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Foudland Hill Wind Farm Proposal

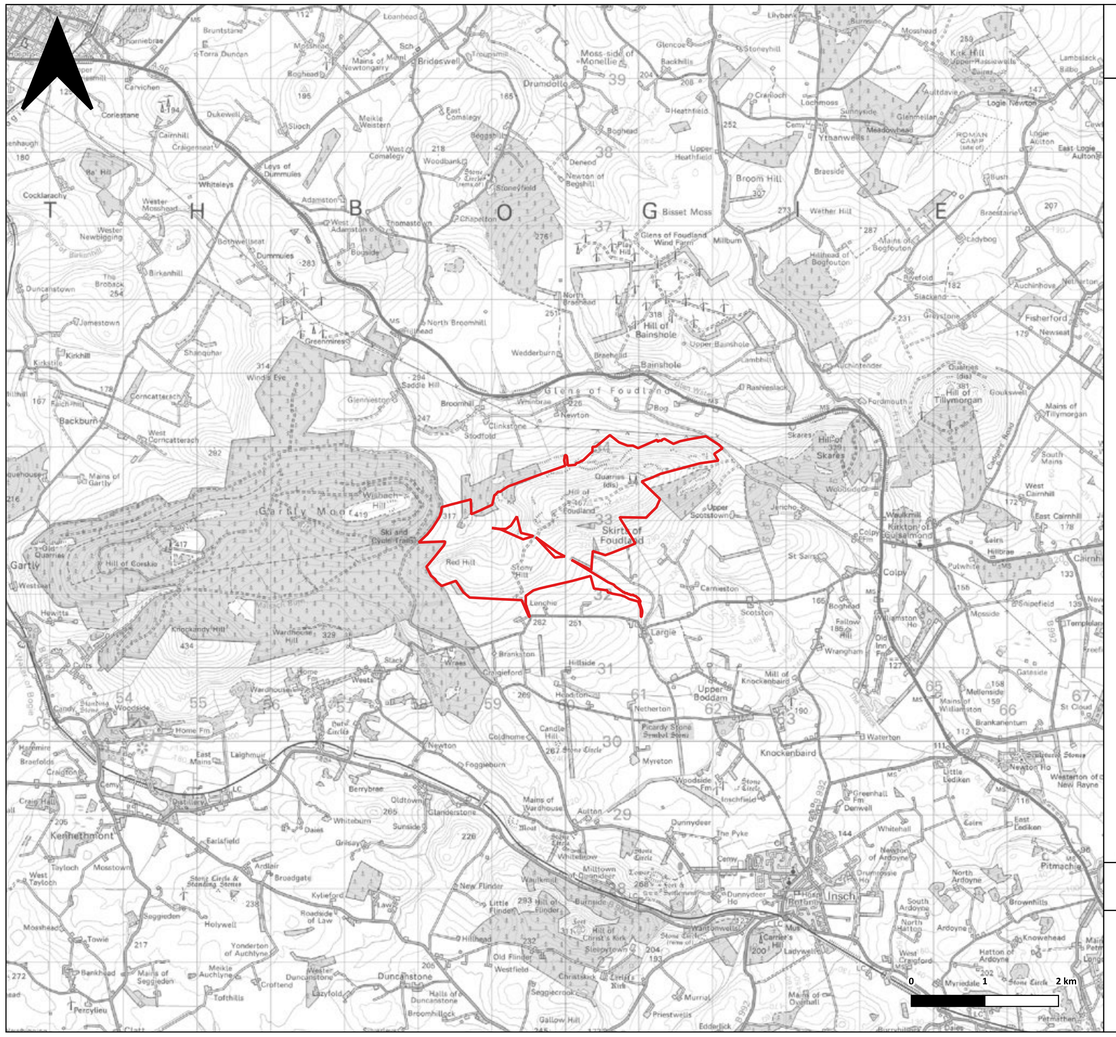
Welcome to Koehler Renewable Energy's (KRE) community consultation on the proposed Foudland Hill Wind Farm located approximately 6.4km north of Insch and approximately 8.5km south-east of Huntly.

The exhibition boards set out the key aspects of our initial proposals for the project, and the process we will follow as we develop and refine our plans. There are also photomontages that illustrate how the development would look from some of the local viewpoints.

Please take as much time as you need to review the information presented and the visual representations of the wind farm. Key members of the project team are on hand to provide you with answers to any questions and discuss any comments on the project.

We would very much value your feedback as we seek to review and refine our plans, and would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to share your views and any comments on the feedback forms provided.

Welcome



Project Name: **Foudland Hill Wind Farm**
Document Title: **Site Location Plan**
Scale: **1:50,000 @ A3**

Key:

Site Boundary

Client: **Koehler Renewable Energy UK Limited**
Drawing by: **Green Cat Renewables Ltd**

Project Number:	**C6744-1316/Figure 2.1**
Version:	**1.0**
Author:	**GMO**
Checked by:	**EPR**
Approved by:	**RLY**
Date:	**05/09/2025**

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About Koehler Renewable Energy

Koehler Group, headquartered in Oberkirch in southwestern Germany, is one of the largest manufacturers of paper and board in Europe. The company was established in 1807 and is still a family-owned business in its eighth generation. Koehler Renewable Energy GmbH was founded in 2012, and the UK subsidiary was established in September 2021.

The Dundee-based team has experience in developing wind farm sites across Scotland and the UK since 1997.

Koehler Renewable Energy's first UK wind farm, at Muirake in Aberdeenshire, became operational at the end of 2013. In 2016, the 14.1 MW Edintore Wind Farm near Keith was commissioned.

In addition, the Koehler Renewable Energy team in Dundee also develop and maintain hydroelectric projects across the UK. Koehler is known for its research and industry-leading sustainability initiatives, including specialist paper such as thermal till receipts and even confectionery wrappers that are fully recyclable.

Our work also encompasses support for local initiatives wherever possible, including the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Social Enterprise Academy, where we have donated to the development of pupil-led skills initiatives focused on green initiatives across Scotland. We also support a range of charities across Scotland committed to helping young people develop their skills.

The Koehler Group has set itself the goal of producing more energy from its own renewable generation plants by 2030 than is needed for paper production.

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Climate Emergency

Policy Context

In 2019, the Scottish Government declared a climate emergency.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009[1] establishes Scotland's legal framework for climate action, with updates set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019[2] and the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024[3].

These Acts place a legal obligation on Scotland to decarbonise, including a statutory target of net zero emissions by 2045.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 requires a national climate action programme. A draft Climate Change Plan (December 2025)[4] outlines how targets will be met across sectors, including expanding renewable energy capacity such as onshore wind.

Adopted in 2023, National Planning Framework 4[5] is Scotland's long-term spatial strategy, identifying renewable energy as a national priority and key economic and community benefit.

Local Priorities

In March 2020, Aberdeenshire Council adopted a Climate Change Declaration committing to a 75% emissions cut by 2030 and net zero by 2045, supporting reduced fossil fuel use, biodiversity, and a just transition to a low-carbon future[6].

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[1] Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Accessible at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/12/contents
[2] Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019. Accessible at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2019/15
[3] Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024. Accessible at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/15
[4] Scotland's Climate Change Plan (2026 - 2040). Accessible at https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-climate-change-plan-2026-2040/
[5] National Planning Framework 4. Accessible at https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/
[6] Route Map 2030 and Beyond (Draft). Accessible at https://aberdeenshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s3911/

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Location

The current proposal for Foudland Hill Wind Farm is for up to nine turbines and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The Proposed Development lies within the Bennachie Community Council area and is situated approximately 6.4 km north of Insch and 8.5 km south-east of Huntly.

Capacity and Output

Wind turbines would have a maximum tip height of 200m. Depending on the model selected for the final design, each turbine could generate up to 7.2 MW. Together with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) of up to 20 MW, this would give the development a total installed capacity of up to 84.8 MW.

The current proposals could produce enough electricity to power an estimated 82,600 homes annually, depending on the ultimate design of the wind farm and the turbine model deployed*.

Battery Energy Storage Systems

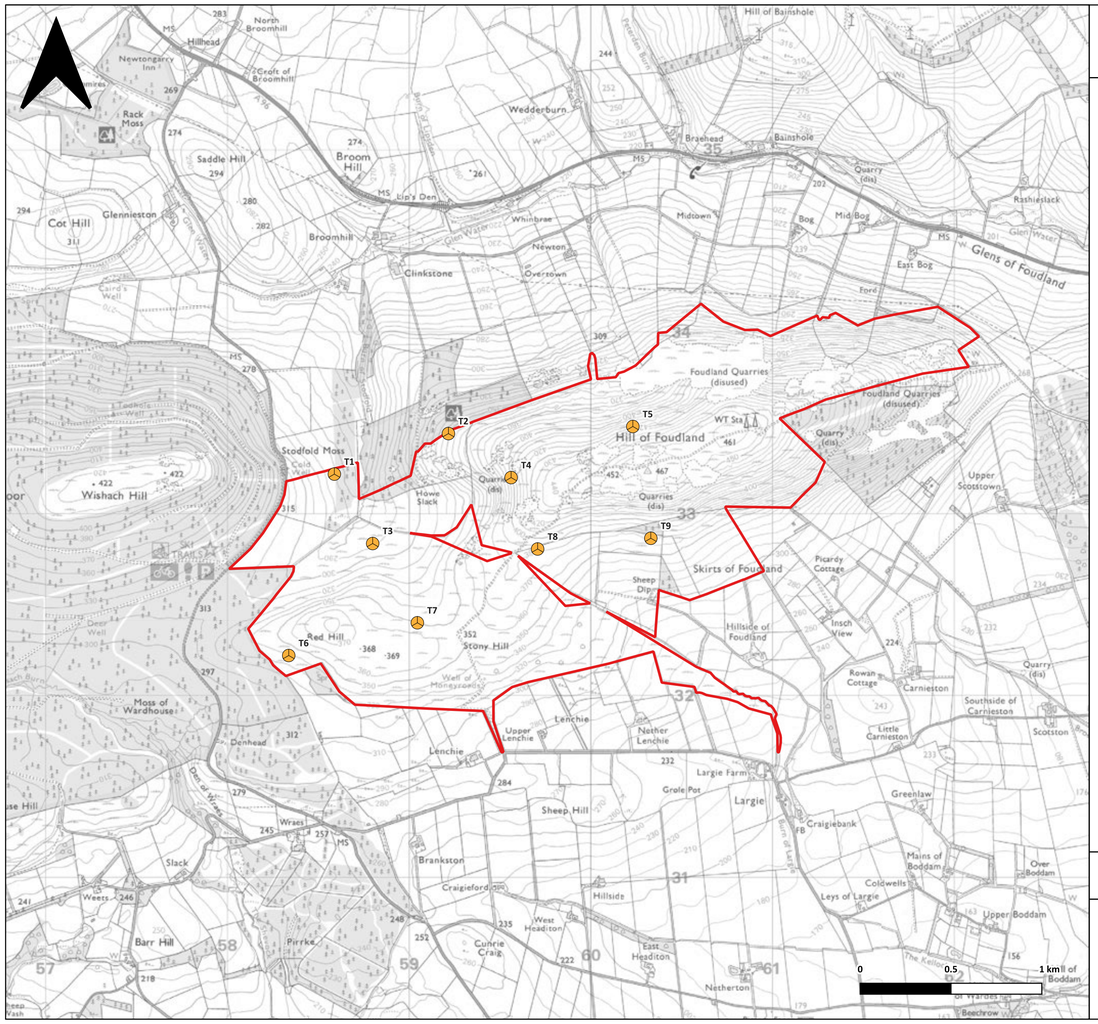
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) have increasingly become an important piece of the global decarbonisation drive, complementing variable renewables buildout and helping to balance power grids and save excess energy.

BESS are devices that enable excess energy from inflexible technologies, like solar and wind, to be stored and then discharged in periods of high demand.[7]

7 UK battery strategy (2023)
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-battery-strategy

* National Energy Efficiency Data Framework (NEED) report published yearly by the UK Government
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-energy-efficiency-data-need-framework#statistical-releases

The Proposal



Key:

- Proposed Turbine Locations
- Site Boundary

Project Name: **Foudland Hill Wind Farm**
Document Title: **Site Layout Plan**
Scale: **1:20,000 @ A3**

Client: **Koehler Renewable Energy UK Limited**
Drawing by: **Green Cat Renewables Ltd**

Project Number:	**C6744-1316/Figure 2.3**
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Environment

General Approach

The final proposal will include provisions for a net positive enhancement to the local environment through a Habitat Management Plan. This would provide new habitat for local wildlife and benefits to the natural environment within and surrounding the site.

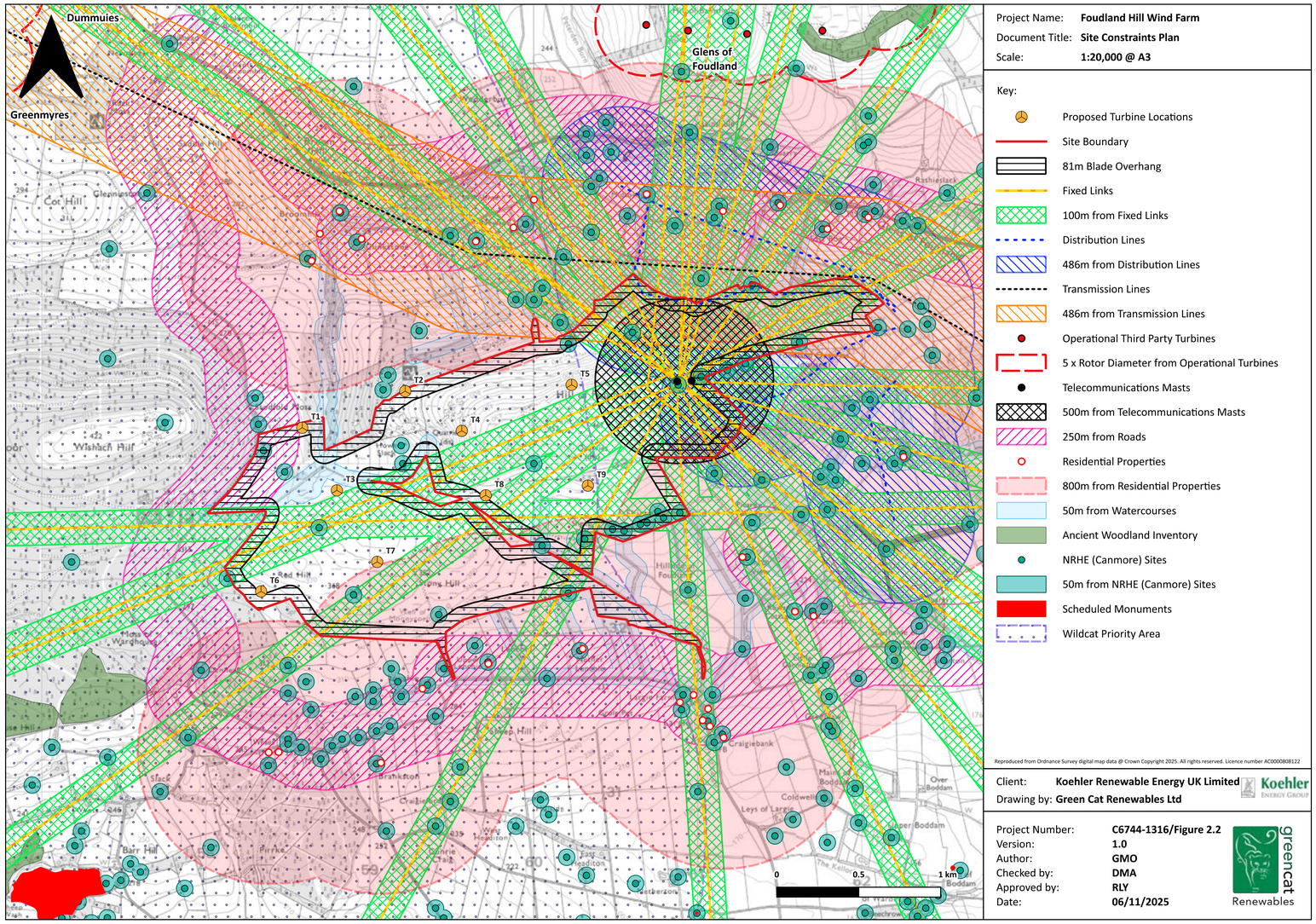
Environmental Impact Assessment

Our specialist environmental and technical consultants are now progressing many of the studies that will make up the project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The information and data from these studies will be used to refine our proposals and also to identify ways in which we could remove, reduce or mitigate any potential impacts.

The EIA will cover the following areas:

- Landscape & Visual
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology, including surveys of peat
- Ecology and Nature Conservation
- Ornithology
- Noise
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- Access and Transportation
- Socio-Economics, including Tourism
- Recreation and Land Use
- Aviation and Telecommunications
- Other considerations, such as Health & Safety and Shadow Flicker.

A detailed EIA report will be submitted as part of our application. This will summarise the data we have gathered, how our design has evolved to reflect this, and any ways in which any remaining impacts could be best managed.



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Landscape and visual

General Approach

In order to demonstrate and assess what Foudland Hill Wind Farm would look like, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is currently being undertaken.

The LVIA will examine effects on both the landscape resource and the visual amenity of the people potentially experiencing views of the Proposed Development. The LVIA will present a clear and objective assessment that references established guidance and follows current design principles and the findings of this assessment will inform and play a key role in the final design of the Foudland Hill Wind Farm.

We will be developing visualisations of the project from a number of viewpoints. Our initial proposals for this assessment were informed by the theoretical visibility of the scoping layout.

The locations selected cover a broad range of different view directions, distances and visual receptors. Photomontages are photographs overlaid with computer generated images that illustrate how proposals would appear from locations in the surrounding landscape and settlements.

The visualisations for Foudland Hill Wind Farm have been produced in line with NatureScot's guidance, Visual Representation of Wind Farms. It should be noted that the actual visibility of the turbines would be affected by factors such as time of day, sunlight and weather.

For this initial round of public exhibitions, photomontage visualisation have been produced from the following locations:

- A96, Hillhead
- Upper Boddam
- Ardmore
- B992, Insch
- A96, East of Huntly
- Clatt
- Kirkton of Rayne
- Drumblade

A figure with the ZTV illustrates where these viewpoints are in relation to the wind farm, as well as showing other visualisations that will be included in the final EIA.

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Landscape and visual

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

The 'Zone of Theoretical Visibility' (ZTV) is a key part of the LVIA. ZTVs are computer generated models used to identify the theoretical extent of visibility of the proposed turbines, although it is important to remember that the ZTV does not take account of the screening effect of trees, forestry, vegetation, buildings or other manmade structures.

The extent of the ZTV will change if there are refinements to the design of the wind farm as a result of the outputs from our environmental studies and feedback from communities and statutory consultees.

Landscape Planning Designations

Due to the visual impact of the wind turbines, there may be indirect impacts on the setting and character of any designated landscapes within the 45km study area. All designated landscapes inside 45km, and all Aberdeenshire Special Landscape Areas within 20km are listed within the figure shown on this board.

An assessment against the special qualities or key attributes of any designated landscapes deemed to be at risk of potential significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development will be carried out within the Environmental Impact Assessment.

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Summary

In addition to the positive economic impacts of the development during construction and operations, KRE is committed to developing a community benefit package, which could be worth more than £324,000 every year over the lifetime of the wind farm, depending on the ultimate capacity of the project.

Good Practice Principles

Our work to develop more detailed proposals for the community benefit arrangements will be guided by the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit.

Our starting point will be to engage with existing community companies and charities to gather their views on the appropriate area of benefit, management structures and local priorities.

We are determined to offer a flexible approach to community benefit so that any package can be tailored to best meet the needs of the community which it should serve.

We will then develop initial proposals and consult on these more widely later this year. However, we would welcome any views on how the community benefit arrangements should be structured and focused on any stage of the project's development.

Economic Benefits

In addition to this, an initial study has been undertaken and it has been calculated that:

- Up to £11.9 million will be spent within Aberdeenshire across the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development;
- Up to 87 jobs will be created across Aberdeenshire, with up to 243 estimated for Scotland as a whole as a result of the project;
- And up to £5.1 million in GVA will be contributed to the local economy.

Our role as a long term partner

KRE believes in making material contributions to the areas in which we work. We are committed to supporting the government's goals and fulfilling our Community Benefit commitments, while also cementing our position as a meaningful partner.

Benefits of Foudland Hill Wind Farm

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Leave your feedback

We would very much value your feedback as we seek to review and refine our plans and would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to share your views and any comments on our initial proposals.

If you have any questions, want more information on our plans or would like to meet with us to discuss the project in more detail, then please get in touch at any time by emailing koehler@mucklemediagroup.co.uk.

Comments on the proposals can be made at the public event, via the feedback form on the project website **www.kre-foudlandhill.co.uk**, by email to **koehler@mucklemediagroup.co.uk** or by post to Spey Media Ltd, Unit 14, Horizon Scotland, 2 Innovation Way, Forres Enterprise Park, IV36 2AB. Feedback for round one will be open until Friday 3rd April.

Feedback for round 1 will be open until Friday, 3 April 2026.

Further information is available at -

Website - **www.kre-foudlandhill.co.uk**

Email - **koehler@mucklemediagroup.co.uk**

Post - **Spey Media Ltd, Unit 14, Horizon Scotland, 2 Innovation Way, Forres Enterprise Park, IV36 2AB**

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