BLAIR HILL WIND FARM

PROPOSAL - UPDATED DESIGN

Updated Design Layout and Infrastructure

Wind turbines

Since the scoping design, which was presented at the October 2023 public exhibitions, the number of wind turbines has been reduced from 22 to 15. Two turbines have a tip height of 210m and 13 are 250m.

Furthermore, each wind turbine location has moved to varying degrees to refine the design and minimise impacts wherever possible. The total installed generating capacity has also reduced since the previous proposal from around 145MW to approximately 100MW due to the reduction in wind turbine numbers.

Tracks

Existing tracks will be utilised wherever possible. Sections of new tracks have been aligned to avoid, as much as possible, crossing of watercourses and areas of deeper peat. For construction of the access tracks, alternative methods would be utilised for different areas of the site, depending on site specific conditions. For each method, the access track running width shall be approximately 5m and will be constructed of compacted crushed stone.

Onsite substation

The proposal will also include an onsite substation. The electricity generated from each turbine is low voltage and needs to be converted into a higher voltage to be exported onto the National Grid.

Underground cables organised into arrays, transport the electricity generated to the on-site substation whereupon it is converted into the higher voltage of 132kV. This electricity is then transported via a ‘grid connection’ (a 132kV trident overhead wood pole line is expected for the Blair Hill Wind Farm) onto the National Grid.

Grid Connection

RES is awaiting a grid offer from the grid Transmission Owner (TO), in this case Scottish Power Transmission via National Grid ESO (NGESO). We expect the project to be connected into a substation at Glenlee, approximately 20km from the site, although this will be confirmed by the TO in the coming months.

To enable Blair Hill Wind Farm to connect to the National Grid, the expected infrastructure will comprise one 132kV overhead wood pole line. The grid route application for this connection will be submitted by the TO, however indicative details of the anticipated route of the grid connection for the project will also be in included in the Project Description chapter of the EIA which will accompany the planning application. RES envisages this would follow existing grid routes where possible.