



Dear resident

Proposed Wind Farm Development for Spittal Hill - Your views?

It is important for us to consider the views of local people when developing our proposals for the Spittal Hill wind farm. This short **questionnaire** is one of the ways in which you will be able to express your opinions, views that will be considered carefully and will help shape future plans for the Spittal Hill wind farm.

Please read the enclosed newsletter before completing the questionnaire. This provides some information about the proposed development. It also tells you more about wind power and points you in the direction of other sources of information. The questionnaire should take five to 10 minutes of your time to complete. Please return your completed questionnaire to us in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

To encourage a high response rate you are entitled to enter a prize draw by completing the questionnaire (1st prize £100, 2nd £50 and 3rd £25). To qualify you will need to fill in your contact information at the end. However, please rest assured that your contact details will only be used by Holyrood Consultations and your responses will remain **confidential** and will only be summarised in our written report. For your comfort, we are bound by the Market Research Society Codes of Conduct and Data Protection legislation to ensure this is the case.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONS BELOW – YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT TO US.

Q1. To what extent do you support or oppose the use of renewable generation as part of the UK's electricity supply?

Please ✓ **one box only**

1. Strongly support	2. Tend to support	3. Neither support nor oppose	4. Tend to oppose	5. Strongly oppose

Q2. To what extent do you support or oppose the use of wind power as an alternative source of electricity? Please ✓ **one box only**

1. Strongly support	2. Tend to support	3. Neither support nor oppose	4. Tend to oppose	5. Strongly oppose

Q3. Before you read our newsletter, how would you describe your knowledge of on shore wind farms? Please ✓ **one box only**

1. Knew a lot	2. Knew a little	3. Knew very little	4. Knew nothing at all

Q4. How many wind farms have you seen in operation in the last five years? Please ✓ **one box only**

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.+

Q5. When you last saw a wind farm in operation would you say this had a positive or negative effect on your perception of the local area? Please ✓ **one box only**

1. Very positive	2. Slightly positive	3. Neither positive nor negative	4. Slightly negative	5. Very negative

Q6. To what extent do you feel the Spittal Hill wind farm could have a positive or negative impact on the following areas?

Please ✓ one box only for each category below	1. Very positive	2. Quite positive	3. Neither positive nor negative	4. Quite negative	5. Very negative	6. Don't know
Harnessing sustainable wind energy						
Reducing CO2 emissions						
Producing energy locally						
Reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels						
Providing local construction and maintenance jobs						
Business set up and run by local people						
It can be easily decommissioned						
Public access infrastructure will be provided						
Other please write in						

Q7. And specifically, to what extent do you think that the proposal for a wind farm at Spittal Hill will have a positive or negative effect on the following...

Please ✓ one box only for each category below	1. Very positive	2. Quite positive	3. Neither positive nor negative	4. Quite negative	5. Very negative	6. Don't know
Your perception of the area						
Its visual impact on the local scenery and landscape quality						
The natural environment						
Noise levels in the area						
Business activity						
Your key recreational activities						
Your quality of life						
Property values						
Health						
Other please write in						

Q8. As part of the wind farm development a community trust will be established to deal with community benefit. This will be a substantial sum – some developers are currently paying in the region of £2000 per megawatt per annum (potentially equating to over £150,000 per annum for this proposal). To inform how this fund is best used we would like to know what four things you think most need improving in your local area. **Please ✓ up to four only.**

1. Further Education funding assistance for students		5. Support for local public transport	
2. Business start-up assistance		6. Leisure and sports facilities	
3. Home energy savings measures		7. Support for local community organizations and events	
4. Activities for the elderly		8. Assistance for school education trips	
Something else			

Q9. There are a variety of ways in which this community benefit could be structured. These includes the following:

- An annual payment is paid to the Community Council to be spent on local projects;
- A separate Community Trust is established and an annual payment made to this trust. This trust is managed by local people including some nominated by local community organisations;
- The community takes ownership of a turbine (or more than one) and the income from this is spent on local projects;
- Local people are encouraged to buy into the development. They become shareholders and receive an annual dividend;

Please indicate which of these you most or least approve of, below. Or suggest an alternative. Where 1 is strongly approving and 5 is strongly disapproving.

Please ✓ one box only for each category below	1. Strongly approving	2. Slightly approving	3. Neither approving nor resistant	4. Slightly disapproving	5. Very disapproving	6. Don't know
Annual payment paid to Community Council						
Annual payment to separate local Community Trust						
Ownership of a turbine(s) by the community						
Local people become shareholders						
I think there is another way	Please write in:					

Q10. Another option could be for a "single pot" to be created for the benefit of the Caithness community at large, to which all developers contribute a proportion of any community benefit from their wind farm development(s). How strongly do you approve/disapprove of this option? Where 1 is strongly approving and 5 is strongly disapproving.

Please ✓ one only	1. Strongly approving	2. Slightly approving	3. Neither approving nor resistant	4. Slightly disapproving	5. Very disapproving	6. Don't know
A "single pot" for Caithness						

Q11. Please look at the photo montages provided on the attached Exhibit 1, which provide a virtual image of how the site might look from various view points: as currently proposed. Taking these images into consideration what do you think of the chosen location for the wind farm? NB more photo montages will be available at the public exhibition and on the Spittal Hill Wind Farm website.

Please ✓ one only.

1. A very good choice	2. Quite a good choice	3. An acceptable choice	4. A poor choice	5. A very poor choice

Q12. As detailed in the newsletter the site at Spittal Hill has a good wind resource, nearby grid connection, good access and no significant environmental impact. Spittal Hill Windfarm Ltd. believes that this makes it a good site for a wind farm.

Overall what do you think of the chosen location for the wind farm? **Please ✓ one only.**

1. A very good choice	2. Quite a good choice	3. An acceptable choice	4. A poor choice	5. A very poor choice

Q13. Overall, how would you describe your reaction to the proposal for a wind farm at Spittal Hill? **Please ✓ one only**

1. Strongly approving	2. Slightly approving	3. Neither approving nor resistant	4. Slightly resistant	5. Very resistant

Finally so that we are able to include the views of people from across the community, please can you tell us about yourself.

Q14. Which of the following best describes your residential status? **Please ✓ all that apply**

1. Permanent resident	2. Temporary resident	3. Visitor	4. Local representative of local, regional or national body	5. Non-local representative of local, regional or national body

Q15. How old are you? **Please ✓ one only**

1. 0-15yrs	2. 16-24yrs	3. 25-39yrs	4. 40-59yrs	5. 60 plus

Q16. Are you male or female

Q17. How long have you lived in Caithness? **Please ✓ one only.**

Born here <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 30 years <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 20 years <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 10 years <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 5 years <input type="checkbox"/>	Under 5 years <input type="checkbox"/>
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This is a confidential survey. The responses will be collated and summarised in a written report in an anonymous basis, together with other residents' answers. This report will be written by Holyrood Consultations. However, if you would like to receive further information about the Spittal Hill wind farm in the future, or would like to enter the prize draw you can provide your contact details below. Alternatively you may write to Holyrood Consultations, 20 (f2) Forth Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3LH.

Mr/Mrs/Miss (delete as appropriate. Other write in)	
Surname	
First name(s)	
Address 1	
Address 2	
Town/Village	
County/Region	
Tel	
Email	
Please enter me into the prize draw <input type="checkbox"/>	
Please send me further information about Spittal Hill wind farm in the future <input type="checkbox"/> (tick as appropriate).	

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return it to us in the **pre-paid envelope provided**. If you have any questions concerning this questionnaire please contact Kate Sankey at Holyrood Consultations on 0131 550 3736.

For general enquiries concerning the wind farm development you can write to

Tom Pottinger
Spittal Windfarm Ltd
Baillie Farm
Bridge of Westfield
Thurso KW14 7QW

Exhibit 1

NB more photo montages will be available at the public exhibition and on the Spittal Hill Wind Farm website.



***Location: A9 near Spittal.
Distance to nearest turbine - 1.3km***



***Location: Junction A9 A882.
Distance to nearest turbine - 3.3km***