Key Themes from Community Feedback

Since announcing its proposal to develop Kinlochbervie Renewable Energy Project in the autumn of 2024, Galileo Empower UK Limited has received wide-ranging feedback from the local community. Below is a summary of the key themes, questions and issues that have been raised through the Kinlochbervie Community Council survey, along with our responses to them. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss these in further detail at the discussion on 28th October.

Themes/Issues/Questions	Galileo Empower summary response
EIA – Potential Visual impact	A chartered landscape architect has been involved in designing a scheme sympathetic to the local area which considers proximity to homes and the wider visual impact. Potential impacts will be assessed and presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Based on the current layout, consisting of 15 turbine, all residential properties are located approx. 1km from the nearest turbine. The Project will be considered by the Highland Council and NatureScot for impact to the landscape.
Other - Community-led scheme as an alternative to proposed Project	The Project would not preclude community developments and could assist in their implementation. Compared with community-led schemes, commercial projects of the scale proposed offer: • Greater economy of scale • More efficient grid integration • Lower per-unit development costs • Substantial, long-term community investment • Access to robust data, technical expertise, and proven delivery capacity As part of our community benefits package, we are offering the opportunity of a 10% share in the project for the community. This provides the community with an opportunity to be part of a renewable energy project where the risk of development has been removed. Although, as like any investment, all risk cannot be entirely removed, Galileo are committed to working with the community to find a mechanism which works best and removes as much risk as possible for both parties.
Operation - What infrastructure will be needed for grid connection?	Grid upgrade works will be subject to a separate application submitted by SSEN Transmissions. The Project has a grid connection offer of October 2032, connecting at Cassley Substation.
Construction / Operation - Potential impact on peatland	Our commitment to peatland protection is integral to the Project's sustainability goals, and we will continuously seek ways to improve habitat restoration and enhanced biodiversity. Detailed peat data will be used to inform any alterations to the site design and ensure impacts to peatland habitats are minimised. Where avoidance of peatland habitat is not possible, alternative construction methods such as "floating" will be considered. For any unavoidable peat excavations, good practice measures will be followed to ensure that the volume excavated is kept to a minimum and the integrity of excavated peat is maintained during reuse, reinstatement or temporary storage.
Construction / Operation - Potential impact on habitat	Ornithological survey work at the site has been completed over three consecutive breeding seasons and two winters, with a third winter survey underway. The data of which will be fed into the collision risk model, undertaken in line with NatureScot guidance, which will be used to inform the final layout. Habitat management proposals will include measures to benefit the bird community present, such as peatland and lochan restoration.
Operation - Overall environmental benefit	The EIA will include a carbon calculation which provides an estimate of the Greenhouse Gas emissions associated with the manufacture, construction and decommissioning of the Project. The calculator will

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	also show the contribution towards Greenhouse Gas emission savings. Once manufacture, construction and decommissioning emissions are offset by the wind farm, all wind-generated electricity would displace conventionally generated electricity.
EIA - What ecological and ornithological surveys have been conducted?	So far, the following surveys have been undertaken to inform environmental baseline: • Terrestrial habitat and vegetation survey (a Phase 1 Habitat Survey) • Terrestrial mammal survey (protected species) • Bat survey (still ongoing) • Phase 1 Peat Survey • Vantage point survey • Upland wader survey • Breeding raptor survey • Breeding diver survey
EIA - Will biodiversity be enhanced locally as part of the Project?	As part of our application, we will submit a biodiversity enhancement plan which will outline a number of enhancement measures onsite.
Community - Effectiveness of consultation process	We are committed to engaging as openly, honestly and transparently as possible with the community and we welcome feedback on how we might reach more people within the local area. While there is no statutory pre-application consultation procedures for section 36 applications, we are committed to adhering to industry best practice as set out by the Highland Council and Scottish Government. Feedback will be summarised Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) submitted alongside the EIA. To date, our engagement with the local community has included: • Public exhibitions on 24th and 25th March (Kinlochbervie and Durness) • Attending five community council meetings (Kinlochbervie, Durness, and Scourie) • Taking part in five private meetings, requested by members of the community • Producing and distributing two community newsletters • Attendance at the Durness Highland Games • Engagement with elected local stakeholders

EIA - Details of final proposals	The layout of the Project will not be finalised until on-site surveys are complete and consultation responses are considered. Survey findings will be presented and assessed within the EIA, which is due to be submitted in early 2026. A full Landscape and Visual Report which will assess a total of 16 viewpoints will be included within the EIA Report in accordance with NatureScot and Highland Council guidelines.
Community - Effectiveness of communication	We have endeavoured to demonstrate our genuine commitment to openness, transparency and honesty from the outset of the Project.
EIA - Publication of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Once submitted, the EIA and associated documents will be publicly available on the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) website and our dedicated project website. Hard copies will also be made publicly available for the local community.
Other - External investments / Local community	While this is a commercial venture, the local community will directly benefit through the community wealth fund, shared ownership opportunity and investment into the local supply chain.
Community - Community benefits	A community wealth fund of £5,000 per Megawatt (MW) of installed wind capacity is proposed. If a 108MW scheme is achieved, this would equate to £540,000 per year for the lifetime of the development. We also aim to collaborate with residents to design an innovative approach to community investment. We are also offering the opportunity for community shared ownership of up to 10% to the local community.
Community - Reduced energy discount scheme	We are proposing that a portion of the community wealth fund would be allocated to directly discounting energy bills for properties closest to the Project.
Community - Local shared ownership	If there is an interest from the community, detailed discussions will be required to find the best mechanism for shared ownership which reduces risk for both parties.
Construction phase - traffic management	Potential impacts of construction traffic will be carefully managed through the preparation of a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) developed in consultation with Transport Scotland, The Highland Council and the emergency services. The CTMP will include detailed measures for the safe, efficient movement of abnormal loads, construction vehicles, and staff traffic, while minimising disruption to local road users and communities.
Construction phase – transporting turbines / components	A detailed transport assessment covering delivery routes and logistics will be prepared as part of the EIA. This will include the identification of key ports, such as Kinlochbervie, as strategic access points.
Construction phase - communication	We will work closely with local emergency service providers in advance of any major deliveries and publish regular public updates to ensure day-to-day life continues with minimal impact.
Construction Phase - What is the expected construction timeline?	It is expected that construction will take 18 to 24 months to complete.

Construction phase - Accommodation	The project has a local contractors' portal enabling local businesses to offer accommodation to the workforce. There will be a pre-construction conversation with the local community to discuss the best options for potential temporary accommodation if required.
Operation - Tourism	There is no clear evidence that supports a correlation between wind farms and a consistent negative effect on tourism.
Construction / Operation - Creation of long-term local jobs or apprenticeships	We are committed to ensuring that, where possible, local workers and contractors are used in the development of the project. Skilled workers will be required for the lifetime of the project and we are committed to looking at apprenticeship and upskilling opportunities.
Community - Distribution of community benefits	Funds will be distributed by a registered body established to administer community benefits. It will be the responsibility of this body, in collaboration with the community, to ensure benefits are distributed fairly.
EIA -Battery storage safety measures	The EIA will set out a comprehensive approach to fire safety management, emphasising key elements such as design, suppression, containment and extinguishing.
EIA -Will there be air quality impacts?	There are no significant effects anticipated and therefore this is not required to be considered as part of the EIA.
Decommissioning - How will the project be decommissioned?	A Decommissioning Plan will be agreed with the Highland Council and will be in line with good practice at the time. The project owner has the financial responsibility to decommission the site and remove all infrastructure.
Decommissioning - Are turbines and associated materials recyclable	Around 90-96% of a turbine is made up of steel, copper, aluminium, other precious metals and plastics which are all easily recyclable materials.
Other - Do you have any other proposals nearby or for an extension?	Galileo Empower UK have no further plans for development in the area.
EIA -Scottish Government Role	The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) manages applications for energy developments exceeding 50 Megawatts (MW).
Other - How does this Proposed Development align with Scotland's overall energy needs?	The Proposed Development supports Scotland's transition to clean, renewable energy by contributing to the country's overall electricity demand and helping meet national targets for decarbonisation.

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