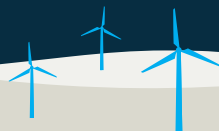




Culachy Wind Farm

EXHIBITION BROCHURE

October 2022



Fred. Olsen Renewables



Welcome

Welcome to our exhibition about proposals to develop Culachy Wind Farm which is located on the Culachy Estate, approximately 7.5km south of Fort Augustus.

We would like to continue our conversation about how we can develop a project that will:

- Deliver local and regional supply chain opportunities
- Make a positive contribution to the local economy
- Provide a substantial community benefit fund

- Actively support Scotland's net zero ambitions

Consultation is an important part of the development process. We welcome your feedback and opinions. Please complete a feedback form or contact the team to discuss the plans further.



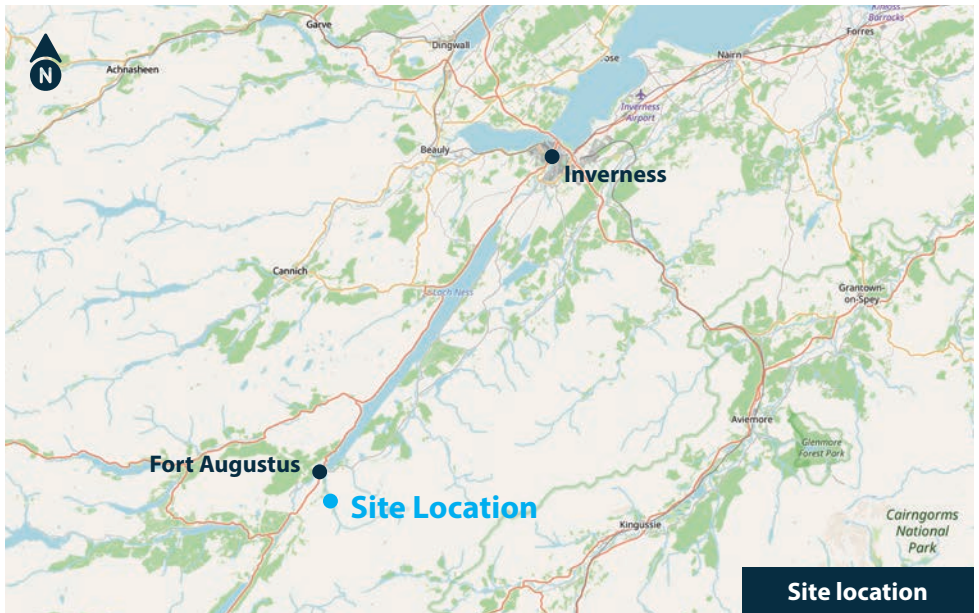
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About Fred. Olsen Renewables

Fred. Olsen Renewables is one of the leading independent renewable power producers in the UK. Our operational UK wind farm portfolio comprises a total generating capacity of over 500MW and we have an extensive pipeline of projects coming forward.

With over twenty-five years' experience in consenting, developing and operating wind farms, we are one of very few developers that take a project all the way from initiation and development, through to operation and ultimately decommissioning.

By being involved in every aspect of a wind farm's lifecycle, we are not only experts in developing successful projects, we are good neighbours.

Our Proposal

The proposed wind farm is located approximately 7.5km south of Fort Augustus. The land that we are looking to develop is on Culachy Estate.

Having undertaken a range of consultation, we would like to provide an update on:

- How we have listened to feedback
- How our plans have changed
- The opportunities that our plans present

Following our exhibitions in April our plans have progressed. We hope that these events help to demonstrate how community feedback, alongside the findings from our technical assessments have influenced the latest design of Culachy Wind Farm.

Our plans have changed. We have:

- Removed two turbines
- Reduced the tip height of the turbines

The plans now include:

- Eight wind turbines up to 200m to tip
- Up to 20MW of battery storage
- Turbine foundations and hardstandings
- Onsite substation and control building
- Access tracks
- Crane pads
- Anemometry mast



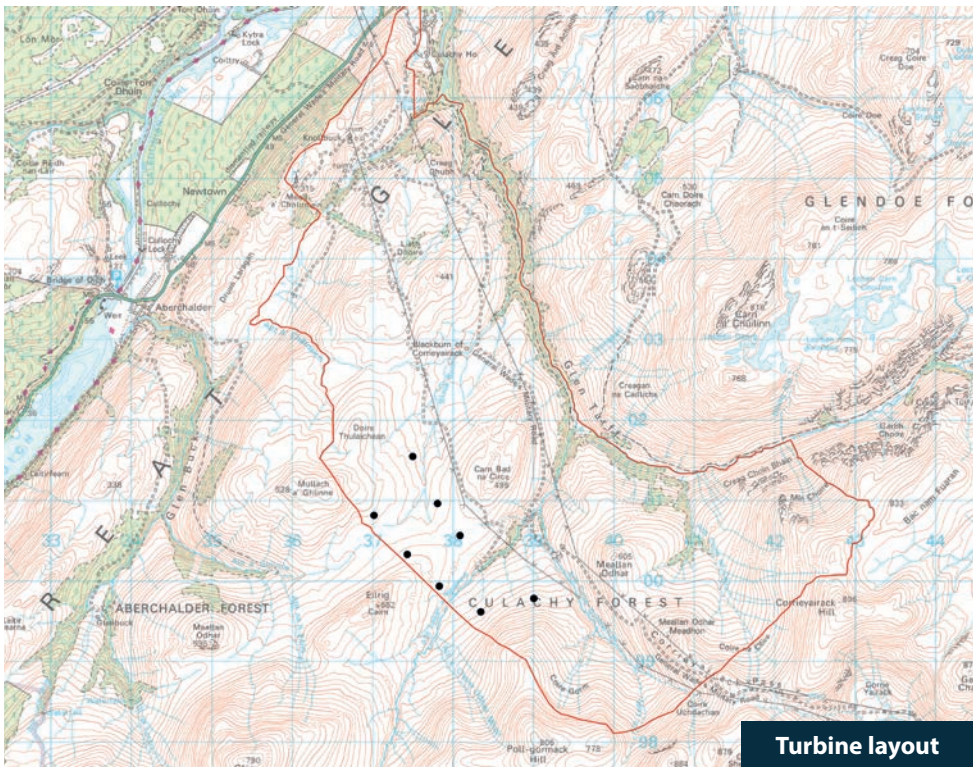
Layout and Design Process

In order to determine the final location of the wind turbines many factors have been, and continue to be, considered. These include:

- Wind resource
- Engineering constraints
- Visual impact
- Impact on sensitive habitats
- Proximity to areas of ecological interest
- Location of heritage assets
- Telecommunication infrastructure

The layout in the plan below shows the locations of the proposed eight turbines. The layout we will submit to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in the Scottish Government is being finalised. This could be amended to address any further comments received, alongside environmental and technical information gathered.

Should the final layout feature any substantial changes this will be circulated locally in advance of an application submission.



Development Process

We submitted a scoping report to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in February 2022. This described our draft proposal and invited the views of consultees on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Some of the stakeholders included:

- The Highland Council
- NatureScot
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- Community Councils

We have undertaken a range of assessments and surveys which have informed the updated layout that is on display – ensuring that it minimises effects on the local environment.

We evaluate and present any potential significant effects of the proposed development with the EIA Report. The EIA Report will accompany our application to the Scottish Government.

The EIA Report will consider:

- Ornithology
- Ecology
- Cultural Heritage
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat
- Aviation and Telecommunications
- Socioeconomics and Tourism
- Noise and Vibration
- Traffic and Transport
- Landscape and Visual

Our Development Timeline

REQUIREMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

SITE SELECTION

PROJECT INITIATION

CONSULTATION AND SCOPING

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES & SURVEYS

DEVELOPMENT LAYOUT DESIGN ITERATIONS

TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

PREPARATION OF THE EIA REPORT

SUBMISSION OF PLANNING APPLICATION

REVIEW BY CONSULTEES

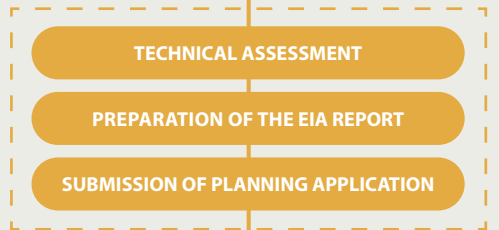
REQUIREMENT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

ASSESSMENT OF PLANNING

DECISION BY THE ECU

CONSTRUCTION, COMMUNITY LIAISON AND MONITORING

CURRENT STAGE





Environmental Impact Assessment

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to identify and assess the potential significant environmental effects of the proposed development. The information gathered through the EIA process has helped to shape the design and layout of the proposed development and required mitigation measures. All surveys were carried out in line with the latest guidance from relevant authorities.

This includes, amongst others:

Ornithology

The site has undergone a suite of bird surveys including breeding waders, scarce breeding birds, black grouse and flight activity surveys. This has allowed us the opportunity to gain an understanding of the area's ornithological sensitivities. The extent of the baseline surveys were agreed in consultation with NatureScot.

Baseline surveys have identified a relatively typical bird assemblage associated with

upland moorland and have established that black grouse leks, breeding merlin and golden eagle are present in the surrounding area. The development area itself hosts few species of conservation value with golden plover and snipe the only two wader species regularly breeding. Evidence from golden eagle prey and habitat quality surveys carried out suggest that the development area is of relatively poor-quality prey habitat compared to the wider Culachy Estate.





Ecology

Ecology surveys, including habitats, protected species and bat activity have taken place in order to gain a full understand of the area's ecological context.

The habitats on site are typical of an upland setting, with much of the site covered by blanket bog, with smaller areas of heath and grassland scattered throughout.

Mammals recorded on site include water vole and otter. Bat activity surveys were also carried out over three seasons, with this data currently undergoing analysis.

Additional habitat surveys were undertaken in 2020 and 2021 to identify any sensitive habitats within an appropriate buffer of the proposed works. This revealed that the predominant habitats found at the site is acid grassland with small areas of wet and dried

modified bog. As a result, the habitats and locations of those species noted have been considered within the latest development layout, appropriate stand-offs have been put in place so as to reduce or remove any impacts.

Cultural Heritage

The cultural heritage assessment considers the archaeological and cultural heritage assets within the proposed development site, and in the wider area. A desk-based assessment was carried out, which reviewed many historical and modern data sources. In addition, a detailed walkover survey across the proposed development area was undertaken, alongside visits to key heritage assets within the proposed development site and in the wider area. This allows an assessment of the potential impacts on their setting.



Within the proposed development site, there are five sections of the Corrieyairack Pass military road, four of which are Scheduled Monuments. In addition, there are 36 non-designated heritage assets, most of which date to the post-medieval period and include agricultural and pastoral structures and associated remains. Historic map evidence indicates that small agricultural settlements existed within the proposed development site, most of which were located adjacent to the Corrieyairack Pass or close to watercourses.

Throughout the design process close consideration was given to any potential impacts upon cultural heritage assets: turbines and associated infrastructure elements have been located away from known cultural heritage assets within the site, and data from the survey and assessment has fed into the on-going design process. Care will be taken to identify and assess the potential to avoid adversely affecting an asset's setting and thereby the ability to understand and appreciate the asset in its wider context.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat

This assessment considers the hydrological, geological and hydrogeological characteristics of the proposed development site, and helps to inform appropriate mitigation proposals. Areas of peat are found to be extensive across the site with depths ranging from less than 0.5m to between 3m and 5m depth.

The turbine layout has taken into consideration the habitats and watercourse across the site and looked to keep out with any areas of deep peat and away from watercourses.

Aviation and Telecommunications

Assessments and consultation has been undertaken to assess whether the turbines could adversely affect the operation of commercial and military aviation interests and infrastructure. Detailed consultation is ongoing with aviation and telecommunication organisations to ensure that the final development layout has no impact on telecommunications, airport or military operations or that viable mitigation measures are agreed with the relevant authority.

Socioeconomics and Tourism

Predicted socioeconomic benefits of the proposed development will be outlined within the EIA Report. This will include the potential benefits on local, regional and national levels during the construction and operational periods of the proposed development. The tourism assessment will consider the drivers of tourism in the locality and whether there is any potential for effects associated with the proposed development that could lead to changes in tourist behaviour and so the tourism economy.

Noise and Vibration

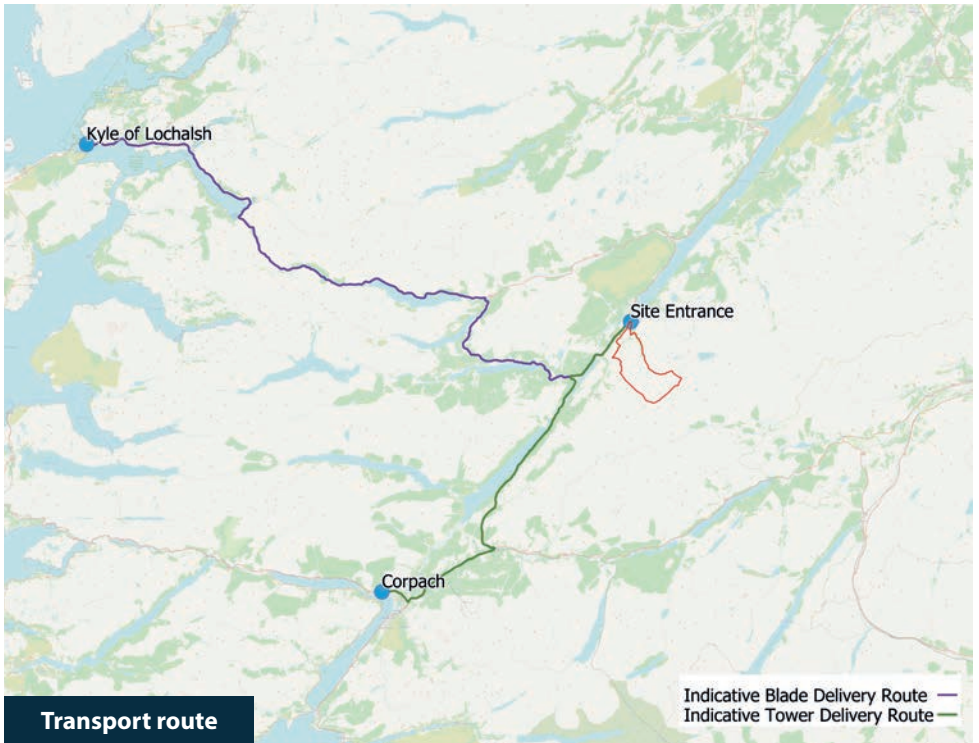
This assessment will consider the effects of both construction and operational noise on

any nearby sensitive receptors. The predicted noise levels during construction and operation of the wind farm will be modelled and compared against the measured background noise levels and will be set so that they do not breach the agreed limits set by the local authority.

Traffic and Transport

This assessment considers the impact on traffic volumes and the transport network

during the construction period, operational phase and decommissioning phase of the proposed development. The initial route review and the site visit has identified that blades will be delivered to Kyle of Lochalsh, travel along the A87, A82 and the Ardachy Road to a new site entrance. Tower components will be delivered to Corpach and travel along the A82 to meet the Ardachy Road to the new site entrance.





Landscape and Visual Amenity

Once the design layout has been finalised, a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the proposed development will be carried out to consider effects on:

- **Landscape fabric** - changes to the physical form of the landscape and its elements
- **Landscape character** - changes in the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape as a result of the development
- **Visual amenity** - changes in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development

The proposed development will be analysed to identify elements with the potential to cause a significant effect on landscape and visual amenity. This will involve analysing the theoretical visibility of the development to 45km, with detailed assessment focussing on a proportionate extent where significant effects might occur. A cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment will consider a 45km radius from the site where potential significant effects may occur.





Community Benefit

If consented, Culachy Wind Farm will provide over £280,000 per year to the local community. This equates to over £9m in community benefit throughout the lifespan of the project.

We want to work closely with the communities surrounding Culachy Wind Farm to ensure that the community benefit can be utilised to strategically address identified local challenges such as housing stock and energy consumption, in addition to recreation, tourism and ecology.

We are very aware of the exciting projects that are currently being delivered locally. We would be keen to explore how we can support local aspirations and ensure that the community benefit from Culachy Wind Farm can make a significant contribution towards these plans.



Get in touch by emailing communities@fredolsen.com



Supply Chain

We are pleased that our projects have managed to employ a range of local services – helping to maximise the local economic impact.

If our application is successful we will look to local businesses to provide services to the proposed development.

Services that we have previously employed include:

- Local accommodation
- Plant hire
- Caterers
- Groundworks
- Fencers
- Concrete and aggregate



If you, or your company, are able to provide any of these services, and more, please get in touch by emailing suppliers@fredolsen.com.

Wind Farms and Climate Change

What is Climate Change?

Climate is the average weather we experience over many years, climate change is the change we are seeing in these averages conditions. The rapid climate change we are now seeing is caused by humans using oil, gas and coal for their homes, factories and transport.

Average global temperatures have risen by more than 1°C since the 1850s. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 were the hottest years ever recorded. Scotland, and the rest of the world is in the midst of a global climate emergency.

We are already seeing the negative impact of climate change. Unless action is taken, temperatures will continue to rise and we will experience catastrophic impacts such, with



worsening droughts, greater sea level rise and mass extinction of species. We all have a role to play.

The Impact of Climate Change

Environment

We are already witnessing changes to our environment such as the melting of ice caps and glaciers with low lying and coastal cities at particular risk of flooding.

Climate change is expected to worsen the frequency, intensity, and impacts of some types of extreme weather events. For example, increases in temperatures have resulted in a greater risk of wildfires like those recently seen in the USA and Australia.

People

Climate change is affecting people in far-reaching ways. Things that we all depend upon and value – water, energy, wildlife,

agriculture, ecosystems, and human health – are experiencing the effects of a changing climate.

These extreme weather events (floods, storms and wild fires) will become more common and intense, threatening lives and livelihoods.

Nature

There is already evidence that animals, birds and plants are being affected by climate change in both their distribution and behaviour.

Changes are happening so fast that many species do not have time to adapt to the loss of habitats or food and will soon become extinct.

For example, the loss of sea ice has already seen large reductions in the numbers of Polar Bear species whilst increasing sea temperatures has dramatically impacted coral reefs – a vital habitat for many sea creatures.

Impact in the UK

Changes to the climate are also being felt in the UK.

Our winters are becoming warmer and wetter resulting in increased flooding. Whilst our summers will become hotter and drier meaning the likelihood of droughts will increase.

People, nature, and infrastructure are already vulnerable to a range of climate impacts today and these will only increase in the coming years as the climate continues to change.





Why Wind Farms?

A substantial amount of carbon emissions come from energy used across power, heating and transport.

Renewable energy such as wind power, does not emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Therefore, by using renewable energy technologies like wind turbines, solar panels and hydro we are reducing carbon emissions created by traditional energy consumption.

Wind power, as the most advanced renewable technology available at a large scale, has a vital role to play in achieving our zero-carbon electricity system.

By bringing more wind turbines forward in Scotland, we are:



Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels



Improving energy security by reducing imports



Meeting government targets



Tackling climate change



In 2018 renewables displaced

11.9 million tonnes of CO₂.

The equivalent of taking every vehicle off Scotland's roads.

WIND POWER HAS A CARBON FOOTPRINT:



99% less than coal-fired power plants



98% less than natural gas



75% less than solar

Proposed Timeline

Site Selection

Culachy was acquired by Fred. Olsen Renewables in 2021.

Initial feasibility indicated good potential for wind development, including good wind speeds and minimal constraints on site.



Planning

We want to apply to the Scottish Government for consent by early 2023.

Ahead of then we will continue to undertake a range of public consultation and seek to gather as much feedback as possible.

The application will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA-R) that will show the results of all studies undertaken. The EIA-R will be publicly available. Interested parties can formally comment on the application to Scottish Government.



Decommissioning

12 months

A decommissioning plan will form part of the application.

At the end of the operational period, turbines are removed and the site restored. A financial bond will be put in place to cover the cost of decommissioning.

Alternatively, there is the opportunity to explore repowering the project with new, modern turbines. This would be subject to substantial community consultation.

Operation

35 years

The community fund will be active throughout the lifetime of the wind farm to support local projects.



Construction

12 – 18 months

If approved, construction usually begins one year after consent.

Construction can take between 12 and 18 months, and planning conditions will be used to manage certain elements of construction.



Next steps

We hope to continue our consultation prior to submitting an application in early 2023. The full suite of application documents will be made publicly available at this time.

We would welcome your comments on our proposals. Please take a moment to complete a feedback form or get in touch.