



West Coast Community Energy

CUMHACHD COIMHEARSNACHD AN TAOBH SIAR

Registered in Scotland No 799242



COMMUNITY ENERGY

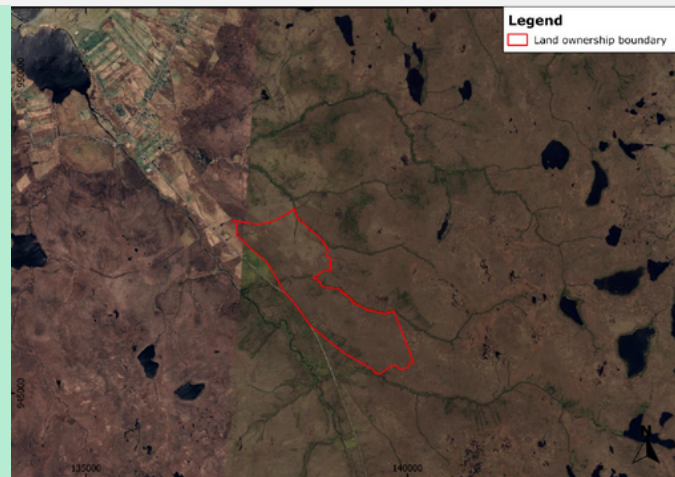
CUMHACHD COIMHEARSNEACHD

WELCOME / FÀILTE

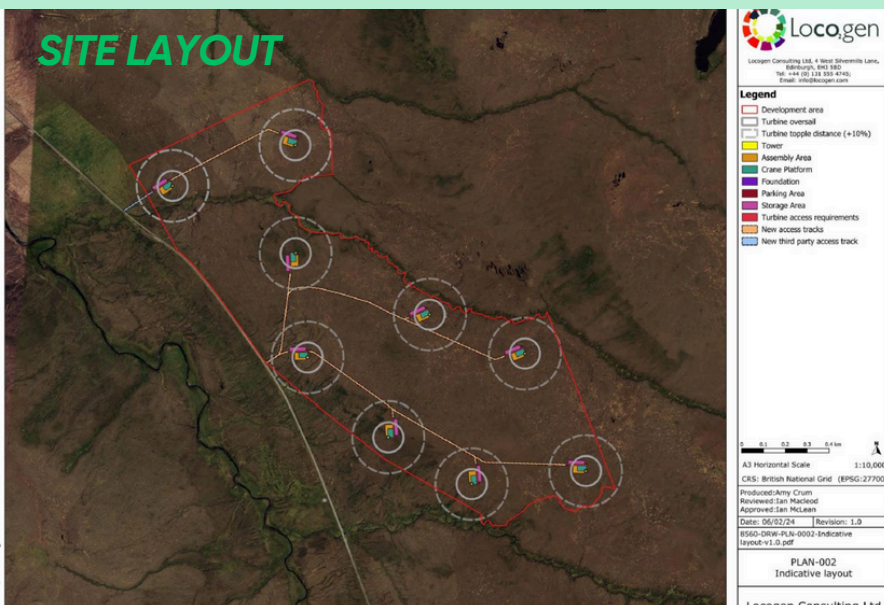
A new community-owned windfarm is proposed in north-west Lewis at a scale of 43 MegaWatts (MW). West Coast Community Energy Ltd. has been formed by Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn, Urras Oighreachd Bharabhais and Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh, to take the project forward.

PROPOSAL / TAIRGSE

The windfarm is currently scaled at 43 MW in total, based on 9 turbines of up to 110m hub height. The proposed site is at Barvas Moor, currently within crofting tenure (common grazings) and part of Galson Estate.



SITE LAYOUT



TECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS / SGRÙDAIDHEAN TEICNIGEACH

A range of investigations and studies will be required in the future to develop the proposal to a more detailed stage in advance of a planning application being submitted, including: **Landscape and Visual Assessment; Ecology and Biodiversity; Peat Analysis; Hydrology; Aviation; Historic Environment; and Telecommunications.**



BACKGROUND / CÙL-FHOISRACHADH

A number of community organisations were brought together to explore the opportunities for a jointly owned community windfarm near to Stornoway around 2014. However, it was not possible to obtain landowner agreement for the project and the organisations based in the West of Lewis decided to investigate an alternative approach. Site option appraisals of 4 locations were undertaken by Community Energy Scotland in 2019 – Barvas Moor was the optimum and preferred site.

Funding has been awarded by Local Energy Scotland (CARES Programme) and Community Led Local Development to carry out project planning to address:

- ✓ Market Review
- ✓ Technical Feasibility
- ✓ Energy Yield Assessment
- ✓ Planning screening request
- ✓ Financial modelling
- ✓ Grid and development report
- ✓ Grid consultation and application
- ✓ Initial visualisations
- ✓ Scoping report

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY GRID / GRID NÀISEANTA AN DEALAIN

A firm offer for 44MW to export electricity to the local grid was received in June 2024 and accepted in September 2024. The connection date is in October 2033. The offer sets out various milestones with timescales that will be challenging to meet, specifically: **Ecology surveys (started in October 2024); Planning application; Land agreement.**

An additional application is still required to assess the implications of exporting electricity to the off-island transmission network and this may bring further hurdles for the project. At present, communities face the same requirements as commercial developers and discussions are ongoing with UK Government officials and ministers as to how to enable community renewables to be delivered.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT / BUANNACHD COIMHEARSNACHD



Profits from the windfarm will be dispersed to each of the community organisations involved to provide long-term, sustainable income streams. Only Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn currently receives wind energy income; this has been transformational for the organisation which employs 15 staff and delivers a range of social programmes and key projects. Research has shown that community-owned windfarms can provide up to 34 times the benefit to communities compared to commercial windfarms.

CONTACT US / CUIR FIOS THUGAINN

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