

LAIRG WINDFARM



Photomontage: View of the wind farm from Torroble looking east

Newsletter November 2010

You may know that ABO Wind UK Ltd. is soon starting construction on a wind farm to the south-east of Lairg. We hope that a regular newsletter will be of interest and use, and that it will help keep you informed of the site's progress.

The site is located at Cnoc na-Inghinn, approximately 4km from Lairg, to the east of Torroble. The wind farm will consist of three 2.5MW turbines, producing energy for 3,550 houses per year. Typically, wind farms operate for 25 years. At the end of this period, the wind farm will either be decommissioned, taken away or the site will be restored or repowered with new generation turbines, for which a new planning application would be required.

ABO Wind UK Ltd.

ABO Wind UK Ltd. is a branch of a large successful European wind developer ABO Wind. The parent company is one of Europe's most experienced developers with interests in Germany, France, Spain, Ireland, Bulgaria, Belgium and Argentina, and has successfully developed, constructed and maintained wind farms for over fourteen years. Further information can be found at www.abo-wind.com. The UK branch is supported by this expertise but is small enough to remain personal. The company have been based in Scotland since 2007.

This map shows the location of the three turbines:





ABO Wind respects the local environment

Construction

The construction process is expected to take seven months, starting on the 1st November, which means by mid 2011 the site will be producing energy. There is a vast amount of work to be done over the coming months-the first stages will involve:

- Installation of electrical cabling and equipment- the energy produced from the site will be linked up to the national energy supply via underground cables.
- Creation of permanent access routes- this will allow vehicles to access the site while avoiding damage to wildlife and buildings. Most traffic will be using the A836 for access, while the turbines themselves will be transported through the village of Lairg, via the A839. Due to the size of some vehicles, the access to the C-class road at Lairg train station will be widened (shown in red on the map) and a new access road will be built across the heathland to the location of the turbines. For the first few weeks there will be a temporary construction compound located off the Torroble road, which will move further onto the site as the development progresses. There will be a traffic management plan in place to ensure that construction vehicles cause as little disruption as possible.

Timescale

The area around Lairg is of great ecological importance, and ABO Wind UK Ltd. is working to minimise disruption to wildlife. For this reason, the majority of construction work will be done over the coming winter months, to avoid disturbing the hen harrier mating season, which is expected to begin in March. ABO Wind UK Ltd. has worked closely with Scottish Natural Heritage and The Highland Council to ensure that all construction work is carried out at the best possible time of year. The access tracks are expected to be constructed by November and the turbines are due to be erected in spring 2011. Some of the work will be weather dependent so construction will be flexible.



Erection of a Nordex N-80 turbine

Community

ABO Wind UK Ltd. strives to ensure that the Lairg community embrace the local wind farm. To encourage this, in association with members of the community council, we have created a community benefit scheme specifically tailored to the needs of the Lairg community. This will help Lairg benefit economically from the project and allow the turbines to contribute to the area, socially and financially. We hope the local community will appreciate the presence of the turbines, and as such ask that if you have any queries or concerns regarding the project, you direct them to Matt Braund at the following address:

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