

Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project

Welcome to Galileo Empower's community consultation event on the proposed Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project.

This is our first round of consultation events which gives you the chance to view our current plans for the site, meet the project team, and provide feedback which will help inform the design.

Please take as much time as you need to review the information presented. Members of the project team are on hand to provide you with answers to any questions or to discuss any comments on the Project.

Share your thoughts

We would very much value your feedback as we seek to review and refine our plans and would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to share your views and any comments on our proposals by completing a feedback form before you leave the exhibition.

Alternatively, you can return these to:

 **Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project**
7-9 North St David Street
Edinburgh, EH2 1AW

 or provide us with comments via the form on the project website
kinlochbervierenewableenergyproject.co.uk

 Deadline for feedback
Monday 7 April 2025

How to stay engaged

If you have any questions, want more information on our plans or would like to discuss the Project in more detail, please get in touch at any time by:

 **kinlochbervie@galileoempower.uk**

 **0131 210 0415**

All information displayed today will be uploaded to the project website for viewing.

Thank you for taking the time to visit today's event.



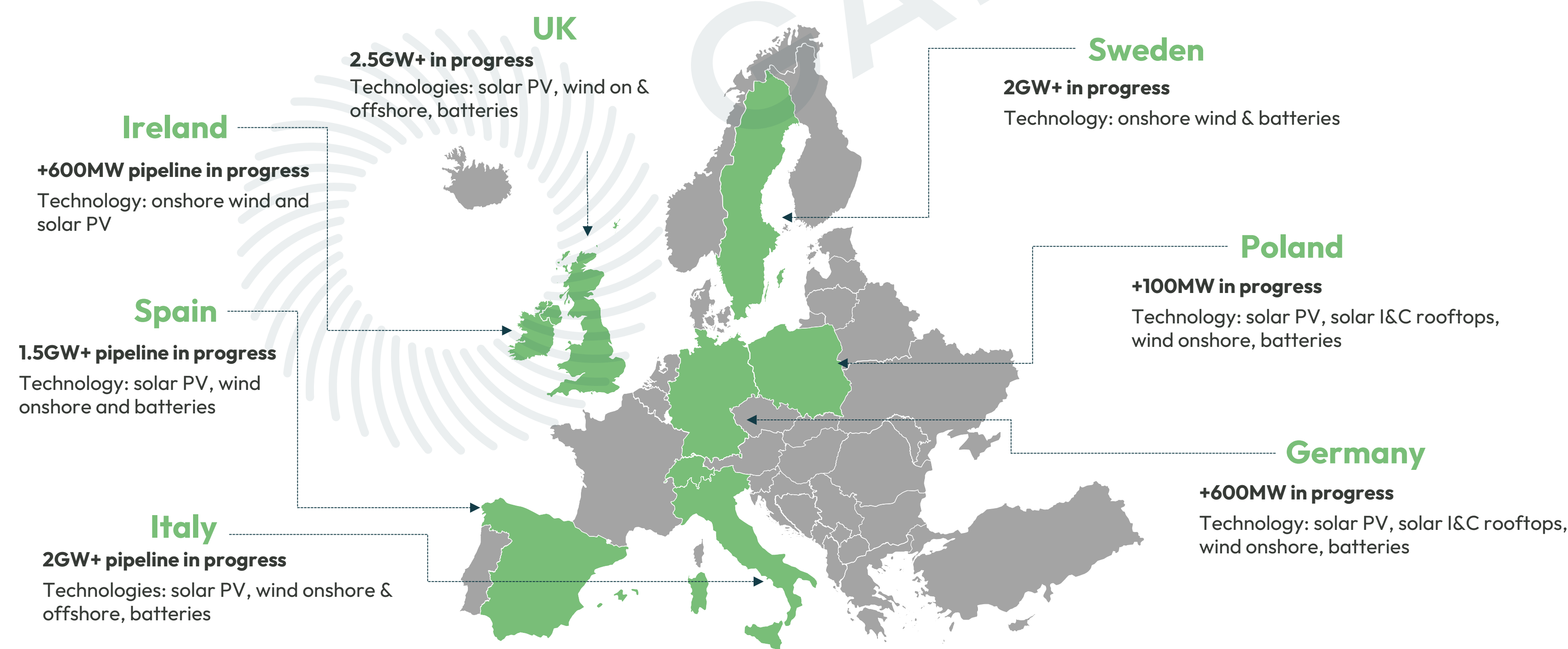
About Galileo Empower UK



Established in 2020, Galileo is a fast-growing renewable energy developer, owner and operator with a mission to play a significant role in the realisation of global emission reduction targets. We aim to do this by developing enough smart, efficient, high-quality and integrated green energy projects such that renewable energy becomes the primary source of electricity for all energy consumers in Europe.

Galileo currently has a project development portfolio across many European countries, including the UK, Sweden, Ireland, Germany, and Finland. Our senior management team is made up of leading energy and investment experts that bring decades of international experience across more than thirty markets, and our funders are long-term institutional investors with a global footprint, international mindset and collaborative mentality.

Our Edinburgh-based project team includes specialists with some of the longest track-records in the renewables industry – with a proven ability to deliver sustainable projects for the long term, which provide clean green energy, economic benefit and significant benefits for local communities.



Infratil is an owner and operator of businesses in the energy (mainly renewables), transport, data centres and social infrastructure sectors. Infratil is listed on both the New Zealand and Australian Stock Exchanges (IFT.NZ, IFZ.AX) and currently owns assets in excess of NZ\$6.5 billion.



Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation looks after superfunds designed specifically for Australian Government and Defence Force employees. Over A\$44 billion invested in high-quality private and public assets including wind farms, waste management infrastructure projects, and renewable energy initiatives that add to the net new supply of facilities.



The New Zealand Super Fund is a NZ\$45 billion sovereign wealth fund established by the New Zealand Government to partially pre-fund the future cost of universal pension payments. A long-term, growth-oriented investor, the Fund has returned 9.7% p.a. since inception in 2003. The Fund is managed by the Guardians of New Zealand Superannuation, a Crown entity.



The Morrison & Co Growth Infrastructure Fund ('MGIF') MGIF was established in 2018 to provide institutional and sophisticated investors with access to attractive risk-adjusted returns through investments in unlisted infrastructure assets. The primary focus of MGIF will be on growth infrastructure and investments utilising a sustainability approach.



**More information about
Galileo Empower is available at**
galileoempower.com



Climate Change and Policy Context



Galileo Empower was established to support the once in a lifetime global transition to low carbon renewable energy.

The impacts of climate change are becoming ever more widespread at home and across the world, as we see increased frequency of extreme weather events, such as drought, prolonged rainfall, extreme heat and flash floods. Human activity, through the emission of greenhouse gases, is the leading contributor of climate change. It is essential that we transition from the use of fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project is set against the backdrop of the climate emergency, and the need to transition to renewable energy sources, whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions globally from polluting fossil fuels.

The Project will contribute to local and national aspirations to reduce emissions and grow the renewable energy sector:



UK Government

UK Government

The UK Government has set a target to deliver a Clean Power system by 2030, through its Clean Power Action Plan. Decarbonising the grid, it recognises that electricity generated by renewables will form the backbone of this.

The British Energy Security Strategy (2022) builds on this commitment to reduce the UK's dependence on volatile fossil fuel markets by improving domestic energy production and make the UK more self-sufficient when it comes to the energy it uses.

“Working people will benefit from a new era of clean electricity, as the government today unveils the most ambitious reforms to the country’s energy system in a generation, to make Britain energy secure, protect households from energy price spikes, reindustrialise the country with thousands of skilled jobs, and tackle the climate crisis.”¹

Ed Miliband MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero



Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Scottish Government

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019, Scotland set an overarching statutory target to achieve a 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2045, as set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024 (“2009 Act”). This sets clear targets relating to climate change emissions reductions, in law, which are required for Scotland to reach net zero.

In order to achieve this, the Scottish Government has set a target that by 2030 it aims to generate 50 per cent of Scotland’s heat, transport and electricity consumption from renewable sources, and by 2050 to have decarbonised the energy system almost completely.² This includes a target to increase onshore wind generating capacity to 20GW by 2030, more than doubling the current level.³ Scotland’s Climate Change Plan 2018–2032 advocates nature-based approaches to addressing climate change, including activities such as tree planting and peatland restoration as forming a key part of the strategy to reach these net zero targets, further emphasising the enhancement aspect of renewable energy projects.

“Not only does our planet depend on it [climate action], but so too our people’s very prosperity and their wellbeing... We are facing a world where a temperature increase of two degrees is not only a possibility, but one we must now actively prepare for. It serves no one to deny this reality – and all it will mean. Instead, it calls on us to be bold.”⁴

John Swinney, First Minister of Scotland, 19 February 2025



The Highland Council

- The Highland Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019.
- Its Net zero strategy published in 2023
- It backs ‘Identifying and developing opportunities arising from renewable energy generation’

“Transformational change is required across the Council to integrate climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainability measures into all operations and service delivery. All staff and elected members will have a role to play in adapting the Council to climate change and delivering Net Zero. Embedding climate change into everyday decision-making will be critical. We will need to make complex and challenging decisions, particularly regarding funding, to ensure we understand the course of action we must take in tackling the climate issues we all face.”

Cllr Karl Rosie, Chair of The Highland Council’s Climate Change Committee

Derek Brown, Chief Executive of The Highland Council

Cllr Raymond Bremner, Leader of The Highland Council

Co-signatories of The Highland Council net zero strategy 2023

¹ Government sets out plan for new era of clean electricity - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-for-new-era-of-clean-electricity>

² Scottish Energy Strategy - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-energy-strategy-future-energy-scotland-9781788515276/>

³ Onshore wind: policy statement 2022 - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/onshore-wind-policy-statement-2022/>

⁴ Climate Action, First Minister’s Speech - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/climate-action-first-ministers-speech-19-february/>

The Project Proposals

Site Location

The location of the proposed development is neighbouring the village of Kinlochbervie in the Highland Council region, approximately 14.2km south-west of Durness.

The site spans along Loch Inchar at Kinlochbervie in the west and across rocky hills in the east. The topography ranges from sea level in the east to 354m AOD in the north-east. High points also include the summit of Meall na Moine (315m) and Meall Meadhonach (354m).

The Proposals



Wind

- Our current proposals are for 18 turbines with a maximum tip height of 200 metres
- The proposed wind generation will have an installed capacity of up to 129.6 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy generation
- This is the equivalent of powering around 164,234 homes a year¹
- Additionally, offsetting some 105,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year², equivalent of taking 22,826 cars off the road annually³



Solar

- We are currently exploring the possibility of co-locating solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on site, these would be Solar PV Panel mounted on a frame
- The Solar PV Panels would be set in rows maximising the opportunity to collect light and generate renewable energy from the sun throughout the year
- The exact design, capacity and location of the solar element of this project is still under consideration



Battery Energy Storage Systems

- We intend to develop proposals for an on-site BESS to maximise and regulate the electricity supply from the proposed wind turbines and solar to the grid
- The BESS will store the excess energy that is produced during high winds or sunny days and then export that stored energy back to the grid when generation is low and energy is needed
- The exact design, capacity and location of the BESS is still under consideration, but it is likely to be co-located with the substation necessary to operate the energy park and be situated along to the main site access track, once identified
- BESS provides a vital 'balancing role', helping to ensure that the grid remains stable at all times



Grid Connection

The connection from Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project to the Transmission Network will come from an application submitted by the networks owner/operators NESO (National Energy System Operator) Under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.



Application Process

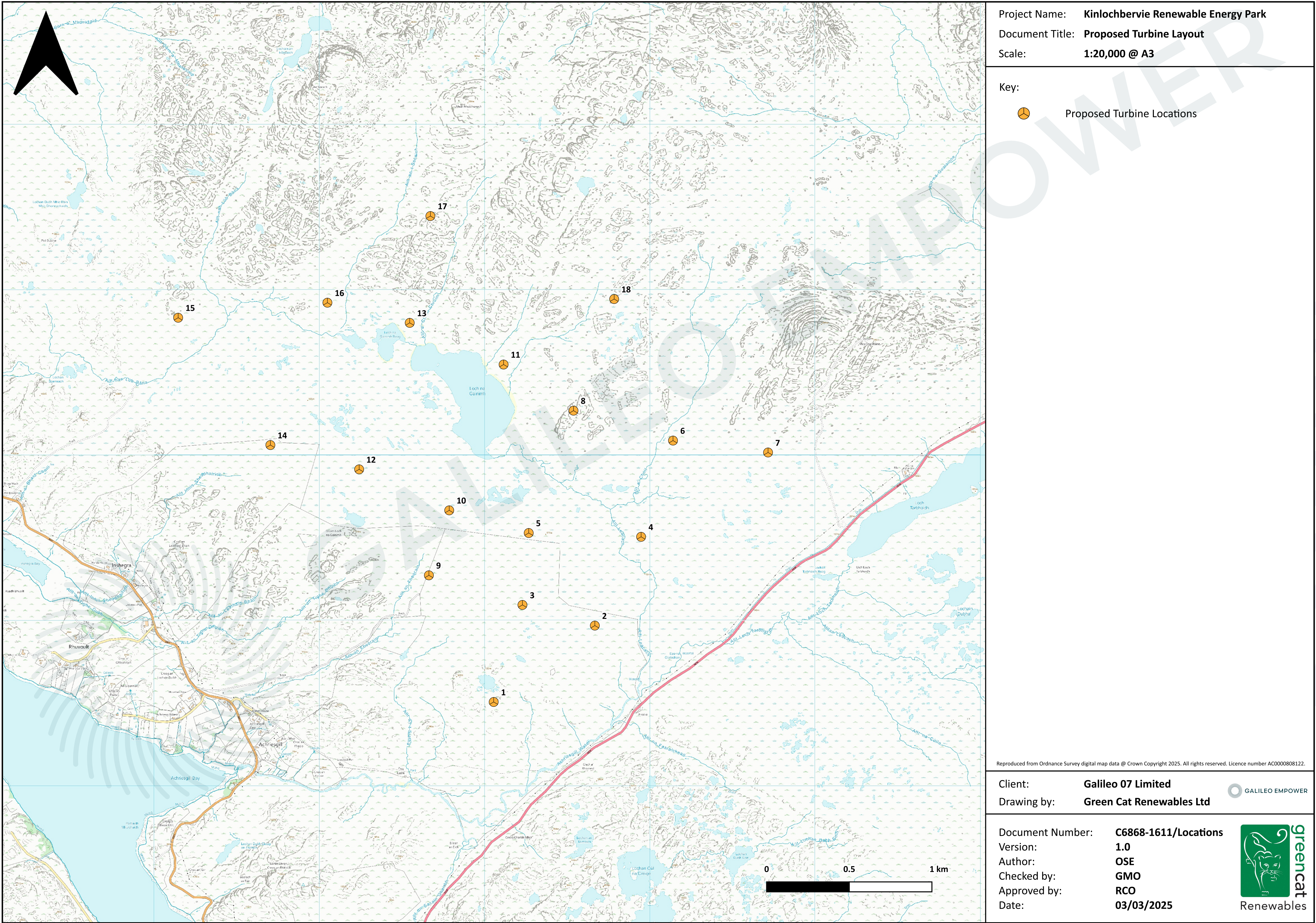
It is anticipated that the total generation capacity of the energy project will exceed 50 Megawatts (MW) and therefore an application for the Proposed Development will be made to the Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Applicant would also seek deemed planning permission under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997). The Highland Council will be consulted on the application, along with other statutory consultees, such as NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland.

¹ Based on DESNZ statistics for Annual GB average household consumption: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65b12dfff2718c000dfb1c9b/subnational-electricity-and-gas-consumption-summary-report-2022.pdf>

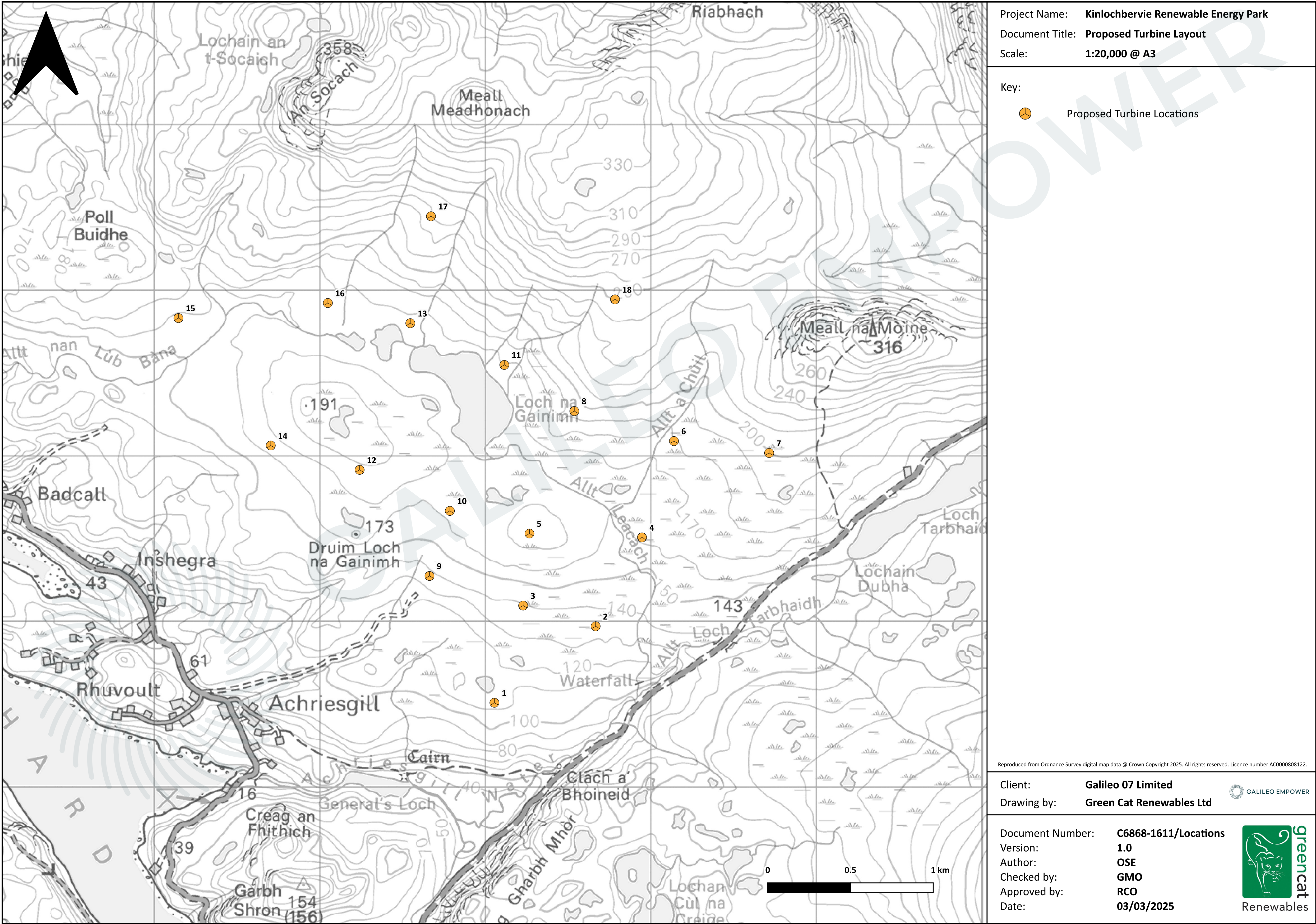
² Based on DESNZ's "all non-renewable fuels" emissions statistic of 437 tonnes of carbon dioxide per GWh of electricity supplied: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electricity-chapter-5-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes>

³ Based on a typical UK car averaging 11,500km per year. Department for Transport: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transport-and-environment-statistics-2023/transport-and-environment-statistics-2023>

Site Layout



Site Layout



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)



As part of our planning application, we will complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the potential environmental effects of the project.

The EIA process helps ensure that potential environmental effects are identified, assessed and responsibly managed before a development is consented and constructed. For renewable energy projects, understanding the impact on Scotland's natural environment, wildlife, cultural heritage and communities is crucial.

We are in the process of surveying and studying the site, which will help us refine our proposals to avoid, reduce and mitigate any potential environmental impacts.

Prior to the EIA submission a scoping report will be submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU). The objective of a scoping report is to ensure that the EIA is focussed on key issues which are likely to give rise to significant environmental effects.

What do we assess?



Natural Environment

Specialised habitat and species surveys are underway to determine the proposal's potential impact on the local wildlife and habitats, including bird surveys. These surveys will help identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancement to achieve overall Net Benefit for Biodiversity on the site.

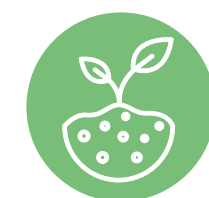
Two years of ornithological studies are required as a part of the EIA process. The key species that have been considered are breeding Red-throated Divers and breeding Greenshank. This data gathering will inform potential collision risk of the turbines, as well as any impacts to their breeding and roosting as a part of other solar arrays or ancillary infrastructure.

Potential impacts on nearby statutory sites designated for nature conservation and ecological characteristics including Foinaven SAC and Foinaven SSSI are also considered in the survey, design and assessment process.



Heritage

Cultural heritage assessment considers the designated and non-designated historic assets within and surrounding the site including scheduled monuments, listed buildings, as well as features from the National Record of the Historic Environment and the Highland Historic Environment Record databases. Within the wider surrounding area, the impact on the setting and intervisibility of listed buildings and scheduled monuments is also assessed and considered in the design process.



Peat, Geology and Soils

Survey and assessment of surface water and groundwater systems helps prevent disruption to water flow and quality. As a result of these surveys, drainage management plans will be implemented where required to reduce flood risks and erosion.

Identification and management of peatland will support minimising carbon release, habitat loss and potential for peat slides. Ground investigations, which, will take place during the detailed design phase prior to construction, will further assess soil conditions and stability.



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)



Noise

Baseline noise monitoring will be carried out at a number of noise receptors (residential properties) near to the project. These locations will be agreed with The Highland Council. This data will feed into the design, ensuring that the project is compliant with noise thresholds which are set as compliance with legal requirements set by the UK Government for noise limits. As part of our preliminary design work setback distances are already applied from the nearest residential properties to reduce potential noise disturbance for those living closest to the project.



Transport and Access

Different route options for delivery of plant and equipment are being considered, as well as construction access to the site, with the aim of reducing disruption to nearby communities.



Aviation and Radar

Potential impacts on aviation and radar will be assessed and consultation will be carried out with the Ministry of Defence, NATS En Route plc (NERL) and nearby mast operators to ensure that we address any potential issues to signals, radars and/or visuals.

Turbines with a tip height greater than 150m are required to incorporate aviation lighting. An assessment of aviation lighting will be included in the EIA and, if possible, a reduced lighting scheme will be proposed.

Wind farms produce electromagnetic radiation which has the potential to interfere with broadcast communications and signals. Any impact on any fixed radio links within the vicinity of the site will be determined through consultation with key stakeholders such as Ofcom, Joint Radio Company Windfarm Co-ordination and Atkins Global.



Shadow Flicker

Shadow flicker occurs under very specific circumstances (time of day and geographical position). If the rotor is in motion, and conditions align, this may cause a flickering effect at a residential property as the sun's rays are obstructed by a turbine blade. The duration and likelihood of shadow flicker relies upon: 1. The aspect of the property relative to the project, 2. The distance between the project and property. Shadow flicker impacts will be modelled as part of the EIA.



Why is it important?

The EIA plays a crucial role in ensuring responsible development by:



Protection of Natural Resources: Scotland is home to a rich and diverse environment, including protected areas, rare species, and important habitats. An EIA helps to protect these resources while facilitating the transition to sustainable energy. It also supports consideration for enhancement opportunities of the natural environment.



Informed Decision-Making: By assessing the potential environmental and social impacts upfront, an EIA enables decision-makers, including regulators, local authorities and government bodies, to make well-informed choices about whether a renewable energy project should proceed, and under what conditions.



Improving Project Design: The desk-based and on-site study process identifies potential issues early, allowing adjustments to minimise environmental and social impacts helping safeguard local natural and cultural heritage through careful planning and mitigation.



Public Participation: The planning process ensures that communities, stakeholders, and the general public have opportunities to engage and provide feedback, allowing for consideration of local concerns.



Ensuring Legal Compliance: The EIA demonstrates how the proposal meets national and international environmental regulations, reducing the risk of legal or planning issues. It also supports commitments to sustainability and conscientious development.

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

The site is located within an expansive area of Rocky Hills and Moorland which covers much of the far northwest of Sutherland, between Cape Wrath, the Kyle of Tongue and Loch Eriboll and extending south around the Lone Mountains and Foinaven.

Much of this landscape is uninhabited and overlapped by extensive wild land. The topography of the site ranges from sea level in the east to 355m at Creag Riabhach in the northern most part of the site. Other areas of landscape character include Cnocan and Coastal Crofts / Small Farms, and Rounded Hills. A number of watercourses and lochs including Loch na Gainimh, Loch Innis na Ba Buidhe and General's Loch are located within the site.

An LVIA will be undertaken, allowing us to consider the potential effect of the proposal 'on key' views from the surrounding area and the on the character of the landscape. Key landscape designations will be considered including the North West Sutherland NSA, the Wild land Areas and the route of the North Coast 500. An important consideration will be the impact on visual amenity for residential property owners, as well as users of recreational areas, public footpaths and roads within the local area.

Design is an important component of the LVIA which will also assess how Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project will look and fit in the surrounding landscape as well as illustrating this visually through the production of wirelines and photomontages.



Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

The ZTV image shown on this board provides a computer-generated map of the areas where theoretically there may be a view of the wind farm (even if only a blade tip).

The ZTV does not take into account existing buildings, trees or anything else 'above' ground which would further restrict visibility of the project.

For the purposes of this exhibition, we have selected the viewpoints shown to illustrate how Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project, based on the indicative layout, may appear in the surrounding area. Please ask one of our project team if you would like to see these views.

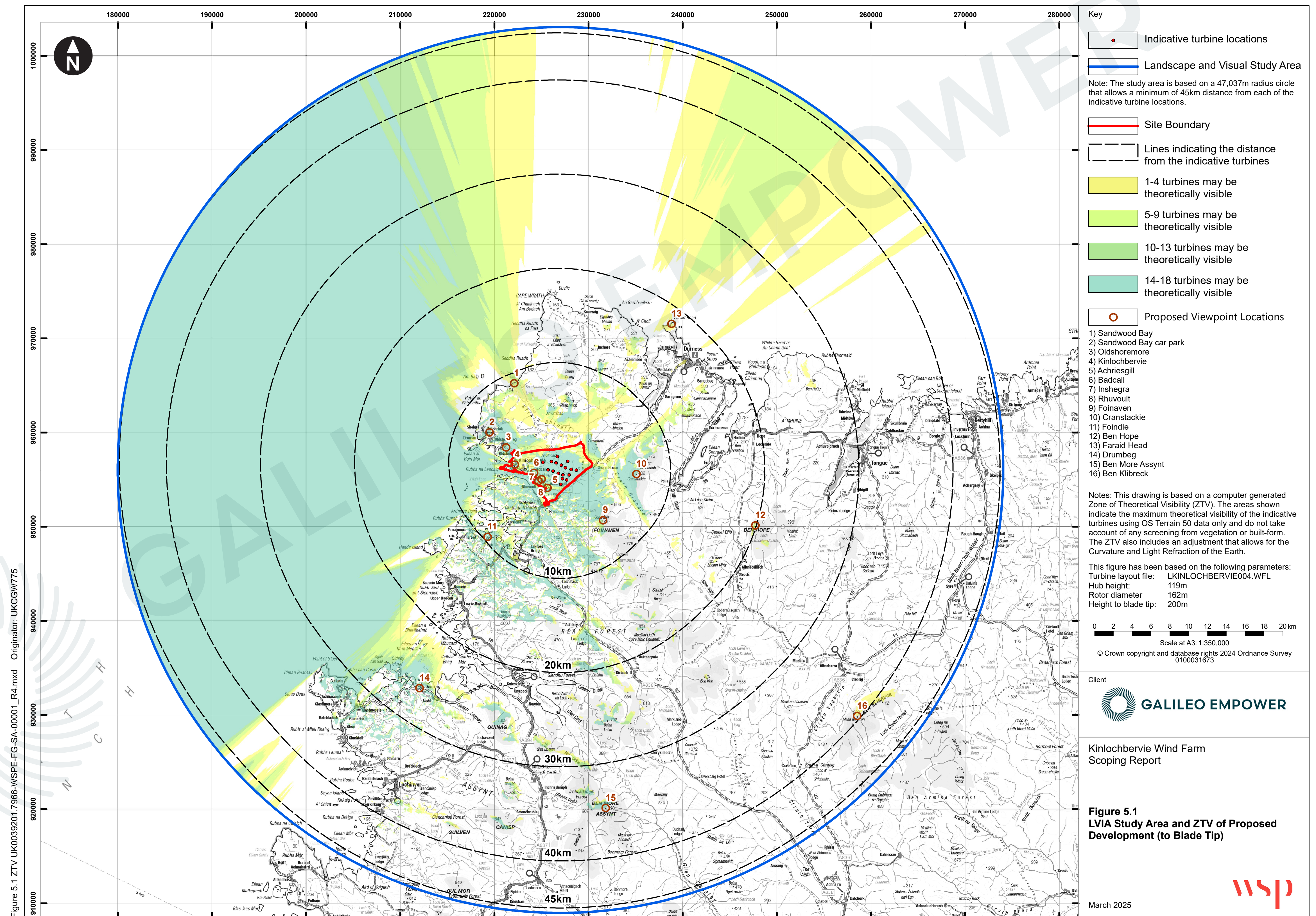


Figure 5.1 ZTV UK0039201.7966-WSPE-FG-SA-00001_R4

Our Community Offering

Galileo Empower is committed to developing projects that deliver substantial and tangible benefits locally and foster strong community relations.

Our responsible approach towards project development will ensure that Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project is delivered in a way that's good for our neighbours, the surrounding environment, and the local community.



Community Wealth Fund

We adhere to best practice guidance in relation to community benefit and are committed to delivering substantial and tangible long-term benefits locally. If consented, the Project will provide a significant community wealth fund of £5,000 per MW, per year, for the lifetime of the project.

Based on an anticipated generating capacity of 129.6MW, the community wealth fund will be in the region of £648,000 per year – more than £25 million over the 40-year lifespan of the project.

We would very much welcome your input on the area which the community wealth fund should cover and the types of projects you would like to see supported, which you can provide by completing a feedback form or through engagement with the team at the exhibition.



£5,000 per MW, per year,
for the lifetime of the project
([index link](#))



Renewable Electricity Discount Scheme (REDS)

Galileo Empower wants to ensure that the local community share in the success of the project. We want to hear back from the community on their thoughts on how the money can be distributed. One opportunity that Galileo Empower has introduced elsewhere is to deliver discounted electricity to every household within certain distance of the project. This opportunity will utilise funds from the Community Wealth Fund if the community take up this offer.

It should be noted that this is subject to community consultation, and we encourage local feedback to shape the final approach.



Shared Ownership

In addition to the Community Wealth Fund, the local community will have the opportunity to take up to a 10% ownership stake in the wind farm.

The Galileo Empower team has been directly involved in the successful delivery of community shared ownership schemes elsewhere in Scotland. We also have a long-term working relationship with Local Energy Scotland (www.localenergy.scot), the Scottish Government's adviser on shared ownership, who can assist in providing professional advice and support to the local community.



Local Contractor Portal

At Galileo Empower, we recognise the vital role that local businesses play in the success of our projects. That’s why we have established our **Local Contractor Portal** – a dedicated platform designed to connect local suppliers with opportunities arising from our developments.

By registering your business with us, you will be included in our **supply chain database**, ensuring that you are considered for relevant contracts as the project progresses. This early engagement allows us to identify skilled local suppliers and service providers, helping to maximise economic benefits within the community.



Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project

Economic Impact, February 2025

Local Authority Area: Highland Council

Potential capacity: 63MW Wind, 30MW Solar, 50MW Battery Storage

Est. Capital Investment: £150m

Est. O&M: £4.6m/year (£183m in 40 years)

Development & Construction



Operations & Maintenance



Job years are the standard measure of construction employment impacts. One job year is the equivalent of one full-time equivalent job for one year.
GVA = Gross Value Added, a measure of economic output. GVA measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector.
MW = megawatts

Development Process and Timeline

We continue to progress several environmental surveys which will provide us with key information during the design phase to carefully consider sensitive constraints whilst maximising renewable energy generation and biodiversity enhancement.

The final project design will also be informed by feedback received from this community consultation event and other consultees such as the Highland Council, Historic Environment Scotland and NatureScot.

We will host another round of community consultation and public exhibitions prior to submission to share an updated design, information on how the proposals have developed and why, and to seek further feedback from residents and wider stakeholders.

This information will then feed into the development of our final design proposals and our application for consent, which we aim to submit to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit by Winter 2025.

Spring 2023
Bird and Environmental Surveys started.



March 2025
Consultation Events – Round 1.

Spring 2025



EIA Scoping Request submitted to Energy Consents Unit.



Summer 2025

Review feedback, undertake further surveys and assessment and refine site design.

Autumn 2025



Consultation Events – Round 2.



Autumn 2025

Review feedback and further refine site proposals.

Winter 2025



Submission of application for consent to Energy Consents Unit, Scottish Government.

Thank you

At Galileo Empower, we strongly believe in the need for ongoing dialogue regarding our projects. We will consult and listen carefully to views on these current proposals for the Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project, making changes where possible as we develop our proposals.

As part of this process, we believe in meaningful and effective consultation, aiming to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, that we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.

Please note that comments made to Galileo Empower (The Applicant) are not representations to the Scottish ministers and when the applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish ministers at an appropriate point).

Keeping in touch

We are committed to developing the Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project alongside the community as a project that delivers substantial and tangible benefits.

If you have any questions, want more information on the plans or if you would like to discuss the project with the development team, please get in touch at any time:



kinlochbervierenewableenergyproject.co.uk



kinlochbervie@galileoempower.uk



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