BLAIR HILL WIND FARM
PROPOSAL - UPDATED DESIGN

A Power for Good – Environmental Benefits

At RES, we are committed to leaving the natural environment in the areas where we operate in a better state that we found them.

Biodiversity enhancement
We are proposing the implementation of a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan which will offer opportunities for interrelated environmental enhancements at the site with respect to peat, biodiversity and forestry. This will be prepared and submitted with the section 36 application, and an outline of the initial proposals is included below. Further proposals are also under consideration, details of which will be in the EIA Report.

Broadleaved Woodland Creation
Native woodlands are an important part of Scotland's natural and cultural heritage, providing us with a range of environmental, social and economic benefits. The site currently has a relatively low diversity of tree species as woodland resource is dominated by commercial conifer plantation. We are proposing to increase native broadleaved woodland cover across the site.

Peatland Restoration
We have identified areas on the site that may be suitable for peatland restoration. This work will aim to improve the quality of peatland habitats on site, including reducing areas of exposed peat which release carbon if left untreated.

Bracken Control for Grassland/Native Scrub Creation
Targeted bracken control is an important measure to protect more sensitive habitats. We are proposing to remove or control the bracken in order to allow local acid grasslands and species rich scrub regenerate.

The control of bracken will improve the floral diversity of the site and increase wildflower cover for insects and pollinators.

Carbon Offset
If consented, the Blair Hill Wind Farm will go beyond supplying clean, low-cost electricity to thousands of households. It could also save an estimated 8.5 million tonnes of CO25 over the project lifespan compared to equivalent generation from fossil fuels.

The EIA Report will evaluate the effects of the proposed Blair Hill Wind Farm on climate change and carbon balance and will be accompanied by a carbon balance assessment which employs the Scottish Government's Carbon Calculator Tool6, which is currently the best method to date to undertake this kind of assessment and is endorsed by SEPA and the Scottish Government.