

Rosehall Wind Farm

Community newsletter

Wind farm works on track

Before works could start on the actual wind farm site, all of the requirements of the planning conditions relating to the beginning of construction needed to be satisfied. This was achieved and works began on site on 5th April.

One such planning condition related to the upgrade of a mile long section of the A839 public road. This upgrade needed to be completed before works could start to satisfy the planning conditions and because the road was not in a good enough state to withstand construction traffic. Given the poor condition of the road, this was a big task. The road was closed and traffic diverted via the A837.

Read more on p3.

All of the timber around the proposed locations of the turbines has now been cleared. Over 3000 tonnes of timber was taken to markets in wood pellets, panel boards and construction grade

timber. The remainder was not mature enough for market and was mulched on the site.

In April, a diversion to the Sika trail was constructed south of the existing track. The new multi-user track runs some two miles along the access route to the wind farm.

Read more on p4.

In May, work began at the site junction. This work is now largely complete and involved making the junction larger, so that turbine delivery vehicles and any other construction traffic can easily turn into the site, minimising any disruption to other traffic.

The borrow pits on the site have now been opened. Borrow pits are areas that are used for digging up stone. This stone will be used to build the tracks to the turbines and for use in making concrete for the foundations that the turbine towers sit on. Sourcing the stone on site is advantageous as it means less traffic on the public road system.

Should you require further information, please contact Liz Fraser, Community Group Liaison Secretary on 0800 0569 090.



Construction of the Sika trail diversion

Project description

Key facts	
Project scope:	19 x 1.3MW turbines
Turbine heights:	Up to 59m to hub, 90m to blade tip
Total power:	24.7MW
Location:	2.5 km north east of Rosehall
Equivalent electricity:	Generates electricity for the estimated equivalent of 13,000* households a year**
Carbon savings:	Around 27,000+ tonnes of carbon dioxide per year

* Based on an average household electricity consumption of 4,700 kWh. Source DECC.

** These figures are based on estimates drawn from modelling data on wind speeds measured in the area.

This data has been independently analysed.

+ Based on the Government's long term marginal plant figure of 430g CO₂/kWh.

Key project milestones

The schedule of works is subject to change. Any updates will be communicated to the community via the Rosehall Wind Farm Community Liaison Group and our newsletters. On the right is the timetable as of June 2011.

Milestones	
Felling	August 2011 - January 2012
Construction	April 2011 - August 2012
Turbine deliveries	March 2012 - April 2012
Grid connection	July 2012

The next steps



- Forestry operations, which stopped in April for the bird breeding season, will begin again in August. This phase will involve felling trees away from the turbine area, to make a favourable habitat for birds.
- Work will begin shortly to upgrade the existing access track. Once the access route has been improved, tracks to the turbine bases will be started.
- As reported in March's newsletter, an application has been made to Scottish & Southern Energy (SSE) regarding the grid connection which is scheduled for July 2012.



Completion of A839 road improvements

The imminent upgrade of the A839 was reported in March's newsletter. The works, undertaken by Morrison Construction, were subsequently carried out and completed in less than four weeks. This was commendable given the scale of the project and the adverse weather conditions encountered by the team.

The 1.5km section of road from Achany Wind Farm to the Rosehall Wind Farm site junction needed to be upgraded for two reasons. Firstly, the strength of the surface would not have coped with construction traffic and turbine delivery vehicles without significant further degradation. As such, a planning condition was placed on the Rosehall Wind Farm development requiring the road to be upgraded prior to construction. Secondly, the surface of this section of road was completely worn out, a fact that regular users of the A839 would have been all too aware of.

Understandably, the Council Roads and Transport Department wanted an upgrade that would last for a number of years. This necessitated major works, including the removal of a large rock mass which was causing a dangerous hump in the road. The contractors also placed strengthening mesh underneath the tar surface, to provide further integrity to the new surface. Removal of the large rock mass and the use of the metal mesh meant that this section of the road needed to be closed for the upgrade. Closing the road meant the works could be completed much faster.

Various options were investigated before a decision was taken to close the road. The Rosehall Wind Farm Community Liaison Group was consulted, as was the Technical Services department at Highland Council, consultants Natural Power and contractors Morrisons Construction.

We apologise for any disruption and inconvenience caused by the road closure and the consequential lengthy diversion. We hope that the community is pleased with the result of the upgrade and the benefits which go with a much improved road.

Community news

Sika trail re-opens

The temporary track, which was constructed in April, is now open to the public. We respectfully request that all users of the track adhere to Health & Safety notices and keep to the designated area. In the interests of safety, users should not attempt to access the adjacent wind farm construction site. Please note that closures are possible during the construction period.

Rosehall War Memorial

Many people will be aware of the unfortunate damage to the retaining wall of the war memorial. This occurred during the road closure when all traffic was forced to use the diversion. Remedial action was taken, and we arranged for the wall to be repaired by a local professional stonemason.

Grants awarded to community projects

Two local organisations were delighted to learn that their applications to the E.ON Climate & Renewables' Community Project Fund had been successful.

Ardgay & District Community Council was awarded £800 to repair a footpath and The Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group received a grant of £700.

After learning of the award, Group Secretary Kathy Smith said; "The grant from E.ON will give the youth group the opportunity to showcase their efforts so far to the community, and to outline what is possible in the future. The group will use the funding to hold an Open Day on the land purchased to promote youth services in the Kyle of Sutherland." Kathy went on; "The day will involve presentations by young people and

consultations with community members to help consolidate and showcase ideas for the development of a permanent youth facility."

Speaking about the award on behalf of Ardgay & District Community Council, Doreen Gibbs said "This funding means we can build a small footpath between Oakhill and Ardgay Hill in the village of Ardgay. This area is used a lot by local residents and walkers, and the footpath will be beneficial as an access path to the Gearrhoile Community Wood from Ardgay Village. We're absolutely delighted to be able to do this."

The closing date for the next round of funding is 30th June 2011. The limit per award is £1000.

Funding requests, stating the level of grant being applied for, should be emailed to:

Liz Fraser, Community Group Liaison Secretary

liz@quietstorm-marketing.co.uk

Please provide full project details, including how the award would be used.

Lairg Mayfest

A fun time was had by all at this year's Mayfest. Our donation of £2000 meant that a wide range of activities could take place. Some of those taking part are pictured below.



Pony rides at Ferrycroft with James and Morag Dalton and helper Hannah Paterson, standing in front.



Young musicians from Lairg, Golspie, Bonar Bridge and Bettyhill entertaining in the school playground.

Our renewables commitment

In Scotland, we currently own and operate two onshore wind farms, Deucheran Hill in Kintyre and Bowbeat in the Scottish Borders, as well as a biomass plant at Steven's Croft in Lockerbie. We've recently finished building the first offshore wind farm in Scottish waters, Robin Rigg, in the Solway Firth. A further onshore wind farm, Camster in Caithness, is now in construction.

Contact us

If you require further information about the Rosehall Wind Farm or have any queries, please contact our local representative, **Liz Fraser on 0800 0569 090 or email rosehall@eon-uk.com**.

Updates are available at eon-uk.com/rosehall

If you require additional copies of this newsletter please contact us.



The Patchwork exhibition in Lairg Learning Centre with class tutor Diane Namon and two members of the class, Anne Bell and Cara Cameron.



The Drama Group with adult entertainers and actors and Rosehall primary school children.

Photos courtesy of Liz Quinn.