# **HILL OF FARE WIND FARM PROPOSAL**

**NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2023** 



# **Project overview**

#### Work undertaken so far

RES first announced its Hill of Fare Wind Farm proposal in August 2022 when the Scoping Report was submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

The Scoping Report set out an early design of 17 turbines at 250m tip height and sought feedback from key consultees, including local Community Councils, on the proposed scope of environmental work to assess and inform the design.

In October 2022 we held public exhibitions in the local area to engage with the local community on the project and gather feedback on the scoping design.

We have also been undertaking a wide range of further environmental surveys and detailed studies, to build our understanding of the site, in addition to considering the consultation feedback received from the public exhibitions as well as key consultees. This has helped to shape the design over the last few months.

There will be another opportunity to review the project design, speak with the project team, and comment on the proposal at our final suite of exhibitions which are currently being planned for summer 2023. **Further details of these events will be communicated and advertised in due course.** 

# October 2022 exhibitions

#### **Consultation feedback**

The four exhibition events that we held in October 2022 in Crathes, Echt, Midmar and Torphins were well attended and attracted more than 370 people.

Over 380 comments forms were received from the event and subsequent consultation period, providing almost 3,000 comments across a variety of topics.

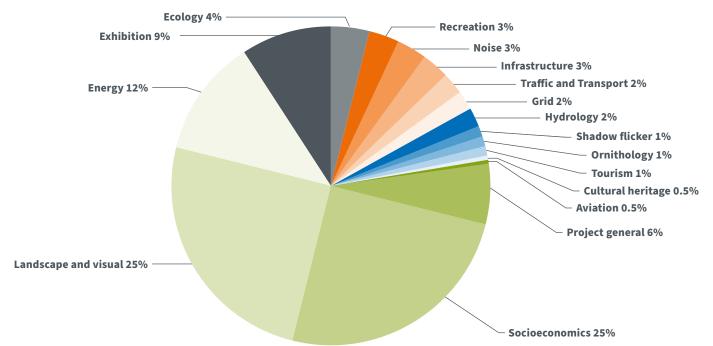
Our summer exhibitions will refer to the written feedback received from the October 2022 exhibitions and consultation period and explain any changes made to the design in response to the feedback.

The graph below shows the balance of topical comments received, with the following of most interest:

- **Socioeconomics** (community benefit, supply chain)
- Landscape and visual (turbine height, site location)
- Energy (onshore wind, other technologies)
- **Exhibition** (format, staff, communications)
- **Ecology** (wildlife and species, habitat)
- Recreation (access, activities and use of hill)
- Noise (predicted levels)
- Infrastructure (battery storage, substation, tracks)

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to engage with us on the proposal.

## **Breakdown of comments**



# Interim update

## Summary of design changes so far

Whilst the design continues to evolve, here is a summary of the key changes so far:

- Turbine heights reduced from 250m to a mix of 200m and 180m
- Turbine numbers reduced from 17 to 16
- **Site boundary extended** to include access route from the east and area to the south for substation and battery storage location

There will be another opportunity to review the project design, speak with the project team and comment on the proposal at our final suite of exhibitions which are currently being planned for Summer 2023.

#### **FAOs**

We have also developed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document which provides further information, in response to the main themes and questions raised from the consultation feedback, for people's interest and awareness.

A copy of the FAQs can be found on the project website at www.hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk.

**Please note that the FAQs document is not a consultation document** but instead an interim update on the development of the project.

# **Private water supplies – call for information**

## Do you have a private water supply from Hill of Fare?

In order to identify and protect private water supplies in the area we are encouraging any local residents who have, or think they may have, a private water supply linked to Hill of Fare to get in touch.

We have already gathered all available supply information from Aberdeenshire Council and Dunecht Estates, in addition to site surveys, but want to ensure that our data is as comprehensive as possible.

The information that we are seeking is listed opposite and can be sent to EnviroCentre by email at **hofpws@envirocentre.co.uk** or by post to: **Hill of Fare Project Team**, EnviroCentre Ltd, Banchory Business Centre, Burn O'Bennie Road, Banchory, AB31 5ZU.

The information that we are seeking is as follows:

- Property name and location National Grid Reference (NGR) or What3Words
- 2. Private water supply location NGR or What3Words
- **3. Private water supply source** borehole/surface watercourse/spring/other
- **4. Supply usage and number of people** domestic/ domestic and agricultural/ agricultural only/ commercial
- **5. Any known issues with supply** does the supply experience discolouration or run out during dry periods

Information can be sent to EnviroCentre up until 21st May 2023.

# **RES in Scotland**

#### **About RES**

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.

## **Contact us**



Gavin Shirley Development Project Manager

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At the forefront of the industry for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects worldwide. For further information about RES visit www.res-group.com.

For more information on the proposal please visit our project website at **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.

