



Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

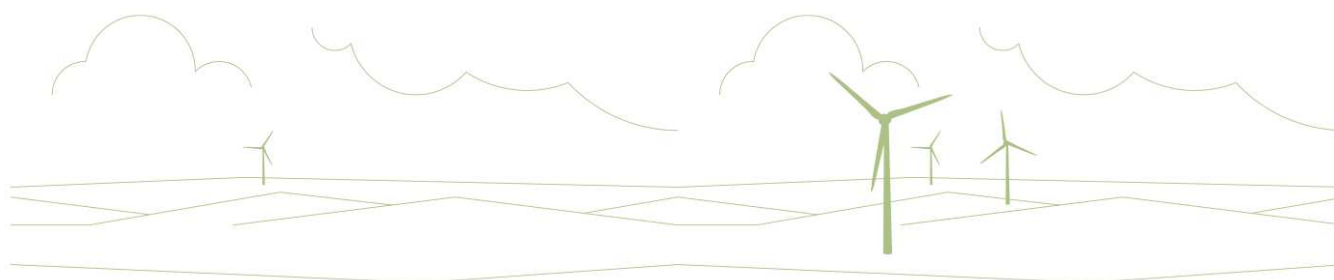


Table of Contents

1	Introduction	2
1.1	Overview	2
1.2	The proposed Development	2
1.3	The Applicant	2
1.4	Consultation guidance and legislation	3
1.5	Report structure	3
2	Consultation measures	4
2.1	Pre-Application meetings with Energy Consents Unit	5
2.2	Pre-Application meeting with Argyll and Bute Council	5
2.3	Scoping	5
2.4	Community Council consultation	6
2.5	Consultation with other organisations	7
2.6	Public Information Days	7
2.7	Website and email	7
3	Public Information Days June 2019	8
3.1	Location	8
3.2	Notification	8
3.3	Newspaper adverts	8
3.4	Posters	8
3.5	Leaflets	8
3.6	Information available at the PIDs	8
3.7	Consultation feedback	9
4	Conclusions	13
4.1	Publication of the EIA Report	13

APPENDICES

Appendix 1:	Copy of Public Information Day Press Adverts June 2019
Appendix 2:	Copy of Leaflets for Public Information Day June 2019
Appendix 3:	Copy of Public Information Day Poster June 2019
Appendix 4:	Copy of Invitation Email to Local Councillors (Example) May 2019
Appendix 5a,b:	Copy of Public Information Day Drawings and Plans June 2019
Appendix 6:	Example Feedback Form



Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

1. This report constitutes a Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report which describes the consultation requirements for the Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development (the proposed Development), the consultation measures undertaken by the applicant ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd (SPR), the feedback received and any resultant modifications to the proposed Development.
2. SPR recognises that it is very important to ensure that communities in the vicinity of any development are afforded appropriate and meaningful opportunities to comment on the proposals before they are finalised in accordance with regulations and good practice guidance.

1.2 The proposed Development

3. Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development would be located approximately 2 kilometres (km) east of Clachan and 2.6 km south west of Whitehouse on the Kintyre peninsula, Argyll and Bute (the Site). The location of the Site is shown on **Figure 1.1**.
4. The Site is wholly located within Argyll and Bute Council (A&BC). The entrances to the Site are located just to the south west of Gartnagrenach and to the west of an existing forestry access track as shown on **Figure 1.2**.
5. The proposed Development would comprise of the best and optimum renewable technologies available at the current time, consisting of 19 wind turbines, ground mounted solar panels and batteries for storing renewable energy. The total renewable energy output would be around 134 MW. The application is therefore for an installed capacity in excess of 100 MW and the final layout is shown on **Figure 3.1**.

1.3 The Applicant

6. Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development is being proposed by ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd (SPR). SPR is part of the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy. SPR now only produce 100% green electricity with a focus on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. SPR is committed to speeding up the transition to cleaner electric transport, improving air quality and over time, driving down bills.
7. SPR is helping to drive the Iberdrola Group's ambition of being the Utility of the Future and is at the forefront of the development of the renewables industry through pioneering ideas, forward thinking and outstanding innovation which, in turn, drives economic success.
8. SPR has a long-standing interest in south west Scotland and currently owns and operates four onshore windfarms in the Argyll and Bute region (Beinn an Tuirc, Beinn an Tuirc 2, Cruach Mhor and Clachan Flats). A fifth windfarm, Beinn an Tuirc 3 has received planning consent and is currently at the pre-construction stage. SPR also own and operate a number of other windfarms in the wider Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway regions. Through SPR's established presence in Argyll and Bute, the Applicant has to-date, contributed over £1.6m of community benefits directly within Argyll and Bute (and over £30m in south west Scotland), contributing to a variety of groups and organisations. It is expected that the proposed Development would establish a community benefit arrangement with local communities and there will also be an option for community investment.

9. SPR recognises the importance of the economic benefits to Scotland and the rest of the UK from investing in onshore wind generation and other renewable energy technologies. SPR constructed eight onshore windfarms in south west Scotland between 2016-17 with a combined capacity of 474 MW. It is estimated that this £1.6 billion investment would have 51% Scottish expenditure content over the lifetime of the projects, provide 31,118 UK Full Time Equivalent (FTE) job years, including 7,768 local FTE years (within SW Scotland), provide £297 million local value-added and £59 million in community benefit funding. It is expected that the proposed Development would further enhance the economic opportunities within the region and would contribute significant local income through business rates.

1.4 Consultation guidance and legislation

10. The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 apply to all developments across Scotland and sets out various criteria that are to be used to differentiate planning applications by development types and to define developments as either National, Major or Local developments. That differentiation is used to ensure that applications are dealt with in an appropriate way to their scale and complexity, allowing decisions to be taken at the most appropriate level.
11. Proposals for renewable energy developments such as the subject application, with a potential electrical capacity greater than 50 MW are subject to the consenting procedures set out in Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Electricity Act) and applications are made directly to the Scottish Ministers.
12. There is no statutory obligation to consult the public under the terms of the Electricity Act application process. Nevertheless, SPR 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 and circular 3:2013-Development Management Procedures. This enables the local community and all those with an interest in the proposals a clear opportunity to provide comment and feedback on the proposals.

1.5 Report structure

13. Following this introductory section, the remainder of this report comprises the following Sections:
- Section 2.0: Consultation Measures
Describes the various types of consultation undertaken for the proposed Development;
 - Section 3.0: Public Information Days June 2019
Describes the consultation process undertaken for the Public Information Days in June 2019 and provides results of the feedback received;
 - Section 4.0: Conclusions
Describes how the consultation process has influenced the design of the proposed Development;
 - Section 5.0: Appendices
Provides copies of the press adverts, posters, leaflets and other information provided for the Public Information Days in June 2019.

2 Consultation measures

14. **Table 2.1** provides an overview of the stages of consultation undertaken for the proposed Development.

Consultation activity	Details	Steps undertaken by SPR
Pre-application Consultation (Regulation 7)	Regulation 7 (2.17) states that: <i>"The prospective applicant must consult every community council any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land on which the proposed development is situated."</i>	In accordance with Regulation 7 the following Community Councils were consulted during the pre-application stages of the proposed Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arran Community Council; • East Kintyre Community Council; • Gigha Community Council; • South Knapdale Community Council; • Tarbert and Skipness Community Council; and • West Kintyre Community Council.
Public Event (Regulation 7)	Regulation 7 (2.19) states: <i>"The prospective applicant is required to hold at least one event for members of the public where they can make comments to the prospective applicant on the proposals."</i>	During the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, SPR held one round of Public Information Days in June 2019 to allow the public to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) view a draft design layout and make any comments or provide information in relation to the layout and the EIA; and ii) view the turbine and renewable energy development layout as informed by the environmental survey works and provide further comments.
Newspaper Advertisement – Public Event (Regulation 7)	Regulation 7 (2.19) states: <i>"Notice of this 'public event' must be published at least 7 days in advance in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the proposed development."</i>	The Public Information Days were advertised in the following newspapers: Public Information Day June 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argyllshire Advertiser (Friday 7th June 2019); and • Campbeltown Courier (Friday 7th June 2019). <p>Examples of the adverts are provided in Appendix 1. Posters were displayed in local shops and village halls in Clachan, Whitehouse, Tarbert and Skipness. Posters were a direct copy of the newspaper advert as shown in Appendix 3.</p> <p>A total of 284 leaflets were distributed to residents within a 5 km radius of the site and included Whitehouse, Clachan, Skipness, Dunmore and Claonaig. An example of the leaflet is provided in Appendix 2.</p> <p>An email informing the Local Councillors of the Public Information Days was issued on 10th June 2019. A sample copy of this email is provided in Appendix 4. Emails were also sent to local Community Councils offering project updates and meetings in early May and June 2019.</p> <p>Outline information about the Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development was also provided on the SPR website for the development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/sheirdrim_renewable_energy_development.aspx </p>

2.1 Pre-Application meetings with Energy Consents Unit

15. Meetings were held between SPR and the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) on 23rd November 2018 where SPR introduced the proposed Development. Key issues discussed at the meeting included:
- the proposed scale of the proposed Development including plans for hybrid technologies such as battery, solar and hydrogen;
 - likely turbine tip heights;
 - recent site investigations and surveys;
 - pre-scoping meeting; scoping update, consultations and the proposed project programme;
 - consent in perpetuity and the issues that this raises;
 - the potential economic benefits to the local communities via community benefit packages and/or community ownership;
 - the possibility of sourcing from local suppliers; and
 - plans and likely programme Public Information Days (PIDs).

2.2 Pre-Application meeting with Argyll and Bute Council

16. A joint meeting was held with Argyll and Bute Council and SNH in Spring 2018 to discuss the proposed Development, which at that time was called the Achaglass Windfarm. The responses of the consultees were considered to be neutral at this stage. This was then followed by an update email to Argyll & Bute Council on 10th April 2019, to inform them of the submission of the Scoping Report.
17. Additional separate meetings were held with:
- Audrey Martin (Transformation Projects and Regeneration Manager) of Argyll and Bute Council on 30th May 2019 to discuss the potential local economic benefits of the Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development; and
 - Jolyon Gritten, Argyll and Bute Access Officer (and Kintyre Way Chairman) on 10th June to discuss opportunities for improved public access to the Site and Kintyre Way.

2.3 Scoping

18. In April 2019 an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report was prepared and submitted to the ECU to accompany a formal request for ECU to provide a Scoping Opinion. As agreed with ECU, a copy of the EIA Scoping Report was issued to the following consultees:
- Argyll and Bute Council (A&BC);
 - Argyll District Salmon Fisheries Board (ADSFB);
 - Argyll Fisheries Trust;
 - Arran Community Council;
 - British Telecom (BT);
 - British Horse Society;
 - Civil Aviation Authority (CAA);
 - Crown Estate Office;
 - Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO);
 - East Kintyre Community Council;
 - Fisheries Management Scotland;
 - Gigha Community Council;
 - Glasgow Prestwick Airport;
 - Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL);
 - Historic Environment Scotland (HES);
 - John Muir Trust;
 - Joint Radio Company;
 - Marine Scotland;
 - Mountaineering Council of Scotland;
 - Mountaineering Scotland;
 - National Air Traffic Services (NATS) Safeguarding;
 - Network Rail;

- North Ayrshire Council (NAC);
- Ofcom;
- RSPB Scotland;
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA);
- Scottish Forestry;
- Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit;
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH);
- Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (Scotways);
- Scottish Water;
- Scottish Wild Land Group;
- Scottish Wildlife Trust;
- South Knapdale Community Council;
- Tarbert & Skipness Community Council;
- The Coal Authority;
- Transport Scotland;
- Visit Scotland;
- West Kintyre Community Council; and
- West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WOSAS) via A&BC.

19. Following a request from Argyll and Bute Council's Local Biodiversity Officer, as part of the Scoping Opinion process, a consultation request was also made to the Argyll Bird Club on 26th June 2019.
20. Consultation responses received as part of the Scoping process have been considered in the EIA and the issues raised are reported in Chapter 6 of the EIA Report (EIAR).

2.4 Community Council consultation

21. SPR has kept the six Community Councils local to the proposed Development informed of project progress in relation to the Met Mast Planning Application in December 2018 and the Scoping submission in April 2019. SPR also sent emails to invite the Community Councils to the PID events in early May 2019 followed by letters to confirm the dates of the Public Information Days (PIDs) held in June 2019 (see an example email to the Community Council's in **Appendix 4**). The six Community Councils that have been contacted are:
- Arran Community Council;
 - East Kintyre Community Council;
 - Gigha Community Council;
 - South Knapdale Community Council;
 - Tarbert and Skipness Community Council; and
 - West Kintyre Community Council.
22. SPR offered to hold private meetings with the Community Councils, and six Local Councillors, prior to the PIDs, to allow for specific concerns and questions to be raised in a focussed setting in advance of the public and any busy periods. Only West Kintyre Community Council (WKCC) and South Knapdale Community Council (SKCC) accepted the offer, with two members from WKCC attending a meeting on 29th May 2019 and some members from SKCC attending a site visit with a follow up meeting on 19th June 2019. Some Community Council members also attended the PIDs when the general public were also in attendance (see section 3 below).
23. The meeting with members of WKCC discussed a range of matters relating to the proposed Development and its surrounding area such as: potential viewpoints; improvements to public access; the local flood assessment study for Clachan; the transport route and effects on roads and public users; fuel support payments; the need for good community consultation and dialogue; as well as the overall approach to development of renewable energy and infrastructure projects within the Kintyre Peninsular.
24. On the 19th June SPR met members of SKCC on the site of the proposed Development. All parties travelled around the Site stopping at various points of interest and discussed potential turbine locations and potential views/impacts. Afterwards, all parties then travelled to Kilberry where they were joined by other members of the community council and spoke at length answering any project questions. SPR provided visibility of the updated project layout plans and spoke about design

considerations and changes to the layout since the Scoping Report including the potential installation of solar and battery storage technologies. Since the meeting some members of the SKCC have contacted SPR requesting further information on the potential community benefits of the proposal.

25. Some residents of Clachan Village have also contacted SPR separately to discuss local issues and to request visualisations and computer generated views from their residences or local viewpoints which were issued by SPR
26. In July 2019 after the PIDs SPR also attended a special community council meeting with West Kintyre Community Council on the 22nd July in Whitehouse, this meeting was advertised in the local area through the use of posters distributed by the chair of West Kintyre Community Council. Members of South Knapdale and East Kintyre Community Council were also in attendance at this meeting. The following matters were discussed:
- Key Design Changes
 - Design Enhancements and access improvements
 - Main concerns relating to landscape and visual are related to views from Clachan
 - Transport disruption
 - Ongoing flood studies in Clachan
 - The requirement for a tourism impact assessment in the entire peninsula
 - Potential for community investment
27. Feedback from all of the above meetings was noted and taken into consideration during the progression of the proposed Development.

2.5 Consultation with other organisations

28. In addition to the ECU, Council and local Community Councils, the following organisations were consulted in June 2019 to inform them of the PIDs, progress to date and obtain their views and input on the proposed Development:
- Kintyre Way (in a joint meeting with the Argyll and Bute Access Officer on 10th June); and
 - Kintyre Way - update meeting on 23rd July
29. At the meeting on 10th June 2019 the following issues were discussed with a view to incorporating these items when or wherever possible into the final design of the proposed Development: fencing of any solar arrays and any mitigation required if this blocks access routes for walkers e.g. along the Kintyre Way; creation of circular routes where possible; signage, information boards and sponsorship; potential for shelters; and localised route improvements.
30. At the meeting on 23rd July 2019 the potential benefits in terms of enhancements and upgrades to the Kintyre Way were discussed.

2.6 Public Information Days

31. In June 2019, three PIDs were undertaken to establish dialogue with the local community regarding the proposed Development, in Clachan on the 17 June 2019, Whitehouse on the 18 June and in Skipness on the 19 June 2019.
32. Each PID contained A3 and A1 Site Location Plans and A3 and A1 Plans of the Proposed Transport Route for the proposed Development, as well as a 3D computerised model of the proposed turbine layout. The 3D model allows an interested person to gain an understanding of what the proposed Development may look like from any viewpoint in a defined area from the Site. The PIDs allowed local residents to view the initial wind turbine layout and ask any questions specific to the Renewable Energy Development. Further information on the PIDs is presented in section 3 of this report.

2.7 Website and email

33. SPR hosts a page dedicated to the proposed Development on its website to allow people to view details about the Development and contact the project team for further information:
https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/sheirdrim_renewable_energy_development.aspx
34. SPR can also be contacted about the proposed Development by emailing: sheirdrimrenewables@scottishpower.com.

3 Public Information Days June 2019

3.1 Location

35. The PIDs were held at Clachan Village Hall, Whitehouse Village Hall and Skipness Village Hall over three days as detailed in **Table 3.1**. These locations were chosen because of the proximity of the halls to the proposed Development and as accessible and central locations relative to the communities being consulted. The events were open from the mid-afternoon to evening to try to maximise opportunities for people to attend.

36. **Table 3.1** June 2019 Public Information Days

Venue	Day	Date	Time
Clachan Village Hall, 1 Lagnagortan, Clachan, PA29 6XW	Monday	17 June 2019	3 – 7pm
Whitehouse Village Hall, Whitehouse, PA29 6XR	Tuesday	18 June 2019	3 – 7pm
Skipness Village Hall, Skipness, PA29 6XT	Wednesday	19 June 2019	3 – 7pm

3.2 Notification

37. In keeping with the spirit of Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, SPR advertised that a pre-application public event was being arranged to publicise the forthcoming planning application within the area. The PIDs were advertised in several ways to help ensure as many local residents as possible were made aware of the proposed Development.

3.3 Newspaper adverts

38. Public notices were placed in the Argyllshire Advertiser and the Campbeltown Courier. The public notices set out the purpose of the public events and provided details of the event.
39. The notices were provided more than 7 days prior to the event with the notice published in both publications on Friday 7 June 2019. Copies of these notices are contained in this document as **Appendix 1**.

3.4 Posters

40. Posters advertising the PIDs were placed in local shops and notice boards in the surrounding areas as well as Tarbert. The poster was a copy of the newspaper advert and is shown in **Appendix 3**.

3.5 Leaflets

41. In advance of the PIDs, SPR distributed leaflets to 284 households within a 5 km radius of the proposed Development, which included Whitehouse, Clachan, Skipness, Dunmore and Claonaig. The 5km distance was extended to ensure all residents of Skipness were included. The leaflets set out the purpose of the public events, provided details of the event and provided contact details for further information from the SPR. Leaflets were also available to the public at the Public Information Days. A copy of the leaflet is provided in **Appendix 2**.

3.6 Information available at the PIDs

42. Copies of the Drawings and Plans that were available and on display at the PIDs are contained within **Appendix 5**. The information presented included: a Location Plan for the proposed Development including the potential location for the solar arrays; the proposed transport route to Site for the wind turbine components; copies of the Scoping Report (submitted in April

2019) which included details about the Environmental Impact Assessment process and survey work; and information and facts about wind energy in general.

43. An interactive, 3D computer modelling tool was also available for the public to view and assess the likely visual effect from different locations e.g. personalised views from their own property. The computer model was a 'bare earth model' i.e. containing no intervening buildings or trees/vegetation between the viewpoint location and the proposed Development and is therefore considered to afford a worst-case view of the proposed turbine layout.

3.7 Consultation feedback

44. Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (paragraph 6) notes that throughout the planning system, opportunities exist for everyone to engage in the development decisions which may affect them. Engagement should be early, meaningful and proportionate. Expressions of support and concern should be taken into account in developing proposals.
45. Attendees to the June 2019 PIDs were invited to complete a feedback form (reproduced in **Appendix 6**) about the proposed Development. 51 people attended the exhibition over the three days (21 at Clachan, 22 at Whitehouse and 8 at Skipness) and in total 21 feedback forms were returned (41%). This fairly low level of attendance but high level of feedback response is considered to be due to the local community's prior experience of windfarm consultation events, coupled with their interest in influencing the effects/benefits of the renewable energy development. However, in addition, the presence of a knowledgeable development team meant that they were able to answer many queries and stimulate discussion, while the 3D computer modelling tool helped to address many other immediate questions.
46. The geographical spread of attendees that completed the feedback forms were as follows:
- Clachan (and surrounding area) - 10;
 - Whitehouse - 5;
 - South Knapdale – 1; and
 - Skipness – 5.
47. Comments suggest that out of the 21 respondents, 5 were generally in support of the proposed Development and 13 had expressed some degree of negative comments or were opposed to it and 3 made no comment on their views of the proposed Development
48. A summary of comments received is presented in **Table 3.2**.
49. **Table 3.2** Feedback Received from the June 2019 Public Information Days.

Topic	Comment
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement that SPR had provided a very informative and professional presentation and that all the staff were very patient and helpful. • Support for the proposed Development and windfarms as fossil fuels are running out and Kintyre is a good site for wind power. • Support for other types of renewable energy e.g. geothermal, with wind turbines acceptable in the interim until other technologies come forward. • Acknowledgement that green energy is needed but that Kintyre has reached capacity in terms of windfarms. • There is a perception that the planning application will be consented by the Scottish Government, despite local opinion because previous infrastructure applications have been consented despite an objection from Argyll and Bute Council, a key consultee e.g. Crossaig substation and Hunterston Cable Route. Therefore, the local community feel that all they can hope for is additional community benefits and improved access to open areas. • A perception that big business is taking advantage of small communities for financial benefit with no consideration for local communities. • Windfarms should be re-located offshore.

Topic	Comment
Environment & Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environment and landscape should be accessible for people and wildlife to co-exist in a respectful way. Support for any ideas which provide and upgrade access, maintain or increase access to open areas and provide information to the public e.g. information boards, archaeological features and heritage trails etc., which will promote access and understanding and make it more interesting and accessible. Access to the windfarm area should be maintained during the operational life for walkers and horse riders. This is currently not the case at other windfarms in the local area. The Kintyre Way long distance footpath would be negatively affected, but access to this walk/area shouldn't be removed or reduced. The Kintyre Way Ultra (running event) is currently run over sections of the Kintyre Way and has been described as the 'Best Ultra, Best Views, Best Organisation'. It could be badly affected by an increase in the number of turbines along the route, from this application and in combination with others. The development could be used to result in improvements to the Kintyre Way, including the path over the moors which can be very wet and boggy.
Cumulative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The peninsula has reached its environmental capacity for further windfarms. Acknowledgement that we all need to rely more on renewable forms of energy, but onshore windfarms are extremely intrusive. Concerns about the cumulative effects of the excessive and overwhelming number of turbines in this area. At present there are 11 existing turbine areas on the Kintyre Peninsula and more alarmingly, at least six or more in planning/development. Existing turbines are simply joining together to make one huge expanse. Feeling that this area has more than enough turbines to fulfil its obligation. There is a feeling that the presence of more and more turbines will detract from the beauty of Argyll and these turbines are turning the landscape into an industrial landscape. There is concern that the middle spine of Kintyre is becoming full of turbines and that this is detrimental to visitors and is spoiling the scenery and tranquillity of the area. Are even more turbines planned for the spine of Kintyre? Despite supporting renewable energy in general, the number of turbines that will be seen from the B8801 is considered unacceptable. At the moment, 11 Freasdail turbines can be seen, with Escairt turbines still to be built (13 in total) and then potentially another 19 more from Sheirdrim.
Landscape and Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The visual impact of the proposed Development on the community of Clachan will be quite immense and needs to be reduced. The turbines are too near the village. Feedback on the layout was provided with respect to the dominance of certain turbines but not others, which were thought to be acceptable. Some or all of the turbines were considered too close to properties, roads and viewpoints from a visual perspective. A suggestion that the turbines could be painted a different colour to blend in with the sky/landscape more. The height of the wind turbines is considered excessive and disproportionate to the landscape. The effect that this windfarm (and others) will have on the landscape makes it totally unacceptable.
Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is concern for the safety of wildlife such birds and particularly birds of prey.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the turbines are too close to properties from a noise perspective. Turbines are spoiling the tranquillity of the existing area.
Socio-economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kintyre Peninsula is a draw for tourists and the beautiful landscape should be preserved. Recently three tourist offices have been closed down between Campbeltown -Tarbert - Lochgilphead and Inveraray.

Topic	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Arran to Claonaig the first sight from the ferry will be very tall turbines and these much higher than the existing Freasdail turbines. Request for detail of any Community Benefits which would be forthcoming from SPR if the windfarm is consented. Would materials and the turbines be sourced from manufacturers e.g. in Campbeltown? There is support for Community Benefit Funds to support local initiatives and buildings. Clachan village would like to see more funding for the Clachan Village Hall which is beyond repair and residents would like SPR to contact the community to discuss this further. Fuel payments to permanent residents only would be very divisive within the community as any visual damage would be done to all properties and their residents/rental families. The STEM workbook that has been produced by Allenergy as part of the education role they are delivering with the region appears to be very interesting.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were expressed in relation to vehicle access, timing of access, speed of vehicles, dirt, dust and noise pollution. Concern was also expressed in relation to the transport route for the turbines and other materials. The state of the roads between Campbeltown and Clachan at present is considered very unsuitable and in a state of disrepair. A condition of the planning consent should be that a road upgrade and damage to the A83 would be at the developers cost.

50. In addition to the written responses, verbal feedback covered many topics, with many attendees asking for more information about:

- cumulative impacts: the perception that the area has reached a saturation point with the number of windfarms already in the area;
- the cumulative and sequential effects of windfarms in Argyll & Bute reaching capacity as well as the Scottish Governments approach to delivering targets;
- the combined cumulative visual effect with Freasdail and Eascairt;
- effect on tourism and tourist routes and views from the water;
- community benefit and in particular what the local communities will receive in return for the visual effects of more wind turbines e.g. fuel subsidies, infrastructure improvements like broadband, support for community initiatives and buildings etc;
- landscape and visual effects especially potential visibility from residences, the A83 and B8001;
- potential for enhanced expenditure/jobs in the local area as a result of the construction and operation of proposed Development;
- the effect on and enhancement of the Kintyre Way, including requests for additional access (ideally circular routes) into the proposed Development area from the Clachan/Whitehouse areas including parking and equestrian/bike and pedestrian friendly gates;
- noise and construction noise effects especially from turbine delivery and construction traffic;
- effects on wildlife from the presence of turbines and construction works;
- noise effects from any grid connection given the local solid geology;
- effect on water quality for salmon hatcheries;
- access to the windfarm site post construction for recreation;
- requests that with developing technology, storage capacity and capability will be an integrated aspect of the proposed Development; and
- suggestions to start building windfarms in the Central Belt of Scotland, or on the edges of towns and cities, to allow rural communities to attract tourists and tourism businesses.

51. All of the topics and questions raised through the consultation have been addressed in the EIA Report for the proposed Development. For example, many of the viewpoint comments were addressed at the time by SPR/SLR use of a 3D computer

modelling tool which provided the public with an accurate depiction of how the proposal would look from their personalised viewpoints.

52. In response to traffic concerns the potential for 2 access points has been considered as well as investigating other options for the delivery of the larger components (passing places & night time deliveries)
53. In addition, and specifically in response to the suggestions for open and enhanced recreational access, SPR has committed to include the following:
- access tracks between the Site and the Kintyre Way;
 - a bird hide close to Loch Chorra-riabhaich;
 - a weather shelter on the Kintyre Way;
 - a view point on Cruach nam Fiadh; and
 - information boards in respect of local history associated with the archaeological features near to the Kintyre way that were identified during site surveys

4 Conclusions

54. The key design objectives for the development of the proposed Development were as follows:
- consideration of the form of the underlying landscape and its scale;
 - sensitive siting of the proposed infrastructure incorporating appropriate buffer distances from environmental receptors to avoid or reduce effects on the environment;
 - considering the size and scale of the proposed Development appropriate to the location and proximity to residential areas;
 - re-using existing forestry tracks and borrow pits as much as possible to access proposed turbine locations;
 - design of the tracks to minimise cut and fill, reducing landscape and visual effects as well as costs;
 - inclusion and design of borrow pit(s) to minimise the amount of the material required to be imported to the Site; and
 - potential for up to 50m micro-siting of infrastructure during construction to ensure the best possible location is chosen based on detailed Site investigations taking into account that T1, T3, T4, T7 and T11 move no closer to the nearest residential receptor;
 - satisfactory relationship with the adjacent operational Freasdale Windfarm by being perceived as a discrete group of larger wind turbines adjacent to Freasdale Windfarm, which minimises visual confusion between the different sized turbines;
 - limit impacts on priority peatland and carbon areas; and
 - create a scheme which maximises the potential of the Site to generate and store renewable energy.

55. Up to 26 turbines were considered on the Site in scoping, although the final layout of 19 turbines for the proposed Development was a result of obtaining information from the extensive environmental surveys, consultations and feedback received at the PIDs.

56. Concerns and questions raised by consultees and members of the public at the PIDs have been addressed through the assessments presented in the EIA Report.

4.1 Publication of the EIA Report

57. SPR has a duty to undertake statutory publication of the EIA Report in accordance with Part 5 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990.

58. A notice will be published as follows:

- on the project website;
- in the Herald;
- in the Edinburgh Gazette; and
- in the Argyllshire Advertiser, the Campbeltown Courier and the Oban Times (which cover the area in which the proposed Development would be located).

59. In addition to the formal notifications of the application SPR has:

- provided a Non-Technical Summary of the EIA Report and DVD of the entire application submission to each Community Council invited to the public consultation events;
- made available free of charge further copies of the Non-Technical Summary of the EIA Report; maintained a dedicated email address sheirdrimrenewables@scottishpower.com to receive comments relating to the Proposed Development; and
- maintained ongoing contact, through email, telephone conversations and meetings, with local residents and Community Councils at their request.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Copy of Public Information Day Press Adverts June 2019

Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development

Public Information Days

ScottishPower Renewables invites you to attend a Public Information Day on the draft proposals for the Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development.

ScottishPower Renewables is proposing to develop Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development, located in the northern end of the Kintyre peninsula and approximately 10km south-west of Tarbert, within Argyll and Bute.

The proposed Development is anticipated to consist of approximately 26 wind turbines with tip heights of up to 149.9m with blade lengths of up to 65m. The deployment of other renewable technologies within the site is also being proposed, including solar photovoltaic (solar PV) generation and battery storage.

Early consultation is key to developing our projects and throughout the development process we ensure local communities and stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback and are kept informed of project progress.

We are holding public information days to provide details of the proposed scheme, the progress to date, to introduce the project team and to answer any questions you may have. The public information days will be held as follows:

Monday 17 June 2019
3pm until 7pm
Clachan Village Hall
1 Lagnagortan, Clachan, PA29 6XW

Tuesday 18 June 2019
3pm until 7pm
Whitehouse Village Hall
Whitehouse PA29 6XR

Wednesday 19 June 2019
3pm until 7pm
Skipness Village Hall
Skipness PA29 6XT

The project team can be contacted directly by emailing:
sheirdrimrenewables@scottishpower.com.

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com

[@SPRenewables](https://twitter.com/SPRenewables)



SCOTTISHPOWER
RENEWABLES

Appendix 2: Copy of Leaflets for Public Information Day June 2019



**SCOTTISHPOWER
RENEWABLES**



Clachan Village Hall
1 Lagnagortan
Clachan PA29 6XW

17 June 2019 from 3pm until 7pm

Whitehouse Village Hall
Whitehouse
PA29 6XR

18 June 2019 from 3pm until 7pm

Skipness Village Hall
Skipness
PA29 6XT

19 June 2019 from 3pm until 7pm

Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development

Public Information Days

Why are we contacting you?

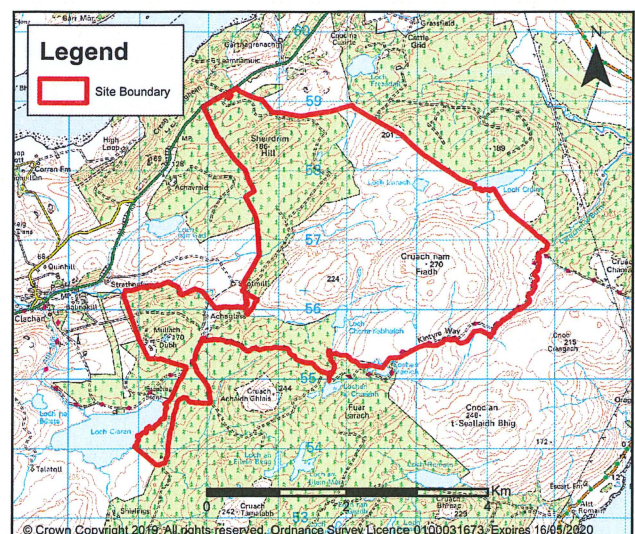
ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) invites you to attend information days to introduce proposals to develop Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development, located in the northern end of the Kintyre peninsula and approximately 10km south-west of Tarbert, within Argyll and Bute.

The proposed Development is anticipated to consist of approximately 26 wind turbines with tip heights of up to 149.9m with blade lengths of up to 65m. The deployment of other renewable technologies within the site is also being proposed, including solar photovoltaic (solar PV) generation and battery storage.

Early consultation is key to developing our projects and throughout the development process we ensure local communities and stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback and are kept informed of project progress. This Public Information Day is a great opportunity for SPR to hear the thoughts of the local community on this project. It is also a chance for you to meet the project team, learn more about the renewable energy project development process, to find out about

the survey work we have undertaken and to ask any questions you may have about the project.

Development Location



Next Steps

After meeting with your community and gathering feedback on our proposals, we will continue to update the design of the proposed development ahead of submitting an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, which we are anticipating to be in autumn 2019.

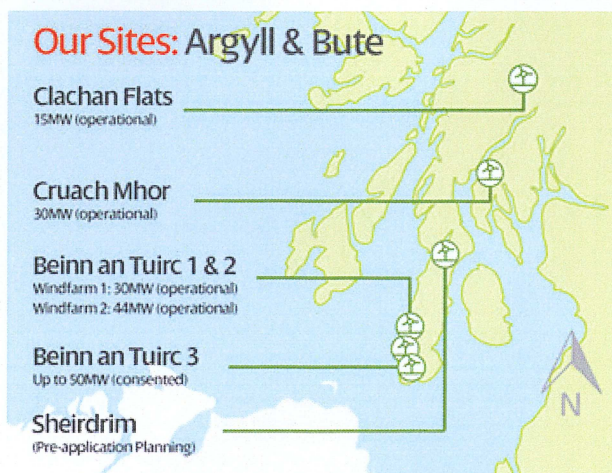
Who are we?

ScottishPower Renewables is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy. ScottishPower now only produces 100% green electricity – focusing on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. The company is investing over £4m every working day in 2019 to make this happen and is committed to speeding up the transition to cleaner electric transport, improving air quality and over time, driving down bills to deliver a better future, quicker for everyone.

ScottishPower Renewables is at the forefront of the development of the renewables industry through pioneering ideas, forward thinking and outstanding innovation. Our ambitious growth plans include expansion of our existing onshore wind portfolio, investment in new large scale solar deployment and innovative grid storage systems including batteries. The company is also delivering the Iberdrola Group's offshore windfarms in the southern North Sea off East Anglia as part of an international pipeline of projects across Europe and the USA.

With over 40 operational windfarms, we manage all our sites through our world leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow.

SPR strive to be good neighbours in all aspects of their work and are committed to Argyll and Bute and to maximising the opportunities for local communities to benefit from their projects.



Did you know?

To date, SPR's operational windfarms have contributed more than £29 million of support towards community initiatives across the UK, with their existing local windfarms (Cruach Mhor, Clachan Flats and Beinn an Tuirc) contributing over £1,500,000.00 of support to Argyll and Bute communities.

With established sites nearby, SPR has a history of working positively with local communities within the region. We are keen to ensure employment and the business skills required to maximise economic benefits can be delivered locally to ensure those who live near our sites benefit.

Responsible Design

We believe in open consultation and welcome your feedback to inform the renewable energy site design process. Our proposals have been shaped by the results of ongoing environmental and technical studies we have undertaken at the proposed site. We also give careful consideration to how this proposal fits within the existing landscape, considering its visibility from key viewpoints in the surrounding area.



Powering your community

We are committed to being a responsible developer of renewable energy and we strive to be good neighbours in all areas of our work.

We encourage as many people as possible to get involved in and to learn more about our projects, particularly in understanding the local economic and social benefits our developments can create.

As the development of Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development progresses we will engage with communities, stakeholders and the local council to determine how benefits could be delivered to best meet the needs of the local area, should the project be consented.

Contact us

The project team can be contacted directly by writing to:

ScottishPower Renewables

ScottishPower House
320 St Vincent Street
Glasgow
G2 5AD

or emailing:

sheirdrimrenewables@scottishpower.com

Appendix 3: Copy of Public Information Day Poster June 2019

Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development

Public Information Days

ScottishPower Renewables invites you to attend a Public Information Day on the draft proposals for the Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development.

ScottishPower Renewables is proposing to develop Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development, located in the northern end of the Kintyre peninsula and approximately 10km south-west of Tarbert, within Argyll and Bute.

The proposed Development is anticipated to consist of approximately 26 wind turbines with tip heights of up to 149.9m with blade lengths of up to 65m. The deployment of other renewable technologies within the site is also being proposed, including solar photovoltaic (solar PV) generation and battery storage.

Early consultation is key to developing our projects and throughout the development process we ensure local communities and stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback and are kept informed of project progress.

We are holding public information days to provide details of the proposed scheme, the progress to date, to introduce the project team and to answer any questions you may have. The public information days will be held as follows:

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Appendix 4: Copy of Invitation Email to Local Councillors (Example) May 2019

10th June 2019

Dear Councillor XXXXX,

I wanted to get in touch to inform you of our proposal to investigate the potential for a Renewable Energy Development at Sheirdim Hill, located north of Clachan and approximately 10km south-west of Tarbert in Argyll & Bute. We are in the very early stages of development and wanted to provide an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking and plan to undertake in relation to this site.

In 2016 we installed a meteorological mast at Sheirdim Hill in the south-eastern part of the site and a second has been installed this month (June 2019).

At present we are investigating the potential for wind turbines to be installed on the site with tip heights of up to 149.9m. We have assessed bird activity early in the area and full ornithology surveys will continue over 2019 and beyond. We will also be undertaking a range of other environmental surveys throughout the course of this year to fully understand the sites potential for development. In addition to wind turbines, we are investigating the potential for alternative renewable energy technologies to be installed on the site including a number of solar arrays and battery storage. This will help us meet our increasing demands for clean energy, and will help meet Scottish Government targets for renewable energy, a low carbon economy, and provide for energy security.

As part of the development process we have now submitted a Scoping Report to the Scottish Government. The scoping report is available to view on our project website at the following web address:

https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/sheirdim_renewable_energy_development

I would be very happy to meet with yourself to discuss the proposals if you would find this helpful. We will be hosting Public Information Days in the area to provide further details on the project in the coming months and would like to invite you to the following events:

- 17/06/2019 – Clachan Village Hall
- 18/06/2019 – Whitehouse Village Hall
- 19/06/2019 – Skipness Village Hall

Further details of the events are included in the attached leaflet.

If you would like further information on the proposal at this stage I would be very grateful if you could email the project mailbox at sheirdimrenewables@scottishpower.com.

Yours sincerely,



Sean Pearson | Assistant Project Manager

Onshore Project Development

ScottishPower Renewables

9th Floor ScottishPower HQ, 320 St Vincent St, Glasgow, G2 5AB

spearson@scottishpower.com



Before printing this message, make sure it's necessary.

The environment is in our hands