

## Car Duibh Wind Farm

### Public Consultation Feedback Report

#### October 2021

### About Car Duibh Wind Farm

Car Duibh Wind Farm is a proposal for up to 26 turbines, each up to 200m to turbine blade tip. The nearest turbine of the layout presented at the first exhibition is located approximately 6km to the north west of Inveraray and 4.5km to the east of Dalavich. The table below highlights some key information about the proposal.

	No. of Turbines	Max Blade Tip Heights	Expected Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Generation (homes equivalent)	Community Fund (per year)
<b>Car Duibh</b>	Up to <b>26</b>	Up to <b>200m</b>	Over <b>50</b> <small>(section 36 planning application)</small>	Over <b>5,000</b> <small>Homes per turbine <sup>(1)</sup></small>	<b>£5,000</b> <small>per MW installed per year <sup>(2)</sup></small>

(1) Based on 5MW turbine, wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3.393kWh pa. Candidate turbine still tbc'd.  
(2) As recommended by Scottish Government.

A programme of community engagement and online consultation for the proposal began in May 2021 and is ongoing. Our engagement is adhering to Scottish Government advice in relation to Covid-19.

### Initial Consultation Period: Introducing the project

Community engagement and feedback is very important to us as we develop and shape Car Duibh Wind Farm. In May 2021, when the project was first introduced into the public domain with a request for a Scoping Opinion from the Scottish Government, we launched a dedicated project website, providing the opportunity for interested parties to view and importantly comment on the proposals.

At the same time, we wrote to the host and neighbouring Community Councils\* and local political representatives to raise awareness of the proposal and offer an opportunity to virtually meet to provide feedback on the consultation approach and the proposals.

### Main Consultation Period

This overview presents the findings of the feedback received during the first round of consultation. This was held between 14 June – 2 July 2021 and included an online consultation website and non-digital sources of feedback such as by phone and postal feedback forms, with feedback accepted until 30 July 2021. Responses received after this date will continue to be evaluated and responded to, if required, and will help to shape and inform the proposals through the development and design stages.

The consultation was publicised in various ways, including:

- Advertisements in the Argyllshire Advertiser and Oban Times at the start of the live consultation;
- Mailing to all households and businesses (over 1400 households in total) surrounding the site with an invitation and details to take part in the online consultation as well as providing feedback cards and freepost envelopes for those who preferred to write back rather than go online;
- Writing to host and neighbouring Community Councils and local ward members at the start of the consultation; and
- Details of the consultation on the Car Duibh project website;

\*Community Councils of: Inveraray, Avich and Kilchrenan, Dunadd, Furnace, Glenorchy and Innishall and Strachur

As part of the online consultation, we provided:

- Exhibition Brochure online - information you would usually find on boards at a village hall exhibition;
- Pre recorded videos introducing the project, some of the project team and key aspects of the project;
- Extensive FAQ section on the project to help inform residents when they arrive on the consultation website;
- Five live Q&A sessions with the project team held over 23 June, 28 June and 2 July - giving residents the opportunity to have live interactive chat with the project team;
- A 'ring back' service to allow members of the public to have a dedicated chat with our team at a date/time suitable to them; and
- An opportunity to leave comments through online feedback forms.

We intend to hold a second exhibition later in the year part of which we hope can be held locally and submit a Section 36 application for the proposed Car Duibh Wind Farm to the Scottish Government before the Summer 2022.

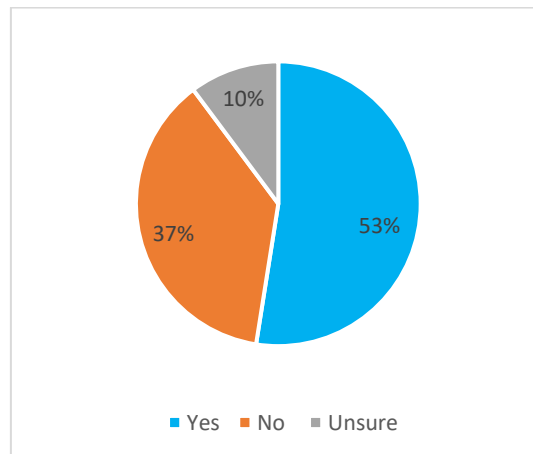
## Summary of Consultation Responses

Of the 1,480 households and businesses surrounding the site contacted with the invitation and freepost feedback form we received 54 (3.65%) back. In addition, we received 122 website visits and 5 online forms completed. In total there were 65 interactions, including call backs, online forms, feedback forms and emails.

From the completed online and offline forms 93% of respondents agreed that the country needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources with 59% of respondents agreeing that onshore wind power is a good way to help achieve this aim.

In response to the question; 'Do you think this site is an acceptable location for a wind farm?'. Over half (53%) of respondents agree it is a good location, 37% don't think so, with 10% unsure.

### Do you think this is an acceptable location for a wind farm?



In terms of local benefits, we look forward to exploring the potential of bringing local benefits to the area. With 63% of local respondents interested in exploring broadband we are prioritising the Broadband Feasibility Report and look forward to sharing the report once this is complete.

Furthermore, nearly a third (32%) of respondents responded they were interested in shared ownership with a further fifth unsure (20%). We suggest hosting an information session with Local Energy Scotland to provide the community with more information on shared ownership more generally during the development stage.

Nearly 85% of all respondents wish to be kept up to date on the project and we look forward to engaging with the community over the coming months.

## Key Topics from Consultation

During the consultation period, some questions and comments were frequently raised. When responding to feedback these questions and our responses to those were included. This is appended to this report and included on the project website.

We would welcome discussions with the community on the various topics raised, all of which, will be considered as the design and layout for the wind farm develops.

### Cumulative Impact

A number of comments and questions about the location and 'too many' wind farms in the area were received as part of the feedback. With less than 10% of the land areas in Scotland suitable for onshore wind<sup>1</sup>, substantial analysis of potential suitable locations is undertaken including landscape and visual sensitivities. We are seeking to develop a proposal that strikes the right balance between maximising electricity output and which relates to the existing landscape including other developments. Our Head of Development recently outlined more information on this topic during a webinar 'Location, Location which is available watch on demand at [www.FutureNetZero.com](http://www.FutureNetZero.com)

### Community Benefit Fund

Statkraft is dedicated to engaging with communities and finding different ways project can bring positive benefits to the local area. If the project is approved, Statkraft are committed to offering a Community Benefit Fund that delivers, £5,000 per MW installed per year as per Scottish Government Guidance. Statkraft aims to offer maximum flexibility regarding how community funds are used, as local communities best understand how funds could be utilised to meet local needs and ambitions.

### Next Steps

We will continue to engage with communities and welcome the opportunity to meet with the Community Council to discuss our wind farm plans as they develop. It is our expectation that we will submit a Section 36 Application to the Energy Consents Unit before the Summer 2022.

Ahead of our submission the next steps for local engagement are:

- Send a copy of this summary report to the host and neighbouring Community Councils and elected representatives and welcome further discussions on the key areas and any other considerations for the project;
- We will hold a further public exhibition event in Autumn 2021 which will include information on how feedback has been incorporated into the design. We hope to hold in person sessions at this time;
- Continue to receive feedback and respond to queries;
- Follow up with community stakeholders regarding the potential for enhanced access to broadband by sharing the findings of the feasibility study once available, expected October/November 2021;
- Progress setting up a shared ownership (virtual) roundtable with Local Energy Scotland to provide more information to those interested in shared ownership opportunities;
- Continue to engage with elected representatives, community councils and local residents to keep them updated on progress;
- Record and store all comments made regarding suggestions for community benefit funding; and
- Continue to update the project website

<sup>1</sup> Based on Statkraft research.

## Appendix: Car Duibh Wind Farm FAQ's included in response to 1<sup>st</sup> Exhibition

During the June/July 2021 consultation, some questions and comments were frequently raised. Below is our response to these. (September 2021)

### ***There are too many wind farms in this area/the turbines are too tall***

Argyll and Bute's Supplementary Guidance for [Spatial Framework for Onshore Wind Energy](#) (2016) indicates that the location of the proposed Car Duibh Wind Farm is in a Group 2 Area as defined by Scottish Planning Policy (2014). This means that wind farms may be appropriate in these areas in some circumstances and which would be acceptable so long as any significant effects could be overcome by siting, design or other mitigation. As part of our work towards the Section 36 application, we have undertaken substantial analysis into the landscape and visual considerations of the development. We continue to develop the project within this policy, aiming to finding the right balance between maximising electricity output while carefully siting and designing the proposal to relate to the existing landscape, including other wind developments.

The Scottish Government has a target to achieve net zero by 2045. Onshore wind is expected to play a role in achieving this aim. Our analysis shows that the area suitable for onshore wind development in Scotland is limited due to a range of factors. To find out more about what makes a site suitable for onshore wind, you are invited to watch this webinar 'Location, Location – the challenges to siting onshore wind farms in Scotland' where our Head of Development explores the challenges faced in finding the best sites to maximise Scotland's excellent natural wind resources. Please visit [this link](#) to view.

### ***Wind turbines should be offshore or other renewable technologies should be considered***

We need a mix of all types of renewable energy generation. New-build onshore wind is presently the most cost-effective way to generate new electricity, out of all forms of electricity.

### ***I don't like the look of onshore wind farms***

We appreciate not all people like the look of wind turbines, but they are very much part of the answer to increasing our carbon-free electricity generation and decreasing the need for fossil fuels. The UK Government has surveyed attitudes towards different types of electricity generation since 2012 and the results consistently show around 75% support for onshore wind ([BEIS Attitudes Tracker](#)).

View points have been selected within the area to provide suitable illustrations of how the proposed Wind Farm will look should it be consented and built. The view points agreed with Argyll and Bute Council and NatureScot will be available to view at our next consultation event later this year and when we submit our application in 2022.

### ***Wind turbines are bad for the environment [construction, peat disturbance, wildlife, use more carbon than they save]***

All wind farm applications are required to report their "carbon payback period" in the Environmental Impact Assessment. This uses a Scottish Government calculator which includes all emissions from the manufacture of the turbines, including any peat disturbance, as well as construction and decommissioning. This is usually in the range of 1-2 years, and part of the work we do during the development phase is to get that number as low as possible.

We commissioned technical consultants to undertake detailed environmental surveys of the peatland habitat, ecology and ornithology, amongst many others. This information is used to inform the proposed layout of the project and we work closely with these consultants to minimise impacts. We will commit to implementing management plans prior to, and throughout, the construction phase to minimise any damage or disturbance. In addition, a detailed habitat management plan will be implemented for the lifetime of the project which will aim to bring long term benefits to local wildlife. Statkraft is committed to improving habitat across our projects. We were finalists in two prestigious industry awards for our efforts in Moray where we committed to maximising habitat improvements of an area of bog habitat, which was devastated by a wild fire, to deliver a biodiversity gain.

### ***Queries about Community Benefit, Shared Ownership and the Broadband Feasibility Study***

There are several ways our projects can bring local benefits to the area, and we are always open to discussing how this can be tailored to each area's local needs and priorities. Statkraft is committed to delivering a community benefit fund with all new wind farms at £5,000 per MW installed per year, as per Scottish Government best practice guidance. Should there be local interest, we are also happy to explore the opportunity of shared ownership with the community for the proposed development.

We will also carry out a broadband feasibility study in the local area. We require a reliable broadband service to operate our wind turbines and with this in mind we have commissioned a feasibility study to explore the potential for improving local infrastructure as the wind farm is connected. Where the study indicates that there is the opportunity to improve internet connection the community could decide to explore this further.

For more FAQs go to [www.carduibh.co.uk](http://www.carduibh.co.uk)