

EARBA STORAGE

A GILKES ENERGY COMPANY

Earba Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme EIA Report

Appendix 4.6: Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report

February 2024



Quality Information

Prepared by

Chris Pasteur

Checked by

David Tomb

Approved by

Gavin McGill

Revision History

Revision

01

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Details

Issue to ECU

Authorised

Gavin McGill

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1. Introduction

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report accompanies a Section 36 consent application being submitted by Earba Ltd. (the Applicant) to the Scottish Ministers which seeks consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and associated deemed planning permission to construct and operate the Earba Pumped Storage Hydroelectric scheme (the Proposed Development).

In accordance with best practice, a programme of pre-application community engagement has been undertaken by the Applicant. This Report gives details of the various meetings and public consultation events that have taken place with the community.

The Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultations) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 set out the information which must be contained within a Pre-Application Consultation Report. This includes:

- Dates on which, and places where, public events were held;
- Details of any additional consultation or notification required by the Council;
- Details of any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult with members of the public;
- A list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the applicant;
- Copies of any materials sent to consultees;
- Copies of any materials provided to those attending a public event;
- Copies of any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event;
- Photographs of any display boards or models at public events;
- Confirmation that consultees and attendees at public events were advised that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the planning authority;
- A summary of the written responses to consultations and views raised at public events;
- An indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events;
- An explanation of how the applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process, and

- An explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process.

This report presents a record of the public consultation for the proposed development of the Earba Pumped Storage Hydro scheme and how it met the requirements listed above.

2. Dates on which, and places where, public events were held

Two stages of public consultation events were held, the first in February 2023 and the second in November 2023.

First Stage – February 2023

The first stage of public consultation events were held at the Laggan Community Hall between 13:00 to 19:30 on Tuesday 21 February 2023 and at the Spean Bridge Community Centre between 13:00 and 19:30 on Wednesday 22 February 2023.

Posters advertising the event were posted on the community notice boards in Laggan, Newtonmore, Roy Bridge and Spean Bridge. A poster was sent to Dalwhinnie Community Council to put on their community notice board. A poster was put on the gate post at access to the site at Moy Bridge. A copy of the poster is included at **Appendix 1**. The Community Councils at Laggan, Newtonmore, Dalwhinnie and Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry were advised of the proposed public consultation events by email on 2 February 2023.

The events were advertised in the Inverness Courier and Badenoch and Strathspey Herald – the adverts are attached at **Appendix 2**.

Second Stage – November 2023

The second stage of public consultation events were held at the Laggan Community Hall between 13:00 to 19:30 on Tuesday 21 November 2023 and at the Spean Bridge Community Centre between 13:00 and 19:30 on Wednesday 22 November 2023.

Posters advertising the event were posted on the community notice boards in Laggan, Newtonmore, Roy Bridge and Spean Bridge. A poster was sent to Dalwhinnie Community Council to put on their community notice board. A poster was put on the gate post at access to the site at Moy Bridge. A copy of the poster is included at **Appendix 3**. The Community Councils at Laggan, Newtonmore, Dalwhinnie and Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry were advised of the events by email on 27 October 2023.

The events were advertised in the Inverness Courier and Badenoch and Strathspey Herald – the adverts are attached at **Appendix 4**.

3. Details of any additional consultation or notification required by the Council

None.

4. Details of any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult with members of the public

A letter was hand delivered to all properties within 10 km of the site boundary (area shown in plan at **Appendix 5**) on Wednesday 1 February 2023. A copy of letter is attached at **Appendix 6**.

The Community Councils at Laggan (LCC), Newtonmore (NCC), Dalwhinnie (DCC) and Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry (SBRBACC) were advised of the proposed development by email on 2 February 2023.

The Developer attended the following community council meetings:

4 April 2023 – SBRBACC – made a short presentation of the project and answered questions on it.

15 May 2023 – LCC - made a short presentation of the project and answered questions on it. Requested feedback from the LCC on the proposed visualisation locations for the EIA landscape and visual impact assessment (subsequently received).

5. A list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the applicant

- Local residents within 10 km of the site boundary
- Laggan Community Council
- Newtonmore Community Council
- Dalwhinnie Community Council
- Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council

6. Copies of any materials sent to consultees

All consultees listed above were sent a link to the project website www.earbastorage.co.uk which contains information on the scheme, links to the Scoping Report submitted to the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government on 30 January 2023 (Ref. ECU00004731), and contact details for making comments to Gilkes Energy Ltd.

7. Copies of any materials provided to those attending a public event

No materials were provided.

8. Copies of any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event

A video describing the scheme and its rationale was shown on a TV screen at each event. The version of the video shown in February is available from Earba Ltd on request. The video shown at the November events is available at this link: www.earbastorage.co.uk

9. Photographs of any display boards or models at public events

Photos of the display boards at the first stage public consultation events in February are attached at **Appendix 7**.

Photos of the display boards at the second stage public consultation events in November are attached at **Appendix 8**.

10. Confirmation that consultees and attendees at public events were advised that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the planning authority

At both the first and second stage public consultation events the following text was prominently displayed next to the sign-in and comments sheet:

Earba PSH Public Consultation

Important Notice

Any comments made to Gilkes Energy Ltd are not representations to the Highland Council and if Gilkes Energy Ltd submits a planning application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Highland Council.

For the second stage events, this text was included in the published advertisements and posters.

11. A summary of the written responses to consultations and views raised at public events

The written responses received at the first stage public consultation events in February are in **Table 1** below.

Table 2 – Written Responses at Public Consultation Events in February 2023

Ref	Comment	How addressed in the EIA Report
LCC-1	Good - bringing more work and money into the area.	
LCC-2	I think the plans look responsible and well presented.	
LCC-3	Good to see more large-scale projects like Earba! Balance on access for hill walkers.	

The written responses received at the second stage public consultation events in November are in **Table 2** below.

Table 2 – Written Responses at Public Consultation Events in November 2023

Ref	Comment	How addressed in the EIA Report
LCC-1	Useful to see appropriately detailed proposal.	n/a
SBRBACC-1	Much careful planning and thorough consultation. Tick.	n/a
SBRBACC-2	The powerhouse needs to be completely undergrounded and the area restored to a natural cover	Design of the powerhouse and how it would be accommodated within the landscape is addressed in the EIA Report in Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual, and in Appendix 2.2 – Sustainable Design Statement. .
SBRBACC-3	Interesting to learn more about the potential for pumped storage. Thank you.	n/a
SBRBACC-4	Lower powerhouse would improve visual aspect. An iconic area - shame.	Design of the powerhouse and how it would be accommodated within the landscape is addressed in the EIA Report in Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual, and in Appendix 2.2 – Sustainable Design Statement.
SBRBACC-5	The scheme will constitute a loss of amenity to those who enjoy the Highlands. However the energy storage is needed on a UK level.	Access for recreation is addressed in the EIA Report at Chapter 15 – Recreation and Access and the accompanying Draft Access Management Plan. The EIA Report outlines the national significance of this project in tackling climate change.
SBRBACC-6	Generally in support of storage projects but this is such a special landscape. How will the stories of the places lost be passed on to future generations? How will the recreational uses lost be compensated for? Improved access / opportunities elsewhere. Also, how will it look visually when water levels	Access for recreation is addressed in the EIA Report at Chapter 15 – Recreation and Access and the accompanying Draft Access Management Plan.

Ref	Comment	How addressed in the EIA Report
	are low is the key. Loch Treig, Laggan etc. have significantly more visual impact when they are not full which is a large amount of the year, esp. summer. Needs a viewpoint from the A86 to west - track over col will be highly visible. I feel the visuals underestimate the impact of the dams compared to existing dams. In such a remote valuable landscape, the elements that can be undergrounded should be.	Reservoir drawdown is addressed in the EIA Report Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual. PSH operates differently to conventional storage hydro, so drawdown more cyclical on a daily / short term basis than seasonally. Viewpoints previously agreed with THC / NatureScot and Laggan CC. As many structures as feasible have been undergrounded in the design of the scheme.

12. An indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events

First Stage – February 2023

Laggan – 16 to 18 people attended, 3 left written comments

Spean Bridge – 13 people attended, 1 left written comments

Second Stage – November 2023

Laggan – 10 to 14 people attended, 3 left written comments

Spean Bridge – 25 to 30 people attended, 14 left written comments

13. An explanation of how the applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process

In addition to the written feedback received, notes were taken of the verbal feedback received at the February events. A summary of verbal feedback is attached at **Table 3** below. At the November events most attendees left written comments and no additional notes of verbal comments were prepared, with the topics raised generally similar to those from the February events.

Table 3 – Verbal Feedback at Public Consultation Events in February 2023

Ref	Comment	How addressed in the EIA Report
Laggan – 22 – February 2023		
LCC-A	Feedback generally positive and recognising the need for this type of facility to counter climate change	The EIA Report outlines the national significance of this project in tackling climate change.
LCC-B	Several attendees use the area for cycling and were concerned about the level of change around Loch Earba that would be caused by the reservoir drawdown.	Access for recreation is addressed in the EIA Report at Chapter 15 – Recreation and Access and the accompanying Draft Access Management Plan. Reservoir drawdown is addressed in the EIA Report Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual. PSH operates differently to conventional storage hydro, so drawdown more cyclical on a daily / short term basis than seasonally.
LCC-C	A number of attendees asked if access for walking, cycling and swimming in the loch would be maintained during construction and operation of the scheme.	Maintenance of access for recreation is addressed in the EIA Report at Chapter 15 – Recreation and Access and the accompanying Draft Access Management Plan.
LCC-D	There were several questions about the number any type of jobs that would be created by the project, particularly permanent jobs during operation of the scheme.	A significant number of jobs would be created both during construction and operation of the scheme. These will be of various types, but there should be good opportunities for local jobseekers.
LCC-E	Associated with the above was a question about the provision of local housing for any permanent jobs.	The Developer is interested in contributing to the local community by supporting specific projects in consultation with the communities affected, which could include affordable housing projects.
LCC-F	Some comments regarding the proposed sub-station (not in the S36 application), possibly reflecting the local community's recent experience with the construction of Melgarve substation.	It was explained that although this project relies on a grid connection, it is a regulatory requirement that this is provided by SSEN Transmission, and that it would be subject to a separate planning application. The Developer has committed to this connection being an underground cable however.
LCC-G	Concerns raised regarding road safety with the additional construction traffic and historical and ongoing experience of poor driving by all types of vehicle on the local roads.	The EIA Report predicts the additional traffic that would be generated during the construction and operation of the scheme, together with a range of mitigation measures to minimise this traffic.
LCC-H	The local primary school in Laggan, Gergask Primary School, is "in mothballs" due to a current lack of pupils to make it viable. One member of the community expressed a hope that additional employment during and after the construction might lead to more	The Developer is keen to support the community in the retention of Gergask Primary School but explained that the timescales for commencement of the project might be too late for the additional employment to be in place

Ref	Comment	How addressed in the EIA Report
	children living in the Gergask Primary school catchment and allowing it to be revitalised.	before any final decision on the school is made.
LCC-I	A question as to whether there will be any opportunity for the community to invest in the scheme.	The Developer stated that due to the nature of the project, this would not be possible.
Spean Bridge – 23 February 2023		
SB-A	Several representatives from the SBRBACC and the SBRBADT attended. Concerns regarding additional traffic, although they concede roads from east are worse than from the A82. They welcome the jobs that will come. They already have a relationship with the Coire Glas PSH, which is now starting preliminary works. They would like an open and constructive relationship with GEL from an early stage in the project.	The Developer has committed to maintaining a dialogue with the SBRBACC and understands its concerns regarding traffic. The EIA Report predicts the additional traffic that would be generated during the construction and operation of the scheme, together with a range of mitigation measures to minimise this traffic.
SB-B	Feedback generally positive and recognising the need for this type of facility to counter climate change.	The EIA Report outlines the national significance of this project in tackling climate change.
SB-C	Some concerns raised about visual impact effects.	The visual impact of the scheme is assessed in the EIA Report Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual, together with supporting figures and visualisations.
SB-D	Some comments regarding recreational access including for walking, climbing, cycling and swimming.	Maintenance of access for recreation is addressed in the EIA Report at Chapter 15 – Recreation and Access and the accompanying Draft Access Management Plan.
SB-E	A local botanist raised concerns about potential botanical habitats associated with geological faults across Loch Leamhain containing specific minerals.	The ecologists carrying out the survey work for the EIA made contact with the local botanist prior to carrying out their survey in order to discuss his particular concerns. The surveys and EIA have taken this information into account.

The comments from the first public consultation event were taken into account in the evolution of the scheme design and in the Environmental Impact Assessment. How this was done is recorded in **Table 1**.

The comments from the second public consultation event were taken into account in the evolution of the scheme design and in the Environmental Impact Assessment. How this was done is recorded in **Table 2**.

14. An explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process

Members of the public who expressed a view were told that it would be considered in the next stage of the scheme design and in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Appendix 1 – Poster for February Public Consultation Events

EARBA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO SCHEME

Gilkes Energy Ltd is proposing to construct a 900 Megawatt, 33 Gigawatt-hour large-scale long-duration electricity storage pumped storage hydroelectric scheme within Ardverikie Estate.

We invite you to come and find out about our proposals for this development and for you to share your views about them.

Pre-application Consultation Events

We are holding our first pre-application consultation events at:

- Laggan Community Hall between 13:00 and 19:30 on Tuesday 21 February 2023
- Spean Bridge Community Centre between 13:00 and 19:30 on Wednesday 22 February 2023.

During these drop-in events, members of the community will be able to view key project information about our proposals and there will be opportunity for to ask questions to the project team and share feedback ahead of the submission of a planning application, which is expected to be in autumn of this year.

We look forward to seeing you at one of these events.

Information on the scheme is available on our website: www.earbastorage.co.uk

If you have any questions, please contact at: info@gilkesenergy.com

Appendix 2 - Adverts in the Inverness Courier and Badenoch and Strathspey Herald for the February Events

38 The Inverness Courier

www.inverness-courier.co.uk

Friday, February 17 to Monday, February 20, 2023

public notices

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
A87 CARRICH BRIDGE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
DETERMINATION UNDER SECTION 55A OF THE ROADS
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

The Scottish Ministers give notice that they have determined that the project for installing electrical ducting on the A87 Carrich Bridge, is a relevant project within the meaning of section 55A of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 ("the 1984 Act") and falls within Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of certain public and private projects on the environment, but that having regard to:

(a) the selection criteria contained in Annex III of that Directive, namely:

- (i) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;
- (ii) the production of waste;
- (iii) pollution and nuisances;
- (iv) the risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution);
- (v) areas (classified or protected under national legislation): Natura 2000 areas designated by Member States pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC;
- (vi) coastal zones and the marine environment;

(b) the results of the Environmental Screening Assessment under section 55A(2) of the 1984 Act and the Assessment under regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 ("the 1994 Regulations") concluded that, with mitigation, there would be no likely significant effects on the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills Special Area of Conservation, Lochs Duich, Long and Aish Rees Special Area of Conservation, Inner Hebrides and the Minches Special Area of Conservation, Lochs Duich, Long and Aish Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area and the Loch Carron Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area;

(c) the information set out in the Record of Determination dated 9 December 2022, available at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/transport-network/roads/road-orders-and-records-of-determination/#63527>;

the project does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment. The main reasons for the conclusion that no Environmental Impact Assessment is required are:

EARBA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO SCHEME

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We invite you to come and find out about our proposals for this development and for you to share your views about them.

Pre-application Consultation Events

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- Laggan Community Hall between 13:00 and 19:30 on Tuesday 21 February 2023
- Spean Bridge Community Centre between 13:00 and 19:30 on Wednesday 22 February 2023.

During these drop-in events, members of the community will be able to view key project information about our proposals and there will be opportunity for to ask questions to the project team and share feedback ahead of the submission of a planning application which is expected to be in autumn of this year.

We look forward to seeing you at one of these events.

Information on the scheme is available on our website: www.earbastorage.co.uk

If you have any questions, please contact at: info@earbastorage.co.uk

www.hIGHLAND.gov.uk

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in late 70's
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32 Strathspey and Badenoch Herald www.strathspey-herald.co.uk Thursday, February 16 to Wednesday, February 22, 2023

public notices	services north	
PUBLIC NOTICES EARBA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO SCHEME Gilkes Energy Ltd is proposing to construct a 900 Megawatt, 33 Ggawatt-hour large-scale long-duration electricity storage pumped storage hydroelectric scheme within Ardenkie Estate. We invite you to come and find out about our proposals for this development and for you to share your views about them. <u>Pre-application Consultation Events</u> We are holding our first pre-application consultation events at: - Laggan Community Hall between 13:00 and 19:30 on Tuesday 21 February 2023 - Spean Bridge Community Centre between 13:00 and 19:30 on Wednesday 22 February 2023. During these drop-in events, members of the community will be able to view key project information about our proposals and there will be opportunity for to ask questions to the project team and share feedback ahead of the submission of a planning application, which is expected to be in autumn of this year. We look forward to seeing you at one of these events Information on the scheme is available on our website www.earbastorage.co.uk If you have any questions, please contact at: nfr@gilkesenergy.com	CHIROPODY ANNE HOWE PODLATRIST Footcare home visits in Badenoch & Strathspey Tel: 01479 811730 E: anne.howe@hvc.com HCPC registered	THE STRATHSPEY & BADENOCH HERALD Our representative can be contacted on (01479) 872102
	GARDEN SERVICES JR TREE AND GARDEN CARE ALL TYPES OF LANDSCAPING - All types of trees and conifer hedges felled, pruned, topped and uprooted - Slabbing • Wood bark • Fencing - High powered pressure washing on driveways and patios - Coloured gravel supplied and laid on request SEPA registered waste carrier NO JOB TOO LARGE OR SMALL FREE Estimates T. 01463 250714 M. 07747 175300	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE  OASIS PAINTING • ROOFING • JOINERY - Roofing Repairs • Exterior Painting • Decking - Pressure Washing • Flat Roofing • Moss Removal - Gutter Cleaning • UPVC Fascia Soffit & Guttering And Much More... Guaranteed to get the job done within 2 weeks weather permitting We are a small family run business. We aim to please and our main target is customer satisfaction. We always get the job done to a very high standard. We cover all aspects property care. Call the professionals today www.oasisuk.co.uk 07476804432 Oasis Property Maintenance oasispropertymaintenance4@gmail.com
	TREE SERVICES TREE SURGERY - Trees and branches removed - Trees Pruned and Topped - Hedges Trimmed and Maintained 24-hour Emergency Call Out - Fully Insured and Affordable Prices Tel: Graeme	TRADES DESCRIPTIONS All advertisements for "The Strathspey and Badenoch Herald" will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene the Consumer Protection From Unfair Trading

Appendix 3 – Poster for November Public Consultation Events

EARBA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO SCHEME

Earba Ltd is proposing to construct a 1,800 Megawatt, 40 Gigawatt-hour large-scale long-duration electricity storage pumped storage hydroelectric scheme within Ardverikie Estate.

We invite you to come and find out about our proposals for this development and for you to share your views about them.

Pre-application Public Consultation Events

We are holding public consultation events at:

- Laggan Community Hall between 13:00 and 19:30 on Tuesday 21 November 2023
- Spean Bridge Community Centre between 13:00 and 19:30 on Wednesday 22 November 2023

During these drop-in events, members of the community will be able to view key project information about our proposals and there will be the opportunity to ask questions to the project team and share feedback ahead of the submission of a planning application, which is expected to be in early 2024.

We look forward to seeing you at one of these events. Information on the scheme is available on our website: www.earbastorage.co.uk

If you wish to make comments on the Proposed Development, you may do so in writing at the public consultation events, or alternatively at any time by email to info@gilkesenergy.com.

Comments made to Gilkes Energy Ltd are not representations to the Council. When Gilkes Energy Ltd submits a planning application on behalf of Earba Ltd there will be an opportunity to make representations on the application to the Council.

If you have any questions, please contact us at: info@gilkesenergy.com

Appendix 4 - Adverts in the Inverness Courier and Badenoch and Strathspey Herald for the November Events



www.inverness-courier.co.uk

Friday, November 10 to Monday, November 13, 2023



www.hIGHLAND.gov.uk



EARBA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO SCHEME

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If you have any questions, please contact us at: info@gilkesenergy.com

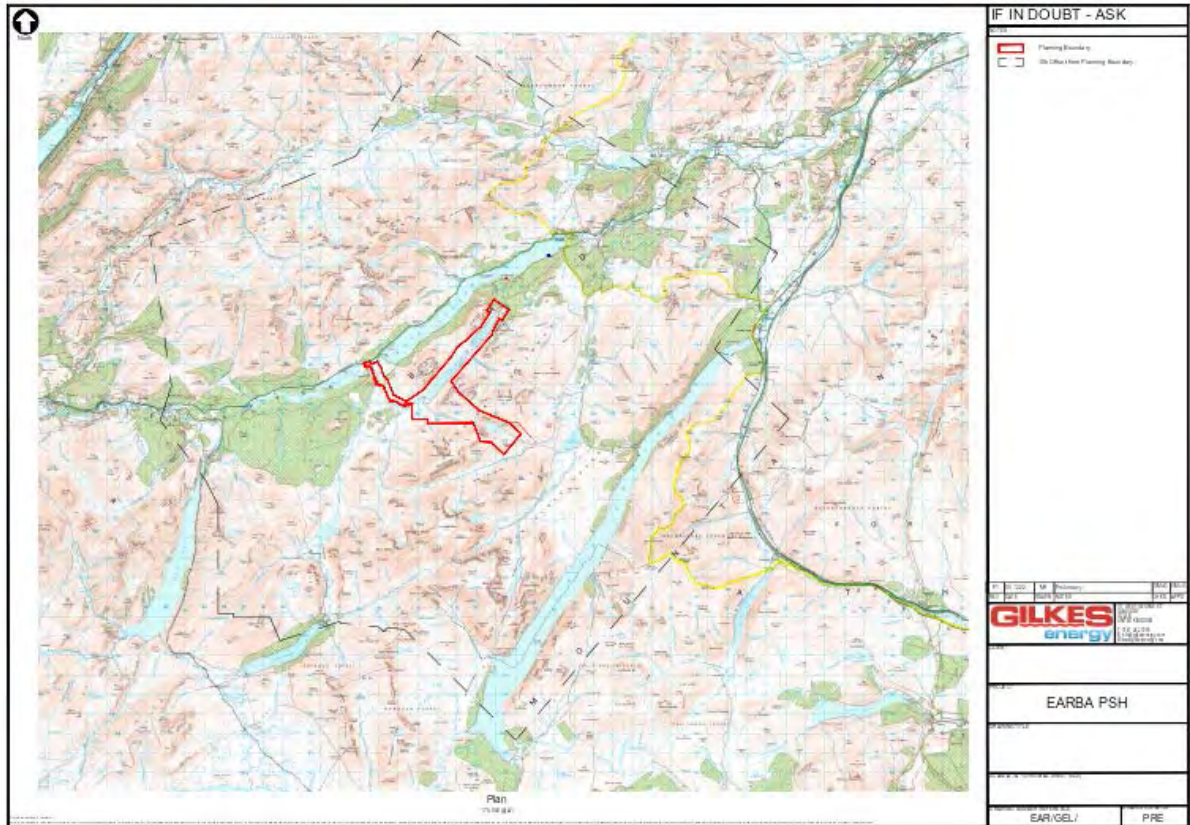
34 Strathpey and Badenoch Herald

www.strathpey-herald.co.uk

Thursday, November 9 to Wednesday, November 15, 2023

public notices		services north		
EARBA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO SCHEME Earba Ltd is proposing to construct a 1.800 Megawatt, 40 Ggawatt hour large scale long duration electricity storage pumped storage hydroelectric scheme within Ardenkirk Estate. We invite you to come and find out about our proposals for this development and for you to share your views about them. Pre-application Public Consultation Events We are holding public consultation events at: - Laggan Community Hall between 13:00 and 19:30 on Tuesday 21 November 2023 - Speen Bridge Community Centre between 13:00 and 19:30 on Wednesday 22 November 2023 During these drop in events, members of the community will be able to view key project information about our proposals and there will be the opportunity to ask questions to the project team and share feedback ahead of the submission of a planning application, which is expected to be in early 2024. We look forward to seeing you at one of these events. Information on the scheme is available on our website: www.earbastorage.co.uk If you wish to make comments on the Proposed Development, you may do so in writing at the public consultation events, or alternatively at any time by email to info@gilkesenergy.com. Comments made to Gilkes Energy Ltd are not representations to the Council. When Gilkes Energy Ltd submits a planning application on behalf of Earba Ltd there will be an opportunity to make representations on the application to the Council. If you have any questions, please contact us at: info@gilkesenergy.com		CHIROPODY ANNE HOWE PODIATRIST Regrettably but due to increased costs of supplies and fuel the cost of an appointment has increased. From 1st May 2023 the cost of an appointment will be £35. Tel: 01479 811730 anne.howe@live.com HCPC registered All advertisements for "The Strathpey and Badenoch Herald" will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.	GARDEN SERVICES JR TREE AND GARDEN CARE ALL TYPES OF LANDSCAPING • All types of trees and conifer hedges felled, pruned, topped and uprooted • Slabbing • Wood bark • Fencing • High powered pressure washing on driveways and patios • Coloured gravel supplied and laid on request SEPA registered waste carrier NO JOB TOO LARGE OR SMALL FREE Estimates T. 01463 250714 M. 07747 175300	FLOORING toncam Flooring & Interiors We also offer the following services: • Carpet & upholstery cleaning • Wooden floor sanding / restoration • Stone & tile cleaning / sealing Come & visit our showroom 25 High Street, Kingussie PH21 1HX t: 01540 662 994 e: contact@toncam.co.uk www.toncam.co.uk
		PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OASIS PAINTING - ROOFING - JOINERY • Roofing Repairs • Exterior Painting • Decking	ROOFING 	

Appendix 5 – Letter Drop Delivery Area



Appendix 6 – Letter to Residents within 10 km of the Site Boundary



Canal Head North
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 7BZ

30 January 2023

Dear Resident,

Earba Storage – a Proposal to Build a Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Scheme on Ardverikie Estate

Gilkes Energy Limited is a UK based company specialising in the development, construction and operation of hydroelectric schemes. We have reached an agreement with Ardverikie Estate to develop a pumped storage hydro scheme within the estate. Details of the proposed scheme are given on the website we have set up for the project: www.earbastorage.co.uk

We are writing to you as a resident within 10km of the boundary of the proposed development to let you know that we will shortly be commencing the initial stages of the planning application process with the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government and the Highland Council. We are keen to let you know about the scheme and to get your feedback on it before we make a formal application for planning consent, which we expect will be in the autumn of this year.

We will be holding public exhibitions to present details of the project, to respond to any questions and to listen to any comments you may have on it. These will be taking place as follows:

- at the Laggan Community Hall between 13:00 and 19:30 on Tuesday 21 February 2023
- at the Spean Bridge Community Centre between 13:00 and 19:30 on Wednesday 22 February 2023

If you would like to get in contact with us in the meantime, you can write to the address at the top of this letter or email us at info@gilkesenergy.com

Yours faithfully,



Carl Crompton
Managing Director

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Appendix 7 – Photos of Display Boards – February Events

Laggan



EARBA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO SCHEME

Why pumped storage hydro is needed

- PSH uses electricity to pump water from a lower to an upper reservoir when there is excess renewable energy on the grid and uses that water to drive a turbine to generate electricity when there is inadequate renewable energy.
- In effect it is a giant battery.
- The Scottish Government recognises the need for large-scale, long-duration electricity storage provided by PSH to create the conditions for a net zero energy system by facilitating the development of more intermittent renewable energy.
- Earba PSH has a bigger electricity storage capacity than any others operating, consented or in planning in the UK.
- If built, Earba PSH would more than double the UK's current electricity storage capacity (all technologies)

Why Earba?

- Suitable topography to be able to create an upper and lower reservoir
- High elevation difference and short distance between the upper and lower reservoirs
- Large reservoir capacity to maximise electricity storage
- Large power capacity to deliver storage at scale
- Suitable geological conditions
- Practicable access to the electricity transmission network and road network
- No ecological designations within the site
- The opportunity for a shaft powerhouse rather than a cavern
- The opportunity to win and use materials within the site to minimise off-site transport
- Local Employment Opportunities



Contact details and website:
info@gilkesenergy.com
<https://earbastorage.co.uk>



EARBA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO SCHEME

The Site

The Proposed Development is located on Ardverikie Estate, approximately midway between Newtonmore and Spean Bridge, and would operate by transferring water between a lower reservoir, Lochan na h-Earba and an upper reservoir, Loch a'Bhealaich Leamhain.

Lochan na h-Earba sits within a narrow glen, and currently consists of two lochs which are joined by a small watercourse. This loch is already a modified hydro reservoir, controlled by a weir / dam and hydro intake at the northern end. The 1MW hydro it feeds is operated by Ardverikie Estate, with an overhead line from the hydro powerhouse near the Ardverikie House to Dalwhinnie. Pattack Hydro, operated by Gilkes Energy, is located to the east and shares this export line to Dalwhinnie. A number of other existing hydro developments can also be found in the area.

Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain is a smaller lochan located south-east of Lochan na h-Earba within an area of upland moorland, just south of the summit of Geal Charn.





The upper reservoir area at Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain

Lochan na h-Earba

Powerhouse Area



Key

- Proposed Reservoir (indicated)
- Proposed Powerhouse (indicated)
- Proposed Surge Tank (indicated)
- Proposed New Tunnel Adit (indicated)
- Proposed Main (indicated)
- Proposed Tunnel (indicated)
- Proposed Main Tunnel Area New Bridge (indicated)
- Proposed Buried Grid Connection (indicated)
- Proposed Electrical Substation (indicated)

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HYDRO SCHEME

The Proposed Development

The scheme would operate by transferring water between a lower reservoir, Lochan na h-Earba and an upper reservoir, Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain. The maximum water level of these existing lochs would be raised by constructing dams to increase their natural storage capacity. The reservoirs would be connected by an underground waterway system including two headrace tunnels.

A powerhouse will be constructed on the shore of Loch Earba which will extend deep underground. The turbines will be located at the bottom of the powerhouse shaft and will generate electricity in times of national demand or pump water for energy storage in times when there is surplus electricity on the national grid.



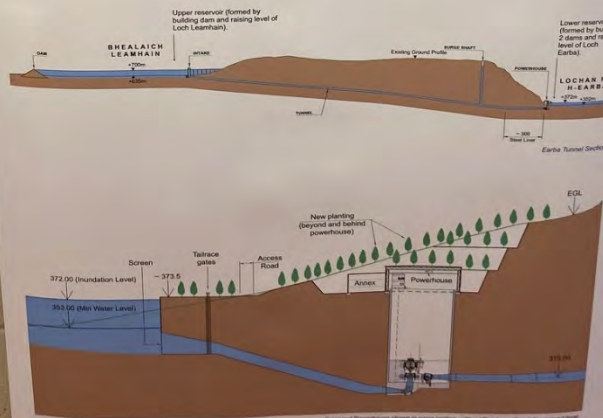
This is Marchlyn Mawr dam in Wales which is similar to the dams proposed at Earba



Plan of the proposed powerhouse

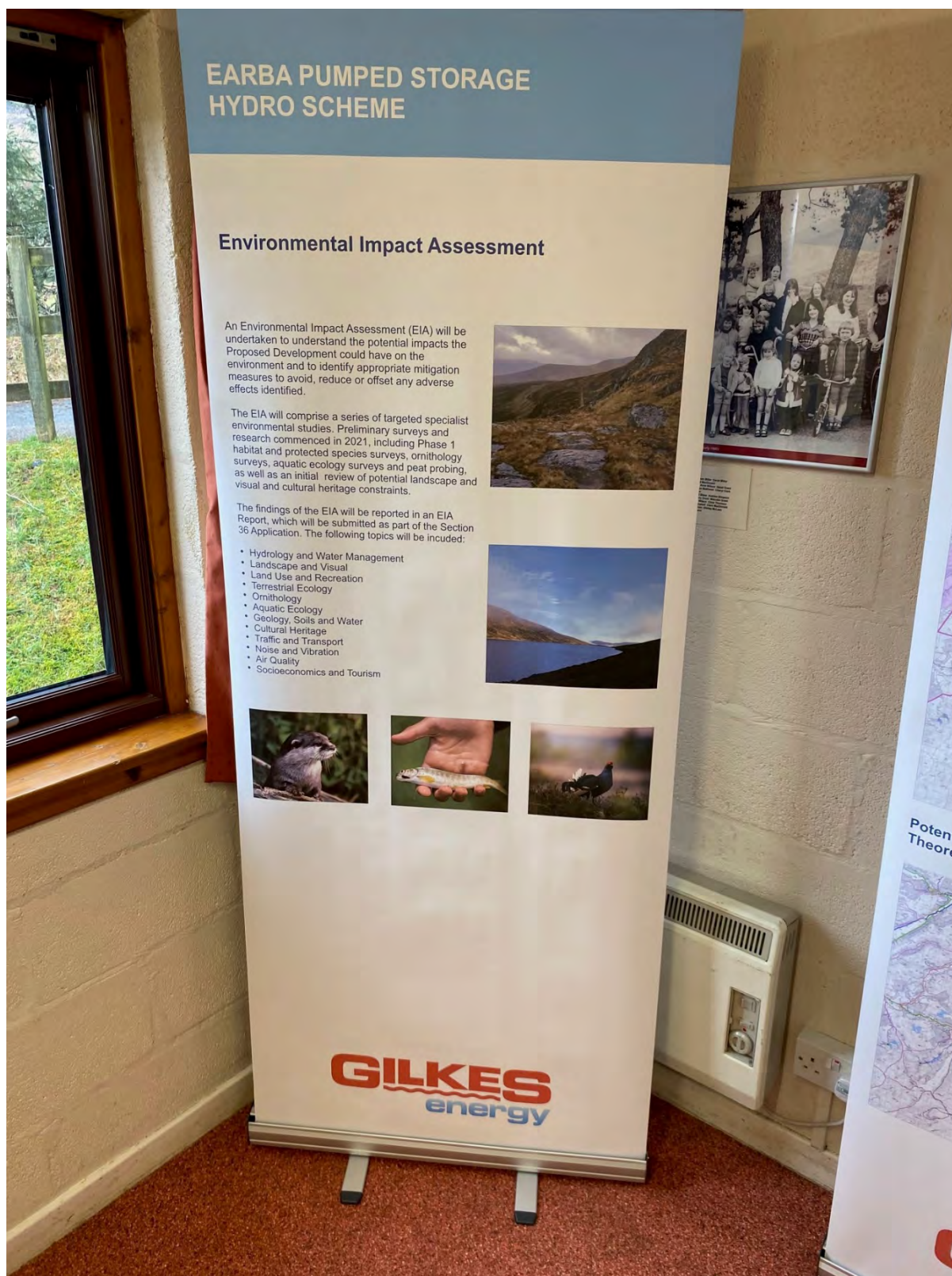
Key details

- 900MW Capacity
- Storage of up to 33,000MWh
- 3 Dam structures
- 2.6km tunnel length



Proposed Powerhouse effect in cross section, with existing dammed existing ground level

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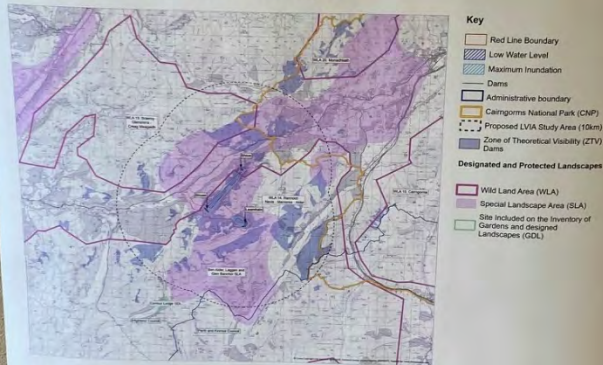


EARBA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO SCHEME

Landscape and Visual

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will be undertaken as part of the EIA, and will include the consideration of potential effects to the fabric and character of the landscape resource and the visual amenity of residents, travellers and visitors. Initial research has been undertaken to identify potential visual receptors and landscape designations within the area. As part of this exercise a preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) was produced to determine the potential extent of visibility of the dams.

Designated and Protected Landscapes



Potential Visual Receptors and Zone of Theoretical Visibility



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Spean Bridge





Appendix 8 – Photos of Display Boards – November Events

Laggan







Spean Bridge





