



## January '25 Newsletter

We wish you all a happy New Year. 2025 will be the start of a critically important period for the proposed windfarm. Things may start to require a lot of work soon.

At the EDF / Force 9 Energy "consultation" sessions, in addition to a tweaked layout, a revised timetable was presented. The public have now been told the application for the proposed windfarm will be made in March 2025. The gate-check report lodged on the Energy Consents Unit portal has now detailed a structure for the EIA and application.

### Planning Application and call for help

CaSHWIG are continuing to prepare our comments on the proposal which will be refined and augmented based on the actual proposal. We want to ensure we have as much expertise as possible reviewing the application documents as there is a very short turnaround time. We have engaged some external specialist expertise but if you can offer any expertise or help, we will gratefully accept it. Just e-mail [info@Cashwig.org](mailto:info@Cashwig.org) and we will make contact. Be warned this will be quite an intensive period.

The Chapter headings are:

- Landscape visual Impact
- Ornithology
- Ecology
- Architectural and Cultural Heritage
- Transport
- Noise
- Geology

- Socio-economic and Tourism

### Revised Layout

Unfortunately, EDF / Force 9 Energy would not share the tweaked turbine locations prior to their October “consultation sessions. Consequently, the leaflet drop had the old 14 turbine layout. CaSHWIG have now had the photomontages updated with the layout provided and they can be found on the CaSHWIG website [www.CaSHWIG.org](http://www.CaSHWIG.org). We include these revised photomontages in this newsletter.







**CORREEN HILLS Windfarm (proposed, Chilled layout, Oct24)**  
**Viewpoint: 'N of Clatt (Junction)'**

©2024 landscape photography

OS Reference 353826E 826491N  
Alt 214m  
Direction of view: 177°  
Nearest turbine: (#7) 3703m

Horizontal field of view: 27° (planar projection)  
Paper size 420 x 297 mm (A3)  
Correct printed image size 390 x 260 mm  
Camera: Canon EOS 5D MkII Lens: Canon 50mm F/1.4 Photography date: 23/04/2024



**CORREEN HILLS Windfarm (proposed, Chilled layout, Oct24)**  
**Viewpoint: 'Tap O' Noth'**

©2024 landscape photography

OS Reference 348512E 8292381N  
Alt 545m  
Direction of view: 145°  
Nearest turbine: (#1) 7209m

Horizontal field of view: 27° (planar projection)  
Paper size 420 x 297 mm (A3)  
Correct printed image size 390 x 260 mm  
Camera: Canon EOS 5D MkII Lens: Canon 50mm F/1.4 Photography date: 23/04/2024





I think most of us will conclude that the visual impact has not been reduced by any significant amount.

### Community Council Surveys

Following the “consultation” sessions, the three consultee Community Councils (Tap O Noth, Donside and Bennachie) jointly organised an independent survey to gauge local opinion. The CC social pages indicate a response of 405 replies, which is high enough to count as statistically representative. Congratulations to the CCs for seeking local resident opinions! Over 70% of respondents indicated they objected to the proposal with only about 15% in favour. Having attended some of the CC meetings we are aware they understand they have a clear message from the communities they represent.

Unfortunately, EDF / Force 9 Energy have not shared the feedback they received from their “consultation” sessions.

### Other stuff

Since our last newsletter there has only been one more decision posted on the ECU portal. The application for a new windfarm at Strath Oykel has been approved. This approval is especially disappointing as it was objected to by Highland Council because of the impact on the landscape character and fisheries people due to the impact on fish stocks and the rare freshwater mussel.

Over the past 18 months there has been 22 decisions from the ECU. Of the “new” windfarms almost 50% have been declined. No “adjacent” application has been declined. If the Correen Hills proposal is approved expect many more turbines in the coming years!!

The ECU currently has 62 proposed developments in various stages of “pre-approval”. 13 of these are proposed developments in Aberdeenshire (4) and Moray (9).

Our external experts are working on many other windfarm developments and applications. It is becoming apparent that some developments that have been approved are struggling to raise sufficient funds to commence physical works. This does not seem to be an issue for entities with backing from foreign Governments unfortunately.