

June 2026

Kinnelhead Wind Farm Proposal

Report on Feedback



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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this report

RES has considerable experience in developing wind farm projects throughout Scotland and the UK and believes in the importance of community consultation to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which can be considered when developing and designing a project.

The purpose of this report is to summarise the feedback received from the community during the June 2025 public exhibition and subsequent consultation period. It also highlights any changes that have been made to the preliminary design of the proposed development since then.

Each section focuses on a specific topic area and summaries the key themes within the feedback, followed by RES' response. RES has acknowledged these comments and has provided updated information at this second public exhibition. A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report will accompany the planning application submission. The PAC report will summarise the consultation activities undertaken for the proposal, the feedback received and how we have responded to it..

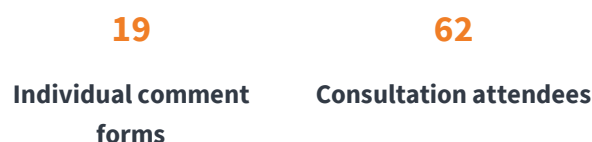
1.2 June 2025 Consultation

RES held two public exhibitions in the local area (Beattock and Moffat) in June 2025 as part of its pre-application consultation for the proposed Kinnelhead Wind Farm. These events provided people with the opportunity to learn more about the project, discuss the proposal with the project team, and provide written feedback to RES on the preliminary site layout. RES advertised the events in the Moffat News and sent an invitation to all households and businesses within 12km of the proposed development.

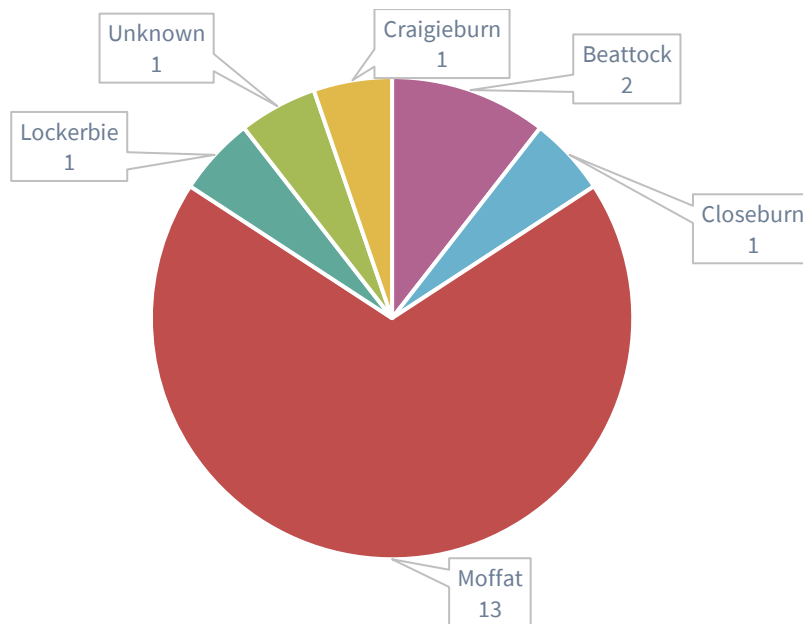
A range of information was made available, including several visualisations prepared to NatureScot guidance which helped to give an impression of what the site could look like from different viewpoints in the area. Eight project team members - from a variety of disciplines such as ecology, engineering and planning - were on hand to discuss the proposal and answer any questions. A three-week consultation period followed the exhibition, for people to submit written feedback to RES on the proposal and preliminary design.

2 General Overview

Approximately 62 people attended the first-round of consultation events and 19 completed comment forms were received within the consultation period.



Interest in the proposal was observed across the local area, with most attendees visiting from the Moffat area. Graph 1, below, highlights the local areas the exhibition attendees were from.

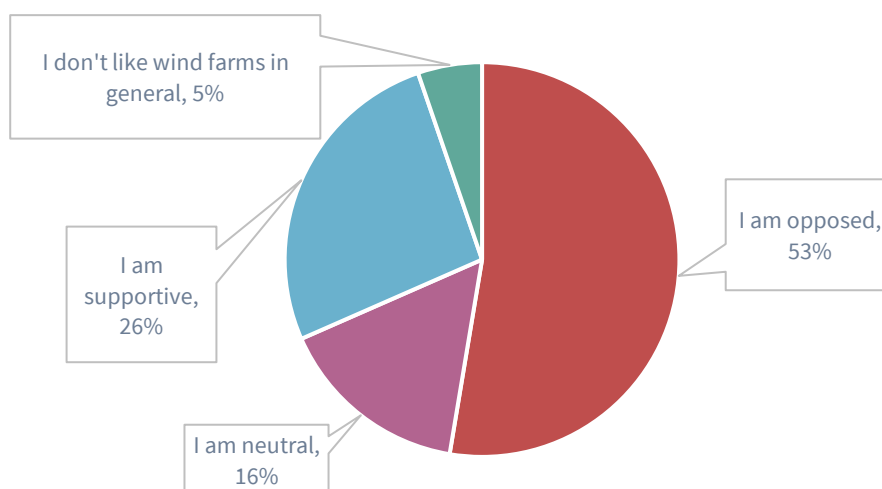


Graph 1 – Location of comment form respondents

3 Comment form analysis

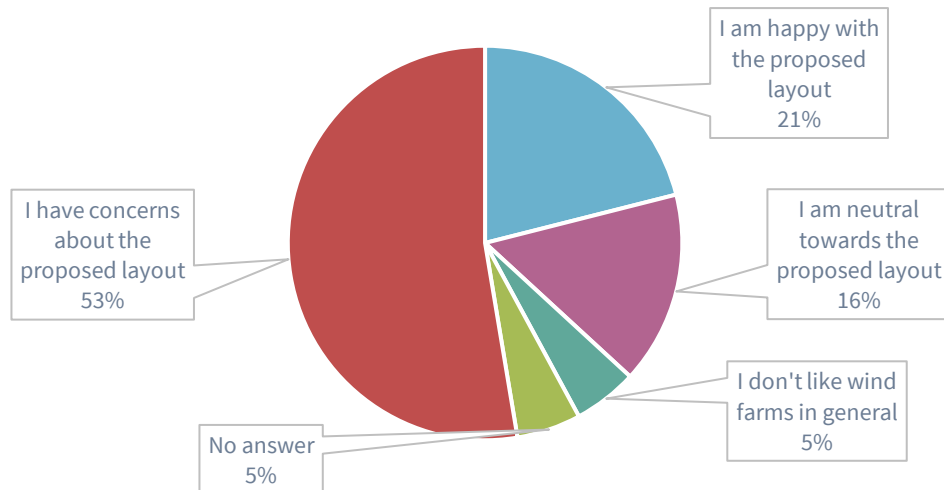
The comment form asked a number of multiple-choice questions along with form fields for the respondents to make individual comments. A full analysis of the comment form feedback will be provided in the PAC report which will accompany the planning application.

RES included a multiple-choice question on the comment form that asked people about their attitude to the proposal for a wind farm at Kinnelhead. The breakdown of responses, as shown in Graph 2, is as follows:



Graph 2 – Breakdown of comment form respondents' attitude towards the proposal as a whole

RES also included a multiple-choice question on the comments form that asked how the respondent felt about the proposed preliminary layout for the project. The breakdown of responses, as shown in Graph 3, is as follows:



Graph 3 – Breakdown of comment form respondents feeling towards the design layout

The consultation feedback submitted to RES has been considered by the project team as part of the design development, in addition to feedback from key consultees and the findings from the detailed technical and environmental studies that have been undertaken. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to engage with us on the proposal.

4 Topical breakdown of comments

We received comments, both verbally and in writing, that followed similar themes including:

- Landscape and visual
- Fire risk and battery energy storage system (BESS)
- Cumulative impact
- Community benefit contribution
- Tourism

The below provides an update on RES' response to each of these broader topics.

4.1 Landscape and visual

RES recognises that the landscape and visual aspect of the proposal is a key concern within the community and has sought to incorporate this feedback in the latest design.

Taking on feedback from the first-round of public exhibitions in June 2025, together with field survey results, we have removed 10 turbines from the layout design, reduced the tip height to a maximum of 230m and revised the turbine locations. This significant layout change was undertaken primarily to reduce the potential impact upon golden eagle in the area and in turn reduced other potential impacts including landscape and visual.

The turbines being proposed for Kinnelhead within the updated design are up to 230m in height, reduced from 250m in the initial preliminary design. Furthermore, three of the remaining turbines have been reduced to 200m in tip height in order to reduce the potential landscape impact associated with Queensberry Hill. Wind turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that wind turbines are now taller and more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of electricity per wind turbine.

There are turbines already consented in Scotland at 250m in height and operational wind farms in Scotland at 220m in height. Modern taller wind turbines provide more electricity, which helps to address the security of

energy supply and the climate emergency. The mixture of 200m and 230m tall wind turbines proposed at Kinnelhead Wind Farm would allow for far greater benefits in terms of renewable electricity generation per wind turbine than smaller turbines would. For example, the operational Minnygap Wind Farm adjacent to the south was developed by RES and built in 2017. It consists of 10 turbines each with 2.5 MW generating capacity. The turbines associated with Kinnelhead will be capable of generating at least 6.2 MW each.

Our teams have undertaken extensive assessments and surveys to inform the updated design and turbine layout. We are looking to achieve a design that strikes an acceptable balance between the visibility of the proposal and maximising the generation of renewable energy. Ultimately, the acceptability of this design will be assessed by the determining authority in accordance with current energy policy and planning requirements, having considered feedback from consultees as well as representations by members of the community and wider public.

The Scottish Government's Onshore Wind Policy Statement, published in December 2022, states in paragraph 3.6.1 that *"Meeting our climate targets will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society. This means ensuring the right development happens in the right place. Meeting the ambition of a minimum installed capacity of 20 GW of onshore wind in Scotland by 2030 will require taller and more efficient turbines. This will change the landscape."*

At our June 2025 public exhibition events we provided four visualisation boards showing how the proposal may look based on the preliminary site layout from four viewpoints within the local area. These viewpoint locations were selected in order to demonstrate the most "localised" effects of the proposed development, which would be of most interest to people attending the exhibitions.

At the second-round of exhibitions scheduled to take place in June 2026, we have updated these visualisations with the updated design as well as adding in an additional viewpoint from the southwest at the request of the community.

All visualisations were and will continue to be produced to well established and recognised standards set by NatureScot.

4.2 Fire risk and battery energy storage system (BESS)

We appreciated the conversations and feedback around battery energy storage at the public exhibitions in June 2025 and can understand the worry that this technology may incite.

RES has been working in the battery energy storage market for a decade and design safe storage projects using proven Lithium ion phosphate technology. Unlike electric vehicles and some older BESS projects, all RES-managed projects are monitored 24/7/365 from our control centre in Glasgow. The control centre can access, and remotely control, each individual rack which are being constantly monitored. Automatic electrical disconnection is enacted by the Battery Management System should operational temperature, current or voltage limits be breached. Multiple levels of alarms would be sent prior to any potential breach of the protection limits.

While the mitigation of fire risk in BESS project is well advanced and understood, especially by RES, we heard your concerns and have made the decision to remove BESS from the Kinnelhead Wind Farm proposal. This change was a direct result of community feedback to the preliminary plans and as part of the redesign and reduction of the size of the wind farm, we have decided to remove BESS completely.

4.3 Cumulative impact

We understand and are mindful of concerns amongst some of the community regarding the number of renewable energy developments in the area. Due to limited grid capacity across Scotland and the wider United Kingdom, it is common for developers to focus on locations where there is both available grid capacity and a strong wind resource. There is a national drive for more renewable energy development and potential cumulative impacts arising from operational, consented and proposed developments are being carefully considered and assessed by our project team, including independent consultants, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

This includes consideration of how the project may interact with other developments in the landscape, including potential effects on ornithology, visual amenity, landscape character and local communities. We are proposing to utilise the existing timber haulage route for access during construction, a route already used by Minnygap and proposed to be utilised by the proposed Daer and RivoX Wind Farms, thereby reducing the potential cumulative impact of new tracks.

The findings of such assessments are used to inform the design of the project and will be presented transparently to decision-makers, who must consider cumulative effects as a key part of the planning process.

4.4 Community benefit contributions

The community benefit package for the project has been developed in line with current 2026 Scottish Government Good Practice Principles, which currently recommend a value of £5,000 per MW of installed capacity per year for onshore wind developments¹. Based on the new layout currently with 99.2 MW of generating capacity, that would entail an index linked fund worth at least £496k every year.

The intention of community benefit funding is to provide a long-term, voluntary contribution that supports local priorities and delivers lasting benefits to communities hosting renewable energy infrastructure. Should the project receive consent, we would welcome ongoing engagement with the local community regarding the governance and use of any community benefit fund to help ensure it reflects local needs and aspirations.

4.5 Socio-economics, including tourism

We recognise the importance of tourism to the local economy and understand concerns regarding the potential effects of renewable energy developments on the area's appeal to visitors.

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process, the project team is assessing potential effects on socio-economics including the tourism industry as well as landscape and visual amenity, including potential effects on recreational routes.

While research undertaken across Scotland and the UK has generally found limited evidence of significant adverse effects on tourism at a regional level, we recognise that each location is unique and that local circumstances must be carefully considered.

RES seeks to be a power for good in the communities that neighbour its projects by working openly and constructively to ensure tangible local benefits. While in the development stage of Kinnelhead Wind Farm, we are pleased to have supported a number of initiatives in the area so far. This includes, teaming up with the

¹ The £5,000 per MW per annum benchmark is drawn from the Scottish Government's current Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments. We are aware of the ongoing consultation on proposed updates to this guidance and will have regard to any revised recommendations when finalised.

University of Glasgow to offer a newly established course which will introduce pupils to the world of professional environmental science, via hands-on outdoor learning. 19 S3 students from across Dumfries and Galloway will have the opportunity to take part in the this fully funded residential field course in the summer, this includes four students from Moffat and Lockerbie.

We are also pleased and proud to be supporters of the Upper Annandale Junior Football Club by purchasing some new goals for the 9 v 9 games as well as sponsoring the SXC Mountain Bike Series in 2025 which saw cyclists take to the trails in the Forest of Ae. Both our sponsorship reflects our commitment to promoting grassroots and community-led projects.

5 Next steps

RES is grateful to everyone who provided feedback on the early stage design at the public exhibition events held in June 2025 (and during the subsequent consultation period).

The purpose of the second round of public exhibitions is to provide people with an opportunity to review the updated design, speak with the project team, and ask any questions. Whilst the layout design is almost finalised, this event will provide people with a further opportunity to submit written feedback again to RES.

A PAC report will accompany the planning application and once the proposal is submitted into planning, which is expected to be later this year, there will be an opportunity to submit formal comments to the determining authority. The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit will hold a statutory consultation period whereupon members of the public, as well as statutory consultees, can submit their formal comments on the proposal.

A copy of the key information presented at the June 2026 exhibitions can also be found on the website at www.kinnelhead-windfarm.co.uk together with contact information for the project team.