



Galawhistle Wind Farm Life Extension

Ventient Energy intends to request a variation of the existing planning consent for Galawhistle wind farm to allow for the continued operation of the wind farm for an additional ten years. It was previously expected that the wind farm would generate until 2042. Ventient do not intend to change any physical elements of the wind farm, all of which would continue to operate as they have done since 2017.

Why would Ventient like to extend the wind farm life?

In a typical year, the wind farm generates approximately 167.9 GWh of electricity, enough to power around 40,802 homes¹. As well as providing clean electricity, the wind farm supports decarbonisation and renewable energy targets. The continued operation of Ventient's wind farms supports over 190 full time Ventient staff, as well as a locally based team of technicians and contributes to the local economies within which the wind farms operate. Technical assessment across many of Ventient's sites has demonstrated wind farms can continue to operate safely beyond typical 25 year planning consent periods.

When will the application be submitted?

The application is likely to be submitted in Q3 2022.

Will traffic levels increase during the life extension period?

No, there will not be a significant increase in the level of traffic associated with the ongoing operation and maintenance of the wind farm. Condition monitoring systems are fitted to all wind turbines at Galawhistle which provide defect monitoring of all major components 24/7, 365 days of the year. Together with best practice maintenance improvements, this helps reduce the number of defects which may form and site visits required.

Is there a risk of increased noise as the turbines age?

The wind turbines will continue to be operated and maintained to Ventient's high standards therefore there is no reason why the level of noise from the turbines will increase. The wind farm will also continue to be required to adhere to the noise related planning consent condition.

Are you considering repowering the wind farm in the future?

Ventient has no current plans to repower the wind farm however this may be an option which is considered in the future and one which would be discussed with community councils and local residents in detail if pursued.

Will the community benefit package continue to be provided?

Yes. The community benefit package would continue throughout the proposed extended period of operation. The package has supported a wide range of initiatives to date including afterschool and holiday activities for children and young people in Coalburn and the creation of a nature trail along a walk-to-school route.

For further enquiries please contact

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¹ Based on an average energy yield and assumed annual household usage of 4,115 kWh per year[^] = 40,802 homes

[^] Typical Domestic Consumption Values from Ofgem. Electricity: Profile Class 2 Medium 4.2 MWh