

## **Appendix 4**

### Community Open Day Information Panels

# WELCOME TO SHEPHERDS' RIG WIND FARM COMMUNITY OPEN DAY



View towards Shepherds' Rig Site

In August 2023, Boralex gained Section 36 consent to construct and operate Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm. Now, Boralex is looking to revise that proposal and apply for a variation.

## The Consented Development

This is the original Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm that was consented in 2023. This development comprises 17 turbines, 15 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 149.9 m, and two turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 125 m, as well as associated infrastructure.

## The Proposed Varied Development:

The development we are seeking your feedback on today. This development is proposing to change some of the characteristics of the Consented Development and will likely comprise up to 13 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 200 m, as well as associated infrastructure. The proposed variations that make up this development include:

- Removal of four turbines;
- Increase in the maximum blade tip height to up to 200 m;
- Relocation of three turbines slightly beyond the micro-siting allowance; and
- Amendments to part of the track layout to reflect turbine removal and relocation.

Utilising the natural environment to harness clean, zero-carbon energy, this revised project will, if consented, support local construction companies along with local supply chains during construction and operation, and offer community benefit as well as the potential for shared ownership.

## What happened to Infinergy?

Infinergy was active in Scotland for more than 15 years with the development of various operational on-shore wind farms, as well as a portfolio of new on-shore wind, solar and battery developments totalling approximately 500 MW. In 2017 we began developing our projects in Scotland alongside Boralex, a Canadian based 100% renewable energy company, listed on the Toronto stock market but also with a strong presence in Europe.

In 2022 Boralex acquired 100% of Infinergy's interests in the UK, integrating the Infinergy organisation fully into Boralex.

## Today's event

Here you will find a selection of information banners outlining the proposed variations to the Consented Development and the process involved in making this new application.

Please take your time to study the information and please do not hesitate to speak with any of the 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 and either hand it in as you leave or send it back to us using our Freepost address. You will also find the form on our website [www.shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk) along with these information panels.

There are several ways to obtain further information and to contact us:



# HOW THE TWO SCHEMES COMPARE



| Project Components                       | Technical Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                          | The Consented Development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | The Proposed Varied Development                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Maximum Number of Turbines               | 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 13                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Turbine Capacity                         | Up to 4.2 MW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Up to 7 MW                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Maximum Tip Height                       | 15x149.9 m and 2x125m                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 200 m                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Indicative Rotor Diameter & Blade Length | 117 m & 59 m                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 163 m & 82 m                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Crane pads                               | Each wind turbine requires an area of hardstanding adjacent to the turbine which provides a stable base for the cranes to erect the structures.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Battery Energy Storage System            | An energy storage building housing batteries to store electricity generated by the wind turbines when it is not needed on the grid. The facility would have an approximate maximum output of 6 MW.                                                                                                                                                 | An energy storage building housing batteries to store electricity generated by the wind turbines when it is not needed on the grid The facility would have an approximate maximum output of 50 MW. |
| Substation and Control Room              | An onsite substation and control room which would house switchgear and would connect the wind farm to the grid.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Temporary Construction Compound          | During the construction phase a temporary compound would be required to store construction equipment and machinery.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Temporary Concrete Batching Plant        | On-site concrete batching would result in a significant reduction in the number of vehicle movements on the local road network. The on-site batching plant is likely to be situated within or adjoining the construction compound.                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Borrow Pits                              | The stone required for new tracks, turbine bases and hardstanding areas would be sourced from up to two on-site borrow pits.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Access Route and Tracks                  | Access to the site would be from the existing forestry track off the B729 between Muirdochwood and Smittons. This will involve upgrading the existing site entrance junction and track.                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Grid Connection                          | The connection will be made into the proposed 132kV line from Lorg Wind Farm to Holm Hill (north of Carsphairn) which is being progressed by Scottish Power. This proposed line would run through the central part of the Shepherds' Rig site. There would be a short overhead connection between the wind farm substation and this proposed line. |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Total Maximum Output                     | 76.2 MW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 141 MW                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Total Energy Generation per Annum        | 158 GWh per annum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 257 GWh per annum<br>(60% INCREASE)                                                                                                                                                                |
| Operational Life                         | 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 40                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



Although the site has an existing consent, the changes we are proposing mean that a full EIA will once again be required. This extensive study will form part of the formal application to be made to the Scottish Government.

EIA is the process of assessing the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project.

The EIA is required to follow clear steps which can be summarised as follows:

- Screening: to determine whether a particular project requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR);
- Scoping: stage at which the scope of the EIAR is defined through consultation with statutory consultees;
- Preparation of the Draft EIAR;
- Public Consultation;
- Finalisation of the EIAR;
- Further public Consultation; and
- Review and decision by decision maker.

The EIA process aims to assist the Scottish Government and Local Authority in their determination of the application by identifying where any significant environmental effects are predicted.

The EIAR will be carried out in consultation with statutory consultees, interested parties and the general public.

## Environmental Surveys

The EIAR preparation covers topics including:

- Forestry
- Ecology and Ornithology;
- Protected species;
- Priority habitats;
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- Carbon rich soils and priority peatland habitats;
- Hydrology;
- Landscape and visual impact; and
- Traffic and Transport.

Other desk-based assessments will include appraising the impacts of the proposed development on aviation, noise, telecommunications, socio-economics and climate change.

# ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS



## Forestry

Commercial forests are dynamic, constantly changing through both human and natural activity. The forestry assessment will describe the changes to the forest structure resulting from the incorporation of the Proposed Varied Development into the forests, in particular the loss of woodland area. Key to this will be the integration of the Proposed Varied Development into the forest structure to minimise the loss of woodland area and to prevent fragmentation of the remaining woodland.

## Ecology and Ornithology

A further Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the Site has recently been completed which classified and mapped natural and semi natural habitats, as well as identified habitat suitable to support protected species and specific surveys have also been carried out for a range of protected species within 250 m of the Site.

NatureScot agreed that the Consented Development was predicted to have no significant effects on ornithology.

The change in design between the Consented Development and the Proposed Varied Development is unlikely to produce a significantly different impact on ecological or ornithological receptors and is in fact likely to result in a reduction of impacts.

## Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

This is intended to identify likely significant effects of the Proposed Varied Development on the cultural significance of heritage assets within the Site through impacts upon their physical fabric. It also identifies likely significant effects on the cultural significance of heritage assets both within the Site and the wider landscape caused through development within their settings which would need detailed consideration in the EIA Report.

## Peat

The previous peat survey resulted in 1,293 probes deployed across the study area with substantial areas of no peat and small pockets of peat up to 4 m in depth along the western boundary and in the central part of the southern area of the Site. Further high-density peat depth surveys are being carried out within the Site in areas where the proposed infrastructure has changed from that of the Consented Development.

There are opportunities for peat restoration to be completed incorporating forest-to-bog restoration through ground smoothing or bunding (using excavated peat), extension of felling to remove non windfirm trees to expand the open area, and restoration of eroded or drained areas of peat such as those found in the numerous



# PHOTOMONTAGE COMPARISON



Viewpoint 1 - View from Stroanfreggan Bridge (B729) - Consented Scheme Layout



Viewpoint 1 - View from Stroanfreggan Bridge (B729) - Proposed Varied Development Layout



Viewpoint 10 - View from Southern Upland Way, Benbrack (Striding Arch) - Consented Scheme Layout



Viewpoint 10 - View from Southern Upland Way, Benbrack (Striding Arch) - Proposed Varied Development Layout

# PHOTOMONTAGE COMPARISON



Viewpoint 11 - View from R7000 north of East Ardarroch - Consented Scheme Layout



Viewpoint 11 - View from R7000 north of East Ardarroch - Proposed Varied Development Layout



Viewpoint 19 - View from A713 south of Carsphairn - Consented Scheme Layout



Viewpoint 19 - View from A713 south of Carsphairn - Proposed Varied Development Layout

# THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Boralex will work closely with local communities, businesses and residents in seeking to ensure that the project will bring tangible benefits to local people and help meet the national climate change and energy security needs.

## Business, Jobs and Investment

We would like to hear from local businesses to ensure that we can fully consider the skills and services of local people and suppliers if the the Proposed Varied Development receives approval.

The opportunities available would 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; and
- Transport: taxis and minibuses for local labourers.

## Local Accommodation Providers

Construction projects of this nature typically require some specialist technicians who may have to come from outside the area, so they will require local accommodation and catering facilities.

## Community Benefit

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 planning applications, 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 Proposed Varied Development, this would mean an additional £102,000 per year on top of the consented development amount, taking the community benefit sum up to £455,000 per year for the lifetime of the scheme depending on the final number and capacity of wind turbines.

We want to try to ensure that the funds help the surrounding communities achieve their ambitions to become more resilient and sustainable in the long term.

There are many options open to local communities on how to use this community benefit to generate additional income. The Scottish Government would like to see communities maximising the potential a project such as a wind farm can bring through investment, and increasing the uptake of community shared ownership is one of its primary aims going forwards.

## NEXT STEPS



We will take into account the feedback we receive from our public consultation process as we refine our proposal and work towards finalising the Proposed Varied Development. We hope to submit the Section 36 application for the Proposed Varied Development to The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit by January 2025.

An EIA Report including all the results from the surveys will be submitted with the formal application to the Energy Consents Unit. All the submitted documents will be uploaded to our website: [www.shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk) under 'Downloads'.

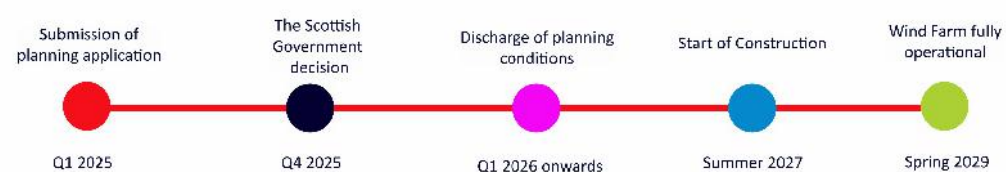
If you would like to receive a USB stick containing all the application documents or a hard copy of the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) (a summary of the EIA Report), please request this in the 'Voice your opinion' comment form available at the reception desk. The USB sticks and the NTS are provided free of charge for as long as stock last.

Professional bodies in the fields of ecology, aviation, noise, landscape, cultural heritage, transport etc. will be formally consulted on the application. To help the Energy Consents Unit at the Scottish Government assess the proposal, not only do they listen to you, the local residents, but also the following consultees:

- Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Ministry of Defence
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Ofcom
- NatureScot
- RSPB
- The local Community Council
- VisitScotland
- National Air Traffic Services
- SEPA

The timeline shown below gives an indication of possible timescale should the proposal be deemed acceptable and is subject to change depending on the planning process.

### Indicative Timeline



### Contact points:

**Website:** [www.shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk)

**Email:** [info@shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk)

**Freephone:** 0800 980 4299

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- Scottish Forestry

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### Indicative Timeline



# WELCOME TO SHEPHERDS' RIG WIND FARM COMMUNITY OPEN DAY



View towards Shepherds' Rig Site

**In August 2023, Boralex gained Section 36 consent to construct and operate Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm. Boralex is now looking to revise that proposal and will be applying for a Section 36C variation in the near future.**

The first open day on the variation proposals took place in September 2024. At that time, the scheme was at the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping stage and the scoping wind turbine layout was presented. Following further assessment work, a second open day was held in March 2025 where a detailed layout consisting of 13 x 200 metres to tip wind turbines was presented.

The Applicant then undertook further wind yield and financial analysis of the variation proposal, which concluded that the layout may not be viable primarily due to wake losses and forestry constraints. As a result, further design iteration has been undertaken to improve the viability of the scheme. The final layout is subject to detailed additional survey work, however it is anticipated that it will now comprise 11 turbines up to 220 m tip height.

This third open day provides an update on the variation proposal layout which has now reached an advanced stage of assessment and design.

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