



Your views

South Kyle II Wind Farm: Spring 2024 Feedback

In the Spring of 2024, Vattenfall invited local feedback on our refined proposals for South Kyle II Wind Farm.

Thank you to everyone who got involved - be that through the online survey, in writing or in conversation. Your opinions, questions and suggestions are important to us, and helps Vattenfall develop the best wind farms we can.

Your feedback has now been fed into the project development process, and is helping us finalise our plans. This winter we hope to submit the finalised proposal to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, and this will include an Environmental Impact Assessment within which specific points of feedback will be addressed.

Ahead of that, this document provides an overview of the topics and questions raised through your feedback. A more detailed feedback report will also be published at www.vattenfall.co.uk/southkyle2.

How was the feedback gathered?

The consultation ran from April to June 2024. A virtual exhibition was published on the project webpage, and drop-in public exhibitions were held in Dalmellington and New Cumnock. These were advertised in the Cumnock Chronicle, on social media and through a local mail drop. A project newsletter was also produced, and an advertisement was placed in the Doon Valley Gazette.

We invited feedback via a survey which was available online with paper copies also available at the exhibitions. Plus, we noted what people talked to us about in conversation, and welcomed feedback in writing.

Although the pre-application consultation period for South Kyle II Wind Farm is now closed, the online exhibition can be viewed at www.vattenfall.co.uk/southkyle2 and you can get in touch at southkyle2.windfarm@vattenfall.com.



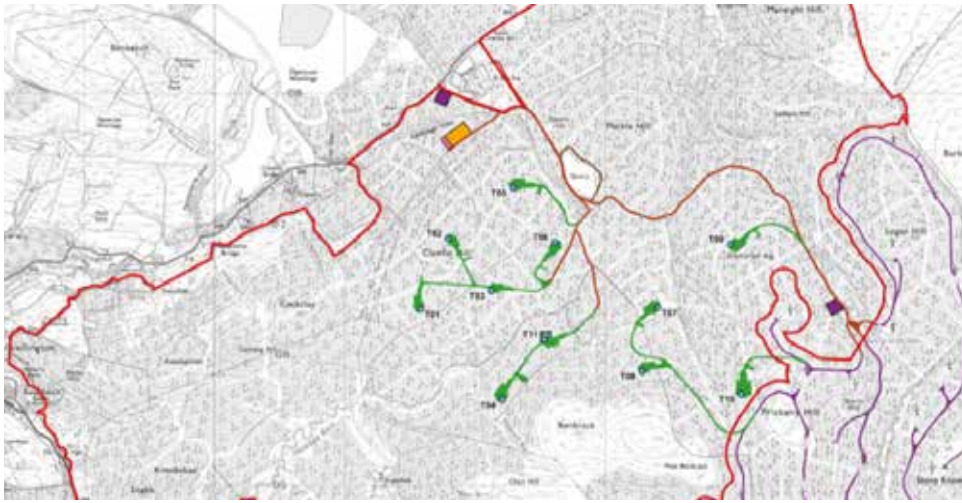
Climate change and wind farms in this area

We asked for your views on climate change: 70% said 'very' or 'fairly concerned'. More than half (53%) supported onshore wind farms in this area, with that figure rising to 60% when asked about onshore wind generally.



Jobs and skills

Maximising local job opportunities is a priority for Vattenfall, and we heard a number of practical suggestions to help us achieve this. You also suggested schools for the project to engage with and this work is already underway.



The wind farm design

The consultation presented information on the updated proposed layout of 11 wind turbines, each up to a 200m tip height, plus battery storage. On both layout (above) and turbine height, around twice as many people said they were 'content' or 'neutral' about this, compared to those who said they were 'concerned'.

People also talked to us about battery storage, so we have taken note to provide further information on this part of the wind farm proposal. Other technical issues were also discussed such as aviation safety lighting and felling. These will be thoroughly addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment and, where appropriate, the feedback will be shared with relevant partners.

Visualisations of the wind farm were published, and bespoke visualisations were offered to those visiting the exhibits. When asked about the visibility of the wind farm, more people were content (48%) than unhappy (27%). Where individuals provided specific concerns about views, additional wirelines or photomontages have been produced, and we will continue to offer this to local people.

Community benefits

Besides renewable energy, South Kyle II Wind Farm could generate an estimated £18.4million-worth of community benefits for the local area over 40 years.

Our questionnaire asked how you would want to see this funding used to make a difference in your communities. You told us that employment and skills; health and wellbeing; enterprise and business; and climate and resilience - all identified as priorities for the now operational South Kyle Fund - remain important.

We also heard a clear desire to tackle fuel bills, improve access to nature and support projects for specific groups such as young people. These topics will all be explored in greater detail should the project receive consent.

Likewise, your suggestions on which organisations could be involved in administering a fund are noted and will be returned to at a later stage in the community benefit consultation process.

We also asked about the prospect of Shared Ownership. Fewer people said they were interested than not interested. However, there were also a lot of 'maybes', so this is also a topic we will return to at a later stage in the development process.

Building the wind farm

The feedback survey was an opportunity to highlight any issues around wind farm construction.

The topic we received most comment on was the transportation of wind turbines to site. Most people were content or neutral on the proposed turbine delivery route, but 22% highlighted concerns such as road capacity and quality.

These issues will be thoroughly addressed in the project traffic management plan, which will be created in consultation with the local roads authority and transport specialists.



Habitats and nature

Your feedback helped identify what local people want to see prioritised within the wind farm's Habitat and Biodiversity plans.

Most popular were 'supporting wildlife and birds' and 'biodiversity enhancing measures such as planting of native broadleaf trees and wildlife friendly species'. You also highlighted the protection and enhancement of natural beauty; the potential for grazing opportunities; and minimising peat disturbance.

This has been fed back to our environmental consultants.

What next

Vattenfall is taking on board your feedback as we finalise our proposals for South Kyle II Wind Farm. This will include an Environmental Impact Assessment, Habitat Management Plan and Feedback Report, as well as other documents. For further updates please visit www.vattenfall.co.uk/southkyle2