



Pre-Application Consultation Report

Golticlay Extension Wind Farm

November 2025

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470 MW of installed operational renewable capacity across 27 sites, including 15 hydropower, 10 onshore wind, one offshore wind and one biomass Combined Heat and Power (CHP) projects. We plan to continue expanding our renewables portfolio in the country, with a further 231 MW across four onshore wind projects in construction, representing an important element of our wider ambitions across the UK.

- 1.5 RWE directly employ around 100 people in Scotland, either at our generation sites or at our offices in Perth and Inverness.

ii. Background and Section 36 Context (Consultation)

- 1.6 Albeit not a statutory requirement for Section 36 applications, the Applicant has applied the principles of the consultation process recommended for ‘major’ planning applications as set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and Planning Circular 3:2022 – Development Management Procedures¹. This enables the local community and all those with an interest in the proposals, a clear opportunity to view the proposals, and importantly provide comment and feedback.

iii. Best Practice

- 1.7 The Applicant is aware of the value of engaging with and seeking to involve local people and other stakeholders (e.g., those involved in the supply chain) in development proposals, both prior to and following the submission of any application and through to the construction and operation, should the Applicant’s proposals obtain consent.
- 1.8 Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 – Community Engagement² is an update of PAN 81 which advises that, in order for the community engagement to be successful, it is important that everyone interested in the future development of the community, village, town or city they live in, should understand the planning process. Developers are advised to involve the local community at the earliest opportunity so that they can feel confident that engagement in the process has been meaningful.
- 1.9 PAN 3/2010 highlights that the term “consultation” is used to mean the:
- 1.10 “Dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action. The terms ‘engagement’ and ‘involvement’ are generally interchangeable and are taken to mean the establishment of effective relationships with individuals or groups. Participation is everything that enables people to influence the decisions and get involved in the actions that affect their lives. In the context of this document engagement is, in effect, giving people a genuine opportunity to have a say on a development plan or proposal which affects them; listening to what they say and reaching a decision in an open and transparent way to ensure they are taking account of all views expressed” (page 3, paragraph 1).

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/planning-circular-3-2022-development-management-procedures/>

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/planning-advice-note-3-2010-community-engagement/>

- 1.11 National Planning Framework 4 (NFP4) (2023)³ also highlights the important role of engagement, stating:
- 1.12 “Throughout the planning system, opportunities are available to engage in development planning and decisions about future development. Such engagement, undertaken in line with statutory requirements, should be early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate. Support or concern expressed on matters material to planning must be given careful consideration in the determination of development proposals” (page 13, Part 1).
- 1.13 The Applicant is committed to undertaking effective and early consultation methods in this way, including tailoring its strategies to suit individual communities. Local communities’ values and issues of importance vary and the consultation programmes are designed to reflect that.

iv. RWE Approach to Public Consultation

- 1.14 RWE places great importance on the value of engaging with and seeking to involve local people in development proposals, both prior to and following the submission of any application. Effective engagement with the public can lead to better plans, better decisions and more satisfactory outcomes for all parties concerned. RWE is dedicated to undertaking effective and early consultation methods. Local communities’ values and issues of importance vary and we design our consultation programme to reflect that. We believe we have demonstrated these values with our proven track record on our successful development portfolio across Scotland.
- 1.15 RWE is dedicated to undertaking effective and early consultation methods, tailoring its strategies to suit individual communities. Our consultation plan set out: who will be consulted; how/ when they will be consulted; the scope of consultation; how comments are analysed and responded to in the final proposals; and how/when feedback are provided. It includes details regarding:
- Notifying key local stakeholders such as Community Councils. Local Ward Councillors, the MP and MSP’s of the proposed application at the start of the pre-planning consultation.
 - Consulting specific community consultees, specialist consultees and relevant persons.
 - Placing adverts in a local newspaper in advance of Public Consultation Events.
 - Preparing a Pre-Application Consultation Report.
- 1.16 A range of tools and techniques are utilised to ensure stakeholders and the local community are aware of the Proposed Development and are encouraged to participate in the engagement/ consultation process, which aims to ensure a meaningful consultation process and the development of the best possible scheme that meets the requirements of its end users.
- 1.17 This includes but not limited to:
- A dedicated project website: <https://www.rwe.com/golticlayextension> which shares

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/pages/2/>

information about the Proposed Development at various stages, e.g., submission of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report, public consultation information, project benefits, news and contact details, planning application documents and various updates following submission.

- Newsletters issued to stakeholders and those within the defined consultation zone at key stages (EIA Scoping, Planning Submission, Start of Construction, Operations) to keep them fully informed and updated about the Proposed Development .
- Two sets of in-person public consultation events to engage with the local communities most impacted by the scheme were invited. At the events, information on the Proposed Development were displayed to provide people the opportunity to discuss the emerging plans with members of the project team and feedback comments or concerns on the design to the project team.
- Virtual online exhibition held in parallel with the in-person event, providing information on the Proposed Development as well as opportunity to feed comments back to the project team.
- A variety of other feedback mechanisms, to provide the local community and stakeholders with different ways to contact the project team. These include a freepost address and Project email address.

v. Consultation Guidance and Measures - Public Consultation Guidance and Legislation

- 1.18 Consent for the Proposed Development is being sought under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) along with a direction for deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended. This process does not carry a statutory requirement for public consultation or production of a PAC Report.
- 1.19 However, as noted in Section 1 above, the Applicant prioritises community engagement and recognises the benefits of carrying out early and meaningful consultation during the planning process and follows best practice of producing a PAC Report.
- 1.20 Two documents which set out best practice for engaging with communities during development have been used as a framework to support the delivery of the Proposed Development's engagement programme. The Scottish Government Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 – Community Engagement and the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) best practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 issued in February 2022 and updated in July 2022.
- 1.21 **Table 1** presents an overview of the community engagement activities in relation to the requirements of PAN 3/2010, while Table 2 outlines how these activities align with the Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Sections 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Table 1 – An Overview of Community Engagement – Consultation Stages

Standard	PAN 3/2010 Standard	Activities Undertaken
1	Involvement: Identify and involve the people and organisations who have interest in the focus of the engagement.	The host and neighbouring community councils, elected Councillors for the host ward, MSPs and MP for the Proposed Development were identified and contacted with information about the Proposed Development at the time of the EIA Scoping in early 2025, when the Proposed Development first entered the public domain. Local residents were offered the opportunity to meet with the Proposed Development team, virtually or in person. A dedicated website details was launched when an EIA Scoping request was submitted for the Proposed Development. Two separate public consultation events were held in March 2025 and September 2025, respectively. Invites and feedback forms were sent to more than 1133 residents and businesses surrounding the Proposed Development at the start of each of the consultation period. Mailing lists were updated ahead of the second exhibition to take account of local population changes.
2	Support: Identify and overcome any barriers to involvement.	Respondents could communicate with the Proposed Development team via the project website, email, letter, telephone or in person. Accessible in-person Public Consultation Events were held at local venues, with online exhibitions being held in parallel. The exhibitions were advertised in the Caithness Courier, Press and Journal and the John O’Groat Journal. Adverts were also provided to Community Councils and Councillors for sharing on their social media. A direct mail invitation was sent to more than 1133 households and businesses ahead of each of the consultation period. The invitations included information about the Proposed Development, its location, the timings and what information would be made available, contact details, and how to get involved. A copy of the mail invitation was also sent to the host and neighbouring Community Councils (listed below).
3	Planning: Gather evidence of need and resources to agree purpose, scope and actions.	The Applicant prioritises meaningful consultation with the local community, as set out in correspondence with them. When contact was made with Community Councils (listed below under Overview of Consultation Activity) and wider stakeholders (such as Ward Councillors, MSPs and the MP), the proposed approach was outlined, and feedback was requested to ensure as many people as possible knew about the Proposed Development.
4	Methods: Agree and use methods of engagement that	Information presented on the Proposed Development website was accessible to interested parties throughout

RWE

Standard	PAN 3/2010 Standard	Activities Undertaken
	are fit for purpose.	the pre-planning process. The website provided the opportunity to find out the latest information about the Proposed Development and ask the team questions via an online feedback form. The Applicant held two Public Consultation Events, providing local communities and other stakeholders with an opportunity to meet and interact with the team, allowing discussion and feedback. Both exhibitions were held in person.
5	Working Together: Agree and use clear procedures that enable participants to work together effectively and efficiently.	Pre-Application Consultation enabled the Applicant to listen and take on board comments from interested parties and used responses to influence design from the point of scoping. The Applicant encouraged the use of meetings, feedback forms and contact details provided at public exhibitions to receive input. Contact information was provided on all public documentation and included a dedicated website. In person exhibitions were held. The Applicant offered to meet with the Community Councils (no meetings requested after offered). The Applicant sought engagement and involvement from the community to suggest potential uses for Community Benefit funds at the exhibitions.
6	Sharing Information: Ensure necessary information is communicated between the participants.	Interaction at the in person exhibition, and follow up on any questions, and provide further information. An exhibition brochure and viewpoints were available online and in person.
7	Working with Others: Work effectively with others with an interest.	Interaction and comments from residents and Community Councils were sought. Feedback provided at the consultation sessions has been considered as the Proposed Development design evolved, particularly on height and local/visibility of several turbines.
8	Improvement: Develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of the participants.	Experienced team members (including the RWE Project Manager, RWE Stakeholder Manager, RWE Construction Manager and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultants attended the public exhibition events to provide information requested by visitors and answer questions. The Applicant provided visitors at the exhibitions with the opportunity to view a photomontage representation of the Proposed Development from different viewpoints.
9	Feedback: Feedback results to the wider community and agencies affected.	The Applicant provided responses to feedback forms received during the public consultation (where GDPR allowed). The Applicant undertook dialogue with individuals

Standard	PAN 3/2010 Standard	Activities Undertaken
		regarding specific queries posed before or during the consultation process, with responses to queries followed up.
10	Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitor and evaluate whether engagement achieves its purpose and meets the national standards of community engagement.	The Applicant followed best practice as set out in this PAC Report.

Table 2 - Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 Requirements

Activity	Minimum Expectation	Activities Undertaken
Pre-application consultation events	The Applicant is expected to hold at least two public consultation events prior to submitting the application. The final public event should be held at least 14 days after the first public event. The public events are to give members of the public the opportunity to make comments to the Applicant as regards the Proposed Development. At the final public event, the Applicant should provide feedback to members of the public in respect of comments received by the Applicant as regards the Proposed Development.	Two periods of public exhibitions were held in March 2025 and September 2025. Invites were sent to more approximately 1133 residents and businesses surrounding the Proposed Development at the start of each consultation period. Mailing lists were updated ahead of the second exhibition to account for local population changes. The iterative designs for the Proposed Development were communicated throughout the process, including comparisons of the scoping and intermediate layouts.
Notice of the Pre-application consultation events	At least seven days before holding a public event, the applicant should publish on the applicant's website and in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated a notice containing: A description of, and the location of, the Proposed Development; Details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the Proposed Development; The date and place of the public event; A statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the applicant relating to the proposal may do so; and	The exhibitions were advertised in the Caithness Courier, Press and Journal and the John O'Groat Journal ahead of each round of exhibitions. Adverts were provided to Community Councils and Councillors to share on their social media. The exhibitions were published on the project website.
Notice of Pre-Application consultation	A statement that comments made to the Applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if the Applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representation on	The details set out below were published as required. This included clear statements on the Feedback Forms (Appendix G and

Activity	Minimum Expectation	Activities Undertaken
events	that application to the Scottish Ministers.	O)
Content of public event and pre-application consultation report	The Applicant is expected to prepare a pre-application consultation report ("PAC Report") setting out what has been done to accord with the guidance set out above. The PAC Report should be submitted with the application. The PAC report should contain the following information: The dates on which and places where public events are held; A description of any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult with members of the public regarding the Proposed Development; A list of bodies, groups and organisations that were consulted by the Applicant and a description of how they were consulted; A description of any materials sent to consultees and materials provided to those attending public events. Copies of any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event, and photographs of any display boards or models at public events; Confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the Scottish Ministers; A summary of the written responses to consultations and views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events; An explanation of how the Applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process; and an explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the Applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process.	All the details required are presented within this PAC Report and Appendices. The Applicant confirms that attendees were advised that they can comment on the final application once it is made to Scottish Ministers.

2. Overview of Consultation Activity

- 2.1 The consultation for the Proposed Development began in March 2025, ahead of the first public consultation event.
- 2.2 An email ([Appendix A](#)) was distributed to local Community Councils advising that RWE was exploring the opportunity of developing a wind farm on the Site. This email explained that the Proposed Development was formerly known as Stemster Wind Farm and that Innogy had previously conducted consultation under this name. However, following a merger between Innogy (the former applicant name) and RWE, RWE was again exploring the potential for a wind farm.
- 2.3 The email also provided details of the date and location of the first public consultation event, to be held at the **Lybster Bowling Club, Tuesday 18th March 2025, 14:00 – 19:00**, advising that all material would have been also available to view online on the project website from 18th March ([Appendix B](#)).
- 2.4 The email (along with a copy of the advert) was sent on 12th March 2025 to the community councils of:
 - Latheron, Lybster and Clyth CC
 - Berriedale and Dunbeath CC
 - Tannach and District CC
 - Watten CC
 - Halkirk CC
- 2.5 In addition to writing to the aforementioned stakeholders and community councils, the Applicant issued invitations to local residents via a direct Royal Mail delivered invitation (1133 residential and business properties). A copy of the invitation can be found in [Appendix C](#).
- 2.6 Notice of the first public consultation event was published in the John O’Groat Journal on the 7th March 2025, the Press & Journal on the 11th March and the Caithness Courier on the 12th March ([Appendix B](#)).
- 2.7 An online virtual consultation was also available for anyone unable to attend the in-person event.
- 2.8 A Virtual Consultation Room was available on the project website for the first public consultation event and a downloadable brochure was available for the send event. The information contained in both exactly mirrored that shown at the in-person events.
- 2.9 In September 2025, the Applicant again contacted the above stakeholders and community councils inviting them to a second forthcoming public consultation event to be held at **the Lybster Community Centre, Wednesday 10th September**

2025, 13:00 – 18:00. The invite informed that all material will also be available to view online on the project website from 10th September 2025 ([Appendix H](#)).

- 2.10 In addition, the Applicant issued approximately 1133 invitations to local residents within a 10 km radius of the proposed site. A copy of the invitations for both events can be found in ([Appendix C and J](#)).
- 2.11 Notice of the events was published in the Caithness Courier on 27th August 2025, John O’Groat Journal on 29th August 2025 and the Press & Journal on 3rd September 2025 (Appendix I).
- 2.12 At the events, members of the project team were on hand to answer any questions that members of the public had regarding the process. Dialogue was maintained with community councils and stakeholders following these events as well as email communication with MSP Maree Todd.
- 2.13 All comments and feedback from the public consultation events have been collated and analysed as part of this PAC Report (Section 4), which also illustrates how feedback has, where possible, shape and inform the Proposed Development.
- 2.14 Details of each in-person public consultation events and parallel virtual consultation are provided below.

vi. Public Consultation Events

March 2025 Public Consultation Event

- 2.15 The Applicant held an in-person public consultation event on the following venue and date:
 - **Lybster Bowling Club, Tuesday 18th March 2025, 14:00 – 19:00**
- 2.16 The Applicant delivered exhibitions in the traditional manner, with an in-person event complemented by a virtual consultation hosted was available from 18th March 2025 to July 2025 on the project website <https://www.rwe.com/golticlayextension> . The website was updated with relevant information throughout the different stages of the Proposed Development.
- 2.17 The overall aim of the consultation was to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to view and review the proposals, to explain how the design had evolved and gain valuable feedback on the Proposed Development.
- 2.18 At the time of this first consultation event, the Proposed Development consisted of 11 turbines up to 200m to tip.
- 2.19 Members of the project team were in attendance to present the proposals for the Proposed Development, answer questions and, importantly, to listen to feedback from attendees.

2.20 At both events, exhibition boards were displayed, offering an overview of the site design at that point in time. Copies of the exhibition boards were hosted in the Virtual Consultation Room throughout its lifetime.

2.21 The subjects of the banners were as follows.

1. Welcome
2. About RWE
3. Why An Extension to Golticlay Wind Farm?
4. Our studies
5. How the wind farm could look
6. Bringing the Turbines to site
7. Project timeline Golticlay Extension & What Happens Next?
- 8 Project timeline Golticlay
9. Working with your community
- 10 Investing in Scottish Communities
- 11 Have your say

2.22 A printed brochure, containing all the information displayed on the exhibition boards was also available for attendees to take away.

2.23 Along with the display banners, a number of site plans and visualisations of key viewpoints were also on display ([Appendix F](#), [Appendix G](#)).

2.24 A feedback form was made available at the event and attendees were encouraged to complete this in order to provide detailed feedback. An example of the feedback form can be found in [Appendix H](#).

2.25 The number of people of the local community attending the event was recorded, totalling 24 attendees.



Figure 2– March 2025 event – Hall Entrance



Figure 3 – March 2025 event – Boards Display



Figure 4 – March 2025 event – Attendees Location Plan

March 2025 Virtual Consultation Room

2.26 The virtual consultation room was launched on the project website <https://www.rwe.com/golticlayextension> on 18th March 2025, featuring all banners, maps and viewpoints displayed at the in-person events, along with a project FAQ's document and was available online until July 2025. The overall aim of the online consultation was to give stakeholders the opportunity to view and review the Proposed Development. The materials that were on display can be found in [Appendix I](#).

2.27 A feedback facility was made available, with the option for interested parties to send feedback either online through the website or a dedicated postal address. A direct email address was provided for anyone who wished to contact the project team via the virtual exhibition.

2.28 During the consultation period, the following data points were recorded:

- Unique visitors: 279
- Page views: 1331
- Average visit duration: 2m 16sec

September 2025 Public Consultation Event

2.29 The Applicant held a second round of in-person public consultation event in September 2025. These events were held on the following venue and date:

- **Lybster Community Centre, Wednesday 10th September 2025, 13:00 – 18:00**

- 2.30 The Applicant delivered the public consultation event in the traditional manner, with an in-person event complemented by a brochure hosted on the project website which displayed all the information that was on display at the event. The website was updated with relevant information throughout the different stages of the Proposed Development.
- 2.31 The overall aim of the consultation was to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to view and review the proposals, to explain how the design had evolved and gain valuable feedback on the Proposed Development.
- 2.32 At the time of this exhibition, the revised Proposed Development consisted of 8 turbines up to 180m to tip.
- 2.33 Members of the development team were in attendance to present the proposals for the Proposed Development, answer questions and, importantly, to listen to feedback from attendees.
- 2.34 At both events, exhibition boards were displayed, offering an overview of the site design at that point in time. Copies of the exhibition boards were hosted in the Virtual Consultation Room throughout its lifetime.
- 2.35 The subjects of the banners were:
1. Welcome
 2. Our design journey
 3. Design evolution
 4. Battery storage
 5. How the wind farm could look
 6. Bringing the turbines to site
 7. Project timeline Golticlay Extension & What Happens Next?
 8. Have your say
- 2.36 Along with the display banners, a number of site plans and visualisations (including baseline photographs and photomontages) of key viewpoints were also on display ([Appendix M](#)).
- 2.37 Records indicate that 33 people attended the event.



Figure 5 - September 2025 – Hall entrance



Figure 6 - September 2025 – Boards Display

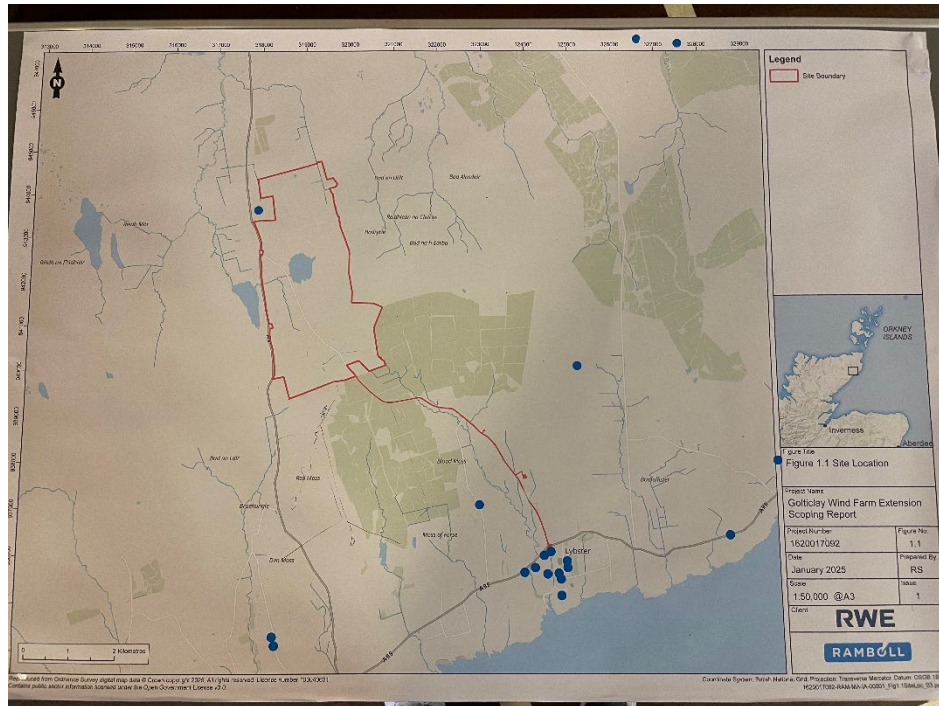


Figure 7 - September 2025 – Attendees Location Plan

September 2025 Downloadable Public Consultation Brochure

- 2.38 A downloadable Public Consultation Brochure was made available on the project website on 10th September 2025, featuring all banners, maps and viewpoints displayed at the in-person events, along with a project FAQ's document and was available online until 3rd October 2025. The overall aim of the online consultation was to give stakeholders the opportunity to view and review the proposals. The materials that were on display can be found in **Appendix N**.
- 2.39 A feedback facility was made available, with the option for interested parties to send feedback either online through the website or a dedicated postal address. A direct email address was provided for anyone who wished to contact the project team via the virtual exhibition.

3. Feedback

vii. Feedback from Consultation

- 3.1 The consultation introduced the Proposed Development to the local community and provided an opportunity to provide feedback. A feedback facility was made available, with the option for interested parties to send feedback either online through the website or via a dedicated postal address. The Applicant's contact details (email, print and phone) were also prominent throughout. Feedback obtained has fed into the design process, where possible and can be viewed under Section 4: Key Issues Arising from the Consultation. Specific point raised during the consultation period can also be seen in Section ii below.

viii. Feedback Received

- 3.2 As part of the exhibition feedback form, the Applicant asked approximately how far attendees lived from the site of the Proposed Development, and what they thought of the proposed layout of the Proposed Development.
- 3.3 Of the respondents 2 lived within 2 km of the site 7 between 2-5 km; 5 between 5-10 km and 9 over 10 km away.
- 3.4 The feedback on the proposed layout consisted of 5 positive responses; 12 neutral and 6 were negative.

4. Response to Key Consultation Issues

- 4.1 The following section sets out the key issues raised during the pre-application period and those raised in discussions the Applicant had with stakeholders. Where appropriate a response has been made to show how these issues have been addressed or indeed, highlight where adjustments have been made to the site layout as a direct result of feedback received.

- 4.2 Although the Proposed Development is a Section 36 application and therefore not subject to the requirement for statutory public consultation, the Applicant has sought to follow this process and ensure that extensive public engagement has taken place.
- 4.3 The Section 36 application, along with supporting materials, will also be made available for viewing on the ECU website and the project website <https://uk.rwe.com/project-proposals/golticlayextension/>
- 4.4 It was made clear to attendees to the public consultation events that any comments and feedback would be used to help RWE during the pre-application design stage. Any formal representation (for or against the Proposed Development should be made directly to the consenting authority once the formal consultation period has begun. The public will be able to submit formal comment directly to the ECU.
- 4.5 Table 3 below provides a summary of where the concerns raised are addressed within the EIA Report (EIAR).

Table 3 – Where concerns are addressed in the EIAR

Comment	Applicant Response
Concerns over an increase in traffic during the construction of the Proposed Development	This is assessed in Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport (EIAR Volume 2). Should it be consented, a detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan will be prepared for approval by The Highland Council. This will include further information, for example, on construction traffic routeing, and proposed mitigation measures.
Concerns that the Proposed Development could have an impact on the local hydrology	Local hydrology is considered within Chapter 10: Hydrology (EIAR Volume 2). Based on the environmental baseline and proposed mitigations described, there are no likely significant residual effects related to the Proposed Development following the implementation of mitigation measures.
Concern regarding noise generated by the Proposed Development	Predicted noise levels are assessed in Chapter 8: Noise and Vibration (EIAR Volume 2). The results show compliance at all receptors during both the daytime and night-time periods.
Concerns over shadow flicker caused by the Proposed Development	This is assessed in Chapter 13: Shadow Flicker of (EIAR Volume 2). With appropriate mitigation measures in place, there would be no significant residual effects during operation of the Proposed Development.
Concerns over aviation lighting installed on the proposed turbines	Effects of aviation lighting is discussed as part of the night-time assessment, within Chapter 4 – Landscape and Visual (EIAR Volume 2) and Technical Appendix 4.8: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment (Volume 4). The night-time landscape and visual effects of proposed aviation lighting would not be significant. The lighting would generally be viewed from below the horizontal reducing its perceived brightness. In addition, embedded mitigation measures would include automatic reduction in brightness by 90% in periods

Comment	Applicant Response
	when visibility is greater than 5 km from the proposed turbines.
Will any further work be needed on the c1053?	Details of the widening works along the C1053 are provided in Chapter 2: Description of the Development . Mitigation measure required during the improvement works are provided with Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport (EIAR volume 2).
Turbines located to the west side of the c1053 will be “highly visible” from the A9 road all the way to Thurso	There would be significant change to the views available to southbound travellers which would be localised to the section of the A9 closest to the Site. The visibility of the turbines would diminish further away from the Site, and they would appear as very small scale features from sections of the A9 near Thurso, Visual effects from the A9 as well as other viewpoints are presented in Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual (EIAR Volume 2).
Concerns over the suitability of the A99 and the area around the port of Wick for the deliveries of turbines.	The route via the Port of Wick and the A99 is considered suitable for the delivery of turbine components for the Proposed Development. This route will soon be used for the delivery of turbines for the adjacent Golticlay Wind Farm (consented in December 2024 and currently under construction), which are of a similar scale to those anticipated for the Proposed Development. Further details of the turbinised components access route are provided in Chapter 9: Traffic and Transport (EIAR Volume 2).
Can the height of the turbines be reduced from 200 m?	A tip height of 200 m was initially considered for the Proposed Development. At EIA Scoping Stage a blade tip height of up to 200 m was considered, but this has been reduced to 180 m (with two turbines further reduced to a maximum of 160 m) as part of the design evolution. Reducing the horizontal extent was also achieved, with a reduction in turbine numbers from 11 to 6. The design evolution is presented in Chapter 3: Design Evolution and Alternatives (EIAR volume 2).
Concern about impact on local water supply	No private water supplies have been identified as having potential hydrological connection to the Site. Therefore these receptors have been scoped out of the assessment. Further details are provided in Chapter 10: Hydrology (EIAR Volume 2).
Concerns over the impact of the Proposed Development on birds of prey and other wildlife	The assessment of the birds species considered to be of high Nature Conservation Importance indicated that that the construction and operation of the Proposed Development would not have a significant effect on birds. Appropriate mitigation measures will be in place other ecologically protected species, therefore no significant effects are predicted. Further Details are provided in Chapter 7: Ornithology and Chapter 6: Ecology (EIAR Volume 2).

Comment	Applicant Response
Concerns about the amount of concrete used in the Proposed Development's construction	The use of concrete will be mainly limited to the foundations of the turbines, battery storage, control building and met mast. All tracks and associated infrastructure (hardstands and blade laydown areas) will be constructed using stone material. The footprint of the proposed infrastructure is provided within Figure 1. 2: Proposed Development Layout (EIAR Volume 4).
Concern that the Proposed Development may impact local house prices	An assessment on residential amenity is included in the Technical Appendix 4.7 (EIAR Volume 3). A Socio Economic Assessment report s also provided for the application.
Concerns over views from local settlements	The Proposed Development would comprise a westerly extension of the Golticlay Wind Farm, with the proposed turbines located further from the closest settlements of Lybster, Upper Lybster and Roster than the turbines currently under construction. The main views from the majority of properties and the public realm in these settlements face in other directions and the majority of views would be unaffected." For details of the views and visualisations refer to Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual (EIAR Volume 2).
How can local residents benefit from hosting the wind farm?	RWE follows Scottish Government best practise guidance for community benefits funds. The means that the Proposed Development's community benefit fund will be equal to £5,000 per MW of installed capacity. There are also a number of new jobs created as a result of the Proposed Development. For details on how local residents and communities can benefit from the development please see our Socio Economic Report
Questions raised regarding what time the turbine components would be transported to site	Abnormal load movements are dictated by police escort availability and will be detailed in the Construction Traffic Management Plan which will require to be approved by The Highland Council and a condition would dictate should consent be granted.

5. Summary

- 5.1 From the outset, the Applicant sought to engage and consult fully with the local community and stakeholders regarding the Proposed Development.
- 5.2 Although this level of public consultation is not a statutory requirement for a Section 36 application, as demonstrated within this report, the Applicant closely followed best practice regarding community engagement and public consultation. The Applicant is grateful to those who were able to attend the in-person Public Exhibitions and take the time to views the proposals on the project website and engage with the development via email and telephone.
- 5.3 The Applicant was pleased to meet and present to local communities and will seek to continue to do so following the submission of the Section 36 application.

RWE

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: MARCH 2025 EMAIL TO COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Golticlay Wind Farm Extension (Update)



Taylor, Nicholas

To

Bcc [LL&C Community Council](#); [berriedaleanddunbeathcc@gmail.com](#);
[Tannach and District Community Council](#); [Watten Community Council](#); +3 others

Reply

Reply All

Forward

...

Wed 12/03/2025 11:22



Golticlay Extension Advert.pdf
.pdf File

Good morning Secretary,

I hope this email finds you well.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you and your Community Council colleagues on a number of activities that RWE is currently undertaking in your area.

Golticlay Extension

RWE is currently exploring the possibility of extending our consented Golticlay Wind Farm. A number of years ago, RWE (then Innogy) explored this land for a possible wind farm which you may recall was previously called Stemster. In 2021, when Innogy merged into RWE, the project was put on hold. We have now completed further assessments and consider the time right to continue with the proposal. Further to this, we are keen to show local residents our initial plans and as such we will be holding a public consultation event. Local residents should have received the attached invite in the post and the events will also be advertised in the Press and Journal and the Ross-shire Journal.

The event is due to take place at the following location:

Tuesday 18th March,
2pm – 7pm
Lybster Bowling Club, KW3 6BN

If residents are unable to attend the in-person events, all the content will be available to view on our project website at www.rwa.com/golticlayextension. These will be available to view from the 18th March.

Golticlay Wind Farm

Members of RWE's construction team will be on hand to update the community on our plans to start construction of Golticlay Wind Farm later this year. We are also keen to set up a Community Liaison Group which would be dedicated to the sharing of updates and information about the construction of Golticlay wind farm. If you are able to register your Community Council's interest in participation in such a group we can begin the process of setting one up.

C1053 upgrade works

Work continues with the work on the c1053 and as we enter spring it is hope that work can be expedited. Colleagues will also be on hand to assist with any question on this aspect of work.

Kindest regards

Nick

Nick Taylor
Stakeholder Manager
RWE Renewables UK Ltd

Scotland office: RWE, Ground Floor, Earm House, Broxden Business Park, Perth, PH1 1RA
England Office: RWE, Pinley House, 2 Sunbeam Way, Coventry, CV3 1ND

RWE Renewables UK Limited: Registered in England and Wales no. 03758404
RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited: Registered in England and Wales no. 02550622
RWE Renewables Management UK Limited: Registered in England and Wales no. 12087808

APPENDIX B: MARCH 2025 CONSULTATION EVENT - NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

The poster is for a public consultation event for the RWE Golticlay Wind Farm Extension. It features the RWE logo at the top, followed by the project name in large, bold letters. The event details, including location (Lybster Bowling Club), date (Tuesday 18th March 2025), and time (14:00 - 19:00), are listed. It also provides a website (rwe.com/golticlayextension) and an email address (golticlayextension@rwe.com) for more information. A note at the bottom states that comments should be received no later than 17th April 2025. The poster has a light grey background with a teal and blue abstract pattern in the top right corner and a teal landscape with wind turbines at the bottom.

RWE

Golticlay Wind Farm Extension

Public Consultation

RWE Renewables is exploring the potential to extend the consented Golticlay Wind Farm.

We invite you to attend our forthcoming public consultation drop in event, where you can view and comment on our proposals.

 **Lybster Bowling Club**
KW3 6BN
Tuesday 18th March 2025
14:00 - 19:00

In addition to the in-person event, a project website will also be available to view from the 18th March. The project website will display the same information that will be shown at the in-person event. Electronic and printable comment forms will also be available so that feedback can be provided to the project team on the proposals.

 **rwe.com/golticlayextension**

If you are unable to access the website to view the information, please contact the team who will be happy to arrange a suitable alternative.

 **golticlayextension@rwe.com**

Colleagues will also be on hand to answer any questions about the start of construction of the main Golticlay wind farm which is expected to begin in late spring/early summer.

Please note that any comments made to RWE are not formal representations to the consenting authority. If an application is submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the consenting authority. Please note that all comments should be received no later than 17th April 2025.

John O’Groat Journal, 7th March 2025



Members of the Caithness Vintage Tractor and Machinery Club were treated to a slideshow about the activities of the air ambulance charity while (left) Tractor club chairman Andrew Mackay, at left, presents the cheque to the air ambulance charity fundraising officer Michael Hanratty and vice chair of the club, Brian Polson, is at right.

Pictures: DGS

Tractor club raises £7200 for charity

MEMBERS of a Caithness tractor club gathered at Thrumster village hall to present a cheque for £7200 to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) on Monday evening.

Caithness Vintage Tractor and Machinery Club (CVTMC) raised the amount from its ploughing match and charity auction at Knockdee Farm in the Stenster area last year.

Chair of the CVTMC, Andrew Mackay said: "The people who

hosted the Knockdee event had a member of their family taken away in a helicopter and wanted to give the money to this charity.

"It's a really great thing to do and every year we raise money for different charities."

Michael Hanratty, the SCAA community fundraising officer for NHS Highlands and Islands was delighted to accept the cheque.

He said: "I'm based in Dornoch and SCAA helicopters are based in

Perth and Aberdeen.

"Today, I'm in Caithness and tomorrow I'm in Grantown-on-Spey, so I can really clock up the miles. I cover from Dunoon to Shetland."

Michael hosted a slideshow about the work undertaken by the charity and some stories about the lives that have been saved. There was also a series of aerial photographs of various Scottish locations that he asked if anyone recognised.

Child mental health times still behind

By Scott MacLennan
scott.maclennan@hmeda.co.uk

THE Highlands still lag behind the rest of Scotland when it comes to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) treatment target times.

The Scottish Government revealed it met its own CAMHS standard for the first time between October and December last year since it was set back in 2014.

The target is for 90 per cent of patients to receive a referral within 18 weeks.

But the figures for NHS Highland tell a different story with just 67.8 per cent of referrals made within 18 weeks for the same period.

The waiting times are broken down into yearly quarters and then waiting period times: 0-18 weeks; 19-35 weeks; 36-52 weeks; and 53 weeks and more.

Using the same numbers, it is clear that they do not apply to the Highlands where the number of referrals to CAMHS actually fell.

For NHS Highland, those seen within 18 weeks in Octo-

ber-December 2024 stood at just 67.8 per cent - 22.8 per cent behind the national rate.

It also shows a decline on the same period in 2023 when the figure was 71.5 per cent, but the numbers have seen a saw up and down over that time.

Also compared to the national rates, the north health board had more than four times as many people in the 36-52 week and 53 week and more waiting periods.

Far north MSP and wellbeing minister Maree Todd did not address that directly but seemed to recognise the discrepancy between the national picture and the local one.

She said: "Clearly, reaching the national standard is encouraging but I know there is much more to be done if this is to be sustained and consistent across Scotland."

However, we are on the right path and the £123 million we have allocated to NHS boards this year will mean the quality and delivery of all mental health services - including CAMHS - will continue to improve."

Pay a visit to the

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RWE

Golticlay Wind Farm Extension

Public Consultation

RWE Renewables is exploring the potential to extend the consented Golticlay Wind Farm.

We invite you to attend our forthcoming public consultation drop in event, where you can view and comment on our proposals.

Lybster Bowling Club
KW3 6BN
Tuesday 19th March 2025
14:00 - 19:00

In addition to the in-person event, a project website will also be available to view from the 19th March. The project website will display the same information that will be shown at the in-person event. Electronic and printable comment forms will also be available so that feedback can be provided to the project team on the proposals.

rwe.com/golticlayextension

If you are unable to access the website to view the information, please contact the team who will be happy to arrange a suitable alternative.

golticlayextension@rwe.com

Colleagues will also be on hand to answer any questions about the start of construction of the main Golticlay wind farm which is expected to begin in late spring/early summer.

Please note that any comments made to RWE are not formal representations to the consenting authority. If an application is submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the consenting authority. Please note that all comments should be received no later than 3.7th April 2025.