

Loch Kemp Storage - EIA Report

*Appendix 5.6: Pre-application Consultation (PAC)
Report*

November 2023

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**Loch Kemp
Storage**

A STATERA COMPANY



LOCH KEMP STORAGE – PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

November 2023



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1 INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the pre-application consultation activity undertaken to support the section 36 application for Loch Kemp storage.

The proposed scheme is to build and operate a new pumped storage scheme with an installed capacity of up to 600 MW, and a generation energy storage capacity of up to almost 9 Gigawatt Hours (GWh), utilising the existing Loch Kemp as the upper storage reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir. To allow drawdown for storage, Loch Kemp would be raised by approximately 28m. Four new saddle dams and four minor cut off dams would be constructed around Loch Kemp to form the upper reservoir.

The purpose of the consultation activity outlined in this report was to use local knowledge from the community to help shape the plans for the project and identify any issues of concern around the construction and operation of the proposed scheme in sufficient time to address them at an early stage.

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report sets out who was consulted, when and where they were consulted; and how they were consulted.

The main consultation took place in two tranches. The first phase introduced the Proposed Development and the second phase allowed the local community to see the project in a more advanced form. Both occasions allowed the public and community representatives to provide feedback on the project.

The consultation programme was agreed with The Highland Council (THC).

This Pre-Application Consultation Report has been prepared by Statera Energy (UK) Limited (SEL) (“the Developer”) with the support of JMC Communications Scotland Ltd on behalf of Loch Kemp Storage Ltd. (the Applicant). JMC Communications Scotland Ltd is a Highland based company experienced in managing pre-application consultations.

2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ROUND 1 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

2.1 Public Exhibitions

Three public exhibitions took place in the local area to facilitate attendance from the local community in those areas where there was the potential for any impact. The events were held in local halls used frequently by the local community and all were accessible for those with mobility issues. Care was taken in the timing of the exhibitions to allow a wide demographic to be able to attend, including those with young children and elderly people who may be less willing to visit an exhibition in the evening.

A virtual public exhibition event, hosted via the project website (www.lochkempstorage.co.uk), was also held on Wednesday 8th December 2021, between 12pm – 2pm, and between 6pm - 8pm. (no one attended the online event).

The exhibition was allowed to take place within COVID guidance and all the proper procedures were followed around mask wearing, ventilation and sanitisation and, in addition, care was taken to ensure those attending were comfortable with the arrangements we had in place.

The public exhibitions took place on the dates and locations specified at the locations outlined below. All exhibitions were open from 1pm to 7.30pm.

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, IV63 7YA

Tuesday 30th November

Fort Augustus Village Hall, PH32 4DG

Wednesday 1st December

The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge IV2 6YP

Thursday 2nd December

2.2 Elected Representatives

Letters were sent by email to the two main community councils identified by the council as consultees, alerting them to the exhibitions and seeking the opportunity to discuss the project at a future meeting:

- Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council; and
- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council.

In addition, letters were sent to Dores and Essich Community Council, Strathdearn Community Council and Strathnairn Community Council highlighting the exhibitions and inviting them to contact the Applicant if they had any concerns.

Letters were sent to the four Councillors representing the Aird and Loch Ness Ward of Highland Council – Councillor Helen Carmichael, Councillor Margaret Davidson, Councillor David Fraser and Councillor Emma Knox. Councillor Fraser attended the exhibition at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council gave a response to the request for scoping opinion in February 2022 highlighting their concerns.

Representatives from the Applicant attended a meeting of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council to outline details of the scheme and address issues raised in their scoping response letter. This took place online, over Zoom, on 26th April 2022.

Contact was made with Kate Forbes MSP, the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch and a meeting was held between Ms Forbes and a representative from the Applicant.

2.3 Publicity

The exhibitions were advertised locally in a number of ways:

- Leaflets were distributed door to door to addresses within approximately 10km radius of the site (419 households) on 11th November 2021;
- Posters were displayed at the Public Exhibition venues and community notice boards;
- Adverts were placed in the public notice section of the Inverness Courier on the 12th and 19th November 2021;
- A news release was sent to the Inverness Courier and the Press and Journal and articles were published in both newspapers on Friday 12th November 2021. There were further articles following the exhibitions in both newspapers in early December; and
- A project website was created www.lochkempstorage.co.uk where details of the consultation were regularly updated.

2.4 General Feedback

Attendees at the exhibition were asked to register and complete a feedback questionnaire once they had viewed the exhibition. Most attendees chose to do so.

Approximately 70 people attended the public exhibitions over the 3 days with the majority of people choosing to come to the Wildside Centre in Whitebridge.

In addition to seeking specific feedback on issues and concerns, attendees were also asked to indicate their level of support or opposition to the project. The outcome, from the completed forms, was:

- Supportive: 24,
- Neutral/too soon to say: 2; and
- Opposed: 3.

The three who were opposed gave no feedback on the form as to the reason for their opposition.

Everybody who completed the feedback form indicated they were happy with the quality and content of the information provided at the exhibition, although some indicated they looked forward to hearing more about the project in the future.

There was a great deal of support expressed for the creation of more pumped storage hydro schemes in general and, in particular, the use of the natural topography on this scheme.

2.5 Specific Issues

Outlined below are the specific issues raised during the exhibitions, either in the feedback forms or in speaking directly to attendees, as well as the issues raised by Stratherrick and Foyers community Council. The issue is highlighted below, together with what action, if any has been taken to address the issue.

Issue	Response
<p>2.5.1</p> <p>Creation of new trails for walkers, potential access on to Loch Ness</p>	<p>2.5.2</p> <p>An assessment on the potential impacts on Recreation is included in Volume 1, Chapter 9: Land Use and Recreation of the EIA Report. Volume 4, Appendix 9.1: Outline Outdoor Access Management Plan (OAMP) considers public access to the Proposed Development Site, during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>During construction, access restrictions would be place to the area due to Health and Safety reasons (this will be controlled and managed by the appointed Principal Contractor). Where practical, the Applicant would work with the Contractor to try and phase the works in the construction period to make some areas available for local walks.</p> <p>Post construction access to the area around Loch Kemp would be as existing i.e., under the principles of the Land Reform Act 2003 “freedom to roam.”</p> <p>Following consultation between the Applicant and NatureScot, the Proposed Development would not promote / provide public access between the Loch Kemp area and Loch Ness due to the environmental designations and sensitivities of this area, particularly the Ness Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation which is afforded protection at a European level under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (the Habitats Regulations).</p> <p>Therefore, any public access to the constructed powerhouse area (including visitor centre)/Loch Ness would not be encouraged on foot and will only be promoted by the Applicant by boat.</p>
<p>2.5.3</p> <p>Potential for visitor centre</p>	<p>2.5.4</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to the provision of a visitor centre as part of the project. The exact details of the facility will be developed through the detailed design phase of the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>2.5.5</p> <p>Concern over wildlife impacts</p>	<p>2.5.6</p> <p>Potential effects on wildlife are detailed in various sections of the EIA Report and outline Habitat Management Plan, as well as the standalone Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessments (HRA) and Compensatory Measures Package for the Ness</p>

	<p>Woods SAC. Chapter 11: Ornithology of the EIA Report includes an assessment of potential impacts on Golden Eagle, as raised by Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council although for legal reasons, parts of the assessment will not be publicly available as it contains confidential information relating to golden eagle nesting locations.</p>
<p>2.5.7 Concern over impact on the Ness Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</p>	<p>2.5.8 Potential impacts on the Ness Woods SAC are assessed in Chapter 10: Terrestrial Ecology of the EIA Report and the standalone HRA Report, which also detail of survey monitoring and mitigation measures proposed. As impacts on the two woodland qualifying features of the Ness Woods SAC will be unavoidable, a Compensatory Measures Package has also been developed for this designated site in consultation with NatureScot and is included in the standalone Derogation Report.</p> <p>Chapter 2: Design Evolution and Alternatives of the EIA Report describes how the Proposed Development has been designed to minimise impacts on the Ness Woods SAC.</p>
<p>2.5.9 Possibility of a tree planting scheme</p>	<p>2.5.10 Compensatory planting will be undertaken in line with the Scottish Governments Control of Woodland Repeal Policy (2009)¹ to replace the trees that are felled as a result of the Proposed Development. This compensatory planting is detailed in Chapter 19: Forestry of the EIA Report.</p>
<p>2.5.11 Concern over impact on water quality as Invermoriston and Fort Augustus now use Loch Ness for drinking water</p>	<p>2.5.12 Potential impacts on water quality is assessed in Chapter 14: Geology, Soils and Water of the EIA Report. Scottish Water are a required consultee on the project proposals as part of the S36 Application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit and previously provided a Scoping Opinion for the Proposed Development which has been considered in the assessment.</p> <p>The Applicant will take all necessary steps to ensure the works do not impact on drinking water quality. Scottish Water will continue to monitor</p>

¹ Forestry Commission Scotland (2009). *The Scottish Government's Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal*. Available at: <https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/285-the-scottish-government-s-policy-on-control-of-woodland-removal>. [Last accessed: 31 October 2023]

	<p>water quality prior to distribution during construction as they do at present, in accordance with regulatory requirements.</p>
<p>2.5.13 Traffic management, concerns over increase in traffic</p>	<p>2.5.14</p> <p>The Applicant is aware this area has been at the centre of a number of construction projects in recent years and there are several more currently in the planning process. The design of this particular scheme minimises the amount of material having to be taken off-site, as it will be reused in the creation of the dams. By using the natural topography there is less requirement for large scale dams than many pumped storage hydro schemes.</p> <p>The appointed Contractor would be asked to work with others in the area to minimise impact. A detailed Transport Assessment is contained within the EIA Report (see Volume 1, Chapter 16: Traffic, Access and Transport and Volume 4, Appendix 16.1: Transport Assessment), which outlines the proposed construction and operational traffic associated with the Proposed Development and any mitigation measures required.</p> <p>A Traffic Management Plan and a Canal Management Plan would be developed in due course by the Applicant and appointed Principal Contractor in consultation with the relevant Road Authorities and Scottish Canals. These documents are outlined in Volume 4, Appendix 16.1: Transport Assessment.</p>
<p>2.5.15 Concern over workers on site not using designated traffic routes</p>	<p>2.5.16</p> <p>The Traffic Management Plan that would be developed in due course by the Applicant and appointed Principal Contractor in consultation with the relevant Road Authorities, would identify designated routes to site. The final plan will require to be adopted and implemented by all contractors to ensure compliance.</p>
<p>2.5.17 Concern about impact of traffic on the roads to the north of the site, particularly through the Dores and Essich Community Council area.</p>	<p>2.5.18</p> <p>The proposed route for HGV traffic would avoid the villages of Dores and Essich, as described in Volume 1, Chapter 16: Traffic, Access and Transport and Volume 2, Figure 16.4: Construction Vehicle Delivery Routes of the EIA Report. A Traffic Management Plan would be produced in due course by the Applicant and appointed Principal Contractor in consultation with the relevant Road Authorities. Stratherrick and Foyers, Dores and</p>

	Essich Community Councils will be consulted as part of the development of the Traffic Management Plan.
2.5.19 Possible extension to the mains water supply to nearby property	2.5.20 This will be investigated as a public water supply will be needed for the work camp, however Scottish Water may not permit any supply of 3rd parties from our connection.
2.5.21 Concern about proximity of the site and the camp to individual properties	2.5.22 The Workers Camp would be located within the Estate more than 1km away from the nearest known properties. The workers camp onsite would contain facilities such as a canteen, gym, cinema and other communal areas for the workers to use. Workers would be strongly discouraged from using facilities in Whitebridge or any other local villages. Workers would also be transported to site by bus / transporters and would not take their own vehicles to site, which will make it difficult for workers to leave the site. A robust management plan would be implemented by the appointed Principal Contractor to manage and control the workers within the camp. This will include monitoring noise, waste and security within the boundary and the surrounding boundary of the camp. A manned security compound / kiosk would be in operation at the site entrance during the construction phase. The Applicant is committed to setting up a community liaison group during construction so locals can raise any issues or concerns.
2.5.23 Desire to see a contribution made towards restoring the old Wade bridge at Whitebridge dating back to 1738	2.5.24 The old Wade bridge would not be used as part of the Proposed Development for any pedestrian movements or traffic movements. During the construction and the operational phase of the project, the Applicant hopes to be able to offer discretionary support to local community projects.

3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ROUND 2 DECEMBER 2022

3.1 Exhibitions

A second round of public exhibitions took place in December 2022. The same venues were used for the exhibitions which were held between 1pm and 7.30pm, as follows:

- Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, IV63 7HA, Tuesday 6 December
- The Wildside Centre, IV2 6YP, Wednesday 7 December
- Fort Augustus Village Hall, PH23 4DG, Thursday 8 December

3.2 Elected Representatives

Letters were sent to the following community councils, inviting them to attend the exhibition.

- Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council;
- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council;
- Dores and Essich Community Council;
- Strathdearn Community Council; and
- Strathnairn Community Council.

Following discussions, a special viewing of the exhibition for Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council members was arranged (a number of whom attended on December 7th at the Wildside Centre).

Following the public exhibitions, a further meeting was arranged with Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council on 28th March 2023. The Applicant representatives attended the meeting via Zoom.

The issues raised and the responses to them are listed below in Section 3.5.

There had been a change in local council representation following the council elections in 2022 and the following four local ward councillors of the Aird and Loch Ness Ward were invited – Councillor Chris Ballance, Councillor Helen Crawford, Councillor David Fraser and Councillor Emma Knox. They were all contacted and invited, but did not attend. Councillor Fraser and Councillor Ballance responded to the invites and raised a number of issues, at that time and subsequently which have been addressed.

3.3 Publicity

The second round of exhibitions were advertised locally in the following ways:

- The Inverness Chamber of Commerce advertised the event to its members w/c 5th December;
- Leaflets were delivered door to door during week beginning 21st November to 423 households within approximately 10km of the Site;
- Posters were displayed at the Public Exhibition venues and community noticeboards;

- Adverts were placed in the public notice section of the Inverness Courier on the 18th November and 5th December;
- News releases were sent to the Inverness Courier and Press and Journal and articles were published in the Press and Journal on Thursday 1st December and the Inverness Courier on Friday 2nd December; and
- The project website was updated with the latest notices and plans (www.lochkempstorage.co.uk).

A video was created outlining the Proposed Development which was shown at the exhibitions and placed on the project website and links provided with the news releases to the local papers.

3.4 General Feedback

Approximately 50 people attended across the 3 days, with the majority of people choosing to attend the Wildside Centre. Attendance was lower than in the previous exhibition. Both Glenmoriston and Fort Augustus had very low attendances. All attendees were invited to register on arrival and complete a feedback form. The feedback forms received indicated:

- Very Supportive: 11;
- Somewhat supportive: 1;
- Opposed: 0; and
- Did not say: 1.

Further feedback from the feedback forms and discussions with attendees direct are outlined in Section 3.5 – Specific Issues (where these have not already been covered in the previous responses).

3.5 Specific Issues

Listed below are the specific issues, not previously covered.

The Applicant will establish a local community liaison group during the construction of the Proposed Development and they will be consulted regularly on a range of issues, including many of those raised during the consultation period, as outlined in this report.

Where there is mention in this section of ongoing consultation with stakeholders, these would take place with interested parties, but also be raised at the community liaison group.

Issue	Response
<p>3.5.1 Potential for visitor centre/liaison with canal operators</p>	<p>3.5.2 Contact had been made with one cruise operator to date. As the proposal for the visitor centre develops with the Proposed Development design, further detailed consultation will be held with key stakeholders.</p>
<p>3.5.3 Concern a visitor centre would impact negatively on local businesses</p>	<p>3.5.4 As part of the Proposed Development, consultation would be held with key stakeholders in conjunction with the</p>

	considerations of the social and economic impacts and benefits of the visitor centre.
3.5.5 Visitor Centre signs in Gaelic	3.5.6 The Applicant recognises the importance of Gaelic and Gaelic Heritage locally and nationally in Scotland and will accommodate Gaelic on signage where practical.
3.5.7 Hydrogen powered boats for tunnel spoil removal	3.5.8 The removal of tunnel spoil is anticipated to be via access tracks within the project development area rather than by boat. The use of a boat to move this spoil would require tunnel spoil to be transported via the public road network to return to the development site to re-use the material in the identified material re-use areas in the Loch Kemp area. There would also be significant challenges with the use, supply & storage of hydrogen.
3.5.9 Concern about access to the area and to Loch Kemp for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and wild swimmers.	3.5.10 An assessment on the potential impacts on Recreation is included in Volume 1, Chapter 9: Land Use and Recreation of the EIA Report. Volume 4, Appendix 9.1: Outline Outdoor Access Management Plan (OAMP) considers public access to the Proposed Development Site, during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. During construction, access restrictions to all public users will be place to the area due to Health and Safety reasons (this will be controlled and managed by the appointed Principal Contractor). Where practical, the Applicant will work with the Contractor to try and phase the works in the construction period to make some areas available for local walks. Post construction access to the area around Loch Kemp would be as existing i.e., under the principles of the Land Reform Act 2003 “freedom to roam” however for safety reasons swimming would not be permitted in Loch Kemp, but could continue on other lochs / lochans on Dell Estate.
3.5.11 Cost comparison between different energy sources	3.5.12 A cost comparison between different energy sources is difficult as they are often serving different functions. Pump storage hydro is a

	<p>long duration energy storage technology which facilitates greater use of zero carbon renewables, reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Pumped Storage Hydro also increases energy security.</p>
<p>3.5.13 Looking for more information about the underground cable towards/around Foyers, keen to see it all underground</p>	<p>3.5.14 Within the development area, the electrical cable between the powerhouse building and the proposed switching station would be undergrounded by the Applicant. The connection/cable route from the switching station at the Proposed Development site to the existing grid network at Foyers is to be designed and constructed by the local Distribution Network Operator (SSEN). The decision to underground or overground the cable and the cable route alignment rests with them. However, the Applicant has requested a buried connection and understands the current proposal is for the entire cable to be undergrounded between the switching station and the connection point at Foyers.</p>
<p>3.5.15 Power Station – issues about its size, colour and how much of it can be buried underground</p>	<p>3.5.16 The only large-scale above surface structures consist of the powerhouse and dams. The waterways, intakes and electrical transmission cabling within the site would be kept underground. An assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts of the above ground infrastructure of the Proposed Development has been assessed within Volume 1, Chapter 8 of the EIA Report. This includes details of landscaping works that would be implemented at the powerhouse building and Dam 1 to minimise potential impacts on visual amenity. Details on the proposed design of the powerhouse building are detailed in Volume 4, Appendix 3.1: Design and Sustainability Statement.</p>
<p>3.5.17 Impact on wildlife and ecology, particularly impact on golden eagle</p>	<p>3.5.18 Potential effects on wildlife are detailed in various sections of the EIA Report as well as the standalone Shadow Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Report in relation to designated sites. The EIA Report also provides details of survey monitoring and proposed</p>

	<p>compensatory measures. Chapter 11: Ornithology of the EIA Report includes an assessment of potential impacts on Golden Eagle, although for legal reasons, parts of the assessment will not be publicly available as it contains confidential information relating to golden eagle nesting locations.</p>
<p>3.5.19 Need to use local labour, not like Glendoe</p>	<p>3.5.20 Local labour will be used during construction however there would be a need to supplement the local workforce during construction due to the scale of the Proposed Development and the skillsets required. The Proposed Development would also provide a number of permanent jobs during the operational life of the Proposed Development once constructed.</p>
<p>3.5.21 Camp for workers is bigger than expected and closer to the village</p>	<p>3.5.22 The Workers Camp is sized proportionally to the predicted workforce during construction and is located away from areas of high amenity.</p> <p>The Workers Camp would be located within the Estate more than 1km away from the nearest known properties. The workers camp onsite would contain facilities such as a canteen, gym, cinema and other communal areas for the workers to use. Workers would be strongly discouraged from using facilities in Whitebridge or any other local villages. Workers would also be transported to site by bus / transporters and would not take their own vehicles to site, which will make it difficult for workers to leave the site. A robust management plan would be implemented by the appointed Principal Contractor to manage and control the workers within the camp. This will include monitoring noise, waste and security within the boundary and the surrounding boundary of the camp. A manned security compound / kiosk would be in operation at the site entrance during the construction phase.</p>

APPENDICES

Appendix A - Round 1 Exhibitions 2021

- Sample letter to The Highland Council ward councillors
- Sample letter to local community councils
- Sample letter to wider area community councils
- Leaflet
- Poster
- Advert Inverness Courier 12th November
- Advert Inverness Courier 19th November
- News article Press and Journal 17th November
- News article Inverness Courier 16th November
- News articles Inverness Courier and Press & Journal 30th November

Appendix B - Round 2 Exhibitions 2022

- Sample letter to The Highland Council ward councillors
- Sample letter to local community councils
- Sample letter to wider area community councils
- Leaflet/Poster
- Advert Inverness Courier 18th November
- Advert Inverness Courier 5th December
- News article Press & Journal 1st December
- News article Inverness Courier 2nd December

Appendix A - Round 1 Exhibitions 2021



Dear Councillor Carmichael (*same sent to Cllrs Davidson, Fraser and Knox*)

5th November 2021

We write to introduce Loch Kemp Storage Ltd and outline details of a pumped storage hydro scheme we hope to develop in your ward.

The 300MW scheme, near Whitebridge on the south side of Loch Ness would use Loch Kemp as the upper reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir. This offers a number of advantages by:

- reducing the need for large dams;
- minimising the importation of materials on to site;
- potentially helping manage water levels in Loch Ness; and
- not necessarily being reliant on government subsidy.

The combination of high mountains, large inland lochs and significant rainfall make the Highlands an ideal location for pumped storage which offers flexibility to the grid. Pumped storage schemes are a valuable addition to the country's energy mix as they help stabilise the grid and make energy supplies more secure.

The nature of this particular site helps reduce visual impact as it uses the existing assets within the landscape.

A number of public exhibitions are planned to provide more detail for local communities and we hope to welcome you along to one of these events which are listed below.

Loch Kemp Storage is a subsidiary of Statera Energy which was established in 2015 to own and operate infrastructure that assists in our transition to a low carbon economy.

We would very much like the opportunity to meet you at a convenient time. We are working with a locally based company JMC Communications and one of their Directors, Jane Cumming, would be happy to discuss times for a meeting or answer any questions you might have at this stage. She can be contacted on 07900 917142 or 01463 783018 or at jane@jmccomms.co.uk or you can contact us via contact@stateraenergy.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Troup

Public Exhibitions

The public exhibitions will be open to the public between 1pm and 7.30pm in the following locations:

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, IV63 7YA on Tuesday 30th November

Fort Augustus Village Hall, PH32 4DG on Wednesday 1st December

The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge IV2 6YP on Thursday 2nd December



To The Secretary,

5th November 2021

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council (*same sent to Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston CC*)

We write to introduce Loch Kemp Storage Ltd and outline details of a pumped storage hydro scheme we hope to develop near Whitebridge.

The 300MW scheme would use Loch Kemp as the upper reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir. This offers a number of advantages by:

- reducing the need for large dams;
- minimising the importation of materials on to site;
- potentially helping manage water levels in Loch Ness; and
- not necessarily being reliant on government subsidy.

We would be keen to meet up with the community council at your next meeting, or at any other time you thought appropriate. We would also be happy to welcome you to any of the public exhibitions we are hosting as outlined below.

The combination of high mountains, large inland lochs and significant rainfall make the Highlands an ideal location for pumped storage which delivers flexibility to the grid. Pumped storage schemes are a valuable addition to the country's energy mix as they help stabilise the grid and make energy supplies more secure.

The nature of this particular site helps reduce visual impact as it uses the existing assets within the landscape.

Loch Kemp Storage is a subsidiary of Statera Energy which was established in 2015 to own and operate infrastructure that assists in our transition to a low carbon economy.

Do please get in touch if you want any further information about the project. We are working with a locally based company JMC Communications and one of their Directors, Jane Cumming, can discuss arrangements for meetings, or answer any queries. She can be contacted on 07900 917142 or 01463 783018 or by e mail at jane@jmccomms.co.uk . Or you can e mail us direct at contact@stateraenergy.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Andrew Troup

The public exhibitions will be open to the public between 1pm and 7.30pm in the following locations:

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, IV63 7YA on Tuesday 30th November

Fort Augustus Village Hall, PH32 4DG on Wednesday 1st December

The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge IV2 6YP on Thursday 2nd December



Secretary, Dores & Essich Community Council (*similar sent to Strathdearn & Strathnairn CCs*) 5th Nov 21

We write to introduce Loch Kemp Storage Ltd and outline details of a pumped storage hydro scheme we hope to develop near Whitebridge on the south side of Loch Ness.

The 300MW scheme would use Loch Kemp as the upper reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir. This offers a number of advantages by:

- reducing the need for large dams;
- minimising the importation of materials on to site;
- potentially helping manage water levels in Loch Ness; and
- not necessarily being reliant on government subsidy.

As we are using the existing features to a great extent, we do not believe the scheme will have anything like the volume of traffic associated with other pumped storage schemes in the area, so the impact in your community council area is likely to be minimal. However, as a courtesy we would be happy to come to a future community council meeting to reassure you of the minimal impact. We would also be happy to welcome you to any of the public exhibitions we are hosting as outlined below.

The combination of high mountains, large inland lochs and significant rainfall make the Highlands an ideal location for pumped storage which delivers flexibility to the grid. Pumped storage schemes are a valuable addition to the country's energy mix as they help stabilise the grid and make energy supplies more secure.

This project will have a lower visual impact as it uses the existing assets within the landscape.

Loch Kemp Storage is a subsidiary of Statera Energy which was established in 2015 to own and operate infrastructure that assists in our transition to a low carbon economy.

Do please get in touch if you want any further information about the project. We are working with a locally based company JMC Communications and one of their Directors, Jane Cumming, can discuss arrangements for meetings, or answer any queries. She can be contacted on 07900 917142 or 01463 783018 or by e mail at jane@jmccomms.co.uk, or can contact us direct by e mail at contact@stateraenergy.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Andrew Troup

Public exhibitions

The public exhibitions will be open to the public between 1pm and 7.30pm in the following locations:

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, IV63 7YA on Tuesday 30th November

Fort Augustus Village Hall, PH32 4DG on Wednesday 1st December

The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge IV2 6YP on Thursday 2nd December

Loch Kemp Pumped Storage

We're shaping plans for a new proposed pumped storage hydro scheme, at Loch Kemp, so more people can benefit from clean energy.

We're inviting local residents to come along and find out more. These are the first exhibitions to allow us to outline the broad plan.

When and where?

Between 1pm and 7.30pm

- Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, IV63 7YA, Tuesday 30 November.
- Fort Augustus Village Hall, PH32 4DG, Wednesday 1 December.
- The Wildside Centre Whitebridge, IV2 6YP, Thursday 2 December.

We look forward to seeing you there.

www.lochkempstorage.co.uk

Learn about our plans





LOCH KEMP STORAGE



Contact us through our website:
lochkempstorage.co.uk

Project Summary:

New 300MW Hydro Pumped Storage Scheme

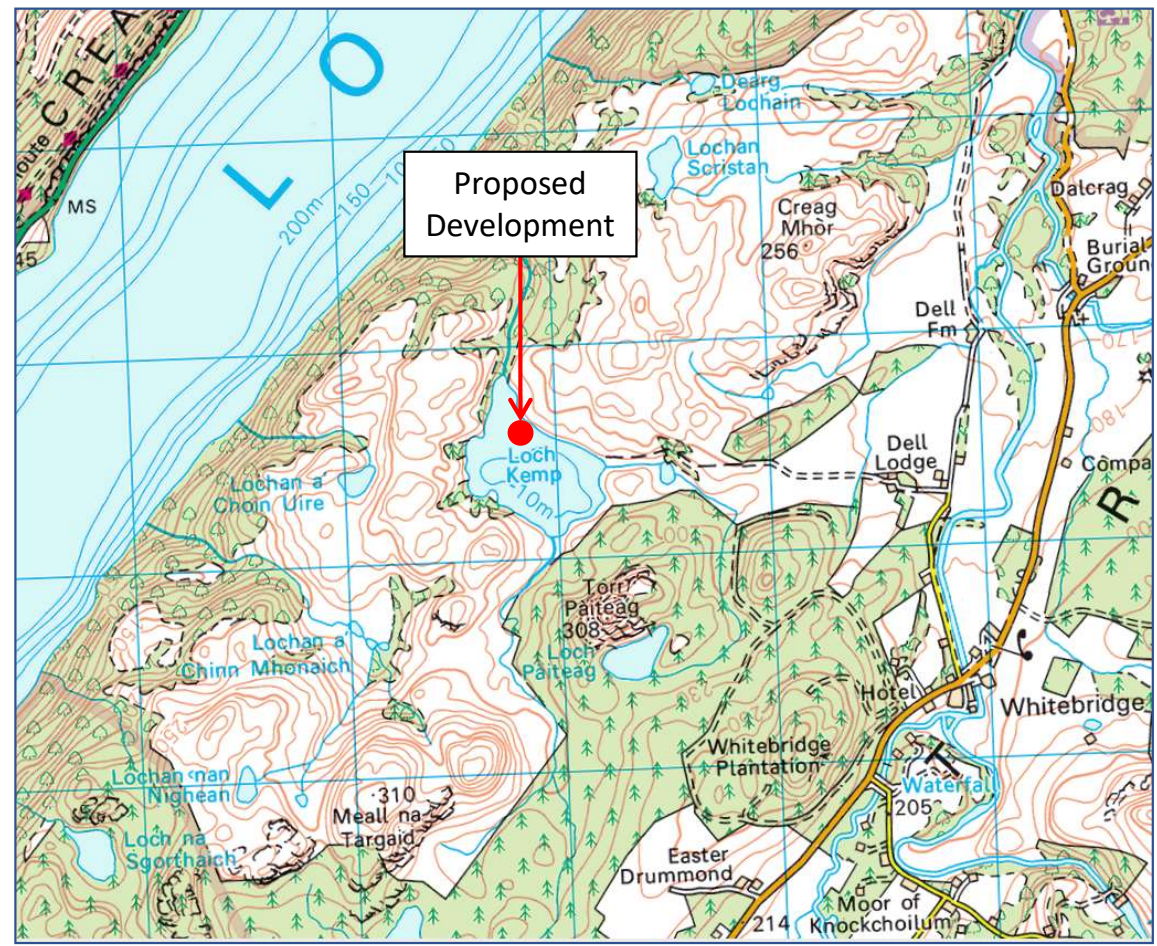
Utilise existing Loch Kemp as top reservoir

Produce enough electricity for 300,000 homes

Save 500,000 tonnes of CO2 annually ¹

Opportunity to view initial plans and meet the project team

Loch Kemp Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme Public Exhibitions



1) assumes 40% efficiency, 3,500 annual run hours and standard gas carbon intensity of 0.1835 tCO2/MWh therm

Exhibition Venues:

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, IV63 7YA
Tuesday 30 November
1pm to 7.30pm

Fort Augustus Village Hall, PH32 4DG
Wednesday 1 December
1pm to 7.30pm

Wildside Centre Whitebridge, IV2 6YP
Thursday 2 December
1pm to 7.30pm

Virtual Exhibitions:

Virtual exhibitions will be held via Zoom, on Wednesday 8 December between 12-2pm and 6-8pm. All are welcome to attend. Login details can be found on our website: lochkempstorage.co.uk For enquiries please email: contact@lochkempstorage.co.uk

public notices

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
21/04873/FUL	Caiplich Farm Abriachan Inverness, IV3 8LB	Siting of shepherd's hut
21/04988/FUL	Land W Of Beaully Sub-station Wester Balblair Beaully	Beaully Substation - Reinforcement and Extension of existing 132kV substation, including decommissioning and replacement of key equipment including provision of 3 new transformers with noise enclosures, associated platform extension and GIS building, access, landscaping and ancillary work
21/05038/FUL	Land 45M SE Of Unit 4D Leys Square Inverness	Erection of 5No. Class I retail units
21/05066/FUL	The Longhouse Crochail Forest Cannich Beaully, IV4 7NE	Erection of 11.8m high wind turbine, 15.8m long solar panel array, equipment cabin
21/05094/FUL	8 Souters View Loch Flemington Inverness, IV2 7AH	Erection of house and garage

Time period for comments is 14 days from the date of this notice
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: epanning@highland.gov.uk

Loch Kemp Pumped Storage

We're shaping plans for a new proposed pumped storage hydro scheme, at Loch Kemp, so more people can benefit from clean energy.

We're inviting local residents to come along and find out more. These are the first exhibitions to allow us to outline the broad plan.

When and where?

Between 1pm and 7.30pm

- Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, IV63 7YA, Tuesday 30 November.
- Fort Augustus Village Hall, PH32 4DG, Wednesday 1 December.
- The Wildside Centre Whitebridge, IV2 6YP, Thursday 2 December.

We look forward to seeing you there.

www.lochkempstorage.co.uk

Proposed Let of a Croft/ Part of a Croft

Mr Iain H Morrison is applying to let the tenancy of the croft at 5 Ruillick, Kilmorack to Mrs Sarah A Smith of 5 Ruillick, Beaully.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of the advert.

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THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (MISCELLANEOUS TEMPORARY MODIFICATIONS) (CORONAVIRUS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2020

APPLICATION FOR BEAULY SUBSTATION - REINFORCEMENT AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING 132KV SUBSTATION, INCLUDING DECOMMISSIONING AND REPLACEMENT OF KEY EQUIPMENT INCLUDING PROVISION OF 3 NEW TRANSFORMERS WITH NOISE ENCLOSURES, ASSOCIATED PLATFORM EXTENSION AND GIS BUILDING, ACCESS, LANDSCAPING AND ANCILLARY WORKS.

The Council has received an application from Scottish And Southern Electricity Networks on land west of Beaully Substation, Wester Balblair, Beaully. The application is development falling within the Regulations as Environmental Impact Assessment development and accordingly is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The application reference number is 21/04988/FUL

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the EIA Report discussing the proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, would normally be available for public inspection in person. In line with the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, the EIA Report is only available to view online.

The EIA Report can be accessed online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using application number 21/04988/FUL). The EIA Report and the supporting documentation can also be accessed online at <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/beaully-132kv-reinforcement-planning-application/>

Printed copies of the EIA Report can be purchased at a cost of £300 inclusive of VAT to cover production cost. A CD or USB stick copy of the EIA Report and a printed Non-Technical Summary is also available free of charge. Contact SHE Transmission at simon.hall@sse.com or in writing to SHE Transmission, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application, can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

Malcolm Macleod
Executive Chief Officer - Infrastructure and Environment

Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A9 TRUNK ROAD (BRORA) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2021

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the M9/A9 Edinburgh - Stirling - Thurso Trunk Road from its junction with Gower Street, Brora in a generally northwards direction to its junction with Academy Street, Brora, a distance of 700 metres or thereby.

The Order is required to facilitate the Brora Remembrance Service 2021 and will be in operation from 14th November until 15th November 2021. It is anticipated that the restrictions will be in place for approximately 20 minutes and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

The alternative routes for traffic during the prohibition will be signposted should they be required. Detailed descriptions can also be obtained at BEAR Scotland Limited, BEAR House, Inveralmond Road, Inveralmond Industrial Estate, Perth, PH1 3TW.

A copy of the Order and this notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org

S R LEES
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

HIGHLAND NEWS AND MEDIA ADVERTISEMENT CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

- The placing of an order whether verbal or written will be deemed as acceptance of these conditions.
- Whilst every endeavour is made to insert advertisements as ordered, guarantee or insertion cannot be given and no responsibility can be taken (a) for damage or loss of reproduction materials, (b) for shrinkage, (c) for any consequential loss or damage caused by error or inaccuracy of any advertisement or (e) for any loss or damage alleged to arise from the delay in forwarding replies to Box Numbers however caused.
- The Company reserves the right to refuse or amend any advertisement which may cause offence or which does not comply with Company policy.
- Should the rates for advertisements be altered, the price for the remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the advertisement may be cancelled for the remaining part of the order.
- All advertising rates are subject to VAT at the current rate.
- Advertisements may be altered or cancelled up to the normal advertisement order deadline.
- The Company reserves the right to revise the conditions and the rates without prior notification.
- Refunds will only be given on production of receipt.

Payment: All private advertisements must be paid for at the time of placing the order.

Advertisements costing £100 or less will not be taken without pre-payment, unless the person/company placing the order already holds an account agreement with this company.

Payment of accounts must be made within 30 days of the invoice date: failure to do so may result in credit facilities being withdrawn.

GET LOST!

FIND INSPIRATION AND ADVENTURE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS AROUND THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND

LISTEN TO THE ACTIVE OUTDOORS PODCAST

Each week **John Davidson** (writer and editor of the Active Outdoors series which features in a number of HNM newspapers), takes a look at life in the outdoors from his base in the Highlands of Scotland. Inspiration, advice and some fun as John chats to guests and sees the benefits of enjoying being **Active Outdoors**

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Loch Kemp Pumped Storage

We're shaping plans for a new proposed pumped storage hydro scheme, at Loch Kemp, so more people can benefit from clean energy.

We're inviting local residents to come along and find out more. These are the first exhibitions to allow us to outline the broad plan.

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- The Wildside Centre Whitebridge, IV2 6YP, Thursday 2 December.

We look forward to seeing you there.

www.lochkempstorage.co.uk

Learn about our plans

publicnotices

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
21/04146/FUL	The Hub Dachreichart Glenmoriston Inverness, IV63 7YJ	Installation of solar panels
21/04240/FUL	12 Stephens Brae Inverness IV2 3JN	Change of use from Class 1 (Shop) to Class 3 (Food and Drink) to form extension to adjacent Class 3 property
21/04938/FUL	Land 250M South West Of The Weir Fishing Lodge Ness Castle, Inverness	Erection of house
21/05017/FUL	St Michael's Lodge 28 Abban Street Inverness, IV3 8HH	Conversion of rectory to 2 houses
21/05018/LBC	St Michael's Lodge 28 Abban Street Inverness, IV3 8HH	Conversion of rectory to 2 houses
21/05024/FUL	Land 30M North Of Lower Clashandorran Beuly	Demolition of outbuilding and steading, erection of house and garage
21/05059/LBC	Land 35M West Of Wildside Highland Lodges Whitebridge	Repairs to infill void where the river has eroded the NW corner of the abutment
21/05093/FUL	5 Souters View Loch Flemington Inverness, IV2 7AH	Erection of house, installation of air source heat pump and erection of detached garage
21/05096/FUL	Simpsons Garden Centre Inshes Inverness, IV2 5BA	Installation of roof mounted solar panels
21/05115/PIP	Croy Primary School Croy Inverness IV2 5PG	Erection of extension, siting of 3 modular classrooms, formation of car park, access to Dalcroy Road
21/05135/FUL	Drumclog 22A Southside Road Inverness, IV2 3BG	Replacement of ground floor windows
21/05150/FUL	Land 165M NW Of Hewden Plant Hire Stadium Road Inverness	Siting of catering trailer
21/05156/FUL	Land 55M South Of 125 Balmacaan Road Drumadrochit	Formation of bellmouth and access road
21/05172/LBC	Inshes House Inshes Inverness, IV2 5BG	Refurbishment and internal alterations to Rear Cottage
21/05219/FUL	Land 420M SE Of Pettymuir Faebie Culloden Moor Inverness	Erection of a house
21/05224/FUL	Craigdon Mountain Sports 78 Academy Street Inverness, IV1 1LU	Conversion of first floor retail space to form two flats

Time period for comments is 14 days from the date of this notice except for applications 21/04240/FUL, 21/05017/FUL, 21/05018/LBC, 21/05059/LBC, 21/05135/FUL and 21/05172/LBC - time period is 21 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

www.highland.gov.uk



CITY OF INVERNESS AND AREA RIVER NESS FREE DAY FISHERIES 2022

Applications are invited for Free Day fishing permits for the 2022 season. Application forms can be obtained by telephone 01463 785100 during normal business hours from Monday, 22 November 2021. The number of permits will be restricted to 100. On completion, application forms should be returned to the secretary of Inverness Angling Club no later than Friday, 17 December 2021. In the event of there being more than 100 applications, the council will arrange for a ballot to select the permit holders. Thereafter, successful applicants will be advised and issued with a permit.

Applications can only be entertained from persons resident within the traditional Burgh of Inverness. It should be noted that any person who held a permit for the 2021 season and failed to complete the required return of catches, including nil return, by October 22 2021, will not be considered eligible for the issue of a permit to fish in the 2022 season. Any person fishing without a duly authorised permit is liable to prosecution.

David Haas,
Inverness City Manager
Town House Inverness, IV1 1JJ

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PREFAB BRIDGE: The replacement bridge to be installed at Lynebeg has already been constructed nearby.

Network Rail due to start bridge demolition work under Highland mainline

Work to demolish a bridge under the Highland mainline will begin later this month.

Network Rail engineers will begin tearing down the existing bridge at Lynebeg near Inverness next week prior to replacing it with a new structure - which has already been constructed nearby.

From November 26, workers will work round the clock for five days to expand the "lifespan" of the crossing.

Rail passengers are being warned to expect delays as a series of closures are to be imposed on the Highland railway line next weekend to facilitate the works.

Project manager Billy McKay said: "The replacement of the bridge will future-proof the railway and support the

future dualling of the A9 at this location.

"The work is crucial to extending the lifespan of the bridge and will enable us to continue to run a safe and reliable railway."

Engineers will commence works from 11.20pm on November 26.

During the work, the Highland mainline will be closed until the Monday.

The project forms part of advanced works for the A9 dualling from Tomatin to Moy.

Mr McKay added: "We understand that there will be some disruption in the short term to road and rail users and nearby communities and we will do what we can to minimise any inconvenience.

"We are grateful for your patience while we carry out this vital work."

Third Loch Ness pumped storage scheme proposed

JOHN ROSS

Plan have been unveiled for a new pumped storage hydro scheme on the south side of Loch Ness.

Developers say the 300MW project near Whitebridge will contribute to efforts to tackle climate change.

They also believe the development would be relatively unobtrusive as it plans to use existing natural features in the landscape.

If approved, it would be the third pumped storage scheme operating, or in the pipeline, at Loch Ness.

Statera Energy is to hold a series of exhibitions across the area from this month to outline its plans.

It is also in talks with Scottish Canals about the future management of water levels in Loch Ness.

Statera says its project could work in addition to SSE's existing pumped hydro scheme at Foyers

and the ILI Group's Red John development which was approved this year.

It is claimed the proposed scheme would potentially save up to 500,000 tonnes of CO₂ every year by displacing fossil fuel generation.

It would inject £20 million into the local economy each year for up to four years.

Up to 300 jobs would be created during construction and there would be six to eight permanent jobs in operations.

Pumped hydro is said to be one of the most sustainable forms of energy generation.

At times of excess generation, the system uses surplus electricity to pump water from a lower reservoir to a higher reservoir. The water is stored in the higher reservoir and released when there is a shortage of supply, generating

electricity using a hydro turbine.

The Statera project would use Loch Kemp as an upper reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir.

The water level of Loch Kemp would be raised by about 15%, approximately 90ft.

Andrew Troup of Statera Energy said this offers a number of benefits.

He said: "This makes the project less visible overall as we can make use of the existing natural features while increasing water levels in Loch Kemp. By reducing the requirement for large dams, we will reduce the need to import materials on to site so traffic movements will be minimal.

"It's a good site for a pumped storage hydro scheme which is much needed to stabilise the grid and make energy supplies more secure."



Loch Kemp (middle of picture) and Loch Ness beyond it would be linked in the scheme.

The scheme would be located within the Dell Estate, about eight miles to the north-east of Fort Augustus.

Statera says the three Loch Ness schemes are needed, with National Grid's 2021 Future Energy

Scenarios publication estimating a need for 15,000-40,000MW of additional storage, comprising pumped hydro, batteries and compressed and liquid air, by 2050.

The public exhibitions will be open between

12.30pm and 7.30pm at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, on Tuesday November 30, Fort Augustus Village Hall on Wednesday December 1 and the Wildside Centre, Whitebridge, on Thursday December 2.

Have your say on Loch Ness hydro plans

JOHN ROSS

People living near the site of a planned new pumped storage hydro scheme are being asked to give their views at public exhibitions this week.

If approved, it would be the third pumped storage project operating, or in the pipeline, at Loch Ness.

Statera Energy unveiled its plans earlier this month, saying the proposed scheme at Whitebridge would potentially save up to 500,000 tonnes of CO2 every year by displacing

fossil fuel generation. It would inject £20 million into the local economy each year for up to four years, with up to 300 jobs created during construction and six to eight permanent jobs in operations.

The public exhibitions will be open from 12.30pm to 7.30pm at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, on November 30, at Fort Augustus Village Hall on December 1, and Whitebridge's Wildside Centre on December 2.

Andrew Troup of Statera Energy said: "We look forward to hearing more from the local community.

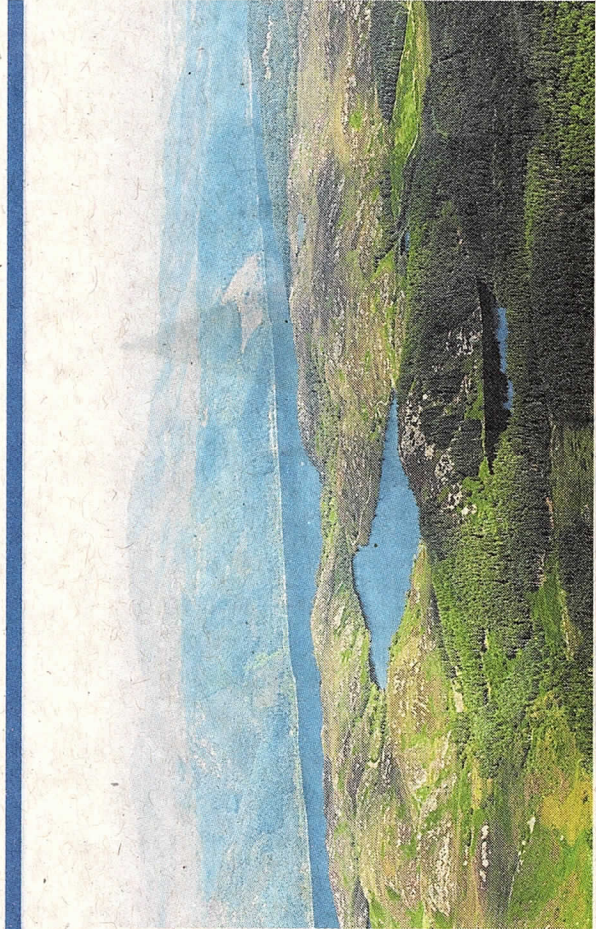
"This exhibition is being held to outline the work we plan to carry out as part of our environmental impact assessment, and we're keen to get views of local people. We will hold a second exhibition once our plans are closer to being finalised but this is a real opportunity to help shape the work."

The project would use Loch Kemp as an upper reservoir and Loch Ness as

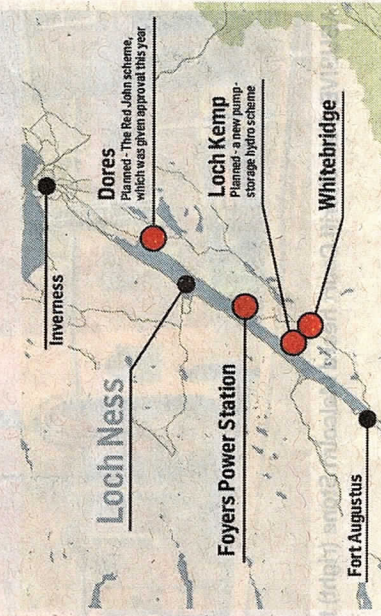
the lower reservoir. Statera says it would be relatively unobtrusive as it uses existing natural features.

The project would see water levels increased in Loch Kemp, which sits in a natural bowl. The developer says this reduces the need for large dams, which in turn minimises the need to import materials, so keeps traffic to a minimum.

SSE has an existing pumped hydro scheme at Foyers, and the ILLI Group's Red John development was approved this year.



BACKDROP: Developers say the scheme would utilise the natural features of Loch Kemp and Loch Ness.



Hydro site plans are revealed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plan to consider in our environmental impact assessment. "We will then hold a second exhibition incorporating feedback, before making our application at the end of 2022."

It anticipates starting work within 18 months of permission being granted.

Catherine Topley, chief executive of Scottish Canals, said: "As the Caledonian Canal approaches its 200th anniversary in 2022, we are pleased to have been invited to explore the potential of diversifying and enhancing our assets to support the challenges faced by today's society."

"As public assets, we continue to explore a range of opportunities to build upon our existing legacy for future generations."

Public exhibitions will take place from 12.30pm-7.30pm at:

- Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston - November 30.
- Fort Augustus Village Hall - December 1.
- The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge - December 2.

The Red John scheme, being developed by the ILL Group, is set to bring up to 700 direct and indirect jobs and save 45 million tonnes of carbon emissions over its lifetime.

- More in *... North.*

£80m set to be pumped into

local economy

Plans revealed for hydro energy site

By Val Sweeney

val.sweeney@thornmedia.co.uk

PLANS have been unveiled for a new pumped storage hydro scheme on the south side of Loch Ness, which would inject £80 million into the local economy and create hundreds of jobs during construction.

The developers say the proposed green energy project near Whitebridge will help to significantly lower carbon emissions and tackle climate change.

It comes on the heels of the £550 million Red John pumped storage hydro scheme near Dorees which was given the go-ahead by the Scottish Government in June, despite strong objections from campaigners and Highland Council worried about the impact on the world-famous loch.

But the developers behind the latest proposal - Loch Kemp Storage - say their scheme will be relatively unobtrusive as it uses existing natural features in the landscape and traffic movements to the site will be minimal. They hope there will be less

Inverness Courier Pg 1 16/11/21

opposition as more people understand the importance of the role of pumped hydro in decarbonising the grid and moving towards net zero.

The 300MW scheme is being put forward by UK-based Statera Energy which is holding a series of public exhibitions starting later this month.

Andrew Troup, of Statera Energy, said the project will use Loch Kemp on the Dell Estate as an upper reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir which has several benefits. "This makes the project less visible overall," he said.

"It's a good site for a pumped storage hydro scheme, which is much needed to stabilise the grid and make energy supplies more secure."

The project will involve raising the water level of Loch Kemp, and could produce electricity for up to 400,000 homes and save up to

500,000 tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Statera Energy says the proposed scheme will inject £20 million into the local economy each year for up to four years, creating up to 300 jobs during construction, while materials would be bought locally where possible.

There would be six to eight permanent jobs in operations.

The company is also in talks with Scottish Canals about the future management of water levels in Loch Ness as the scheme and others could help tackle climate change more effectively.

It says the scheme would curtail its operations under extreme circumstances when water levels might be affected in the loch and priority would always be given to the existing Foyers pumped hydro scheme.

Mr Troup continued: "We would urge people to come along and find out more."

"This is the first exhibition to allow us to outline the broad plan, the consultation process and what we



We would urge people to come along and find out more.

Andrew Troup

TURN TO PAGE 5

Appendix B - Round 2 Exhibitions 2022



STATERA
BALANCING THE GRID

Statera Energy Limited
1st Floor
145 Kensington Church Street
London W8 7LP

+44 (0)20 7186 0580
contact@stateraenergy.co.uk

14 November 2022

Dear Councillor Ballance

Congratulations on your election as a councillor in this year's local authority elections. We are writing to introduce ourselves and tell you more about the Loch Kemp project we hope to develop in your ward.

We held an exhibition last year to outline details of the scheme. We are now in a position to hold a second round of exhibitions to outline the findings of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and provide more detailed information about the project and the application we plan to make next year. Details of the exhibition times are listed at the foot of this letter and we hope we will come along to one of them.

The 600MW scheme is located near Whitebridge on the south side of Loch Ness. We would use Loch Kemp as the upper reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir.

Energy security is more important than ever and pumped storage schemes are a vital part of our energy mix, helping stabilise the grid and making energy supplies more secure. The combination of high mountains, large inland lochs and significant rainfall make the Highlands a great location for pumped storage.

Our particular scheme offers a number of advantages by:

- reducing the need for large dams;
- minimising the importation of materials on to site;
- potentially helping manage water levels in Loch Ness; and
- not necessarily being reliant on government subsidy.

The nature of this particular site helps reduce visual impact as it uses the existing assets within the landscape. It also offers the potential for opening up the south side of the loch to more visitors in an environmentally friendly way.

Continued/...



As well as the public exhibitions we are holding for local communities we will be sending details of the exhibition boards to the local community councils and have offered to attend their meetings. The community councils we have been asked to consult formally are Stratherrick and Foyers CC and Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston CC. In addition, we have been asked to keep Strathnairn, Strathdearn and Dores Community Councils informed of our plans.

Loch Kemp Storage is a subsidiary of Statera Energy which was established in 2015 to own and operate infrastructure that assists in our transition to a low carbon economy.

We are working with a locally based company JMC Communications and one of their Directors, Jane Cumming, will be happy to discuss times for a meeting or answer any questions you might have at this stage. She can be contacted on 07900 917142 or 01463 783018 or at jane@jmccomms.co.uk. You can also contact us direct via contact@stateraenergy.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Troup

Public Exhibitions

The public exhibitions will be open to the public between 1pm and 7.30pm in the following locations:

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, IV63 7YA on Tuesday 6th December

The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge IV2 6YP on Wednesday 7th December

Fort Augustus Village Hall, PH32 4DG on Thursday 8th December





Statera Energy Limited
1st Floor
145 Kensington Church Street
London W8 7LP

+44 (0)20 7186 0580
contact@stateraenergy.co.uk

14 November 2022

To Secretary/Chair Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council

You may recall we contacted you last year to introduce Loch Kemp Storage Ltd and outline details of the pumped storage hydro scheme we hope to develop near Whitebridge.

We have been undertaking all the various ecological and technical studies required as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and are now in a position to hold a second round of exhibitions to outline our plans in more details.

The purpose of this second exhibition is to seek views on the detailed proposal, including visual impact assessments, as well as explaining the benefits of the project.

The 600MW scheme would use Loch Kemp as the upper reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir. This offers a number of advantages by:

- reducing the need for large dams;
- minimising the importation of materials on to site;
- potentially helping manage water levels in Loch Ness; and
- not necessarily being reliant on government subsidy.

We hope to send you details of the exhibition boards ahead of the exhibitions so you can identify any potential issues. We look forward to welcoming you to the Wildside Centre at Whitebridge at 7.30 on Wednesday 7th December. We would also be happy to attend the community council in the New Year, before we submit the planning application in the Spring.

The combination of high mountains, large inland lochs and significant rainfall make the Highlands an ideal location for pumped storage which delivers flexibility to the grid. Pumped storage schemes are a valuable addition to the country's energy mix as they help stabilise the grid and make energy supplies more secure.

The nature of this particular site helps reduce visual impact as it uses the existing assets within the landscape.

Continued/...



Loch Kemp Storage is a subsidiary of Statera Energy which was established in 2015 to own and operate infrastructure that assists in our transition to a low carbon economy.

Do please get in touch if you want any further information about the project. We are working with a locally based company JMC Communications and one of their Directors, Jane Cumming, can discuss arrangements for meetings, or answer any queries. She can be contacted on 07900 917142 or 01463 783018 or by e mail at jane@jmccomms.co.uk. Or you can e mail us at contact@stateraenergy.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Andrew Troup

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The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge IV2 6YP on Wednesday 7th December

Fort Augustus Village Hall, PH32 4DG on Thursday 8th December





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Statera Energy Limited
1st Floor
145 Kensington Church Street
London W8 7LP

+44 (0)20 7186 0580
contact@stateraenergy.co.uk

14 November 2022

To Secretary/Chair Strathnairn Community Council (*also sent to Dores & Essich CC, Strathdearn CC*)

You may recall we contacted you last year to introduce Loch Kemp Storage Ltd and outline details of the pumped storage hydro scheme we hope to develop near Whitebridge.

We have been undertaking all the various ecological and technical studies required as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and are now in a position to hold a second round of exhibitions to outline our plans in more details.

The purpose of this second exhibition is to seek views on the detailed proposal, including visual impact assessments, as well as explaining the benefits of the project.

The 600MW scheme would use Loch Kemp as the upper reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir. This offers a number of advantages by:

- reducing the need for large dams;
- minimising the importation of materials on to site;
- potentially helping manage water levels in Loch Ness; and
- not necessarily being reliant on government subsidy.

The combination of high mountains, large inland lochs and significant rainfall make the Highlands an ideal location for pumped storage which delivers flexibility to the grid. Pumped storage schemes are a valuable addition to the country's energy mix as they help stabilise the grid and make energy supplies more secure.

The nature of this particular site helps reduce visual impact as it uses the existing assets within the landscape.

We hope you will be able to come along to one of the exhibitions and find out more. We can send you a copy of the exhibition boards, if you would prefer, and we would be happy to come along to a meeting following the exhibitions, prior to our submitting an application some time in the Spring.

Continued/...



Loch Kemp Storage is a subsidiary of Statera Energy which was established in 2015 to own and operate infrastructure that assists in our transition to a low carbon economy.

Do please get in touch if you want any further information about the project. We are working with a locally based company JMC Communications and one of their Directors, Jane Cumming, can discuss arrangements for meetings, or answer any queries. She can be contacted on 07900 917142 or 01463 783018 or by e mail at jane@jmccomms.co.uk. Or you can e mail us at contact@stateraenergy.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Andrew Troup

The public exhibitions will be open to the public between 1pm and 7.30pm at:

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, IV63 7YA on Tuesday 6th December 2022

The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge IV2 6YP on Wednesday 7th December

Fort Augustus Village Hall, PH32 4DG on Thursday 8th December



Loch Kemp Pumped Storage

Pre-Application Consultation

We're inviting local residents to come along to view plans and review changes to the Loch Kemp Pumped Storage scheme before application submission to the Energy Consent Unit Scotland next year.

When and where?

Between 1pm and 7.30pm

- **Glenmoriston Millennium Hall**, IV63 7HA, Tuesday 6 December
- **The Wildside Centre** Whitebridge, IV2 6YP, Wednesday 7 December
- **Fort Augustus Village Hall**, PH23 4DG, Thursday 8 December

We look forward to seeing you there.

www.Lochkempstorage.co.uk

Please note: This is a pre-application consultation for the Loch Kemp Pumped Hydro Scheme and any comments made to us are not representations to the Council or Energy Consents Unit. Once we've submitted our planning application, you'll have the opportunity to make a formal representation about this proposed development.



**Loch Kemp
Storage**

A STATERA COMPANY

publicnotices

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA
CROITEARACHD

DECROFTING
DIRECTION ISSUED
1. A Mackenzie, Mackenzie
1, pt of 2 & 3 Cragganvallye,
0.087 ha, Part of existing
house site and garden ground,
Fencing conditions (115528)
Full details at
www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

**First Registration
of a Croft**

Andrew J. MacQueen has
registered their croft
Edinchat, Moy and Dalarossie
on the Crofting Register held
by the Registers of Scotland.
Any person who wishes to
challenge the registration may
apply to the Scottish Land
Court by 31st July 2023.

Details of the registration can
be found at
[www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/
register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home)

The croft registration number
is C8754.

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Loch Kemp Pumped Storage Pre-Application Consultation

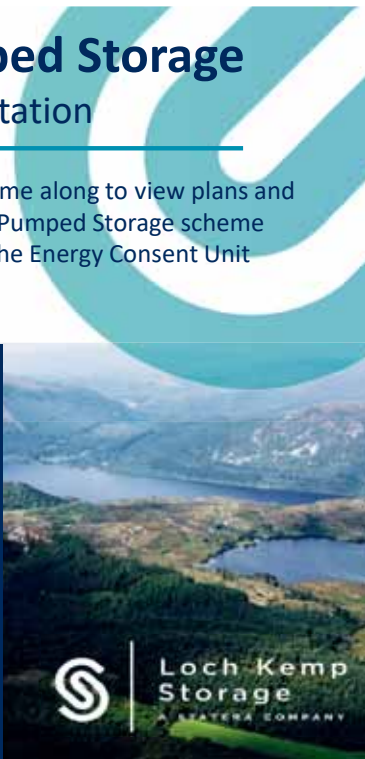
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We look forward to seeing you there.
www.Lochkempstorage.co.uk

Please note: This is a pre-application consultation for the Loch Kemp Pumped Hydro Scheme and any comments made to us are not representations to the Council or Energy Consents Unit. Once we've submitted our planning application, you'll have the opportunity to make a formal representation about this proposed development.



www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Còmhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS)
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, TOWN HOUSE, INVERNESS, IV1 1JJ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
22/04004/FUL	Pittyvaich Strathnacro Glenurquhart Drumadrochit Inverness, IV63 6TH	Erection of house
22/04285/FUL	Drovers House Tomatin Inverness IV13 7YN	Conversion of garage to short-term letting unit
22/04503/MSC	Land Between The Heights And El Palamino Ladystone Bunchrew, Inverness	Erection of house, installation of septic tank and soakaway
22/04749/FUL	Flora Macdonald Residence 30 Old Edinburgh Road Inverness, IV2 3HJ	Change of use from office to house, erection of extension and garage (upper floor of garage used as home office)
22/04755/FUL	Site At Balloch Inverness	Erection of house
22/04909/FUL	Ardlarich Cottage 15A Culduthel Road Inverness, IV2 4AG	Installation of solar panels
22/04962/FUL	14A Inverness Campus Inverness, IV2 5NA	Extension to building, additional parking
22/04963/FUL	Access For New House Plots, Nairnside, Inverness, IV2 5BT	Construction of access to new housing plots at Nairnside, Inverness
22/05047/FUL	Land 60M SE Of 125 Balmacraan Road Drumadrochit	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days from the date of this notice except for 22/04749/FUL, 22/04755/FUL, 22/04909/FUL – time period is 21 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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general notices

GENERAL NOTICES

River Nairn District Salmon Fishery Board
ANNUAL PROPRIETORS MEETING
18:00, Monday 5th December 2022
at Nairn Community & Arts Centre

ENTERTAINMENTS

WELCOME RETURN
 VISIT OF POPULAR
 IRISH VOCALIST

**SHAUN
 LOUGHREY**

In Invergordon
 Social Club
 On Sat 26th Nov
 Admission £11



Reservations/
 Enquiries
 Tel Ann On
01463 221268

COUNTRY MUSIC In your local Area

CHURCH NOTICES

**SMITHTON-CULLODEN
 FREE CHURCH**
 Murray Road, Smithton
 www.smithtonchurch.com

SUNDAY SERVICES
10.30am - Rev. Innes
 Macswen
5.30pm - Rev. Alasdair
 Macleod

Services will be live
 streamed via
 www.smithtonchurch.com/live

Smithton & Culloden Free
 Church (known as Smithton
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 Scottish Charity Regulator
 (OSCR)

The Inverness Courier
 Telephone
 (01463) 233059

Glochnacuddin FC
LILY LOTTO
TUESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2022
WINNING NUMBERS
1 3 5 6 18
NO JACKPOT WINNERS
£7,500 JACKPOT ROLLOVER

AGENT	FIVE TEN POUND	WINNERS
3	C MACKENZIE	INVERNESS
4	M FRASER	INVERNESS
19	L KIRKHAM	INVERNESS
44	J NELSON	INVERNESS
50	W MACRAE	INVERNESS

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Loch Kemp Pumped Storage Pre-Application Consultation

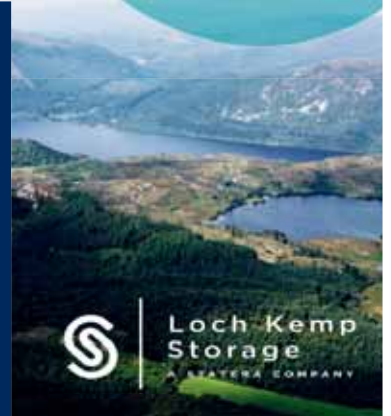
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We look forward to seeing you there.
www.Lochkempstorage.co.uk

Please note: This is a pre-application consultation for the Loch Kemp Pumped Hydro Scheme and any comments made to us are not representations to the Council or Energy Consents Unit. Once we've submitted our planning application, you'll have the opportunity to make a formal representation about this proposed development.



**Loch Kemp
 Storage**
 A WATERA COMPANY

Place an Ad... In Memoriam Remembrance

MACLEOD

In loving memory of
 our dad, John, who died
 on 17th July, 1998; also
 our mother, Megan, who
 died on 18th July, 2008.

*We think of you in
 silence,
 We often speak your
 name;*

*But all we have are
 memories,*

*And your picture in a
 frame.*

-Elizabeth, Joe,
 Meg and Ali.

To place your
 message of
 remembrance
 please contact
 our friendly
 team.



To place your ad contact:

The Inverness Courier
A Brand you can trust

Telephone 01463 233059

email: admin@inverness-courier.co.uk

www.highland.gov.uk



DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR WINTER FUEL BILL? Would you qualify for help from The Highland Council Inverness Common Good Fund Scheme of Winter payments?

Residents within the Wards of Aird and Loch Ness, Inverness West, Inverness Central, Inverness Ness-side, Inverness Millburn, Culloden and Ardersier and Inverness South are now invited to apply for a £150 payment.

Application forms will be available from the 1st December 2022 and must be returned by the **28th February 2023**. Application forms are available from Inverness Service Point (Town House), and Citizens Advice Bureau or online at www.highland.gov.uk/invernesswinterpayments

You may qualify if:

- You are aged over 90 years old or
- You are in receipt of Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- You have a child or children under the age of five living with you and are in receipt of Income Support, Income based Jobseekers Allowance; Universal Credit; or Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Your household is dependent on an income based benefit and a disability payment.

Did you qualify last year? You might not need to re-apply

If you qualified last year, The Highland Council will undertake a financial check on your circumstances. If your circumstances have not changed you will be notified that you have qualified and will automatically receive a payment. If your circumstances have changed an application form will be issued inviting you to re-apply.

Applications must be returned by 28th February 2023
You must provide proof of benefit entitlement

Post or deliver to – The Highland Council, FREEPOST RRXJ-GGJX-CRYR (Winter Payment), Operation Team, P.O. Box 5650, Inverness, IV3 5YX Tel -0800 393 811
 Inverness City Area Manager, Town House, Inverness, IV1 1JJ Tel – 01463 785100
 David Haas, Inverness City Area Manager Town House, Inverness IV1 1JJ

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

**S BELLSHAW
 CONTRACTING LTD**
 of
**5 WOODLANDS
 AVENUE
 WESTHILL
 INVERNESS
 IV2 5DZ**

is applying for a licence to use Dell Farm, Farr, Inverness IV2 6XH, as an Operating Centre for 3 Goods Vehicles and 3 Trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.

A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

First Registration of a Croft

ALEXANDER JAMES ANDERSON has registered their croft 7 Newtonhill, Kirrihill on the crofting register held by the registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 14th August, 2023.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C8783.

The Inverness Courier

Telephone: (01463) 233059

www.inverness-courier.co.uk

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 Community since
 1817

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**Local, Scottish,
UK & World News** 2-22
Opinion 23-28
Business/Farming 29-35
TV & Radio 40-41
YOURWEEKEND pullout



An unsettled day with spells of rain, mostly light.
Max: 7c Min: 5c
Full forecast on page 35

Contact us

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editor@pressandjournal.co.uk

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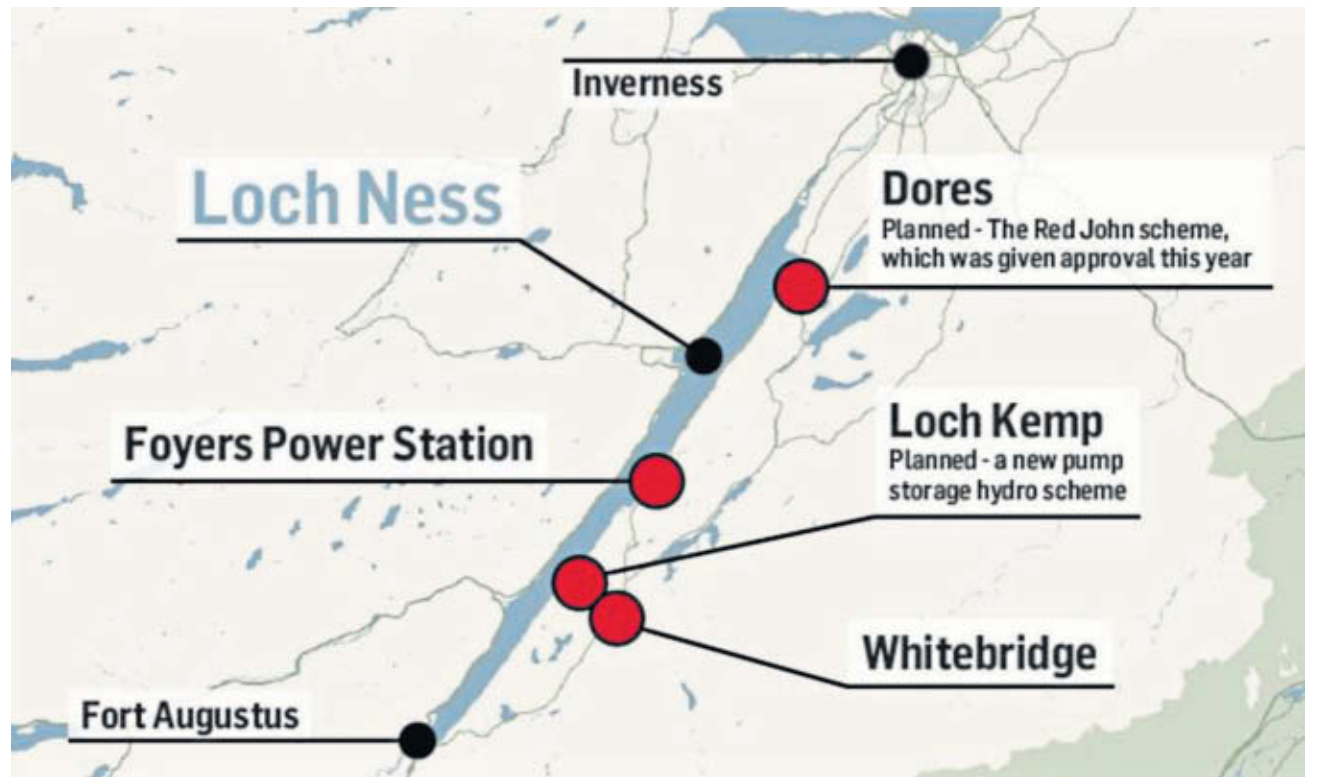
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SHAPING UP: Stratera Energy has set out its plans for scrutiny at a series of public exhibitions over three days.

Public views urged with exhibitions on new hydro schemes

JOHN ROSS

The public are to get a second chance to view plans for a new pumped storage hydro scheme on Loch Ness at exhibitions next week.

Developers Stratera Energy unveiled plans for the 600MW project near Whitebridge last November.

If approved, it would be the third pumped storage scheme operating, or in the pipeline, at Loch Ness.

The company outlined its plans at a series of exhibitions last year.

It said it could potentially save up to 500,000 tonnes of CO₂ a year by displacing fossil fuel generation.

The project would inject £20 million into the local economy each year for up to four years.

Up to 300 jobs would be created during construction and there would be six to eight permanent jobs in operations.

Pumped hydro is said to be one of the most sustainable forms of energy generation. At times of



Loch Kemp would be used as an upper reservoir.

excess generation, the system uses surplus electricity to pump water from a lower reservoir to a higher reservoir.

The water is stored in the higher reservoir and released when there is a shortage of supply. This generates electricity using a hydro turbine.

The Stratera project is located within the Dell Estate about eight miles from Fort Augustus. It would use Loch Kemp as an upper reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir.

It said it would be relatively unobtrusive and contribute to efforts to tackle climate change.

Andrew Troup, of Stratera Energy, said the creation of more pumped storage schemes is going to be vital.

He said: "With the current crisis created by the Ukrainian war, people now appreciate how important energy security is for our country."

"Pumped storage is a very straightforward way to address the challenges of the intermittency of some

of the renewable energy technologies and help get to net zero.

"But you need a certain combination of geological features to make it work and Loch Ness is an ideal location with its mountains and lochs."

The developer commissioned a series of studies as part of its Environmental Impact Assessment. It will outline the findings at three public exhibitions.

Mr Troup added: "We outlined the broad plan in our first round of exhibitions and this is us coming back with more detailed proposals, ready to take any feedback and make final changes before submitting an application in spring 2023."

The exhibitions will be held from 1pm-7.30pm at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston, on December 6; the Wildside Centre, Whitebridge, on December 7; and Fort Augustus Village Hall, December 8.

**DON'T MISS
TUESDAY'S**

The
Inverness Courier



**Business
insight**



**Bill McAllister
column**

Contact

The
Inverness Courier

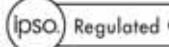
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Student wins coveted award

By Rachel Smart

rachel.smart@hnmedia.co.uk

HRI Munro Architecture celebrated its 25th anniversary with a gathering at Eden Court Theatre.

The evening event saw a UHI student pick up a prize from the firm for the best graduating student in architectural technology and the launch of HRIs lecture series.

Kai Stewart Sutherland received the inaugural prize which includes a generous financial award alongside an offer of a student placement with HRI Munro Architecture.

Ross Cairns, architectural technology lecturer at UHI Inverness, said: "Kai started his UHI journey in 2016 by undertaking an HNC in CAD and then moved into a modern apprenticeship in construction management



From left: Sine Ward (fundraiser, UHI), student Kai Stewart Sutherland, Vicky Hazell (associate, HRI Munro Architecture), Mark Williams (director, HRI Munro Architecture), Andrew Bruce (director, HRI Munro Architecture).

Picture: Ewen Weatherspoon

securing employment with Robertson Timber Engineering.

"Kai is one of several hundred graduates who spent half their degree studying in remote learning due to

Covid. He has shown dedication and commitment to his studies to make himself top of his year but also in unique once-in-a-lifetime circumstances.

"Kai was awarded five As

in the final year for his modules and gained the highest marks of any student in his cohort. He is resilient and hardworking and is a very worthy first recipient of the HRI Munro Prize for 2022."

Community to find out about hydro scheme

DEVELOPERS behind plans for a new pumped storage hydro scheme on the south side of Loch Ness are holding a second round of exhibitions next week.

The 600MW scheme near Whitebridge will help balance the grid, decarbonise the electricity network and improve energy security by providing additional energy storage to help address the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources.

And because it uses existing natural features in the landscape, with Loch Kemp as an upper reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir, it is designed to be relatively unobtrusive.

Andrew Troup, of Statera Energy which hopes to develop the scheme, said: "With the current crisis created by the Ukrainian war, people now appreciate how important energy security is for our country.

"Pumped storage is a very straightforward way to address the challenges of the intermittency of some of the

renewable energy technologies and help get to net zero. But you need a certain combination of geological features to make it work and Loch Ness is an ideal location with its mountains and lochs."

The developer commissioned a series of studies as part of their environmental impact assessment and they will outline the findings at three public exhibitions from 1pm-7.30pm in Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston (December 6), The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge (December 7) and Fort Augustus Village Hall (December 8).

Mr Troup added: "We would urge people to come along and find out more.

"We outlined the broad plan in our first round of exhibitions and this is us coming back with more detailed proposals, ready to take any feedback and make final changes before submitting an application in spring."

The scheme would potentially save up to 500,000 tonnes of carbon emissions every year by displacing fossil fuel generation.

Crowdfunding appeal for rewilding project

AN award-winning rewilding project based near Loch Ness is launching a new crowdfunding campaign to support its pledge to counter climate change.

After their recent win at the Nature of Scotland Awards, Highlands Rewilding is hoping to raise at least £8 million in total funds through their latest call to support their activities across their Bunloit Estate (south of Drumnadrochit) and Beldorney Estate in Aberdeenshire.

Of these funds, £500,000 are hoped to be raised thanks to contributions from the public, with the remainder coming from equity investors and financial institutions.

This second round of fundraising follows on from £7.5 million raised with 50 investors in January this year.

Dr Jeremy Leggett, CEO of Highlands Rewilding, said: "This round of funding is an exciting opportunity to significantly scale the project as we look to invest in more land, people, and further improve Scotland's biodiversity in our efforts to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity collapse.

"We ideally want to have hundreds, if not thousands of

shareholders from across the world, but especially Scotland where we will continue to work as closely as we can with local Highland communities, including via joint ventures with community organisations. Our citizen rewilding option within the crowdfunding allows for genuine co-ownership for a minimum amount of investment."

The company is focusing on growing the portfolio of land-in-recovery that they already own, with the crowdfunding being aimed at acquiring South Bunloit, Beldorney Castle and one other estate that provides biodiversity opportunities.

A significantly higher amount would improve the team's chances to acquire more or larger estate to widen its nature recovery opportunities.

By managing its own land for carbon and biodiversity uplift, Highlands Rewilding aim to provide its shareholders with ethical returns of at least five per cent every year - over 10 years - and to encourage landowners to pivot to net-zero carbon and nature positive practices.

■ Visit [Highlands Rewilding's website](#) for more details.

Santa set for cycle in city

PEOPLE can pedal along for some festive fun at tomorrow's Kidical Mass event in Inverness.

Taking to his bike, Kidical Santa will ride his pedal-powered "sleigh" and there will also be a secret Santa gift swap of pre-loved toys.

The monthly Kidical Mass event welcomes kids and adults of all ages and abilities and is described as "a fun, gentle ride with marshals to keep everyone safe on the roads".

After a short ride through the city, there are fun activities at the end, including a smoothie bike, cycle ramp course, clown bikes and a penny farthing.

A spokeswoman said: "One of the main issues for people choosing healthier modes of travel is road safety - it simply isn't safe enough for children and less-confident adults to cycle around Inverness. This is something that we are campaigning to change."

Kidical Mass begins at 1.30pm tomorrow, meeting at Bellfield Park.



FAMILY
ANNOUNCEMENTS **P41**



MOTORS
north **P47**