

Statement of Community Consultation

November 2023





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Executive Summary

In line with Argyll and Bute Council's (ABC) advice, 'Pre-Application - Planning for Firm Foundations', alongside Planning Advice Note 3/2010 which includes the National Standards for Community Engagement, and Planning Aid for Scotland's SP=EED framework, the Applicant, ESB Asset Development UK Limited, has undertaken consultation, both online and in person, for the proposed West Torrisdale Wind Farm. All pre-application consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Scottish Government Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Consultation activity included:

- distribution of information postcard to local residents;
- a dedicated consultation website www.esbenergy.co.uk/west-torrisdale-wind-farm;
- a dedicated email address: westtorrisdale@esb.ie;
- meetings with the two local Community Councils and the local energy group; and
- public information days held on 9th December 2021 in Glenbarr and 10th and 11th December 2021 in Carradale.

Local residents and other interested parties were invited to attend the open days. These were publicised through an information postcard, sent out to over 750 surrounding households and businesses, and promoted through editorial and advertising in the local newspaper as well as on the local community council's social media page.

At the public information days members of the development team were on hand to explain the proposals, discuss the wider issues of climate change and energy security and demonstrate landscape impact via photomontages. Those attending had the opportunity to complete feedback questionnaires. The dedicated project website also contained all of the information presented at the in-person information days and a feedback form was available to complete and return.

A total of 58 people attended the information days and at the events. 21 opinion forms were received either on the day of the event or via the website/email from the general public in relation to the West Torrisdale Wind Farm proposal.

Of those who responded to the full public consultation asking how they felt about the West Torrisdale Wind Farm proposal, 33 % stated they were very supportive or supportive of the West Torrisdale Wind Farm proposal with 14% either opposed or very opposed. 43 % were, as yet undecided and 10 % did not comment.

The Applicant has written to all local residents who raised questions or concerns via the various feedback mechanisms. Consultation is on-going and will continue post submission.



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Report accompanies the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and forms part of the planning application for West Torrisdale Wind Farm. The application has been submitted to the Scottish Government under Section 36 of the Electricity Act by ESB Asset Development Limited and ABC is a statutory consultee. The application is for the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind energy scheme with battery storage, referred to in the EIA Report as the 'Proposed Development'.
- 1.2 The Applicant embraces community consultation; it is at the heart of its approach to development. This report provides detailed information regarding the Proposed Development's community consultation.
- 2. Framework for pre-application consultation, West Torrisdale Wind Farm
- 2.1 The Applicant's public consultation plans for the Proposed Development were influenced by ABC's Pre-Application Consultation guidance 'Pre-Application Planning for Firm Foundations', alongside PAN 3/2010 which includes the National Standards for Community Engagement and Planning Aid for Scotland's SP=EED framework (Appendix 11).
- 2.2 Both documents outline how applicants of major infrastructure projects should undertake pre-application consultation with the community. The aim of this process is to make sure that communities are made aware of and have an opportunity to comment on these types of development proposals before a formal application is made. This allows community views to be reflected early in the process and gives the Applicant the opportunity to incorporate them into the proposals where possible before making a formal application.
- 2.3 The guidance outlines the following relevant consultation and involvement activities:
 - Community Council consultation;
 - Adverts and press releases in local media; and
 - Public Events (at least one).
- 2.4 The Proposed Development, as a Section 36 application to the Scottish Government, is not required to submit a Proposal of Application Notice, nor is it bound by the consultation requirements. It has however used them as the basis for best practice and wherever possible sought to maximise the level of consultation undertaken in this process.



3. The approach to community involvement

- 3.1 The Applicant's general approach to community involvement in projects includes the following:
 - Consultation with community councils and interested community groups;
 - A dedicated project website;
 - Production and circulation of printed information material for local residents; and
 - Hosting of advertised community days prior to submission of the planning application, when the development is at draft design stage.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government Guidance in place removed the requirement for in-person public events and encouraged online consultation where possible. When those restrictions were lifted and in-person events could take place, The Applicant continued to utilise online resources and the dedicated project webpage allowed visitors to see and respond to the very same information available at the in-person information days.

4. Consultation

- 4.1.1 Consultation that has taken place so far in the pre-application stage has enabled the Applicant to take forward its commitment to establish a constructive relationship with residents and local representatives within the local community.
- 4.1.2 To consult on the proposals with the local community, The Applicant undertook the following activity, outlined further below:
 - Community liaison, both virtual and in-person;
 - Dedicated website;
 - Press activity;
 - Information postcard distribution; and
 - Public information days

4.2 Website

4.2.1 The website www.esbenergy.co.uk/west-torrisdale-wind-farm was set up to provide information for residents and their representatives about the proposal and to gather feedback from the information provided. It also allowed for questions to be asked via west-torrisdale@esb.ie - the dedicated email facility for the project. Online consultation became an essential part of the consultation



process during the Covid-19 pandemic emergency period when the requirement for in-person consultation was suspended and whilst restrictions had been relaxed somewhat at the time of the public information days, the Applicant wanted to ensure that as many local people could engage in as safe a way as possible. (Appendix 1)

4.3 Information postcard

4.3.1 In November 2021 the Applicant distributed 764 information postcards (Appendix 2) to local residents in the areas surrounding the proposed development informing them of the Proposed Development and inviting them to engage with the project team either in person at the information days or online using the dedicated project website.

4.4 Community Councils

- 4.4.1 The Applicant began a dialogue with both the East and West Kintyre Community Councils in early 2021, following the submission of the Scoping Opinion Request. The Community Councils were able to assist in the planning of the public information days and the dissemination of information regarding the consultation process.
- 4.4.2 Given the experience of the local communities with onshore wind development, both Community Councils were able to outline the key issues that would most likely be of concern to local people. They were also able to identify additional viewpoints of importance to the local community, particularly in Carradale.

4.5 East Kintyre Renewable Energy Group (EKREG)

- 4.5.1 The East Kintyre Community Council also introduced the Applicant to the local community energy group, EKREG which was formed in 2019 and tasked by Carradale Community Trust with researching new and/or proposed renewable energy developments that impact on East Kintyre. The primary aim of the group is to highlight the socio-economic implications of such projects and maximise income to the community from agreed developments and its remit has now expanded to also cover West Kintyre.
- 4.5.2 Dialogue with EKREG began alongside EKCC in February 2021 and following the public information days, a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted and sent to EKREG for discussion. The Applicant is committed not only to the Scottish Government's community benefit funding level of £5,000 per MW of installed



capacity, but also to a proportion of the proposed development being made available for shared ownership.

4.6 Public information days

- 4.6.1 Public information days were held on 9th December 2021 in Glenbarr Village Hall and on 10th and 11th December 2021 in Carradale Village Hall. Copies of the exhibition information panels can be found in **Appendix 3** and photographs taken at the events in **Appendix 4**.
- 4.6.2 As well as being able to discuss the development alongside the wider issues of climate change, energy security, government support etc, members of the development team were able to demonstrate landscape impact via photomontages. Residents were also offered the opportunity to have a wireline image from any given viewpoint generated and sent to them following the event, allowing them to see just how the development would look from their own homes or other places of interest, for example recreational areas, not included in the official list of viewpoints.

Publicity

- 4.6.3 Postcard invitations to the public information days were sent via Royal Mail to 764 addresses both residential and business, see **Appendix 2**.
- 4.6.4 In order to publicise the exhibition to the wider community, press advertisements were placed in:
 - The Campbeltown Courier Friday 3rd December 2021

See **Appendix 5** for a copy of the advertisement.

4.6.5 In addition, East Kintyre Community Council promoted the information days and the online consultation material via its Facebook page (**Appendix 6**).



Media

4.6.5 A Press release was uploaded onto the website and issued to the local newspaper prior to the in-person events. The Campbeltown Courier reported on the consultation event on Friday 10th November (see Appendix 7):

Attendance

4.6.6 Based on the open day register, 58 people attended the exhibition over the three days, where they had the opportunity to inspect the draft proposal, discuss issues with the project team and complete a questionnaire (**Appendix 8**) for return on the day.

5 Consultation Feedback

5.1 We have received both qualitative and quantitative feedback throughout the consultation period.

5.2 Website

- 5.2.1 During the period surrounding the in-person events (8th December 31st December 2021) 22 unique pageviews were recorded on the dedicated project page, with a small number of additional page views of the linked pages including latest news, timeline and the photomontage downloads. A summary can be viewed in **Appendix 9.**
- 5.2.2 No feedback forms were received from the webpage.

5.3 Public Information Days

- 5.3.1 Open day opinion forms were completed by 21 attendees, many of whom live within 5 km of the Proposed Development.
- 5.3.2 The majority of opinion forms were completed at the events, but a small number of visitors sent in their questionnaire to ESB Ltd after the events. These questionnaires are taken into account in the overall results of the public consultation exercise. Copies of all returned, redacted, open day questionnaires can be found in **Appendix 10**.



5.3.3 As can be seen in **Figure 1**, the majority of people who returned opinion forms at or after the information days were undecided, however, of those who were undecided, all were in favour of renewable energy in general:

3
4
9
0
3
2
21

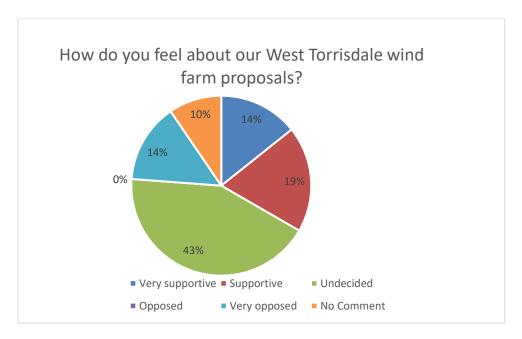


Figure 1: Public Information Day responses

5.4 Issues

- 5.4.1 The feedback questionnaires asked respondents if they had any specific interests they'd like further information about and 8 respondents requested a response.
- 5.4.2 The Public Information Days provided feedback in relation to a number of issues including:
 - o visual impact and impact on tourism;
 - aviation lighting;
 - protection of wildlife;
 - o greater engagement with local groups;
 - o discounted electricity bills;



- noise impacts; and
- local business opportunities.

5.5 Summary of Feedback

5.5.1 In summary, in addition to the points listed above, the main issues of concern under discussion with visitors to the information days, particularly in the vicinity of Carradale, related to visual impact. Concern within this part of the community relates to the cumulative impact with the operational and consented wind farms in the area.

6.1 Community Benefit

6.1.1 The Applicant wants to help the communities closest to its renewable energy projects benefit from it in as many ways as possible, and supports the Scottish Government's 'Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments'.

6.2 Community Fund

- 6.2.1 Discussions with the local community have indicated that a fund could be managed by the local renewable energy group, EKREG which now represents the whole of East and West Kintyre.
- 6.2.2 Via the Public Information Days and website, local residents have been encouraged to give suggestions both to the Applicant and to their own Community bodies as to what they would like to see such funds used for. Suggestions so far have included funding for energy efficiency measures and electric car charging points.

6.3 Shared Ownership

- 6.3.1 Discussions with the local community have begun with a Memorandum of Understanding from the Applicant having been issued to EKREG for consideration.
- 6.3.2 Shared Ownership within a national organisation such as ESB is a complex process, and it may take some time to ensure all the proper legal processes and governance are put in place to allow it to happen. EKREG is aware of the challenges involved and is being updated as and when progress is made.



7 Response to Consultation Feedback

7.1 Further to the consultation process outlined in this statement, a number of activities have or are being undertaken in order to respond to feedback received.

These are detailed as follows:

Letters

- 7.2 Following the open days, everyone who requested a response via the feedback form received a follow up letter from The Applicant, thanking them for their attendance, addressing the issues raised and confirming the Applicant's commitment to further consultation throughout the planning process.
- 7.3 Further responses to information requests will continue throughout the planning process.

Email

7.4 Everyone who submits a question or query by email direct will be responded to electronically.

8 Future Consultation

Next Steps - Pre and Post Submission

- 8.1 The Applicant is committed to the continued involvement of and consultation with the local community and other stakeholders throughout the planning process.
- 8.2 While the pre-application consultation has been completed, the Applicant is committed to further consultation during the planning determination period, ensuring that local residents and stakeholders continue to be involved in the process and be kept informed of the proposal's progress. These updates have been and continue to be given to both the Community Councils and to other local community group meetings as the development has progressed.

Stakeholder/Interest group briefings

8.3 Members of the local energy group attended the open days. The Applicant has also met with the group several times during the pre-application consultation process in relation to both community benefit and shared ownership.



8.4 The Applicant will continue to update the local interest groups about the proposed development's journey through the planning process and will keep all channels for feedback and questions open.

Media relations

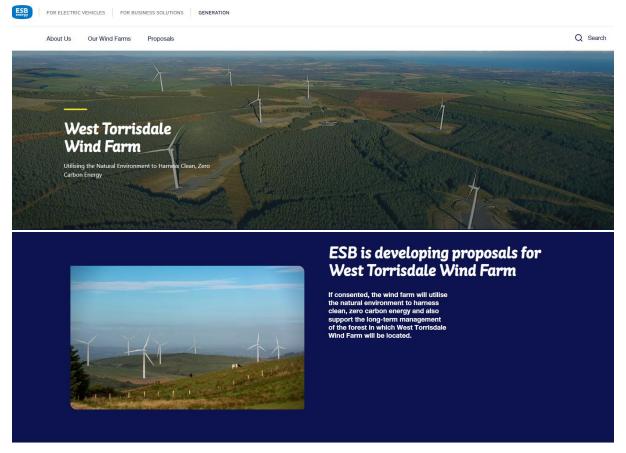
8.5 Media relations activity will be ongoing. Once the application has been submitted, a news release detailing the submitted proposal will be issued to the media. The Applicant will respond to media enquiries and requests for information throughout the determination time period.

Ongoing response to queries

8.6 The Applicant will continue to respond to queries that are received via the various consultation channels.



Appendix 1 - West Torrisdale Project Website and Online Consultation



THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend the in person community consultation events in December 2021 and to all those who have provided feedback on the West Torrisdale Wind Farm proposal online.

The formal public consultation period has now concluded, however the exhibition boards and feedback form can be found at the links below should you still wish to let us know your thoughts.

Feedback Form

Exhibition Boards

Project Summary

The site is located in Argyll and Bute, on the Kintyre peninsula. View the Location Plan for a detailed map of location.

The West Torrisdale Wind Farm proposal comprises:

- Up to 9 turbines, with a maximum height of 149.9m and a generating capacity in excess of 50MW. View **Initial Turbline Layout** to see the preliminary layout
 Plans to co-locate battery storage with the wind farm to maximise the use of
- the arid connection
- On-site access tracks linking the turbines and connecting to the A83 road via a mixture of new and existing roads, using the route of an existing forestry track.

- On-site grid substation
 Site office and staff welfare facilities
 An offer of a Community Benefits Package







Early Stage Development

The West Torrisdale Wind Farm proposals are at an early stage. In January 2021, ESB submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Request to the Scottish Government, which sets out the range of environmental studies proposed to be undertaken in order to both shape the design and assess the impact of the project.

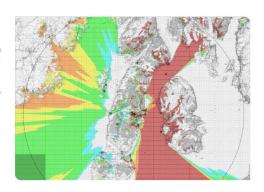
The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit issued their Scoping Response on 26th April 2021. Planning permission for a temporary met mast was consented by Argyll and Bute Council on 11th May 2021. It is expected the met mast will be erected in early 2022.

ESB is following Scottlsh Government guidance in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. ESB is currently working towards submission of an application for planning consent during 2022.

Landscape and Visual Assessment

A digital **Zone of Theoretical Visibility** model was created to illustrate the geographical area within which views of development are theoretically possible. This is based on a 'bare-earth' scenario, whereby the screening effect of areas of existing vegetation or built features in the landscape are not taken into account.

We have proposed 16 viewpoint locations intended to be representative of the visual experience in a general location or from a specific or important vantage point. Click on the viewpoint location from the list below to view an initial wireline visualisation, illustrating the current layout. Example photomontages for VP1, VP4, VP6 and VP14 are included in the exhibition boards.



 VP1 - Torrisdale Bay Parking Area
 VP9 - Approach to Saddell

 VP2 - Dougarie Point, Arran
 VP10 - Skipness Point

 VP3 - Summit of Beinn Tarsuinn
 VP11 - Balloghair Cycle Route

 VP4 - Glenbarr War Memorial
 VP12 - South Pier, Gigha

 VP5 - Drumadoon Point, Arran
 VP13 - Kintyre Way at Kildalloig Bay

 VP6 - Carradale Point - Fort
 VP14 - Carradale Golf Course

 VP7 - Kintyre Way near Torrisdale Castle
 VP15 - A83 Top of Clachan Hill

View the development timeline \rightarrow

ESB continues to follow Scottish Government advice regarding working, travel and social distancing and will review and revise development in line with the latest Scottish Government advice.

Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the development process we must undertake an **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** to assess the effects of the development on the natural, physical
and human environment. The number, size and layout of the turbines will be
determined by environmental, technical and commercial constraints identified during
the EIA and iterative design processes.

The EIA, which will be published in an EIA Report, will cover topics including landscape and visual amenity; traffic and highways; noise; ornithology and ecology; archaeology and cultural heritage; geology, hydrogeology and hydrology; forestry; and socio economics.

ESB has appointed Ramboll UK Limited (Ramboll), an experienced environmental consultancy, as lead consultant to carry out the EIA and related assessments to accompany a Section 36 application to Scottish Ministers.

Consultation with statutory and non-statutory authorities and with the public is a key part of the EIA process. ESB is following Scottish Government guidance in relation





The Benefits of West Torrisdale Wind Farm

The development of West Torrisdale Wind Farm would bring several important benefits at both the local and national level

- Major positive impacts on the environment, providing clean, renewable energy, and helping the Scottish Government reach its target for net-zero carbon by 2045 and interim 2030 targets
- Supporting the local economy via contracts for tender
 Up to £9.45m community benefit funding over the 35 year lifetime of the project, shaped to local needs (based on £5,000 per MW for a 54MW scheme).

If ESB's proposals for West Torrisdale Wind Farm are consented and constructed, the ociated with it will span the local environment, economy and community.



The Benefits →

Read more about the benefits of the West Torrisdale Wind Farm Development



Public Consultation

ESB will be holding consultation events as the application progresses, for the public to comment on the proposal as it moves through the design proce

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend the in person community consultation events in December 2021, and to all those who have provided feedback on the West Torrisdale Wind Farm proposal online.

information about the site proposals here. For more information on the West Torrisdale Wind Farm project and for opportunities to discuss the project with the team, or to submit feedback forms, contact: Duncan Scott at westtorrisdale@esb.ie

We will be holding further consultation events as the application progresses, and information will be posted here when available.

For information about the West Torrisdale Wind Farm project, please

Duncan Scott, Project Director, ESB Asset Development UK Ltd - E: westtorrisdale@esb.ie

For media enquiries, please contact ESB's press office at: T: 00353 1 702 6009 (Media Enquiries Only) / Out of Hours: 00353 87 255 7186 (Media Enquiries Only) E: corporatecommunications@esb.i

Latest News →

Keep up to date with the latest news relating to the West Torrisdale Wind Farm Development

Help Centre

& Contact us



Legal

Company

Latest News →



Appendix 2 - West Torrisdale Project Information Days Invitation



ESB invites you to face-to-face public exhibitions for its planned West Torrisdale Wind Farm.

ESB is developing proposals for West Torrisdale Wind Farm, located in a forestry plantation around 4km southwest of Carradale in Argyll and Bute. Utilising the natural environment to harness clean, zero carbon energy, The West Torrisdale Wind Farm project will, if consented, support local construction jobs and employment during its operation, as well as offer community benefit and shared ownership opportunities, and support the long-term management of the land. The proposed development site benefits from good wind speeds, existing site access, nearby grid connection point, and has no on-site environmental designations.

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS (held in line with Covid-19 guidelines) Glenbarr Village Hall

Thursday 9th December 2021, 1pm – 7pm Carradale Village Hall

Friday 10th December 2021, 1pm – 7pm Saturday 11th December 2021, 11am – 5pm

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

All information available at the face-to-face exhibitions will be available on the project website. If you are unable to access the information online, you can request a paper copy by emailing westtorrisdale@esb.ie

The consultation will run from Friday 3rd December until Friday 31st December 2021.

www.esbenergy.co.uk/west-torrisdale-wind-farm

For more information on the West Torrisdale Wind Farm project, contact: Duncan Scott, Project Director for ESB at westtorrisdale@esb.ie





Appendix 3 - West Torrisdale Project Information Days Information Panels

WELCOME TO THE WEST TORRISDALE WIND FARM PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Thursday 9th, Friday 10th and Saturday 11th December 2021



Welcome to the public consultation for the proposed ESB West Torrisdale Wind Farm located 4 km to the south-west of Carradale, in Argyll and Bute.

The initial consultation period for West Torrisdale Wind Farm opened on Friday 3rd December 2021 and will close on 31st December 2021.

Utilising the natural environment to harness clean, zero-carbon energy, the West Torrisdale Wind Farm project will, if consented, support local construction companies along with local supply chains during its operation; offer community benefit and shared ownership opportunities; and support the long-term management of West Torrisdale Forest. The proposed development site benefits from good wind speeds, existing site access and a nearby grid

connection point, and has no on-site environmental designations.

Site Description

The proposed development site is located on the Kintyre Peninsula, approximately 4 km to the southwest of Carradale in Argyll and Bute. The site lies in the Kintyre and the Islands ward of Argyll and Bute Council area. The proposed site is located in commercial forestry.

Developer

ESB is developing West Torrisdale Wind Farm. ESB is Ireland's premier energy company and a leading independent power generator in the UK market. The company has a track record of over 20 years as a successful investor in the UK since commissioning one of the first independent power generation plants at Corby in Northamptonshire in 1994. ESB owns and operates wind farms across the UK and Ireland with a total installed capacity of 600 MW.

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



ESB wishes to construct a new onshore wind farm with up to 9 turbines that aims to deliver energy generation in excess of 50 MW. Environmental, technical and commercial considerations throughout the design process will inform the final number of turbines.

The turbines will have a maximum tip height of 149.9 m, and a generating capacity of around 6 MW. The final turbine selection will be informed by an environmental impact assessment that will look at various factors to assess the environmental consequences of the development. The plans include battery storage capacity to maximise the use of the grid connection and help balance the national electricity transmission grid.

Construction and access

- A construction compound, access tracks and watercourse crossings will require installation to enable wind farm construction.
- Access to the site for vehicles delivering construction materials and turbine components will be from the A83 to the west of the site via an existing forestry haulage route. The existing access track will be upgraded, where required, to meet the specifications for all construction and turbine delivery vehicles.



Site Location Plan

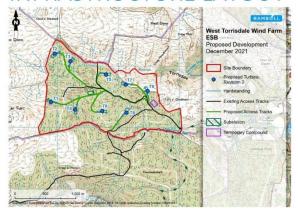
- Watercourse crossings will be installed as required. Their design will be in accordance with Scottish Government best practice and due regard for Scottish Environment Protection Agency guidelines to enable the passage of fish and other wildlife.
 Crushed stone will be used to
- Crushed stone will be used to construct new tracks, create hardstanding areas for the cranes and to lay foundations. The source of the stone and aggregate is to be confirmed during the design process and the environmental impact assessment (EIA) phase.







PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE LAYOUT



Proposed Site Layout Plan

How have our studies influenced the layout?

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

- Landscape and Visual: turbines will be under 150 m, so should not require visible aviation lighting. Turbines have been positioned off the Kintyre peninsula 'spine'; set back from the eastern edge of the peninsula; and the layout has been designed to be visually cohesive.
- Forestry: the design has aimed to retain as much forestry as possible.
- Peat: there are pockets of deep peat within the site. Turbines and infrastructure have been positioned to avoid these areas.
- Sensitive Habitats: positioning of turbines has taken account of sensitive ecological habitats, including peatlands and ground water dependent terrestrial ecosystems.
- Cultural Heritage: turbines positioned to avoid direct and indirect effects on known cultural heritage assets.

- Water Environment: the layout has aimed to maintain standard separation distances from watercourses and private water supplies.
- Slope: the site is characterised by steep slopes which have dictated the positioning of turbines and tracks.

In addition, the layout has been influenced by wind resource analysis carried out by ESB, and the design has maximised the use of preexisting tracks within the site.

The exact number and location of wind turbines will be determined by constraints identified during the EIA and influenced by statutory consultees and public consultation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Ramboll UK Ltd has been appointed to carry out a detailed environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the West Torrisdale Wind Farm project. This study will form part of the formal application for consent to be made to the Scottish Ministers.

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 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.

The environmental impact assessment work is on-going, and, to date, we have carried out extensive surveys to gather data on the following:

- Ornithological interests:
- Protected species;
- Priority habitats;
- Carbon rich soils and priority peatland habitats;
- Hydrology;

- Forestry
- Landscape and visual impact;
- Traffic and Transport; and
- Archaeology.

Noise surveys are scheduled for early 2022.

Route to Site

The potential effect of construction traffic will be assessed throughout the design and EIA process, and in consultation with Argyll and Bute Council and Transport Scotland.

As present, turbine deliveries are expected to arrive at Campbeltown Harbour which has previously been used for turbine imports by other wind farms in the area. The turbines would exit the harbour and continue north on the A83, turning east near Bellochantuy into the Beinn an Tuirc Wind Farm site. Here the turbines would be transported along the existing forestry track and wind farm access tracks into the site. Discussions are ongoing with Forestry and Land Scotland to finalise the access plans. Appropriate improvements to the public road may be required.



Proposed Route to Site







ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS



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 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 concluded the site is not regularly used by sensitive bird populations.

Ecology surveys

- The ecology surveys include:

 A Phase 1 habitat survey;
- A National Vegetation Classification survey;
- Terrestrial mammal surveys;
- Bat surveys; and
- Fish habitat surveys.

Water Environment

The Torrisdale Water and the Lephincorrach Burn bound the site to the north and south respectively. Tributaries of these watercourses flow through the site. Surveys of watercourses and private water supplies within and near the site have been conducted.

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage The effects of the proposed

development on the historic environment, including cultural heritage and archaeology, will be assessed.

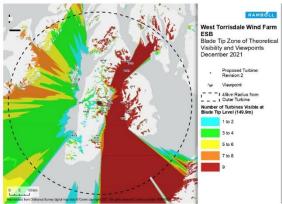
Surveys have concluded there are two groups of shielings within the site near the Torrisdale Water, and another group high above the existing access track. These have been taken into account during the design process. The environmental impact assessment will assess the magnitude and significance of effects on heritage assets in the surrounding

Peat

Phase 1 and 2 peat surveys have been undertaken to establish the peat depth across the site and around proposed turbines and infrastructure.

As a result, the proposed layout has been designed to avoid areas of deep peat as far as possible. A Peat Management Plan will be prepared to accompany the application.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT



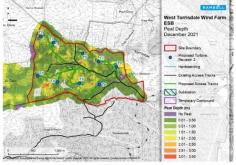
Zone of Theoretical Visibility

A landscape and visual impact assessment will establish the potential effects of the proposed development on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity.

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 zone of theoretical visibility based on preliminary design options has been prepared to inform the landscape and visual impact assessment.

The zone of theoretical visibility 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 current design consists of 9 turbines up to 149.9 m to blade tip.



Peat Depth Plan







PHOTOMONTAGES





Viewpoint 1 (2.3 km): Torrisdale Bay Parking Area. Photomontage of the proposed West Torrisdale turbines from Torrisdale Bay Parking Area. Photomontage and wireline taken from Grid Reference 179733, 636007 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view.





Viewpoint 4 (8.9 km): Glenbarr War Memorial. Photomontage of the proposed West Torrisdale turbines from the War Memorial at Glenbarr. Photomontage and wireline taken from Grid Reference 167020, 637054 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view.

PHOTOMONTAGES





Viewpoint 8 (3.8 km): near Millennium Bench. Photomontage of the proposed West Torrisdale turbines from the road above the Millennium Bench between Carradale and the Village Hall. Photomontage and wireline taken from Grid Reference 181029, 638193 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view.





Viewpoint 14 (4.7 km): Carradale Golf Course. Photomontage of the proposed West Torrisdale turbines from the bench overlooking Tee 6 of Carradale Golf Course. Photomontage and wireline taken from Grid Reference 181961, 638128 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view.







THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



ESB will work closely with local communities, businesses and residents in seeking to ensure that the West Torrisdale Wind Farm Proposal will bring real benefits and help to meet national climate change targets.

Business, Jobs and Investment

ESB would like to hear from businesses across Argyll and Bute and Scotland to ensure that it can fully consider the skills and services of local people and suppliers if the West Torrisdale 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.

Local Accommodation Providers

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

To be considered, please register with the local suppliers' database on our project website: www.esbenergy,.co.uk/west-torrisdale-wind-farm

Community Benefit

ESB is committed to community benefit. We are currently exploring the options for community benefit and want to work with the community to create a workable and targeted package up to the value of £5,000 per megawatt of installed capacity.

We welcome feedback from the local community on community benefit structures

Community Shared Ownership

ESB is keen to consult the community about interest in investing in owning a share of West Torrisdale Wind Farm.

WHAT NEXT?



ESB hopes to submit its application for consent for the West Torrisdale Wind Farm project to the Scottish Ministers towards the middle of 2022. The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit will undertake a formal consultation process when the public will be invited to make comment on the proposals.

In the meantime, we would welcome your feedback on our proposals and can provide further information if required. Details of the feedback provided to us via our public consultation will be captured and included in a statement of community consultation provided to the Scottish Government alongside the application for consent. Please note that comments made to ESB at this time are not representations to the Council or Scottish Ministers.

This initial public consultation period is being held from 3 December until 31 December 2021, both in public and online and follows the COVID-19 guidance currently in place in

You can view more detailed information on our website: www.esbenergy.co.uk/westtorrisdale-wind-farm

Contact points

Email: westtorrisdale@esb.ie

Post: Duncan Scott (Project Director) ESB Asset Development UK Ltd Inovo Building 121 George Street Glasgow G1 1RD







Appendix 4 - West Torrisdale Project Information Days photos









Appendix 5 - West Torrisdale Project Information Days Advert

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON WEST TORRISDALE WIND FARM PROPOSAL



To find out more about our proposals for a wind farm and energy storage development at West Torrisdale, the ESB project team invite you to our public information days:

Glenbarr Village Hall:

Thursday 9th December, 1pm-7pm

Carradale Village Hall:

Friday 10th December, 1pm-7pm Saturday 11th December, 11am-5pm

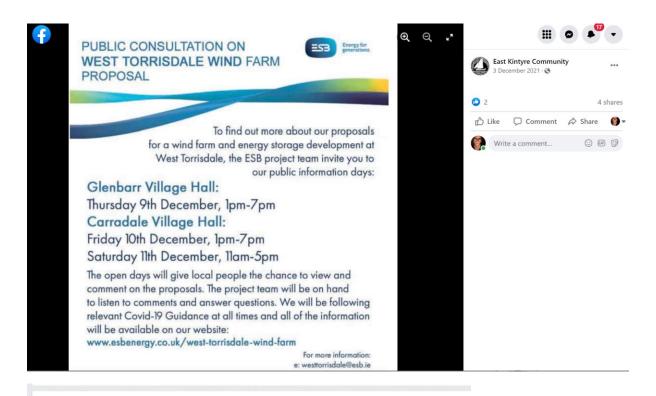
The open days will give local people the chance to view and comment on the proposals. The project team will be on hand to listen to comments and answer questions. We will be following relevant Covid-19 Guidance at all times and all of the information will be available on our website:

www.esbenergy.co.uk/west-torrisdale-wind-farm

For more information: e: westtorrisdale@esb.ie

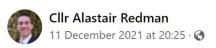


Appendix 6 - West Torrisdale Project Information Days Social Media Coverage









It was great to be back in Carradale today speaking to my constituents and attending the proposed West Torrisdale Wind Farm consultation in the Carradale village hall.

Flooding on many roads is causing concerns among local residents and I have contacted the roads department with pictures of the flooding. Any much-needed pothole repairs will simply not last if our road network continues to be flooded.

The road to the Carradale cemetery is in a terrible state of repair and I have been working with the local Community Council members to get this road repaired, including both initial short term pothole filling and some more long-term repairs.

I will continue to work hard for every corner of my council ward.





Appendix 7 - West Torrisdale Project Information Days Press Coverage





Press Release – for immediate use 3 December 2021

West Torrisdale Wind Farm Public Information Days

Renewable energy developer ESB has begun a public consultation exercise for the proposed West Torrisdale Wind Farm.

ESB is planning to hold three in-person open days at the beginning of December to introduce the wider public to the new project, in addition to publishing a consultation page on its website. All of the appropriate Covid-19 Guidance will be followed at these events. If members of the public are unable to visit in person, all of the information, including on how to comment or ask any questions you may have, will be available on the project website www.esbenergy.co.uk/west-torrisdale-wind-farm until the end of the month. Details of the events are as follows:

Public Information Days:

Thursday 9th December 2021, Glenbarr Village Hall 1.00pm to 7.00pm Friday 10th December 2021, Carradale Village Hall, 1.00pm to 7.00pm. Saturday 11th December 2021, Carradale Village Hall, 11am to 5.00pm.

Project Director, Duncan Scott said: "We are looking forward to seeing communities in person on our three public information days.. West Torrisdale will make a valuable contribution not only to the renewable energy targets that the Government has set, and which have been reinforced by the recent COP26 in Glasgow, but will also offer the opportunity for the local community to benefit both through a community benefit fund, and also the potential for shared ownership."

The project which could see up to 9 turbines located close to the operational wind farms of Beinn an Tuirc and Blary Hill wind farms, would have around 54 MW of capacity along with a battery storage system, utilising turbines of up to 149.9m to tip in height.

All the information on display at the public events will also be available to view on the website from Friday 3rd December 2021 where the public can also provide feedback online.

- ENDS -

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. ESB, Ireland's part state-owned electricity utility company, provide power to over 1.5million customers, including businesses and householders across Scotland and the rest of the UK. ESB has offices in Glasgow and, as well as operating onshore and offshore wind farms, is heavily involved in electric vehicle infrastructure and renewable heating systems, such as installing the low carbon heating and cooling system in the V&A Dundee.



Appendix 8 - West Torrisdale Project Information Days Questionnaire

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Please return this questionnaire to the registration desk at the entrance of the exhibition.

If preferred, you can send the questionnaire to Duncan Scott (Project Director)

ESB Asset Development UK Ltd

Inovo Building

121 George Street

Glasgow

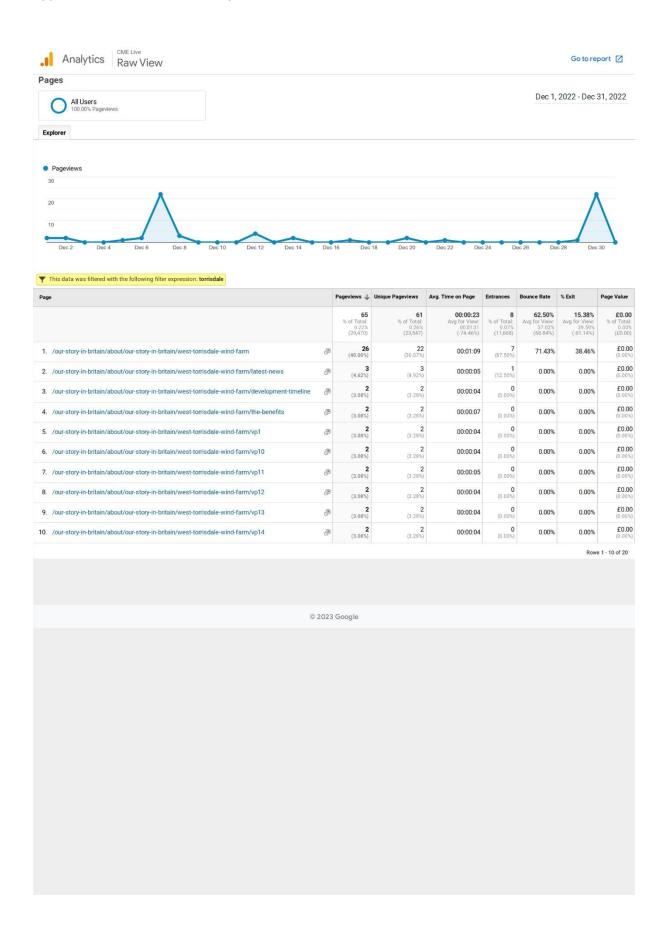
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Appendix 9 - West Torrisdale Project Website Stats





Appendix 10 - West Torrisdale Returned Questionnaires (redacted)

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3a.	How do you feel about this '	Wind Farm proposal? Supportive	Undecided	Opposed	Very opposed
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4.	How close do you live to the Within 1 kilometre	-	and 5 kilometres	Further away than	5 kilometres
	(0.6 miles)	(3.1 miles)		(3.1 miles)	
5	Do you have any comment local people and communi		the community benefit fun	d could be spent/mana	ged in the area, to benefit



7. 1	tow did you first learn about the project?
	Ward of mouth
	Google or other search engine Newspaper advert Vewspaper article Social media
	Invitation for) Public Exhibition
	Other (please state)
8. P	lease use the area below to ask a specific question or comment on the Wind Farm proposal.
	DE LE DE COMMUNITY
	IT SHOULD BE GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY
- 0.00	
	If you would like us to respond to any of the comments you have made or questions you have asked in this questionnaire,
,	please indicate here and, if required, we will get back to you shortly.
,	please indicate here and, if required, we will get back to you shortly. Response wanted
,	please indicate here and, if required, we will get back to you shortly.
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	Please indicate here and, if required, we will get back to you shortly. Response wanted No response wanted Data Protection We hald all personal data in proceedance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679
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	Please return this questionnaire to the registration desk at the entrance of the exhibition. If preferred, you can send the questionnaire to Duncan Scott (Project Director)
,	Please return this questionnaire to the registration desk at the entrance of the exhibition. If preferred, you can send the questionnaire to Duncan Scott [Project Director] ESB Asset Development UK bid Response wanted Data Protection Data Protection We hold all personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and your personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area
	Please return this questionnaire to the registration desk at the entrance of the exhibition. If preferred, you can send the questionnaire to Duncan Scott (Project Director) ESB Asset Development UK Ltd Inovo Building 12 George Street
,	Please return this questionnaire to the registration desk at the entrance of the exhibition. If preferred, you can send the questionnaire to Duncan Scott [Project Director] ESB Asset Development UK bd Inovo Building 121 George Street Glasgow
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				ES3	Energy for generations
C	atnot Nataile				
47	d Farm Project TVEST	TORRISDA	LE	D	ate 11/12/21
our		rould appreciate you taking	a moment to complete the fo	ollowing questionnaire so v	ve can find out more about your ute to the development process
	What are your views on the (onshore and offshore wind	use of renewable energ	y to help meet our energy	requirements?	
	Very Supportive	Supportive	Undecided	Opposed	Very opposed
	What are your views on the	Supportive	particular to help meet or Undecided	Opposed	Very opposed
2.	How do you feel about this Very Supportive	Wind Farm proposal? Supportive	Undecided	Opposed	Very opposed
	Why do you hold this view? The present Jetailed is I reads y pring	oton is ex	cellent and and developed most, then	assuming en	conting something
+	Within 1 kilometre (0.6 miles)	proposed wind form site Between 1 c (3.1 miles)	4	Further away than	
	Do you have any comments local people and communiti	or suggestions on how t	he community benefit fund	d could be spent/manag	ged in the area, to benefit
	Not at the	moment -	would need	time to co	nside.
- 1					



7.	How did you first learn about the project?
	Word of mouth Postcard
	Google or other search engine Newspaper advert Newspaper article Social media
	(Invitation for) Public Exhibition
	Other (please state)
8.	Please use the area below to ask a specific question or comment on the Wind Farm proposal.
	Any questions I had entire answered by the presenters on the day.
	presenten on the day.
	presenten on the day.
	presenten on the day.
9.	If you would like us to respond to any of the comments you have made or questions you have asked in this questionnaire,
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our	Farm Project WEST FOTH (Sdally Date 11/12/21
nd ir	son the wind farm proposal this exhibition is all about. The aim of this questionnaire is to allow individuals to contribute to the development process interact with ESB. This is not a substitute for the official planning process. No personal information will be passed on to third parties
	What are your views on the use of renewable energy to help meet our energy requirements? (onshore and offshore wind power, solar power, biomass, wave and tidal power, amongst others)
	Very Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed
2.	What are your views on the use of wind energy in particular to help meet our energy requirements?
	Very Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed
3a.	How do you feel about this Wind Farm proposal?
3Ь.	Why do you hold this view [®] Please state ☐ Undecided ☐ Opposed ☐ Very opposed Why do you hold this view [®] Please state
	Kar too many wind farans multiple of this will have a huge visual impact
1.	How close do you live to the proposed wind farm site? Within 1 kilometre [0 6 miles] Within 1 kilometres Further away than 5 kilometres
5	Do you have any comments or suggestions on how the community benefit fund could be spent/managed in the area, to benefit local people and communities?
	we get quite every full from money as it is



6	If you have any further interests, please state below:
	W N 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
7.	How did you first learn about the project?
	Word of mouth Rostcard
	(Invitation for) Public Exhibition
	Other (please state)
8.	Please use the area below to ask a specific question or comment on the Wind Farm proposal.
0	If you would like us to respond to any of the comments you have made or questions you have asked in this questionnaire.
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	Energy for generations
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Wind	Farm Project West torrisdale Date 10/12/21
Your	opinion is important to us. We would appreciate you taking a moment to complete the following questionnaire so we can find out more about your on the wind farm proposal this exhibition is all about. The aim of this questionnaire is to allow individuals to contribute to the development process atteract with ESB. This is not a substitute for the official planning process. No personal information will be passed on to third parties.
	What are your views on the use of renewable energy to help meet our energy requirements? (onshore and offshore wind power, solar power, biomass, wave and tidal power, amongst others)
2.	What are your views on the use of wind energy in particular to help meet our energy requirements?
За.	How do you feel about this Wind Farm proposal? Very Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed Very Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed
3Ь.	Why do you hold this view? Please state
	I an surprised to see the ornithdayy survey did not mention golden eagles. They next at khoradale a fly over to torrisdale every morning the development will also have a very obvious impact on the scenic coastal roote
4.	How close do you live to the proposed wind farm site? Within 1 kilometre [0.6 miles] [3.1 miles] [3.1 miles] Within 2 kilometres [3.1 miles] [3.1 miles]
5	Do you have any comments or suggestions on how the community benefit fund could be spent/managed in the area, to benefit local people and communities?
	I think a 25-35-year conjuntly horght had could had electric charging points for vehicles in the area, along with employment of eg project managers / committy disobled hos + driver etc. Committy should acrosslip would allow have sustainable several to
	local communities & help to effect the detrinantal impact on tovotson.



	If you have any further interests, please state below:
7.	How did you first learn about the project?
	Word of mouth Postcard
	Google or other search engine Newspaper advert Newspaper article Social media [Invitation for) Public Exhibition
	Other (please state)
8.	Please use the area below to ask a specific question or comment on the Wind Farm proposal.
	A wire drawing of the virual impact from our property would
	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	at help he , and hopefully reassuring. Information about the
	be helpful, and hopefully reassuring. Information about the possible roise impact in various locations would be belowed too
	possible roise impact in various locations would be selevant too.
	possible noise impact in various locations would be belevant too.
	possible roise impact in various locations would be selevant too.
9.	If you would like us to respond to any of the comments you have made as questions would be be less at too
9.	If you would like us to respond to any of the comments you have made or questions you have asked in this questionnaire, please indicate here and, if required, we will get back to you shortly.
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Wind Farm Project TOMSCLACE WEST. Your opinion is important to us. We would appreciate you taking a moment to complete the following questionnours so we can find out more about your views anthe wind farm proposal this exhibition is all about the aim of his questionnours is to allow individuals to contribute to the development process and interact with ESB This is not a substitute for the official planning process. No personal information will be passed in to third pointes. 1. What are your views an the use of renewable energy to help meet our energy requirements? [wery Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed Very opposed Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed Very opposed Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed Very opposed Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed Very opposed Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed Very opposed Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed		Energy for generations
Your opinion is important to us. We would appreciate you taking a moment to complete the following questionnaire so we can find out more about your views on the wind farm proposal this exhibition is all about. The aim of this questionnaire is to allow individuals to contribute to the development process and interact with ESB. This is not a substitute for the official planning process. No personal information will be possed on to third parties. 1. What are your views on the use of renewable energy to help meet our energy requirements? (anshore and affishore wind power solar power, bismass, wave and tidal power, amongst others) [Insert of the proposed of the proposed of the power of the power of the proposed		
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Conshore and offshore wind power, solar power, blomass, wave and tidal power, amongst others) Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed Very opposed Very opposed Opposed Very opposed Very opposed Opposed Very opposed Very opposed Opposed Very opposed Opposed Very opposed Very opposed Opposed Very opposed Very opposed opposed Very opposed Very opposed Opposed Very opposed Very opposed Very opposed Very opposed Very opposed Very opposed Opposed Very opposed	view	son the wind farm proposal this exhibition is all about. The aim of this questionnaire is to allow individuals to contribute to the development process
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How do you feel about this Wind Farm proposal? Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed	2.	What are your views on the use of wind energy in particular to help meet our energy requirements?
I am concerned about the prohitation of midfarms along the indeed tintyre 4. How close do you live to the proposed wind farm site? Within 1 kilometre Serven 1 and 5 kilometres (3.1 miles) 5. Do you have any comments or suggestions on how the community benefit fund could be spent/managed in the area, to benefit local people and communities? The best community benefit would be the creation of jobs. This area needs employment to encourage young people to hive and work here. Any community benefit or shared ownership and be used to create opportunities for	3a.	How do you feel about this Wind Farm proposal?
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should be used to create opportunities for		of jobs. This area needs employment to encourage young people to live and work here.
		should be used to create opportunities for



6. IF	you have any further interests, please state below:
	My main concern is about height a usibility of wind turbines. I do not want to see navigation warning lights along the spine of Kintyre but am very supportive of all
	of MING THIDINGS. I do not the spine
	nangation warning ngmi wing the sporting of all
	of Kintyre Dill and very signification of alternative energy.
7.	How did you first learn about the project?
	Word of mouth Postcard
	Google or other search engine Newspaper advert Newspaper article Social media
	(Invitation for) Public Exhibition
	Other (please state)
8.	Please use the area below to ask a specific question or comment on the Wind Farm proposal.
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	Please use the area below to ask a specific question of comment on the Whita Fullin proposal.
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	If you would like us to respond to any of the comments you have made or questions you have asked in this questionnaire, please indicate here and, if required, we will get back to you shortly. Response wanted
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Wind Farm Project Torrivable West Your opinions important to us. We would appreciate you taking a moment to complete the following questionnaire so we can find out more about views on the wind farm proposed this exhibition is all about. The aim of this questionnaire is to allow individuals to combute to the development production with ESB. This is not a substitute for the official planning process. No personal information will be passed on to third parties. What are your views on the use of renewable energy to help meet our energy requirements? Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed. What are your views on the use of wind energy in particular to help meet our energy requirements? Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed. At word and you feel about this Wind Farm proposal? Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed. To you hold this view? Please state. Between 1 and 5 kilometres. (3 I miles) To you have any comments or suggestions on how the community benefit fund could be spent/managed in the area, to be local people and communities? Support for the enterty. Also, See or Lead Devalgement Min an "Rentes + Rentes thanks by Benefit Sund Support. Whath be good if the project and Support. Whath be good if the project and Support. Whath be good if the project and Support.		Energy for generations
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U.	If you have any further interests, please state below:
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	Word of mouth Postcord
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	Other (please state)
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	Energy for generations
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Win	d Farm Project
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	Energy for generations
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	Energy for generations
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Wind	Form Project WEST TORRISDACE Date 10/12/21
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5	Do you have any comments or suggestions on how the community benefit fund could be spent/managed in the area, to benefit local people and communities?
	IF THE WINDKARM GOES TO PLANNING THERE MUST BE
	FULL CBFX CSO ADHERINGIN FULL TO 5.4 GUIDE
	TO GOOD PRINCIPLES, THIS MUST BE IN WRITING FROM START TO LOCAL COMMUNITY & INCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WIT CONTINUE IF PROTECT FLIPPED BY DENELOFER. THERE MUST ALSO BE AGREEMENT THE HEIGHT NEVER exa 150m. PS
	FUNDING TO BE PAID TO EAST KINTYRE COMMUNITY KUN
	IN FULL TO GO TOWARDS THE LOCAL DUELOPMENT
	KEY BONG TERM PROTECTS NOTED IN LOCAL DEVELOPT PLAN



7.	How did you first learn about the project?
	Word of mouth Postcard
	Google or other search engine Newspaper advert Newspaper article Social media
	[Invitation for] Public Exhibition
	Other (please state) E KREG
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8.	Please use the area below to ask a specific question or comment on the Wind Farm proposal.
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5	Do you have any comments or suggestions on how the community benefit fund could be spent/managed in the area, to benefit local people and communities?
	lower electricity prices for local residents.



6.	If you have any further interests, please state below:
7.	How did you first learn about the project?
	Word of mouth Postcard
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	Porcel bird watcher.
7.	How did you first learn about the project?
	Word of mouth Postcard Google or other search engine Newspaper advent Newspaper article Social media
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	Energy for generations
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Wind	Form Project LAEST TORRISDALE Date 10 12-2021
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	ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS/GMMITTEES IS REQUESTED. THERE IS A GROUP WHICH WORKS TO TRY TO GAIN BENEFIT FOR THE COMMUNITY FOR FROM RENEMBLES CONCERNS. (I CAN PROVIDE CONTACT DETAILS IF YOU LIKE)
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Appendix 11 – SP=EED Practical Guide to Engagement in Planning



Scottish Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery

A Practical Guide to Better Engagement in Planning in Scotland





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Foreword

SP=EED™ was developed by Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS) between 2006 and 2008, anticipating that engagement and consultation would be central factors in Scotland's reformed planning system.

The vision of effective engagement contributing to more efficient planning processes and higher quality outcomes was central to the reform of the planning system, as set out in the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

SP=EED™ is aimed at planning authorities, planning consultants, private and community-led developers, key agencies, community groups and members of the public, and is endorsed in the Scottish Government's *Planning Advice Note 3/2010*. PAS intends that it will be used as a framework to share and learn from experiences of delivering engagement.

With ever-increasing public desire to be involved in shaping future development, **SP=EED™** aims to provoke discussion and provide practical guidance, rather than being prescriptive. Its aim is to ensure that effective engagement will lead to confidence and trust in the integrity of the Scottish planning system.

Information about PAS's **SP=EED™** training is also included. If you would like further information about this, or have any questions or comments, please contact **sp=eed@planningaidscotland.org.uk**

Petra Biberbach Chief Executive, Planning Aid for Scotland

Notes

SP=EED™ assumes that all statutory requirements for community engagement will be met by those undertaking the process. See www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning

As used in **SP=EED™**, the term stakeholder refers to any member of the public, group or organisation, involved in any way with engagement.

As used in **SP=EED™**, the term partner refers to any member of the public, group or organisation involved in engagement at Level 3.

SP=EED™ stands for Scottish Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery and is a practical guide to engagement in planning, devised and produced by Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS). It is targeted at all stakeholders in Scotland's planning system and is designed to help design, deliver and assess the process of engagement. By drawing on good practice and PAS's research, experience of engagement and independent expertise, **SP=EED™** sets out a framework which anyone can use.

When can **SP=EED**[™] be used?

SP=EED™ can be used to guide the engagement process for planning authority, developer or community-led plans or proposals, or it can assist community groups and members of the public in suggesting to planning authorities or developers how they would like to be consulted.

Can **SP=EED™** be used outwith planning?

While **SP=EED™** is designed specifically for engagement in planning, it is equally applicable to other development consent consultation procedures e.g. power stations (including renewable energy developments), transmission line or pipeline applications, harbour orders, transport and works orders, traffic regulation orders and private bill procedures. In future, with the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 coming into force, it will equally apply to new marine planning procedures.

What is the aim of $SP = EED^{TM}$?

SP=EED™ aims to enhance the overall quality of engagement in Scotland, thereby contributing to a planning system where effective engagement leads to greater efficiency in the delivery of development. Both effective engagement, and public involvement in the design process, can lead to better proposals and fewer objections, meaning quicker progress through the planning process. SP=EED™ also aims to spread and share good practice throughout the planning community in Scotland.

What is effective engagement?

There will never be a single formula for achieving effective engagement, so **SP=EED™** does not take a one-size-fits-all approach. Instead, it sets out 3 levels of engagement to suit different scenarios, and provides guidance on how to undertake effective engagement and consultation.

An essential aspect of effective engagement is managing public expectation. Planning can be complicated and emotive, with its legal nature adding a further layer of complexity. Timescales in delivering development can be lengthy, so meaningful engagement needs to be planned to manage and retain stakeholder involvement throughout the process, as well as setting out a realistic understanding of what can be achieved.

It is up to whoever is leading any engagement process to decide how they want to involve people. In some cases, the provision of basic information may suffice; in others, members of the public will play a key role in the design process of new proposals.

What engagement is required in planning?

The Scottish Government's aim for planning is for it to be inclusive and efficient. The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and subsequent regulations and guidance were introduced to achieve this.

In preparing Strategic Development Plans and Local Development Plans, planning authorities are asked to take an innovative approach to engagement and set out a Participation Statement within their Development Plan Scheme.

Pre-application Consultation (PAC) is a mandatory aspect of national and major planning applications. One public event must be held, and advertised as per statutory requirements, and a PAC report submitted with the planning application, detailing the level of engagement that has been undertaken.

However, effective engagement is appropriate and beneficial for any development proposal, regardless of its size or whether it is led by the community or the private sector.

How does **SP=EED™** relate to existing guidance?

Unlike most guidance on public engagement, **SP=EED™** is designed specifically for the planning sector. It recognises the inherent complexities of undertaking engagement in planning, based on PAS's experience of helping people to engage with the planning system.

Due to the engagement requirements set out by Scotland's reformed planning system, practical guidance on effective engagement is now more important than ever. The Scottish Government's *Planning Advice Note 3/2010 Community Engagement* endorses **SP=EED™** as a means of achieving meaningful engagement. It also recognises the important role of communities and community groups in the decision making process.

Why is engagement in planning important?

Planning impacts on everyone, so it follows that members of the public and community groups should be given the opportunity to be involved.

Effective engagement can lead to better development proposals, potentially taking on board points raised by members of the public. People who have been actively involved in the design process or consulted effectively early on may have less cause to object at planning application stage. This can lead to proposals moving through the planning process faster and more efficiently.

Scotland's reformed planning system aims to achieve increased engagement alongside greater quality and certainty in the delivery of development. **SP=EED™** will help design, deliver and assess effective engagement to achieve this win-win outcome.

SP=EED™ is an essential resource for any organisation or person **designing**, **carrying out** and **assessing** an engagement process. It is also a useful reference tool for community groups in helping them decide how they would like to be consulted.

Planning Authorities	 Development Plan Schemes and Participation Statements Strategic Development Plans and Local Development Plans Strategic Environmental Assessments, Open Space Strategies, etc. Design or Development Briefs Supplementary Guidance on engagement Assessing Pre-application Consultation reports Advising applicants on level of engagement to aim for
Developers Planning Consultancies Housing Associations Urban Regeneration Companies	 Proposal of Application Notices Designing Pre-application Consultation processes Pre-application Consultation reports Development Brief consultations Masterplan consultations Regeneration processes Other development consent consultation procedures e.g. energy consents, roads consents
Community Organisations Development Trusts Members of the Public	 Local community plans Community-led proposals Discussing and designing approaches to engagement Negotiating with planning authorities/developers regarding preferred engagement methods
Key Agencies & Statutory Consultees	 Discussing approaches to engagement and consultation Designing and guiding engagement/consultation processes Training and reference guidance for staff Disseminating good practice

SP=EED™ differs from other guidance on engagement in that it recognises that different approaches will be appropriate in different situations.

SP=EED™ therefore sets out 3 levels of engagement to aim for:

Level 1 Informing

Level 2 Consulting

Level 3 Partnership

Level 1 is the most appropriate level to aim for in certain scenarios.

Level 2 is the level of engagement practised most commonly throughout Scotland since the late 1960s, and should be achievable in many scenarios.

Level 3 is achievable in many scenarios and could be accomplished in community-led proposals, or other proposals where members of the public are involved in the design and development process; or in large development or regeneration projects.

SP=EED™ also sets out 8 criteria for effective engagement:

1	Transparency & Integrity	5	Responsiveness
2	Co-ordination	6	Inclusiveness
3	Information	7	Monitoring & Evaluating
4	Appropriateness	8	Learning & Sharing

Each of the criteria is dealt with on a separate page, outlining what to aim for at each level, and how to achieve this.

The What to aim for statements should be regarded as universal, and applicable to any engagement scenario. The How can you achieve it? section provides guidance on how to meet the criteria, but **SP=EED™** recognises that these are not the only ways in which the aims can be met.

Use **SP=EED™** to design effective engagement:

- think about and plan engagement well before the process begins
- help everyone to understand the objectives of the process
- manage public expectation
- · identify suitable approaches
- manage the consultation process
- evaluate and learn

Note – an engagement process might achieve different levels with regard to different criteria		
Level 1	Informing	 an essential building block for engagement a one-way process a valuable end in itself and the most appropriate level to aim for in certain situations an essential step in achieving Levels 2 and 3
Level 2	Consulting	 incorporates and builds on Level 1 an interactive and iterative process – listening, and being responsive to issues raised an appropriate level in many situations the level of engagement most often aimed for and achieved
Level 3	Partnership	 incorporates Levels 1 and 2, but goes well beyond the most demanding level of engagement achievable and appropriate in the right situation may take place over an extended period of time involves in-depth collaboration with partners, and could include potential for their input into design of proposals and the engagement process

Transparency and Integrity

LEVELS	WHAT TO AIM FOR	HOW CAN YOU ACHIEVE IT?
Informing	The purpose of the engagement is clear and people can find out about it easily.	 Make a clear statement about the integrity of the engagement process. Explain clearly the purpose of the engagement process. Be clear about potential timescales of the engagement process and delivery of development. Establish whether there is a legacy of trust or distrust from previous engagement – research previous engagement and consultation processes. Advertise any engagement process or event prominently e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, local press and radio, social media. Attract passers-by to events by having banners and posters outside venues. Explain how further information can be accessed. Explain the limits of the planning system (i.e. matters material to use and development of land).
Consulting	Level 1 + Rights to participate are clearly explained and opportunities to express opinions are publicised.	 Level 1 + Make clear which aspects of plans or proposals can and cannot be influenced via the engagement process. Explain why any aspects of plans or proposals are non-negotiable. Encourage balanced consideration of the pros and cons of plans and proposals. Ensure statements and any assumptions in engagement materials are referenced. Where appropriate, use professional planners to carry out engagement working under the RTPI Code of Conduct - make stakeholders aware of this. Appoint dedicated note takers for group discussion events.
Partnership	Level 1 and Level 2 + Dialogue will take place with partners about how they will be involved in the engagement process and how their input will be used.	 Level 1 and Level 2 + Identify all potential partners early and explain to them, and other stakeholders, the benefits of a partnership approach. Explain which aspects of the actual engagement process are negotiable. Discuss how input from the engagement process will be used. Discuss options for involving stakeholders in the design of proposals. Keep a formal record of decisions and allow partners access to this.

Co-ordination

LEVELS	WHAT TO AIM FOR	HOW CAN YOU ACHIEVE IT?
Informing	The timetable for the engagement process will be published and relevant relationships explained.	 Set out the engagement strategy well in advance, identifying how to target key stakeholders. Allow appropriate time for the engagement process. Establish whether other engagement/consultation exercises are on-going. Be clear about, and provide explanation of, the roles of all stakeholders involved. Allow a realistic amount of time in the workload of those carrying out the consultation. Be flexible and have contingencies for any delays.
Consulting	Level 1 + The timetable for the engagement process will include adequate periods for meetings, public events and discussion with stakeholders.	 Level 1 + Decide when and how stakeholders' input will be sought and which methods should be used. Take account of holiday periods and local or big events. Plan times and locations of events to reach the widest range of stakeholders. Where appropriate, be prepared to amend timescales. Invite representatives from relevant local authority departments to meetings/events.
3 Partnership	Level 1 and Level 2 + The timetable for the engagement process will include opportunities for partners to develop their own ideas; partners will be involved in discussing how to co-ordinate actions.	 Level 1 and Level 2 + Tap into resources from the community: enthusiasm, local knowledge, local volunteers and networks of contacts. Consider setting up a steering group representing the local community and interested parties. Plan ahead to allow partners to input into timescales; allocate time and resources for them to develop their own ideas and proposals. Consult those with experience of a partnership approach for guidance e.g. on timescales, levels of resources required, techniques to use. Liaise with key agencies/statutory consultees about the partnership approach and its timetable, and take into account any impact of their policies or projects.

Information

LEVELS	WHAT TO AIM FOR	HOW CAN YOU ACHIEVE IT?
Informing	Information will be relevant, accurate and comprehensible to the target audience.	 Describe the relevant issues clearly and succinctly. If possible, present information visually; avoid too much text. Identify at the outset gaps in information available, and how to source this information. Explain national and regional plans/issues within the local context. Provide summaries of the role and content of key documents e.g. Local Development Plans, Planning Advice Notes, and explain how to access full versions. Invite people to sign up for updates e.g. by email or newsletter. Reference all sources of information. Consider holding a public meeting to attract and gauge public interest in plans or proposals.
Consulting	Level 1 + Information will be communicated and shared, aiming to invite feedback.	 Level 1 + Make every reasonable effort to satisfy requests for new information. Present information in a way which will invite comment and debate. Flag up any areas of uncertainty; state when and how these may be resolved; and provide opportunities for discussion of these areas. Provide suitable means for responses and comments to be made. Collate comments and suggestions - feed them back into the process so that information is up-to-date.
B Partnership	Level 1 and Level 2 + Identification, collection and dissemination of relevant new information by partners is encouraged.	 Level 1 and Level 2 + Create a dialogue with all partners from an early stage to collate knowledge and information. Start the information gathering process as early as possible for maximum efficiency. Discuss with partners the best means of disseminating information. Seek professional advice on information gathering techniques e.g. designing questionnaires and other surveys, with the aim of avoiding the problem of unreliable data.

Appropriateness

LEVELS	WHAT TO AIM FOR	HOW CAN YOU ACHIEVE IT?
Informing	Information will be presented to suit its intended audience and can be accessed by all stakeholders at each stage of the process.	 Consider the best means of publicising the engagement process e.g. public notice boards, libraries, community centres, local press. Use clear English and avoid planning-related jargon. Be aware that the target audience will not be planning professionals. Explain maps, drawings and diagrams in clear and simple terms. For public events, use venues which are easy to find and times that allow all stakeholders to attend; provide access for people with disabilities and other needs.
Consulting	Level 1 + Engagement processes to fit the situation will be used, with opportunities for discussion and for questions to be raised and answered.	 Level 1 + Ensure that meetings, exhibitions and workshops are held at times and locations to suit different areas and groups within the community. Allow responses to be submitted by various means (letter, telephone, email) as well as in person at consultation events. Arrange for relevant professional staff to be on hand to answer questions at all times, or detail when they will be there. Use models and visualisations of proposals. Where appropriate, offer workshops and themed focus groups as well as exhibitions.
Partnership	Level 1 and Level 2 + A collaborative approach to working with partners on proposals, and regular review of the engagement process.	 Level 1 and Level 2 + Steering groups, meetings and forums will be open to all, and minutes will be made available publicly after these and any other open meetings. Allow independent professionals/consultants to be brought in to explore possible solutions. e.g. architects, transport consultants etc. Consider mediation in appropriate situations – when there are divided opinions but common aims.

Responsiveness

LEVELS	WHAT TO AIM FOR	HOW CAN YOU ACHIEVE IT?
Informing	Relevant information will be provided at every stage of the process.	 Ensure that contact details for enquiries/responses are given on all materials. Deal with enquiries promptly. Enable access to relevant documents on internet and place copies of relevant documentation at public places e.g. libraries, post offices, community centres, planning authority offices. Publicise any proposed changes to plans or proposals. Record and publicise changes to plans or proposals as a result of the engagement process.
Consulting	Level 1 + Findings from the engagement process will be analysed, disseminated, and potentially incorporated.	 Level 1 + Provide a representative to record and answer questions at events. If appropriate, provide respondents with a written response. Offer further workshops or discussion groups to hear people's views or in response to feedback received. Inform stakeholders if, how and why the proposal has been amended as a result of consultation. If significant changes to a proposal are introduced, consider holding additional consultation events.
Partnership	Level 1 and Level 2 + Partners will be offered the opportunity to present and discuss their own ideas and receive feedback.	 Level 1 and Level 2 + Be ready to consider suggestions for modifying the engagement process. Be prepared to give feedback on ideas and new matters raised by stakeholders. Commission professional expertise e.g. trained facilitators to make best use of interactive methods for developing proposals and making decisions.

Inclusiveness

LEVELS	WHAT TO AIM FOR	HOW CAN YOU ACHIEVE IT?
Informing	Relevant representative groups/ organisations will be identified and information will be designed and disseminated to reach them.	 Establish a contacts database and keep it up-to-date. Use formal and informal networks to make the contacts database as representative as possible. Identify seldom heard groups and consider how they tend to access information – e.g. via local newspapers/groups/venues/libraries etc. Record data on factors relevant to inclusiveness and representativeness e.g. age, gender, residence, tenure etc. Think creatively about venues appropriate to the type of proposal and all groups you want to reach, including seldom heard groups.
Consulting	Level 1 + An emphasis will be placed on allowing the voices of seldom heard groups and those most likely to be affected to be heard.	 Level 1 + Target publicity at all groups likely to be positively or negatively affected by the proposal. Target seldom heard and potentially under-represented groups such as young people, BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) Groups, Gypsy/Travellers, women with young children, people with disabilities and elderly people. Seek assistance from organisations specialising in promoting inclusiveness and relevant local authority staff: Equalities Officers, Youth Engagement Officers, Access Panels, etc. Build links with local primary and secondary schools. Knock on the doors of people affected by proposals rather than assume they will come to events; or use mobile units to reach a variety of areas.
B Partnership	Level 1 and Level 2 + Assistance and advice will be made available to seldom heard groups to enable them to become partners in the process; overall, a representative range of stakeholders will be consulted.	 Level 1 and Level 2 + Plan an outreach programme to identify and listen to the needs of specific groups. Go beyond statutory requirements for engagement. Consider using Equalities Impact Assessments or Health Impact Assessments at the start of the process and review regularly. Consider using liaison officers to work directly with specific groups. Where possible, compare the profile of stakeholders involved throughout the whole engagement process to that of areas as a whole. Consider using professionally designed and conducted surveys to ensure that the views of the population as a whole are known.

Monitoring and Evaluating

LEVELS	WHAT TO AIM FOR	HOW CAN YOU ACHIEVE IT?
Informing	Distribution of information and feedback received on the engagement process will be analysed after the process is completed.	 Record and monitor distribution of information at the end of the process. Record the number and type of any events that take place. Look at the demographics of those who attended. Consider ways to improve future exercises based on the above and feedback received about the engagement process.
Consulting	Level 1 + Monitoring and evaluation of the engagement process will take place on an on-going basis.	 Level 1 + Monitor the satisfaction of stakeholders at different stages of the process using appropriate techniques. Keep a record of responses and other contributions to the engagement process, and assess the value, impact and outcome of contributions. Encourage qualitative responses as to how the engagement process could be improved. Reflect on the overall quality of the engagement undertaken.
Partnership	Level 1 and Level 2 + Monitoring and evaluation processes will be devised in collaboration with stakeholders.	 Level 1 and Level 2 + Ask partners at the outset about their thoughts on how best to evaluate satisfaction with the process. Be ready to modify approaches to monitoring and evaluating as required on an on-going basis. Analyse findings as you go along, aiming to embed the idea of monitoring and evaluation into every stage.

Learning and Sharing

LEVELS	WHAT TO AIM FOR	HOW CAN YOU ACHIEVE IT?
Informing	Lessons from the engagement process will be identified and lead to on-going improvements in quality.	 Identify action points from what has been learned. Build lessons learned into future engagement processes. Ensure all those within the organisation leading the engagement process are informed about outcomes and lessons learned.
Consulting	Level 1 + Lessons from the engagement process will be reviewed and shared with a focus on learning and training.	 Level 1 + Share and discuss experiences more widely e.g. with other community groups, or organise forum events. Make engagement a focus for in-house staff training. Actively research other engagement processes and possible new techniques to use. Take people who are new to engagement to meet people who have experience of recent or current projects. Discuss how to improve future engagement exercises.
Partnership	Level 1 and Level 2 + The creation of a creative, problem- solving culture where skills and experience are pooled, shared and enhanced.	 Level 1 and Level 2 + Recognise from the outset that active participation can be a very rich way of learning and seek ways to capitalise on this. Audit individuals' skills and share via formal or informal training sessions. Share information about the engagement process, and findings from all partners, with all involved stakeholders. Offer opportunities for members of the public as well as professionals to receive training.

SP=EED™ Training

PAS training workshops are targeted at the **professional** and community sectors.

Training in **SP=EED™** is particularly relevant for:

Planning Authorities	Community Councils
Planning Consultants	Community Groups
Developers	Development Trusts
Other Consultants	Members of the Public

What are the benefits of **SP=EED**[™] training?

- explore and understand SP=EED[™] and its practical use
- an opportunity for networking showcase and share ideas regarding effective engagement
- learn about the Scottish planning system and how to undertake effective engagement
- re-energise and re-focus your ideas

What is the content of **SP=EED**[™] training?

For Professionals: training focuses on the practical use of SP=EED™ and developing skills for effective engagement in planning, whether in development plan or development management situations.

For Communities: training is aimed at community groups seeking to undertake a development project and wishing to improve their engagement skills. It is also relevant to groups seeking to develop their understanding of effective engagement in relation to planning.

Each workshop will cover:

- the importance of engagement in planning
- effective engagement and consultation practices
- using SP=EED™ to design, manage and evaluate engagement

SP=EED™ training can be arranged at a time and place that suits you.

For more information, or to book your training, please contact: sp=eed@planningaidscotland.org.uk or call 0131 220 9730

Note

Planning Aid for Scotland's website has a series of planning information sheets, providing further information.

Scottish Government Circulars 1/2009 Development Planning, and 4/2009 Development Management, provide further information on requirements for consultation and engagement.

Access Panels

Voluntary bodies set up to promote the rights of people with any form of disability.

Design/Development Brief

A document which sets out broad or detailed proposals for development of a specific site or area.

Developer

A person, business or organisation making a planning application. They do not have to own the land affected by the application as long as they notify the owner.

Development

The carrying out of building, mining, engineering or other operations in, on, over or under the land or the making of any material change of use in the use of any buildings or land (as defined by the planning acts). Development, so defined, requires planning permission.

Development Plan

A generic term for the Strategic Development Plan and/or Local Development Plan (see separate entries), the main planning documents which apply to a planning authority area.

Development Plan Scheme

A document required to be published annually by planning authorities,

outlining a timetable for preparing the Development Plan, and including a participation statement outlining how they will undertake consultation.

Equalities Impact Assessment

An assessment which considers how a policy or plan may impact, on different sectors of the population.

Facilitator

A person, who has a neutral stance on matters being discussed, appointed to guide a meeting or discussion group.

Health Impact Assessment

A means of assessing the health impacts of policies, plans and projects using quantitative, qualitative and participatory techniques.

Local Development Plan (LDP)

Part of the Development Plan - a statutory document required to be prepared, after full public consultation, by all planning authorities in Scotland. The LDP is the basis for making planning decisions in a given area and deciding future land uses. In the four city-regions, the LDP will be supplemented with a Strategic Development Plan (see separate entry); elsewhere the Development Plan will comprise only the LDP.

National Developments / Major Developments

Planning proposals are divided into 3 categories: 'national', 'major' and 'local'. National developments are set out in the National Planning Framework. Major planning applications e.g. 50 houses or more, are defined in Scottish Government Planning Circular 5/2009 Hierarchy of Developments. National and major proposals require Pre-application Consultation (see separate entry).

Masterplan

A document, usually comprising a schematic plan, 3-dimensional



Glossary

images, and text, which illustrates and explains how it is intended to develop a site.

Mediation

A process involving a neutral, independent, trained mediator who aims to assist parties with differences to communicate effectively to resolve their differences.

Open Space Strategy

A document assessing existing open space and potential for new or improved open space within a local authority area.

Planning Advice Note (PAN)

Documents produced by the Scottish Government providing advice on good practice and other relevant planning information.

Planning Application

An application to a planning authority seeking planning permission for development.

Planning Authority

The body which is responsible for carrying out planning in any area – the local Council or National Park Authority.

Pre-application Consultation / Pre-application Consultation Report

A process required to be undertaken by prospective applicants for national or major planning applications prior to submission of applications to enable local communities to be better informed about significant development proposals in their area. See also: Proposal of Application Notice; Public Event

Proposal of Application Notice

Required to be submitted to the planning authority, and copied to relevant community councils, by prospective applicants for national or major developments at least 12 weeks prior to submission of the planning application, giving details of the proposal, including how engagement will be undertaken.

Public Event

An event, required to be held by prospective applicants for national or major development proposals as part of the Pre-application Consultation process, where members of the public can make comments.

RTPI (Royal Town Planning Institute)

The UK's leading planning body for spatial, sustainable, integrative and inclusive planning.

Steering Group

A group of interested and relevant stakeholders appointed to guide and lead a project.

Strategic Development Plan (SDP)

Part of the Development Plan - a statutory document prepared after full public consultation. SDPs apply to Scotland's 4'city-regions'. SDPs will set parameters for Local Development Plans (see separate entry); contain 'vision statements' and 'spatial strategies'; and will consider how land use proposals for neighbouring areas will impact on the SDP area.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

A process designed to measure the likely environmental impacts (both positive and negative) of a 'Scottish public plan, programme or strategy' (PPS).

Supplementary Guidance

Documents produced by planning authorities to provide additional detailed guidance on certain topics, policies or proposals which are set out in Development Plans.

PAS reiterates its thanks to the original steering group made up of public, private and voluntary sector organisations which guided the delivery of the first edition of **SP=EED™** (2008).

We remain indebted to Professor Cliff Hague who guided the original project.





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