

Glenvernoch Wind Farm

Pre-Application Consultation Report

October 2024

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1 INTRODUCTION

Context

- 1.1 This Pre-Application Consultation Report (the “PAC Report”) has been prepared by Energiekontor UK Ltd (“the Applicant”) to accompany a planning application by Energiekontor UK Ltd (“the Applicant”) for the erection, 35 year operation and subsequent decommissioning of a wind farm consisting of 13 wind turbines and associated infrastructure (“the Proposed Development”) on land at Glenvernoch, Newton Stewart (“the Site”).
- 1.2 This PAC Report identifies the relevant national and local guidance on how to undertake community involvement as well as setting out the approach that has been undertaken by the Applicant to inform, advise and consult with the local community.
- 1.3 In addition, in line with the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, this PAC Report specifically includes details of:
- Who has been consulted;
 - How pre-application consultation requirements have been complied with;
 - How the Applicant has responded to the findings of the pre-application consultation;
 - Evidence of the pre-application process and how it was undertaken; and
 - Evidence that the pre-application process is in addition to the opportunity to make comments directly to the ECU once the planning application has been submitted.

Applicant

- 1.4 Energiekontor UK Ltd is a renewable energy development company with offices in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Leeds. The company was formed in 1999 and develops small to medium-sized onshore wind and solar farms throughout the United Kingdom. The company operates 11 wind farms in the UK, with several others at different stages of the development process, including three subsidy-free onshore wind projects in Scotland.
- 1.5 Energiekontor UK Ltd is part of the Energiekontor Group. The parent company, Energiekontor AG, was established in 1990 in Bremerhaven in Northern Germany. It has since grown to become one of the leading wind energy companies in Europe and is active in Germany, France, The Netherlands, Portugal, the USA and the UK. The company has built more than 140 onshore wind farms and 14 solar farms across Europe with a total capacity of 1.3GW.

Section 36 Application

- 1.6 The Glenvernoch Wind Farm Section 36 application is submitted in full and in addition to this PAC Report is accompanied by the following documents which should be read together:

- Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume I: Written text;
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume II: Application Drawings, Visualisations and Figures;
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume III Technical Appendices;
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume IV: Non-Technical Summary
- Design and Access Statement; and
- Planning Statement

1.7 This PAC Report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 provides a summary of the Site and the Proposed Development;
- Section 3 sets out the range of legislation, policy and guidance that is relevant to the engagement strategy for the Proposed Development;
- Section 4 describes the various steps that have been undertaken by the Applicant to engage with the community and stakeholders during the preparation of the planning application; and
- Section 5 provides a summary

2 SITE DESCRIPTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The Site

- 2.1 The Proposed Development is located in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. The Site is centred at approximately easting and northing co-ordinates (E)235247, (N)573276. The closest settlements to the proposed turbines are the village of Glentool, located approximately 2.8km north of the Site, and the town of Newton Stewart which is located approximately 7km south-east of the Site. The nearest main highway is the A714 which runs adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Site. The Proposed Development is located immediately north of Penninghame Forest and 0.3km east of Loch Ochiltree. The topography of the Site is gently undulating, with the lowest points being located adjacent to the A714 at approximately 50m AOD. There are pockets of small hills within the central areas of the Site rising to 90m AOD, 100m AOD and 105m AOD, before the land rises in the north west of the site at Butter Cairn (164m AOD) and Top of the Fell (184m AOD). The Site covers an area of approximately 780ha incorporating grassland and modified bog. The Site is principally used for grazing.
- 2.2 The nearest ecological designations to the Site are the Galloway Oakwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Wood of Cree Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), approximately 0.4km south east of the Site, and the River Bladnoch SAC approximately 0.8km west of the Site. Other ecological designations within 10km of the Site include Ring Moss SSSI (4.4km south of the Site), Glentool Oakwoods SSSI (5.2km north east of the Site), Blood Moss SSSI (5.3km west of the Site), Kirkcowan Flow SAC and SSSI (6.6km west of the Site), and Merrick Kells SAC and SSSI (8.5km north east of the Site).
- 2.3 There are a number of wind farms, either operational, approved or within the planning system, within 10km of the Site. Most notably these include Blair Hill Wind Farm (2km south east of the site) which is being scoped for 22 turbines at 250m tip height. Further afield are the operational Kilgallioch Wind Farm (5.8km west of the Site), the consented Kilgallioch Wind Farm extension (5.3km west of the Site), the operational Airies Farm Wind Farm (7.9km west of the Site), and the consented Gass Wind Farm (10km south west of the Site).

The Proposed Development

- 2.4 The Proposed Development is described in detail in *Chapter 3: Project Description and Construction Methods* of the EIA Report. In summary it includes the following principal elements:
- 13 turbines up to 200m to blade tip;
 - Associated turbine transformers;
 - Associated turbine foundations;
 - Hardstanding areas for erecting cranes at each turbine location;
 - On-site tracks connecting each turbine;
 - Underground cables linking the turbines to the substation;

- Borrow pit search areas for the extraction of stone on-site;
- A temporary construction compound;
- On-site substation;
- Battery storage;
- A new access onto the A714; and
- Off-site highway works.

2.5 Planning permission is sought for 35 years of the operational phase of the wind farm. After the expiration of this period the turbines would be decommissioned and removed. Any alternative course of action would require a fresh planning application to be submitted. The planning application includes an allowance for micro-siting of the wind farm infrastructure. If planning permission is granted, the Applicant would commission detailed ground investigations and geotechnical surveys to determine the ground conditions. A 100m micro-siting allowance is sought for the wind turbines (with restrictions in place to safeguard constraint buffers as applicable), and all other new elements of the Proposed Development.

3 POLICY GUIDANCE

Introduction

- 3.1 This section considers legislation, planning policy and other guidance that is relevant to the process of community involvement for the Proposed Development.

Legislation

- 3.2 The Proposed Development comes under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and does not have any primary legislation associated with it in relation to community involvement.
- 3.3 Although community engagement is voluntary under this Act, community engagement has been undertaken in line with best practice guidance associated with 'Major Developments'.
- 3.4 The primary legislation associated with 'Major Developments' is the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. This was amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 which introduced the Hierarchy of Developments and statutory requirements for pre-application consultation.

Planning Policy

National Guidance

PAN 3/2010 Community Engagement

- 3.5 Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 Community Engagement provides advice to planning authorities and developers on ways of effectively engaging with communities on planning matters. It also provides advice to communities on how they can get involved in development projects and local plan making.
- 3.6 PAN 3/2010 links directly with the National Standards for Community Engagement. These Standards set out best practice principles for the way that councils and other public bodies should engage with communities and are supported by VOiCE – Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement – a database tool developed to help plan, record and monitor community engagement activity. The ten National Standards for Community Engagement are:
- Involvement: identify and involve the people and organisations who have an interest in the focus of the engagement;
 - Support: identify and overcome any barriers to involvement;
 - Planning: gather evidence of need and resources to agree purpose, scope and actions;
 - Methods: agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose;
 - Working Together: agree and use clear procedures that enable participants to work together effectively and efficiently;

- Sharing Information: ensure necessary information is communicated between the participants;
- Working with Others: work effectively with others with an interest;
- Improvement: develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of the affected;
- Feedback: feed results back to the wider community and agencies affected; and
- Monitoring and Evaluation: monitor and evaluate whether engagement achieves its purpose and meets the national standards for community engagement.

3.7 PAN 3/2010 also refers to tools such as Planning Aid for Scotland's SP=EED (Scottish Planning equals Effective Engagement and Delivery) which has been developed to help share good practice in engagement and ensure community consultation can become meaningful for everyone involved.

3.8 In relation to pre-application consultation requirements, PAN 3/2010 states:

"39. Prospective applicants are required by law to consult communities before a planning application is made for a national or major development. The purpose of pre-application consultation is for communities to be informed about development proposals and to have an opportunity to contribute their views before a formal planning application is submitted to the planning authority. Its aim is to improve the quality of planning applications, mitigate negative impacts where possible, address misunderstandings, and air and deal with any community issues that can be tackled. During pre-application consultation the dialogue is between the community and the prospective applicant."

"44. As part of the pre-application consultation report, applicants should set out how they have responded to the comments made, including whether, and in what way, the proposals have changed as a result of this consultation. Whilst under no obligation to take onboard community views, or directly reflect them in any subsequent application, the proposals, if adjusted, should benefit from that engagement and assist the efficient consideration of applications once submitted."

Summary

3.9 In summary:

- The Scottish Government encourages good quality pre-application consultation to create better outcomes in the planning process.

4 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Introduction

- 4.1 This section sets out details of the methods of engagement used by the Applicant to consult with the community during the preparation of the planning application. It does not provide details of pre-application engagement carried out with technical consultees such as Historic Environment Scotland, NatureScot, the Ministry of Defence etc. Details of this engagement process are set out in the relevant sections of the Comparative Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Comparative EIA Report).
- 4.2 In developing the engagement strategy for this Proposed Development, and building on previous experience from other wind farm projects elsewhere, the Applicant considers that a programme of consultation involving a public exhibition and targeted engagement with community stakeholders has presented good opportunities for community participation.
- 4.3 The approach to consultation has followed the guidance set out in the policy documents highlighted in Section 3.

Consultation Activities

Initial Consultation

- 4.4 Consultation during the initial design stage was focused around the following activities:
- One Public Exhibition at scoping stage
 - Engagement with the host Community Council;
 - A further public exhibition following design freeze.

First Public Exhibition

- 4.5 In September 2023, the Applicant held an introductory public exhibition at the Glentool Hive, in Glentool Village. The exhibition was held on Thursday 28th September from 1500 – 1800.
- 4.6 The exhibition was advertised in the Stranraer and Wigtownshire Free Press which was published in the newspaper and online the week commencing 18th September 2023 (Appendix 1). Local residents, the host community council, neighbouring community councils and ward councillors were notified separately.
- 4.7 The exhibition included the presentation of exhibition boards (example exhibition boards are included in Appendix 2) which displayed information on a range of topics, including:
- Welcome
 - About Energiekontor;
 - Why wind power;
 - EIA overview;
 - Planning History of the Site

- Details of the proposed development, including site location and layout;
- Wirelines of the Proposed Development from key viewpoints;
- Details of the proposed community benefit; and
- Thank you

4.8 Attendees had the opportunity to meet the project team, find out information about the Proposed Development and ask any questions. Attendees were also provided with a feedback form so that their comments could be recorded. A copy of the feedback form is included in Appendix 3.

Community Council Meeting

4.9 In November 2023, the Applicant was invited to attend Cree Valley Community Council's monthly meeting. The meeting took place in the evening of Monday 6th November 2023.

4.10 The Applicant prepared a presentation to present to Community Council members and members of the public who wished to witness the meeting.

4.11 The presentation gave the Applicant an opportunity to expand on the information presented at the first public exhibition, present the results from the feedback forms from the first public exhibition, and also take questions from individual members of the Community Council.

Summary of Consultation Outcome

4.12 Following these consultation activities, the Proposed Development was amended in a number of respects.

4.13 This initial period of consultation provided useful information on how best to invest the community benefit fund. Discussions in relation to this have not taken place with any members of the community to date.

Second Public Exhibition

4.14 For this second round of consultation, a public exhibition was held in August 2024 at McMillan Hall in Newton Stewart on Wednesday 21st August from 1400 – 1700.

4.15 The public exhibition was advertised in the Stranraer and Wigtownshire Free Press which was published week commencing 12th August (Appendix 4). Local residents, the host community council, neighbouring community councils and ward councillors were notified separately.

4.16 This exhibition presented details of the changes that had been made to the Proposed Development, showcasing the design evolution of the development including the reduction in proposed turbines and changes to the proposed infrastructure layout. Further details of the Proposed Development were presented including the proposed site access route and habitat enhancement proposals. Photomontages of the Proposed Development from some of the key viewpoints assessed in the LVIA were also presented. Appendix 5 includes examples of the updated exhibition boards.

- 4.17 Attendees had the opportunity to meet the project team, find out information about the Proposed Development and ask any questions. Attendees were also provided with a feedback form so that their comments could be recorded. A copy of the feedback form is included in Appendix 6.

Planning Application

- 4.18 Following the validation of the planning application, the Energy Consents Unit will publicise the application in accordance with statutory regulations for consultation on major planning applications. This is likely to involve newspaper advertisements.
- 4.19 During the planning application consultation and determination stages the Applicant will undertake press releases where appropriate and continue to engage with local residents and other stakeholders.
- 4.20 The full planning application will be made available on the ECU's Public Access systems. Where requested, CDs or hardcopies (subject to the payment of an appropriate fee to cover printing costs) of the planning application can also be provided.

Post-Consent

- 4.21 Should planning permission be granted for the Proposed Development, press releases would be issued, Community Council notifications would be sent out and letters to local residents would be posted to ensure that members of the public would be well informed about the construction process. Every effort would be made to inform the community about any potential local disruption.

5 SUMMARY

- 5.1 The Applicant has undertaken a comprehensive programme of engagement with the community and key stakeholders as part of the formulation of a planning application for the Proposed Development. This has included direct notifications, meetings with key stakeholders and public exhibitions. In accordance with legislative requirements and adhering to advice within National Planning Framework 4 and PAN 3/2010, the Applicant has exceeded the minimum statutory consultation activity.
- 5.2 This process of engagement has helped to highlight the local issues and concerns that are relevant to the development of a wind farm at the Site.
- 5.3 It is considered that the Proposed Development has been designed to respond to feedback where possible and that any outstanding issues and concerns have been addressed in the EIA Report or other material in the planning application.
- 5.4 Overall, the Applicant has sought to ensure the community has been involved in the project during the preparation of the planning application. The evolution of the Proposed Development set out in the EIA Report shows a demonstrable influence of public participation, which has resulted in a high-quality development proposal.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Public Exhibition 1 - Newspaper Advert for Stranraer and Wigtownshire Free Press

Appendix 2: Public Exhibition 1 – Presentation Boards

Appendix 3: Public Exhibition 1 – Feedback Form

Appendix 4: Public Exhibition 2 – Newspaper Advert for Stranraer and Wigtownshire Free Press

Appendix 5: Public Exhibition 2 – Updated Presentation Boards

Appendix 6: Public Exhibition 2 – Feedback Form

APPENIDIX 1: PUBLIC EXHIBITION 1 - NEWSPAPER ADVERT FOR STRANRAER AND WIGTOWNSHIRE FREE PRESS

The EnergieKontor logo, consisting of the company name in a black sans-serif font with a green swoosh underline, is positioned at the top of the advertisement box.

EnergieKontor UK Ltd gives notice that it intends to submit a planning application for a wind farm development at Glenvernoch consisting of up to 18 turbines. The site is located on land within the community council area of Cree Valley.

Further information on the proposal will be available at a public event being held at **Glentrool Hive on Thursday 28 September 2023** from 15:00 to 18:00.

Any person wishing to make comments on the proposal or obtain further information may do so by contacting george.oldroyd@energiekontor.com by 13 October 2023.

Comments submitted are not representations to the Planning Authority (Dumfries and Galloway Council). If an application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make representations on the application to the planning authority at that time.

APPENDIX 2: PUBLIC EXHIBITION 1 – PRESENTATION BOARDS

>> Who Are We?

ENERGIEKONTOR UK LTD

Energiekontor UK Ltd was founded in 1999 and is part of the Energiekontor AG group of companies which develop wind farms across Europe and North America. Our UK projects are developed by our teams in Glasgow and Leeds. As a complete service company, we manage our projects from site selection through planning, finance, construction and on to operation and maintenance of the wind farm.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We have achieved planning permissions for over 100 MW of clean, locally produced, renewable energy in the UK - with 86.55 MW already built and generating.

Energiekontor has a long international history of developing wind energy projects, and has seen the industry grow from a niche technology aimed at combating climate change to a fully-mature, major power provider, capable of producing electricity that is not only clean but is also low-cost and able to match new-build gas costs. This experience alongside our strong project portfolio, is what gives us the security and confidence to continue developing large-scale wind in a zero-subsidy market.

Community Shared Ownership and Community Benefit Funds provide a way in which local people can become more involved with local projects on a day-to-day basis. Energiekontor is committed to delivering both of these to provide communities with the skills and funding they need, to make the changes they want. We understand that wind farms can present both opportunities and challenges to local communities - we are always willing to listen and work with communities on both.

LOCAL SUPPLY CHAIN

We see local supply chain development as part of how we work.

We will engage with a wide ranging group of stakeholders to ensure that we are aware of the full range of services available locally, and also that local firms are aware of our projects and how to access our Tender list.

If this project proceeds the range of services that will be needed locally will include:

- Construction companies
- Reinforced steel manufacturers
- Planet hire - excavators, wagons
- Local stone quarries and aggregates
- Accommodation
- Cleaning and waste solutions
- Site Managers and Ecological Clerk of Works
- Concrete suppliers
- Electrical contractors
- Fencing
- Drainage
- General Supplies
- Catering



>> Why Wind Power?

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN SCOTLAND

While renewable energy continues to be the main aspect of the UK's contribution to fighting climate change, onshore wind is also the most cost-effective way for us to achieve a secure supply of low-carbon energy into the future. Scotland is already coal-free in its energy mix and aging electricity generating facilities will continue to be decommissioned over the coming years. In order to maintain the current level of electricity supply and keep up with forecast increases in demand, a significant amount of new generating capacity is required.



The turbines shown in this image are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to represent the proposed turbines.

SUBSIDY - FREE

Under the last UK government's Electricity Market Reform (EMR), the previous support scheme for wind energy, the 'Renewables Obligation' was replaced by a system called 'Contracts for Difference' (CfD). This saw the Levelised Cost of Electricity (LCOE) from onshore wind sit at around £79/MWh. The projected cost of new gas (CCGT) generation by 2020 is between £65/MWh and £75/MWh.

It is expected that improvements in technology and project design will see the LCOE of wind power sit at between £64/MWh and £69/MWh by 2020. Similar improvements have already been seen in Europe, and the industry is keen to bring these improvements to the UK.

Since the General Election in 2015, a number of changes have been made to the support system for renewable energy in the UK. Energy policy is not devolved to the Scottish government, and any changes will apply across the all of the UK.

Energiekontor is committed to developing robust projects which provide value for money to billpayers and remain viable under the current support scheme

UK ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

We must replace around a fifth of our existing electricity generation over the next decade². This means having a balanced energy policy comprising a mix of generating technologies. Every single technology carries risks and that is why the Government considers a balanced approach crucial. For example, the UK is now a net importer of gas. There is always a risk of interruption to gas and oil import supplies and uncertainties over global prices. Having more home-grown energy sources such as onshore wind, combined with demand-side response and improvements to the network, will help to protect UK consumers and businesses from price shocks in the longer term. Wind will also be a key component in meeting the UK's 2020 target for energy from renewable sources.

LARGEST UK RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE?

In 2014, onshore wind generated 18,611 GWh of electricity, enough to power 4.5 million homes. This represented about 29% of the total UK renewable energy production, and just under 5.5% of all electricity produced. By 2020 it is estimated that onshore wind could provide 24-32TWh of electricity, enough to power up to 7.7 million UK homes.

Onshore wind can also make a real contribution to carbon reduction targets. In 2011, the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) estimated that approximately 6.3 million tonnes of CO₂ were avoided in the UK from onshore wind displacing electricity generated from fossil-fuelled power generation. That is the equivalent of the carbon footprint of a city larger than Leeds.

The Committee on Climate Change's Renewable Energy Review 2011 shows that once the back-up capacity is taken into account, as well as other available measures to address intermittency, a system in which 30 to 64% of electricity is generated from renewable sources can still emit less than 50g of CO₂ per kWh in 2030. This is significantly less emissions-intensive than the most efficient gas combined-cycle turbines, which produce around 350g CO₂ per kWh.

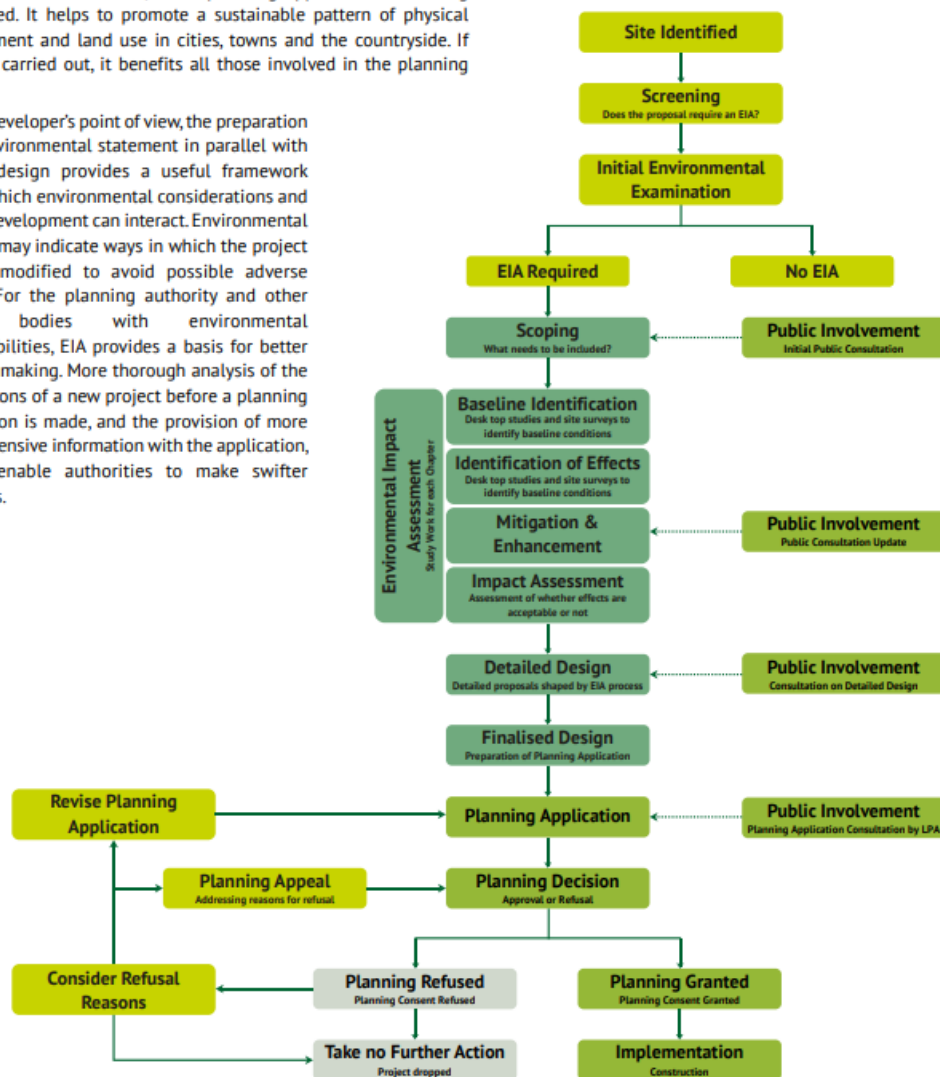
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

EIA OVERVIEW

The term 'Environmental Impact Assessment' (EIA) describes a procedure that must be followed for certain types of projects before they can be given planning permission. The procedure is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects. This helps to ensure that the importance of the predicted effects, and the scope for reducing them, are properly understood by the public and the relevant competent authority before it makes its decision.

EIA enables environmental factors to be given due weight, along with economic or social factors, when planning applications are being considered. It helps to promote a sustainable pattern of physical development and land use in cities, towns and the countryside. If properly carried out, it benefits all those involved in the planning process.

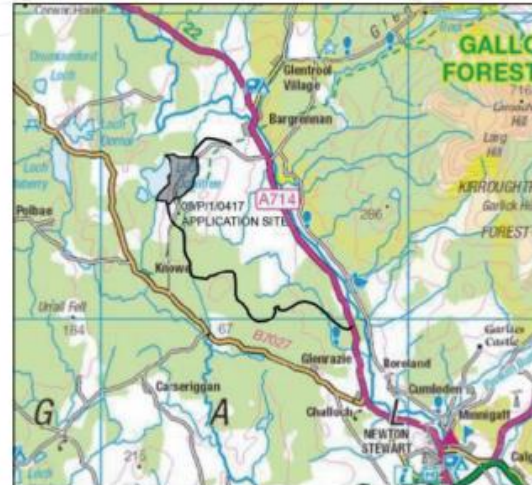
From a developer's point of view, the preparation of an environmental statement in parallel with project design provides a useful framework within which environmental considerations and design development can interact. Environmental analysis may indicate ways in which the project can be modified to avoid possible adverse effects. For the planning authority and other public bodies with environmental responsibilities, EIA provides a basis for better decision making. More thorough analysis of the implications of a new project before a planning application is made, and the provision of more comprehensive information with the application, should enable authorities to make swifter decisions.



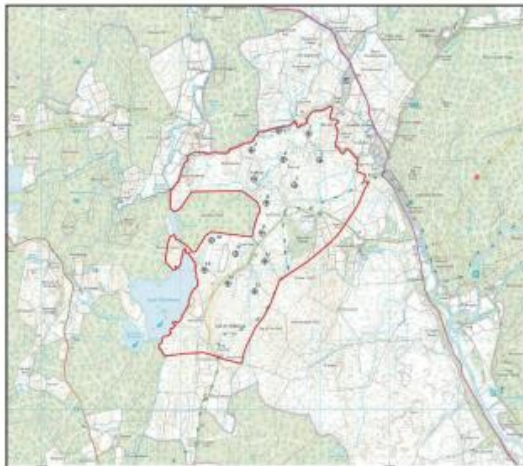
Planning History

Hill of Ochiltree Wind Farm

- In 2009, Eon submitted a planning application for a 10 turbine site.
- The application was refused mainly on landscape grounds with views of the site from Bruce's Stone and Loch Trool, the Merrick Wild Lands Area and from the Southern Upland Way being assessed as unacceptable.
- SEPA also objected to the application as the turbines did not avoid areas of deep peat.
- The plan to the right shows the previous Hill of Ochiltree site.



Bargrennan Wind Farm



- In 2015, Gamesa scoped a site named Bargrennan which overlapped the previous Eon boundary.
- The Scoping Request was for 15 turbines at a tip height of 137m.
- The Bargrennan wind farm site was never progressed.

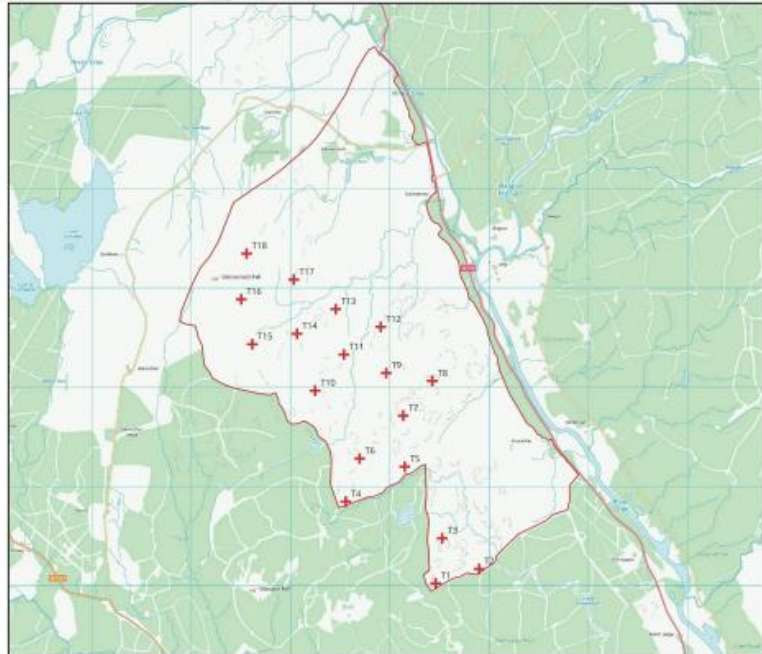
How Glenvernoch Wind Farm Addresses Previous Issues

- Glenvernoch wind farm is situated further south east from where the Hill of Ochiltree site was located. This moves the site away from Loch Ochiltree and the Southern Upland Way.
- Views from Bruce's Stone and Loch Trool are limited to three turbines. Whereas the Hill of Ochiltree site had all 10 wind turbines visible from Bruce's Stone and Loch Trool.
- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) adopts a more favourable position to renewable energy development that sits within and around Wild Land Areas, stating "effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration."
- All the turbines proposed as part of Glenvernoch wind farm avoid areas of deep peat.

>> The Proposed Development

Glenvernoch Wind Farm

- The proposal is for the development of 18 wind turbines and associated infrastructure.
- Each Turbine would have a tip height of 200 metres.
- The wind farm would also include associated infrastructure including turbine foundations, crane pads, transformer kiosks, access tracks, a substation and control building, a temporary construction compound, on-site underground cables, and upgraded access points from the public highway.
- Access to the site would be taken from the A714. The point of entry is subject to confirmation but is likely to utilise the existing farm access at Knockville
- The Proposed Development would be operational for a 35 year period, after which the turbine components would be removed and the site restored.
- A decommissioning bond would be held by the local authority to decommission the project and restore the site.



Site Location

- The Site is centred at approximately Easting and Northing (E) 235247, (N) 573276..
- The village of Glentrool is 2.8km north of the Site.
- The town of Newton Stewart is 7km south-east of the Site.
- The nearest main highway is the A714 which runs adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Site.
- Penninghame Forest is immediately south of the site and Loch Ochiltree is 260m west of the Site



APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC EXHIBITION 1 - FEEDBACK FORM

Glenvernoch Public Exhibition Comments Form

How far is your home from the proposed site of the wind farm?

- ☐ < 2km
- ☐ 2-5km
- ☐ > 5km

Do you consider there is a general need to generate more renewable energy?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Do you support onshore wind farms as a source of renewable energy?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Would you support the proposal for the Glenvernoch Wind Farm?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Are there any projects or organisations you would like to see benefit from the community benefit fund?

Do you have any suggested improvements to the proposal?

Would you be interested in learning more about the shared ownership offer for Glenvernoch Wind Farm?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Name:

.....

Your Address:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Your email:

.....

Would you like to be kept up to date with the proposal's progress?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

APPENDIX 4: PUBLIC EXHIBITION 2 – NEWSPAPER ADVERT FOR STRANRAER AND WIGTOWNSHIRE FREE PRESS



EnergieKontor UK Ltd gives notice that it intends to submit a planning application for a wind farm development at Glenvernoch consisting of up to 13 turbines. The site is located on land within the community council area of Cree Valley.

Further information on the proposal will be available at a public event being held at **McMillan Hall** on **Wednesday 21st August** from 14:00 to 17:00.

Any person wishing to make comments on the proposal or obtain further information may do so by contacting george.oldroyd@energiekontor.com by 11 September 2024.

Comments submitted are not representations to the Planning Authority (Dumfries and Galloway Council). If an application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make representations on the application to the planning authority at that time.

APPENDIX 5: PUBLIC EXHIBITION – UPDATED PRESENTATION BOARDS

>> The Proposed Development

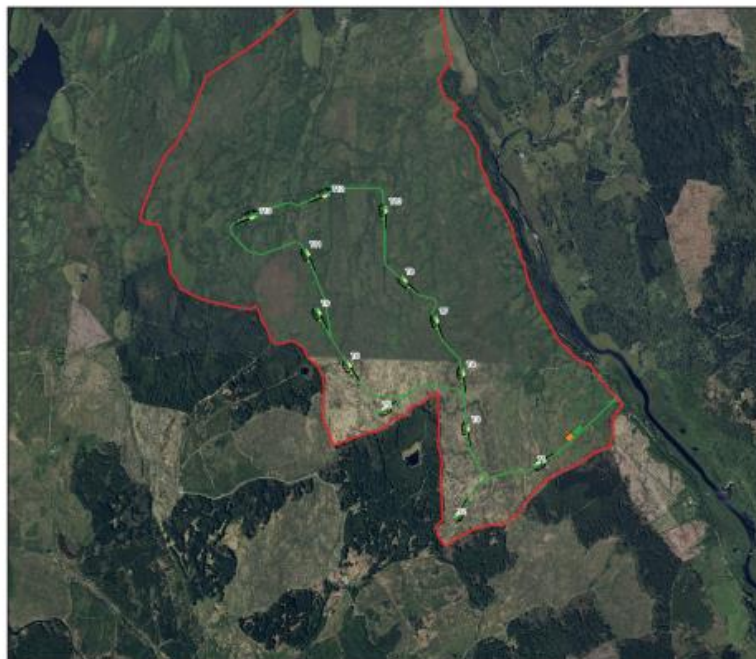
Glenvernoch Wind Farm

- The Proposed Development consists of 13 wind turbines and associated infrastructure.
- Each turbine would have a tip height of 200 metres.
- The wind farm would also include associated infrastructure including turbine foundations, crane pads, transformer kiosks, access tracks, a substation and control building, a temporary construction compound, on-site underground cables, an energy storage facility, and upgraded access points from the public highway.
- Access to the site would be taken from the A714 to the east.
- The Proposed Development would be operational for a 35 year period, after which the turbine components would be removed and the site restored.
- A decommissioning bond would be held by the local authority to decommission the project and restore the site.



Site Location

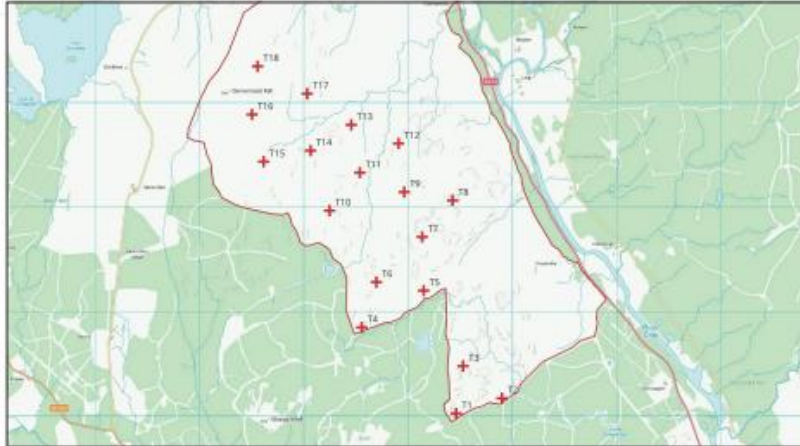
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- Penninghame Forest is immediately south of the site and Loch Ochiltree is 260m west of the Site



Design Evolution

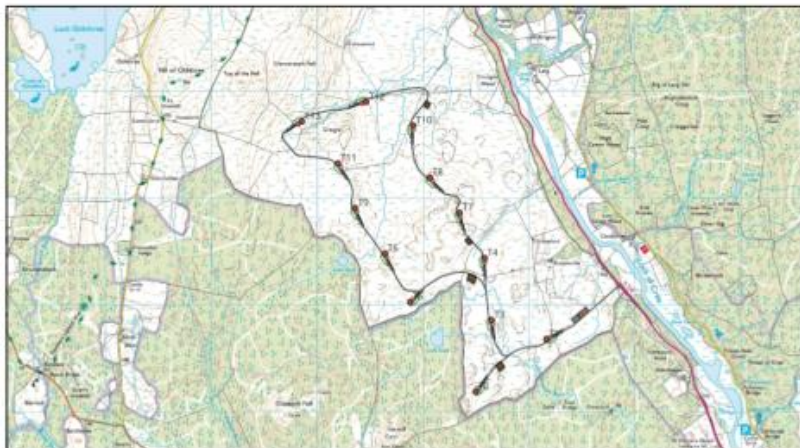
Design Iteration 1

- The first design iteration was submitted as part of the EIA Scoping exercise in August 2023.
- This design was the subject to an introductory public exhibition in September 2023 at Glentool Hive.
- This design was for 18x 200m turbines.



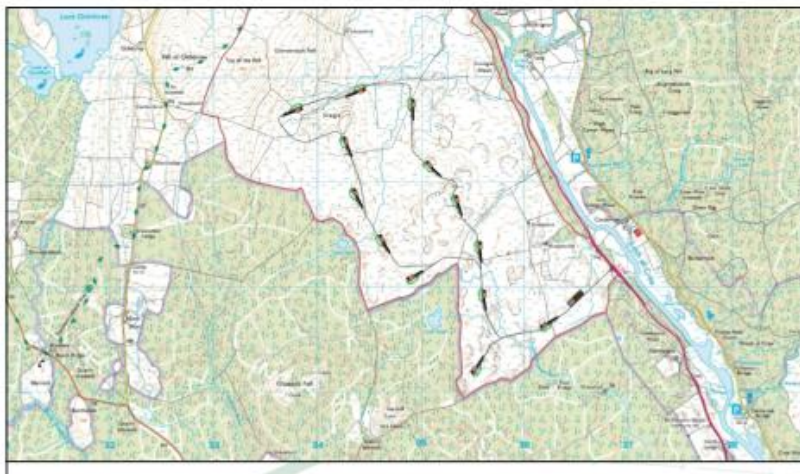
Design Iteration 2

- The second design iteration was commenced in early 2024 based on feedback received from the EIA Scoping exercise and the introductory public exhibition.
- The design changes at this stage were principally based around landscape and visual considerations.
- The number of turbines was reduced from 18x to 13x in order to reduce the lateral spread of the wind farm to reduce effects from key viewpoints.
- Wirelines were used as design tools to optimise the position of individual turbines to minimise stacking and improve turbine spacing.



Design Iteration 3

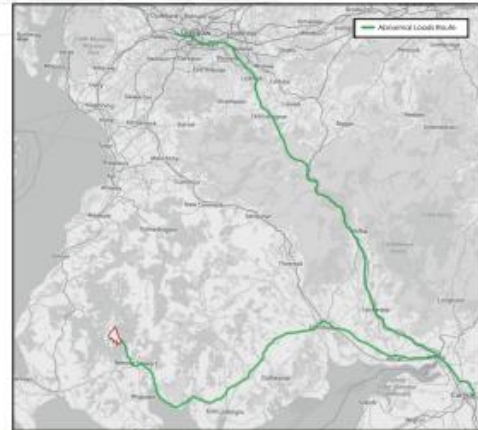
- Following the completion of detailed peat depth surveys a number of changes were required to ensure no turbine was located in peat deeper than 1 metre.
- Four turbines were re-positioned as part of this process, with consequential positioning changes required for neighbouring turbines to ensure suitable spacing between them.
- Infrastructure was then designed around the turbine positions.
- This is the layout on which the Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken.



» Traffic and Transport

Abnormal Load Delivery

- The likely port of entry (PoE) for wind turbine components would be King George V Dock in Glasgow. From there abnormal load vehicles would navigate east onto the M8 then south on the M74 before merging into the A74(M) and continuing onto the M6 at Carlisle. At junction 43 of the M6, vehicles would turn around at the interchange to head back north on the M6 and A74(M) to Dumfries.
- Vehicles would leave the A74(M) at junction 22 and route west onto the A75.
- Vehicles would continue along the A75 past Newton Stewart before turning north onto the U52W Barnkirk Road. Vehicles would then join the A714 and head north to the site.
- It is likely that some temporary highway accommodation works would be required at the northern and southern ends of the U52W to accommodate the turning requirements of the abnormal load vehicles.



Construction Traffic

- There would be a need to bring general construction materials to the site (concrete, aggregates, pipes, cabling etc) in standard heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).
- The construction programme is anticipated to cover an 18 month period, during which 8,469 HGVs would access the site equating to 112 daily total HGV trips (56 inbound and 56 outbound) during the busiest construction month.
- This traffic could increase total traffic flows along nearby roads as follows:
 - 4% on the A75 west of Newton Stewart
 - 4% on the A75 east of Newton Stewart
 - 16% on the U52W Barnkirk Road
 - 14% on the A714
- During the busiest month however the total traffic flows could increase as follows:
 - 8% on the A75 west of Newton Stewart
 - 7% on the A75 east of Newton Stewart
 - 46% on the U52W Barnkirk Road
 - 39% on the A714
- It is very important to stress that these increase percentages, together with the vehicle trips in the adjacent table, are based on a conservative assumption that 100% of the stone requirements would be imported to site. This is unlikely to be the case in reality as it is anticipated that a proportion of stone would be won from on-site borrow pits.
- A Construction Traffic Management Plan would be put in place during the construction period to identify measures to reduce the number of construction vehicles as well as considering reducing or avoiding the impact of vehicles through construction programming or routing.

Total estimated number of HGV trips during construction:

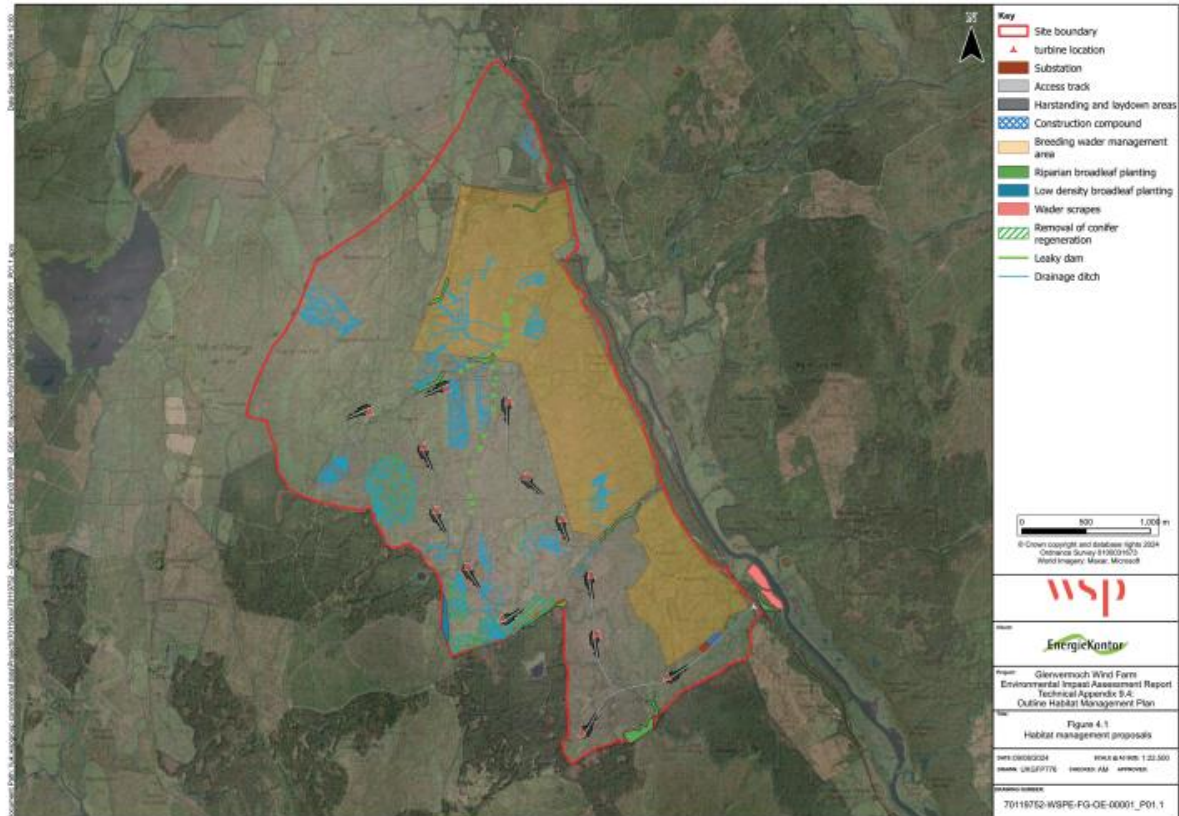
Construction Task	Vehicle Type	Approximate No. of Loads
Site Establishment / Demobilisation	Low Loader and Dump Truck	120
General site deliveries	Low Loader and Dump Truck	180
Imported stone (access roads, crane hardstanding areas, other hardstanding areas)*	Dump Truck	3018
Reinforcement	Low Loader	32
Foundations (off-site batched concrete)	Concrete Wagon	3991
Cabling deliveries and sand	Low Loader	420
Geotextile separators	Low Loader	176
Delivery of HV electrical items	Dump Truck	33
Construction of Sub-station	Various	164
Battery Storage	Various	80
Cranes and related lifting equipment	Crane Vehicle	55
Erection of turbines	Abnormal Loads	130
Site reinstatement and restoration	Various	70
Total Inbound Trips		8,469
Total Trips (Inbound plus Outbound)		16,938

*Assumes 100% of stone imported to the site.

- Approved haul routes would be identified to the site and protocols put in place to ensure that HGVs adhere to these routes.
- A construction traffic speed limit (eg 20mph within 30mph zones) would be imposed through any sensitive areas along the route and on approach to the main site access point.
- A wheel washing / wheel cleaning facility would be installed on-site during the construction period in order to reduce mud and debris being deposited onto the local road network.

Habitat Management and Biodiversity Gain

Habitat Management Proposals



Habitat Management Details

The aims of the Habitat Management Plan will be:

- Aim 1: To restore the condition and quality of peatland habitats within the Site.
- Aim 2: To increase native woodland coverage and enhance connectivity through riparian and non-riparian broadleaf planting.
- Aim 3: To hold back flow of on-site watercourses, create pools and areas of seasonally inundated marshy grassland within the Site.
- Aim 4: To improve habitat for breeding wader populations including for curlew, lapwing and snipe.

The following proposed measures are illustrated on the above Habitat Management Plan:

- Peatland restoration, which would provide a variety of benefits to habitats, the assemblages of species that depend on them and also in terms of associated ecosystem service benefits, e.g. carbon storage and downstream water quantity and quality. Large areas of the site have been identified as suitable for peatland restoration, particularly where artificial drains are present and/or areas of conifer trees are naturally regenerating. Artificial drains would be removed and replaced with peat dams, self-seeded conifers would be removed, and peat bunds would be installed and plug planted with sphagnum. This would prevent the further deterioration of these habitats, raise the water table and aid the formation of peat. These measures could result in a blanket bog restoration area of up to 150 hectares.
- Fenced riparian natural regeneration, to improve habitat and water quality in the vicinity of watercourses. Would also improve connectivity with other woodland areas.
- Low density broadleaf woodland planting in suitable locations to provide new native habitat.
- Breeding wader management areas, to improve habitat conditions for a range of species through rush cutting and the creation of wader scrapes.
- Natural flood management across the site, including the installation of 'leaky dams' - in stream natural woody barriers - to manage the discharge of water from the site. The leaky dams would allow normal base-flows of water to pass through. When flood flows are higher however, they would create an obstruction to reduce the flow, helping to reduce the discharge rate from the site into the River Cree during times of high rainfall.

APPENDIX 6: PUBLIC EXHIBITION 2 – FEEDBACK FORM

Glenvernoch Public Exhibition Comments Form

How far is your home from the proposed site of the wind farm?

- ☐ < 2km
- ☐ 2-5km
- ☐ > 5km

Do you consider there is a general need to generate more renewable energy?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Do you support onshore wind farms as a source of renewable energy?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Would you support the proposal for the Glenvernoch Wind Farm?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

If you attended the first Glenvernoch Wind Farm public exhibition in September 2023, do you consider the latest plans an improvement from the Scoping Layout?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Are there any further improvements to the plans that you would like to see?

Do you support the overall aims of the Habitat Management Proposals?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Do you support the plans for peatland restoration which include measures for Natural Flood Management?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Are there any further measures you would like to see proposed in the Habitat Management Plan?

Has the information presented today, addressed your previous concerns regarding the proposed Glenvernoch Wind Farm?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Has the information presented today been sufficient to allow you to understand what is being proposed at Glenvernoch?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure