

PRESS RELEASE

Wind farm proposed on Cawdor Estates

An application for a 17 turbine wind farm in Nairnshire has been lodged with Highland Council's planning department this week.

Renewable energy specialist Infinergy has joined forces with Cawdor Estates to develop the wind farm located around the hill known as Tom nan Clach.

The developers held public exhibitions in Cawdor and Tomatin a year ago and have now completed the environmental impact assessment which accompanies their application. Feedback from the exhibitions showed that two thirds were in favour of the wind farm.

Since these initial exhibitions, work has also been carried out to identify a suitable access route for vehicles to the wind farm site and as a result the consultation will now include the Carrbridge area.

Inverness-based Project Manager Mark Van Rij said: "It has been quite some time since we carried out the original public exhibitions. We have finalised all our investigations and identified a proposed access route.

"Now that we have identified an appropriate access route we can talk to the relevant local communities, including Carrbridge, and discuss our plans in more detail."

Lord Cawdor welcomed the benefits the scheme could bring to the area, saying: "This proposal is potentially very good for the area, helping to diversify the local economic base and will boost rather than compromise existing businesses. It will also generate economic activity and employment in what is a relatively remote and underutilised part of Nairnshire. The developers calculate the direct benefits of the construction phase of the scheme alone will be worth £10-16 million to the Highlands.

"The energy produced will more than cater for Nairnshire's own needs making the county a net exporter of green energy. This is all the more important given the strong possibility there will be a national shortage of power generation in the next 10 to 15 years."

The environmental impact assessment brings together information from studies and surveys carried out by specialists to evaluate the suitability of the site for a wind farm. These include aspects such as noise, archaeology, visual impact and wildlife.

Each turbine has a maximum height of 110 metres to the blade tip and a generating capacity of 2.3 megawatts (MW). Once complete, the wind farm would generate enough green electricity to meet the demands of up to 21,500 households per year*.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

Infinergy is a wind farm development company committed to renewable energy to help preserve our planet. Infinergy develop onshore wind farms in Scotland, Wales and England. Their Scottish office is in Inverness.

Issued on behalf of Infinergy and Cawdor Estates by Platform PR.

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*Source: BWEA