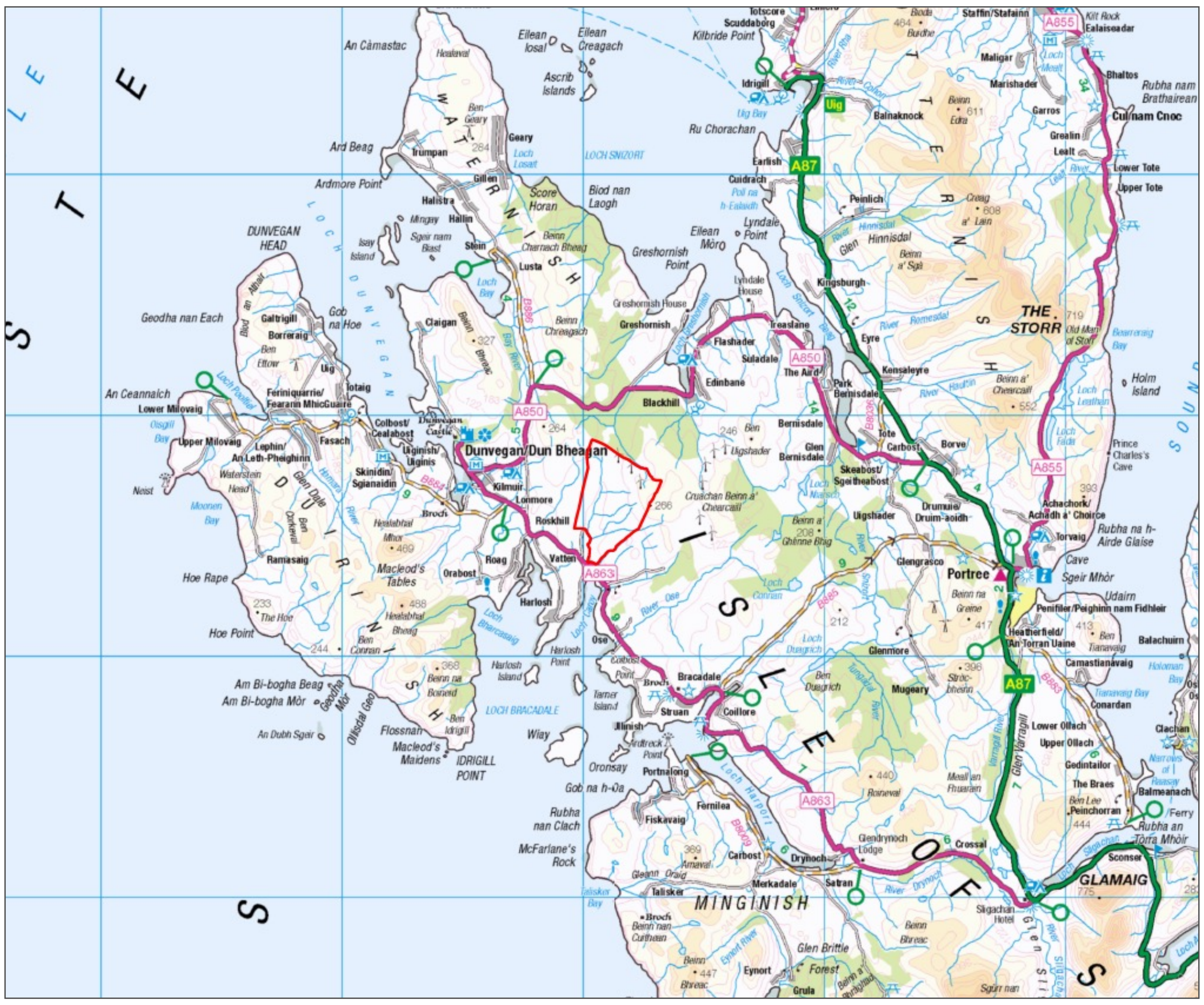
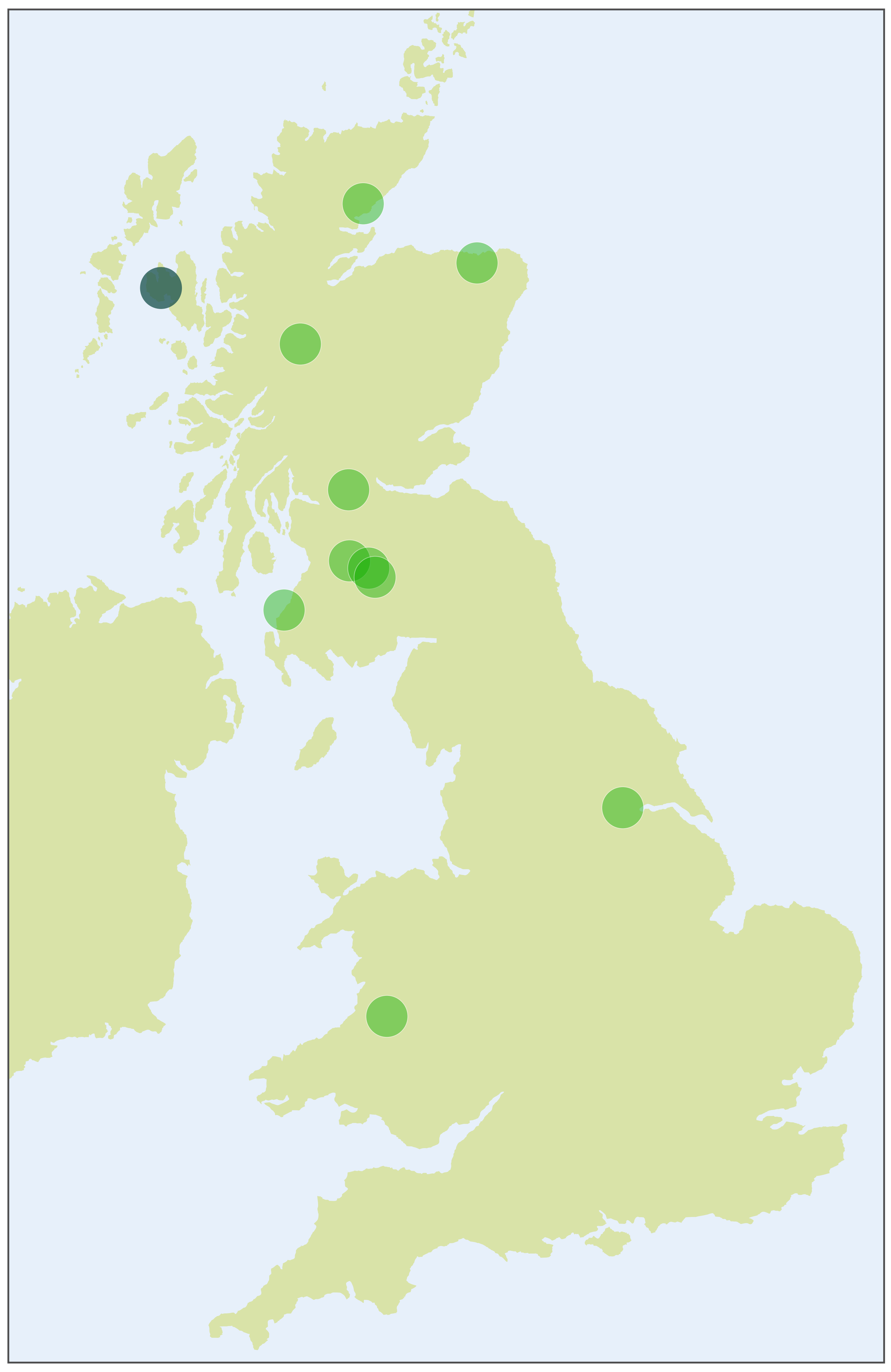
Welcome to our public consultation event

Falck Renewables
PURE POWER TO GROW



Site location



Falck Renewables wind farm locations

Welcome to the public consultation for the proposed repowering and extension of the existing Ben Aketil Wind Farm

Ben Aketil Wind Farm is an existing wind farm near the town of Dunvegan on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. The wind farm comprises twelve turbines that are 99.5 m to tip.

Due to several factors, including the impending end of life of the existing turbines and advances in wind power technology, Falck Renewables wishes to repower and extend the Ben Aketil Wind Farm.

Repowering explained

Repowering is the process of replacing older first-generation wind turbines with more powerful models that use the latest technology and are capable of producing significantly more electricity more efficiently. The process is carried out within a timeframe that allows replacement of the older units before they come to the end of their operational life.

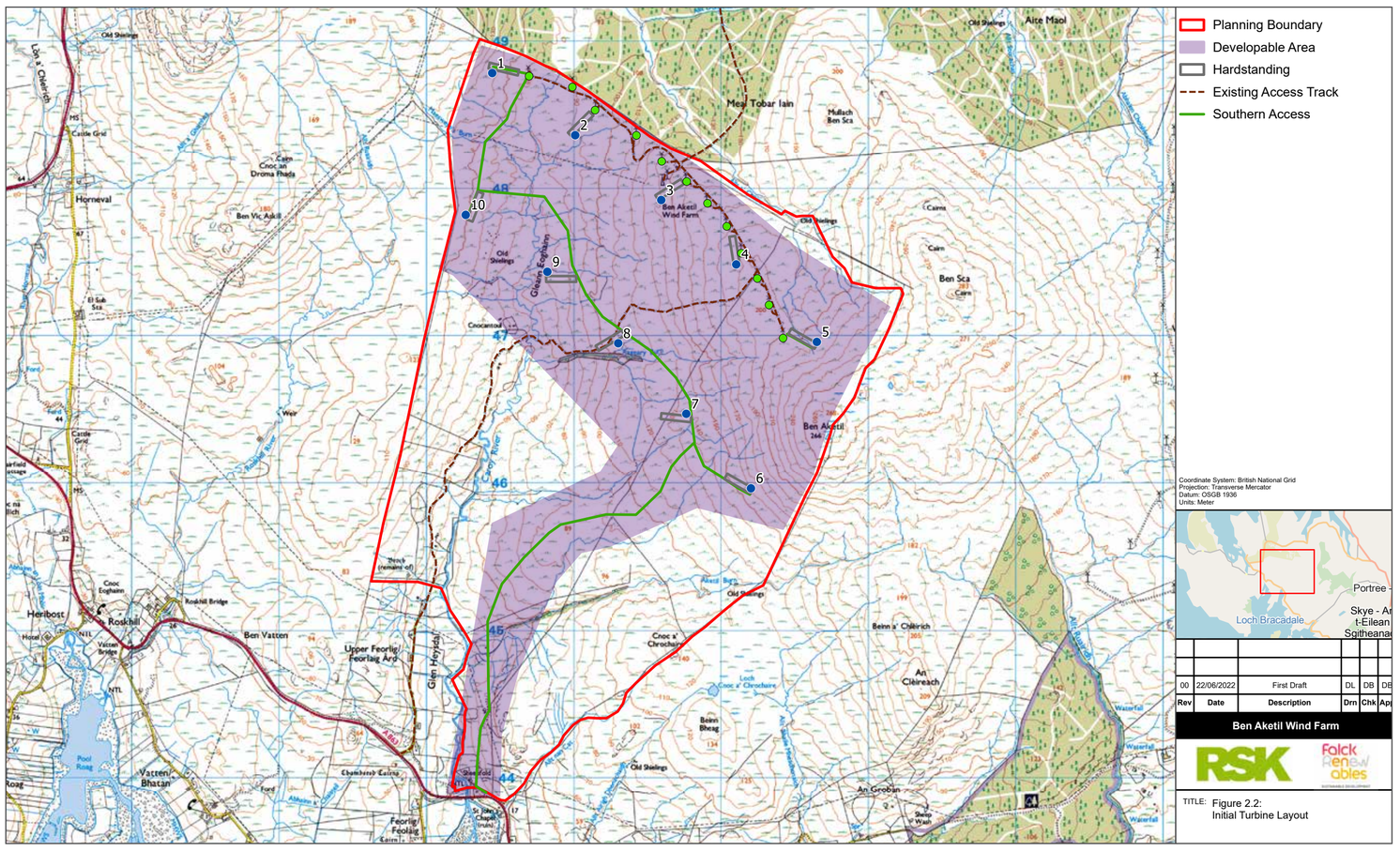
Developer

Falck Renewables develops, designs, builds and manages power plants that use renewable sources, with an installed capacity of more than 1.4 GW in the UK, Italy, USA, Spain, France, Norway and Sweden.

Since 2002,the company has been active in the UK, where it operates 12 onshore wind farms (413 MW) and has pioneered community and co-operative ownership in wind energy.

Earlier this year, the Falck family sold its stake in the company to the Infrastructure Investments Fund (IIF). IIF will partner with Falck Renewables to accelerate its growth plan and reinforce its leadership position in the renewable energy sector.

The proposed development



Initial turbine layout

Description of the proposal

Falck Renewables plans to replace the existing turbines with fewer, larger turbines that are each capable of producing more than double the electricity of the existing operational turbines. It is expected that the proposed development will deliver energy generation in excess of 50MW. Environmental, technical and commercial considerations throughout the design process will inform the final number and layout of turbines.

The proposed Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm will have up to 10 turbines of a height of up to 200 m to the blade tip. An initial layout of the proposed development has been developed, although the final turbine selection and layout will be informed by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that will assess the environmental consequences of the development.

The plans include battery storage capacity to maximise the use of the grid connection and to help balance the national electricity transmission grid.

Options for the potential reuse of the materials from the existing turbines are currently under consideration.

Construction and access

- The project will require one or more construction compounds, access tracks and watercourse crossings to enable construction.
- Several site access options are being considered for vehicles delivering construction materials and turbine components:
  - Northern access – via the existing wind farm access
  - Southern access – via a new track to be constructed from the A863
  - Access via an existing crofters track, which would require upgrading to meet the specifications for all construction and turbine delivery vehicles.
- Watercourse crossings will be installed as required. Their design will be in accordance with Scottish Government best practice and with due regard for Scottish Environment Protection Agency guidelines.
- Crushed stone will be used to construct new tracks, to create hardstanding areas for cranes and to lay foundations, with stone and aggregate sources to be confirmed during the design process and EIA phase.
- Crushed stone from the hardstanding for the existing turbines to be decommissioned will be reused for the new turbine hardstanding areas.
- Two options are being considered for construction phasing:
  - Installing the extension turbines first, and then replacing the existing turbines; or
  - Replacing the existing turbines and installing the extension turbines simultaneously.

Environmental impact assesment

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RSK has been appointed to carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment of The Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm. This study will form part of the formal application for consent to Scottish Ministers.

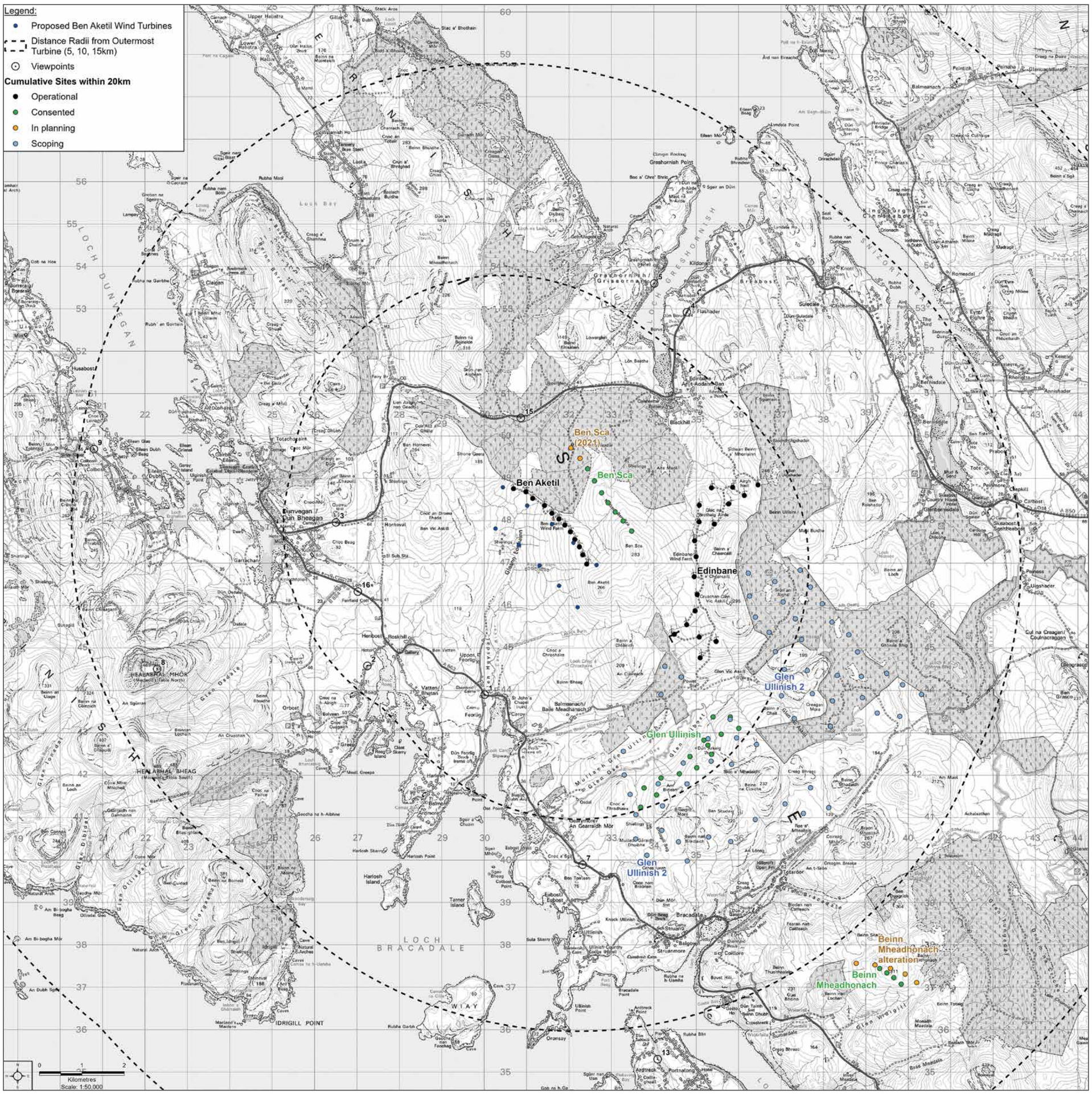
The Environmental Impact Assessment process includes:

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

The environmental impact assessment will include detailed studies for the following disciplines:

- Landscape and visual assessment
- Ecological and ornithological impact
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Geology, hydrogeology, hydrology and peat
- Telecommunications
- Noise
- Traffic and transport
- Aviation
- Shadow flicker
- Climate change
- Socio-economics.

Landscape and visual impact



Cumulative developments study area

A zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) is a computer-generated tool that establishes the likely extent of the visibility of a proposed development and key visual receptors. A ZTV has been prepared, based on preliminary design options, to inform the landscape and visual impact assessment.

The ZTV indicates the areas where turbines will be visible, based on the relief of the surrounding study area (45 km from the outer turbines).

This is supported by producing and analysing wirelines and photomontages from several agreed viewpoints that give a clearer picture of what the new turbines would look like.

The new turbines will be up to 200 m tall; however, a detailed assessment of their potential impacts will be considered when deciding on the final layout of the development and the turbines to be used.

Zone of theoretical visibility

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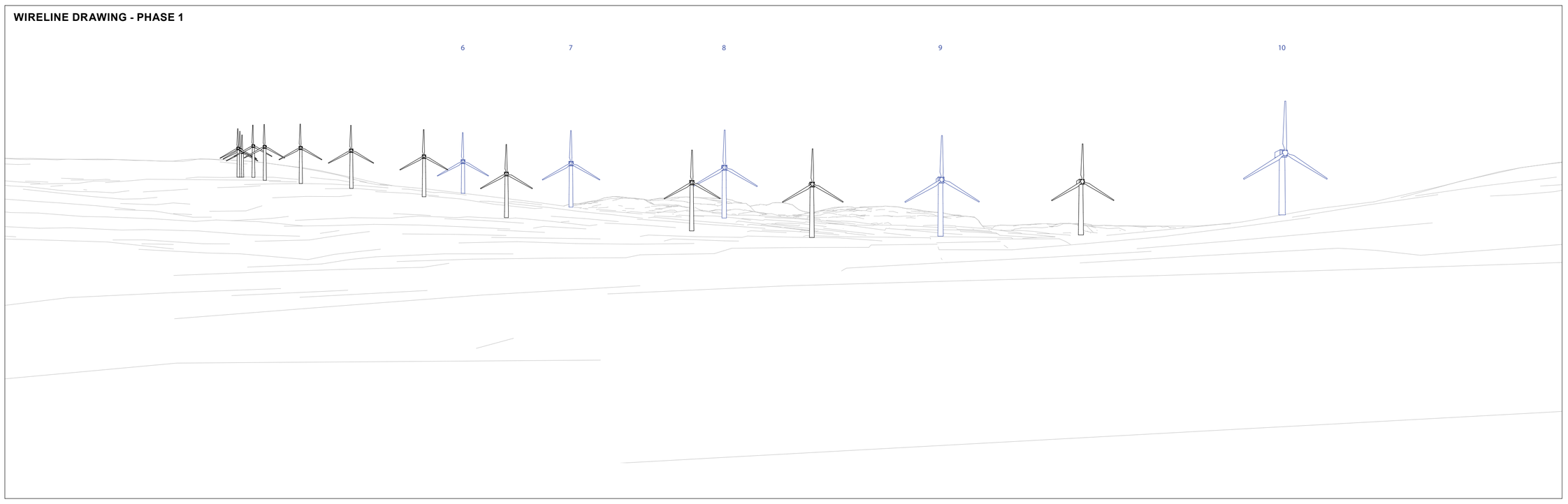
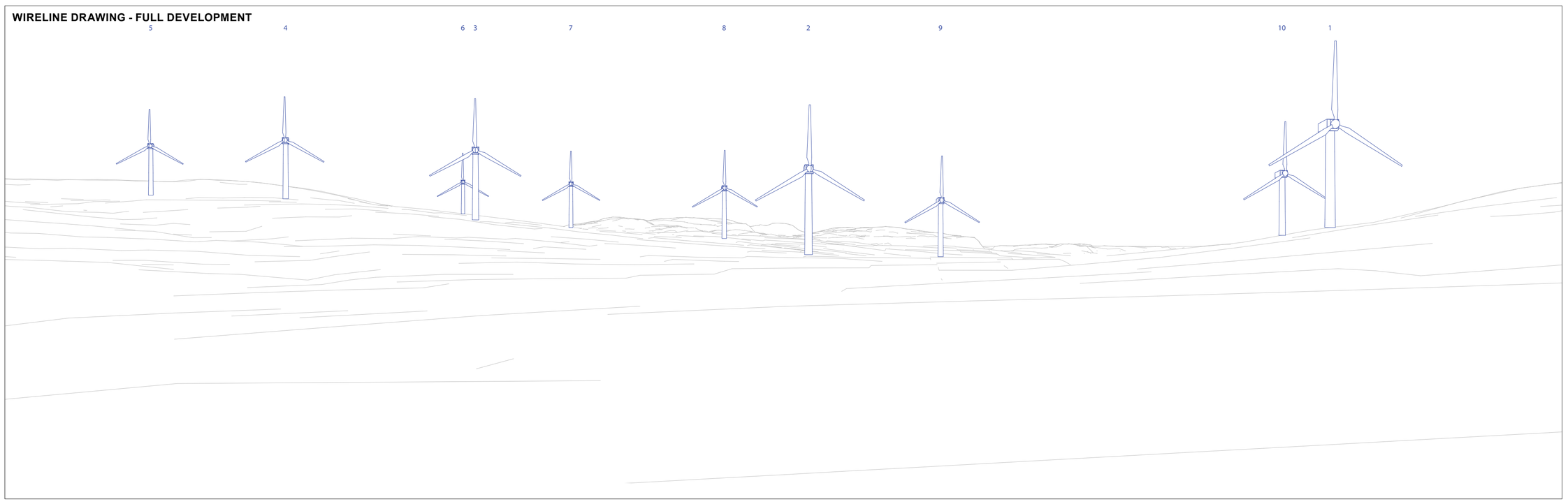
www.benaketilwindfarm.co.uk

Visualisations



Phased construction wireline drawing. Existing turbines (black) alongside the proposed new extension turbines (blue)



Completed development wireline drawing

Date July 2022	By DT
Image Size 820 x 260mm	QA KA
Paper Size 840 x 549mm	Rev -
0262-Comparative-Wires-EXAMPLE.indd	

Notes:

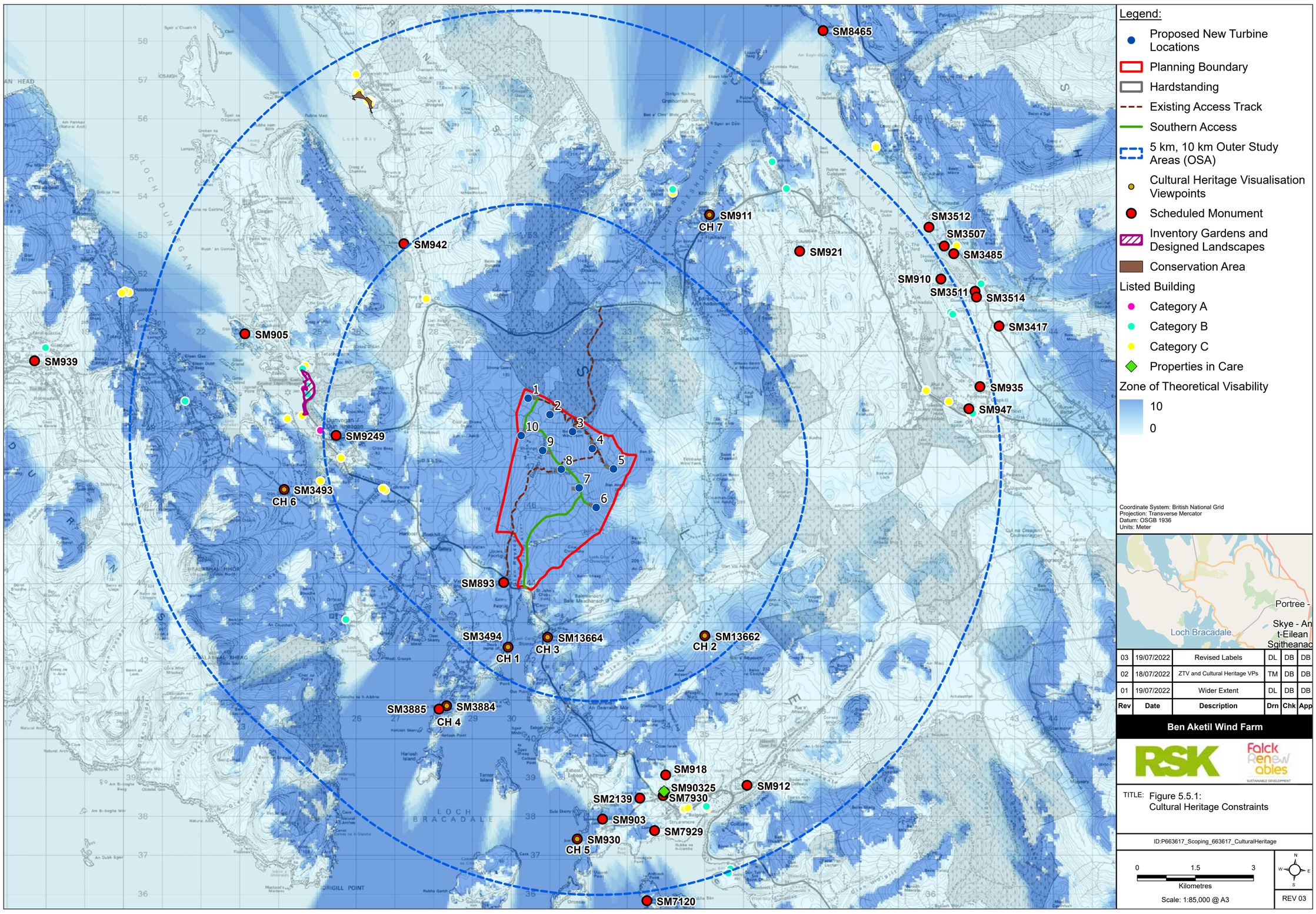
1) This visualisation is a planar projection panorama. View flat at a comfortable arm's length.
2) This data has been output directly from the wireline model. It ignores screening effects of woodland and other intervening objects.
3) All directions given as bearings relative to Grid North (BNG).
4) Location map scale: 1:50,000

Viewpoint Information:	
Grid Reference:	130864E 850423N
Ground Height:	111.3m AOD
Direction of Centre of View: ³	175°
Horizontal Field of View:	53.5°
Vertical Field of View:	18.2°
Viewing Distance:	813.4mm

Ben Aketil Phase 1 Information:	
Layout:	ben-aketil-phase-1.wfl
Hub Height:	115m
Height to Blade Tip:	200m
Nearest Visible Turbine:	T10 @ 2672m
Number of Sets of Tips Visible: ²	10
Number of Hubs Visible: ²	10

Ben Aketil Full Development Information:	
Layout:	ben-aketil-final.wfl
Hub Height:	115m
Height to Blade Tip:	200m
Nearest Visible Turbine:	T1 @ 761m
Number of Sets of Tips Visible: ²	5
Number of Hubs Visible: ²	5

Cultural heritage and archaeology



Cultural heritage study areas

The effects of the proposed development on the historic environment, including cultural heritage and archaeology, will be assessed. This study will consider the wind farm's direct and indirect effects on known and potential receptors. The potential impacts include

- Construction impacts (direct or indirect physical impacts, and impacts on setting) on designated and non-designated heritage assets such as cairns and abandoned farmsteads
- Construction impacts on previously unrecorded heritage assets
- Operational impacts on the setting of heritage assets.

When the known heritage assets have been established and the potential for the presence of previously unknown heritage assets has been assessed, the environmental impact assessment will assess the magnitude and significance of the impact on heritage assets in the area.

Ecology and ornithlology

A programme of ecological and ornithological surveys is being carried out on the site. The results will be used to ensure that any impacts on wildlife are mitigated.

In addition, opportunities for biodiversity enhancements that the development could deliver will be explored in consultation with specialist interest groups.

Ornithology surveys

A comprehensive survey programme is under way to identify the use of the site and its wider surroundings by sensitive bird populations.

Ecology surveys

The ecology surveys include

- A Phase 1 habitat survey
- A National Vegetation Classification survey
- Terrestrial mammal surveys
- Bat activity surveys
- A bat preliminary roost assessment survey
- A fish habitat survey.

The site largely comprises blanket bog and wet modified bog, with small areas of dry and wet heath, and acid and marshy grassland. A variety of acid flushes and springs are found across the survey area, primarily within the blanket bog habitats.

Habitats within the southern extent of the site along the southern access are a mix of improved fields for fodder and grazing with some remnant patches of bog and some areas of planted broadleaf woodland and acid grassland. The site is bordered to the north by a dense Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine plantation, some of which shows fire damage.

Several streams and burns of peat-stained water drain across the site, with the main watershed draining through the Caroy River.

The local community

Falck Renewables will work closely with local communities, businesses and residents to ensure that the proposed Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm will continue to bring real benefits to the local area while helping to meet national climate-change targets.

Business, employment and investment

Falck Renewables would like to hear from businesses on the Isle of Skye, in the Highlands and across Scotland to ensure that it is fully aware of the skills and services of local people and suppliers if The Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm receives approval.

The opportunities available include those for

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

If you are a local company and would like to register your interest, please email **alan.macintyre@falckrenewables.com**.

Local accommodation providers

Construction projects of this nature inevitably require some specialist technicians from outside the area, so they will require local accommodation and catering facilities.

Community benefit

Falck Renewables invites the local community to help shape a community benefit package that best meets local needs and wishes. Falck Renewables already works closely with the Dunvegan Community Trust, which administers the funding that has been provided from Ben Aketil Wind Farm since 2008. If this project receives consent, Falck Renewables will continue to work with the Trust to support the valuable work it does in the community

What next?

This public exhibition is one of the early steps in the consultation process. We welcome your feedback on our initial proposals to help us refine the details of The Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm.

When the application for consent is submitted to the Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Government will undertake its own consultation process, when the public will be invited to make formal comments on the proposals.

You can view more information on our website:

www.benaketilwindfarm.co.uk

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Online feedback form link: **https://arcg.is/1mfS9z2**