey Herald and Inverness Courier;</li> <li>Large A board during exhibitions on the street to help promote the presence of Applicant/exhibition events;</li> <li>Comments Forms available in exhibitions and online;</li> <li>Exhibition material available on project website.</li> </ul>
Planning: Gather evidence of need and resources to agree purpose, scope and actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact with community councils and elected representatives at time of Scoping, outlining proposed approach and requesting feedback/meetings.</li> </ul>
Methods: Agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two rounds of public exhibition events - follow Major Application process, including feedback summary at second exhibition event;</li> <li>Project website accessible to interested parties;</li> <li>Updates via host Community Council newsletter - kindly invited to do so by the Community Council.</li> </ul>
Working Together: Agree and use clear procedures that enable participants to work together effectively and efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated email address, use of hardcopy and online comments forms;</li> <li>Main point of contact throughout consultation process, with details on project materials and website;</li> <li>Project contact information provided on all public documentation - adverts, mailout, exhibition material, including a dedicated website and email.</li> </ul>
Sharing Information: Ensure necessary information is	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mailout to all residents and businesses within 12km of the site;</li> <li>Email to residents who have asked to be kept updated with project events/consultations;</li> </ul>

PAN 3/2010 Standard	Activities Undertaken
communicated between the participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Email invitation to community representatives with updates and exhibition timings - updates to Community Councils include offer to attend meetings to provide updates/receive further information;</li> <li>● Summary of feedback from first round on website and shared with Community Councils;</li> <li>● Exhibition material online and kept on website after events.</li> </ul>
Working with Others: Work effectively with others with an interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Direct communication with local residents and any follow with requests;</li> <li>● Effective communication via responding to queries and requests and directly contacting residents/businesses;</li> <li>● Provide summary of Proposed Development to host Community Council for their newsletter;</li> </ul>
Improvement: Develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of the participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Development Project Manager for Proposed Development and key RES team members in attendance to meet with residents and community representatives at events;</li> <li>● Same Development Project Manager as point of contact throughout the consultation process.</li> </ul>
Feedback: Feedback results to the wider community and agencies affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Feedback report of first event on website, at second consultation, sent to Community Councils;</li> <li>● PAC report to be made available on website;</li> <li>● Individual responses to comment and queries.</li> </ul>
Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitor and evaluate whether engagement achieves its purpose and meets the national standards for community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PAC process carried out for S36 application;</li> <li>● Continue to monitor best practice and how to improve engagement and informing community;</li> <li>● Follow Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit from Onshore Renewables.</li> </ul>

## 11 SUMMARY

The Applicant has fulfilled and exceeded the minimum statutory consultation activity, including documenting and reporting on the consultation activities undertaken.

The Applicant engaged early with the local community, and over an extended period of time, to facilitate a constructive consultation process; this has helped the Applicant to understand and address concerns, where possible, as design of the proposed development has progressed.

The Applicant responded directly to any enquiries received throughout the pre-application phase and offered to meet with local residents or key stakeholders who had questions or concerns about the Proposed Development.

The first round of public exhibitions were held in two locations in the surrounding area to maximise attendance and participation in the in-person events.

The second round of public exhibitions were held in the same locations to present the updated design of the Proposed Development to the community and stakeholders. This gave a further opportunity for people to speak directly with the project team comment on the proposals.

All of the information presented at both rounds of public exhibitions was also available to view on the project website, from the day of the first event.

Both rounds of public exhibitions were prominently publicised and the Applicant is grateful to everyone who took the time to attend the events and provide feedback on the Proposed Development during the respective consultation periods. The feedback received has been carefully logged, analysed, and summarised within this PAC Report. In addition, a detailed summary of the feedback received during the June 2024 consultation and the Applicant's response to key themes raised was included in the 'Report on feedback' which was made available at the September 2024 public exhibitions and online (Appendix I). The Applicant has listened to the feedback from the local community and considered this in relation to the design of the Proposed Development including the following:

- Parking area at the site entrance to open up access to the area for local walkers and cyclists;
- Removal of a turbine and turbines being moved on site in relation to potential visual impacts; and
- More engagement between Developers due to concerns regarding potential cumulative impact.

The Applicant is committed to being a good neighbour and will build on this pre-application consultation. The Applicant has an 'open door' policy which means that anyone can contact them about the Proposed Development at any stage and they will respond in a timely manner. The Development Project Manager's contact details have been made available for this purpose, via exchange of information at the public exhibitions, the project newsletters and project website.

The project website ([www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)) will be updated regularly to enable people to keep up to date with the latest news about the proposed development as it progresses.

Once the planning application documentation have been validated by the ECU, the Applicant will write to political representatives, community organisations and local residents, to provide them with the planning reference number and information on how they can submit a formal representation, should they wish to do so.

It is the intention of the Applicant to be available to attend forthcoming community council meetings following submission of the planning application to answer any further questions the community may have.

## APPENDICES

- **Appendix A – Introductory Letter to Community Representatives (19 February 2024)**
- **Appendix B – Introductory Letter to Near Neighbours (19 February 2024)**
- **Appendix C - Public Exhibition Newspaper Advert (23/24 May 2024) and Poster**
- **Appendix D - Public Exhibition Mailout to Residents/Businesses (June 2024)**
- **Appendix E - Public Exhibition Materials (June 2024), including Comments Form**
- **Appendix F - Public Exhibition Newspaper Advert (5/6 September 2024) and Poster**
- **Appendix G - Public Exhibition Mailout to Residents/Businesses (September 2024)**
- **Appendix H - Public Exhibition Materials (September 2024), including Comments Form**
- **Appendix I – Report on Feedback (available at September 2024 Exhibition)**



## Appendix A - Introductory Letter to Community Representatives (19 February 2024)



Renewable Energy Systems Limited  
Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay  
Glasgow G51 1PQ, United Kingdom  
+44 (0)1414 045 500 | info@res-group.com

Strathdearn Community Council

Sent: by email

19 February 2024

Dear Strathdearn Community Council

### CLUNE WIND FARM PROPOSAL

I am writing to introduce RES and to advise that we are at the early stages of exploring a wind farm proposal called Clune Wind Farm, located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin.

Having undertaken some initial site feasibility work we are now preparing for more detailed environmental and technical site survey work. In line with this we have recently submitted a Scoping Report to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU), which sets out and seeks feedback on the proposed scope of environmental assessment work. The Scottish Government will formally provide the host and neighbouring Community Councils with the Scoping Request and ask for any comments to incorporate into the Scoping Opinion. We would welcome the opportunity to attend a Community Council meeting to introduce the proposal and answer any questions at this early stage.

The Scoping Report includes an early design for the proposed scheme, comprising 27 turbines at a tip height of up to 200m, resulting in an overall site generating capacity of 194.4MW. This is the Scoping layout and as our environmental consultants progress studies on site, it is possible that the number of turbines may reduce in number and/or size. Clune Wind Farm would be capable of generating clean, low-cost renewable electricity for around 168,500 homes<sup>1</sup> each year (based on the scoping layout).

A project website for Clune has been set up at [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) and we have uploaded a copy of the Scoping Request on the website. The website also includes more details on the project, such as a site location map and we will continue to update the website as the project progresses.

### About RES

[RES](#) is the world's largest independent renewable energy company with operations across Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. We grew out of Sir Robert McAlpine, a British family-owned firm with over 140 years of experience in construction and engineering with a proud history in Scotland stretching from the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Highlands to the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow.

We have been at the forefront of wind energy development for over 40 years and developed and/or built more than 23GW of renewable energy capacity worldwide. In the UK alone we are responsible for approximately 10% of the current wind energy capacity. We have developed and/or built 21 wind farms in Scotland with a total generation capacity of 597MW. From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms in Scotland since 1993. We are active in a range of renewable energy technologies, including onshore and offshore wind, solar, green hydrogen as well as enabling technologies such as energy storage and demand-side management.

<sup>1</sup> The 168,500 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (using the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) long-term average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 32.08% and RES' predicted site generation capacity of 194.4MW) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

In terms of community benefit, we are committed to a Community Benefits package that would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum. With the current Scoping layout, this would mean just under £1 million per annum (index linked) for the local area. If there is interest in the local community, we are also committed to exploring shared ownership opportunities for Clune Wind Farm and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the community.

We are keen to work with the local supply chain and, wherever reasonably practicable, local contractors and employees are used in all aspects of our wind farm developments. The website has case studies of other projects in Scotland, and we ask for local businesses to get in touch and register their details with RES.

#### **Next Steps and Exhibition**

We plan to hold our first public consultation events in Spring 2024. We will write again with more details as well as advertise these events in the local press and write directly to local residents and organisations to invite them to the exhibition events.

In the meantime, we would welcome the chance to meet and please do get in touch with any questions on the proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to outline our plans for Clune Wind Farm and we look forward to engaging with you throughout the project.

Yours faithfully



Euan Hogg  
Development Project Manager  
E [euhan.hogg@res-group.com](mailto:euhan.hogg@res-group.com)  
M +44 7500 045 754

## Appendix B – Introductory Letter to Near Neighbours (19 February 2024)



Renewable Energy Systems Limited  
Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay  
Glasgow G51 1PQ, United Kingdom  
+44 (0)1414 045 500 | info@res-group.com

[ADDRESS]

19 February 2024

Dear Resident

### RE: Clune Wind Farm Proposal

I am writing to introduce RES and to advise we are at the early stages of exploring a wind farm proposal called Clune Wind Farm, located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin.

#### About RES

RES is the world's leading largest renewable energy company with operations across Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. We grew out of Sir Robert McAlpine, a British family-owned firm with over 140 years of experience in construction and engineering with a proud history in Scotland stretching from the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Highlands to the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow.

We have been at the forefront of wind energy development for over 40 years and developed and/or built more than 23GW of renewable energy capacity worldwide. In the UK alone we are responsible for approximately 10% of the current wind energy capacity. We have developed and/or built 21 wind farms in Scotland with a total generation capacity of 597MW. From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms in Scotland since 1993.

#### Scoping Report submission

Having undertaken some initial site feasibility work we are now preparing for more detailed environmental and technical site survey work which will be carried out carefully over the next few months to help inform the design. In line with this we have recently submitted a Scoping Report to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU), which sets out and seeks feedback on the proposed scope of environmental assessment work. An electronic copy of the Scoping Report can be viewed on the Clune project website at [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk). As well as contacting local residents, we have recently written to local and neighbouring Community Councils and local elected representatives.

#### Project overview

The Scoping Report includes an early design for the proposed scheme comprising 27 turbines at a tip height of up to 200m, resulting in an overall site generating capacity of 194.4MW. Turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that turbines are now taller and more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of renewable electricity per turbine. If consented, Clune Wind Farm would be capable of generating clean, low-cost renewable electricity for around 168,500 homes<sup>1</sup> each year (based on the scoping layout).

New onshore wind, together with large scale solar and offshore wind, is the cheapest form of new electricity generation<sup>2</sup>. It also increases energy security by reducing reliance on imports and builds our resilience to sudden fossil fuel price fluctuations and the uncertainties of global markets. With the ever-growing threat of climate change and the catastrophic impacts that it could have, as well as the

<sup>1</sup> The 168,500 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (using the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) long-term average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 32.08% and RES' predicted site generation capacity of 194.4MW) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

<sup>2</sup> Electricity Generation Costs - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, November 2023.



current cost of living crisis and energy security considerations, it is imperative to deliver clean, low-cost, home grown electricity. This makes developments like Clune Wind Farm not just good for the environment, but also the consumer.

We also believe that onshore wind should provide direct, lasting benefits to local communities. RES takes a tailored approach and works directly with the community to understand the local priorities, needs and community projects which the community would like the wind farm to support in the local area. RES is proposing that the package of community benefits from Clune Wind Farm will be up to £5,000 per MW (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum - just under £1million per annum (Index linked). Consent will be sought for 40 years. The community could therefore potentially benefit from financial investment of approximately 40 million pounds during the operational period which would create positive social and economic impacts and provide a lasting legacy in the local area.

#### Next steps

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design.

We will be looking to hold a public exhibition in the next couple of months in order to engage early with local residents like yourself, as well as the wider community, and listen to people's feedback. Further details will be confirmed in due course.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



Euan Hogg  
Development Project Manager  
E [euhan.hogg@res-group.com](mailto:euhan.hogg@res-group.com)  
M +44 7500 045 754

Appendix C - Public Exhibition Newspaper Advert (23/24 May 2024) and Poster

18 Strathspey and Badenoch Herald

www.strathspey-herald.co.uk

Thursday, May 23, 2024

# Buzz off midges... we are moving in!

Citizen science project launched to monitor rise of mosquitos in Scotland

RESIDENTS are used to seeing the humble and annoying midge around the strath countryside.

But now scientists are asking locals to be on the lookout for mosquitoes as new research shows they can be found in many locations across the country.

Mosquito Scotland – a collaboration between the University of Glasgow, the MRC-UoFG Centre for Virus Research, the UK Health Security Agency and the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology – has established a surveillance project across the country, and has been collecting data on Scottish mosquitoes for a year.

Now, the project has launched a new 'citizen science' website to encourage the public to report when and where they spot the insects in Scotland: <https://www.mosquito-scotland.com/>

The Mosquito Scotland project – a three-year programme awarded a £1.25m grant from UK Research & Innovation and DEFRA in 2023 – is the first to assess the risk of mosquito-borne pathogen emergence in Scotland under current and future climate change



**'GOT YA':** Dr Georgia Kirby and PhD student Meshach Lee with a mosquito trap at the launch of the citizen science project.

scenarios.

The project aims to find out which mosquito species are present in Scotland, where they are found, whether they are harbouring any diseases currently or if they could become infected by pathogens that may expand into the UK with climate change.

So far, researchers have found mosquitoes in almost every place they looked in the last year, covering the length and breadth of

Scotland.

Efforts to find and trap mosquitoes across Scotland are being led by Dr Georgia Kirby and PhD Scholar Meshach Lee in the university's School of Biodiversity, One Health and Veterinary Medicine. Throughout the last year they have collected more than 1,000 mosquitoes across Scotland, in a range of locations, from parks in urban Glasgow to nature reserves on the northern

coast of the country.

Now, the project's new citizen science website has instructions on how the public can join the search by registering a mosquito sighting and uploading a photo, with tips on how to recognise these insects, and information on their ecology. People can request a follow-up from the research team about the type of mosquito they have found or send dead mosquitoes for identification.

The information will be used to understand how common some mosquitoes are across the country, and which types are most likely to be found around people. It will also help researchers understand whether mosquitoes are a source of 'nuisance biting' in Scotland, and to generate baseline information for longer-term monitoring of how mosquitoes respond to climate change.

While most people know that mosquitoes are found in tropical climates, they also exist at higher latitudes, including within the Arctic circle.

They are resident throughout the UK, and can be found in colder, more remote parts of Scotland, where they are most active from May to October, in a



**MOSQUITOS: Spotted in the strath.**

number of outdoor settings, including parks, natural areas, gardens and even inside houses.

Although mosquitoes can sometimes be confused with other better known biting insects such as midges and "clegs" (horseflies), they can be distinguished from these two groups based on size: being bigger than midges, and smaller than horseflies; and other characteristics, such as the high-pitched whining noise the adults make while flying.

Heather Ferguson, Professor of Infectious Disease Ecology at the University of Glasgow, who leads the project, said: "Although relatively low in abundance, mosquitoes have been present in Scotland for millennia, and are a natural part of our ecosystems.

"While they don't present a risk to human health here currently, climate change could increase the risk of invasive mosquito species establishing in Scotland.

"It may also increase the risk for mosquito-borne diseases that are present in some other European countries to establish."

## Clune Wind Farm Public Exhibition Invitation



RES is in the early stages of developing proposals for a new wind farm, approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin. Please come along and take part in our consultation events, meet the team and ask any questions.

<p><b>Tuesday 4 June 2024,</b> <b>2pm - 8pm</b> Carrbridge Village Hall, Main Road, Carrbridge, PH23 3AA</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 5 June 2024,</b> <b>2pm - 8pm</b> The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin, IV13 7YN</p>
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Our early plans are for up to 27 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 200m, generating 194.4MW of clean, low-cost renewable energy – enough to power around 168,500 homes each year and helping Scotland meet its climate change target of 'net zero' emissions by 2045.

All exhibition material and feedback forms will be available on the project website [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) from 4 June 2024.

The closing date for comments for this exhibition round is 5 July 2024 and we will hold a second set of public exhibition events, currently scheduled for later in the year. 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.

To find out more, visit [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) or contact Euan Hogg, Development Project Manager, on 07500 045 754 or at [euau.hogg@res-group.com](mailto:euau.hogg@res-group.com)



## VOLUNTARY ACTION IN BADENOCH & STRATHSPEY CHIEF OFFICER VACANCY

Full Time Permanent post (35 hrs per week)  
From September 2024 (flexible)  
Salary: £32k to £35k depending on qualifications and experience  
Closing Date: 10th June 2024

Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS) is a charitable company based in Grantown on Spey whose mission is to support and promote the diverse and busy community and voluntary sector in the area. For more information on what VABS does, go to [www.vabs.org.uk](http://www.vabs.org.uk).

VABS is seeking a dynamic and enthusiastic person to take over the role of Chief Officer (CO) and work with the team to deliver the work of this key third sector organisation in Badenoch and Strathspey. The Chief Officer will be employed by VABS, report to the VABS Chair and Board of Directors and will have responsibility for managing all VABS staff and volunteers.

The Board is looking for a highly motivated and resourceful person with a strong understanding of communities and the third sector, experienced in working with other agencies and enthusiastic to lead VABS into the next exciting phase of the charity's development.

The post is flexible for hybrid working but will require at least 1 day per week in the VABS office in Grantown on Spey plus visits to communities in the Badenoch and Strathspey area most days throughout each working week.

For more information and an application form, please email [recruitment@vabs.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@vabs.org.uk).

The outgoing CO welcomes informal phone conversations in advance of submitting an application.  
Application deadline: 5pm on Monday 10th June 2024.

## HIGHLAND NEWS AND MEDIA ADVERTISEMENT CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

1. The placing of an order whether verbal or written will be deemed as acceptance of these conditions.
  2. Whilst every endeavour is made to insert advertisements as ordered, guarantee or insertion cannot be given and no responsibility can be taken (a) for damage or loss of reproduction materials, (b) for shrinkage, (c) for any consequential loss or damage caused by error or inaccuracy of any advertisement or (d) for any loss or damage alleged to arise from the delay in forwarding replies to Box Numbers however caused.
  3. The Company reserves the right to refuse or amend any advertisement which may cause offence or which does not comply with Company policy.
  4. Should the rates for advertisements be altered, the price for the remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the advertisement may be cancelled for the remaining part of the order.
  5. All advertising rates are subject to VAT at the current rate.
  6. Advertisements may be altered or cancelled up to the normal advertisement order deadline.
  7. The Company reserves the right to revise the conditions and rates without prior notification.
  8. Refunds will only be given on production of receipt.
- Payment: All private advertisements must be paid for at the time of placing the order.  
Advertisements costing £100 or less will not be taken without pre-payment, unless the person/company placing the order already holds an account agreement with this company.  
Payment of accounts must be made within 30 days of the invoice date: failure to do so may result in credit facilities being withdrawn.

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# Exhibition tells tale of Munro man



Nearly 8000 people have now registered their names as completers of the Munros.

By John Davidson  
john.davidson@himedia.co.uk

A FORMER Inverness man who started climbing the Munros with Inverness Royal Academy's Outdoor Club in 1971 is pleased to be bringing an exhibition of the man behind the list to the city.

Alan Watt volunteers for the Munro Society and has co-ordinated the exhibition since its inception in 2019. From Monday, the Munro Legacy Exhibition will be on display at Inverness library.

"Most Scots have heard of 'Munro bagging' but few will appreciate the origins of how the term Munros came about and the scale of the numbers who embark on the quest to climb all 282 of them," Mr Watt said. "Hill walking has undoubtedly become one of the largest outdoor participation sports in Scotland and takes walkers and climbers to some our most rugged and inaccessible corners."



Sir Hugh Munro, who published his tables in 1891, is the subject of an exhibition at Inverness library from next week.

The Munros are Scotland's highest mountains that reach 3000 feet or more above sea level. The original list of the hills was compiled by Sir Hugh Munro (1856-1919).

He managed the family estate of Lindertis near Kirriemuir and from

there undertook long expeditions into the hills, often in winter when estate business was less demanding. His first recorded 3000ft peak was Ben Lawers in May 1879.

Ten years later he was among the founders of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, eventually becoming its president.

Munro's Tables, as the list was called, included all the mountains and tops over 3000ft and it has since become something of a challenge for hillwalkers to complete them all.

Nearly 8000 have registered their completion of the peaks and the record for doing them all in one round was smashed last year by Jamie Aarons in 31 days, 10 hours and 27 minutes. This was not just a female record but the overall fastest time for a self-propelled round of all 282 Munros on today's list.

Mr Watt has twice completed the Munros, first in 2006 then again in 2023. He said the exhibition tells

the story of Scotland's mountains as a source of recreation from its 19th century beginnings to the present day and, in particular, the contribution of the man whose name is used to describe Scotland's highest mountains.

This exhibition runs in Inverness library from Monday until June 21. It comprises roller banners, posters with text and panoramic mountain photographs which together tell the story of Sir Hugh's life and those who followed his Tables.

The exhibition has been on tour across Scotland for nearly five years.

Susan Appleby, network librarian at High Life Highland's Inverness library, said: "We are delighted to be hosting this fascinating exhibition at Inverness library, looking at the legacy of Sir Hugh Munro. It offers people an insight into the life and work of Sir Hugh and the other early mountain pioneers like him."

## Find out about water network upgrade

GLENROQUHART residents are being invited to a drop-in event on Monday to learn more about a programme of water network renewal before it begins.

Scottish Water representatives and people from its capital project delivery partner Morrison Construction will be on hand at Balmain Hall from 3pm-7pm to share information about forthcoming network improvement works. It is planned to renew around 25km of water main in total, serving rural homes and businesses across much of the glen, both east and west of Balmain.

According to Scottish Water, the investment will address the ageing nature of the drinking water infrastructure in the area which has resulted in an increased risk of burst mains in recent years, causing supply interruptions or reduced water pressure for customers.

Scottish Water's project manager Hugh Macpherson said: "Our team will work hard to manage the short-term impacts of our work in the local area, while delivering a benefit that will last for many decades to come."

Work is likely to take around two years to complete.

## CLUNE WIND FARM Public Exhibitions



RES is in the early stages of exploring the potential for a wind farm located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin.

We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation we are holding public exhibitions 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 questions or queries, and questionnaires will be available to gather feedback.

**Tuesday 4th June 2024**  
2pm to 8pm

Carrbridge Village Hall  
Main Road, Carrbridge, PH23 3AA

**Wednesday 5th June 2024**  
2pm to 8pm

The Strathdearn Hub  
Tomatin, IV13 7YN



All information provided at the public exhibitions will also be available at [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) from 4th June 2024.

The public exhibitions initiate a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. The closing date for comments is **Friday 5th July 2024** for this round of exhibitions. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Comments forms will be available at the public exhibition. Comment forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via email to [euan.hogg@res-group.com](mailto:euan.hogg@res-group.com). Hard copies can be sent by post to RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

*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 please visit our website at  
**[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)**



Appendix D - Public Exhibition Mailout to Residents/Businesses (June 2024)



We're holding public exhibitions for the proposed Clune Wind Farm, located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin.

**Tuesday 4 June 2024, 2pm - 8pm**  
Carrbridge Village Hall, Main Road,  
Carrbridge, PH23 3AA

**Wednesday 5 June 2024, 2pm - 8pm**  
The Strathdearn Hub,  
Tomatin, IV13 7YN

Our early plans are for up to 27 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 200m, generating 194.4MW of clean, low-cost renewable energy – enough to power around 168,500 homes<sup>1</sup> each year and helping Scotland meet its climate change target of 'net zero' emissions by 2045.

Please come along to our consultation events, to view and provide feedback on the initial design. All exhibition material and feedback forms will be available on [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) from 4 June 2024. The closing date for comments for this exhibition round is 5 July 2024.

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company and is active in onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms in Scotland since 1993. Visit [www.res-group.com](http://www.res-group.com) to find out more.

**Euan Hogg**  
Development Project Manager  
[Euan.hogg@res-group.com](mailto:Euan.hogg@res-group.com)  
07500 045 754  
RES, Third Floor - STV, Pacific Quay,  
Glasgow, G51 1PQ

<sup>1</sup> The 168,500 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (using the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) long-term average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 32.08% and RES' predicted site generation capacity of 194.4MW) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

This flyer has been designed to keep you up to date with the Clune Wind Farm proposal. If you no longer wish to receive similar communications at key project milestones, please contact us to let us know. If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please get in touch with us.

Appendix E - Public Exhibition Materials (June 2024), including Comments Form



## Welcome to our public consultation

**Thank you for taking the time to attend this exhibition. We are seeking your views on the preliminary design for a wind farm proposal that we are exploring on the Clune Estate and Seafield Estate, approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin in the Highlands.**

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we will consider when developing and refining the design and delivery of the proposal.

This exhibition forms part of our pre-application consultation. We have provided a range of information, including details of the site location, design layout, proposed infrastructure, site constraints, likely turbine delivery route and environmental considerations.

In addition, we have provided visualisations comprising wirelines and photomontages to help give an impression of how the current site design and layout may appear from different viewpoints in the area.



### Clune Wind Farm Proposal

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)

We consider pre-application consultation a crucial part of the wind farm development process.

This early-stage exhibition is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- learn more about the proposal
- discuss any questions or views with our project team
- provide written feedback to RES on the proposal.

**Please take time to read the exhibition information provided and talk to our project team about any questions that you may have. All consultation feedback submitted to RES will be reviewed by the project team over the coming months as we continue the design process.**

### Planning submission timescales

The Clune Wind Farm proposal will have an installed generating capacity greater than 50MW (megawatts). This means that the application for planning consent will be submitted by RES to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Electricity Act) and determined by Scottish Ministers. We currently expect to submit the Section 36 application later in 2024.



# The need for onshore wind

## National Development

We are in a climate emergency, a cost-of-living crisis and also seeking to enhance the security of our energy supply. Onshore wind can address all of these. This is recognised by the Scottish Government’s National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)<sup>1</sup> which was published in February 2023. NPF4 is Scotland’s long-term spatial planning strategy and categorises onshore wind projects with a generating capacity in excess of 50MW as National Development. In principle, it supports all forms of renewable energy generation including onshore wind. There are national targets for reaching Net Zero by 2045 and installing 20GW of onshore wind by 2030.

## Improved performance and output

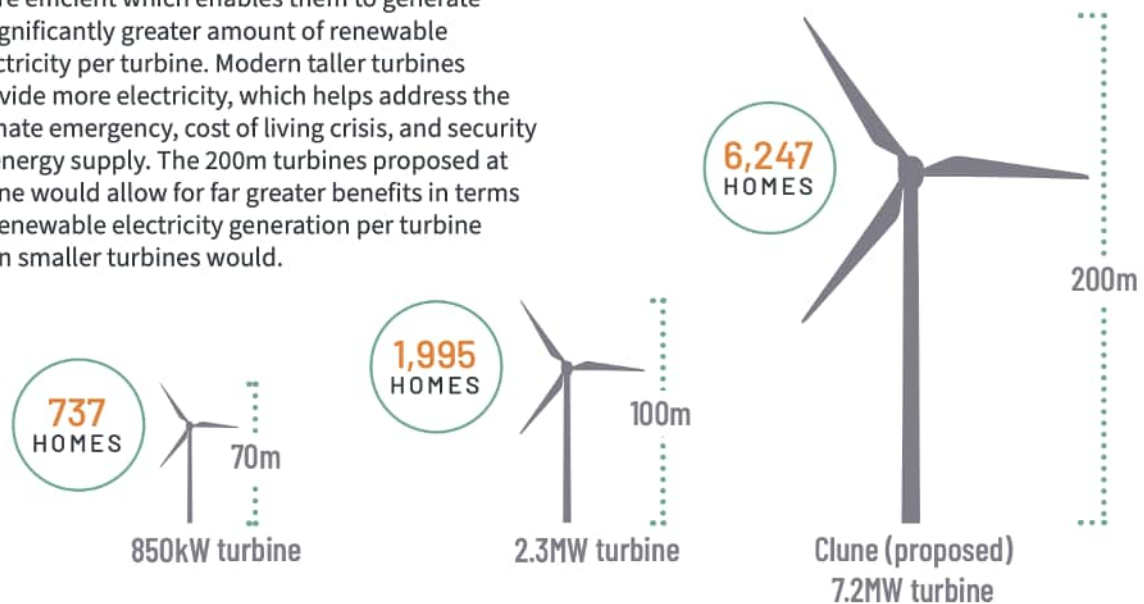
Turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that turbines are now more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of renewable electricity per turbine. Modern taller turbines provide more electricity, which helps address the climate emergency, cost of living crisis, and security of energy supply. The 200m turbines proposed at Clune would allow for far greater benefits in terms of renewable electricity generation per turbine than smaller turbines would.

## Low-cost electricity

Onshore wind projects like Clune, alongside other renewable energy technologies, are the cheapest form of new electricity generation. They can be deployed quickly and delivered at lower costs than hydro, marine technologies and nuclear.

With the rising cost of living and climate change emergency, it is imperative that we deliver electricity efficiently and at the lowest cost to the consumer.

This indicative infographic shows the approximate number of homes that could be powered annually<sup>2</sup> by each of these three different turbine models. Please note that turbine images are not to scale.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>2</sup> The indicative homes equivalent figures for the three different turbine models shown have been calculated using each turbine’s capacity and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) long-term average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 32.08%, and then dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024). The final wind turbine model used for Clune will depend on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

## Clune Wind Farm Proposal

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## The need for onshore wind

### Net zero carbon targets

A climate emergency was declared by The Highland Council, Scottish Government and the UK Government in 2019. The UK Government has set a legally binding target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 'net zero' by 2050 and the Scottish Government has a net zero target of 2045. Renewables, and specifically onshore wind, will play an important role in helping achieve these targets.

To support net zero delivery across all sectors, including heat, transport and industrial processes, which are currently heavily reliant on fossil fuels, it is expected that there will be a substantial increase in demand for electricity in the coming decades. National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios<sup>1</sup> forecast that Scotland's peak demand for electricity will at least double within the next twenty years. This will require a substantial increase in installed capacity across all renewable technologies, including onshore wind.

Scotland currently has around 9.3GW of installed onshore wind capacity. The Scottish Government has set a target of 20GW of onshore wind by 2030 in order to help meet their legally-binding net zero targets. This is a substantial increase and will require significant deployment of new onshore wind projects in order to meet this extra demand for green, zero-carbon electricity.

### Energy security

Wind energy is a free and inexhaustible resource that has an important role to play as part of a balanced energy mix. It increases energy security by reducing our reliance on imports and builds our resilience to sudden fossil fuel price fluctuations and the uncertainty of global markets.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/future-energy-scenarios>



Solwaybank Wind Farm near Langholm – for illustrative purposes only.

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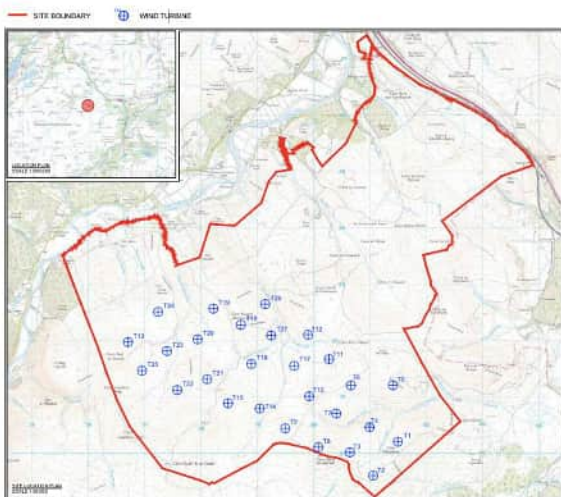
# Project overview

The drawing shows the proposed site layout at this early stage of the project.

## The site

The proposed Clune Wind Farm is located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin.

The site was chosen because it has good wind resource, few ecological constraints, straightforward access and is close to a viable grid connection. It is also identified in the Highland-Wide Local Development Plan as being an area with potential for wind farm development.



## Early design

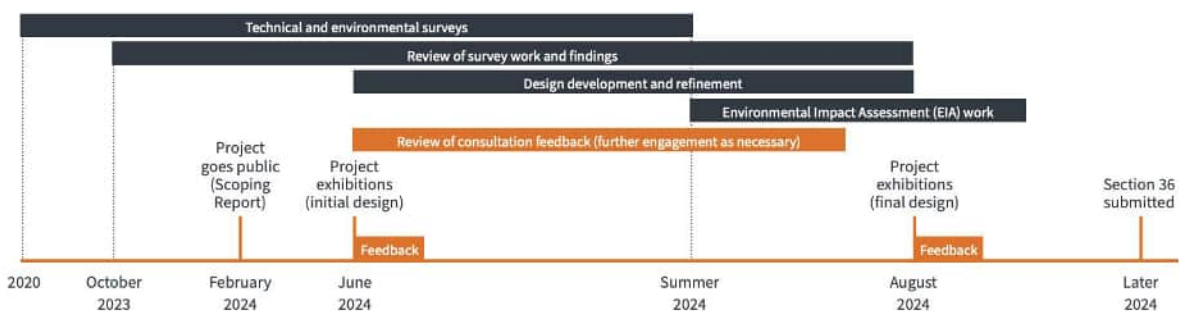
In February 2024, we submitted a Scoping Report to the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit (ECU) which sets out and seeks feedback on the proposed scope of environmental assessment work. Consultee feedback to the Scoping Report continues to be reviewed and any necessary changes made to the proposed scope of environmental and technical work.

Based on our initial studies, the wind farm would comprise up to 27 turbines at a turbine tip height of 200m, resulting in an overall installed site generating capacity (based on the scoping layout) of around 194.4MW.

Turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that turbines are now more efficient, which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of renewable electricity per turbine. If consented, Clune would be capable of generating clean, low-cost renewable electricity for around 168,500 homes<sup>1</sup> each year.

<sup>1</sup> The 168,500 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (using the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) long-term average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 32.08% and RES’ predicted site generation capacity of 194.4MW) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

## Indicative timeline



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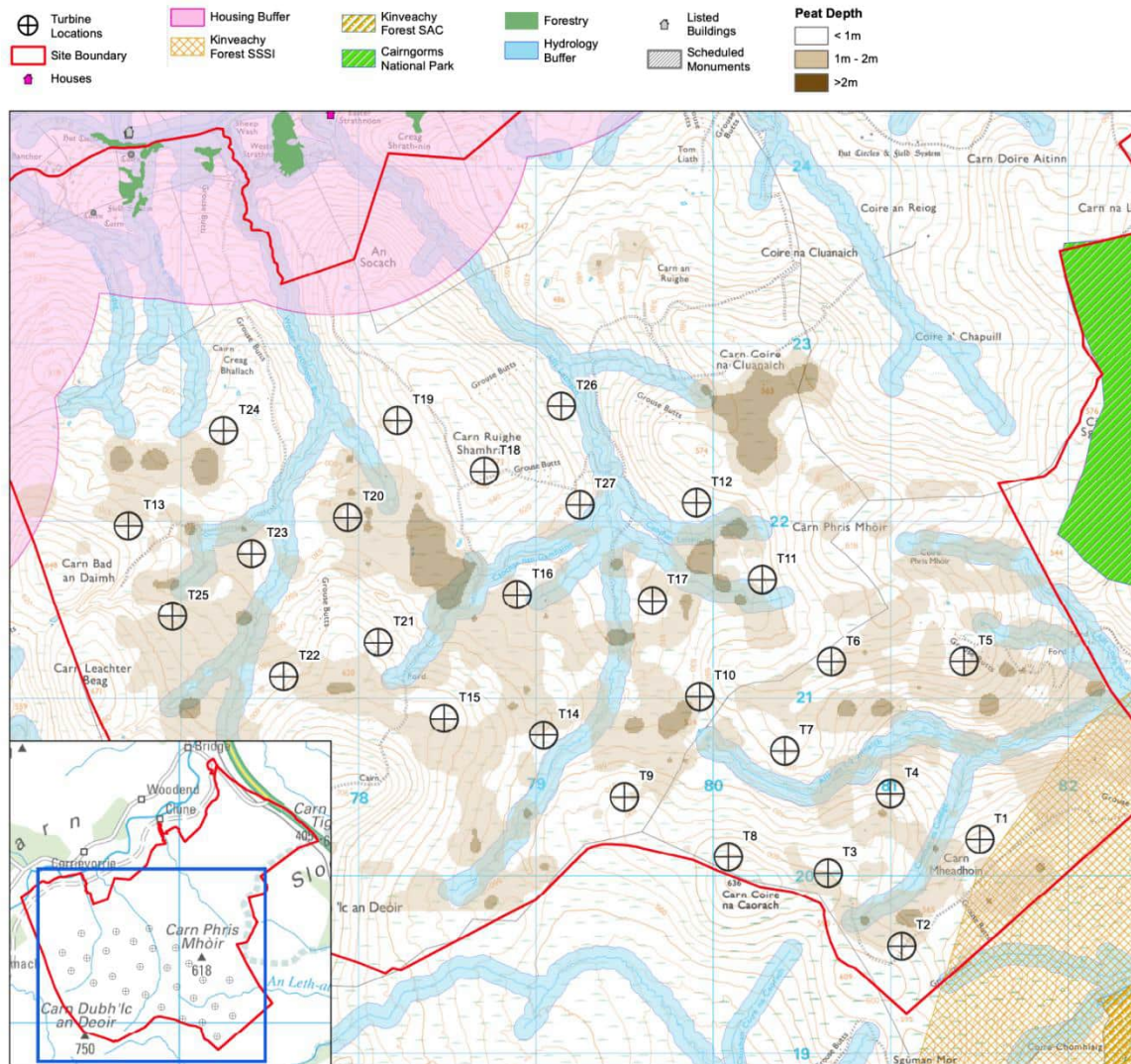




# Constraints map

We have considered a number of site-specific constraints and buffers to inform the preliminary design of the wind farm. The drawing below shows the site constraints that have been mapped so far, and which are explained on the boards. Please note that the location for the on-site substation has not yet been established.

There is a lot of work still to do over the coming months, and the design will be developed and refined during this time in response to both the findings from the technical and environmental survey work as well as consideration of written feedback from key consultees and the local community.



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## Environmental considerations

As part of the planning process, RES will undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The purpose of an EIA is to identify any significant potential effects of a development on the environment and, where applicable, identify mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential effects. It also identifies opportunities for restoration and enhancement. The EIA for Clune Wind Farm will include the following assessments:

### Ecology

The non-avian Ecology Impact Assessment will involve a range of studies including habitats, protected species, notable species (e.g. national and European Protected Species) and locally protected species. To date, we have undertaken botanical survey work to identify habitats that are of conservation importance or have groundwater dependence, and protected species survey work to investigate for protected mammals, such as badgers, bats, otters, water voles and wildcats. Further habitat and species assessment work will be undertaken over the coming months as the design develops and infrastructure siting is refined.

### Ornithology

Avoiding impacts on bird species, wherever possible, is an important factor in the design of the site. We have commissioned over 200 hours of baseline ornithological survey work over the two years during breeding and non-breeding seasons to build our understanding of the species on site. Surveys have included flight path activity, breeding behaviour and winter walkover surveys, as well as specific black grouse and raptor surveys. Some of the key species we are monitoring in the area are red kite, white-tailed eagle, hen harrier and golden eagle.

### Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The Clune Wind Farm proposal has the potential to cause changes to the baseline hydrological and hydrogeological conditions on the site and to the receiving water environment so the EIA process will seek to identify sensitive water environment features; assess potential impacts and propose mitigation where required.

A number of initial studies and assessments have been carried out to map the groundwater-dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE), groundwater, water supplies and surface water features, and other potential water environment receptors.

The mapping of private water supplies forms a key part of the hydro and hydrogeological work; further consultation will be undertaken to identify the complete water supply infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm. A Private Water Supply Risk Assessment will also be developed to accompany the planning application. Any construction work close to water supplies is strictly regulated but please talk to our team if you have any concerns or questions regarding your private water supply.

Should any significant impacts be identified as part of the EIA process, appropriate mitigation will be proposed. Mitigation seeks, first, to avoid adverse impacts and, where impacts are unavoidable, to reduce the significance of residual effect to an acceptable level. It also seeks enhancement and compensation, where possible, to provide the best practicable outcome.

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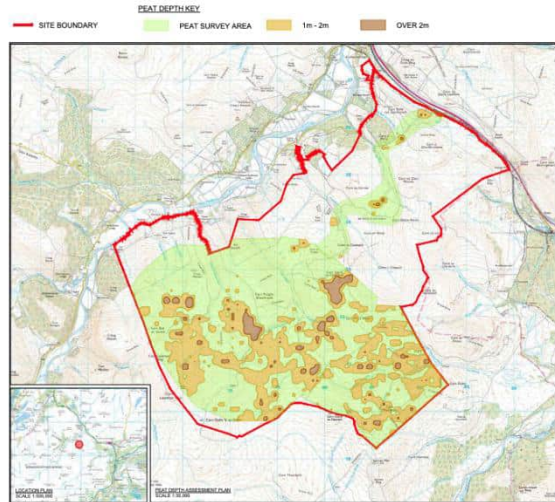
# Environmental considerations

## Peat

Initial peat depth surveys and assessments have been undertaken across the site to inform the early site layout. This work has been carried out in accordance with the current Scottish Government and NatureScot’s good practice guidance on wind farm construction.

A further phase of more detailed peat surveys is proposed following further refinement of the infrastructure layout and a Peat Management Plan will be developed over the coming months.

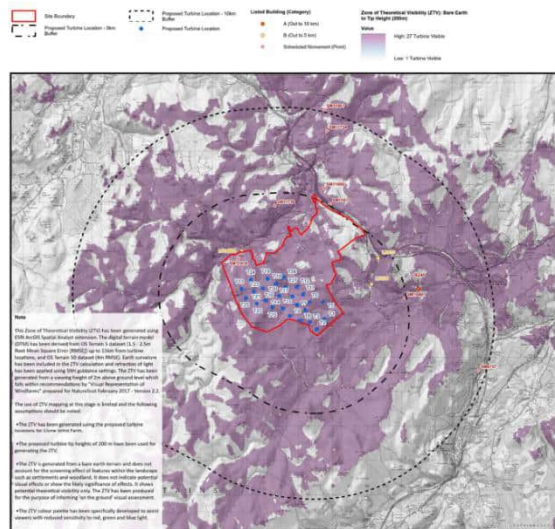
The approach to peat will aim to avoid impacts and, where this is not possible, will seek appropriate re-use options to minimise any impacts, and facilitate habitat restoration or enhancement where possible.



## Cultural heritage

The cultural heritage of an area comprises archaeological sites, historic buildings, inventoried gardens and designed landscapes, inventoried battlefields and other historic environment features. The ‘setting’ of an asset within the wider landscape may contribute to its cultural heritage significance. There are 12 non-designated heritage assets and two scheduled monuments within the site boundary located mainly along the northern border of the site, along the south bank of the Findhorn River and its tributaries.

The Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment will identify cultural heritage assets that may be subject to significant impacts, both on the site and within 10km of the proposed turbines.



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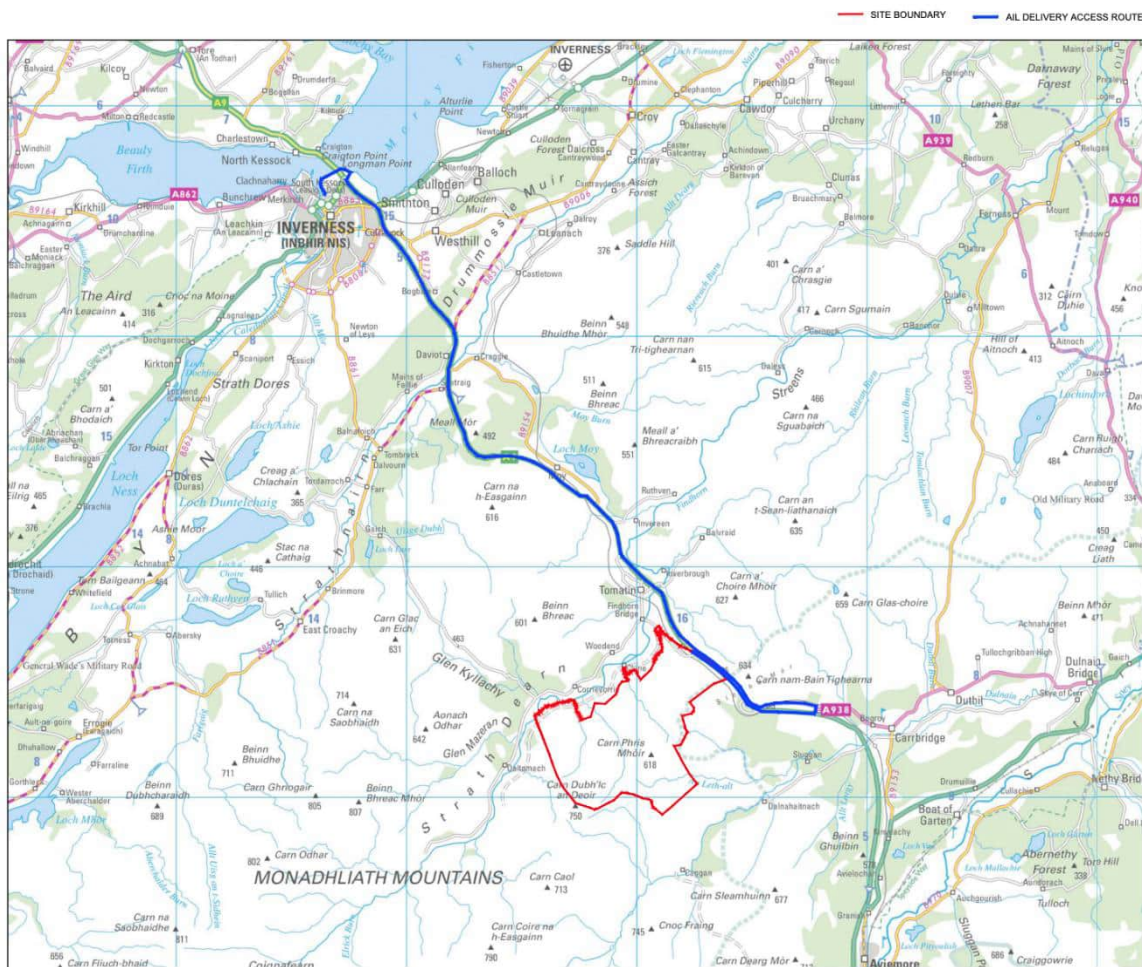
# Environmental considerations

## Traffic and transport

An initial Access Study and Swept Paths Analysis (SPA) have been carried out by RES to assess route options and help minimise potential impacts during the delivery of wind turbine components.

The Access Study established a preferred route for deliveries, which is shown on the map below. The route involves entry at Inverness Port before transportation to the site via the A9 to the site entrance.

We will also be assessing traffic volumes in the local area over the coming months. This work will help us to understand the impact of other project-related traffic (HGVs, site plant, 4x4s), required during the construction phase, and identify ways to minimise disruption on road users. The site access point will also need to be carefully designed with appropriate visibility splays to meet strict safety requirements.



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## Environmental considerations

### Acoustics

Sound immissions from wind farms in many circumstances may be inaudible or effectively “masked” by the background sound already present in the surrounding environment. We take care to ensure sound levels from wind turbines are within recommended limits and comply with planning policy. Initial design work has taken account of residential properties in the surrounding area with buffers applied, which has resulted in the scoping layout presented. Survey work is being undertaken to understand the background sound levels in greater detail, and this will inform the iterative design process and EIA.

We will shortly be commissioning a range of background sound surveys at selected properties in the local area which will be agreed with the Highland Council’s Environmental Health Officer. The surveys will measure the sound levels at different times of the day and night to establish a baseline. The results of the background sound survey will inform the setting of the sound immission limits for the operation of the wind farm.

### Shadow flicker

Shadow flicker is a phenomenon where, under certain circumstances of geographical position and time of day, the sun may pass behind the rotors of a wind turbine and cast a shadow over neighbouring properties. When the blades rotate, the shadow flicks on and off. It only occurs inside buildings, such as where the flicker appears through a narrow window opening. Shadow flicker can be easily modelled and the Clune Wind Farm proposal is being designed in a way that will minimise any potential for shadow flicker. Shadow flicker can be mitigated in a number of ways, including shadow detection technology on relevant turbines to create a shutdown timetable, if necessary.

### Aviation and Radar

Radar systems can be susceptible to interference from wind turbines as the blade movement can cause intermittent detection by radars within their operating range. This is particularly relevant where there is a line of sight between the radar and the wind turbine development.

RES has undertaken an initial Aviation Assessment to identify any radar infrastructure which may be impacted by the proposed turbines. The closest infrastructure to the site is located at Inverness airport and RAF Lossiemouth. Further assessment and consultation are being carried out to establish whether mitigation measure will be necessary.

Full consultation will be undertaken with all relevant consultees including the MoD, Civil Aviation Authority and Inverness Airport.

### Aviation lighting

The turbines proposed for Clune are above 150m in height and will therefore require aviation lighting so that the turbines are visible to aircraft. We will be consulting with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Inverness Airport, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and any other relevant consultees over the coming months to agree a lighting strategy with them.

It is worth noting that not all turbines are likely to be required to be lit (for example, lighting may just be required on outermost turbines). Furthermore, the (red) aviation lighting is designed to focus the light across and upwards for the attention of aircraft rather than downwards to ground level.

The proposed lighting strategy will be presented in the planning application.

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# Tip heigh zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) – 45km

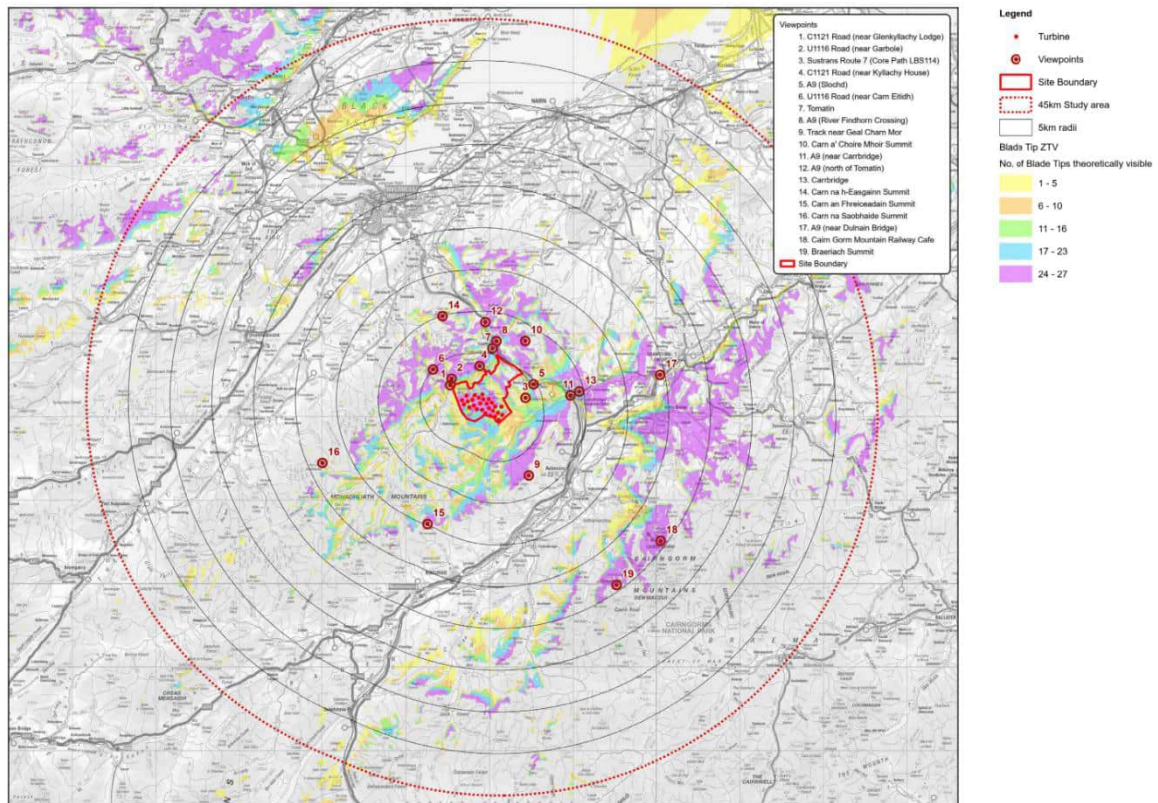
## Bare land form visibility

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) map below illustrates the theoretical extent of where turbines will be visible from within the wider area, assuming 100% visibility and bare landform (without any trees, buildings or obstacles in the view) as per NatureScot guidance. This map serves as a tool to inform the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).

Landscape and visual considerations, including effects on residential visual amenity from the closest properties, will be carefully assessed and play a key role in the progression of the design.

## Landscape and visual considerations

As upright structures, turbines cause indisputable changes to the landscape within which they sit and assessing whether this impact is ‘acceptable’ can be challenging. Public opinion on turbine visibility differs, with some people not liking the sight of wind farms in their community and others welcoming them. The visibility indicated on the bare landform ZTV below will be much less extensive in reality. Ultimately, the final decision regarding whether a wind farm’s visibility is acceptable or not rests with the determining authority who will assess applications against planning policy.

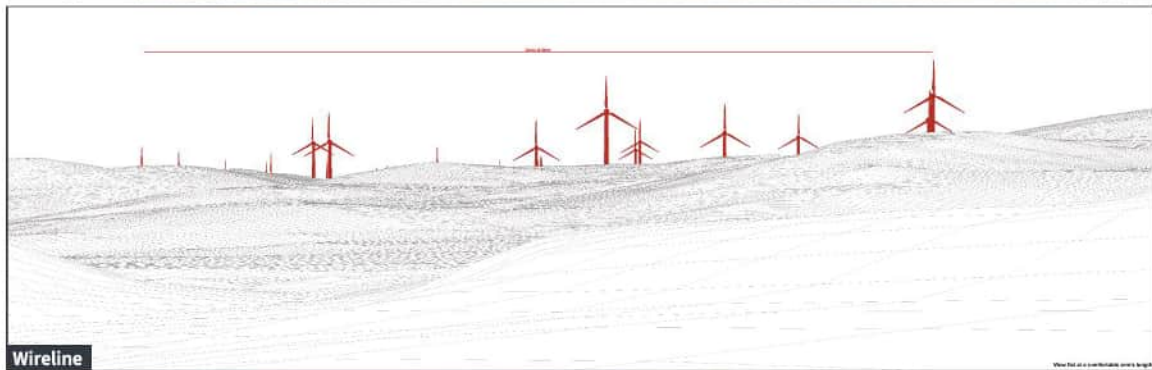


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## Viewpoint 2 - U1116 Road (near Garbole)



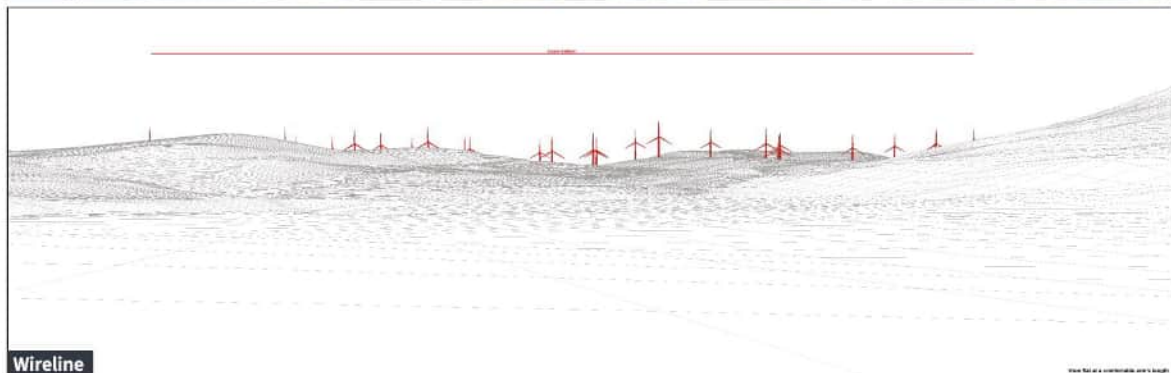
### Viewpoint information

Location	Altitude	Nearest turbine	Bearing to centre of photo
275538 E 824485 N	341.58 m AOD	T24 @ 2.6km	138°

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## Viewpoint 7 - Tomatin



### Viewpoint information

Location	Altitude	Nearest turbine	Bearing to centre of photo
280335 E 828178 N	305.53 m AOD	T26 @ 5.65km	192°

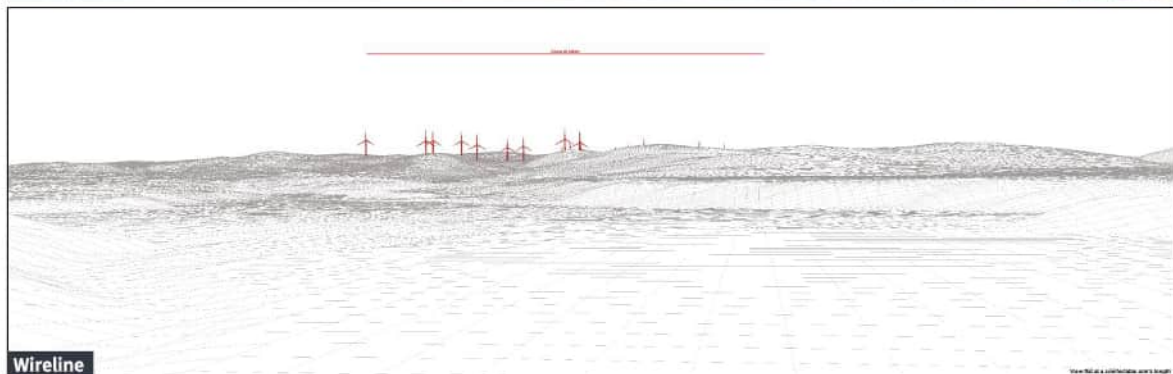
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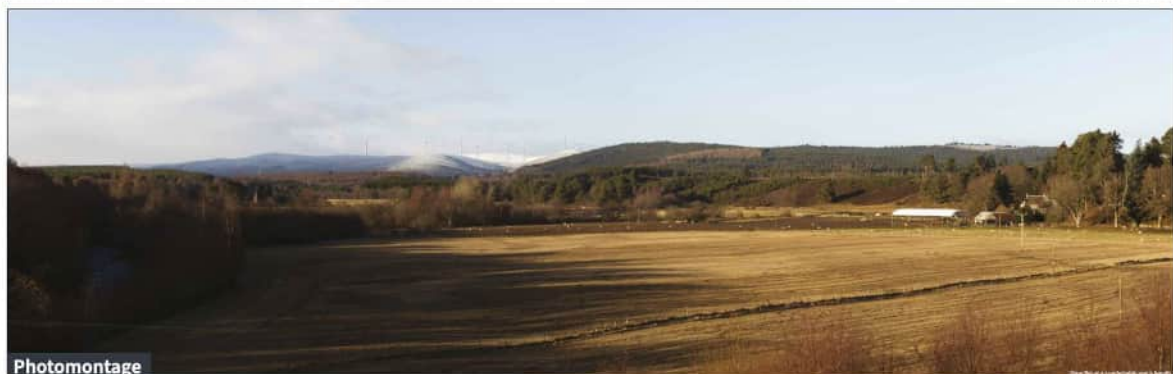
## Viewpoint 11 - A9 (near Carrbridge)



Existing view



Wireline



Photomontage

### Viewpoint information

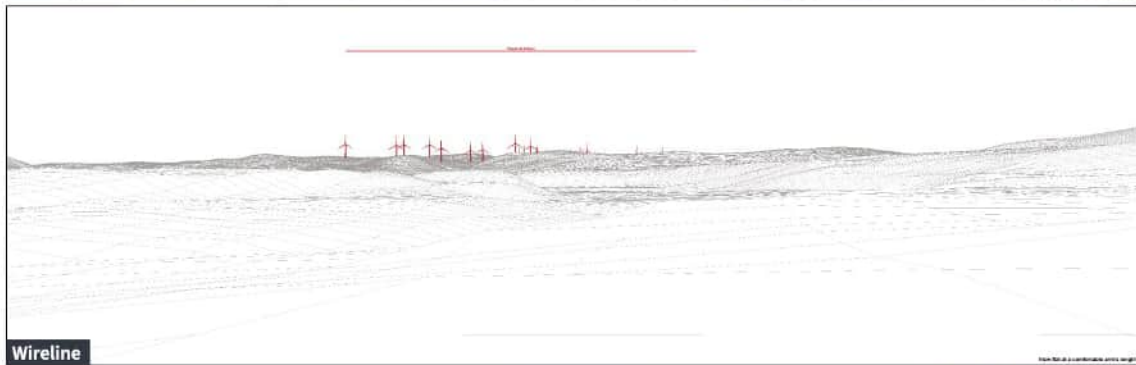
Location	Altitude	Nearest turbine	Bearing to centre of photo
289649 E 822556 N	285.8m AOD	T5 @ 8.34km	262°

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## Viewpoint 13 - Carrbridge



Viewpoint information			
Location	Altitude	Nearest turbine	Bearing to centre of photo
290712 E 823006 N	263.31 m AOD	T5 @ 9.47km	262°

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## Maximising the local benefit

### A power for good

RES seeks to be a power for good in communities that neighbour our projects by working openly and constructively to ensure tangible local benefits. We believe that onshore wind should provide direct, lasting benefits to local communities and there are a number of ways that this can be achieved.

### Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS)



Our unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) was developed in response to research and feedback from local communities around RES' operational wind farms, and seeks to deliver direct and tangible benefits to people living and working closest to them. LEDS offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating wind farm and there is no need to change energy provider.

If this is something that you are interested in as a potential part of a tailored community benefits package at Clune, please note this in your formal written feedback to RES and also let our project team know if you would like more information.

### Tailored community benefits package

We are committed to a community benefits package that would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum. With the current scoping layout, this would mean just under £1 million per annum (index linked) for the local area.

We take a tailored approach and work directly with the community to understand how the wind farm could support the local area and help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits. This approach will help to deliver a tailored community benefits package that is aligned with the priorities of the local community and could, for instance, provide funding for projects that sit outside the parameters of a traditional application-based fund.

As part of this exhibition and consultation period we are seeking feedback on your ideas for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from the Clune Wind Farm project, should it receive consent. Some examples from other communities that we've worked with include:

- biodiversity initiatives
- apprenticeships/educational schemes
- funding for schools and local community groups
- improved broadband provision
- improvements to local footpaths and/or signage
- business start-up initiatives
- improvements to village halls
- community defibrillators
- electric car charging points
- funding for local groups and organisations

It is important to note that voluntary community benefits are not a material planning consideration.

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## Working with the local supply chain and wider community

Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a project like this 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.

RES has a strong track record for working with the local supply chain around its projects and, in order to maximise the opportunities from the Clune Wind Farm proposal, we are looking to build our knowledge of the local skills and capabilities within the area. If you're a local business (or know a local business) interested in getting involved in onshore wind, please speak to our project team.



### Case study

#### Solwaybank Wind Farm

Companies in Dumfries and Galloway and Cumbria won contracts totalling more than £1.5million during the construction of Solwaybank Wind Farm, near Langholm, through the provision of aggregate, security, concrete and plant hire services.

RES is committed to working with as many local businesses as possible to support and maximise the benefit of the wind farm to the local economy, with contractors bringing significant value to construction because of their knowledge of the site and technical expertise.

### Inward investment

Whilst expenditure in the local economy can vary from project to project due to various factors, including project size and duration, location and the availability of local suppliers, RES has seen a typical spend of around £279,000 per turbine with local stakeholders, suppliers and service providers during the development, construction and first year of project operation. In some cases, it has been possible to significantly exceed this local investment.

The Clune Wind Farm proposal is predicted to deliver approximately £7.5 million of inward investment to the area in the form of direct jobs, wider employment opportunities and use of local services during the development, construction and first year of operation. In addition, approximately £2.2 million in business rates<sup>1</sup> will be payable each year to the Highland Council during operation (based on the 194.4MW scoping layout).

### Shared ownership - Is this of interest to the community?

RES is also interested to understand whether there is any appetite from the community in exploring the potential opportunity of shared ownership in the wind farm. If shared ownership is something that interests you, please put this on your comments form and speak to our project team. Local Energy Scotland is the independent body that manages the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES). To find out more visit:

[www.localenergy.scot/hub/shared-ownership](http://www.localenergy.scot/hub/shared-ownership)

<sup>1</sup> The business rates figure of £2.2 million each year has been calculated from the most recent non-domestic rates revaluation in Scotland (2023 valuation) and predicted performance of the wind farm.

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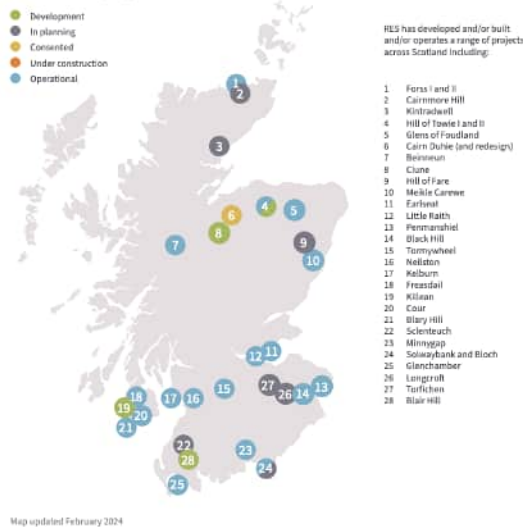
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# The world's largest independent renewable energy company

RES has been at the forefront of wind energy development for over 40 years and delivered more than 24GW of renewable energy projects worldwide. We employ more than 4,500 passionate people across the globe and are active in 24 countries, working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution.

Sustainability lies at the core of our business activity and values, and we have been leading efforts to create a future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. By listening, discussing, and working together, we can build clean energy project proposals that power positive change for everyone.

### Onshore wind projects in Scotland



## Partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI)

In February 2024, RES announced its partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) to support a minimum of 60 students through their Student Development Fund.

Created with the aim of helping UHI's students to further their personal development, the fund empowers them to gain new skills, raising their aspirations, whilst also helping to build their confidence. It does this by providing financial support to students to overcome barriers to participate in learning opportunities and extra-curricular activities. RES has pledged a total of £60,000 to UHI's Student Development Fund over the course of the next three years, providing the students of UHI with the best possible opportunity to maximise their talents and future careers.

## RES in Scotland

RES is a privately-owned company with a proud history in Scotland. We grew out of Sir Robert McAlpine, a British family-owned firm with over 140 years of experience in construction and engineering including the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Highlands and the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow. From our Glasgow office, we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms across Scotland since 1993. This includes the development and/or construction of 22 wind farms in Scotland with a total generation capacity of c.660MW.



To learn more visit [www.res-group.com](http://www.res-group.com).

## Clune Wind Farm Proposal

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)





## Commenting on the proposal

This exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments and feedback on the proposal. We are keen to discuss the project with you and answer any questions that you may have but, please note, that formal feedback to RES at this stage needs to be submitted in writing.

If you would like to provide feedback to RES on the project you can do so by filling out a comments form at this exhibition or online/ downloaded at [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) where the exhibition information is also available for people to view.

### Your feedback matters

Feedback at this early stage has the potential to change and influence the design and improve the overall quality of the planning application from a community perspective.

In addition to confirming any current support, opposition, or neutrality to the proposal at this stage, please consider submitting any constructive feedback that you may have regarding the design and delivery of the project as this information has the potential to change and influence the design in a way that is beneficial to the community, should it go ahead.

Any written consultation feedback submitted to RES will be considered by the project team over the coming months as the design is developed and refined, in addition to feedback from key consultees and the findings from the technical and environmental studies that we are undertaking.

In addition to gathering feedback on the proposal itself and current design, we would also like to understand how the wind farm could support local priorities through the delivery of a tailored community benefits package.

The closing date for written feedback to RES is **Friday 5 July 2024**. Please note that comments to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be submitted.

### Keeping you updated

We will hold a second set of public exhibition events closer to the submission of the planning application (which is currently scheduled for later in the year) to update people on the proposal and present the final design.

People will have the opportunity to speak to the project team again about the project and provide written feedback to RES. These events will also refer to the written feedback received from the June 2024 exhibitions and consultation period and explain any changes made to the design in response to the feedback.

**Clune Wind Farm Proposal**

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)





Comments Form – June 2024



Clune Wind Farm Proposal  
Comments Form

RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.

At the public exhibitions we have presented preliminary design drawings. Feedback from the local community is important at this stage of our pre-application consultation when it can have a direct influence on the final design of the project.

We would be grateful if you could take the time to fill out this comments form with your feedback. Please provide feedback by 5 July 2024. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

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

1 Clune Wind Farm public exhibition

1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibitions?

- Postcard invitation through the door
- Advert in Strathspey Herald and/or Inverness Courier
- Project website - [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)
- Word of mouth
- Other (please specify)

1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Clune Wind Farm?

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

1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Clune Wind Farm?

- A lot
- Quite a lot
- A little
- Very little
- Nothing at all



## Clune Wind Farm Proposal Comments Form

1.4 Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our exhibition?

### 2 Clune Wind Farm proposal

Your views on the Clune Wind Farm proposal - specifically the preliminary layout of the project where people's comments can have a direct influence - will be considered in relation to the design development of the project.

2.1 How do you feel about the preliminary plans for Clune Wind Farm?

- I am supportive
- I am neutral
- I am opposed
- I don't like onshore wind farms in general

Further comments:

2.2 What do you think about the proposed preliminary design layout of Clune Wind Farm?

- I am happy with the proposed layout
- I am neutral towards the proposed layout
- I have concerns about the proposed layout (please provide further details in the box below)
- I don't like onshore wind farms in general

Further comments:



## Clune Wind Farm Proposal Comments Form

2.3 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the proposed Clune Wind Farm

### 3 Local benefits

RES is proposing to deliver a tailored community benefits package aligned with the priorities of the local community. This package would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum and could include RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS), which offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating wind farm. The community benefit package will be informed by feedback from the community so we are keen to understand what initiatives the community would like to see supported by the benefits package.

3.1 Within which Community Council do you reside?

3.2 Do you have any suggestions or comments regarding ideas, local priorities, or community projects that you would like to see benefitting from Clune Wind Farm, should it go ahead?  
*Examples could include biodiversity initiatives, apprenticeships/educational schemes, funding for schools and local community groups, improved broadband provision, etc.*

3.3 Do you have any other comments or feedback with regard to the community benefit package?



## Clune Wind Farm Proposal Comments Form

### 4 Climate change, energy security and renewables

The below section is optional and designed to help us understand people's thoughts on how renewables can help to tackle climate change and improve energy security.

4.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.3 Do you agree that we need to develop onshore wind farms to support greater energy independence and security for Scotland?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree





## Clune Wind Farm Proposal Comments Form

Further comments:

4.4 Do you agree that we need to develop onshore wind farms to cut energy bills?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:

### 5 Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below.

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

When you have completed the comments form, please send by email to [euan.hogg@res-group.com](mailto:euan.hogg@res-group.com) by post to: Clune Wind Farm Project Team, RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this comments form, your feedback is important to us.**

Appendix F - Public Exhibition Newspaper Advert (5/6 September 2024) and Poster

10 The Inverness Courier

www.inverness-courier.co.uk

Friday, September 6, 2024

# City councillors should try and soften Chancellor's Winter blow to pensioners

**R**ACHEL Reeves lost no time in seeking to live up to her pledge that there would be no profligacy with public money under a new Labour government. And so the very first target in her sights became the winter fuel payment and the very first people to lose out will be pensioners, many of whom will be on the breadline.

Some will still qualify for the payout but many others with an income just fractionally higher will lose out under the new system. Many older folk outwith the limited spread of "fat-cat pensioners" will be penalised by the Chancellor's decision to end the support payment going to all senior citizens.

Immediate and fully justified warnings were issued that these cuts would hit people in the wintry Highlands hardest. But they're going ahead anyway.

This region did not follow much of the rest of Scotland by turning to Labour at the



*This slashing of the fuel payment looked a harsh decision in mid-summer and it will look even more so as the days shorten and the temperatures fall towards winter.*

## News View

By Colin Campbell

general election. There are no eager new Labour MPs in these parts. If there had been, they'd have some explaining to do.

This slashing of the fuel payment looked a harsh decision in mid-summer and it will look even more so as the days shorten and the temperatures fall towards winter.

Pensioners in need of warmth will be the very first folk to lose out on money that has helped sustain them in recent times. And with around five million people "inactive" and on benefits that seems a grossly and almost inexplicably unfair way to begin trimming the welfare spending bill.

I, like most people of my age, worked all my life in times when not working

simply seemed much less of an option. There was no "work from home" offering from sympathetic employers, and there were no politicians or pressure groups holding forth on the need to ensure "a proper work-life-leisure" balance.

And if you were unlucky enough not to have a job it was an absolute priority to get one, without being too choosy in the applications process.

There's no doubt that being out of work is still linked to some degree at least with hardship. But with jobs more freely available than they've ever been and so many choosing to claim benefits rather than fill a vacancy, it's obviously not as hard as it was before.

And if you're a pensioner, do you remember the time when it was commonplace for people to be out of work and claiming benefits because of mental health issues of all manner and kind? Probably not, because it didn't exist. But countrywide these "issues"



Rachel Reeves.

Picture: Zara Ferrar / 10 Downing Street / Wikimedia Commons

are leading to hundreds of thousands of people being jobless and claiming benefits in record, unprecedented numbers. Many are no doubt suffering real problems. But questions are rightly being asked about how many are not.

Rachel Reeves obviously didn't fancy trying to cut back welfare spending largesse in these particular areas. Far too tricky and prone to pressure group backlash. Much easier just to remove the winter fuel payment from vulnerable

pensioners instead.

In Inverness, councillors should try and help by increasing the small winter payment made available from the Common Good Fund and make it less complicated to claim it. That would bring some benefit to those most under duress.

But the real damage from Reeves has been done. It's a rotten, lousy, shameful way for Labour to begin their tenure in office as so much free money is poured out in much less deserving directions.

## Clune Wind Farm

### Public Exhibition Invitation



RES is developing proposals for the Clune Wind Farm, located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin. Please come along to our second round of exhibition events to view the updated design and take part in the consultation events.

**Wednesday 18 September**

1pm - 7pm

Carrbridge Village Hall, Main Road, Carrbridge, PH23 3AA

**Thursday 19 September**

1pm - 7pm

The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin, IV13 7YN

Our updated plans are for up to 26 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 200m, generating 187.2MW of clean, low-cost renewable energy – enough to power around 162,400 homes each year and helping Scotland meet its climate change target of 'net zero' emissions by 2045.

All exhibition material and feedback forms will be available on the project website [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) from 18 September 2024. The closing date for comments for this exhibition round is 18 October 2024.

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.

To find out more, visit [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) or contact Euan Hogg, Development Project Manager, on 07500 045 754 or at [euau.hogg@res-group.com](mailto:euau.hogg@res-group.com)

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[www.davidson-reid-auctions.co.uk](http://www.davidson-reid-auctions.co.uk)

# Council starting to think about winter

LOCAL Highland councillors have approved the roads priorities for treatment for this coming winter in the strath with a plea thrown in to keep pavements clear of cars when the snow falls.

There are five gritters and four footpath tractors to cover Badenoch and Strathspey's local roads network and streets.

Member of the council's local area committee approved the winter service plan at their latest meeting at Kingussie's courthouse.

As part of that, households were asked to be considerate with where they park their cars when snow is forecast or it could mean stretches of paths not being treated.

Councillor Muriel Cockburn said: "Sometimes I think we do not do our communication well and we need to make it clear that people who park on the pavements make it impossible for the pavement gritters to do their job."

"As a result we get complaints about paths not being cleared."

"I think we also have to emphasise which roads and streets do not get done but will do when there is the opportunity."

"We have communities which are not on primary routes and people start to get a bit angry."



RE-APPEARING SOON: Winter road and street clearing priorities for the strath are at [www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads\\_and\\_pavements/107/winter\\_road\\_maintenance/2](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/107/winter_road_maintenance/2)

Councillor Bill Lobban said: "I think our staff do a tremendous job (in the winter) and I think they should be complemented."

Area committee chairman Councillor Russell Jones asked local road bosses if there were enough contractors on the stand-by list in the event of severe wintry weather.

Steven Grant, the council's roads operations manager for Inverness, Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey, said: "We have enough to get by at the moment but we will be looking for more. The longer the list

the more resources we can get especially if we have a bad winter."

Primary routes are treated first, thereafter secondary routes and then all other routes being treated as resources permit.

The council publishes 'Winter Services' leaflets for each operational area providing the public with information on snow clearing and gritting of council roads along with maps showing the priority attributed to individual roads.

In the strath, there is a council roads operations manager, a roads

officer and a roads inspector along with a roads foreperson and nine operatives.

Operatives normally allocated to grounds maintenance and street sweeping are used to tackle icy footpaths in winter.

All operations begin at 6am and can continue to 9pm.

Treatments consist of the application of pure salt or occasionally salt and sand mix and where required blading or ploughing snow from the road surface.

The average annual usage of salt

**“ We have communities which are not on primary routes and people start to get a bit angry**

Muriel Cockburn

for the area is around 2,500 tonnes.

Mr Grant said in his report to the committee: "Although the occurrence of snow lying on the roads has reduced, ice and frost remain prevalent especially on the higher routes."

BEAR Scotland is responsible for keeping the A9 and other trunk roads open in the strath.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Winter talks off at church

ALVIE and Insh Church's popular winter talks - which over the years have raised thousands in aid of HIV nursing at



Uganda's Kiwoko Hospital - will not be going ahead this year.

Joint co-ordinator John Grierson (above) announced this week: "It is with regret that, due to organisational difficulties, we will not be hosting any winter talks this year. It is hoped that we will be able to re-establish them next year."

"We would urge you to visit the Friends of Kiwoko website at [www.fokh.org.uk](http://www.fokh.org.uk) to catch up on all the good work they are continuing to do."

### Housing fixes

THE average time taken to complete Highland Council housing emergency repairs for the first three months of 2024/25 was 3.4 months, down from 10.5 hours compared to the same period last year. For non-emergency repairs, the figure now stands at 6.1 days. The Scottish Housing Network average for 2022/23 was 8.7 days.

## Clune Wind Farm Public Exhibition Invitation



RES is developing proposals for the Clune Wind Farm, located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin. Please come along to our second round of exhibition events to view the updated design and take part in the consultation events.

**Wednesday 18 September**  
1pm - 7pm  
Carrbridge Village Hall, Main Road, Carrbridge, PH23 3AA

**Thursday 19 September**  
1pm - 7pm  
The Strathdearn Hub, Tomatin, IV13 7YN

Our updated plans are for up to 26 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 200m, generating 187.2MW of clean, low-cost renewable energy - enough to power around 162,400 homes each year and helping Scotland meet its climate change target of 'net zero' emissions by 2045.

All exhibition material and feedback forms will be available on the project website [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) from 18 September 2024. The closing date for comments for this exhibition round is 18 October 2024.

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.

To find out more, visit [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) or contact Euan Hogg, Development Project Manager, on 07500 045 754 or at [euan.hogg@res-group.com](mailto:euan.hogg@res-group.com)

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## CLUNE WIND FARM Public Exhibitions



RES is progressing plans for the proposed Clune Wind Farm, located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin.

We are keen to continue to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation we are holding public exhibitions 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 questions or queries, and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

### Wednesday 18th September 2024

1pm to 7pm

Carrbridge Village Hall  
Main Road, Carrbridge, PH23 3AA

### Thursday 19th September 2024

1pm to 7pm

The Strathearn Hub  
Tomatin, IV13 7YN



All information provided at the public exhibitions will also be available at [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) from **Wednesday 18th September 2024**.

The public exhibitions initiate a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. The closing date for comments is **Friday 18th October 2024** for this round of exhibitions. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Comments forms will be available at the public exhibition. Comment forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via email to [euan.hogg@res-group.com](mailto:euan.hogg@res-group.com). Hard copies can be sent by post to RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

*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 please visit our website at

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)

### Appendix G - Public Exhibition Mailout to Residents/Businesses (September 2024)





Invitation to our second round of public exhibition events for the proposed Clune Wind Farm, located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin.

**Wednesday 18 September, 1pm - 7pm**  
Carrbridge Village Hall, Main Road,  
Carrbridge, PH23 3AA

**Thursday 19 September, 1pm - 7pm**  
Strathdearn Hub,  
Tomatin, IV13 7YN

We held our first round of public consultation in June 2024 - thank you to the local residents and community representatives who participated in the events.

We have removed one turbine and moved a number of turbines on site - the new design is for up to 26 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 200m, generating 187.2MW of clean, low-cost renewable energy.

Please come along to our consultation events, to view and provide feedback on the updated design. All exhibition material and feedback forms will be available on [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) from 18 September 2024. The closing date for comments for this exhibition round is 18 October 2024.

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company and is active in onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms in Scotland since 1993. Visit [www.res-group.com](http://www.res-group.com) to find out more.

**Euan Hogg**  
Development Project Manager  
[Euan.hogg@res-group.com](mailto:Euan.hogg@res-group.com)  
07500 045 754  
RES, Third Floor - STV, Pacific Quay,  
Glasgow, G51 1PQ

This flyer has been designed to keep you up to date with the Clune Wind Farm proposal. If you no longer wish to receive similar communications at key project milestones, please contact us to let us know. If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please get in touch with us.

## Appendix H - Public Exhibition Materials (September 24)

# Welcome to our public consultation

**Thank you for taking the time to attend this exhibition which presents the updated layout design for our wind farm and energy storage proposal, Clune Wind Farm, located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin in the Highlands.**

Our first set of public exhibition events held in June enabled us to engage with the local community on our early-stage proposal and seek feedback on the scoping design which had been submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in February 2024.

Those events, together with the subsequent consultation period, generated written feedback from the public for the project team to consider whilst technical and environmental site survey work continued throughout the summer.

The purpose of this final suite of public exhibitions is to provide you with an opportunity to review the updated 26-wind turbine proposal, speak with the project team and ask any questions that you may have.

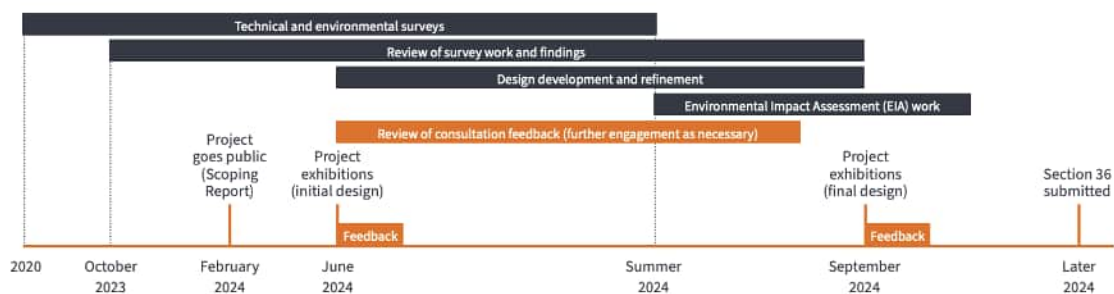
Whilst the layout design is almost finalised, this event forms part of our pre-application consultation and provides you with an opportunity to submit written feedback again to RES, if you wish, on the updated layout design.

We have provided a range of information including:

- Infrastructure design updates
- Environmental Impact Assessment considerations
- Visualisations (photomontages and wirelines) to help give an impression of what the proposal could look like from different viewpoints surrounding the site.

We have also produced a 'Report on feedback' which summarises the feedback received from the June 2024 exhibitions and subsequent consultation period. The report highlights our response to the main themes and feedback from the first round of consultation which has contributed to the changes made to the layout design. Copies of this Report are available as part of the materials presented and also available to view at [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk).

## Indicative timeline



**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)



## About RES

### The world’s largest independent renewable energy company

RES has been at the forefront of wind energy development for over 40 years and delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects worldwide. We employ more than 4,500 passionate people across the globe and are active in 24 countries, working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution.

Sustainability lies at the core of our business activity and values, and we have been leading efforts to create a future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. The 27GW of green energy that we have developed and/or constructed offsets more than 21 million tonnes of carbon every year.

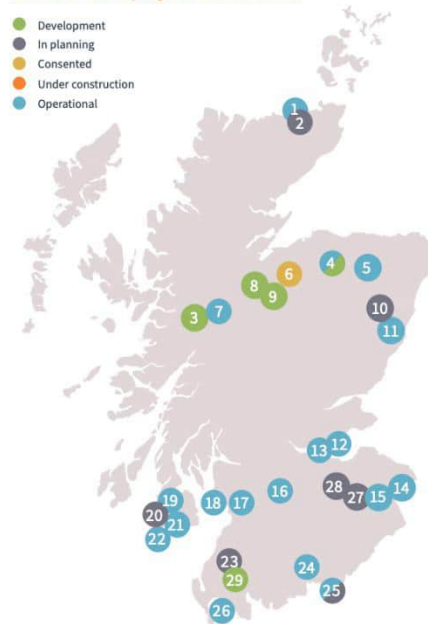
### RES in Scotland

RES is a privately-owned company with a proud history in Scotland. We grew out of Sir Robert McAlpine, a British family-owned firm with over 140 years of experience in construction and engineering including the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Highlands and the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow. From our Glasgow office, we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms across Scotland since 1993. This includes the development and/or construction of 22 wind farms in Scotland with a total generation capacity of 660MW.

To learn more visit [www.res-group.com](http://www.res-group.com).

#### Onshore wind projects in Scotland

- Development
- In planning
- Consented
- Under construction
- Operational



Map updated September 2024

RES has developed and/or built and/or operates a range of projects across Scotland including:

- 1 Forss I and II
- 2 Cairnmore Hill
- 3 Beinn Bheag
- 4 Hill of Towie I and II
- 5 Glens of Foudland
- 6 Cairn Duhie (and redesign)
- 7 Beinneun
- 8 Carn na Saobhaidh
- 9 Clune
- 10 Hill of Fare
- 11 Meikle Carewe
- 12 Earlseat
- 13 Little Raith
- 14 Penmanshiel
- 15 Black Hill
- 16 Tormywheel
- 17 Neilston
- 18 Kelburn
- 19 Freasdail
- 20 Killeen
- 21 Cour
- 22 Blary Hill
- 23 Scienteuch
- 24 Minnygap
- 25 Solwaybank and Bloch
- 26 Glenchamber
- 27 Longcroft
- 28 Torlichen
- 29 Blair Hill

## Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)





## The need for onshore wind

### National Development

We are facing a climate emergency, and at the same time seeking to enhance the security of our energy supply. Onshore wind can address both of these. This is recognised by the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)<sup>1</sup> which was published in February 2023. NPF4 is Scotland's long-term spatial planning strategy and categorises onshore wind projects with a generating capacity in excess of 50MW as National Development. In principle, it supports all forms of renewable energy generation including onshore wind. There are national targets for reaching Net Zero by 2045 and installing 20GW of onshore wind by 2030. The new UK Government has also outlined the need to double onshore wind by 2030.

### Improved performance and output

Turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that turbines are now more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of renewable electricity per turbine. Modern taller turbines provide more electricity, which helps address the climate emergency and security of energy supply. The 200m turbines proposed at Clune would allow for far greater benefits in terms of renewable electricity generation per turbine than smaller turbines would.

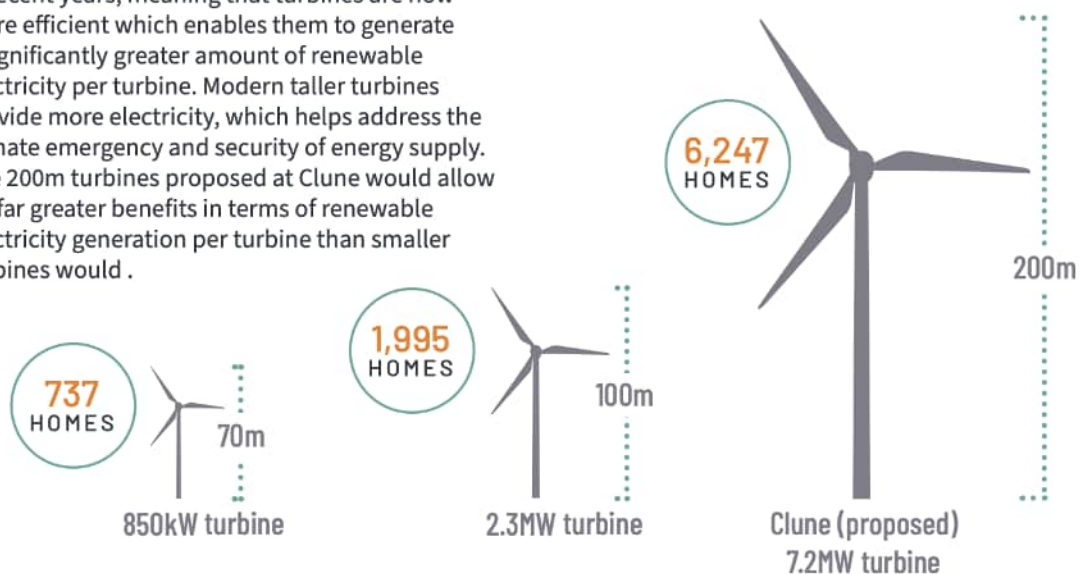
### Low-cost electricity

Our vision is of a future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. Onshore wind projects like Clune, alongside other renewable energy technologies, are the cheapest form of new electricity generation. They can be deployed quickly and delivered at lower costs than hydro, marine technologies and nuclear.

### Energy security

Wind energy is a free and inexhaustible resource that has an important role to play as part of a balanced energy mix. It increases energy security by reducing our reliance on imports and builds our resilience to sudden fossil fuel price fluctuations and the uncertainty of global markets.

This indicative infographic shows the approximate number of homes that could be powered annually<sup>2</sup> by each of these three different turbine models. Please note that turbine images are not to scale. Please note: images not to scale.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>2</sup> The indicative homes equivalent figures for the three different turbine models shown have been calculated using each turbine's capacity and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) long-term average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 32.08%, and then dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024). The final wind turbine model used for Clune will depend on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

## Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)





# Project overview

## The site

The proposed Clune Wind Farm is located approximately 5.5km south of Tomatin. The site was chosen because it has good wind resource, few ecological constraints, straightforward access and is close to a viable grid connection. It is also identified in the Highland-Wide Local Development Plan as being an area with potential for wind farm development.

We have removed one turbine from the layout design and revised the remaining turbine locations reducing impacts on sensitive habitats.

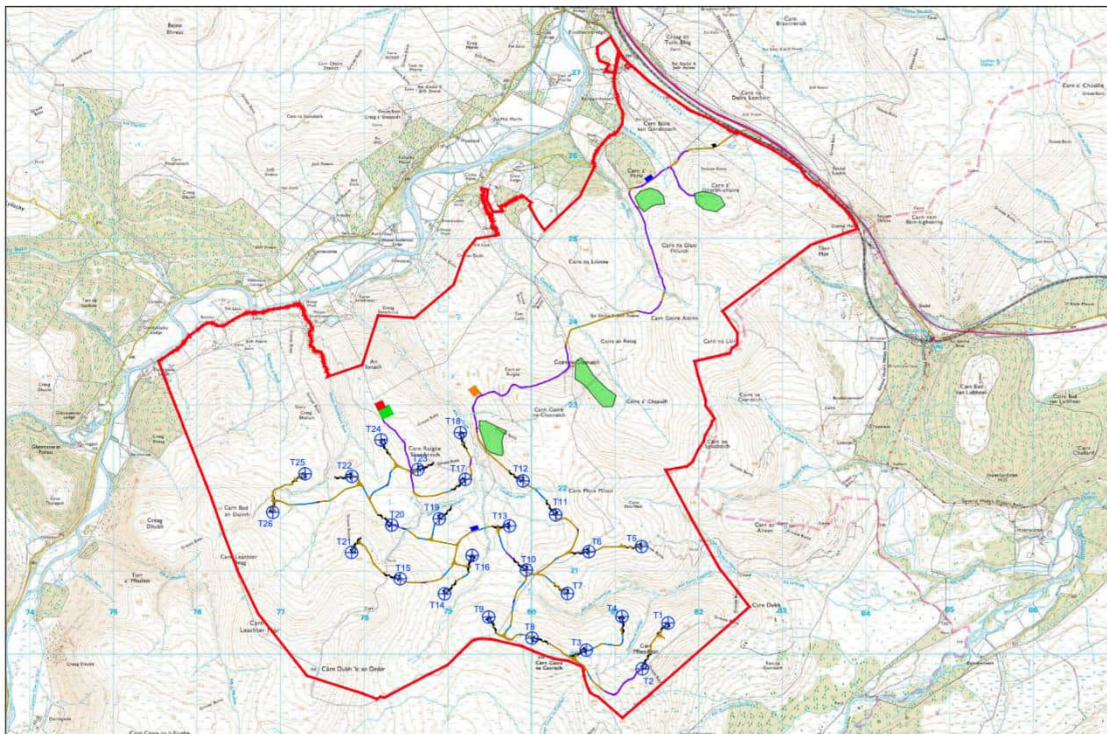
The current design of the wind farm comprises 26 turbines at a turbine tip height of 200m, resulting in an overall installed site generating capacity of 187.2MW. If consented, Clune would be capable of generating clean, low-cost renewable electricity for almost 162,500 homes<sup>1</sup> each year.

## Project development

Since the public exhibitions in June 2024, we have completed our detailed site surveys. The findings from this work, together with feedback from the public exhibitions and consultees, has resulted in a number of design changes.

<sup>1</sup> The 162,500 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (using the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) long-term average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 32.08% and RES' predicted site generation capacity of 187.2MW) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from DESNZ showing that the annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239 kWh (January 2024). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

## Updated Site Layout Plan



## Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)

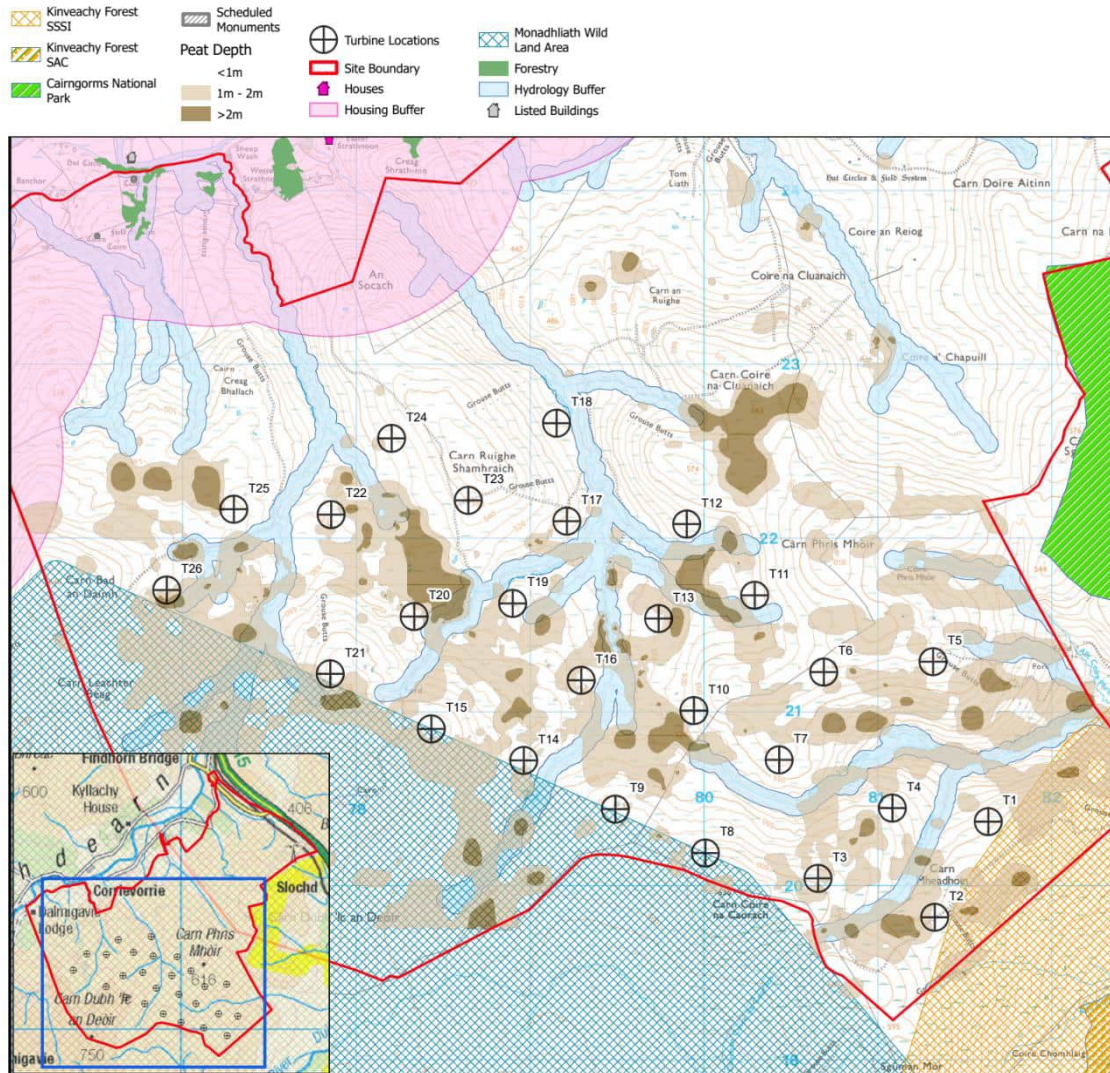




# Constraints map

The drawing below shows the site constraints that have been mapped following further site surveys conducted throughout the summer to inform the updated design of the wind farm proposal.

These site-specific constraints have been developed and refined in response to both the findings from the technical and environmental survey work as well as consideration of written feedback from key consultees and the local community.



**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**  
[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)





# Design evolution

## Wind turbines

Since the scoping design, which was presented at the June 2024 public exhibitions, the number of wind turbines has been reduced from 27 to 26.

Furthermore, each wind turbine location has moved to varying degrees to refine the design and minimise impacts wherever possible. The total installed generating capacity has also reduced since the previous proposal from around 194MW to approximately 187MW due to the reduction in wind turbine numbers.

## Tracks

Existing tracks will be utilised wherever possible. Sections of new tracks have been aligned to avoid, as much as possible, crossing of watercourses and areas of deeper peat.

## On-site substation

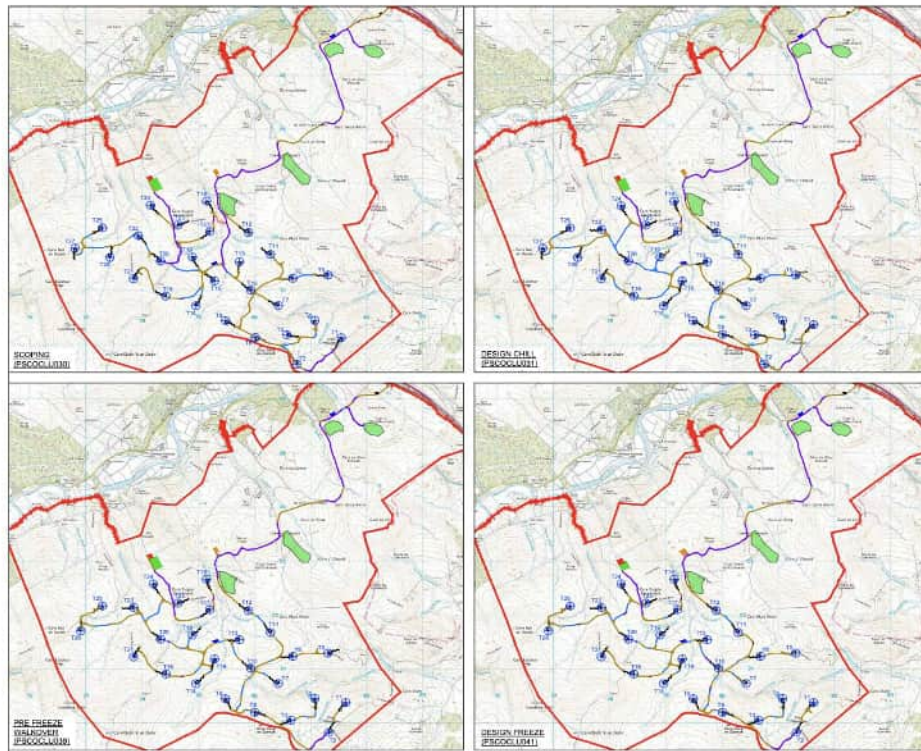
The proposal includes an on-site substation. The electricity generated from each wind turbine is low voltage and needs to be converted into a higher voltage to be exported onto the National Grid.

Underground cables organised into arrays transport the electricity generated to the on-site substation whereupon it is converted into a higher voltage (132kV in the case of Clune Wind Farm). This electricity is then transported via a 'grid connection' (a 132kV low profile pole line is expected for Clune Wind Farm) onto the National Grid.

The proposed on-site substation location can be seen on the drawing below.

## Layout design evolution

- KEY
- SITE BOUNDARY
- WIND TURBINE
- NEW TRACKS
- UPGRADED TRACKS
- FLOATED TRACKS
- WATERCOURSE CROSSING
- SUBSTATION
- TEMP CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND
- BATCHING PLANT
- BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM
- GATEHOUSE COMPOUND
- BORROW PIT SEARCH AREA
- PACING BAY



## Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)



## Design evolution

### Grid connection

The grid network operators are currently upgrading the grid infrastructure in the country and RES will be required to pay transmission connection charges to National Grid during operation of the wind farm for the grid connection. We have accepted a grid offer from the Transmission Owner (TO), in this case Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHE-T).

RES has been advised by the TO that the proposed wind farm will connect to the National Grid via a 132kV connection into Tomatin substation.

The grid route is subject to a separate planning application from the wind farm – and will be submitted as a separate Section 37 planning application under the Electricity Act by the TO once they have finalised their design. Once the planning application for the grid route is submitted, there will be a consultation period undertaken by the TO during which details of the grid route and method will be available for the public to provide comment to the TO as part of the planning process.

### Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

The proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) is anticipated to have a storage capacity of 100MW. The maximum size of the BESS compound would be up to 100m by 130m. Further details of the scale and dimensions and a full assessment of the impacts and effects and all proposed mitigation will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application.

The proposed BESS location can be seen on the previous exhibition board.

The risk of fire at a BESS is low and the BESS will be developed to address and mitigate against the risk of fire ignition and propagation, in a number of ways. Unlike electric cars and scooters, for example, RES-managed battery energy storage systems are constantly monitored from our 24/7/365 control centre in Glasgow. Some controls can also be safely operated remotely from our control centre, such as the shutting down of an individual battery rack or the entire battery energy storage system, if required.

All batteries must be tested and certified to an industry standard (UL9540A) demonstrating resistance to thermal runaway, and which ensures there is no likelihood of explosion, with any fire contained within the affected battery rack.

The BESS will be optimised with appropriate container spacing to minimise the risk of fire spreading across the facility in the unlikely event of a fire.

Each Battery Storage Enclosure (BSE) will also have a dedicated fire protection system, comprising flammable gas detection and venting, fire detection and alarm, and an automatic fire suppression system. All battery enclosures will be accessed via external doors only.



**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)

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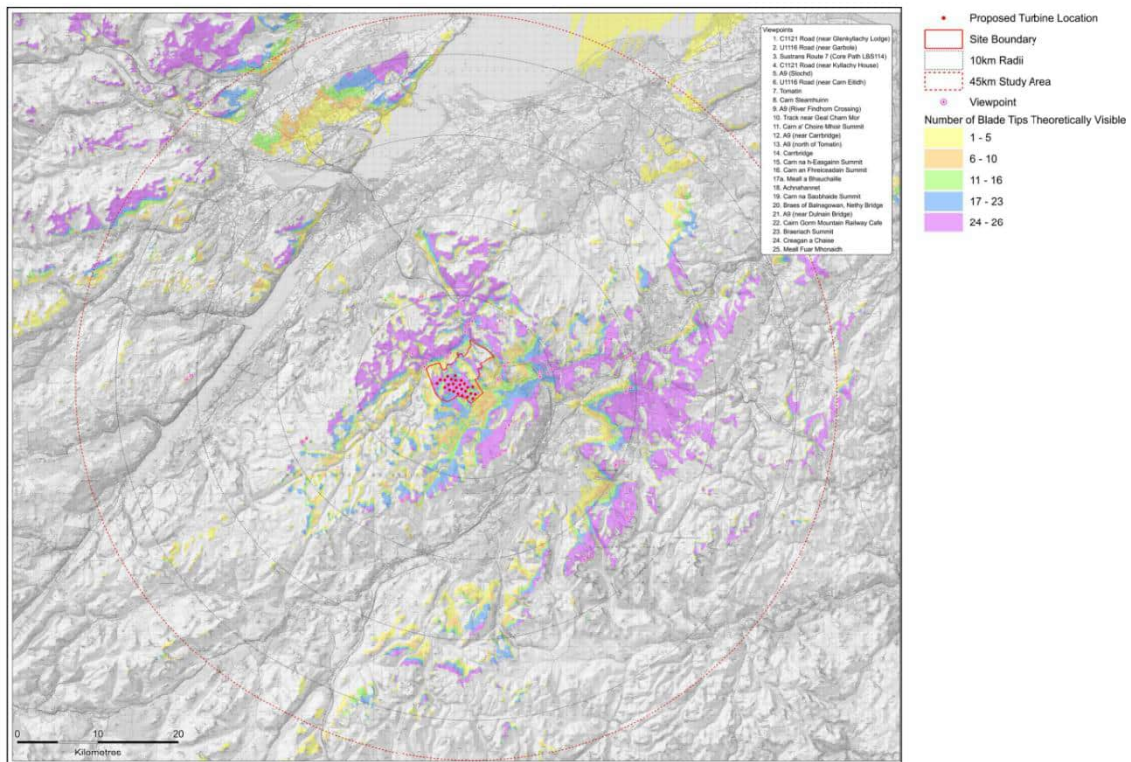
# Landscape and visual

## Tip height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) – 45km

The ZTV map below illustrates the theoretical extent of where turbines will be visible from within the wider area, assuming 100% visibility and bare landform (without any trees, buildings or obstacles in the view) as per NatureScot guidance. The visibility will be much less extensive in reality. We are looking to achieve a design that strikes an acceptable balance between the visibility of the proposal and its ability to generate significant amounts of renewable energy. Ultimately, the acceptability of this design will be assessed by the Scottish Ministers in relation to current energy policy and planning requirements.

Our landscape architects have undertaken extensive assessment work to inform the design development and turbine layout. Key changes (since the scoping design) include the reduction in turbine numbers from 27 to 26 and the movement of each wind turbine location to varying degrees to refine the design and minimise impacts wherever possible.

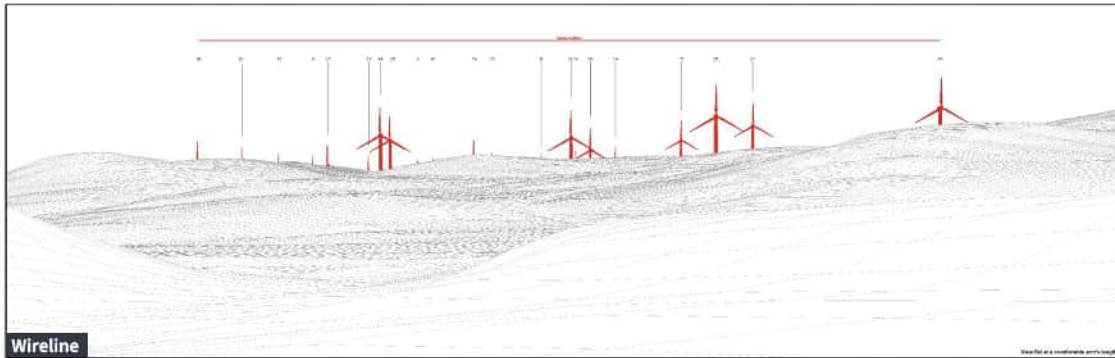
The photomontages presented at this exhibition have been prepared to NatureScot guidance and help to give an impression of what the proposal could look like from different viewpoints surrounding the site.



**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**  
[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)



## Viewpoint 2 - U1116 Road (near Garbole)



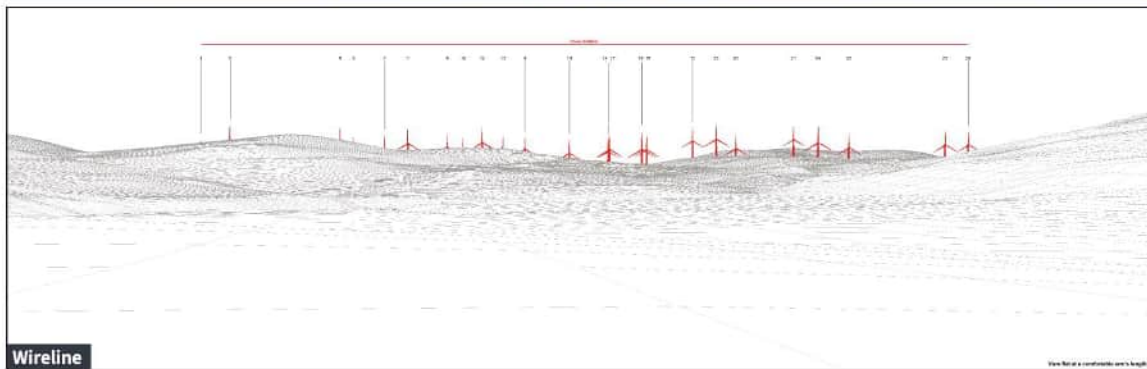
Viewpoint information			
Location	Altitude	Nearest turbine	Bearing to centre of photo
275538 E 824485 N	341.58 m AOD	T25 @ 2.9km	138°

**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**  
[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)





## Viewpoint 7 - Tomatin



### Viewpoint information

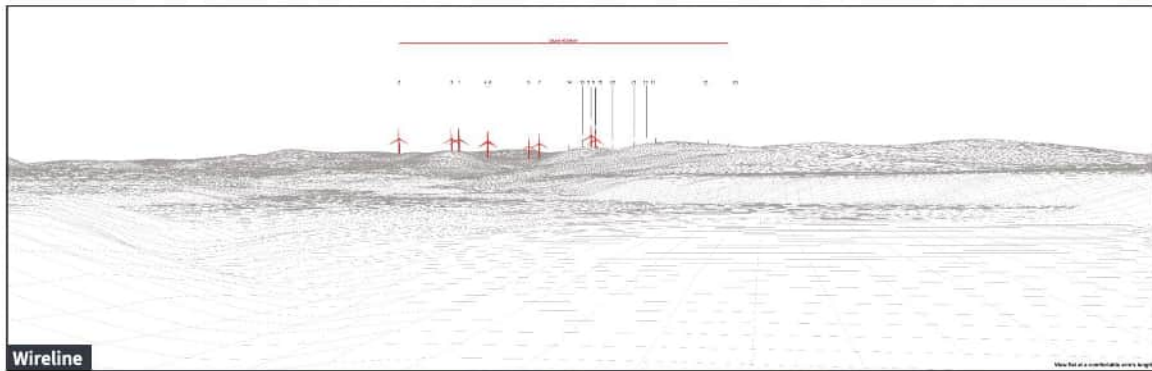
Location	Altitude	Nearest turbine	Bearing to centre of photo
280335 E 828178 N	305.53 m AOD	T18 @ 5.65km	192°

**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)



## Viewpoint 12 - A9 (near Carrbridge)



### Viewpoint information

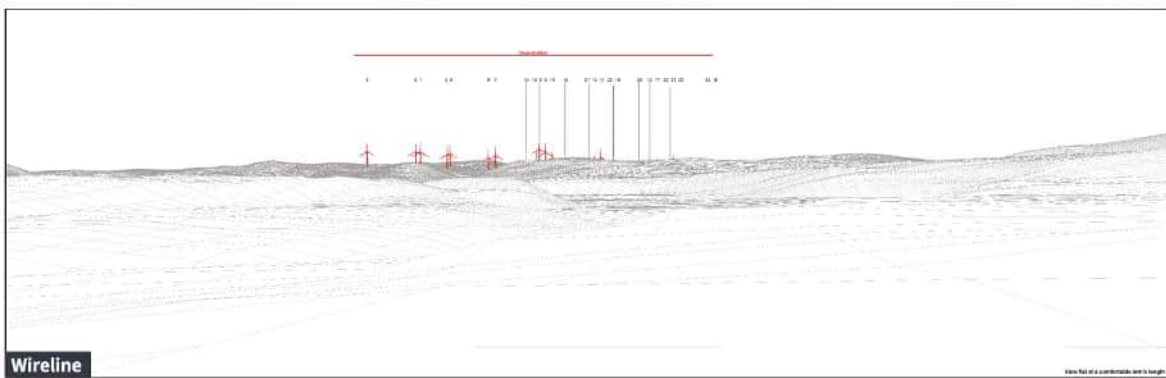
Location	Altitude	Nearest turbine	Bearing to centre of photo
289649 E 822556 N	285.8m AOD	T1 @ 8.31km	261°

**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**  
[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)





## Viewpoint 14 - Carrbridge



Viewpoint information			
Location	Altitude	Nearest turbine	Bearing to centre of photo
290712 E 823006 N	263.31 m AOD	T1 @ 9.45km	262°

**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**  
[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)



## Environmental considerations

As part of the planning process, RES will undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The purpose of an EIA is to identify any significant potential effects of a development on the environment and, where applicable, identify mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential effects. It also identifies opportunities for restoration and enhancement. The EIA for Clune Wind Farm will include the following assessments:

### Hydrology and Hydrogeology

A series of hydrology surveys have been undertaken to allow the project hydrologists to obtain a thorough understanding of the site and areas which might be at flood risk or have a higher hydrological sensitivity. The surveys have included identifying potential watercourse crossing locations, confirming the location of private water supply sources and visiting habitats (in consultation with the project ecologists) which might be sustained by groundwater. The findings of these surveys are now being used to inform the emerging wind farm design and will be reported in full in the EIA Report.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 peat probing surveys, along with a peat condition survey, have also been taken across the site. These surveys have been used to inform the site layout, avoid areas of deeper peat wherever possible and inform potential habitat enhancement and restoration plans.

Should any significant impacts be identified as part of the EIA process, appropriate mitigation will be proposed. Mitigation seeks, first, to avoid adverse impacts and, where impacts are unavoidable, to reduce the significance of residual effect to an acceptable level. It also seeks enhancement and compensation, where possible, to provide the best practicable outcome.



### Ecology

A wide range of ecological surveys have taken place to collect any evidence of the presence of protected mammal species, suitable fish habitat, and for the presence of bats – either roosting or foraging on site.

Surveying for bat species involved an initial habitat assessment, then the deployment of static detectors to identify bat calls, and therefore bat activity within the site boundaries and at the turbine base locations. Collected data from bat surveys was used to inform the suitability of proposed turbine locations.

The non-avian Ecology Impact Assessment will involve a range of studies including habitats, protected species, notable species (e.g. national and European Protected Species) and locally protected species. Full details and findings of the ecological surveys will be available within the EIA Report.

**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)





## Environmental considerations

### Ornithology

Avoiding impacts on bird species, wherever possible, is an important factor in the design of the site. We have commissioned over 200 hours of baseline ornithological survey work over a three-year period during breeding and non-breeding seasons to build our understanding of the species on site. Surveys have included flight path activity, breeding behaviour and winter walkover surveys, as well as specific black grouse and raptor surveys. Some of the key species we have monitored in the area are Red kite, White-tailed and golden eagle, and Merlin. Full details of all survey findings will be included in the EIA Report.



### Cultural heritage

A targeted walkover was undertaken in order to examine the turbine and infrastructure locations for any unrecorded heritage assets and confirm the existence of any already recorded heritage assets within the site. Data gathered during the walkover was used to ensure that there are no direct impacts on known heritage assets as a result of the proposed development, from both turbines and related infrastructure.

The Cultural Heritage chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) will provide assessment of the impacts of the development on heritage assets identified and agreed in consultation with Historic Environment Scotland.

Two site visits have taken place in order to assess the potential for impact on the setting of these assets. The first took place before the final design freeze, to feed into mitigation by design and resulted in the reduction of turbine numbers. The second site visit used the final turbine layout to conduct the assessment and the results will be presented in the EIA Report.



Edinchat cairn looking roughly to the north/northwest.

**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)





## Environmental considerations

### Acoustics

Strict guidelines exist concerning sound imissions from wind turbines and these will be factored into the final wind farm design. Acoustic assessments have been undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards, current assessment methodologies and best practice as determined by the regulatory bodies, which include The Highland Council, the Scottish Government and the UK Institute of Acoustics.

After consultation with The Highland Council, it was agreed that background sound survey would not be required for this proposed development. The sound imission limits will be agreed with the Council and the wind farm will be required to comply with these as a condition of planning consent.

The acoustic impact of the wind farm will be modelled and will be presented in the acoustic chapter of the EIA Report. This will demonstrate that RES has considered all appropriate measures in the design, construction, and operation phases to minimise the acoustic impact of the wind farm.

### Aviation and Radar

Radar systems can be susceptible to interference from wind turbines as the blade movement can cause intermittent detection by radars within their operating range. This is particularly relevant where there is a line of sight between the radar and the wind farm.

RES has undertaken an initial Aviation Assessment to identify any radar infrastructure which may be impacted by the proposed turbines. Further assessment is being carried out to establish any potential impacts of the proposed turbines on the instrument flight procedures at Inverness Airport. Full consultation will be undertaken with all relevant consultees including the Ministry of Defence (MOD), Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and Inverness Airport.

### Shadow flicker

Shadow flicker is a phenomenon where, under certain circumstances of geographical position and time of day, the sun may pass behind the rotors of a wind turbine and cast a shadow over neighbouring properties.

The Clune Wind Farm proposal is being designed to minimise any potential for shadow flicker. Shadow flicker monitoring software which can shut down certain wind turbines at particular times of the day, or in certain weather conditions, where a shadow flicker effect may result can also be utilised. This shadow flicker modelling work will be presented in the EIA Report which will accompany the planning application.

### Aviation lighting

In accordance with the Air Navigation Order 2016, en-route obstacles at or above 150m, such as the wind turbines proposed at Clune Wind Farm, require to be lit at night with medium intensity red aviation lights. The aviation lighting is designed to focus the light across and upwards for the attention of aircraft rather than downward to those at ground level and, in some circumstances, not all wind turbines require to be lit.

The light intensity varies in response to weather conditions and visibility (via an atmospheric conditions and visibility sensor on the wind turbine) – with lighting dimmed to 10% of their intensity in good visibility (typically greater than 5km) but maximised in cloudy or foggy weather (where visibility is typically less than 5km). We have consulted with the CAA to agree a lighting strategy with them. The proposed lighting strategy will be presented in the planning application which will also include a nighttime visual impact assessment and visualisations.

**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)



# Environmental considerations

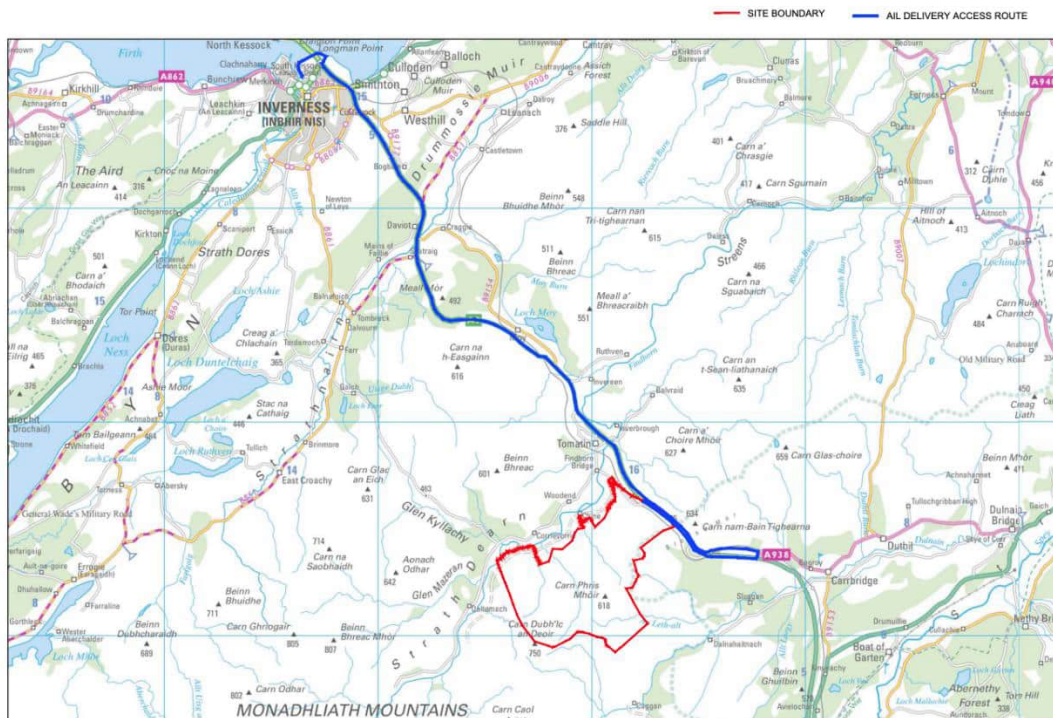
## Traffic and transport

The delivery route, as shown on the plan below, for turbine components is expected to be via the A9. Direct access from the southbound carriage of the A9 is constrained, so it is proposed that loads will undertake a turning manoeuvre to the west of Carrbridge before returning on the northbound A9. Loads will then depart the A9 at the Tomatin South junction and proceed north on the unclassified road. We are proposing the construction of a new bridge crossing to replace the existing Raigbeg Rail Bridge (U28560010) as it is unsuitable for abnormal loads. We are currently in discussion with The Highland Council and Network Rail on this proposed bridge.

All road works and measures required to ensure the safe and efficient access for the turbine deliveries will be published in the EIA Report.

A transport assessment will consider the impacts of increased traffic volumes expected on local roads during construction and how to minimise this impact. Likely measures include a ‘Wear and Tear’ Agreement with The Highland Council to ensure the roads are returned to the same condition they were in before construction, and the production of a Construction Traffic Management Plan to be agreed by the Council.

Wherever reasonably practicable we will use materials available on site and source construction materials locally in order to help reduce traffic movements. The A9 has been assessed as suitable to transport abnormal loads to the site, with some minor modifications required such as the temporary removal of signage or street furniture in certain locations.



**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)





## Biodiversity enhancement

We are proposing the implementation of a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan which will offer opportunities for interrelated environmental enhancements at the site with respect to peat, biodiversity and forestry enhancement plans. This will be prepared and submitted with the section 36 application, and an outline of the initial proposals is included below. Further proposals are also under consideration, details of which will be in the EIA Report.

### Peatland Restoration

We have identified areas on the site that will be suitable for peatland restoration. This work will aim to improve the quality of peatland habitats on site, including reducing areas of exposed peat which release carbon if left untreated. These works will include:

- Reprofiling hags/drains/channels
- Installing features (dams) to retain water on site
- Spreading of a predominantly heather mulch (locally sourced) on areas of bare and / or reprofiled peat to help kick-start vegetation growth

### Waders

It is recognised that the area around Easter Strathnoon currently supports a number of wader species including Lapwing and Oystercatcher. Through continued support of current land management practices (including a regular programme of predator control), wader numbers will continue to rise.

### Kinveachy Forest Enhancement

Within the woodland areas, the aim is to extend the coverage of the native Caledonian woodland (designated feature of Kinveachy Forest) through a programme of re-wilding / natural regeneration. Land management practices elsewhere on the Estate that have seen an increase in native woodland coverage will be adopted on land identified for re-wilding / natural regeneration.

Restoration would be focused on localities away from major erosion channels / long-standing burns on the lower slopes overlooking the River Dulnain.

Areas identified for woodland restoration will avoid peatland habitats and will focus on dry heathland. No planting will be undertaken within the designated boundary of Kinveachy Forest SPA / SAC / SSSI.

### Watercourses

The fish habitat surveys identified suitable habitat for fish in the watercourses that drain into the Rivers Findhorn and Dulnain. It is proposed to undertake spot cutting of the predominantly heathland vegetation using robotic cutters to promote the growth of native tree species from the inherent seedbank. Such a technique has been used on the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project and elsewhere on Seafield Estate.



**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)

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power for good



## Maximising the local benefit

### A power for good

RES seeks to be a power for good in communities that neighbour our projects by working openly and constructively to ensure tangible local benefits. We believe that onshore wind should provide direct, lasting benefits to local communities and there are a number of ways that this can be achieved.

### Recreational access

RES is exploring enhancement proposals to increase recreational access within the area. We are proposing the provision of parking spaces at the site entrance to link up to a network of already established footpaths that will form a signposted trail throughout the site.

Once operational, the wind farm tracks will be opened up to increase access to the countryside. We are also exploring other opportunities to promote recreational access to the site for other users, such as cyclists. We would welcome your feedback on this.

Parts of the site are used for farming operations and shooting, and it is crucial that our plans do not impact current land users, and so responsible access will be promoted throughout the site.



### Tailored community benefits package

We are committed to a community benefits package that would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum. Based on the current layout design and installed capacity of 187.2MW this could equate to a tailored community benefit package of £936,000 (index linked) each year, which over a 40-year operational lifetime would mean in excess of £37 million for the local area.

The Clune community benefits package could include RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS), something that has received interest from the local community following the first public exhibition events earlier this year.



LEDS offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating wind farm and there is no need to change energy provider.

Please let us know what ideas you have for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from the Clune Wind Farm project, should it receive consent.

In late June 2024, The Highland Council brought forward a report on the Social Values Charter, which we understand aims to embed an approach to community wealth building into the Highlands and maximise economic benefits from the natural environment and resources, including from wind farms. Scottish Renewables, on behalf of the renewables industry, is currently in discussions with The Highland Council on the Charter.

**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)



## Working with the community

### Working with the local supply chain

RES is committed to ensuring that, wherever reasonably practicable, local contractors and employees are used in all aspects of wind farm development, construction and operation. The major opportunities arise during the construction phase when suitably qualified local firms are invited to bid for different aspects of construction, such as foundation laying and electrical works. Construction materials are normally sourced locally (i.e. within the county) and local transport and plant hire companies used wherever possible.

The Clune Wind Farm, if consented, is predicted to deliver a multi-million pound package of inward investment in the form of jobs, employment and the use of local services, in addition to more than £2 million paid in business rates during each year of operation.

### Partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI)

Earlier this year, RES partnered with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) to support their Student Development Fund designed to help successful recipients to gain new skills, build confidence and enhance their student experience.

RES has committed to donate a total of £60,000 to the Fund over the course of three years, and this year has pledged £20,000 to 23 students providing them with the best possible opportunity to maximise their talents and future careers.

### Shared ownership - Is this of interest to the community?

RES is also interested to understand whether there is any appetite from the community in exploring the potential opportunity of shared ownership in the wind farm. If shared ownership is something that interests you, please put this on your comments form and speak to our project team. Local Energy Scotland is the independent body that manages the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES). To find out more visit:

[www.localenergy.scot/hub/shared-ownership](http://www.localenergy.scot/hub/shared-ownership)



“It is brilliant to see the Student Development Fund come back to life this year. Thank you to our corporate partner RES for their valuable support which is already enabling our UHI students to undertake an excellent range of development opportunities!”

Alison Wilson, Director of Economic Development and Advancement at UHI

“RES is delighted to be able to witness the impact of the Student Development Fund on people who live and study in the Highlands and Islands, Moray and Perthshire. Supporting the students with unique and invaluable training, skills and experiences can help kickstart their prospective career ambitions and offer direct benefits to the local economy in the short, medium and long-term.”

Graeme Kerr, Development Project Manager at RES

**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**

[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)

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## Commenting on the updated design

This exhibition forms part of our pre-application consultation and, whilst the design is almost finalised, this event provides you with an opportunity to submit written feedback to RES, if you wish, on the updated design.

Our team are here to discuss the project with you and do our best to answer any questions that you may have, but please note that formal feedback to RES on the updated design needs to be submitted in writing.

If you would like to provide feedback to RES on the proposal and share ideas for local benefits you can do so by filling out a comments form at this exhibition or online/downloaded from the project website at [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk) where the exhibition information is also available for people to view.

**The closing date for written feedback to RES is Friday 18 October 2024.** Please note that comments to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be submitted.



### Planning submission timescales and next steps

We currently expect to submit the Section 36 application in later in 2024.

A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report will accompany the planning application submission. The report will summarise the communications activity that has been undertaken on the project and consultation feedback received.

Once submitted, the determining authority (Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit) will advertise the planning submission and hold a statutory consultation period whereupon members of the public, as well as statutory consultees, can submit their formal comments on the proposal.

We intend to hold a number of drop-in information events once the application has been submitted. The drop-in sessions will enable local residents and interested parties to find out more about the planning application, view key documents and ask any questions they may have before a planning decision is made by the determining authority in due course.

If you would like to be kept up to date with the proposal and informed about the next steps, please fill in a comment form with your details or speak to one of the project team.

**Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal**  
[www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)





Comments Form – September 2024



**Clune Wind Farm Proposal**  
Comments Form

**Your feedback counts**

Thank you for taking an interest in our Clune Wind Farm proposal. The purpose of these exhibitions is to update the public on the design, explain the changes that have been made since the June 2024 public exhibition events and consultation period, and answer any questions.

RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.

We would be grateful if you could take the time to fill out this comments form with your feedback. Please provide feedback by **18 October 2024**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

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

**1 Clune Wind Farm public exhibition**

1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibitions?

- Postcard invitation through the door
- Advert in Strathspey Herald and/or Inverness Courier
- Project website - [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)
- Word of mouth
- Other (please specify)

1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Clune Wind Farm?

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

1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Clune Wind Farm?

- A lot
- Quite a lot
- A little
- Very little
- Nothing at all



## Clune Wind Farm Proposal Comments Form

1.4 Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our exhibition?

### 2 Clune Wind Farm proposal

Your views on the Clune Wind Farm proposal:

2.1 How do you feel about the plans for Clune Wind Farm?

- I am supportive
- I am neutral
- I am opposed
- I don't like onshore wind farms in general

Further comments:

2.2 What do you think about the proposed design layout of Clune Wind Farm?

- I am happy with the proposed layout
- I am neutral towards the proposed layout
- I have concerns about the proposed layout (please provide further details in the box below)
- I don't like onshore wind farms in general

Further comments:



**Clune Wind Farm Proposal**  
Comments Form

2.3 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the proposed Clune Wind Farm

**3 Local benefits**

RES is proposing to deliver a tailored community benefits package aligned with the priorities of the local community. This package would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum and could include RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS), which offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating wind farm. The community benefit package will be informed by feedback from the community so we are keen to understand what initiatives the community would like to see supported by the benefits package.

3.1 Within which Community Council do you reside?

3.2 Do you have any suggestions or comments regarding ideas, local priorities, or community projects that you would like to see benefitting from Clune Wind Farm, should it go ahead?  
*Examples could include biodiversity initiatives, apprenticeships/educational schemes, funding for schools and local community groups, improved broadband provision, etc.*

3.3 Do you have any other comments or feedback with regard to the community benefit package?





## Clune Wind Farm Proposal Comments Form

### 4 Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below in order to authenticate this comments form. If you are not comfortable providing us with your full contact details nor wish to be kept up to date, please include your postcode as a minimum.

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 ensure to include your email and/or postal address above and tick the box:

When you have completed the comments form, please send by email to [euan.hogg@res-group.com](mailto:euan.hogg@res-group.com) by post to: Clune Wind Farm Project Team, RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this comments form, your feedback is important to us.**



For more information about the project, visit [www.clune-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.clune-windfarm.co.uk)

**Appendix I – Report on Feedback (available at September 2024 Exhibition)**



# Clune Wind Farm Proposal

## Report on feedback



September 2024

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to:

- summarise the written feedback received from the community during the June 2024 public exhibitions and subsequent consultation period regarding the design of the proposed development for Clune Wind Farm, and
- highlight any changes that have been made to the proposal since.

RES would like to put on record our thanks to the residents and community representatives who attended the exhibition events and/or provided feedback on the Clune Wind Farm proposal.

Each section in the report focuses on a key topic area and summarises the feedback received, followed by RES' response.

RES has considerable experience in developing onshore wind projects throughout the UK and believes in the importance of community consultation to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which can be considered when developing and designing a project.

### 1.2 June 2024 exhibitions and consultation

RES held two public exhibition events in the local area (Tomatin and Carrbridge) in June 2024 as part of its pre-application consultation on the proposed Clune Wind Farm. These events provided people with the opportunity to learn more about the project, discuss the proposal with the project team, and provide written feedback to RES on the preliminary site layout. RES advertised the events in the Inverness Courier and Strathspey Herald and sent an invitation to all households and businesses within 12km of the proposed development.

A range of information was made available at the exhibition, including several visualisations prepared to NatureScot guidance which helped to give an impression of what the site could look like from different viewpoints in the area. RES staff were on hand to discuss the proposal and answer any questions. A four-week consultation period followed the exhibitions for people to submit written feedback to RES on the proposal and early-stage design. We recorded 49 attendees who visited the exhibition in the Strathdearn Hub and 15 attendees in Carrbridge Village Hall. 14 comments forms were received by the time that the consultation period closed. There was a mix of feedback, including supportive, neutral and negative comments on the proposals.

RES accepts that the feedback on the comments forms may not be representative of the wider community due to the small number (14) returned to the RES team. However, the feedback gives a good summary of some of the key themes raised throughout the two days of the exhibition events.

RES included a multiple-choice question on the comments form that asked people about their attitude to the proposal for a wind farm at Clune. The breakdown of responses is as follows: 23% responded as 'supportive'; 31% responded as 'neutral'; 46% responded as 'opposed'.

RES also included a multiple-choice question that asked what people thought about the preliminary design layout. The breakdown of responses is as follows: 46% responded that they had concerns about the proposed layout; 46% responded that they were neutral to the proposed layout; 8% responded that they were happy with the proposed layout.

The consultation feedback submitted to RES has been considered by the project team as part of the design development, in addition to feedback from key consultees and the findings from the detailed technical and environmental studies that have been undertaken. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to engage with us on the proposal.

## 2. LANDSCAPE and VISUAL feedback

Both in verbal conversations with the project team at the exhibitions and in the comments forms, the most common feedback and comments was on the potential landscape and visual aspect of the proposal.

### 2.1 Key themes

The key themes and comments raised within the feedback were:

- **Turbine height:** turbines size; too visible over wide area.
- **General comments:** cumulative impact - have enough wind turbines in this area; a number of developments being proposed in the area.
- **Residential amenity:** turbines will be visible from local properties; residential amenity will be affected.

### 2.2 RES response to landscape and visual feedback

We will take on board comments ahead of the next exhibition event in relation to landscape and visual comments.

The turbines being proposed for Clune are up to 200m in height. Wind turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that wind turbines are now taller and more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of electricity per wind turbine. There are turbines consented in Scotland at 250m in height and operational wind farms in Scotland at 220m in height.

Modern taller wind turbines provide more electricity, which helps address the climate emergency and security of energy supply. The 200m tall wind turbines proposed at Clune Wind Farm would allow for far greater benefits in terms of renewable electricity generation per wind turbine than smaller turbines would.

We are looking to achieve a design that strikes an acceptable balance between the visibility of the proposal and its ability to generate significant amounts of renewable energy. Ultimately, the acceptability of this design will be assessed by the determining authority in relation to current energy policy and planning requirements having considered feedback from consultees as well as representations by members of the community and wider public.

The Scottish Government's Onshore Wind Policy Statement, published in December 2022, states in paragraph 3.6.1 that *"Meeting our climate targets will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society. This means ensuring the right development happens in the right place. Meeting the ambition of a minimum installed capacity of 20 GW of onshore wind in Scotland by 2030 will require taller and more efficient turbines. This will change the landscape."*

At our June 2024 public exhibition events we provided four visualisation boards showing how the proposal may look based on the preliminary site layout from four viewpoints within the local area. These viewpoint locations were selected in order to demonstrate the most "localised" effects of the proposed development, which would be of most interest to people attending the exhibitions. At the next exhibitions scheduled to take place in September 2024, we will plan to update these visualisations with the updated design as well as new visualisation locations. All visualisations were and will continue to be produced to well established and recognised standards set by NatureScot.

### 3. ENVIRONMENT feedback

A number of respondents provided comments in relation to the potential impacts on the surrounding environment.

#### 3.1 Key themes

The key themes and comments raised within the feedback were:

- **Wildlife:** concerns about potential impact on wildlife (ecology and ornithology) - including birds of prey.
- **General:** general comments and enquiries about the preservation and management of the environment surrounding the wind farm.

#### 3.2 RES response to environment feedback

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are a compulsory part of the planning and consenting process for wind farms. The purpose of an EIA is to investigate and mitigate any potential effects of a development on the natural, physical and human environment.

Protecting and minimising any potential direct or indirect impacts on local wildlife and their habitats is of utmost importance and we take this responsibility seriously. We look to mitigate any potential effects of the development during construction and operation on the habitats and protected species that are found to be present or active within the site.

The findings from the wide range of technical studies and environmental surveys (including Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology; and Ornithology and Ecology among others) that have been undertaken over the last couple of years will be written up in a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which the Scottish Ministers will take into account when deciding whether or not to grant consent for the wind farm.

For instance, a wide range of detailed ecological surveys have been undertaken by qualified ecologists as part of the non-avian Ecological Impact Assessment (EclIA). The non-avian EclIA survey and assessment work is an extensive undertaking, and the findings will be included in the EIAR.

The planning application and associated documents such as the EclIA and survey data (excluding any confidential annexes) will become available for public viewing and comment as part of the formal consultation period which will be run by the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit once the planning application is submitted.

We are in consultation with relevant consultees, including Highland Council, NatureScot, SEPA, RSPB Scotland, and Marine Scotland Science with regard to designated sites, protected areas and protected species.



As part of the project design we are also developing an outline Habitat Enhancement and Management Plan for the site which will set out the measures being proposed for the site, including a plans for biodiversity enhancement which will focus on improving the biodiversity already found on the site beyond offsetting any potential loss of biodiversity from the proposed development. Although any enhancement measures proposed will look to offset potential impacts of the project, primarily they will seek to complement the existing conditions for flora and fauna while expanding their effective reach as much as is practicable.

RES has begun to look at ways in which it can help support the restoration of peatland areas and continue the great work that has been ongoing since the early 2000's to help regenerate the natural forests of the Kinveachy forest through active forest management programmes.

## 4. TRANSPORT/CONSTRUCTION feedback

A number of respondents provided comments focused on construction traffic, including timings of the development in relation to the planned dualling of the A9 between Moy and Tomatin.

### 4.1 Key themes

The key themes and comments raised within the feedback were:

- **Transport route:** timing in relation to the dualling of the A9
- **Site access:** opening the site up to cyclists and walkers once the wind farm is operational

### 4.2 RES response to transport / construction feedback

Since the June 2024 exhibitions, the Scottish Government has awarded the contract for the Moy to Tomatin dualling and set out a timetable. RES is on the Scottish Government's database to receive updates on the dualling programme. Should Clune Wind Farm be consented, construction of the development is not expected until the completing of the dualling of the Moy to Tomatin section of the A9.

The indicative turbine delivery route does not go via any of the nearby settlements.

RES has begun discussions with the Highland Council and Network Rail regarding using the Reigbeg Railway bridge for access into the site entrance. Early discussions between the council and rail operator have concluded that the bridge in its current condition would be unsuitable for oversized vehicles. RES is exploring options of either refurbishing or replacing the bridge which would bring positive benefits to the council, network operator and wider community.

RES has begun exploring providing car parking spaces at the site entrance near the Reigbeg railway bridge to facilitate members of the public who wish to access the land surrounding the proposed development recreationally. We are hoping to establish recreational routes as part of the proposals for the wind farm that are safe and accessible for the general public post construction.

RES has commissioned surveys to understand traffic flows and volumes on local roads and assess any potential impacts of construction traffic on the local area. This has enabled RES to identify potential pinch points, bottle-necks, and areas which may require traffic management and will help in developing mitigation strategies. The data collected from the traffic surveys will be presented in the Traffic and Transport chapter of the extensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that will accompany the planning application.

Should the project be consented, a detailed Traffic Management Plan would be developed and agreed with Highland Council in consultation with Police Scotland, setting out the steps that RES would take to help mitigate any potential impacts on local traffic and road users and ensure road safety. Some examples of measures that have been taken by RES on other construction projects include: introducing a reducing speed limit for project construction traffic along certain stretches of road; avoiding turbine deliveries between school-drop off and pick-up and/or rush-hours; delivering turbine components at night-time; and, agreeing certain 'routes to site' for daily construction traffic.

As part of the traffic assessment and data-gathering process RES has also commissioned turbine delivery-specific surveys - including swept path analysis along the proposed turbine delivery route as well as detailed assessment of the site access point with regard to visibility splays and safety requirements.

RES often establishes local Community Liaison Groups (CLGs) during the construction phase of a wind farm to support regular engagement with the local Community Councils and wider public - in addition to project communications and updates via local newsletters and the project website. This approach ensures that questions and concerns or opportunities can be raised to RES and encourages a constructive dialogue to ensure that the project is delivered with consideration to the local community.

RES' construction team has a wealth of experience in managing construction traffic, having built many wind farms within Scotland and across the UK and Ireland, and works closely with the local community to minimise disruption wherever possible. RES also has a strong track record for safety on its projects and within the company's culture. In fact, RES recently won Health and Safety Team of the Year at the 2022 Safety and Health Excellence (SHE) Awards.



## 5. COMMUNITY BENEFITS feedback

Community Benefit Funds and a Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) were main topics both in verbal discussions at the exhibition and in the comments forms. The communities are experienced in community benefit funds from operational wind farms in the area.

In response to the question on ideas for the use of a tailored community benefits package, the following comments were received:

- *Offer apprenticeships and educational opportunities.*
- *Yes to LEDS - not for holiday homes or 2<sup>nd</sup> homes, base it on the electoral register*
- *Use it to support local schools.*
- *A review of some issues raised by the community at the "Big Conversation" in Carrbridge for the use of the Community Benefit Fund.*
- *Biodiversity, rewilding and peat repair.*

### 5.1 RES response to community benefits feedback

Should the project be consented, a community benefit package will be established to support the communities who host, and are closest to, the project.

RES is proposing a tailored package of benefits for the community from Clune Wind Farm that would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum.

We take a tailored approach and consult with the local community, both pre-planning and post-consent (should the project be granted planning permission), to gain an understanding of the local priorities and to seek suggestions for projects that will help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits for the area. This approach ensures the community benefits package that is delivered is aligned with the priorities of the local community, which may involve initiatives that sit outside the parameters of a traditional application-based fund.

This package could include RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS), something that has received significant interest from the community at the exhibition events as it delivers direct and tangible benefits through offering an annual discount to the electricity bills of those living and working closest to a participating operational wind farm. There was strong support at the Clune exhibition events for a LEDS scheme if Clune was given the go ahead.

Should the project receive consent, the area of benefit for Clune Wind Farm will be determined in consultation with community representatives from the closest communities. It is important to note that voluntary community benefits are not a material planning consideration.

RES is also committed to ensuring that, wherever reasonably practicable, local contractors and employees are used in all aspects of wind farm development and we are also committed to exploring/offering shared ownership should there be interest in the local community.

Further afield, RES has partnered with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) to support a minimum of 60 students through their Student Development Fund.

Created with the aim of helping UHI's students to further their personal development, the fund empowers them to gain new skills, raising their aspirations, whilst also helping to build their confidence. It does this by providing financial support to students to overcome barriers to participate in learning opportunities and extra-curricular activities. RES has pledged a total of £60,000 to UHI's Student Development Fund over the course of the next three years, providing the students of UHI with the best possible opportunity to maximise their talents and future careers.

As the renewables industry continues to grow, particularly in the Highlands and Islands, the industry will require talented individuals with transferrable skills, from a variety of diverse backgrounds to enter the workforce. The growing industry will also support the wider regional economy and the jobs associated with it. The Student Development Fund, supported by RES, will therefore be open to all UHI students, studying any course, across all its campuses.

## 6. EXHIBITION and GENERAL PROJECT feedback

RES included a multiple-choice question on the comments form that asked people to what extent they felt they had increased their knowledge of the Clune Wind Farm proposal having visited the exhibition. The breakdown of responses is as follows: 77% responded 'quite a lot' or 'a lot'; 15% responded 'a little'; and 8% responded 'very little' - highlighting a majority of respondents felt the exhibition was helpful in terms of information available. Comments included 'clear and concise' and 'Staff very knowledgeable and helpful' -

one comment highlighted the need for the exhibitors to have more knowledge on landscape and ecological questions.

**6.1 RES response to exhibition and general project feedback**

We are grateful to everyone who provided feedback on the early stage design at the public exhibition events we held in June 2024 in the local area to engage with people on the proposal (and during the subsequent consultation period).

The purpose of this first round of public exhibitions was to provide people with an opportunity to review the preliminary plans for Clune Wind Farm, speak with the project team and ask any questions. These events provide people with an opportunity to submit written feedback to RES and it is invaluable to the RES team to get direct feedback and comments on the proposed development.

We will showcase the updated design at our next public exhibitions on 18 and 19 September 2024, which includes the removal of a turbine and moving other turbines on site. Following feedback from the next round of exhibitions and updates to the proposed development, RES expect an application submission later in 2024.