

Insights to shape an Outdoor Management Plan for the proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm

Independent Community Engagement Report

March 2025





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Introduction

Who is Planning Aid Scotland?

Planning Aid Scotland is an educational charity and social enterprise that helps people across Scotland engage with the planning system. Since 1993, we have provided impartial advice, training, and community engagement to support individuals and communities in shaping their local areas.

What is the purpose of this report?

Statkraft commissioned Planning Aid Scotland to conduct an independent engagement process to inform an Outdoor Management Plan for the proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm, located north-east of Garve. This report will be included as part of the Energy Consent Application, helping to inform conditions related to outdoor management should consent be granted. If the development does not proceed, the report may still serve as a valuable resource for community members interested in pursuing its recommendations.

This report summarises the findings by Planning Aid Scotland following engagement with members of the local community.



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Summary of the report

Approach

We conducted desk-based research, hosted a drop-in session at Garve Village Hall, and launched two online surveys to gather information from local residents on potential outdoor enhancements around the proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm site.

Findings

We found that respondents appreciate all their **community assets** and regularly use them. In addition to the list of assets mentioned in the Garve Local Place Plan, trails at Little and Ben Wyvis were noted as key community assets. Concerns were raised on whether and how the wind farm may impact these assets.

Most respondents find their way around easily because they are locals. Others noted that some of the **signage and paths** could do with maintenance to improve accessibility. A few respondents noted opportunities for interactive boards about animals and plants for learning and discovery.

Traffic movement between Contin and Garve, and Garve and Little Garve were noted to be challenging, and suggestions were made for traffic diversions and improvements. Likewise, the need for more spaces at Silverbridge and Ben Wyvis **car parks** were noted.

Respondents experience a lot of local **wildlife** from pine martins to deer and birds of prey. They are worried about the impact a wind farm could have and would like wildlife to be protected and even reintroduced. More planting and wildlife hides were mentioned to protect wildlife and allow for wildlife observation.

Recommendations



Paths: Improve paths and signage, create an accessible trail, connect existing trails. Install and maintain memorial benches and seating along the trails.



Signage and information boards: Install signage/colour-coded wayfinding markers at each intersection and larger information boards at key access points. Install boards with information on local wildlife, interactive elements, panoramic views, and historical information.



Nature and wildlife: Install wildlife hides. Plant native species. Access and mitigate the impact on peatland, woodland, and dark skies.



Car parking: Provide additional parking spaces at Silverbridge and Ben Wyvis car parks.

Off-site improvements: Statkraft could help facilitate ongoing discussions with neighbouring landowners about off-site improvements. This might include signage to the Wyvis Natural Playpark, enhancement of the track running from Rogie Falls over Strath Garve to Silverbridge, and maintenance of the toilets and additional signage at the Silverbridge Car Park.



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Background

About the proposed development

The Carn Fearna site is located to the north-east of Garve, on a mountain slope leading to Little Wyvis.

The proposed development, in its current form, includes up to nine variable pitch (three bladed) wind turbines, five with a maximum blade tip height of up to 200 m, the remaining four with a maximum blade tip height of up to 180 m.

The access point is proposed off the A835, just north of Silverbridge. The site spans two community council areas: Garve and District, and Strathpeffer.

Outdoor Management Plan

If consent is granted, a likely condition will be the delivery of an Outdoor Management Plan. This plan will be informed both by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted during the application process and by findings gathered through engagement with the local community.

As part of the pre-application process, Statkraft held multiple engagement events in March and November 2024. During these sessions, members of the public suggested various environmental and outdoor improvements that could be incorporated into the wind farm development.

In response, Statkraft commissioned Planning Aid Scotland as an independent organisation to conduct a more in-depth engagement exercise to explore potential outdoor enhancements with local residents. Further details on Statkraft's engagement outcomes can be found [here](#).

Key considerations

- The focus of this engagement process was on outdoor management. However, for transparency, we note that **many residents wished to express opposition to the proposed development.**
- **Contributions from the local community to the findings in this report should not be interpreted as an endorsement of the wind farm development itself.** Comments on the principle of the Carn Fearna Wind Farm development will be considered separately as part of the formal consenting process.
- The findings in this report reflect the views of local residents on their environment, including the challenges they face, opportunities for improvement, and potential solutions. The engagement process was designed to identify tangible actions that could enhance the local environment.
- **It should be noted that the views within this report are not representative of all residents within the surrounding Community Councils.**
- The in-person event was facilitated by Planning Aid Scotland, with two Statkraft representatives present to listen and answer any questions or queries regarding the proposed development.



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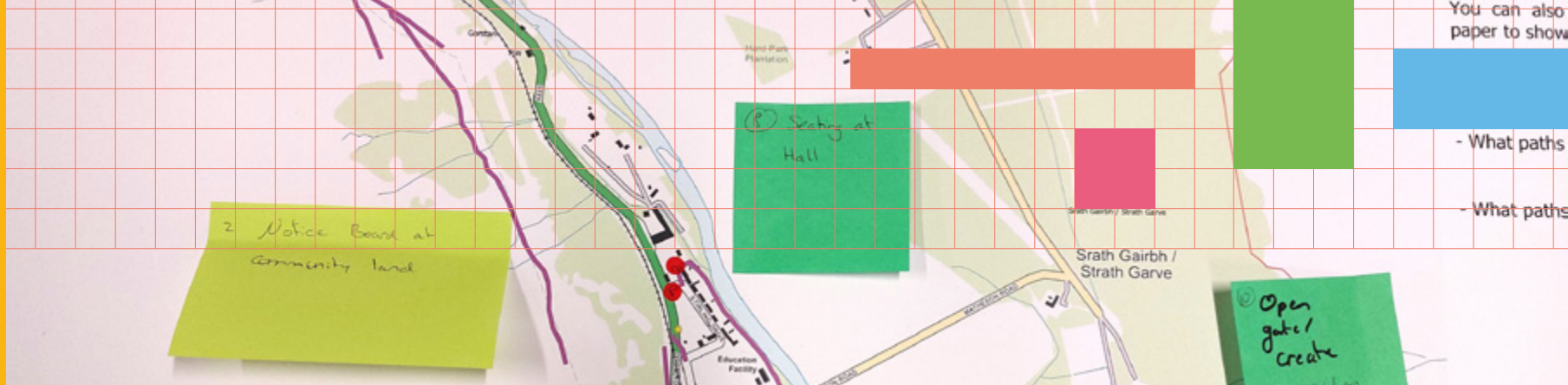
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Research

We conducted desk-based research to develop a broad understanding of the local environment, including potential challenges and opportunities. Our review of outdoor management plans helped shape the design of the engagement session.

We also considered existing community plans:

- Garve and District Local Place Plan 2024-2029
- Garve and District Community Development Plan 2019-2024
- Strathpeffer Local Community Action Plan 2019-2024

Invitation

Three community councils were identified as significantly impacted by the proposed development:

- Garve & District Community Council
- Strathpeffer Community Council
- Contin Community Council

We emailed all three community councils, along with the Garve & District Development Company and the Strathpeffer Residents' Association. We also invited selected local businesses via email. We asked recipients to use the provided images/graphics and share details of the engagement event on their websites and social media where possible. Planning Aid Scotland also contacted the owners of garve.org to help promote the event.

According to the Garve & District Development Company, the event advertisement reached:

- 104 email subscribers to the community website, with 54 opening the email
- 393 Facebook views, reaching 149 people
- 136 views of the event page on the garve.org website

Planning Aid Scotland social media posts reached:

- 1,362 Facebook views, reaching 605 people
- 557 LinkedIn impressions, engaging 40 people



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Email representation

Before the engagement event, we received five emails from a total of six local residents, who expressed general objections to the Carn Fearna Wind Farm development and explained that they could not attend the drop-in session.

Drop-in session

We hosted the drop-in session on **Thursday 27 February 2025, from 2:30–7:00 pm at Garve Village Hall**. Based on our research, we structured the engagement around four key themes:

1. **Community assets**
2. **A place to be active**
3. **A place to learn**
4. **A place for nature**

For each theme, we printed relevant background information, questions, and maps in A1 size. Participants could annotate, draw on the maps, or use tracing paper to add their input. You can find the engagement boards in [Annex A – Engagement Boards](#) and the maps in [Annex B – Maps](#). We asked open-ended questions and encouraged participants to elaborate on any close-ended responses.

We arranged the information boards, questions, and maps on tables throughout the room, allowing participants to move freely between themes. We suggested a counterclockwise flow, but people could engage with the material in any order.

Although the session was designed for discussions about outdoor enhancements, two Statkraft representatives were present to answer any questions or queries relating to the wider proposal for the wind farm.

Nine people attended the drop-in session. Two opted to review the questions and respond online later rather than provide input on the day. Another two attended only to express their objections to the scheme and did not engage further.

Online survey 1

We launched an online survey from **Friday 28 February to Sunday 9 March**, giving people the chance to respond to the same questions used in the engagement workshop. The survey also allowed respondents to download the engagement boards and maps from the in-person event.

Sixteen people completed the survey. It was not mandatory to respond to all questions, however most questions received answers from between 11–13 participants. Three respondents used the survey solely to express their opposition to the proposed development and, by extension, the engagement process.

Online survey 2

We launched an online survey from **Wednesday 19 March to Monday 24 March**, giving people the chance to review a draft version of this report. The survey allowed respondents to give feedback on the engagement process.

Two people responded to the survey by emailing Planning Aid Scotland. One person opposed to the development. They also did so for the first online survey.



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Engagement barriers and challenges

Several individuals expressed concerns about how their participation in the independent engagement process might be interpreted, particularly whether it could be seen as an endorsement of the proposed Carn Fearn Wind Farm. Despite our efforts to clarify that this would be not the case, these concerns proved a challenge for the engagement process.

Some participants also criticised the timing of the drop-in session. We have taken this feedback on board and will consider it when planning any future workshops in the area. In response to these concerns, as well as additional feedback received via email, we launched an online survey ('online survey #1') to provide an alternative means of participation.

Engagement with the online survey was limited. Three respondents specifically stated via email that they chose not to take part due to concerns that their involvement might be misinterpreted as support for the wind farm development.

To address this, we shared a draft report with residents ('online survey #2') to provide another opportunity for feedback on potential improvements to the area. However, engagement has remained limited with only two responses gathered.



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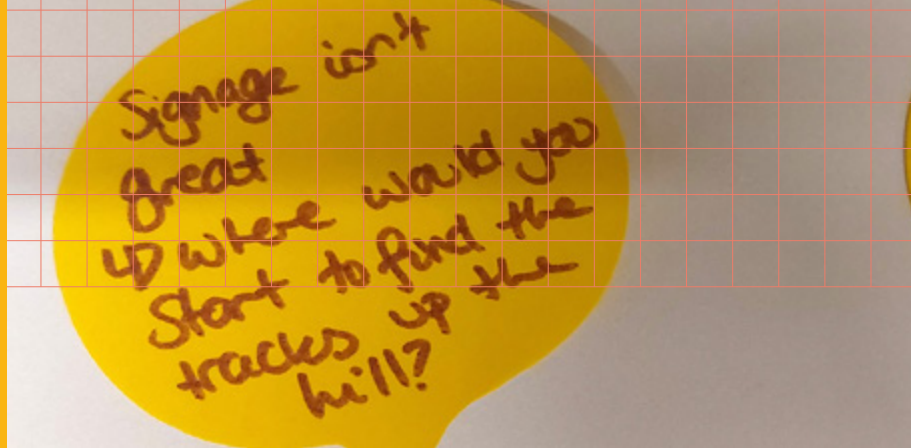
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Findings

This engagement process focused on outdoor enhancements, not the principle of the proposed Carn Fearna development. However, in the interest of transparency, we recorded the following objections to the wind farm:

- 8 people raised objections during the drop-in session.
- 6 people objected via email, with 3 stating they would not engage with the questions to avoid appearing to support the wind farm.
- 3 people objected through the online surveys (surveys 1 and 2).

The findings are based on both in-person and online responses, which were reviewed and grouped into themes for clarity. **Numbers in brackets indicate how many times a response was mentioned.** Some contributions from the in-person session were recorded by facilitators as they listened to participants.

Direct quotes from the in-person event and online survey are highlighted throughout the report.

Summary

- The Silverbridge public toilets (7), Garve Public Hall (5), and the Railway Station (5) were mentioned as the three most used community assets. The majority of people (9) thought that the wind farm development would not have a negative impact on existing assets.
- The majority of people felt that nothing could be done to offset the impact of the wind farm (7).
- The majority of people found finding their way around easy/very easy (8). Some people thought signage could be improved (4) and that there could be better upkeep of paths (4).
- Issues around Silverbridge Car Park were raised including the need for additional stopping places for caravans, improved toilet and waste management, signage to make people aware of the path to cross the A835, and a cycle lane.
- The majority of people felt that there were sufficient information boards available (6) and they found them useful (7).
- The majority of people felt that not developing the wind farm/leaving the area as is (7) would be the best way to improve biodiversity.
- The majority of people suggested not developing a wind farm as the best way to improve habitats for species (4).
- The creation of wildlife hides was suggested.



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Community assets

Respondents were asked what community assets they use or visit regularly. A list of assets, found within the Garve LPP, was included and people were asked to select assets from the list:

- Strathgarve Primary School (2)
- District War Memorial (2)
- Garve Public Hall (5)
- Wyvis Natural Playpark (4)
- Old and new burial grounds at Garve and Achanalt (2)
- Railway Station (5)
- Garve football area (1)
- Community land (known as The GD CORe) Garve (3)
- Silverbridge public toilets (7)

Respondents were also able to add additional assets:

- Walks at Little Wyvis/Summit (2)
- Walking/Hillwalking (2)
- Ben Wyvis (1)
- Walks in and around Little Garve and Silverbridge (4)

"All these community assets are important."

"War memorial will always be used."

People were asked what their favourite memories are based on the mentioned community assets.

Respondent were split about whether the wind farm development would have a negative impact on the existing assets:

- No (9): 2 people added they liked wind turbines
- Yes (6): 2 people mentioned the visual impact on the landscape and 1 person mentioned noise pollution.

"Will spoil use of SSSI Ben Wyvis – who wants to look at more wind farms"

Respondents were asked if and how the impact of the wind farm could be offset. Responses included:

- Not building a wind farm (4)
 - Enough wind energy is available
 - Damage to peatland and woodland and dark skies
- Nothing can be done to offset the impact (7)
 - Actions to limit impact are already taken
 - The farmer is already making the right decisions
- Don't know (1)

"Number of wind turbines and height of turbines."

Respondents were asked if there is anything else they would like to say about their community assets:

- No (6)
- Leave community assets including untouched land alone (1)
- Keep current assets instead of enhancing them through wind farm development (1)
- Use community asset money through Local Community Trust. Village hall hire is too high. (1)

"Main concern is how close the wind farm will be to the school and village."

"Toilets should be open."



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A place to be active

This section was about understanding the barriers and opportunities to stay active within the area. People attending the in-person event had the opportunity to annotate printed maps with information.

Respondents were asked about how they found navigation in the area. Due to most respondents living very locally, mostly this did not pose a challenge. However, some people thought that signage could be improved and/or replaced.

- Easy/very easy (8)
- Could be improved (5)
- Happy with the routes (1)

"They could be made clearer. Yes I generally do stick to routes I'm familiar with"

"Signage isn't great - where would you start to find the tracks up the hill?"

Respondents were asked what could improve finding their way around:

- Nothing (7)
- Improve signage (4)

"Replace dilapidated non-existent signage on such routes"

Respondents were asked to identify maintenance works for routes and paths to improve usage:

- Upkeep of paths (4)
- Bigger car park at Ben Wyvis (1)
- Signage (1)
- Bush trimming (1)
- Nothing identified (4)

"A bit of gravel thrown onto boggy parts might help"

Respondents were asked if there were any routes they would like to walk, wheel or ride on which they are currently unable to do:

- No (8)
- Upkeep of paths (1)
- Introduction of wheelchair accessible track (1)

"Along the west side of Loch Garve, following the route of the A835. It is unsafe to use the road due to its narrowness and the volume of traffic on it."

"Flat/disabled track for wheelchair access"

Respondents were asked what summits and viewpoints they would like to preserve or improve access to:

- None or N/A (5)
- All of them (1)
- Ben Wyvis and Little Wyvis (1)
- Ben Wyvis (1)
- Carn Fearna (1)
- I'm sure they will do this anyway (1)
- Wild lands (1)

"Preserve the view to Carn Fearna without destroying it with metal and the dark skies with red lights"

Respondents were asked what could be done to make the area more accessible:

- Nothing or N/A (8)
- Bike stands/ locks (1)
- No wind farm (1)
- Public toilets (1)
- Seating at Village Hall (1)



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Respondents were given the opportunity to provide further comments on signage, routes and being active:

- Make the signs more visible (1)
- Managing of car parking, too many people block access at the Village Hall when going hillwalking (1)
- Locals would like additional signs to redirect traffic to the Wyvis Natural Playground. This should include engagement with Google Maps and the local authority to divert people away from Stirling Drive and Strathgarve. The most appropriate access is the northernmost road to Little Garve, just south of Silverbridge Car park. (2)
- Access road used by Forestry and Land Scotland running along the north of Loch Garve should be made accessible to locals, particularly in cases of accidents along the A835. (2)
- Opportunities should be given for the placing of memorial benches (1)

Silverbridge Car Park

A range of comments were also given regarding the Silverbridge Car Park. This car park is well used, and the public toilet provision is key. The car park is often at capacity and capacity issues may increase with the development of a wind farm. The car park is also used by caravans creating further capacity challenges. Additional stopping places for caravans should be considered as well as improved toilet and waste management.

The A835 at the car park is hard to cross as it is a busy road. There is a stepped path (not accessible) under the bridge to cross the road, but people new to the area may not be aware of it. Further information boards and signage should be considered to mitigate this.

The path from Silverbridge Car Park to little Garve is not cycle friendly. A cycle lane should also be considered. Silverbridge may need to be more of a 'hub' to direct visitors and hillwalkers.





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A place to learn

This section was about understanding how people engage with their area through information boards and whether there is room for additional learning opportunities.

Respondents were asked whether there are sufficient information boards available:

- Yes (6)
- No (2)
- Don't know (2)

"I'm not aware of any. Garve is a strange distance from Contin so I don't often stop there. It's too far to walk, too difficult to cycle, and if I'm in the car I'm going further."

Respondents were asked whether the information boards are useful:

- Yes (7)
- Don't know (2)

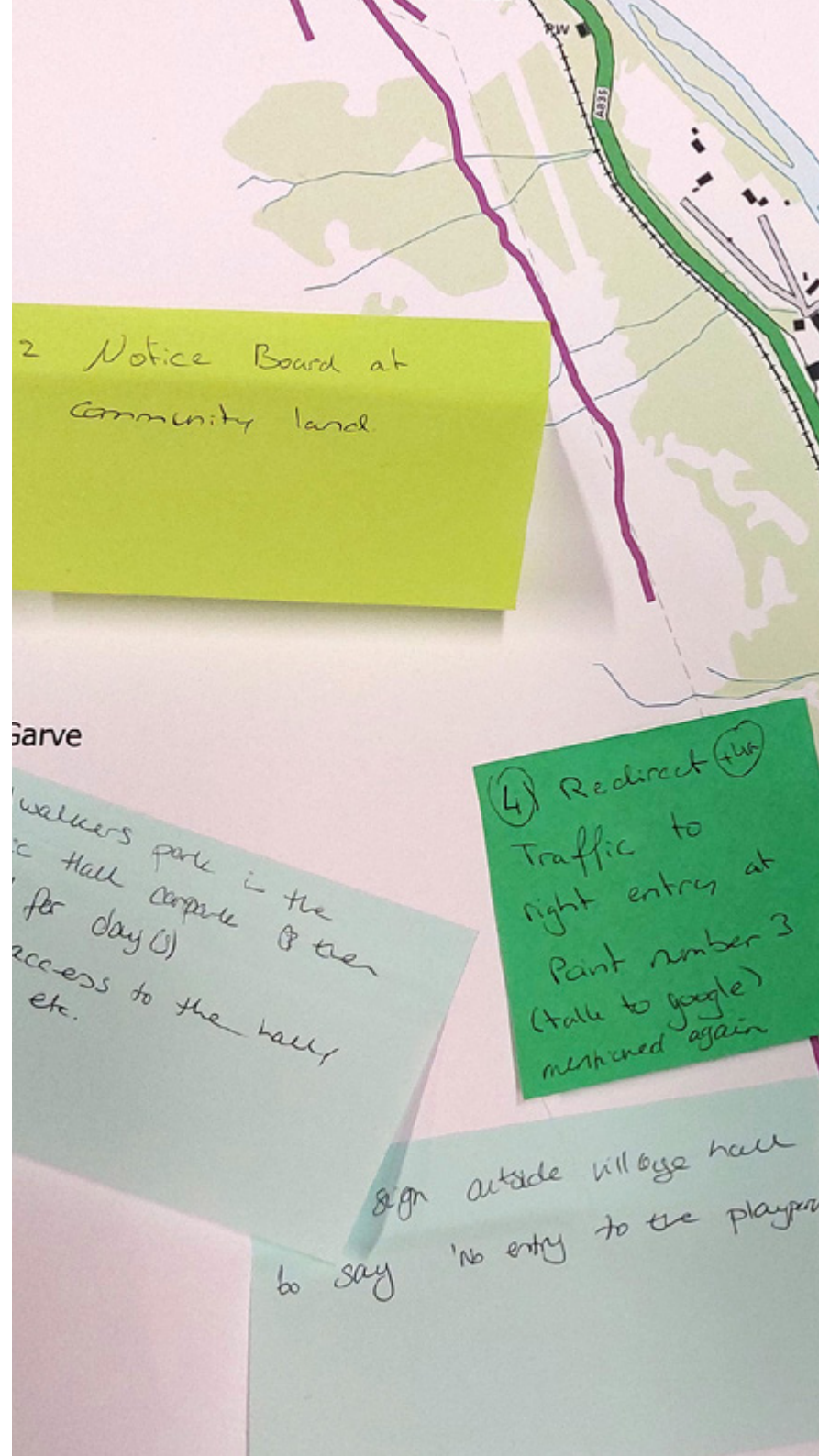
"Yes. I like the fact they exist to show people where the paths are."

Respondents were asked if there were any information they would like to have on information boards:

- Information boards which flip up and uncover animals/plants that you are likely to find within the area (1)
- Information board at Community owned land (1)

Respondents were asked what would help them learn about the area:

- Up-to-date online content (1)
- Safe locations for learning and discovery for scouts and similar groups (1)





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A place for nature

This section was about understanding what natural habitat and wildlife locals appreciate and seek to protect and enhance.

Respondents were asked if they have suggestions on how to improve biodiversity:

- Manage red deer numbers (1)
- Encourage native plants/tree planting (2)
- Taking care around breeding bird populations and raptor flight paths (1)
- Not developing the wind farm/leaving the area as is (7)
- No (6)

Do not build a wind farm, access tracks etc here. Windfarms kill birds, insects, bats etc. Tons of concrete will be poured into the soil, peatland destroyed."

Respondents were asked what wildlife they have seen in the area:

- Deer (8)
- Pine marten (3)
- Various birds and birds of prey (4)
- Stag (1)
- Badger (1)
- Red squirrel (1)
- Rabbits (1)
- Sheep (1)

"Badger, pine marten, red squirrel, wild cat (on trailcam) white tailed eagles, red kite, bats, osprey, red deer, sika deer, roe deer, black grouse, dotterel, dippers, woodpecker, cuckoo, buzzard and garden and woodland birds."

Respondents were asked about their most memorable wildlife they have seen in the past year:

- Deer (5)

- Stag (2)
- Birds of prey (2)

Respondents were asked about their views on reintroducing and increasing the number of certain species:

- Reintroducing wild boar (1)
- Reintroducing wildcats and red squirrels (1)
- Considerations for geological uncovering (1)
- Not developing the wind farm (3)
- No additional views (5)

"Geology - it is possible that the ground works will expose other pegmatites, similar to the one at Carn Gorm SSSI. Should this happen, access needs to be preserved and there needs to be adequate geological characterisation. It might mean moving a turbine location."

Respondents were asked for further suggestions to improve habitats for species:

- Reduce number of people wandering (1)
- Under road tunnels (1)
- More trees (1)
- Natural state of wind farm site should be preserved and managed according to habitat (1)
- No wind farm (4)
- No further suggestions (4)

The creation of wildlife hides was suggested. The hides are good for photography and observation of wildlife. The hide could also support educative purposes for children. They can be stocked with food to attract animals.

"Night sky photography will be ruined by red lights on turbines."



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Online survey 2

Following the two responses to the draft report, the report was reviewed to ensure Garve & District Community Council and Garve & District Development Company are referenced correctly throughout the document.

One respondent asked for Strathpeffer Community Council to be equally consulted as Garve & District Community Council, since a large part of the site is located within the Strathpeffer Community Council boundary.

Another respondent sought to clarify that certain recommendations have already been attended to by the local community:

- For insurance reasons the village hall cannot provide public toilets but the Silverbridge toilets have been refurbished.
- A noticeboard and car parking management are in place on the community land.
- Poor signage on core paths has been raised with local authorities.
- A playpark sign directing people away from Garve Village is already in hand.
- Improving cycle connections between Garve and Contin has proven challenging. Further information and updates on this project can be found [online](#).



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Recommendations

Through the engagement process the following recommendations were identified. Please note most of these recommendations have previously been identified by the local community and some are actively being worked on. We suggest a continuing dialogue with the community to further develop each potential enhancement.

'On-site' and 'off-site'

Some proposed improvements fall outside the red-line boundary of the wind farm site. Within this boundary, the developer and landowners have direct control to deliver the scheme and any attached conditions if it is approved. However, Statkraft has expressed a willingness to support improvements beyond the red-line boundary and to engage with neighbouring landowners where necessary, should the development proceed.

Summary

- **Paths:** Improve paths and signage, create an accessible trail, connect existing trails.
- **Seating:** Install and maintain memorial benches and seating along the trails.
- **Signage and information boards:** Install signage/colour-coded wayfinding markers at each intersection and larger information boards at key access points. Install boards with information on local wildlife, interactive elements, panoramic views, and historical information.
- **Nature and wildlife:** Install wildlife hides. Plant native species. Access and mitigate the impact on peatland, woodland, and dark skies.
- **Car parking:** Provide additional parking spaces at Silverbridge and Ben Wyvis car parks.
- **Playpark:** Engage in discussions about signage to direct traffic to the Wyvis Natural Playpark.
- **A835 and trail east of Loch Garve:** Facilitate discussions on enhancing the track for road cycling and installing an automated gate for emergency access.
- **Silverbridge:** Facilitate discussions on the maintenance of the Silverbridge toilets and improve access and visibility to the A835 crossing point.



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On-site improvements

Paths

Improved paths and signage help visitors stay on designated routes, allowing them to enjoy the natural environment while protecting local habitats and giving them space to thrive. When considering paths and trails, both those developed and used for the proposed wind farm, as well as other trails outside of its scope, have been taken into account.

Most nearby trails are not accessible for buggies, bicycles, or wheelchairs. As part of the development, an accessible trail should be provided, with a fully wheelchair-accessible route included if feasible. Site accessibility can be generally improved by maintaining all existing paths and ensuring they can be navigated on foot and, where possible, by non-motorised wheels.

Discussions should be initiated between the site landowners and neighbouring landowners, such as Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), to explore connections between existing trails to the west around Strath Garve and to the southeast from Rogie Falls. If physically viable, this could create additional walking routes and longer circular trails.

Seating

Seating should be installed along the trails to enhance accessibility for those who require resting places. This would also offer local residents the opportunity to install memorial benches. A maintenance plan should be established for all newly introduced street furniture to ensure long-term sustainability.

Signage

Each intersection on-site should include signage or colour-coded wayfinding markers to aid navigation. This should encompass all paths on-site, including those not designated as wind farm trails. Informal signs currently exist around farm homes and holiday lodges, particularly in the northwest corner where access will be established. These could be formalised to improve clarity.

Signage should be complemented by larger information boards at key access points. If a new entrance is created, three main trails leading to Little Wyvis and the Carn Fearna site should feature information boards to assist visitors.

Information boards

The area has a rich natural habitat, and respondents have expressed interest in information boards showcasing local wildlife, as highlighted in the findings. More interactive boards, featuring rotating or flipping panels for additional details, were also suggested. Given the area's topography, panoramic boards identifying surrounding peaks and valley towns could be included.

Additionally, the region has significant historical heritage. The presence of the well-respected War Memorial reflects the importance of local history. Historical information could be displayed at various points along the trails to make walks more engaging and educational, particularly for children and visitors.

Wildlife observation

The installation of wildlife hides was also proposed. These shelters would allow visitors to observe wildlife from a distance without disturbing natural



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habitats. Such installations could be integrated into accessible trails, providing educational opportunities for children and groups such as the Scouts to explore and learn about the area.

Nature and wildlife

Concerns were raised regarding the reintroduction of local wildlife and its potential impacts. The management plan should outline how site development can support local habitats for species such as deer, wildcats, and birds of prey, among other wildlife mentioned in the findings.

Planting native species can contribute to wildlife conservation while also helping to mitigate the visual impact of the wind farm.

Additionally, the impact on peatland, woodland, and dark skies should be assessed, and any potential effects or mitigation measures should be clearly communicated to local residents.

Car-parking

Both Silverbridge Car Park and Ben Wyvis Car Park were noted to have insufficient capacity. As both car parks are understood to be located on FLS-owned land, consideration should be given to whether additional parking spaces, including caravan spaces, could be incorporated into the development. Expanding parking facilities would ease congestion and reduce the need to cross the A835 to access the trail leading to Little Wyvis.

Off-site improvements

Further communication with local residents would help clarify how their community assets may be affected by the wind farm. The development could

also create opportunities to improve connectivity and wayfinding between different assets. Early discussions should be initiated regarding how the community fund generated by the wind farm could be allocated.

Paths and signage

The area around Garve was explored by Planning Aid Scotland staff, some of whom were visiting for the first time. While many locals are highly familiar with the area and do not require additional wayfinding support, some have acknowledged a lack of signage or the need for existing signs to be replaced. The Planning Aid Scotland team took photographs during their visit and noted that paths running from Rogie Falls to Silverbridge would benefit from maintenance and improved signage. It is understood that much of this land is owned by FLS, with some paths designated as Core Paths, which may fall under the responsibility of the local authority.

Wyvis Natural Playpark

The Wyvis Natural Playpark is a key community asset; however, access to it has been a point of contention. Locals have faced challenges in installing signage to direct traffic to the northernmost access point off the A835, which would reduce traffic through Garve, Strath Garve, and Little Garve. Statkraft could engage in further discussions about providing signage to the playpark from the appropriate access point. Similarly, a clear sign at the bridge near Strathgarve Primary School could help redirect visitors away from Strath Garve.

A835 and trail east of Loch Garve

The A835 between Contin and Silverbridge has been criticised for being winding and hazardous, particularly



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due to the lack of segregated cycling infrastructure, which poses risks to both cyclists and drivers. Concerns have also been raised about the additional construction traffic that could result from the potential wind farm development. Additionally, during road closures, access to Garve requires a lengthy detour.

A track running from Rogie Falls over Strath Garve to Silverbridge has been suggested as a possible solution. However, this track is not well maintained, is partially gated, and is difficult to cycle on – and only accessible via a 4x4 vehicle. Discussions have already started with FLS to improve its accessibility, although this has proven challenging. An initial step could be enhancing the track for road cycling, which might help divert some traffic away from the A835. Should the Carn Fearna Wind Farm receive consent, the developer could facilitate further discussions with FLS on improvements.

Additionally, the gated access could be automated, and in case of emergencies, locals could be granted entry via remote code access. This system has been trialled successfully in the past.

Silverbridge

The Silverbridge toilets are a key community asset, improving the area's accessibility. However, concerns have been raised about their upkeep and ensuring they remain consistently open. Discussions with the local authority could be facilitated to maintain these facilities effectively.

The A835 at Silverbridge can be crossed via an underpass trail from the car park to the Little Wyvis trail. However, this trail has been noted as difficult to find and not particularly accessible. Consideration should be given to improving access to and visibility of this crossing point.





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Conclusion

Planning Aid Scotland was commissioned by Statkraft to carry out an independent engagement process with the local community to inform future outdoor management plans. The data gathered in this report should help inform any conditions attached should consent be granted for the wind farm development. Additionally, the report may serve as a resource for community members who wish to take it forward, regardless of whether the proposed development gains consent.

Following an in-person event, an online survey ('online survey #1'), and an online survey on the draft report ('online survey #2'); this report summarises some of the views locals have on their natural environment and the outdoors.

The engagement process has identified a number of opportunities for enhancing outdoor spaces, including improvements to pathways and signage. The addition of information boards, benches, and wildlife hides could offer further learning opportunities, and wildlife management and the planting of native species could enrich the natural environment, enhancing the experience for both the local community and visitors.



Introduction

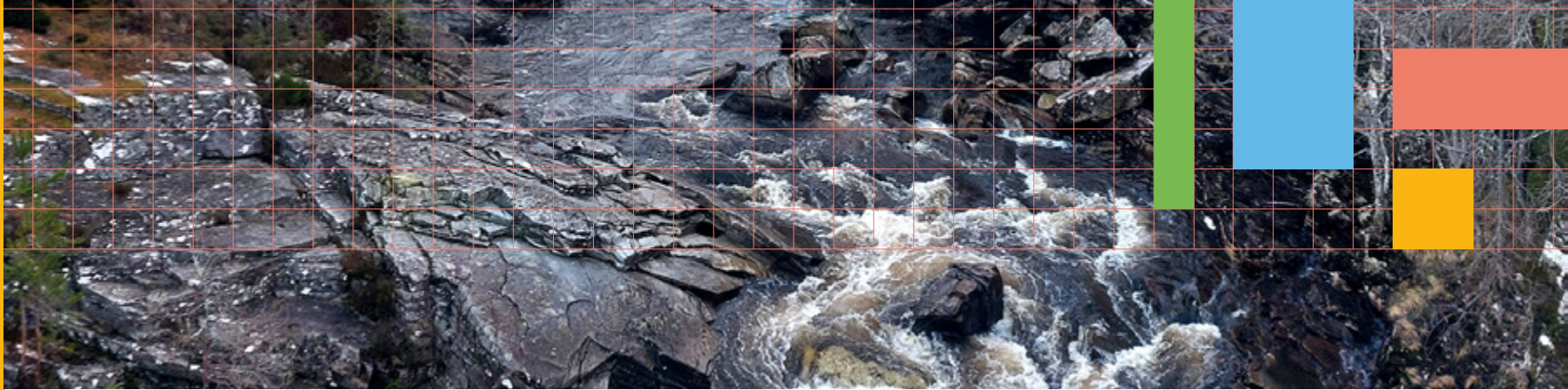
Approach

Findings

Recommendations

Conclusion

Appendices ◀



Appendices

Please click the links below to view the appendices.

- [Annex A – Engagement Boards](#)
- [Annex B – Maps](#)
- [Annex C – Online Survey Form 1](#)
- [Annex D – Online Survey Form 2](#)