

Viewpoint 3: Corsemaul Drive, Dufftown

PREDICTED VIEW



Photomontage showing proposed layout
11 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height.
All turbines shown with a 155m rotor diameter.

Viewpoint 6: Ben Rinnes

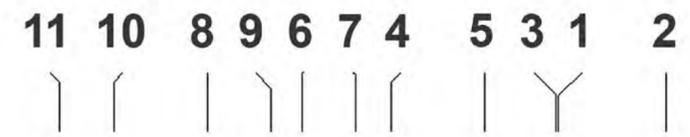
EXISTING VIEW



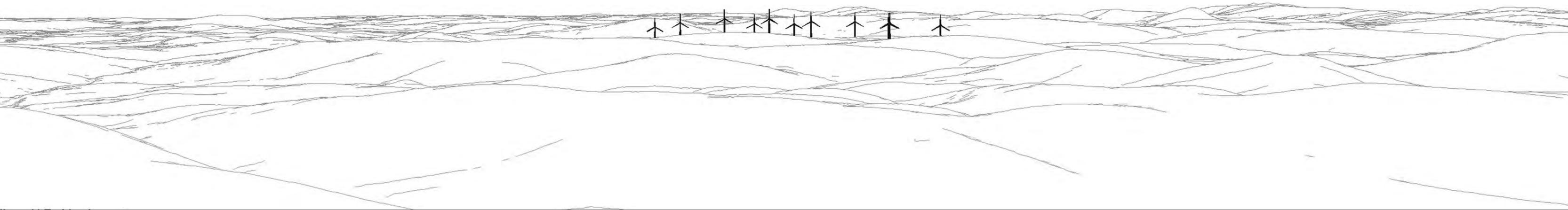
Viewpoint 6: Ben Rinnes

WIREFRAME

11 10 8 9 6 7 4 5 3 1 2



A schematic diagram showing the layout of 11 turbines. The turbines are represented by vertical lines with a small crossbar at the top. The layout is organized into three groups: a pair of turbines (11 and 10) on the left, a cluster of six turbines (8, 9, 6, 7, 4, 5) in the center, and a pair of turbines (3 and 1) on the right, with turbine 2 positioned further to the right. The numbers are placed above each corresponding turbine symbol.



Wireframe showing proposed layout
11 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height.
All turbines shown with a 155m rotor diameter.

Viewpoint 6: Ben Rinnes

PREDICTED VIEW



Photomontage showing proposed layout
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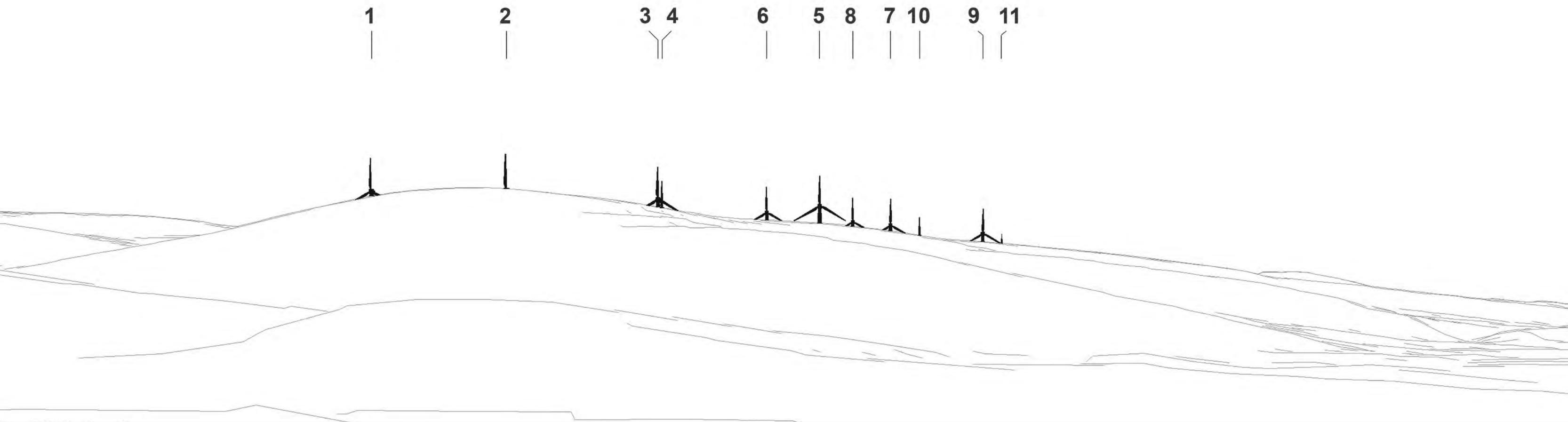
Viewpoint 16: A941 near The Grouse Inn Public House

EXISTING VIEW



Viewpoint 16: A941 near The Grouse Inn Public House

WIREFRAME



Wireframe showing proposed layout
11 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height.
All turbines shown with a 155m rotor diameter.

Viewpoint 16: A941 near The Grouse Inn Public House

PREDICTED VIEW



Photomontage showing proposed layout
11 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height.
All turbines shown with a 155m rotor diameter.

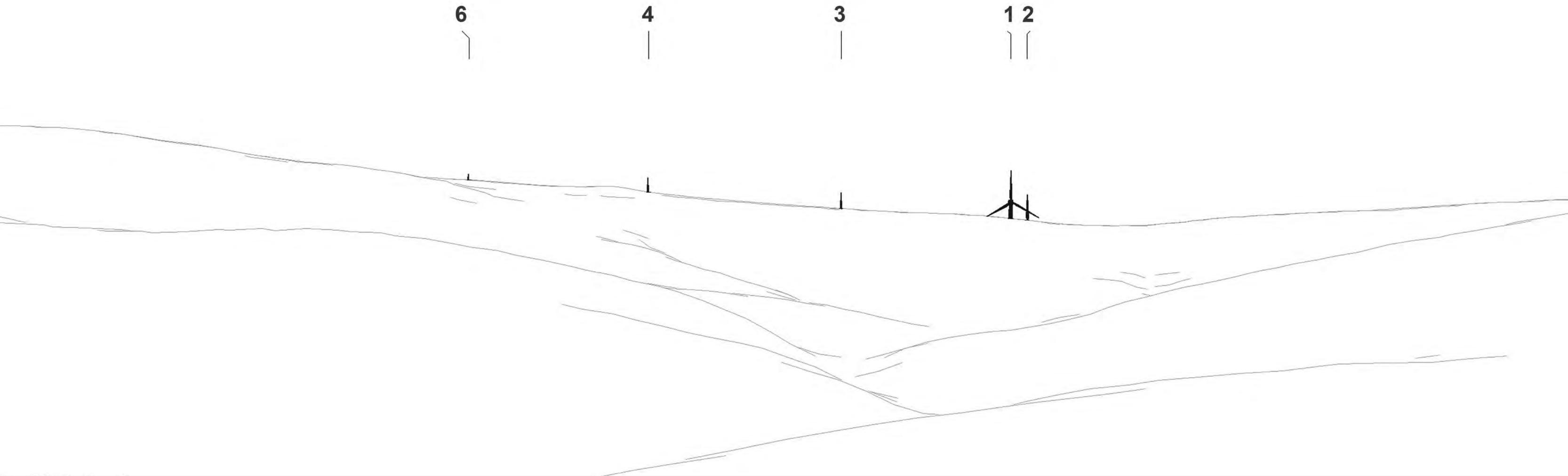
Viewpoint 18: Auchindoun Castle

EXISTING VIEW



Viewpoint 18: Auchindoun Castle

WIREFRAME



Wireframe showing proposed layout
11 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height.
All turbines shown with a 155m rotor diameter.

Viewpoint 18: Auchindoun Castle

PREDICTED VIEW



Photomontage showing proposed layout
11 turbines @ 200m to blade tip height.
All turbines shown with a 155m rotor diameter.

[Return to the Virtual Exhibition](#)

**APPENDIX 13A
MARCH 2021 PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT ISSUED TO COMMUNITY
COUNCILS**

Craig Watch Wind Farm

Online Consultation Feedback Report

July 2021

About Craig Watch Wind Farm

Craig Watch is a proposal for a 16-turbine wind farm. The site is approximately 8km southeast of Dufftown and straddles Moray and Aberdeenshire Local Authorities.

	No. of Turbines	Max Blade Tip Heights	Expected Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Generation	Community Fund (per year)
Craig Watch	Up to 16	Up to 200m	Over 50	Approximately 4,500 homes per turbine ⁽¹⁾	£250,000 per year ⁽²⁾

(1) Based on available wind speed data for the site and 2018 Scottish average household consumption of 3,910 kWh pa.

(2) Based on 50MW installed capacity and £5,000 per MW installed

A programme of community engagement and online consultation for the proposal was delivered in March 2021. The online consultation was held virtually, adhering to the advice of Scottish Government in relation to Covid-19.

Initial Consultation Period

It was important from the outset to provide communities with every opportunity to view and importantly, comment, on the proposals. To achieve this, a dedicated project website was launched when the scoping request was first submitted.

The host and neighbouring Community Councils within Moray and Aberdeenshire were directly contacted and offered an opportunity to virtually meet the development team, to find out more about the proposal and provide feedback on the consultation approach before the wider community were contacted.

Main Consultation Period

This overview presents the findings of the feedback received during the first round of consultation. This was held between 5 - 31 March 2021 and included an online consultation website and non-digital sources of feedback such as by phone and post. Responses submitted after this date will continue to be evaluated and responded to, if required, to help to shape and inform the proposals.

It is intended to submit a Section 36 application for the proposed Craig Watch Wind Farm to the Scottish Government in late 2021 / early 2022.

Summary of Consultation Responses

A newsletter and freepost feedback form was mailed to 1,353 households and businesses, covering an area of 102.55 square miles around the project location. This introduced the project and invited members of the public to provide feedback and ask questions. This area covered Dufftown and Cabrach to the south, as well as surrounding properties. Of the 1,353 properties contacted, we received 60 (4.4%) feedback forms.

From the 60 feedback forms returned, 75% agreed that the country needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources, with around 50% believing that onshore wind is a good way to achieve this.

There was a clear mix of responses to the question “Do you think that this site is an acceptable location for a wind farm?”. Of the 60 reply card responses received, around 50% were either favourable or neutral about the proposed location, with the remaining 50% responding no.

In terms of local benefits, it was clear that there is significant appetite for Statkraft to continue to explore the potential to assist in bringing improved broadband to the area. There seems to be less interest in shared ownership with just under 25% responding that this was of interest to them.

All comments made will be taken into account as the design and layout for the wind farm evolves.

Key Topics from Consultation

During the consultation period, some questions and comments were frequently raised. When responding to feedback, a summary of these questions and our responses to those were included. This is appended to this report and included on the project website FAQs. Some further information on those and other topics are also provided in more detail below.

We welcome further discussion with the community on these topics throughout the development process.

Cumulative Impact

Less than 10% of the land area in Scotland is suitable for onshore wind farms. We believe this presents a great opportunity for Aberdeenshire & Moray to be at the forefront of Scotland’s net zero ambitions. Our Head of Development recently outlined more behind this statistic on a webinar “[Location, Location](#)” which is available to watch on demand at www.FutureNetZero.com.

Visual Impact

Several responses included questions about how the proposal would look from Glass – a visual illustration from this area will be provided at the next consultation event. In addition, visual illustrations from other locations around the development will also be exhibited.

The visual impact of overhead lines to connect the wind farm was raised by several respondents. At this stage there is no certainty as to the grid connection; we are considering underground, storage and overground connection options. Whilst we hope to have more detail at the stage of planning application, there can sometimes be a lag between any wind farm planning application and a grid connection application. In addition, the grid connection application would be managed by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SEN), rather than Statkraft UK Ltd. We appreciate that this is an important aspect for some residents, and we acknowledge the need to be transparent and keep the community informed about this element of the project.

Impact on Wildlife

Independent experts continue to conduct and rigorously assess detailed onsite wildlife surveys and the potential effects on birds, sensitive habitats and protected species including bats and water voles.

Biodiversity is a key consideration at the project design stage, and significant adverse impacts on wildlife and important habitats will be avoided through careful planning.

All the reports which can be made publicly available in relation to wildlife will be included with the planning application documents. Some information relating to sensitive species is confidential and can only be shared with certain statutory consultees.

Broadband

Bringing improved broadband infrastructure to the area is of interest to the majority of respondents. High-quality broadband is required to operate wind farms, including Craig Watch Wind Farm, should it be consented.

Statkraft is the only developer to commit to funding a broadband feasibility study for each of its onshore wind farm development projects. This will assess the potential for fibre and wireless line-of-sight broadband that can also benefit the local and wider community as well. If there is an opportunity for our wind farms to help improve broadband connections for residents and businesses in the area, then we would be happy to explore this with the community.

Statkraft has commissioned a feasibility study which can be used to start discussions with local residents and their elected representatives. The consultation feedback has shown that there is significant interest from local respondents in improving broadband in the area, and these discussions will be followed up.

Community Benefit Fund

If the project is approved, a Community Benefit Fund of £5,000 per MW installed per year will be established. Based on the current proposal, this would deliver a fund of approximately £250,000 per annum for the lifetime of the project. 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.

Local supply chain

Statkraft is committed to working with the local supply chain, and is already working with several Aberdeenshire and Moray companies through the construction of our Keith Greener Grid Park, and the operational Berry Burn Wind Farm.

As an existing member of both the Aberdeenshire and Grampian Chamber of Commerce and Moray Chamber of Commerce, we will continue to work with them and other business groups in the area to ensure local suppliers are aware of the opportunities from our projects. Local businesses have been invited to register their details on our [Local Suppliers Register](#).

Next Steps

As the application for our planning submission is finalised, the next steps for local engagement are:

- Continue to receive feedback and respond to queries.
- Liaise and review with our technical team regarding project-specific feedback.
- Progress setting up a shared ownership (virtual) roundtable with Local Energy Scotland to provide more information to those interested in shared ownership opportunities.
- Follow up with community stakeholders regarding the potential for enhanced access to broadband by sharing the findings of the feasibility study.
- 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.
- Continue to update the project website www.craigwatch.co.uk

Craig Watch Wind Farm

During the March 2021 consultation, some questions and comments were frequently raised. Below is our response to these.

(June 2021)

There are too many wind farms in this area

Moray Council's Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (2020) indicates that the location of the proposed Craig Watch Wind Farm may be appropriate, with some scope to accommodate large scale turbine developments. As part of our work towards the planning application for the project, we have undertaken substantial analysis into the landscape and visual considerations in the vicinity of the development. We continue to develop the project with the aim to find the right balance between maximising the electricity output and carefully siting and designing the proposal to relate to the existing landscape, including other wind developments.

Our analysis shows that less than 10% of land in Scotland is suitable for onshore wind farms. To find out more about what makes a site suitable for onshore wind, you are invited to join a webinar hosted by [Future Net Zero](#) on 29 June where our Head of Development will go through the steps in new site searching. Check [our website](#) for details.

Wind turbines should be offshore

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](#)).

If there is concern about a specific view please let us know and we'll try to provide suitable illustrations at our next consultation event later this year.

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

All wind farm applications are required to report their "carbon payback period" in the Environmental Impact Assessment. This is determined using a Scottish Government calculator which takes into account all emissions from the manufacture of the turbines, including any peat disturbance, as well as the construction and decommissioning phases. This figure 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 were finalists in two prestigious industry awards for our efforts at Berry Burn Extension in Moray in maximising habitat improvements to deliver a biodiversity gain. For example, rewetting peat and reducing the impact of future wild fires.

What is the benefit to locals?

There are several ways our projects can bring local benefits, and we are always open to discussing how this can be tailored to each area. The construction phase provides a significant opportunity for local businesses to get involved - we had over 80 businesses complete our local suppliers register for the construction of our Keith Greener Grid project.

The operation of a wind farm brings significant local investment. Statkraft commit to delivering a community benefit fund with all new wind farms at £5,000 per MW installed per year, as per Scottish Government guidance. The exact amount will depend on the number and type of turbines installed, but as a guide, this is around £25,000 per turbine per year over the operating period of the wind farm.

What is the transport route for the turbines? Are the roads suitable for this construction and ongoing access?

We are confident a suitable access route can be proposed and this is part of our detailed planning work. A Traffic Management Plan will be agreed with Moray and Aberdeenshire councils prior to construction commencing.

For more FAQs go to www.craigwatch.co.uk

**APPENDIX 13B
NOVEMBER 2021 PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT ISSUED TO
COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

ABOUT CRAIG WATCH WIND FARM

Craig Watch Wind Farm is a proposal for an 11-wind turbine project on the border of Moray and Aberdeenshire Councils, approximately 8km southeast of Dufftown.

	No. of Turbines	Max Blade Tip Heights	Expected Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Generation	Community Fund (per year)
Craig Watch	Up to 11	Up to 200m	72.6 <small>(section 36 planning application)</small>	Approximately 86,000 ⁽¹⁾	£363,000 <small>per year ⁽²⁾</small>

(1) Based on best available wind speed data, and Scottish average household consumption of 3,393 kWh pa.

(2) Based on 72.6MW installed capacity and £5,000 per MW installed. If consented, value of fund determined by actual installed capacity.

The project was submitted to the Scottish Government for scoping with an 18 turbine layout in November 2020.

A proposed 16 turbine layout was presented to the community at an online consultation event launched in March 2021, in line with Scottish Government guidance in relation to preventing the spread of Covid-19. The full report for our March consultation was circulated to local stakeholders and made available online on the project website.

A second consultation was held in November 2021, following a further design iteration from 16 to 11 turbines. This report details the finding of the second consultation period, which ran from 4-26 November 2021, including both online and in-person events.

Background

Following the relaxation of Covid-19 travel restrictions and, at the time, a significant drop in the infection rate throughout Scotland, it became possible to offer in-person consultation events alongside a full online consultation. This provided an opportunity for feedback in-person, online, via freepost or via phone.

In-person events were risk assessed with mitigations put in place to minimise the possibility of transmission of Covid-19. These included:

- An appointment-based system to ensure the number of attendees in the hall stayed within the hall capacity;
- Track and Trace in operation, with contact details of all attendees provided to Statkraft;
- Members of the Statkraft team and consultants taking Lateral Flow Tests in advance of the exhibitions;
- Mask covering in operation and hand sanitiser available to attendees;
- A one-way system in place for the halls;
- Maintaining good ventilation of exhibition spaces; and
- Spacing out of information material.

Second Exhibition Period

This report presents the findings of the feedback received during the consultation period 4-26 November 2021 via the virtual public exhibition, in-person events and non-digital sources such as phone enquiries and postal feedback forms. Responses submitted after 4 December have been evaluated and included up to the date of publication of this report.

The consultation was advertised throughout the local area, through a variety of ways:

- A direct mailing to all households and businesses (over 1,300) within approximately 10km of the site with an invitation and details to take part in the online consultation or in-person events, as well as feedback cards and freepost envelopes for those who preferred to write back rather than go online or attend an exhibition;
- Advertisements in the Press and Journal, the Northern Scot, the Huntly Express and the Banffshire Journal, Herald and Advertiser. An additional ad was placed in the Autumn edition of the Speirin's Magazine with general information before the event dates were finalised;
- Writing to the host and neighbouring Community Councils, Community Associations and Development Trusts and local ward members with information and copies of the adverts, should they wish to highlight the events on their own social media channels
- Details of all events and copies of the project brochure available on the Craig Watch project website.

In-Person Exhibition

In-person events were held at:

- Mortlach Memorial Hall, Dufftown – 2-6pm, 16 November 2021
- Glass Community Hall, Haugh of Glass – 3-7pm, 17 November 2021

On display were information boards showing:

- Information about Statkraft;
- An overview of the development and the changes made since the first consultation;
- Photomontages from local viewpoints and the zone of theoretical visibility for the turbines;
- Information on community benefit, construction opportunities and shared ownership.

Copies of the online exhibition brochure were available for members of the public to take away, along with Statkraft's Low Emissions Scenario and promotional materials created as part of COP26.

We additionally provided software which enabled visitors to view a visualisation of the project from a location of their choosing on a screen. Visitors were able to select the locations by providing a postcode or pointing to a position on a map. Due to the specialised nature of this software, this was managed by exhibition staff from our environmental consultant.

Feedback forms were available to be filled out or taken away and returned via freepost.

The exhibition at Mortlach was attended by 15 people, with a further 11 visitors attending the exhibition at Glass Community Hall. Approximately 50% of visitors had booked in advance – capacity at the halls was sufficient that everyone who arrived was able to visit the exhibition without the need for queuing. Track and trace details were provided by all attendees.



1. A monitor displays the software for viewing wireframes alongside a map of the zone of theoretical visibility and wireframes and photomontages from locations around the site. Location: Mortlach Memorial Hall, Dufftown.



2. The exhibition at Glass Community Hall ahead of opening.

Online Exhibition

The online exhibition was accessed via a link from the Project Page. It was designed to provide all the information available at a physical exhibition, while remaining easily accessible. Available information included:

- The Exhibition Brochure, providing information you would usually find on exhibition boards at a physical event;
- The Craig Watch Predicted Views booklet, showing the visibility of the turbines from a number of surrounding locations;
- A pre-recorded video introducing the project, some of the project team and key aspects of the project;

- An extensive FAQ section on the project to help inform residents when they arrive on the consultation website;
- Two live chat sessions, where the project team were available to answer questions live online;
- 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;
- An opportunity to leave comments through online feedback forms.

Summary of Consultation Responses

Reply cards were sent to 1,353 business and residential addresses. Of these, we received a response from 30 (2.2%). The consultation website received more than 300 unique visitors over the three week consultation period, with a further seven online reply forms completed. The majority of visitors to the website – 176 people – accessed the site directly. In total there were 51 interactions including call backs, online forms, feedback forms and emails.

From all completed response forms, on- and offline, 89% of respondents agreed that more energy needed to be generated from renewable sources, with 50% of respondents agreeing that onshore wind power was a good way to achieve this goal. Positive answers to both questions had increased since the first exhibition.

The community was split on the siting of the windfarm, with 51% of respondents agreeing that the Craig Watch site was acceptable or taking a neutral stance, an increase on the previous consultation.

There was support for the potential of the project to allow for local broadband connections to be upgraded, with 67% of respondents expressing an interest in access to faster internet connections. It was highlighted by respondents that improved broadband could benefit local businesses, while some exhibition visitors noted that they had poor connections at present and would be interested in better speeds.

34% of respondents expressed an interest in community ownership of the development, with a further 26% unsure. From this, we have identified it could be beneficial to invite a representative from Local Energy Scotland to provide more information on shared ownership, allowing the community to decide if this is an option that they wish to pursue. Feedback was received regarding potential uses for the community benefit fund, including supporting residents with heating and energy costs, helping to tackle fuel poverty in the area.

We have responded directly to all those who contacted us with their questions and comments. The majority of respondents wished to be kept informed and have been added to our project mailing list.

An additional question was presented to attendees of the in-person exhibitions and the website, seeking feedback on the content presented, with the majority of respondents satisfied or somewhat satisfied by the materials available. We will continue to refine and improve our consultation materials based on the provided feedback.

At the exhibition sessions, visitors were generally positive about the role of wind energy and renewable power as a form of generation. Visitors were keen to make sure that the project had a clear benefit for the community, with interest in community ownership and the potential additional benefits that it could bring.

When viewing the interactive software showing how the turbines would look in-situ, some visitors were surprised by the reduced appearance of the turbines due to natural screening such as established trees. Being able to use the software to see predicted views from a variety of viewpoints was also welcomed, allowing visitors to see how the turbines might look from familiar reference points, such as their home.

Key Topics and Responses Raised from the Consultation

There are too many wind farms in this area

Moray Council's Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (2020) indicates that the location of the proposed Craig Watch Wind Farm may be appropriate, with some scope to accommodate large scale turbine developments. As part of our work towards a planning submission and as a result of previous feedback, we have reduced the number of turbines and moved some of them to reduce visual impact in the local area. We continue to develop the project with the aim to find the right balance between maximising the electricity output and carefully siting and designing the proposal to relate to the existing landscape, including other wind developments.

Less than 10% of land in Scotland is suitable for onshore wind farms. Our Head of Development, Richard Mardon, gave a webinar in June 2021 on how Statkraft finds suitable sites for new windfarms. [In it, he discusses the factors that we consider before every development](#), including proximity to housing, monuments and historic sites, wild land, and areas of ecological or scientific significance.

Wind turbines should be offshore

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.

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

All wind farm applications are required to report their "carbon payback period" in the Environmental Impact Assessment. This is determined using a Scottish Government calculator which takes into account emissions from the manufacture of the turbines, including any peat disturbance, as well as the construction and decommissioning phases. This figure 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 also strive to deliver a significant biodiversity net gain on our projects. We were finalists in two prestigious industry awards for our efforts at Berry Burn Extension in Moray in maximising habitat improvements, for example, rewetting peat and reducing the impact of future wildfires.

What is the benefit to locals?

There are several ways our projects can bring local benefits, and we are always open to discussing how this can be tailored to each area.

The construction phase provides a significant opportunity for local businesses to get involved – early indications show over £1.6m was retained in the local economy during construction of our Greener Grid Park at Keith, sourced through promotion of our Local Supplier Register.

The operation of a wind farm brings significant local investment. Statkraft commit to delivering a community benefit fund with all new wind farms at £5,000 per MW installed per year, as per Scottish Government guidance. The exact amount will depend on the number and type of turbines installed, but as a guide, is currently estimated at £363,000 per year over the operating period of the wind farm.

What is the transport route for the turbines? Are the roads suitable for this construction and ongoing access?

Our preferred option will see components transported from Dundee to the site via Huntly, then towards Dufftown via the A920. The site access would be from the A941 south of Dufftown. This will need agreement from Moray and Aberdeenshire Councils prior to construction commencing.

This is our preferred route as it avoids disruption in settlements and takes advantage of sections of road which have previously been upgraded to take large loads. We will leave roads in the same or better condition than at the start of construction.

NEXT STEPS

As we move towards finalising our planning application we will continue to engage proactively with relevant stakeholders and the local community. As part of this, we are circulating this report to local stakeholders and representatives.

We look forward to meeting with local community groups and other interested parties to discuss the community benefit or shared ownership associated with the project, as well as meeting those who expressed an interest in improved broadband.

If you would like further information regarding our proposals, please do not hesitate to contact the project team on 0800 772 0668 or by using the Ask a Question form at www.CraigWatch.co.uk.



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