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Mr Tom Arthur MSP

Minister for Employment and Investment
Scottish Government

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Achieving clean power by 2030 – a planning challenge

Chaired by Claire Mack, Chief Executive, Scottish Renewables

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Melanie MacRae

Deputy Director Clean Power 2030 Unit
Department for Energy Security
& Net Zero

#SRPLANNING25

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

May 25

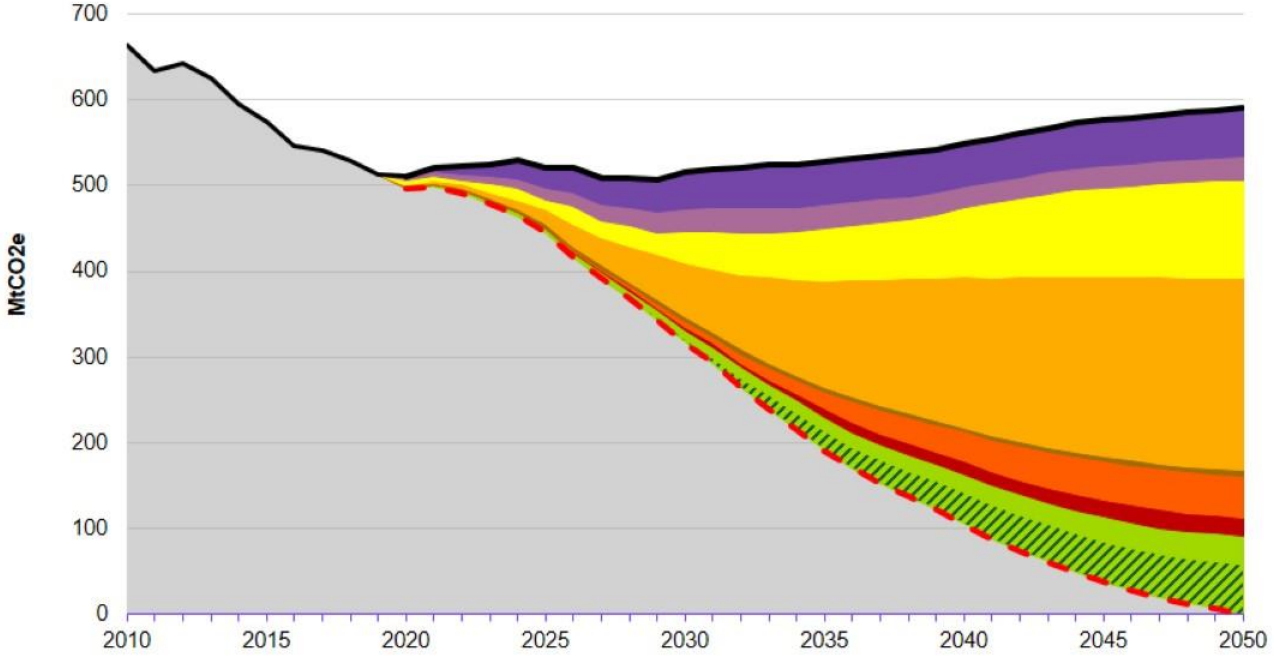
Clean Power 2030

A new era of clean electricity

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Why Clean Power?

Cross-economy abatement



1. Demand reduction and efficiency

- Reduced demand for carbon-intensive activities
- Greater efficiency in use of energy and resources

2. Expand low carbon electricity supply

- Generate low carbon electricity

3. Adopt low carbon solutions

- Electrification
- Bioenergy
- Hydrogen
- Carbon capture in industry

4. Offsetting emissions

- Land-based removals
- Engineered greenhouse gas removals

Source

CCC Analysis 2020

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Clean Power 2030

Change in consumer demand by 2030

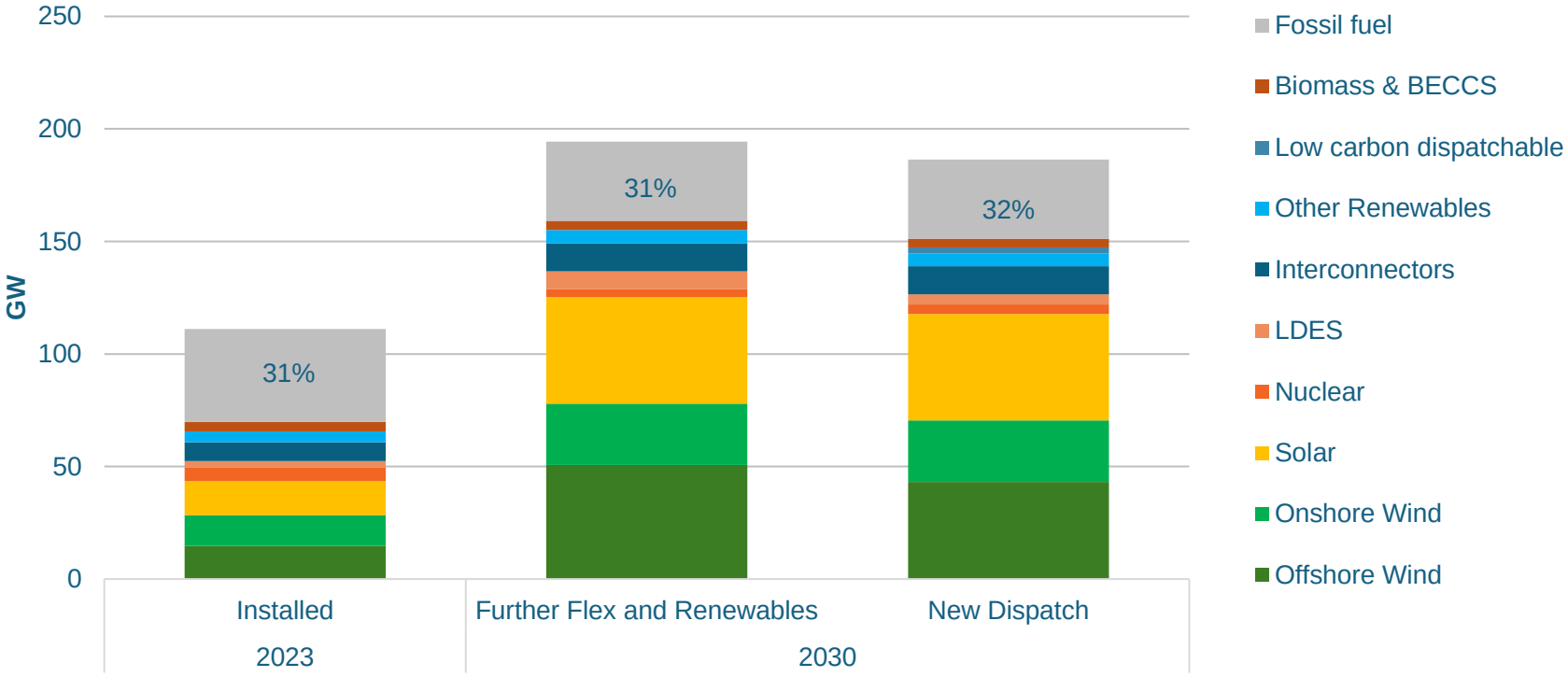
Source

NESO "*Clean Power 2030: Advice on achieving clean power for Great Britain by 2030*"

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Clean Power 2030

Capacity mixes for 2023 and 2030



Source

NESO "*Clean Power 2030: Advice on achieving clean power for Great Britain by 2030*"

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Clean Power 2030

Capacity range for 2030 (GW)

Technology	Current installed capacity GB	NESO 'Further Flex and Renewables'	NESO 'New Dispatch'	DESNZ 'Clean Power Capacity Range'	Scotland's regional capacity by 2030	Current operational Scotland	Planning pipeline Scotland
Variable							
Offshore wind	14.8	51	43	**43 – 50**	**N/A**	**4.3**	**16.4**
Onshore wind	14.2	27	27	**27 – 29**	**20.5**	**10.3**	**14.9**
Solar	16.6	47	47	**45 – 47**	**2.9**	**0.7**	**2.3**
Firm							
Nuclear	5.9	4	4	**3 – 4**	**N/A**		**-**
Dispatchable							
Low Carbon Dispatchable Power	4.3	4	7	**2 – 7**	**N/A**		
Unabated gas	35.6	35	35	**35**	**N/A**		
Flexible							
LDES	2.9	8	5	**4 – 6**	**N/A**		**6.9**
Batteries	4.5	27	23	**23 – 27**	**7.5**		**21**
Interconnectors	9.8	12	12	**12 – 14**	**N/A**		
Consumer-led flexibility	2.5	12	10	**10 – 12**	**N/A**		

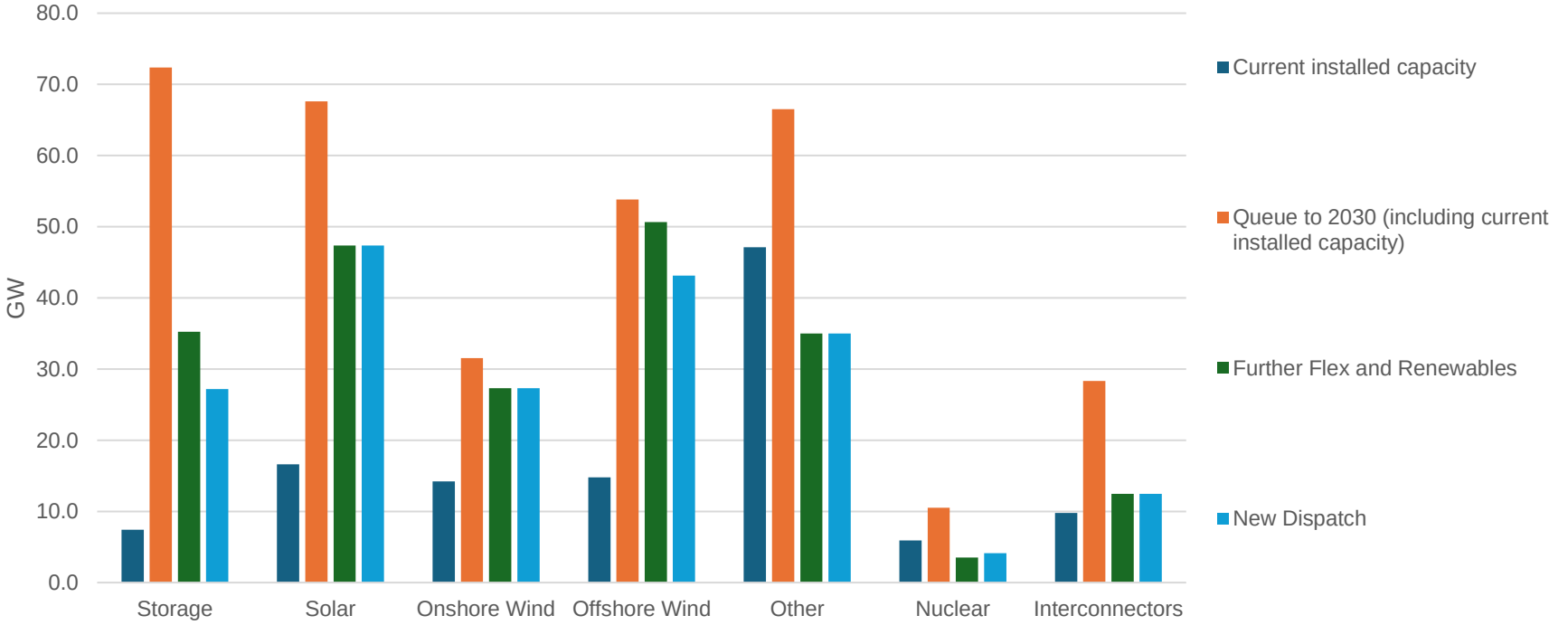
Source

Clean Power 2030 Action Plan

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Clean Power 2030

Current connections queue against GB clean power scenarios by technology



Source

Clean Power 2030 Action Plan

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Clean Power 2030

80+ transmission works by 2030

88 wider works to bring benefits to the whole transmission system
For meeting clean power target and reducing constraint costs

80 works
Must be delivered by 2030 to meet clean power

8 works
Acceleration beneficial

9 works
Already built

68 works
On track

3 works
Must be accelerated

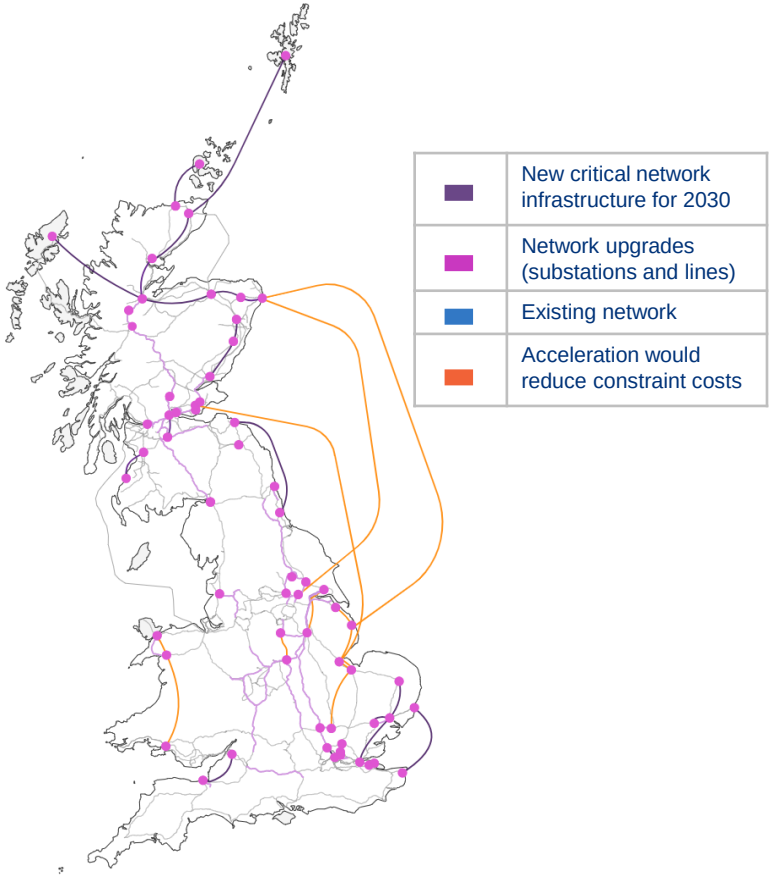
4 works
Stage 1 - Scoping

24 works
Stage 2 – Strategic Optioneering

16 works
Stage 3 – Design / development and consenting

10 works
Stage 4 – Planning / consenting

17 works
Stage 5 - Construction



Source

Clean Power 2030 Action Plan

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Clean Power 2030

GB wide planning reforms: Unlocking Clean Power by 2030

Key Planning Reforms

🔁 **Reforms to the electricity infrastructure consenting process in Scotland** – S36 and S37 Electricity Act (1989) - continue close joint working on the reforms being taken in the PIB and subsequent regulations

🔀 Flexible Consenting Routes

NSIP Projects can be directed to alternate consenting routes if more suitable.

🗣️ Streamlined Consultation

Simplified NSIP consultation to support complex projects and reduce delays.

⚖️ Judicial Review Reform

Faster decisions by removing permission stages for meritless legal challenges for NPS and DCOs.

Recent Progress

🍃 Onshore Wind Ban Lifted

De facto ban in England removed to enable more local renewable projects.

👂 NPS Consultation Underway

2025 NPS updates in consultation to speed up major energy infrastructure.

🏘️ NPPF Updates for Renewables

Dec 2024 changes mean more support for local renewable approvals.

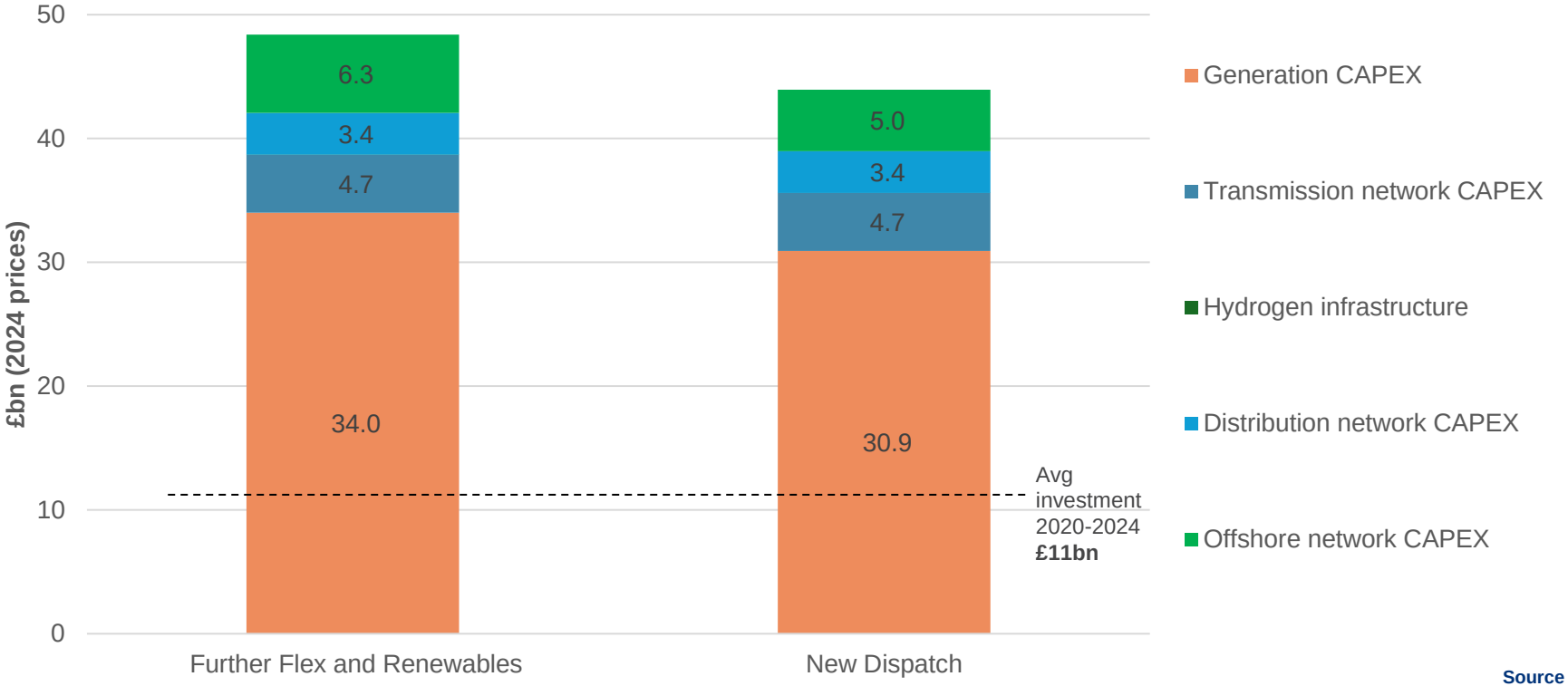
📋 Clean Power Action Plan

Sets our ambitious package of reforms to our planning system.

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Clean Power 2030

Average annual investment system costs in clean power pathways 2025-2030



Source

NESO "*Clean Power 2030: Advice on achieving clean power for Great Britain by 2030*"

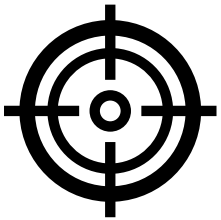
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Clean Power 2030

A target, a plan and a mission

CP2030

- 95% of generation in 2030 from clean sources
- More clean power generated than total power consumed
- Less than 50g/kWh carbon intensity



Technology breakdown

- GW ranges for all major technology groups
- Split regionally for onshore wind, solar and batteries
- Hardwired into connections and planning reform

Technology	Current installed capacity[20]	NESO 'Further Flex and Renewables' Scenario	NESO 'New Dispatch' Scenario	DESNZ 'Clean Power Capacity Range'[21]
Variable				
Offshore wind	14.8	51	43	43 – 50
Onshore wind	14.2	27	27	27 – 29
Solar	16.6	47	47	45 – 47
Firm				
Nuclear	5.9	4	4	3 – 4
Dispatchable				
Low Carbon Dispatchable Power[22]	4.3	4	7	2[23] – 7
Unabated gas	35.6	35	35	35[24]
Flexible				
LDES	2.9	8	5	4 – 6
Batteries	4.5	27	23	23 – 27
Interconnectors	9.8	12	12	12 – 14
Consumer-led flexibility[25]	2.5	12	10	10 – 12

Clean Power Action Plan

- Public statement of intent
- Over 100 specific new policy actions

Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Catherine Williams

Deputy Director, Directorate for Energy & Climate Change
Scottish Government

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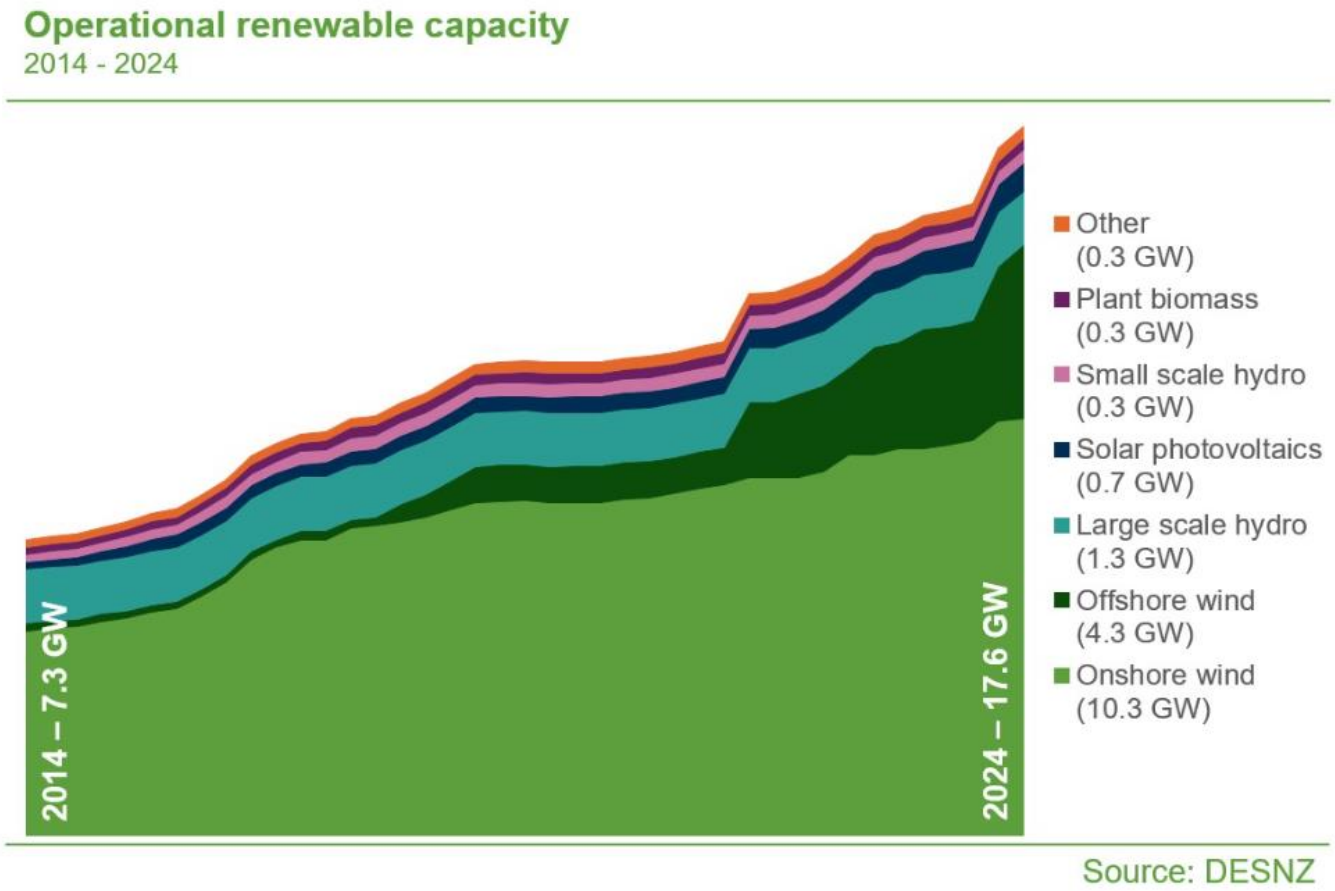
Catherine Williams

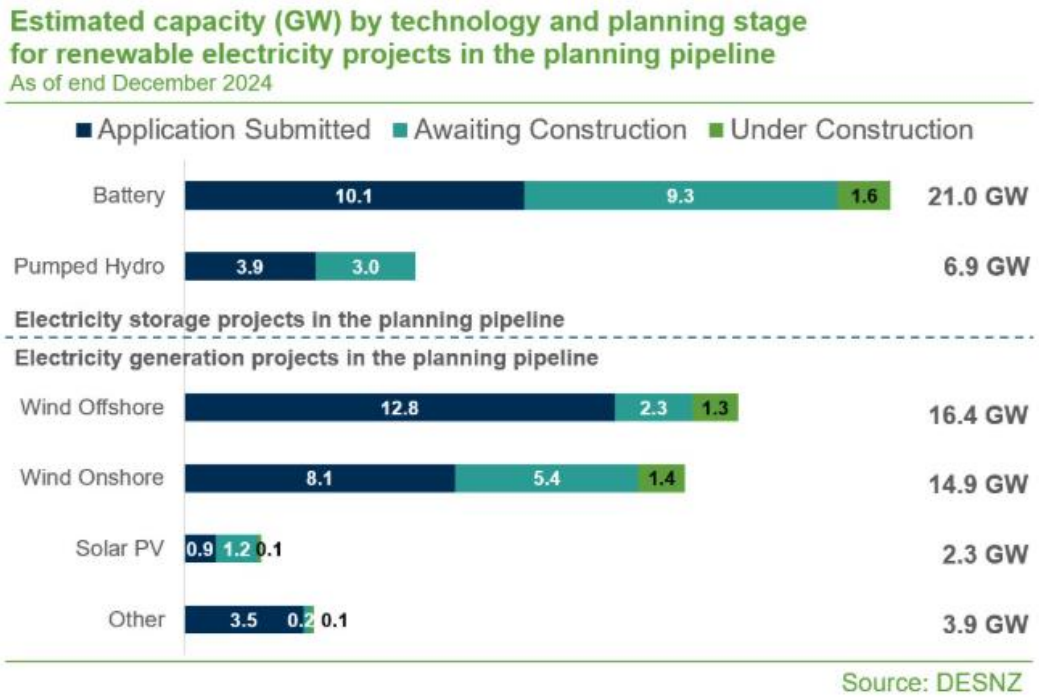
Deputy Director, Onshore Electricity Policy and Energy Consenting

Progress to date – operational renewable capacity



Progress to date – pipeline

904 projects with estimated capacity of 65.4 GW



Delivering the ambition

Improvements to planning system

Government ambitions

Grid investment

Costs

REMA , TNUOS etc

Public acceptance

Grid queue reform

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John Boyce

Development Director – Wind

RES

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Alison Hall

Director of Project Development

SSEN Transmission

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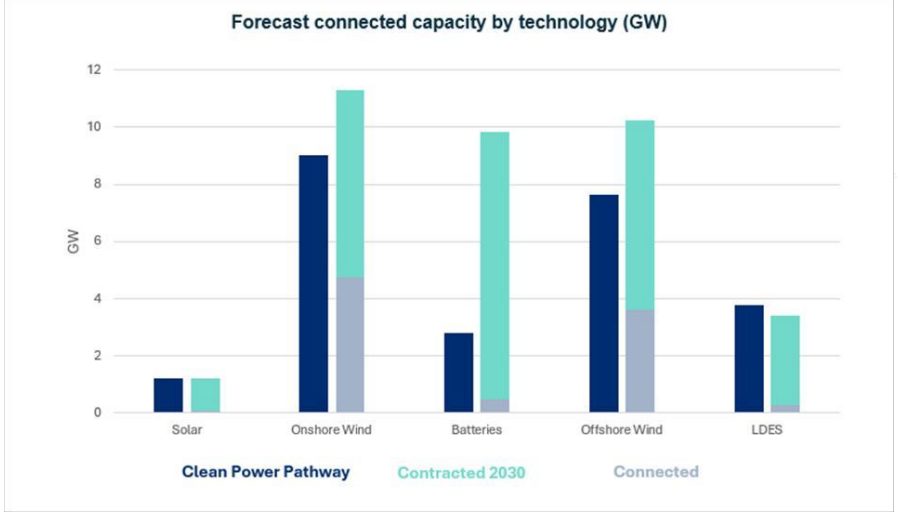
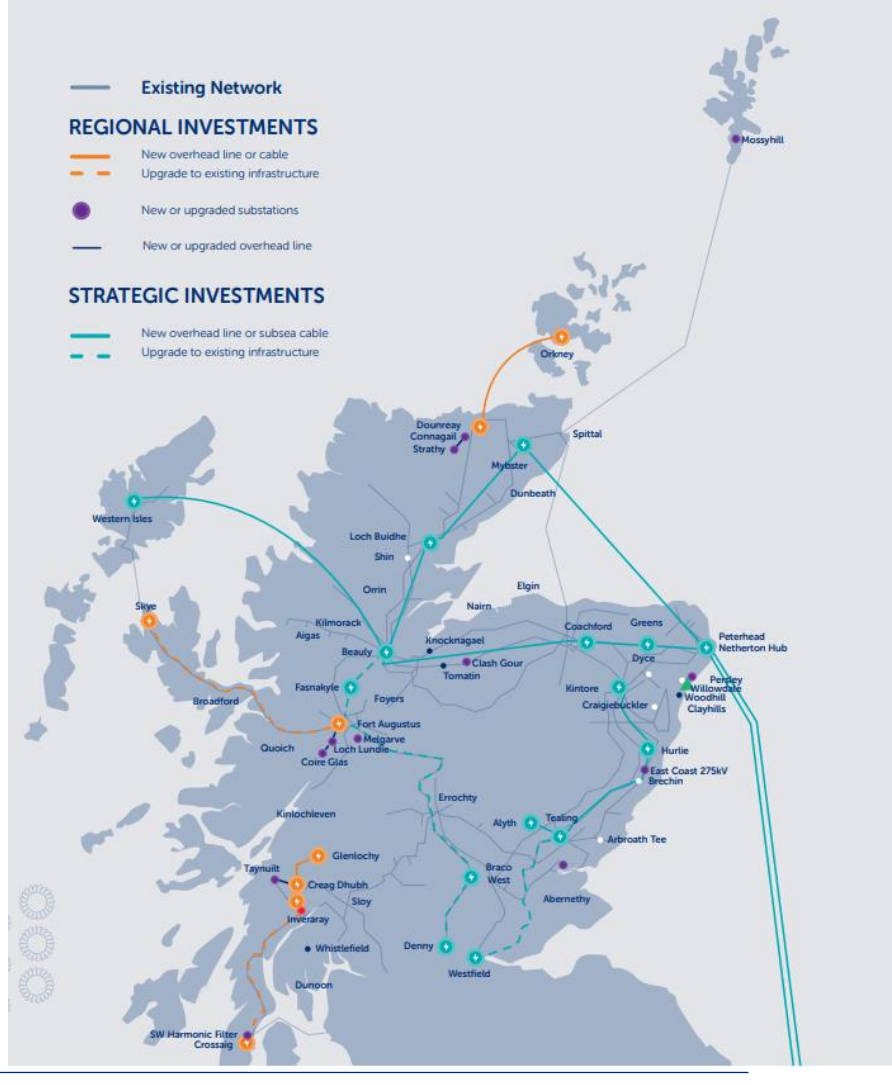
SSEN Transmission
OUR PATHWAY TO 2030

Clean Power 2030 Pathways: Targets by Technology





Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
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OUR 2030 AMBITIONS

Reliable Energy

Zero interruptions in electricity supply to homes and business due to our network

Our ambition is "to keep the lights on" for electricity consumers across the north of Scotland and beyond. We measure our success using the nationally agreed metric: incentivised loss of supply. Even when taking all cost-effective steps to prevent interruptions, rare events will occur.

The top priority of energy consumers and customer groups is safe, reliable and resilient electricity supplies

Clean Power

Our network will have the capability to meet **20%** of the GB demand for clean power

National clean power pathways forecast that low and zero carbon generation in the north of Scotland will contribute around one-fifth of clean power by 2030. Our goal is to deliver the necessary transmission infrastructure to make that happen.

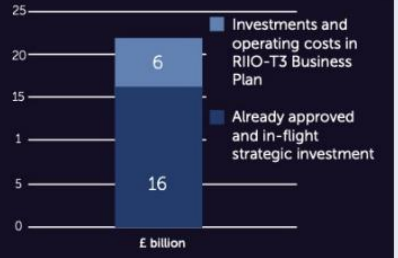
The UK Government has set targets for zero carbon electricity, and new renewable generators and flexibility providers expect timeley connection

Our Legacy

Drive investment in the energy transition that delivers **transformative lasting benefits** for local communities, our economy and nature

A just energy transition will be inclusive and equitable with people's needs at the centre. Based on an objective materiality assessment, we have set specific targets for the Pathway to 2030.

Communities, investors and other stakeholders expect us to act in a just and sustainable way; this is supported by Government and Ofgem



Clear and evidence-based case for total expenditure of **over £22 billion** during the RIIO-T3 period

This cost will be paid through electricity bills spread out over the next four decades.

Our Plan identifies the potential for an additional £9 billion of expenditure, which could bring the total expenditure over the RIIO-T3 period to over £31 billion.

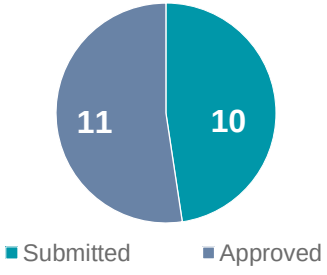
Our modelling shows that overall energy costs for the average consumer could fall by over a third during the energy transition

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

OUR 2030 CONSENTING PROGRAMME

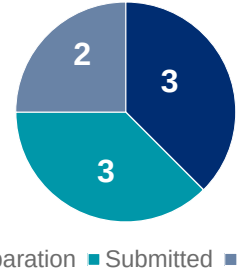
Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Substation Consent



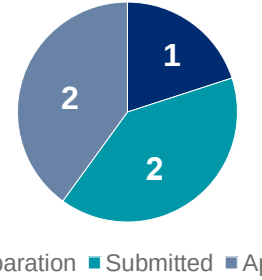
Outstanding Substation Consents	Submission Date	Est Determination Date
Netherton Hub	Oct 2024	Jul 2025
Banniskirk Hub	Nov 2024	Aug 2025
Carnaig Substation	Nov 2024	Aug 2025
Emmock Substation	Nov 2024	Aug 2025
Hurlie Substation	Nov 2024	Aug 2025
Greens Substation	Dec 2024	Sep 2025
Bingally Substation	Feb 2025	Nov 2025
Fanellan Hub	Mar 2025	Dec 2025
Lewis Hub	Feb 2025	Nov 2025
Cambushinie Substation	Apr 2025	Jan 2026

Overhead Line Consents



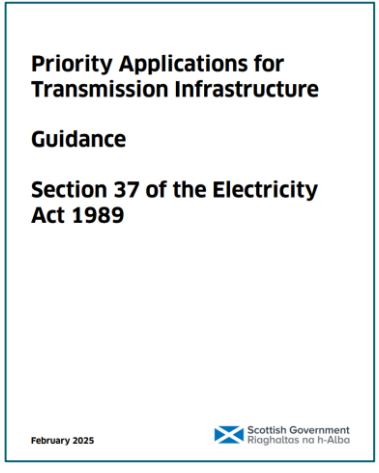
Outstanding Overhead Line Consents	Submission Date	Est Determination Date
Beauly-Peterhead 400kV OHL	Summer 2025	Summer 2026
Tealing-Kintore 400kV OHL (TKUP)	Summer 2025	Summer 2026
Spittal-Beauly 400kV OHL	Summer 2025	Summer 2026
Alyth-Tealing Reconductoring	Nov 2024	Nov 2025
Tealing-Westfield Reconductoring	Nov 2024	Nov 2025
Skye OHL	Sep 2022	TBC

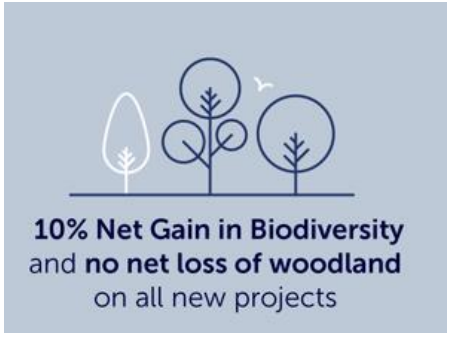
Marine Consents

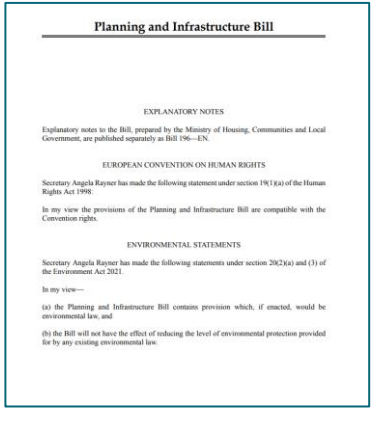


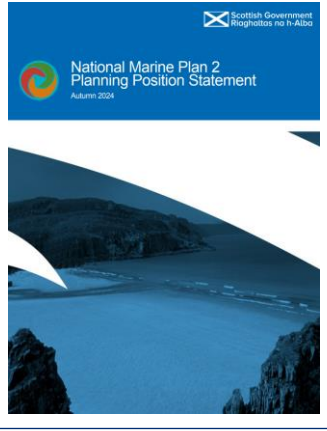
Outstanding Marine Consents	Submission Date	Est Determination Date
Spittal-Peterhead Marine Cable	Jan 2025	Nov 2025
Western Isles Marine Cable	Feb 2025	Aug 2025
EGL 3 Marine Cable	Aug 2025	Aug 2026

NAVIGATING THE CHANGING POLICY LANDSCAPE









Peat cells being formed and receiving peat from substation platform

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Claire Mack
Chief Executive, Scottish Renewables

Melanie MacRae
Deputy Director Clean Power 2030 Unit, Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Catherine Williams
Deputy Director, Directorate for Energy & Climate Change, Scottish Government

John Boyce
Development Director – Wind, RES

Alison Hall
Director of Project Development, SSEN Transmission

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Accelerating progress – shortening consenting timelines

Chaired by Megan Amundson,
Head of Onshore Wind & Consenting,
Scottish Renewables

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Finley Becks-Phelps

UK Head of Development

Nadara

#SRPLANNING25

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Grant Douglas

Head of Planning and Environmental Policy

ScottishPower Renewables

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Barry Stalker

Head of National Planning Hub

Planning, Architecture & Regeneration Directorate

Scottish Government

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Planning
Architecture &
Regeneration

NATIONAL PLANNING HUB

Barry Stalker

HEAD OF NATIONAL PLANNING HUB

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improvement service

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Planning Architecture & Regeneration

NATIONAL PLANNING HUB

Talk about

- Why is Scottish Government investing?
- What is the Hub?
- How can we help you?

improvement service

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

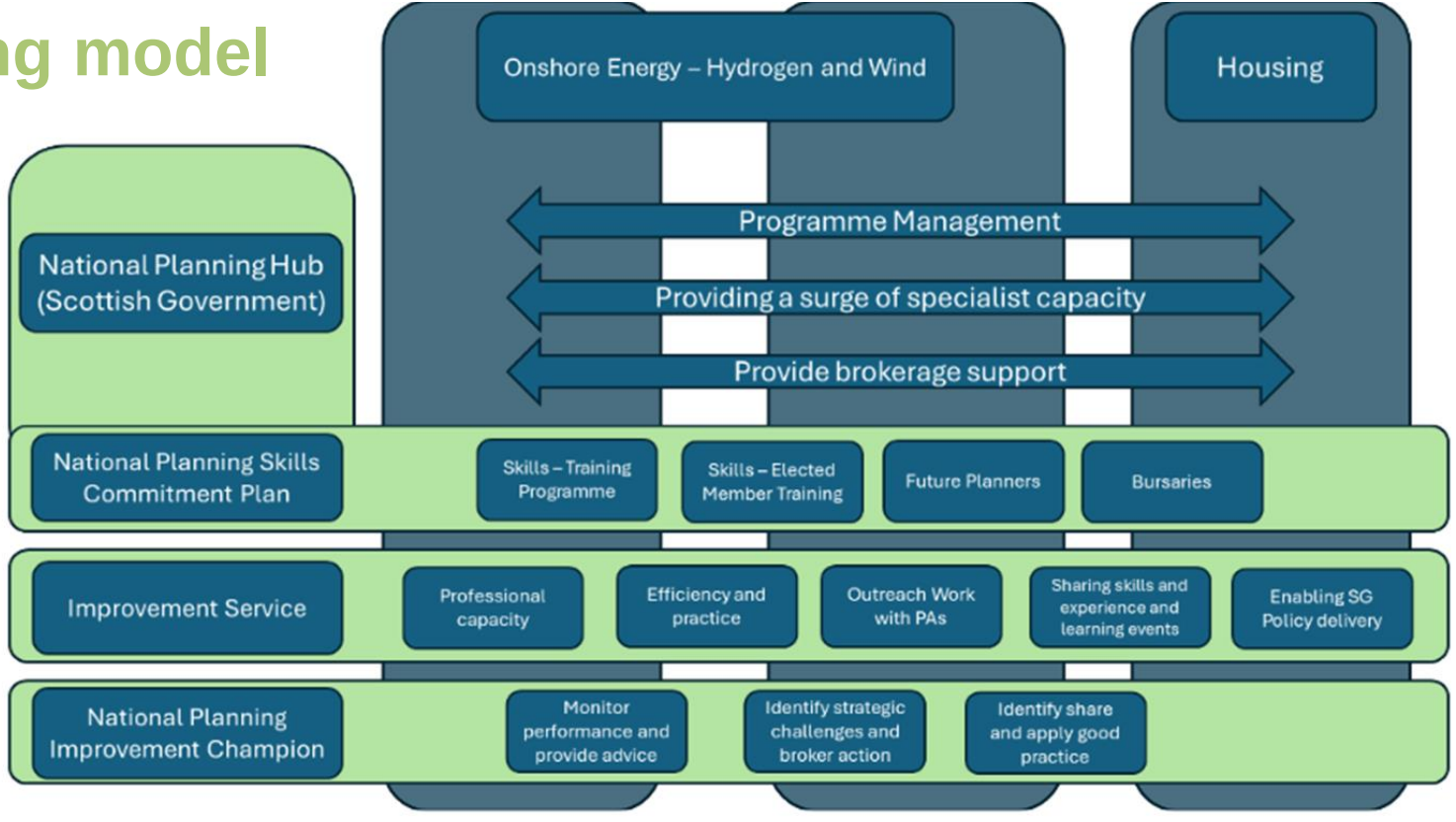
WHY SG INVESTING?

Launch

WHAT IS THE HUB?

Here-and-Now

Operating model



National Planning Skills Commitment Plan

sse Renewables

ScottishPower

SCOTTISH FUTURES TRUST

a b + c

recruitment inspo day

build connections

Thank you

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Neil Collar

Partner & Head of Planning Law

Brodies LLP

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SHORTENING CONSENTING TIMELINES

NEIL COLLAR

MAY 2025

BRODIES LLP

ENLIGHTENED THINKING

Rank the following consenting delay factors in order of significance

Ranking Poll | 68 votes | 68 participants

1. Speed and quality of responses from statutory consultees — 4.12
2. Lack of resource — 3.68
3. NPF4 interpretations on the ground — 2.34
4. Ineffective pre-app access — 1.96
5. Gold plating — 1.51

BRODIES LLP


"It is essential to recognise that planning issues, by their very nature, will often bring *differing interests* into opposition and disagreement and the resolution of those issues will inevitably disappoint some parties. *The planning system cannot satisfy all interests all of the time*. It should, however, enable speedy decision making in ways which are transparent and *demonstrably fair*."
(2010 Scottish Planning Policy, para 6)

ENERGY CONSENTS UNIT

- Staff recruited
- Standard section 36 consent conditions
- Priority Applications for Transmission Infrastructure
- Accelerating referring applications to DPEA, even if proposals for SEI
- Prioritising approvals????
  - only 1 refusal in 2025; 2 in 2024

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Megan Amundson
Head of Onshore Wind & Consenting,
Scottish Renewables

Finley Becks-Phelps
UK Head of Development, Nadara

Grant Douglas
Head of Planning and Environmental Policy, ScottishPower Renewables

Barry Stalker
Head of the National Planning Hub, Planning, Architecture & Regeneration Directorate, Scottish Government

Neil Collar
Partner & Head of Planning Law, Brodies LLP

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NPF4 – how policy is playing out on the ground

Sponsored by Fred. Olsen Renewables

Chaired by Megan Amundson,
Head of Onshore Wind & Consenting,
Scottish Renewables

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Jo Wotton

Associate Director, Environmental Planning

LUC

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Scottish Renewables: Planning Conference

27th May 2025

Onshore Wind Sector Deal: EIA Task and Finish Group Update

Prepared by LUC
Jo Wotton
Associate Director, Environmental Planning

Onshore Wind Sector Deal for Scotland and Planning Objective

"The onshore wind sector deal sets out commitments from the Scottish Government and the onshore wind industry to deliver upon our collective ambition of 20 GW of onshore wind in Scotland by 2030 whilst delivering maximum benefit to Scotland."

Planning Objective:

"We will reduce the time it takes to determine Section 36 applications for onshore wind projects by increasing skills and resources and by ***streamlining approaches to scoping Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs) by using template formats and associated guidance****."*

OWSD EIA TFG Members and Focus Groups

Consultees:

- SEPA
- HES
- NatureScot

Developers:

- SPR
- RES

Legal experts:

- Marcus Trinick, KC
- Eversheds

Consultants and EIA Practitioners:

- LUC
- Ramboll
- RSK
- Savills

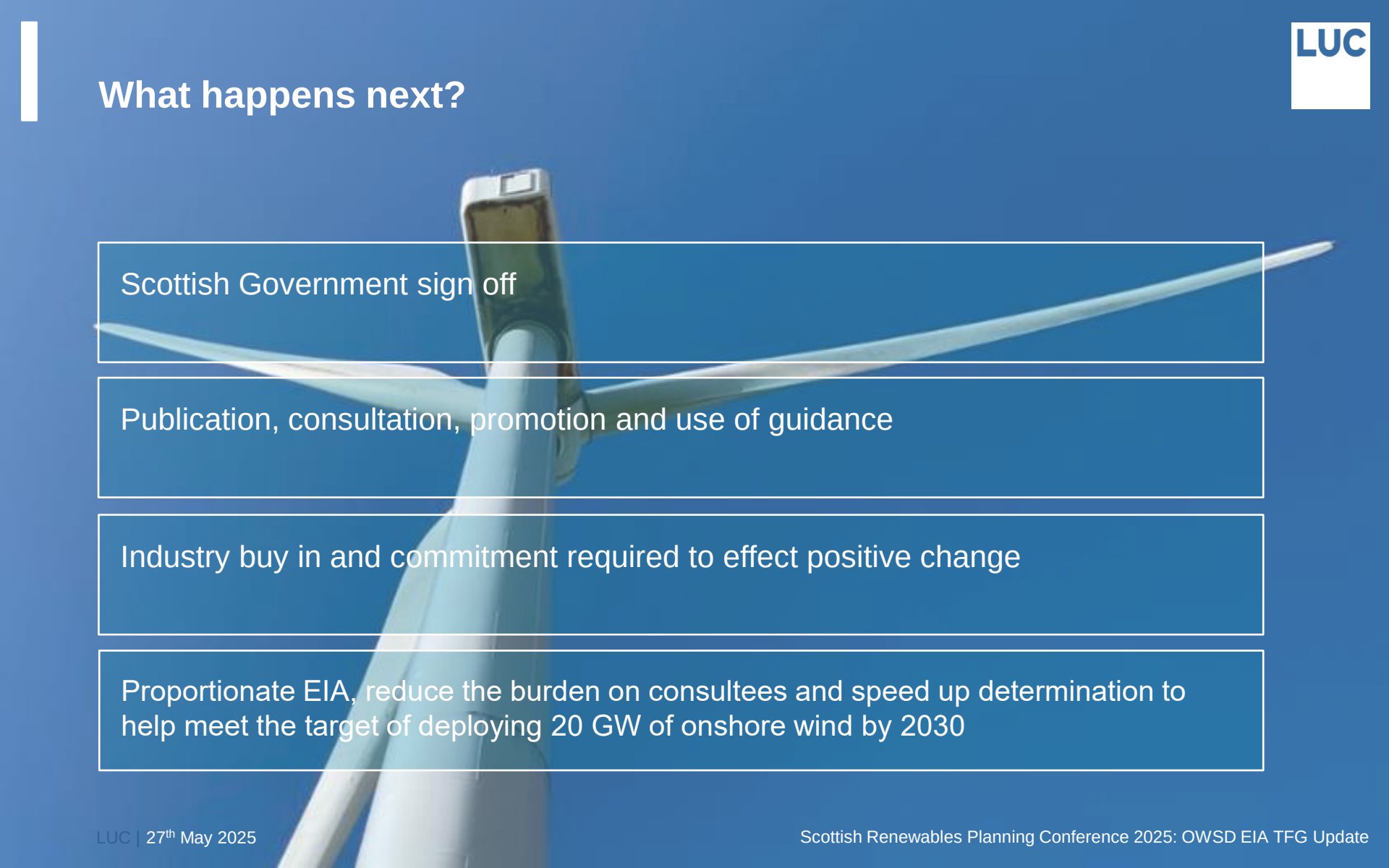
Focus groups (TFG, consultees, DPEA, practitioners):

- **LVIA**
- **Historic Environment**
- **Ecology and Ornithology**
- **Hydrology and Peat**
- **Noise**
- **Traffic and Transport**
- **Planning and EIA Report Presentation / Format etc.**

OWSD EIA TFG Outputs

- Guidance on ‘overarching principles’ on ‘streamlined EIA’, along with notes on regulatory compliance and recommendations regarding the overall EIA process.
- Recommendations on the standardisation of approach to scoping and scoping to support a proportionate EIA Report.
- Recommendations on the standardisation and streamlining of the EIA Report.
- Topic specific ‘evidence notes’ which can be used to support the basis for streamlining both the scoping process and the EIA report.
- Recommendations for consultees and determining authorities.

What happens next?



Scottish Government sign off

Publication, consultation, promotion and use of guidance

Industry buy in and commitment required to effect positive change

Proportionate EIA, reduce the burden on consultees and speed up determination to help meet the target of deploying 20 GW of onshore wind by 2030

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Fred. Olsen Renewables

Simon Cleary

Energy Transition Director

BiGGAR Economics

#SRPLANNING25

BiGGAR Economics

Socio-economic Impact Assessments of Energy Developments

Introduction to new guidance

May 2025

Simon Cleary

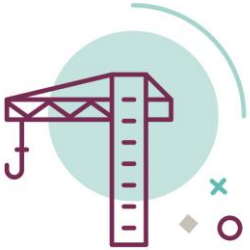
Scotland's Fourth National Planning Framework

Question 1

Who thinks that their projects, or the projects that they support, are maximising the local socio-economic benefit?

 —

New Guidance Covers 4 Themes



Supply Chain

Skills

Community Empowerment

Environmental Protection & Enhancement

Assessment Criteria

The new guidance outlines the criteria to determine whether the benefits of a project are likely to be maximised

Is it Place based?

- Every project and every community is slightly different so packages of benefits that are tailored around the needs and capacity of the community in question are likely to generate greater benefits than standardised approach.

Assessment Criteria

The new guidance outlines the criteria to determine whether the benefits of a project are likely to be maximised

Is it Innovative?

- Many of the benefits that have been realised by energy developments to date have happened because of innovation at the project level. To maintain this culture of continuous improvement it is important that developers to continue to innovate.

Assessment Criteria

The new guidance outlines the criteria to determine whether the benefits of a project are likely to be maximised

Is it Collaborative?

- Many of the benefits of energy developments are not directly within the gift of developers. They will require input and support of others in the public, private and third sector to realise, making a collaborative approach essential.

Assessment Criteria

The new guidance outlines the criteria to determine whether the benefits of a project are likely to be maximised

Is it Transparent?

- Effective collaboration requires the parties involved to trust each other, and an open and transparent approach is crucial for establishing this trust.

Assessment Criteria

The new guidance outlines the criteria to determine whether the benefits of a project are likely to be maximised

Is it Flexible?

- A lot can change between project inception and completion, and these changes can make a big difference to the benefits ultimately realised. A flexible approach that responds positively to such changes is therefore important.

Assessment Criteria

The new guidance outlines the criteria to determine whether the benefits of a project are likely to be maximised

Is it Deliverable?

- Providing communities with realistic expectations about what can be delivered during the construction and operation phase of a project will help achieve trust with relevant stakeholders. This will positively impact relationships for future renewable projects.

Our Approach

To apply this guidance, BiGGAR Economics will complete an initial assessment of how the developers current approach meets the above criteria.

We then work with them to identify the areas for improvement, and how the developer can get to where they are to a position in which we can conclude they are maximising socio-economic benefits, in line with NPF4

	Supply Chain	Skills	Community Empowerment	Environmental Protection & Enhancement
Place based				
Innovative				
Collaborative				
Transparent				
Flexible				
Deliverable				
Key	Meets Requirement	Needs Improved	Significant Gap	

Follow Up

Question 2

Who thinks that their projects, or the projects that they support, are maximising the local socio-economic benefit?

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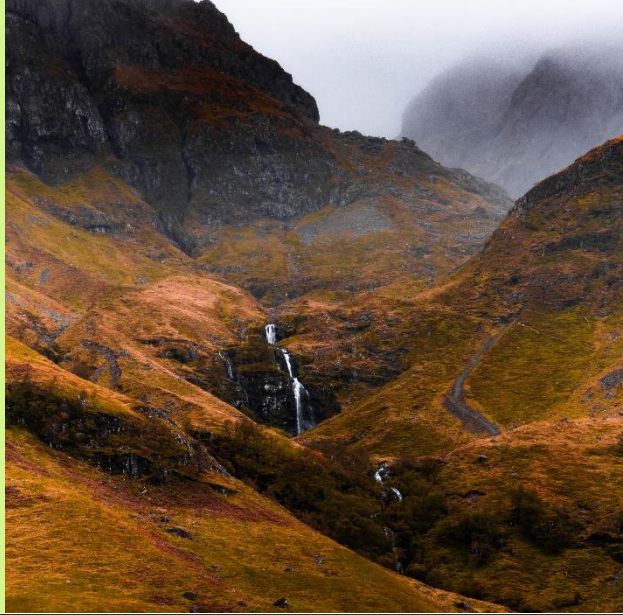

Biodiversity Enhancement and Peatlands

Planning Renewable Energy Developments in Scotland

May 2025

SLR

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National policy and legislation - NPF4 Scotland

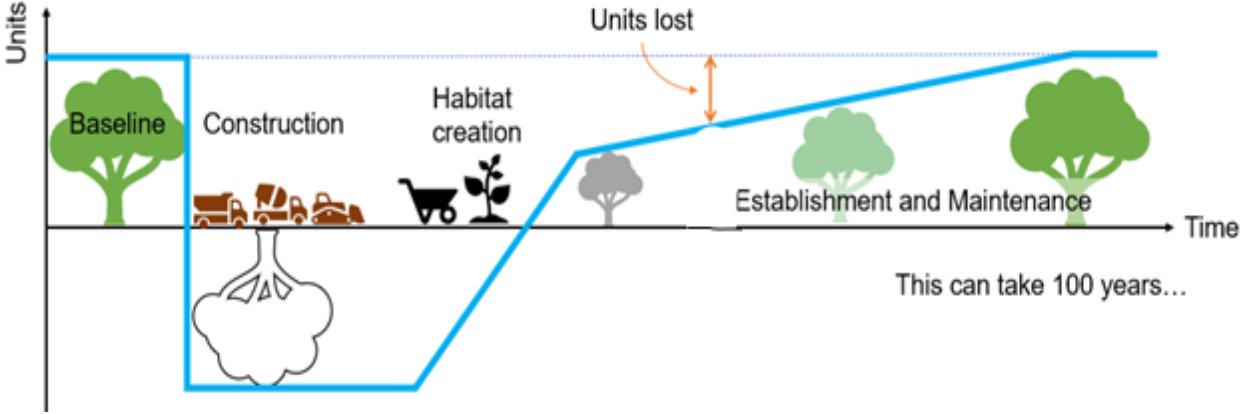
Scotland's future places will be net zero, nature-positive places that are designed to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, whilst protecting, recovering and restoring our environment.

- Policy 3: a) Development proposals will contribute … **enhancement of biodiversity**… restoring degraded habitats……. integrate **nature-based solutions**…..
- Policy 3: b) Development proposals …. that requires an EIA will only be supported where…… **enhance biodiversity**, including nature networks …..better state than without intervention.
- Policy 3: b, ii.) wherever feasible, **nature-based solutions** have been integrated …..
- Policy 3: b, iv.) significant **biodiversity enhancements** are provided, in addition to any proposed mitigation…..
- Policy 3: b, v.) **local community benefits** of the biodiversity and/or **nature networks** have been considered
- Policy 5: Where development on **peatland, carbon-rich soils or priority peatland habitat** is proposed …. iii. the likely **net effects** of the development on **climate emissions** and loss of carbon.
- Policy 10: c, ii.) **nature-based solutions** are utilised and allow for managed future coastal change wherever practical;
- Policy 14: Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience, and integrating **nature positive**, **biodiversity solutions**.

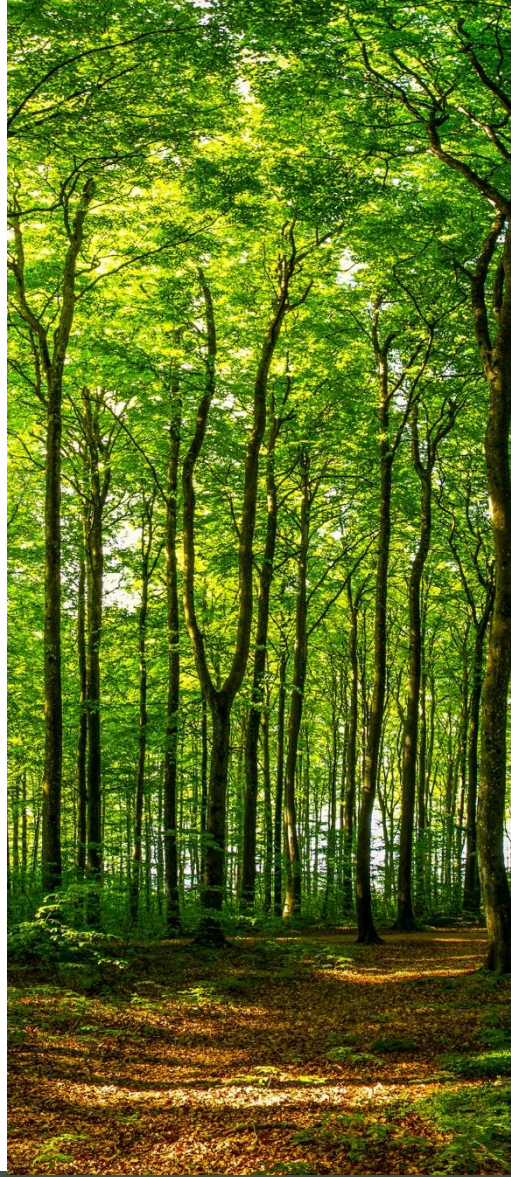
What is Biodiversity Enhancement

Biodiversity – The variability among **living organisms** from all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes **diversity within species**, **between species** and of **ecosystems**.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)



- **The statutory BNG metric** in England uses a habitat only metric.
- Potential for additional requirements around species possible following Operation Wallacea methodology (currently out for consultation in relation to the woodland and peatland carbon codes)
- A metric for Scotland is anticipated, not clear yet what it will look like, the Statutory metric can have seemingly odd outcomes especially in relation to woodland
  - e.g. Caledonian woodland on heath = -80%



Guidance on Peatlands

Bogs and Peatland = Definitions vary between sectors and parts of the UK, usually around arbitrary thresholds of peat depth (0, 30, 40, 50 cm etc…).

Peatland =Definitions vary but focus on **% organic** matter and **depth**. The type of vegetation they support is not relevant. N-Scot Guidance, Peat soils = >50cm & 60% organic matter, carbon rich soils = <50cm.

Bogs = Typically - must **support bog vegetation.** Must be **on peat,** depth specified in some guidance but not others. N-Scot Guidance follows JNCC guidance on vegetation and has no minimum peat depth.

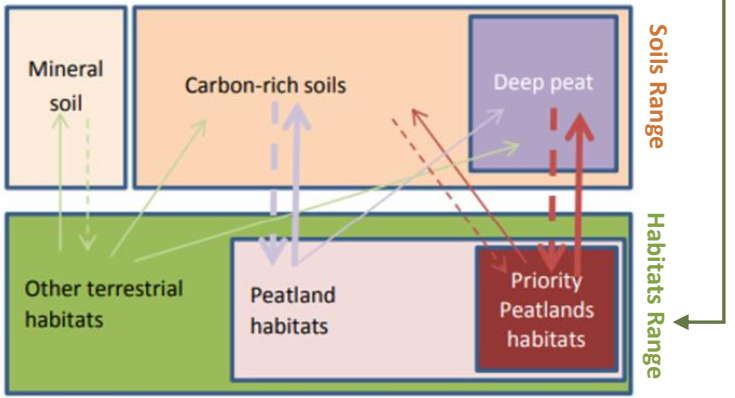
EUNIS guidance, which defines Annex 1 and priority Annex 1 habitats has no minimum peat depth threshold

Nature Scot 2023 – Guidance:

Targets carbon and biodiversity: focus on priority peatlands

Refers to **NPF4 Policies 3 (biodiversity) & 5 (soils)**

- Policy 5 d (development on peatland), iii: the likely net effects of the development on climate emissions and loss of carbon.
- Policy 3b development that requires EIA …. enhance biodiversity
- Buffers, loss and restoration = up to 30m
- Compensation requirements = 1:10
- Gain requirements = 10%
- Restoration exclusions = managing impacts inc. reducing muirburn and reducing grazing



In Practice - Peatlands and Planning Since 2023

Feasibility Phase: SLR is working with a client to undertake a peatland and biodiversity focused wind farm layout design really embedding the **avoid principal** of the mitigation hierarchy from the outset (in Ireland but driven by similar concerns to those we are seeing in Scotland).

EIA Phase: Restoration related carbon balance calculations, careful consideration of buffers distances. Acknowledge the **duality of policy areas** relating to peat (**carbon & biodiversity**).

Consented Bettyhill Wind Farm: **1: 9.8** bog loss to restoration ratio finally agreed. Initially submitted in January 2023 with a suggested c. 1: 2.6 loss to restoration ratio, but THC and NS rejected this based on the subsequently published 1:10 guidance and the HMP was revised accordingly to enable consent to be granted.

Consented – Earba Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme: **1: 8.4** bog loss to direct restoration ratio.

- Constraints on the area of restorable bog on site with a realistic chance of success.
- Additional restoration proposed for other habitats including extensive woodland and other habitat restoration considered likely to deliver a more substantial biodiversity gain overall.

SEPA and Peatlands

SEPA are regulating re-use of peat and carbon rich soils within **Peat Management Plans.**
In addition, peat management and **habitat management** (peatland restoration) are increasingly overlapping with some calls for more oversight by NatureScot on peat reuse in restoration.

Peat Management and Safeguarding

- Increased scrutiny of post-consent detailed peat **management** and peat **traceability**.
- Increased monitoring of construction phase peatland management – discussion regarding **PeatCOWs**

Peat Reusability

- Acrotelmic peat and upper catotelmic[1] (fibrous) up to H5 on von Post Humification Scale are considered **reusable** and amorphous peat (H9, H10) unsuitable.
- Leaves a big grey area of pseudofibrous peat.
- Catotelm and acrotelm are ambiguous terms unrelated to peat **strength** and the evidence base is generally qualitative regarding **reusability** and **transportability** leading to inconsistent application of policy.

Peat use in Restoration

- Reducing options for peat reuse on track sides etc… & increasing requirement for peat reuse in restoration.
- Require best practice guidance for environments with an excess of peat.

[1]Mills, A.J. and Rushton, D. 2023. A risk-based approach to peatland restoration and peat instability. NatureScot Research Report 1259.

Making
Sustainability
Happen

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Euan Hutchinson

Head of Planning & Environment

Locogen

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LOCO2GEN

Cultural Heritage – bringing the past into the future?

Introduction

- Experience past and present
  - Policy
  - Wind (Fred. Olsen Renewables)
  - Solar (Locogen)
- Future
  - Where next (Industry)?

- Prepare for Audience Participation

Policy – NPF4

Policy 11 Energy

Policy Intent: **To encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of renewable energy development onshore and offshore**. This includes energy generation, storage, new and replacement transmission and distribution infrastructure and emerging low-carbon and zero emissions technologies including hydrogen and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS).

Policy Outcomes: • **Expansion of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies**

Comment

- Intention seeks to 'encourage, promote and facilitate renewable energy development'
- Policy 11e) vii. Requires project design and mitigation to demonstrate how impacts on the historic environment are addressed.
- Should therefore be possible to meet the intended policy outcomes.

Policy – NPF4

Policy 7 Historic Assets and Places

- Policy Intent: To protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and **to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places.**
- Policy Outcomes: • The historic environment is valued, protected, and enhanced, **supporting the transition to net zero and ensuring assets are resilient to current and future impacts of climate change.**
- **• Redundant or neglected historic buildings are brought back into sustainable and productive uses**.
- **• Recognise the social, environmental and economic value of the historic environment, to our economy and cultural identity**

- Intention seeks to 'enable positive change'
- Policy states Development proposals

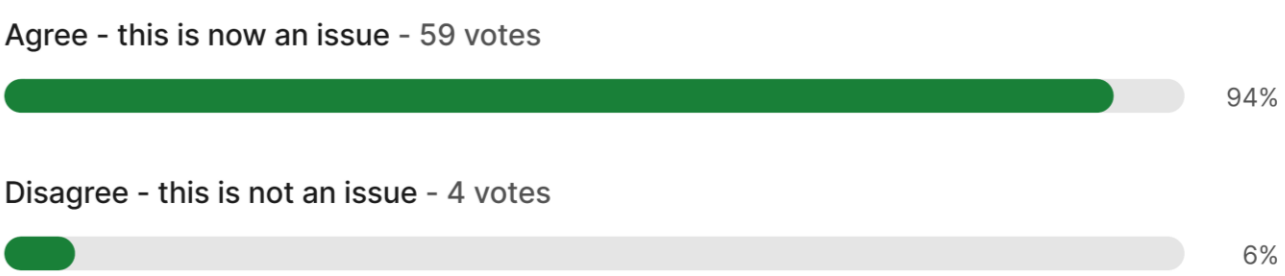
'…….. *will only be supported when*……..'

list of criteria can be met.

- Includes direct impact and impact on setting.
- Actual Outcome
  - Objections
  - Not supporting transition to net zero
  - Not facilitating development which could enable the enhancement of assets

Based on your own experience would you agree or disagree that cultural heritage has grown as a constraining issue on renewable energy development in recent years?

Multiple Choice Poll · 63 votes · 63 participants



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Wind

Recent Experience

- Inconsistent application of policy between HES and LPAs
- Seemingly increasing number of objections/refusals on cultural heritage grounds
- Most are based on impact on setting
- In some cases several kms from asset
- RFOs from LPAs in some cases based on local policy rather than NPF4
- Limited weight given to additional mitigation.

Outcome

- c400MW of projects delayed for reasons including cultural heritage
- Contrary to NPF4, Sector Deal and achievement of targets.

Solar

Experience

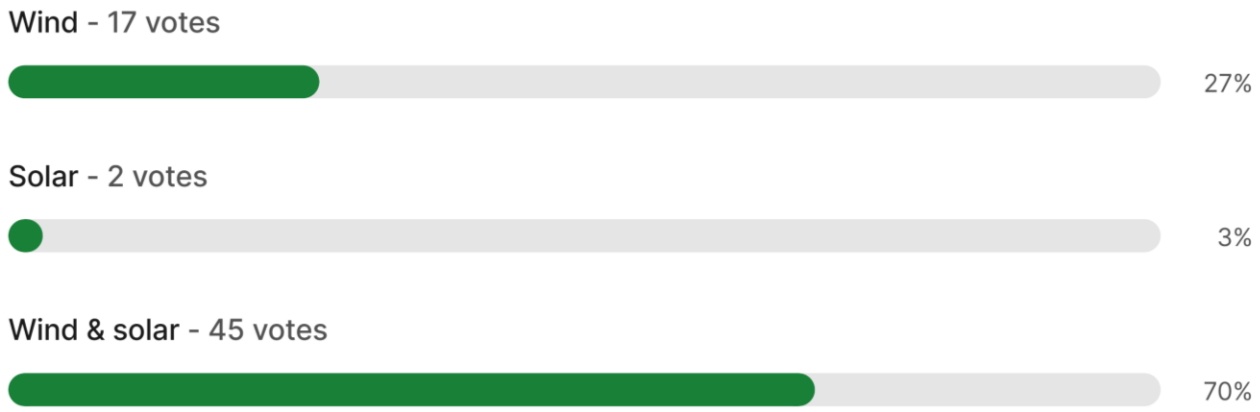
- More focused on potential direct impacts on unknown assets.
- Different approaches in different areas.
- Mitigation = Trial trenching
  - Expensive, potentially damaging, unnecessary
  - Often requested up front (pre-consent)
  - Prohibitive for community and smaller scale projects.
- Setting of non-listed historic (including agricultural) buildings.

Outcome

- Assessment levels on solar are becoming increasingly disproportionate and potentially prohibitive.
- Delays and threats to the viability of projects contrary to intention of policy.

Based on your own experience of cultural heritage becoming an issue for renewable energy development, do you consider it to be an issue for wind, solar or both?

Multiple Choice Poll | 64 votes | 64 participants



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Future

Assuming this is a growing issue how should we start to address it?

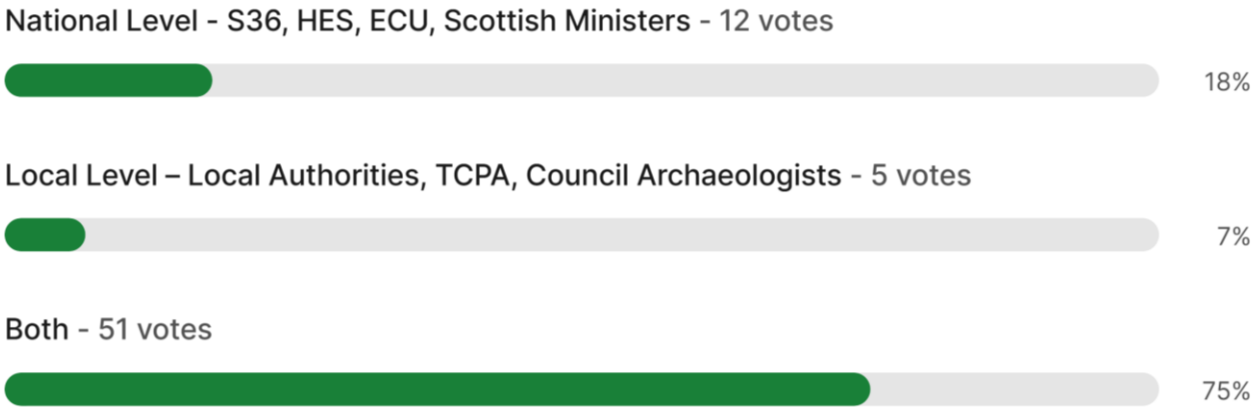
Currently developers are operating alone and on a seemingly case by case basis.

If there is a need for industry to come together and address this, is this best aimed at:

- National Level, S36, HES, ECU, Scottish Ministers
- Local Level – Local Authorities, TCPA, Council Archaeologists
- Both

If there is a need for industry to come together and address this, which of the following is this best aimed at?

Multiple Choice Poll | 68 votes | 68 participants



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Questions?

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NPF4 – How Policy is Playing Out on the Ground

NPF4 – Policy 2 Guidance

Section 36 Onshore Wind Standard Conditions

Tuesday 27th May 2025

sse Renewables

NPF4 –Scottish Government Policy 2 Guidance

NPF4 Policy 2 Climate Mitigation and Adaptation sets out that:

- '…development proposals will be sited and designed to minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible and adapt to current and future risks from climate change. Retrofit measures to existing developments for emissions reduction or climate change adaptation will be supported.'

- New Guidance prepared by Scottish Government with input from representatives of Heads of Planning Scotland, Scottish Futures Trust, the Institute of Civil Engineers, Key Agencies Group, the Improvement Service, Verture, the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and RTPI Scotland, **and Scottish Renewables.**

- **WHAT:** Covers all types of development but includes at Section 4.6 guidance for "Renewable electricity generation and mitigation" and 4.7 Peatland & Climate Mitigation.

- **WHEN:** "*We are currently finalising our guidance on climate change adaptation and mitigation and expect to publish this shortly*" *(Chief Planner Letter 30th April 2025)*

- The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a requirement for our National Planning Framework to include an assessment of the likely impact of each proposed national development's lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Local Development Plans will play a key role and guidance on this can be found at: Local development planning guidance

- Guidance sets out 4 key stages of lifecycle GHG assessment:

➢ **Step 1. Identify: primary project emissions and removals**

➢ **Step 2. Clarify control: understanding what emissions and removals can be controlled or influenced by the applicant**

➢ **Step 3. Manage GHG emissions: minimising emissions and maximising removals**

➢ **Step 4. Report: Reporting on outcome and monitoring (where relevant)**

- Contains clear and concise guidance on how to undertake lifecycle GHG emission assessment for various types of development before use (pre/during construction), during use/operation of development, and at end of life.

- References different existing industry standards and assessment methods which seek to address lifecycle GHG emissions, flexibility of approach.

- Calls for a proportionate approach to be taken by both developers and planning authorities and for dialogue in terms of required supporting information demonstrating how a project has been sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change.

Renewables Specific Advice:

- **Section 4.6 provides guidance for renewable energy development including enabling works such as grid transmission & distribution infrastructure.**
- **Section 4.7 relates to peatland mitigation and advises continued use of the Scottish Government's carbon calculator (V.2.14) for Section 36 applications, until there is a replacement.**
- **ClimateXChange Report (July 2024) findings: the carbon calculator requires updating:**
- Carbon Calculator for wind farms on Scottish peatlands | ClimateXChange

Section 36 Onshore Wind Standard Conditions

- **Onshore Wind Sector Deal Commitment requirement.**

- **New process guidance and template can be found on Scottish Government website**: Standard onshore wind conditions – section 36 consent and deemed planning permission: form and guidance - gov.scot

- **What is the new process?**
- **Why will it reduce time in the determination process?**
- **Why use model/standard conditions**: Planning Circular 4/1998: the use of conditions in planning permissions - gov.scot
- **Voluntary process but will it bring benefits to applicants/developers?**

SSE Renewables Perspective

- Onshore Consents & Environment Team aligned with new process and will use it on submissions this year.
- Will encourage discussion with engineering, technical and construction teams earlier in design process to understand project condition requirements.
- Flexible process that front loads consideration of conditions and gets consultees thinking in a more targeted way to align with more efficient EIA process.
- Reduces need/time for conditions session at Inquiry and numerous cross-party discussions to get agreement at determination stage of application.

sse Renewables

Thank You for Listening

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New technology, new challenges – consenting the next generation of projects

Chaired by Morag Watson,
Director of Onshore, Scottish Renewables

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William Summerlin

Senior Development Manager

Statera

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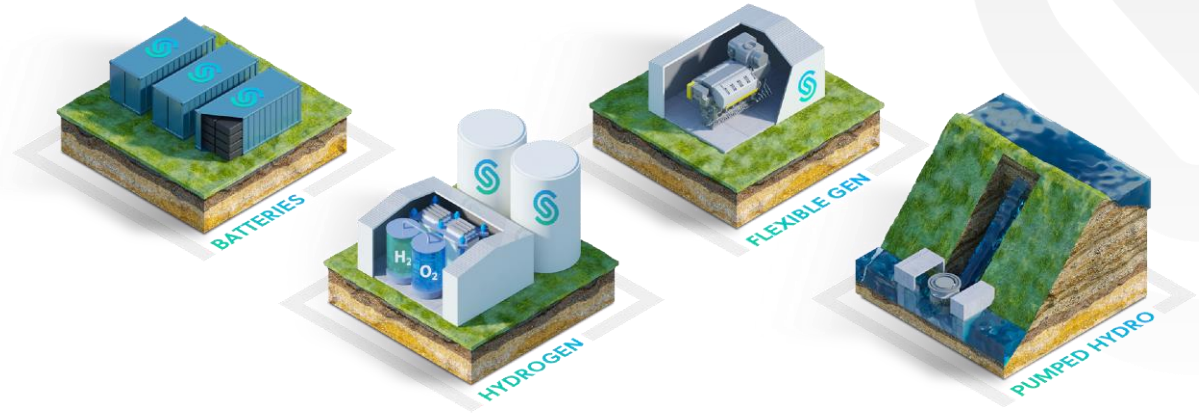
STATERA
BALANCING THE GRID

Kintore Hydrogen:
New (and old) challenges

An introduction to

Statera Energy

Statera Energy develops, owns, and operates assets that provide critical grid balancing support to a renewables-led system, addressing the intermittent nature of solar and wind and the impact of seasonal variations on energy supply and demand.



Develop

Over 8 GW of assets consented, 100% originated in-house.

Build & Finance

16 projects delivered in-house, totalling ~£1bn in capex, with £7bn planned by 2030.

Operate

In-house O&M and asset management teams enhancing asset value

Own

Over 1 GW existing operational portfolio with a 16 GW pipeline of deliverable projects

STATERA
BALANCING THE GRID

Kintore Hydrogen

Critical infrastructure to support the energy transition

The Challenge

Energy supply and demand are far apart
Renewable wind power is plentiful in Scotland but far from demand further south

Network capacity is falling short
The existing energy network does not have the capacity to serve increasing demand on the power system

High cost to maintaining an outdated system
Balancing distant supply and demand, and implementing network upgrades, comes at a high financial cost to energy users

The Opportunity

High wind energy production potential in Scotland
UK target for 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 drives low power prices

National hydrogen network alleviates network constraints
Producing green hydrogen behind the B6 boundary reduces the need for network reinforcement and the cost of investment

Domestic energy independence through system balancing
Converting excess renewable energy can help decarbonise UK heavy industrial and power end users

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BALANCING THE GRID

Overview

Kintore Hydrogen

Kintore Hydrogen is a consented 3GW green hydrogen electrolyser facility in Aberdeenshire. The first phase of up to 500MW is planned to be operational before 2030.

- **£1bn benefit** to the UK economy by 2035
- **Up to 3,500** construction phase jobs
- **Up to 200** high quality operational jobs on-site
- **Economies of GW scale** achieved through efficiencies
- **1.4m tonnes of CO2 saved** per year on average
- **£billions** of avoided grid reinforcement costs
- Backed by the **Net Zero Hydrogen Fund Strand 1**
- Enabling **net zero** and increasing **energy security**

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

worley
DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

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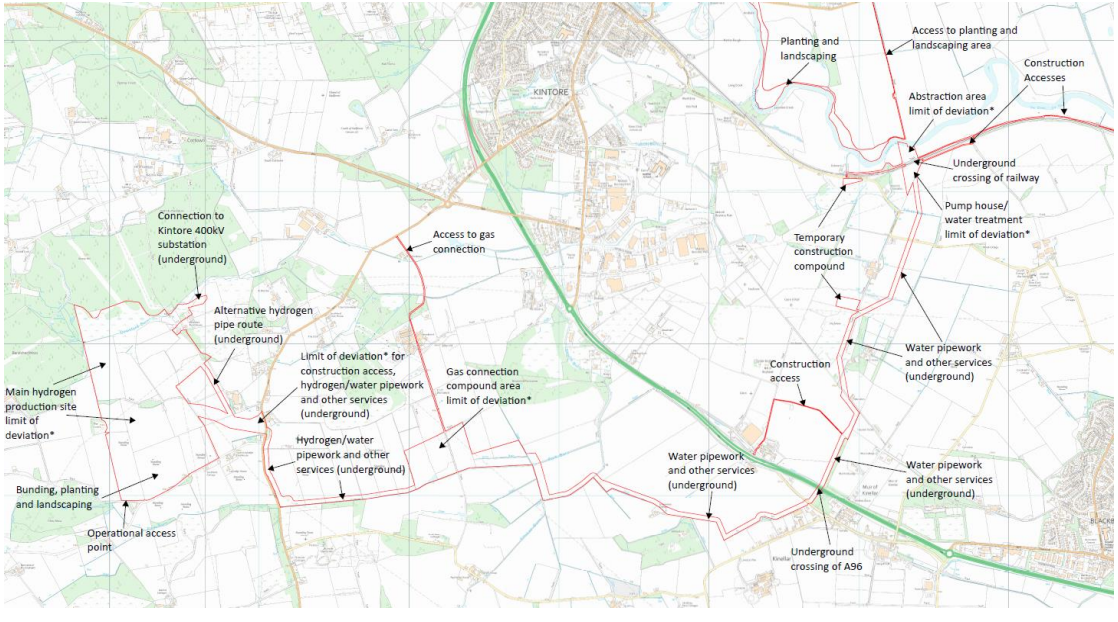
BALANCING THE GRID

Consenting Utility Scale H2

Challenges - Guess the AI image!



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Craig McLaren

National Planning Improvement Champion

Improvement Service

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New technology, new challenges – consenting the next generation of projects

Craig McLaren, National Planning Improvement Champion, Improvement Service

improvement service

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Engage with industry to understand barriers to delivering hydrogen projects and to discover their understanding of the Scottish planning system

Map what is needed on hydrogen planning at each stage; planning authorities' maturity; and knowledge and skills gaps

Develop analysis of the pipeline of hydrogen projects expected between 2024 and 2030, and keep this up to date

Identify and engage with expertise and resources that can be deployed to support planning authorities

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Understanding

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Regulation

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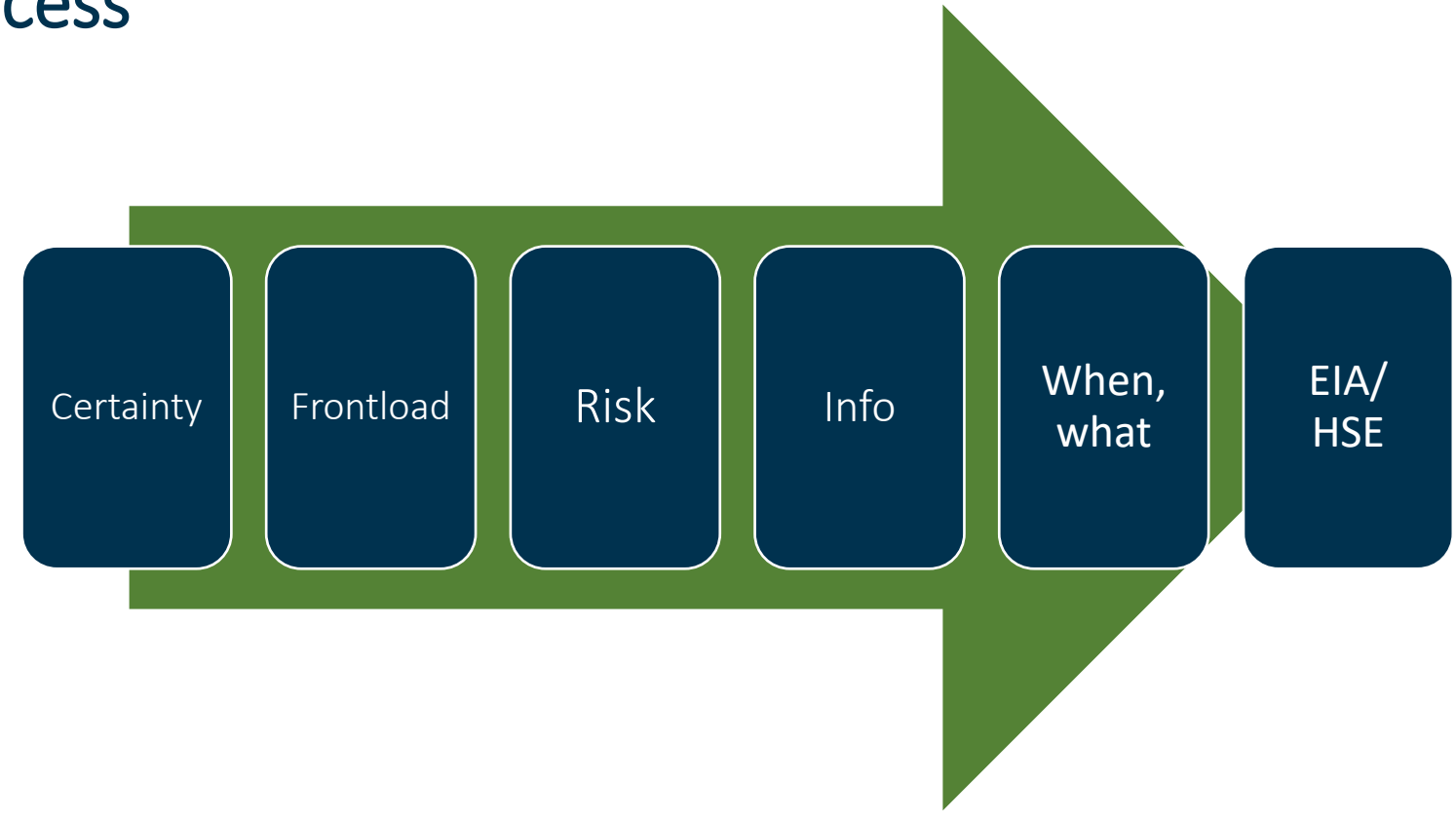
Process



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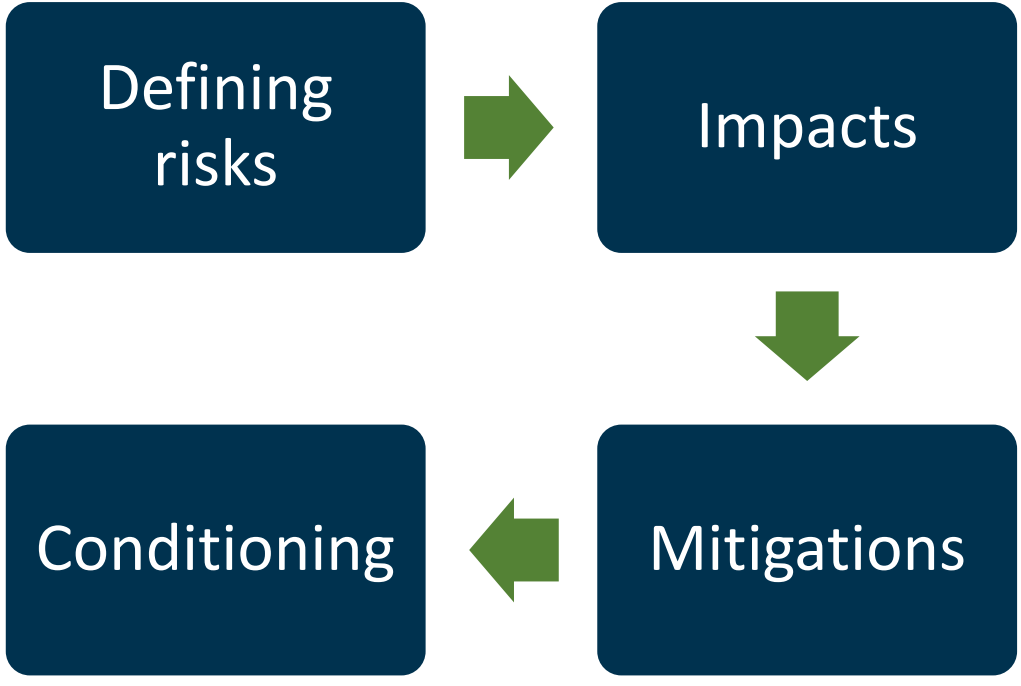
Managing Risk



Spatial

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Programme

Insights programme	Insights Paper on Planning for Hydrogen Scottish Government Guidance on Planning for Hydrogen roll out Online Learning Modules Explainer Programme for community councils Hydrogen development pipeline Large hydrogen sites programme

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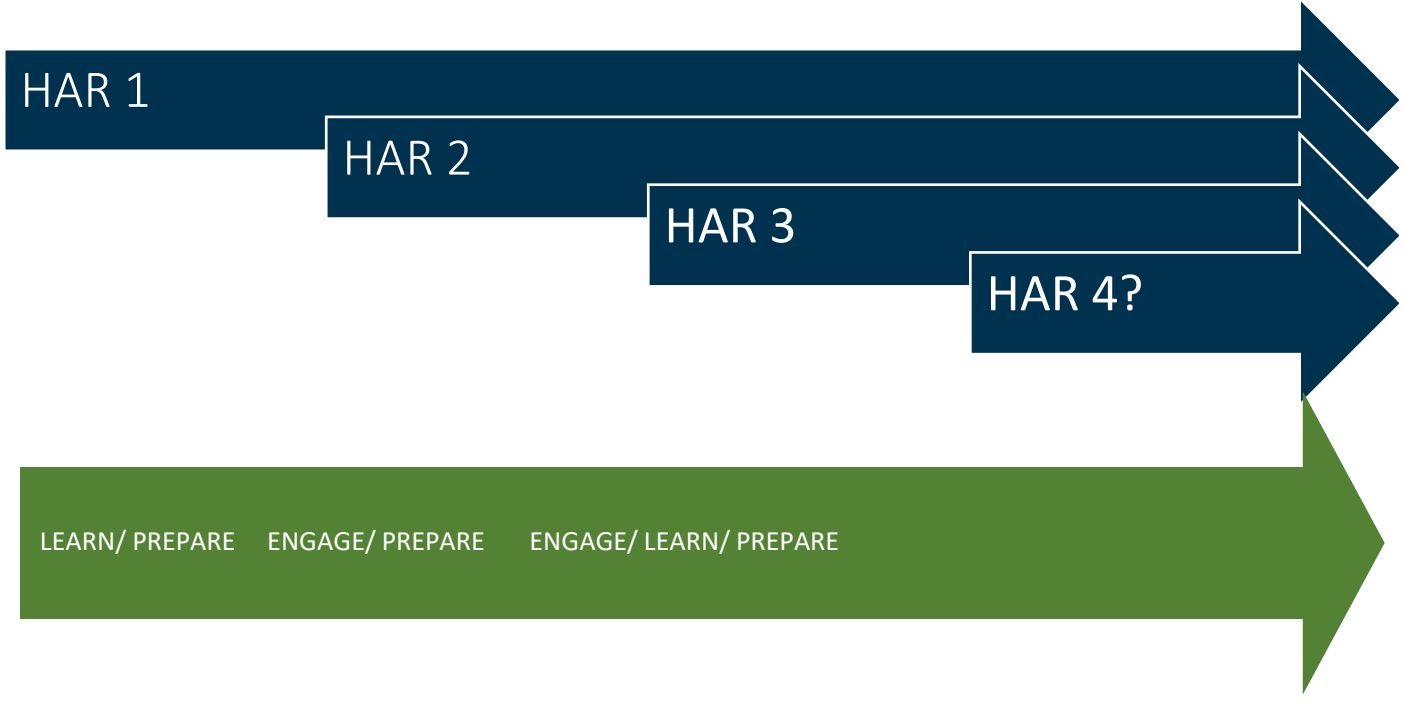
Access to Expertise programme	Planning authorities access specialist skills and expertise Planning authority sharing resources
Learning and Knowledge Exchange	Advice on Early engagement for developers Knowledge Exchange Programme Learning Events Planning for Hydrogen Process map Risks, impacts and mitigation/ conditions Case Studies



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VIEW ALL UPCOMING EVENTS

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