Appendix 4b
COD Panels – November 22

WELCOME TO TORRANCE WIND FARM EXTENSION 2 COMMUNITY OPEN DAY


Existing Torrance Wind Farms

Welcome to the second round of public consultation for the Torrance Wind Farm Extension 2.

Utilising the natural environment to harness clean, zero-carbon energy, this extension project will, if consented, support local construction companies along with local supply chains during construction and operation, offer community benefit and support the long-term future of active farm land locally.

Here you will find a selection of information banners outlining the proposal including the changes we've made following the first round of public consultation.

Please take your time to study the information and please do not hesitate to speak with any of the project team members who are here to answer your questions.

If you would like to leave a written comment, please help yourself to a 'Voice Your Opinion' comment form, available from the reception desk.

Site Description

The proposed development site is located on land belonging to a number of local farmers neighbouring the operational Torrance Wind Farm and Torrance Wind Farm Extension. The site is situated directly north of the eastbound BP Harthill services station on the M8 motorway and approximately 2km south of Blackridge, North Lanarkshire.

Development

Infinergy is a renewable energy company developing onshore wind farms throughout the United Kingdom. The company has in-house expertise and experience needed to design, develop, build and operate wind energy developments.

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

- Our website **www.torrancewindfarmextension2.co.uk** will be updated regularly to provide you with the latest information. We will publish the planning application documents, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, on the website once the application has been submitted.
- Ring the freephone number **0800 980 4299**
- Email us at **info@torrancewindfarmextension2.co.uk**
- Write to us using **Freepost Infinergy Ltd**

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THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Infinergy is currently developing a proposal to add up to four wind turbines to the existing Torrance Wind Farms on land located directly to the north of the M8 Eastbound Harthill BP Services, North Lanarkshire.

At this stage, turbine tip heights of up to 200 metres (656 feet) are being proposed with an installed capacity of up to 26.4 Megawatts (MW).

Environmental, technical and commercial considerations throughout the design process will continue to inform the final number of turbines as well as their dimensions.

Submission of the planning application for Torrance Wind Farm Extension 2 is expected to be December 2022.

Construction and Access

Should Torrance Wind Farm Extension 2 be consented, construction would not be expected to commence until approximately summer 2024.

Along with the wind turbines, the proposed development will consist of a temporary construction compound; access tracks; crane hardstanding areas; and a substation to allow the green electricity generated to feed into the National Grid.

Route to Site

The potential effects of construction traffic will be assessed throughout the design and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, and in consultation with North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) and Transport Scotland.

At present, turbine deliveries are expected to arrive at King George V Harbour, Glasgow. The turbines would exit the harbour and continue east on the M8, turning north onto the Site located to the north of Harthill Eastbound Services. This access will be used for abnormal loads only. All other construction vehicles are proposed to use either the same entrance as the turbine components or, subject to ongoing discussions with BP, via an alternative entrance off the B718, Westcraigs Road.

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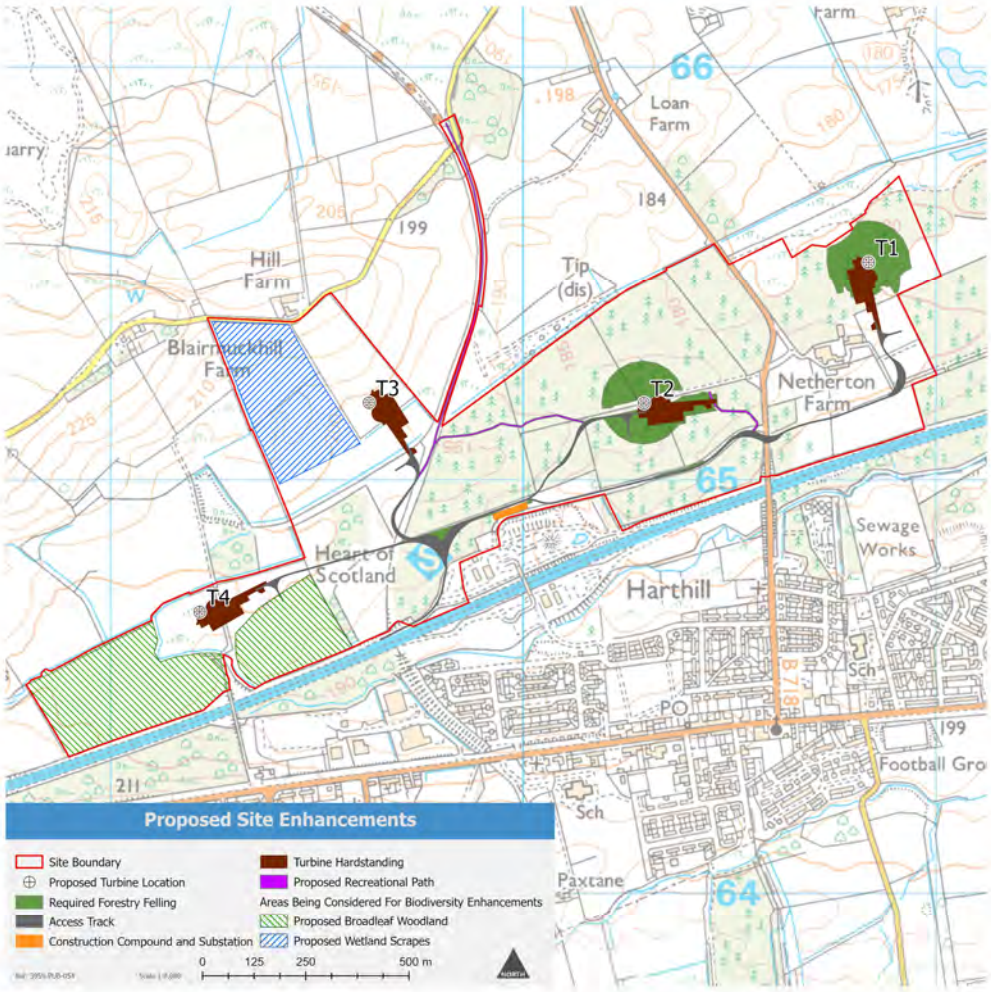
THE PROPOSED LAYOUT



How have our studies influenced the layout?

The main environmental constraints which have defined the layout are as follows:

Landscape and Visual: A complex cumulative position with operational turbines of different sizes.

Peat: Based on surveys carried out on site, there is a minimal amount of deep peat (greater than 1 m) located within the site. Turbines and infrastructure have been positioned to avoid these areas.

Noise: Following the completion of a 'background noise assessment', the turbines have been positioned to ensure they remain within strict national and local guidelines for noise limits.

Sensitive Habitats: positioning of turbines has taken account of sensitive ecological habitats, including peatlands and ground water dependent terrestrial ecosystems.

Cultural Heritage: both the turbines and related infrastructure have been positioned to minimise impacts on known cultural heritage assets.

Water Environment: the layout has maintained standard separation distances from watercourses and private water supplies.

In addition, the layout has been influenced by wind resource analysis carried out by Infinergy. A more detailed wind measurement campaign will be carried out prior to construction, if consented.

What's changed since the last Open Days?

In August we presented the 'first draft' of our proposed layout at open days held in Harthill and Blackridge. Since then we have made the following amendments:

- On site access tracks for turbine no.4 have been amended to minimise environmental impacts;
- Additional network of recreational paths within the forest around turbine no.2 has been included;
- A recreational path connection from the proposed on site access tracks to the core path located to the north of the site has been included. This would in turn create a recreational connection between Blackridge and Harthill; and
- We will also include additional biodiversity enhancement measures (tree planting, wild flower seeding, bird & bat boxes and additional provision of wader scrapes).

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT


Whitburn Properties at Polkemmet

A full EIA is now in the process of being assessed and written for the Torrance Wind Farm Extension 2 proposal. This extensive study will form part of the formal application to be made to North Lanarkshire Council.

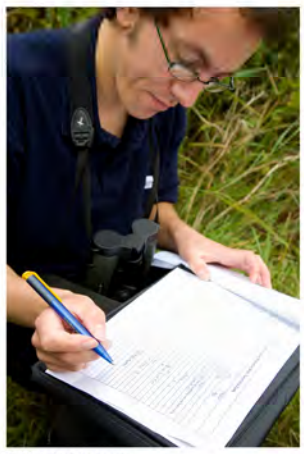
The environmental impact assessment process includes:

- Consultation with the local planning authority, various organisations and the public to identify specific concerns and issues;
- Determining the existing conditions at and around the proposed wind farm site by reviewing the available data and undertaking specialist field surveys;
- Assessing the potential impacts on the existing environment; and
- Mitigation proposals to alleviate any significant impacts identified.

To date we have carried out extensive surveys in line with planning policy and guidance to gather data on the following:

- Ornithology;
- Protected species;
- Priority habitats;
- Carbon rich soils and priority peatland habitats;
- Hydrology;
- Noise;
- Landscape and visual impact;
- Traffic and Transport;
- Archaeology/cultural heritage;
- Aviation;
- Telecommunications; and
- Forestry.

Other desk-based assessments, critical to the planning application will include appraising the impacts of the proposed development on socio-economics and climate change.


Field studies in progress

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ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS


Dunn Terrace, Harthill

Ecology and Ornithology

A programme of ecological and ornithological surveys has been carried out on the site. The results will be used to ensure that any impacts on wildlife are altogether avoided or mitigated if necessary. In addition, we will be including proposals for biodiversity enhancements that the development could deliver.

Ornithology surveys

In consultation with NatureScot, a comprehensive bird survey programme has been completed to ensure the latest data is collected. This includes breeding bird surveys and flight activity surveys. Overall, the aim is to ensure all present bird species are accurately accounted for and any impacts on them is correctly assessed.

Ecology surveys

The ecology surveys include:

- A Phase 1 habitat survey;
- A National Vegetation Classification survey;
- Protected species surveys (badger, otter, water vole, great crested newts); and
- Bat surveys (remote monitoring).

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

The effects of the proposed development on the historic environment, including cultural heritage and archaeology, is currently being assessed.

Surveys concluded that there are several undesignated assets within the Site but no Scheduled Monuments within 1 km. There is a single Category A Listed Building within 1 km of the Site. These findings have been considered during the design process. The EIA will assess the magnitude and significance of effects on heritage assets in the surrounding area.


noise monitoring equipment

Peat

A Phase 1 Peat Survey has been undertaken to establish the peat depth across the Site. There are a few isolated areas with peat depths between 0 – 0.5 m on the Site and very limited areas with peat greater than 0.5 m in depth.

Following the results of this survey, the proposed layout has been designed to avoid areas of deep peat. If required, a 'Peat Management Plan' will also be prepared to accompany the planning application.

Noise

There are two potential sources of noise:

1. The turbine blades passing through the air as they rotate
2. The rotation of the gearbox and generator in the hub of the turbine

Standing next to a turbine, it is possible to hear a swishing sound as the blades rotate.

Wind turbine technology, year-on-year has continued to improve around the world. As a result the industry has seen improvements not only in electrical output but also importantly reducing noise levels even further.

Generally wind turbine noise levels increase as wind speeds increase, however, so does the background noise level as the wind blows around the local area.

How is noise assessed and measured?

Noise is measured in decibels - dB(A).

Wind farm noise is assessed based on guidance provided by ETSU-R-97 "The Assessment & Rating of Noise from Wind Farms".

Appropriate noise assessments will ensure that the proposed development would comply with the regulations. As part of the application process, North Lanarkshire Council's Environmental Health Officer will continue to be consulted.

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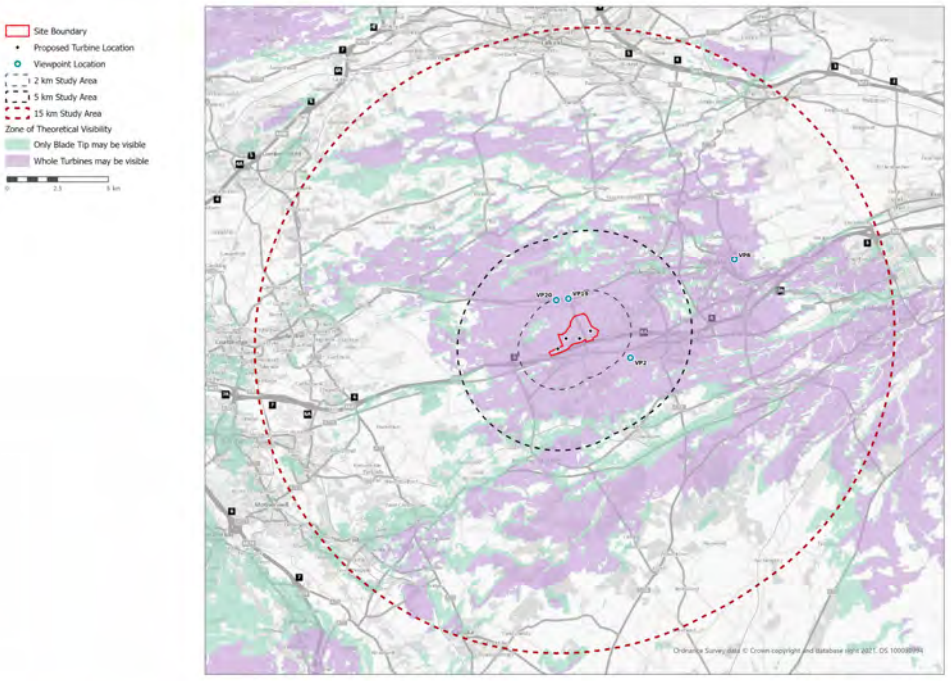
LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT



Detailed Comparative ZTV

A landscape and visual impact assessment establishes the potential effects of the proposed development on the surrounding landscape. The current design consists of four turbines up to 200 m (656 feet) to blade tip.

A zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) as shown above is a computer-generated tool that establishes the likely extent of the visibility of a proposed development and key visual receptors. A ZTV based on preliminary design options has been prepared to inform the landscape and visual impact assessment. This ZTV assumes no vegetation or buildings and so is worst case.

The ZTV highlights the areas where the proposed turbines will be visible. This is supported by producing and analysing wirelines and photomontages from several agreed viewpoints that give a clearer picture of what the proposed turbines would look like.

On the next two banners you will see four different photomontages with their respective viewpoint location plans. These are to give you an indication of how the wind farm might look. The final EIA Report will include a number of additional local viewpoints and provide further detail on each one. Once sumitted to North Lanarkshire Council these photomontages will be available to view/download from the Project website. Hard copies will also be issued to the local Commuity Councils for consultation purposes.

Why tip heights of 200 metres?

There are a number of reasons why the proposed tip height is higher than operational developments in situ locally. Firstly, the taller the wind turbine, the more wind it is able to capture. As a result, far more green electricity is generated, maximising the site's energy yield. Furthermore, wind turbine manufacturers are continuously improving turbine technology and addressing the specific needs of other countries globally. Elsewhere in the world, it has become commonplace for 200 m and higher turbines to be erected. In response, turbine manufactures are following this global market trend and removing the smaller turbine models (<150 m) from their production line. By choosing a 200 m turbine model we are not only maximising the site's capacity but also ensuring the proposed development, if permitted, can be developed without delays in turbine procurement.

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THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Torrance Wind Farm Extension 2 will work closely with local communities, businesses and residents in seeking to ensure that the project will bring tangible benefits to local people as well as help meet national climate change and energy security needs.

Business, Jobs and Investment

We would like to hear from local businesses to ensure that we can fully consider the skills and services of local people and suppliers if the Torrance Wind Farm Extension 2 receives approval.

The opportunities available would include:

- Engineering, procurement and construction contractor;
- Construction material suppliers: concrete, aggregate and building materials;
- Electrical contractors: supply and installation of plant, cabling, earthing, etc.;
- Plant and equipment hire contractors: excavation earthworks, cranage, welfare units, etc.;
- Labour hire companies: engineers, plant operatives and general labourers; and
- Transport: taxis and minibuses for local labourers.

Local Accommodation Providers

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

Community Benefit

Community Benefit is something that comes as part and parcel of renewable energy developments these days and whilst it is not considered in terms of the planning application, the Scottish Government has set the bar in terms of the amount a project is expected to contribute. This amount is £5,000 per MW of operational capacity.

With Torrance Wind Farm Extension 2, this would mean **up to £132,000** per year for the lifetime of the scheme depending on the final number and capacity of wind turbines.

We want to try to ensure that the funds help the surrounding communities become more resilient and sustainable in the long term. Following initial feedback, we will work with the local community funding bodies to ensure the proposed funds are able to address the needs of your community.

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

Please feel free to write any ideas that you have on how community benefit could make a positive contribution to your local community on a 'Voice Your Opinion' comment form, which is available from the reception desk.

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WHAT NEXT?

We hope to submit the planning application for Torrance Wind Farm Extension 2 to North Lanarkshire Council by Autumn 2022.

An EIA Report including all the results from the surveys will be submitted with the planning application to NLC. All the submitted documents will be uploaded to our website: www.torrancewindfarmextension2.co.uk under 'Downloads'.

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

Consultees

Professional bodies in the fields of ecology, aviation, noise, landscape, cultural heritage, transport etc will all be consulted. To help the council assess the proposal, not only do they listen to you, the local residents, but also the following consultees:

- Ministry of Defence
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Ofcom
- NatureScot
- RSPB
- Local Community Councils
- VisitScotland
- National Air Traffic Services
- SEPA

The timeline shown below has been updated to give an indication of possible timescales should the proposal be deemed acceptable and is subject to change depending on the planning process.

Contact points:

Email: info@torrancewindfarmextension2.co.uk

Freephone: 0800 980 4299

Post: FREEPOST INFINERGY

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