

Acheilidh Wind Farm

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

April 2024

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1 INTRODUCTION

Introduction

- 1.1 This Pre-Application Consultation Report ('PAC Report') has been prepared by Energiekontor UK Ltd ('the Applicant') to support an application seeking consent under Section 36 of The Electricity Act 1989 for the proposed Acheilidh Wind Farm, situated approximately 7.6km south-east of Lairg, and 8km west of Pittentrail¹.
- 1.2 The PAC report explains in detail the consultation activity undertaken by the Applicant in relation to a proposed development of 12 turbines with 5MW of battery storage and associated infrastructure.
- 1.3 Comments and feedback through wider community engagement as well as those received online have been collated and reported within the PAC report, which accompanies the formal application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU). The PAC Report also illustrates how the Applicant has responded to comments and feedback from members of the public and community groups, and where relevant, has helped shape and inform the final design of the proposed development.
- 1.4 The Applicant has applied the principles of the consultation process recommended for 'major' planning applications set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and Circular 3: Development Management Procedures. This enables the local community and all those with an interest in the proposal a clear opportunity to view the proposal, and importantly provide comments and feedback.

Purpose & Structure of this Report

- 1.5 This PAC Report provides an overview of the consultation programme undertaken by the project team, identifying the findings from the PAC process, outlines the steps taken to meet statutory requirements, summarises the feedback received during the PAC process and explains how this has been incorporated into the final planning application. This information is presented in the following sections:
 - Chapter 1: Introduction
 - Chapter 2: Consultation Approach & Methodology;
 - Chapter 3: Consultation Outcomes & Feedback; and
 - Chapter 4: Post Consultation Changes & Responses.

¹ When measured from the centre point of the Site

2 CONSULTATION APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

Approach

- 2.1 This chapter outlines the actions undertaken by the project team on behalf of Energiekontor UK Ltd to consult the local community and relevant stakeholders prior to the submission of the planning application.

Public Exhibitions

- 2.2 A total of three public exhibitions were held in Rogart Hall, Pittentrail on:
- 19th January 2023, 14:00 – 19:00
 - 16th May 2023, 14:00 – 19:00
 - 8th of November 2023, 14:30 – 18:30
- 2.3 The aim of these public events was to:
- Ensure that the local community and other stakeholders were aware of what is being proposed by the development;
 - To actively encourage feedback on the development proposals from these audiences, especially in respect of local knowledge, concerns and potential impacts;
 - To generate feedback via active discussions and questionnaires which could inform the development design process.
- 2.4 The location, accessibility and timing of these public events were chosen to maximise the opportunity of it being an inclusive and accessible event, including offering timings outwith standard working hours. The venue itself was situated within the host community council boundary.
- 2.5 The exhibitions were facilitated by staff from Energiekontor UK Ltd who aimed to respond to any questions raised, including technical queries, whilst discussing the proposals in greater detail.

Notification of Events

- 2.6 Advertisements for all exhibitions were published in the Northern Times two weeks before the associated exhibitions. Examples of press advertisements are presented within **Appendix A**.

Events Attendance

- 2.7 A sign-in register was used to monitor attendance at both public exhibitions. The table below shows the recorded attendance at each event:

Table 2.1: Recorded Public Exhibition Attendance

Public Exhibition Date	Attendance (No)
------------------------	-----------------

19/01/2023	16
16/05/2023	17
08/11/2023	47

First Consultation Event

- 2.8 The first consultation event was held in January 2023 in order to formally introduce the prospect of an application to communities.
- 2.9 The timing of this event was chosen to coincide with the start of the EIA process. Whilst not all surveys were completed at this time, an exhibition at this stage is useful to introduce the reasons for site selection and offer an opportunity for local people to share local knowledge, understand the rationale behind the scheme and where final design may end up, and provide any commentary on concerns, opportunities or points of interest that could be reasonably reflected in the scope or content of the EIA Report and wider application.
- 2.10 The first exhibition presented the following key information relating to the proposed development as follows:
- Board One: Welcome
 - Board Two: Proposed Development
 - Board Three: Built Environment
 - Board Four: Ecology and Ornithology
 - Board Five: Peat and Hydrology
 - Board Six: Construction and Transport
 - Board Seven: ZTV Stage
 - Board Eight: Landscape and Visual
 - Board Nine: Design Wirelines
- 2.11 It was considered at this time that 12 turbines would present a reasonable layout in terms of siting, spacing and footprint. It was also considered that a reasonable position was to heights of 230m to blade tip.

Second Consultation Event

- 2.12 The second consultation event was held in May 2023 to gather further comments from the local community. Feedback from the first exhibition was implemented and boards were altered to make aspects of the proposed development clearer to attendees. Additional wirelines from residential locations close to the proposed development were also provided at this event following feedback from previous attendees. These locations included:
- Acheilidh
 - Ardachu
 - Muie
 - Rogart School
 - Rogart Station

2.13 The second exhibition presented the following information:

- Board One: Proposed Development
- Board Two: Design Evolution
- Board Three: Built Environment
- Board Four: Ecology and Ornithology
- Board Five: Peat and Hydrology
- Board Six: Construction and Transport
- Board Seven: ZTV Stage
- Board Eight: Landscape and Visual

Third Consultation Event

2.14 At the request of the local community, the Applicant decided to host a third event to gather further comments and feedback on the proposed development ahead of the submission of a full planning application.

2.15 As no further changes had been made to the proposed development, the third exhibition presented the information from the second exhibition, select photomontages from LVIA photomontages and photomontages from the following residential locations:

- East Langwell
- Knockarthur
- Little Rogart
- Muie
- Rhilochan
- West Langwell

2.16 The exhibition boards from all consultation events are presented in **Appendix B** of this report, whilst a selection of photographs is included in **Appendix C**. Questionnaires were prepared and made available at both exhibitions, to allow visitors to comment on the proposal. A copy of these questionnaires is presented in **Appendix D**.

Engagement with Consultees

2.17 In addition to the above consultation measures, a number of other meetings and pre-application discussions have also taken place with both statutory and non-statutory consultees prior to the application submission. The details of these discussions and the associated outcomes are reported separately within the various technical reports and within the EIA, however a summary of these measures is outlined below.

2.18 Separate pre-scoping meetings with the Highland Council (THC) and the Energy Consents Unit were held. These meeting focused on an introductory presentation regarding the project prepared by Energiekontor, which covered the anticipated size and scale of the project, key environmental considerations, anticipated mitigation measures and other key matters associated with the project at this early stage.

- 2.19 The formal pre-application held with THC also included SEPA and NatureScot who provided initial comment on the post-scoping layout whilst a further design rationale meeting was held with THC following refinement of the proposed development.
- 2.20 The tenanted crofters were consulted on the proposed development throughout the design evolution (set out in EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 4) and changes were made to the associated infrastructure of the proposed development such as turbine positions, track alignment and crane pad orientation following feedback relating to the native woodland plantation within the site boundary and concerns around deer management.
- 2.21 The dates of key consultation milestones are set out below:
- Post-scoping meeting with Rogart Community on 19th of October 2022
 - Attendance at Rogart Community Council meeting on 7th of November 2022;
 - Pre-application meeting with THC on 14th of September 2022;
 - A design meeting held with THC on 1st of February 2023;
 - Meetings with SEPA on 20th of December 2022 and 28th of February 2023;

3 CONSULTATION OUTCOMES AND ANALYSIS

Introduction

- 3.1 The following summary of public comment on the development proposals and issues for consideration is based on feedback received at the public exhibition. This section discusses and analyses responses gathered, and how the Applicant has responded to feedback received following the return of questionnaire responses.
- 3.2 Comments received have been tabulated below, with analysis and follow-up actions from each event reported following the table.
- 3.3 Of the 80 people who attended across three events, 34 took the time to express their views via questionnaire. 19 attendees completed a questionnaire in person, and 15 attendees gave their views via the online questionnaire.
- 3.4 Overall, this equates to a total response rate of 43%.
- 3.5 A scale of 1-5 is used below to quantify opinions and contrast opinions over time. The average score has been rounded to the nearest whole number to ascribe the closest descriptor.

Feedback from First Public Exhibition

Table 3.1: Results of Questionnaires (First Exhibition)

Question No.	Question	Responses				
		0 – 2.5km	2.6km – 5km	5.1km – 10km	10.1km – 15km	15km+
1	<i>How far from the proposed development do you live?</i>	5	3	1	0	0

Question No.	Statement	Responses						Average Score
		Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Did Not Answer	
2	<i>The information available today has been clearly explained and is useful</i>	1	1	4	2	1	0	2.9 (Neutra)
	<i>I am concerned about the effects of climate change</i>	2	4	2	1	0	0	3.8 (Agree)
	<i>Onshore wind energy remains an important component in contributing towards Scotland's green energy targets and the wider climate emergency</i>	1	2	3	2	1	0	3 (Neutral)
	<i>I support the generation of renewable energy in Scotland</i>	1	4	1	2	1	0	3.2 (Neutral)

	<i>The proposed development has been sensitively designed</i>	0	0	1	1	3	4	1.6 (Disagree)
	<i>The proposed development is acceptable in its present form and can be accommodated in this location</i>	0	0	0	1	4	4	1.2 (Strongly disagree)

Question No.	Question	Responses
3	<i>Overall, do you support the proposed development as it is currently presented? Please give reasons in the space below.</i>	- As part of the overall area there is an overdevelopment of turbines proposed. The increased height and intrusion onto Starfleet views will be considerable. - Not at all. There are far too many wind turbine developments in our area of East Sutherland. - Wrong place, too large, too many - Future energy should come from hydro r wave power - Existing grid is not able to carry the electricity generated - We pay the highest tariff in the country. - I do not support any development of any kind.
4	<i>If you have concerns about the proposed development, please tell us why in the space below.</i>	- Some concern on long term blighting of areas due to over development spoiling the natural scenes - The communities affected by the visual impact of these developments are consistently having their views ignored - They are a blot on the landscape - Why not concentrate on upgrading the grid? - It is not as green as you would have us believe
5	<i>Do you have any further comments?</i>	- Transport issues during construction, effect on local roads. - Long term impact of this current development: 1) Visual, 2) Psychological (the feeling of being 'hemmed in' by turbines), 3) Geographical and Geological (erosion etc), 4) Effect on wildlife.

		▪ Another development on land owned by someone from outwith the community who will not have to live with it every day. ▪ I live directly opposite where this will be. I will receive no financial benefit or compensation for all the disruption caused by the building of these turbines. ▪ Objection is my only comment
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First Public Exhibition Analysis

- 3.6 There was a total of 9 qualifying responses received from this public exhibition. From this, 4 questionnaires were completed in-person, and 5 were completed via the online questionnaire. Overall, this equates to around a 56% response rate.
- 3.7 Whilst over half of attendees gave their comments and feedback via questionnaire, this is still not considered to be a significant number of responses, and conclusions drawn from a small sample size cannot be representative of a consensus, whether the views are positive or negative.
- 3.8 The responses showed that all respondents were within 5km of the site, and were engaged with impacts upon the local vicinity, particularly in terms of visual impacts.
- 3.9 Conclusions drawn from the first exhibition were that the exhibition was poorly attended, and this very small sample size cannot indicate support or objection for the proposed development.
- 3.10 Responses were generally mixed, with respondents collectively feeling neutral towards;
- The clarity and usefulness of the information provided at the exhibition
 - The importance of onshore wind in contributing to Scotland's green energy goals
 - Support towards renewable energy generation in Scotland
- 3.11 The 9 respondents agreed that the effects of climate change were a concern – scoring 3.8. It was also generally agreed amongst the respondents that the proposed development had not been sensitively designed (1.6), and was not acceptable in its present form (1.2).
- 3.12 Qualitative comments suggested visual concerns, as well as impacts on traffic, geology and wildlife. These were all taken into consideration and are discussed further in table 3.4 of this document.

Feedback from Second Public Exhibition

Table 3.2: Results of Questionnaires (Second Exhibition)

Question No.	Question	Responses					
		0 – 2.5km	2.6km – 5km	5.1km – 10km	10.1km – 15km	15km+	Did Not Answer
1	How far from the proposed development do you live?	5	0	0	0	0	1

Question No.	Question	Responses		
		Yes	No	Did not answer
2	Did you attend/view the previous exhibition?	4	1	1

Question No.	Statement	Responses						Average Score
		Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Did Not Answer	
3	The information available today has been clearly explained and is useful	2	1	0	2	0	1	3.6 (Agree)
	I am concerned about the effects of climate change	1	1	3	0	0	1	3.6 (Agree)

	Onshore wind energy remains an important component in contributing towards Scotland's green energy targets and the wider climate emergency	0	0	0	1	4	1	1.2 (Strongly Disagree)
	I support the generation of renewable energy in Scotland	0	1	0	2	2	1	2 (Disagree)
	The proposed development has been sensitively designed	0	0	4	0	1	1	2.6 (Neutral)
	The proposed development is acceptable in its present form and can be accommodated in this location	0	0	1	3	1	1	2 (Disagree)

Question No.	Question	Responses
4	Overall, do you support the proposed development as it is currently presented? Please give reasons in the space below.	- Concern about flicker effect from the blades - Concern about how this will affect other rural activities such as peat cutting and sheep stock club - Concern about damage to the hill, and how the site will be decommissioned. - No, it is an unnecessary development. The power generated cannot be transmitted to the market. - Disagree with the name change 100% - The name puts a blight on the property at Acheilidh - Proposals are too big, too many and too imposing.
5	If you have concerns about the proposed development, please tell us why in the space below.	- Prefer offshore wind farms - The size of the turbines is a terrible imposition on the environment - Affect my water supply off the hill.

		▪ We have had no discussion on this name change ▪ Destruction of local environment ▪ Psychological stress
6	Do you have any further comments?	▪ People locally have not been made aware of either this development or this exhibition.

Second Public Exhibition Analysis

- 3.13 A total of 17 attendees were present at this event, an increase of one attendee from the first public event. However, only 6 attendees expressed their views via questionnaire, with 3 attendees completing a questionnaire in person, and a further 3 attendees completing an online questionnaire.
- 3.14 From these respondents, four were returning attendees, and one was a first-time respondent. It is unknown whether the fifth respondent was a first-time respondent or not.
- 3.15 The response rate for this event was therefore poorer than the last, at 35%. As per the analysis of the last event (outlined in paragraph 3.10), the results above cannot be held as representative of attendees, let alone the area in general.
- 3.16 Furthermore, of these six respondents one respondent did not answer questions 1 or 2, further limiting the results of the analysis.
- 3.17 All of the respondents who answered question 1 lived within 2.5km of the proposed development.
- 3.18 Respondents agreed that the information provided at the event was clear and useful (3.6), and collectively agreed that climate change was a concern (3.6).
- 3.19 Participants also collectively disagreed that onshore wind is an important component in contributing to Scotland's green energy targets and the wider climate emergency (1.2), and also collectively did not support renewable energy development in Scotland (2).
- 3.20 Participants also felt neutral about the sensitivity of the design (3).
- 3.21 Participants disagreed that the proposed development was acceptable in its current form (2).
- 3.22 A number of qualitative concerns were raised such as shadow flicker, electricity transmission and private water supplies. These concerns are discussed in further detail in table 3.4.
- 3.23 Qualitative feedback from one respondent noted that the Applicant's public engagement had been poor, and local people were not aware of the event.
- 3.24 To implement this feedback and to tackle the poor responses from both events, it was decided that the applicant would host a third public exhibition in order to gather further feedback and comments from the local community.

Feedback from Third Public Exhibition

Table 3.3: Results of Questionnaires (Third Exhibition)

Question No.	Question	Responses					
		0 – 2.5km	2.6km – 5km	5.1km – 10km	10.1km – 15km	15km+	Did Not Answer
1	How far from the proposed development do you live?	6	8	8	3	0	0

Question No.	Question	Responses		
		Yes	No	Did not answer
2	Did you attend/view the previous exhibition?	12	13	0

Question No.	Statement	Responses						Average Score
		Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Did Not Answer	
3	The information available today has been clearly explained and is useful	4	3	10	3	5	0	2.9 (Neutral)
	I am concerned about the effects of climate change	8	10	6	1	0	0	4 (Agree)

	Onshore wind energy remains an important component in contributing towards Scotland's green energy targets and the wider climate emergency	1	2	5	7	10	0	2 (Disagree)
	I support the generation of renewable energy in Scotland	4	9	6	1	4	1	3.2 (Neutral)
	The proposed development has been sensitively designed	0	1	2	4	17	1	1.5 (Disagree)
	The proposed development is acceptable in its present form and can be accommodated in this location	0	1	0	3	19	2	1.3 (Strongly Disagree)

Question No.	Question	Responses
4	Overall, do you support the proposed development as it is currently presented? Please give reasons in the space below.	▪ Need more visuals including future developments ▪ In danger of being surrounded by windfarms, ▪ Two windfarms in a small community are enough - any more will ruin natural landscape ▪ No. ▪ No, another eye and ear-sore on our beautiful landscapes ▪ Right in my view ▪ Too large ▪ Area is overrun with wind farms ▪ I have seen no evidence that reflects the environment and historic location

		on the proposed site. ▪ The map presented was not accurate and did not show ancient woodland ▪ It is too big, too intrusive, we have too many in the area as it is. ▪ Very close to our property, will be looking at and hearing it everyday. ▪ Too many wind farms in the area already ▪ Loss of Avian and live-stock ▪ Advantages do not outweigh environmental impact. ▪ Turbines are oversized for location ▪ Tourist industry around Rogart and Lairg is vital to the local economy, this proposed development will deter visitors from coming to our area. ▪ Unacceptable due to cumulative visual impacts ▪ Soft peat ground erosion ▪ Detrimental impacts on tourists/wildlife ▪ Disruption caused by construction of infrastructure that is required
5	If you have concerns about the proposed development, please tell us why in the space below.	▪ Environmental. Surrounded by windfarms. ▪ New native woodland ▪ Destruction of natural habitats and potential archaeology ▪ The impact on landscape and on tourist trade could be devastating ▪ Landscape of the area is ruined for the benefit of affluent people and companies with zero benefit and much disturbance to those who live here. ▪ View ▪ What will the benefits be to the local community and infrastructure? ▪ What are the benefits? ▪ What happens when the turbines are decommissioned? ▪ Offshore is more effective. ▪ We need peatland. ▪ Traffic disruption and pollution. ▪ Better onshore places such as brownfield sites ▪ Appearance, noise, lights.

		▪ You can't transmit the power that is already being generated to the grid. ▪ Visible for miles around. ▪ Wildland within the site is excluded ▪ Erecting on shallow peat will still threaten carbon stores ▪ Impacts on mental health ▪ I am anxious by the feeling of being hemmed in and surrounded by turbines ▪ We can't get any benefit from them ▪ Flicker effect ▪ Very intrusive on the landscape which will have a detrimental effect on the attraction to tourists. ▪ Red light on turbines will spoil our night sky
6	Do you have any further comments?	▪ Please consider the impact of your business on our small community and others ▪ We need to be compensated, not charged the highest energy rates in all of Europe. ▪ Turbines too high and unsightly. ▪ What percentage of local businesses will be subcontracted for work? ▪ It should not be allowed. ▪ Will it distract from tourism in the area? ▪ Turbines cannot be recycled ▪ Turbines will hold up traffic for the local population ▪ Those who live in among turbines get the least benefit for the greatest inconvenience. ▪ There are already too many turbines here ▪ Private companies are the only beneficiaries of these industrial developments ▪ We already produce more electricity than the grid can deliver ▪ Constraints payments have added around 16 million to customers' bills in the last two years.

Third Public Exhibition Analysis

- 3.25 Of the three events, the third saw a significantly higher attendance rate, with 47 attendees. This is an increase of 31 and 30 attendees from the first and second events respectively.
- 3.26 Furthermore, 52% of respondents had not attended a previous exhibition, highlighting that the decision to host a third event to increase community engagement was successful.
- 3.27 25 of the 47 attendees filled in a questionnaire form, with 17 attendees completing the questionnaire in-person, and 8 attendees completing the online questionnaire. Overall, this is a response rate of 53%.
- 3.28 Whilst the number of responses gathered are significantly higher than that of the previous events, it must be noted that this is still a small sample size, and therefore does not indicate widespread support or objection for the proposed development.
- 3.29 Of the questionnaire responses gathered, most respondents had not attended either of the previous exhibitions.
- 3.30 All respondents live within 15km of the proposed development, with 24% of respondents living within 2.5km of the proposed development, 32% within 2.6 - 5km, 32% within 5.1-10km and the remaining 12% within 10-15km.
- 3.31 From the response to question two, attitudes towards the information available at the exhibition, and support of the generation of renewable energy in Scotland remained mixed, both scoring as 'Neutral'.
- 3.32 Respondents collectively agreed that the effects of climate change were a concern, scoring 4 overall.
- 3.33 Respondents collectively disagreed that onshore wind is an important component in contributing towards Scotland's green energy targets (2).
- 3.34 Respondents also expressed their view that the proposed development had not been sensitively designed (1.5 - disagree), and that the proposed development is not acceptable in its current form (1.3 – strongly disagree)
- 3.35 Respondents gave a number of qualitative feedback and comments, concerned with a number of topics including visual impacts, traffic, noise, cultural heritage, forestry, tourism and wildlife impacts.
- 3.36 The Applicant's response to these comments will be discussed further in table 3.4.

Key Thematic Issues and Response

- 3.37 Comments received during the public exhibitions, via the scoping process and via questionnaire responses and comments have been considered as part of the emerging design process and the proposed development has been designed to accord with as much raised as possible.
- 3.38 Key issues raised during the consultation process are summarised in the table below, with a note on how these matters have been considered to inform the wider design of the proposed development.

Table 3.4 – Principal Issues and Commentary on Consideration

Element	Attendee's Commentary	Response
Visual Impacts	- Communities affected by the visual impact of these developments - Ruins natural landscape - Too large - Cumulative visual impacts - There is an overdevelopment of turbines in the area	It is the Applicant's view that the site is suitable for renewable energy, is designed sympathetically whilst maintaining the requirements for a modern, subsidy free commercial wind farm, and is situated on a rolling landform very similar to many wind farms across Scotland. The Applicant recognises the presence of other wind farm developments within the area and has considered this within the design of the proposed development. The proximity of the proposed development to the consented Lairg II Wind Farm has also led to a reduction in new infrastructure by utilising access tracks.
Traffic	- Transport issues during construction, effect on local roads - Pollution	An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan has been included in this EIAR (Volume 4, Technical Appendix 12.2) In the event that the project achieves consent, a detailed Transport Management Plan, would be developed in consultation with the community prior to the construction stage.
Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	- Long term geographical and geological concerns - Concerns about construction on peat - Concerns about loss of peatland - Concerns about damage to the hill - Affects water supplies	Impacts upon peat across the Site have been understood through a suite of surveys to understand both peat depths and condition across the Site. Extensive design iteration works were undertaken to avoid siting turbines or other infrastructure on deep peat. This has resulted in areas of deep peat being avoided in the siting of all turbine/ hardstanding areas. All proposed new track sections are generally sited on areas with peat depth less than 1.0m except for some sections in the centre. Where this cannot be achieved, floated tracks have been proposed. Regarding private water supplies, the closest of these is Fleetwood House, which is located approximately 2.5km north of the nearest proposed infrastructure and approximately 2.75km from the proposed location of the nearest turbine (T1). The PWS at Rhaoine is situated approximately 4km north-west of the nearest proposed infrastructure. Given their distance from the proposed infrastructure, these PWS abstractions are considered unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development.
Wildlife	Long terms effects on wildlife	Details on both ecology and ornithology can be found in EIAR Volume 1,

	▪ Destruction of natural habitats ▪ Loss of avian and animal live-stock	Chapters 9 and 10. There is a number of design considerations for ecology and ornithology which have been put in place such as the implementation of buffers for species such as Red and Black Throated Diver as well as buffers around sensitive habitat communities which have been avoided through iterative design work.
Shadow Flicker	▪ Concerns about shadow flicker effect from the blades	There is no standard guidance for assessing shadow flicker in Scotland however, as per THC guidance, a shadow flicker assessment is required if any regularly occupied properties not associated with the development lie within 11x rotor diameter of the wind farm. By applying a 11-rotor diameter distance from each turbine gives an allowance of 1705m where effects may occur. The closest inhabited property lies approximately 2.2km from the nearest turbine. When taking this into consideration, it is unlikely that significant effects would occur
Electricity Transmission	▪ The power generated cannot be transmitted to the market	The grid process would be somewhat outside of the control of the Applicant and any future grid connection would be made to the network operator, not the Applicant.
Cultural Heritage	▪ No evidence that reflects the historic location on the proposed site ▪ Destruction of potential archaeology	Impacts upon Cultural Heritage are set out in Chapter 7 of EIAR Volume 1. From desk-based assessment and a site survey, the baseline conditions for the Site have been identified and assessed where necessary. Whilst the construction of Site infrastructure has potential to remove previously unrecorded archaeological remains within the Site, implementing an agreed programme of mitigation through walkover surveys and/or on-site monitoring of access works and turbine installation, this is not considered to result in a significant effect.
Woodland	▪ The map presented was not accurate and did not show ancient woodland on site ▪ Concerns about new native woodland	There is an area of ancient woodland located in the north of the Site however this will be unaffected by the proposed development. Woodland which will be affected by the proposed development includes Loch Cracail Woodland, with a total area of 134.23 hectares (ha). This is a 9-year-old woodland plantation with saplings of Scots Pine and Birch. The design evolution has sought to minimise impacts upon the native woodland as far as possible, reducing from an initial 5.77ha requiring felling to 1.31ha. The Applicant has also committed to replanting the 1.31ha of native woodland which will be felled within the Site boundary.

Noise	Concerns about noise	Noise was assessed as part of the EIAR (EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 11) and no significant effects were identified given the separation distance between residential properties and the proposed development (approx. 2km)
Socio-economics and tourism	- Impacts on tourist trade - What percentage of local businesses will be sub-contracted for work?	EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 13 considers the proposed developments impacts upon socio-economics and tourism. Through the assessment of key tourism receptors, no significant effects have been identified. We will endeavour to use local contractors as far as possible within the construction process. We would welcome local contractors with relevant skills to get in touch with our Project Manager.
Community Benefits	- What will be the benefits to the local community? - Those who live in among turbines get the least benefit for the greatest inconvenience	The Applicant will provide a community benefit package in line with prevailing Scottish Government guidance which would be delivered during the operational phase of the proposed development. The Applicant is supportive of all potential uses of the community benefit package but recognises that it will be for local communities to decide on how to achieve the greatest benefits.
Decommission	Concern about how the site will be decommissioned	Decommissioning of the Site would involve the total removal of above-ground infrastructure. This would involve retention of existing access tracks for estate operations. Reinstatement of the Site would be carried out in accordance with an approved method statement and a decommissioning bond would be agreed with THC. .
Light Pollution	- Concerns about lights - Red light on turbines will spoil our night sky	An assessment on nighttime effects can be found in EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 6 and EIAR Volume 4, Technical Appendix 6.3. As agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), not all turbines will be lit with only six out of 12 turbines requiring aviation lighting.

4 SUMMARY

- 4.1 As is demonstrated in this PAC Report, the consultation process undertaken in support of this planning application meets the statutory requirements for pre-application consultation. The approach to public consultation has ensured that the local community and consultees have been given multiple opportunities to comment on the proposed development, and their responses have been considered as part of the development design process.
- 4.2 The majority of respondents were satisfied with the information provided at the public exhibitions, however, the small sample size means that the responses gathered cannot be representative of the public – whether these be positive or negative.
- 4.3 The consultation events provided a snapshot of time where the application was and aimed to inform local people of plans and rationale, whilst gathering information and seeking views in order to amend and/or alter matters within the application where needed.
- 4.4 Responses to the proposed development ranged across the exhibitions. The majority of respondents recognised that climate change was a concern. Opinion differed on the sensitivity of the design of proposed development, however it was generally agreed that this development was not acceptable in its current form, although this response is expected with commercial scale wind operations.
- 4.5 The Applicant has aimed to be open and transparent about their intentions, justification, and rationale for the proposed development. Overall, information from the PAC process was valuable in aiding the application process and providing an insight into public opinion towards the proposed development.

APPENDIX A: NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MORRISON Charlie John (Durness) - Iain and Trish would like to express their deepest appreciation for all the kindness and support shown by so many friends and family as we mourn the loss of dear Charlie. Thank you for all the cards, letters, flowers and gifts of food and for all who attended Charlie's service. Special thanks to Durness Coastguard, Fire Service, all doctors, paramedics and Traffic Police. Special thanks to Kenay MacKae & Sons, funeral director, Durness and Main Inghran, funeral director, Achnacraig for their sensitive and professional handling of arrangements. Special thanks also to the whole community of Durness who came together with love and support and for arranging all the food and refreshments in the village hall. Many thanks for the generous donations raised for Scottish Airlink, the sum being £1,467.66.

IN MEMORIAM

In Memoriam

HENDERSON

Treasured memories of our dear parents and grandparents, Walter, who died on 1st January, 2013 and Cathy, who died on 24th August, 1997, and also our dear brother and uncle, Alex, who died on 8th February, 2019.

Sadly missed

Barbara and Kevin, Tain



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EnergieKontor

ACHEILIDH WIND FARM
PUBLIC EXHIBITION

EnergieKontor will be holding a public exhibition for the proposed Achelidh Wind Farm, located approximately 7.6km to the south-east of Lairg and 8km to the west of Pittenbrail. The exhibition will provide information on the proposed development and how we wish to take the project forward. This is designed to allow interested members of the public to have an initial view information on the proposal, as well as speak to members of our project team about the plans and provide any feedback you may wish to make.

The exhibition will be held on the 19th January 2023 in Rogart Hall between 2pm - 7pm

If you are unable to attend, would like further information, or would like to organise a telephone or video call with a member of the project team during the consultation period please contact the Project Manager, Lauren Mallon at: lauren.mallon@energiekontor.com

Information will also be available via our website at:
www.energiekontor.co.uk/our-projects/achelidh

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS)
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at: <http://www.highland.gov.uk>, or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point, using the following link: <http://www.highland.gov.uk/needanyhelp> 1/5, to 2.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposed Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
2206453/PL	Land 504 NW of Cullisburgh, Highland Road, Bonar Bridge	Installation of five tall lighting columns within car park	Comments to be made by 24 January 2023
2206376/PL	Land 100/101 SW of Melness House, Melness, Tain	Removal of access and track	Comments to be made by 24 January 2023
2206745/PL	Scag, Rogart, IV29 300	Creation of replacement house	Comments to be made by 24 January 2023

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NKH
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

www.highland.gov.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC PROHIBITIONS
ON THE U1200 OLDSDHORE ROAD) ORDER 2022

NOTICE is hereby given that The Highland Council, by virtue of the powers conferred under Section 14 (1) (b) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended being satisfied that traffic on the road should be restricted or prohibited because of the likelihood of danger to the public has made the above Order temporarily restricting of vehicular traffic from using U1202 Oldsdhore Road.

As detailed below

Length of road affected by temporary prohibition of use

U1200 Oldsdhore Road from its junction with U1195 Oldsdhore Cemetery Road, to a turning head near shore, a distance of 869 metres or thereabouts.

Temporary prohibition on use of a road

The order comes into force at 07:00 hours 10 January 2023 to 18:00 hours on 24 February 2023 no person shall drive, or cause or permit any vehicle to be driven on the length of road, or part or parts of the length of road, specified above when a prohibition is identified as applying by means of one or more of the traffic signs of a type generally provided for under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended.

The road closure is necessary to allow repairs to the water mains.

Exemptions

No prohibition imposed by this Order applies to:

- (a) Vehicles being used in connection with the transportation of abnormal loads in respect of which the order has been made, including those vehicles employed to carry out associated traffic management;
- (b) Emergency vehicles;
- (c) Vehicles being used to gain access to, or egress from, premises situated on or adjacent to said length of road or premises which are only accessible from those lengths of road.

Alternative Routes

No alternative route available.

Joanna Sutherland

Roads Operation Manager (Caithness & Sutherland)

Infrastructure & Environment, The Highland Council, Drummuir, Golspie, KW10 6TA

22/12/2022

First Registration of a Craft

Duncan Clark has registered their craft at 163 Drummuir, Golspie, KW10 6TA. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 12 September 2023. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofters.gov.uk/register/ home. The craft registration number is: C834.

First Registration of a Craft

Alexander David Morrison has registered their craft 254 Cullisburgh, Melness, Tain. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 15th September 2023. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofters.gov.uk/register/ home. The craft registration number is: C845.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

KIRKTON WIND FARM LIMITED
Electricity Act 1989

The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
Notice is hereby given that Kirkton Wind Farm Limited, over its registered office at World 3 Office, 1 Walker Street, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH3 7UR, has submitted additional information to the Scottish Ministers in relation to the application for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate Kirkton Energy Park and approximately 2.1 km south of Melville, Southwell, Central Scotland (reference NC 9799, 17708). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be over 50 megawatts (MW) (revised 22.8 MW) with an additional 200 MW of battery storage, comprising 11 turbines with a ground to blade tip height of 149.7 metres. The proposed development is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment. An EIA Report has been produced to accompany the application for consent.

Location	Opening Hours	Address
The Highland Council Wind Office	Monday – Friday: 9am to 5pm	Planning & Building Standards & Infrastructure Service, Cairn House, Market Square, Wick, KW1 4BB

And is also available from the following locations, during the opening hours of the building:

Location	Opening Hours	Address
Thurso Library	Monday: 10am – 4pm Tuesday: 10am – 4pm Wednesday: 10am – 4pm Thursday: 10am – 4pm Friday: 10am – 4pm Saturday: 10am – 1pm	Davidson's Lane, Thurso, KW14 7AF
The Melville Inn	Monday: 9am – 9.30pm Tuesday: 9am – 9.30pm Wednesday: 9am – 9.30pm Thursday: 9am – 9.30pm Friday: 9am – 9.30pm Saturday: 9am – 9.30pm	Melville, KW14 7TJ

A copy of the application, including details showing the land to which it relates and the EIA Report, together with the additional information, is available for public inspection, free of charge at the application website <https://www.enr.gov.scot> or on the Scottish Government Energy Consents website at <https://www.enr.gov.scot> under application reference SCU 0001244.

Copy of the additional information may be consulted from Wind 2 Limited, telephone: 01573 948886 or email: ryan.blair@wind2.co.uk or at an office at 600 per head per year (plus 15 per head per year) for the first 10 years.

All previous representations received by Scottish Ministers in relation to the above application will still be considered. Any new representations may be submitted to Scottish Ministers via the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, either via the website at <https://www.enr.gov.scot> or by email to representations@enr.gov.scot or by post to Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 3 Atlantic Quay, 120 Broadland, Glasgow, G2 8LU. Identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation.

Written or emailed representations should be dated, clearly stating the name (in block capitals) and full postal address of those making representations. Emailed representations should also include the full return email address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to representations@enr.gov.scot or by post to Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 3 Atlantic Quay, 120 Broadland, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation, will be accepted.

Any subsequent additional information which is submitted by the developer will be subject to further public notice in the manner, and representations to such information will be accepted as per this notice.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also issue a public notice to be held.

Following consideration of the environmental information, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of two ways: consent the proposal (with or without conditions attached), or reject the proposal.

General Data Protection Regulations
The Scottish Government processes representations under the Electricity Act 1989. To support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes details at <https://www.enr.gov.scot>. A privacy notice is published on the help page at <https://www.enr.gov.scot> or on the Scottish Government Energy Consents website at <https://www.enr.gov.scot>. This explains how the Scottish Government processes your personal information. If you have any concerns about the processing of your personal information by the Scottish Government, please email DataProtection@enr.gov.scot or write to Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 3 Atlantic Quay, 120 Broadland, Glasgow, G2 8LU.

The Northern Times Telephone (01408) 633993

publicnotices

PUBLIC NOTICES

ACKRON WIND FARM

Statkraft would like to invite local residents to public consultation events for the proposed Ackron Wind Farm, located 2km south-east of Melville. The Proposed Development will comprise of 11 turbines with maximum tip heights of 200m and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Following the withdrawal of the previous Ackron Wind Farm application, we have been working hard to design a new, improved, wind farm layout.

At the public consultation events you will have the opportunity to view our plans for the project, ask the Project Team questions and provide feedback, which will help us to refine the design of the project.

Our consultation website will be live from 14 November – 5 December 2023 and can be accessed via www.ackron-windfarm.co.uk

Comments should be made to Statkraft UK by 5 December 2023 and do not constitute a formal representation. An opportunity to make formal representation will exist if a subsequent planning application is made.

We will be hosting public consultation events in the following locations:

- Tuesday, 14th November: 3pm to 7pm
Halsdale Community Hall, Halsdale KW13 6WT
what3words:///hgs.guats.scotners
- Wednesday, 15th November: 3pm to 7pm
Halsdale Inn, Melville KW14 7TJ
what3words:///learns.orange.foothpath

Freephone: 0800 772 0668 Website: www.ackron-windfarm.co.uk
Email: UKproject@statkraft.com

EnergieKontor

Acheilidh Wind Farm Public Exhibition

EnergieKontor will be holding a third public exhibition for the proposed Acheilidh Wind Farm, located approximately 7.6km to the south-east of Lairg and 8km to the west of Pittenloch.

The exhibition will provide information on the proposed development. This is designed to allow interested members of the public to come along and view information on the proposal, as well as speak to members of our project team about the plans and provide any feedback you may wish to make.

The exhibition will be held on the 8th November 2023 in Rogart Hall between 2.30pm – 6.30pm.

If you are unable to attend, would like further information, or would like to organise a telephone or video call with a member of the project team during the consultation period please contact the Project Manager, Lauren Mallon at: lauren.mallon@energiekontor.com

Information will also be available via our website at: www.energiekontor.co.uk/our-projects/acheilidh

We look forward to meeting you.

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APPENDIX B: EXHIBITION BOARDS



Welcome to Acheilidh Wind Farm Public Exhibition

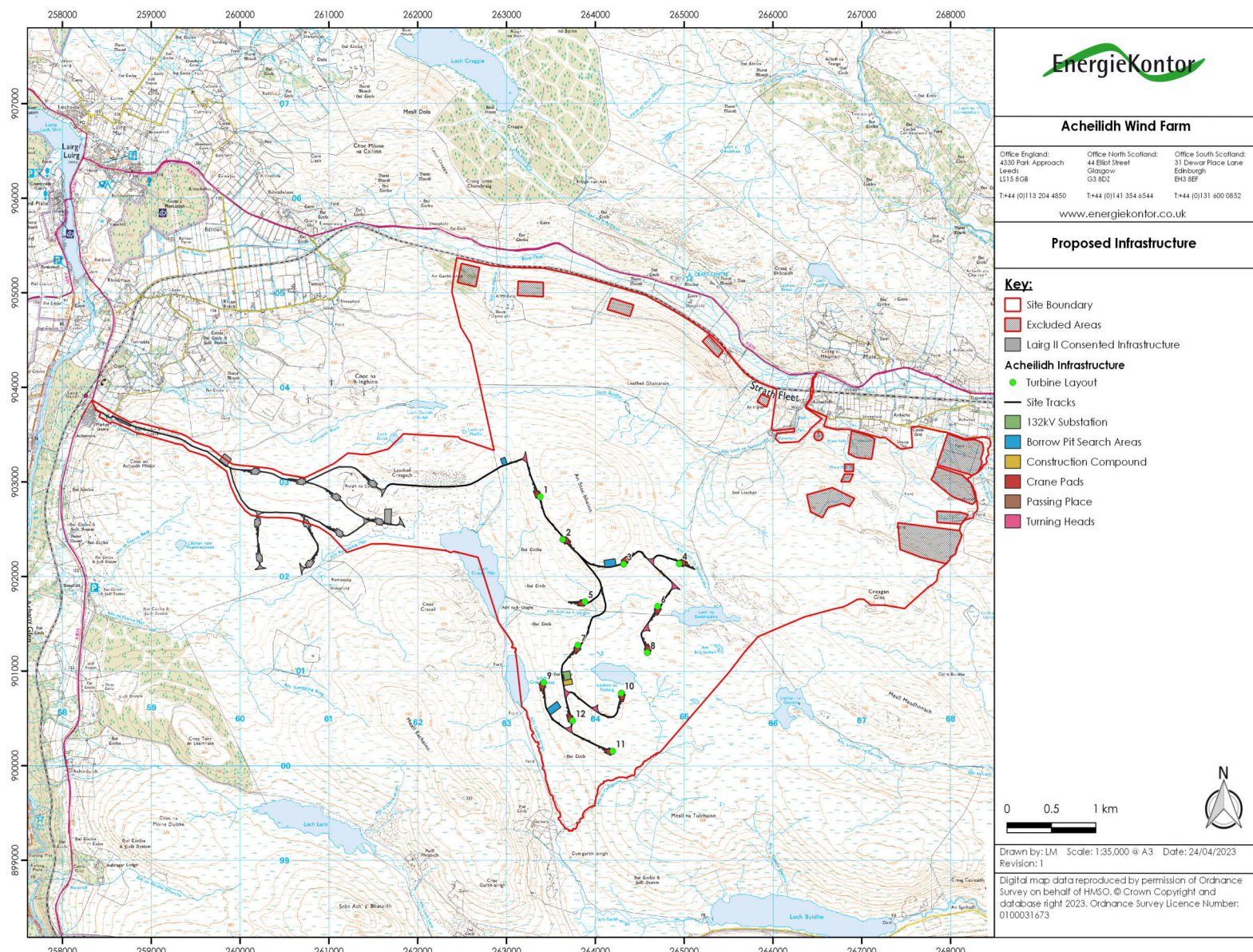
Thank you for coming along.

Should you have any questions, please direct them to a member of the
Energiekontor Team who will be happy to assist.

>> The Proposed Development

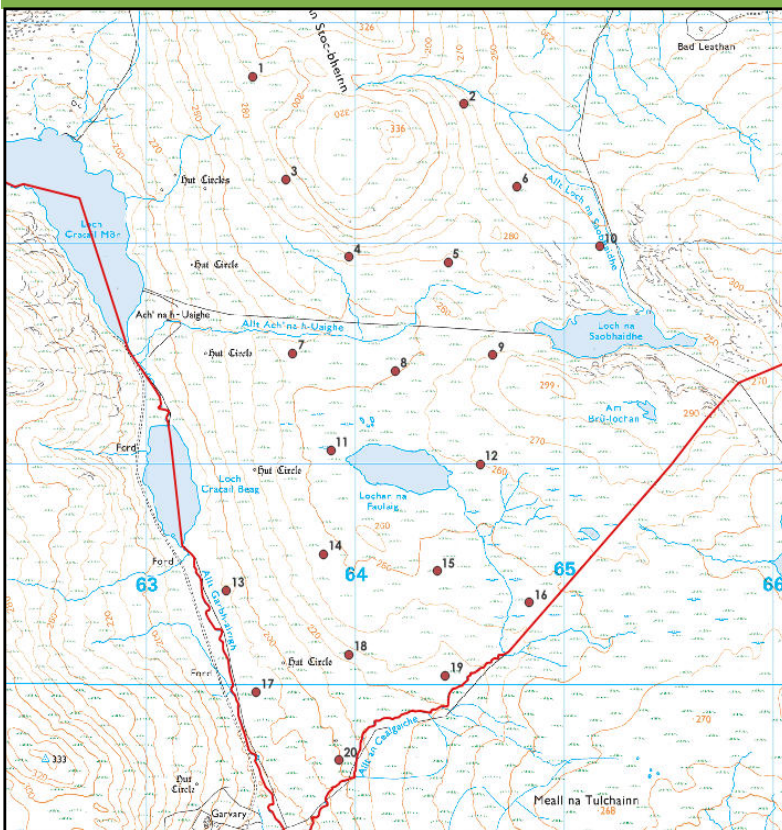
ACHEILIDH WIND FARM

- The Site lies approximately 7.6km south east of Lairg and 8km to the west of Pittentrail.
- The turbine layout remains at 12 turbines which are a mix of 200m and 230m to tip height.
- A total of six turbines have been reduced in height as a result of feedback from the previous exhibitions and continued design evolution. These heights are in line with current wind farm technology, economics, and similar applications throughout the country and within the Highland area.
- The proposed development includes approximately 7.7km of new access tracks, four watercourse crossings, an on-site substation, three borrow pits, a temporary construction compound, 5MW of battery storage and vehicle passing places.

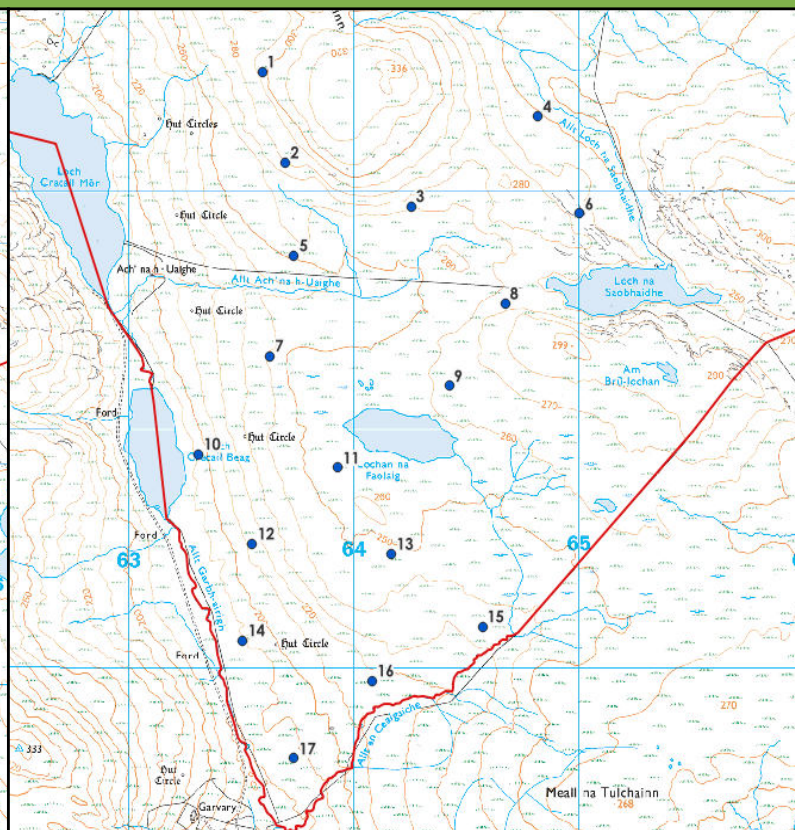


Design Evolution

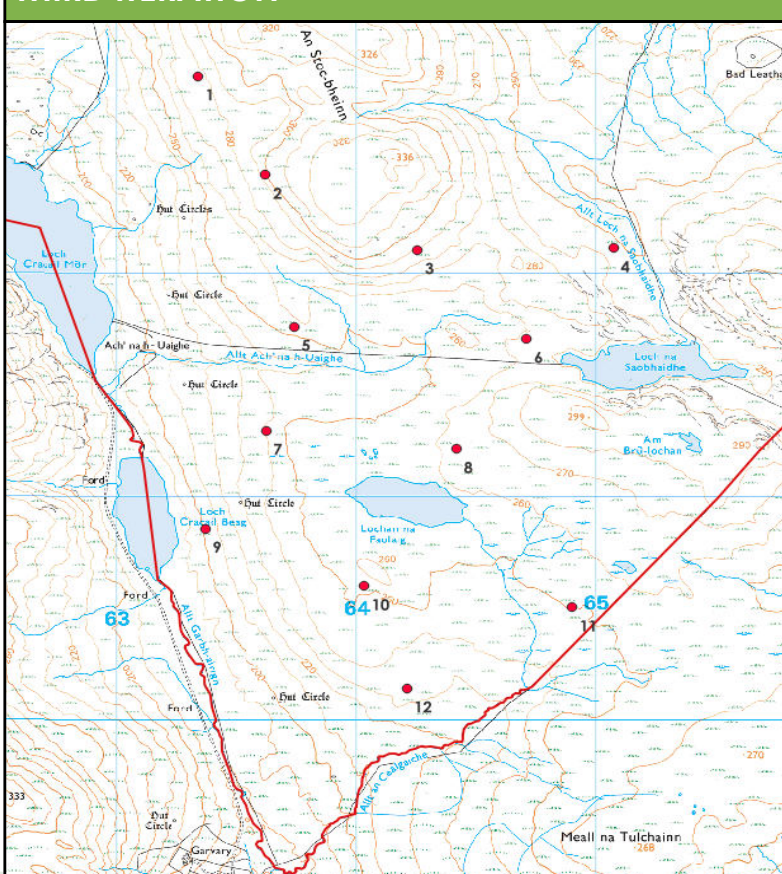
FIRST ITERATION



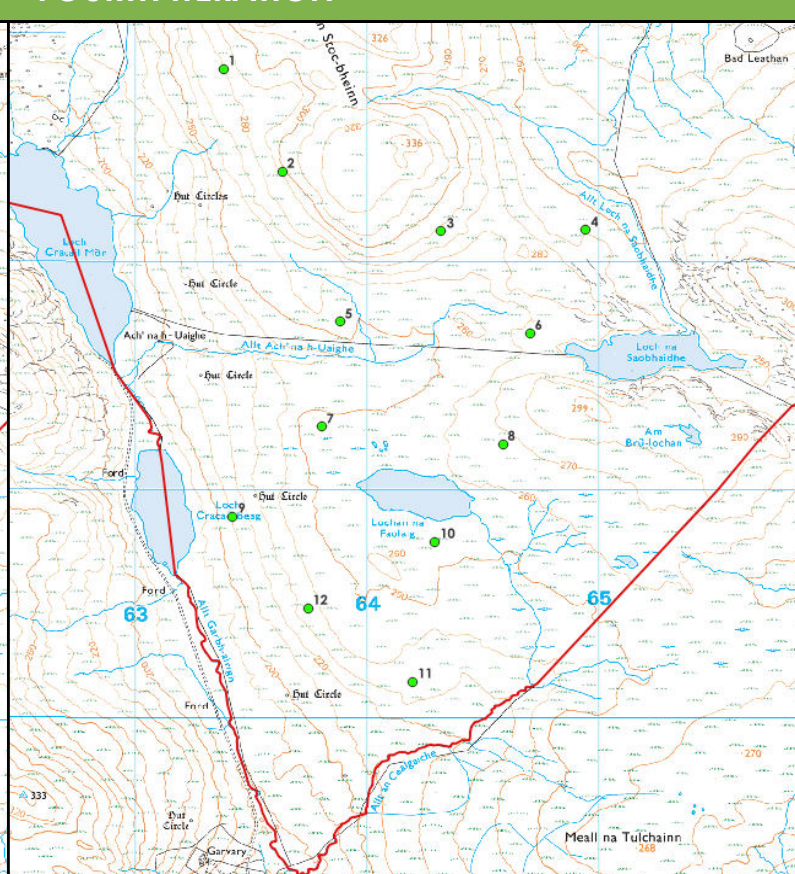
SECOND ITERATION



THIRD ITERATION



FOURTH ITERATION



>> Why Acheilidh Wind Farm?

BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

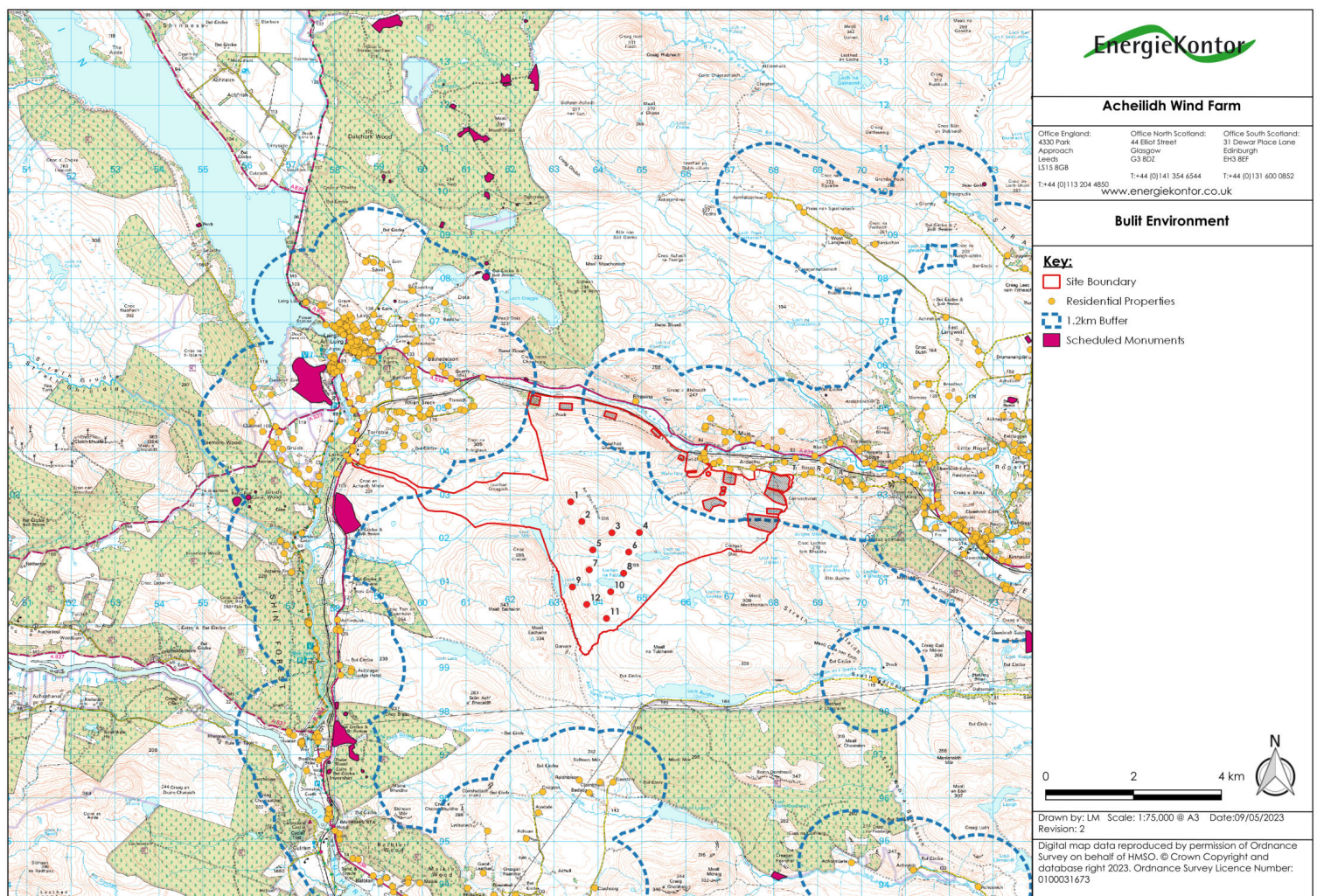
An important consideration to gain an appreciation of the site location in relation to nearby properties and the wider built and historic environment. An initial step with site identification is to understand if there are any built and historic environment constraints and designations which may be impacted, for example:

- Scheduled Monuments
- Garden and Designed Landscapes
- Listed Buildings
- Conservation Areas
- Inventory of Historic Battlefields
- Residential Properties

Energiekontor considers that Acheilidh Wind Farm is situated within a good location and respects the surrounding built environment. As the map below demonstrates, the developable area was set with no turbines within 2.2km of the nearest currently inhabited property.

Special consideration will be given to the design of the layout and separation distances as well as taking into consideration any relationships with wider built environment.

The Ord and Achany Glen are examples of two Scheduled monuments which have been considered as part of the design process with the Ord used as a key design viewpoint within the landscape and visual assessment. The map below identifies the relevant designations and constraints that require due consideration throughout the assessment.



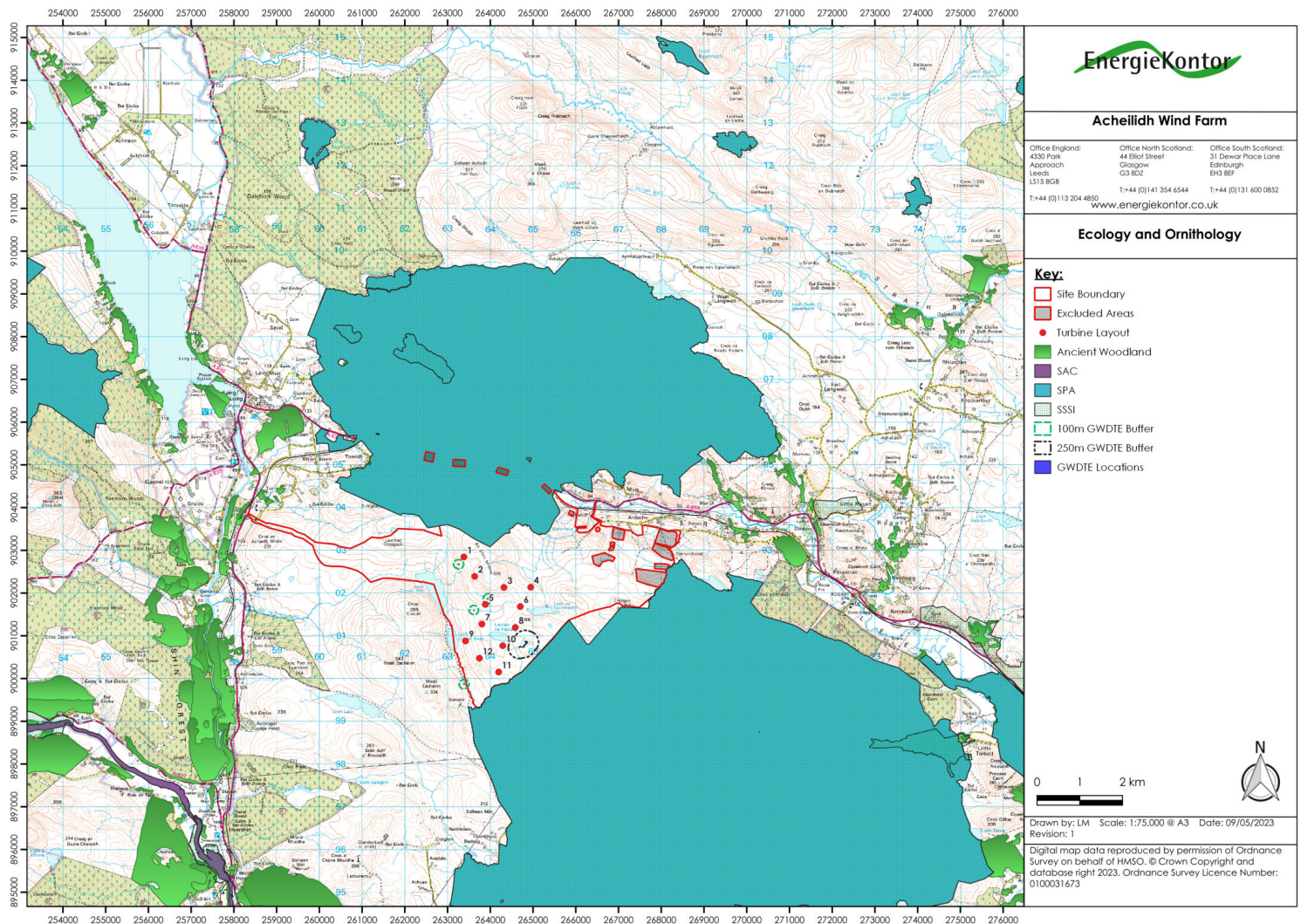
As part of the EIA Report, potential direct and indirect effects upon residential properties will be assessed through a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). Cultural heritage assets will also be assessed and appropriate mitigation methods will be set out should there be significant adverse effects.

>> Why Acheilidh Wind Farm?

ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY

An initial step with site identification is to understand if there are any ecological constraints and designations which could be affected by the site, for example:

- Ancient Woodland
- Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE)
- RAMSAR
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Nationally Important Peat



From review of the surrounding environmental designations, the closest designation is the Strath Carnaig and Strath Fleet Moors SPA and SSSI, designated for Hen Harrier.

From Phase 1 Habitat Surveys and National Vegetation surveys we have identified GWDTE and applied appropriate buffers. Buffers have also been applied to safeguard certain bird species such as black throated diver which have been identified over the 2 year bird survey period.

A Protected Species Survey was also conducted, and more detail on this will be included within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report.

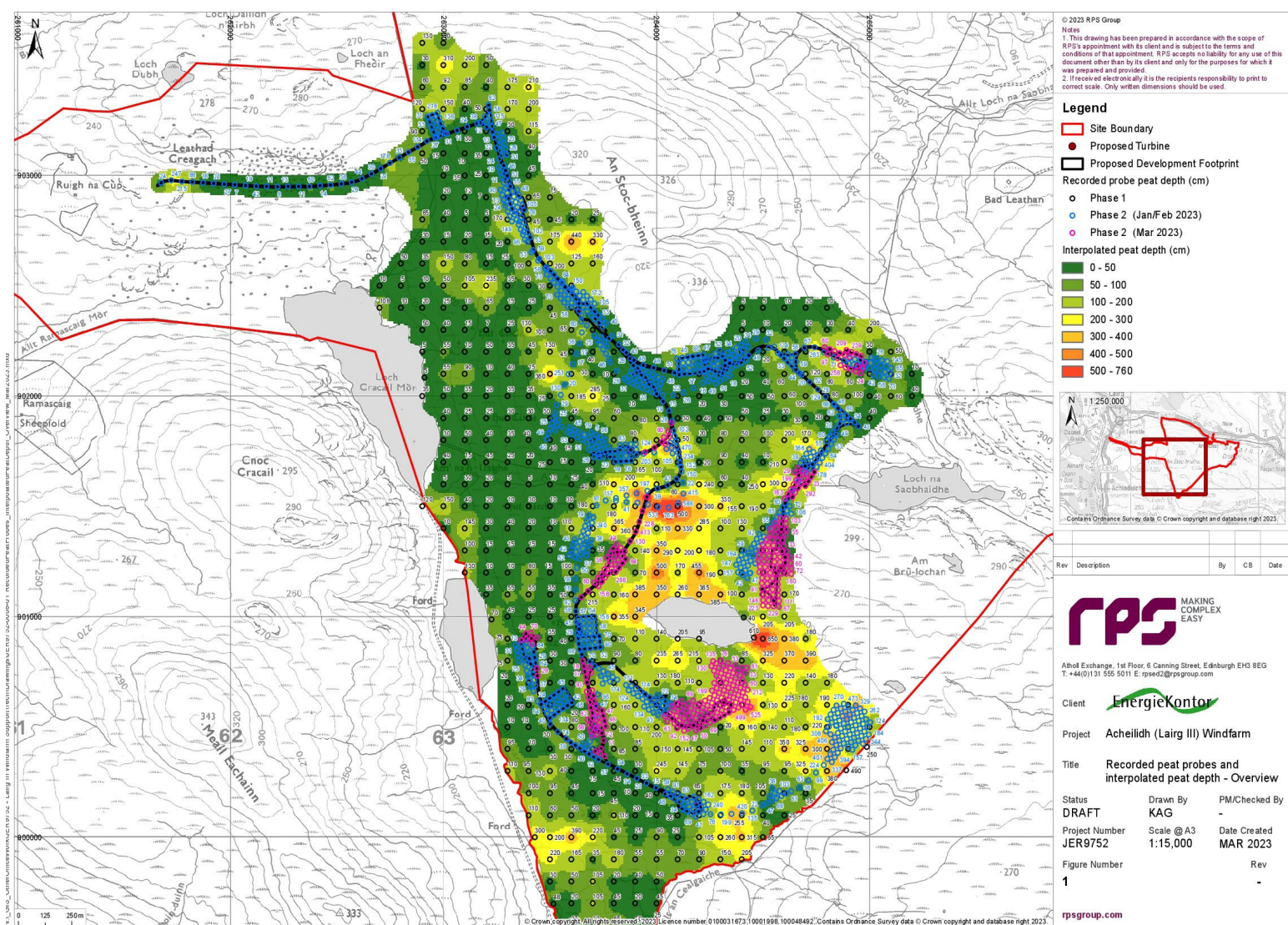
Why Acheilidh Wind Farm?

PEAT AND HYDROLOGY

Following further site investigation, Phase 1 peat surveys were completed with results shown below. As shown, the majority of the site comprises peat which is less than 1m deep, with deeper peat concentrated around the lochs and lochans found across the site. When considering constraints across the site, areas of peat greater than 1m in depth are avoided as far as possible.

In addition to the Phase 1 peat probing, a peatland condition assessment was been carried out to assess the quality of the peatland on site and determine if the peat has been eroded or remains in a near natural condition.

Phase 2 peat probing has been carried out and informed a complete infrastructure design to include key components of the proposed development such as tracks, crane pads and an onsite substation. The proposed infrastructure design has been developed in line with on peat across the site in terms of methodology and assessment.



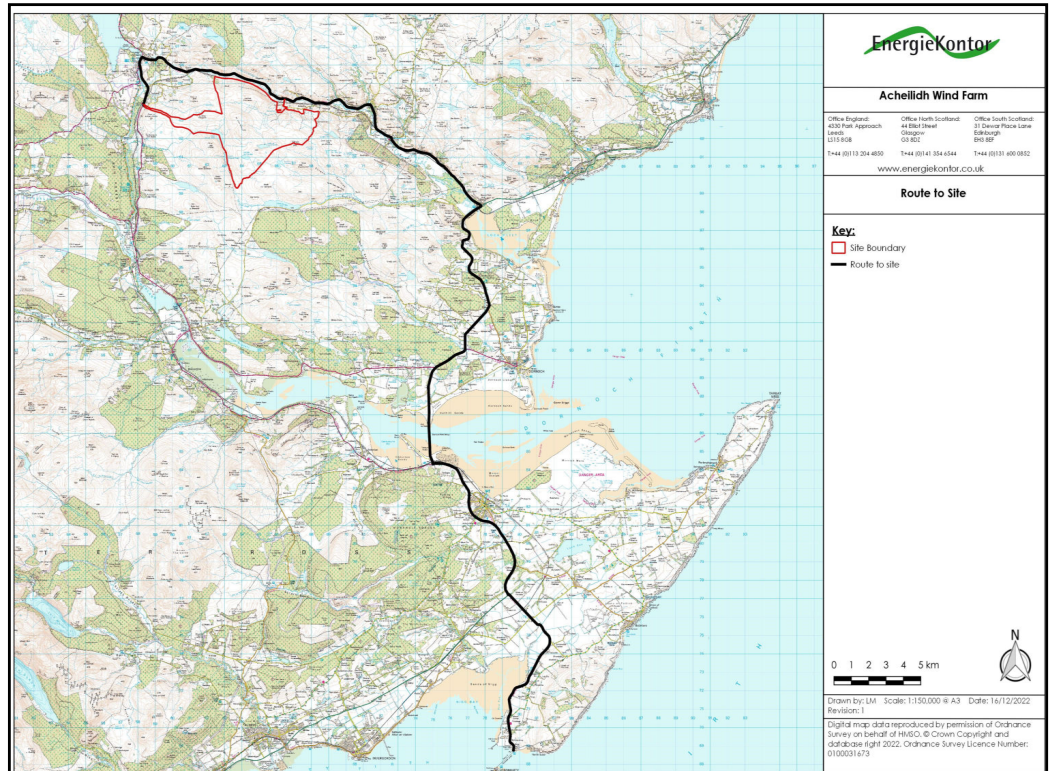
Construction & Transport

PROPOSED ACCESS TO SITE

Access routes have been assessed for the transportation and delivery of turbine components. The preferred option for delivery is illustrated on the map below, routing from Port of Nigg to site.

The turbine components would then be brought to site by abnormal loads vehicles northwards via the A9 and A839 with police escort.

Other traffic movements associated with construction (e.g. concrete and aggregate) will be dependent on the location of the nearest supplier.



CONSTRUCTION PHASE

We appoint specialist contractors and use local suppliers, where possible, to construct our wind farms. The entire process is overseen by our finance and construction teams who have considerable experience in the construction process.

The entire construction period for a wind farm typically takes approximately eighteen months, depending on the particular site. Work starts with the formation of the site access, followed by the laying of the internal access roads and the turbine foundations. These works make up the bulk of construction activity.

During the construction period, on-site working hours would be controlled through planning conditions set out by the local planning authority. Construction traffic associated with the development would also be managed through a Traffic Management Plan. This is typically required as part of a planning condition and would be agreed with the local highway and planning authorities, prior to construction.

COMMISSIONED & CONNECTED

Once a wind farm has been commissioned and is operational, electricity would be exported from the site to the electricity network to power homes and businesses.

Modern wind turbines are fully automatic, continually reconfiguring themselves to extract the most energy out of the prevailing wind conditions and are managed using remote communication from an off-site operations centre.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO MINIMIZE EFFECTS?

During the course of the Environmental Assessment, a number of topics will be assessed, and while a worst case will need to be demonstrated, we can look at reducing the overall traffic movements, this can be achieved by:

- Sourcing stone from on site borrow pits
- Plan timings of turbine delivery
- Separate general construction traffic from turbine delivery route
- Liaison between locals and contractors during construction
- Local publicity and advertisement of construction details

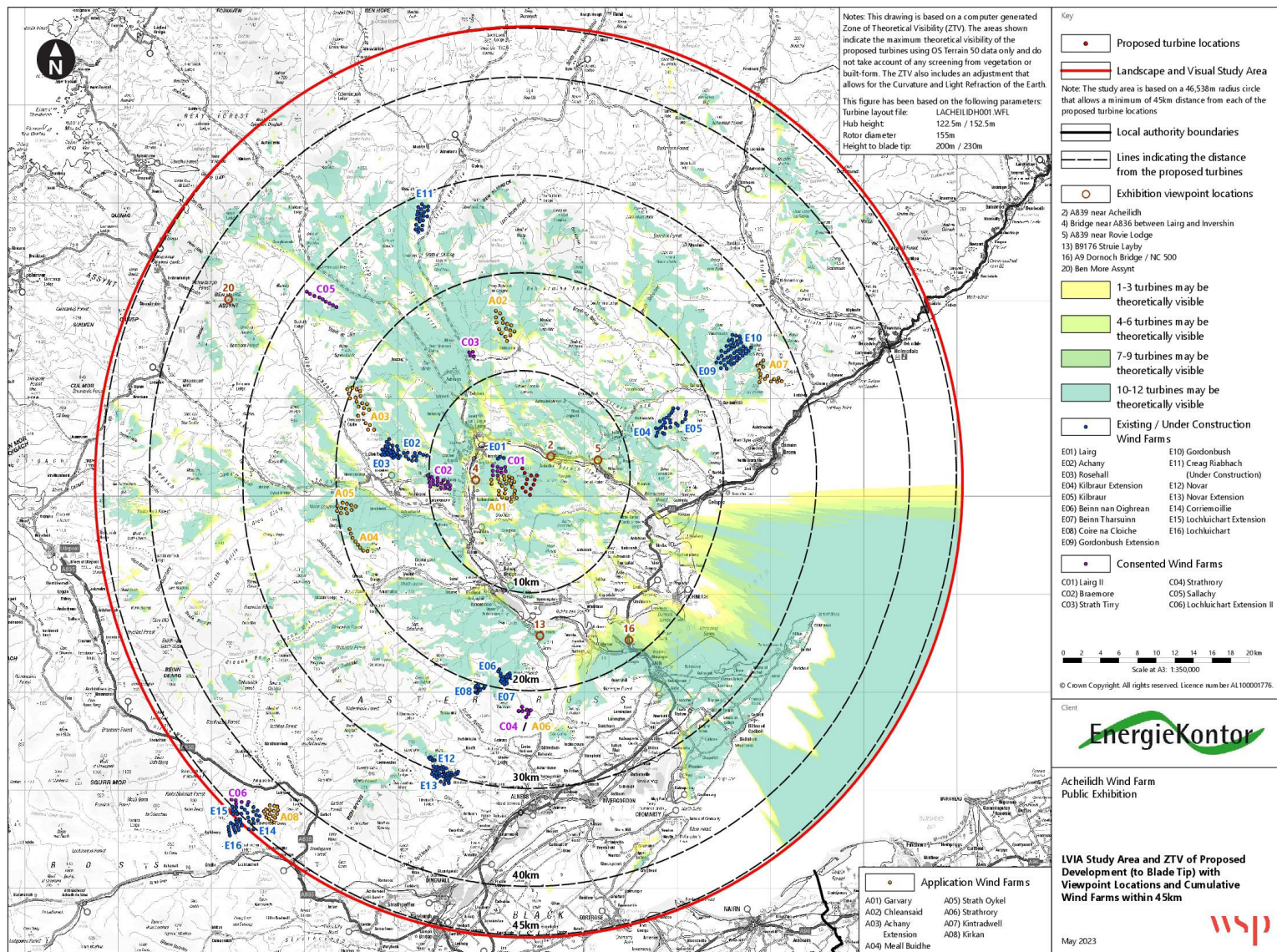
Zone of Theoretical Visibility—45km

TO BLADE TIP HEIGHT WITH VIEWPOINTS: 45KM RADIUS

In terms of potential visual effects, the Zone of Theoretical Visibility, based on the 12 turbine layout and blade tip heights of 200m and 230m, illustrates the theoretical visibility across the 45km LVIA study area. Visibility then becomes increasingly fragmented with distance due to the surrounding topography and landscape characteristics.

This is based on a bare ground model of topography which does not account for trees, vegetation or buildings screening views.

The viewpoints selected represent the views of residents, road users, visitors, recreational users and tourists to the area through a combination of elevated summits, popular hill walking destinations as well as key transport routes used by residents and visitors in the area.



A series of wireframes from residential areas and photomontages from key design viewpoints have been provided as further visual aid to the proposed turbine layout.

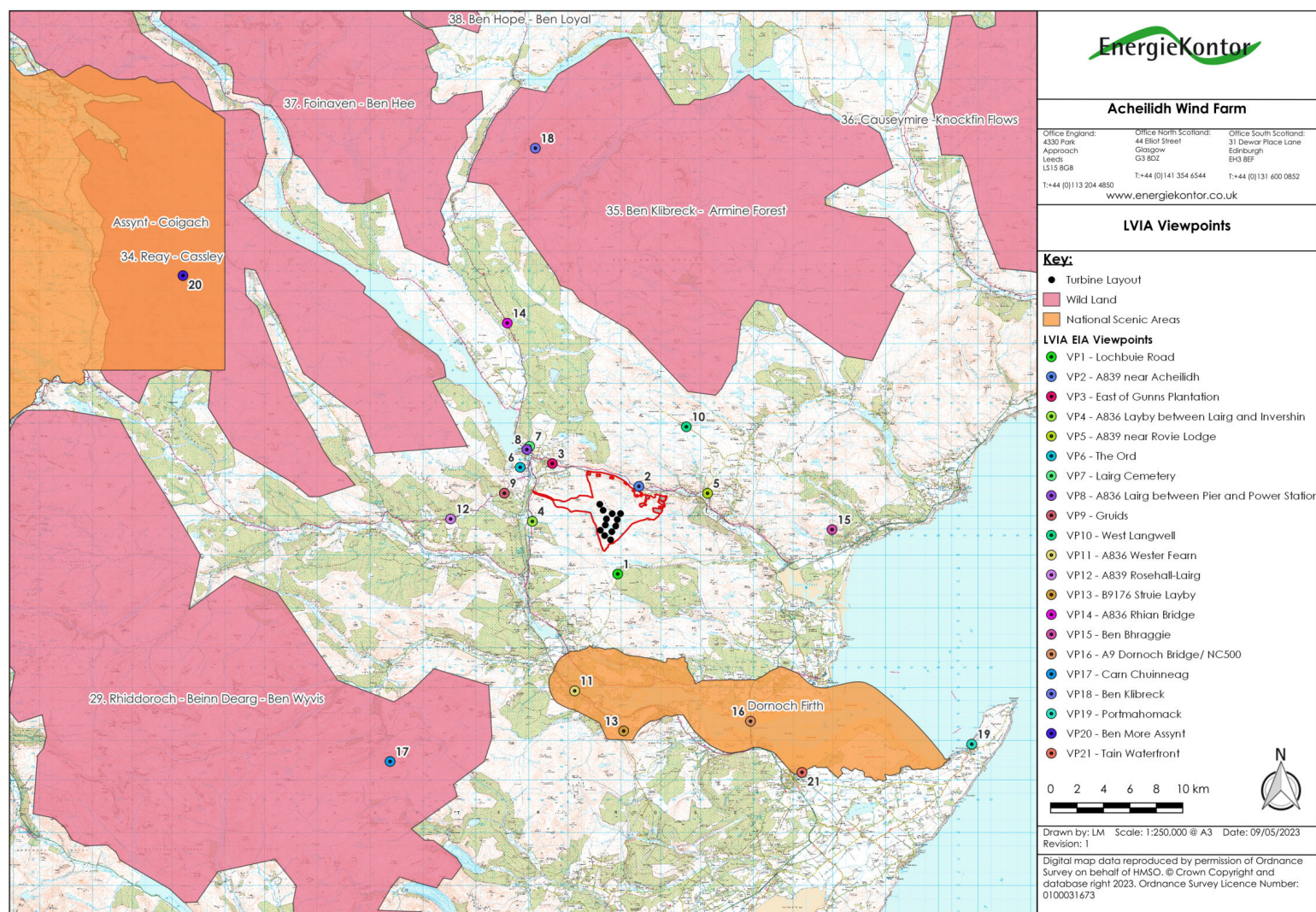
>> Landscape and Visual — Method and Viewpoints

Landscape and visual impacts are a key consideration in any Energiekontor project.

As part of our landscape and visual assessment, we follow industry standard guidance produced by The Highland Council and NatureScot to present a robust assessment of the likely significant effects which may arise as part of the proposed development.

Each photomontage and wireline which will accompany the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is produced from viewpoints within the 45km LVIA Study Area and are selected to represent what the wind farm will look like in the wider area. These viewpoints are often close to residential areas, prominent hilltops and areas which are frequently used by receptors such as tourists, walkers and road users. A map showing the proposed viewpoints is provided below.

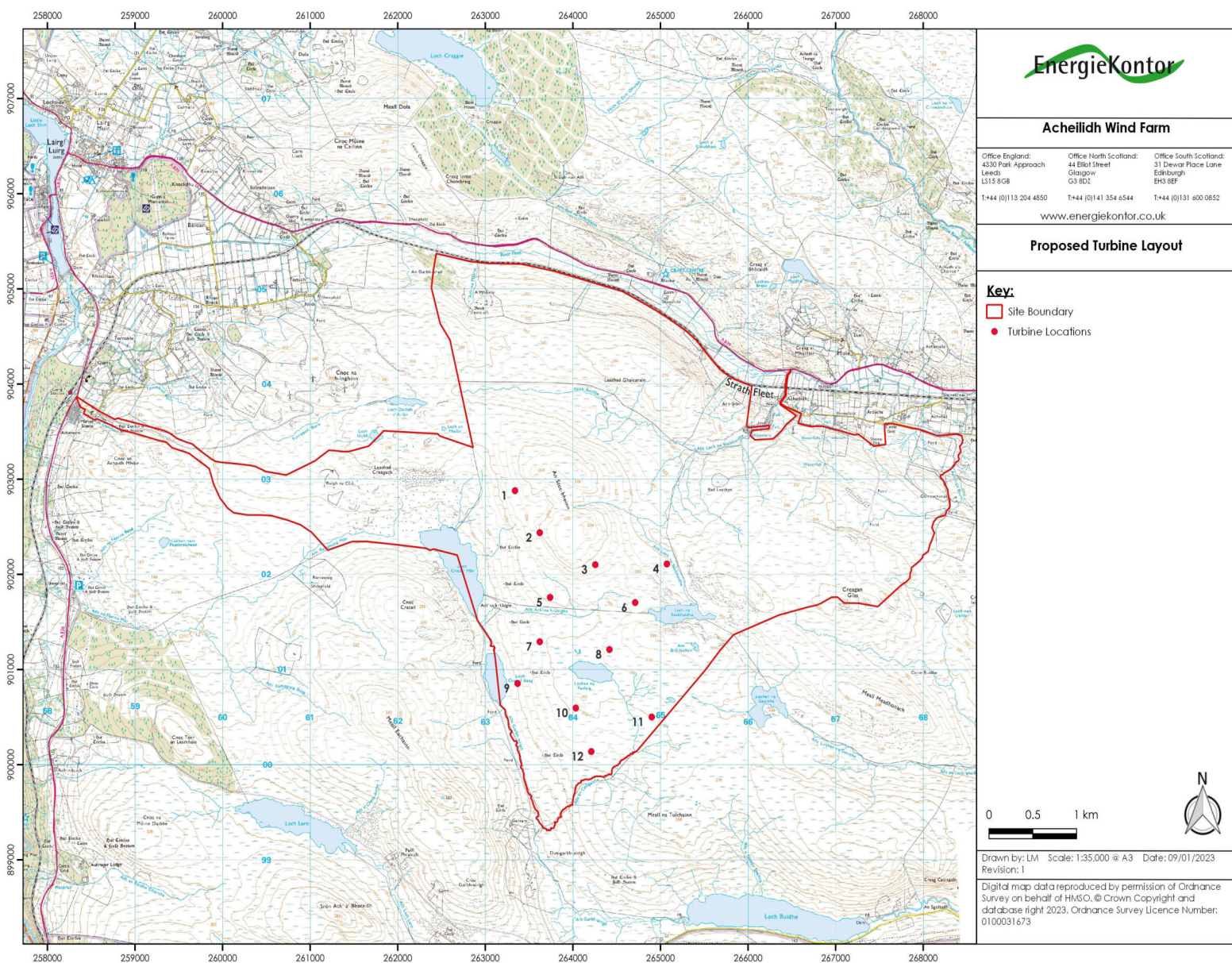
Since the last exhibition held in January 2023, a further viewpoint has been agreed with NatureScot with the total number of viewpoints standing at 21.



>> The Proposed Development

ACHEILIDH WIND FARM

- The Site lies approximately 7.6km south east of Lairg and 8km to the west of Pittentrail.
- The turbine layout has been refined to 12 turbines, down from 20 turbines proposed at EIA Scoping.
- We are proposing that the turbines are 230m to tip height. These heights are in line with current wind farm technology, economics, and similar applications throughout the country and within the Highland area.
- The proposed development will also include access tracks, an on-site substation, borrow pits, a temporary construction compound and 5MW of battery storage.
- As part of our site design and assessment, we have prepared a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) model which extends out to 45km from the site centre and wirelines from key design viewpoints.



>> Why Acheilidh Wind Farm?

BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

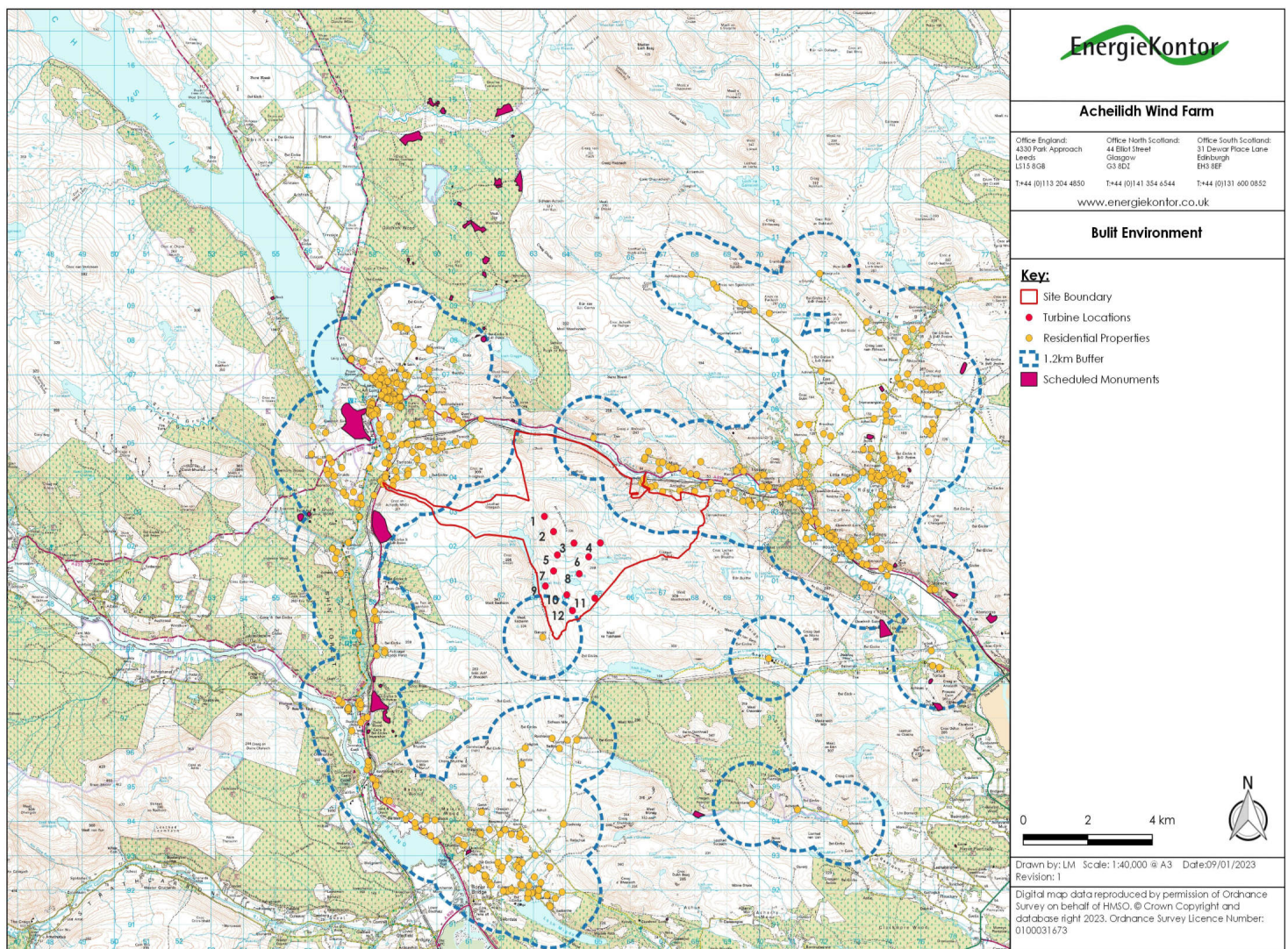
An important consideration to gain an appreciation of the site location in relation to nearby properties and the wider built and historic environment. An initial step with site identification is to understand if there are any built and historic environment constraints and designations which may be impacted, for example:

- Scheduled Monuments
- Garden and Designed Landscapes
- Listed Buildings
- Conservation Areas
- Inventory of Historic Battlefields
- Residential Properties

Energiekontor considers that Acheilidh Wind Farm is situated within a good location and respects the surrounding built environment. As the map below demonstrates, the developable area was set with no turbines within 2.2km of the nearest currently inhabited property.

Special consideration will be given to the design of the layout and separation distances as well as taking into consideration any relationships with wider built environment.

The Ord and Achany Glen are examples of two Scheduled monuments which have been considered as part of the design process with the Ord used as a key design viewpoint within the landscape and visual assessment. The map below identifies the relevant designations and constraints that require due consideration throughout the assessment.



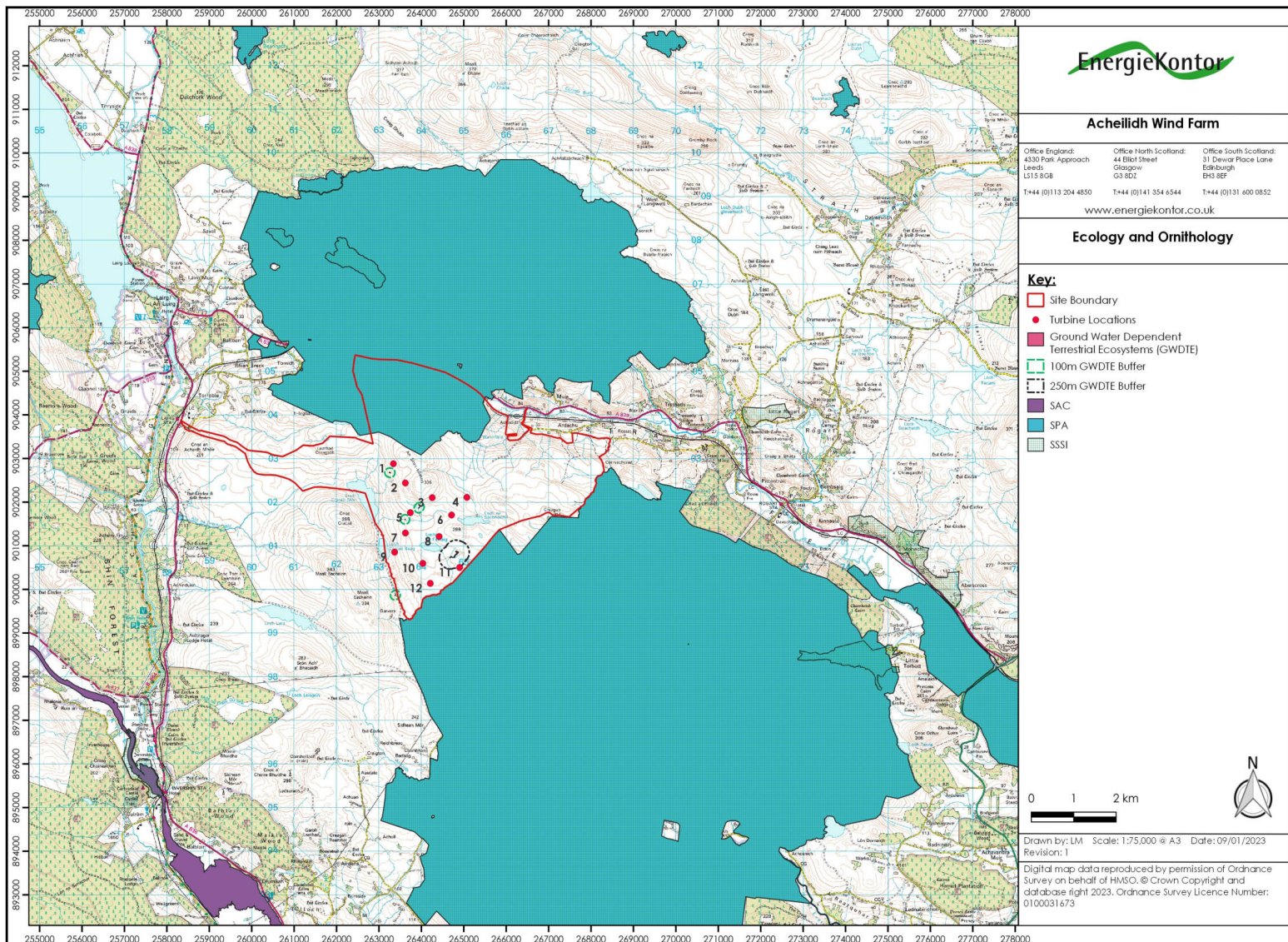
As part of the EIA Report, potential direct and indirect effects upon residential properties will be assessed through a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). Cultural heritage assets will also be assessed and appropriate mitigation methods will be set out should there be significant adverse effects.

>> Why Acheilidh Wind Farm?

ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY

An initial step with site identification is to understand if there are any ecological constraints and designations which could be affected by the site, for example:

- Ancient Woodland
- Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE)
- RAMSAR
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Nationally Important Peat



From review of the surrounding environmental designations, the closest designation is the Strath Carnaig and Strath Fleet Moors SPA and SSSI, designated for Hen Harrier.

From Phase 1 Habitat Surveys and National Vegetation surveys we have identified GWDTE and applied appropriate buffers. Buffers have also been applied to safeguard certain bird species such as black throated diver which have been identified over the 2 year bird survey period.

A Protected Species Survey was also conducted, and more detail on this will be included within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report.

>> Why Acheilidh Wind Farm?

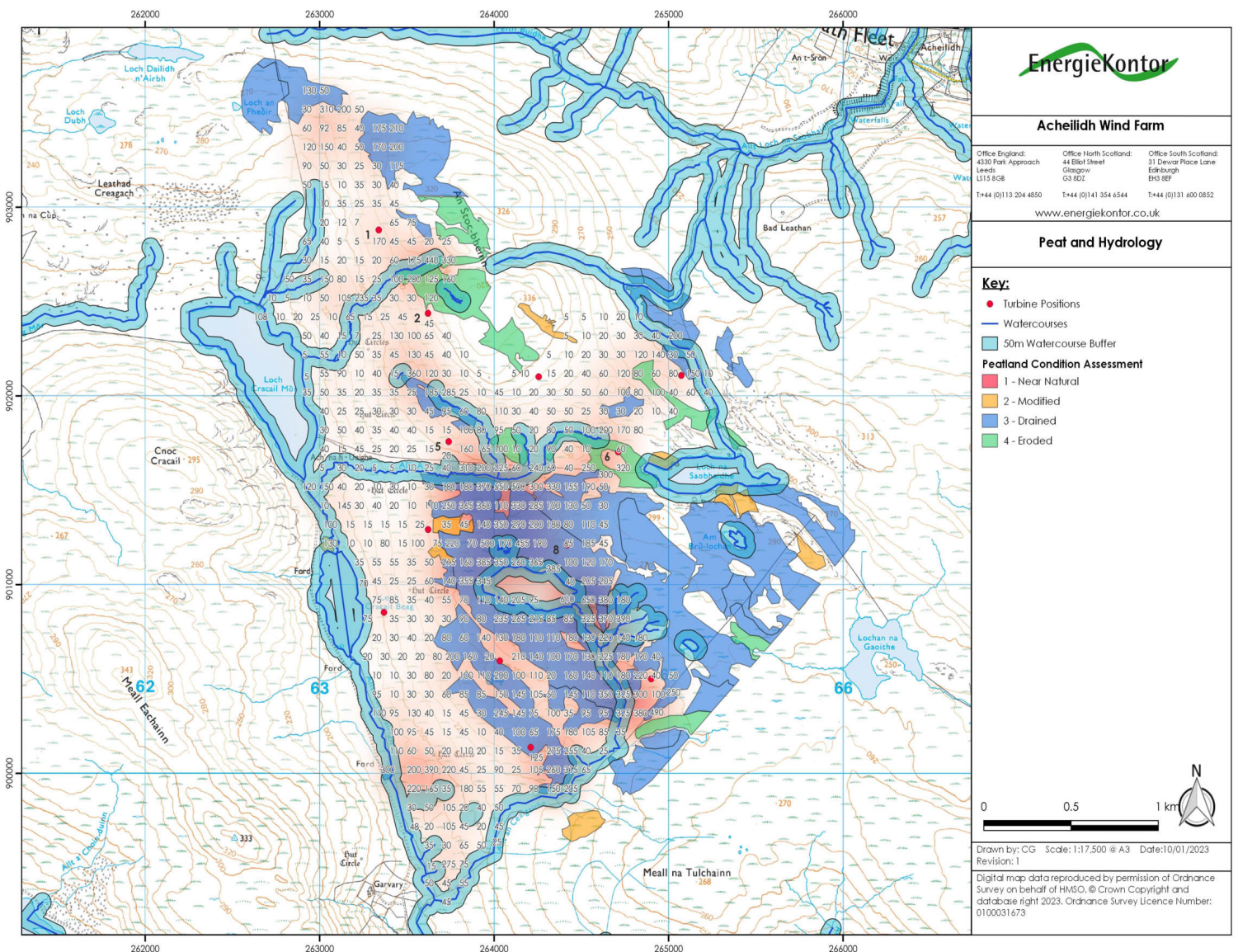
PEAT AND HYDROLOGY

Following further site investigation, Phase 1 peat surveys were completed with results shown below. As shown, the majority of the site comprises peat which is less than <1m deep, with deeper peat concentrated around the lochs and lochans found across the site. When considering constraints across the site, areas of peat greater than 1m in depth are avoided as far as possible.

In addition to the Phase 1 peat probing, a peatland condition assessment has been carried out to assess the quality of the peatland on site and determine if the peat has been eroded or remains in a near natural condition.

Phase 2 peat probing will be carried out and will help to inform a complete infrastructure design to include key components of the proposed development such as tracks, crane pads and an onsite substation.

We are continuing to engage with NatureScot and SEPA on peat across the site in terms of methodology and assessment.



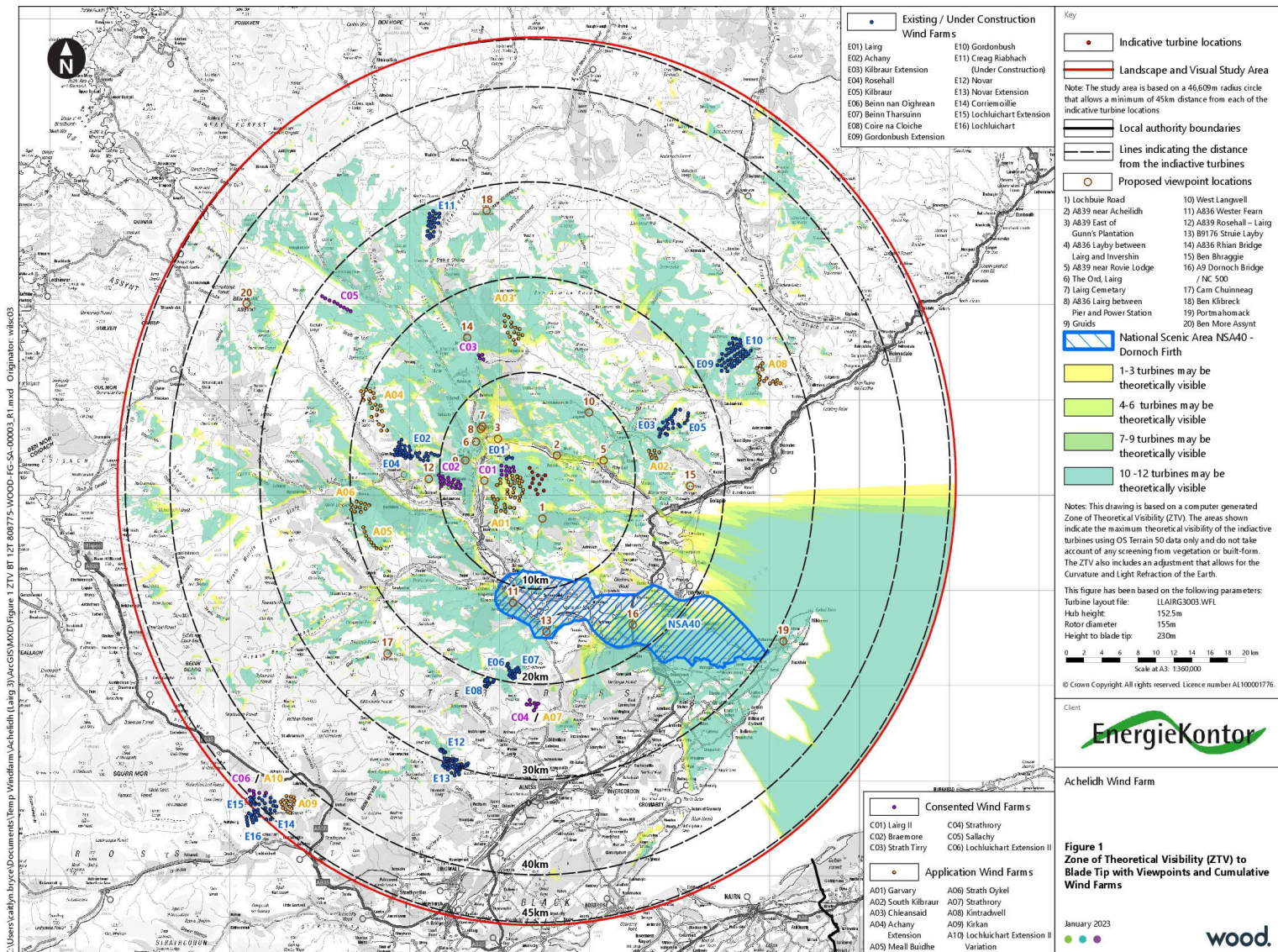
>> Zone of Theoretical Visibility—45km

TO BLADE TIP HEIGHT WITH VIEWPOINTS: 45KM RADIUS

In terms of potential visual effects, the preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility, based on the 12 turbine layout and blade tip height of 230m, illustrates that theoretical visibility would be focused within 20km. Visibility then becomes increasingly fragmented with distance due to the surrounding topography and landscape characteristics.

This is based on a bare ground model of topography that does not account for trees, vegetation or buildings screening views.

The viewpoints selected represent the views of residents, road users, visitors, recreational users and tourists to the area through a combination of elevated summits, popular hill walking destinations as well as key transport routes used by residents and visitors in the area.



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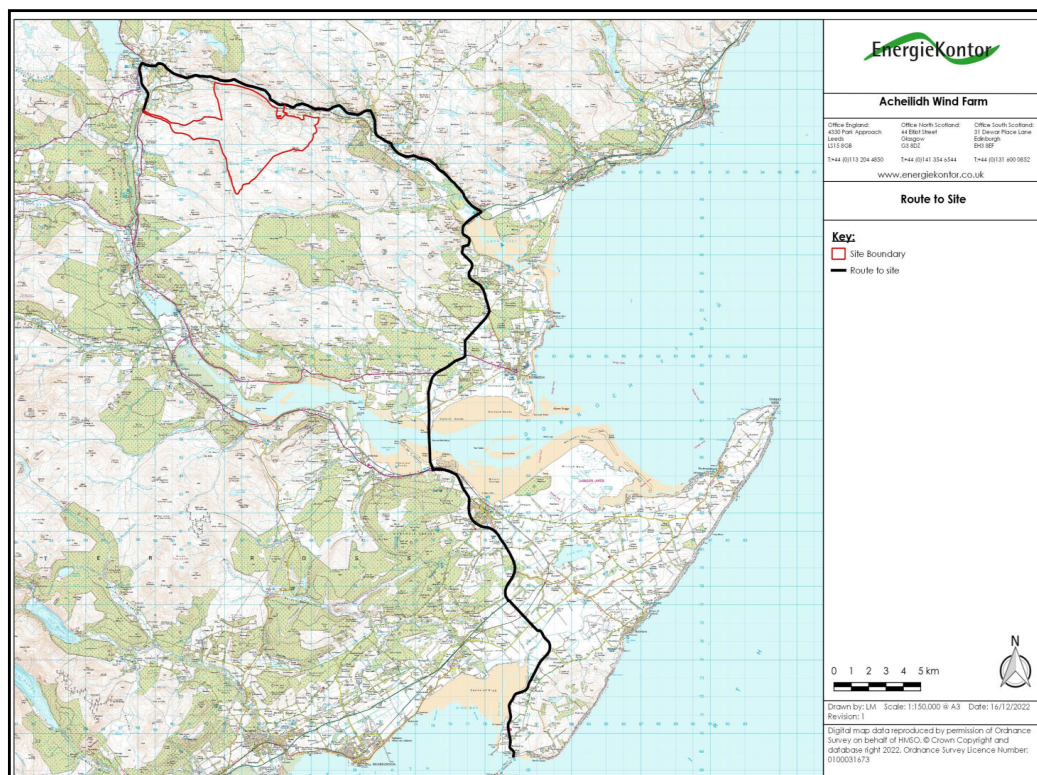
Construction & Transport

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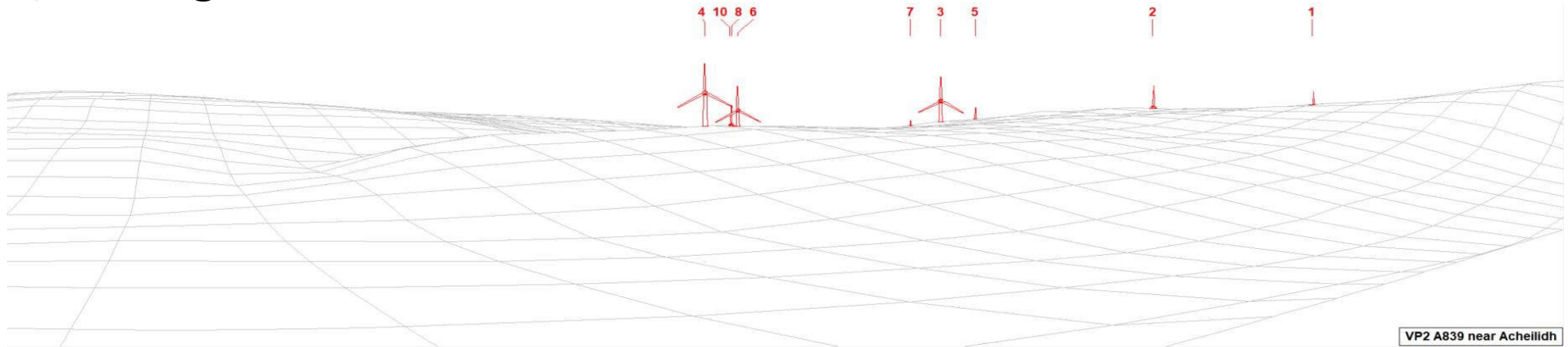
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WHAT ARE WE DOING TO MINIMIZE EFFECTS?

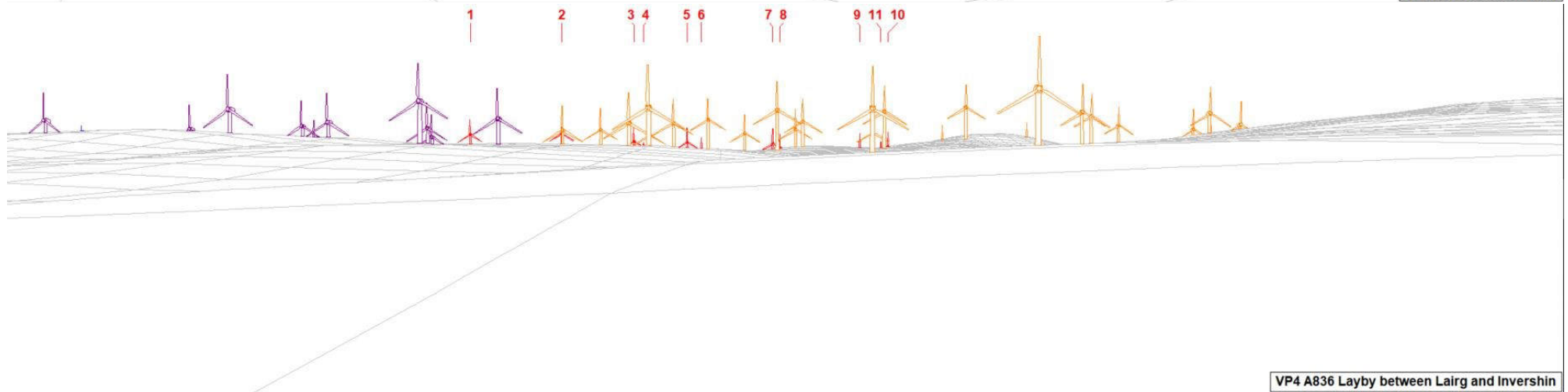
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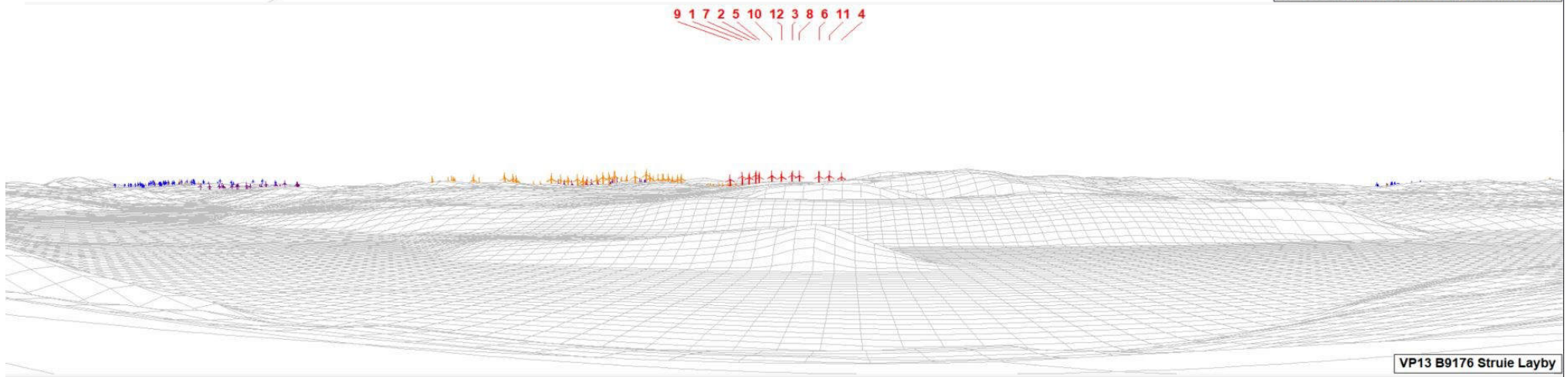
>> Design Wirelines



VP2 A839 near Acheilidh



VP4 A836 Layby between Lairg and Invershin



VP13 B9176 Struie Layby

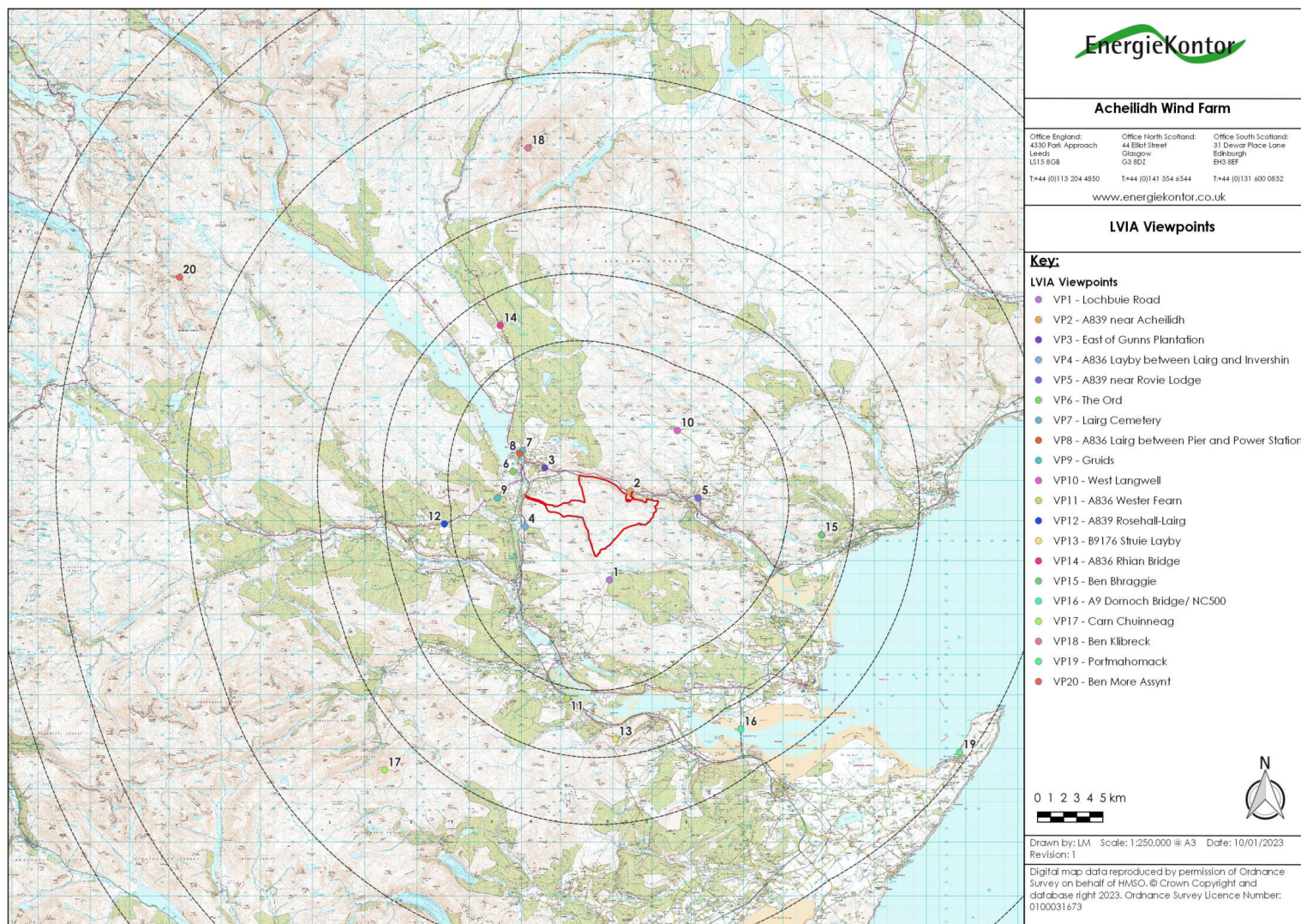
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Since scoping we have consulted with and agreed upon the inclusion 3 additional viewpoints following discussions with the Highland Council and NatureScot, rising from 17 to 20 viewpoint locations.





Thank you for taking part in the Acheilidh Wind Farm Exhibition

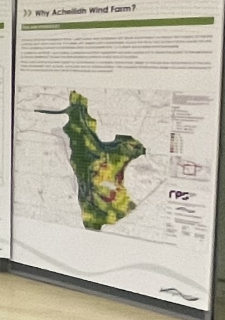
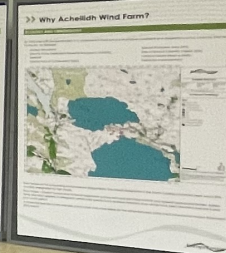
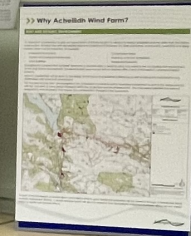
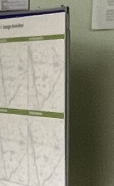
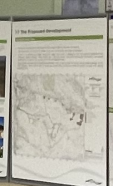
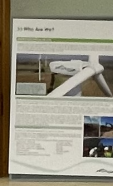
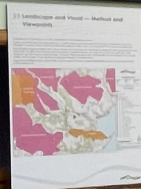
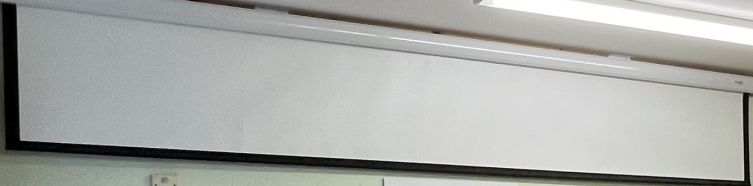
If you have any questions or would like further information on the project,
please get in touch via email (lauren.mallon@energiekontor.com)

APPENDIX C: PHOTOGRAPHS OF PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS



Welcome to Acheilidh Wind Farm Public Exhibition

Thank you for coming along.
Should you have any questions, please direct them to a member of the
Energiekontor Team who will be happy to assist.





APPENDIX D: EXAMPLE OF EVENT QUESTIONNAIRE



Acheilidh Wind Farm – Public Consultation Feedback Form

Date and Time: 19th January 2023, 2pm – 7pm

Location: Rogart Hall

Thank you for attending our public exhibition for Acheilidh Wind Farm. Energiekontor would appreciate your honest and valued feedback. Your answers to the following questions will be used to shape and inform the proposed design where applicable and will be included within the 'Pre-Application Consultation Report' (PAC Report) which will be submitted alongside the application. All responses will remain anonymous and any personal details provided will not be publicised as part of the planning application.

Questionnaires can be handed to any of our staff team, posted within the confidential box within this venue, or posted to the Project Manager within 30 days of this exhibition. Posted copies should be supplied to:

Lauren Mallon
Energiekontor UK Ltd
44 Elliot Street Mews
Glasgow
G3 0DZ

or emailed to: lauren.mallon@energiekontor.com

Please note that this response is not a representation to the Planning Authority, you will have opportunity to comment directly to the local authority once the application has been submitted.

Project-specific information is also available at: www.energiekontor.co.uk/our-projects/Acheilidh

1. How far from the proposed development do you live? Please tick.

Proximity to Development	0 – 2.5km	2.6km – 5km	5.1km – 10km	10.1km – 15km	15km+
Please tick					

2. How do you feel about the following statements? (please tick)

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The information available today has been clearly explained and is useful					
I am concerned about the effects of climate change					
Onshore wind energy remains an important component in contributing towards Scotland's green energy targets and the wider climate emergency					
I support the generation of renewable energy in Scotland					
The proposed development has been sensitively designed					
The proposed development is acceptable in its present form and can be accommodated in this location					

3. Overall, do you support the proposed development as it currently is presented? Please give reasons in the space below.

4. If you have concerns about the proposed development, please tell us why in the space below.

5. Do you have any further comments?

If you wish to be kept updated on the proposed development please leave your details below, although there is no obligation to. Personal details will not be stored by Energiekontor other than for the purpose specified and will not be shared with third parties. Data collected from these questionnaires will be anonymised for the purposes of the application.

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:



Acheilidh Wind Farm – Public Consultation Feedback Form

Date and Time: 16/05/2023, 2pm – 7pm

Location: Rogart Hall

Thank you for attending our public exhibition for Acheilidh Wind Farm. Energiekontor would appreciate your honest and valued feedback. Your answers to the following questions will be used to shape and inform the proposed design where applicable and will be included within the 'Pre-Application Consultation Report' (PAC Report) which will be submitted alongside the application. All responses will remain anonymous and any personal details provided will not be publicised as part of the planning application.

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1. How far from the proposed development do you live? Please tick.

Proximity to Development	0 – 2.5km	2.6km – 5km	5.1km – 10km	10.1km – 15km	15km+
Please tick					

2. Did you attend/ view the previous exhibition

Yes ☐

No ☐

3. How do you feel about the following statements? (please tick)

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The information available today has been clearly explained and is useful					
I am concerned about the effects of climate change					
Onshore wind energy remains an important component in contributing towards Scotland's green energy targets and the wider climate emergency					
I support the generation of renewable energy in Scotland					
The proposed development has been sensitively designed					

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The proposed development is acceptable in its present form and can be accommodated in this location					

4. Overall, do you support the proposed development as it currently is presented? Please give reasons in the space below.

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Name:

Address:

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Email:



Acheilidh Wind Farm – Public Consultation Feedback Form

Date and Time: 08/11/2023, 2.30pm – 6.30pm

Location: Rogart Hall

Thank you for attending our public exhibition for Acheilidh Wind Farm. Energiekontor would appreciate your honest and valued feedback. Your answers to the following questions will be used to shape and inform the proposed design where applicable and will be included within the 'Pre-Application Consultation Report' (PAC Report) which will be submitted alongside the application. All responses will remain anonymous and any personal details provided will not be publicised as part of the planning application.

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1. How far from the proposed development do you live? Please tick.

Proximity to Development	0 – 2.5km	2.6km – 5km	5.1km – 10km	10.1km – 15km	15km+
Please tick					

2. Did you attend/ view the previous exhibition

Yes ☐

No ☐

3. How do you feel about the following statements? (please tick)

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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I am concerned about the effects of climate change					
Onshore wind energy remains an important component in contributing towards Scotland's green energy targets and the wider climate emergency					
I support the generation of renewable energy in Scotland					
The proposed development has been sensitively designed					

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The proposed development is acceptable in its present form and can be accommodated in this location					

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