

Lethans & High Cumnock

Wind Farm Proposals

Keeping you involved

We invite you to public exhibitions on:

Tuesday 12th June 2012

Dumfries Arms Hotel

54 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock

Wednesday 13th June 2012

Hillview Leisure Centre

Kirkland Drive, Kelloholm

Thursday 14th June 2012

**New Cumnock
Community Centre**

Between 4pm & 8pm at all venues



**Please see inside for details
about the projects and the
benefits they could bring**

Image for illustrative purposes only

Energy for everyone's benefit

**We look forward to meeting
you at the public exhibitions
we are holding to involve
your community in our
proposals for two wind
farms in East Ayrshire.**

At the exhibitions, you can:

- View details of our proposals
- Meet our team and ask any questions you might have
- Tell us how you'd like your community to benefit from a share in the revenue from the wind farm
- Share your views and provide feedback to the team on our project feedback forms

Allow us to introduce ourselves

Banks Renewables is part of the Banks Group. At Banks Renewables we provide renewable energy solutions that help meet our society's demand for energy in a sustainable and considerate way.

Development with care is at the heart of our way of working, and it's proven in every one of our projects by actions, more so than words. Respect and consideration for your environment, your community and our customers, employees and suppliers are at the centre of everything we do.

Get in touch

The project team is looking forward to meeting you in person at the exhibitions and other forthcoming meetings and events, getting to know your community and hearing how you'd like it to benefit – environmentally, socially and economically – from the project.

If you can't make it to the exhibitions but would like to ask any questions and share your views, you can write to or email the team at the address on the back cover of this newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you.

"The need for renewable energy could not be more urgent. Left unchecked, climate change threatens many species with extinction. Yet that sense of urgency is not translating into action on the ground to harness the abundant wind energy around us... If we get it right, the UK can produce huge amounts of clean energy without time-consuming conflicts and harm to our wildlife." **Ruth Davis** Head of Climate Change Policy, RSPB



100m to tip turbines at West Durham Wind Farm



100m to tip turbines at West Durham Wind Farm

Why Lethans and High Cumnock?

Scotland has the best wind resource in Europe. If they go ahead, the Lethans and High Cumnock wind farms will provide, on average, enough electricity to power up to 96,300* homes.

Ayrshire is a suitable area to consider for potential wind farms because much of it experiences wind speeds which make wind farms a viable way of producing electricity in this area.

The sites do not lie in any special protected areas for nature conservation or any archaeological or historical designation. Neither site is highlighted within East Ayrshire's wind farm guidance as being in areas affected by cumulative impact of wind farm development.

*Based on a generic calculation for a 172.5MW wind farm

Why wind farms make sense

- Within the next 20 years the indigenous fossil fuels we use to provide our energy will become scarcer and we will become ever more reliant on imports from overseas.
- The Department of Energy and Climate Change has confirmed that one of the main reasons our energy bills are rising is the increasing global demand for, and cost of, wholesale gas and coal.
- In the region of 60% of the coal used to generate electricity is imported.
- Wind farms are the most proven form of renewable energy generation.



Where we are now

High Cumnock KEY FACTS

Number of turbines: Up to 13

Dimensions of turbines: Maximum height of 132m to blade tip

Lifespan: 25 years in operation

Current land use: Agriculture and commercial forestry

Location: Situated on land between Cumnock and New Cumnock, just off the A76

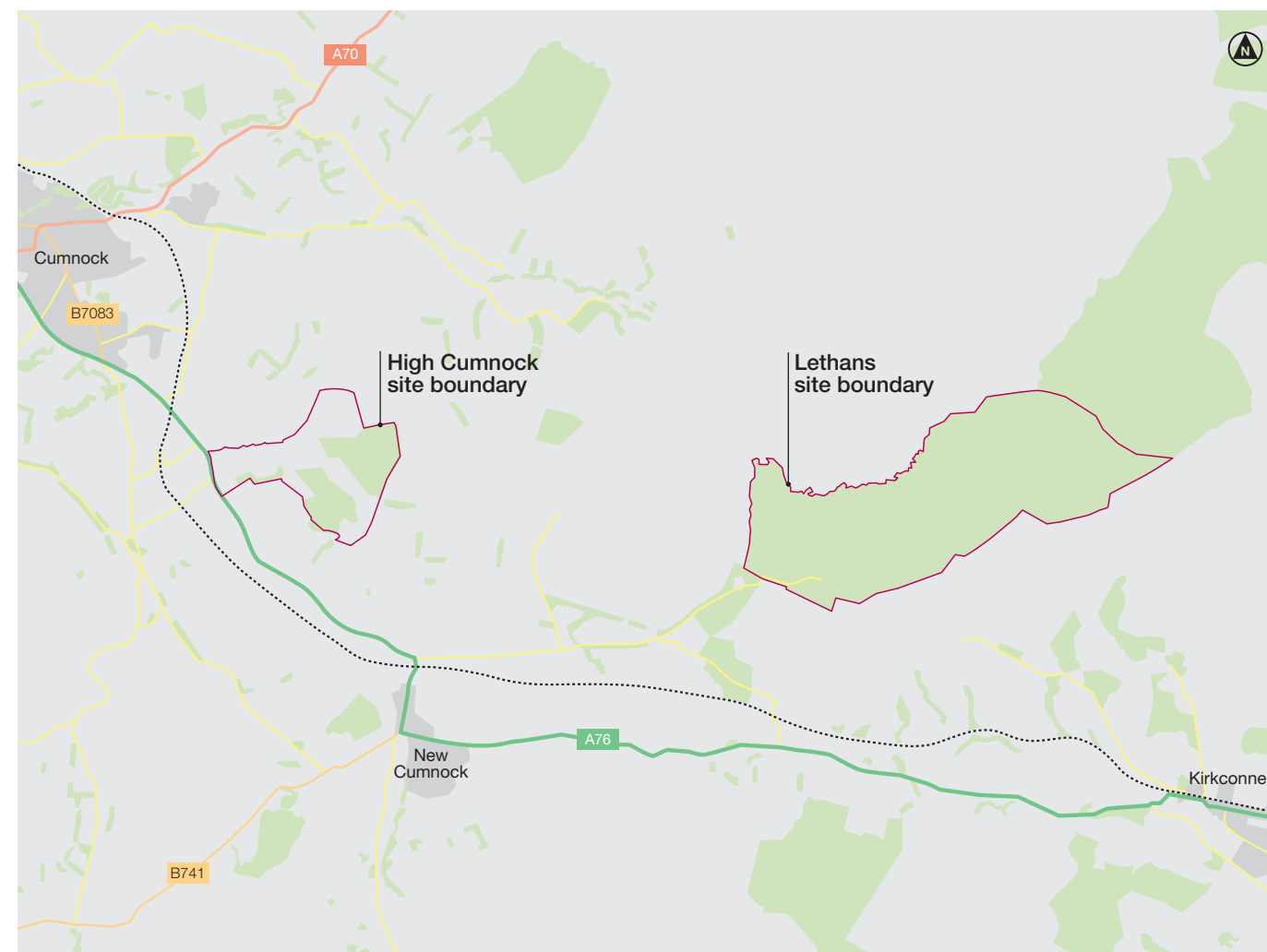
Potential amount of energy generated: Installed capacity of up to 32.5MW, which would provide electricity for approximately 18,100 homes. This is more than the number of homes in Cumnock, New Cumnock, Netherthird and Auchinleck combined.

Grid connection: Via overhead cables on wooden poles or underground cables which are most likely going to connect straight into the Coylton Sub Station or tying into the South West Scotland grid upgrade plans.

Scoping: The scoping report for High Cumnock was submitted to East Ayrshire Council in March 2012 and we are in the process of agreeing the detail of the environmental impact assessment with consultees such as Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Forestry Commission and East Ayrshire Council.

* Figures are approximate and number of homes supplied is calculated with figures recommended by RenewableUK (www.renewable-uk.com). This uses a capacity factor of 30% and average household consumption of electricity of 4,700kWh a year.

PROJECT LOCATIONS



Lethans KEY FACTS

Number of turbines: Up to 39

Dimensions of turbines: Maximum height of 140m to blade tip

Lifespan: 25 years in operation

Current land use: Commercial forestry

Location: Situated on land north east of New Cumnock and north west of Kirkconnel

Potential amount of energy generated: Installed capacity of between 80 and 140MW, which would provide electricity for up to 78,200** homes depending on the final scale of the wind farm. This is more than the number of homes in East Ayrshire Council area.

Grid connection: Either via overhead cables on wooden poles or underground connecting to either Coylton Sub Station, Coalburn Sub Station or tying into the South West Scotland grid upgrade plans.

Scoping: The scoping report for Lethans was submitted to the Scottish Government in May 2012 so discussions regarding the detailed scope of the environmental impact assessment are beginning.

** Based on a 140MW scheme.

For further details on both projects, please come to an exhibition or contact us using the details on the back cover



60m wind monitoring mast at West Durham Wind Farm

Wind masts

- We submitted a planning application at High Cumnock for two 80m temporary wind monitoring masts to East Ayrshire Council in January 2012. This was approved by East Ayrshire Council in early May 2012.
- We will be submitting a planning application for up to two wind masts at the Lethans site in the coming weeks.
- These masts will enable us to collect wind speed data, to assist in the site design and help us to select the best turbines for any subsequent wind farm.
- As you can see from the image opposite, the mast would be a slim structure of approximately 14 centimetres diameter.



100m to tip turbines at West Durham Wind Farm

Consultation

- We have held meetings with all local community councils to discuss our proposed involvement in the area and we will hold further meetings to ensure that the local community councils are fully informed and involved in our proposals.
- We have also met with other stakeholders including East Ayrshire Council, local education providers and local groups. What we learned in these meetings as well as the contribution from these groups has allowed us to develop a more detailed understanding of local issues which is helping to shape the benefits package associated with the proposed developments.
- We will continue speaking to consultees including but not limited to SNH, SEPA and East Ayrshire Council and would like to build up a working relationship with people in your community to ensure that the benefits of the proposed schemes focus on key issues to deliver a long lasting legacy.

Design considerations

Both wind farms will be designed to ensure that any noise they produce is acceptable to local residents in their homes and gardens.

Turbines can be programmed to ensure that shadow flicker (a flickering shadow that can be experienced inside buildings) will not occur. In reference to the Lethans proposal shadow flicker is not anticipated given the distance to the closest residential properties and local geography.

Key viewpoints will be pinpointed for the design and appearance of the proposed developments to be tested against. This along with your feedback will help us to design the site in a sensitive manner.

We have started wildlife and bird studies of each of the sites. Our designs will take into consideration the results of these studies to ensure that any impact on local wildlife will be acceptable.

The remaining preliminary design studies such as background noise monitoring and peat studies will take place over the next few months. After these are complete the team will take all findings from environmental studies and feedback from local people into consideration for the final designs.

Generated here, benefiting here

- The benefits of maximising our energy production here in Scotland are many and far-reaching. By fielding a robust mix of energy production methods including wind, solar and nuclear power the country will be far more self-reliant and less dependent on foreign supplies. This will also mean more jobs and a boost to our economy, both in the communities around the developments and nationally. In 2010/11 the Renewable Energy Association found that the UK renewable industry was worth £12.5 billion and supported 110,000 jobs, with 400,000 needed in total to meet the government's 2020 targets for renewable energy generation.
- There is no statistically valid research that suggests that wind farms have an effect on house prices in their vicinity, and government guidance ensures that noise from onshore wind farms is acceptable to residents living nearby. Independent UK studies have shown that the effects of wind farms on tourism are negligible, and there is a growing body of evidence to suggest that wind farms can become tourist attractions in their own right.
- Wind energy will be cheaper too. Onshore wind is predicted to be the cheapest source of electricity by 2020*.
- A wind farm will pay back the energy used to construct it within approximately 7-8 months – this includes turbine and concrete manufacturing and all transportation. After that, the electricity generated is a carbon-free source of power.
- So far, renewable technologies are only meeting the equivalent of a third of the electricity needs of all Scotland's homes and businesses, with onshore wind supplying 16%. The overarching target of the Scottish Government is to be producing the equivalent of 100% of Scottish electricity needs by 2020 by renewable technology.
- In order to support the development of renewable energy by investing in infrastructure for tomorrow, electricity suppliers are obliged to purchase a certain amount of renewable energy (this is called a renewable obligation certificate or ROC). In real terms this cost the average household just £1.42 a month in 2011 – surely a small price to pay to support clean, green energy.**

* Sustainable Development Commission

** Department of Energy and Climate Change

Reaping the benefits

We're renowned for coming up with innovative community funding packages that run alongside our developments in the UK. These are always specially tailored to local issues, as identified by local people.

Do you know a local cause that could benefit? It's your community, so it's your call. Come and share your suggestions with us at our exhibitions.

Social benefits

Banks Community Fund

Through the Banks Community Fund, we provide funding for community groups as soon as we start developing a potential wind farm in their area.

Since it started we have awarded over £1.9 million in grants that have benefited over 80,000 people. This funding is available now – please get in touch to see if your group is eligible and for information on how to apply.

Community partnering

At Lethans and High Cumnock we are proposing a community funding package worth around £17.5 million that would be made available during the 25-year lifespan of the sites. This would be delivered in partnership with your communities, to reflect their particular priorities.

We've made this possible by committing to donate 1.5% of gross revenue from the wind farm to your community fund. Modest predictions suggest the site would generate £500,000 for the community fund in its first year alone, with an average over the life of both sites of £680,000 per annum.

That said, we don't like to depend only on predictions. We want to guarantee that your community will benefit regardless of how the wind farm performs, which is why we will guarantee a minimum of £3,000 per MW per annum. That's at least £457,000 for the fund every year, index-linked to rise with inflation and independent of the output. It must be noted that these numbers could vary, depending on the timings for delivery of both schemes. For example, if High Cumnock is delivered before Lethans then early payments will be reduced and will increase once Lethans is built and in operation.

Please come along to the exhibitions to find out more about the community partnering proposal.

What could you use this funding for?

We will work closely with you to agree priority projects that could be supported by the community fund. It's an excellent opportunity to help deliver your local community development aims at a time when public funding is limited. Our early discussions with local people and the council suggest that it could help to support initiatives such as:

- Apprenticeship and training initiatives supported by the council and local employers
- Graduate job creation supported by the council and employers
- Further education support provision through partnering with local schools and local and national universities and colleges
- Local community regeneration schemes such as town centre improvements, hall upgrades and open space improvements
- Support for local businesses such as new business grants provided by the communities through the fund
- Support for local community groups and voluntary organisations
- Support for local clubs including football and rugby clubs
- Provision of public sports facilities such as all weather playing surfaces
- Local broadband improvements

Are you interested in being part of this?

We are keen to establish a liaison committee whose members would work positively with East Ayrshire Council, Banks Renewables, local community councils and other local groups to bring long lasting benefits to the area. This group has to be consultative, considerate and inclusive. If you are keen to be involved in such an initiative then please talk to the project team at the exhibition.

So let's recap on exactly what we're proposing

- A wide range of local projects, charities and community groups will be able to benefit from the community partnering proposal.
- Local people will agree on each community's priorities in order to determine the most appropriate way to deliver real and enduring benefit to their area.
- Local people and businesses will enjoy a genuine share in the value created by the wind farm – risk-free and without the burden of ownership.
- The entire process will be fair, transparent and accessible. It will also deliver value and benefits which would otherwise be constrained by budgetary limitations.





Engineers installing wind turbines (picture courtesy of REpower)

- The site would be expected to directly employ between 50 and 100 people during the construction phase, with further jobs supported indirectly through outside contracts and the supply chain.
- The wind farm would also help promote rural diversification and optimise productivity from the land, as normal agricultural activities would still be able to take place right up to the base of the turbines.
- It would contribute to the upgrade of the local national grid network.
- The wind farms would also generate annual business rates of up to £1,600,000 per annum.

Environmental benefits

- The Lethans and High Cumnock wind farms would make an important contribution towards meeting Scotland's renewable energy targets
- The wind farms combined would provide clean, green electricity for up to 96,300* homes per year, nearly double the number of homes in the East Ayrshire Council area
- The combined developments would reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 194,000 tonnes a year in comparison to energy generation from non renewable sources.*

*Based on a generic calculation for a 172.5MW wind farm



Economic benefits

Based on our experience of constructing wind farms:

- Wherever possible, we invite local suppliers to tender for work on our projects.
- We'd be looking to appoint a Scottish-based construction company as our main contractor, and your local economy stands to benefit from the awarding of local construction sub-contracts via this main contractor.
- The sourcing of local plant, materials and labour throughout the construction period would all result in business and job opportunities for local companies. The potential also exists for the awarding of local contracts for the turbine tower elements. If you'd like your company to get involved, we'd like to hear from you.
- The projects would generate a requirement for labour and plant worth over £3,750,000.
- The projects would generate a requirement for materials worth a potential £7,500,000.
- In addition, a potential grid connection contract worth approximately £12,000,000 would help protect local jobs in this sector.

100m to tip turbines at West Durham Wind Farm



What happens next

Throughout the summer we will be undertaking further studies on the sites. We anticipate submitting a full planning application for High Cumnock to East Ayrshire Council in Winter 2012. The application for the proposed wind farm at Lethans will be submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, who will consult East Ayrshire Council on the application. It is anticipated that this application will be submitted in Spring 2013.

We will keep you up to date with the work we are undertaking. Prior to submission of these applications we will invite you to further exhibitions to discuss our final design for the projects.

It is important to us to maintain regular dialogue with local stakeholder and community groups to keep you up to date with proposals to develop a community partnering initiative with the aim of delivering benefits focused on key local issues. We would like to establish a liaison committee to work positively with us and the council to ensure that these benefits reflect the priorities of your community. If you are interested in being part of a liaison committee please contact us or come along to an exhibition and speak with the project team.

Come and get involved

We look forward to meeting you at our exhibitions and hearing your views and suggestions on the proposed Lethans and High Cumnock wind farms and the benefits they would bring. If you can't make it, we'd still like to hear from you. Please write or email:

WRITE: **Banks Renewables**
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ML3 6AU

EMAIL: lethans@banksgroup.co.uk
highcumnock@banksgroup.co.uk

CALL: **0191 378 6100**
0844 209 1515*

CLICK: www.banksgroup.co.uk

*Calls to 0844 numbers are charged at local rate from a BT landline, charges from other providers and mobile networks may vary.

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