

WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT



 **The Client**

→ INFINERGY started developing onshore wind farms in 2003. The company is committed to the development and operation of sensitively sited wind farm projects across the UK.

 **The Background**

→ A wind farm project was proposed for the Lochluichart Estate in the Scottish Highlands, amid a growing climate of hostility towards the proliferation of turbines in the region.

The local authority had approved a clutch of wind farms but was beginning to face stiff opposition from well-organised, well-informed groups campaigning on a Scotland-wide basis as well as locally.

The proposal for the 17-turbine wind farm was located outside the Highland Council’s preferred area of wind farm developments and close to main tourist routes and destinations.

 **The Solution**

→ Pendragon carried out extensive desktop and on-the-ground research to establish the probable views of local residents, councillors, the media and a range of interested parties.

Communications measures included a leaflet sent to all surrounding communities, advertising, public exhibitions, presentations, one-to-one meetings and the formation of a highly effective support group.

 **The Result**

→ Although the planning officer’s recommendation was to refuse the scheme on grounds of visual impact and potential effects on tourism, Pendragon’s persistence paid off as councillors on the planning committee voted to support development of the 51MW scheme.

“This is exactly the type of project we need to drive our renewables ambitions for Scotland”

Jim Mather, Scottish Energy Minister