

ESB Asset Development UK Limited

Chleansaid Wind Farm

Statement of Community Consultation

662367

MARCH 2022

RSK



RSK GENERAL NOTES

Project No.: 662711

Title: Chleainsaid Wind Farm: Statement of Community Consultation

Client: ESB Asset Development UK Limited

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Office: Glasgow

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This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK Environment Ltd.

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Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) summarises the pre-application public consultation activity undertaken by ESB Asset Development UK Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the applicant'), for the proposed Chleansaid Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.2 The Proposed Development is located on the Dalnessie Estate, approximately 13 km to the north-east of Lairg in the Scottish Highlands, near the A836–A838 Junction. The Proposed Development site falls within The Highland Council area, in the North, West and Central Sutherland ward. The land is currently used as a shooting estate and for rough grazing. Surrounding land uses include commercial forestry, sporting and recreational uses.
- 1.3 The Proposed Development will comprise up to 16 turbines, with a maximum height to blade tip of 200 m. Associated infrastructure will also be developed including access tracks, borrow pits, transformers, underground cables, onsite sub-station/control building, a prospective energy storage facility, telecommunications equipment and temporary construction compounds. The individual turbine generating capacity is anticipated to be approximately 6 megawatts (MW), with the total generating capacity for the Proposed Development in excess of 50 MW.
- 1.4 A full description of the Proposed Development is presented in Chapter 2 of the submitted Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- 1.5 The SoCC is part of a suite of documents submitted as part of the application for consent and includes a summary of actions taken to consult with local communities, as well as responses received from consultees.

Consultation Context

Legislative Context

- 1.6 Proposals for wind farms with a potential electrical capacity larger than 50 MW are subject to the consenting procedures set out in Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and applications are made directly to the Scottish Ministers. As this development proposal is for a wind farm over 50MW, an application is being made under Section 36 of the Electricity Act.

There is no obligation to consult the public under the terms of the Electricity Act application process. Nevertheless, the applicant has applied the principles of the consultation process recommended for 'major' planning applications as set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 ('DMPR') and Circular 3:2013- Development Management Procedures. This enables the local community and all those with an interest in the proposals a clear opportunity to provide comment and feedback.

- 1.7 Article 7 of DMPR states that applicants are to:
 - Hold at least one public event where members of the public may make comments to the prospective applicant as regards the proposed development; and

- Publish in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated a notice containing certain prescribed information
- 1.8 Furthermore, Article 9 states that applications for planning permission must be accompanied by a pre-application consultation report.

Temporary Amendments to the Regulations due to the Emergency Coronavirus Pandemic

- 1.9 The introduction of the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, published in April 2020, allowed for the suspension of in-person meetings in the interest of public health. Subsequently, the Scottish Government published guidance on pre-application consultation was followed via the ‘Coronavirus (COVID-19): planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events’ guidance document. The guidance does not provide a statutorily specified alternative to a public event during the period of the COVID-19 outbreak. However, as a minimum the online or virtual events will have to be hosted at a central, free, publicly accessible and user-friendly web location including the following information:
- the pre-application consultation steps being undertaken, the location of the information, how to engage and the event’s time limits;
 - the location of the Proposed Development site;
 - the proposal for the site.
- 1.10 Other requirements for the online or virtual events include:
- the information provided during the event should be able to be read at whatever pace the person accessing it requires, downloaded and printed.
 - the public should be allowed a period of not less than seven days to submit questions or views electronically.
 - the prospective applicant must respond to questions or requests for clarification and allow for any further reply in that regard. This can either be during the consultation period mentioned in the previous bullet, or the prospective applicant should indicate a later date when such response will be made and a period thereafter (being not less than 48 hours) for any final comment.
- 1.11 While not a statutory requirement for Section 36 applications in the same way as it is for major applications under DMPR, the applicant was committed to undertaking meaningful consultation with regulators, landowners, local authorities, community councils and members of the public. The Applicant’s approach to public consultation is described in the next section titled “Consultation Approach”.

Best Practice

- 1.12 Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 Community Engagement is an update of Planning Advice Note (PAN) 81 Community Engagement, which advises that in order for the community engagement to be successful, it is important that everyone interested in the future development of the community, village, town or city they live in, should understand the planning process. It is important for developers to involve residents at the earliest

opportunity so that they can feel confident that engagement in the process has been meaningful:

‘Effective’ engagement with the public can lead to better plans, better decisions and more satisfactory outcomes and can help to avoid delays in the planning process. It also improves confidence in the fairness of the planning system. The Scottish Government expects engagement with the public to be meaningful and to occur from the earliest stages in the planning process to enable community views to be reflected in development plans and development proposals (page 3, paragraph 2).’

1.13 PAN 3/2010 highlights the:

“Dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups based on a genuine exchange of and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action. The terms ‘engagement’ and ‘involvement’ are generally interchangeable and are taken to mean the establishment of effective relationships with individuals or groups. Participation is everything that enables people to influence the decisions and get involved in the actions that affect their lives. In the context of this document engagement is, in effect, giving people a genuine opportunity to have a say on a development plan or proposal which affects them; listening to what they say and reaching a decision in an open and transparent way to ensure they are taking account of all views express (page 3, paragraph 1).”

1.14 The applicant is dedicated to undertaking effective and early consultation methods in this way including tailoring its strategies to suit individual communities. Residents’ values and issues of importance vary and the consultation programmes on each individual development proposal are designed to reflect that.

The Highland Council

Planning Permission and Pre-Application Advice: Renewable Energy Developments

1.15 The Highland Council encourages developers to engage in discussions with the Council for major development proposals. This is to help provide early indications of their view of a scheme and stakeholder engagement approach and potentially save time on working up proposals. In accordance with the above, the applicant requested pre-application advice, which was received on the 22nd July 2020. The pre-application advice pack comprised different information relevant to the Proposed Development, including key views, policy requirements and stakeholder engagement.

1.16 Views and information provided via the pre-application pack and subsequent meetings with the Highland Council, informed the iterative design stages, as well as the public consultation approach.

1.17 In accordance with the Council’s planning requirements for major renewable energy development proposals, applicants are required to submit a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) outlining pre-application public engagement proposals. Since the project is not classed as a ‘major development’ under The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009, an alternative approach was undertaken. Rather than submitting a PAN, the applicant submitted a letter to the Highland Council and the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) detailing the approach to public consultation. The

approach, as detailed in the next section “Consultation Approach”, was agreed by the Council by return of email on 1st October 2021, and the letter is included as Appendix E.

Community Benefit Policy

- 1.18 Whilst community benefit is a separate issue to consenting, the Council wants to make sure that local communities benefit directly from the use of their local resources and are compensated for the potential disruption and inconvenience associated with large scale development work.
- 1.19 While there is no legal requirement to offer community benefit, the applicant is committed to provide voluntarily community benefit to communities that may be affected from the Proposed Development.
- 1.20 In line with the terms of Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) Policy 31 and the Council’s Developer Contributions Supplementary Guidance (2018), local communities would benefit directly from £5,000 per MW of installed capacity per year. Subsequently, over the lifetime of the project, up to £17.5 million pounds would be invested in community benefit funding, shaped to local needs, based on up to £500,000 per year over a 35-year operational lifespan].
- 1.21 Indirect benefits associated with increased economic activity during construction stages and employment opportunities are described in detail in Chapter 14 – Socio-Economics, Land Use and Tourism of the EIA Report.

Consultation Approach

- 1.22 While not mandatory for an application under Section 36 of the Electricity Act, the applicant considers consultation to be an essential element of large-scale infrastructure projects and is committed to putting community consultation at the heart of its activities throughout the design and application process.
- 1.23 The aims of the consultation and engagement process were:
- To be inclusive and accessible
 - To raise awareness of the Proposed Development
 - To understand feedback from the local community and communicate it to the project team
 - To engage with consultees and address planning concerns raised.
- 1.24 While undertaking the consultation and engagement process, the emphasis was on maintaining social distancing due to COVID-19. Therefore, the commonly adopted approach of undertaking public engagement through holding face-to-face consultation events close to the Proposed Development, was not feasible during the first consultation event. However, following the government’s easing of restriction measures, the Applicant hosted a second public consultation event that included two in-person public exhibitions at Rogart and Lairg respectively..
- 1.25 With the government’s restrictions and social distancing guidelines in mind, the following broad consultation strategy was proposed to the Highland Council and The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for the first public consultation event:

- All materials to be provided on the project website (<https://esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm>)
- Following materials to be prepared and uploaded to a section of the project website:
 - Exhibition boards (as if they were to be printed and presented in a real exhibition) to be prepared and uploaded to a section of the project website
 - Project frequently asked question (FAQ) page identifying and responding to some of the more typically submitted queries
- Write to key stakeholders in the area (local community councils, MSPs, MP, councillors, local interest groups) to publicise exhibition boards
- Leaflet issued to local residents.
- Advert in local newspaper with link to the display materials.
- Ask relevant local bodies such as the community councils to cross-post on social media (e.g., on local community Facebook pages)
- Provide the option for live chat events to allow members of the local community to put their questions to the project team.

Project Website

- 1.26 A dedicated project website (<https://esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm>) and email address (info@chleansaidwindfarm.co.uk) went live for the first time in May 2021. The project-specific website and e-mail were advertised in the public consultation literature for the project. As well as project information, the website provided the opportunity for stakeholders to submit comments and questions. Since May 2021 until November 2021, 289 users have accessed the project website, with the average visit to the website lasting around two minutes and 44 seconds.

Public Consultation Sessions

Online Consultation Event (30th July 2021 – 27th August 2021)

- 1.27 The first public consultation event, set up as an online exhibition accessed by visiting the project website, was held online from 30 July to 27 August 2021. As part of this event, five live Q&A sessions took place where members of the design and project management teams were available to answer any questions about the Proposed Development.
- 1.28 The event was publicised in various ways, including:
- Advertisement in Northern Times (item 1 of Appendix A);
 - Information postcard (item 2 of Appendix A) sent to over 325 properties within 20 km of the site with a summary of the project and an invitation to attend the online consultation. The postcard also offered hard copies of all exhibition material to be delivered to those who did not want or were unable to access the online exhibition.
 - Email to the Highland Council summarising the public consultation event, and offering a virtual meeting to update on the project (item 3 of Appendix A);

- Emails to Highland Council councillors. The North, West and Central Sutherland Ward members invited: Cllr Linda Munro, Cllr Kirsteen Currie and Cllr Hugh Morrison; and
- Emails to Rogart, Lairg, Bettyhill Strathnaver & Altnaharra Community Councils, to highlight the consultation event (item 4 of Appendix A).

1.29 As part of the online consultation, the following materials were provided:

- Exhibition boards and visualisations – information presented in a format you would usually find at a village hall exhibition (Appendix C);
- Extensive FAQ section on the project to help inform residents when they arrive on the project website;
- Live Q&A sessions - giving residents and interested community groups the opportunity to chat with the project team;
- Dedicated email address to provide feedback;
- A freephone telephone number to leave comments and request a call back to discuss the proposal;
- An opportunity to leave comments through online feedback forms; and
- A section on the project website for businesses to register their interest (screengrabs from website attached as item 5 of Appendix A).

1.30 Since the project website was launched in May 2021, until November 2021 when the consultation period was complete, 289 separate users visited the website to view the information. The highest number of visitors to the website was in mid-June, with just under 60 visitors accessing the website. On the launch day of the first online consultation event, 39 different users visited the website. Throughout the first consultation event, the average time spent on the webpage was 4 minutes and 17 seconds, which indicates that those who visited the page took time to read through the content.

1.31 During the online consultation event, one response was received via the dedicated project e-mail address, requesting additional information regarding the, overhead cable lines (OHL) for a neighbouring wind farm, and whether the OHL would be included in the visualisations for the Proposed Development. The response also queried the cable route to the point of connection to the grid for the Proposed Development. A detailed response was provided, highlighting that the neighbouring OHL would not be modelled in the visualisations as it is an unrelated scheme to Proposed Development. However, as the OHL is under construction, and therefore part of the baseline, reference would be made to it in the assessment. Regarding the cable route for the Proposed Development, it was noted that this would depend on the outcome of a grid application made. The grid connection proposals would then be subject of a separate application for consent under S37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

In-person Consultation Event (15th October 2021 – 5th November 2021)

1.32 A second public consultation event was held between 15th October and 5th of November 2021. The applicant, in close collaboration with RSK and the host communities of Rogart and Lairg, hosted two in-person public exhibition events. All the information presented at the in-person public exhibitions was made available via the website for the duration of the public consultation period.

- 1.33 Following the rollout of vaccines against COVID-19 in early 2021 and easing of restriction measures, the applicant chose to host in-person, rather than online, public exhibition events prior to the end of consultation period. While adhering to government guidelines and advice on COVID-19 transmission prevention, the applicant, in close collaboration with RSK, hosted two in-person public exhibitions. The exhibitions took place at Rogart and Lairg on 26th and 27th October 2021 respectively and gave the local community and interested parties that may have been unable to participate in the online consultation process, the opportunity to meet with the applicant to ask questions and express their views and suggestions in-person.
- 1.34 The event was publicised in various ways, including:
- Advertisement in Northern Times (item 1 of Appendix B);
 - Information postcard (item 2 of Appendix B) sent to over 325 properties within 20 km of the site with a summary of the project and an invitation to attend the second consultation event. The postcard also offered hard copies of exhibition materials to be delivered in hardcopy to those who did not want to or were unable to attend the in-person events, and the option of participating via the project website.
 - Catch-up e-mail issued to the Highland Council elected members, inviting the North, West and Central Sutherland Ward members: Cllr Linda Munro, Cllr Kirsteen Currie and Cllr Hugh Morrison to attend the in-person consultation events, or a virtual meeting to discuss the progress made since the first consultation event (item 3 of Appendix B);
 - Emails to Rogart, Lairg, Bettyhill Strathnaver & Altnaharra Community Councils, inviting them to attend the public exhibition (item 4 of Appendix B).
- 1.35 As part of the second consultation event, the following were provided:
- Offer of a face to face consultation and discussion between stakeholders and project team;
 - Exhibition boards containing information regarding the Proposed Development, as well as a selection of photomontages and wirelines in banner format (Appendix C)
 - Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps;
 - Live location-specific wireline visualisation software, which allowed attendees to visualise the Proposed Development from viewpoints of their choice;
 - A dedicated email address to provide feedback; and
 - A freephone telephone number to leave comments and request a call back to discuss the plans.
- 1.36 The exhibitions took place at Pittentrail Hall in Rogart, and Lairg Community Centre in Lairg, on the 26th and 27th of October 2021 respectively. During both exhibitions, A1 banners containing project information were set up for public display, and attendees were given the opportunity to observe how the Proposed Development would appear from any specific point around the area, through wireline visualisations. The location-specific visualisations were created live, by generating viewpoints through ReSoft Software.



- 1.37 Three individual attendees visited the first day of exhibition at Rogart, in Pittentrail Hall. Two attendees requested wireline visualisations from particular locations of interest to them.
- 1.38 On the second exhibition day, six attendees visited Lairg Community Centre, and engaged in discussions with the project team. Again, participants who were interested in visibility of the Proposed Development from their particular points of interest provided coordinates, and the applicant's team provided them with wirelines from their selected locations.
- 1.39 During the second consultation period, between 15th October 2021 and 5th November 2021, 28 separate users accessed the project website with an average time of 2 minutes and 57 seconds. Again, the day with the highest webpage views was consultation launch day with 11 webpage views (screengrabs from the project website during second consultation period are included as Item 5 of Appendix B).
- 1.40 Two further comments/questions were received via the project e-mail during the second consultation event.
- 1.41 The first response was in favour of the Proposed Development and suggested the applicant engage with communities located further north. Additional interest was expressed in exploring options for community benefit on behalf of Farr North Community Development Trust. The applicant responded offering a phone call to further introduce the project, and to discuss community shared ownership.
- 1.42 The second response was a follow up email relating to queries on abnormal loads raised at the consultation event. The response did not express any views of the Proposed Development but was seeking additional information regarding the proposed route to be followed for the delivery of abnormal loads to the Proposed Development site. The applicant responded with a technical note addressing the abnormal load queries raised (Appendix F).

Additional Engagement

- 1.43 A virtual pre-application meeting was held on 24th June 2020 between representatives of the Highland Council, ESB, RSK, NatureScot, SEPA and the ECU. Among project features and characteristics discussed, a community consultation approach was initially introduced.
- 1.44 Subsequently, in accordance with the requirements mentioned during the meeting and specified parameters in the Highland Council's Pre-Application Advice for Major Developments pack (Appendix D), an e-mail describing the project's proposed approach to public consultation was sent to the Highland Council (Appendix E) on 17th June 2021. The approach was acknowledged by the Highland Council via e-mail on the next day.

Consultation Responses

- 1.45 A total 289 separate users visited the webpage from May to November 2021 to view the project information, and nine people attended the in-person public exhibitions, hosted at Rogart and Lairg community halls on 26th and 27th October 2021 respectively.

- 1.46 The feedback provided by the local community during both consultation events focused on the following:
- traffic and transportation of abnormal loads;
 - community benefit funding; and
 - community shared ownership.
- 1.47 The applicant responded directly to all feedback and a consultation response summary document summarising the main issues raised and explaining how these would be addressed was produced (Appendix F).

Impact of Community Consultation on the Proposals

- 1.48 The following section sets out key issues raised during the pre-submission consultation period by the Chair of Rogart Community Council during the in-person public exhibitions at Rogart Community Hall on 26th October 2021. Where appropriate, comments have been made to address these issues or indeed highlight where changes have been made to the Proposed Development as a direct result of the feedback received.

Community Benefit

Enquiry

- 1.49 How much is the proposed community benefit fund and who will receive it.

Applicant Response

- 1.50 The applicant is committed to setting up a community benefit fund of £5,000 per MW per annum for the lifetime of the project, meaning £500,000 per annum for the 35 year lifetime (based on the proposed 16 turbine development), if the Proposed Development is consented and operational. This would equate to up to £17.5 million community benefit funding over the lifetime of the project.
- 1.51 Currently, the applicant has made no commitments to which organisation(s) the community benefit fund would be paid to. However, following the Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit, the first group to have detailed discussion on community benefit is the host community council – Rogart Community Council. The applicant also recognises that Lairg Community Council and Bettyhill, Strathnaver & Altnaharra Community Council, as the two nearest neighbouring Community Councils, will have an interest in community benefit. The communities that will be impacted by the construction and operation of the Proposed Development will be invited to help shape a community benefit package that best meets local needs. The applicant will engage with local groups and community representatives to seek their input as the project progresses. There are many community benefit options being considered, from capital projects to support for local groups and clubs. All ideas will be actively discussed with community councils, development trusts and local representatives in the surrounding areas.
- 1.52 In addition to the community benefit, the applicant is committed to community shared ownership of the Proposed Development. Community shared ownership would give the

opportunity to invest in the wind farm and benefit from revenue generated by the project, which can then be used to invest in local initiatives.

Traffic and Transportation of Abnormal Loads

Enquiry

- 1.53 Rogart Community Council requested information on the transportation of abnormal loads, such as turbine components. Concerns over increased traffic, accidents and carrier breakdowns were raised during both consultation events. Furthermore, evidence that alternative routes have been considered for the transportation of abnormal loads was requested.

Applicant Response

- 1.54 Following the community council's enquiry, the applicant has provided appropriate evidence that alternative routes have been considered during the project's scoping stage, found unsuitable and subsequently ruled out. Justification was provided in the public consultation response document, attached as appendix F.
- 1.55 Furthermore, the applicant ensured the community council that, should the project obtain consent, a detailed Transport Management Plan, would be developed in consultation with the community prior to the construction stage. The plan will detail:
- Procedures for liaising with the emergency services to ensure that police, fire and ambulance vehicles are not impeded by the abnormal loads;
 - A diary of proposed delivery movements to share with communities to avoid key dates;
 - A protocol for working with local businesses to ensure the construction traffic does not interfere with deliveries or normal business traffic; and
 - Proposals to establish a construction liaison committee to ensure the smooth management of the project / public interface with the applicant, the construction contractors, the local community, and if appropriate, the police, forming the committee.

Walking and Cycling Routes at the Site

Enquiry

- 1.56 Additional information was requested regarding the walking and cycling route that runs alongside the site boundary.

Applicant Response

- 1.57 A Heritage Path (shown on Figure 14.1) runs alongside the site boundary, which would not be affected by the proposed development. The existing access road leading to the Heritage Path currently forms the access to Dalnessie from the A836, and would be upgraded as part of the Proposed Development. Furthermore, the applicant suggested that if there is interest from the local community, the opportunity of improving awareness of the route, such as through signage, will be considered.



Conclusion

- 1.58 Throughout the consultation process the applicant has demonstrated, through the summary above, a responsiveness to community consultation and feedback received.
- 1.59 Additionally, the consultation process itself, involving two different events, was designed to ensure that the maximum number of local stakeholders could access information on the Proposed Development, and provide comments and receive a response from the project team.

Next Steps

- 1.60 The applicant will continue to respond to all questions and queries that are received regarding the Proposed Development and will continue to build on the constructive dialogue with all stakeholders as the project proceeds through the planning system.

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Appendix A – First Consultation Event

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INVITATION TO VIRTUAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CHLENSAID WIND FARM PROPOSAL

ESB is developing proposals for Chleonsaid Wind Farm on the Dalnessie Estate, located 13km to the north-east of Lairg.

Utilising the natural environment to harness clean, zero carbon energy, the Chleonsaid Wind Farm project will, if consented, provide local construction jobs and employment during its operation; offer community benefit and shared ownership opportunities; and support the long-term management of the estate.

The proposed development site benefits from good wind speeds, existing site access, nearby grid connection point, and has no on-site environmental designations.

We have recently launched a project website at

www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleonsaid-wind-farm

Comprehensive information about the site proposals and a feedback form is now available on the project website. We also invite you to join us on our online consultation events to take place in August 2021 (full details on website), where our team will be happy to answer any questions you may have. If you are unable to access the information online, you can request paper copies by leaving your name and address on **0800 612 8250**.

The public consultation will run until **27 August 2021**.

Comments should be made to ESB and do not constitute a formal representation. An opportunity to make a formal representation will exist if a subsequent application is made. Thank you and we hope you can take part in the consultation events.





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www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleainsaid-wind-farm

For more information on the Chleainsaid Wind Farm project, contact: **Duncan Scott** at chleainsaid@esb.ie



Chleansaid Wind Farm proposals update and online consultation

1 message

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot>
[REDACTED] (Councillor) <[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk>

30 July 2021 at 14:23

Dear Cllr [REDACTED]

Hope you're well and have had a chance for a break during the summer.

I am getting in touch to follow up on the Chleansaid Wind Farm update at the start of June, in your ward.

ESB has now updated the Chleansaid [project website](#) and launched an online consultation on the project, which will run from 30 July until 27 August 2021 - it can be accessed by going to the current project website www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm. The online consultation has exhibition board style information that you would find at a traditional village hall exhibition in the 'Public Consultation' section of the webpage.

We have written to all households within 20km of the proposals (the information cards will be arriving shortly at the start of the consultation) to highlight the proposals and the consultation to receive feedback on the plans. We have also taken an advert in the Northern Times today and will do so again next week to highlight the event and opportunities to get in touch with the project team.

As part of the consultation, we will hold set live Q&A sessions on Wednesday 11 August, Thursday 19 August and Friday 27 August - these will be accessed via the project website. We have also set up a freephone number and residents and groups can leave their details and we will send out hardcopies of the exhibition material so those who can not access the internet or prefer to read paper copies of the material are able to do so. Residents can also ask for a 'ringback' to organise a one-to-one call to talk through the materials.

As you will know, the online consultation is in line with Scottish Government guidance to continue to hold exhibition events online due to the Covid-19. We are committed to hold a further exhibition event later in 2021 and we are hopeful that this will be an in-person event.

If of interest, we would welcome the chance to hold a virtual meeting to update on the project (or meet in person following Covid advice).

Many thanks for the opportunity to provide this update and best wishes - have a lovely weekend when it comes.

On Wed, 2 Jun 2021 at 15:56, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot> wrote:
Many thanks [REDACTED] - hope you do too (and get a chance to enjoy some of this sunshine!).

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

On Wed, 2 Jun 2021 at 15:54, [REDACTED] (Councillor) <[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED]
Enjoy your day.
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot>
Sent: 02 June 2021 15:48

To: [REDACTED] (Councillor) <[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk> <[REDACTED]@esb.ie>
Subject: Chleainsaid Wind Farm proposals update

Dear Cllr [REDACTED],

I hope that this email finds you well.

I am getting in touch on behalf of ESB to provide an update on the Chleainsaid Wind Farm proposal in your ward and please find attached a letter on the plans as well as a link to the new project webpage at: www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleainsaid-wind-farm

We appreciate that traditional meetings may be not possible at the moment but do come back to myself or [REDACTED] (copied in) with any queries relating to the attached letter or if you would like an online meeting or in person if/when able to do so.

Many thanks for your time and best wishes,

On Tue, 10 Mar 2020 at 15:31, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot> wrote:

Dear Cllr [REDACTED]

I hope that this email finds you well.

On behalf of ESB, please find attached a short letter outlining proposals for Chleainsaid Wind Farm, 13km north east of Lairg, in your ward.

The proposals are still at a very early stage and ESB has just issued a Scoping Request to the Scottish Government's Energy Consent Unit (ECU) in order to consult more widely on the plans and we have also written to the nearby community councils to introduce the proposals.

Do come back with any queries and we would welcome the chance to meet to introduce ourselves and the plans if you would be interested in doing so?

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] | Director

McMillan Consultancy Ltd

t: [REDACTED] | e: [REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot | w: www.mcmillan.scot

a: 10 South St Andrew Street, St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AZ

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[REDACTED] | Director

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Mura h-eil na beachdan a tha air an cur an cèill sa phost-d seo a' buntainn ri gnothachas Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, 's ann leis an neach fhèin a chuir air falbh e a tha iad, is chan eil iad an-còmhnaidh a' riochdachadh beachdan na Comhairle, no buidhnean buntainneach, agus chan eil am post-d seo na phàirt de chunradh sam bith mura h-eil sin air innse.

--
[REDACTED] | Director
McMillan Consultancy Ltd

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Chleansaid Wind Farm Update & Online Exhibition Invitation - Bettyhill, Strathnaver & Altnaharra Community Council

1 message

[REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot>

30 July 2021 at 14:17

To: jimajo@btinternet.com, [REDACTED]@esb.ie>, [REDACTED] (Generation and Trading)"
[REDACTED]@esb.ie>

Dear Bettyhill, Strathnaver & Altnaharra Community Council,

I hope that this email finds you well. I am getting in touch to follow up on our Chleansaid Wind Farm update at the start of June.

ESB has now updated the Chleansaid [project website](#) and launched an online consultation on the project, which will run from 30 July until 27 August 2021 - it can be accessed by going to the current project website www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm. The online consultation has exhibition board style information that you would find at a traditional village hall exhibition in the 'Public Consultation' section of the webpage.

We have written to all households within 20km of the proposals (the information cards will be arriving shortly at the start of the consultation) to highlight the proposals and the consultation to receive feedback on the plans. We have also taken an advert in the Northern Times today and will do so again next week to highlight the event and opportunities to get in touch with the project team.

As part of the consultation, we will hold set live Q&A sessions on Wednesday 11 August, Thursday 19 August and Friday 27 August - these will be accessed via the project website. We have also set up a freephone number and residents and groups can leave their details and we will send out hardcopies of the exhibition material so those who can not access the internet or prefer to read paper copies of the material are able to do so. Residents can also ask for a 'ringback' to organise a one-to-one call to talk through the materials.

As you will know, the online consultation is in line with Scottish Government guidance to continue to hold exhibition events online due to the Covid-19. We are committed to hold a further exhibition event later in 2021 and we are hopeful that this will be an in-person event.

If of interest, we would welcome the chance to attend a community council meeting in the coming months and/or set up a dedicated virtual meeting to talk through the Chleansaid proposals.

Many thanks for the opportunity to provide this update and best wishes,

On Wed, 2 Jun 2021 at 15:42, [REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot> wrote:

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

I hope that this email finds you well. I am getting in touch on behalf of ESB to give an update on the Chleansaid Wind Farm proposal and please find attached a letter on the plans as well as a link to the new project webpage at: www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm

We appreciate that traditional meetings may be not possible at the moment but do come back to myself or [REDACTED] (copied in) with any queries relating to the attached letter or if you would like us to attend a future Bettyhill, Strathnaver & Altnaharra Community Council meeting online or in person if/when able to do so.

Many thanks for your time and best wishes,

Sam

On Tue, 10 Mar 2020 at 11:57, [REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot> wrote:

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

I hope that this email finds you well.

Apologies for the email out-of-the-blue, I took a note of this email address from the Highland Council website for Bettyhill, Strathnaver & Altnaharra Community Council and do let me know if at all possible for a short call or meeting in the coming days/weeks to introduce myself.

I am getting in touch on behalf of ESB regarding plans for a wind farm proposal called Chleansaid Wind Farm, 13km north east of Lairg. Please find attached a letter with further details and background details on ESB - as a neighbouring community council to the proposals, we would welcome the chance to attend a future Community Council meeting to introduce the plans and answer any questions that members may have on the project.

The proposals are still at a very early stage and ESB has just issued a Scoping Request to the Scottish Government's Energy Consent Unit (ECU) in order to consult more widely on the plans and receive feedback. Once the Scoping is registered, we understand Bettyhill, Strathnaver & Altnaharra Community Council and neighbouring community councils will receive a link to the document from the ECU (this should be in the coming days) and ask for any initial feedback. We can also send a hardcopy of the document if you prefer? Let me know if you would like a hardcopy (and a postal address) and we can get it off to you this week.

Thanks for your time and please do come back with any queries.

Best wishes,

█

--

█ | **Director**
McMillan Consultancy Ltd

t: █@mcmillan.scot | **w:** www.mcmillan.scot
a: 10 South St Andrew Street, St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AZ

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ESB is developing proposals for Chleainsaid Wind Farm. If consented, the Chleainsaid Wind Farm will utilise the natural environment to harness clean, zero carbon energy and also support the long-term management of the estate on which Chleainsaid Wind Farm will be located. The proposed development site benefits from good wind speeds, existing site access, capacity for a grid connection, is in an area of low residential density and has no on-site environmental designations.

Chleainsaid Wind Farm Online Public Exhibition, 30 July - 27 August

[Exhibition Boards](#)

[Feedback Form](#)

Live Q&A Sessions:

Wednesday 11th August (11am - 1pm and 5pm - 7pm)

Thursday 19th August (11am - 1pm and 5pm - 7pm)

Friday 27th August (11am - 1pm)

(Click [here](#) to access the live sessions during the times above).

Project Summary

The site is located on the Dalnessie Estate, 13km to the north-east of Lairg in the Highlands. View the [Location Plan](#) for a detailed map of location.

The Chleainsaid Wind Farm proposal comprises:

- Up to 20 turbines, with a maximum height of 200m and a generating capacity of up to 100MW. View [Initial Turbine Layout](#) to view preliminary layout
- Plans to co-locate battery storage with the wind farm to maximise the use of the grid connection
- On-site access tracks linking the turbines and connecting to the A836 road via the existing Dalnessie Estate road
- On-site grid substation
- Site office and staff welfare facilities
- An offer of a Community Benefits Package and Shared Ownership of the Wind Farm



Early Stage Development



The Chleansaid Wind Farm proposals are at an early stage. In May 2020, ESB received an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) [Scoping Opinion](#) from the Scottish Government, which sets out the range of environmental studies that need to be undertaken in order to both shape the design and assess the impact of the project.

ESB is following [Scottish Government guidance in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic](#). ESB is currently working towards submission of an application for planning consent during 2021.

ESB's Chleansaid Wind Farm development proposal is a wholly new project. ESB has no connection with the previous Dalnessie Wind Farm project, which was proposed in a different location on the Dalnessie Estate and was discontinued in 2014.

[View the development timeline](#) →

ESB continues to follow Scottish Government advice regarding working, travel and social distancing and will review and revise development in line with the latest Scottish Government advice.

Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the development process we must undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the effects of the development on the natural, physical and human environment.

The number, size and layout of the turbines will be determined by environmental, technical and commercial constraints identified during the EIA and iterative design processes. Depending on final turbine selection, a potential generating capacity of approximately 100MW could be achieved.

The EIA, which will be published in an EIA Report, will cover topics including landscape and visual amenity; traffic and highways; noise; ornithology and ecology; archaeology and cultural heritage; geology, hydrogeology and hydrology; forestry; and socio economics.

Consultation with statutory and non-statutory authorities and with the public is a key part of the EIA process.

ESB is following [Scottish Government guidance in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic](#).

ESB has appointed [RSK Environment Ltd](#) (RSK), an experienced environmental consultancy, as lead consultant to carry out the EIA and related assessments to accompany a Section 36 application to Scottish Ministers.





Public Consultation

Currently, under the Scottish Government's Covid-19 guidance, public consultation events for developments are being held online until September 2021. ESB is holding a "virtual consultation event" which will run from 30 July until 27 August 2021. As part of the consultation, we will be holding live Q&A sessions on Wednesday 11 August, Thursday 19 August and Friday 27 August, where our team will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

The live sessions can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

You can view and download our [feedback form](#) and comprehensive [information](#) about the site proposals here. For more information on the Chleansaig Wind Farm project and to submit feedback forms, contact: Duncan Scott at chleansaig@esb.ie. If you are unable to access the information online, you can request paper copies by leaving your name and address on 0800 612 8250. If you would like to request a ring back to arrange a one-to-one call to talk through the materials, please let us know. The public consultation will close on 27 August 2021.

The Benefits of Chleansaïd Wind Farm

The development of Chleansaïd Wind Farm would bring several important benefits at both the local and national levels.

- Major **positive impacts on the environment**, providing clean, renewable energy, and helping the Scottish Government reach its target for net-zero carbon by 2045 and interim 2030 targets
- Supporting the **local economy** via contracts for tender
- Up to **£17.5m community benefit funding** over the lifetime of the project, shaped to local needs
- Opportunity for **Community Shared Ownership**



The Benefits →

Read more about the benefits of the Chleansaïd Wind Farm Development

Welcome to our Chleainsaid Wind Farm Latest News

We regularly update this page for the latest information relating to our public consultation events and our Section 36 application, and to provide access to new project documentation as it becomes available.



ESB West Durham Wind Farm, England

August 2021

ESB is holding a "virtual consultation" event which will run from 30 July until 27 August 2021. Details can be found on the [Public Consultation](#) section on the Chleainsaid Wind Farm homepage.

Contact Us

For information about the Chleainsaid Wind Farm project, please contact:

- ✓ Duncan Scott, Project Director, ESB Asset Development UK Ltd - E: chleainsaid@esb.ie

- ✓ For media enquiries, please contact ESB's press office at: T: 00353 1 702 6009 (Media Enquiries Only) / Out of Hours: 00353 87 255 7100 (Media Enquiries Only) E: communications@esb.ie

- Online 'virtual' Pre-Application Advice Meeting held with the Highland Council, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage / NatureScot.

Winter 2020

- A temporary 90m tall meteorological mast was installed at the site.

Spring 2021

- Chleainsaid Wind Farm website launched.
- Environmental Impact Assessment surveys continue.

Summer 2021

- Online 'virtual' public consultation on the initial Chleainsaid Wind Farm proposals will commence in accordance with the latest Scottish Government guidance in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic during the COVID-19 restrictions.
- You will be able to view or download the exhibition materials from the [Public Consultation](#) section on the Chleainsaid Wind Farm homepage.
- Ongoing communication with local communities and individuals.

Autumn 2021

- Further public consultation events will be held, either as online 'virtual' events or in the local community, subject to the latest Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance.
- Environmental Impact Assessment surveys completed.
- Section 36 application submitted to Scottish Government.
- Formal public consultation period opens as soon as Section 36 application is live.

[← Back to Chleainsaid Wind Farm Homepage](#)

WELCOME TO OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT



Stock photography

Welcome to the public consultation for the proposed ESB Chleansaïd Wind Farm on the Dalnessie Estate located 13 km to the north-east of Lairg.

Utilising the natural environment to harness clean, zero-carbon energy, the Chleansaïd Wind Farm project will, if consented, support local construction companies along with local supply chains during its operation; offer community benefit and shared ownership opportunities; and, support the long-term management of the estate. The proposed development site benefits from good wind speeds, existing site access and a nearby grid connection point, and has no on-site environmental designations.

Site description

The proposed development site is on the Dalnessie Estate, off the A836 and about 13 km to the north-east of Lairg in the Scottish Highlands.

The site lies in the North, West and Central Sutherland ward of The Highland Council area.

The proposed site is currently a shooting estate with rough grazing land for sheep.

Developer

ESB is developing Chleansaïd Wind Farm. ESB is Ireland's premier energy company and a leading independent power generator in the UK market. The company has a track record of over 20 years as a successful investor in the UK since commissioning one of the first independent power generation plants at Corby in Northamptonshire in 1994. ESB owns and operates wind farms across the UK and Ireland with a total installed capacity of 600 MW.



THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



Stock photography

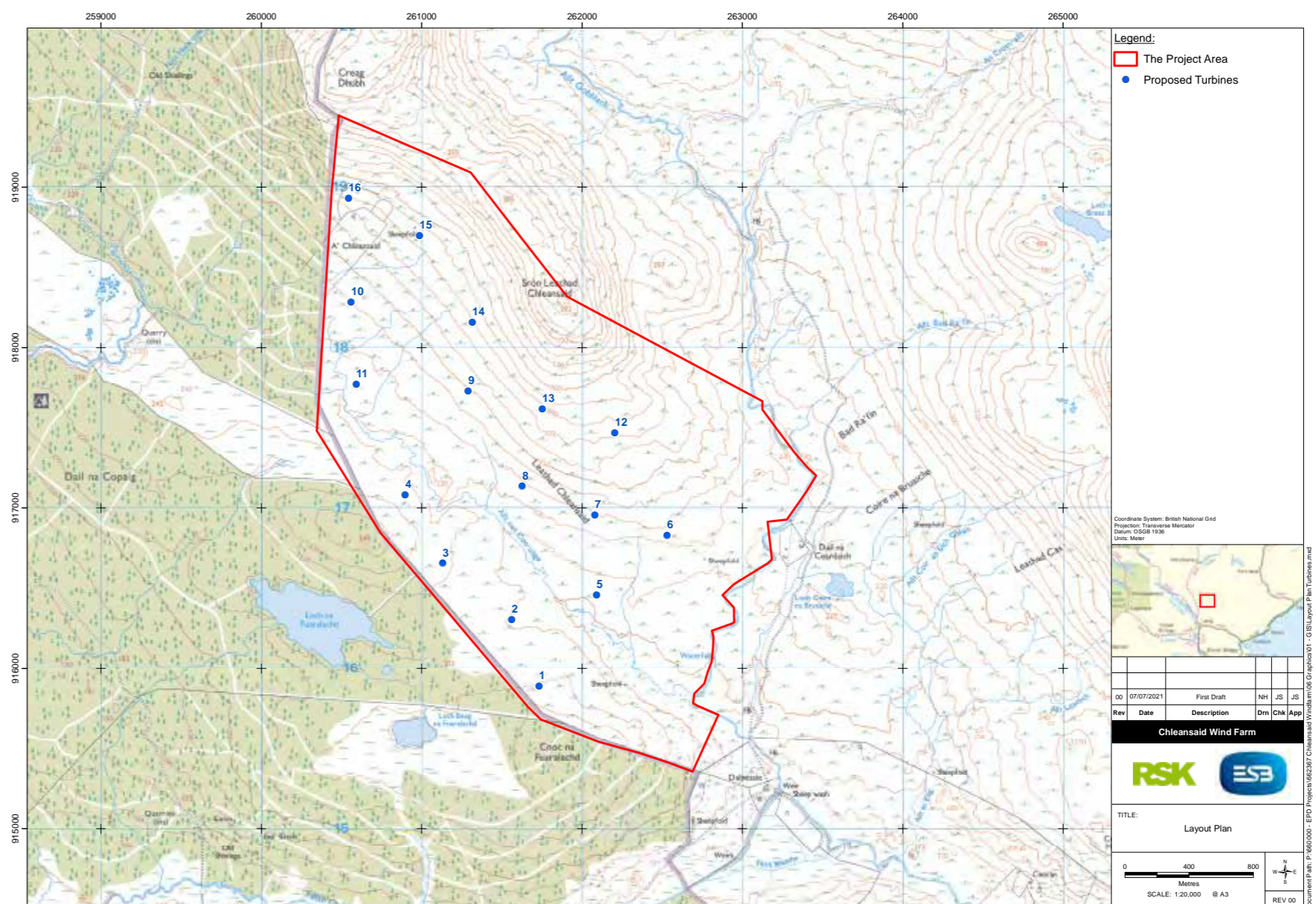
ESB wishes to construct a new onshore wind farm with up to 16 turbines that aims to deliver energy generation in excess of 50 MW. Environmental, technical and commercial considerations throughout the design process will inform the final number of turbines.

The turbines will have a maximum tip height of 200 m, a blade length of 82 m and a generating capacity of around 6 MW. The final turbine selection will be informed by an environmental impact assessment that will look at various factors to assess the environmental consequences of the development.

The plans include battery storage capacity to maximise the use of the grid connection and help balance the national electricity transmission grid.

Construction and access

- One or more construction compounds, access tracks and watercourse crossings will require installation to enable wind farm construction.
- Access to the site for vehicles delivering construction materials and turbine components will be from the A836 to the west of the site via the existing forestry haulage route. The existing access track will be upgraded, where required, to meet the



specifications for all construction and turbine delivery vehicles.

- Watercourse crossings will be installed as required. Their design will be in accordance with Scottish Government best practice and due regard for Scottish Environment Protection Agency guidelines to enable the passage of fish and other wildlife.
- Crushed stone will be used to construct new tracks, create hardstanding areas for the cranes and to lay foundations. The source of the stone and aggregate is to be confirmed during the design process and the environmental impact assessment phase.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



RSK Environment Ltd has been appointed to carry out a detailed environmental impact assessment of the Chleansaid Wind Farm project. This study will form part of the formal application for consent to the Scottish Ministers.

The environmental impact assessment process includes

- Consultation with the local authority, various organisations and the public to identify specific concerns and issues
- Determining the existing conditions at and around the wind farm site by reviewing the available data and undertaking specialist field surveys
- Assessing the potential impacts on the existing environment
- Mitigation proposals to alleviate any significant impacts identified.

The environmental impact assessment will include detailed studies for the following disciplines:

- Landscape character and visual assessment
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Ecological and ornithological impact
- Geology, hydrogeology, hydrology and peat
- Noise and vibration
- Traffic and transportation
- Aviation and radar
- Telecommunications and electromagnetic interference.

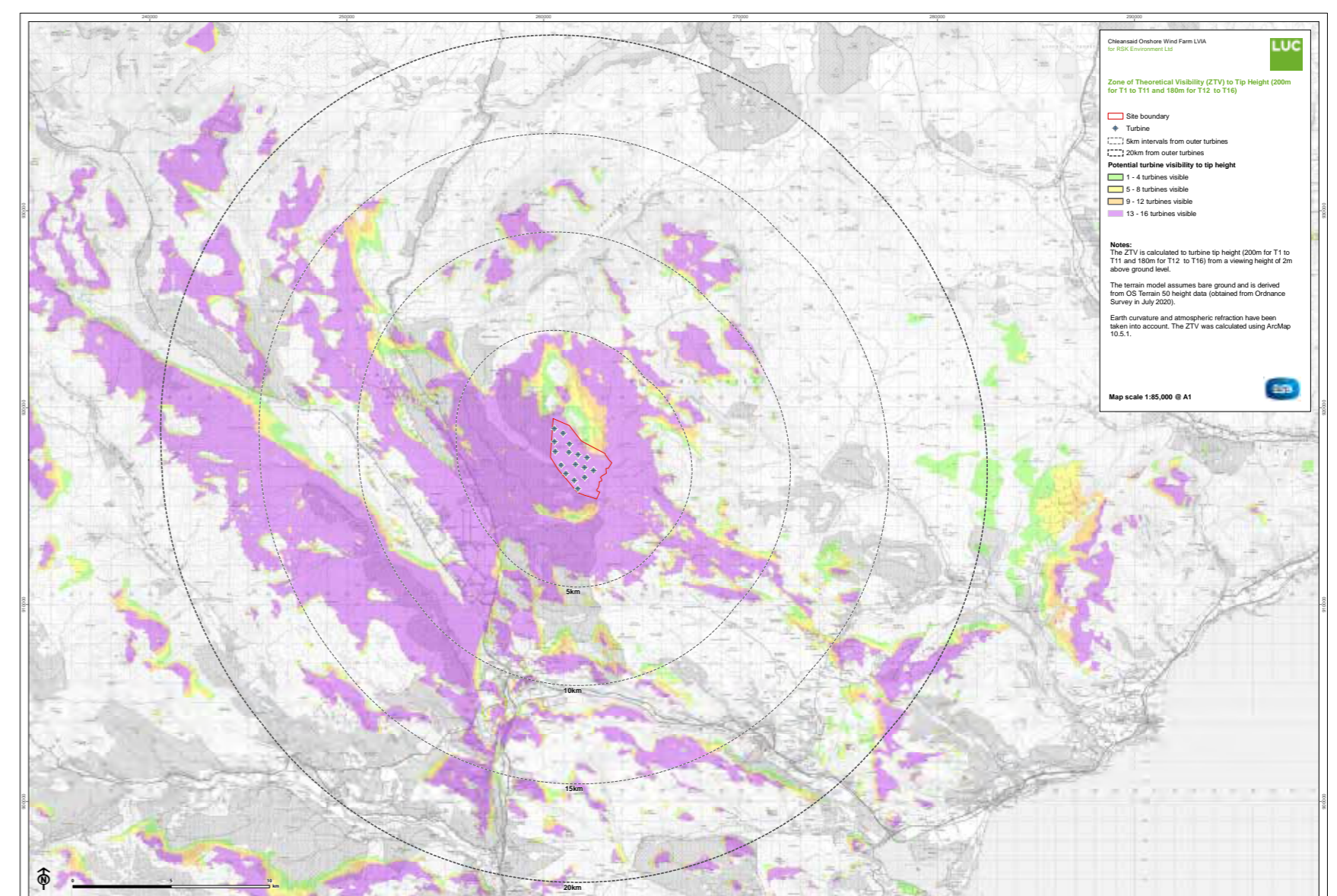
LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT



A landscape and visual impact assessment will establish the potential effects of the proposed development on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity.

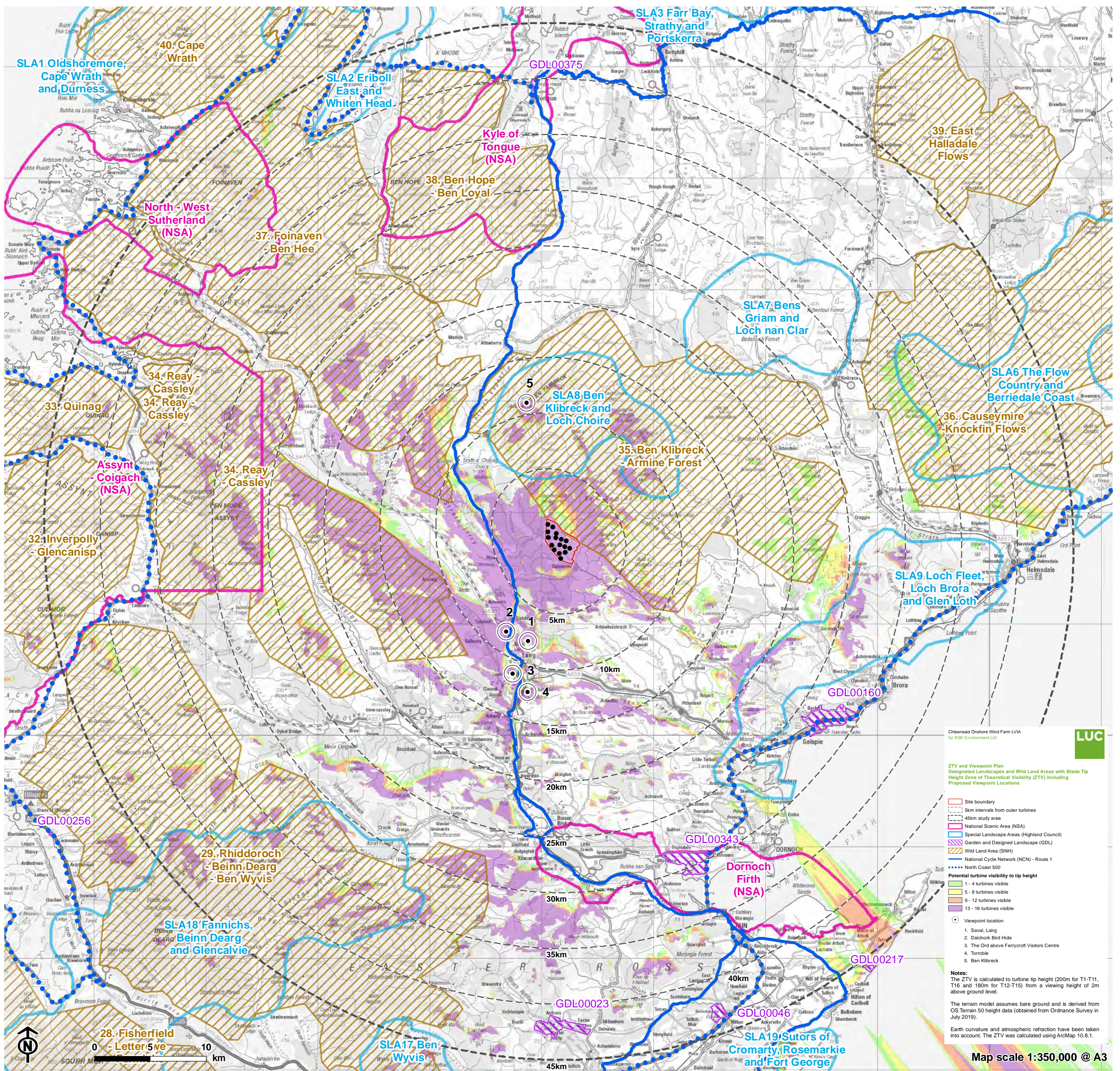
A zone of theoretical visibility is a computer-generated tool that establishes the likely extent of the visibility of a proposed development and key visual receptors. A zone of theoretical visibility based on preliminary design options has been prepared to inform the landscape and visual impact assessment.

The zone of theoretical visibility indicates the areas where turbines will be visible, based on the relief of the surrounding study area (45 km from the outer turbines). This is supported by producing and analysing wirelines and photomontages from several agreed viewpoints that give a clearer picture of what the new turbines would look like.



The new turbines will be up to 200 m tall; however, a detailed assessment of their potential impacts will be considered when deciding on the final layout of the development and the turbines to be used.

THE ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY

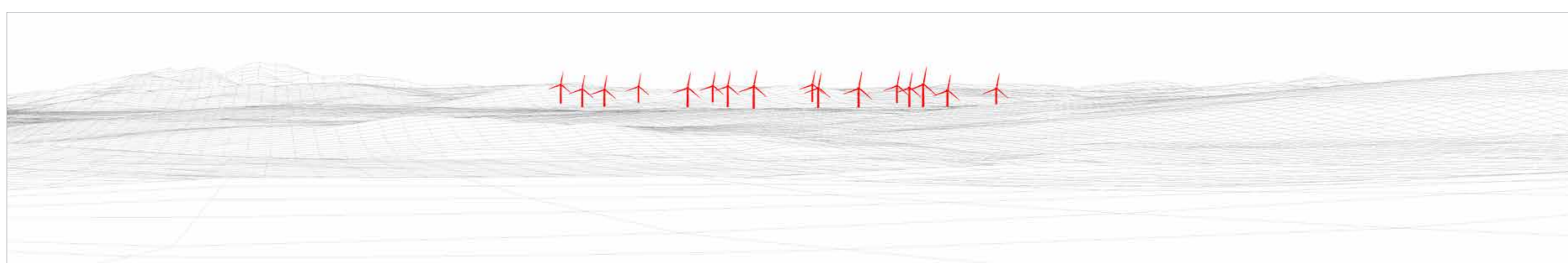
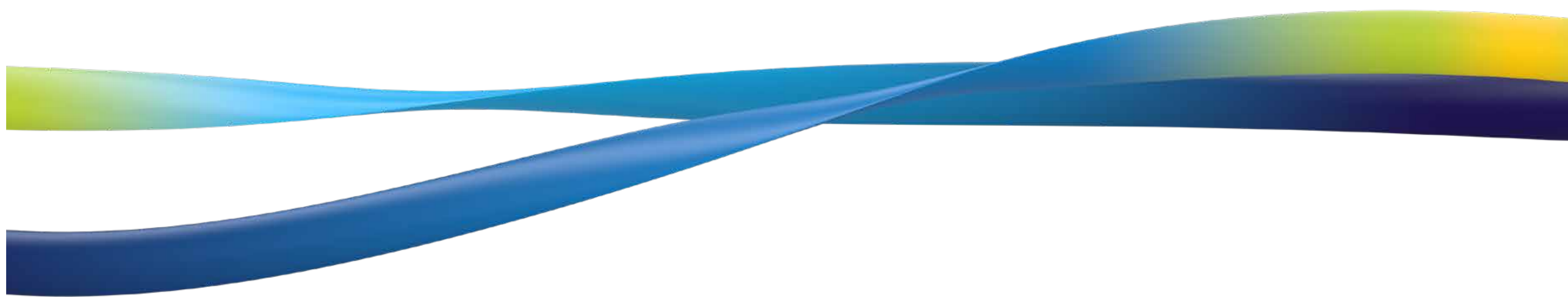


PHOTOMONTAGE

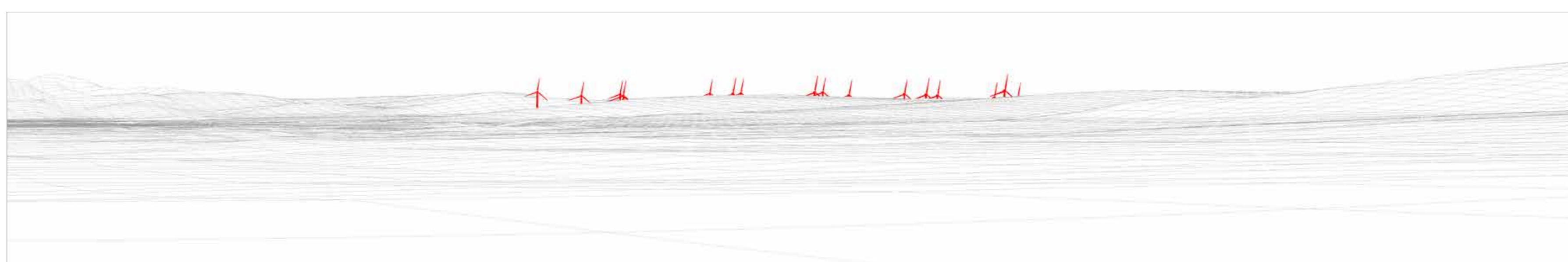


Viewpoint 3 (11.20 km): The Ord above Ferrycroft Visitor Centre. Photomontage of the proposed Chleansaíd turbines from the Ord, taken from Grid Reference 257400,905563 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view. This represents a view from a local high point in Lairg, visibility from lower lying areas in Lairg is very limited.

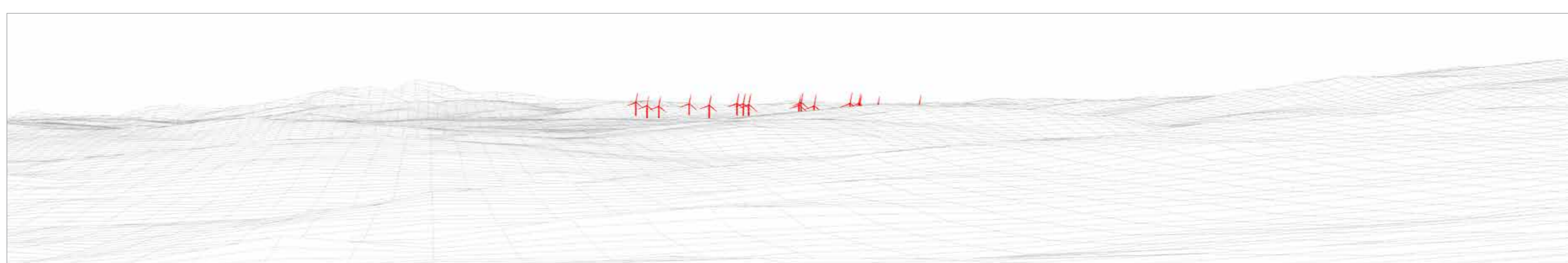
VISUALISATIONS



Viewpoint 1 (7.9 km): Saval, Lairg. Indicative wireline of the proposed Chleansaيد turbines from Saval, above Lairg, taken from Grid Reference 258780 908492 (note: very limited visibility from Lairg itself).



Viewpoint 2 (8.2 km): Dalchork Bird Hide. Indicative wireline from the bird hide at Dalchork near the A836, taken from Grid Reference 256833 909361.



Viewpoint 4 (12.3 km): Torroble. Indicative wireline of the proposed Chleansaيد turbines from Torroble, east of the A836, taken from Grid Reference 258724 903914 (note: roadside vegetation limits views from the A836 on the northern approach to Lairg).



Viewpoint 5 (11.1 km): Ben Klibreck (Meall nan Con). Indicative wireline of the proposed Chleansaيد turbines from summit of Ben Klibreck, Meall nan Con, taken from Grid Reference 258639 929881.

All the wirelines have been set up at a 53.5 degree horizontal field of view. The wirelines are based on bare earth digital terrain models, so, as such, do not take account of any screening through vegetation or built forms.



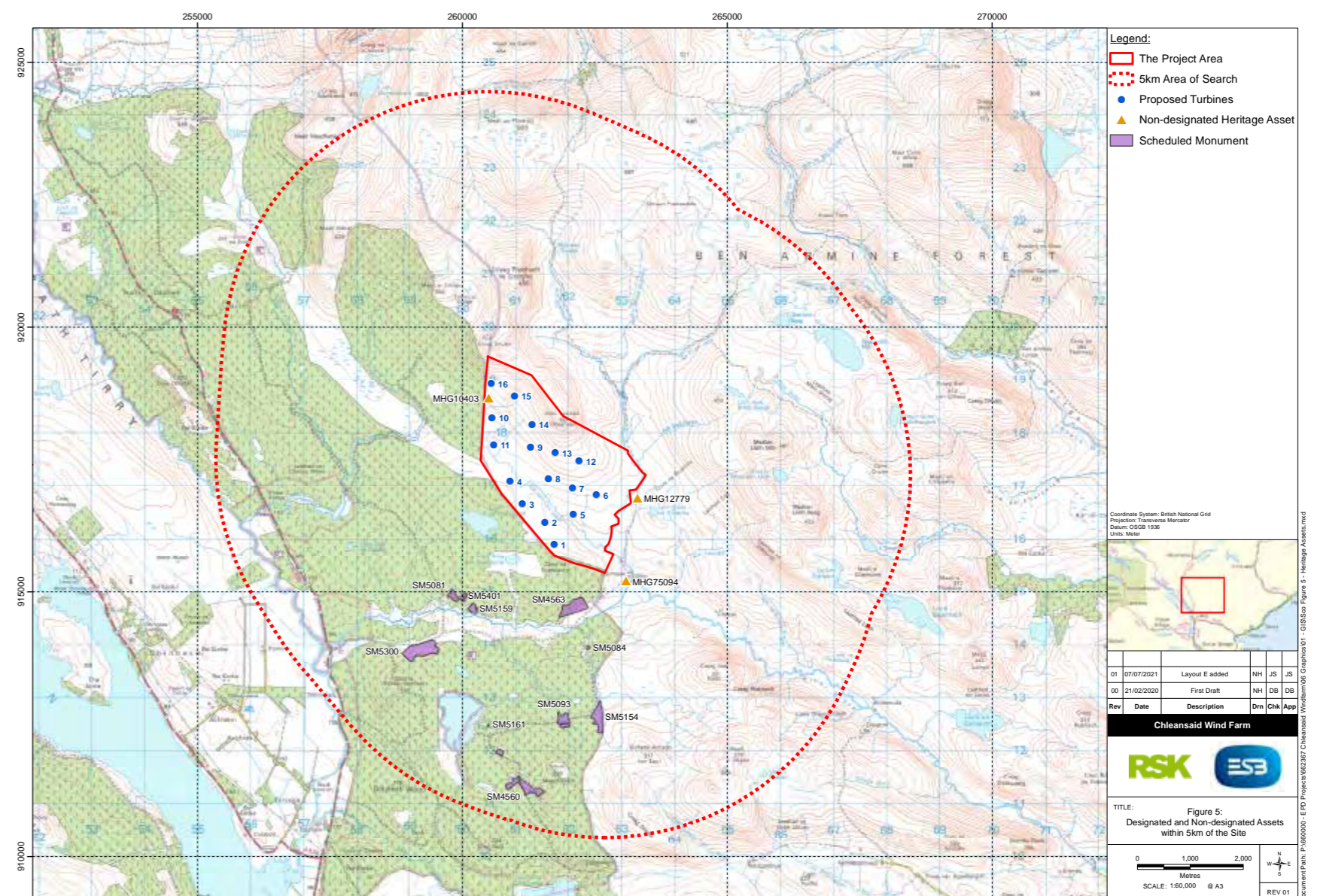
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY



The effects of the proposed development on the historic environment, including cultural heritage and archaeology, will be assessed. This study will consider the wind farm's direct and indirect effects on known and potential receptors. The potential impacts include

- Construction impacts (direct or indirect physical impacts on the setting) on designated and non-designated heritage assets
- Construction impacts on previously unrecorded heritage assets
- Operational impacts on designated heritage assets.

Once the known heritage assets have been established and the potential for the presence of previously unknown heritage assets has been assessed, the environmental impact assessment will assess the impact magnitude and significance on heritage assets in the area.



ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY

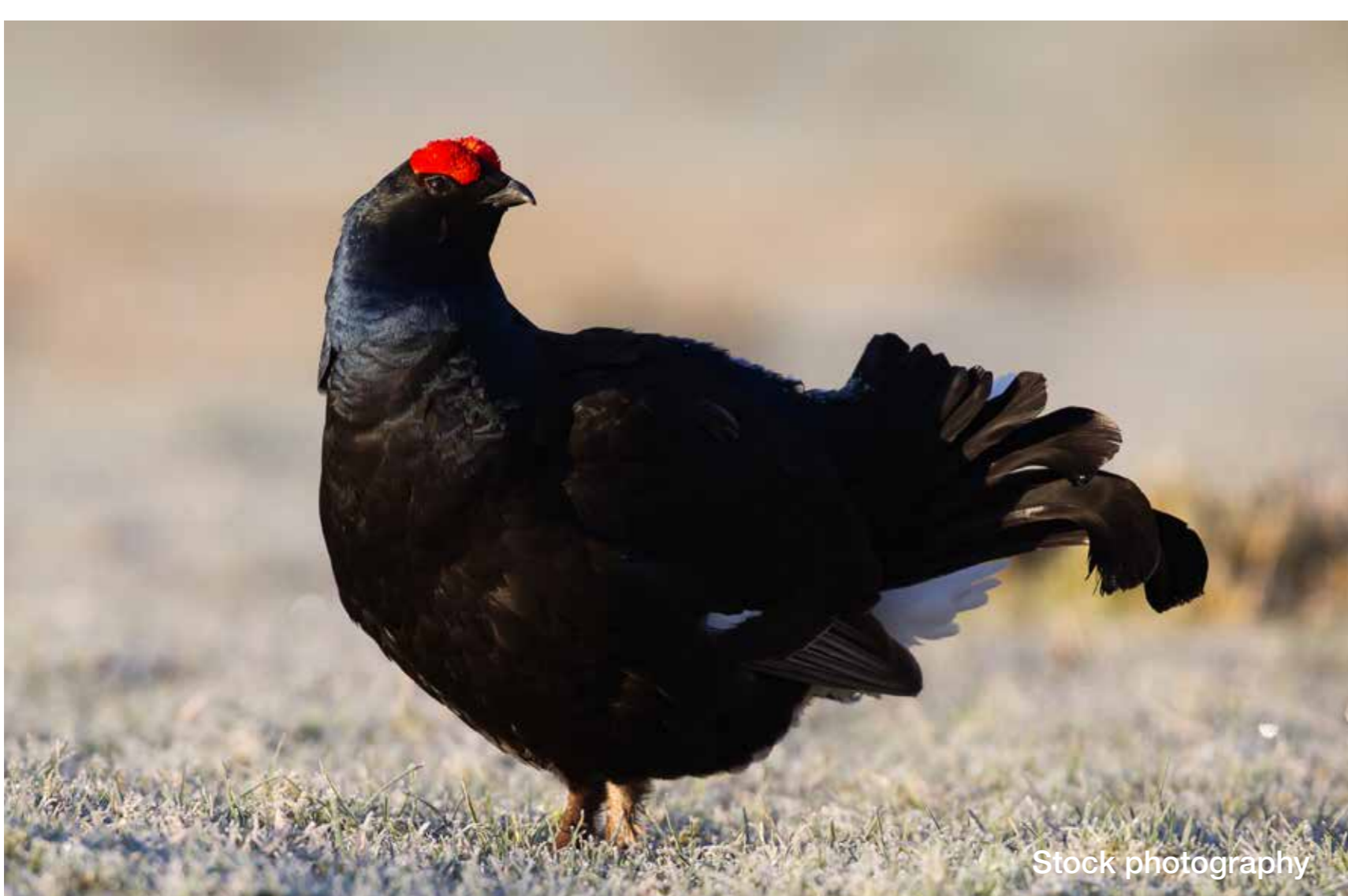


A programme of ecological and ornithological surveys is being carried out on the site. The results will be used to ensure that any impacts on wildlife are mitigated.

In addition, opportunities for biodiversity enhancements that the development could deliver will be explored in consultation with specialist interest groups.

Ornithology surveys

A comprehensive survey programme is under way to identify the use of the site and its wider surroundings by sensitive bird populations.



Ecology surveys

The ecology surveys include

- A phase 1 habitat survey
- A National Vegetation Classification survey
- Terrestrial mammal surveys
- Bat surveys
- Fish habitat surveys.

The site is a mosaic of open moorland habitats, with semi-mature and clear-felled forestry plantations abutting the site to the south and west.

A few watercourses pass through the site, including the Allt nan Con-uisge and its tributaries, which flow into the River Brora that flows to the east from the boundary of the site.

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



ESB will work closely with local communities, businesses and residents in seeking to ensure that it will bring real benefits and help to meet national climate change targets through the Chleansaيد Wind Farm proposal.

Business, employment and investment

ESB would like to hear from businesses across the Highlands and Scotland to ensure that it can fully consider the skills and services of local people and suppliers if the Chleansaيد Wind Farm receives approval.

The opportunities available include those for

- An engineering, procurement and construction contractor
- Construction material suppliers: concrete, aggregate and building materials
- Electrical contractors: supply and installation of plant, cabling, earthing, etc.
- Plant and equipment hire contractors: excavation earthworks, craneage, welfare units, etc.
- Labour hire companies: engineers, plant operatives and general labourers
- Transport: taxis and minibuses for local labourers.

Local accommodation providers

Construction projects of this nature inevitably require some specialist technicians from outside the area, so they will require local accommodation and catering facilities.

To be considered, please register with the local suppliers' database on our project website: www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaيد-wind-farm

Community benefit

ESB is committed to community benefit. We are currently exploring the options for community benefit and want to work with the community to create a workable and targeted package up to the value of £5,000 per megawatt of installed capacity.

We welcome feedback from the local community on community benefit structures.

Community shareholding

ESB is keen to consult the community about interest in investing in owning a share of Chleansaيد Wind Farm.



CHLEANSAID WIND FARM AND COVID-19



We acknowledge that there is uncertainty regarding how the COVID-19 pandemic might influence the Chleansaaid Wind Farm project. We recognise that this is primarily a public health issue and are fully committed to protecting the health and well-being of the public, landowners, neighbours and personnel.

We will regularly review our working methods and health and safety plans to reflect the latest advice and guidance the UK and Scottish governments issue.

Given the current restrictions on public events and social gatherings, we are progressing with innovative ways of engaging with communities and the public to inform them of the proposed Chleansaaid development.

Details of the feedback provided via public consultation before an application is submitted will be captured and included in a statement of community consultation provided to the Scottish Government alongside the application for consent.

ESB hopes to submit the planning application towards the end of 2021. There will be a second public consultation period in advance of the submission. This will either be held in a public space or online, depending on the Covid-19 guidance in place for Scotland at the time.

WHAT NEXT?



ESB presenting this information is one of the early steps in the consultation process. We welcome your feedback on our initial proposals to help us refine the details of the Chleansaíd Wind Farm project.

When the application for consent is submitted to the Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Government will undertake its own consultation process when the public will be invited to make formal comment on the proposals.

You can view more detailed information on our website:

www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaíd-wind-farm

Contact points

Telephone: 0800 612 8250

Email: chleansaíd@esb.ie

Post:

Duncan Scott (Project Director)
ESB Asset Development UK Ltd
Inovo Building
121 George Street
Glasgow
G1 1RD



Energy for
generations



Appendix B – Second Consultation Event

Item 1	Advertisement in Northern Times
Item 2	Second Public Consultation – Postcard
Item 3	Invitation to Local Council Members
Item 4	Invitation to Community Councils
Item 5	Updated Website Pages'

INVITATION TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CHLEANSAID WIND FARM PROPOSAL

ESB invites you to face-to-face public exhibitions for its planned Chleansaid Wind Farm

ESB is developing proposals for Chleansaid Wind Farm on the Dalnessie Estate, located 13km to the north-east of Lairg. Utilising the natural environment to harness clean, zero carbon energy, the Chleansaid Wind Farm project will, if consented, support local construction jobs and employment during its operation, as well as offer community benefit and shared ownership opportunities, and support the long-term management of the estate. The proposed development site benefits from good wind speeds, existing site access, nearby grid connection point, and has no on-site environmental designations.

PHYSICAL EXHIBITION (held in line with Covid-19 guidelines)

Pittentrail Hall, Rogart IV28 3XA

Tuesday 26 October 2021, 12 noon – 7pm

Lairg Community Centre, The Main St, Lairg IV27 4DD

Wednesday 27 October 2021, 12 noon – 7pm

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

All information available in the face-to-face exhibitions will be available on the project website along with a feedback form, and opportunities to discuss the project with the team from **Friday 15 October, 2021**.

www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm

If you are unable to access the information online, you can request paper copies by leaving your name and address on **0800 612 8250**. The consultation will run until **Friday 5 November 2021**.

Comments should be made to ESB and do not constitute a formal representation. An opportunity to make a formal representation will exist if a subsequent application is made. Thank you and we hope you can take part in the consultation events.



INVITATION TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CHLENSAID WIND FARM PROPOSAL



ESB invites you to face-to-face public exhibitions for its planned Chleansaid Wind Farm

ESB is developing proposals for Chleansaid Wind Farm on the Dalhessie Estate, located 13km to the north-east of Lairg. Utilising the natural environment to harness clean, zero carbon energy, the Chleansaid Wind Farm project will, if consented, support local construction jobs and employment during its operation, as well as offer community benefit and shared ownership opportunities, and support the long-term management of the estate. The proposed development site benefits from good wind speeds, existing site access, nearby grid connection point, and has no on-site environmental designations.

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All information available in the face-to-face exhibitions will be available on the project website along with a feedback form, and opportunities to discuss the project with the team from **Friday 15 October, 2021**.

If you are unable to access the information online, you can request paper copies by leaving your name and address on **0800 612 8250**.

The consultation will run until **Friday 5 November 2021**.

www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm

For more information on the Chleansaid Wind Farm project, contact:
Duncan Scott, Project Director for ESB at chleansaid@esb.ie

VISIT WEBSITE



Chleansaid Wind Farm Exhibition Invitation

1 message

To: [REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot>
[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk>

15 October 2021 at 11:11

Dear Cllr [REDACTED]

I hope that this email finds you well.

I am getting in touch to provide an update on the proposed Chleansaid Wind Farm project and to invite you to attend public exhibition events planned later this month. ESB held an online consultation, in line with Covid-19 guidance, on the Chleansaid project from 30 July until 27 August 2021. During it, we held several live Q&A sessions, provided a call back service and the opportunity to receive all information by hardcopy. We had written to all households within 20km of the proposals and adverts were placed in the Northern Times to advertise the consultation.

We are now planning a second public exhibition with our updated plans for the proposal. The consultation will be both virtual and in-person. The in-person exhibitions will be held at:

- Rogart Village Hall (Pittentrail Hall) - Tuesday 26 October 2021, 12noon - 7pm
- Lairg Community Centre - Wednesday 27 October 2021, 12noon - 7pm

To help manage Covid-19 risks, we have undertaken a risk assessment and staff will wear face masks, plan to put in place a one way system and limit numbers in the hall. We are holding the event over seven hours on each day to ensure ample time for visitors. We will advertise the events in the Northern Times (first advert is in today's edition) and also write directly to all residents and businesses within 20km of the proposals. We have attached the advert if you would like to consider posting it on social media to help advertise the event.

Exhibition material is live on our [project website](#) from today (15 October) until 5 November 2021, with opportunities for dedicated one-to-one chats - please go to the public consultation section. We have also set up a freephone number and residents and groups can leave their details and we will send out hardcopies of the exhibition material so those who can not access the internet or prefer to read paper copies of the material are able to do so.

If unable to attend the exhibition, we would welcome the chance to hold a virtual meeting to update on the project (or meet in person following Covid-19 advice).

We wish to thank the members of the local community who have engaged with us since we first introduced our proposals and look forward to receiving further feedback as we continue to refine the proposal ahead of submission of an application.

Many thanks and best wishes,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 30 Jul 2021 at 15:23, [REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot> wrote:

Dear Cllr [REDACTED]

Hope you're well and have had a chance for a break during the summer.

I am getting in touch to follow up on the Chleansaid Wind Farm update at the start of June, in your ward.

ESB has now updated the Chleansaid [project website](#) and launched an online consultation on the project, which will run from 30 July until 27 August 2021 - it can be accessed by going to the current project website www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm. The online consultation has exhibition board style information that you would find at a traditional village hall exhibition in the 'Public Consultation' section of the webpage.

We have written to all households within 20km of the proposals (the information cards will be arriving shortly at the start of the consultation) to highlight the proposals and the consultation to receive feedback on the plans. We have also taken an advert in the Northern Times today and will do so again next week to highlight the event and opportunities to get in touch with the project team.

As part of the consultation, we will hold set live Q&A sessions on Wednesday 11 August, Thursday 19 August and Friday 27 August - these will be accessed via the project website. We have also set up a freephone number and residents and groups can

leave their details and we will send out hardcopies of the exhibition material so those who can not access the internet or prefer to read paper copies of the material are able to do so. Residents can also ask for a 'ringback' to organise a one-to-one call to talk through the materials.

As you will know, the online consultation is in line with Scottish Government guidance to continue to hold exhibition events online due to the Covid-19. We are committed to hold a further exhibition event later in 2021 and we are hopeful that this will be an in-person event.

If of interest, we would welcome the chance to hold a virtual meeting to update on the project (or meet in person following Covid advice).

Many thanks for the opportunity to provide this update and best wishes - have a lovely weekend when it comes.

On Wed, 2 Jun 2021 at 15:56, [REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot> wrote:

Many thanks Linda - hope you do too (and get a chance to enjoy some of this sunshine!).

Best wishes,

On Wed, 2 Jun 2021 at 15:54, [REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED]

Enjoy your day.

From: [REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot>

Sent: 02 June 2021 15:48

To: [REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]t@esb.ie>

Subject: Chleainsaid Wind Farm proposals update

Dear Cllr [REDACTED]

I hope that this email finds you well.

I am getting in touch on behalf of ESB to provide an update on the Chleainsaid Wind Farm proposal in your ward and please find attached a letter on the plans as well as a link to the new project webpage at: www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleainsaid-wind-farm

We appreciate that traditional meetings may be not possible at the moment but do come back to myself or [REDACTED] (copied in) with any queries relating to the attached letter or if you would like an online meeting or in person if/when able to do so.

Many thanks for your time and best wishes,

--
[REDACTED] **Director**
McMillan Consultancy Ltd

t: [REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot | w: www.mcmillan.scot
a: 10 South St Andrew Street, St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AZ

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Chleansaid Wind Farm Exhibition Invitation - Bettyhill, Strathnaver & Altnaharra Community Council

1 message

[REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot> 15 October 2021 at 11:10
To: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@esb.ie>, [REDACTED] Generation and Trading)" [REDACTED]@esb.ie>

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you're well and thanks again for your earlier email exchange in the summer regarding Chleansaid/community benefit.

Just to update, ESB is now planning a second public exhibition with our updated plans for the proposal. The consultation will be both virtual and in-person. The in-person exhibitions will be held at:

- Rogart Village Hall (Pittentrail Hall) - Tuesday 26 October 2021, 12noon - 7pm
- Lairg Community Centre - Wednesday 27 October 2021, 12noon - 7pm

To help manage Covid-19 risks, we have undertaken a risk assessment and staff will wear face masks, plan to put in place a one way system and limit numbers in the hall. We are holding the event over seven hours on each day to ensure ample time for visitors. We will advertise the events in the Northern Times (first advert is in today's edition) and also write directly to all residents and businesses within 20km of the proposals. We have attached the advert if you would like to consider posting it on the Community Council's social media to help advertise the event.

Exhibition material is live on our [project website](#) from today (15 October) until 5 November 2021, with opportunities for dedicated one-to-one chats - please go to the public consultation section. We have also set up a freephone number and residents and groups can leave their details and we will send out hardcopies of the exhibition material so those who can not access the internet or prefer to read paper copies of the material are able to do so.

If helpful, we would welcome the chance to attend a community council meeting in the coming months and/or set up a virtual meeting to talk through the Chleansaid proposals. In relation to Community Benefit, no decisions have been made on it, as outlined below, but we would welcome to discuss with the host community council (Rogart Community Council) alongside near neighbouring community councils (including yourselves) on next steps.

We wish to thank the members of the local community who have engaged with us since we first introduced our proposals and look forward to receiving further feedback as we continue to refine the proposal ahead of submission of an application.

Many thanks and best wishes,

[REDACTED]
On Fri, 30 Jul 2021 at 17:01, [REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED] for the swift response and if there is any more information that the Community Council members are after then do let us know.

In terms of community benefit, there is a short section on the website here with more background: <https://www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm/chleansaid-wind-farm—the-benefits>

ESB is committed to £5,000 per MW - at the moment the proposals are for 100MW, which would mean £500,000 per annum (index linked). ESB is following the Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit, which involves speaking with the local (Rogart Community Council) and near neighbouring (including yourselves) Community Councils and wish to be led by the community on how best to take it forward. As we're at the start of the engagement process, ESB has not made any decision/commitment as to how the community benefit will be shared but is happy for the funding to be run by a local trust (or an external group such as Foundation Scotland) depending on the community's view. Separate and in addition to community benefit, ESB is also committed to community shared ownership opportunity of the project to the surrounding communities if there is interest.

Appreciate that with Covid that some Community Councils have not been able to meet - if you do wish for us to attend a future meeting to give a project update and discuss community benefit when able to do so (or have a separate meeting so to not cut into your community council agenda) then happy to organise something virtually (or in person) if helpful.

Many thanks again and best wishes,

[REDACTED]
On Fri, 30 Jul 2021 at 16:08, [REDACTED]@btinternet.com> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]
Thank you for keeping us informed. I will circulate your email to all members of the Community Council, the Farr North Development Trust and those who regularly attend our meetings. I think it unlikely that many of our 'constituents' will come within a 20 km radius of the proposed farm and the remainder are unlikely to be concerned as the development will be completely out of sight from where they are.

However, it would be of interest if our CC or an area within it were eligible for Community Benefit. What are your plans for Community Benefit and how is the area eligible to be delineated?

Regards
[REDACTED] (Secretary)

Sent from my iPhone

On 30 Jul 2021, at 15:18, [REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot> wrote:

Dear Bettyhill, Strathnaver & Altnaharra Community Council,

I hope that this email finds you well. I am getting in touch to follow up on our Chleainsaid Wind Farm update at the start of June.

ESB has now updated the Chleainsaid [project website](#) and launched an online consultation on the project, which will run from 30 July until 27 August 2021 - it can be accessed by going to the current project website www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleainsaid-wind-farm. The online consultation has exhibition board style information that you would find at a traditional village hall exhibition in the 'Public Consultation' section of the webpage.

We have written to all households within 20km of the proposals (the information cards will be arriving shortly at the start of the consultation) to highlight the proposals and the consultation to receive feedback on the plans. We have also taken an advert in the Northern Times today and will do so again next week to highlight the event and opportunities to get in touch with the project team.

As part of the consultation, we will hold set live Q&A sessions on Wednesday 11 August, Thursday 19 August and Friday 27 August - these will be accessed via the project website. We have also set up a freephone number and residents and groups can leave their details and we will send out hardcopies of the exhibition material so those who can not access the internet or prefer to read paper copies of the material are able to do so. Residents can also ask for a 'ringback' to organise a one-to-one call to talk through the materials.

As you will know, the online consultation is in line with Scottish Government guidance to continue to hold exhibition events online due to the Covid-19. We are committed to hold a further exhibition event later in 2021 and we are hopeful that this will be an in-person event.

If of interest, we would welcome the chance to attend a community council meeting in the coming months and/or set up a dedicated virtual meeting to talk through the Chleainsaid proposals.

Many thanks for the opportunity to provide this update and best wishes,

[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED] Director
McMillan Consultancy Ltd

t: [REDACTED]@mcmillan.scot | w: www.mcmillan.scot
a: 10 South St Andrew Street, St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AZ

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Chleainsaid Exhibiton Advert.pdf
117K



ESB is developing proposals for Chleansaid Wind Farm

If consented, the Chleansaid Wind Farm will utilise the natural environment to harness clean, zero carbon energy and also support the long-term management of the estate on which Chleansaid Wind Farm will be located. The proposed development site benefits from good wind speeds, existing site access, capacity for a grid connection, is in an area of low residential density and has no on-site environmental designations.

Welcome to the second Chleansaid Wind Farm Public Exhibition

The consultation will include both virtual and in-person Public Exhibition events and will be held in line with current COVID-19 guidelines. The in-person events will be held:

Pittentrail Hall, Rogart IV28 3XA

Tuesday 26 October 2021, 12 noon – 7pm

Lairg Community Centre, The Main St, Lairg IV27 4DD

Wednesday 27 October 2021, 12 noon – 7pm

The virtual public consultation will run from Friday 15 October to Friday 5 November.

The exhibition boards and feedback form can be found below. We hope to welcome you in person or online over the course of the consultation event.

[Feedback Form](#)

[Exhibition Boards](#) - October 2021

[Exhibition Boards](#) - August 2021

Project Summary

The site is located on the Dalnessie Estate, 13km to the north-east of Lairg in the Highlands. View the [Location Plan](#) for a detailed map of location.

The Chleansaid Wind Farm proposal comprises:

- Up to 16 turbines, with a maximum height of 200m and a generating capacity of up to 100MW. View the [Proposed Site Layout](#) here.
- Plans to co-locate battery storage with the wind farm to maximise the use of the grid connection
- On-site access tracks linking the turbines and connecting to the A836 road via the existing Dalnessie Estate road
- On-site grid substation
- Site office and staff welfare facilities
- An offer of a Community Benefits Package and Shared Ownership of the Wind Farm





Early Stage Development

The Chleainsaid Wind Farm proposals are at an early stage. In May 2020, ESB received an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) [Scoping Opinion](#) from the Scottish Government, which sets out the range of environmental studies that need to be undertaken in order to both shape the design and assess the impact of the project.

ESB is following [Scottish Government guidance in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic](#). ESB is currently working towards submission of an application for planning consent during 2021.

ESB's Chleainsaid Wind Farm development proposal is a wholly new project. ESB has no connection with the previous Dalnessie Wind Farm project, which was proposed in a different location on the Dalnessie Estate and was

[View the development timeline](#)



ESB continues to follow Scottish Government advice regarding working, travel and social distancing and will review and revise development in line with the latest Scottish Government advice.

Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the development process we must undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the effects of the development on the natural, physical and human environment.

The number, size and layout of the turbines will be determined by environmental, technical and commercial constraints identified during the EIA and iterative design processes. Depending on final turbine selection, a potential generating capacity of approximately 100MW could be achieved.

The EIA, which will be published in an EIA Report, will cover topics including landscape and visual amenity; traffic and highways; noise; ornithology and ecology; archaeology and



topics including landscape and visual amenity; traffic and highways; noise; ornithology and ecology; archaeology and cultural heritage; geology, hydrogeology and hydrology; forestry; and socio economics.

Consultation with statutory and non-statutory authorities and with the public is a key part of the EIA process.

ESB is following [Scottish Government guidance in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic](#).

ESB has appointed [RSK Environment Ltd](#) (RSK), an experienced environmental consultancy, as lead consultant to carry out the EIA and related assessments to accompany a Section 36 application to Scottish Ministers.



Public Consultation

ESB held a virtual consultation event from 30 July to 27 August 2021. As part of this, five live Q&A sessions took place where our team was available to answer any questions about the proposed development.

ESB is holding a second consultation event in October 2021, as the project moves towards application submission.

PHYSICAL EXHIBITION

(held in line with Covid-19 guidelines)

Pittentrail Hall, Rogart IV28 3XA

Tuesday 26 October, 12 noon - 7pm

Lairg Community Centre, The Main St, Lairg IV27 4DD

Wednesday 27 October 2021, 12 noon - 7pm

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

The virtual exhibition is available from 15 October to 5 November 2021, with opportunities for one-to-one chats. Here you can download our [feedback form](#), and the **latest**

Here you can download our [feedback form](#), and the **latest comprehensive information** about the site proposals. Residents and groups who would prefer hardcopies of the exhibition materials can contact us at the freephone number 0800 612 8250.

For more information on the Chleansaid Wind Farm project and to submit feedback forms, contact: Duncan Scott at chleansaid@esb.ie.

The Benefits of Chleansaid Wind Farm



The Benefits of Chleansaid Wind Farm

The development of Chleansaid Wind Farm would bring several important benefits at both the local and national levels.

- Major **positive impacts on the environment**, providing clean, renewable energy, and helping the Scottish Government reach its target for net-zero carbon by 2045 and interim 2030 targets
- Supporting the **local economy** via contracts for tender
- Up to **£17.5m community benefit funding** over the lifetime of the project, shaped to local needs
- Opportunity for **Community Shared Ownership**



The Benefits →

**Read more about the benefits of the Chleansaid
Wind Farm Development**

Contact Us

For information about the Chleansaid Wind Farm project, please contact:

Duncan Scott, Project Director, ESB Asset Development UK Ltd - E:
chleansaid@esb.ie

For media enquiries, please contact ESB's press office at:

T: 00353 1 702 6009 (Media Enquiries Only) / Out of Hours: 00353 87
255 7186 (Media Enquiries Only) E: corporatecommunications@esb.ie

Chleansaid Wind Farm - Development Timeline

COVID-19

The guidance and restrictions brought in by the [Scottish Government](#) as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic have had an impact on the development programme for the proposed Chleansaid Wind Farm project. ESB continues to follow Scottish Government advice regarding working, travel and social distancing and we will review and revise the following programme in line with the latest Scottish Government advice.

Our Proposed Programme

February 2020

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) surveys commence.

March 2020

March 2020

- Site-based EIA surveys suspended in line with Scottish Government COVID-19 restrictions. Desk studies continue in the meantime.

Summer 2020

- The Highland Council granted [Planning Consent](#) for the installation of two temporary 90m tall meteorological masts to investigate the wind resource at the site.
- EIA [Scoping Opinion](#) received from the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, setting out the scope of the EIA surveys to be undertaken.
- EIA surveys recommence on site in accordance with the latest Scottish Government COVID-19 restrictions.

Autumn 2020

- Online 'virtual' Pre-Application Advice Meeting held with the Highland Council, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage / NatureScot.

Winter 2020

- A temporary 90m tall meteorological mast was installed at the site.

Spring 2021

- Chleainsaid Wind Farm website launched.
- Environmental Impact Assessment surveys continue.

Summer 2021

- Online 'virtual' public consultation on the initial Chleainsaid Wind Farm proposals commenced in accordance with the latest Scottish Government guidance in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic during the COVID-19 restrictions.
- Ongoing communication with local communities and individuals.

Autumn 2021

- Further public consultation events held both virtually and in-person in the local community, in line with the latest Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance. Information on the events can be found on the Public Consultation section on the [Chleainsaid Wind Farm](#) homepage.

Autumn 2021

- Further public consultation events held both virtually and in-person in the local community, in line with the latest Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance. Information on the events can be found on the Public Consultation section on the [Chleansaid Wind Farm](#) homepage.
- Environmental Impact Assessment surveys completed.
- Section 36 application submitted to Scottish Government.
- Formal public consultation period opens as soon as Section 36 application is live.

[← Back to Chleansaid Wind Farm Homepage](#)

Chleansaid Wind Farm - The Benefits

If ESB's proposals for Chleansaid Wind Farm are consented, the benefits associated with it will span the local environment, economy and community.

Environmental Benefits

A Climate Emergency has been declared by both The Highland Council and the Scottish Government. If consented and constructed, Chleansaid Wind Farm would:

- ✔ provide clean, renewable energy, helping the Scottish Government reach its target for net-zero carbon by 2045 and interim 2030 targets

- ✔ generate up to 224,862 MWh of renewable electricity each year, enough output to power the equivalent of [53,350 households](#) for a year
- ✔ replace fossil fuels from the electricity generation system, saving up to [79,052 tonnes](#) of carbon dioxide each year in comparison with the existing electricity generation sources supplying the national grid.

Working collaboratively with conservation bodies, environmental specialists and landowners, ESB is committed to exploring opportunities to enhance the natural habitats local to the Chleansaíd Wind Farm. These will form part of ESB's package of mitigation, offsetting and enhancement measures for the project. The details of these will be included in documentation accompanying the application for consent, including a Peat Management Plan and Habitat Management Plan.

Enhancement activities currently under discussion include restoration of peat lands, native woodland planting, and targeted measures to improve habitats for protected species. Opportunities for such enhancements will be explored across the wider estate rather than solely focusing on the footprint of the development.

Economic Benefits

During both the construction and the proposed 35-year operation of the wind farm, the Chleansaíd project will provide opportunities to support the local economy. A range of contracts for the construction of the Chleansaíd Wind Farm will be

the Chleansaid project will provide opportunities to support the local economy. A range of contracts for the construction of the Chleansaid Wind Farm will be available for tender. Local companies will be encouraged to apply for contracts and given preference where possible.

Community Benefits

ESB is committed to setting up a community benefit fund to the value of £5,000 per installed MW. This could equate to up to £500,000 per year, for 35 years (calculated on base assumptions on turbine numbers once the project is consented and operational). This would equate to up to £17.5 million community benefit funding over the lifetime of the project.

The communities that will be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed wind farm will be invited to help shape a community benefit package that best meets local needs. ESB will reach out to local groups and community representatives to seek their input as the project progresses. There are many community benefit options being considered, from capital funding and local regeneration to support for local groups and clubs. All ideas will be actively discussed with community councils, development trusts and local representatives in the surrounding areas.

ESB is committed to community shared ownership of the Chleansaid Wind Farm project. Community shared ownership gives a community the opportunity to invest in the wind farm and benefit from revenue generated by the project, which can then be used to invest in local initiatives. We welcome discussions with the local community if there is interest in community shared ownership.



Appendix C – Second Consultation Event - Exhibition Materials

WELCOME TO OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT FROM 15 OCTOBER UNTIL 5 NOVEMBER 2021



Stock photography

Welcome to the second public consultation for the proposed ESB Chleansaid Wind Farm on the Dalnessie Estate located 13 km to the north-east of Lairg.

The first public consultation was held as a virtual event online between 30 July and 27 August 2021. Consultation materials from both events will be available at www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm from 15 October 2021.

We acknowledge that there is uncertainty regarding how the COVID-19 pandemic might influence the Chleansaid Wind Farm project. We recognise that this is primarily a public health issue and are fully committed to protecting the health and well-being of the public, landowners, neighbours and personnel. We regularly review our working methods and health and safety plans to reflect the latest advice and guidance the UK and Scottish governments issue and, where necessary, we are progressing with innovative ways of engaging with communities and the public to inform them of the proposed Chleansaid development.

Site description

The proposed development site is on the Dalnessie Estate, off the A836 and about 13 km to the north-east of Lairg in the Scottish Highlands.

The site lies in the North, West and Central Sutherland ward of The Highland Council area.

The proposed site is currently a shooting estate with rough grazing land for sheep.

Developer

ESB is developing Chleansaid Wind Farm. ESB is Ireland's premier energy company and a leading independent power generator in the UK market. The company has a track record of over 20 years as a successful investor in the UK since commissioning one of the first independent power generation plants at Corby in Northamptonshire in 1994. ESB owns and operates wind farms across the UK and Ireland with a total installed capacity of 600 MW.



THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



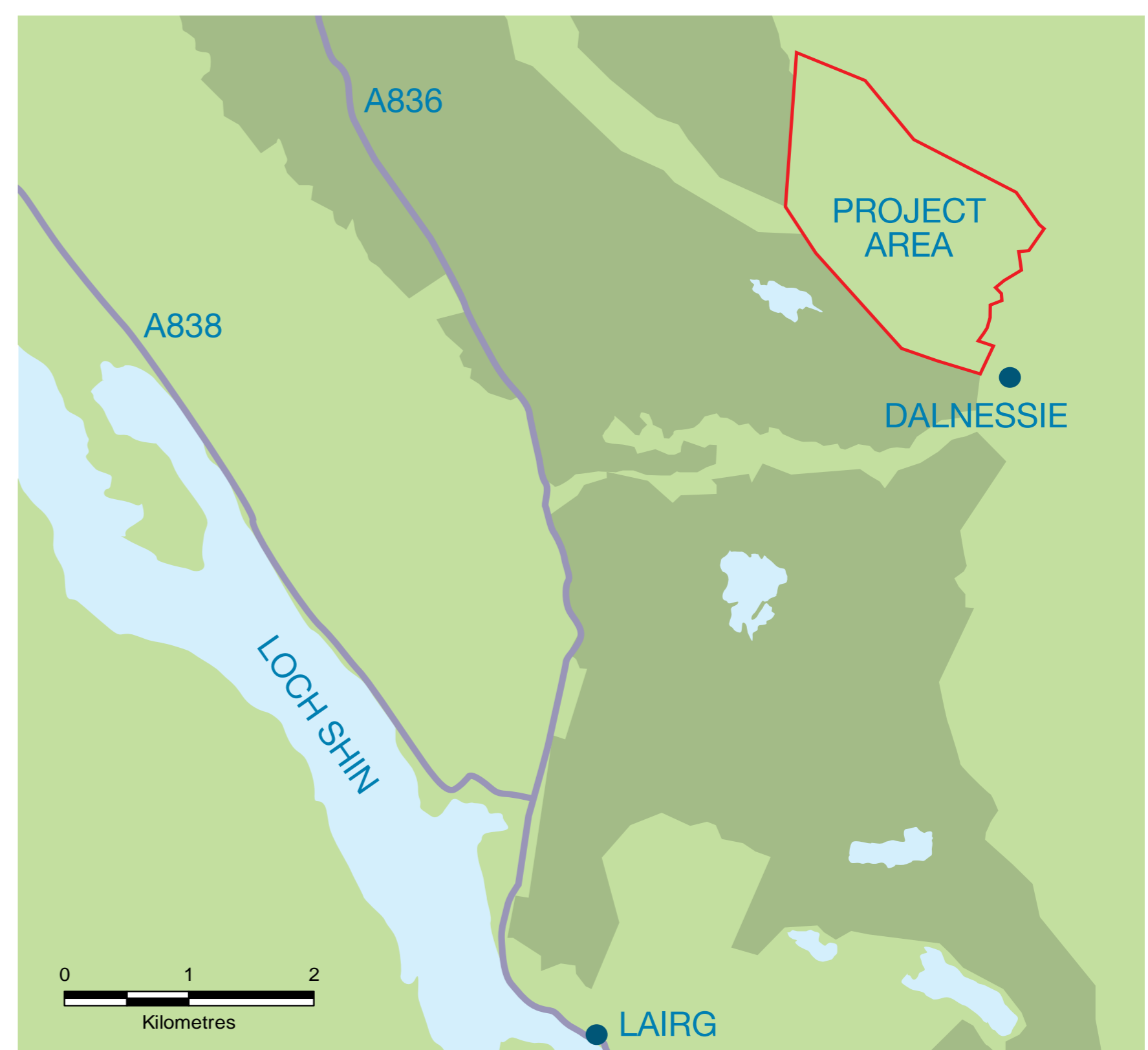
ESB wishes to construct a new onshore wind farm with up to 16 turbines that aims to deliver energy generation in excess of 50 MW. Environmental, technical and commercial considerations throughout the design process will inform the final number of turbines.

The turbines will have a maximum tip height of 200 m, a blade length of 82 m and a generating capacity of around 6 MW. The final turbine selection will be informed by an environmental impact assessment that will look at various factors to assess the environmental consequences of the development.

The plans include battery storage capacity to maximise the use of the grid connection and help balance the national electricity transmission grid.

Construction and access

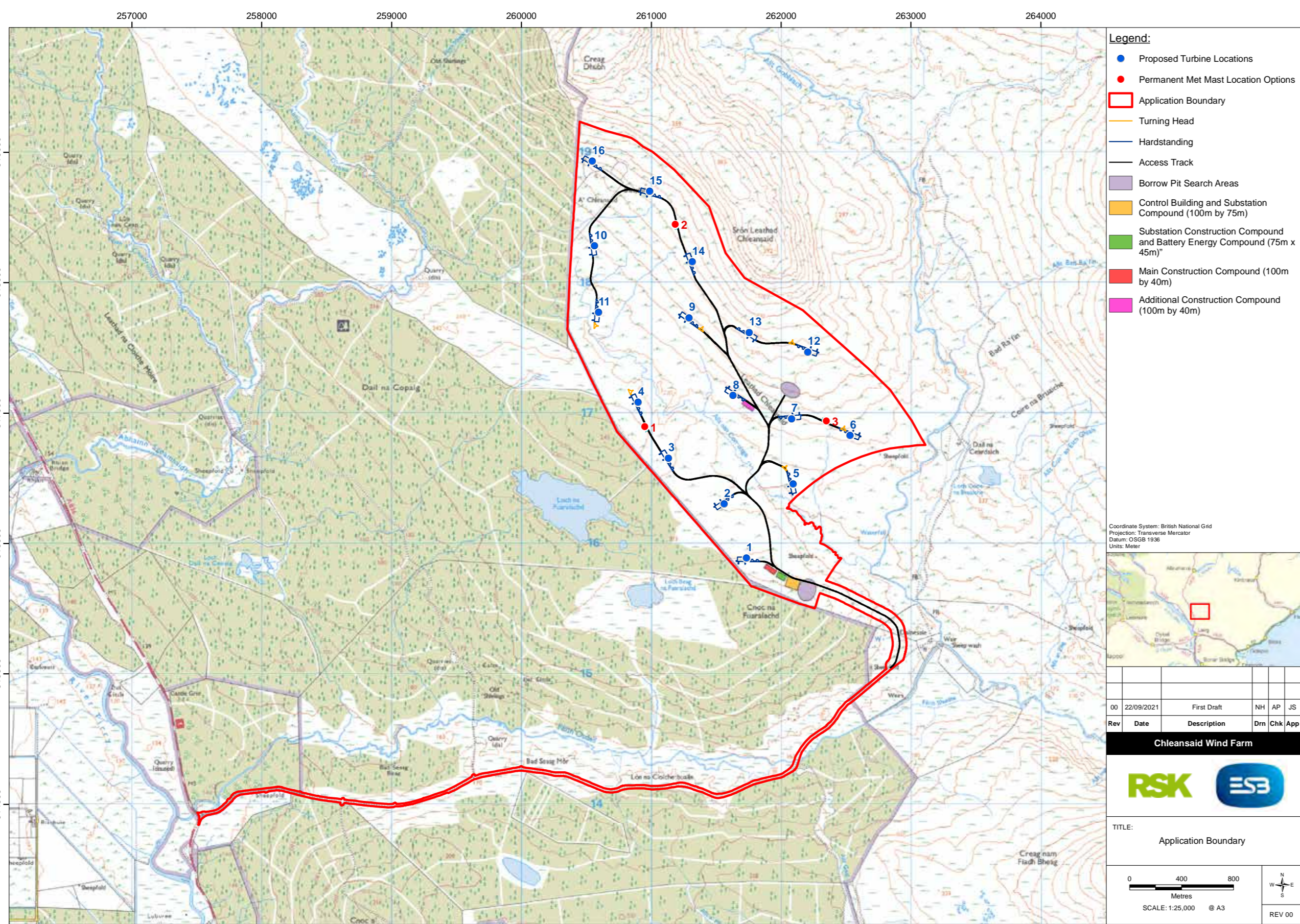
- One or more construction compounds, access tracks and watercourse crossings will require installation to enable wind farm construction.
- Access to the site for vehicles delivering construction materials and turbine components will be from the A836 to the west of the site via the existing forestry haulage route. The existing access track will be upgraded, where required, to meet the specifications for all construction and turbine delivery vehicles.



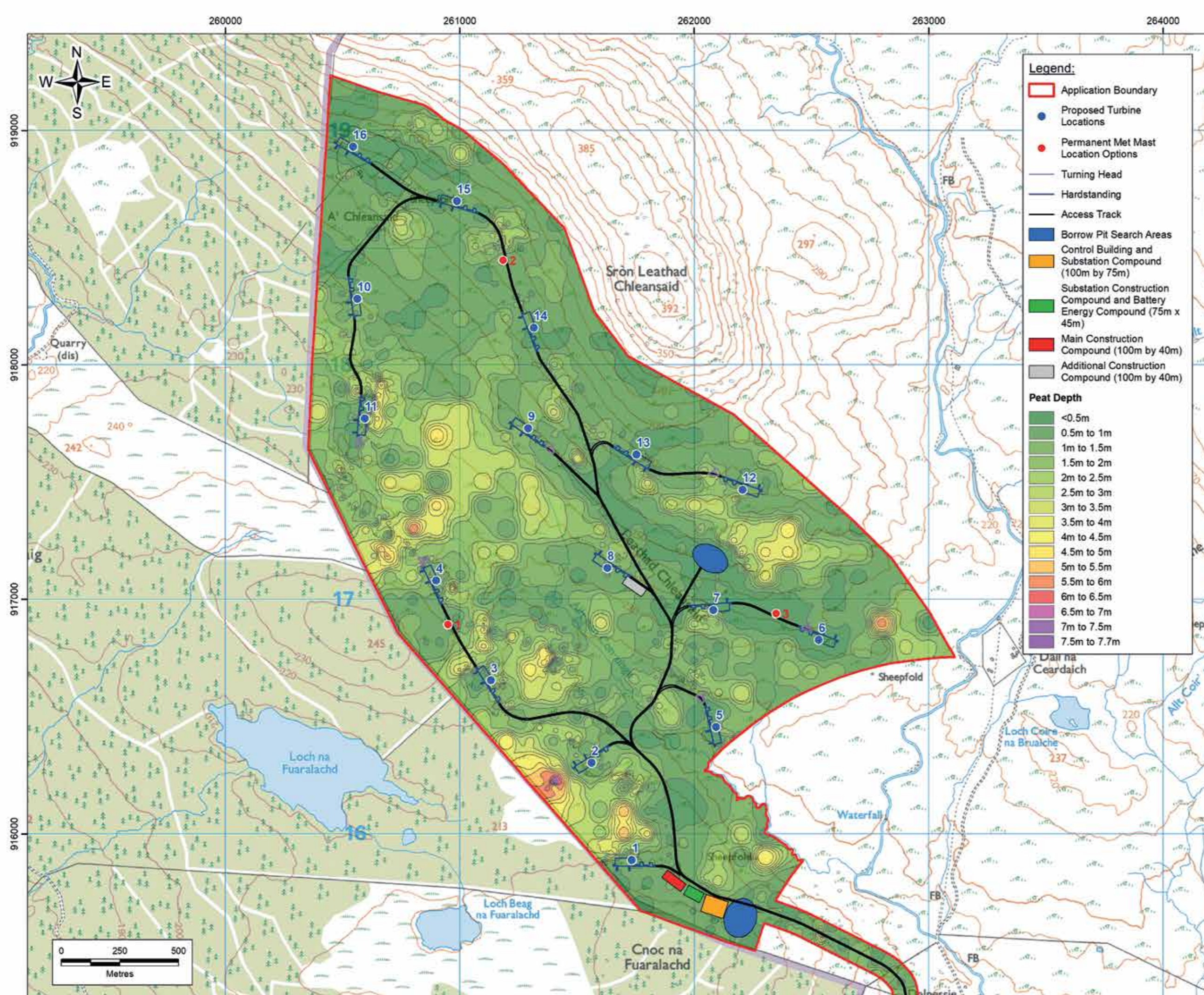
- Watercourse crossings will be installed as required. Their design will be in accordance with Scottish Government best practice and due regard for Scottish Environment Protection Agency guidelines to enable the passage of fish and other wildlife.
- Crushed stone will be used to construct new tracks, create hardstanding areas for the cranes and to lay foundations. The source of the stone and aggregate is to be confirmed during the design process and the environmental impact assessment phase.



PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE LAYOUT



Red line shows the extent of the application boundary.



Proposed site layout in relation to deep peat deposits.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



RSK Environment Ltd has been appointed to carry out a detailed environmental impact assessment of the Chleansaig Wind Farm project. This study will form part of the formal application for consent to the Scottish Ministers.

The environmental impact assessment process includes

- Consultation with the local authority, various organisations and the public to identify specific concerns and issues
- Determining the existing conditions at and around the wind farm site by reviewing the available data and undertaking specialist field surveys
- Assessing the potential impacts on the existing environment
- Mitigation proposals to alleviate any significant impacts identified.

The environmental impact assessment will include detailed studies for the following disciplines:

- Landscape character and visual assessment
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Ecological and ornithological impact
- Geology, hydrogeology, hydrology and peat
- Noise and vibration
- Traffic and transportation
- Aviation and radar
- Telecommunications and electromagnetic interference.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT



Stock photography

A landscape and visual impact assessment will establish the potential effects of the proposed development on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity.

A zone of theoretical visibility is a computer-generated tool that establishes the likely extent of the visibility of a proposed development and key visual receptors. A zone of theoretical visibility based on preliminary design options has been prepared to inform the landscape and visual impact assessment.

The zone of theoretical visibility indicates the areas where turbines will be visible, based on the relief of the surrounding study area (45 km from the outer turbines). This is supported by producing and analysing wirelines and photomontages from several agreed viewpoints that give a clearer picture of what the new turbines would look like.

The finalised design consists of a mixture of turbines up to 180m and 200m tall.

