

Berry Burn Extension – Project Update

SUMMER 2020

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Update from the Operations Team: Site Recovery after Wildfires

It's been over a year since wildfires hit the area, causing extensive damage to bog and heathland. However, this year's spring has brought with it signs of hope for habitat recovery. Berry Burn Wind Farm has commissioned specialist consultants to monitor habitat recovery – and initial signs are hopeful.

Cottongrass, aptly named after its characteristic cotton-like flower and seed-head, has been recorded growing in the fire-damaged habitats, positively indicating that the seedbank has not been irreversibly damaged by the fire, and that habitat recovery is possible.

If approved, the proposed Berry Burn Extension would put in place a Habitat Management Plan which aims to both increase the speed of habitat recovery and the overall quality of bog and heathland habitat longterm. It will also aim to put measures in place that better aid the control of any future wildfire and prevent such extensive damage occurring again by removing old drains and retaining water in the bog habitats.



OUR EXTENSION PROPOSAL: IN BRIEF

- Adding 9 turbines to the existing wind farm
- Maximum height of 149.9 metres to blade tip
- Generating electricity equivalent to 34,000 homes ⁽²⁾
- Over £155,000 in additional community funding
- Maximising opportunities for shared ownership, education and training, as well as local business investment

(1) Because the application is for an extension to an existing wind farm, our proposal will be submitted as an application to the Scottish Government under Section 36 of the Electricity Act.

(2) Based on UK average household consumption of 3,781 kWh pa

Application Progresses

Our plans for a 9 turbine extension of the Berry Burn Wind Farm site are progressing, and we expect to submit a planning application ⁽¹⁾ to the Scottish Government shortly.

We held exhibitions in March and November last year, and delivered a series of workshops to allow residents to get behind the detail of specialist topics which were of clear interest to the community: broadband, ecology and shared ownership. We will continue to provide updates on our development, especially through our project website:

www.berryburn-extension.co.uk

Please register to receive updates to make sure you are the first to hear project news, and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Mícheál Ó Broin
Senior Project Manager, UK



Mícheál with colleague Heather Lafferty at Berry Burn.

Showing our Appreciation for Wildfire Response

After last year's devastating wildfires, it was suggested that Statkraft respond to the bravery of volunteers and emergency services who worked so hard to quell the flames and protect the countryside.

We consulted with various representatives of the community and concluded that adding to the emergency infrastructure in some way would be fitting. We are pleased to have contributed £2,750 to fund the installation of a new life-saving defibrillator at Logie Steading visitor centre at Dunphail, which also covers maintenance costs for the next five years and training of operators. The defibrillator will undoubtedly be a valuable community asset that could save lives.

Mr Ken Glass of Defibs For Moray said: "This donation from Statkraft is extremely generous and very welcome.

"One of the most important parts of installing a defibrillator is raising public awareness on how to use them. We want to take away the fear factor about using defibrillators and encourage more people to take CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) classes and help save lives."
www.defibsformoray.com



Ken Glass with the defib.

Statkraft choose Moray for their first Greener Grid Park

We've been working hard to create solutions that help the operators of our National Grid network to accommodate an increasing amount of renewable energy. Our brand new Greener Grid Parks will help decarbonise the GB Grid and the first such project anywhere in the world will be delivered in Keith, with work starting shortly.

Our Greener Grid parks will increase the capacity of the grid to deliver more renewable energy and we couldn't think of a better place to build our first project than in Scotland, a country with world-leading zero emissions targets.

"Our contracts for stability services with providers such as Statkraft are cheaper and greener, reducing emissions and saving money for electricity consumers. This approach is the first of its kind anywhere in the world and is a huge step forward in our ambition to be able to operate the GB electricity system carbon free by 2025."

Julian Leslie, Head of Networks at National Grid

Covid-19 Funding from Berry Burn Community Fund

We are delighted that a number of front-line community groups and voluntary organisations have been able to access a Covid-19 emergency fund of £6000 made available by the Berry Burn Community Fund. We thank the fund administrators for their hard work managing the fund, which has delivered over £1.1 million to date, with awards of over £153,000 being made in 2020 alone.

For more information: www.berryburncommunityfund.co.uk



Berry Burn Wind Farm



Funding for groups such as the Moray School Bank to offer new school uniforms for children living in financial hardship



Grant to The Dava Way Association to maintain and upgrade the footpath and cycleway

Keep in Touch

We would like to keep you informed. Sign up for project updates, ask questions and have your say:
www.berryburn-extension.co.uk
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