

Work undertaken to date

Feasibility studies were undertaken in 2021 by the development partners to identify this area for development.

Environmental surveys of the site and surrounding area were undertaken between Autumn 2021 and Summer 2023. Baseline data collected from these surveys and subsequent assessments have informed site selection and design.

Pre-application consultation with the Highland Council has been ongoing since Autumn 2021, including a formal pre-application advice meeting, which was held in June 2022 for the Highland Council and other key consultees to provide early indications of their view of the scheme.

Public consultation events were held in September and November 2022 at key stages in the development process to inform the public and other interested parties of proposals and baseline environmental conditions and potential impacts, and to elicit comment and feedback on the Proposed Development.

A request for a Screening Opinion from the Highland Council under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 was made in December 2022. A Screening Opinion was received in February 2023, which confirmed that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required for the Proposed Development.

A suite of environmental appraisals have been undertaken based on the characteristics of the final indicative design and of the existing environment. These form part of the planning application supporting information, in addition to a Supporting Statement, Pre-application Consultation Report, Design and Access Statement, Transport Statement and Planning Statement.

What Next?

ScottishPower, on behalf of the Cromarty Hydrogen Project, has submitted a planning application under Section 32 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the proposed construction and operation of an electrolyser plant and ancillary infrastructure. ScottishPower is undertaking this project with their joint partner Storegga. Members of the local community are able to make a formal representation. This should be made directly to the Highland Council.

If planning permission is granted then construction of the development is anticipated to commence in 2024, with the Proposed Development expected to be operational in 2026.

