



LOCH LIATH WIND FARM

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

21 May - 14 June 2021



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

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This exhibition is designed to share our plans for Loch Liath Wind Farm. We are keen to hear your views as we continue to shape the project during this phase.
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About Statkraft

- The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- A state owned utility, with origins in Norwegian hydropower 125 years ago
- 4,500 employees in 17 countries, all working towards our low carbon future
- Operating in the UK since 2006
- Distributed over £2 million to communities near operating wind farms

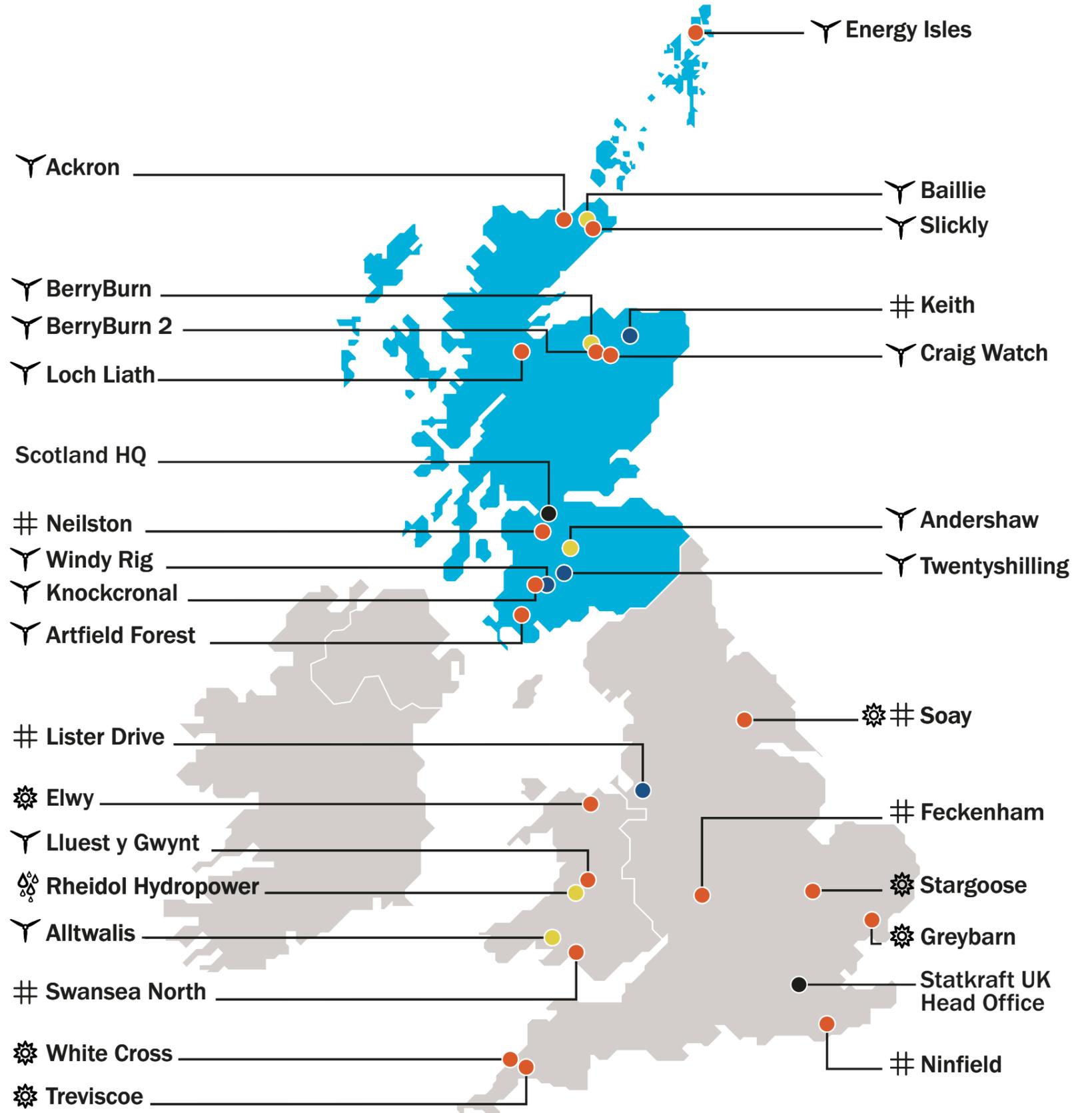


Berry Burn Wind Farm, Moray. 100m tip height

Statkraft in the UK

- Scottish Head Office in Glasgow
- Operational portfolio includes four 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
- Y Wind
- # Greener Grid Park™
- ⚡ Hydro
- ☀ Solar



About Loch Liath Wind Farm

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

Key Facts:

26

Up to 26 wind turbines proposed

£5,000

Per MW installed per year for a Community Fund
As recommended by the Scottish Government



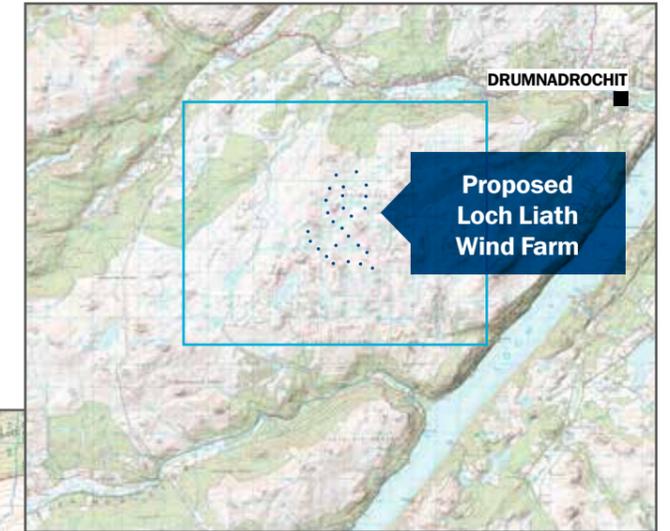
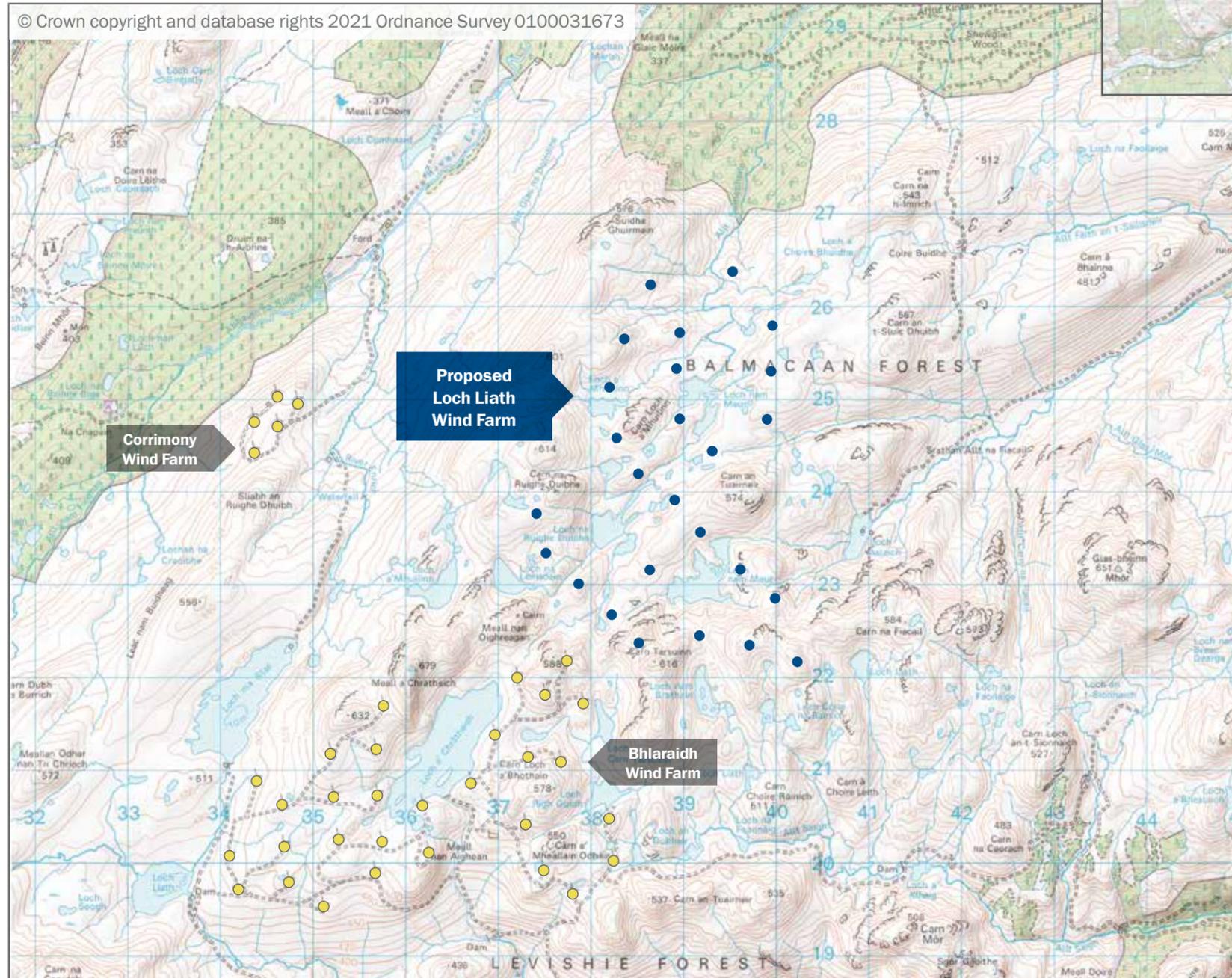
A maximum height of 200m to blade tip



Exciting new opportunity to talk about shared ownership and local suppliers



Potential for improved broadband provision



Why this site?

- No national or internationally designated sites within the Developable Area
- Closest turbine is over 11km from the centre of Drumnadrochit
- Located in an area of good wind speed
- Designed to be well integrated with the adjoining Bhlaraidh Wind Farm
- Located within Group 2 and Group 3 areas for onshore wind farm development*
- Would contribute towards Scotland's decarbonisation targets



The below is based on our current knowledge of the site, and will go through more design changes as more information is gathered. The scheme will change before an application is submitted for planning consent – and we will present this to the community later this year.

Your feedback will help us design a better overall project.

	No. of Turbines	Max Blade Tip Heights	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Generation (homes equivalent)	Community Fund (per year)
Loch Liath	up to 26	200m	over 50 (section 36 planning application)	over 5,500 homes per turbine per year ¹	£28,000 per turbine per year ²

* **Group 2:** Areas of significant protection. Recognising the need for significant protection, in these areas wind farms may be appropriate in some circumstances. Further consideration will be required to demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation.
Group 3: Areas with potential for wind farm development. Beyond groups 1 and 2, wind farms are likely to be acceptable, subject to detailed consideration against identified policy criteria.

1. Based on a 5.6MW turbine, wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,393 kWh pa.
 2. Based on a 5.6MW turbine and £5,000 per MW

Throughout the development 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 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 The Highland Council on the level of study required (known as “Scoping”). Scoping is sent to local and neighbouring Community Councils and consultees such as NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Historic Environment Scotland.</p> <p>There are likely to be further changes to the layout as studies continue and feedback from communities and residents is received. Ahead of the application being submitted into planning, we will host another consultation in line with Covid-19 advice.</p> 	<p>(12 months)</p> <p>An application is submitted to the Scottish Government, accompanied by a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment 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 The Highland Council can formally comment on the application.</p> 	<p>(18 to 24 months)</p> <p>If Loch Liath Wind Farm is approved, construction begins at least one year after consent.</p> <p>Construction typically takes 18-24 months and planning conditions are used to manage elements of construction.</p> 	<p>(25+ years)</p> <p>The turbines are managed by a regionally based maintenance team, and operations are managed in accordance with 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. A financial bond or parent company guarantee is put in place before construction starts to cover this cost.</p> 

The process of gathering robust environmental data is vital to designing a wind farm which balances technical, environmental and commercial considerations.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process of identifying, assessing and presenting the likely significant environmental effects of a development proposal to inform sound decision making. Having an understanding of the potential for significant effects as information emerges through the EIA process also allows for early action to be taken to avoid these effects as part of the design of the project.



Surveys and assessments are undertaken by a team of specialist consultants. The results and findings will be detailed in an EIA Report, which will be publicly available following submission of our application.

It will include:

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

An important first-step to the EIA is the EIA Scoping Report. A number of statutory and non-statutory organisations comment on this including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Highland Council;
- NatureScot;
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- Historic Environment Scotland; and
- Transport Scotland.

Documents related to the Scoping Report can be downloaded from www.lochliath.co.uk

Landscape and Visual Assessment



The landscape and visual impact assessment will include a detailed assessment of the potential effects of the proposed wind farm which may arise across a 45km radius study area. This will assess the effects of the wind farm on its own, and in combination with other wind farm developments.

Particular consideration is given to effects on:

- the landscape character of the site and the wider area;
- special qualities of designated landscapes such as the Glen Affric National Scenic Area, Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area (SLA) and Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA;
- the wild land qualities of Central Highlands Wild Land Area (WLA 24);
- views experienced by road users, residential locations and recreation areas;
- potential turbine aviation lighting; and
- cumulative landscape and visual effects with other wind farms in the study area (operational, consented, and proposed).

We are currently in the process of agreeing locations of viewpoints with The Highland Council and NatureScot to ensure the most suitable locations are selected to illustrate the effects of the wind farm. The locations of these will be available to view at our second exhibition, before an application is submitted.

Visualisations for the final EIA Report will be prepared and presented in accordance with both The Highland Council and NatureScot guidance.

Four visualisations have been provided to demonstrate how the proposed wind farm would look at its maximum size of 26 turbines at 200m to blade tip. We will refine the project according to results of ongoing surveys and community feedback.



[Click here to access the predicted views brochure](#)

Hydrology and Peat



A full suite of surveys to assess potential effects of the proposed wind farm on hydrology, geology and hydrogeology are underway. This data will be used to help inform the design of the proposed wind farm.

Extensive peat depth surveys have been undertaken across the site which has shown that peat is present at depths of less than 0.5m, up to over 5m in some localised areas. A peat management plan will be prepared, and a detailed peat slide risk assessment will be undertaken, as part of the EIA process.

There are a number of water bodies and watercourses located across the site. Where possible, all infrastructure will be sited a minimum of 50m from water bodies and watercourses which are mapped on the ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map, and outside known areas of flood risk. The design of the wind farm will also seek to minimise the number of watercourse crossings required and avoid areas of Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE) habitats where possible.



Bog pools located within the site. These habitats will be taken into consideration during the design evolution process

Consultation is ongoing with nearby residents to identify any Private Water Supplies currently in use. Any water abstractions will be identified and the associated catchment areas determined so that they can be protected during construction and operation of the wind farm.

Ecology



Extensive ecological surveys are being undertaken across the site for habitats and protected species.

The initial survey findings show that the site supports a mosaic of typical upland habitats including blanket bog in addition to an extensive network of lochs and watercourses. The habitats are in variable condition across the site with some areas having been subject to grazing and other land management practices.

Overall, the site provides generally sub-optimal habitat for most species however surveys have been undertaken for wild cat, badger, red squirrel, pine marten, otter, bats and water vole. The surveys have been agreed with NatureScot and have been completed in accordance with current NatureScot guidance.

Ornithology



A full suite of ornithological surveys is currently underway at the site in line with current NatureScot guidance. This includes monthly flight activity surveys as well as surveys for breeding upland birds, breeding raptors (including golden eagle), breeding divers and Slavonian grebes, raptors, and black grouse. The final design of the wind farm will take into account appropriate buffers on known breeding sites identified through the surveys.

Statkraft Recognised for Approach to Habitat Improvements

Statkraft values the ecological importance and potential of its projects to deliver biodiversity improvements. We work closely with statutory bodies and specialist consultants to understand potential impacts, and design robust and detailed plans to mitigate any potential effects.

Our approach to restoring and enhancing the biodiversity of a proposed wind farm in Moray has been recognised, being selected as Finalist for two major Scottish renewable energy awards in the past year.

A thorough habitat management plan was proposed for the Berry Burn Wind Farm Extension, after the site was severely damaged by a wildfire. If approved, a significant biodiversity gain is possible through the proposed restoration of blanket bog habitat, accelerating habitat recovery from the fire and reducing damage from future wildfires.



Finalist:
Outstanding
Project



Finalist:
Best Onshore
Renewable
Energy Project

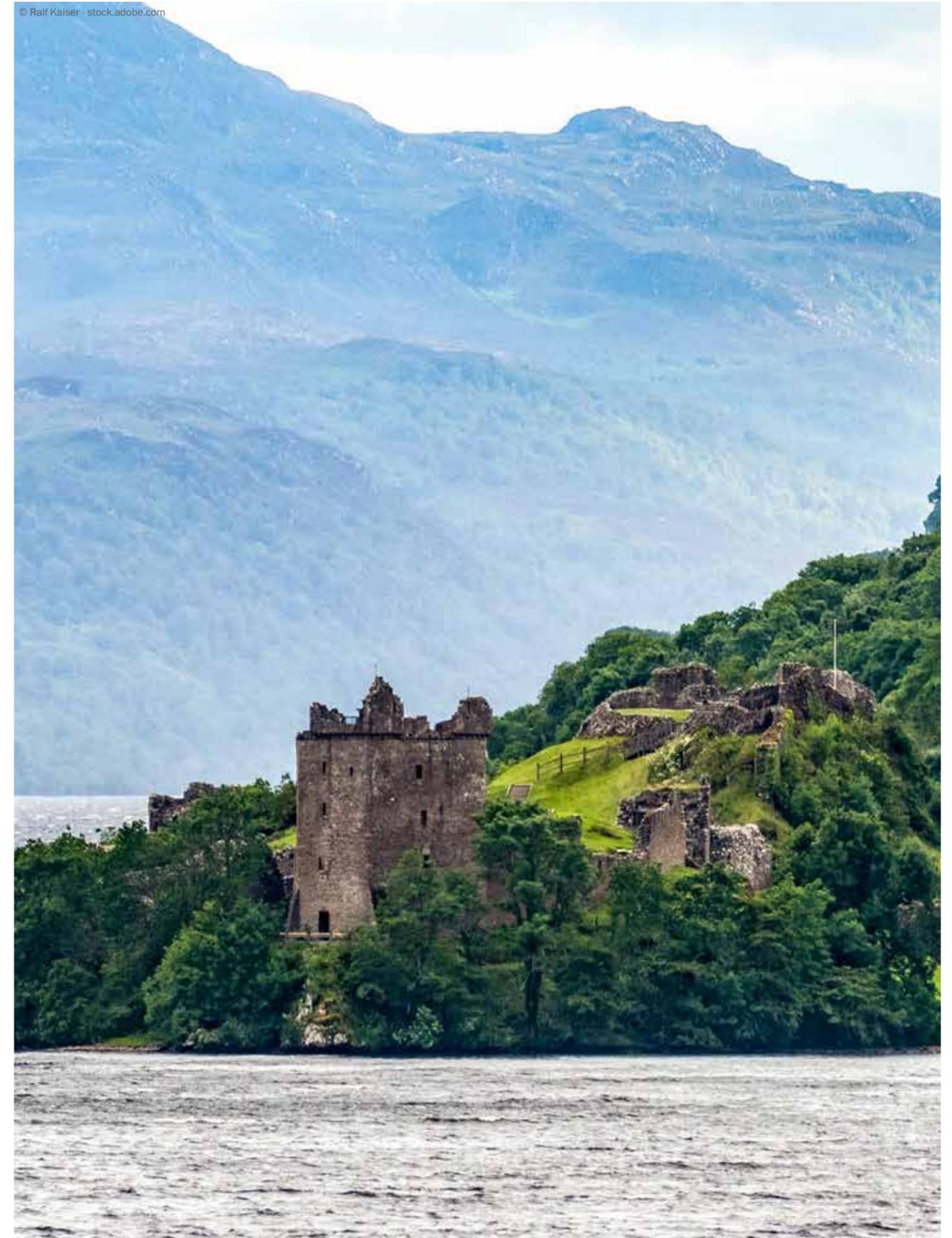
Cultural Heritage



An archaeological and cultural heritage assessment will be undertaken to understand the potential effects of the wind farm in line with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) guidance. This includes the potential for direct effects on any archaeological remains which are located within the site.

An initial review of available desk-based information indicates that there is a Category C-listed building within the site (Loch Ashlaich shooting box and bothy) as well as a number of other undesignated features. A walk over survey will be undertaken to confirm the presence of these features, and to identify any previously unknown features of archaeological interest. These will be avoided through the design of the wind farm.

Setting effects on cultural heritage assets in the wider landscape will also be assessed. Particular attention will be given to Urquhart Castle, especially the long-distance views from and towards the castle over Loch Ness. We are currently in the process of agreeing with The Highland Council and HES the locations where we will produce predicted views in relation to other Scheduled Monuments nearby.



Noise



A noise assessment will be undertaken which will consider the potential effects on nearby residential properties associated with both the construction and operation of the wind farm. The assessment of effects of construction noise will include consideration of noise from construction traffic on site access routes where residential properties may be affected.

There are three bothies located on the site, however on the basis that these are not residential in nature, these will not be included in the noise assessment.

The noise assessment will also take into account other wind farms in the area.

Traffic & Transport



We are currently assessing multiple options for access to the site, including for general construction traffic as well as for the turbine components.

The route used for delivery of the turbine components will depend on the port used for delivery. The ports currently under consideration include Kyle of Lochalsh, Corpach or Inverness Ports.

Access to the site will likely be from either the A887 or the A831. A detailed access review is being undertaken to identify the most suitable option and further consultation with The Highland Council's transport planning team will likely be undertaken.

The main transport effects will be associated with the movement of general HGV traffic travelling to and from the site during construction and this will be assessed as part of the EIA.

Extensive information detailing the proposed routes will be provided in the EIA Report, which is publicly available when an application for consent is submitted.

[Click here to see a map of the potential options being considered.](#)

Climate Change



The Scottish Government has set a legally-binding target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. Developments such as Loch Liath 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 Loch Liath Wind Farm, a 'carbon balance' assessment will be undertaken for the wind farm using Scottish Government guidance.

What is "Net Zero"?

Credit: www.nationalgrid.com/stories/energy-explained

Net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out.

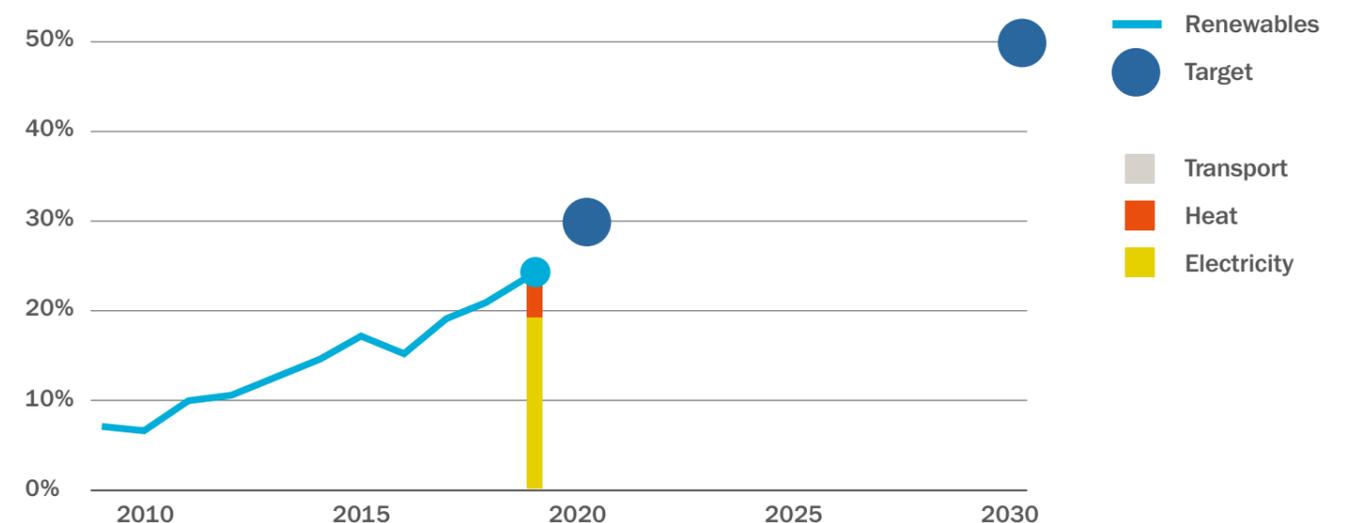
"Think about it like a bath – turn on the taps and you add more water, pull out the plug and water flows out. The amount of water in the bath depends on both the input from the taps and the output via the plughole. To keep the amount of water in the bath at the same level, you need to make sure that the input and output are balanced.

Reaching net zero applies the same principal, requiring us to balance the amount of greenhouse gases we emit with the amount we remove. When what we add is no more than what we take away we reach net zero. This state is also referred to as carbon neutral; although zero emissions and zero carbon are slightly different, as they usually mean that no emissions were produced in the first place."

HOW IS SCOTLAND DOING?

Scotland's share of renewable Energy (gross final consumption)

Scotland, 2009 - 2019



Source: Scottish Energy Statistics Hub

Local Benefits & Investment

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.



Investment from wind farm projects are helping young entrepreneurs achieve their business goals. Northcoast Watersports were granted £5,000 from Caithness Business Fund (Baillie Wind Farm) that enabled them to buy essential equipment to help get their, now very popular, business started.

Community Benefit Fund

We are committed to setting up a Community Benefit Fund in each of our project locations. Over £2 million has been generated from our UK projects to local causes and innovative schemes.

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 Investment

Work with local business groups such as the Chamber of Commerce to increase awareness of the opportunities in construction and operations.

Education & Enterprise

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

Wireless Broadband

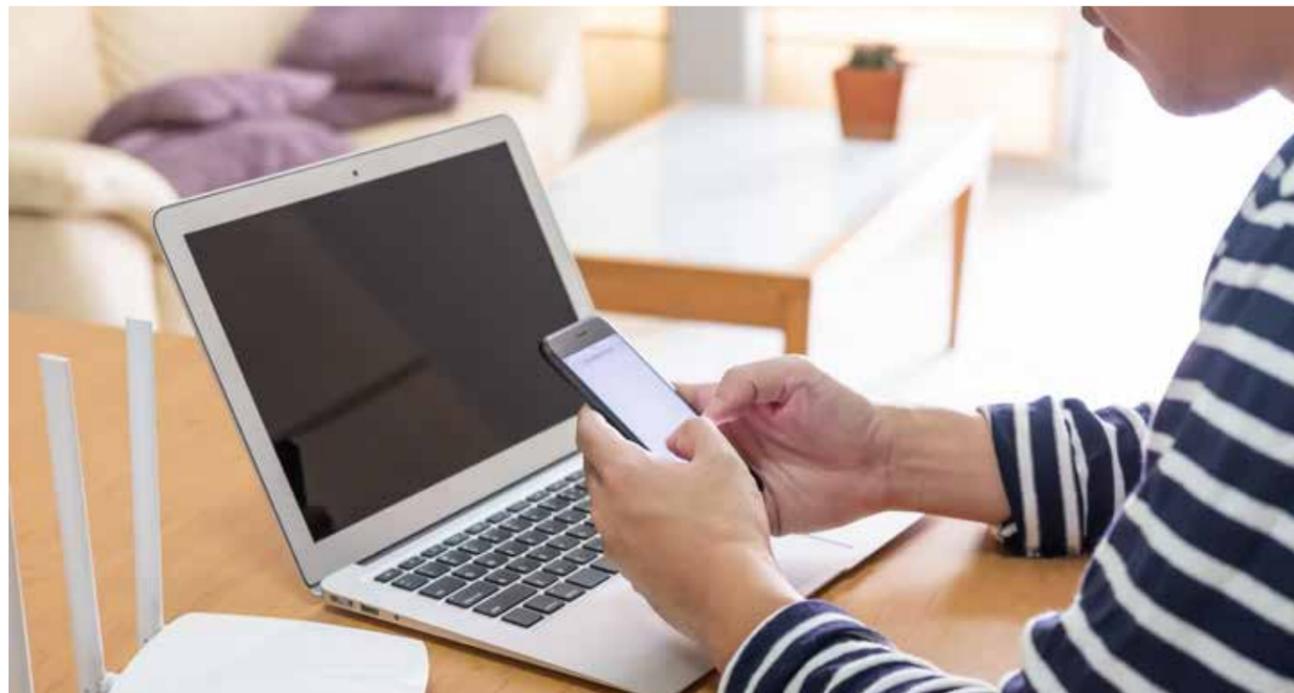
We invest in feasibility studies to identify potential for improved connection, and support communities developing their own broadband initiatives.

We are always exploring ways in which we can provide positive benefits to local communities near our projects.

We are often asked by people if we can help deliver faster broadband, or even get them connected in the first place.

With this in mind, we have commissioned a feasibility study to investigate the potential at Loch Liath.

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



FEASIBILITY

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

FIBRE & FIXED WIRELESS

Fibre is the optimal connection, but **fixed wireless broadband also offers opportunities** to connect some locations that can be difficult or costly to reach.

A BENEFIT

Potential to provide **improved internet connection for commercial and residential properties**. This could be **partially or fully funded by the community benefit fund** associated with the Loch Liath Wind Farm project.

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 this winter. Before then, we will hold another public exhibition to share details of the final proposal.

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 28 June 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. Please note all comments should be received no later than 28 June 2021.

Thank you for attending the Loch Liath Wind Farm Exhibition.

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

[Please complete the feedback form](#)



Register for updates:
www.lochliath.co.uk



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(local call rate applies)



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**For more information
about Loch Liath**

www.lochliath.co.uk



Berry Burn Wind Farm, Moray. 29 turbines, 100m tip height