

 Fred. Olsen Renewables

Scawd Law Wind Farm Exhibition

September 2021

Welcome

Welcome to this exhibition about our proposals to develop Scawd Law Wind Farm, located on the Holylee Estate approximately 4 km north of Walkerburn.

Having undertaken a range of consultation and had various conversations with the local community and key stakeholders, we would like to provide an update on:

- How we have listened to feedback
- How the proposed development has changed
- The opportunities that our plans present

We hope that holding a series of different events will allow everyone the opportunity to view and comment on our proposals.

Consultation is an important part of the development process. We welcome your feedback and opinions. Please complete a feedback form, or contact the team to discuss the plans further.

e communities@fredolsen.co.uk
t **07435 763 900**
w www.scawdlawwindfarm.co.uk



About Fred. Olsen Renewables

Fred. Olsen Renewables Ltd has been developing and operating wind farms in the UK since the mid-1990s. Our operational wind farm portfolio, which is all in Scotland, comprises a total generating capacity of 529.7 MW and we have an extensive pipeline of projects.

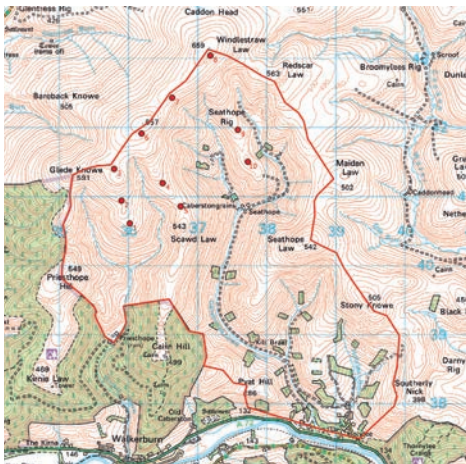
We are currently one of the leading independent renewable power producers in the UK and engagement with key stakeholders and the local communities surrounding our sites is at the heart of all we do.

By being involved in every aspect of a wind farm's lifecycle, from site selection to planning, construction and operation, we are not only experts in developing successful projects – we are good neighbours.

Our proposals

The proposed wind farm is located on the Holylee Estate approximately 4 km north of Walkerburn in the Scottish Borders. The site, which lies along two ridges, comprises a mix of heather moorland and is currently used for sheep farming.

We have been working closely with the local community to bring forward our proposals. We were initially considering a wind farm layout that comprised up to 12 turbines at 180m to tip, alongside associated infrastructure.



However, following consultation and in response to feedback, we have amended our proposals. The plans now consist of the following key elements:

- Ten turbines up to 180m to blade tip
- Energy Storage Facility
- Turbine foundations and hardstandings
- External transformer housing
- Onsite substation and control building
- Underground electricity cables between the turbines
- Access tracks
- Crane pads
- Construction compound
- Laydown areas

Layout and Design Process

In order to determine the final location of the wind turbines many factors have been considered. This includes:

- Wind resource
- Engineering constraints
- Visual impact
- Impact on sensitive habitats
- Proximity to areas of ecological interest

Development Process

We submitted a scoping report to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in January 2021.

This described our draft proposal and invited the views of consultees on the scope of the EIA.

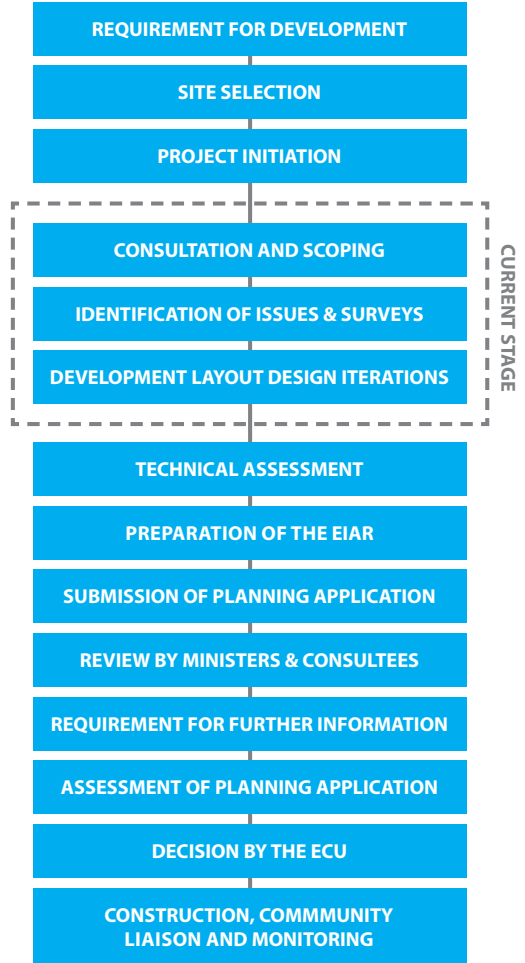
Responses to the scoping report were received in March 2021. The feedback that we received determined the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Following the scoping process, baseline surveys were carried out. These surveys have informed the layout of the site seeking to minimise effects on the local environment. We are now carrying out the assessments and making final adjustments to the layout. This seeks to reduce any potential effects of the project before presenting the process and findings in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA-R). The EIA-R will accompany the application to the ECU.

The EIA-R will consider, amongst others:

- Ornithology
- Ecology
- Landscape and visual matters
- Noise

Our Development Process



Environmental Impact Assessment

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being undertaken to identify and assess the potential significant environmental effects of the proposal. The information gathered through the EIA process will help to shape the design and layout of the proposed development and required mitigation measures.

This includes, amongst others:

Ornithology

This assessment considers any potential effect on local bird assemblages during construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm.

As a result of scoping process, the potential effects of the Scawd Law Wind Farm on black grouse, goshawk, golden plover, curlew and snipe will be assessed in the EIA Report (EIA-R). The assessments carried out to date conclude that there will be no significant effect on any of the ornithological features. Still, embedded mitigation measures will be applied prior and during construction to ensure the compliance with the Wildlife Countryside Act (1981) as amended, and to follow good practice guidance and consultation recommendations with regard to breeding birds.

Ecology

This assessment considers any potential effect on local flora and fauna during construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind

farm, with the exception of birds which are assessed separately. As a result of scoping process, the potential effects of the Scawd Law Wind Farm on designated sites, habitats, bats, otter, badger, red squirrel and fish will be assessed in the EIA Report.

The assessments to date have concluded that there will be no significant effect on any of the ecological features. However, embedded mitigation measures will be applied prior and during construction to ensure the compliance with the Wildlife Countryside Act (1981) as amended, and to follow good practice guidance. Furthermore, a Habitat Management Plan will be implemented to reduce any impacts from construction and to restore and enhance habitats during the operational phase of the project.

Cultural Heritage

The plans have been designed to minimise any direct effects on cultural heritage assets on the site. Therefore, this assessment considers the potential indirect effects on cultural heritage assets in the wider area. Careful consideration will be given to any potential impacts on the setting of cultural heritage assets such as Traquair House.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat

This assessment considers the hydrological, geological and hydrogeological characteristics of the proposed development site, and helps to inform appropriate mitigation proposals.



Environmental Impact Assessment

Aviation and Telecommunications

Assessments and consultation has been undertaken to assess whether the turbines adversely affect the operations of commercial and Ministry of Defence aviation and other assets. The ultimate goal is that the final assessment will take place on a design which has no impact on airport or military operations or has viable mitigation measures agreed with the relevant authority.

As turbines are up to 150m to tip, aviation lighting is required at the site. Visible lighting is proposed on the four corner turbines only, with infra-red lights on all turbines to meet military requirements. The visible lights will be of a type with a narrow horizontal beam, dimmed to 10% of intensity during periods of good visibility, and to only come on between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise. An assessment of the visual impacts of lighting will be included in the Land and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), including night-time visualisations and photomontages from agreed view point locations. This will be in line with the best practice.

Assessments on nearby utilities indicate that there are unlikely to be any significant effects on telecommunications.

Socioeconomics

Predicted socioeconomic benefits of the proposed development will be outlined within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA-R). This includes economic and supply chain benefits on local, regional and national levels during the construction and operational periods of the proposed development.

Noise

This assessment will consider the effects of operational noise on nearby sensitive receptors, including in combination with other nearby wind farms.

Construction noise predictions have not been carried out due to the large separation distances between on-site construction activities and sensitive residential receptors. They are, however, likely to be below noise criteria. The construction of the proposed development is suitably remote such that no cumulative construction projects would be likely to cause any significant impacts.

Traffic and Transport

This assessment considers the impact on traffic volumes and the transport network during the construction period, operational phase and decommissioning phase of the proposed development. Based on feedback received to date we are exploring alternative transport arrangements.

Landscape and Visual Amenity

When the design layout is complete a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the proposed development will be carried out to consider effects on:

- **Landscape fabric** - changes to the physical form of the landscape and its elements
- **Landscape character** - changes in the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape as a result of the development
- **Visual amenity** - changes in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development

The proposed development will be analysed to identify elements with the potential to cause an effect on the landscape within a 45km study area.

Photomontages and ZTV

The images presented at this exhibition have been prepared to illustrate the visual impact of the proposed draft layout from four viewpoint locations. Photographs from each of these viewpoints have had wind turbines added using computer generated software.

A preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) diagram has been generated for the proposed development that indicates the number of turbines theoretically visible from any location within the study area.

This means that from those areas that are coloured you may be able to see the proposed development. The different colours let you know how many wind turbines you may be able to see.

The ZTV does not consider trees and buildings. These can often screen views so that fewer or no turbines are actually visible. The ZTV gives an initial idea of those areas from which you may be able to see the wind farm. This is checked by landscape architects during site visits.

Should you wish to receive the ZTV and photomontages in hard copy please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing communities@fredolsen.co.uk.



Community Benefit

If consented, Scawd Law Wind Farm will provide over £10m in community benefit throughout the lifespan of the project.

We have been working with the community to ensure that the community benefit can address identified local challenges. Such as:

- Local recreation
- Improving access
- Connectivity
- Fuel poverty
- Energy consumption

In addition to the community benefit we are offering a community ownership package of up to 5% shared revenue.

This could allow the community the opportunity to create a sustainable income stream – supporting long term initiatives and aspirations.

We would encourage the communities close to the wind farm to consider if they would like to take advantage of this.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss community ownership further and will also gladly signpost the community to useful resources that can provide guidance and support.

We want to hear your views on how the wind farm can continue to support your community and meet local aspirations. Get in touch by emailing

communities@fredolsen.co.uk.





Improving Recreational Access

We have been exploring the potential to include mountain bike and walking trails within the wind farm development. It is intended that a planning application for the multi-use trails will be submitted to the Council on consent of the wind farm.

Prior to the submission of the wind farm application, we propose to enter into a formal agreement with the community to provide the confidence that Scawd Law Wind Farm is committed to delivering this initiative.



We hope that this will be completed prior to our application submission later on this year.

The team at Fred. Olsen Renewables is passionate about encouraging people to enjoy the outdoors. That is why we have chosen to support the Vittoria EWS Tweed Valley race event in Autumn 2021.

We hope that this partnership will draw attention to the significant community focus of the event.

EWS Tweed Valley commented: *"We are delighted that Fred. Olsen Renewables are partnering the Vittoria Enduro World Series Tweed Valley in 2021.*

"With support from their Community Benefit Fund and through staff volunteering, we're able to deliver a community-focused, international event that showcases the area's natural beauty and the opportunities for outdoor adventure."

Supply Chain

We always seek to employ local services during the construction and operation of our wind farms - helping to maximise the local economic opportunities.

Services that we have previously employed on our projects include:

- Local accommodation
- Plant hire
- Caterers
- Groundworks
- Fencers
- Concrete and aggregate

If you, or your company, are able to provide any of these services, and more, please get in touch by emailing

suppliers@fredolsen.co.uk.



In order to support our efforts in engaging local businesses throughout the development, construction, operation and decommissioning of our projects, we recently joined the Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce.

We are working with the Chamber to further engage the supply chain and demonstrate the opportunities for local businesses.

If you want to learn more about the skills that the wind farm will require, hear tips on how to navigate the tendering process and ensure that we are aware of the skills that are readily available to employ locally please get in touch by emailing

suppliers@fredolsen.co.uk.

The Chamber commented: *"We are thrilled to be working with Chamber member, Fred Olsen Renewables. One of our key roles is to facilitate the creation of networks, and by working with the Fred. Olsen team, we will be promoting the opportunities available to local business to become part of the company's supplier network."*



Next Steps

Site selection

Scawd Law was selected after a constraints mapping exercise was carried out in the Scottish Borders.

Planning

We want to apply to the Scottish Government for consent by late 2021. Ahead of then we will undertake a range of public consultation and seek to gather as much feedback as possible.

The application will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report that will show the results of all studies undertaken. The EIA report will be publicly available. Interested parties can formally comment on the application.

Construction

12-18 months

If approved, construction usually begins one year after consent.

Construction can take between 12 and 18 months, and planning conditions will be used to manage certain elements of construction.

Operation

35 years

The community fund will be active throughout the lifetime of the wind farm to support local projects.

Decommissioning

12 months

A decommissioning plan will form part of the application.

At the end of the operational period, turbines are removed and the site restored.

A financial bond will be put in place to cover the cost of decommissioning.

Next steps

We will continue our consultation prior to submitting an application in late 2021. The full suite of application documents will be made publicly available at this time.



We would welcome your comments on our proposals.
Please take a moment to complete a feedback form or get in touch.

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