Greystone Knowe wind farm frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Who is Coriolis Energy?

Coriolis Energy is an independent, UK-based renewables developer and has been developing renewable energy projects since 2007, primarily focusing on onshore wind. We have offices in Glasgow and have delivered more than 100 MW of operational onshore wind farms and have a further 400 MW in development.

Who is ESB?

ESB is Ireland's premier energy company and a leading independent power generator in the UK market. The company has offices in Glasgow and is an energy provider to more than 1.5 million customers, including businesses and householders across Scotland and elsewhere in the UK. ESB currently has 150 MW of consented onshore wind projects in Scotland and has recently invested in the Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm project, off the east coast of Scotland. As well as on- and offshore wind, ESB is heavily involved in electric vehicle infrastructure and renewable heating systems, such the low-carbon heating and cooling system it has installed in the V&A Dundee.

What will be the transport route for the turbine parts?

We are currently considering the turbine delivery route. It is anticipated that abnormal loads will travel south from the port at Rosyth in Fife, as this is the closest port of entry for abnormal loads. These loads would then proceed via Keith Road, before travelling east through a series of roundabouts towards the M90. Loads would then journey south to the Queensferry Crossing and join the M8 heading east before joining the A720 at Hermiston roundabout. Construction traffic would then proceed to join the A7 at Sheriffhall roundabout and travel southbound for about 14.5 miles before turning right at Fountainhall.

Access to the site will be from Old Stage Road to the east of the site. A new turning circle and an access road will be constructed to link Old Stage Road and the site.

Why are we considering a project here?

The site is in an area identified as having the potential for a wind farm development. We have had a met mast on the site since September 2019 and, from the initial data, we believe that the site benefits from good wind speeds. The site has no national or local designations and is accessible from the existing trunk road network.

Where will the grid connection be?

If consented, the turbines will have an underground connection to a small on-site substation. The connection of the substation to the wider grid network would fall under a separate consenting process and will be subject to a separate environmental investigation and application.

What about battery storage?

We consider battery storage on all our sites and will look at battery storage as part of the Greystone Knowe wind farm application. Battery technology is evolving at a rapid rate and this will help to balance the grid network.

Are there opportunities for local businesses?

We are committed to working with local businesses on our projects and have a section on our website, www.greystoneknowewindfarm.co.uk/register-supplier.aspx where businesses can sign up to learn about any opportunities should the project be consented. Please let any local businesses know about the proposals if they are interested in the project.

What are the next steps for the project?

We will hold an online exhibition in October 2020 and will review the feedback to help inform the proposals as we progress the plans before an eventual application in 2021.

Our studies that will form part of the application, in the form of an environmental impact assessment, are ongoing and we will upload all the documents online for residents to review.

Where will the wind farm be?

The site sits to the west of the A7, 2km south of Heriot and 2.5km to the west of Fountainhall, in the Scottish Borders. The site is currently used as upland grazing land and has small blocks of plantation forestry.

How big will the wind farm be?

The wind farm will have up to 14 turbines; the final number will be decided after the environmental impact assessment has been completed. Each turbine will be up to 180 metres tall from the ground to the tip of the blade and have a rotor diameter of about 150 metres.

How long will it take to build the wind farm?

It usually takes about 18 months to build a wind development of the size of Greystone Knowe.

If the project is consented, we would expect construction to start in the mid-2020s.

Will I be able to see the turbines from my house?

Where the turbines will be visible from has not yet been confirmed. An indication of where turbines might be visible from is shown as a zone of theoretical visibility. You can see this by looking at Figure 2.2 in the scoping report

When might Greystone Knowe wind farm be operational?

The date of operation of the proposed wind development has not been confirmed, but the wind farm is likely to be built and operational by the mid to late 2020s.

How would the wind farm benefit the local community?

We are committed to £5,000 per megawatt in community benefit per annum, which could mean up to £350,000 a year. We are also committed to shared ownership opportunities if there is interest from the local community.

Coriolis Energy is currently exploring the options for community benefit. The options available would be to either pay community benefit on a per megawatt basis into a community benefit fund or to explore an alternative structure with the community.

Coriolis and ESB will also be offering the community a shared ownership opportunity with this wind farm. Further information can be found in the Scottish Government's Shared Ownership Good Practice document.

It is recommended that local communities who are interested in the shared ownership opportunity should seek advice and guidance from Local Energy Scotland.

What is being done to mitigate any environmental impacts?

As part of the design process and application for consent for the wind farm, an environmental impact assessment is being undertaken. We will work with the local authority and other organisations to outline specific areas of concern, then determine the existing environmental conditions at the site by using a combination of existing information and carrying out surveys to fill in any blanks.

Any potential impacts from the proposed wind farm will be assessed and mitigation measures will be put forward to address them.

The environmental topics that will be explored include

- Landscape character and visual amenity
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Ecology and ornithology
- Hydrology
- Geology
- Peat
- Noise
- Traffic and transport
- Socio-economic and tourism
- Climate change
- Aviation and radar
- Telecommunications.

Where can I find out more about wind farms in general?

We have included some links to useful documents and websites on the Greystone Knowe website.