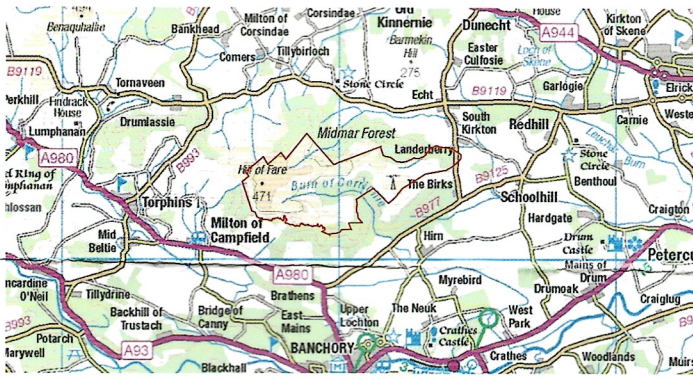


Hill of Fare Wind Farm proposal

Newsletter – Autumn 2023

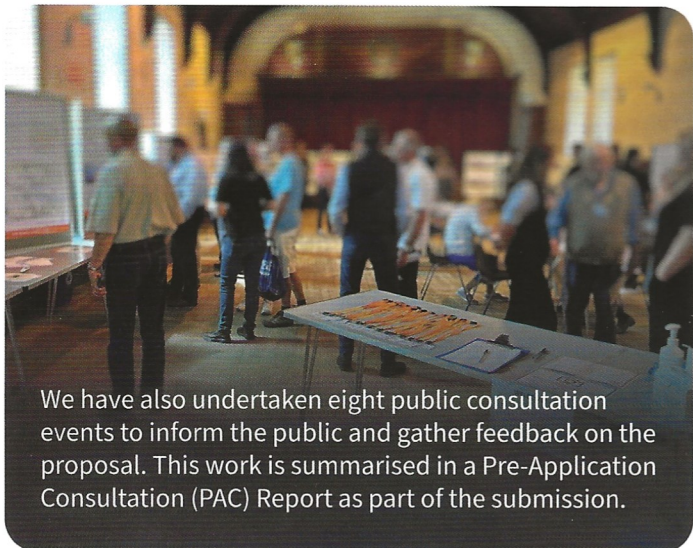
Section 36 submission

RES has submitted a Section 36 application for consent to the Scottish Government for a 16-turbine wind farm proposal at Hill of Fare, approximately 6km north of Banchory, in Aberdeenshire. The project could create a £150 million boost for the local economy.



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The submission follows a wealth of technical and environmental survey work that has helped build our understanding of the site, identify key constraints, and inform the design. An extensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) captures the findings.



We have also undertaken eight public consultation events to inform the public and gather feedback on the proposal. This work is summarised in a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report as part of the submission.

Viewing the planning documentation

Electronic copies of the planning application and associated planning documents, including the EIAR, can be viewed on (and downloaded from) the project website at www.hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk or the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) planning portal at www.energyconsents.scot (reference ECU00004592).

In addition, hard copies of this documentation are available at the following locations for public viewing:

Banchory Library, Bridge Street, Banchory, AB31 5SU
(during normal opening hours)

Alford Library, Alford Community Campus, Greystone Road, Alford, AB33 8TY (during normal opening hours)

Submitting formal representations

A statutory consultation period is being held by the ECU to enable the public, as well as key consultees, to submit formal representations on the proposal. A copy of the public notice, advertising the Section 36 submission and consultation process, can be found on our project website.

The closing date for comments is 12 January 2024 although Scottish Ministers may consider representations after this date. **Comments on the application may be submitted to the ECU in the following ways:**

Online: www.energyconsents.scot

Email: representations@gov.scot

Post: Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

All feedback needs to identify the project and specify the grounds for representation. Written or emailed representations should be dated, clearly stating the name (in block capitals), full return email or postal addresses of those making comments. Only representations sent by email will receive acknowledgement.

Feedback will be assessed against the proposal and a determination made by Scottish Ministers in due course.

Creating a future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy.

Climate change emergency

Climate change is one of the greatest threats facing our planet, and the Scottish and UK Governments have set legally binding targets of reaching net zero by 2045 and 2050 respectively to help tackle climate change.

Hill of Fare Wind Farm would be capable of generating enough clean, low-cost electricity for around 101,000 homes¹ and reducing carbon emissions by approximately 69,000 tonnes² each year within the grid-mix of fossil fuel, nuclear and renewable generation. The forecast end-to-end carbon payback time for the project, as set out in the EIAR, is 2.8 years within this grid-mix scenario.

Cost of living crisis

Onshore wind, alongside other renewable energy technologies, can generate the lowest-cost form of new electricity generation.

Security of energy supply

Wind is a free and inexhaustible resource which has an important role to play as part of a balanced energy mix. It increases energy security by reducing our reliance on imports and builds resilience to sudden fossil fuel price fluctuations and the uncertainties of global markets. It is also quicker to build (typically 12-24 months), for example, than offshore wind.

Inward investment

Hill of Fare Wind Farm could create a £150 million boost for the local economy as it is predicted to deliver £14 million of inward investment³ in Aberdeenshire during construction, £66 million of economic activity³ linked to operations and maintenance, and £50 million⁴ in business rates over its operational lifetime to Aberdeenshire Council - in addition to a tailored community benefit package for the local area.

Community benefit package

We are proposing a tailored package of benefits for the community from the project that would be worth approximately £26.4 million to the local area over the project's operational lifetime. This package could include RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) which offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating wind farm. Community benefit is not a material planning consideration.

Shared ownership

RES has been exploring the potential for community shared ownership in the Hill of Fare Wind Farm. This would provide an exciting opportunity for the local community to invest in the project. An experienced consultant has been appointed to explore financial models for the shared ownership opportunity. If a viable model can be developed it will be explored with the community in due course.

About us

RES, a privately-owned company with a proud history in Scotland, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company - with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific.

We grew out of Sir Robert McAlpine, a British family-owned firm with over 140 years of experience in construction and engineering - including the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Highlands and the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow.

From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms in Scotland since 1993. We have developed and/or built 21 wind farms in Scotland, with a total generating capacity of 597MW.

With 40 years of experience and over 2500 people employed around the world, we're able to put our expertise to good use and power positive change.

For further information about RES visit www.res-group.com.



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For more information on the proposal please visit www.hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk or contact us by using the details above.

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please get in touch with us.

¹ The 101,000 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Hill of Fare Wind Farm has a predicted capacity factor of 38.59% - based on a 6.6MW [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 3,509 kWh (December 2022). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

² The 69,000 tonnes carbon emissions reduction figure is taken from the EIAR using the SEPA carbon calculator.

³ The £14 million inward investment figure and £66 million economic activity figure are taken from the Socioeconomic Chapter of the EIAR.

⁴ The business rates figure of £50 million has been calculated from the most recent non-domestic rates revaluation in Scotland (2023 Revaluation) and predicted performance of the wind farm.