



GALILEO EMPOWER

LYNEMORE WIND FARM

**Response to
Community Councils
and Public Representations**



1. Introduction

This report has been prepared by Galileo Empower (Galileo) as the developers of the proposed Lynemore Wind Farm, located on land at Lynemore, approximately 2km Southwest of the A9 at Moy. While the original application was for 14 wind turbines, Galileo has subsequently **reduced this to 12 turbines** to alleviate concerns raised in consultation responses and public representations.

The purpose of this report is to respond directly to the issues and concerns raised by Strathdearn and Strathnairn Community Councils – both of whom raised formal objections to our proposals – as well as representations from the public.

As a responsible developer, Galileo strongly believes in the need for ongoing dialogue regarding our proposals. We have approached consultation for the Lynemore Wind Farm in the same manner, listening carefully to views on the plans. We have valued – and continue to value – the community's engagement with our plans and we fully respect their right to object to them.

However, there are several issues and concerns raised regarding the Lynemore Wind Farm proposal that we wish to respond to and believe the revisions to our plans help to address.

2.1 Background on the Lynemore Wind Farm

Galileo is developing proposals for a wind farm and co-located battery energy storage system (BESS), located on land at Lynemore, approximately 2km Southwest of the A9 at Moy.

A Section 36 application was submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit in May 2025 for a proposed development comprising up to 14 wind turbines (each with a maximum tip height of 200 metres) and approximately 50 MW of battery energy storage.

Following consideration of consultee responses and public representations received to date, the decision has been taken to amend the layout by removing the two westernmost turbines (T4 and T5) and revising the proposed access route. Additional Information (AI), summarising these amendments and assessing any resulting changes to the environmental impacts identified in the original Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit in May 2025.

The proposed development site is located on the northern fringes of the Monadhliath Mountains. It is a managed grouse moor that consists mainly of open heather moorland and benefits from an excellent wind resource. It has no landscape, ecological or cultural designations that restrict its scope for accommodating a wind farm.

Comprising up to 12 wind turbines with a blade tip height of up to 200m, Lynemore Wind Farm will have a generating capacity of approximately 84MW, subject to turbine technology. Technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that turbines are now taller and more efficient, which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of renewable electricity using fewer turbines.

Galileo is also proposing a co-located Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with up to 50MW of capacity. BESS are developments that store electricity via rechargeable batteries at times of high generation and low demand and release this energy back into the grid network in times of high need. This will allow low-cost, low-carbon electricity to be available, such as when there is no wind, and has an essential role in reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and balancing the grid.

The proposed wind farm will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address the climate emergency, and support Scotland's shift toward a low-carbon future, helping to meet the growing

demand for electricity in the years ahead. Adding to homegrown clean power reduces reliance on foreign imports and exposure to volatile global fossil fuel markets which is liable to geopolitical shocks.

Additionally, Lynemore Wind Farm will provide long-term economic and social benefits. These include providing a community wealth fund to support local initiatives, as well as construction and operational employment opportunities.

If the Lynemore Wind Farm is granted planning consent by Scottish Ministers, it is anticipated that construction will begin in 2029, becoming operational in late 2031.

2.2 Summary of pre-application consultation

An application for planning consent for Lynemore Wind Farm was submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit in May 2025 for determination under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. The Highland Council, as the host planning authority, will be a key statutory consultee.

The submission of the planning application followed a comprehensive programme of community engagement and consultation. In advance of the submission of a scoping request to the Scottish Ministers via the ECU, we met with key stakeholders, including local community councils, as well as a number of the properties closest to the proposed turbines.

Presentations outlining the project proposals were given to the Strathnairn and the Strathdearn Community Councils in March and July 2024, respectively. Locally elected members, including ward councillors, MSPs and the local MP, have all been updated with the plans as they have progressed.

As part of our pre-application consultation process, Galileo held two rounds of public consultation events in the Farr Community Hall and the Strathdearn Hub in March

and October 2024, respectively. These events allowed residents and community stakeholders to discuss the project directly with our team and provide feedback. A total of 83 people attended the four events.

Following the submission of our Planning Application to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU), and at the request of the Strathnairn community, a drop-in session was held at Farr Community Hall. This session took place during the formal consultation period and was attended by members of the project team, who had the full application documents available for review. They assisted members of the public in navigating the documents, identifying key information of interest, and provided guidance on how to submit formal representations to the Energy Consents Unit. The offer of a similar event was extended to Strathdearn community, but it was not deemed necessary.

Strathnairn and Strathdearn Community Councils consulted locally on views on our proposals. Both community councils raised formal objections against our application. It is further understood that a significant number of the objections received from members of the public were focused around Strathnairn, which have been factored into this report.

A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) report outlining the public consultation that has taken place was submitted as a supporting document to our planning application and can be viewed [here](#).

Galileo has continued to engage with both SEPA and NatureScot following submission of the application to address concerns relating to peat and ornithological impacts. This engagement has included the preparation of clarification reports addressing these issues, as well as meetings with the respective case officers at both agencies.

2. Summary of pre-application consultation

Community Council

Key issues raised

Strathdearn CC

Objection issued
12th June 2025

1. Landscape & Visual Impact

- Significant adverse effects on the landscape and visual amenity, both individually and cumulatively with 12 existing and 6 proposed wind farms in the area.
- Contravention of Highland Council's spatial planning guidance due to:
 - Negative effects on scale and built environment
 - Degradation of landscape value and visual amenity
 - Harm to the setting of Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath Wild Land Area

2. Environmental & Ecological Concerns

- Negative impacts on nationally important peatland habitats, violating national peatland protection policies.
- Non-compliance with Scottish Government policies on Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Issues with assessment of impacts on protected bird species (Red Kite, White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle), lacking cumulative analysis across Natural Heritage Zone 10 (NHZ10).

3. Cumulative Impact & Incomplete Assessment

- It was claimed that Galileo's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) lacks sufficient detail to assess:
 - Direct, indirect, long-term, and permanent cumulative impacts
 - Effects associated with existing installations, planned developments, and undetermined grid connections

4. Socioeconomic & Community Impact

- Underestimation of current visitor numbers and not accounting for future tourism growth linked to nationally significant visitor attractions.
- Negative impacts on residential properties located within 2 km of the nearest turbines.

Strathnairn CC

Objection issued
14th July 2025

1. Policy Conflicts & Environmental Oversights

- **Framing of Climate Emergency:** It was suggested that our application presents a one-sided argument that onshore wind resolves the climate emergency, without acknowledging the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Strathnairn CC

Objection issued
14th July 2025

- **Ecological Concerns:**
 - Loss of biodiversity and species
 - Habitat fragmentation and avian collision risks
 - Disruption of circadian rhythms due to light pollution
 - Harm to sensitive local ecology and wildlife corridors.
- **Dark Skies & Light Pollution:**
 - Impact of aviation lighting, especially from turbines exceeding 149.9m
 - Legal implications of dark sky preservation
 - Loss of wild land character.

2. Landscape, Visual & Cultural Impact

- **LVIA (Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment):**
 - Visibility concerns (both close-range and distant)
 - Perceived industrialisation of the landscape
 - Scale and siting of turbines
- **Impact on Tourism & Recreation:**
 - Negative effects on hillwalking, Munro bagging, and outdoor pursuits
 - Detrimental impact on road users, commuters, and visitors
 - Cultural and heritage degradation, especially at Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Centre.

3. Cumulative Impact

- **Combined Effects:**
 - Accumulated visual, ecological, and social impacts from multiple developments in the region.
- **Community Engagement & Transparency**
- **Consultation process:**
 - Insufficient engagement with neighbouring communities (Moy, Daviot, Balnafaich, Inverarnie, Farr).
 - Lack of transparency about the nature and scale of the development.
- **Quality of Information Provided:**
 - Poor visual materials and engineering drawings for a large-scale civil project
 - Inadequate consideration of offshore wind alternatives
 - Limited clarity on community benefits and local impact.



3. Summary of main issues cited in Public Representations

The main concerns and themes raised in the 161 public representations received to date, broadly align with those raised in the objections from the community councils. The main objection themes are outlined in the below table.

Landscape and visual impact	• Objection to turbine height • Visual impacts from homes, roads (A9, Balnafaich-Daviot), tourist viewpoints, and the Cairngorms.
Light pollution from aviation lighting	• Concern over aviation lighting destroying dark skies, with Strathnairn identified as a potential Dark Sky area. • Effects raised on human health and nocturnal wildlife. • Requests for radar-triggered lighting.
Cumulative impact	• Suggestions that Strathnairn and Strathdearn are saturated with wind farms, with at least 12 existing and 6 proposed schemes nearby. • Concern that cumulative effects on landscape, wildlife, hydrology, and communities have not been robustly assessed. • Perception that the area is carrying an unfair share of national renewable development.
Noise	• Some households report existing disturbance from the Farr Wind Farm, fearing the new site will be worse. • Concerns about impacts on health and wellbeing. • Doubts about the applicability of ETSU-R-97 standards in quiet rural settings.
Ecology and Wildlife	• Concerns for raptors and protected species such as bats and Arctic charr. • Claims that bird collision risks and habitat disruption are underestimated. • Objections to loss of biodiversity, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance to nocturnal and aquatic species. • References to hydrological changes and pollution affecting fishery catchments like the River Findhorn.

Peat	- Concerns towards peat disturbance. - Calls for greater peatland restoration and micro-siting of turbines and infrastructure.
Traffic and transport	- Concerns about road safety, especially around Farr Primary School and A9 junctions. - Fears that large HGV movements will cause accidents, congestion, and road damage on narrow rural roads. - Requests for robust Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and mitigation for abnormal load deliveries.
Socio-economic	Objections that local communities bear all impacts but receive little benefit, citing property devaluation, tourism loss, and stress on wellbeing.

4. Responses to issues raised

Galileo values the engagement of the community with our proposals and fully respects the right of local people to object. That said, there are some aspects of the objections outlined in the section above that we either disagree with or feel that the changes we have made (particularly the removal of two turbines and site access adjustments) to our proposals address.

We have addressed these points in full below. While we appreciate that our responses will not satisfy everyone who has objected to our plans, we hope at the very least that it will demonstrate our willingness to listen to the community and engage with concerns positively.

Community Engagement and Trust

We strongly disagree with any accusation that Galileo have not been transparent in our interactions with the community. Transparency and building trust are key guiding principles underpinning our community engagement for all of Galileo's projects.

We have detailed below how we sought to inform the community of our project and provide opportunities for providing feedback and scrutiny:

- As part of our pre-application consultation process, we held two rounds of public consultation events in the Farr Community Hall and the Strathdearn Hub in March and October 2024, respectively. These events allowed residents and community stakeholders to discuss the project directly with our team and provide feedback. A total of 83 people attended the two events.
- The 'exit-survey' feedback received by the Galileo project team on the standard of presentation and helpfulness of the project information presented at the exhibition was very positive. Those who attended both events signaled their satisfaction that Galileo had provided sufficient information to further an understanding on what the proposed development entailed.



- Relevant ward councillors, MSPs and MPs were kept fully informed throughout the process.
- In advance of the submission of a scoping request to the Scottish Ministers via the ECU in March 2024, we met with key stakeholders, including local community councils, as well as a number of the properties closest to the turbines. Presentations outlining the project proposals were given to the Strathnairn and the Strathdearn Community Councils in March and July 2024, respectively. We have offered to meet and engage with both community councils since.
- We held a drop-in session during the formal consultation period where the project team went to Strathnairn with the full Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and supported members of the public in submitting their representations. To be clear, there is no statutory provision for this level of engagement for a section 36 application; in planning terms, this is going far beyond what is required of a developer.

Moreover, we understand that some of the claims that we lacked transparency with the community were based on us not providing survey results, analyses or other documentation relevant to the planning application during the pre-application phase. In response to this, we have the following points to make:

- It is during the pre-application phase when such documentation is being developed and surveys conducted; it is therefore not possible to place everything in the public domain at this stage. Throughout the pre-application process we have been very clear as to what we can and cannot provide – and why.
- We provided a significant amount of information on our proposals in community meetings, public events and

through our project website.

- It is not always practical or possible for a developer to provide detailed updates at every stage of the process. All documentation relevant to our planning application was provided as part of our planning application which members of the public can now review and make representations on.

In summary, Galileo has been – and continues to be – as transparent as possible in its engagements with the community as part of the Lynemore Wind Farm process.

Policy Tension and Compatibility

As part of the initial application, and supplementary to the EIAR, a full **Planning Statement** outlining the project's position with regards to current planning policy was submitted. This is available on our **project website's** documents section.

Lynemore Wind Farm accords with Scottish Planning Policy when considered in the round. Alignment with national frameworks such as National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), the Highland-wide Local Development Plan, the Inner Moray Firth LDP2 and relevant supplementary guidance has been central to the design and assessment of the project, and we have developed the proposal in a manner that supports both climate action and biodiversity protection.

- NPF4 is clear that Scotland faces a twin crisis of climate change and nature loss, and that well-sited renewable energy infrastructure is essential to meeting legally binding net-zero targets. At no point does our application present onshore wind as a single or simplistic solution; rather, the EIAR sets out a balanced, evidence-led assessment demonstrating how Lynemore contributes to national climate objectives while embedding robust measures to safeguard nature. The development layout has been refined

through multiple design iterations to avoid sensitive habitats, reduce potential ecological effects, and follow the mitigation hierarchy required by Scottish policy.

- The project layout has been refined through multiple iterations to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and follow the mitigation hierarchy required by policy. Ecological surveys have been undertaken in accordance with NatureScot guidance, ensuring a thorough understanding of habitats and protected species.
- The project incorporates extensive habitat restoration and enhancement, including measures to address existing erosion and drainage issues. These works will deliver a measurable net gain for biodiversity and support NPF4's nature recovery objectives. Turbine locations, tracks and infrastructure have been positioned to minimise fragmentation and protect wildlife corridors, with avian collision risk assessed using recognised methodologies.
- Lighting requirements have been addressed in line with aviation safety legislation and Scottish planning policy. A reduced-impact aviation lighting scheme has been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority and uses minimised-intensity systems to reduce skyglow and protect dark sky qualities.
- The development lies outwith the Cairngorm National Park, National Scenic Areas and Wild Land Areas. The detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, which has been updated to account for the removal of T4 and T5, confirms that landscape and visual impacts are localised and in turn acceptable within policy, reflecting NPF4's recognition that the transition to net-zero will change the landscape.

In summary, the Lynemore Wind Farm has been developed in full accordance with the

requirements of Scottish planning policy. It supports Scotland's climate commitments, incorporates strong ecological safeguards, applies best-practice lighting mitigation, and demonstrates compliance with NPF4 and associated guidance through comprehensive and transparent environmental assessment.

Landscape and visual impact

We appreciate the community's concerns about the Landscape and Visual Impact of Lynemore Wind Farm. The project was designed with this in mind and a detailed Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment was undertaken to NatureScot and Highland Council guidance.

We do not agree that Lynemore will result in unacceptable landscape or visual effects. NatureScot will not be providing comment in relation to the project's landscape & visual impact acknowledging in their scoping response that the project would not raise issues of national interest in relation to its landscape, visual or cumulative effects. This is further backed up by their consultation response where they have not provided comments, nor will be commenting, in relation to landscape and visual impacts.

We would also make the following points in relation to more specific landscape and visual concerns raised:

- **Design Refinement:** The layout has undergone multiple iterations to reduce visual prominence, including the removal of turbines T4 and T5. This change notably lessens visibility from Strathnairn, particularly the settled area of Farr, and reduces perceived dominance from key viewpoints. This is demonstrated in the **updated visualisation** from the Farr area when compared with the **original**.
- **Turbine Scale:** The proposed turbine height of 200 m is consistent with current industry standards and reflects the evolving turbine market. There

are operational turbines in Scotland exceeding 200 m, and consented projects for turbines up to 250 m. This scale is necessary to deliver efficient renewable generation aligned with national climate targets.

- Visual Amenity: Viewpoints from homes, roads (including the A9 and Balnafaich–Daviot), and tourist locations have been assessed using recognised methodologies. Mitigation measures, including careful siting and design, ensure that visual effects are proportionate and do not result in unacceptable residential or recreational impacts.
- Cairngorm National Park Impacts: The site lies outside both the Cairngorm National Park and the Monadhliath Wild Land Area, within the Rolling Uplands Landscape Character Type – recognised as having a lower sensitivity to large scale wind developments. The Landscape & Visual Impact assessment confirms that there are no significant effects on any National Scenic Areas, Wild Land Areas, or Special Landscape Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park.
- Addition of Industrial technology into the Landscape: While energy generation is a form of industry, Lynemore is a prime location for essential renewable infrastructure. It is sited in open uplands, away from villages and designated landscapes, and designed to fit the scale of the land. The greater threat to such landscapes is not clean energy but climate change. If carbon emissions continue unchecked, the landscapes we value most will face far more severe and irreversible impacts than a sensitively designed wind farm.

Cumulative impact

Galileo understand concerns about the number of wind farm proposals in Strathdearn and surrounding areas. It is important to remember that every project

is subject to its own detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and public consultation, ensuring cumulative effects are properly considered at each stage.

For Lynemore, a cumulative landscape and visual assessment has been carried out in line with NatureScot and Highland Council guidance. This includes existing wind farms, consented schemes, and those at application stage within the agreed study area.

- The EIA considers how Lynemore interacts with other developments, including visual effects, landscape character, and combined change over time.
- Lynemore does not lead to unacceptable clustering or coalescence. The design maintains clear separation from other wind farms and avoids sensitive glens, preventing the area from feeling dominated by turbines.
- While some cumulative visibility is inevitable, the assessment shows these effects are localised and reduce significantly with distance. Forestry and landform help break up views along roads and from settlements.
- We note the recent changes to the baseline - Kyllachy, Clune, Highland and Balnespick were originally assessed as scoping projects but are now at application stage. An updated cumulative assessment has been included as part of the AI submission within [Chapter 5](#).
- The LVIA confirms cumulative change remains within thresholds set by policy and guidance. The removal of turbines T4 and T5 further reduces combined visibility from Strathnairn, particularly around Farr.
- The cumulative assessment confirms that Lynemore would not materially add to the landscape or visual impacts already arising from existing wind farm

developments in the Rolling Uplands landscape area, particularly the Farr and Glen Kyllachy cluster.

- Scotland's legally binding net-zero targets require well-sited renewable projects. We strongly believe that Lynemore represents a balanced contribution without placing an unfair burden on local communities.

In short, Lynemore has been designed to minimise cumulative landscape and visual impacts, and these have been robustly assessed. Each proposal in the area undergoes the same scrutiny, ensuring balanced development that supports Scotland's climate goals without overwhelming local landscapes.

Turbine lighting

A number of concerns were raised about the impacts associated with the aviation lighting on the hubs of the turbines. We take these concerns seriously and appreciate that Lynemore would be the first project with turbines of this scale, requiring aviation lights, in the locale. Lynemore's lighting strategy includes embedded mitigation, such as the following measures:

- To minimise impacts, a reduced lighting scheme has been agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), allowing for only 7 of the 14 turbines to be lit. This has been further reduced to 6 of the remaining 12 turbines.
- Dimming to 10% intensity (200 cd) during periods of good visibility (>5 km), which occurs 90–95% of the time.
- Angle intensity mitigation, limiting the main beam to 0°–+3° and reducing overspill below the horizontal to <1 cd in low-lying areas. This massively reduces the impact on low lying settled areas relative to the turbine hubs, such as Strathnairn.
- While Radar-activated Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems (ADLS) are currently not permitted in the UK, Galileo are committed to exploring its

viability in the near future. As such we would be willing to commit to a Planning Condition requiring Galileo to monitor the viability and regulatory environment of ADLS, including a requirement to assess whether it is practicable for it to be installed at the project at specific milestones of the project's lifespan. Such planning condition has been agreed to on other Scottish projects, such as Rowan Wind Farm, approved in April 2024.

In response to other concerns resulting from the requirement for aviation lighting at Lynemore, we make the following comments.

- Many responses noted concerns in relation to Strathnairn and its potential Dark Sky area status. We understand that the community of Strathnairn is in the process of applying to achieve Dark Sky status. The closest Dark Sky Park is the Cairngorms Dark Sky Park, over 35km away and was scoped out of the assessment due to the negligible impacts anticipated at this sort of distance.
- The assessment found no significant night time effects on Wild Land Areas or other designated landscapes. Significant effects are limited to the host Rolling Uplands – Inverness LCT within ~3 km, where turbines and lights become a new characteristic. Beyond this, effects reduce to Moderate to Minor and are not significant.
- While concerns about circadian disruption and wildlife disturbance were raised, the dimming and directional mitigation greatly reduce light spill. Overspill intensity in valleys is typically <1 cd, far below levels associated with ecological or health impacts. The lights operate only between dusk and dawn and switch off 30 minutes before sunrise.
- As part of the AI, Galileo have included a **report on light propagation** from aviation lights prepared by Dr Philip Best, an astronomer and physicist at The University of Edinburgh. The

report concludes that under typical conditions, the 200 cd lights will appear comparable to bright stars or car brake lights at several kilometres distance, and even in poor visibility when 2000 cd lights are required, their brightness beyond 5 km is less than that of the brightest stars. Vertical suppression fittings further reduce perceived brightness by up to a factor of 30 for lower-lying areas, meaning lights will often be close to or below the threshold of visibility from street-lit locations. For areas of Strathnairn, this will be comparable to bright stars such as Orion or a car brake light at 10-20km under clear sky conditions. See the [updated Night-time visualisation from Farr here](#). The cumulative effect of all lights is shown to be negligible compared to natural starlight beyond 3 km, confirming no significant change to ambient “dark sky” conditions.

The Lynemore lighting strategy represents the highest level of mitigation currently permitted under UK regulations. With dimming, directional control, and reduced turbine lighting, the assessment predicts no significant night-time visual effects for settlements, roads, or tourist sites. While some visibility will occur, particularly from elevated summits, these effects are assessed as minor and not significant. Combined with our commitment to review ADLS viability, Lynemore demonstrates a responsible approach to balancing aviation safety with environmental protection.

Noise

We recognise that some households have reported disturbance from the existing Farr Wind Farm and fear Lynemore could be worse. Farr’s turbines are older models, and under certain conditions – particularly lower easterly wind speeds – they can be audible in Strathnairn. Lynemore will use modern turbines with improved acoustic performance, and the assessment shows that noise levels will remain well below the 35 dB(A) threshold in Strathnairn under all conditions.

A few concerns were raised about low-frequency hum, infrasound, and vibration impacts on health and wellbeing. These issues have been extensively studied over the past 20 years, and the evidence confirms that infrasound and vibration from wind turbines are imperceptible at typical separation distances. The Highland Council agreed these could be scoped out of detailed assessment.

Some respondents questioned whether ETSU-R-97 standards are appropriate in quiet rural settings. To address this, Lynemore adopted stringent limits, below those typically agreed under ETSU-R-97 guidance, as requested by The Highland Council:

- Daytime limit: 35 dB(A) (lowest end of ETSU range)
- Night-time limit: 38 dB(A) (lower than ETSU’s 43 dB(A))

Noise monitoring at Lynemore Cottage confirmed that background levels are influenced by the A9, which will be a dual carriageway by the time Lynemore is operational. However, for the purposes of the assessment, the data was filtered to remove the influence of traffic and ensure the assessment presented the worst case scenario. This means turbine noise will be further masked by traffic noise. Predicted operational levels at the closest properties (Lynebeg and Moy) are compliant with all agreed limits, even under worst-case downwind conditions.

The assessment finds that the project will operate well within all agreed sound limits, including stricter thresholds set by the Highland Council therefore noise is not seen as an issue for Lynemore.. While turbine noise may occasionally be audible under certain wind conditions, it will remain at levels considered acceptable and well below those associated with health impacts. Combined with the influence of the A9 and modern turbine design, Lynemore will not worsen existing conditions and will comply fully with planning and environmental standards.

Ecology and Wildlife

Galileo acknowledges the concerns raised regarding potential ecological and wildlife impacts. However, Lynemore is not a sensitive site:

- The site lies outside any statutory nature conservation designations, and surveys confirm habitats are heavily modified.
- Peatland restoration proposals and native woodland creation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy will further improve biodiversity and connectivity.
- Two years of environmental surveys were completed, meeting or exceeding NatureScot guidance. Bat activity across the site is very low, turbine layout achieves the required 50 m stand-off from any potential bat features.
- Pollution risks will be managed through a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

Ornithological surveys confirm very low activity:

- 148 target flights recorded in 311 hours, including only 16 white-tailed eagle flights.
- No breeding pairs or display flights were recorded, and the nearest known territory lies 15 km away, beyond the species' maximum foraging range.
- Collision Risk Modelling, updated to reflect the changes to the layout predicts the collision rate for white-tailed eagle is 0.346 birds/year (two-year average) which is Non-Significant in EIA terms.

NatureScot acknowledges that cumulative mortality may slow population growth but will not lead to population decline. Slower growth should be considered in the context of climate emergency and renewable energy targets. The evidence does not support Lynemore as a constraint on range recovery. We continue to work with NatureScot to establish a way forward.

Fundamentally, Lynemore is not ecologically or ornithologically sensitive. The project will deliver substantial biodiversity enhancements through **peatland restoration** and woodland creation, while predicted impacts on protected species and birds are negligible and fully mitigated. We remain committed to collaboration with NatureScot to secure appropriate measures.

Peat

We acknowledge concerns regarding peat disturbance and the importance of protecting peatland habitats. Lynemore has been assessed using NatureScot's peatland sensitivity framework, which confirms the site is not nationally important peatland. Most areas are heavily modified for sporting and grazing, with limited areas of near-natural condition. The site design has prioritised avoidance of the deepest and most sensitive areas.

Some of the key measures and commitments include:

- A driver of the 12 turbine site redesign was consultation with SEPA to maximise peat avoidance. We have now conducted **8 phases of peat probing** between November 2023 and November 2025 to ensure the layout avoids the deepest pockets of peat where possible. Where terrain and ground conditions are suitable, we will also use floating access roads to minimise levels of excavation.
- Micrositing of turbines and tracks will continue during construction to further minimise peat disturbance. An Ecological Clerk of Works and geotechnical engineer will oversee works to ensure compliance with best practice.
- All excavated peat will be reused on-site for reinstatement and restoration. The **Outline Peat Management Plan** demonstrates a net balance, with 248,000m³ of peat excavated and reused across temporary infrastructure reinstatement and extensive peatland

restoration areas. Restoration will target eroded gullies and degraded habitats, reducing carbon loss and improving hydrological function.

- Degraded peatland is one of Scotland's largest sources of carbon emissions. Projects like Lynemore provide much-needed private investment to restore highly eroded sites, reversing ongoing degradation and supporting Scotland's net-zero and biodiversity targets. As part of the project, there will be 220Ha of degraded peatland restored across the site that will continue to erode and emit carbon without intervention.

The assessments find that Lynemore will not cause significant adverse effects on nationally important peatland. Instead, it will deliver large-scale restoration and biodiversity benefits, helping to tackle climate change while supporting Scotland's nature recovery objectives.

Traffic and transport

We acknowledge community concerns regarding road safety, congestion, and potential impacts on rural roads during construction. The project has been designed to minimise traffic impacts and maximise use of the trunk road network.

- A detailed Abnormal Load Route Assessment has been completed, confirming that turbine components will be delivered from Inverness Harbour via the A9. Transport Scotland has reviewed this and raised no objections, subject to standard conditions for traffic management and removal of street furniture where necessary.
- All construction traffic, including abnormal indivisible loads (AILs), will access the site directly from the A9 via the upgraded Lynebeg junction. The A9 Tomatin to Moy dualling project will be complete before construction begins, providing improved road capacity and safety. We note specific concerns relating to local roads raised by Strathnairn residents and confirm that Lynemore AILs and construction

traffic will not use the B851 through Strathnairn.

- A robust Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be agreed with the Planning Authority and Transport Scotland prior to works commencing. This will include measures for traffic control, signage, and scheduling to minimise disruption, particularly near sensitive locations.
- Furthermore, as part of the revised design and through discussion with Forestry & Land Scotland, we will no longer be running the access road adjacent to the properties at Lynebeg. Instead, we will route south-east through the forestry to reduce the impact on local residents. The revised track is shown on the [updated layout figure](#).

In summary, all Lynemore construction traffic will use the upgraded A9 trunk road, avoiding sensitive rural routes and minimising local disruption. Transport Scotland has confirmed no objections to the proposed access arrangements. A comprehensive CTMP and abnormal load management plan will ensure safety and efficiency throughout the construction period.

Socio-economic impacts

We understand that there are concerns about the socio-economic impact of Lynemore Wind Farm, including its impact on everyday life for nearby residents, property values and tourism and recreation.

- As outlined above, our turbine layout has been carefully designed to avoid or mitigate visual, noise and flicker impact as much as possible for nearby residential properties. Additionally, the site access plan has been adjusted in response to concerns voiced by residents. Site traffic will arrive directly from the A9 via a new dedicated access track located at a greater distance from nearby houses at Lynebeg, minimising disruption before, during and after the completion of the A9 dualling work.

- There is no evidence that proximity to wind farms has a negative long-term effect on local property values. A 2016¹ study commissioned by the Scottish Government found no pattern linking proximity to onshore wind developments to negative effects on house price growth, while similar studies in England (2014)² and Canada (2014)³ reached the same conclusion.

Objections to Lynemore Wind Farm have also speculated about possible negative impacts on tourism and recreation, citing the visibility of the proposed wind farm from certain key destinations and the cumulative effect of renewable energy development. We recognise that tourism is central to the local economy and will play an increasingly important role in years to come. However, we contend that the presence of sensitively-designed wind farms is not a significant deterrent to the development of sustainable tourism.

- Independent studies conducted on behalf of VisitScotland⁴ and the Scottish Government⁵ have found that wind farms have no measurable negative impact on tourism.
- In fact, comparable areas with significant wind energy development

in (for example) Caithness, North Sutherland⁶, and the Borders⁷ have continued to see steady growth in tourism in recent years.

- Other sites of wind energy production have become destinations in their own right, offering opportunities for green tourism and outdoor recreation.

While wind farms might change the character of Scotland's dramatic rural landscapes, the evidence suggests that they do not diminish their appeal to visitors.

It is also important to emphasise that wind farms can serve as a resource for local communities from a tourism and recreation perspective. Access tracks created during project construction can be long-term assets for outdoor recreation, providing improved routes for hillwalking, mountain biking and horse riding. Additionally, community benefit funding can be used to support improvements to tourism infrastructure such as parking areas, interpretation and signage, and toilet and waste facilities.

Delivering benefits to the local community

Recognising that we share an interest with Strathdearn and Strathnairn community councils in ensuring that Lynemore Wind Farm leaves a positive legacy in the area, we would like to highlight our commitment to delivering meaningful and long-lasting benefits to the local community. We are fully invested in working with community councils and residents to create an impactful community benefit package that goes beyond industry standards and aligns with local community development objectives.

Following the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles, Galileo Empower

1. S. Heblich, D. Olnier, G. Pryce and C. Timmins, 'Impact of wind turbines on house prices in Scotland' (2016), https://www.climateexchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/cxc_wind_farms_impact_on_house_prices_final_17_oct_2016.pdf

2. Centre for Economics and Business Research, <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2014/mar/29/property-house-price-impact-wind-farms-turbines>

3. R. Vyn, R. McCullough, 'The Effects of Wind Turbines on Property Values in Ontario: Does Public Perception Match Empirical Evidence?' (2014), <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/cjag.12030>

4. Study claims tourists "not put off" by wind farms in Scotland', BBC reporting on Visit Scotland survey (2012): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-17827490>; summary of Visit Scotland survey: <https://ascogfarm.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/RES-CD-TOU-006.pdf>

5. <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2008/03/economic-impacts-wind-farms-scottish-tourism/documents/0057316-pdf/0057316-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/0057316.pdf>

6. Highland Council, Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2024 to 2030' (2024), (https://www.highland.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/29523/sustainable_tourism_strategy_2024_to_2030.pdf)

7. Visit Scotland, 'Research and insight on tourism in the Scottish Borders' (2024), <https://www.visitscotland.org/research-insights/regions/scottish-borders>

will create a Community Wealth Fund delivering £5,000 per MW of installed capacity annually over the life of the project. This would be approximately £420,000 per annum and £21 million over the operational lifetime.

Beyond this, the local community will have the opportunity to acquire up to 10% shared ownership of Lynemore Wind Farm. Galileo is keen to provide advice and support to community groups interested in taking shared ownership forward.

In the local area and across the Highlands, community benefit funding from wind farms has helped meet local needs and build more resilient rural communities. For example, the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund (supported by several nearby wind and hydro projects) provides education and training bursaries, home heating grants, and funding for community groups and charities to use for their activities. We encourage community feedback as to how funds from Lynemore Wind Farm would be best allocated locally.

We remain committed to establishing a Renewable Electricity Discount Scheme (REDS) should that be a preferred use of some or all of the Community Wealth Fund. During our public consultations, we heard concerns about high rural cost of living as well as a general feeling that people living near wind farms should see a reduction in their electricity bills. The Lynemore REDS scheme would offer a significant annual discount on electricity bills for households, businesses and community spaces located within a 6km radius of the site.

More widely, we are interested in working with community councils, stakeholders and businesses to develop an approach that maximises local economic impact and employment. It is estimated that the development and construction of the project will generate £1.6 million GVA and 26.7 job years in the Inner Moray Firth area, and £9 million GVA and 152.6 job years across the Highlands.

In order to make sure that local contractors can take advantage of construction

and supply chain opportunities, we have created a Contractor Registration Form (available on the project website) where businesses can lodge their interest and keep updated on the project.

5. Conclusion

This report was intended as a response to objections raised by consultees and residents to Galileo's proposed Wind Farm. While we accept this is unlikely to satisfy every interested party, we hope that this response provides some additional clarity on our plans and some assurance that we are listening.

From the very start of the process, Galileo intended to go beyond just meeting the requirements of a section 36 application and sought to work with the community in good faith as we shaped our proposals. We put in place several opportunities by which local residents and community groups could meaningfully review our plans and provide feedback. This included two rounds of pre-application events and meetings with the Strathnairn and Strathdearn Community Councils.

Based on this feedback and the responses from statutory consultees, we made the decision to reduce the number of turbines in the plans. This decision reflects Galileo's willingness to listen to communities and make changes to our proposals where appropriate.

As a responsible developer, Galileo is keen to continue building positive relationships with the community over the long-term. We remain committed to ongoing dialogue and open to further discussions with residents and stakeholders as we progress with this vital renewable energy infrastructure project.





GALILEO EMPOWER

6. Contact and further information

To discuss the Lynemore Wind Farm proposal in more detail, please contact:

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