

# You Said, We Listened

## Scout Moor Wind Farm Expansion

Feedback and Consultation Newsletter  
November 2014



Energy

### WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR?

Scout Moor Wind Farm Expansion Limited (a joint venture between United Utilities and Peel Energy) recently invited comments and feedback on the preliminary environmental information (PEI) and initial proposals for Scout Moor Wind Farm Expansion.

During June to August 2014 we held a number of consultation events in local communities as well as publishing our initial expansion plans and preliminary environmental information on our website. This initial scheme proposed 26 new turbines.

This consultation newsletter provides you with a summary of the comments that we received and the changes that we are making to the expansion plans.

We are consulting on the revised plans now before we submit a planning application early next year.

For additional information about the revised scheme, please visit [www.scoutmoorwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.scoutmoorwindfarm.co.uk)

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME



### HOW HAS THE SCHEME CHANGED?

The main changes that we have made as a result of the previous consultation responses and further technical work are as follows:

- Reduction of the previous scheme by ten turbines to a revised total of 16 new turbines
- Removal of the proposed turbines in the north west and north east areas of the site
- Increased offset distance of new turbines from important recreational routes such as the Mary Towneley Loop
- Increased offset distance from the Moorland edge
- Retained access via Marshalls Quarry
- Protection of deep peat by careful siting of turbines and associated infrastructure
- An entirely separate connection to the electricity grid at Rossendale.



Please read on to find out more



# WHAT ARE WE CHANGING?

Here we feedback and explain more about how the proposals are changing. Our response to the comments we received are grouped under the most popular themes reported back to us as follows:

## Layout

'The number of proposed turbines should be reduced'  
'Any expansion should be infill only'

**We listened:**  
We are changing the layout of our proposals to reduce the scale of our scheme. Following local feedback we are removing ten turbines. A total of 16 new turbines are now proposed.  
More specifically, we have removed the northern turbines previously identified as N1, N2, N3, N4, N5 and N16, N17, N18, N19 and N20 from the north east and north west areas of the site. The effect of these changes means that the scheme is now less than 50MW and will therefore be determined by Rochdale and Rossendale Borough Councils.

Following the consultation, the improved design better integrates the new expansion turbines with the existing turbines.

## Landscape and visual impact

'The size and scale of the proposed turbines is turning the moors into an industrial landscape'  
'The proposed northern scheme is visually intrusive'

**We listened:**  
The scheme has been revised to seek to reduce the visual impact of turbines located to the north of the existing array and to maximise the opportunity to fill in gaps. The additional turbines do not extend any farther west or east than the existing array (when viewed from the north or the south) and thus will have only a limited additional impact.  
The landscape in which the turbines are set has been extensively modified by human activity, particularly in the last 100 years due to quarrying and spoil still being visible. The turbines proposed are smaller than those typically installed (125m) and we think will relate well to the existing wind farm.

## Moorland restoration

'There is no evidence of Moorland restoration from the first development'  
'Extensive moorland restoration should be carried out on Scout Moor'

**We listened:**  
We are continuing to develop a Moorland Restoration and Management Plan (MRMP) in dialogue with graziers on the moor who are best placed to understand the stresses that the moor is facing on a daily basis.  
The Moorland Restoration and Management Plan (MRMP) is being developed by Penny Anderson Associates, a company nationally renowned for its knowledge of peat land environments and who have successfully helped restore large areas of the peat land habitat of the Peak District National Park.

## Heritage & archaeology

'Won't the network of roads destroy the many heritage features on the moors...'  
'The outlet cable may go near an archaeological site and archaeology at Cragg Quarry and associated tramway system'

**We listened:**  
The proposals are designed with an awareness of designated heritage assets, their setting and significance. An assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the significance of heritage assets and visual amenity more generally will be presented in the ES.  
To reassure about the location of archaeological features, the planning application shall seek to build in a degree of flexibility in the siting of infrastructure so as to avoid remains of archaeological importance where possible. Any 'finds' that cannot be avoided will be recorded and documented during construction.

## Recreation

'More information should be made available about existing facilities, routes and paths'  
'Would like to see improvements and paths and tracks for recreational use and general access'

**We listened:**  
We agree with your views and we are working to ensure greater access for walkers, horse riders and cyclists in the area.  
As part of the development, we are seeking to provide more information about existing facilities, routes and paths. More specifically we are exploring the addition of a 'way marked' recreational trail around the existing and proposed access tracks with associated interpretation and education boards highlighting important information about the project, the moorland restoration measures and heritage features of local interest.

## Ecology

'Any further extension will deteriorate wildlife amenity and population'  
'The proposed expansion will affect over seventy species of birds resident on the moorland or within adjacent areas'

**We listened:**  
The ecological value of the site and its value to recreational users have been explored by the project team to inform our understanding of the existing environment and usage. The revised layout seeks to sensitively respond to the ecological environment which through the proposed MRMP aims to deliver long term benefits to the Moor. Our studies indicate that all impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated.

## Illegal access

You said:  
'Turbine access roads have provided access for off roaders and motor bikes. How will you manage illegal access post construction?'

**We listened:**  
In response to local concerns, we are proposing to fund a 'Moorland Ranger' that will act as a central point of contact with the local stakeholders in relation to illegal off-roading. This should decrease response time and assist in the coordination of operations to reduce such activity.

## Suitability of location

You said:  
'All new turbines will be 1.5 miles from Whitworth, which will put them on the doorstep of the town'

**We listened:**  
Through our design we have been sensitive to the potential visual impact of turbines on settlements and individual dwellings. The revised proposals mean that there are no turbines nearer than those already existing.  
Further to this, There is no minimum 'separation distance' in law or policy which has to be achieved between houses and wind turbines but we have sought to balance concerns about potential changes in outlook in the redesign.

## Cumulative development

You said:  
'There are enough turbines in the area already, they should go somewhere else'

**We listened:**  
We understand that there are local concerns with regard to cumulative impacts arising from multiple wind farms. In response, we have reduced our scheme by ten turbines. We are taking this matter seriously and this will be further addressed within our Environmental Statement which will be the subject of consideration by Rochdale and Rossendale Borough Councils.

## Turbine size

You said:  
'The new turbines should be the same size as existing'

**We listened:**  
Turbines on the existing Scout Moor Wind Farm are 100m in height to tip but these are no longer in manufacture. To allow us future scope to choose from a range of manufacturers, the proposals allow for up to a maximum of 115m height to tip.  
The terrain and topography of the site means that the limited difference in turbine height should not be readily discernible.

## Recreational trails & Public Rights of Way

You said:  
'The proposed turbines are too close to Mary Towneley Loop and will have a negative impact on Waugh's Well'

**We listened:**  
The revised scheme removes the previously proposed north western and north eastern turbines as well as relocating turbines further away from the moorland edge and the Mary Towneley Loop (MTL). Impacts on both 'Waugh's Well' and the MTL are therefore reduced from the previous layout and will be assessed during preparation of the Environmental Statement.

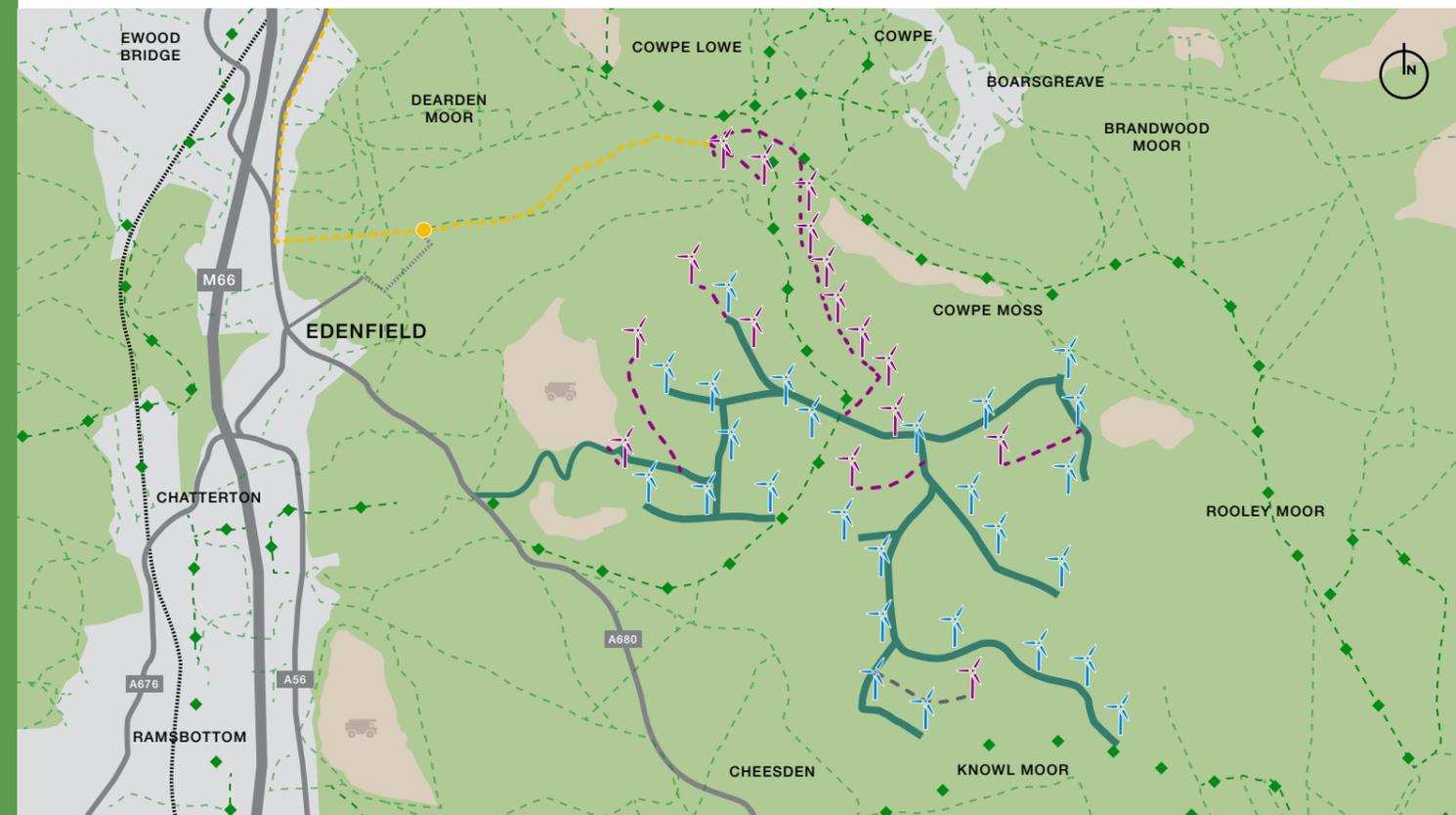
## We're updating our 3d Model

Please contact us if you require a specific viewpoint of the scheme at [contact@scoutmoorwindfarm.co.uk](mailto:contact@scoutmoorwindfarm.co.uk)

**Key**

	Existing turbine		National trail
	Proposed turbine		Public footpath
	Existing access track		Railway
	Proposed access track		Urban area
	Proposed export route		Quarry
	Substation		Disused quarry

Illustrative plan of the revised scheme



# COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Many of you also got in touch to ask for more information about the Community Benefits associated with the expansion proposals. In particular, you wanted to see the delivery of benefits within the communities most affected.

We encourage the community to come together and decide how and where these benefits are best directed in order to inform future discussions with us.



Cooperative ownership giving communities the opportunity to own part of the expansion scheme



A Moorland Restoration Management Plan (MRMP) to ensure wide scale moorland restoration, improvements in moorland habitats and water quality



Business Rate retention by the Local Authority of potentially over £0.75m from the existing and proposed schemes together



A Local Employment & Procurement Scheme (LEPS) seeks to maximise opportunities for businesses within the boroughs of Rochdale and Rossendale throughout construction and operation of the wind farm. The nature of employment gained would be dependent upon the skills of the individual and the particular project stage



Extended educational opportunities for what is already an important local destination



Improved integration of access and recreation routes to be sustainably used as a local amenity and visitor destination



A proposed Community Benefit Fund at £5,000 per consented MW per year over the life of the scheme for local projects. This could be between £150-200k per annum (between £3.75 - £5million over the life of the wind farm)

## FEEDBACK

Before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application to Rochdale and Rossendale Borough Councils, we welcome your feedback on the revised scheme and the changes that we have made.

We invite and welcome your response to the following questions:

- What do you think about the new plans for the scheme?
- Have the changes improved the scheme?
- Do you agree with the level of community benefits offered as part of the development?
- Do you support the plans to expand Scout Moor wind farm in this way?

More information is available at:

[www.scoutmoorwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.scoutmoorwindfarm.co.uk)

We continue to work in dialogue with the local authorities to ensure that as many benefits as possible are felt by the local communities surrounding Scout Moor.

Despite a reduction in the number of turbines, the proposed overall community benefits associated with the scheme remain unaffected. These are being explored as follows:

## What happens next?

Once the planning application has been finalised and submitted, there will be a further opportunity for you to comment through Rochdale and Rossendale Borough Councils' statutory consultation process.

## CONTACT US

In the meantime, please email your comments to:

[contact@scoutmoorwindfarm.co.uk](mailto:contact@scoutmoorwindfarm.co.uk)

Or write to us at:

Scout Moor Wind Farm Expansion  
Peel Dome  
The Trafford Centre,  
Manchester, M17 8PL

Or Phone: 0161 629 8415

Please ensure that your feedback reaches us by **Friday 28th November**