

Welcome to the Harestanes West Windfarm Public Exhibition

Harestanes West Windfarm is a ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) project.

SPR is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under Iberdrola, one of the world's largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy. ScottishPower only produces 100% green electricity. Its focus is on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future.

At SPR, we are committed to developing renewable energy responsibly. We strive to be a good neighbour in all aspects of our work and are committed to Dumfries and Galloway and the surrounding area, and to maximising the opportunities for local communities to benefit from our projects. We aim to find the best balance of constraints; to confirm that no impact resulting from our developments is unacceptable; and to demonstrate that the benefits of our projects are of real value, wide-reaching and shared with the community.

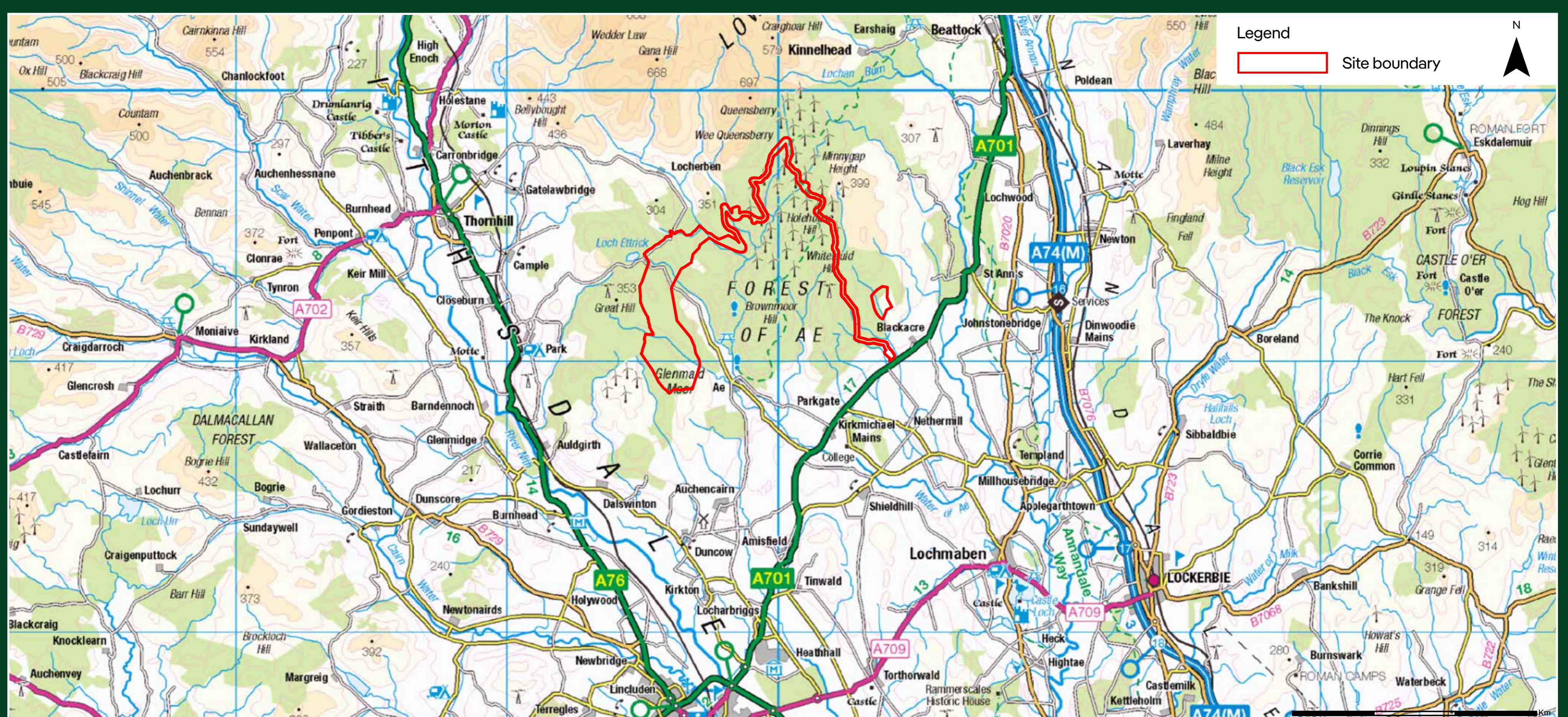
ScottishPower Renewables believes in effective and meaningful consultation and we aim to engage as early as possible with the local community and key stakeholders to facilitate constructive consultation. This allows any areas of concern to be identified along with benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design of the proposed Development.

We began early engagement on Harestanes West Windfarm by contacting eight Community Councils in March 2023. In June 2023 we issued a leaflet to 500 residential and commercial properties located near the proposed Development; we also informed local Councillors about the proposed Development to start raising awareness. Public exhibition events in the local area were held in June 2023 order to inform the local community about the proposed Development and gather people's views. The exhibition was advertised in the Dumfries Courier, Annandale Herald, Moffat News, Annandale Observer and Galloway Gazette as well as by writing to Community Councils, local residents, and other key stakeholders.

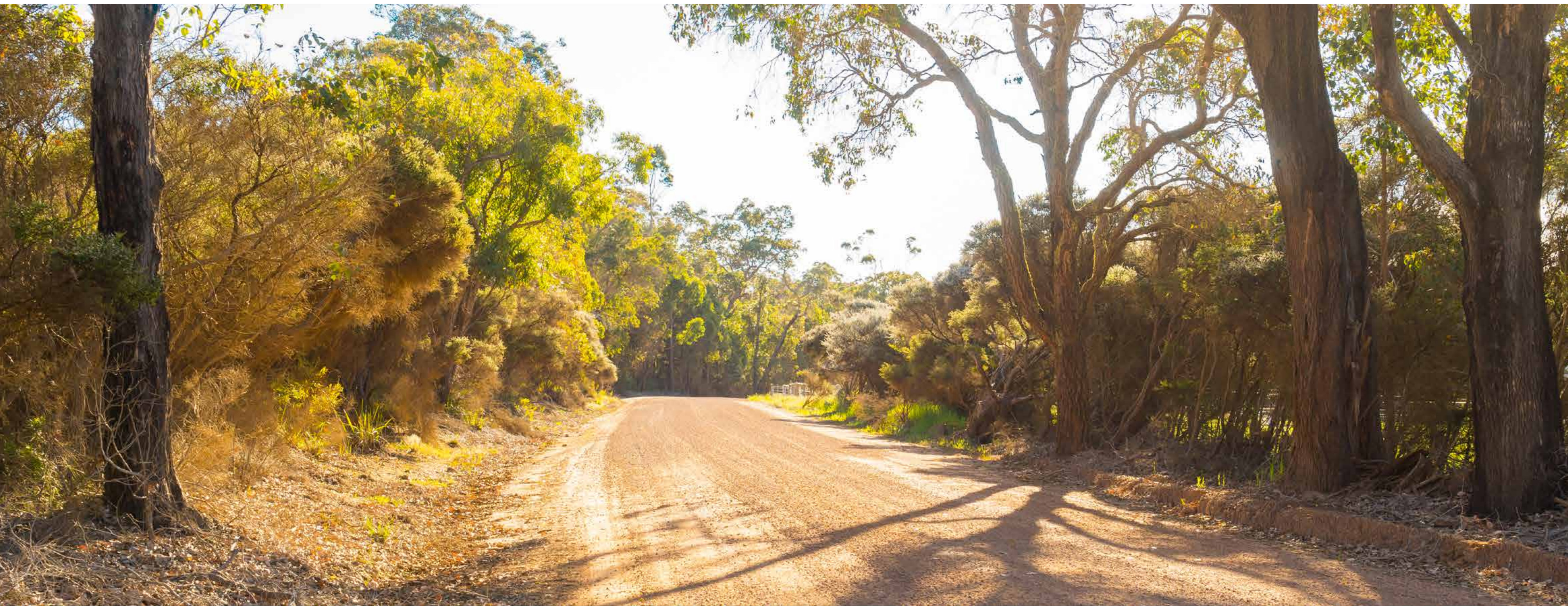
ScottishPower Renewables' History in Dumfries and Galloway

SPR has been a neighbour for many years, generating cleaner power and providing socio-economic benefits to local communities in Dumfries and Galloway. We own and operate Kilgalloch, Harestanes, Ewe Hill and Wether Hill windfarms in Dumfries and Galloway, and several others in the wider Ayrshire regions across the UK.

A detailed map showing the location of the proposed Harestanes West Windfarm is shown below.



Harestanes West Windfarm



Site Description

The Harestanes West Windfarm Site is located primarily in land owned by Forestry and Land Scotland (formerly Forestry Commission Scotland), on land forming part of the Forest of Ae commercial forestry plantation in Dumfries and Galloway. The site boundary is located around 1.3 km from the village of Ae, 2.2 km to the nearest proposed turbine, and approximately 13 km north of Dumfries.

The area of Forest of Ae within which Harestanes West Windfarm is located has recreational facilities including car parking facilities and the Forest of Ae Café and Bike Shop located on the outskirts of the village of Ae. There are several waymarked walking routes and mountain bike trails within the Forest of Ae. A number of core paths and trails extend through the Site.

Proposed Development

Harestanes West Windfarm will consist of 12 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 220m, with a total generating capacity of up to 84 Megawatts (MW). The proposed Development will also include ancillary infrastructure such as site access tracks, a control room, and electricity substation.

Construction and Access

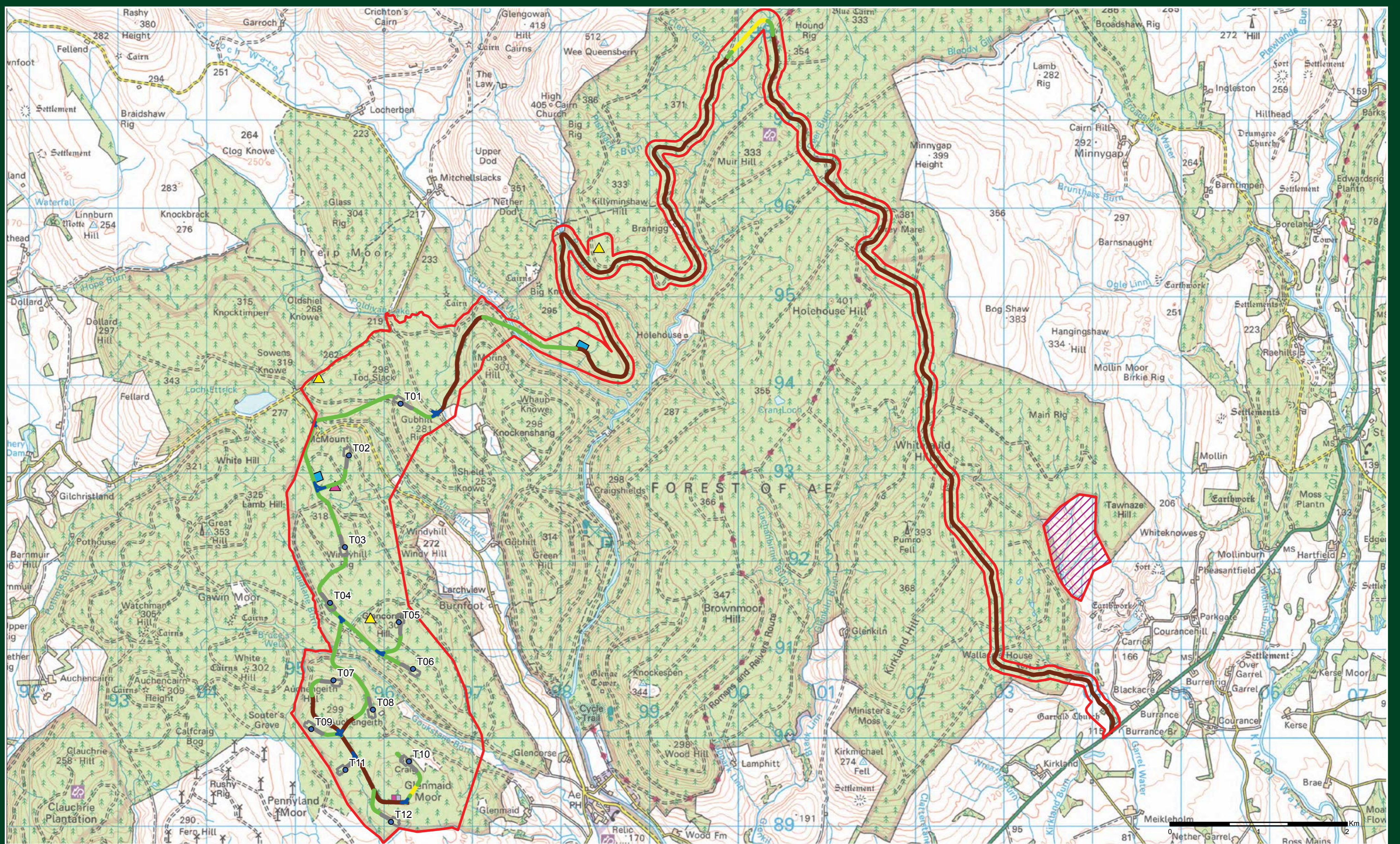
Harestanes West Windfarm is around 4.5 km east of the A76 and the A701 lies approximately 5 km to the south-east, which connects to a minor road that then runs north through the village of Ae and north to south through the centre of the Site.

Access to the Site for the delivery of turbine components during construction will be from the existing access junction on the A701 used for the operational Harestanes Windfarm. They would then access Harestanes West Windfarm via the operational Harestanes Windfarm and forestry tracks. These existing tracks would be upgraded as part of the construction works for Harestanes West Windfarm.

New access tracks to the proposed turbine locations will be created across the site. Watercourse crossings will be installed, as required, and will be designed in accordance with Scottish Government best practice and Scottish Environment Protection Agency guidelines to enable the passage of fish and other wildlife.

Crushed stone will be used to construct new tracks and create hardstanding areas for the cranes laying the foundations for the turbines and for temporary construction compounds. The stone will be sourced from either local quarries or 'borrow pits' on the site, depending on suitability. This will be confirmed during the design and the environmental impact assessment processes.

The Proposed Layout



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Locations
- Hardstanding
- Junction
- Upgraded Track
- Access Track
- Floating Access Track
- Existing Borrow Pit
- ▲ Met Mast
- Substation
- Substation construction compound
- Construction compound
- Parking Area
- Proposed Areas for Habitat Improvement



Environmental Impact Assessment



SPR has appointed specialist environmental consultancy RSK Environment Ltd to carry out a detailed environmental impact assessment of the proposed Harestanes West Windfarm.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) is made up of a series of technical studies that will consider project constraints and other specific aspects of the proposed Development and will form part of the formal application for consent to be submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit. SPR is committed to ensuring that its operations have the minimum adverse effect on the local environment. The Environmental Impact Assessment process includes:

- Consultation with the local authority, various organisations with statutory and non-statutory responsibilities for the environment and infrastructure, and the public to identify specific concerns and issues that should be considered during the design of the proposed renewable energy development;
- Determining the existing environmental conditions at and around the proposed renewable energy site by reviewing the available data and undertaking specialist field surveys;
- Assessing the potential impacts of the proposed renewable energy development on the existing environment;
- Identifying measures to mitigate any significant environmental impacts; and

- Detailed studies for the following disciplines:
 - Landscape and visual impact assessment
 - Cultural heritage and archaeology
 - Ecology and ornithology
 - Geology, hydrogeology, hydrology and peat
 - Noise and vibration
 - Traffic and transportation
 - Aviation and radar
 - Telecommunications and electromagnetic interference

An assessment of socio-economics, economy and tourism will also be included in the application to the Scottish Ministers alongside the EIA Report.

It is usual for a wind farm turbine layout to undergo several iterations as part of the EIA and wind farm design process. The main iterations will be documented and presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

We are now beginning the process of assessing the findings from these surveys completed to date. This information, together with results from remaining other surveys and comments from the public consultation and key consultee feedback, will help to further refine the design if required.

Landscape and Visual Impact



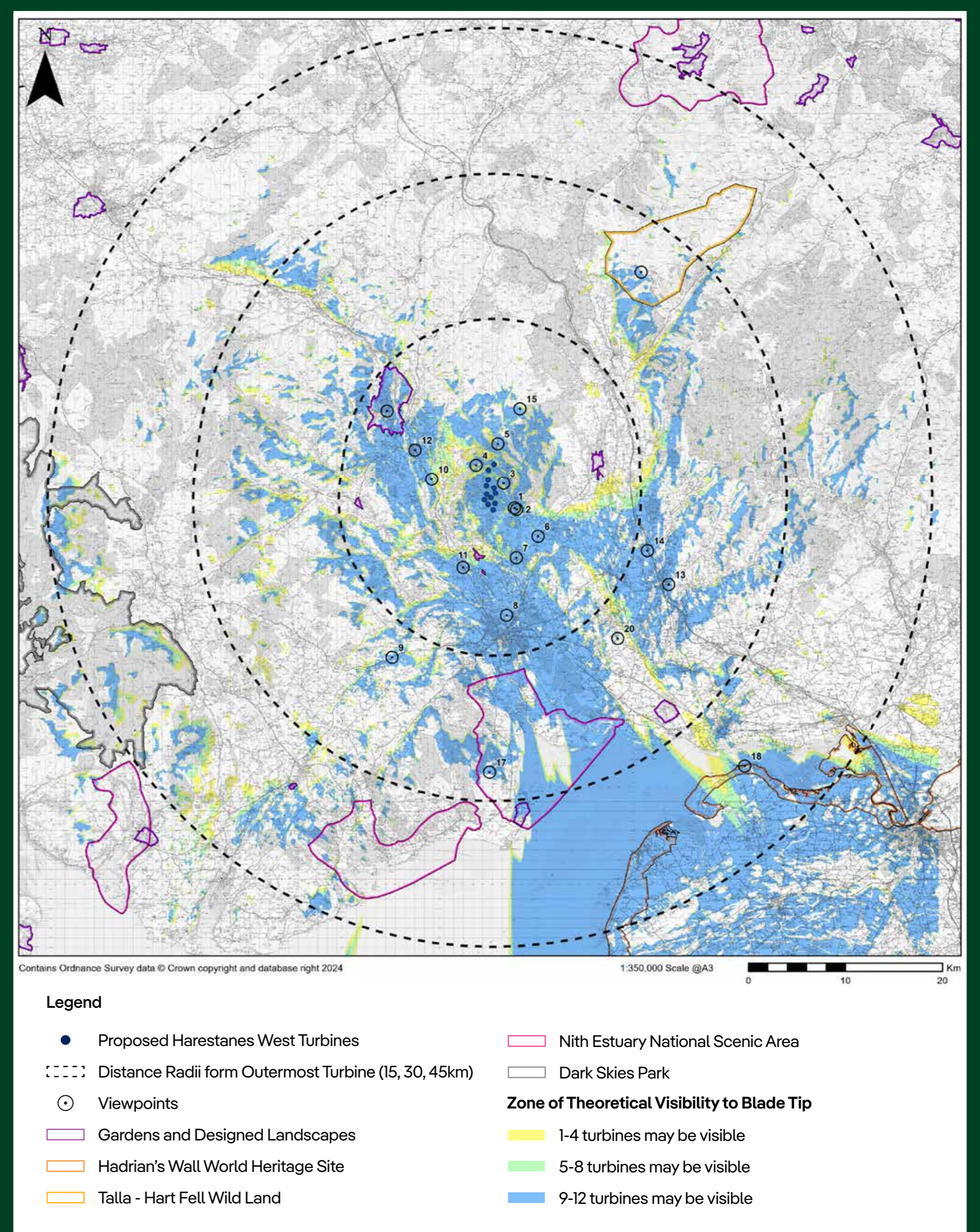
A landscape and visual impact assessment will establish the potential effects of Harestanes West Windfarm on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity. The study area will extend to 45 km from the outermost turbines.

A zone of theoretical visibility is a computer-generated tool that establishes the likely maximum extent of the visibility of a proposed Development and enables key visual receptors and agreed viewpoints from which the impact of the development would be assessed to be identified.

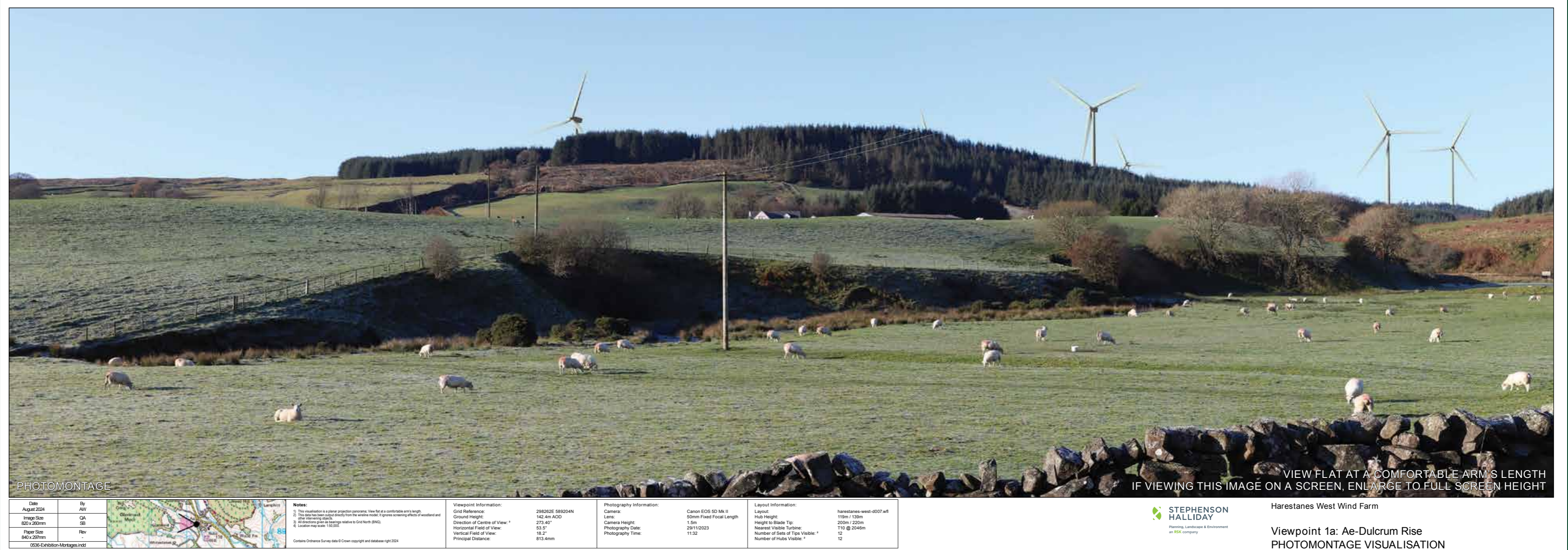
A zone of theoretical visibility based on preliminary design options has been prepared to inform the landscape and visual impact assessment. The zone of theoretical visibility within 45 km of the Site is available below.

Computer-generated images of the proposed windfarm will be prepared using wirelines and photomontages from the agreed viewpoints.

The landscape and visual impact assessment is a key part of the design process for the project, as it will help to determine the optimum size, number and layout of the wind turbines to reflect the landscape of the Site and the surrounding area.



Photomontages



Viewpoint 1 (a and b) (2.5 km) Ae-Dulcrum. Photomontage of the proposed Harestanes West Windfarm turbines, taken from Grid Reference 298279 589255 set up with two sequential views at a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view.



Viewpoint 6 (5.9 km) A701 south of Ae Bridgend. Photomontage of the proposed Harestanes West Windfarm turbines above the forestry, taken from Grid Reference 300711 586333 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view.

Photomontages



Viewpoint 8 (11.3 km) A75 – Dumfries. Photomontage of the proposed Harestanes West Windfarm turbines, taken from Grid Reference 297467 578201 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view.



Viewpoint 10 (5.4 km) A76, Closeburn. Photomontage of the proposed Harestanes West Windfarm turbines, taken from Grid Reference 289761 592235 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view.

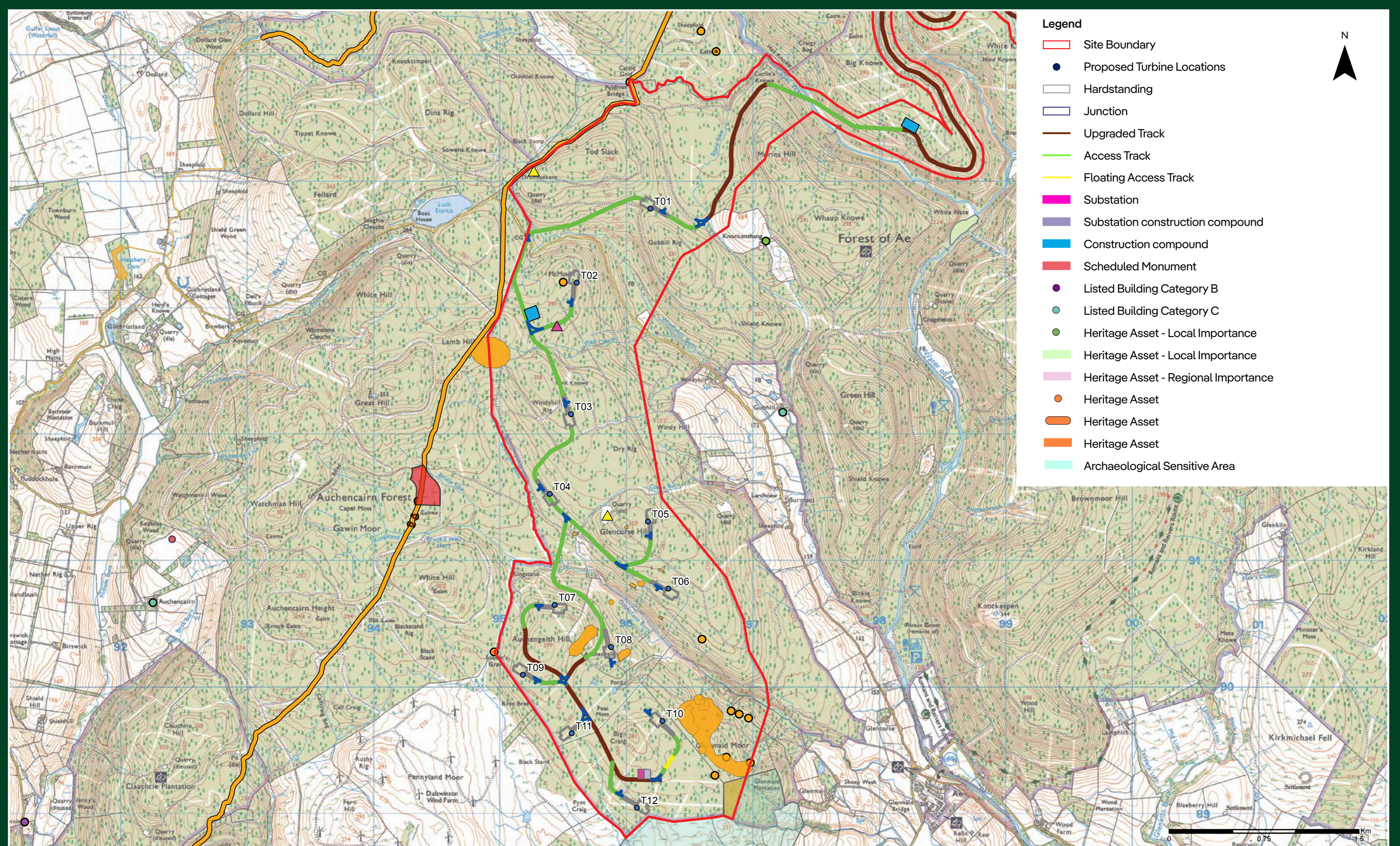
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology



The potential effects of Harestanes West Windfarm on the historic environment of the Site and its surroundings, including the cultural heritage and the archaeology, will be assessed.

At an early stage of the project, the known cultural heritage sites will be identified and assessed. A map showing the known heritage sites located close by is available (below or separately). Adjustments to the design and layout of the project will be made to avoid affecting these sites where practicable.

Should Harestanes West Windfarm be granted consent, a programme of archaeological fieldwork will be agreed with Dumfries and Galloway Council and its archaeological advisers before construction starts. This is likely to involve protecting known cultural heritage sites within the development, recording any discoveries made during construction and publishing the findings.



Ecology and Ornithology



The Site is primarily a managed, commercial, coniferous forest plantation.

A small part of the Harestanes West Windfarm Site overlaps with the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve, an area of over 5,200 km² of southwest Scotland. There will be no renewable energy development infrastructure on the Harestanes West Windfarm Site within the biosphere reserve. There are no other protected areas within the Harestanes West Windfarm Site – the nearest protected area is the Black Loch Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), located 2.3 km to the south-east.

A map showing the known ecological and other legally protected designations close to Harestanes West Windfarm is located (right or separately).

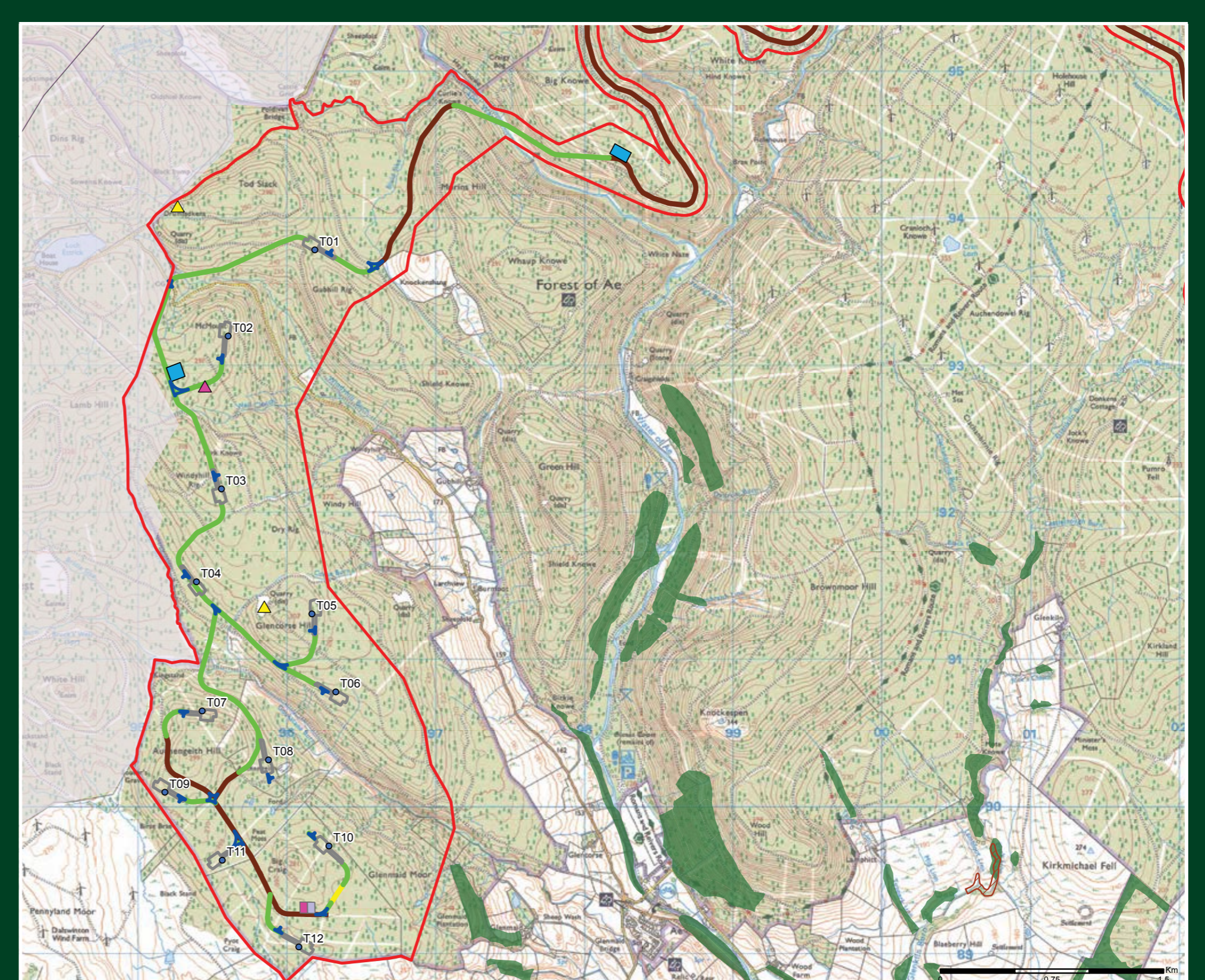
A programme of ecological and ornithological surveys is nearing completion. The results have informed the design of Harestanes West Windfarm to reduce the potential impacts on ecology and birds. Where impacts are unavoidable, a programme of mitigation measures will be agreed before construction to reduce the effects on wildlife.

Opportunities for Harestanes West Windfarm to deliver biodiversity enhancements, for example, habitat improvements, are being explored in consultation with Forestry and Land Scotland and specialist nature conservation interest groups.

Ecology and Ornithology surveys

The surveys include:

- A Phase I habitat survey;
- A National Vegetation Classification survey;
- Terrestrial mammal surveys;
- Bat surveys;
- Fish surveys; and
- Bird surveys, including vantage point surveys to identify the use of the site and its wider surroundings by sensitive bird populations.

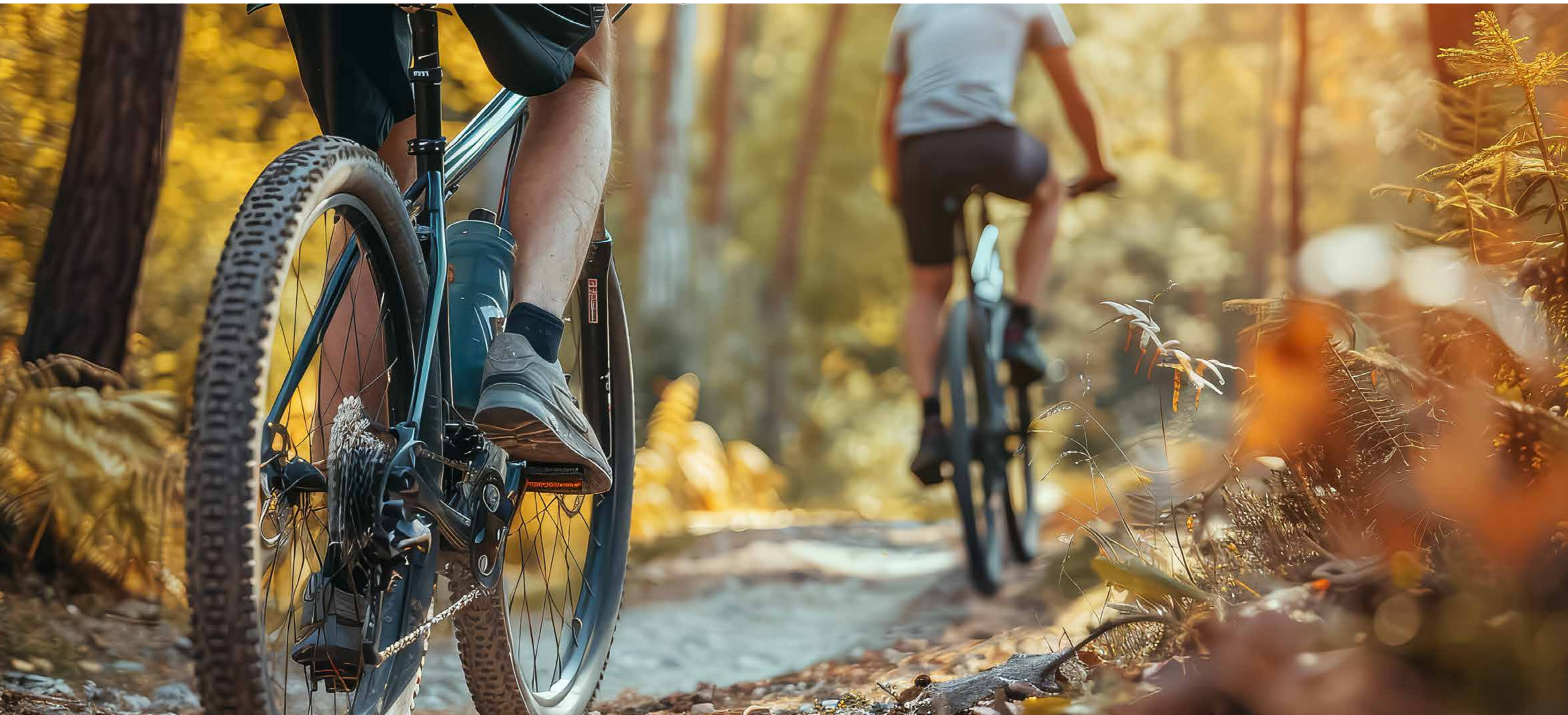


Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Site Boundary |  Substation |
|  Proposed Turbine Locations |  Substation construction compound |
|  Hardstanding |  Existing Borrow Pit |
|  Junction |  Met Mast |
|  Upgraded Track |  Construction Compound |
|  Floating Access Track |  Regional Scenic Area |
|  Access Track |  Ancient Woodland |



Community Benefit



Developments such as Harestanes West Windfarm can bring real benefits to local communities as well as helping to meet national climate change targets.

As responsible developers, we strive to be good neighbours in all aspects of our work. We are committed to the Dumfries and Galloway area and, in particular, to maximising opportunities for local communities to benefit from our projects. We are proud to be supporting local communities and helping them to deliver long term aspirations. Our community funds across the UK total more than £64 million, with over £16 million invested in communities near our developments in Dumfries and Galloway.

These funds contribute to a variety of groups and organisations to assist them in delivering local projects which they have identified as having benefit to those living, working or visiting the surrounding area.

SPR's approach to community benefit is to empower local communities to decide how they want the community benefit to be spent. This has resulted in a wide diversity of projects, including the improvement of local amenities and community groups such as assistance towards redeveloping the Old School Thornhill into a creative community space, the provision of new equipment to

Nith Inshore Rescue and a grant towards the development of a social enterprise in Closeburn.

Harestanes West Windfarm would establish a community benefit arrangement with local communities. Further engagement with all relevant stakeholders will be held to discuss the community package in more detail.

Local Employment Opportunities

We are fully committed to maximising employment opportunities for those local to our projects by making sure that local people and businesses have the opportunity to be part of our industry's success. As a major infrastructure development, Harestanes West Windfarm has the potential to create employment opportunities.

If consent is granted, jobs would be created both during construction and after completion, in support, operation and maintenance activities.

We have a long history of working with local contractors in the area and would seek to continue to do so for Harestanes West Windfarm by arranging a 'meet the developer' day to encourage the engagement of local supply chains.

What Next?



We are presenting this information before submitting our application for consent to the Scottish Ministers. We welcome your feedback on our proposals.

Please note that any comments made on the proposals to SPR at this stage are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. When the application for consent is subsequently submitted to the Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Government will undertake its own consultation process when the public will be invited to make formal comment on the proposals.

You can view more detailed information and ask questions via our website:

These contacts can also be used for requests for any further information, submitting comments or asking questions about Harestanes West Windfarm at any time.

Email:

harestaneswestwindfarm@scottishpower.com

Post:

Harestanes West Windfarm Project Team
ScottishPower Renewables
9th Floor
ScottishPower Headquarters
320 St Vincent Street
Glasgow
G2 5AD



https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/harestanes_west_windfarm.aspx

Thank you