



CRAIG WATCH WIND FARM

November 2021



Berry Burn Wind Farm, Moray. 100m tip height

Contents

<u>Welcome</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>About Craig Watch Wind Farm</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Project Timeline</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Environmental Impact Assessment</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Landscape and Visual Assessments</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Local Benefits & Investment</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Broadband</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Your Views are Important to Us</u>	<u>32</u>

.....
This brochure is designed to bring you up to date on the progress of the proposed Craig Watch Wind Farm, before we make an application to the Scottish Government.
.....

About Statkraft

- The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- A state owned utility, with origins in Norwegian hydropower 125 years ago
- 4,600 employees in 18 countries, all working towards our low carbon future
- Operating in the UK since 2006
- Distributed over £2 million to communities near operating wind farms



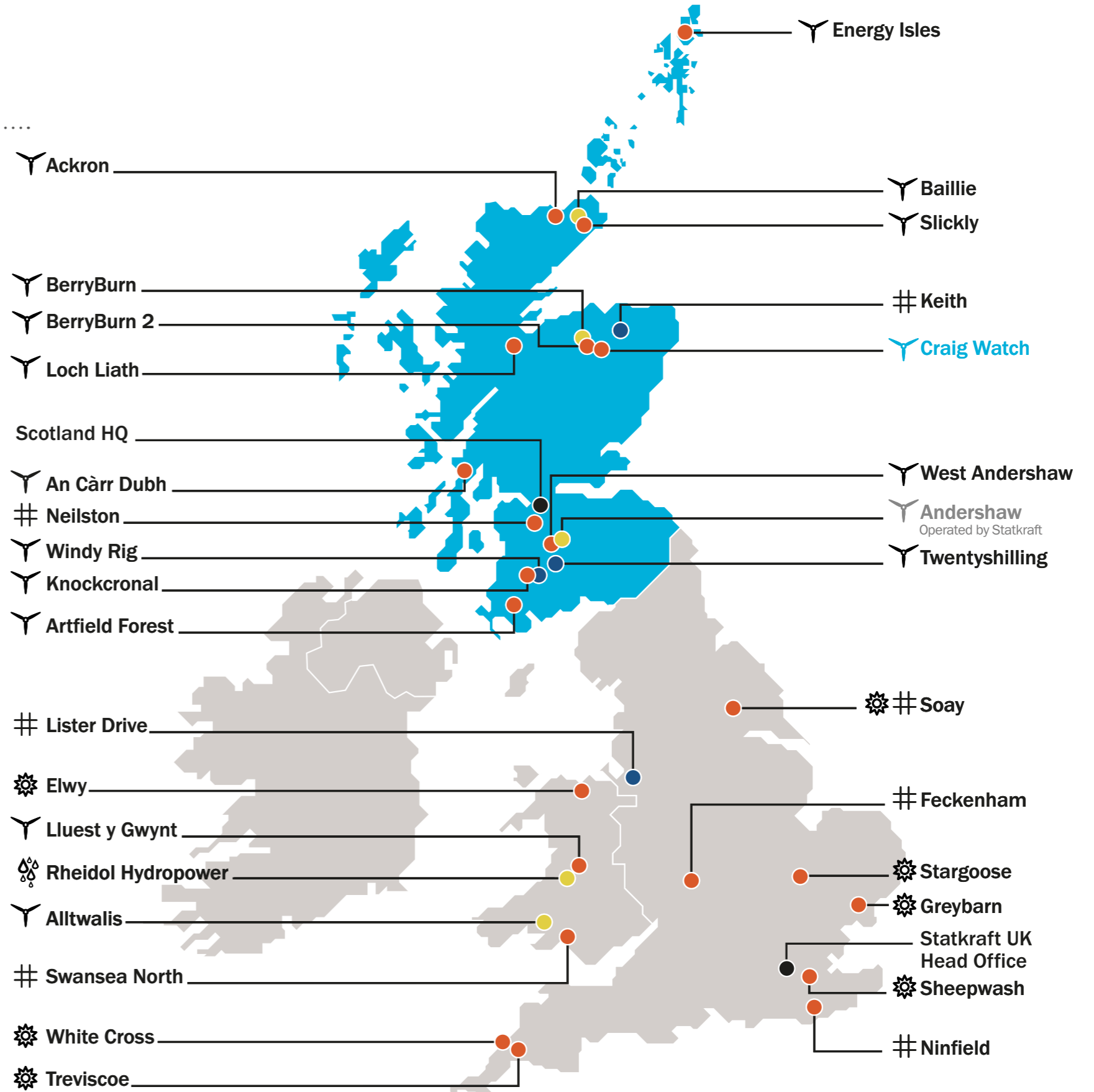
Alltwalis Wind Farm, Carmarthen, South Wales. 10 turbines, 110m tip height



Statkraft in the UK

- Scottish Head Office in Glasgow
- Operational portfolio includes three wind farms, one hydro plant
- Two wind farms in Dumfries & Galloway in construction
- Recent expansion into solar development and electric vehicle charging points
- Over 700MW in development
- Delivering grid stability services for National Grid in Moray and Liverpool

- Operational
- Construction
- Development
- Offices
- ⌋ Wind
- ⌘ Greener Grid Park™
- ⌋ Hydro
- ⊙ Solar



About Craig Watch Wind Farm

We believe this is an excellent site to contribute to Scotland's ambitions of reaching net zero emissions by 2045

Key Facts:

 **11**

Up to 11 wind turbines proposed (reduced from 16)

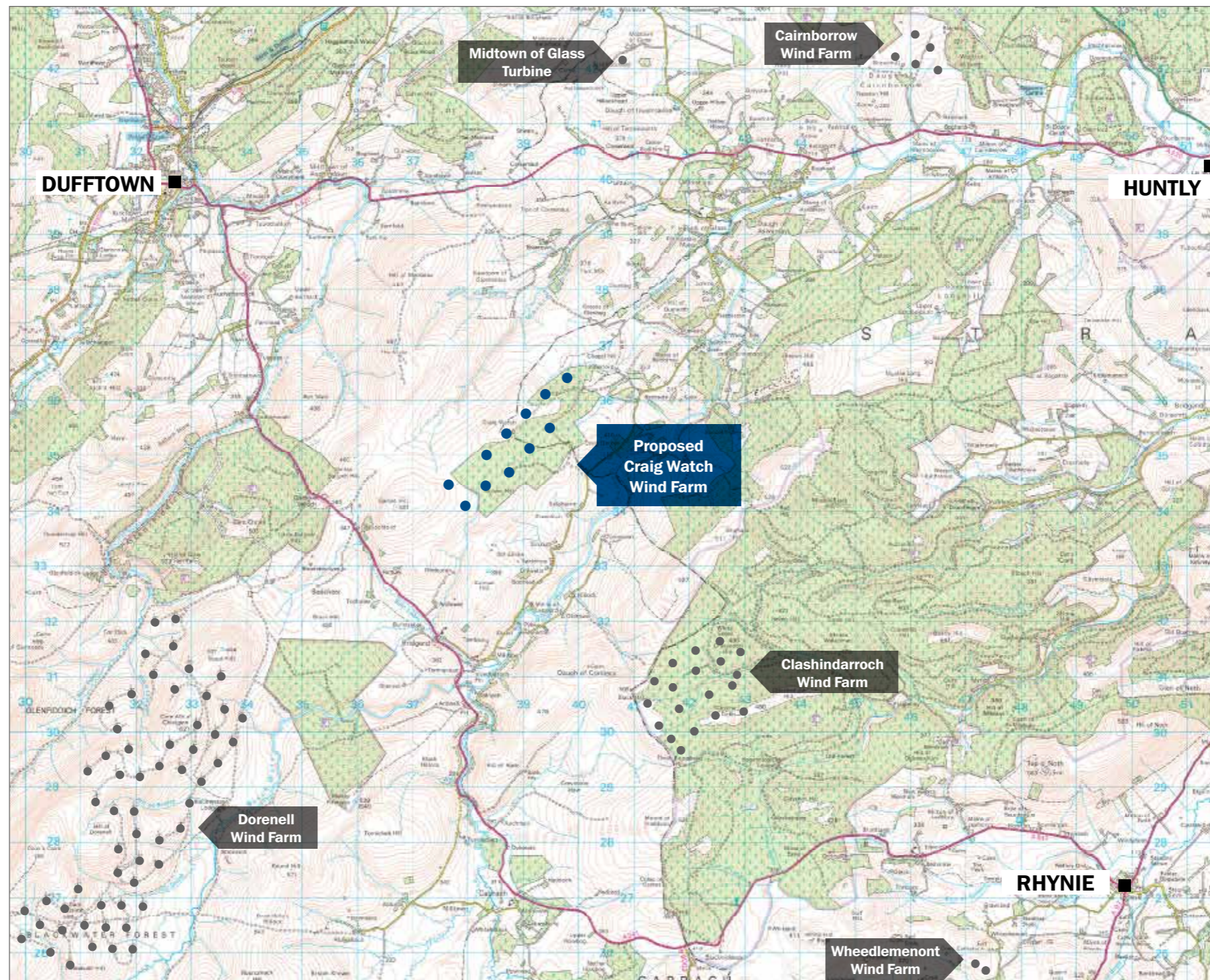
 **200m**

A maximum height of 200m to blade tip

 Exciting opportunity to talk about shared ownership and local suppliers

£363k

£363k per year for a Community Fund*



Proposed Craig Watch Wind Farm

* Based on £5,000 per MW as recommended by Scottish Government

Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2021. All rights reserved. Licence number 100034829.

About Craig Watch Wind Farm

Why this site?

Desktop analysis of the site shows **good wind speeds**.

Suitable access for delivery of turbine components

Contributing towards Scotland's commitment of **net-zero emissions by 2045**

No nationally or internationally designated sites within the proposed development area









	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.

Throughout the process Statkraft continuously engages with the local community and stakeholders about the emerging proposals.

1. SITE SELECTION	2. PRE-PLANNING	3. SUBMIT APPLICATION & AWAIT DECISION	4. CONSTRUCTION	5. OPERATION	6. DECOMMISSION
<p>(12 months)</p> <p>Extensive research to identify suitable sites: positive indicators include good wind speed and minimal environmental and technical constraints.</p> <p>No public engagement is carried out during this time because the site may not pass the criteria required for being suitable for development.</p> 	<p>(6 to 12 months)</p> <p>We request the view of the Scottish Government and Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils on the level of study required (known as “Scoping”). Scoping is sent to local and neighbouring Community Councils and consultees such as NatureScot, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland.</p> <p>The initial proposals evolve, taking information our initial proposals will evolve, taking information from studies and engagement with the public and statutory consultees. We will continue to follow all Scottish Government advice in relation to Covid-19 and focus our engagement online.</p> 	<p>(12 months)</p> <p>An application is submitted to the Scottish Government, accompanied by a comprehensive Environmental Report showing the results of all studies undertaken. This is publicly available information and will be available on the project website.</p> <p>Interested parties and statutory consultees such as Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils can formally comment on the application.</p> 	<p>(12 to 18 months)</p> <p>If Craig Watch is approved, construction begins at least one year after consent.</p> <p>Construction typically takes 12-18 months and planning conditions are used to manage elements of construction.</p> 	<p>(25+ years)</p> <p>The turbines are managed from a regionally based maintenance team, and operations are controlled by detailed planning conditions.</p> <p>We are committed to community benefit and shared ownership opportunities. A community fund is active throughout the lifetime of the project for worthwhile community initiatives.</p> 	<p>(12 months)</p> <p>At the end of the planning period, turbines are removed. Financial security (e.g guarantees/bank bonds) to cover the full cost of reinstating the land would be put in place before construction starts.</p> 

The process of gathering robust environmental data is vital to designing a wind farm which balances technical, environmental and commercial considerations. Surveys and assessments are undertaken by a team of specialist consultants to identify, assess and present any significant environmental effects of the proposed development and allow us to avoid, or minimise effects.

The results and findings are incorporated into an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) and will be publicly available following submission of our application.

The EIA will consider the following topics:

- Landscape and Visual Amenity
- Ecology and Ornithology
- Hydrology and Peat
- Cultural Heritage
- Noise
- Traffic and Transport
- Socio-economics
- Climate Change



As developers, our challenge is to find the right balance between maximising the electricity output of a site and carefully siting and designing the proposal to relate to the existing landscape, including other wind developments.

Our studies have included a detailed assessment of the project within a 45km study area, to include the proposed development on its own, as well as in the context of existing, consented and proposed wind farm developments.

We pay particular regard to:

- Effects on the landscape character of the immediate area, as well as the character of the wider area
- Effects on the special qualities of landscape designations such as the Ben Rinnes Special Landscape Area.
- The amenity of residential properties near to the Site in Glen Deveron.
- The design in relation to Clashindarroch, Dorenell and other proposed wind farms in the area.
- Effects associated with possible turbine lighting.



Please visit our [Predicted Views booklet](#) to see predicted views from several locations.

Viewpoint 1: Minor Road, Deveron Valley

As the EIA progresses, landscape and visual considerations have influenced the design of the proposed wind farm.

This has resulted in a number of changes which seek to reduce the landscape and visual effects. Since the previous public exhibition, five turbines have been removed, and five turbines have been re-sited particularly in response to potential effects on:

- Views from the A941 and A920;
- Views from Dufftown;
- Views from the Hill of Talanmouth and Glen Deveron; and
- Views from Auchindoun Castle.

These design changes considered effects on the visual amenity of properties within 3 km of the Site.

Borrow pits and access tracks have also been a key consideration. The aim is to design these in a sensitive manner to ensure that impacts are as low as practicable.

The photomontages will show how the proposal would look from a number of locations. These viewpoints have been agreed with NatureScot, Moray Council and Aberdeenshire Council to ensure that the most suitable locations are selected.

Viewpoint 16: A941 near The Grouse Inn Public House



Please visit our [Predicted Views booklet](#) to see predicted views from several locations.

The following topics are key considerations in the evolution of the Site's design:

Ornithology



- Extensive ornithological surveys have been completed in accordance with current NatureScot guidelines. These have influenced wind farm design process and will be available to view within the planning documents.
- Black grouse have been established to be present in the area and the project design will safeguard this species' 'lekking' (display) grounds.
- A key consideration has been on potential for impacts on breeding common gulls, which are a protected feature of the Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The design has been amended to consider foraging locations of the common gull, and grassland management focussed at Kelman Hill to support the common gull population.

Ecology



- Extensive surveys have been completed, including for habitats, protected mammals and fisheries. All surveys have been undertaken in accordance with current NatureScot guidelines.
- Bats have been carefully considered and the design includes buffers around woodland, watercourses and around turbines in 'key-holed' areas.
- The dominant habitat type on-site is plantation woodland, but notable habitats on the periphery include blanket bog, wet heath and dry heath.
- Through the design process, the turbines have been amended from the original proposed layout to avoid sensitive habitats, as far as possible. Some of the factors influencing the final design include potential bat roosts, Annex 1 Habitats, water voles, groundwater-fed wetland habitat, the River Spey special area of conservation (SAC), and locations of watercourses.
- A Habitat Management Plan (HMP) would be implemented and would look to improve upon the existing habitats, restoring those in a deteriorated condition to improve biodiversity.

Forestry



- Trees and turbines both play an important role in the fight against climate change, and trees located on wind farm sites are carefully managed and monitored via planning conditions throughout the operational period. In Scotland, the Government requirement to replant any woodland loss resulting from developments came into force in 2009.
- Much of the site consists of semi-mature coniferous plantation woodland which is planned for felling and replanting in accordance with today's forestry standards. The felling for this development would become integral with the long-term plans for these forests as they continue to grow, be felled and be replanted in the normal sustainable forest cycle.
- The wind farm would require the felling of approximately 52 hectares of forest. Compensatory planting would, as a minimum, match the area of woodland removed and meet Scottish Forestry standards, and will include a more diverse age and range of species, including native broadleaved trees and providing an increase in open space.

Peat



- Detailed peat surveys have added to our understanding of peat depths on-site, which has informed the layout of the wind farm. A key objective is to avoid areas of deeper peat and where this is not possible, to mitigate impacts. Through two phases of on-site peat surveys, one turbine was identified to be situated in deeper peat. As a result, this turbine and associated infrastructure has been relocated to areas of shallower/no peat. The layout shown at our consultation in March 2021 has been refined to reduce peat disturbance.
- Additional peat sampling will be undertaken to confirm avoidance of areas of deeper peat.
- Peat habitat restoration and peatland improvement is a key consideration when designing the wind farm. The aim is to use any excavated peat in the restoration of degraded habitats on-site.

Cultural Heritage



- An Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Assessment has been undertaken to consider the potential for impacts upon archaeological remains which exist, or may exist, within the site.
- Where possible, significant impacts have been avoided, and where this is not feasible, appropriate mitigation will be provided as part of the EIA Report, in line with planning policy and best practice.
- Particular attention has been given to the Scheduled Monuments at Auchindoun Castle and the Tap o'Noth Fort and to the non-designated Craig Dorney Fort.
- Cultural Heritage assets have also been considered as part of the Habitat Management Plan. Land north of Kelman Hill was originally proposed as an area for wet grassland management. Following the cultural heritage assessment and site visit, four hut circles were identified and as such, the wind farm design was amended so that there would be no groundbreaking or changes to water levels in this area.
- Additionally, land south of Kelman Hill will be avoided due to the presence of post medieval features.



Climate Change



The Scottish Government has set a legally-binding target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. Developments such as Craig Watch Wind Farm are key to meeting this target. Whilst Scotland has continued to make good progress in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, the need for low carbon energy supplies is paramount if Scotland is to achieve this net zero target.

By 2030, The Scottish Energy Strategy calls for 50% of 'all energy' to come from renewables. It emphasises that onshore wind is now one of the cheapest forms of electricity and will therefore continue to play an important role in this.

To quantify the emissions savings of Craig Watch Wind Farm, a 'carbon balance' assessment will be undertaken for the wind farm using Scottish Government guidance.

“We need more renewable energy, but why here?”



This is one of the most common questions we are asked when we propose a wind farm. This is a very understandable question, and the answer goes beyond the fact that Scotland has one of the strongest wind speeds in Europe. Earlier this year, we were pleased to be able to answer this question with the detail it deserves during a webinar hosted by the news website FutureNetZero. You may be surprised to know that our analysis shows less than 10% of land in Scotland is suitable for development of onshore wind.

[You can watch the full webinar here.](#)



RICHARD MARDON,
Head of Business & Project
Development, Statkraft UK

Richard takes us behind the scenes of the development process, with a step by step guide on the challenges faced in finding the best sites to maximise Scotland's excellent natural wind resource.

Since 2002 Richard has worked exclusively in onshore wind in the UK, and has had oversight of the development, construction and operation of several completed Scottish wind projects.

We would like our wind farms to be considered a local asset and want to talk with you about how we can bring new investment to your community.



“Since 2016, MacArthur Green’s experienced team of specialists have been carrying out ecological, ornithological and hydrological monitoring works for Andershaw Wind Farm’s Forestry and Habitat Management Plan (FHMP). The FHMP aims to reinstate and enhance blanket bog habitat, and provide a diverse woodland mix including broadleaved woodland to enhance floral and faunal species diversity. Through ongoing monitoring, we have found that these habitats are now developing well, and are helping to increase biodiversity of the site.”

Nicola Goodship PhD MCIEEM, Senior Ornithologist, MacArthur Green

Community Benefit Fund

Based on the current proposal the wind farm would generate £363,000 per year, each year of operations.

Community Ownership

Progress the opportunity for local groups to have a financial interest in our project, with the support of organisations such as [Local Energy Scotland](#).

Local Suppliers

Work with local business groups to increase awareness of the work opportunities for local suppliers in construction and operations. If you are a local business, sign up to our [Local Suppliers Register](#).

Education & Enterprise

We welcome ideas on how our project can support local education and employment opportunities, and boost local businesses.

Broadband

Investing in feasibility studies to identify potential for improved connection, and supporting communities developing their own broadband initiatives.

Feedback from our first exhibition revealed that **67% of respondents were interested in exploring this opportunity further. This could be partially or fully funded by the community benefit fund associated with our project, if the community wished to progress this.**

The Broadband Feasibility Study explores the potential for using the infrastructure of our project to deliver **super fast broadband.**



THE OPPORTUNITY

We require a **reliable broadband service** to operate our wind turbines and commissioned a feasibility study to explore the **potential for improving local infrastructure** as the wind farm is connected.

FIBRE CONNECTIVITY

Fibre is the optimal connection, and improvements concentrated on Dufftown are estimated to **cost just over £1,000 per household.**

FIXED WIRELESS OPTION

Fixed wireless broadband offers an opportunity to **connect some properties that can be difficult or costly for fibre to reach** - the feasibility study shows there is **potential to unlock broadband for nearly 1,000 homes** using this method.

NEXT STEPS

We would like to continue a conversation with you on the findings of the feasibility study. **Please contact us, and register on the website for updates.**

Your Views are Important to Us

We hope to submit an application in early 2022, when all application documents will be publicly available.

We welcome your comments and feedback -

Please register your comments by completing a feedback form. In order for us to take your view into account, **please comment by 3 December 2021.**

Comments made to Statkraft are not representations to the consenting authority. If an application is submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the consenting authority.

Thank you for attending the Craig Watch Wind Farm Exhibition.

We would like to keep you updated as our plans progress:



[Click here to complete the online feedback](#)



Register for updates:
www.craigwatch.co.uk



0800 772 0668
(local call rate applies)



Freepost Statkraft
(no stamp or further address details required)



UKProjects@statkraft.com



Statkraft UK

1 West Regent Street
Glasgow
G2 1RW

www.statkraft.co.uk

For more information
about Craig Watch

www.craigwatch.co.uk



Andershaw Wind Farm, South Lanarkshire, 11 turbines, 140m tip height