

Welcome to the first newsletter from RES, designed to keep the local community informed about our revised Cairn Duhie Wind Farm proposal.

About the project

Background

RES is re-designing its consented Cairn Duhie Wind Farm project, south east of Ferness in Nairnshire. Whilst the proposal lies within the same site boundary area, turbine heights and locations will change.

The original planning application for Cairn Duhie was submitted in 2013 as a 20-turbine scheme and consented by the Scottish Government in October 2017. However, since the application was submitted turbine technology has advanced significantly and new onshore wind developments are now capable of generating electricity at least cost to consumers¹.

With the ever-growing threat of climate change and the catastrophic impacts it could have, it is imperative that we deliver clean, green electricity as efficiently as possible. Subsequently, RES has decided to optimise the site with a new layout using more modern turbines. This requires a new planning application to be submitted.

Site location

The site lies approximately 15km south-east of Nairn and 13.5km north/northwest of Grantown-on-Spey and was chosen because it has good wind speeds, no international or national nature designations, and straight-forward access directly from the A939.

Location map



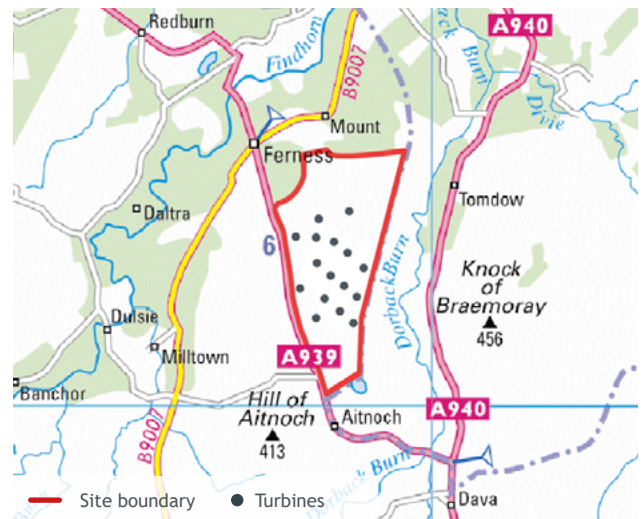
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Scoping stage

Initial feasibility work has created a 16-turbine layout which RES submitted in a [Scoping Report](#) to the Scottish Government in February 2020.

Further environmental work has since been undertaken to help inform the design, and an online exhibition is being held in May (details overleaf) to gather feedback from the local community.

Site boundary and indicative turbine layout map



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Benefits

Low cost renewable electricity

The proposed re-design of Cairn Duhie is likely to have an installed capacity of up to 67.2 megawatts (MW) and would be capable of generating low cost¹ clean renewable electricity for around 48,000 homes².

Local economic benefit

The proposal has the potential to deliver approximately £4.4 million in the form of jobs, employment, and the use of local services through construction and first year of operation. RES is keen to hear from local businesses who are interested in learning more about the opportunities associated with this project.

¹ Electricity Generation Costs - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (November 2016)

² The 48,000 homes figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Cairn Duhie [re-design] has a predicted capacity factor of 30.97% - based on a 4.2 MW [megawatt] candidate turbine) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,729 kWh (2019). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

Online exhibition

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive dialogue. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal. We recognise that undertaking a face-to-face public event isn't possible at this time due to social distancing, so in line with guidance from the Chief Planner we will be taking our event online.

Exhibition details

The online exhibition event will be held on the 'CONSULTATION' page of the Cairn Duhie project website at www.cairnduhie-windfarm.co.uk on **Tuesday 12th May** to inform the local community about the revised design and gather people's views. The following information will be available for people to view and download from Tuesday 12th May:

- » **Information banners** - about the project
- » **Visualisations and wirelines** - helping give an impression of what the 'scoping' layout could look like from different viewpoints locally
- » **ZTV map** - showing the zone of theoretical visibility
- » **FAQs** - aimed at answering a range of potential questions in relation to the project

Hard copies of the above information will be made available upon request.

RES will also be offering phone and Skype appointments on Tuesday 12th May from 11am until 8pm for anyone with specific questions about the project.

Phone appointments should be booked in advance with RES by calling 0282 844 0580.

Comments

Comments on the proposal must be provided in writing by filling out a comments form on the project website or alternatively via hard copy upon request.

The closing date for comments is Friday 12th June. Comments will still be accepted after this date but will not be considered in relation to the development's design.

Comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Scottish Government). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.



Photo of Hill of Towie Wind Farm, Moray for illustrative purposes (turbines 100m to blade tip)

RES in Scotland

RES, a privately owned British company with a proud history in the Highlands, is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy project developers with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific.

RES has developed and/or built more than 17,000 MW of renewable energy capacity worldwide. Employing over 100 staff in Scotland, RES has 38 years' experience of developing, constructing and operating projects and using local businesses on our projects.

Contact us



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For more information on the proposal please visit our website at www.cairnduhie-windfarm.co.uk. If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please get in touch with us.