



# Camster wind farm proposal

## Gearing up for local contracts

Initial talks have taken place with the Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Highlands Renewable Energy Group (HiREG) to identify suitable contractors in the region. Should the Camster project obtain consent, the region would benefit from an estimated £10 million-plus worth of construction contract opportunities. In addition, substantial Operation and Maintenance (O&M) work will be available during the project's operational lifetime.

In 2007, we held a 'Meet the Buyer' seminar in Dornoch to meet potential contractors for our Rosehall wind farm project in Sutherland. This event was also used to raise awareness of potential opportunities presented by the Camster project.

## Caithness communities boost

We're committed to building and maintaining strong relationships within the communities surrounding our sites. We would provide a community fund of at least £150,000 per year into Caithness communities if the project gets the go ahead. Over the projected lifetime of the wind farm, this would amount to in excess of £3m.

We'd like to hear from the Community Councils, schools and local interest groups such as CREF and Initiative at the Edge, about the range of initiatives that could benefit from these funds.

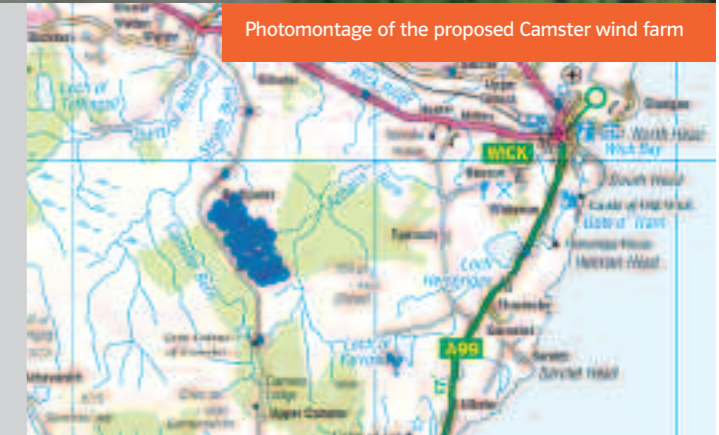


Photomontage of the proposed Camster wind farm

## Project description

- Location:** Between Lybster and Watten, Caithness, Highlands
- Project scope:** Twenty five 3-bladed wind turbines
- Turbine height:** 80m to hub, maximum 120m to tip
- Total power:** 50 Megawatts (MW)

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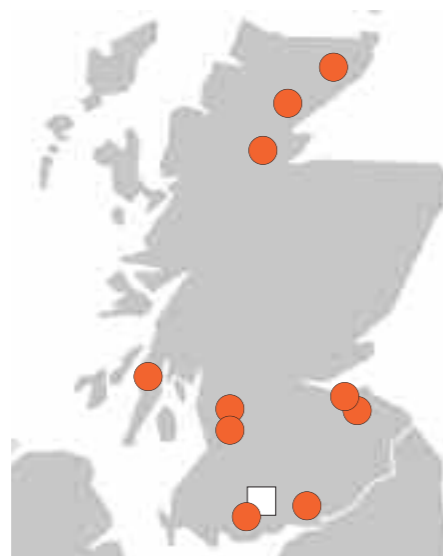
## E.ON's green commitment

E.ON is committed to renewable energy generation, investing £430m since 2001. We plan to spend £1 billion on renewables in the next five years.

Much of this investment to date has been in Scotland including onshore wind farms in Kintyre and the Borders (total 45 MW) and the Robin Rigg Offshore Wind Farm (180 MW) in the Solway Firth.

We have also just completed construction of the UK's largest biomass-fired power station (44 MW) at Stephen's Croft near Lockerbie.

These projects together will supply enough green electricity for over a quarter of a million average homes' annual consumption.



Operational and development sites in Scotland  
● Wind □ Biomass

## Contact us

If you have any queries or require further information about the project then please contact:

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## Why Camster?

The Camster site is very windy and is located in the most remote part of Caithness. It lies away from the main centres of population and scenic coastal areas, being 10km north of Lybster, 6km south of Watten and 6km west of Tannach, the three nearest sizeable communities.

The site is situated outside any regional, national or international designations for landscape, ecology or other interests. Early public consultation since 2001 has shown that the sparsely populated 'interior' of Caithness is the most appropriate place for wind development in the area.

## The Camster Wind Farm would:

- provide electricity equivalent to the annual needs of around 35,000 homes\*
- save around 71,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year\*\*
- contribute to Scottish Government Renewable Energy Targets (31% by 2011, 50% by 2020)
- reduce reliance on finite and imported energy sources
- deliver an estimated £10 million local and regional electrical and civil contracts
- provide Community Funds in Caithness worth a minimum of £3m over the project lifetime.

\* UK average annual consumption 4725 kWh per home

\*\* Carbon dioxide figure based on 422g CO<sub>2</sub> per kWh for UK 'energy mix' and energy yield of 168,000,000 kWh per year

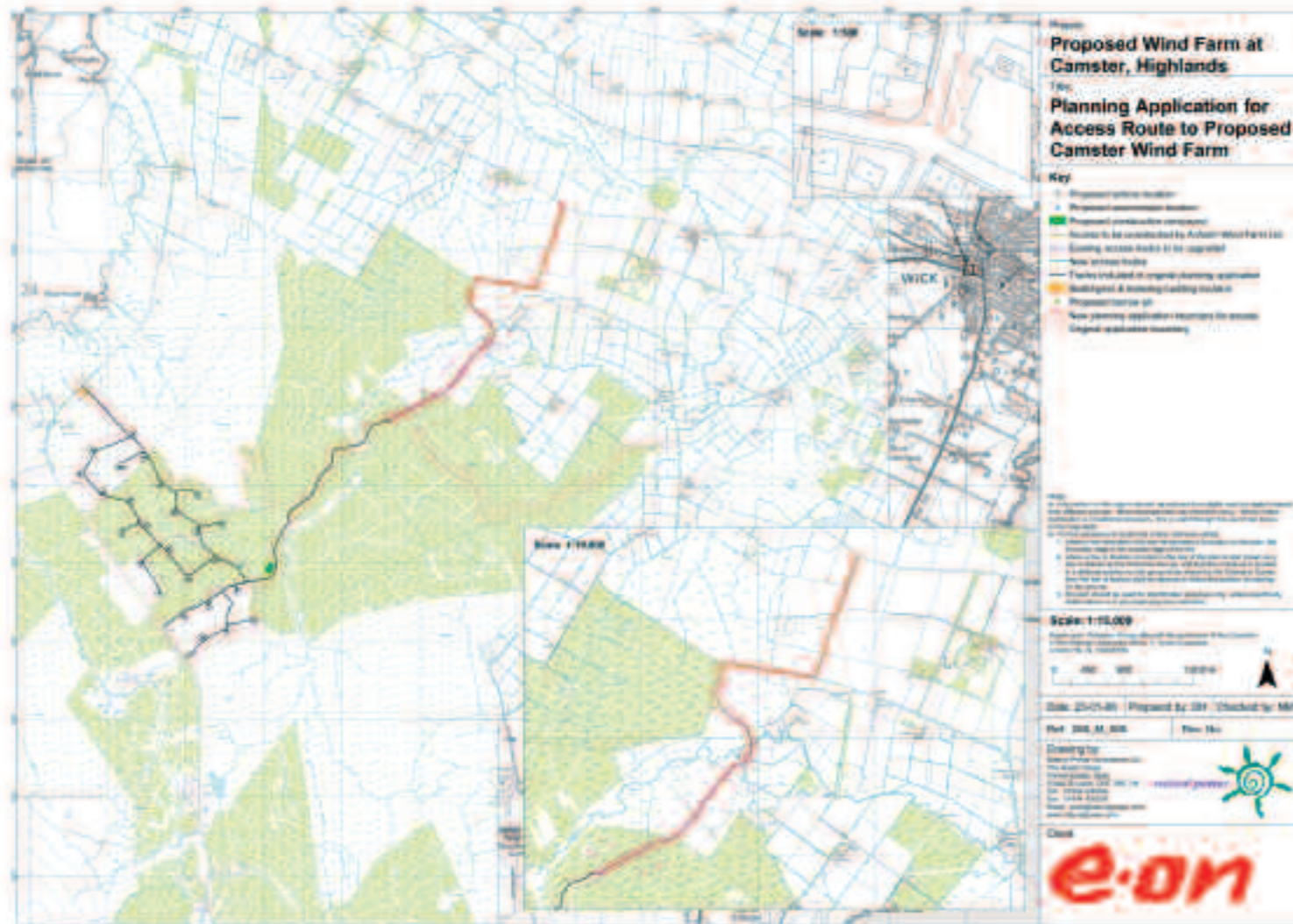
# Amended construction access proposals

In early February 2008 we submitted a revision to the Highland Council regarding the proposed access route to be used during the construction of the wind farm. In response to local concerns and objection from Tannach Community Council, we now plan to bring the turbine parts through the Achairn wind farm, avoiding the Tannach and Blingery roads.

Vaughan Weighill, E.ON's project manager explained: "We have spent much of the past year seeking an acceptable alternative and

securing the necessary agreements with landowners along the new route. We want to be a good neighbour and are keen to listen to the concerns of local communities."

The plans are now open to consultation and E.ON plans community council meetings and public exhibitions in early March (see below) to let locals view and comment on the revised plans. These events will also be publicised via the community councils and the local press.



## Consultation events

Wednesday 5 March 2008, Watten Village Hall, 6pm to 8pm  
Thursday 6 March 2008, Lybster School, 6pm to 8pm

If you are unable to attend either of these events but are interested in finding out more, please contact us (details overleaf). We will be happy to discuss the project with you.



# Land Management Plan to protect raptors

SNH, the Forestry Commission and the site landowners have been involved in the development of a Land Management Plan to overcome SNH's concerns over the potential impacts on hunting raptors such as Hen Harriers.

We have worked with these statutory consultees to find solutions to issues they've raised. This has resulted in further assessment studies and underlines our

commitment to deliver projects that will have minimum impact on the local environment.

The Land Management Plan which has been developed will ensure the environment underneath the proposed turbines will be maintained in such a way that it will not be attractive to these hunting raptors.

# How does wind energy save Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions?

Wind power is a clean, renewable source of energy which produces no greenhouse gas emissions or waste products. Every unit (kWh) of electricity produced by the wind displaces a unit of electricity which would otherwise have been produced by a power station burning fossil fuel.

This is achieved because the Distribution Network Operators and National Grid perform a careful 'balancing act' to ensure that supply matches demand on the electrical grid system at any given time. So when wind generation output is higher, the fossil power stations are instructed to reduce their output (and therefore the amount of fuel burned) accordingly.

# More climate change action needed



Severe flooding is expected to become more frequent due to climate change effects.

Government at both the UK and Scottish Parliament levels have committed to meeting an increased share of our energy needs from renewable energy.

The Climate Change Bill also contains a commitment to reduce Scotland's carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, and renewable energy will play a key role in meeting this target. The recent UK Energy Review also highlights the continued importance of proven technologies such as onshore wind role in climate change solutions.

"The scientific evidence is now overwhelming: climate change is a serious global threat, and it demands an urgent global response"

Stern Review Oct 2006

