

## Appendix 4.4 ECU Gatecheck Report

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# Cumberhead West Wind Farm

Part of a Coordinated Strategy for the Future of the Hagshaw Wind Cluster

## EIA GATECHECK REPORT

October 2020



A joint venture between:





# Document Information

Project Name:	Cumberhead West Wind Farm
Document Title:	Gatecheck Report
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Document Status:	Final for Issue
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Date:	2020-10-19
Version:	2.0
Project/Proposal Number:	2694
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## Revision History

Version	Date	Authored	Reviewed	Approved	Notes
1.0	2020-10-07	Ed Flanders and various	Jessica Yanetta	Lindsay Smith	First Issue
2.0	2020-10-19	Jessica Yanetta	Theo Phillip	Theo Phillip	Second Issue
3.0	2020-10-20	Jessica Yanetta	Theo Phillip	Theo Phillip	Final Issue

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Introduction

Cumberhead West Wind Farm Ltd (hereafter referred to as “the Applicant”) intends to apply to the Scottish Ministers for permission to construct and operate Cumberhead West Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as the “Proposed Development”), at site centre British National Grid (BNG) NS 75229 34481 (see Figure 1).

## 1.2 The Applicant

Cumberhead West Wind Farm Ltd (the Applicant) is a joint venture between local business 3R Energy Solutions Ltd (3R Energy) and ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited (SPR). 3R Energy was established in 2009, with its head office now situated in Lanark. The company was initially established to help farms and rural businesses to invest in renewable energy technology, with the mainstay of the business being farm sized wind turbines, CHP systems and biomass boilers. 3R Energy has since diversified into larger scale renewables and has now developed a number of wind farm projects with the Hagshaw Cluster. As a local company 3R Energy is committed to working with communities closest to the Hagshaw Cluster for the long term to develop and deliver successful projects which create significant and tangible benefits for the local area.

3R Energy is part of a family group of companies which also includes: Holz Energie UK Ltd, also based in Lanark, which is a wholly owned UK import franchise of the successful German wood-gas CHP manufacturer, Holz Energie Wegscheid. Mitchell Farming Partnerships and William Mitchell & Sons (WMS) Ltd, based at Newtonhead Farm Rigside and Hazelside Farm Douglas respectively, which manage the farming assets of the Group. Together the Group:

- owns and manages 3,500 acres of land in the Douglas Valley;
- has farmed the land for over 120 years;
- generates a combined annual turnover of ca. £6m; and
- employs 15 people on a full and part time basis.

ScottishPower Renewables is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under the Iberdrola Group, one of the world’s largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy. ScottishPower now only produces 100% green electricity – focusing on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. The company is investing over £4m every working day<sup>1</sup> to make this happen and is committed to speeding up the transition to cleaner electric transport, improving air quality and over time, driving down bills to deliver a better future, quicker for everyone.

ScottishPower Renewables is at the forefront of the development of the renewables industry through pioneering ideas, forward thinking and outstanding innovation. Its ambitious growth plans include expansion of its existing onshore wind portfolio, investment in new large scale solar deployment and innovative grid storage systems including batteries. The company is also delivering the Iberdrola Group’s offshore windfarms in the Southern North Sea off East Anglia.

With over 40 operational windfarms, ScottishPower Renewables manages all its sites through its world leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow.

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<sup>1</sup> Between 2018 - 2022



## 1.3 Background

The Applicant submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report in June 2020 to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) at the Scottish Government. The Applicant received an EIA Scoping Opinion in September 2020.

This Section 36 Gatecheck Report provides the ECU with an update on the status of the Proposed Development and progress with the EIA Report. It summarises the design iteration process which the Applicant has undertaken to date and how the Applicant intends to respond to the points raised within the EIA Scoping Opinion.

# 2. Design Iterations

## 2.1 Scoping Design

2.1.1 In June 2020, as part of the EIA Scoping Report, the Applicant submitted an indicative turbine layout for the Proposed Development of 20 turbines (refer to Figure 3).

## 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion Comments on Design

2.2.1 The following comments were received from ECU and consultees on the design of the Proposed Development presented in the EIA Scoping Report.



**Table 2-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – Design**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	The site layout must be designed to avoid impacts upon the water environment. Where activities such as watercourse crossings, watercourse diversions or other engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment cannot be avoided then the submission must include justification of this and a map showing: a) All proposed temporary or permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses. b) A minimum buffer of 50m around each loch or watercourse. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse and drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works. c) Detailed layout of all proposed mitigation including all cut off drains, location, number and size of settlement ponds.	The final design ensures 50m buffers are included around watercourses. Details of the design in relation to watercourses are considered within Chapter 3 Proposed Development and 11 Hydrology of the EIA Report. Figures showing infrastructure, and watercourses identified on site and buffer areas will be provided in Chapter 11 Hydrology.	N/A
	Turbine locations and associated infrastructure may need to be modified as they are likely on deep peat.	The final design took into consideration the results of detailed Phase 2 peat probing and turbines and associated infrastructure were designed to avoid areas of deep peat where possible. Information on peat will be provided within the EIA Report (Chapter 11 Hydrology)	N/A
	Existing built infrastructure must be re-used or upgraded wherever possible, and the layout designed to minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground.	The final design has sought to use existing onsite infrastructure where possible and design considerations are laid out in Chapter 2 Site Selection and Design of the EIA Report.	N/A
	Watercourse crossings must be designed to accommodate the 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flows, or information provided to justify smaller structures.	The final design took into consideration AEP flows. A proposed watercourse crossing schedule will be provided within the EIA Report (Chapter 11 Hydrology)	N/A





Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
NatureScot	<p>The proposal could affect the Muirkirk &amp; North Lowther Uplands SPA. The status of the area means that the requirements of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &amp;c.) Regulations 1994 as amended (the “Habitats Regulations”) or, for reserved matters, The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 apply. Consequently, Scottish Ministers will be required to consider the effect of the proposal on the SPA before it can be consented.</p>	<p>The design of the Proposed Development has taken cognisance of the proximity of the SPA and sought to ensure an appropriate stand off distance. This will be considered within Chapter 7 Ecology of the EIA report</p>	N/A
	<p>The development as outlined in the Scoping Report appears unlikely to have any direct detrimental implications for the notified features of the two SSSIs. However, the EIA Report should include details of how it will be ensured that wind farm infrastructure, and its construction, does not impinge upon these geological interests and that access to the sites for research and educational purposes is unaffected after development.</p>	<p>The final design took into consideration the proximity of turbines to the SSSIs. Assessment of potential effects on the SSSIs will be included in Chapter 11 Hydrology of the EIA Report.</p>	N/A
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	<p>The proposed development will would fall within an area designated as Low Flying Area 20T, a tactical training area, within which military low flying training may be undertaken and where military fixed wing aircraft may operate down to a height of 100 feet (30.5metres) above terrain features. To address this impact, it would be necessary for the development to be fitted with MOD accredited aviation safety lighting in accordance with the Civil Aviation Authority, Air Navigation Order 2016.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development will be fitted with aviation lighting and details of such will be included in Chapter 14 Aviation and Telecommunications of the EIA Report.</p>	N/A



## 2.3 Design Iterations

2.3.1 Since the submission of the EIA Scoping Report and the receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion the Applicant has undertaken design iterations to maximise the capacity of the Proposed Development while minimising the environmental impacts. The main iterations are described below and shown on Figures 2 to 7. These iterations have taken into consideration the existing forestry tracks and on-site environmental and engineering constraints to reduce the impacts on the commercial forestry operations and avoid watercourses and sensitive habitats (refer to Figure 8).

**Table 2-2 – Design Iterations to Date**

Design Iteration	No. Turbines	Date	Description
A (Figure 2)	26	June 2019	Initial design maximising yield and capacity on the site.
B (Figure 3)	20	June 2020	Original scoping report design maximising capacity on the site with SPA buffer introduced and maximal use of existing on site infrastructure. The main developable area identified encompassed the extent of the Cumberhead forestry boundary Layout B was developed from the initial layout to move turbines away from residential properties at Birkenhead Farm, as well as increasing the stand off to the Muirkirk and North Lowther SPA to the north and north west. The number of turbines was reduced from 26 to 20 turbines.
C (Figure 4)	22	July 2020	This iteration took into account the findings of initial environmental surveys and feedback from neighbouring properties and wider consultees. The site boundary was amended to include an additional area of land identified to the south-east of the main developable area, which allowed turbines to be repositioned away from uninvolved properties and two additional turbines to be included in this area. This area of land enabled the proposed turbine locations to offer a more compact and harmonised layout with the adjoining wind farm developments when viewed from key receptors to the east. The northern most turbines were relocated to avoid areas identified as being deep peat and to increase separation distance with uninvolved residential properties
D (Figure 5)	21	September 2020	Introduced an alternative access route along an existing forestry track to the south east of the main developable area. At the same time the north-eastern area of the site and one turbine was removed and turbines were further pulled back from residential properties to the east.
E (Figure 6)	21	September 2020	Movement of T19 west to increase distance from the geological SSSI. As noted above, the Proposed Development utilises existing infrastructure as much as possible, following existing forestry tracks and developing historically quarried areas for borrow pit search areas.



Design Iteration	No. Turbines	Date	Description
F (Figure 7)	21	September 2020	Further design iterations were undertaken following phase 2 peat probing and on site walkover surveys to position turbines and access tracks to avoid deep peat. Construction compound and laydown areas moved to the entrance of the main body of the site to minimise impact on existing forestry and to ensure efficient construction.

## 2.4 Future Design Iterations

2.4.1 The Applicant, together with the EIA team have gathered environmental baseline information for the site across the various technical disciplines to identify a design layout that considers the environmental constraints identified and the consultee opinions received to date. Details of the design iterations leading to a finalised design will be provided within Chapter 2 of the EIA Report. Figure 8 shows the local environmental and engineering constraints considered in the iterative design process for the Proposed Development. No further design iterations are anticipated at this stage.



### 3. Planning and Policy

3.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on planning policy.

**Table 3-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – Planning Policy**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	Consideration should be given to: The Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition).	This will be considered within Chapter 11 Hydrology of the EIA report.	N/A
	The noise assessment should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed on page 31 of the scoping report. The noise assessment report should be formatted as per Table 6.1 of the IOA “A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise.”	This will be considered within Chapter 9 Noise of the EIA report	N/A
SLC	<p>Cognisance should be given to any development that contributes to the cumulative noise immissions at any noise sensitive receptor. This service would also invite the report to consider the following supplementary guidance notes within the scope of the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ IOA GPG SGN No 1 Final Sept 2014</li> <li>➤ IOA GPG SGN No 2 Final Sept 2014</li> <li>➤ IOA GPG SGN No 3 Final July 2014</li> <li>➤ IOA GPG SGN No 4 Final July 2014</li> <li>➤ IOA GPG SGN No 5 Final July 2014</li> <li>➤ IOA GPG SGN No 6 Final July 2014</li> <li>➤ AM working party -scope of work</li> <li>➤ AM working party - terms of reference</li> </ul>	This will be considered within Chapter 9 Noise of the EIA report	N/A



Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	We recommend that this assessment is undertaken by a suitably qualified professional and meets the requirements of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP, 2014), the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS, 2019) and associated Managing Change Guidance Notes.	This assessment will be undertaken by a suitably qualified professional and will be considered within Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage, of the EIA report	N/A
SEPA	Engineering works in the vicinity of inland surface waters or wetlands need authorisation under The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (CAR).	This will be considered within Chapter 11 Hydrology of the EIA report	N/A
	Management of surplus peat or soils may require exemption under The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011. Crushing or screening will require a permit under The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012.	This will be considered within Chapter 11 Hydrology of the EIA report	N/A
	A Site Management Plan should be submitted in accordance with Paragraphs 52 to 57 of Planning Advice Note 50 Controlling the Environmental Effects of Surface Mineral Workings (PAN 50).	The Applicant will provide a Site Management Plan prior to undertaking any works with regard any potential borrow pits. As part of the proposals, borrow pit search areas have been identified but further site investigations will need to be undertaken post-consent to determine the details of any future borrow pit workings. A draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is provided in Appendix 3.1.	N/A



## 4. EIA Report Requirements

4.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on EIA Requirements.

**Table 4-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – EIAR**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. The Applicant is also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts. Request they are kept informed of relevant discussions regarding the refinement of the design of the Proposed Development.	This will be included within the EIA Report (Chapters 18 Environmental Commitments and 19 Summary of Residual Effects).	N/A
	When finalising the EIA report, the Applicant should provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA report each of the specific matters raised in the scoping opinion are addressed.	This will be included within the EIA Report. Each technical chapter will contain a table of the consultation(s) undertaken for that discipline.	N/A
	Request they are kept informed of relevant discussions regarding the refinement of the design of the Proposed Development.	Noted – the EIA Report will also document all consultation undertaken for the Proposed Development. Gatecheck one meeting was undertaken in September 2020, providing ECU a project update. A further Gatecheck 2 meeting will be undertaken in October 2020 prior to the application submission to provide ECU a further project update and to agree the final consultee list.	N/A



Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	To facilitate uploading to the Energy Consents portal, the EIA Report and its associated documentation should be divided into appropriately named separate files of sizes no more than 10 megabytes (MB). In addition, a separate disc containing the EIA Report and its associated documentation in electronic format will be required.	The EIA Report and all associated documentation will be divided into files of less than 10 MB where required and be appropriately named for ease of reference. A naming convention of all files will be agreed with the ECU case officer prior to upload. An electronic copy of all documentation will also be provided in a format acceptable to ECU.	N/A
South Lanarkshire Council (SLC)	Request that there is a standalone chapter within the EIA Report that contains a summary of all the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures associated with the Environmental Impact of the proposals.	This will be included within the EIA Report (Chapter 18 Environmental Commitments).	N/A
SEPA	All maps must be based on an adequate scale with which to assess the information. This could range from OS 1: 10,000 to a more detailed scale in more sensitive locations. Each of the maps below must detail all proposed upgraded, temporary and permanent site infrastructure.	All maps will be at an appropriate scale.	N/A



## 5. Landscape and Visual

5.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on the landscape and visual assessment.

**Table 5-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – Landscape and Visual**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	The scoping report identified viewpoints at Table 4.2 (page 22) to be assessed within the landscape and visual impact assessment. Full consideration should be given to any LVIA advice provided by South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) and NatureScot and a final list of viewpoints should be agreed with them prior to the submission of the EIA.	Noted. Viewpoints have been agreed with ECU, SLC and NatureScot..	Viewpoints confirmed with SLC in August 2020
	As the maximum blade tip height of turbines exceeds 150m the LVIA as detailed in section 4 of the scoping report must include a robust Night Time Assessment with agreed viewpoints to consider the effects of aviation lighting and how the chosen lighting mitigates the effects.	This will be considered within the EIA report (Chapter 6 LVIA).	N/A
East Ayrshire Council (EAC)	The Council is broadly content with the proposed approach of the LVIA. EAC is supportive of a further viewpoint at Loudon Hill and is supportive of the inclusion of Muirkirk within the Night Time Assessment.	Noted.	N/A
	It is suggested that table 4.1 'Other wind farms to be considered in the Cumulative LVIA' should be reviewed to ensure it is fully up-to-date. In particular, Hare Craig to the North East of Muirkirk, currently under consideration by East Ayrshire Council, is not included in the list.	The cumulative list has been updated and includes Hare Craig.	N/A
NatureScot	Cumulative landscape and visual impacts and, especially, design issues will be key issues in the assessment of this proposal. Any wind farm at this location will need to demonstrate a good fit with existing schemes in the area.	This will be included within the EIA Report, in particular it will be considered within the LVIA cumulative assessment (Chapter 6).	N/A
	NatureScot agree that the Zone of Theoretical Visibility having been prepared out to 35km is a suitable initial study area for the development proposed.	Noted.	N/A





Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	NatureScot are content with the daytime and night time viewpoints selected. Night time photomontages should show the cumulative picture and include turbine lights of other 'at application' developments in the view.	This will be considered in the EIA Report (Chapter 6).	N/A



## 6. Ecology and Nature Conservation

6.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on ecology and nature conservation.

**Table 6-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – Ecology and Nature Conservation**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
EAC	The Council welcomes the confirmation that a Habitats Regulations Assessment will be undertaken in respect of the Muirkirk and North Lowther SPA.	Noted.	N/A
	The developer should assess the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed development on protected areas and their qualifying interests / notified features in the context of their conservation objectives / site management statements. The assessment should be for the proposal on its own and cumulatively with other plans or projects also affecting the protected areas.	This will be considered within Chapter 7 Ecology of the EIA Report.	N/A
	The proposal could affect the Muirkirk & North Lowther Uplands SPA, classified for its breeding hen harrier, peregrine, merlin, short-eared owl and golden plover and for its non-breeding (wintering) hen harrier.	This will be considered within the EIA Report (Chapter 7 Ecology).	N/A
NatureScot	It is recommended that drafts of the proposed Construction Environmental Management Plan, Bat Mitigation Plan, Breeding Bird Protection Plan and species Protection Plan are included in the EIA Report.	A draft CEMP will be included as an appendix to the EIA Report (Appendix 3.1). Bat Mitigation, Breeding Bird Protection and Species Protection plans will be considered in the EIA Report (Chapter 7 Ecology and associated appendices).	N/A
	It is recommended that a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) is prepared and implemented.	This will be considered within the EIA Report (Chapter 7 Ecology) and included as Appendix 7.5.	N/A



Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>The proposed development site lies within a distance of the Muirkirk &amp; North Lowther Uplands SPA at which NatureScot consider there is an overlap with the core foraging ranges of the site's qualifying interests. The proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the SPA and, consequently, Scottish Ministers will be required to carry out an appropriate assessment in view of the site's conservation objectives for its qualifying interests. NatureScot encourage the applicant's commitment to providing the information necessary for this to be carried out as part of the EIA Report.</p>	<p>This will be considered within the EIA Report (Chapter 7).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>The site is close to the Muirkirk Uplands SSSI and the North Lowther Uplands SSSI. The SSSIs are notified for a range of features, the potential impacts on which will require thorough consideration as part of the EIA process.</p>	<p>This will be considered within the EIA Report (Chapter 7 Ecology).</p>	<p>N/A</p>



## 7. Ornithology

7.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on ornithology.

**Table 7-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – Ornithology**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
NatureScot	<p>For the assessment of impacts on the Muirkirk &amp; North Lowther Uplands SPA, assessment of the following issues will be of particular relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collision risk to SPA qualifying species and how this may affect the viability of the relevant species' population, including how collision risk may be influenced by forest management proposals resulting from the wind farm development.</li> <li>• Direct and indirect impacts on habitats within the SPA supporting the sites qualifying species.</li> <li>• Disturbance to SPA qualifying species as a result of construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the development</li> </ul>	The listed issues will be considered in the EIA Report (Chapter 8 Ornithology)	N/A
RSPB	RSPB recommend that breeding waders are included as a target species in the Environmental Impact Assessment for this project along with other designated features of these sites on adjacent ground.	This will be considered within the EIA Report (Chapter 8 Ornithology).	N/A
	Although black grouse is listed as a target species for assessment of potential impacts, RSPB advise that this assessment should be informed by survey to identify lek sites within and outwith the project area.	Black grouse will be included in the EIA in Chapter 8 Ornithology, utilising recent historical and monitoring information available from wind farm sites in the surrounding area.	N/A



## 8. Noise and Vibration

8.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on noise and vibration.

**Table 8-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – Noise**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
SLC	<p>The apportioned level should not by default be considered to be a portion of a cumulative noise level of 40dB or background +5dB measured as an LA90,10min. A conservative level based on the development permitted level of 35dB or background +5dB should be assumed where the cumulative headroom permits this.</p> <p>The apportioned level should be realistically based on the calculated noise projections. i.e. where a controlling receptor limits the potential noise immissions further from source (resulting in a lower noise level) this should be the apportioned limit. This would be irrespective of any surplus headroom remaining available.</p>	<p>The layout (and operational constraints, if necessary) for the Proposed Development will ensure that the cumulative noise levels at any receptor locations will not exceed the agreed noise limits.</p>	<p>SLC agreed approach and methodology July 2020, and confirmed no new baseline monitoring is required.</p>



## 9. Cultural Heritage

9.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on cultural heritage.

**Table 9-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – Cultural Heritage**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
South Lanarkshire Council (SLC)	Recommended that any EIA Report referencing the post-felling walkover survey which was carried out in 2012 in relation to the proposed Nutberry Hill wind farm should clearly demonstrate how the area surveyed at the time relates to the current proposals.	This will be considered in the EIA Report (Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage)	N/A
	It is recommended that the applicant should also consider the impact of the proposed turbines on non-designated features within the outer study area, particularly where these are likely to be of regional importance, or where visibility / intervisibility is likely to have been a particular factor in the selection of their position in the landscape.	Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, it has not been possible for WoSAS to supply digital GIS extracts from the HER. Therefore it has not been possible to determine which of the non-designated assets (Non-Statutory Register (NSR) assets or sites deemed to be of Regional Importance) within the Outer Study Area meet the requirements. We have drawn our data from an online search of the WoSAS HER and the requisite information is not available on that resource.	N/A
	The proposed approach of defining an inner study area does not appear to assign any particular weight to unrecorded features that may be present in close proximity to the development area. It is recommended that the assessment should take account of sites recorded from the area surrounding the proposed wind farm to gain an impression of the type of unrecorded features that may be expected within its boundaries.	The Inner Study Area has been extended to include a buffer of 500m around the Proposed Development site boundary to include nearby heritage assets within the baseline reporting and identify the type of unrecorded features that may be expected within its boundaries.	N/A
	It is recommended that some form of survey is likely to be needed to provide a more accurate assessment of the impact of the development on the historic environment, rather than simply assuming that the currently-recorded features represent the only indicators of previous land-use present within the boundaries of the site. It would be for the applicant to indicate how they would achieve this.	The site is predominantly covered by commercial forestry where forestry ploughing and other forestry works are likely to have appreciably adverse affected any remains that may have been present within forestry coupes. The desk-based assessment has made use of a variety of modern-day aerial photography	N/A



Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>Section 7.5 of the Scoping Report states that there is considered to be a low potential for any significant direct effect on cultural heritage assets to arise from construction work. SLC does not agree with this assertion, as it appears to be based largely on the assumption that the features currently recorded from within the site represent the totality of those present. Some form of survey work is recommended to verify this, as without an additional survey, it is not possible to determine with a high level of confidence whether construction of the proposed wind farm would have a substantial direct impact on the historic environment.</p>	<p>(Google Earth; Bing and ESRI) to examine the areas not covered by forestry. The design intention throughout has been to use the existing forestry haul road infrastructure as facilitating access to turbine locations and, for the most part, new tracks are restricted to locations within existing forestry coupes.</p> <p>Those cultural heritage assets that have been identified within the Inner Study Area are of low sensitivity (primarily agricultural features and some small scale exploitation of lead ore sources) and these have all been avoided by design. It is reasonable to expect that any surviving remains in unplanted areas are of similar (low) sensitivity; although it is not ruled out that previously unrecorded remains of higher sensitivity may be present within the site.</p> <p>It is proposed that site walkover surveys can be accommodated post-determination and would include all areas, outwith current forestry coupes, where new tracks or other infrastructure is proposed, following conditional planning approval. Potential impacts to archaeological remains which may be identified can then be mitigated through a scheme of mitigation, including marking off and avoidance through micrositing utilising the proposed 100m micrositing allowance or by archaeological sample evaluation/excavation, as necessary.</p> <p>...</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Historic Environment Scotland</p>	<p>No heritage assets are located within the development site boundary, however an impact assessment is recommended to consider nearby heritage assets.</p>	<p>This will be considered in the EIA Report (Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage)</p>	<p>N/A</p>



Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	Recommended that an assessment should also give consideration to the potential for impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the New Lanark World Heritage Site located 12km north east of the proposals.	This will be considered in the EIA Report (Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage)	N/A
	Recommended that the impacts on the setting of the Falls of Clyde Inventory Designed Landscape (GDL358) should be considered.	This will be considered in the EIA Report (Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage)	N/A
	Recommended that impacts on the setting of heritage assets should be assessed using photomontage and wireframe visualisations where impacts are likely to be highest.	Wireframe and photomontage visualisation from the agreed viewpoints will be included in Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage.	N/A
	Consideration should be given to the cumulative impacts from a combination of the Proposed Development with other existing and proposed developments within the surrounding area.	An assessment of cumulative impacts will be included in the EIA Report (Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage).	N/A





## 10. Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology

10.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on hydrology, hydrogeology and geology.

**Table 10-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – Hydrology and Hydrogeology**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	The Applicant are to contact Scottish Water (via EIA@scottishwater.co.uk) and make further enquires to confirm whether there are any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development and includes details in the EIA Report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.	Scottish Water have confirmed that there are no Scottish Water drinking catchments or water abstraction sources in the area that would be affected by the Proposed Development.	N/A
	Request that the Applicant investigate the presence of any private water supplies (PWS), which may be impacted by the development. The EIA Report should include details of any supplies identified by this investigation, and if any supplies are identified, the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided.	Efforts have been made to identify any potential PWS from OS mapping and site survey work. No PWS have been identified.	N/A
	Where there is a demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard and risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process to provide Ministers with a clear understanding of whether the risks are acceptable and capable of being controlled by mitigation measures.	A Peat Slide Hazard Risk Assessment will be included in Appendix 11.1 of the EIA Report.	N/A
South Lanarkshire Council (SLC)	It is recommended that a Flood Risk Assessment is carried out that must satisfy the requirements of the Council's Developer Design Guidance document dated May 2020.	A Flood Risk Assessment will be included in Chapter 11.3 of the EIA Report.	N/A
	A Sustainable Drainage System serving the Application Site, designed and independently checked in accordance with the Council's current Developer Design Guidance is to be provided. Consideration should also be given to surface water management during the construction period to reduce any risk of flooding to and from the site during all phases of the development.	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 Hydrology. Outline information on the proposed drainage strategy is provided in EIA Report Chapter 3 Proposed Development.	N/A



Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
SEPA	Map and assessment of all engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment including proposed buffers, details of any flood risk assessment and details of any related CAR applications.	Details of proposed new and altered water crossings are provided in Appendix 11.2. A Stage 1 Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 11.3.	N/A
	Map and assessment of impacts upon groundwater abstractions including 100 m or 250 m buffer dependent on excavation depth.	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 Hydrology.	N/A
	Map and assessment of impacts upon groundwater abstractions and buffers.	A map of potential GWDTE identified from an NVC survey is provided in Chapter 7 Ecology. Potential effects on GWDTE are discussed in Chapter 11 Hydrology.	N/A
	Schedule of mitigation including pollution prevention measures.	This will be included addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 and 18. A draft CEMP will be provided in Appendix 3.1.	N/A
	Borrow Pit Site Management Plan of pollution prevention measures.	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 Hydrology.	N/A
	If water abstractions or dewatering are proposed, a table of volumes and timings of groundwater abstractions and related mitigation measures must be provided.	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 Hydrology.	N/A
	Map of proposed wastewater drainage layout.	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 Hydrology. Outline information on the proposed drainage strategy is provided in EIAR Chapter 3 Proposed Development.	N/A
	Map of proposed surface water drainage layout.	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 Hydrology. Outline information on the proposed drainage strategy is provided in EIAR Chapter 3 Proposed Development.	N/A
	Decommissioning statement.	Outline decommissioning proposals are provided in Chapter 3 Proposed Development and effects are assessed in this chapter as appropriate	N/A
Map detailing the following: - all proposed infrastructure overlain with all waterbodies and	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 Hydrology.	N/A	



Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>watercourses;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a 50 m buffer around watercourses and waterbodies;</li> <li>- layout of mitigation measures including all cut off drains, location, number and size of settlement ponds.</li> </ul>		
	Watercourse crossings must be designed to accommodate the 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flows, or information provided to justify smaller structures.	Details of proposed new and altered water crossings are provided in Appendix 11.2	N/A
	Application to be supported by a site specific Peat Management Plan. Required: peat depth survey and table detailing re-use proposals.	This will be provided in outline within Appendix 11.1 of the EIAR	N/A
	<p>The following information on borrow pits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Map of size, location and dimensions.</li> <li>- A map of any stocks, soils, temporary infrastructure, drainage, etc.</li> <li>- Justification for each borrow pit and evidence of suitability of material to be excavated.</li> <li>- Ground investigation report with the existing water table.</li> <li>- Map of all drains and settlement lagoons.</li> <li>- Map of proposed water abstractions.</li> <li>- A map of pollution prevention measures.</li> <li>- A map of soil storage.</li> <li>- Details of restoration.</li> <li>- Details of rock processing.</li> </ul>	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 Hydrology. At present the proposals only outline search areas for any potential borrow pit(s).	N/A
NatureScot	If rock exposure is to be revealed along new tracks or created in borrow pits to allow the extraction of rock for track building, consideration should be given to whether these could remain exposed, made safe and conserved for research and educational purposes. It is recommended that these issues are considered in the EIA Report.	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 Hydrology. At present the proposals only outline search areas for any potential borrow pit(s).	N/A
	It is recommended that rock core and other geologically relevant data gathered in the site investigation stage of the development work be retained and made available for research.	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 Hydrology.	N/A
	Birk Knowes SSSI lies wholly within the application site and Birkenhead Burn SSSI lies partly within the application site. The EIA Report should include details of how it will be ensured that wind farm infrastructure, and its construction, does not impinge upon these	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 11 Hydrology. Access will be maintained during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.	N/A



Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	geological interests and that access to the sites for research and educational purposes is unaffected after development. It is also recommended that the EIA assesses whether the proposed proximity of turbines to Birkenhead Burn SSSI poses any risk to the stability of the rock faces within the site.		
	The applicant will need to demonstrate in the EIA Report that any significant effects on the qualities of the Peat and Carbon Rich areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation.	Design iterations were undertaken following Phase 2 peat probing and on site walkover surveys to position turbines and access tracks to avoid deep peat. This will be considered in Chapter 11 Hydrology and Chapter 2 Site Selection and Design of the EIA Report.	N/A
	The final siting and design of the proposed development and how this may affect peatland must be fully described and assessed in the EIA Report. How significant effects will be mitigated must also be fully described. At this stage, given the general dominance of commercial forestry within the site, SNH would encourage the applicant to consider the relocation of Turbine 3 from the class 1 peat to a less sensitive area.	Turbines and infrastructure have been sited to avoid areas of deep peat wherever possible. This will be considered in Chapter 11 Hydrology and Chapter 2 Site Selection and Design of the EIA Report.	N/A



# 11. Traffic and Transport

11.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on traffic and transport.

**Table 11-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – Traffic and Transport**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
SLC	It is recommended that an abnormal load route assessment with swept path analysis where required should be included.	Full Abnormal Load Assessment will be provided prior to turbine deliveries commencing (once final turbine model is selected), but swept path assessments for maximum component sizes will be included within the EIAR.	N/A
	It is recommended that where the ALRA/swept path highlights pinch points or requirements for carriageway widening then proposals should be included within the traffic and transport assessment for these.	Noted and swept path analysis will be included (Appendix 12.1 of the EIAR).	N/A
	It is recommended that site access arrangements off the public road including proposals for visibility splays, signage and road markings should be included.	This will be considered in Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport of the EIA Report.	N/A
	Details of on-site parking arrangements for staff, contractors and visitors at construction stage, operational phase and decommissioning shall be included.	This will be considered in Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport of the EIA Report.	N/A
	It is recommended that details of any borrow pits are provided for where borrow pits are anticipated for the sourcing of suitable construction materials or disposal of unacceptable material.	This will be addressed within the EIA Report Chapter 3 Proposed Development and 11 Hydrology. At present the proposals only outline search areas for any potential borrow pit(s).	N/A
	It is recommended that a Traffic Management Plan should be included and contain a construction programme linked to vehicle trips broken down by type.	An outline construction programme with trip generation breakdown will be included in Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport of the EIA Report. A full TMP will be provided prior to commencement of any work	N/A



Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
		on site once detailed Site Investigation works have been undertaken.	
	Proposals to address interaction between anticipated vehicle movements and existing cycling/pedestrian movements should be addressed.	This will be considered in Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport of the EIA Report.	N/A



## 12. Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism

12.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on socio-economics, tourism and recreation.

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
EAC	Whilst out with the scope of the Planning assessment, the Council would encourage the applicant to consider Muirkirk within its consideration of how it will distribute and manage community benefits.	Consultation with local communities on proposals for Community Benefits will be undertaken by the Applicant as the project progresses.	N/A



## 13. Aviation, Radar, Television and Telecommunication

13.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on aviation, radar, television and telecommunication.

**Table 13-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – Aviation, Radar, Television and Telecommunication**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
BT	The conclusion is that the Project should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.	No response required.	BT was consulted on the final layout and cleared of any interference.
Glasgow Airport	The site is located within the safeguarding area for Glasgow Airport; All 20 proposed turbines are likely to be visible to Glasgow Airports primary surveillance radar (PSR); The proposed turbines may impact the Glasgow Airport primary radar permanent echo (PE); The proposed turbines may impact Glasgow Airport instrument flight procedures (IFPs); Radar mitigation is highly likely to be required to address impacts on the PSR. Further assessment of potential impacts upon the PE and IFPs is required.	The Applicant is undertaking an aviation assessment (Chapter 14 of the EIA Report) and is in ongoing communication with Glasgow Airport regarding a mitigation solution.	There is ongoing consultation between the Applicant and Glasgow Airport. Mitigation options have been identified and will be subject to assessment before being confirmed and contracted.
Glasgow Prestwick Airport	It is likely that the majority (if not all) of the proposed turbines will be terrain shielded from primary radars.	No response required.	N/A
Joint Radio Company Ltd	JRC does not foresee any potential problems based on known interference scenarios and the data provided.	No response required.	JRC was consulted on the final layout and cleared with respect to radio link infrastructure operated by Scottish Power and Scotia Gas Networks (06/10/2020)
MOD	No objection to the proposal.	No response required.	N/A





Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	Request that in the interest of air safety the development be fitted with aviation safety lighting.	An indicative lighting plan will be included within the EIA Report (Chapter 6 LVIA).	N/A
	Wish to be advised on the following prior to commencement of construction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- date construction starts and ends;</li> <li>- maximum height of construction equipment;</li> <li>- latitude and longitude of every turbine.</li> </ul> Also wish to be consulted and notified of any alterations to the application and the progression of submissions.	No response required at this time.	N/A
NATS Safeguarding	Based on preliminary findings, the Proposed Development does conflict with their safeguarding criteria. Therefore NATS will object to the proposal.	The Applicant is undertaking an aviation assessment (Chapter 14 of the EIA Report) and is in ongoing communication with NATS regarding a mitigation solution.	There is ongoing consultation between the Applicant and NATS. Mitigation solutions have been identified and will be subject to assessment before being confirmed and contracted.
Arqiva	No comment	No response required.	Arqiva was consulted on the final layout and raised no concerns.
Atkins	Object to the Proposed Development based on proximity to Dunside scanning telemetry link and equipment (1,500 to 1,800m)	Operational turbines are present at a closer proximity to the link than the Proposed Development therefore interference unlikely.	Further consultation to remove the objection has been initiated 06/10/2020 based on no interference with operational turbines at a closer distance than the Proposed Development. Awaiting response from Atkins.



## 14. Shadow Flicker

14.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on Shadow Flicker.

No comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion with regards to shadow flicker.



## 15. Forestry

15.1.1 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on forestry.

**Table 15-1 – EIA Scoping Opinion – Forestry**

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
SEPA	Key holing must be used wherever possible as large scale felling can result in large amounts of waste material and in a peak release of nutrients which can affect local water quality. The supporting information should refer to the current Forest Plan if one exists and measures should comply with the Plan where possible.	Felling required for construction of the Proposed Development turbines and infrastructure will be undertaken by key-holing wherever possible. This will be considered in Chapter 16 of the EIA Report.	N/A
	A map demarcating the areas to be subject to different felling techniques.	This will be included in Chapter 16 of the EIA Report.	N/A
	Photography of general timber condition in each of these areas.	This will be included in Chapter 16 of the EIA Report.	N/A
	A table of approximate volumes of timber which will be removed from site and volumes, sizes of chips or brash and depths that will be re-used on site.	This will be included in Chapter 16 of the EIA Report.	N/A
	A plan showing how and where any timber residues will be re-used for ecological benefit within that area, supported by a Habitat Management Plan	This will be included in Chapter 16 of the EIA Report where relevant.	N/A
Forestry Scotland	Key hole method of siting wind turbines within the forest environ is utilised as a point of best practice, ensuring that the development can be achieved whilst still complying with the UK Forestry Standard.	Felling required for construction of the Proposed Development turbines and infrastructure will be undertaken by key-holing wherever possible. This will be considered in Chapter 16 of the EIA Report.	



Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	A suitable Compensatory Planting Plan will be provided subject to agreement by Scottish Forestry that addresses the amount of deforestation required to accommodate the windfarms infrastructure.	This will be addressed in Chapter 16 of the EIA Report.	N/A
	That the area identified land for compensatory planting is able to support woodland creation with the same productive potential as that being removed.	This will be addressed in Chapter 16 of the EIA Report.	N/A
	The compensatory planting plan needs to be compliant with the UK Forestry Standard in terms of species, design, ground preparation, protection and maintenance.	This will be addressed in Chapter 16 of the EIA Report.	N/A



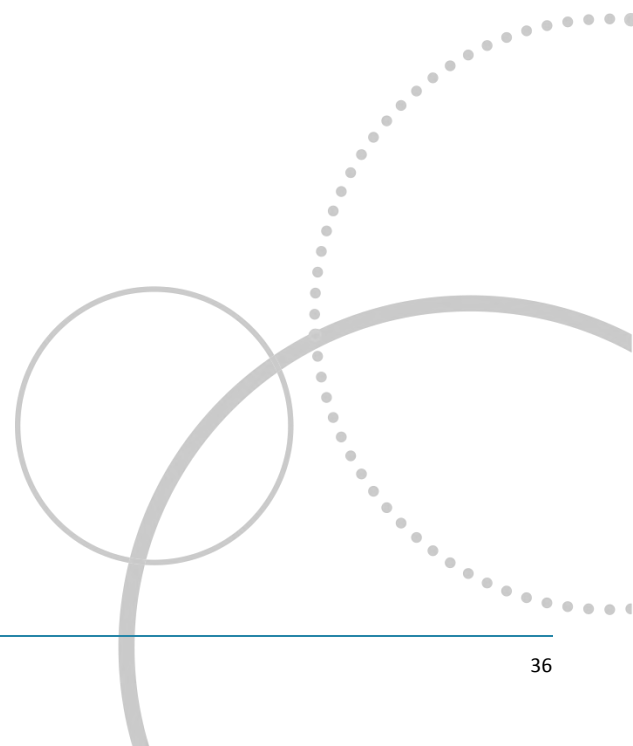
## 16. Other Consultees

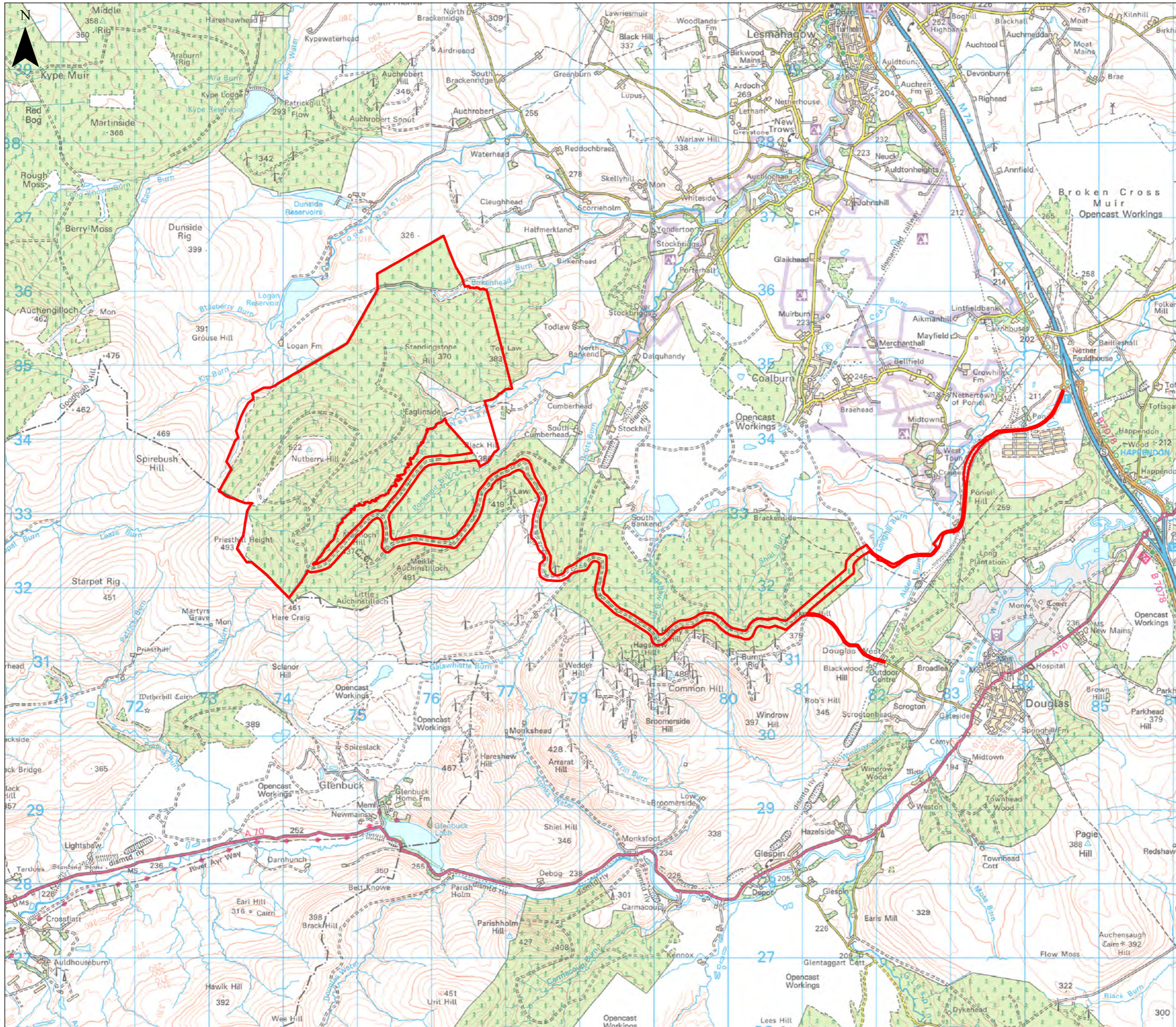
16.1.1 No responses to the scoping request were received from the following consultees:

- Coalburn Community Council
- Douglas Community Council
- Lesmahagow Community Council
- British Horse Society
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Clyde River Foundation
- Fisheries Management Scotland
- John Muir Trust
- Mountaineering Scotland
- Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)
- Scottish Wildlife Trust.



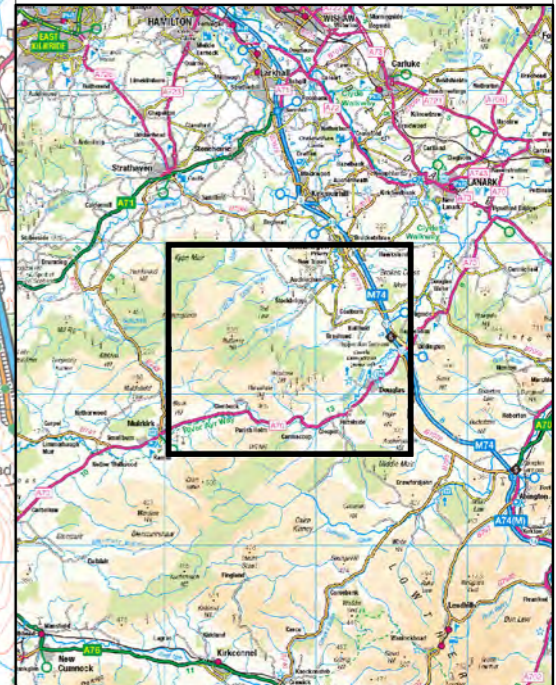
# 17. Figures





**KEY**

— Site Boundary



0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km  
Scale 1:50,000 @ A3

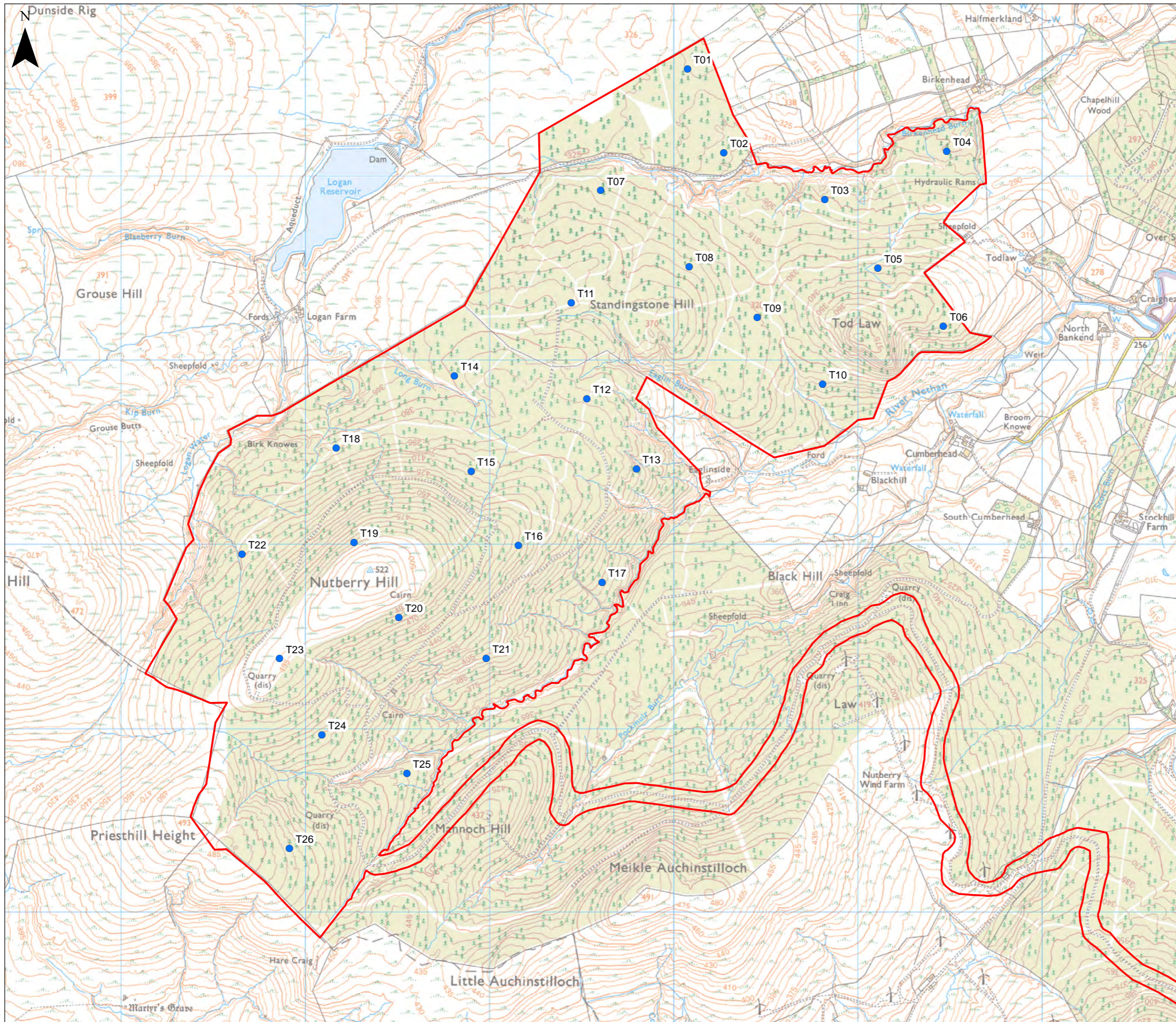


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**Figure 1**  
Site Location

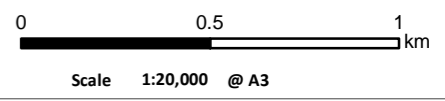
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Project Number: 3694



**KEY**

- Site Boundary
- T1 Proposed Turbine Location



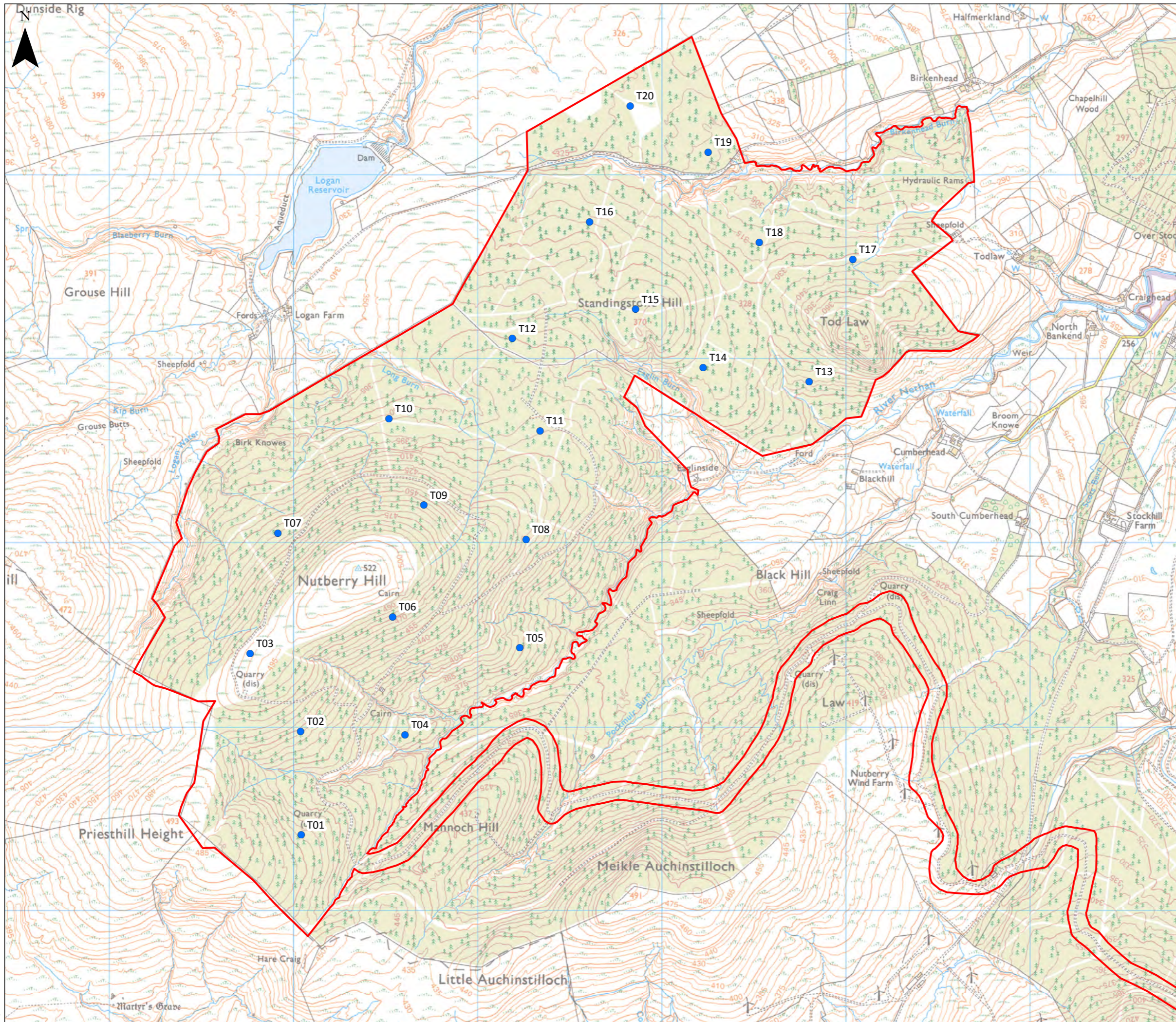
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**Figure 2**  
**Layout A - Initial Turbine Layout**

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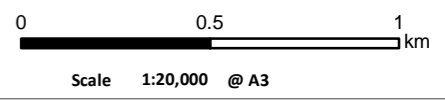
Project Number: 3694





**KEY**

- Site Boundary
- T1 Proposed Turbine Location

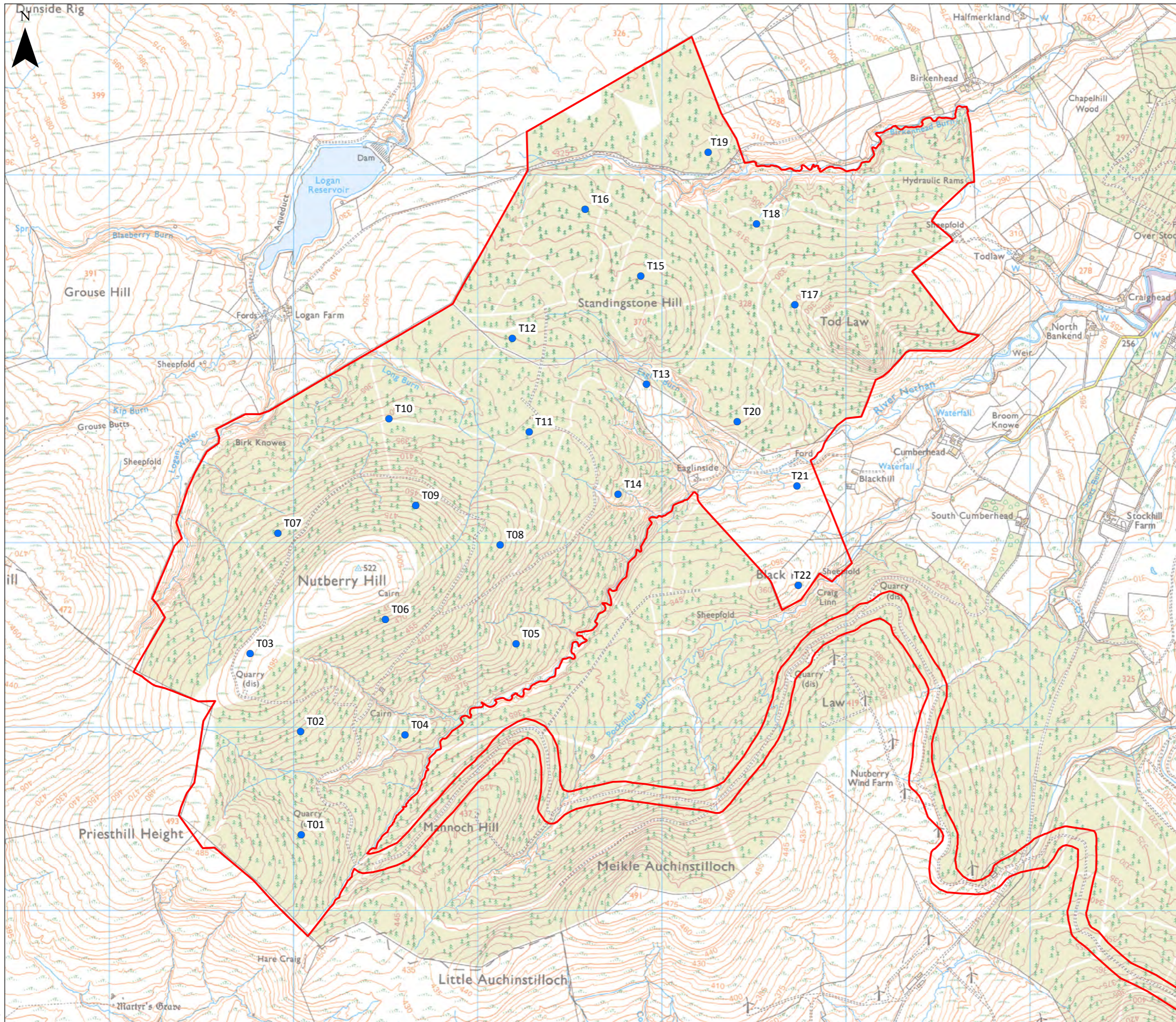


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**Figure 3**  
**Layout B - Scoping**

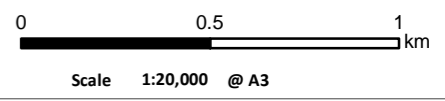
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**KEY**

- Site Boundary
- T1 Proposed Turbine Location

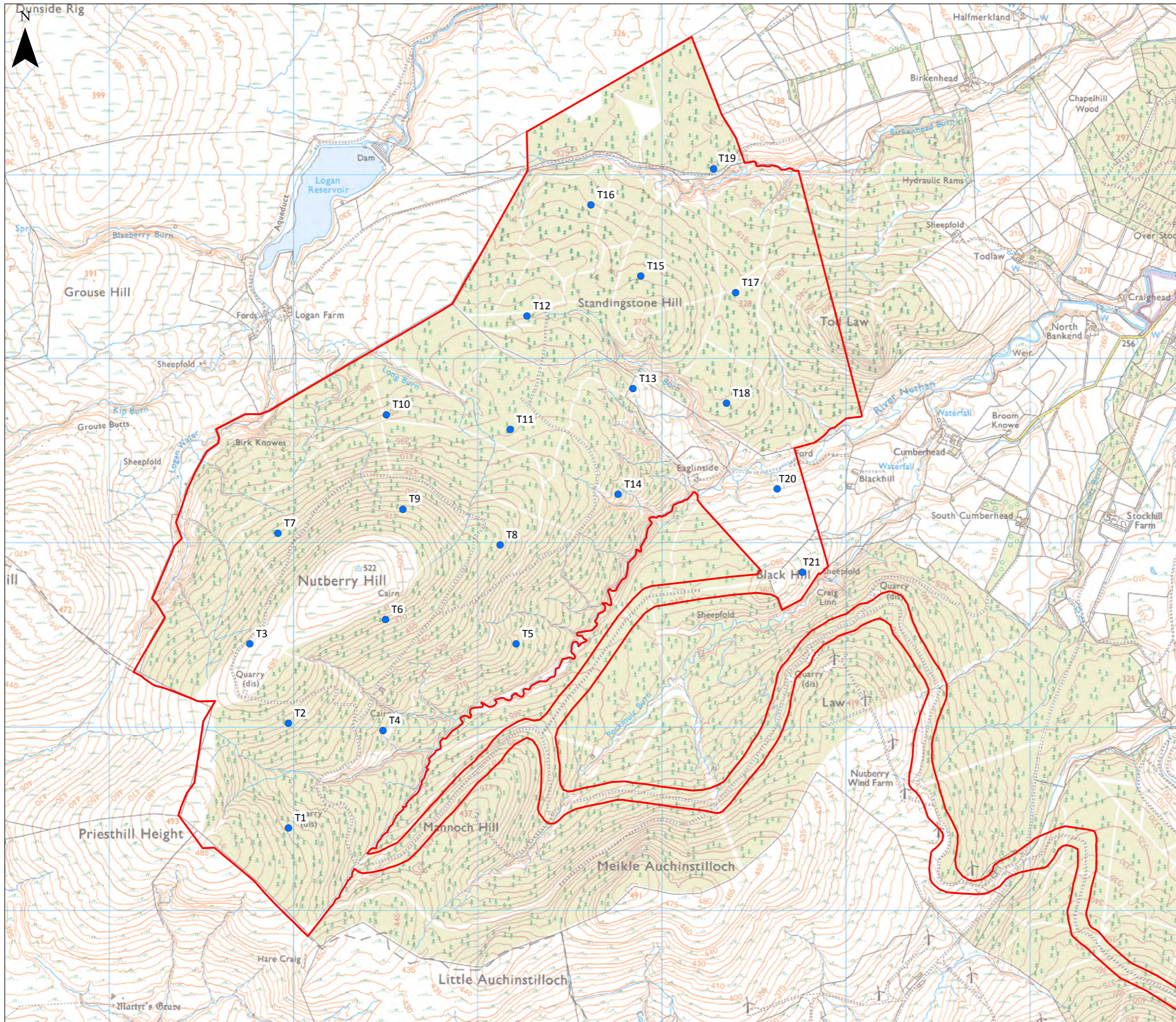


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**Figure 4  
Layout C**

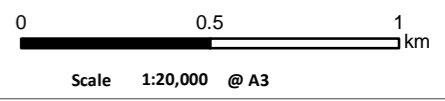
Date: 12/10/2020	Drawn by: ST	Checked by: JY	Version: V1
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Project Number: 3694



**KEY**

- Site Boundary
- T1 Proposed Turbine Location

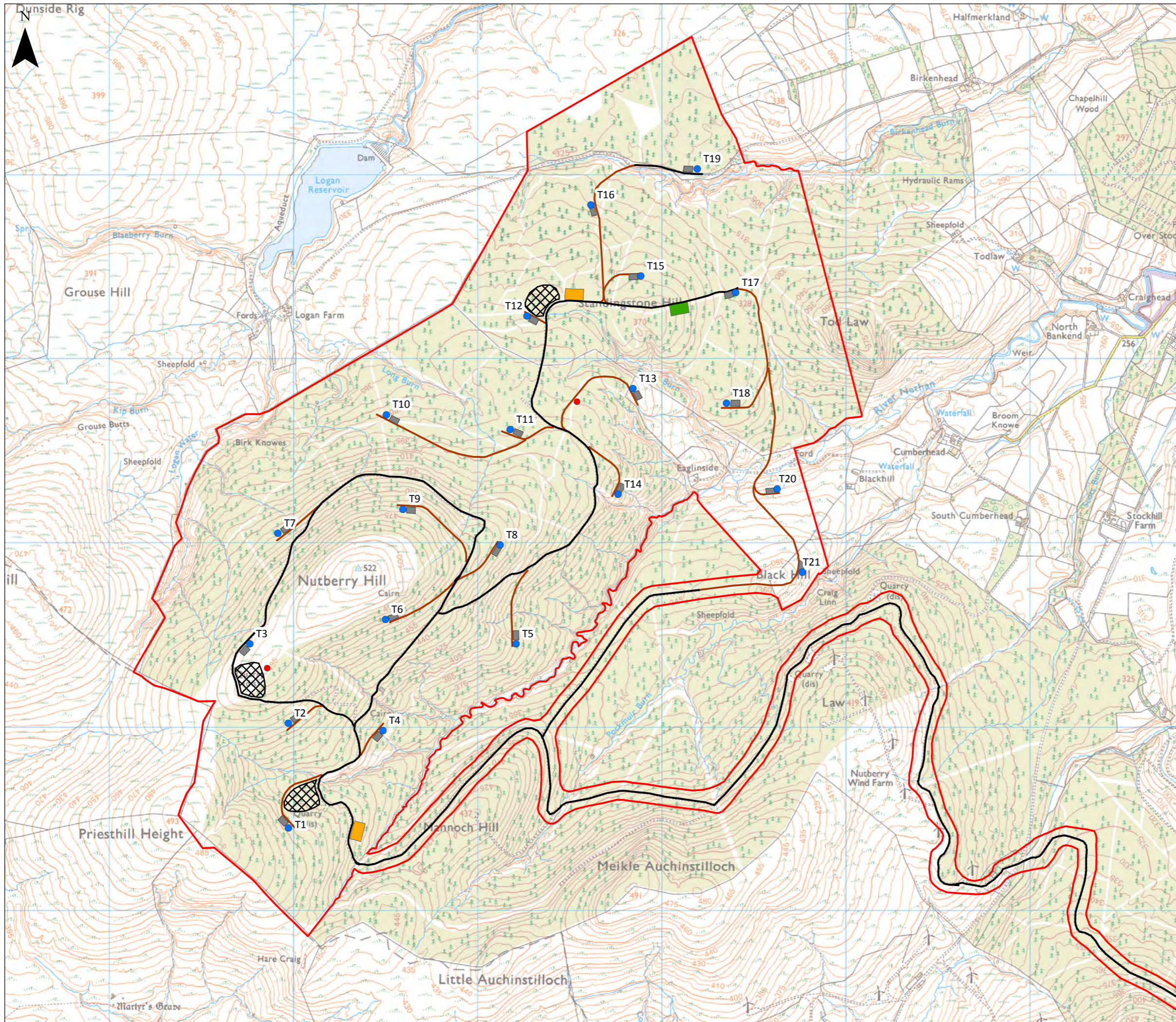


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**Figure 5  
Layout D**

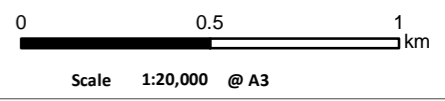
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**KEY**

- Site Boundary
- T1 Proposed Turbine Location
- M1 Indicative Met Mast Location
- Proposed Turbine Laydown Area
- Proposed Substation, Control Room & Energy Storage Compound
- Proposed Temporary Compound
- Existing Access Track
- Indicative New Access Track
- Potential Borrow Pit Search Area

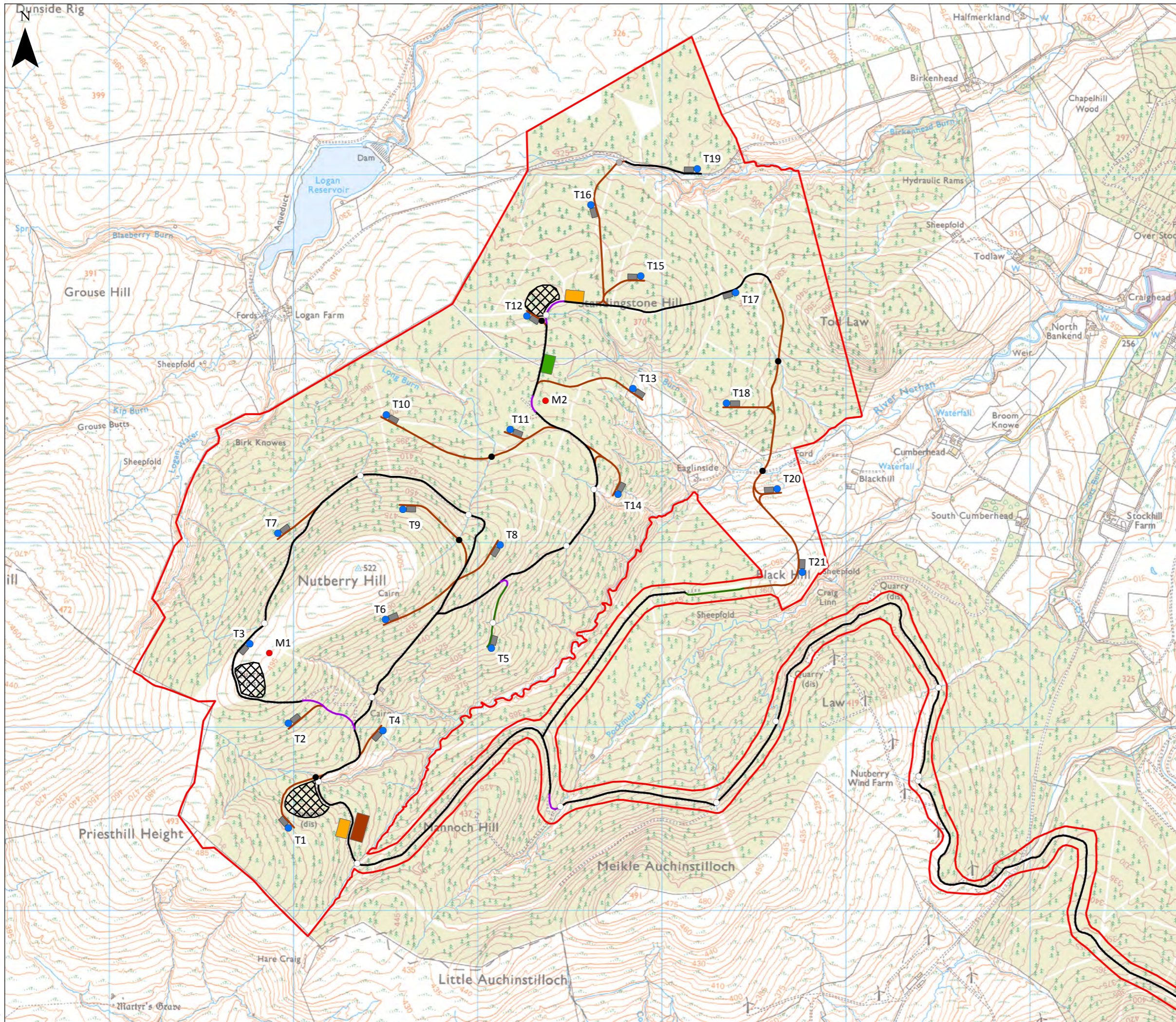


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**Figure 6  
Layout E**

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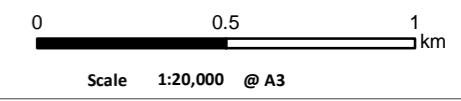
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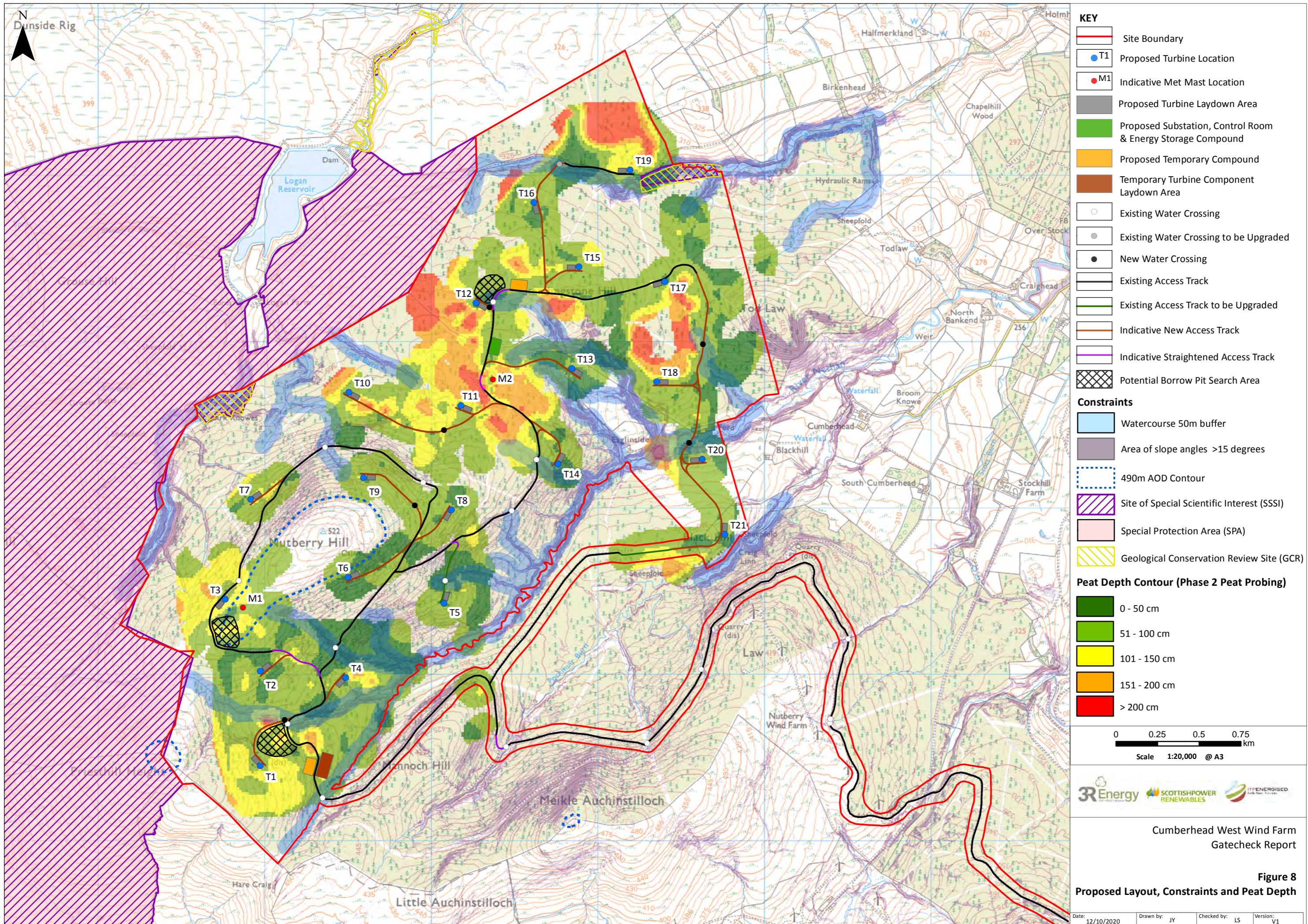
- Site Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Location
- Indicative Met Mast Location
- Proposed Turbine Laydown Area
- Proposed Substation, Control Room & Energy Storage Compound
- Proposed Temporary Compound
- Temporary Turbine Component Laydown Area
- Existing Water Crossing
- Existing Water Crossing to be Upgraded
- New Water Crossing
- Existing Access Track
- Existing Access Track to be Upgraded
- Indicative New Access Track
- Indicative Straightened Access Track
- Potential Borrow Pit Search Area

Note: Please refer to accompanying red line boundary figure for full extent of access track to trunk road.



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**Figure 7**  
**Final Layout (Layout F)**



**KEY**

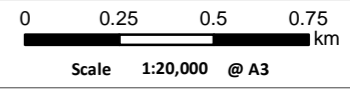
- Site Boundary
- T1 Proposed Turbine Location
- M1 Indicative Met Mast Location
- Proposed Turbine Laydown Area
- Proposed Substation, Control Room & Energy Storage Compound
- Proposed Temporary Compound
- Temporary Turbine Component Laydown Area
- Existing Water Crossing
- Existing Water Crossing to be Upgraded
- New Water Crossing
- Existing Access Track
- Existing Access Track to be Upgraded
- Indicative New Access Track
- Indicative Straightened Access Track
- Potential Borrow Pit Search Area

**Constraints**

- Watercourse 50m buffer
- Area of slope angles >15 degrees
- 490m AOD Contour
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Geological Conservation Review Site (GCR)

**Peat Depth Contour (Phase 2 Peat Probing)**

- 0 - 50 cm
- 51 - 100 cm
- 101 - 150 cm
- 151 - 200 cm
- > 200 cm



Cumberhead West Wind Farm  
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**Figure 8**  
**Proposed Layout, Constraints and Peat Depth**

Date: 12/10/2020	Drawn by: JY	Checked by: LS	Version: V1
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Project Number: 3694



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