



# **Bhlaraidh Extension**

## **Section 36C Variation**

### **Pre-Application Consultation Report**

Document Classification | **Public**



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## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1.1. SSE Generation Limited ("*the Applicant*") has prepared this Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report in support of an application to vary the consent for the Bhlairaidh Extension Wind Farm. Consent for the original scheme of 15 turbines was granted by Scottish Ministers in August 2022. Since then, wider sector challenges have meant the consented scheme is not commercially viable in its current form.
- 1.1.2. Although there is no statutory requirement for consultation under Section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989, the Applicant has undertaken an extensive programme of engagement with communities and stakeholders. This included: early dialogue with statutory consultees, elected representatives, and community councils; the launch of a dedicated project website; and two rounds of public exhibitions in June and September 2025.
- 1.1.3. No substantive comments on the design were received at either exhibition. As a result, the design of the Proposed Varied Development presented at the second exhibition remained unchanged.
- 1.1.4. This PAC Report documents the consultation process, summarises feedback received, and sets out how this has been considered in finalising the application for the Proposed Varied Development.
- 1.1.5. The Applicant remains committed to open engagement and will continue to provide information and respond to queries throughout the planning process.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1. Overview

- 2.1.1. The Applicant has prepared this PAC Report in support of a Section 36C application for the proposed variation to the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm.
- 2.1.2. In August 2022, Scottish Ministers granted consent under Section 36 ("S36") of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) (the 1989 Act), along with deemed planning permission, for the construction and operation of the Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm (Ref: ECU00001900). The scheme comprises 15 wind turbine generators (WTGs), each with a maximum tip height of 180 metres, and is hereafter referred to as "*the Consented Development*".
- 2.1.3. Construction of the Consented Development was originally planned to commence in March 2025. However, despite refinement of the design, wider challenges affecting the onshore wind sector meant the scheme was not considered economically viable, prompting a review of its future viability.
- 2.1.4. Following a detailed feasibility review, the Applicant now proposes to increase the height of all 15 WTGs, resulting in a new maximum tip height of up to 230 metres. To accommodate this change, the design also requires enlarged hardstanding and foundation areas for each WTG.
- 2.1.5. On this basis, under S36C of the 1989 Act, the Applicant is seeking a variation of the S36 consent for the Consented Development to construct and operate a wind farm with a generating capacity in excess of 50 MW on the existing "*Site*".
- 2.1.6. The Applicant also seeks a direction under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (the "1997 Act") that planning permission be deemed to be granted for the varied description of the Consented Development (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Varied Development').
- 2.1.7. This PAC Report details the pre-application consultation undertaken to support the variation application for the Proposed Varied Development.

### 2.2. The Proposed Varied Development

- 2.2.1. The key components of the Proposed Varied Development are:
- 15 turbines each with a maximum blade tip height of up to 230m and a nominal rotor diameter of 163m, and associated crane pads;
  - Crane hardstanding and associated laydown area at each WTG location;

Commented [SJ1]: is this keeping enough flexibility?  
(ie. scope to increase if necessary?)

- Approximately 21km of on-site access tracks comprising approximately 13.5km upgraded existing access track and approximately 7.9km of new access track. (Approx 1.5km built during Enabling Works);
- A new on-site substation, welfare building and store;
- A network of underground cabling to connect each WTG to the on-site substation;
- 6 No. Watercourse and culvert crossings (one of which already constructed as part of site Enabling Works);
- 7 No. Borrow Pits (2 utilised during Enabling Works, 5 potentially utilised during Main Works);
- Batching plant facilities for temporary on site concrete batching;
- Up to 3 No. site compound areas, including welfare facilities, site cabins, storage and parking;
- A LiDAR unit to collect meteorological and wind speed data, and associated hard stand; and
- Any associated ancillary works required.

2.2.2. The Proposed Varied Development has been subject to an iterative design process, giving due consideration to environmental constraints specific to the site and surrounding areas. This is with the intention of reducing as many impacts on local communities and the receiving environment as possible. Further detail on the iterative design process and the anticipated environmental impact of the project is provided in the associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which supports the application.

## 3. Guidance and expectations

### 3.1. Pre-Application Consultation

- 3.1.1. Permission for the Proposed Varied Development is being sought under Section 36C of the 1989 Act which does not carry a statutory requirement for public consultation or production of a PAC Report. Nevertheless, as a responsible developer, the Applicant is committed to meaningful community engagement to ensure that local communities and stakeholders are fully informed about the proposed changes and can contribute their views as the design evolves. To that end, a wide-ranging programme of public consultation has been carried out prior to the submission of the application, in accordance with best practice.
- 3.1.2. Three documents which set out best practice for engaging with communities during development have been used to inform the Applicant's engagement programme. These are the Development Management Procedures (Circular 3/2022)<sup>1</sup>, the Scottish Government Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 – Community Engagement<sup>2</sup> and the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) best practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989<sup>3</sup>.
- 3.1.3. Accordingly, the following stages were integrated into the consultation programme:
- Notification: identifying and contacting relevant stakeholders to inform them of the proposed changes and to invite their participation in the design process;
  - Information: preparing clear and accessible materials about the proposal and ensuring their wide dissemination;
  - Consultation: offering multiple opportunities for local residents, businesses, and stakeholders to engage with the project team, ask questions, seek clarification, and share their views;
  - Feedback: recording, analysing, and reviewing all feedback received, and providing considered responses where appropriate.
- 3.1.4. Engagement with local communities, organisations, and businesses is ongoing and will continue beyond the submission of the application.

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<sup>1</sup> [Planning Circular 3: Development Management Procedures](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pan-3-2010-community-engagement/>

<sup>3</sup> [Energy Consents Unit: Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 - February 2022](#)

## 4. Consultation Activities

### 4.1. Consultation During Project Re-design

- 4.1.1. Consultation and public engagement began with initial communications to the ECU and the local authority in April 2025 to indicate that the Consented Development was not commercially feasible in its current form. The Applicant advised that it would therefore be seeking to vary the consent to improve the scheme's financial viability.
- 4.1.2. Formal engagement on the design details of the Proposed Varied Development began through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping process, with a key milestone being the submission of the project's EIA Scoping Report in May 2025. A copy of this Scoping Report is appended to the EIA report (EIAR) submitted as part of the Section 36C Application (refer to the Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm S36C application, **EIAR, Volume 4, Technical Appendix 3.1: Scoping Report**).
- 4.1.3. Details of consultees who provided a Scoping responses are contained within **Table 4.1** below.

Table 4.1 Consultee Scoping Responses

Consultee	Scoping Response Received?
<b>Statutory Consultees</b>	
SEPA	Yes
The Highland Council	Yes
NatureScot	Yes
Historic Environment Scotland	Yes
Internal Scottish Government Advisors	
N/A	N/A
<b>Non-Statutory Consultees</b>	
British Horse Society Scotland	Yes
BT	Yes
Cairngorms National Park Association	Yes
Defence Infrastructure Organisation (MOD)	Yes
Fisheries Management Scotland	Yes
Health and Safety Executive	Yes
Highland and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL)	Yes
Joint Radio Company (JRC)	Yes
OFCOM	Yes
Office for Nuclear Regulation	Yes
Scottish Gas Networks (SGN)	Yes
Scottish Water	Yes

The Coal Authority	Yes
The Met Office	Yes
Transport Scotland	Yes
Civil Aviation Authority - Airspace (use this for WIND FARMS)	No
Crown Estate Scotland	No
Friends of the Earth (Scotland)	No
Highland and Islands Enterprise	No
Internal Scottish Government Advisors	No
Inverness Chamber of Commerce	No
John Muir Trust	No
Mountaineering Scotland	No
NATS Safeguarding	No
RSPB Scotland	No
Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSE)	No
Scottish Canoe Association	No
Scottish Forestry	No
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	No
Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)	No
Scottish Wildlife Trust	No
Visit Scotland	No
WWF (Scotland)	No
District Salmon Fisheries Board - Beaully	No
District Salmon Fisheries Board – Ness	No
Fisheries Trust - Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust	No
Community Councils	
Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council	No
Glenurquhart Community Council	No
Strathglass Community Council	No

- 4.1.4. A Scoping Opinion from Scottish Ministers was received on 16 July 2025. The responses contained within the 2025 Scoping Opinion were considered in detail during the EIA process. Further communication and consultation was undertaken with The Highland Council, NatureScot, Joint Radio Company and Transport Scotland to further clarify and agree the scope of each of the technical assessments. A Gatecheck 1 Report was submitted to the ECU on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 which detailed the key issues that were raised in the 2025 Scoping Opinion, and how these issues would be addressed in the EIAR. It also included details of any further communication with stakeholders subsequent to the receipt of the Scoping Opinion. For copies of the Scoping Opinion, Scoping Consultation and the Gatecheck 1 Report, refer to **Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm S36C application, EIAR, Volume 4, Technical Appendix 3.2: Scoping Opinion,**

Commented [SJ2]: is Gatecheck 1 a thing? - not just a Gatecheck?



**Technical Appendix 3.3: Further Scoping Consultation and Technical Appendix 3.4: Gatecheck 1 Report).**

## **4.2. Community Pre-Application Consultation**

- 4.2.1. In parallel with the preparation of the Scoping Report and direct engagement with consultees, the Applicant also undertook early engagement with the local community. This was to ensure that key individuals, groups, and organisations were made fully aware of the proposed changes and had an opportunity to understand and engage with the emerging proposals. Key activities are summarised below.

### **Community Councils**

- 4.2.2. The Applicant actively sought to engage with local Community Councils to ensure they were informed about the proposed variation and had opportunities to provide feedback. Given their role in representing local interests, early and open dialogue with Community Councils is always a crucial part of the Applicant's engagement strategy.
- 4.2.3. The following Community Councils, which consist of the host and surrounding Community Councils within the vicinity of the Proposed Varied Development, were identified as key stakeholders:
- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council (the host Community Council)
  - Glenurquhart Community Council; and
  - Strathglass Community Council
- 4.2.4. The Applicant initiated discussions with Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, Glenurquhart, and Strathglass Community Councils in late April 2025 to advise that the Consented Development would not progress in its current form and that a redesign was underway. On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the Community Councils were contacted by email with information on the submission of the project's Scoping Report and details of the forthcoming public exhibition. It was agreed that the Applicant would attend the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June, the day after the Applicant's planned Public Exhibition.
- 4.2.5. A further update to the Community Council's was issued on 4th June 2025 to confirm that the Scoping Report had been published on the ECU's public portal, to share links to the relevant documents, and to provide additional information on the exhibition. The Community Councils were contacted again by email ahead of the second Public Exhibition in September.

### **Elected Representatives**

- 4.2.6. The Applicant contacted elected representatives, including local ward councillors, Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs), and Members of the UK Parliament (MPs). These individuals play a key role in representing the views of their constituents, and early

Commented [S13]: Is this trying to say we attended their cc meetings or they attended our exhibition? Don't think the wording is clear

engagement was considered important to ensure they were well informed about the Proposed Varied Development and had the opportunity to raise any questions or concerns on behalf of their communities.

4.2.7. The following elected representatives were identified and contacted:

- **MP:** Angus Macdonald MP (Lib Dem)
- **MSP:** Kate Forbes MSP (SNP)
- **Local Councillors** (Aird and Loch Ness Ward):
  - Cllr Chris Ballance (Green Party)
  - Cllr Emma Knox (SNP)
  - Cllr David Fraser (Ind)
  - Cllr Helen Crawford (Cons)

4.2.8. Elected representatives, like Community Councils, were contacted via email on the 30<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> June to inform them of the submission of the Scoping Report and to share details of the upcoming public exhibitions. They were contacted again ahead of the second Public Exhibition in September. The Applicant also offered to meet with elected representatives; however, no meetings were requested at that stage, and none were able to attend the exhibitions.

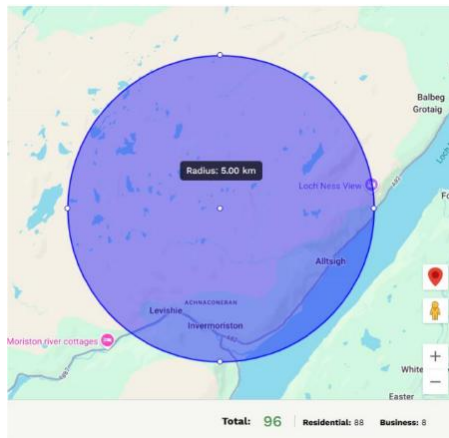
Commented [S14]: We would also have contacted them ahead of the September exhibition

#### **Local residents**

4.2.9. The Applicant made early efforts to engage with local residents living near the site, with a focus on ensuring they were informed about the proposed variation and had opportunities to ask questions, provide feedback, and raise any concerns. Supporting meaningful participation in the consultation process was a key objective of the engagement strategy, which used a range of methods to reach residents.

4.2.10. To give residents sufficient time to attend and engage with the project team, details of the public exhibitions were shared several weeks in advance. Notification was provided through a postcard drop delivered directly to around 96 households and businesses within a 5km radius of the Proposed Varied Development.

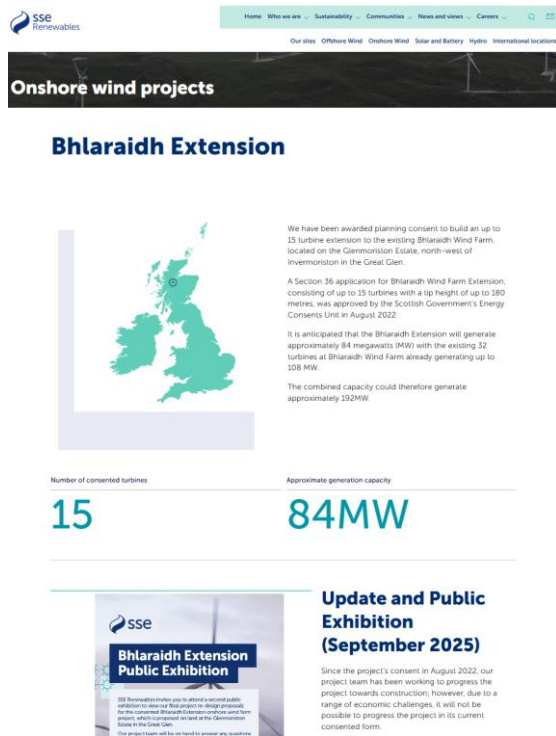
**Figure 1: Map of postcard drop**



### Digital communications

- 4.2.11. The Applicant has also used digital methods to ensure as many people as possible were made aware of the Proposed Varied Development and had the opportunity to engage throughout the pre-application stage.
- 4.2.12. At this early stage, a project website was developed to share key information so key stakeholders could remain updated regarding the project's progress. The project website can be found at [Bhlaraidh Extension | SSE Renewables](#)
- 4.2.13. An extract from the website at this early stage is illustrated in the Figure below.

Figure 2: Extract from the project website



## Other

- 4.2.14. The Applicant holds quarterly strategic meetings with The Highland Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise to discuss key issues across the region. At these meetings, the group was kept informed of the project's proposed changes and had the opportunity to raise questions or issues, but none were raised at the time.

Commented [SJ5]: suggest delete - as this is quarterly it's on-going. Do we need to say no queries raised? The point is we're engaging?

## 4.3. Public Exhibitions and Community Council Meeting

- 4.3.1. The Applicant held two public exhibitions to provide local residents and key stakeholders with the opportunity to learn more about the Proposed Varied Development. These events were designed to share information about the proposed changes and to encourage feedback from those with an interest in the project.

- 4.3.2. As noted above, in advance of each exhibition, the Applicant contacted Community Councils, Elected Representatives, local residents, and other stakeholders directly via email, and postcard, to publicise the events. Examples of this are provided in **Appendix A**.
- 4.3.3. Adverts were also placed in The Northern Times in the fortnight before the events to help raise wider awareness of the exhibitions. See **Appendix B** for an example of the adverts placed in local media.
- 4.3.4. A press release to further publicise the public exhibition was shared with local press in advance of the event: [SSE to hold public consultations for proposed variations to two consented wind farms | SSE Renewables](#) and [SSE to host Bhlaraidh Extension public exhibition | SSE Renewables](#).
- 4.3.5. All the exhibition materials were also displayed on the project's website. The website also included an online feedback form to allow people unable to attend the opportunity to feedback on the Proposed Varied Development.

#### **First Public Exhibition – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

- 4.3.6. The first public exhibition took place shortly after the submission of the Scoping Report. These events aimed to explain the rationale behind the Proposed Varied Development, introduce the key design changes under consideration, and provide the community with an opportunity to comment on and influence the design at an early stage before it was finalised for the EIA.
- 4.3.7. The exhibition was held on Thursday 24th June in Millenium Hall, Invermoriston between 2pm and 7pm. The hours were chosen to accommodate a wide range of potential attendees, including those available during the day, after school, and after work.
- 4.3.8. A series of exhibition boards were displayed at the event covering:
- Information about the Applicant
  - A summary of what changes were proposed
  - A summary of what design details would remain the same
  - Early visuals of the project
  - Details of community benefit proposals
  - Contact details for the project team
- 4.3.9. Please see **Appendix C** for a copy of the exhibition boards.
- 4.3.10. The Applicant also displayed a range of maps and wirelines at the events and provided take-home brochures containing all the information provided on the display boards.
- 4.3.11. Various members of the Applicant's Project Team were present at the exhibition to answer questions and engage with members of the public. The team included a

Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Civil Engineer, GIS Manager, Consents Manager, Project Manager, and a Community Benefit Advisor.

Commented [SJ6]: all initial letters in caps or none?

- 4.3.12. The Applicant's GIS manager was present at all exhibitions to enable visual representations to be shown from any location selected by public attendees.
- 4.3.13. In total, two people attended the first in-person exhibition with one feedback form collected. Analysis of feedback is provided in Chapter 5 of this document. No community councils or elected representatives attended the exhibitions, and no additional meetings were requested.

#### **Community Council Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

- 4.3.14. A Community Council meeting was held at the Fort Augustus Memorial Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 with the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council. Various topics were discussed at this meeting including turbine height and the impact of aviation lighting, community benefit and household energy bills. It was advised by the Community Council that the second Public Exhibition would be better attended.

#### **Second Public Exhibition – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

- 4.3.15. A second public exhibition was held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025, prior to the submission of the Section 36C application, again at Millenium Hall in Invermoriston running from 2pm to 7pm. The timings were again chosen to accommodate a broad range of attendees, including those available during the day, after school, and after work.
- 4.3.16. The purpose of this round of public engagement was to present the final design of the Proposed Varied Development.
- 4.3.17. As with the first exhibition, community councils, elected representatives, local residents, and other stakeholders were contacted directly via email and postcard to publicise the events. Adverts were also placed in the local newspaper in the fortnight before the exhibitions to raise wider awareness (see **Appendix D** and **Appendix E** for examples).
- 4.3.18. The exhibition boards presented at this second round of events were largely similar to those used previously, with the main change being replacement of the scoping layout with the finalised design layout (see Appendix F for a copy). Please note only the boards which were different from those displayed at the first public exhibition have been provided.

**Figure 3: Photo of the exhibition at Millenium Hall**



- 4.3.19. In total, five people attended the second public exhibition. Four feedback forms were collected, and an analysis of the feedback is provided in Chapter 5 of this document.
- 4.3.20. Representatives from local community councils and community groups were in attendance. No elected representatives attended the second round of exhibitions, and no additional meetings were requested.

## 5. Consultation Feedback and Applicant's Response

- 5.1.1. Feedback was gathered via in person Public Exhibitions, via an online feedback form on the website and via direct contact with the project's Stakeholder Engagement Manager. In total, five responses were received – one from the first exhibition and four from the second.
- 5.1.2. All feedback was recorded by the Applicant's project team and analysed. Analysis was used to identify issues of concern; areas for clarification; and views or ideas for the use of Community Benefit Funds.

### 5.2. Feedback Analysis

- 5.2.1. During and following the public consultation events, participants were invited to provide feedback through questionnaires and comments.
- 5.2.2. One feedback form was received at the first exhibition. The respondent noted that the exhibition was helpful in explaining the proposed redesign and that the information panels were clear. While they indicated they were still undecided on their overall view of the redesign, they commented that it appeared sympathetic to the original proposal.
- 5.2.3. During the second round of engagement, further feedback was gathered from five completed forms. The results showed:
- The majority of the community felt the need for the project had been clearly explained, with four respondents agreeing and one leaving the question unanswered.
  - Most respondents felt they had been given sufficient information to understand what was being proposed and why, with four in agreement and one leaving the question unanswered.
  - Key themes from further comments included interest in potential community benefit funding, a request for more engagement on noise and vibration associated with the development, and a supportive remark recognising the project's role in the transition to net zero.

### 5.3. Applicant's Response to Feedback

- 5.3.1. Between the first and second exhibitions, the Applicant carried out further environmental studies which informed the approach to the final design.
- 5.3.2. No substantive comments on the design were received at either exhibition. As a result, the design of the Proposed Varied Development presented at the second exhibition remained unchanged.



## 6. Engagement Following Application Submission

### 6.1. Continued Engagement

- 6.1.1. The Applicant is committed to ensuring that local stakeholders and residents are kept informed throughout the planning process via email, face-to-face meetings or the Proposed Varied Development website as appropriate.
- 6.1.2. All planning documentation relating to the Proposed Varied Development will be available on the project's website page accessible at: [Bhlaraidh Extension | SSE Renewables](#) in addition to the Energy Consents Unit's and local planning authority's websites.
- 6.1.3. The Applicant will remain available to respond to feedback or queries regarding the Proposed Varied Development via existing channels.
- 6.1.4. The Applicant would like to thank the Community Councils, elected representatives and residents for their input and time in the planning process to date.

# Appendix A: Communications with Community Councils and Elected Representatives in June 2025

## Email advising of intention to redesign and submit an application to vary the consented scheme

**From:** Land, Kirstanne  
**Sent:** 30 April 2025 16:08  
**Subject:** SSE Renewables Bhlaraidh Extension Project Update

Good afternoon,

I hope you are well.

I'm getting in touch to provide an update on SSE Renewable's Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm, which is proposed on land located at the Glenmoriston Estate, north-west of Invermoriston in the Great Glen. As you may be aware, the 15 turbine, 84MW project was consented by Scottish Ministers in August 2022. Since the project's consent our project team has been working to progress the project towards construction, however due to a range of economic challenges it will not be possible to progress the project in its current consented form.

In January 2025, following a robust governance process, we took the decision to delay Final Investment Decision for Bhlaraidh Extension as we went through a period of project reassessment, which included the termination of Bhlaraidh Extension's AR5 CfD contract with the Low Carbon Contracts Company in March 2025.

After a detailed project feasibility study over the past few months, our project team is progressing a project redesign for Bhlaraidh Extension, which will likely include a requirement for larger turbines with up to 230m tip heights. A scoping report with further information on our reassessed project plans will shortly be submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, ahead of going through a formal consultation and consenting process. We will share a link to the scoping report once this has been published on the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit website and would welcome any formal feedback you would like to share with us on the revised proposals at this point.

In the meantime, we'd be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding our project reassessment for Bhlaraidh Extension and discuss next steps for the project's progression. If it would be useful to schedule a meeting please feel free to suggest some suitable dates and I'll coordinate diaries with relevant colleagues.

I hope this update is helpful and if there is anything further I can assist with please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Kirstanne

Kirstanne Land || Head of Onshore Wind, Solar and Battery Stakeholder Engagement  
SSE Renewables  
1 Waterloo Street  
Glasgow, G2 6AY

[saserenewables.com](https://saserenewables.com)





## Email following submission of scoping report

**From:** Land, Kirstanne <kirstanne.land@sse.com>  
**Sent on:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 7:13:14 AM  
**To:**  
**BCC:** strathglasscc@gmail.com; chairglence@gmail.com; Secretary@fortaugustus-glenmoriston-cc.co.uk; secretary@soirbheas.org; Cameron D (David) <David.Cameron3@Parliament.scot>; angus.macdonald.mp@parliament.uk; Chris.Ballance.cllr@highland.gov.uk; Helen.Crawford.cllr@highland.gov.uk; David.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk; emma.knox.cllr@highland.gov.uk; Neil.Osborne (Climate Change and Energy) <Neil.Osborne@highland.gov.uk>; Megan.Amundson <mamundson@scottishrenewables.com>; Elaine MacRae <elain.macrae@hient.co.uk>; elaine.hanton@hient.co.uk  
**Subject:** Bhlaraidh Extension scoping link and public exhibition plans  
**Attachments:** Bhlaraidh Ext Public Exhibition Advert - June 2025.pdf (638.67 KB)

Good morning,

### **Bhlaraidh Extension scoping link (S36C variation proposals) and public exhibition plans**

Further to my email below, which advised of SSE Renewable's intentions to submit a S36C scoping submission for proposed variations to the Bhlaraidh Extension consent, I'm getting in touch to confirm that a scoping submission has now been submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) and can be viewed on the ECU's online portal here: [Scottish Government - Energy Consents Unit - Application Details](#) (case no for reference: **ECU00006176**).

To provide an opportunity for key stakeholders and members of the public to formally view and provide feedback on our proposed variations to the Bhlaraidh Extension consent, members of our project team will be hosting a public exhibition on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June, from 2pm-7pm at the Millennium Hall in Invermoriston**. An advert / poster is attached with further information on the event. Please feel free to share the attached poster on any community social media channels, local noticeboards or with any contacts who may be interested in attending.

I hope the update above is helpful. If you have any questions or if it would be useful to discuss the above in more detail ahead of the public consultation event please do not hesitate to get in touch with me directly.

Kind regards,

Kirstanne

Kirstanne Land || Head of Onshore Wind, Solar and Battery Stakeholder Engagement

SSE Renewables

1 Waterloo Street

Glasgow, G2 6AY

[sserenewables.com](https://www.sserenewables.com)



**Commented [KC7]:** Full email footer/signature on show here for Kirstanne

**Commented [AM8R7]:** Should probably redact once pdf'd, we redacted the emails from further consultation with councils

## Appendix B: Adverts for First Public Exhibition – June 2025

### Postcard sent to local residents



Newspaper advert as published in the Inverness Courier on 6 and 9 June 2025



 **sse**

## **Bhlaraidh Extension Public Exhibition**

SSE Renewables invites you to attend a public consultation event to view, and share feedback on our project re-design proposals for the consented Bhlaraidh Extension onshore wind farm project, which is proposed on land at the Glenmoriston Estate in the Great Glen.

Our project team will be on hand to answer any questions on the day, with all feedback shared at the event helping to inform the submission of a Section 36C Variation application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) later this year.

**Tuesday 24th June, 2pm-7pm**  
**Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, IV63 7YA**

For further information on the Bhlaraidh Extension project please visit:  
**<https://www.sserenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/bhlaraidh-extension/>**

## Appendix C: First Public Exhibition Boards



### Welcome

#### About this exhibition

Thank you for taking the time to visit our exhibition today about the recently submitted Scoping Report for the proposed Variations to the consented Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm. The purpose of this exhibition is to share our proposed amendments and rough timelines with local communities and interested parties to inform and ultimately gather feedback, ahead of the submission of a Section 36C Variation application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) later this year.

We want our exhibitions to be an opportunity for you to meet the team, raise questions or concerns and to share any comments that you might have.

Here at SSE Renewables, we want to continue working in collaboration with the communities around our projects and take all feedback and comments into account. This is important to us at all stages of development.

Please take as much time as you like to view the information boards on display and chat with the project team who are on hand to assist with any questions you may have.



### About SSE Renewables

**SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy generation, focusing on onshore and offshore wind, hydro, solar and battery storage.**

Part of energy infrastructure company SSE plc, UK-listed in the FTSE100, it is delivering clean power assets to increase SSE's operational renewable generation capacity as part of a five-year clean energy plan to 2027, the £17.5bn Net Zero Acceleration Programme (NZAP) Plus. This includes delivery of the world's largest offshore wind farm in construction, the 3.6GW Dogger Bank Wind Farm.

SSE Renewables has a team of around 2,000 renewable energy professionals with a passion for championing clean energy delivery, each based across the markets in which it operates.

It operates across its core UK and Ireland markets, as well as in carefully selected international markets in Continental Europe and Japan.







## SSE Renewables investment in the Great Glen

SSE Renewables has a long term commitment to investment in the Great Glen through both onshore wind and hydro. £3,872,550.09 of community benefit funding has also been delivered in the area to date through the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm.

The map below shows our current assets and projects which are in development:



### Bhlaraidh Wind Farm

Bhlaraidh wind farm began operating in August 2022. The development has 32 turbines with an installed capacity of up to 108MW.

During its construction, Bhlaraidh offered significant job opportunities to local firms and had a considerable positive impact on the Highland economy.

Research by BIGGAR Economics calculated that the total capital and operating expenditure of the Bhlaraidh wind farm would be worth £360m, of which they expected £121m to directly benefit the Great Glen.



## Bhlaraidh Extension Update

SSE Renewables's Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm is proposed on land located at the Glenmoriston Estate, north-west of Invermoriston in the Great Glen. The 15 turbine, 84MW project was consented by Scottish Ministers in August 2022 following extensive consultation with the local community and wider stakeholders.

Since the project's consent our project team has been working to progress the project towards construction, however due to a range of economic challenges it will not be possible to progress the project in its current consented form.

In January 2025, following a robust governance process, we took the decision to delay Final Investment Decision for Bhlaraidh Extension as we went through a period of project reassessment, which included the termination of Bhlaraidh Extension's AIB-CED contract with the Low Carbon Contracts Company in March 2025.



### Consulting on project re-design plans for Bhlaraidh Extension

After a detailed project feasibility study over the past few months, our project team is ready to progress a project re-design for Bhlaraidh Extension. A scoping report was submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit in May with plans to submit a Section 36C application to vary the Bhlaraidh Extension consent later this year.

Today's consultation event will provide an opportunity to find out more about SSE Renewables's proposed re-design for Bhlaraidh Extension and share feedback on our amended plans for the consented project.

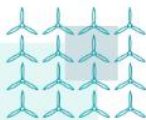


## Proposed amendments to the Bhlaraidh Extension consent

The key variations to the Consented Development include proposals to increase the rotor diameter and tip height of turbines, with repositioning of some turbine locations, and required increases in handstand sizes to meet technical and engineering requirements.

A summary of the key changes proposed through the project redesign can be found below:

SSE Consent (Phase 2 Development)	SSE Proposed Variations
15 turbines each with a maximum blade tip height of up to 180m	15 turbines each with a maximum blade tip height of up to 220m. While the overall layout of the scheme is not substantially changed, due to the increase in tip height and resultant change to wake zones, and increased safety buffer for people viewing, some turbines have necessarily been repositioned.
Crane handstandings for each turbine	The size of the handstands has increased to reflect the proposed candidate turbine model. Some handstands have also been repositioned/heightened to improve and reduce earthworks requirements and in response to turbine repositioning.
Approximately 7.5km of new access tracks	No change. The repositioning of tracks has balanced out and the same length of track is proposed for the Varied Development compared to the Consented Development. A km of access track was constructed in 2024 as part of the Site Enabling Works.
Approximately 13.5km of existing access tracks	No change.
An on-site substation	No change. The substation platform has been constructed up to 275mm below final ground level (BGL) as part of the Site Enabling Works in 2024. The final 275mm profile and construction of the substation building and associated infrastructure is still to occur as part of the main works.
Eight turning heads	Now unlocated turning heads to accommodate turbine supply delivery requirements for larger components. Removal of one located turning head.
Up to 8 borrow pit search areas	Reduced to 7 borrow pit search areas. The consented borrow pit adjacent to T37 has been removed. Two borrow pits have been revised and relocated during construction of the Enabling Works in 2024 and these borrow pits will not be revisited.
Two temporary construction compounds	No change.
A single permanent LIDAR station	No change.
A concrete batching plant	No change.
6 new access track water crossings	No change. Varied Development proposes some 6km <sup>2</sup> major earthworks crossing and no new ones have been identified for the realigned tracks. One bridge crossing, to the west of T57 identified in the 2020 EIA as 'NAC', has been constructed as part of the Site Enabling Works in 2024.
Two routes of cross-country cabling approximately 750m and 1,000m in length	Re-routed - although some alignment to connect to T25, the degree length remains the same from the Consented Varied Development.
Enabling Works	No change - Enabling works were completed in 2024.



## Proposed amendments to the Bhlaraidh Extension consent

The proposed update to the site layout can be viewed in the map below:







## What will stay the same

### Site boundary

There are no changes proposed to the development site boundary of the Bhlaraidh Extension site, which will remain the same as consented.

While some changes are proposed to turbine positioning as a result of technical and engineering requirements for the proposed larger turbines, the site layout remains as close as possible to the consented layout. It is anticipated that the predicted levels of construction and decommissioning impacts will not change.

### Turbine Delivery Route

The proposed changes will have no impact on the original proposed turbine delivery route for the site.

The preferred port of entry for turbine blades is anticipated to be Kyle of Lochalsh with delivery via the A87 and the A887. The preferred port of entry for all other components is anticipated to be Inverness with delivery via the A82 and the A887. All traffic will enter the site using the existing Bhlaraidh wind farm entrance and access tracks.

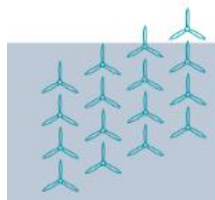


### On site substation

Enabling works for the substation platform have now been completed on site. The construction of the substation building and associated infrastructure will take place as part of the main works when construction of the project formally commences.



## Project redesign timeline





## Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

### Scoped In

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken as part of the original application that was consented. The following areas will be impacted in such a way with the proposed design that they require an updated EIA, to verify no change to the previously reported EIA findings.

- Landscape and Visual
- Ecology
- Ornithology
- Geology (peat)
- Cultural Heritage
- Traffic, Access & Transport
- Aviation

### Scoped Out

Independent consultants will be retained to carry out technical assessments and advise on environmental issues associated with the proposed amendment. These experts will work with us during the design process, carry out the new environmental impact assessments, and prepare documentation for the comparative EIA Report.

Each subject requiring assessment under EIA Regulations will be presented as a separate chapter in the main body of the new EIA Report, or included as a technical appendix.

The following areas have been deemed to receive no significant impact through the proposed design changes and therefore are not advised to require an updated EIA.

- Hydrology
- Socio-economics, Recreation & Tourism
- Noise & Vibration



## SSE Renewables in the Highlands

### A Nature Positive approach

As we deliver the critical infrastructure that will be required to enable Scotland and the UK's transition towards a decarbonised and energy secure future, we are also committed to being a responsible and sustainable developer when it comes to the natural environment.

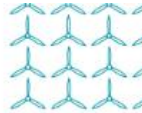
At the core of our approach, we aim to protect and where possible enhance the natural environment to ensure that we continue to meet our legal and regulatory requirements throughout all phases of our projects' lifecycle, from development through to asset management (operations) and decommissioning.

As part of these commitments, SSE Renewables have implemented a policy of no net biodiversity loss on all onshore sites consented from 2023 alongside a commitment to deliver biodiversity net gain on all new sites consented from 2025 onwards. By taking this approach we are ensuring that our projects provide a measurable benefit to nature conservation, demonstrated in the development of our ten-point plan for biodiversity below and in the Consented Development's Habitat Management Plan which has been approved by the Highland Council and NatureScot.

- 1. Deliver Biodiversity Net Gain** on major onshore projects consented from 2023
- 2. Deliver Biodiversity Net Gain** on major onshore projects consented from 2025\*
- 3. Embed BNG ambitions** in decision-making at each stage of all new project developments from 2023
- 4. Use our BNG Toolkit** and collaborate with partners to identify biodiversity improvements on operational sites
- 5. Evolve our BNG Toolkit** and approach to enable use in all geographies
- 6. Actively participate** in industry forums to support the development of BNG across all renewable technologies
- 7. Contribute to research** projects and the creation of knowledge around BNG in the renewables sector
- 8. Trial new approaches** for BNG on offshore projects, including digital innovations
- 9. Develop the concept** of 'Habitat Bank' with a transparent methodology for applying BNG credits
- 10. Lead the BNG working group** of the Powering Up Zero Pact, a collaboration of global power sector companies

\*This includes repowering and decommissioning projects.





## Working with the Community

### Delivering benefit locally

SSE Renewables has a long-term commitment to invest in our local communities. Over the next 25 years the SSE Renewables' Community Benefit Funds will generate at least £335 million across all UK and island projects with a £100 million of that being delivered across the Highlands.

SSE Renewables is one of the world's largest developers of renewable energy. We have always believed in rating the value of our renewable energy projects with communities, maximising the benefits of local, sustainable power.

We made a commitment in 2012 to invest in local communities. Our ambition is to make sure every single penny of that money is spent wisely. It makes a difference and reflects the priorities of local people. We think the best way to achieve this is for the grant decisions to be made by local people.

A community investment fund will be established for Bhlaraidh Extension valued at £5,000 per MW, with £2.5k distributed to local communities and £2.5k to our regional Highland Sustainable Development Fund. The funds will be available once main construction starts and will be in addition to funding that is currently being delivered through the established Bhlaraidh wind farm fund.



## Powering Impactful Community Projects

### What our funds are delivering in the Great Glen

Since 2016 the SSE Renewables Bhlaraidh Fund has awarded over **£1,672,550.09** in grants, across the community council areas of Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston and Glen Urquhart.

These projects included: strategic legacy projects, including funding modern apprentices, enhancing local services, bringing new services into the area, supporting culture and heritage and many more which have brought social and economic benefits to these local communities.

Strategic projects include **£227,209** in 2018 toward the new medical centre in Fort Augustus, **£238,214** in 2020 to support the development of 12 community houses in Fort Augustus and **£290,000** in 2025 to support the renovation of the Glen Urquhart Hall in Drumadrochit to a Community Hub.

The fund has supported 15 modern apprentices across a range of disciplines by contributing to their salary costs and training. This initiative encourages young people to remain in the area while gaining valuable work experience and a recognised qualification.

### Sustainable Development Fund

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) is in addition to our local community funds and supports strategic projects in the regions where SSE is operating. It allows the benefits of our renewable energy developments to be accessible to a wider area and is directed to projects that can achieve significant impact in local communities.

In the Highlands, we expect the fund could be worth over **£25M** over the next 25 years. SSE celebrated 30 years of delivery in November 2023. Since its launch, **£10.7m** has been invested in almost 150 Highland based community projects, examples of projects supported in the Great Glen include:

**Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association:** awarded **£80,000** to purchase the former Tourist Information Centre in Drumadrochit to create the Loch Ness Hub and award winning information and Transport Hub.

**Glen Affric and Strathglass Marketing Association:** awarded **£10,650** to develop off-road sections on the iconic Achna Burn Way, helping to connect rural communities and provide local amenity for both residents and visitors to the area.



Fort Augustus Housing project



Fort Augustus Medical Centre



The fund has supported 15 modern apprentices across a range of disciplines.





## Seeking your feedback

This exhibition is part of an ongoing conversation between SSE Renewables and stakeholders like you, who have an interest in the proposal.



### Seeking your feedback

We would very much welcome any feedback you may be willing to provide and so we have provided feedback forms which are available in the hall. Alternatively, please submit one online by using this QR code



### Next Steps for Bhlaraidh Extension

Thank you for attending the event today, and for sharing your views which will be considered by our project team.

A further consultation event will take place later this summer to provide another opportunity for feedback ahead of the submission of a final amended design to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit later this year. **Data for the second consultation round will be confirmed and published in due course.**

Further information on our plans, including today's exhibition boards, will also be available at

[srenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/bhlaraidh-extension/](https://srenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/bhlaraidh-extension/)

### Keeping in touch



If you'd like to get in touch with our team to discuss Bhlaraidh Extension please contact [Kirstanne.Land@sse.com](mailto:Kirstanne.Land@sse.com)





## Appendix D: Communications with Community Councils and Elected Representatives regarding second exhibition in September 2025

From: Land, Kirstanne  
Sent: 04 September 2025 14:54  
Cc: Greenwood, Alan <Alan.Greenwood@sse.com>  
Subject: SSE Renewables Bhlaraidh Extension - second public exhibition

Good afternoon,

### SSE Renewables Bhlaraidh Extension - second public exhibition

I'm getting in touch on behalf of SSE Renewables to inform you of plans to host our second round of public exhibitions for the proposed re-design of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm, which is proposed on land located at the Glenmoriston Estate, north-west of Invermoriston in the Great Glen.

Following our first consultation event in Invermoriston in June, a second public exhibition will be held in the same location at the end of September to provide an opportunity to view final plans for the project re-design ahead of the submission of a S36C variation application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit later this year.

The details of the second public exhibition can be found below, and I've attached a copy of our poster should you wish to share this with any interested parties or on community social media channels.

### Event details:

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September**  
**2pm – 7pm**  
**Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, IV63 7YA**

Members of our project team will be on hand to answer any questions on the day and the event will provide a further opportunity to share feedback with us directly. We hope you will be able to attend, however if it would be useful to arrange a separate meeting to discuss the re-design plans we'd be very happy to arrange this too. Please feel free to contact my colleague Alan Greenwood directly to explore some suitable dates: [alan.greenwood@sse.com](mailto:alan.greenwood@sse.com).

I hope the update above is helpful, but please do not hesitate to reach out to myself and Alan if you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail.

Kind regards,

Kirstanne

**Kirstanne Land** || Head of Onshore Wind, Solar and Battery Stakeholder Engagement  
SSE Renewables

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## Appendix E: Adverts for second Public Exhibitions – September 2025

### Postcard sent to local residents

The postcard features a background image of a wind farm in a hilly landscape. In the top left corner is the SSE logo. A dark blue banner across the middle contains the title 'Bhlaraidh Extension Public Exhibition' in white. Below this, on a light blue background, is the invitation text. At the bottom, the date and location are listed in bold, followed by a URL for more information. Decorative icons of wind turbines and suns are visible on the left and bottom edges.

 **Bhlaraidh Extension  
Public Exhibition**

SSE Renewables invites you to attend a second public exhibition to view our final project re-design proposals for the consented Bhlaraidh Extension onshore wind farm project, which is proposed on land at the Glenmoriston Estate in the Great Glen.

Our project team will be on hand to answer any questions on the day, ahead of SSE Renewables' submitting a formal Section 36C Variation application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) later this year.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm-7pm**  
**Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, IV63 7YA**

For further information on the Bhlaraidh Extension project please visit:  
**<https://www.sserenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/bhlaraidh-extension/>**

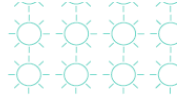
**Newspaper advert (as published in the Inverness Courier on 5 and 8 September 2025)**

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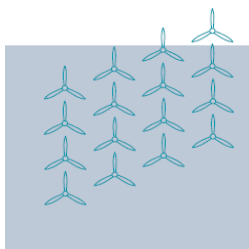
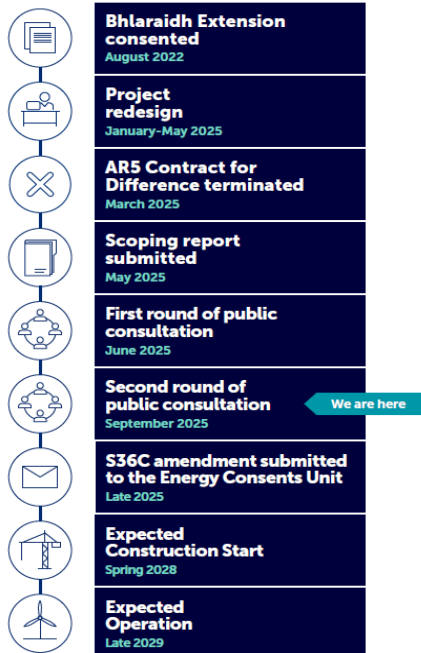


## Appendix F: Second Public Exhibition Boards

Please note only the boards which were different from those displayed at the first public exhibition have been provided in this Appendix.



### Project redesign timeline



### Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (continued)

#### Scoped In

It has been determined that the proposed design could change the impact on the following areas, and therefore they require an additional environmental impact assessment:

- Landscape and Visual
- Ecology
- Ornithology
- Geology (peat)
- Cultural Heritage
- Planning
- Traffic, Access & Transport (Construction & Abnormal Load Delivery Route)
- Aviation
- Noise (no requirement for additional assessment of construction noise)

Initially, the impact of Noise was originally scoped out of the EIA, however, in response to THC Environmental Health's request to include a new noise assessment to confirm compliance, a Noise Chapter has been scoped back in.

Independent consultants will be retained to carry out technical assessments and advise on environmental issues associated with the proposed amendment. These experts will work with us during the design process; carry out the new environmental impact assessments, and prepare documentation for the comparative EIA Report.

Each subject requiring assessment under EIA Regulations will be presented as a separate chapter in the main body of the new EIA Report, or included as a technical appendix.

#### Scoped Out

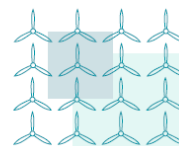
The following areas have been deemed by independent consultants to receive no significant impact through the proposed design changes and therefore are not advised to require an updated EIA.

- Hydrology
- Socio-economics, Recreation & Tourism
- Climate Change

Independent consultants will be retained to carry out technical assessments and advise on environmental issues associated with the proposed amendment. These experts will work with us during the design process; carry out the new environmental impact assessments, and prepare documentation for the comparative EIA Report.

Each subject requiring assessment under EIA Regulations will be presented as a separate chapter in the main body of the new EIA Report, or included as a technical appendix.

For those areas mentioned above scoped out of the EIA, a short paragraph and in some cases a comparative assessment to verify no change to the previously reported EIA findings will be included as a separate chapter.







## Sharing your feedback

This exhibition is part of an ongoing conversation between SSE Renewables and stakeholders like you, who have an interest in the proposal.



### Seeking your feedback

We would very much welcome any feedback you may be willing to provide and so we have provided feedback forms which are available in the hall. Alternatively, please submit one online by using this QR code



### Keeping in touch

Thank you for attending the event today and for sharing your views. Our ambition is to work collaboratively with our stakeholders during the development, construction and operation of our assets, so that as many areas as possible can be kept up to date and benefit positively.

We know that there is no one size fits all approach when it comes to working with the communities in which we work. That is why we seek to make ourselves as accessible as possible.

Further information on our plans, including today's exhibition boards, will also be available at: [www.sserenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/bhlaraidh-extension](http://www.sserenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/bhlaraidh-extension)

### Contact us



If you'd like to get in touch with our team to discuss Bhlaraidh Extension please contact [Alan.Greenwood@sse.com](mailto:Alan.Greenwood@sse.com)

