

Welcome to the Community Open Day for Ardtaraig Wind Farm

- Thank you for visiting our second round of Community Open Days. Here you will find a selection of information boards outlining the proposal for Ardtaraig Wind Farm which has been revised in light of further survey work over the past eight months. Please take your time to study the information and please do not hesitate to speak with any of the Ardtaraig project team members who are here to answer your questions.
- If you would like to leave a written comment, please help yourself to a 'Voice Your Opinion' comment form, available from the reception desk.
- There are several ways to obtain further information and to contact us:
 - Our website **www.ardtaraigwindfarm.co.uk** will be updated regularly to provide you with the latest information. We will publish the planning application documents, including the Environmental Statement, on the website once the application has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council.
 - Ring the freephone number **0800 980 4299**.
 - Email us at **info@ardtaraigwindfarm.co.uk**
 - Write to us using **Freepost Infinergy Ltd.**

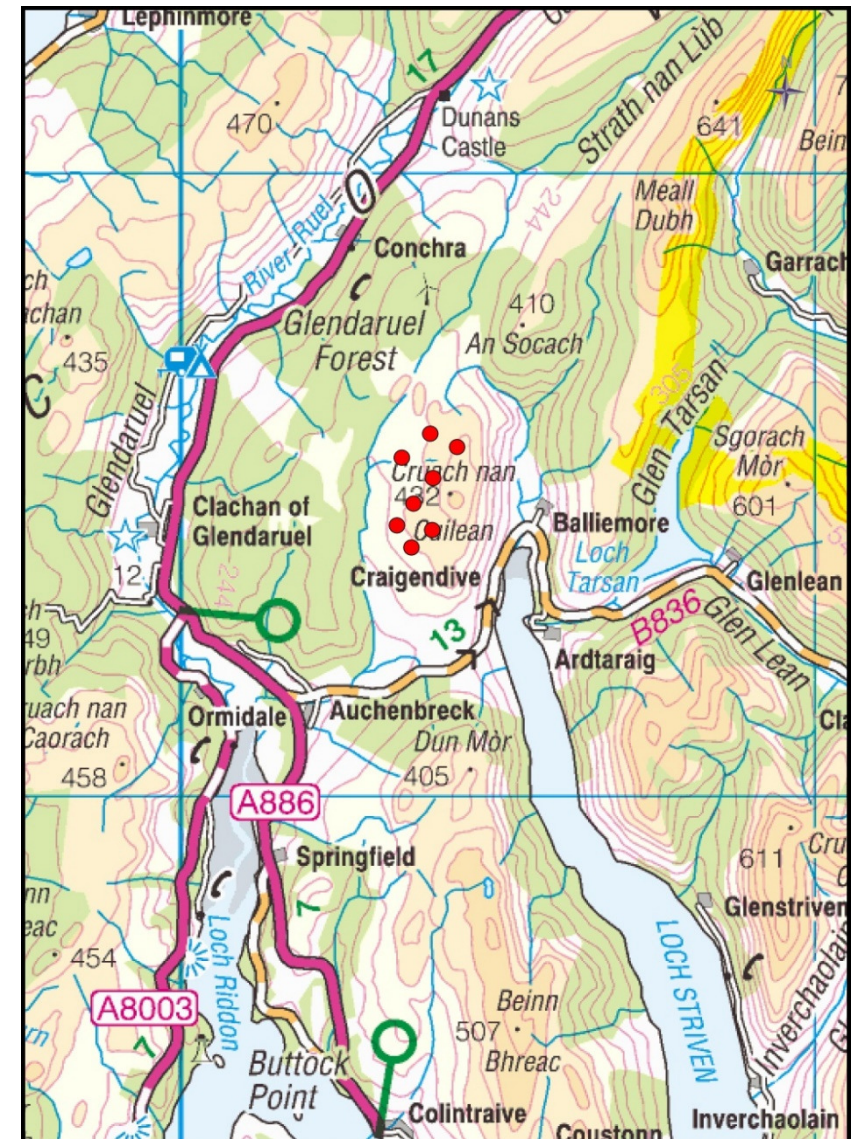


Overview of the proposed revised plans

- The revised proposal is to develop a wind farm of up to eight turbines, rather than ten as previously proposed, located on the Ardtaraig Estate.
- The development would be located to the south of the existing Cruach Mhor Wind Farm.
- The proposed turbines would have a maximum tip height of up to 135m when one of the blades is in a vertical position.
- The model of turbine we are considering at present has an installed capacity of 2.75 megawatts (MW), giving a total installed capacity of 22 MW. There may be other models on the market with similar dimensions which may be able to offer greater capacity to consider, at the appropriate time, should consent be granted.
- The preferred access route would use existing road infrastructure via the Cruach Mhor Wind Farm located to the north of the site.

Electricity & CO₂ equivalent

- Combined, eight turbines with an installed capacity of 22MW would have the ability to produce enough green electricity to meet the annual demand of over 14,800 homes per annum.
- The wind farm would replace the emissions of approximately 24,900 tonnes of CO₂ each year*



Proposed 8-turbine scheme

*Source: RenewableUK. These calculations take the variable output of wind power into consideration and are considered industry standard.

Environmental Considerations

Local Wildlife: The extensive ecological surveys carried out on the proposed site, including bat and bird surveys have been the main influence behind the redesign of the wind farm and the reduction in turbine numbers from ten to eight. During construction, management plans, approved by the council, will be implemented to ensure any disturbance to local wildlife is kept to a minimum and where possible enhanced.

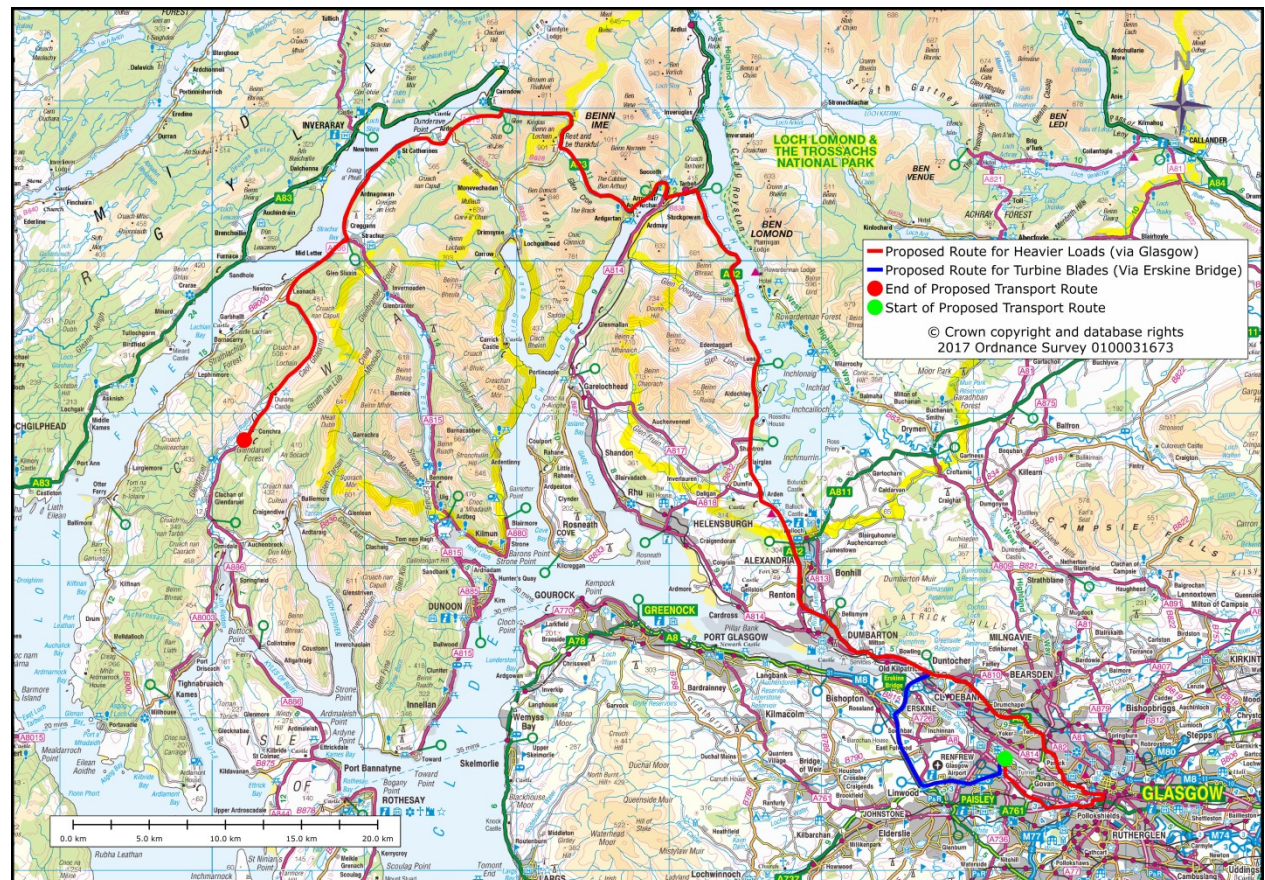
Peat: Varying depths of peat have now been identified across the site. This information has also played a key part in the redesign of the proposed layout.

Noise: Following the redesign of the site and updated assessments, noise monitoring is now being carried out to ensure the proposal will be in line with ETSU-R-97 "The Assessment & Rating of Noise from Wind Farms" guidance. The distance from the nearest property has now increased from 850m to over 1.2km (0.7miles).

Access

Route: A preferred route has been determined for the delivery of construction materials and turbine components. It follows the A82/A83/A886 from Glasgow and then intends to use the existing Cruach Mhor Wind Farm access roads, entering the site from the north.

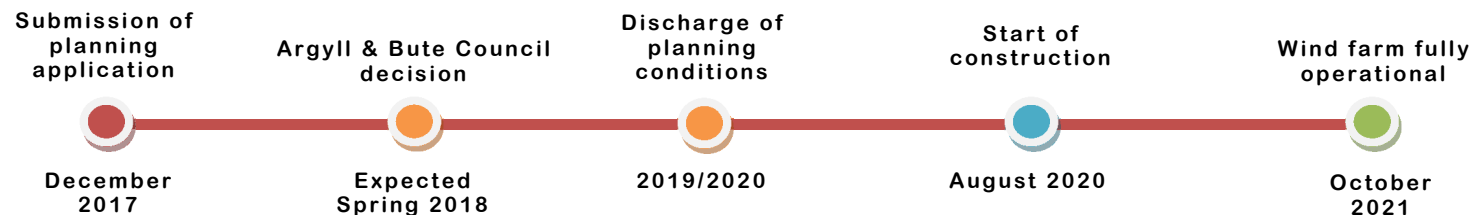
Preferred access: By using the existing wind farm's road infrastructure, this greatly reduces the need for new access roads and the amount of material required to be brought onto site.



Map outlining preferred access route for abnormal loads

Next steps

- We now hope to submit the planning application for **Ardtaraig Wind Farm** to Argyll and Bute Council by the end of this year.
- An Environmental Statement (ES) including all the results from the surveys will be submitted with the planning application. All documents will be uploaded to our website www.ardtaraigwindfarm.co.uk under 'Downloads'.
- If you would like to receive a CD containing all the planning application documents or a hard copy of the Non-Technical Summary (NTS, a condensed version of the ES), please request this in the 'Voice your opinion' comment form available at the reception desk. The CDs and the NTS are provided free of charge for as long as stock last.
- Professional bodies in the fields of ecology, aviation, telecommunications, noise, landscape, cultural heritage, transport etc will all be consulted. To help the council assess the proposal, not only do they listen to you, the local residents, but also the following consultees:
 - Ministry of Defense
 - Scottish Natural Heritage
 - VisitScotland
 - Historic Environment Scotland
 - RSPB
 - National Air Traffic Services
 - Ofcom
 - Local Community Councils
 - SEPA
- The timeline shown below gives an indication of possible timescales should the proposal be deemed acceptable and is subject to change depending on the planning process.



Community Benefit and Shared Ownership

- Community Benefit is something that comes as part and parcel of renewable energy developments these days and whilst it is not considered a 'benefit' in terms of the planning application, the Scottish Government has set the bar in terms of the amount a project is expected to contribute. This amount is £5,000 per MW of operational capacity. With the revised proposal, this would mean up to £110,000 per year for the lifetime of the scheme depending on the final number of wind turbines.
- We want to try to ensure that the funds help the surrounding communities become more resilient and sustainable in the long term. We will work with communities to ensure a suitable body is in place to manage the proposed funds.
- If you have any ideas what initiatives could benefit from such funding, please let us know. For example, should the funds support:
 - Investment in skills and education?
 - Investment in business enterprise?
 - Tourism infrastructure, eg. mountain bike trails, investment in access, signage etc?
 - Energy saving measures for local people?
 - Affordable housing?
 - Shared ownership in the wind farm?
- There are many options open to the community on how to use this community benefit to generate additional income. The Scottish Government would, in particular, like to see communities maximising the potential a project such as a wind farm can bring through investment, and increased shared ownership is one of its primary aims going forwards.
- Please feel free to write any ideas that you have on how community benefit could make a positive contribution to your local community on the 'post-its' provided and stick them up on this panel. Alternatively, please complete a 'Voice Your Opinion' comment form which is available from the reception desk or just tell us while you are here.



How wind farms are changing

Wind farms are changing, and that's due to a number of different things:

- **Market support:** All forms of new renewable energy technology are given financial support by the UK Government until they reach a stage where they can be economically viable without it. Onshore wind is now a 'mature' technology, and previously used market support mechanisms are no longer available. This means that a wind farm designed today must pay for itself simply through the sale of electricity and, in order to do that, the most efficient turbines and layout designs need to be implemented.
- **New turbine technology:** Turbine design is becoming more and more efficient. In order to maximise the amount of energy a turbine can generate, by capturing as much wind as possible, tower heights are increasing and the blades are longer. In the UK, there have been new wind farm proposals coming forward which are considering turbines of up to 175m tip height, for example, Clash Gour Wind Farm (Force9/EdF) and 200m at Rothes 3 (Fred Olsen), both in Moray.
- **New design tools:** The tools we have available to us now to assess locations in terms of the technical requirements, particularly in relation to wind resource, have improved greatly over the years. All that feeds back into the design process and helps developers design the best wind farm for the site in question.

This will mean that in the future, wind farm sites, whether they be new sites, extensions or the repowering of existing sites, will most likely have larger turbines to try and maximise the energy potential.

Lochluichart Wind Farm, Highland
Image for illustrative purposes only

