



Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering: Response to public exhibitions April 2023

Ventient Energy is continuing to explore the potential for repowering Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to visit the public exhibitions in January and provide the following feedback on queries raised at the exhibitions and on comment forms which were kindly completed.

1) Why is Ventient investigating the opportunity to repower the existing wind farm?

Repowering involves replacing older wind turbines with more powerful and efficient turbine models. In a typical year, the current wind farm generates approximately 10.4 GWh of electricity, enough to power around 6,677 homes¹. The current operational wind farm has the potential to operate safely and efficiently for significantly longer than was originally intended as set out in the recent life extension application. Once the current turbines have reached the end of their operational life, Ventient would like to have the option to continue to operate a wind farm in this location.

2) How many turbines could there be and what height?

Ventient are continuing to explore a turbine layout comprising turbines with a tip height of up to 149.5 m with no greater than 12 turbines in total and potentially less (there are currently 14 operational turbines). The feedback received at the public exhibitions, analysis of further survey work and the outcome of ongoing consultations will influence the final proposed number of turbines, their scale and layout.

3) How will the construction process impact walkers, runners and cyclists on the wind farm site, Glen Lonan road and within Fearnoch Forest?

It is proposed that access to the site for construction traffic and turbine deliveries would be taken directly off the A85 via Fearnoch Forest. There will be a need for upgraded and some new access tracks however the existing network of access tracks would be used where practicable.

Prior to construction, a Traffic Management Plan would be compiled and agreed with the relevant authorities. This would include specific mitigation measures including for delivery of abnormal loads such as timing of deliveries outside peak flow hours, and police escorts where necessary.

¹ *Based on the Installed Capacity x Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) "all wind" load factor expressed as a fraction of 1[^] x number of hours in a year (8,760 hours) / Average Annual Domestic Electricity Consumption (MWh)^{^^}

[^]BEIS's long-term average load factor for "all wind" (31.84%) expressed as a fraction of 1 (0.3184). Source for capacity factors is [Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics](#) (DUKES) published annually by BEIS.

^{^^}Annual GB Average Domestic Consumption Values from [BEIS](#) (3,509kWh).

During construction, public access to certain areas would be limited and/or prohibited in the interest of public safety. However, wherever possible, any impacts on public access would be minimized and upon project completion, public access would resume, with the added potential benefit of new and upgraded tracks in certain areas. Once the repowered wind farm is operational, impacts relating to traffic and transport would be minimal.

4) How will the proposed increase in the height of turbines change the appearance of the wind farm?

Photomontages were presented at the recent public exhibitions to show what the proposed development could look like from a number of selected key viewpoints surrounding the site boundary. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and Residential Visual Amenity Assessment will be presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will be submitted with the application for planning consent.

5) When would a repowering planning application be submitted?

It is anticipated the earliest a planning application will be submitted is during the second half of 2023.

6) What will happen to the old turbines and site infrastructure?

Ventient is exploring potential options to re-use and recycle the current turbines. Where possible, existing site infrastructure would be re-used in the construction of the repowering project.

7) When would the current turbines be replaced with new ones?

This timescale will be subject to a range of factors including the availability of a grid connection. At present, it is not envisaged that the wind farm would be repowered until, towards, or around 2030.

8) How will Ventient consult and update local communities?

Ventient held public exhibitions to present and discuss the potential repowering project on the 25th and 26th January 2023. Ventient will continue to engage with the community councils and elected representatives in the area. Further public events will be organised at which the final proposed development will be shared, the details of which will be well publicized in advance. In the interim, Ventient encourages anyone with questions or comments to raise them using the contact details below.

9) Will a community fund be provided?

Were a repowering application to receive planning consent, Ventient is committed to setting up a community benefit fund to the value of £5,000 per installed MW.

10) How will the community fund be administered and distributed going forwards?

The allocation and distribution of the fund will be related to the final proposed turbine numbers and layout. Based on the current wind farm layout, it is envisaged the community benefit fund would be distributed across a wider geographical area than is the case with the current operational wind farm. At this stage we are unable to comment on exactly which of the local communities would benefit from this wider distribution however, more information regarding this point will be provided at a later date prior to submission of the application.