



National Developments – Response Form

Please use the table below to let us know about projects you think may be suitable for national development status. You can also tell us your views on the existing national developments in National Planning Framework 3, referencing their name and number, and providing reasons as to why they should maintain their status. Please use a separate table for each project or development. **Please fill in a [Respondent Information Form](#) and return it with this form to scotplan@gov.scot.**

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| Name of proposed national development | Coire Glas Hydro Pumped Storage Limited |
| Brief description of proposed national development | 1500 MW capacity, 30 GWH energy storage. Hydro pumped storage scheme based on the northern shore of Loch Lochy in the Great Glen of the Scottish Highlands. |
| Location of proposed national development (information in a GIS format is welcome if available) | NGR NN 2550 9330 Loch Lochy Lower works NGR NN 2370 9560 Allt a'Choire Ghlais dam location |
| What part or parts of the development requires planning permission or other consent? | The Coire Glas hydro pumped storage scheme S36 application 1500 MW revised (currently awaiting determination with Scottish Government). 400 kV grid connection OHL from scheme to connection at Auchteraw on the Beaully Denny line S37 application. This application yet to be made and will be submitted by National Grid using their Scottish agents SSEN. |
| When would the development be complete or operational? | Project commissioning estimated to be 2028 with full operational service by 2029 |
| Is the development already formally recognised – for example identified in a development plan, has planning permission, in receipt of funding etc. | Project has existing S36 planning consent for 600 MW 30 GWh capacity pumped storage at the site. SEPA Car licence CAR/L/110849 granted for revised 1500 MW scheme. Existing Schedule 5 water rights order for 600 MW scheme. |

Contribution of proposed national development to the national development criteria (maximum 500 words):

We are in a time when the way Scotland generates and consumes energy is changing radically to meet the challenge of climate change and the need to decarbonise our energy system. To do this the Scottish Government has set a legally binding target of net zero carbon use by 2045.

The UK electricity generation system is moving from a grid sourced primarily from fossil fuels, to one where the generation will be from low carbon sources. Scotland has already contributed greatly to this with a supportive policy on renewable energy, and further enhancement of this support will be a key part of that transformation. By its nature, renewable electricity generation is variable in its output depending as it does on the weather. Having a flexible mechanism of energy storage, such as pumped hydro will help smooth the peaks and troughs of variable renewable energy output.

Both short duration storage (batteries) and long duration storage (pumped hydro) can provide the grid with the stability and flexibility it needs to allow the most effective and productive use of low carbon generation assets. This will allow Scotland and the wider UK to optimise the use and potential of its renewable low carbon investments, bringing more value and lower costs to consumers. Coire Glas will be a significant contribution to this and should therefore be afforded national development status.

Coire Glas is a major civil engineering construction project with an estimated construction period of 5-6 years, a long operational life (50 years +) and like previous pumped storage schemes in Scotland will make a long-term positive contribution to the Scottish energy system.

Of the project's estimated cost of between £1.2 - £1.5 billion, more than 70% is in the civil engineering structures and this investment will be spend directly in the Scottish Highlands with the associated job and other economic benefits that will bring.

Additional wider benefits of Coire Glas will be a reduction in the daily costs to the consumer due to:

- Reduces peak wholesale prices;
- Reduction in the consumer cost of CfD support;
- Reduction in the cost of constraining surplus renewable generation;
- Reduction in the costs of managing transmission system constraints;
- Reduction in the cost for network stability and security management;

The wider societal benefits of Coire Glas include:

- Avoided investment costs for other low carbon generation peaking capacity by firming up renewable generation;
- Avoided costs by reducing and delaying the need for capacity reinforcements in the transmission network;
- Helping ensure low carbon value is retained in Scotland by reducing low price exports and high price imports through the interconnectors;
- The investment in a large civil engineering works will boost the Scottish economy at this critical time.

The benefits to the electricity network include:

- Providing much needed rotating inertia to help with frequency regulation and grid stabilisation;
- Dynamic fault current injection for fault protection systems;
- Fast acting and large-scale dynamic load following;
- Adding resilience to the Scottish and UK electricity grid with large Blackstart capability and stored energy capacity for re-energisation in times of black-out.

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scotplan@gov.scot