

6 MONTHLY REPORT

For SNCC, SCBF & Community of Strathnairn | September 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Assessment of works and progress made over the first half of 26/27 - produced as a six monthly report - for the Community Council, SCBF; as local community and funders. This purpose of the report is to show how the funds allocated to the ‘Project Specialist’ Role have been spent to support the capacity of the Community Council and wider Community in addressing material conditions - or related works - associated with incoming Large Scale Energy Infrastructure Works & Planning (from Scoping to Construction), as host or impacted Community.

The report is split into bi-monthly intervals, and covers the principal planning applications addressed over a given period, plus works to progress South Loch Ness Dark Skies and a DSI UK Application, to recognise and protect rural Dark Skies.

The work is undertaken by Julie Macrae (drawing on Planning, Construction, Project Management & Community Development experience) - delivered as hybrid working - to meet the needs of the Community. This is intended to support growing legislative demand; through building local capacity to address Capital Projects, Traffic Management, Roads & Communications, as identified in the Person Specification.

Work is undertaken from a base of Inverness, Strathnairn and several other locations (including Projects Sites, neighbouring CCs, HC Headquarters and more), with a large on-line or networked component, to access documents, material or people (including Developers).

As part of this regular meetings or events are held with a core volunteer team/colleagues and wider community, in or around Strathnairn, for face-to-face planning, exchanges or updates; or to progress DS works.

KEY PROJECTS/WORKS & OUTCOMES

1 > BI-MONTHLY REPORT FOR APR-MAY 26

01 | Lynemore Wind Farm / Galileo Empower UK | ECU 00005105

- Assessment of (revised) ECU Planning Documents
- Submission of Community Representation to ECU on revised scheme.
- Reporting back to Strathnairn Community via SNCC website.

02 | Loch Kemp Pumped Storage Hydro / Statera | ECU00003398

- Material for National Planning Enquiry.
- Preparation for attendance at National Planning Enquiry.
- Daily Attendance / Community representation at the National Planning Enquiry & Site Visits (B851 & Site) 14-17 April 2026 inc.
- Ahead of and during procedure > Reports back to National Planning Reporter, Highland Council Planning & Legal & Roads Teams
- Reporting back to Strathnairn Community via SNCC website.

03 | South Loch Ness Road Improvement Strategy Road | B851

- Pulling up and assessing the impact of the Strategy
- Assessing what would constitute improvements (in connection with the above projects & local community).
- Reporting back to the Strathnairn Community (via Website).

04 | South Loch Ness Dark Skies | To support Strathnairn Dark Skies

- Emails & several telephone exchanges with Gerry Hamill, SSE to introduce the possibility of DS Observatory on SSE's Aberarder Schoolhouse site.
- Organisation of and preparation for local event.
- SSG Engagement & Event | Star & Planet Spotting (1 night over 15-17 May, with 3 nights on standby).
- Reporting back to the Strathnairn Community (via Website & SSG FB)

05 | Draft HC Planning Policy on Dark Skies | To support Strathnairn Dark Skies

- Several exchanges/liaisons with the Highland Council Councillors (Councillors David Fraser & Ken Gowans) to embed knowledge and support community case.
- Preparation for, extracting and forwarding of wide ranging reference materials to support this.
- Preparation of press release, circulation and feed to press & media.
- Radio Scotland interview in conjunction with Press release, and follow through with others, to local feeds.
- (On-line) attendance of Planning Committee Meeting 28 May 2026.
- Reporting back to the Strathnairn Community (via Website & SSG FB)

General Works & Support

- (Development of) Strathnairn Local Place Plan
- Community Council Meetings x 2 (20 April & 18 May 2026)

- Community Liaison / Monthly attendance at the Community Cafe x 2.
 - (Joint) Maintenance of website, reporting back, news feeds etc.
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2 > BI-MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUN-JULY 26

01 | Farr Windfarm Extension / Nadara | ECU00006418

- Attendance/participation in Community Liaison Session.
- Attendance of Community Exhibition & liaison with Development Team.
- Assessment of (Scoping) ECU Planning Documents.
- Submission of Community Representation to ECU as Scoping Opinion.
- Reporting back to Strathnairn Community via SNCC website.

02 | Glenmarkie Windfarm / Vattenfall | ECU00006252

- Attendance/participation in Community Liaison Session.
- Assessment of proposal, and impact to Community, in light of meeting.
- Report back to Strathnairn Community via SNCC website.

03 | Loch Na Cathrach/Red John Pumped PSH / Statkraft | ECU00000728

- Notice to Community about forthcoming Consultation.
- Discussions, debates, assessment of impact and local updates around release of OFGEM Cap & Flow Phase 1 Consents (with a range of internal and external bodies).
- Consideration of impact with regards to Loch Kemp PSH.
- Reporting back to Strathnairn Community via SNCC website.

04 | South Loch Ness Dark Skies / DSI UK | To support Strathnairn Dark Skies

- Publication of Strathnairn Survey Results.
- Major overhaul and update of SSG Website page, to include references to all activities undertaken by SSG and forward planning; in connection to agreed development of HC Draft Planning Policy.
- Emails & several telephone exchanges with Gerry Hamill, SSE and wider project team, to introduce the possibility of DS Observatory on SSE's Aberarder Schoolhouse site.
- Site Visit to Aberarder Wind Farm Site & Aberarder Schoolhouse (with Gerry Hamill & Eilidh Edgar); with initial record/photographic survey of buildings, outhouses & structures made (including wider site) on latter.

05 | Draft HC Planning Policy on Dark Skies | To support Strathnairn Dark Skies

- Preparation for, on-line meeting with and follow-up activities following, meeting with Marieta Valdivia Lefort / Royal Astronomical Society. (Attendance with Dr Andy McGregor).
- Preparation for, on-line meeting with and follow-up activities following, meeting with Royal Astronomical Society & emerging UK team around light-pollution and policy change. (Attendance with Dr Andy McGregor).
- Several on-line plus in person meetings and follow-up activities with Daniel Main & Joshua Lawson for Scottish Dark Skies Campaign (for connection back to HC Draft

Policy & South Loch Ness Dark Skies DSI UK). (Attendance with Andy McGregor & Highland Astronomical Society).

- Attendance of Gael Hillyard's Continuum Exhibition opening (at Wasps) to network as SSG (10 July 2026). (Attendance with Dr Andy McGregor).
 - Preparation for and presentation of South Loch Ness Dark Skies & relationship to HC Draft Planning Policy Seminar as part of Seminar Night for Continuum Exhibition (at Wasps) to increase outreach & engagement. (16 July 2026). (Attendance with Dr Andy McGregor, HAS & SDS).
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General Works & Support

- Carbon Criton Centre (1 day course/no charge/supported by NatureScot) on 'Principles of Peatland Restoration' (08 July 2026).
 - Community Council Meetings x 1 (15 June 2026)
 - Community Liaison / Monthly attendance at the Community Cafe x 2.
 - (Joint) Maintenance of website, reporting back, news feeds etc.
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3 > BI-MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUG-SEP 26

01 | SSE Aberarder Windfarm | Temporary Construction Compound | 26/01739/FUL & Temporary Material Laydown Area & Helispot 26/02433/FUL

- Notice to the Community about 2 applications.
- Assessment of Planning Documents.
- Preparation and submission of Community Representation to 2 applications via HC Planning Department.
- Wider notification to HC Community Councillors and neighbouring CCs to flag up issues with increased traffic on B851.
- Reporting back to Strathnairn Community via SNCC website.

02 | SSE Spital-Beaully & Beaully-Peterhead Transmission Lines & Local Network Connections

- Liaison with and update to local Councillors ahead of National Planning Enquiry.
- Meeting with the SEN Community Engagement Team (Kirsty MacNamara & Ryan Bell) at Community Cafe (12 Aug 26), re: Aberarder Network Connection & wider details surrounding this.

03 | Carn Na Soabhaidh Windfarm | ECU00005191

- Mapping of WFs - including Carn Na Soabhaidh - as part of updated area mapping, for all major infrastructure works with Strathnairn as host or impacted community.
- (Jointly) Organised & hosted 'Project Information Day' with release of LPP to update Community (with SNCC's Beth Rose).
- Notice to Community about forthcoming Consultation & Exhibition.

- Assessment of detail of proposal ahead of and at the Community Exhibition.
- Community liaison with the Development Team.
- (Will) report back to Strathnairn Community via SNCC website.

04 | South Loch Ness Dark Skies | To support Strathnairn Dark Skies

- Setting up & organisation of 2 local back to back community engagement events.
- Meetings and exchanges with RSPB to gain out-of-hours access to Loch Ruthven, support for South Loch Ness Dark Skies, plus secure presentation/update to Community on 'Nature Restoration Works' agreed for Winter 26 (in line with DS & LPP)
- Coordinating/running Solar Eclipse Community Engagement Event 1 @ Stac Gorm / Loch Ruthven (16 Aug 26)
- Coordinating/running Perseids Meteor Shower Engagement Event 2 @ Farr Community Hall Pitches (17 Aug 26).
- Reporting back to Strathnairn Community via SNCC website & SSG FB.
- (Jointly) Planned forthcoming events program for Autumn/Winter 26/27.
- Agreed terms & set-up arrangements for Stratherrick & Foyers Sky Brightness Surveys & forthcoming event with Stephen MacIntosh (along with Andy MacGregor).

05 | Draft HC Planning Policy on Dark Skies | To support Strathnairn Dark Skies

- Circulated HC Draft Planning Policy for wider consultation and comment.
- Preparation of Community Feedback on this.
- Organising and supplying images for inclusion in this.
- Actively seeking HC's support for local DSI application, on the back of this.
- Agreed details of participation in 2 further events (in 2027) in connection with Gael Hillyard's Continuum Exhibition and related events (to increase outreach and engagement on the above).

General Works & Support

- Preparation & submission of Community Representation over Highland WF.
- Community Council Meetings x 2 (17 Aug & 21 Sep 2026)
- Community Liaison / Monthly attendance at the Community Cafe (or equivalent) x 2
- (Joint) Maintenance of website, reporting back, news feeds etc.